

# Altamaha Echoes

---

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

May 2009

---

*"The Mission of the Lower Altamaha Historical Society is to Preserve and Disseminate the History of McIntosh County."*

---

## **LAHS MEETING, Thursday, May 21, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

**Fort King George Historic Site  
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steaks & Seafood**

Brad Spear, who currently holds the trade craftsman position at Fort King George Historic Site, will take us on a trip through the *"History of Weapons, from 1300 to 1860."* He will bring real working weapons, including the crossbow, 14<sup>th</sup> century handguns, match locks, wheel locks, and dog locks, many of which he made himself. Brad studied commercial art and fine arts at Western Carolina University at Cullowhee, North Carolina. His involvement with re-enacting led to his weapon making, as reasonably priced and authentic working weapons were scarce.

Brad has a long and varied background. He built a tabby blacksmith shop for the Spanish Living History Museum in St Augustine, and made all the iron and steel hardware needed for the site itself, as well as the items for sale in the museum. He owned his own blacksmith shop for ten years, making reproductions for re-enactors, museums and movies (even acting in a few). He has built more than 50 early firearms and more than 300 custom swords – and even made an 18<sup>th</sup> century set of surgeon's tools which have been copied and sold worldwide. He is also a black powder weapons instructor who trains personnel at Georgia sites in the history and use of such weapons. Brad and his wife Denise, who works for the National Park Service at Fort Frederica National Monument, live in Brunswick and share their love of and interest in history and re-enacting.

---

## **LAHS Meeting, Thursday, June 18, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

**Fort King George Historic Site  
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m., B&J's Steak & Seafood**

*"With The Flag to Virginia"* is a great folk history of a man who ran away from home to join the Confederate Army and served from Fredericksburg, Sharpsburg (Antietam), and Gettysburg, to Appomattox. This program will be presented by Ed Cawthon, a local resident who lives in Pine Harbor.

Ed was raised in Brunswick, Georgia, and graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1962. He sailed on United Fruit Ships as Third Mate, USNR, for 10 years. He worked ashore in the maritime industry for 36 years in various ports, including Port of New York, San Juan, P.R., Savannah, GA, Oakland, CA, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Liverpool, England, and Felixstowe, England. He and his wife Camille have 4 children and 6 grandchildren. He has had a lifelong passion for history, especially local and family history, and wrote his first (and last) book in 2008. He is introduced these days as the father of Dr. Lara Bailey of Pine Harbor, McIntosh County.

**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Thursday, July 16, 2009, 4:00 p.m.**  
Fort King George Historic Site  
LAHS members are always welcome.

---

**LAHS ANNUAL PICNIC**  
**Thursday, July 16, 2009, 5:00 p.m.**  
Fort King George Historic Site

Please make plans to attend and bring a covered dish, salad or dessert to serve 6-8 people. LAHS will provide the meat course, drinks, and ice. Don't miss this fun event!!

---

**REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE** which was composed of Sandra Williamson, chairman, and members Lloyd Flanders and Jeanne Klippel -- The following slate is proposed for election at the May meeting. The terms will run for two years - from June 2009 to June 2011:

Treasurer - Betty Cleveland

Board Positions - Vivian Amason, Jessie Clavin, Lloyd Flanders, Mike McDonald

Nominations for these offices may be made from the floor as well, as long as the nominee has given permission to be nominated. We should also have a nominee for the position of Vice-President, who would be our President-Elect and take over the presidency in June, 2010. The nominating committee tried very hard to find someone who would be willing to take on this job, and they were unsuccessful. We will ask for nominations from the floor to fill this position. We hope that someone will feel inclined to volunteer to do this. All of you should give this some thought. Next June we will need a new leader. You may be just the person we need!!

These are members we have lost in the last few months.

IN MEMORIAM:  
Sally Holder Smith  
Horace "Bo" Van Vorst  
Walter D. Swift

The Buddy Sullivan Scholarship Award of \$1,000 is given to a McIntosh County student each year by LAHS. We have several applicants this year. The Scholarship Committee will make its decision soon, and Buddy Sullivan will make a presentation to the winner at Awards Day in May. We will let you know the winner's name in the next issue of "ECHOES."

### *Coming Events:*

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 14, 15, 16 – McBee’s USED BOOK SALE at the Ida Hilton Library, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day

Thursday, June 11 - Buddy Sullivan will speak on *Rice Cultivation in the Altamaha Delta from 1820-1900*, at the Sapelo Island Visitor’s Center in Meridian at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 25 - A BIG CELEBRATION – LAHS’s 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the Dedication of our new historic marker for ASHANTILLY beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Ashantilly.



### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Reminder from Jeanne Klippel, Membership Chairman:

If you have not submitted your current dues, please remit so that we do not have to bill members.

Life Membership - \$250      Individual - \$15      Family - \$20

Please send to LAHS, P.O. Box 1405, Darien, GA 31305, and include name, full address and telephone number. Thank you. We value every member of LAHS.



Excerpts from *This Day in Georgia History*, compiled by Ed Jackson and Charles Pou, The University of Georgia, (GeorgiaInfo website) to correspond with current LAHS Meeting dates:

**May 21, 1542**, “Hernando de Soto, the first European to explore Georgia’s interior, died of fever near the Mississippi River while leading an army of soldiers and adventurers across the Southeast in search of riches.

**June 18, 1735**, “Frances Moore was another early Georgia colonist who kept a journal. He recorded a military ruse on this day: ‘Mr. Oglethorpe, with seven Horses and Men upon them (which were all we had) went down to the Sea-Point, that the Spaniards might see that there were Men and Horses there. At his setting out a number of Cannons were fired, which they also could hear at Jekyll Island. When he arriv’d at the Point the Independent Company was under Arms, being drawn up in one line at double Distances, to make them appear a larger Number to the Spaniards, who lay upon Jekyll Island. The Independent Company saluting him with their Cannon, managing them so as to seem to have many more Guns by reloading...’ (Source: *Our First Visit in America: Early Reports from the Colony of Georgia, 1732-1740*, no author or editor cited).

**July 16, 1865**, “From her home in Washington, GA., Eliza Frances Andrews recorded a sad parting of friends on this day, and commented how it was analogous to the passing of another way of life: ‘July 16. Sunday. The Elzey’s last day in Washington, and our last pleasant evening together. They took tea with us, and we tried hard to be cheerful, but the thought that we shall probably never all sit together again around that cheery old table, where so many friends have met, came like a wet blanket between us and mirth....The Elzeys return to Baltimore.....The general (Gen. Elzey) took leave earlier than usual, and with sad hearts we saw his soldierly figure in the well-known white army jacket, moving, for the last time, down the front walk. ‘General,’ I said, as we parted at the head of the steps, ‘I feel as if I am shaking hands with the Confederacy; you are the last relic of it that is left us.’” (Source: Eliza Frances Andrews, *The War-Time Journal of a Georgia Girl, 1864-1865*)

**LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 1405 – Darien, GA 31305  
[www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org)

**FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORIC SITE**  
P.O. Box 711 – Darien, GA 31305 ---- 912-437-4770  
[www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge](http://www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge)

LAHS Officers

President (2008-10)	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Vice-President (2008-09)	Jack Godfrey	912-832-5622
Secretary (2008-10)	Dee Slagle	912-832-3746
Treasurer (2008-09)	Kaye Traer	912-832-5150

2007-2009

Jim Bruce  
Carol Churi  
Mary Evelyn Hoffhaus  
Chris Milner

2008-2010

Martha Carney  
Dan Good  
Betty Ewing  
Carole Williams

Past-President	Peyton Lingle
Director Emeritus	Buddy Sullivan

Committee Chairpersons

Ft. King George	Steven Smith
Membership	Jeanne Klippel
Programs	Howard Klippel
Scholarship	Ann Howard
Field Trips	
Altamaha "Echoes"	Carole Williams
Publications/Books	Mary Evelyn Hoffhaus
Historian	Buddy Sullivan
Hospitality	Everett Moriarty
Webmaster	Jim Bruce
Archives	Carol Churi

Life Memberships

Muriel Bell	Gus & Marg Hallman
Marsha Certain	Bill Jones III
Darien Telephone Co.	David Miller
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis	Chris & Ward Milner
John & Mary Dean	Bill & Sherry Minnich
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Frances Pollard
Lloyd Flanders	John Reehling
Read Gignilliat	Jeff & Kelly Spratt

Honorary Memberships

Mattie Gladstone  
Everett Moriarty  
Myrtle Newberry  
Isabel Mealing  
Lillian Schaitberger

Corporate Memberships:

Sapelo National Bank  
The Book Shop, Inc., Harold  
& Virginia Hicks  
Coastal GA Historical Society  
"The Lodge," Little St. Simons Is

Living History Programs for students and guests are a daily activity at the Fort. Reenactors allow an eighteenth century experience for the observer.

**CANNONS ACROSS THE MARSH**

Saturday, July 4, 2009  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

*Join the Garrison for a day of artillery drills, musket firings, and soldiers' life activities to honor Independence Day. Free watermelon and lemonade will be served.*

**OUR ARCHIVES/LIBRARY BUILDING,  
ON THE GROUNDS OF  
FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE,  
IS OPEN EVERY THURSDAY  
FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**



*Happy Fourth of July*

