

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society

August 2019

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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018-2019

We have had an exciting 40th anniversary year at LAHS and have great plans for the coming year! We added 25 new members this past year who will enjoy the benefits of that planning. Our efforts have also been recognized by the Georgia Historical Society as Affiliate of the Year for 2019! None of this could have been accomplished without our wonderful and dedicated Board of Directors and Officers. Harriet Roberson, Secretary, and Yvonne Carter, Treasurer, asked to "throw in the towel" last year. Even though their tireless efforts will be missed in those positions, a new Secretary, Paul Nix, and new Treasurer, Jeanne Hawkins, have been elected. Four Board Members were added: Wheeler Bryan, Jr., is new. Linda Daniels, Aimee Gaddis, and Martha Martin are returning.

Last year we assisted with putting up, publicizing, and dedicating the Weeping Time historical marker on Butler Island, paid for 3 underprivileged children to attend the Fort King George Junior Ranger Camp, awarded our \$1,000 scholarship to Kameron Francis, helped Ashantilly with a book signing for Buddy Sullivan, and enjoyed a field trip to Boys Estate Elizafield Plantation (Morning Star).

Dr. Richard Jefferies of the University of Kansas started the year with his presentation of the findings of the Caldwell excavations of Fort King George (Santo Domingo de Talaje mission) from 1940-50, including where artifacts are actually found on the grounds and location of buildings. This work was especially important to this community because the Caldwells never actually completed a summary of their excavations. Dr. Jefferies' relationship with LAHS has also grown to include inviting volunteers to assist him in his search for Mission San Joseph de Sapala this summer on Sapelo Island. We hope to make this an annual event in the future!

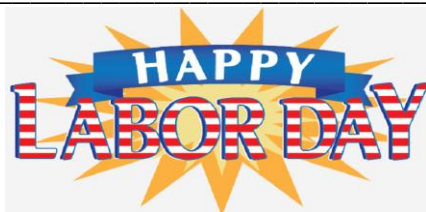
A short list of presentations from last year are: July 2018 - Annual picnic; August - Margie B. Washington, Gullah-Geechee Butler Island slave descendant; September - Aimee Gaddis, The Kit Jones/Sapelo Island ferry; October - Donald McDonald Johnson, Lachlan McIntosh in American Revolution; November - "*Shifting Baselines*," a film history of Georgia's commercial fishing industry; December - Annual Christmas party and eggnog; January 2019 - Paul Nix family trip to the Scottish Highlands; February - Wilson D. Moran, tracing lineage to Sierra Leone and trip there; March - The Georgia Historical Society's historical marker program by Elise Butler, Marker Manager for the state; April - World War II Home Front Museum with site manager, Kim Campbell; May - "*Digging for History*," with Fort Frederica's Archaeologist, Michael Seibert; and June - the architecture of Hog Hammock on Sapelo with Megan McCarthy.

If you have any comments, suggestions, ideas for presentations, or any input at all, I would love to hear them! You can reach me at any time on my cell at (912) 242-1668 or email me at wes@ezdot.org.

Wes Tippins

**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, August 15, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. B&J Steak**

Matthew Stoddard, Georgia DNR Wildlife Tech II at Altama Plantation, will share what remnants of the property's history are still visible and accessible to visitors today. As well, he will be sharing the work that DNR is doing to restore most of the upland areas to something more closely resembling the landscape that existed there in the 1800's and before.



Monday, September 2, 2019

**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, September 19, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. B&J Steak**

LAHS member Mark Yeager has done extensive work on Harris Neck Aviation. This discussion will be about the rich and sometimes controversial history of the north end of Harris Neck. His presentation deals with the rise of aviation from the end of WW1 to the end of WW11 on Harris Neck.

**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, October 17, 2019, 4:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site**

**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, October 17, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. B&J Steak**

Fr. Chris Hassel, Assistant Priest at St. Francis Xavier, Brunswick, and Nativity of Our Lady in Darien, will give a presentation on the history of the five martyred priests during the 1597 Juanillo rebellion in this area. He will also discuss the canonization process and where these priests stand in that process today.

Please extend a hearty welcome to the following new members - seek them out and get to know them. We are happy to have each and every one of you:

Jim Morrison, Robert Parker, Kit Sutherland

NEWS FROM THE BOARD:

- Valerie Ikhwan came by to thank us for supporting the Fort's Junior Ranger summer program for youngsters by giving three scholarships this year. This activity has grown each year and is a favorite with the Fort and the kids. She hopes that we will continue to support this endeavor.
- The archaeological work on Sapelo Island with Dr. Richard Jeffries has been completed for this summer. All our LAHS members who volunteered enjoyed their participation - despite the heat.
- We were notified by Dr. Todd Groce, CEO of The Georgia Historical Society, that LAHS has been awarded "The Affiliate of the Year" for 2019. The award was recognition of our many years of faithful efforts of propagating history and commitment to our mission and that of the Society. They plan to attend a future meeting to present the award.
- It has been suggested that we get more involved with seeing that our historical markers are maintained in good order; that e-mailing our newsletter quarterly could be a money-saver, and that we purchase a tree or bench to put in a public area in recognition of LAHS's 40th anniversary. If you would be willing to help with any of these things, or have suggestions of your own, please speak to an officer or board member and make it known. We need you if you are able.
- Please reserve December 12 for our annual Christmas party. For many years we have had our party at Belvedere Plantation and have loved the beautifully decorated room and welcoming atmosphere. This year we hope to have the party in Darien as it is a more central location for most of our members. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.

LABOR DAY

What is Labor Day? In the late 1800's, many Americans toiled 12 hours a day, seven days a week, often in physically demanding, low-paying jobs. Children worked too, on farms and in factories and mines. Conditions were often harsh and unsafe. It was in this context that 10,000 American workers held the first Labor Day parade, marching from New York's City Hall to a giant picnic at an uptown park on September 5, 1882. Because it wasn't yet an official holiday, many of the attendees risked their jobs by participating in a one-day strike. It took several more years for the federal government to make it a national holiday – President Grover Cleveland signed a bill into law on June 28, 1894, commemorating Labor Day on the first Monday of September each year. Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers – it symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans and is celebrated today with parades, barbecues, parties, and athletic events.

OUR ARCHIVES/LIBRARY BUILDING ON THE GROUNDS OF FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE IS OPEN EVERY THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 11 AM -3 PM EXCEPT DECEMBER. OTHER DAYS/HOURS ARE AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT.

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 – Darien, GA 31305

www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org

LAHS Officers

President (2018-2020)	Wes Tippins	912-242-1668
Vice-President (2018-2020)	Eunice Moore	912-437-4935
Secretary (2019-2021)	Paul Nix	912-625-0160
Treasurer (2019-2021)	Jeanne Hawkins	912-832-6588

Past-President Buddy Sullivan

Board Members 2018-2020

Bill Barton
Marshall Gaddis
Sissy Kammer
Lamar Williamson

Director Emeritus

Board Members 2019-2021

Wheeler Bryan, Jr
Linda Daniels
Aimee Gaddis
Martha Martin

Buddy Sullivan

Committee Chairpersons

Altamaha "Echoes"	Carole Williams/Harriet Roberson
Archives	Sissy Kammer
Field Trips	Paul Nix
Ft. King George	Valarie Ikhwan
Historian	Buddy Sullivan
Hospitality	Linda Daniels
Membership	
Programs	Wes Tippins
Publications/Books	Martha Martin
Scholarship	Ann Howard
Webmaster	Jim Bruce

Honorary Life Memberships

Jim & Barbara Bruce	Buddy Sullivan
Mattie Gladstone	Carole Williams

Life Memberships

Vivian Amason	Willis & Ursula Hunt
Muriel Bell	Bill Jones III
Wheeler Bryan Jr	Lorraine Koenn
Marsha Certain	Harriet Langford
Bob & Carol Churi	David Miller
Coastal GA Hist Soc	Chris & Ward Milner
Darien Telephone Co	Bill & Sherry Minnich
John & Mary Dean	Barbara Poetzman
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Frances Pollard
Winnifred & Thomas Durden-Fanning	John Rheeling
Albert & Joyce Fendig	Jeff & Kelly Spratt
Lloyd Y. Flanders	Eric Teal
Friends of Hofwyl	Jesse & Glenda Varnedoe
Aimee Gaddis	Mark Yeager
Read Gignilliat	
Cecil & Sandra Hudson	

FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORIC SITE

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

www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge

The oldest English fort remaining on Georgia's coast.

Monday, September 2, 10 am-3 pm, Labor Day. Join the Friends of the Fort for a day of craft demonstrations and soldiers' life activities in commemoration of Labor Day.

Saturday, September 28, 9 am – 12 pm, Your State Parks Day. Keeping a fortress in tip top shape is essential! Lend a hand as we make repairs and improvements. Volunteers receive FREE admission.

Saturday, October 5, 10 am – 4 pm, Coastfest. Join us this year at Mary Ross Waterfront Park in downtown Brunswick. This is a free all ages event. Fort King George will be doing musket firing demos. Other local DNR agencies will be presenting programs, various wildlife displays, and entertainment.



Lower Altamaha Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1405
Darien, Georgia 31305