

# Altamaha Echoes

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Lower Altamaha Historical Society

August 2018

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

## ANNUAL REPORT

Our fiscal year runs from January-December, but our electoral year runs from June-May. This is the report for the past electoral year:

We did a super job cleaning up Bessie Lewis's gravesite in the Hopkins Cemetery.

We started putting out a container for contributions at our membership meetings each month, in hopes that members might contribute a dollar every month to help support the funding of our annual scholarship. This year our Scholarship Committee chose Makayla Crosby as most worthy to receive our \$1,000 support toward her higher education.

Sissy Kammer accepted the job of looking after the Archives. We purchased a new printer and put out a donated rain barrel to have a source for watering things there. John Wheeler, Ed Meyer, Chuck Bryan and Dan Good made significant material contributions to our Archives.

Forty members went on the field trip to Ossabaw Island, and a number of our members visited Auldbrass a few weeks later.

Martha Martin took on the responsibility of Books and Publications and puts out our available books for sale at each meeting.

We continued our financial support of Fort King George in gratitude for their generous "in-kind" support to us.

LAHS gained 37 new members, including 5 new Life Members, during the past year. We are proud to have these folks and hope you, our tried-and-true stalwarts, are reaching out each meeting to welcome them into our group. Thanks to all those who help direct our Society, and a special thank you to Buddy Sullivan for the past four years of his leadership. Those elected in May, to serve two-year terms, were Wes Tippins, President; Eunice Moore, Vice President; and Board members Bill Barton, Marshall Gaddis, Sissy Kammer and Lamar Williamson. All officers and Board Members are listed on the back of this newsletter. Program suggestions and project ideas are always welcome.

Here is a short review of last year's programs: Buddy Sullivan gave his "North McIntosh County: Land Use and Landscape" overview in June. July was our annual picnic with Linda Daniels and Kaye Traer coordinating. In August and September we saw two parts of the DVD by St. Simons native Stephen Doster entitled "St. Simons 360 – 400 years of the Island's History." Anne Packard, Director of the Moore Museum at Epworth by the Sea, brought the history of the United Methodist Church in South Georgia from the Wesley brothers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century up to the present, as our October program. In November we saw the third and final

part of the St. Simons History DVD. (We will loan this DVD to anyone who would like to see it at home – talk to Martha Martin at the book table.) December was another great “eggnoggy” Christmas party at the Belvedere Plantation clubhouse, under the sponsorship of the Klippels and the Hawkinses. Ed Meyer took us on his and Joan’s trip to Russia, Finland, and Norway in January. In February, as an intro to our planned field to Ossabaw Island in March, Elizabeth DuBose, Executive Director, spoke about its history and their current conservation efforts. It was all about “Right Whales” in March as Adam McKinnon, Education Coordinator for Sapelo Island (SINERR), recounted three centuries of its history here. April is Blessing of the Fleet month in McIntosh, and Robert Todd, a native son whose family consists of generations of shrimpers, brought that history to us as we celebrate the Festival’s fiftieth year of existence. Finally, in May, DeLeon Peacock spoke of his and his brother’s four years as youngsters at Boys’ Estate, living there and attending school and church in Darien. This safe place is still in existence where it started on Highway 99 in Glynn County. DeLeon covers thirty years of its history in his new book. Thanks to one and all!!!

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, August 16, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. B&J Steak**

Margie B. Washington, a Gullah Geechee Butler Island slave descendent and a resident of Mentionville Community in McIntosh County, will be our featured speaker. After finishing high school, Margie served her country in the U.S. Army from 1966-69. She then lived in New York and was employed by the Federal Government from 1970-75. After returning to her roots, she earned an Associate Degree in Secretarial Science from Brunswick Junior College (now CGCC). She was employed by the McIntosh County Registrar’s Office for 25 years and McIntosh County Health Department for 28 years before retiring.

Margie is a member of the First African Baptist Church in Darien and has a wealth of knowledge that she enjoys sharing regarding the development of McIntosh’s religious community as well as the evolution of the McIntosh County school system. She is proficient in the recognition and use of various herbs, roots, plants and their usages in healing a number of illnesses. She is a Geechee Storyteller, a member of the Gullah Geechee Shouters, has played major roles in several plays and movies, and is known by many as “the Maya Angelou of McIntosh County.”

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*Labor Day, September 3, 2018*

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, September 20, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 B&J Steak**

LAHS member Aimee Gaddis will relate the fascinating story of the vessel *Kit Jones* and its coastal Georgia and Sapelo Island legacy, and the initiative to bring her back home to McIntosh County for display as a public museum piece. The *Kit Jones* was built on Sapelo in 1939 under the auspices of

island owner Richard J. Reynolds, Jr. and served in various capacities as a utility boat for the island and as a research vessel for the University of Georgia Marine Institute, and later for the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. The *Kit* was later sold to the University of Mississippi and is now retired and in dry dock in Biloxi. Ms. Gaddis has been an integral part of the Committee to bring the *Kit Jones* back to McIntosh County. She has thoroughly researched its story, and her involvement the last several years in the collaborative effort to bring the vessel home will provide LAHS members with a unique “insiders” perspective on the project.

Aimee Gaddis has had a productive and successful professional career background in various ecological roles in coastal Georgia, including service with the UGA Marine Extension Service and 13 years at Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve as the Stewardship Coordinator. She has long been active in local community initiatives and is currently a member of the LAHS Board of Directors.

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**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Thursday, October 18, 2018, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, October 18, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

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Donald McDonald Johnson, whose great-grandfather bought Fair Hope in 1850, will be our speaker this month. His presentation is entitled “*Shrieks from Women and Children: A Refugee Family in the American Revolution*,” information taken from his book “The Cursed War, Lachlan McIntosh In The American Revolution.” Lachlan fought the British at every turn, had his plantations trampled, was called a traitor, killed Button Gwinnett in a duel, served with Washington at Valley Forge, all the while trying to get his wife and younger children to a safe place throughout the war.

Mr. Johnson is currently the librarian at the University of South Carolina. He is a poet, photographer, former newspaper editor, and has written four books concerning the Clan McIntosh and McIntosh families. He will have copies of his books available for sale at the meeting.

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Please extend a hearty welcome to the following new members. We are happy to have each and every one of you:

Mark and Bonnie Gramlich, John and Julie Hyatt, Victoria Love, Chris Noyes  
Maryam Payne, Nancy Seeley

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Dr. Paul Bodamer, Jr.**  
**Bonnie Klippel**

## LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 – Darien, GA 31305

[www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org)

### LAHS Officers

President (20180-2020)	Wes Tippins	912-242-1668
Vice-President (2018-2020)	Eunice Moore	912-437-4935
Secretary (2017-2019)	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Treasurer (2017-2019)	Yvonne Carter	912-437-5733

### Board Members 2017-2019

Linda Daniels  
Aimee Gaddis  
Martha Martin  
Paul Nix

### Board Members 2018-2020)

Bill Barton  
Marshall Gaddis  
Sissy Kammer  
Lamar Williamson

Past-President Buddy Sullivan

Director Emeritus

Buddy Sullivan

### Committee Chairpersons

Altamaha "Echoes"	Carole Williams
Archives	Sissy Kammer
Field Trips	Paul Nix
Ft. King George	Valarie Ikhwan
Historian	Buddy Sullivan
Hospitality	Linda Daniels
Membership	
Programs	Wes Tippins
Publications/Books	Martha Martin
Scholarship	Ann Howard
Webmaster	Jim Bruce

### Life Memberships

Vivian Amason  
Muriel Bell  
Wheeler Bryan Jr  
Marsha Certain  
Bob & Carol Churi  
Coastal GA Hist Soc  
Darien Telephone Co  
John & Mary Dean  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
Winnifred & Thomas Durden-Fanning  
Albert & Joyce Fendig  
Lloyd Y. Flanders  
Friends of Hofwyl  
Aimee Gaddis  
Read Gignilliat  
Cecil & Sandra Hudson

Willis & Ursula Hunt  
Bill JonesIII  
Lorraine Koenn  
Harriet Langford  
David Miller  
Chris & Ward Milner  
Bill & Sherry Minnich  
Barbara Poetzman  
Frances Pollard  
John Rheeling  
Jeff & Kelly Spratt  
Eric Teal  
Jesse & Glenda Varnedoe  
Mark Yeager

### Honorary Life Memberships

Jim & Barbara Bruce	Buddy Sullivan
Mattie Gladstone	Carole Williams

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## 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.*

**Saturday, August 4, 11 am-12 pm, Guided Tour of Georgia's First Fort,** Tour with a Ranger in redcoat uniform

**Saturday, August 11, 10 am-11 am, Sights and Sounds of the Sawmills,** Visit the actual locations of the mills

**Monday, September 3, 10 am-4pm, Labor Day Commemoration,** Artillery drills, blacksmithing, soldiers' life activities

**Saturday, September 29, 9 am-12 pm, State Parks Day,** Lend a hand with volunteer projects outdoors.

Volunteers receive FREE admission

**Saturday, October 6, 10 am-4 pm – Coastfest,** An all-ages event held under the Sydney Lanier Bridge in Brunswick, musket firings and woodworking demonstrations

**Saturday, October 27, 6 pm-10 pm, Fright at the Fort,** A night of thrills and chills

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OUR ARCHIVES/LIBRARY BUILDING ON THE GROUNDS OF FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE IS OPEN EVERY THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 11:00 AM–3:00 PM EXCEPT DECEMBER. OTHER DAYS/HOURS AVAILABLE BY APPT.



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