

# Altamaha Echoes

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Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

August 2017

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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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## ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17 has been an active year for the Lower Altamaha Historical Society with a slate of highly-interesting lecture programs and field trips to sites of historical and ecological interest.

In the past year, the LAHS has undertaken several projects that benefit both the organization and the community. One of these was the initiative by a group of LAHS members in February to conduct a cleaning of the Bessie M. Lewis plot at the Hopkins Cemetery in Crescent. Bessie Lewis was the McIntosh County historian for over 50 years. Her plot was in disarray largely because of years of inattention, plus Hurricane Matthew also left its mark.

Several members of the Society have undertaken volunteer roles to assist Fort King George in beautification efforts on the Museum premises while others have made contributions toward enhancing the appearance of the grounds around the LAHS archives. Our archives area now looks better than it has in many years. New lights were installed at the entrance to the Museum to provide improved illumination on the walkway and parking lot.

LAHS sponsored or co-sponsored two book signings for LAHS president Buddy Sullivan. The first, in February, was for the release of Buddy's new book, *A Low Country Diary: Bessie Mary Lewis and McIntosh County, Georgia*. Then in March, in tandem with the Ashantilly Center, Buddy's new book, *Sapelo: People and Place on a Georgia Sea Island*, was unveiled locally with a signing event at Ashantilly, with the book's photographer Ben Galland showing a selection of his color images.

Last spring, a number of members participated in an excellent field trip to the Cannon's Point Preserve at St. Simons. The history, culture and ecology of the site were interpreted and an update given on the outstanding work the St. Simons Land Trust is doing to enhance the educational opportunities afforded by Cannon's Point.

Programmatically, we have had our usual outstanding group of monthly speakers in the past year. A review of the speakers follows:

August 2016—Bill Giles, site superintendent at Hofwyl-Broadfield, gave a slide program displaying archival photographs from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century history of Hofwyl.

September—Jesse Wuest, interpretive ranger at the Wormsloe historic site, discussed pirates of the Atlantic coast.

October—Rebecca Fenwick, Historic Preservation Specialist for a Savannah architectural firm, provided an update of the historic resource study and survey she is coordinating for McIntosh County under the auspices of the county historic preservation commission.

November—Sandy Jensen, education coordinator of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society gave an interesting talk about plans to rehabilitate the former Coast Guard Station at East Beach and convert it into a museum featuring World War II on the home-front.

January 2017—Ashby Worley provided an interesting talk featuring her previous role as the Riverkeeper for the Satilla River in Camden County and ongoing conservation efforts on that unique waterway.

February—Author Janisse Ray discussed her efforts to expand and reorganize the Tattnall County Archives, as well as her own research into the families and culture of southeast Georgia.

March—LAHS member Jim Klippel provided a look at Auldbrass Plantation in South Carolina, featuring the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. This insight into an important site and its linkage with one of America's best-known architects was most interesting! A number of our members will tour Auldbrass later this year during its bi-annual open house.

April—Christy Sherman of the Richmond Hill Visitors and Convention Bureau gave a talk on that town's efforts to promote its tourism and history as well as Richmond Hill's unique connection with Henry and Clara Ford.

May—Dominic Guadagnoli, shellfish program manager for DNR discussed efforts to restore and nurture the Georgia coast's oyster habitat.

June—Buddy Sullivan lectured on the history of north McIntosh County, with a slide program featuring Harris Neck, Sutherland's Bluff, Shellman Bluff and Belvedere, among other sites.

Buddy Sullivan  
LAHS President

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, August 17, 2017, 7:00 p.m.  
Fort King George Historic Site  
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

"Saint Simons 360" is an award-winning video program about the history of St. Simons Island and the Golden Isles. The program will be the first of several installments of this lengthy documentary video covering 400 years of the island's history. St. Simons native Stephen Doster produced the program. He is currently an editor at Vanderbilt University. The video covers six distinct areas – Native Americans, English planters, the slavery period and Gullah-Geechee culture, lumber industry and twentieth century. The August installment will cover the Indians and Spanish missions on the island.

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**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, September 21, 2017, 7:00 p.m.  
Fort King George Historic Site  
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

This will be the second installment of the History of St. Simons documentary produced by Stephen Doster, covering the plantation era, slavery and the well-known planter families of St. Simons. The series will be continued with a concluding installment early next year.

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**LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, October 19, 2017, 4:00 p.m.  
Fort King George Historic Site**

**LAHS Meeting, Thursday, October 19, 2017, 7:00 p.m.  
Fort King George Historic Site  
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Steak**

Anne Packard, Director of the Moore Methodist Museum at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island, is this month's speaker. Anne will be discussing the history of the

United Methodist Church in south Georgia from John and Charles Wesley in the 1700's to the present using the collection at the Moore Methodist Museum for reference. She graduated from the University of Georgia, having majored in English Literature and minored in History. Anne has lived on St. Simons Island for 25 years and worked with the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church for 5 years. She enjoys the work of the Museum with both the Archives of the Conference and visitors in the Museum.

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**Please keep an eye out for our new members who have joined so far this year:**

**Bill & Sara Barton, Bryce & Melissa Baumgartner, Christine Bennett,  
Naomi Braff, Carrie Burkhart, Patricia Callens, Robert & Judith Clyburn, Carl & Susan  
Darden, Marty Foxx, Willis & Ursula Hunt, Lorraine Koenn, Anna Belle McCaskill, Jim  
McMahon, Chris & Terry Noyes, Arthur Pittman, and Ric & Robin Thomson.**

**We are so happy to have each and every one of you!**

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### ***News from the Board:***

- Thank you to the following LAHS officers and board members who took office in June and will serve for a two-year term:  
Secretary: Harriet Roberson  
Treasurer: Yvonne Carter  
Board Members: Linda Daniels, Aimee Gaddis, Martha Martin,  
and Paul Nix
- Wes Tippens announced an important donation of photographic aerial images generously given to the Society by Jim Wheeler. The large collection of images is now housed in the Archives and available for reference anytime the Archives is open.
- Paul Nix has made an important contact regarding a unique field trip being planned for next spring. Stay tuned for news of this special event in the next month or two as details are being firmed up.
- Treasurer Yvonne Carter reports that the LAHS treasury is on its best footing in quite some time due to new memberships, increased book sales and several life memberships.
- Mark your calendars now for the annual LAHS Christmas social at Belvedere clubhouse on Thursday, December 7.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

*Jack Amason, former Vice President  
Lou Nell Gibson, former Board Member  
Myrtle Newberry, former LAHS Echoes Editor for 15 years  
Eloise Thompson, Life Member*

## LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 – Darien, GA 31305

[www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org)

### LAHS Officers

President ((2016-2018)	Buddy Sullivan	912-658-5844
Vice-President (2016-2018)	Eunice Moore	912-437-4935
Secretary (2017-2019)	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Treasurer (2017-2019)	Yvonne Carter	912-437-5733

### Board Members 2016-2018

Betty Ewing  
Howard Klippel  
Wes Tippens  
Lamar Williamson

### Board Members 2017-2019

Linda Daniels  
Aimee Gaddis  
Martha Martin  
Paul Nix

Past-President  
Director Emeritus

Buddy Sullivan  
Buddy Sullivan

### Committee Chairpersons

Ft. King George Membership Programs	Valarie Ikhwan
Scholarship	Wes Tippens
Field Trips	Ann Howard
Altamaha "Echoes"	Paul Nix/Wes Tippens
Publications/Books	Carole Williams
Historian	Hoyt Carney
Webmaster	Buddy Sullivan
Archives	Jim Bruce
	Linda Daniels

### Life Memberships

Vivian Amason	Read Gignilliat
Muriel Bell	Gus & Marg Hallman
Marsha Certain	Cecil & Sandra Hudson
Bob & Carol Churi	Bill Jones III
Coastal GA Hist Society	Harriet Langford
Darien Telephone Co.	David Miller
Mrs. Caroline B. Davis	Chris & Ward Milner
John & Mary Dean	Bill & Sherry Minnich
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Barbara Poetzman
Albert & Joyce Fendig	Frances Pollard
Lloyd Y. Flanders	John Reehling
Friends of Hofwyl	Jeff & Kelly Spratt
Aimee G. Gaddis	Jesse & Glenda Varnedoe

### Honorary Life Memberships

Jim & Barbara Bruce	Buddy Sullivan
Mattie Gladstone	

## 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)

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

### ***First Saturday Fun – Sights and Signs of the Sawmills***

*Saturday, August 12, 2017, 10 am – 2 pm*

*This site was utilized for centuries to process yellow  
pine as well as cypress from the Altamaha River.*

### ***First Saturday Fun – Labors***

*Saturday, September 2, 2017, 10 am – 2 pm*

*Focuses on the labors of the fort.*

### ***Labor Day Weekend Living History***

*Sunday, September 3, 2017, 10 am – 2 pm*

*The fort will come to life as colonial people  
demonstrate various tasks.*

*Monday, September 4, 2017, 10 am – 4 pm*

*Enjoy cannon and musket firings, and the fort  
seamstress, blacksmith and woodworker as they  
ply their trades.*

### ***First Saturday Fun - Coastfest***

*Saturday, October 7, 2017, 10 am – 4 pm*

*Join us under the Sidney Lanier Bridge in  
Brunswick for a free all-ages event, including  
musket firings and DNR programs and displays.*

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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 AND HOURS  
ARE AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT.  
CALL LINDA DANIELS AT 437-1702.



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