

# Altamaha Echoes

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Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

August 2016

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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 2015-2016

It has been another rewarding year for the Lower Altamaha Historical Society, highlighted by outstanding lecture programs, an active Board of Directors and increased use of the LAHS history archives. The mission of the LAHS to collect, preserve and disseminate the history of McIntosh County and the lower Altamaha River valley has been considerably furthered in the last year, following and adhering to the pattern established by the Society's founding in 1979 by a group of local individuals who saw the wisdom of protecting and maintaining an ongoing connection to our region's culture, history and ecology.

In the last year, we have further solidified our close partnership with the Fort King George Historic Site, as well as established a similar linkage with our nearby neighbor, the Hofwyl-Broadfield Historic Site across the Altamaha River. "Altamaha" is part of our name and therefore our focus on the history, culture and environmental aspects of the Altamaha River basin has been an integral part of our mission since William G. "Bill" Haynes suggested, with great acumen and foresight, the use of the river's name as the bedrock of our organization and what it stands for. The "river" is what we are, and will continue to be. It is thus fitting that the LAHS maintain a close and productive affiliation with both Fort King George and Hofwyl, which are both uniquely situated astride the river and provide distinct aspects of education and interpretation for locals and visitors alike.

Similarly, our strong partnerships with The Ashantilly Center and the Friends of Sapelo have been expanded and amplified as reflected in joint programming and other initiatives.

The efforts of Jim Bruce and Yvonne Carter have made tracking our membership rolls and dues collection more efficient than ever before. Jim has upgraded the LAHS website to include useful tools such as the PayPal system by which members can pay their annual dues online and members and friends can order items from the LAHS booklist online. Carole Williams continues to provide her valuable services as the editor of our Altamaha Echoes newsletter for which we are continually grateful.

The annual Buddy Sullivan Scholarship of \$1,000 to a deserving local graduating high school senior continues to help fulfill the implementation of our educational outreach initiative. Jennifer Gale, McIntosh County Academy, was the 2016 recipient.

The LAHS Archives has benefited from the receipt of additional materials through donated books, and in particular, a useful set of historical research maps of Georgia provided by

Dan Good. Linda Daniels has assumed oversight of the Archives volunteer program and we appreciate her efficiency in this regard. Also during the past year, the LAHS Board decided to streamline the operations of the Archives by which the facility is now open only on the third Thursday of each month, and by special appointment as necessary from individuals unable to utilize the facility on that day.

Harriet Roberson organized two highly interesting field trips for participating members, one to McRae to visit the home of former Georgia Governor Eugene Talmadge last fall, and this past spring a day trip to Sapelo Island. The Friends of Sapelo provided assistance for that event as well as helped arrange lunch at the Reynolds Mansion.

As your president I would like to especially thank our Board of Directors for its enthusiasm, support and efforts on behalf of the Society throughout the year. We continue to be in need of a permanent Program Chairman. In that respect, the Board extends to the general membership an invitation to make suggestions for speakers for future programs at our monthly meetings.

Our lecture series, as always, had an array of outstanding speakers and presenters, including: August 2015, Steve Smith on the growth and development of the Massie Common School of Savannah as a prominent center of education; September, Harriet Langford, with a review of activities at Ashantilly, future initiatives and a discussion of William G. Haynes and his continuing legacy to the Altamaha region; October, Dr. William J. Morton on boundary surveyor Andrew Ellicott; November, Chris Milner, John Crawford and Buddy Sullivan made a joint presentation on the story of the timber raftsmen on the Altamaha; January 2016, Dr. Michael Morris spoke about the Southeastern Indians and their interaction with colonial traders; February, Valarie Ikhwan of Fort King George gave an update on educational and volunteer activities at the site as well as an overview of the colonial history of the fort; March, Buddy Sullivan reviewed the history of Sapelo through images and commentary; April, The Nature Conservancy staff provided an update on its various projects in the Altamaha River and environs; May, Jo Hickson discussed the Coastal Georgia Greenway bicycle trail and the efforts to raise public and private funding to continue the trail's construction along the coast; June, Sudy Leavy provided a fascinating first-person perspective of the late Miss Ophelia Dent of Hofwyl-Broadfield, highlighting Miss Ophelia's passion for protecting the Altamaha against development, dams and barge traffic.

Buddy Sullivan  
LAHS President

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, August 18, 2016**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

Bill Giles has been the site superintendent at Hofwyl-Broadfield State Historic Site near Darien since 2007. His program will provide LAHS members with an update of ongoing activities at Hofwyl, the site's education and volunteer programs, and an overview of the interesting history of Hofwyl.

Bill is a graduate of UGA and has been associated with the Parks and Historic Sites Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources since 1999. He previously served DNR at the Dahlonga Gold Museum and at Magnolia Springs State Park. Bill is the author of the book,

"Disease, Starvation and Death: Personal Accounts of Camp Lawton," a Confederate prison camp for Union prisoners during the Civil War.

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, September 15, 2016**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

Jesse Wuest, Interpretative Ranger at Wormsloe State Historic Site in Savannah, will uncover the exploits of a number of local pirates like Stede Bonnet, Charles Bellamy, Ann Bonny, George Lothar, William Fly, Christopher Moody, and Charles Vane to see how these pirates fit into the greater Atlantic world and what specific impacts their acts of piracy had on the low country. He will be looking beyond Blackbeard and the Jolly Roger to discover the root causes and motivations that led common sailors to go "on the account" and begin a life of piracy.

Jesse obtained a BA in history from UGA in 2011, focusing on early American history and the history of the Atlantic world.

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**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Thursday, October 20, 2016, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, October 20, 2016**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

This month's program will be presented by Rebecca Fenwick, Historic Preservation Specialist for Lominack Kolman Smith Architects, where she oversees historic rehabilitation projects and is a preservation consultant. She is a graduate of the University of Mary Washington and holds a Masters of Historic Preservation from the College of Design at the University of Kentucky. Lominack Kolman Smith Architects was retained to perform phase one of a historic resource study for McIntosh County for the County Historic Preservation Commission. As part of this, Fenwick performed a comprehensive field analysis of resources over 40 years of age in Darien over the last year, culminating in survey data sheets and photography of each resource for input in the state historic preservation office database. Her presentation will share highlights of her report and recommendations for advancing preservation efforts in McIntosh County.

*Field trip: October 15* - we have tentative plans to join the Guale Historical Society in Camden County on a boat trip from St. Marys to Fernandina and back. Cost is \$25 00 for the boat, have no information on lunch as yet. Save the date if you are interested - we will talk about this at our August meeting.

*Harriet*

*News from the Board:*

- New lights have been installed at the entrance to Fort King George on each side of the glass doors. Hopefully this will help in lighting the walkway from the Fort to the parking lot.
- Annual election of Officers and Board Members was held in May. All those nominees listed in May newsletter were elected and began serving their terms in June. Officers and Board Members are listed on the last page of our newsletter.

**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.*

**SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF THE SAWMILL**

*Saturday, August 13, 2016  
10 am and 2 pm*

**LABOR DAY AT FORT KING GEORGE**

*Monday, September 5, 2016  
10 am – 4 pm*

**STATE PARKS DAY**

*Saturday, September 24, 2016  
10 am – 1 pm*

**SPANISH MISSIONS OF THE GA COAST**

*Saturday, October 15, 2016  
1 pm – 3 pm*

**THE GHOSTS OF FORT KING GEORGE**

*Saturday, October 29, 2016  
5 pm – 7 pm*

**OUR ARCHIVES/LIBRARY BUILDING  
ON THE GROUNDS OF  
FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE  
IS OPEN EVERY THIRD THURSDAY OF THE  
MONTH FROM 11 AM-3 PM  
EXCEPT DECEMBER.  
OTHER DAYS AND HOURS ARE AVAILABLE  
BY APPOINTMENT.  
CALL LINDA DANIELS AT 437-1702.**

LAHS Officers

President ((2016-2018)	Buddy Sullivan	912-658-5844
Vice-President (2016-2018)	Eunice Moore	912-437-4935
Secretary (2015-2017)	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Treasurer (2015-2017)	Yvonne Carter	912-437-5733

Board Members 2015-2017

Dr. Williams Collins  
Linda Daniels  
Aimee G. Gaddis  
Paul Nix

Board Members 2016-2018

Betty Ewing  
Howard Klippel  
Wes Tippens  
Lamar Williamson

Past-President  
Director Emeritus

Buddy Sullivan  
Buddy Sullivan

Committee Chairpersons

Ft. King George	Valarie Ikhwan
Membership	Jim Bruce/Yvonne Carter
Programs	
Scholarship	Ann Howard
Field Trips	Harriet Roberson
Altamaha "Echoes"	Carole Williams
Publications/Books	Hoyt Carney
Historian	Buddy Sullivan
Webmaster	Jim Bruce
Archives	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 Minnich
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	Myrtle Newberry
Mattie Gladstone	Buddy Sullivan



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