

# *NewsLetter*

## ***Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.***

**DARIEN, GEORGIA**

Volume I Number 1

March 1, 1991

**MEETINGS:** Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM at the McIntosh County courthouse. Changes of date, time, or location are noted.

March 21— Performance of the “Sea Island Montage!”, featuring Natalie and Ronald Daise of Beaufort, South Carolina. The program compares the Gullah culture of coastal Georgia and South Carolina to that of the west coast of Africa through lively Gullah songs dances and folkstories. The program begins at 7:30 PM at the Darien First African Baptist Church. (This project is supported by the Georgia Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities and through appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly).

The Nominating Committee for the 1991 Officers will be appointed.

April 18- Speaker Don Battle an avocational historical Archeologist. His topic will be McIntosh County in the Civil War.

The Nominating Committee will present the slate of Officers.

May 16- Speaker: William McElrath, Assistant Superintendent of Bethesda Orphanage Site. He will talk about the history of Bethesda Orphanage.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.

May 31- Speaker: Mattie Lee Baxley- a summer resident of St. Simons Island and a student of the life and times of Mary Musgrove. She will talk about this unusual and fascinating woman.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

April 25-Ossabaw Island- Depart Darien at 9:00 AM. North on 1-95 to exit 15 and follow Ga Rt 144 to Kilkenny Fish Camp. Please be there by 10:15 AM. We will leave by open boat for the Island at 10:30 AM. It is about a one-half hour trip. Bring your lunch and including your drinks. We will leave the Island at 3:30 PM. Fee-\$30. Any Questions? Call Carolyn Hodges (437-6985).

May 28-Bethesda Orphanage. Depart Darien 9:30 AM Tour the fortified house at Wormsloe Historic Site in the morning. (Small fee). Dutch treat Lunch in the area. Bethesda Orphanage tour at 1:30 PM. Questions?- Call Mattie Gladstone (437-4687) or Carolyn Hodges (437-6985).

Spring Date -Second St. Catherines Island trip. Not yet confirmed. Contact William Haynes

(437-4473).

Unscheduled field trip- Carolyn Hodges will offer boat rides though Hammersmith Creek, the eastern boundary of the Couper Plantations. Cypress structures from the rice era can be seen along the cuts. Groups of three call 437-6985. Times open-weather and tides permitting. Sharing Gas cost is only fee.

Field trip policy adopted by the Board September 25, 1990

--Participation is limited to members of the LAHS, with the exception of houseguests, who may participate under the host' s membership.

--There is a time limit of two weeks prior to the date of the trip for paying any fee involved. Reservations are confirmed only when the fee is paid.

--Space is allotted on a first come first served basis.

Report on October 1990 trip to St. Catherines Island

Twenty members of the Society made the trip to observe the activities on the Island. Superintendent Royce Hayes and members of his staff gave us a tour of this barrier island. The St. Catherines Foundation presently owns the island and permits two scientific organizations to conduct studies.

The American Museum of Natural History of New York City is carrying out archeological studies on the site of Santa Catalina de Guale . This is the first site in the Golden Isles settled by the Spanish. Dr. John Thomas is supervising the dig. One of the staff assistants gave us short introduction to the history of the site; showed us some pictures of artifacts found; and introduced us to the high tech methods used to locate and map archeological sites.

The New York Zoological Society is operating a rare and endangered animal propagation program. Many of the species are found only in Madagascar which is presently undergoing environmental devastation because of land use practices. We saw zebra, hartebeest, oryx and other types of gazelles, along with 2 species of tortoises and many exotic birds. There is also a troop of free ranging ring-tailed lemurs, This animal which now only exists in Madagascar lives in a matriarchal society governed by the oldest female. They have adapted well to the climate and habitat, although several have apparently succumbed to the alligator population.

Mr. Hayes showed us around the Button Gwinnett house, the main part of which was built in the mid 1700's. Mr. Edward Noble of "Life Saver" renown added the large library-library room and the spectacular 2 story, floor to ceiling picture window. One of the highlights of the trip was the lunch stop atop a 20 foot bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and a fine sandy beach. This was a memorable trip.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Publications Committee- The Committee met on January 22 and adopted the the following: The Society will have two Publications. A Newsletter and the Altamaha Echoes. The Newsletter, published Quarterly will contain meeting agenda, field trip information and general topics of interest to the membership.

The Altamaha Echoes, published semi-annually, will maintain its present form and will

contain original articles of historical importance and reviews of Books and Magazine articles of historical interest. Announcements of Society projects of significance will also be included.

The proposal was accepted by the Board on January 22, 1991.

The next meeting of the committee will be on March 15 at 5PM at the Ida Hilton Library.

#### Columbus Quincentenary Committee

Chairman Rundle stated the purpose of the committee is to initiate and coordinate projects to be proposed by the LAHS membership that would support the national celebrations of the Columbus Quincentennial.

Sub-committees were set up for each individual project. These committees will be autonomous. They will be responsible for all planning and for providing progress reports to the parent committee. Modest funding may be available from the Society on application but arranging for major funding is the responsibility of each sub-committee.

The next meeting will be March 5 at 5PM at the Ida Hilton Library.

#### Presidential Applause

The members of the LAHS thank William G. Haynes Jr for his efforts on behalf of the Society as the printer of "the Altamaha Echoes". With its first issue on May 15, 1986 through the next three years, he lent the prestige of his Ashantilly Press to its publication. His commitment to family responsibilities prompted his request that another format be found for the Echoes. We accede to his wish with regret.

Kudos to our current authors Jeannine Cook and Buddy Sullivan whose respective books Fort King George: Step One to Statehood and Early Days on the Georgia Tidewater: The Story of McIntosh County and Sapelo. are receiving fine reviews statewide.

Thanks are extended to all hard working committees and new Chairmen Don and Doris Cohrs-Preservation of the Altamaha River; Bill Haynes-Historical Societies/Their Historic Sites, and Rundle Cook-Columbus Quincentenary Committee.

Thanks were extended by Buddy Sullivan for the large turnout by Society members for his talk to the Liberty County Historical Society last January by a letter addressed to the membership.

Carolyn Hodges, President

Membership There are now 108 members in the Society. Strong programming and accompanying field trips are cited by many as an especially attractive aspect of the Society. The use of the Fort for celebratory events has also heightened interest in the Society. We also must recognize Everett Moriarty for his efforts in enlisting new members from the north part of the county.

#### Commemoration of National Womens History Month

A panel of 4 scholars- an archeologist and 3 historians will discuss the topic "Frederica's Legacy: Remarkable and Ordinary Colonial Women" at 5PM at the Ritz Theater on Friday the 22 of March and again at 10:30 on Saturday March 23 at The Fort

Frederica National Monument. There will be an exhibit at the Fort relating to this topic. Free to Public- Refreshments will be served.

(Sponsored by the Fort Frederica Association; the Fort Frederica National Monument; The Georgia Humanities Commission as an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities).

The next issue of the Newsletter will be issued June 1. Please send your committee reports and any other items you want to publish by 15.

Finally, we need historical articles written by members of the Society for the May 1 issue of the Altamaha Echoes. These can be descriptions of events you witnessed or took part in. They can also be researched essays about people places or things which have played a part in our history  
Bob Raymund, Editor.

Remember 1991 dues are payable May 1.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS  
LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Vice President—Geneva Stebbins (437-4331)  
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