

Altamaha Echoes

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

Annual Report 2013-2014

It is truly amazing how quickly three years pass. It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as LAHS President for the past three years and I can truly say it has been very interesting. Since I am not a McIntosh County native, LAHS has given me the opportunity to meet people in the community as well as participate in several community events. One of my favorites was participating with the planning committee for the "Burning of Darien Commemoration." I grew up hearing stories about my grandfather floating logs down the Altamaha River to Darien, and one of my prized possessions is his black iron cook pot that he used on the river raft.

I want to thank the officers, board members, and committee chairpersons for the excellent job they did these past three years. They are the ones that keep LAHS working efficiently. The job of President is a real pleasure when there are dedicated officers and members like we have. The meals at B&J's before the meeting are always a time to get to know our members better. This informal time involving humorous and serious conversation gives the opportunity to develop lasting friendships. The summer picnic at Fort King George was on July 18, 2013. The meal is always delicious and the fellowship great. We had lots of fun sharing humorous events that have occurred in our lives. Everyone has had something funny happen to them in their lives, and it was interesting to share these with the group.

The actual burning of Darien occurred on June 11, 1863, and several lectures and events to commemorate this event were held in May and June, 2013. In August, Nancy Crosby presented a program for her new book, *"Tales of Old Tattnall and Evans."* Interviews with people who lived through the Great Depression on cotton farms were very interesting. Peter Conover, an LAHS member, presented a program on Joshua Chamberlin, Civil War hero of the battle of Gettysburg. After the war he had a notable career as Governor of Maine.

In October our own Buddy Sullivan presented a program on Georgia hurricanes, especially those that hit McIntosh and Glynn Counties. The last major hurricane to make landfall in coastal Georgia was 1898. Peter Mullen, the Kentucky Colonel and Professor at Florida State College, presented a program in November on "Civil War Medicine." It is amazing to see how medical knowledge has advanced in 250 years. Bob and Jean Hawkins and Howard and Jeanne Klippel hosted our annual Christmas party at Belvedere Plantation in December. The famous eggnog recipe was present, and everyone had a joyful time. In January Bill Ramsaur, a member of the Marshes of Glynn Chapter of Sons of American Revolution, presented a program on "Flags over Revolutionary Georgia." He displayed ten flags that flew over Revolutionary Georgia. Bill is also a member of LAHS. In February, Buddy Sullivan presented a program on "The Naval War of 1812." The USA had a very small number of naval ships in 1812, and they were against England's Royal Navy, the largest in the world at that time. Several frigates of the U.S. Navy were built from coastal Georgia live oak timbers.

In March, Peter Mullen, The Kentucky Colonel, gave a program on the Genographic Project. This project attempts to trace our human DNA back to the beginning of mankind. This

was very interesting. April brought Pamela Mueller back to review her new book, *"Lady Unveiled: Catherine Green Miller."* Her husband was a Revolutionary War general, reporting directly to General George Washington. After the war she settled in the Savannah, GA area and a frequent guest, Ely Whitney, invented the cotton gin there. In May John A. Caramia, Jr., presented a program on Georgia and the War of 1812. The preparations Georgia took to defend itself and the brief British occupation were of great interest. In June Michael Higgins presented a program on the naval war battle between CSS Alabama and USS Kearsage off the coast of France. The CSS Alabama was sunk after slightly over an hour's combat.

After the May meeting, I passed the president's gavel to Buddy Sullivan, incoming president. LAHS is certainly in good hands with a person of Buddy's knowledge and ability. Buddy is the author of 17 books on coastal Georgia history. He also has a busy teaching and lecturing schedule on Georgia history. LAHS enjoyed numerous field trips arranged by Harriet Roberson. She does an excellent job selecting interesting places to visit. Some of those places visited this year were Effingham County's historic museum and the St. Mary's historical train ride.

Fort King George site manager for many years, Steven Smith, left for a new position with Massie Heritage Center in Savannah. He did a great job at Fort King George and the McIntosh community. We wish him much success in his new position.

A special thank you goes to Howard Klippel for arranging all of these excellent programs for LAHS and to Carole Williams for her dedicated work on the Altamaha Echoes. Thanks again for allowing me to serve LAHS as president for the past three years.

Jack F. Godfrey

LAHS Meeting, Thursday, August 21, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak

LAHS President Buddy Sullivan will present a lecture on *"Howard Earle Coffin: 1920s Visionary for Coastal Georgia."* Howard Coffin, a Detroit automotive pioneer, owned and lived on Sapelo Island from 1912-1934. During that time he, with his cousin, Alfred W. (Bill) Jones, Sr., founded the Sea Island Company and the Cloister Hotel, which greatly enhanced the visibility and access to the Golden Isles. Coffin was a visionary who promoted and invested in coastal Georgia during the 1920s, and linked automotive development toward helping make the region a viable tourism destination for the first time.

Buddy Sullivan has researched Coffin for the last 25 years and has new information about him in his forthcoming book on the history of Sapelo Island (University of Georgia Press 2015).

LAHS Meeting, September 18, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak

The topic of Brandon Ritchison's presentation will be on *"Households on the prehistoric Georgia coast."* He will be discussing what we know about the households, what archaeologists and anthropologists can learn from studying them, and his attempt to locate households at the Kenan Field Site on Sapelo Island.

Mr. Ritchison has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and a minor in Folklore and Mythology from the University of KY. He is currently in his third year of a PHD program in Anthropology at the University of GA.

LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, October 16, 2014, 4:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site

LAHS AND ASHANTILLY CENTER JOINT PROGRAM
Thursday, October 16, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site



LAHS and Ashantilly Center will co-host a reception, book sale, and program featuring speaker Stephen Whigham. Mr. Whigham will be presenting a lecture about 1940s South Georgia novelist Brainard Cheney (pictured here) who wrote several fictionalized accounts of late 19th century timber rafting on the Altamaha River. Members of both organizations are encouraged to turn out and hear this outstanding program.

Stephen Whigham grew up in Eastman, GA and received a History degree from Georgia Southern University. He later attended the University of South Carolina, receiving both Masters and Specialists degrees in Library Science. He retired from the Ocmulgee Regional Library System after working in the library field for more than 30 years. Mr. Whigham grew up hearing family stories of novels published by Brainard Cheney, which led to his many years of extensive research on the man and his novels.

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News from the Board:

- The Buddy Sullivan Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to Katie Hay, daughter of Fred & Renee Hay, of McIntosh County Academy.
- We wish a warm welcome to Valarie Ikhwan who is the new Site Manager at Fort King George.
- Due to family reasons, Tommy Harper was unable to accept the Board member position. Howard Klippel was selected for the position.
- Eunice Moore has graciously accepted the Hospitality Chairperson position. **The Membership and Program Chairs are still unfilled.**

LAHS needs you!

We always like to welcome new members:

Dr. Tanya Payne
Wes Tippens
Mo Taleb
Donald & Jeanette Benz
Thomas Barren

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 – Darien, GA 31305

www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org

FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORIC SITE

P.O. Box 711 – Darien, GA 31305 ---- 912-437-4770

www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge

*The oldest English fort remaining on
Georgia's coast.*

LAHS Officers

President ((2014-2016)	Buddy Sullivan	912-485-2251
Vice-President (2014-2016)	Eunice Moore	912-437-4935
Secretary (2012-2015)	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Treasurer (2013-2015)	Betty Cleveland	912-832-2166

Board Members 2013-2015

Martha Carney
Linda Daniels
Chris Milner
Lloyd Y. Flanders

Board Members 2014-2016

Yvonne Carter
Howard Klippel
Walter Pitts
Carole Williams

Past-President
Director Emeritus

Jack Godfrey
Buddy Sullivan

Committee Chairpersons

Ft. King George	Valarie Ikhwan
Membership	Jim Bruce/
Programs	Howard Klippel
Scholarship	Ann Howard
Field Trips	Harriet Roberson
Altamaha "Echoes"	Carole Williams
Publications/Books	Hoyt Carney
Historian	Buddy Sullivan
Hospitality	Eunice Moore
Webmaster	Jim Bruce
Archives	Martha Carney

Life Memberships

Muriel Bell	Cecil & Sandra Hudson
Marsha Certain	Bill Jones III
Certus Bank	Harriet Langford
Bob and Carol Churi	David Miller
Coastal GA Historical Soc	Chris & Ward Milner
Darien Telephone Co.	Bill & Sherry Minnick
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis	Barbara Poetzman
John & Mary Dean	Frances Pollard
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	John Reehling
Albert & Joyce Fendig	Jeff & Kelly Spratt
Lloyd Y. Flanders	Eloise Thompson
Read Gignilliat	Jesse & Glenda Varnedoe
Gus & Marg Hallman	

Honorary Life Memberships

Jim & Barbara Bruce	Everett Moriarty
Ralph Gill Jr.	Myrtle Newberry
Mattie Gladstone	Buddy Sullivan

Monday, September 1, 10 am – 4 pm
Labor Day at Fort King George
Be treated to musket and cannon firings.
Also, come and see the various jobs soldiers
would "Labor" on as part of their duties.

Saturday, September 27,
10 am – 4 pm
Fence and Garden Projects –
Your State Parks Day
Help reconstruct the vine fence or work on
the raised vegetable garden in the yard of
the new Scottish house. Also, our nature
trail is in need of trimming over-hanging
limbs. Bring your work gloves and hat.

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

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

