

# Altamaha Echoes

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Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

May 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, May 18, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

The current status and health of coastal Georgia’s once-thriving oyster fishery will be the subject of a lecture on May 18<sup>th</sup> by Dominic Guadagnoli, Shellfish Program Manager for the Coastal Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. In the late 1800s and early 1900s Georgia had one of the most productive oyster industries in the United States because of the extensive beds along the coast between the barrier islands and the mainland. Over-harvesting of oysters and the failure to adequately re-seed contributed to a decline in the industry. Guadagnoli will discuss ongoing projects by Georgia DNR to restore Georgia’s oyster beds with multi-purpose benefits, including aiding the coastal economy, providing additional fish habitat, tidal creek and river bank stabilization, and improved water quality. Historical analysis of oyster harvesting trends, regular water quality monitoring initiatives, and the provision of commercial harvesting leases in designated oyster Growing Areas are ongoing programs that will contribute toward a revitalization of coastal harvests.

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, June 15, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

LAHS President and McIntosh County Historian Buddy Sullivan will present a lecture, “North McIntosh County: Land Use and Landscape,” a history of human activity in the section of the county between the South Newport and Sapelo Rivers. The June 15th slide talk will focus on Harris Neck, Sutherland’s Bluff, Pine Harbor, Fairhope, South Newport and Eulonia, with emphasis on antebellum plantation development, the growth of postbellum freedmen communities at Harris Neck and 20<sup>th</sup> century developments. North McIntosh County’s history has always held a fascination for Sullivan and it comprises a large section of his county history, *Early Days on the Georgia Tidewater*. The evolution of land use through agriculture, cattle ranges and naval stores production in the 1800s and early 1900s on the tracts along the South Newport River from Harris Neck to South Newport has played an integral part of the history of McIntosh County. The same may be said of the areas of Shellman Bluff, Pine Harbor, Fairhope and White Chimney. The World War Two Harris Neck airfield will also be discussed in the lecture.



Happy Independence Day - July 4, 2017

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

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**LAHS PICNIC, Thursday, July 20, 2017, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**

The annual summer picnic and fellowship for LAHS members, family and friends will follow the quarterly meeting of the LAHS Board of Directors. Participants are asked to bring their "favorite dish" --- whether it be salads, sides or desserts --- to supplement the entrée which will be provided by the Society. Linda Daniels and Kaye Traer are coordinating the food arrangements.

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*News from the Board:*

- If the label on this newsletter has a blue star on it, as of 4/21/17 your 2017 dues have not been paid. We don't want to lose you, so please send your dues to LAHS, P. O. Box 1405, Darien, GA 31305 right away. Thanks!! As a reminder, dues are as follows:  
**\$20 Individual - \$25 Family - \$5 Student - \$250 Life Membership**
- We do not want you to be the last to know, so in case you were not at the April meeting, Buddy Sullivan announced that he had bought a piece of property in Valona that was once in his family. He will be building a house and moving back to McIntosh County after a long hiatus. Congratulations, Buddy, and welcome home.
- In May we will be electing a Secretary, Treasurer, and 4 Board Members. The proposed slate of LAHS officers is as follows:  
Secretary: Harriet Roberson  
Treasurer: Yvonne Carter  
Board Members: Linda Daniels, Aimee Gaddis, Martha Martin, Paul Nix  
Others may be nominated from the floor with their prior permission. Those elected will take office in June for a two-year term.
- Paul Nix and Wes Tippens are the new co-chairmen in charge of field trips for LAHS. Also, Wes will begin helping Yvonne Carter with the membership duties.
- To help fund our annual \$1,000 scholarship award, given each May to a graduating MCA senior, the Board has decided to put out a "contribution container" at each LAHS meeting. All donations are completely voluntary, but just a dollar every month or so from members would be a welcome relief to our treasury.

- If you want to see Bessie Lewis's gravesite at its "cleaned-up best," go to the Hopkins Cemetery at Crescent and have a look. A big thank you goes to Wes Tippens and his LAHS work team. Job well done!!

### *In Their Own Words:*

*From GeorgiaInfo, an on-line almanac about the state of Georgia  
(To coincide with LAHS meeting dates)*

**May 18, 1737:** The few years John Wesley spent in Georgia were not particularly happy ones for him, as he viewed his ministry in Georgia as a failure. Evidence of this can be found in the following note from his journal: "I discovered the first Convert to Deism that (I believe) has been made here. He was one that for some time had been zealously and exemplarily religious. But indulging himself in harmless Company, he first made shipwreck of his Zeal, and then of his Faith. I have since found several others that have been attack'd. They have as yet maintain'd their Ground. But I doubt the Devil's Apostles are too industrious to let them long halt between two Opinions." *Our First Visit in America: Early Reports from the Colony of Georgia, 1732-1740.*

**June 15, 1865:** On this day, Eliza Frances Andrews put away her despair over the loss of the Civil War and had some fun: "This has been a day of jokes - as crazy almost as if it were the first of April.... After we had each told everything we could think of to raise a laugh against the other, he put on a serious face, and began to hint, in a very mysterious way, that he thought this house was a dangerous place. 'There are ghosts in it,' he said, and then, to our utter amazement, went on to tell, as if he were relating a genuine ghost story, about Capt. Goldthwaite's encounter with Cousin Liza the other morning, as he was coming out of his room to take the early train. He evidently didn't know, when he started, who the real ghost was ... and he would find out by telling the story at the dinner table....We thought this would be a good joke, and it turned out even better than we expected, when Cousin Liza walked right into the trap....Then, when she had betrayed herself as completely as she could, the captain gravely told his ghost story. But instead of laughing with the rest of us, she got on her high horse and gave him a piece of her mind that silenced him for that time as a story-teller. Everybody wanted to laugh, and everybody was afraid to speak, so we all looked down at our plates and ate as hard as we could, in dead silence. I expected every minute to hear somebody break out in a tell-tale snicker, but we held in till dinner was over... *The War-Time Journal of a Georgia Girl, 1864-1865.*

**July 20, 1774:** Two years before the Declaration of Independence, Georgians were expressing their concern with being taxed by Great Britain without their consent, as evidenced by the following notice that appeared in the *Georgia Gazette*: "The critical situation to which the British Colonies in America are likely to be reduced, from the arbitrary and alarming imposition of the late acts of the British Parliament respecting the town of Boston, as well as the acts that at present exist, tending to the raising of a perpetual revenue without the consent of the people or their representatives, is considered an object extremely important at this juncture, and particularly calculated to deprive the American subjects of their constitutional rights and liberties, as a part of the British Empire. It is therefore requested that all persons within the limits of this Province do attend at Savannah, on Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of July, in order that the said matters may be taken into consideration, and such other constitutional measures pursued as may appear most eligible. Signed, Noble W. Jones, Archibald Bulloch, John Houstoun, John Walton. 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1774."

**LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 1405 – Darien, GA 31305

[www.loweraltamahistoricalociety.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 ((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

*The oldest English fort remaining on Georgia's coast.*

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	Yvonne Carter/Wes Tippens
Programs	
Scholarship	Ann Howard
Field Trips	Paul Nix/Wes Tippens
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	Jesse & Glenda Varnedoe
Gus & Marg Hallman	

Honorary Life Memberships

Jim & Barbara Bruce	Myrtle Newberry
Mattie Gladstone	Buddy Sullivan

***First Saturday Fun – Cavalry***  
*Saturday, May 6, 2017, 10 am – 3 pm*  
*This event focuses on Cavalry and how horses contributed to efforts on the battlefield during this time period.*

***First Saturday Fun – Paddle Trip***  
*Saturday, June 3, 2017, 10 am – 3 pm*  
*In celebration of National Trails Day, site staff will lead a paddling trip. \$35.00 per person*

***First Saturday Fun – Soldiers***  
*Saturday, July 1, 2017, 10 am – 3 pm*  
*This event focuses on the soldiers of the fort and their daily tasks to keep the fort running.*

***Cannons Across the Marsh***  
*Tuesday, July 4, 2017, 10 pm – 4 pm*  
*Join the soldiers at the fort for a day of artillery drills, musket firings, and soldiers' activities. Free watermelon and lemonade served.*

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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.**



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