

# Altamaha Echoes

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Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

February 2017

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

Author Janisse Ray will present a program titled *"If Old Trees Could Talk: What I Learned at the Archives,"* about her historical research in neighboring Tattnall County. Tattnall was formed in 1801 from Montgomery County and never suffered the loss of its courthouse. Thus, the Tattnall County Archives contains records that date back to 1802. Janisse will take us on a virtual tour of the Archives and talk about some of the amazing history that is revealed in old books, court documents, and loose records.

Janisse Ray has written five books of literary nonfiction and a book of eco-poetry. Much of her work deals with environmental issues in the South; she has been called the South's best ecology writer. She is a lover of regional history and local culture, as well as an amateur genealogist. She is the volunteer archivist for Tattnall County Archives, located in Reidsville.

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, March 16, 2017, 7:00 p.m.  
Fort King George Historic Site  
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

Historian, Artist, Architect: those talents are all embodied to a very high level in James H. (Jim) Klippel of Atlanta who will be our featured speaker in March. Jim's topic will be the renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright and South Carolina's Auldbrass Plantation -- to which he brings a special knowledge and insight based on his research of many years. Auldbrass Plantation showcases the architectural genius of Frank Lloyd Wright and is located on the Combahee River in Beaufort County. Built in 1939, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Wright designed Auldbrass to exist in harmony with the Lowcountry landscape of which it is a part.

With over 30 years of design and building experience, Jim Klippel's architectural firm specializes in unique residential home designs. Last year, he won first place in the ARDA national design competition for his rustic passive solar home built of native woods, stone and glass. He is a professional member of the AIBD and the Georgia Green Building Council, as well as an NCBDC certified building designer. In 2006 Jim

was awarded "Design Member of the Year" by the Georgia chapter of the AIBD. Jim is also a talented artist, and his unique abstract paintings of wildlife, sea life and landscapes have been highly acclaimed for many years.

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**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 20, 2017, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, April 20, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

Christy Sherman, Director of the Richmond Hill Convention and Visitor's Bureau, will be our April speaker. She will discuss the unique 20<sup>th</sup> century historical heritage of Richmond Hill and lower Bryan County, particularly as it relates to the influence of famous automaker Henry Ford who made Richmond Hill his winter home from 1925 to 1947. Christy will also talk about heritage tourism in Richmond Hill and along the Georgia coast, and some of the ongoing restoration and preservation in initiatives in lower Bryan County.

Christy Sherman has served as the Director of Tourism for the Richmond Hill Convention and Visitors Bureau since 2014. Prior to her current position, she worked for four years at the Visitors Center at Fort McAllister State Historic Park. She is serving her second term as president of the Richmond Hill Historical Society and has served on their board of directors since 2009. Through her work at these organizations, she promotes tourism using historical and natural assets in Richmond Hill. In addition, Christy is also the vice-president of the Georgia Coast Travel Association where she helps promote tourism for the coastal region. Her proudest accomplishment in tourism and historic education is the creation of the Coastal Bryan Heritage Trail, a driving tour and educational app and companion booklet which marks 30 historic sites in Richmond Hill.

**MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1, 2017.**

**Please note the change in Family and Individual Membership dues.**

Life Membership - \$250    Family - \$25    Individual - \$20    Student - \$5

Pay with a credit card on the LAHS website at  
[www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org) OR make your check payable to LAHS,  
P.O. Box 1405, Darien, GA 31305, OR give to Yvonne Carter, Treasurer.

Please renew promptly. Our small treasury needs your dues!

## *News from the Board:*

- In February, a volunteer committee will be cleaning up the gravesite of Bessie Lewis in the Hopkins Cemetery near Crescent. She did the research work which led to the construction of Fort King George and thus the founding of the Lower Altamaha Historical Society – and was Buddy Sullivan’s historical mentor. If you are willing to help with the cleanup, which will be on a Saturday morning in February, please call Wes Tippens, 242-1668. He is in charge of this project. Thanks, Wes!
- The terms of 4 LAHS Board members, as well as the Secretary and Treasurer positions, will expire this year. If you would like to become more involved in our organization, please tell Buddy Sullivan of your interest. Nominations will be made at the April Board meeting, with those elected beginning their 2-year terms in June.
- Harriet Roberson has been having some medical problems of late, and Board member Paul Nix has been kind enough to volunteer to try resurrecting the Cannon’s Point field trips which were postponed last November because of the hurricane. The cleanup work is almost finished, so maybe we can get these trips in the works soon. Be on the lookout for more news! Thanks, Paul.

## *Coming Events:*

***Sunday, February 5, 2017, 3:00 pm, Fort King George Museum:*** Local author and LAHS President Buddy Sullivan will have a lecture and book signing for his new book about his historical mentor, Miss Bessie Lewis, the long-time historian of McIntosh County up to her death in 1983. The new volume includes the life and times of Bessie Lewis as an introduction to over one hundred of her most interesting columns, “Low Country Diary,” that appeared in the Darien News in the 1970s.

***Saturday, March 11, 2017, 10 am-4 pm /Sunday, March 12, 10 am-4 pm. Fort King George, Scottish Heritage Days: A Colonial Reenactment.*** A variety of living history demonstrations portraying colonial and particularly Scottish culture will be featured. A battle re-enactment will take place at 3 pm. Celebrate the first settlers of Darien. On Sunday there will be a Kirkin of the Tartans.

***Sunday, March 12, 2017, 3:00 pm, Ashantilly Center:*** LAHS members and friends are invited to attend an open house and book signing event for the new volume *Sapelo: People and Place on a Georgia Sea Island* with historical narrative by Buddy Sullivan and color photographs by Benjamin Galland. The attractive coffee table style volume has just been published by the University of Georgia Press in a hard-cover format. Remarks by the co-authors will begin at 3 p.m. followed by a reception and sale of signed copies of the books. This event is being co-sponsored and co-hosted by LAHS and the Ashantilly Center. Due to limited seating, reservations are required for the 3 p.m. talk. No reservations are needed for the open house book signing with the authors following the short talk.

**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.*

**First Saturday Fun – Woodworking**  
Saturday, February 4, 2017, 10 am – 3 pm  
Enjoy interacting with a site interpreter as they focus on the woodworking trade.

**First Saturday Fun – Colonial Women**  
Saturday, March 4, 2017, 10 am – 3 pm  
Fort site interpreter will focus on the life of colonial women and their daily tasks.

**First Saturday Fun – Soak It In**  
Saturday, April 1, 2017, 10 am – 3 pm  
This event will highlight the importance of the rivers and waterways in the colonial period.

**Weapons That Made America**  
Saturday, April 22, 2017, 10 am – 3 pm  
Come learn about various small arms and artillery, as we trace their origins from their earliest use up through the Civil War.

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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 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 Membership Programs	Valarie Ikhwan
Scholarship	Jim Bruce/Yvonne Carter
Field Trips	Ann Howard
Altamaha "Echoes"	Harriet Roberson
Publications/Books	Carole Williams
Historian	Hoyt Carney
Webmaster	Buddy Sullivan
Archives	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 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