

# Altamaha Echoes

Lower Altamaha Historical Society



Winter 2024

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

## *A Word from Paul*

Dear LAHS friends,

We had another exciting quarter in the life of LAHS!

As a follow up to our “clean-up day”, five of our members joined the Colonial Dames to continue to clean-up and landscape Darien’s Old City Cemetery. The cemetery is the burial site of many of the Scottish Highlanders who founded the city in 1736. Thank you to Marshall Gaddis, Kaye Traer, Chip Lewis, his wife and daughter, and Colonial Dames Donna Howell and Cathy Elrod. If you have not seen the tiny cemetery, I invite you to see it for yourself. Located at the corner of Market and Jefferson Streets, it is a very special place.

We continue to work on attracting new members. We have rack cards to place in prominent places and continue to encourage members to attend community and civic events, and to join the new Joint Historic Preservation Commission. Our membership is growing!

At November’s meeting, we welcomed our own Director Emeritus Buddy Sullivan. He gave the history of McIntosh County through maps of the times. Needless to say, it was an exceptional presentation to a standing-room-only crowd.

We ended the year with a fun and well-attended Holiday Party in December, thanks to the hard work and generosity of our new Hospitality Director Nathan Jones and his wife Kimberly. Attendees were treated to historical Christmas songs from the 18<sup>th</sup> century with musical contributions from members Lloyd Flanders and Bill Collins. There was lots of good company and food along with Howard’s special eggnog to boot!

In February, we sent our 2<sup>nd</sup> semester contribution of our annual Buddy Sullivan Scholarship to Brenau University for the well-deserving 2023-24 recipient, Madison McMahan.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting this Thursday!

Best regards,

**Paul**

## *Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Announced 2024 List of 10 Places in Peril*

*Places in Peril is designed to raise awareness about Georgia’s significant historic, archaeological and cultural resources, including buildings, structures, districts, archaeological sites and cultural landscapes that are threatened by demolition, neglect, lack of maintenance, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy.*

*Two of the sites recognized are in McIntosh County: Grace Baptist Church and Hog Hammock on Sapelo Island.*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

Paul Nix

President 2022-24

770-378-7268

Bill Barton

Vice President 2023-24

Maria Hane

Secretary 2023-25

Chip Lewis

Treasurer 2023-25

Buddy Sullivan

Past President

Director Emeritus

### Directors

2021-23: Martha Martin,

2022-24: Eric Teal, Missy Brandt Wilson, Nathan Johns

## Upcoming Meetings

- Feb. 15: Maggie Van Cantfort, Altamaha Riverkeeper, Watershed Specialist
- March 21: Paul Downs, Manager: Richmond Hill History Museum, History of Bryan County
- April 18: Charles Wilsterman, Author & music lover: History of Patriotic American Music

## Upcoming Field trips

(Dates to be determined )

- Little St. Simons Island tour: Scott Coleman, Center for Coastal Conservation
- St. Marys Submarine Base Museum, Molly's historic town tours, and McIntosh sugar mill
- Kingsley Plantation, Jacksonville FL.
- Altamaha River Delta Cruise aboard the "Delta Belle" (Ga. Tidewater Outfitters)

## Georgia Colony Founded!

**February 12, 1733 - Savannah**

After years of planning and two months crossing the Atlantic, James Oglethorpe and 114 colonists climbed 40 feet up the bluff from the Savannah River on this day in 1733 and founded the colony of Georgia. George II granted the Georgia trustees a charter for the colony a year earlier. The trustees' motto was *Non Sibi Sed Aliis*—not for self but for others. Georgia would be a philanthropic and military enterprise that would provide the "worthy" poor a new start and serve as a buffer between Spanish Florida and the English colonies. The trustees prohibited slavery and large landholdings; Georgians would work for themselves on small farms. In the end, there were no debtors among them. In November 1732 Oglethorpe and the colonists boarded the *Anne* in Gravesend and after stopping briefly in South Carolina, arrived safely in Georgia. The 13th and last of the British colonies on mainland North America grew to become the largest of the United States east of the Mississippi after its founding on February 12, 1733, <https://www.todayingeorgiahistory.org/tih-georgia-day/georgia-colony-founded/>

## MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWEL

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

Pay w/credit card or PayPal on the LAHS website at [www.loweraltamahistoricalociety.org](http://www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.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!

Phyllis Woodroof, Mark & Bonnie Gramlich, Becky & David Irwin, Elizabeth Braswell (Lifetime)



**SPOTLIGHT**

**Harriet Roberson**

Harriet was born in Richmond VA. on Oct 13, 1929. She has lived in WV, VA, NC, SC, and finally GA, in which she has lived for the past 65 years. She resides on Starling St. in Brunswick.

Harriet was educated as a Jr-Sr high school teacher, with a double major in English and Math. But it only took a year of teaching before she decided that she would rather be home with her children than teaching at a school. Later, she took a secretarial job at St. Mark's Episcopal Church and worked there for 25 years.

She spent many years in volunteer work in Glynn County. She said that, wherever she volunteered, she ended up as president of the organization! She spent many years in the Brunswick Junior Women's Club, the League of Women Voters, the Coastal Georgia Audubon Society, and a variety of school organizations. She also did a lot of work in her Church, including organizing teenager activities and taking kids on field trips, for over 20 years. Harriet was involved in many activities including her labor of love as an environmentalist, prolonging the life of our landfills by recycling newspapers, magazines and aluminum cans. She served as chairman of Coastal Georgia Audubon Society Recycling Project.

The National Society of Colonial Dames XVII, St. Simons Island Chapter, honored her, naming Community Service Award winner. Harriet was also chosen as state award winner at the CDXVIIC State Conference in Albany.

She also got involved with government organizations and advocated for changing the Georgia state law requiring members of local school boards to be appointed. She worked successfully to convince two state lawmakers to allow a vote by the State legislature on whether to allow citizens to elect members or for them to be appointed to the local school board. At the time, virtually all those appointed were men, and later she did a lot of work getting School Board members elected.

Early on, she passionately advocated for a Consolidated form of government for Brunswick and Glynn County, though she failed in that endeavor.

In the late 1900's, she and her husband bought a house in North McIntosh County. There she gradually got involved in organizations in McIntosh County, like LAHS and the St. Andrews Episcopal Church. As a member of LAHS, she has served in virtually every position on the Board, including President for two terms, Secretary for several terms, Field Trip Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, and Christmas Party Coordinator. She was the project leader whose diligent work resulted in the establishment of the LAHS Archives in 1990.

She is not resigning LAHS due to lack of interest, she says, but due to diminishing faculties that come with aging. She has made the most friends over the years at LAHS. She says there are many jobs to do, like keeping our relationship with the Fort strong, and enthusiastically promoting LAHS in the years to come.

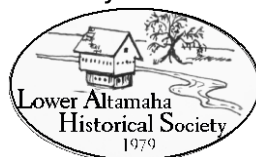
*We Thank you Harriet Roberson!*

We have a **facebook** page!

Please **like and follow** us at **Lower Altamaha Historical Society**

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

OUR ARCHIVES/LIBRARY BUILDING, ON THE GROUNDS OF FORT KING GEORGE,  
is open every Thursday from 11:00am to 3:00pm



## Noteworthy

The **Liberty County Historical Society** was founded by a group of folks who realized that Liberty County Georgia's rich history was in danger of being lost. The Historical Society is dedicated to preserving, documenting, and recording the history and heritage of the county. They do this through a variety of programs and initiatives, such as collecting artifacts, conducting research, and publishing books and articles. They also offer educational programs for the public. Liberty County was founded on February 5, 1777. Sunbury was first designated the county seat in 1784. In 1797, the seat was transferred to Riceboro, and in 1837, it was transferred again to Hinesville.

LCHS, based in Hinesville, has a following of over 1000 on their Facebook page. The cost to join is FREE!

[www.Libertyhistory.net](http://www.Libertyhistory.net)

## Coming Events

**Honoring Black History Month with Journeys Sponsored by the Coastal Georgia Historical Society** St. Simons Presbyterian Church, and live streaming will be available.

Thurs., February 22, 6 p.m., Bernard Powers, Ph.D., will present a program in honor of Black History Month. The lecture is part of the 2024 Journeys program, which combines a lecture with a field trip. Dr. Powers will discuss African American history in the Lowcountry and will examine ongoing research at the Center for the Study of Slavery at the College of Charleston, including the findings of graduate student Lauren Davila. In 2023, Davila uncovered the largest known U.S. auction of enslaved people, which took place in Charleston in 1835 and involved the sale of 600 people. This sale surpasses the previously acknowledged largest sale of enslaved people in the United States, often known as the Weeping Time, which took place in March 1859. Although this sale was conducted in Savannah, the 436 people sold were brought to the city from Pierce Mease Butler's plantations on St. Simons and Butler islands. The lecture is free of charge.

**Also:**

### **Journeys Field Trip**

March 5, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm This trip will explore the lives and legacies of enslaved people in Coastal Georgia, including those involved in the Weeping Time. Our group will first visit the remains of Hampton Plantation, acquired in 1774 by Major Pierce Butler. We will also visit Butler Island, which was operated as a rice plantation by the Butler family.

Pierce Mease Butler sold people enslaved at both plantations during the Weeping Time to save himself from bankruptcy. This history will be explored by speakers at each location who will provide more information about the lives of the enslaved and the impact of events like the Weeping Time in Coastal Georgia.

The field trip to Hampton Plantation and Butler Island includes transportation, guided experiences at both locations, and lunch. Depart from the A.W. Jones Heritage Center. Once purchased, tickets are non-refundable, although they may be transferred to another person. <https://www.coastalgeorgiahistory.org/events/>

**Scotland's Famous Whiskey** Sat. March 9, 4-6pm: The Ashantilly Center 15591 GA-99, Darien, Join us on Saturday, March 9 at 4 p.m. for a descriptive travel through Scotland. The History of Scotland would not be complete without a discussion of the fine, single malt whisky produced by the many distilleries in the country. Vince Becker of Habersham Beverage in Savannah will bring his knowledge and some great selections.

<https://ashantillycenter.org/events/>



## Coming Events cont.

**ON DISPLAY:** McIntosh Art Association is exhibiting a variety of mostly pre-1970's Barbie, Ken, and "friend" models, along with outfits, popular doll wardrobe cases, clothes, accessories, and interesting reference materials, sure to invoke a happy state of nostalgia! Join us for a drop-in **Barbie Birthday Party** Sat. March 9, 12-3pm



Poster by LAHS member Linda Humphries

**Scottish Heritage Days 2024** Sat. Mar 16, 10 am to 4 pm: Fort King George Historic Site - Darien

Our annual Scottish History event, visit Fort King George and witness a variety of Scottish living history demonstrations: musket & cannon firings, blacksmithing, carpentry, medicine, cooking, music, and more! \$4.75-\$8.25



**56<sup>th</sup> Annual Blessing of the Fleet** April 5-7, Presented by the Darien-McIntosh County Chamber of Commerce, this exciting three-day event features a plethora of activities and attractions, including an art show, delectable food and beverage vendors, unique arts and crafts, an invigorating YMCA 5K, engaging children's activities, classic car show, nightly live entertainment, and an enthralling marine parade. Blessing of the Fleet is the largest on the East Coast, with over 30,000 attendees throughout the weekend.

<https://business.darienmcintoshchamber.com/events>



**Spring Native Plant Sale** Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.: The Ashantilly Center 15591 GA-99, Darien. The Coastal WildScapes Spring Native Plant Sale ion Join us and four native plant vendors. (Florabundance Gardens, Victory Gardens, Naturescapes, and Georgia Native Plant Society – Coastal Plain Chapter).



## Our Lifetime Members

Vivian Amason  
Bill & Sara Barton  
Elizabeth Braswell  
Jim & Barbara Bruce  
Wheeler Bryan  
Marsha J. Certain MD  
Bob & Carol Churi  
Richard & Donna Claytor  
Carl and Susan Darden  
John W. & Mary. Dean  
Patricia Deveau  
Thomas Durden-Fanning  
Laura & Jordy Evans  
Albert & Joyce Fendig  
Lloyd Y. Flanders  
Vicky Wallace & Mike Frace  
Aimee - Ella & Flint Gaddis  
Read Gignilliat  
Bill & Stephanie Giles  
Dr. Cecil & Sandra Hudson  
Willis and Ursula Hunt  
Bill Jones III  
Timothy & Karinna Karsten  
Lorraine Koenn  
Harriet Langford  
Elizabeth Scottie Lingerfelt  
David W Miller  
Chris & Ward Milner  
Sherry Minnich  
C Patrick Murrah  
Barbara Poetzman  
John Reehling  
Marion Savic  
Jeff & Kelly Spratt  
Buddy Sullivan  
Eric Teal  
Jesse & Glenda Varnedoe  
Roy & Carole Williams  
Mark Yeager