

Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society



Fall 2023

“The mission of L.A.H.S. is to Preserve and Disseminate the History of McIntosh County.”

A Word from Paul

Dear LAHS friends,

Summer 2023 has been a really busy one for the organization. The LAHS Board held a workshop to develop plans for the upcoming year, 2024. The theme developed by the Board was, “2024: A Year of Change”. We discussed a number of ideas that would strengthen LAHS as an organization, including adding to and improving the organizational infrastructure, increasing attendance at our monthly meetings, and attracting a more diverse group of future members. One way to improve the organization is by showing LAHS members as active members of the community, which we did by having a cleanup day at Darien’s Old City Cemetery and having the event covered in the Darien News, with pictures of members cleaning gravestones and landscaping the quaint old cemetery. Also, last week LAHS participated in Darien’s local Fall Festival 2023, sponsored by the local Lions Club, sharing a booth with the Ashantilly Center. The LAHS booth attracted many festival goers on a beautiful day, with displays of artifacts found in the ground in Darien, and with several books on local history for purchase on our table. Several visitors to the booth signed up as new members for 2024, the Year of Change!

One last important note: Buddy Sullivan, celebrated local historian and past president and Director Emeritus of LAHS, will honor us by being the program for November! His topic will be, “The History of McIntosh County as told by Maps.” So, pass the word to your friends and do not miss this chance to hear Buddy locally, on **Thursday, November 16th, at 7PM at Fort King George.** Also, before our meeting, (from 5-7) stop by the McIntosh Art Association for their Kit Jones Reception. Should be a great evening!

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings!

Best regards,

Paul

Stay Tuned

On our recent Field Trip to Fort Frederica Historic Monument, our guide told us that the remains of General Oglethorpe’s house, found just outside of the old “town”, just north of the Ft. Frederica Presbyterian Church, is going to open to the public soon. (Thank you to Park Ranger Phil Officer for the great history tour!)

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2021-23: Martha Martin, Harriet Roberson

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Upcoming Meetings

- Nov. 16, 7pm: Buddy Sullivan: “The History of McIntosh County as told by Maps”. We are pleased to welcome Buddy as he shares his slides of maps, charts, and land surveys that he has encountered in his 40 years researching McIntosh County and Coastal Georgia. The maps will cover a period of time from the Spanish Occupation in the 1500s to the present day. The program is based on his recent book. Buddy is the author of 35 books and is in frequent demand as a lecturer. He has twice served as president of LAHS, most recently from 2014-2018. We are honored to have him: Let’s give Buddy a warm welcome!

Holiday Party



You're Invited!

- Dec. 7, 2023: 5:30pm: Holiday Party! St. Andrew’s Parish Hall, 106 Green St., Darien. Details to come!

Upcoming Field trips

Tentative trip in January to St. Marys Submarine Museum and the McIntosh Sugar Mill Tabby Ruins <http://stmaryssubmuseum.com/>, <https://www.camdencountypsa.info/parksrec/page/mcintosh-sugarmill-ruins> (Date to be announced)
No other field trips planned until spring.



The ruins of a tabby sugar works built by John Houston McIntosh at New Canaan Plantation after 1825.

Coming Events



Thursday, Nov. 16, Kit Jones Exhibit Reception

<https://mailchi.mp/.../kit-jones-exhibit-reception-announced>

Friday, Dec. 1, Ashantilly Center Holiday Open House: 5-7pm, The Ashantilly Center 15591 GA-99, Darien, Join us for an evening of holiday cheer! It will be a wonderful festive evening! <https://ashantillycenter.org/>

Friday, Dec. 1 & Sat. Dec. 2, Annual Christmas Tour: 6-8pm, Hofwl-Broadfield Plantation Historic Site
Visitors will walk along the candlelit path under centuries old oaks and be treated to a guided tour of the antebellum home. Living history enactors, musket and cannon firings, Santa Claus, carols, hot wassail & cookies will highlight the event. \$5-\$10. 912-264-7333.


Spotlight:
Jim Bruce

Jim Bruce grew up on St. Simons. His grandmother developed East Beach and his grandfather five times ago was James Gould, who built the first SSI lighthouse. Jim is an electrical engineer from Georgia Tech and spent 30 years as a computer designer. Jim is into every history club activity in this area since he's from here, is retired, and really likes to preserve and display our area's history for the coming generations. He and his wife Barbara live on a beautiful, undeveloped area on St. Simons, near Cannon's Point. He maintains the website and accounting for LAHS. Jim also has a fascinating website that he compiled from various sources and is presented as a collection of the history of our coastal Georgia area. It highlights history data, photos, maps, and many interesting things:

<http://www.jbrucehistory.org/>

Noteworthy
New/Old Square in Darien

Oglethorpe Square

On Earth Day, April 21, renovations were completed to restore an original square in Darien. Nine 100-gallon live oaks were donated by Coastal Electric Cooperation and planted with the help of Fultz Services, Allen Perkins, Polly Farms, Jerry Holcomb as well as 28 MCA students. Designated in 1736 by General James Oglethorpe, the square is part of the property of McIntosh Public Middle School. It is located on the corner of Greene St. and Rittenhouse St.



General James Oglethorpe, courtesy of Digital Library of Georgia

MEMBERSHIP DUES Renewal

If you haven't already, please remit your dues today. Join with others interested in learning more about this amazing place we get to call home.

Memberships

Annual: *Family - \$25 Individual - \$20 Student - \$5*

Lifetime: *Individual - \$250 Family - \$400*

Pay w/credit card or PayPal on the LAHS website at www.loweraltamahhistoricalsociety.org

Or Make your check payable to LAHS and bring to the meeting.

Or Mail to LAHS, P.O. Box 1405, Darien, GA. 31305

Welcome New Members!

Linda & David Humphries, Kenny Fassell, Jim & Helene DeLoach



Our Members at Work!

On Oct. 14, volunteers from LAHS and St. Andrews Chapter DAR spent the day cleaning and landscaping the Old City Cemetery. Located at Jefferson and Market Streets, it holds the graves of many of Darien's earliest residents and Revolutionary War heroes dating from 1803, and two reinterred Swift Creek women and a child, dating to 200-600 AD. (At least nine unmarked graves are outside the fence.)

Thank you to all our volunteers!



Wishing you a Happy & Healthy New Year!



We have a **Facebook** page! Please **like and follow** us at **Lower Altamaha Historical Society**
www.loweraltamahahistoricalsociety.org

OUR **ARCHIVES/LIBRARY** BUILDING, ON THE GROUNDS OF FORT KING GEORGE,
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