

# Altamaha Echoes

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Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

August 2013

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

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## Annual Report for 2012-2013

Another year has passed so quickly it is difficult to realize that it is time for the annual report. We have had an excellent year at LAHS with programs, field trips, and socials. One of the great benefits of LAHS memberships, in addition to learning about the history of coastal Georgia, is meeting and enjoying the friendship of our members. We always welcome new members to join this fellowship. The before-the-meeting meals at B&J'S also provide an occasion to catch up on the events occurring in our members' lives.

The officers, board members and committee chairpersons all did a superb job again this year. All of the club members appreciate the work they do, and I offer a sincere "thank you" for your dedication to LAHS. A special thank you goes to Howard Klippel for continuing to find interesting and informative speakers for our programs. This requires a lot of investigating and follow-up, and he is a master at it.

Our programs and activities started in June 2012 with our summer picnic at Fort King Georgia. The meal was delicious and the fellowship was great. In July 2012 Peter Mullen presented a program on Civil War medicine. It was truly amazing to observe the practice of medicine during the Civil War years. It became obvious that medical knowledge has made great progress in the last 150 years. Mr. Mullen is a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. In August, Charles Seabrook presented a program from his new book, *"The World of the Salt Marsh."* This book looks at the ecological significance of the marshes, habitat for sea creatures and erosion protection. Our location in Darien near Sapelo Sound and the Darien River made this a very interesting program. September brought Dr. Marshall P. "Mark" Waters presenting an interesting program entitled "Whatever Happened to the Confederate Gold." The Confederate treasury was estimated to be worth \$10 million dollars in today's value. Mark had to come back in April 2013 to finish the story. Unfortunately, all the gold is gone now, after having been dispersed to pay troops and other expenses. Some may have drifted into the pockets of unscrupulous people.

In October 2012 our own Buddy Sullivan had a very interesting program on the "Life, Labor and Landscape on the Georgia Coast." His presentation was very interesting, as usual. He is so knowledgeable about coastal Georgia history. Buddy is the author of numerous books about Coastal Georgia and state history. November's program was "Show and Tell." This is always a great time to see and hear what treasures and heirlooms our members have. We always have interesting displays.

The LAHS Christmas celebration in December was a great success, as always. Belvedere Plantation was decorated in traditional holiday fashion. The food and fellowship was excellent. Dr. Peter Mullen returned in January 2013 with another interesting program on "Civil War Feuds: A Family Tradition." Unfortunately, many families experienced divided loyalties during that tragic war. It was interesting to hear him tell about many of the family events during that time. The story of John C. Fremont, a Savannah native, was presented in February. Fremont's expeditions in the American West, dealing with the Spanish and Indians, was most interesting. A recent book I read about Kit Carson, Fremont's chief scout, highlights the importance of Fremont's expeditions in uniting our nation from sea to sea.

Dr. Kevin Kiernan came in March to present a program on "Archaeology on the Lower Altamaha." Tabby ruins in the northern section of Glynn County proved to be very interesting. In May, Jim Jordan returned with the remarkable story of "A Confederate Revenge: Gazaway

Lamar defeats the Yankees.” Mr. Lamar’s legal battles to receive payment for his cotton taken by the Union Army in Savannah were very interesting. “Sherman’s March Through Georgia” was presented by Dr. Stephen Berry of the University of Georgia in June. He presented interesting information and insights of what occurred during that infamous march through Georgia’s heartland. This was part of the “Burning of Darien” commemoration held in June 2013 to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event.

Numerous field trips were enjoyed during the year. The Charleston Tea Plantation and the Cumberland Island “Lands and Legacy Tour” were both excellent as well as the trip to the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens/Bamboo Garden and Skidaway Aquarium. Thank you to Harriet Roberson for arranging these. It was a great year, and I look forward to the coming year. May the Lord’s blessings be with you all.

Jack F. Godfrey

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, August 15, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Pizza**

Nancy Hodges Crosby will be presenting a program on a new publication, *“Tales of Old Tattnall and Evans.”* Those who love local history will enjoy hearing about life in rural south GA through heart-warming and humorous stories from interviews with her family members and other interesting persons. Among Crosby’s favorites are interviews by two sharecropper’s daughters and others who recall the days of the Great Depression in the 1930’s when cotton was king.

Ms. Crosby studied at Emory University School of Medicine and is a Registered Dietitian. She is now retired and enjoys traveling and bird watching with her husband Johnnie. Her latest project is a Southern Classic Cookbook, not yet released.



September 2, 2013

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**LAHS Meeting, September 19, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Pizza**

Joshua Chamberlain – “More than just Little Round Top” – will be presented by Peter Conover. Chamberlain’s heroic stand of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine on July 2, 1863 against the 15<sup>th</sup> Alabama displayed great leadership, but we will learn more about his life and contributions to his country.

Peter Conover is a retired employee of the Department of Insurance State of CT. He is currently a volunteer at Ft. King George. He received his BA degree from Bellarmine College in Louisville KY. He has had a longtime interest in history, especially the Civil War with an emphasis on Joshua Chamberlain. Prior to his retirement to Georgia, he and his wife Paula were members for many years of the CT Civil War Round Table. Their meetings were held in an old church in Torrington, CT, the same church that John Brown was baptized in, when he was “just a little baby.”

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**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Thursday, October 17, 2013, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**

**LAHS Meeting, October 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**

**Fort King George Historic Site**

**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Pizza**

It seems our own Buddy Sullivan is busier than ever since retirement. We are delighted to have him speak this month on "Georgia Hurricanes." His presentation will be an overview of the impact hurricanes have had on the Georgia coast, with special emphasis on hurricanes that have directly struck McIntosh and Glynn Counties. The program will cover these storms from 1800-present, including the last major hurricane to make landfall in coastal Georgia in October in 1898. The implications for possible future impacts of hurricanes will also be explored.

Buddy Sullivan is a leading authority on the history and culture of coastal Georgia and the author of 17 books, among them *Georgia: A State History*. LAHS sponsored a booklet prepared by Buddy about the 1898 hurricane which will be on sale at the meeting.

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***News from the Board of Directors:***

- *The following members took office in June. Thank you as always for your willingness to serve.*

*President: Jack Godfrey*

*Vice President: Buddy Sullivan*

*Treasurer – Betty Cleveland*

*Board Members – Martha Carney, Linda Daniels, Lloyd Y.*

*Flanders, and Chris Milner*

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***It is always a pleasure to welcome new members:***

- *Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bacon, SSI*
- *Dr. Michael & Mrs. Nancy Woodward,  
Darien*
- *Jeff Sanders, Townsend*

**150<sup>th</sup> COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS, BURNING OF DARIEN, on June 11, 2013 was a huge success. Shown below are re-enactors Colonel Robert Gould Shaw of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts reporting to Colonel James Montgomery of the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina prior to burning the town. Only a few buildings remained. The burning of Darien was one**

**of the most controversial events of the War.**



**Visit the Civil War Museum at the Trailhead Center to get the rest of the story.**

**LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 1405 – Darien, GA 31305

[www.loweraltamahistoricalociety.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 (2013-2014)	Jack Godfrey	912-832-5822
Vice-President (2013-2014)	Buddy Sullivan	912-485-2251
Secretary (2012-2014)	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Treasurer (2013-2015)	Betty Cleveland	912-832-2166

Board Members 2012-2014

Betty Ewing  
Walter Pitts  
Dee Slagle  
Carole Williams

Board Members 2013-2015

Martha Carney  
Linda Daniels  
Chris Milner  
Lloyd Y. Flanders

Past-President  
Director Emeritus

Lloyd Y. Flanders  
Buddy Sullivan

Committee Chairpersons

Ft. King George	Steven Smith
Membership	Jim Bruce/Dee Slagle
Programs	Howard Klippel
Scholarship	Ann Howard
Field Trips	Harriet Roberson
Altamaha "Echoes"	Carole Williams
Publications/Books	Hoyt Carney
Historian	Buddy Sullivan
Hospitality	Mary Virginia & Harry Clark
Webmaster	Jim Bruce
Archives	Martha Carney/Casey MacMillan

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

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

**First Saturday Fun at the Fort**  
**Saturday, August 3, 2013**

*1 pm – 4 pm*

*Join site blacksmith Brad Spear, along with special guest Mark Henderson, as they work the forge and produce various items for the fort garrison. There will also be ranger-led soldier talks, colonial toys and games, as well as musket firing demos.*

**Labor Day Commemoration**

**Monday, September 2, 2013**

*10 am – 4 pm*

*The fort will come to life on the day as site staff as well as volunteers fire the fort's cannon and muskets. Children young and old alike will also enjoy hands-on activities such as rolling hoops, nine-pins, tug-o-war and more!*

**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.**

