

# Altamaha Echoes

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Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

February 2015

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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, February 19, 2015, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

One of our own, Dr. William H. A. Collins, will be presenting a program entitled ***"Black Political Officials – In, For, and From McIntosh County, Georgia."***

A fourth generation McIntosh County descendant, Dr. Collins moved to Darien, GA, the home of his paternal ancestors, after growing up in Jacksonville, FL, graduating from the College of Pharmacy at Florida A&M University, and working in Illinois, Florida, and Kings Bay, Georgia. In addition to Pharmacy, he studied *Journalism* at the University of Wisconsin; *Music* at Hampton University; completed a course of studies at the National Federation of Republican Women's *Campaign Management School*; and two of Buddy Sullivan's *History of Coastal Georgia* courses at Coastal Georgia Community College. Dr. Collins is past treasurer of LAHS and a life member of the first and oldest fraternity of African American men, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He presently serves as Chairman of the McIntosh County Preservation Commission, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of the NAACP, Minister of Music at Franklinton UMC, and is on the Boards of five mentorship groups and organizations in Georgia and Florida.

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 2015, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

***"The Lord Will Think He is Joking: The Religious Beliefs of Abraham Lincoln"*** - this lecture by Dr. Michael V. Woodward will focus on the history and evolution of Abraham Lincoln's religious beliefs and will examine how the 16<sup>th</sup> President, with no formal training as a theologian and no standing in a church, offered a deeper sense of providential mystery than most of the country's religious leaders.

A resident of Darien, Dr. Woodward was the Howard H. Baker Jr. Chair of American History at the McCallie School in Chattanooga, TN from 1987 until his retirement in 2013. He earned his BA and MA degrees from the University of South FL, and his Ph.D. from UGA in 1982. A two-time recipient of McCallie's Distinguished Teacher Award, Dr. Woodward has also received the Outstanding Educator Award from the University of Chicago, two "Excellence in Teaching" awards from UGA, and the Presidential Scholars' Program Teacher Recognition Award. Some of his publications have appeared in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, *The Midwest Review*, and the *Atlanta Historical Journal*.

**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 16, 2015, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, April 16, 2015, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort King George Historic Site**  
**Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

Mrs. Nettye Handy Evans will share with us a brief history of the Tuskegee Airmen, how they got started and where they began their training. She will also have photos, posters and a video to share with us.

Mrs. Evans, a descendant of Sapelo Island, GA, was born in New York City but was reared by her grandmother on the Island. She attended elementary school there before moving to Savannah for junior high and then on to Norwalk, CT for high school. She returned to GA where she graduated from Savannah State College with a BS degree in English and Social Science. She began her teaching career in Valdosta, GA and then taught both junior and senior high school in PA. She joined her husband in Dover, DE and became a member of the faculty at Dover Air Force Base as an English teacher. She later became director of Adult and Community Education at Delaware Technical Community College after she obtained a Masters Degree in 1991. She retired after 43 years of teaching in 2006. Giving lectures and presenting exhibits about the Tuskegee Airmen is one of her passions, along with serving as a trustee for the Hog Hammock public library on Sapelo Island.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1, 2015**

**Life Membership - \$250    Family - \$20    Individual - \$15    Student - \$5**

**Make your check payable to LAHS, P.O. Box 1405, Darien, 31305, or give to Yvonne Carter, Co-Membership Chairperson, or Betty Cleveland, Treasurer.**

*Coming Events*

*Friday - Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10 am-4 pm.* Fort King George State Historic Site: " *Scottish Heritage Day - Spring Encampment.*" A variety of living history demonstrations devoted to Scottish and colonial culture will be featured. A Battle re-enactment will take place at 2 pm on Saturday. Students are invited Friday for living history demos.

*Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm - 7 pm,* Belvedere Plantation Clubhouse: *Join the Friends of Sapelo as they celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.* Everyone is welcome.

## News from the Board:

- A nominating Committee consisting of Lloyd Y. Flanders and Chris Milner has been formed to find those members willing to serve in the following positions:

### **2 Board Members (2015-2017)**

When you are contacted, please give this thoughtful consideration. The Committee will make their report in April, elections are held in May, and those selected will assume their jobs in June.

- **Program Chairperson** position remains unfilled. The Board has been successful thus far in securing speakers each month, but LAHS needs someone to step up and fill this vital role in the organization. How about you?

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**Field trip news:** Stay tuned for news about a trip to the Museum at Fort Stewart, possibly in April - more details at the March meeting.

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### **Georgia History "In Their Own Words"**

**February 19, 1864:** A Georgia Soldier wrote home to his wife - "...We have seen as cool weather as we have had this winter. It is very cold indeed. Lou, there is a chance for me to get a forty days' furlough if I can get a recruit. I want you to give it a try. Your best to get one for me...I don't advise any person to come to the war. But as long as any person has to go, I think he will fare as well here as he will any place in the service...Lou, if you fail to get one, try another. Try...any man or boy that is not a conscript..." Source: Mills Lane (ed.) "Dear Mother: Don't grieve about me. If I get killed, I'll only be dead." Letters from Georgia Soldiers in the Civil War.

**March 19, 1739:** While at sea on his return to Georgia, George Whitefield maintained his duties as Anglican minister - "Sunday, Mar. 19. Went with Captain W. on board the Amy; read Prayers and preached above two hundred and twenty Hearers; and married a Couple, who did not behave so well as I could wish: The Bridegroom laughed several Times in the midst of the Solemnity, upon which I shut up my Prayer-book: But he shewing his Concern by weeping, I then proceeded, gave him and the Bride a Bible, as the best Present I could make them, and exhorted all to Holiness of Life." Source: Our First Visit in America: Early Reports from the Colony of Georgia, 1732-1740.

**April 16, 1864:** A Georgia soldier in Virginia wrote his wife - "...We drew four days rations of old bacon yesterday which outranks Gen. Lee and three days rations of meal, one day's ration of flour which is excellent and is quite a treat to us. Drew and I have had one good mess of biscuits, which tasted like Sunday morning at home when new wheat comes in. I love biscuits as well as ever and I reckon always will if I can get them.....The boys keep me busy sewing, and I cannot keep up. I reckon I shall have to put up a tailor's shop when I get home. I found some old tent cloth the other day which makes excellent havresacks, and I make them and sell them at \$2.00 a piece, but have to sell on credit. I have only made one yet. It is thick and hard sewing and rather slow making money but much better than doing nothing or trying to die with the blues and homesickness. Dissatisfaction is the worst complaint a soldier can have....." Source: Letters to Amanda: The Civil War Letters of Marion Hill Fitzpatrick, Army of Northern Virginia.

**LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 1405 – Darien, GA 31305

[www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.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 ((2014-2016)	Buddy Sullivan	912-485-2251
Vice-President (2014-2016)	Eunice Moore	912-437-4935
Secretary (2012-2015)	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Treasurer (2013-2015)	Betty Cleveland	912-832-2166

Board Members 2013-2015

Martha Carney  
Linda Daniels  
Chris Milner  
Lloyd Y. Flanders

Board Members 2014-2016

Yvonne Carter  
Howard Klippel  
Walter Pitts  
Carole Williams

Past-President  
Director Emeritus

Jack Godfrey  
Buddy Sullivan

Committee Chairpersons

Ft. King George Membership Programs	Valarie Ikhwan
Scholarship	Jim Bruce/Yvonne Carter
Field Trips	Ann Howard
Altamaha "Echoes" Publications/Books	Harriet Roberson
Historian	Carole Williams
Hospitality	Hoyt Carney
Webmaster	Buddy Sullivan
Archives	Eunice Moore
	Jim Bruce
	Martha Carney

Life Memberships

Muriel Bell	Cecil & Sandra Hudson
Marsha Certain	Bill Jones III
Certus Bank	Harriet Langford
Bob and Carol Churi	David Miller
Coastal GA Historical Soc	Chris & Ward Milner
Darien Telephone Co.	Bill & Sherry Minnich
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis	Barbara Poetzman
John & Mary Dean	Frances Pollard
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	John Reehling
Albert & Joyce Fendig	Jeff & Kelly Spratt
Lloyd Y. Flanders	Eloise Thompson
Read Gignilliat	Jesse & Glenda Varnedoe
Gus & Marg Hallman	

Honorary Life Memberships

Jim & Barbara Bruce	Everett Moriarty
Ralph Gill Jr.	Myrtle Newberry
Mattie Gladstone	Buddy Sullivan

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

*Saturday, April 11, 2015*

*10 am – 4 pm*

***Weapons That Made America***

*Come learn about the various small arms and artillery used during this monumental era. Weapon firings will take place throughout the day. In this program we trace the origins of gunpowder weapons from their earliest use, up through the Civil War.*

**OUR ARCHIVES/LIBRARY BUILDING,  
ON THE GROUNDS OF  
FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE,  
IS OPEN EVERY THURSDAY EXCEPT  
THANKSGIVING THROUGH CHRISTMAS  
FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**

*February 16, 2015*

