

The Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter June 2003

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Annual Report

It is that time of year to report on the accomplishments of your historical society in Darien and McIntosh County and to remind you, if you have not already done so, to renew your membership. Let me begin by saying that it has been my distinct pleasure to serve as the president of the society for the last three years and I feel very good in leaving the leadership to Dinah Jackson who will provide continued excellent stewardship. I want to thank the Board of Directors and all committee leaders for their spirit of volunteerism that makes the society work. Over the last year our membership has continued to grow and achieve LAHS goals of providing contributions to the local community as well as preserving the historical heritage of the area.

Habitat for Humanity For the second year in a row, a group of society volunteers gave their time and energy to this very worthy community improvement program by painting and installing siding on the latest habitat house in McIntosh County.

Scholarship LAHS has awarded its second \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior from our local high school.

Library The society has made a \$2,000 contribution to the Ida Hilton Public Library to purchase a state of the art microfilm viewer and printer. This will aid the entire community doing research at the library.

Historical Markers The society installed two (that's 4 markers within 3 years) markers this past year. A marker identifying the historical significance of Sapelo Island was installed at the visitors center at Meridian. The second marker was installed behind the Darien Welcome Center and describes the history of the Port of Darien over the last 2 centuries.

Publications Two publications were released by LAHS over the last year. With the assistance of the Darien News, *They Called Their Town Darien*, originally written by Bessie Lewis, was reissued with a new introductory biography of Miss Bessie by Buddy Sullivan. The second publication was the research material for the above-mentioned historical marker, *Cotton Port on the Altamaha*. Both of these publications are currently available in local bookstores and directly from the society.

Georgia Heritage Days For the first time, LAHS was a co-sponsor and provided support for this significant statewide celebration of Georgia history. In the morning, more than 1,000 local school children witnessed a re-enactment of James Oglethorpe's February 22nd, 1736, visit to the Scottish Highlanders at Fort King George. In the evening, Fort King George was the site of an Evening Dinner with General Oglethorpe. More than 90 local residents joined the officers and leadership of the Georgia Historical Society from Savannah for a candlelight dinner featuring authentic Scottish cuisine served up in the recently constructed enlisted and officers' barracks at the fort.

In addition to working on the society's stated goals of historic preservation and community involvement, we continued with our regular schedule of ten monthly meetings with presentations of historical significance followed by a fellowship hour. We also had two social programs: a summer picnic at Fort King George where LAHS had exclusive use of the facility to tour the many enhancements made each year and a Christmas holiday party at Belvedere Island Plantation where everyone enjoyed the local delicacies - shrimp and Moriarty eggnog. Our field trips were of particular note. After an exclusive dinner at one of the best eateries in Savannah, we went on a Halloween Ghost Tour of Laurel Grove Cemetery where we were entertained and enlightened by several re-enactors. Our spring field trip, a

weekend in Charleston, is scheduled for early June and will include a visit to the Hunley submarine, Fort Sumter, and a guided walking tour of the historic district. Saturday night dinner and Sunday brunch will also be served.

Once again, I want to thank everyone who has made the above possible and want to encourage you to renew your membership and invite a friend or relative to join as well so they can keep up with our historical heritage through this regular newsletter.

Thank you
Ed Meyer

**LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2003-2004
OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.**

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Vice-President Dyson Flanders
Secretary Betty Cleveland
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Lower Altamaha Historical Society - May 1, 2003 - April 30, 2004

Annual Dues: Individual \$10; Family \$ 15; Lifetime \$250; Corporate \$100

If a membership envelope is enclosed in this mailing, this denotes your current dues have not been received by LAHS.

Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Publication List 2003 is enclosed in this mailing. Special prices are offered to merchants on books published by LAHS. Quantities of this brochure are available on request.

BUDDY SULLIVAN HISTORY AWARD

The Buddy Sullivan History Award was given to Laura Jackson, daughter of Dinah and Bill Jackson. Buddy Sullivan made the presentation at the annual Awards Night at McIntosh County Academy on May 13, 2003. This is the first time the \$1,000 award has been presented to a MCA student. There were five highly-qualified students who competed for the scholarship.

LAHS MEETING, JUNE 19, 2003, 7:00 P.M.

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE

DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 P.M. at B & J PIZZA

"All Under Bank, Roswell King, Jr. and Plantation Management in Tidewater Georgia, 1819 - 1854", will be the program, presented by the author Buddy Sullivan. The agricultural practices in coastal

Georgia prior to the Civil War is the theme of Sullivan's newest book. The setting is at Butler Island rice plantation, which was managed for 30 years by King, Jr. and his father before that, and King's own South Hampton plantation in Liberty County near Riceboro. The King family had a close social and business relationship with the family of Rev. Dr. Charles Calcock Jones of Colonel's Island, Liberty County, and the Butler's of Charleston and Philadelphia.

Buddy Sullivan is Director Emeritus of Lower Altamaha Historical Society. He is Director of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve. Buddy is author of twelve books on various aspects of coastal Georgia history, including comprehensive histories of McIntosh and Bryan counties. Also to his credit are four pamphlets, and various articles and papers. His newest book which will be out in October is "Georgia: A State History, 1733-2000" which was written in conjunction with the Georgia Historical Society. It is a state history based on the archives and collections at G.H.S.

LAHS MEETING, JULY 10, 2003, 5:30 P.M.
SAPELO ISLAND VISITORS CENTER, MERIDIAN
POT LUCK PICNIC SUPPER, 5:30 P.M.

Fellowship Picnic Supper for LAHS members and guest. Bring a dish that will serve about eight people that does not require a knife for eating. LAHS will furnish Fried Chicken, Shrimp, drinks, paper products.

Fellowship and socializing will be the fare for the evening. There is no program planned.

LAHS Board of Directors Meeting, AUGUST 21, 2003, 4:30 P.M. -

St. Andrew's Parish House
LAHS members, are always welcome

LAHS MEETING, AUGUST 21, 2003
ST. ANDREW'S PARISH HOUSE
DUTCH TREAT SUPPER, 5:45 P.M. at B & J PIZZA

"RUNNING THE RIVER: POLEBOATS, STEAMBOATS & TIMBER RAFTS ON THE ALTAMAHA, OCMULGEE, OCONEE & OHOOPEE" will be the program, presented by the author Carlton A. Morrison. The book is based upon stories told to Carlton by old-time raftsmen and upon research in 19th and early 20th century newspapers published in Macon, Hawkinsville, Milledgeville, Dublin and Darien, also upon research in other sources in the Mercer university law library, the University of Georgia Library, the Georgia Historical Society, the State Archives in Atlanta, the Federal Records Center in East Point, and in Brainerd Cheney's papers in the special collection of the Vanderbilt University library. It includes, as a part of the poleboating story, an account of the digging of the Brunswick-Altamaha Canal, and, as a part of the rafting story, an account of the so-called squatter war between the Dodge lumber company and hundreds of individuals.

Carlton Morrison's childhood was in the wiregrass and pineland country between the Ocmulgee and Oconee rivers. He heard many a tale about the old river days which created a lifelong interest in the river and led to this book. His undergraduate degree is from Emory University, his masters degree in History is from the University of Georgia. For ten years he was a member of the History faculty of Brunswick College (now Coastal Georgia Community College).

Carlton and his wife Beth divide time between their home on St. Simons Island and their river place on the Little Ocmulgee.

SAPALO ISLAND

National Estuarine Research Reserve

Sapelo Island enables visitors to see virtually every facet of a barrier island's natural community, from the diversified wildlife of the forested uplands, to the vast expanses of salt marsh and the complex beach and dune systems. The Visitor Center, located near the mainland ferry dock brings to life both the natural and cultural history of Sapelo while guided tours of the island enable visitors to experience the African-American community of Hog Hammock, the University of Georgia Marine Institute, the Reynolds Mission and Sapelo Island's 1870 Lighthouse.

SAPALO ISLAND VISITORS CENTER, 912 437 3224 in Meridian is open daily except Mondays. This interpretive center for Sapelo has much to offer. Reservations for the four hour regular tours of the Island on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and the six hour extended tour on the last Tuesday of each month are made here. A Gift Shop which includes Books, Art Objects, Pictures and Posters and wearing apparel is available at the Visitors Center.

The SINERR is managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, and is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Corporate & Life Memberships

Corp. Sapelo National Bank, William Parker, President
The Book Shop, Inc. - Harold & Virginia Hicks
Coastal Georgia Historical Society

Life	Maribel Bell	Darien Telephone Co.
	Mrs. Caroline B. Davis	Gus & Marg Hallum
	Alfred W. Jones	Chris & Ward Milner
	John Reeling	John & Mary Dean
	Everett Moriarty	Enterprise Rent-A-Car

FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORICAL SITE

P.O. Box 711-Darien, Ga 31305----- 912 437 4770

CANNONS ACROSS THE MARSH

Friday, July 4th 11am - 4pm

Celebrate America's birthday at the fort. Artillery drills will be given all day on the hour with musket drills being demonstrated every half hour. Cool down with a piece of complimentary watermelon after each demonstration.

ALTAMAHA CANOE EXCURSIONS

October 11, 2003 - Cathedra Creek (beginners)

Cathedra Creek - Enjoy old rice plantations, ruins from an old rice mill, and a variety of Spring birds and vegetation.

November 21, 23, 2003 - Lewis Island (intermediate)
Altamaha Overnighter - Enjoy a scenic trip down the Altamaha to Lewis Island where you will "teach" it in the wild and sleep beneath the stars.

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 - Darien, Georgia 31305

LAHS Officers & Board of Directors, 2002-2003

President	Dinah Jackson
Vice-President	Dyson Flanders
Secretary	Betty Cleveland
Treasurer	Elle Legg
Carolyn Baker	Ann Baggett
Bob Hawkins	Oscar Brockmann
Peyton Lingle	Howard Kippel
Myrtle Newberry	Kelly Spratt
Past-President	Ed Mezer
Director Emeritus	Buddy Sullivan



Darien, Georgia 31305

P.O. Box 1405

Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.