

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society Newsletter

May 2012

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

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

This month's presentation, "*Drifting Into Darien*," is the story of what happens on a week-long trip down the Altamaha River one spring, a trip Janisse Ray had dreamed of taking since she was a girl. However, just before she made the voyage a strange and disturbing piece of mail arrived. The river journey became a way to accept a world that contains both good and evil. Ms. Ray tells this story in the first half of the book, adeptly weaving history, culture, ecology, and personal experience into the journey's narrative. The second half of the book looks at elements of the watershed, including black bears and channel catfish.

Janisse Ray – writer, naturalist and activist – is the author of four books of literary nonfiction and a collection of nature poetry. She is on the faculty of Chatham University's low-residency MFA program and is a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. She holds an MFA from the University of Montana, and in 2007 was awarded an honorary doctorate from Unity College in Maine. She and her husband live a simple, sustainable life on a farm in southern Georgia.

ANNUAL PICNIC, Thursday, June 21, 5:00 p.m.
(Please Note the Earlier Time)
Fort King George Historic Site



Picnic time at the Fort – we're getting an early start at some yummy chicken fingers provided by LAHS. Several members will be providing the paper goods, utensils, ice and drinks. Please bring a dish to share with the group – appetizer, salad, dessert – whatever your specialty is for a summer picnic.

Special entertainment for the event will be presented by YOU – it's your chance to share a funny, hilarious, embarrassing, interesting, outlandish . . . story or experience that has happened in your life. Our LAHS president seems to think that everyone that has "lived as long as most of us have" (definitely his quote) has something interesting to share – and he is excited to share his story. It is always a fun event whether you "entertain" or just join in the fellowship and share some great food with great folks. We look forward to seeing you there!!



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!
JULY 4, 2012

LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, July 19, 2012, 4:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site
LAHS members are always welcome.

LAHS Meeting, Thursday, July 19, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
Fort King George Historic Site
Dutch treat supper, 5:45 p.m. at B&J Pizza

“Civil War Medicine: Infectious Disease & Immunity” – this presentation covers four areas of scholarly interest: science, medicine, culture, and history. *“150 years ago, this nation inflicted upon itself four horrendous years of civil war, terrorism, and murder which lead us down the path of self-destruction. This presentation is dedicated to all Americans who suffered physical and emotional injury or death related to the Civil War. We will always remember them with dignity”* Peter P. Mullen, Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

Peter P. Muller was born in Louisville, KY and received a BA in Biology from the University of Louisville in 1965. In 1971 he received an M.T. (ASCP) from Norton School of Medical Technology and an MS in Biological Science from Western Kentucky University in 1973. His extensive professional background ranges from teaching biology to medical technologist to Professor of medical lab science. He lives in Callahan, FL.

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News from the Board of Directors:

- *The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of proposed officers for 2012-2014 for a vote at the May meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor, with prior consent of the nominee. Those elected will take office in June.*

Secretary: Harriet Roberson

Board Members: Betty Ewing, Walter Pitts, Dee Slagle, Carole Williams

- *We wish to thank Betty Ewing for doing some landscaping around the Archives Building and to Martha Carney for getting the local cable station to broadcast notices of the Archives' hours.*
- *Our webmaster, Jim Bruce, was recognized for his years of service by receiving an Honorary Life Membership for his family.*
- *Stay tuned for news of an exciting fundraiser!*

FIELD TRIP REPORT: The field trip to Savannah on April 25 was a wonderful, educational and interesting day. The Savannah History Museum was packed with visitors, and many of them were students from far away places who were taking notes – all very serious! So much history in Savannah and the displays covered it all! The Georgia Railroad Museum – history of the Central of Georgia Railroad – was also very interesting and packed with information. We all loved lunch at Blowing Smoke BBQ. It was a FUN day – let's do it again! Please let me know if you have any suggestions for a future trip. History awaits!
Harriet Roberson

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members:

- *Marion Bunkley, Brunswick*
- *New Life Members: Joyce & Albert Fendig*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY.

Life Membership - \$250 Corporate - \$100 Individual - \$15 Family - \$20 Student - \$5

Make your check payable to LAHS, P.O. Box 1405, Darien GA 31305, or give to Carol Churi, Membership Chairperson, or Betty Cleveland, Treasurer.

Please contact Carol Churi at 437-4477 or cchuri@darientel.net with any questions regarding membership.

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOT RECEIVED BEFORE JUNE 30, 2012.

Excerpts from *This day in Georgia History*, compiled by Ed Jackson and Charles Pou, The University of Georgia, to correspond with current LAHS Meeting dates:

May 17, 1756: Britain declared war on France, which in America became known as the French and Indian War. Although Georgia escaped most of the fighting, the treaty that would later end the war affected Georgia by making the Mississippi River – rather than Pacific Ocean – Georgia's new western boundary.

June 21, 1864: In his letter to his wife, Maj. Fredrick Winkler testifies to what must have been one of the rainiest Junes in Georgia history: "*We were started under arms about five P.M. yesterday, to go out in support of our 1st Division on a reconnaissance to our right. It rained hard. We formed right outside of our breastworks and there halted and waited until after dark and then went back to camp. It is still raining to-day. Since the first of June, we have had just three days that it did not rain; every brook is a river and the roads are terrible if we did not have the railroad, we would have to go back or starve.*" Source: Civil War Letters of Major Fredrick C. Winkler, in 26th Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers Home Page.

July 19, 1864: In Atlanta, a Union sympathizer known only as "Miss Abby" wrote in her diary: "*All of my neighbors have gone. Am alone on the hill. A friend has urged me to move to town and reside with her. But this is my house, and I wish to protect it, if possible. There may be not battle here. If not, I am safe. If there is one, where is any safety?*" Source: Mills Lane (ed.), *Georgia: History written by Those who lived It* (Savannah: Beehive Press, 1995), p. 170.

The Buddy Sullivan Scholarship Award of \$1,000 is given to a McIntosh County student each year by LAHS. There were no applications received this year.

LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1405 – Darien, GA 31305

www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org

FORT KING GEORGE STATE HISTORIC SITE

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

www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge

LAHS Officers

President (2011-2013)	Jack Godfrey	912-832-5822
Vice-President (2011-2013)	Jack Amason	912-832-5439
Secretary (2010-2012)	Harriet Roberson	912-265-6729
Treasurer (2011-2013)	Betty Cleveland	912-832-2166

Board Members 2010-2012

Betty Ewing
Walter Pitts
Dee Slagle
Carole Williams

Board Members 2011-2013

Vivian Amason
Martha Carney
Carol Churi
Linda Mock

Past-President
Director Emeritus

Lloyd Y. Flanders
Buddy Sullivan

Committee Chairpersons

Ft. King George	Steven Smith
Membership	Carol Churi
Programs	Howard Klippel
Scholarship	Ann Howard
Field Trips	Harriet Roberson
Altamaha "Echoes"	Carole Williams
Publications/Books	Bob Churi
Historian	Buddy Sullivan
Hospitality	Mary Virginia & Harry Clark
Webmaster	Jim Bruce
Archives	Martha Carney/Casey MacMillan

Life Memberships

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

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.

Cannons Across The Marsh

Wednesday, July 4, 2012

10 am – 4 pm

Join the Garrison for a day of artillery drills, musket firings, and soldiers' life activities to honor Independence Day. Free watermelon and lemonade will be served.

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



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