

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

August 2015

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

LAHS Annual Report, 2014-2015

As your LAHS president I want to say how truly honored I am to serve in this role and to support and promote the organization in its ongoing mission to collect, preserve, and disseminate the history of Darien, McIntosh County, the lower Altamaha River region and coastal Georgia in general. Since 1979, the LAHS has been an energetic organization with vibrant, enthusiastic and committed people dedicated to the furtherance of these goals. Today's Society is certainly no exception. We have an outstanding Board of Directors, and officers who always go the "extra mile" to ensure that the Society remains in the forefront of being an important educational and cultural institution for our community.

The past twelve months have been both active and productive in a variety of ways. LAHS has formed strong educational partnerships with the Ashantilly Center, the Friends of Sapelo and the Fort King George Historic Site. These alliances have proven to be highly beneficial to all four groups and it has shown up well in the greater McIntosh County community.

Our historical Archives, the repository of so many valuable and useful genealogical and historical documents, information, records and memorabilia, continues to grow and expand, and our Board of Directors has worked hard to give the Archives greater visibility in the community as a place for members and non-members alike to utilize in their family and community research. I would like to thank Martha Carney for ensuring that a volunteer is available to staff the Archives each week, as well as her wonderful efforts to professionally catalog books, photos and other materials for easy access, reference and availability. Your LAHS Board made the decision last fall to forego the proposed removal of our Archives to the city Trailhead Center for a number of reasons, and that decision has proven to be the right one.

The outreach initiatives of the LAHS have continued to expand in the past year with excellent results. The technical expertise of LAHS member Jim Bruce has enabled our website to be extremely useful as an educational and informational tool. In particular, Jim ensures that our monthly programs and speakers are featured on our website homepage and has added links by which members can now renew their annual memberships and pay dues via credit card on the website; also, the LAHS gift shop is now available directly through our website by which patrons can purchase books, afghans and other items on the website through a secure payment system implemented by Jim. Carole Williams has worked diligently to make our quarterly newsletter the outstanding publication that it is with information on upcoming programmatic initiatives, Society information and news, and the inclusion of interesting historical vignettes about our area for the enjoyment of readers.

An important educational outreach initiative of the Society is the provision of the annual \$1,000 Buddy Sullivan Scholarship to a deserving local student who is entering college. Our

2014-15 recipient was Katie Hay who graduated last year with honors from McIntosh County Academy and is excelling to a very high degree in her studies at Brown University, one of the outstanding Ivy League academic institutions.

Our programs continue to feature outstanding speakers and interesting topics. I would like to especially thank Howard Klippel who for more than 15 years tirelessly worked to secure a wonderful array of speakers for the monthly meetings of LAHS. Howard earned a well-deserved rest last summer when he turned over the duties of program committee chairman to the Board at large until a permanent replacement can be acquired. Any volunteers? I am just a phone call or email away! Howard remains on our Board and provides valuable insights and support regarding programs, and assisting with provision of travel expenses and lodging for out-of-town speakers.

We have had some of the most interesting lecture programs in the last year that I think we have ever had. In August 2014, I was pleased to provide a lecture on the significance of automotive pioneer Howard E. Coffin in the history of Sapelo Island, McIntosh County and the Golden Isles from 1912 to 1934; in September Brandon Ritchison of the University of Georgia gave an excellent program on the ongoing archaeological research at Sapelo Island, particularly regarding Kenan Field and the Shell Ring; our October speaker was a collaborative effort with the Ashantilly Center in which we had Stephen Whigham of Eastman provide a most interesting talk about southeast Georgia novelist, the late Brainard Cheney who, in the 1940s and 1950s, wrote of the timber rafting days on the Altamaha River; in November, the Society reprised its popular “show-and-tell” program in which members displayed family artifacts and antiques and told interesting stories about their ancestors; January saw LAHS member Lloyd Flanders provide an interesting program about the “Books of Sapelo” including an array of long out-of-print books and pamphlets about the island contained in her extensive personal collection; Bill Collins of LAHS spoke in February and drew a packed house of visitors as he gave an extremely interesting program about elected and appointed Black Political Officials in McIntosh County; the March speaker was Dr. Michael Woodward, an LAHS member, whose lecture on “The Religious Beliefs of Abraham Lincoln” was one of the most illuminating programs we have had at LAHS in many years with insights into President Lincoln, and those around him, that are little known and most interesting; Nettye Handy Evans gave a dynamic program in April about the famed Tuskegee Airmen, a topic that was enthusiastically received by all who attended her lecture; in May we had Stephanie Knox, director of the Cannon’s Point Preserve, give the Society an informative update on the educational and outreach initiatives, both culturally and ecologically, at Cannon’s Point at St. Simons Island; and in June, LAHS member and well-known author Pamela Mueller spoke to LAHS about her forthcoming historical novel about female spies in the Civil War, a thoroughly captivating program about a little-known aspect of the Civil War.

All in all, the collective diversity and uniqueness of the lectures series in 2014-15 may have been the greatest in the history of our organization when considering such unusual subjects as Lincoln and religion, the Tuskegee airmen, black political leaders, and Civil War female spies. A most eclectic mix!

Buddy Sullivan
LAHS President

Michaela Peeler, Valedictorian at McIntosh County Academy, was awarded the 2015-16 Buddy Sullivan Scholarship. She plans to study music education.

**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, August 20, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

“Massie Common School: Georgia’s Cradle of Public Education: will be the program presented by our old friend Steven Smith. He will focus on how the Massie School helped in the development of the Savannah-Chatham County School System, from the historical events that created the need for public education to Massie’s purpose during the nineteenth century to their role as a public school system heritage center.

Steven earned his BA in American History from Armstrong State College in Savannah and his MA in American History from University of Southern Illinois. He has taught middle school in Hinesville. From 2005-2014 he was Historic Site Manager at Fort King George. He left to assume the position of Site Curator/Director of the Massie Heritage Center in Savannah.

**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, September 17, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

Harriet Langford will present a program on *“A Coastal Visionary: William G. “Bill” Haynes of Ashantilly”* – his life as an artist, printer, and environmentalist. Come learn how his nonprofit, the Ashantilly Center, is keeping his legacy alive.

Harriet is originally from Rome, GA. She attended Furman University and came to the area in the early 70’s, retiring in 2003. She was invited to join the Board of Directors of the Ashantilly Center in 2005. After serving as Board Member and Secretary, she is current President of the Board of Directors.

**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, October 15, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site**

**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, October 15, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

The Southeastern Indians, as they relate to Georgia – such as Indian removal, the Scots-Irish fur traders who took Indian mates in the Colonial period, and their adaptation to the southern backcountry – is our presentation by Dr. Michael P. Morris.

Dr. Morris has a Master of Arts degree from GA Southern University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Auburn University. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the College of Coastal Georgia.

News from the Board:

- *The following officers were elected and have begun serving for the term of June 2015 – May 2017:*

Secretary:	<i>Harriet Roberson</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Yvonne Carter</i>
Board Members:	<i>Dr. William Collins, Linda Daniels, Aimee G. Gaddis, Roy Williams</i>

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 (2015-2017)	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Treasurer (2015-2017)	Yvonne Carter	912-437-5733

Board Members 2014-2016

Lloyd Y. Flanders
Howard Klippel
Walter Pitts
Carole Williams

Board Members 2015-2017

Dr. William Collins
Linda Daniels
Aimee G. Gaddis
Roy Williams

Past-President
Director Emeritus

Jack Godfrey
Buddy Sullivan

Committee Chairpersons

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

Life Memberships

Muriel Bell	Cecil & Sandra Hudson
Marsha Certain	Bill Jones III
Bob and Carol Churi	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

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE SAWMILLS

Saturday, August 15, 10 am- 2 pm

Enjoy a guided tour of the Fort with a new focus. This walking tour will guide you through the land as it was during the sawmill industry of the 19th century. Learn about how Darien played a role in this huge industry. Cost is regular admission.

LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

Monday, September 7, 10 am – 4 pm

Be treated to musket and cannon firings. Also, come and see the various jobs soldiers would "labor" on as part of their duties.

YOUR STATE PARKS DAY

Saturday, September 26, All Day

Enjoy FREE admission on National Public Lands Day. This is an opportunity to give back, so lend a hand and help us with our volunteer project on the park.

**OUR ARCHIVES/LIBRARY BUILDING
ON THE GROUNDS OF FORT KING
GEORGE HISTORIC SITE IS OPEN EVERY
THURSDAY EXCEPT THANKSGIVING
AND CHRISTMAS FROM 11 AM-3 PM**



September 7, 2015

