

# Altamaha Echoes

---

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

August 2012

---

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

---

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011-2012

This year has passed so quickly that I had to have a gentle reminder to write the year-end president's report. As the year progressed, I had to be reminded numerous times by officers, board members, and members about issues needing attention. To all I am grateful and say a heartfelt "Thank You" for all the support and assistance. Because of each of you, this has really been an enjoyable year.

I especially appreciate the help and support from our two previous presidents, Lloyd Flanders and Harriet Roberson - these ladies have an immense knowledge of people, places and events in McIntosh County. As a relative newcomer, I needed and received their help and support.

Our programs this year were all excellent. Howard Klippel continues to find and schedule programs that are interesting and informative. He has a real talent for finding programs that fit a special event or special season of the year – a special thank you to Howard for the work he does for LAHS.

In September 2011, Ken Johnson of the Civil War Naval Museum presented a very interesting program on the Civil War Navy. This is a feature of Civil War activities frequently overlooked. In October William Morton presented a history of how Georgia's boundaries have changed over time and how the state was shaped. One of our own, Ed Cawthon, shared the fascinating story of the 1864 attack by Federal troops on the Confederate post on the McIntosh County coast for the November program. We had an excellent Christmas party at Belvedere Plantation in December – lots of eats and treats to celebrate the holidays.

To start the New Year, Brian Carney gave a program on Georgia's defenses, from before the Revolution through the Civil War. This was followed by Dr. William Collins' presentation of the contribution of Black citizens of McIntosh County in the medical profession - a significant number having been engaged as doctors, nurses, and pharmacists

Pam Mueller's new book, *"Water to My Soul,"* was the subject of our March meeting. Ms. Mueller presented the life of Elizabeth Lucas Pinckney in vivid detail from early childhood until her senior years. I read the book, and it left you feeling that you knew Elizabeth Pinckney personally. April's program was an update on activities of the Altamaha Riverkeeper. So much of the history of McIntosh County is influenced by the Altamaha that programs about the river are always interesting. The following month Janisse Ray gave an excellent presentation of her personal experiences of growing up on the Altamaha River in Appling County, and her new book about the river, *"Drifting Down to Darien."* Our summer picnic in June completed our year. We had a great time sharing funny stories and personal experiences.

During the year we enjoyed several excellent field trips. The Jerusalem Lutheran Church and Salzburger Society Museum near Rincon were an interesting look at a church congregation which started in 1734, the year after Savannah was founded. The trip to the Georgia Railroad Museum in April was also informative and interesting. As an engineer, I have always been interested in big machinery, especially steam-powered engines. If you did not get to attend this field trip, it is well worth your time to make the trip to Savannah to see it.

Again, I would like to thank all the officers and directors. A very special thank you goes to Harriet Roberson, who after serving as our president for four years, is doing an excellent job as Secretary, and helping me with the President's responsibilities. I look forward to the coming year.

Jack F. Godfrey

**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, August 16, 7:00 p.m.**

**Fort King George Historic Site**

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

Charles Seabrook, long-time environmental writer for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and author of *“Cumberland Island: Strong Women, Wild Horses,”* will present our program on his new book, *“The World of the Salt Marsh: Appreciating and Protecting the Tidal Marshes of the Southeastern Atlantic Coast.”* Mr. Seabrook’s latest book looks at the ecological significance of the marshes, from providing a natural habitat for hundreds of creatures to protecting against costly erosion.

Mr. Seabrook has won awards from the National Wildlife Federation, the Southern Environmental Law Center, and various press organizations. His newspaper series about Georgia’s mining industry won the Investigative Reporters and Editors “Best Story of the Year” in 1994. In 2001 the state of Georgia gave him the R. L. “Rock” Howard Award – its highest conservation award.

---

**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, September 20, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**

**Fort King George Historic Site**

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

*“Whatever Happened to the Confederate Gold?”* is this month’s presentation by Dr. Marshall P. “Mark” Waters III. Richmond, Virginia was abandoned by the Confederacy on Sunday, April 2, 1865. There was near pandemonium in Richmond when the train pulled out of the station carrying the treasury, Richmond bank assets, and sundry other items. The value of the treasury was estimated to be in the neighborhood of over \$10 million in today’s value. Dr. Waters will focus on its arduous sojourn, what happened to it, and what was accounted for and what was not.

Mark is a native of Miami, FL. He attended Duke University and the University of Georgia, and earned his PhD from UGA. He retired from the Naval Reserve in 1996 after a career of over 39 years of enlisted and commission service. In his civilian career, Mark worked as a mathematician and physical scientist for USDA and NOAA. He has published articles on the Confederate Treasury and missing Virginia bank assets. Mark has appeared on The History Channel, GPTV’s “Georgia Traveler,” and TBS relating the disposition of the treasury.

---

**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Thursday, October 18, 2012, 4:00 p.m.**

**Fort King George Historic Site**

**LAHS members are always welcome**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, October 18, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**

**Fort King George Historic Site**

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

Buddy Sullivan, past president and Emeritus member of the LAHS Board of Directors, will be our featured speaker for this month. He is a native of McIntosh County and a fifth-generation coastal Georgian. He has been Manager of the Sapelo Island Research Reserve since 1993. He is a leading authority on the history and culture of coastal Georgia and the author of 17 books, among them *Georgia: A State History*, and two comprehensive coastal histories – *Early Days on the Georgia Tidewater* and *From Beautiful Zion to Red Bird Creek*. The latter volume received the Georgia Historical Society’s Lilla M. Hawes Award for Georgia’s outstanding work of local history. He is also a major contributor to the University of Georgia’s online *New Georgia Encyclopedia*.

*News from the Board of Directors:*

- *Board Member and Membership Chairperson Carol Churi and Publications/Books Chairman Bob Churi have resigned their positions effective the end of August, 2012. They will be moving out of the area. Carol and Bob, thanks so much for your service. You will be missed.*

*If you would be willing to take any of these vital positions – Board, Membership, or Publications/Books - please let an officer or board member know as soon as possible.*

- *We want to extend a special thank you to Everett Moriarty for his faithful service in maintaining the membership log for so many years. Everett has had to relinquish this important role for health reasons. Anyone interested in this job?*
- *Beautiful afghans (pictured below) depicting various historical sites in McIntosh County are being sold by LAHS as a fundraiser. They are available in cranberry and hunter green and cost \$50.00. Afghans will be available at the next meeting, but if you want one before that time you can contact Betty Cleveland in north McIntosh at 832-2166 or Harriet Roberson in south McIntosh at 265-6729. LAHS is also looking for a volunteer to coordinate the afghan sales, can you help?*



*They are available in cranberry and hunter green and cost \$50.00. Afghans will be available at the next meeting, but if you want one before that time you can contact Betty Cleveland in north McIntosh at 832-2166 or Harriet Roberson in south McIntosh at 265-6729. LAHS is also looking for a volunteer to coordinate the afghan sales, can you help?*

---

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

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

- *Deborah Sheppard, Darien*
- *Dr. Paul and Barbara Bodamer, Darien*
- *Brian Carney, Savannah*

---

***FIELD TRIP:*** *We are planning to take a Kelly Tour on Tuesday, September 4, to visit the Charleston Tea Plantation. It is the home of American Classic Tea, the only tea grown in America. It is located on Wadmalaw Island. The schedule, as of now, will be: pick up at the South Newport I-95 Exit around 8:00 a.m. The day will include a factory tour, explanation of the tea making process, a trolley tour of the tea fields, and a visit to the 1500-year-old Angel Oak. Lunch in Charleston at the Tomato Shed Café is included in the tour price of \$109.00 per person. We should be home well before dark. Call me to secure your place, with payment due no later than Thursday, August 16. We do need a dozen or more persons in order to go. Call me if you need further information.*

*Harriet Roberson 265-6729*



**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 (2011-2013)	Jack Godfrey	912-832-5822
Vice-President (2011-2013)	Jack Amason	912-832-5439
Secretary (2012-2014)	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Treasurer (2011-2013)	Betty Cleveland	912-832-2166

Board Members 2011-2013

Vivian Amason  
Martha Carney  
Carol Churi  
Linda Mock

Board Members 2012-2014

Betty Ewing  
Walter Pitts  
Dee Slagle  
Carole Williams

Past-President  
Director Emeritus

Lloyd Y. Flanders  
Buddy Sullivan

Committee Chairpersons

Ft. King George	Steven Smith
Membership	Carol Churi
Programs	Howard Klippel
Scholarship	Ann Howard
Field Trips	Harriet Roberson
Altamaha "Echoes"	Carole Williams
Publications/Books	Bob Churi
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
Coastal GA Historical Soc	David Miller
Darien Telephone Co.	Chris & Ward Milner
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis	Bill & Sherry Minnick
John & Mary Dean	Barbara Poetzman
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Frances Pollard
Albert & Joyce Fendig	John Reehling
Lloyd Y. Flanders	Jeff & Kelly Spratt
Read Gignilliat	Eloise Thompson
Gus & Marg Hallman	Jesse & Glenda Varnedoe

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.*

**Altamaha River Canoe Excursion**

*Saturday, August 18, 2012  
10 am – 1 pm*

*Short Trip to Cathead Creek*

*All trips include canoes, paddles, and life jackets.  
\$35 per person, RSVP.*

**A Murder Mystery In Colonial Darien**

*Saturday, September 29, 2012  
7 pm – 8:30 pm*

*Have fun with the Garrison as you play killer colonial Clue! Guests will become amateur sleuths during this one-of-a-kind entertaining and engaging evening! Take notes and uncover clues as this dramatic episode unfolds before your eyes.  
\$35 per person, RSVP.*

**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.**



*Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 1405  
Darien, Georgia 31305*