

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

May 2014

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

LAHS Meeting, Thursday, May 15, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

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

John A. Caramia, Jr., currently the Director of Interpretive Programs for the Coastal Heritage Society, will be presenting a program on *Georgia and the War of 1812*. 2014 marks the third year of the 200th Anniversary of the war little remembered or understood by Americans today. This presentation will look at the events of the War of 1812 through the eyes of Georgia, the preparations taken by the state to defend itself, the events of the war that were followed by Georgians, and the brief British occupation.

Mr. Caramia graduated from State University of New York College in anthropology with a minor in history, and did his doctoral work at UGA in Social Science Education. He has an extensive background in history, interpretive education and planning, staff training, and teaching from Colonial Williamsburg to State University of New York. He is currently the President of the Coastal Museum Association.

LAHS Meeting, June 19, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

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

Michael Higgins' presentation will be *"The Engagement Between CSS Alabama and USS Kearsage."* On this date 150 years ago, USS *Kearsarge* sank the notorious Confederate commerce raider CSS *Alabama* after slightly over an hour's combat, roughly 4.5 miles off Cherbourg, France - there were more than 14,000 spectators. The Executive Officer of CSS *Alabama* was John McIntosh Kell, who was born and raised at Laurel Grove just outside Darien.

Mr. Higgins graduated from America's oldest Merchant Marine Academy, State University of New York Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, NY. He is co-founder of the Confederate Navy Historical Society. He has extensive experience in oceanographic research, port management, and advisor to the U.S. Dept. of State in defending the title to the USS *Alabama* wreck.



**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY
JULY 4, 2014**

**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, July 17, 2014, 4:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site**

**ANNUAL PICNIC, July 17, 2014, 5:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site**

Join us for our annual picnic in the auditorium at Fort King George. As usual, LAHS will provide the meat – just bring one of your favorite dishes to share with the group. We are hoping to come up with some kind of entertainment or activity for that day in addition to the picnic. **SO JOIN US IN JULY!!**



**** NOTICE: Annual Memberships are Due In January ****

Life Membership - \$250 Corporate - \$100 Individual - \$15 Family - \$20
Student - \$5

Make your check payable to LAHS and mail to P.O. Box 1405, Darien, 31305, or give to Betty Cleveland, Treasurer.

IF DUES ARE NOT PAID, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE.

We are always glad to welcome new members:

- Laura & Jordy Evans Family, Townsend, GA (as of 5/1)
 - Judy & Kenny Dodd, Townsend, GA
 - Norman & Shirley Lawson, Darien
 - Pat & Jim Ragsdale, Darien
 - Gerry & Jane Meyer, Darien

News from the Board:

- The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate for Election to terms June 2014 through June 2016:

President: Buddy Sullivan

Vice President: Eunice Moore

Board Members: Yvonne Carter, Tommy Carter,
Bubba Pitts, Carole Williams

Elections will be held at the May meeting.

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STEVEN SMITH LEAVES FORT KING GEORGE FOR NEW POSITION.

On April 8th, members of LAHS took a field trip to the MASSIE HERITAGE CENTER in Savannah. This wonderful old building was given to Savannah in the mid-1850s as a school for children who could not afford the private schools of the day. It afforded many children a superior education for almost a hundred years. Now it is owned by the School System of Savannah and is used for various historical exhibits including the original city squares as designed for the construction of Savannah, the history of the Indian heritage of Georgia, a real life 1850s classroom, and a marvelous display of all the architecture to be found in the period homes of Savannah thru the ages. STEVEN SMITH is the head honcho at the Massie Institute now and he gave us the grand tour. In the few weeks he has been there he has certainly mastered things well, as you would never have known he was new at the job. We enjoyed the afternoon with him and though we will miss his being with us in Darien, we wish him much success in his new endeavor and want him to know how much we appreciate his work with us at the Fort for the last decade.

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*FIELD TRIP NEWS: On Saturday, May 24, the St. Marys Railroad along with the St. Marys Theater will take us on a ride from St. Marys to Kingsland and back, through woodlands, marshlands, and over Borrell Creek, while actors portray "America's Heroes" - stories of those who fought for our freedom through hundreds of years. The cost is \$20 per person and we will eat lunch (dutch treat) in St. Marys before boarding the 2:00 p.m. train. If you want to join us on this outing, call me at 265-6729 Harriet Roberson*

**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)

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

LAHS Officers

|                            |                  |              |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| President (2013-2014)      | Jack Godfrey     | 912-832-5822 |
| Vice-President (2013-2014) | Buddy Sullivan   | 912-485-2251 |
| Secretary (2012-2015)      | 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

Lloyd Y. Flanders

Director Emeritus

Buddy Sullivan

Committee Chairpersons

Ft. King George

|                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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               |

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 Minnich   |
| 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   |

*Visit the site the first Saturday of each  
month for  
**"First Saturday Fun at the Fort"!**  
On the first Saturday each month, from 1-4  
pm there will be musket firing demos,  
colonial toys and games, special guest  
presenters, and other various activities!  
Normal site admission rates apply, please  
call for more details! 437-4770*

*Wednesday, July 4, 10 am – 4 pm  
**Cannons Across The Marsh**  
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  
EXCEPT THANKSGIVING  
THROUGH CHRISTMAS  
FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**

