

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society



"The mission of L.A.H.S. is to Preserve and Disseminate the History of McIntosh County."

A Word from Paul

Hello, LAHS members!

During our 3rd quarter we had several interesting programs. Local author of Irish history, Kieran McMullen, gave a fascinating talk where he shared his expertise and knowledge of Irish history and the Irish settlers of Darien and McIntosh County. Alan Roeske, Ft. King George Historic Site Interpretive Ranger, shared his research and interpretation of General Oglethorpe's infamous family members in his presentation, "Treasonous Spies: The Hidden Oglethorpe Legacy." And lastly, local author and musician John Wilsterman presented a very entertaining talk on the History of American Patriotic Music.

I am VERY excited to announce that our November program will be Buddy Sullivan, returning to the Fort to give us a very current presentation about the Hurricane of 1898 that hit Darien and McIntosh County. Recall that at the time, residents had no practical warning of approaching big storms and were blindsided and frequently in harm's way.

And, I am super excited about our next Field Trip, this time to Little Saint Simons Island for a day trip on Friday, November 8th. There are no more seats available on the boat, but, if enough of you continue to sign up, another trip may be scheduled for later in the year. (The St Marys field trip, postponed due to Hurricane Helene, will be rescheduled for early next year.)

Membership dues for LAHS are going up next year. The Board recently updated the LAHS dues structure to be more in line with similar local organizations, after many years with no increase. Dues for an Individual Membership will be \$50, Family-\$75, and Lifetime-\$1500.

The LAHS family was stunned by the recent deaths of seven in the Sapelo dock disaster and having personally known LAHS member Reverend Dr. Charles Houston in recent years, his death is the closest. His warm wit, love of history and deep love of humanity will be remembered for a long time. May his wife Elizabeth feel the love of the LAHS family in the days to come.

Best regards,

Paul



Renovations have begun!

In April 2022, an oak tree fell on Grace Baptist Church in Darien, heavily damaging the roof and structure. In May 2023, the City of Darien issued a citation that could have led to the demolition of the property. It has been sold and saved! *Photos courtesy of Greg Bartush IV.*



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In Memoriam

Dr. Charles Houston, Jr. (August 15, 1947-October 19, 2024)



It is with immeasurable sadness, that we announce the passing of Dr. Charles L. Houston, Jr., of Darien, Georgia. Charles, a beloved retired pastor, and law enforcement chaplain tragically drowned on October 19, 2024. Charles was an energetic, charismatic, and inspiring man, with an enormous capacity for laughter and unlimited capacity for love. His spiritual gifts and tremendous love for his fellow human beings were experienced by nearly everyone he encountered in his daily life. He will be greatly missed.

SPOTLIGHT

Marshall Gaddis

Marshall has been a resident of Darien for 22 years. He is a former teacher and environmental specialist in water quality. After retiring from EPD-DNR he and his son operated an environmental learning center (Turkey Creek Outpost) on the Oconee River and worked with Georgia's first Adopt-A-Stream program. Marshall spends his free time canoeing, fishing and walking in the great Altamaha River flood plain. He served on the LAHS Board from 2018-2020. Thank you, Marshall, for all you do for LAHS!

Noteworthy


OUR ARCHIVES. . .

Contain a plethora of publications, some of which we have published and many that have been donated. Climate controlled, members can access our vast and fascinating collection!

On our "best seller" list is "They Called Their Town Darien" by Bessie Lewis. Published in 1975 by The Darien News. The introduction by Buddy Sullivan is an interesting account of who Bessie was, how she influenced him as a young boy and her many contributions to Georgia History through her research and her writings.

One of her paragraphs hit home with me: "With all the changes and improvements there is something about the old town which remains the same. It is an indefinable atmosphere of friendly courtesy-one feels its old-time charm while still knowing the town is as modern as tomorrow. There are no strangers-though your face may be new, you are among friends..."



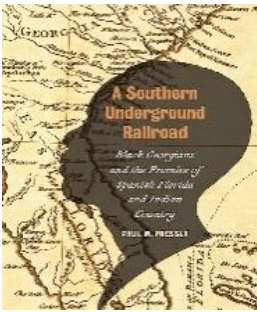


Upcoming Meetings

- Nov. 21: Buddy Sullivan, presentation about the Hurricane of 1898 that hit Darien and McIntosh County.
- Dec. 5: 5:30pm, **Holiday Party!** First Presbyterian Church, 403 Jackson St., Darien
- Jan. 16, 2025: To Be Announced via email, website and FB

Upcoming Field Trips

- We have several exciting field trips in the planning stages. To be announced next year.



Coming Events

Paul Pressly Book Talk and Signing: Dec. 4, 6-7pm, A. W. Jones Heritage Center, St. Simons (Coastal GA. Historical Society) Paul M. Pressly will speak about and sign his latest book, **A Southern Underground Railroad: Black Georgians and the Promise of Spanish**

Florida and Indian Country. Pressly, the director of the Ossabaw Island Education Alliance, has previously edited or contributed to several books about Coastal Georgia. This book spans the period from the beginning of the Revolutionary War to 1817, showing how a steady stream of enslaved people found freedom outside the boundaries of the new United States. FREE

To register, see this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paul-pressly-book-talk-and-signing-tickets-1007804710017>

44th Annual Christmas Tour: Dec 6 & 7, 6-8 pm, Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Historic Site - Brunswick
Visitors will walk along the candlelit path under centuries old oaks and will be treated to a guided tour of the antebellum home. Living history enactors, musket and cannon firings, Santa Claus, carols, hot wassail and cookies will highlight the event. \$5 - \$10. 912-264-7333.

Ashantilly Holiday Open House: Dec. 6, 5-7pm Start your holiday out right! Come see “Old Tabby” dressed in her holiday finery with natural greenery and a decorated tree from Webster’s Tree Farm at Ashantilly Center’s Open House. Mulled wine and punch will be served, as well as delectable treats, cookies and plenty of holiday cheer and festive holiday music. *Please bring* a new toy or non-perishable canned goods for donation to the less fortunate in our community. <https://ashantillycenter.org/events/>

Darien's Annual Christmas Event: Sun., Dec. 8, 6-8pm Festivities begin at Grant Chapel at 4:30pm with their 11th Annual Community Events. The Lighted Christmas Parade begins at 6:00PM. Christmas Tree Lighting with Caroling at the corner of Hwy 17 and Broad Street immediately following the parade.

Pictures with Santa hosted by MAA at the McIntosh Art Association Old Jail Art Center at 7pm
Luminaries hosted by McIntosh Recreational Department will run through the historic district.
Our downtown business will be staying open late to allow for Christmas shopping.



Coming Events, cont.

Colonial Coffee House: Sat., Dec 21, 9-11 am, Fort King George Historic Site, Darien

The Coffee House is open inside the Officers' Quarters! Traditionally, the Coffee House was the seat of all great thinkers in the colonies. This special meet-and-greet with a ranger will involve sipping on 18th century style coffee by the fire and discussing history. Only \$5 extra to join!



Hogmanay 2024: A Scottish New Year: Sat., Dec 28, 7-10:30 pm, Fort King George Historic Site, Darien

Celebrate the New Year with us, Scottish Style! Our annual winter after-hours event will be held in our 18th-century barracks. Enjoy warm bonfires, light food, hot cider, and a spectacular cannon firing. Reservations are required! Please call 912-437-4770 to book now! \$40.

FRIENDS OF FORT KING GEORGE: The Friends meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm at the Fort. Please sign up here: [Be a Member | Friends of Georgia State Parks \(friendsofgastateparks.org\)](#), or by contacting Christine McMullen at: cmcmullen1916@gmail.com

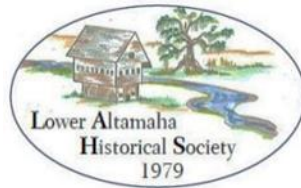
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! For cleanup and maintenance of the Darien Old City Cemetery, on Sat., Nov 16, at 10:00. Please contact George Bigham at 847-636-1944 or email paul.nix@comcast.net to help out.



We have a facebook page!

Please like and follow us at Lower Altamaha Historical Society

We have 143 followers!



www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org

MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWEL

If you haven't already, please remit your dues today.

Join with others interested in learning more about this amazing place we get to call *home*.

Memberships

Annual: Family - \$75 Individual - \$50 Student - \$20

Lifetime - \$1,500

Pay w/credit card or PayPal on the LAHS website at www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org

Or Make your check payable to LAHS and bring to the meeting.

Or Mail to LAHS, P.O. Box 1405, Darien, GA. 31305

Welcome New Members!

John & Joy Steele, Charlie & Susan Ouzts, Lee Muehlmann & Sarah Thompson

