

Altamaha *Echoes*

Published quarterly
for members and friends of the
Lower Altamaha Historical Society
Spring 2021 Issue

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

Hello, Spring Fever! *A Word from Wes*

Bulbs blooming. Nest building. First lawn cut. Woodpeckers drumming. These are all sure signs of Spring which arrived officially on Sunday, March 14 when we moved our clocks forward by an hour to start daylight saving time. This 'spring forward' tradition seems to trace back to Ben Franklin who believed people could conserve energy and revel in an extra hour of daylight if they moved their clocks forward in the spring. Ambassador to Paris in 1784, Franklin then wrote a witty letter rejoicing in his 'discovery' that the sun provides light as soon as it rises! It wasn't until May 1916 however, during World War I, that the United States officially implemented the clock change. Today Darien is blooming right along with longer daylight hours - new buildings, new businesses, new ventures planted in our home town.

The same holds true for the Lower Altamaha Historical Society! We hope for steady progress toward a transition to normalcy during the second quarter of this year with many aspects of social life returning to prepandemic normal. The video-conferencing app Zoom has enabled us to safely conduct board meetings and stay connected with membership through various presentations but it falls far short of meeting in person.

Going forward with plans for meetings and events, we will continue to adhere to safety protocols and guidelines and I expect things will be better than ever for LAHS as we travel the road to normalcy! Hope to see you all soon, until then stay well and be blessed!

Best regards,

Wes

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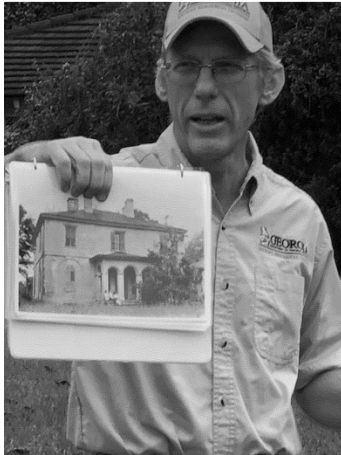
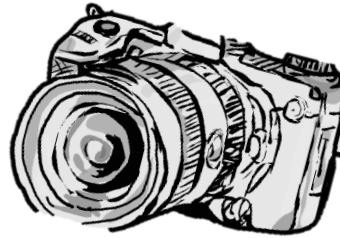
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Paul Hammond
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A Page from our Scrapbook
TOURING ALTAMA PLANTATION
An interesting and picturesque place to visit!
Thursday, November 19, 2020



Our guide, Matthew Stoddard, led our group of twenty on a tour of the grounds –

welcome

Scottie Lingerfelt and Anne Belle McCaskill
*It's great to have you as the newest members
of our growing LAHS Life Membership family!*

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Individual Lifetime Membership - \$250 Family Lifetime Membership - \$400
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Saving Butler Island: An Update

In past issues of Altamaha Echoes you've read of Georgia's House Bill 906 designed to change the parameters of the Georgia Heritage Trust Program to potentially sell parcels of over 330,000 acres. The bill subsequently died and The Coalition to Save Butler Island was formed to bring representatives of state and local government, citizens and descendants to create a practical plan to respect, interpret and implement the true stories of Butler Island.

Coalition committee members include former and current LAHS board members Bill Barton, Eunice Moore and Missy Brandt Wilson and Griffin Lotson. As Volunteer Project Manager for their recent application "Butler Island Historic Resources Condition Assessment, Planning and Design, Bill was recently notified for the review committee for the Coastal Incentive Grant that the project has been selected for funding.

The Coastal Incentive Grant is a matching grant of up to \$80,000 which means a possible \$160,000 of work, volunteerism and preservation would be delivered to Butler Island. The review committee will send its final recommendation to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the next few months and recipients will be notified by NOAA in the summer. The grant will address the flooding to the site where historic structures stand, assess the conditions of the structures, create architectural renderings and help plan for appropriately using historic and cultural resources on Butler Island to contribute to the local economy. The Coastal Incentive Grant also offers a two-year \$160,000 construction grant that will allow major rehabilitation work to begin; Butler Island will be eligible to apply in October.

Congratulations to committee members for a job well done!



Eunice Moore, a direct descendant of the men, women and children enslaved on Butler Island, welcomed the news as the first steps toward honoring her ancestors. Eunice envisions a memorial to the Weeping Time, a landmark event when 436 enslaved African and African-American people from Butler Island and Hampton Plantation were sold at auction in Savannah in March 1859 to pay for Pierce Butler's gambling debts. Griffin Lotson, also a descendent recently announced a fund-raising goal of \$303,850 the amount totaled at the conclusion of the Weeping Time sale of those men, women and children.

Eunice and Missy Brandt Wilson recently coordinated the placement of 436 lights between the historic signs and Huston House in honor and commemoration of the enslaved listed for sale during the Weeping Time – a compelling visual representation of history and the hope that we will explore and truly honor the ancestors and our shared history.



Read all about it!

Hot off the press! Buddy Sullivan, County Historian and Past President to LAHS announces the publication of four new books for 2012.

- Notes from Low Country Georgia: History, Ecology & Perspective
- Environmental Influences on Life & Labor in McIntosh County, Georgia: Case Studies in Ecology as History
- Historical Atlas of McIntosh County: A Survey Through Maps & a Personal Commentary
- Child-Life on the Tidewater, A memoir of Coastal Georgia

Available locally at the Sapelo Island Visitors Center, the Ashantilly Center, Inc. and on Amazon.com

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