

Altamaha *Echoes*

Published quarterly
for members and friends of the
Lower Altamaha Historical Society

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

Staying Connected . . . *A Word from Wes*

Dear friends,

While this coronavirus pandemic is keeping us from scheduling in-person events, I'm grateful we can connect via our newsletter. On behalf of the LAHS Board of Directors, we hope you and your family and friends are doing well during these challenging times.

As many of you know, Carole Williams has been a loyal and devoted LAHS volunteer for many years publishing our newsletter on a quarterly basis. Carole did an outstanding job and I was very sad to hear that she would not be continuing in that capacity. She will be missed and on behalf of the board and the entire membership, I express sincere my gratitude and best wishes to her. I'd also like to thank Dee Bigham for taking over the newsletter responsibilities. We welcome her to the LAHS team!

While we have throttled back to an idle during these past months the Board is operating in the background so we can pick up right where we left off when it is safe to schedule meetings again.

Until then, we'll keep you informed of LAHS actions and events via our newsletter and email messages. Be well, stay safe and let us know if we may help you out you in any way.

Best regards,

Wes

LAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wes Tippins

President 2018 – 2020
912.242.1668

Eunice Moore

Vice President 2018 – 2020
912.437.4935

Paul Nix

Secretary 2019 – 2021
912.625.0160

Jeanne Hawkins

Treasurer 2019 – 2021
912.832.6588

Buddy Sullivan

Past President
Director Emeritus

Board Members

2018 – 2020

Bill Barton
Marshall Gaddis
Sissy Kammer
Lamar Williamson

Board Members

2019 – 2021

Wheeler Bryan Jr.
Linda Daniels
Aimee Gaddis
Martha Martin

Looking to precedent for lessons

Plagues and pandemics, the earliest recorded in 430 BC, have changed history: the Justinian Plague in 541 AD is credited with spurring the spread of Christianity, leprosy-focused hospitals were built when leprosy grew into a pandemic in the 11th century, in 2019 research has concluded that the deaths of some 56 million Native Americans in the 16th and 17th centuries, largely through disease, may have altered the Earth's climate as vegetation growth on previously tilled land drew more CO₂ from the atmosphere and caused a cooling event. Is there anything we can learn as we look back over history?

1918 SPANISH FLU

The avian-borne flu that resulted in 50 million deaths worldwide, the 1918 flu was first observed in Europe, the United States and parts of Asia before swiftly spreading around the world. At the time, there were no effective drugs or vaccines to treat this killer flu strain, our knowledge about medicine and infectious disease was nowhere near what we know today. Wire service reports of a flu outbreak in Madrid in the spring of 1918 led to the pandemic being called the "Spanish flu."

By October, hundreds of thousands of Americans died and body storage scarcity hit crisis level. But the flu threat disappeared in the summer of 1919 when most of the infected had either developed immunities or died.

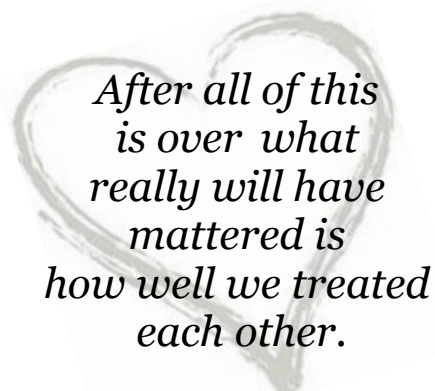
1957 ASIAN FLU

Starting in Hong Kong and spreading throughout China and then into the United States, the Asian flu became widespread in England where, over six months, 14,000 people died. A second wave followed in early 1958, causing an estimated total of about 1.1 million deaths globally, with 116,000 deaths in the United States alone. A vaccine was developed, effectively containing the pandemic.

1918 HIV/AIDS

Treatments have been developed to slow the progress of the disease, but 35 million people worldwide have died of AIDS since its discovery, and a cure is yet to be found.

Once this current epidemic has subsided many of the same questions asked after the 1918 influenza will remain. Why do some recover and others don't? What can we learn from a public-health crisis? What follows might be completely different from what we have known. In the past, cataclysmic events have prompted human beings to act with extraordinary kindness, courage and ingenuity. Let's hope we see the same now.





With several directors retiring, we're looking to add a few conscientious board members to help lead and strengthen the Society, seeking one individual in particular who likes to work with numbers. To that end, President Wes Tippins has asked Bill Barton and Paul Nix to serve as a recruiting task force to seek out and nominate individuals to join the Board.

If you're interested in serving or if you know someone who would be a good board member, please contact Bill or Paul:

billbarton1@bellsouth.net

paulnix@comcast.net

Your membership in the Lower Altamaha Historical Society offers many benefits! Meetings on topics of historical interest. Field trips to places of historic interest. Informative newsletter. Meeting and socializing with other folks interested in learning more about this amazing place we get to call home. If you haven't already, please send in your dues today!

Lifetime Membership - \$250

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

Pay with a credit card or PayPal on the LAHS website at

www.loweraltamahahistoricalociety.org

OR

make your check payable to

LAHS, Post Office Box 1405, Darien, GA 31305

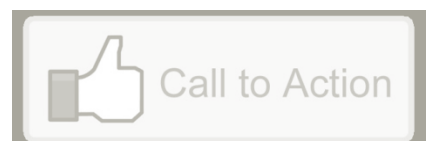


PostScript from Wes . . . Dues provide the lifeblood of our Society. Thanks to everyone who have paid their dues for the year – LAHS expenses continue even as we operate on a limited basis. While no current memberships will be rescinded, receipt of outstanding dues is most appreciated. Small donations will also be accepted with gratitude!

Have you heard about HB 906? This action could potentially put Butler Island, Ossabaw Island and all Georgia Heritage Properties up for sale! If you would like information on this bill, several sites are listed below.

1. Verbiage for HB 906 can be found at <http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20192020/HB/906>
2. Kwesi DeGraft-Hanson, who spoke at one of our recent meetings had a wonderful article in the Savannah Morning News. <https://www.savannahnow.com/opinion/20200606/viewpoints-kwesi-degraff-hanson-protect-and-preserve-butler-island-plantation>
3. A complete list of properties that will be impacted can be found at <https://savarchaeoalliance.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/ga-heritagepreserves-and-senate-districts.pdf>
4. Further information as well as a Petition can be found here: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/savarchaeoalliance.org/2020/06/04/house-bill-906-conveyance-of-heritage-preserve-properties/amp/>
5. For a complete list of our state senators: <http://senate.GA>

Now would be a good time to let our Senators know how you feel about this Bill!



LOWER ALTAMAHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 1405 . Darien, GA

www.loweraltmahahistoricalsociety.org

Committee Chairpersons

Altamaha 'Echoes' - Dee Bigham
Archives - Sissy Kammer
Field Trips - Paul Nix
Fort King George - Valerie Ikhwan
Historian - Buddy Sullivan
Hospitality - Linda Daniels
Membership - Martha Martin
Programs - Bill Barton
Scholarship - Ann Howard
Webmaster - Jim Bruce

Honorary Life Memberships

Jim & Barbara Bruce
Mattie Gladstone
Buddy Sullivan
Carole Williams

Life Memberships

Vivian Amason
Muriel Bell
Wheeler Bryan Jr.
Masha Certain
Bob & Carol Churi
Coastal Georgia Historical Society
Darien Telephone Company
John & Mary Dean
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Winnifred & Thomas Durden-Fanning
Albert & Joyce Fendig
Lloyd Y. Flanders
Friends of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation
Aimee Gaddis
Read Gignilliat
Cecil & Sandra Hudson
Willis & Ursala Hunt
Bill Jones III
Lorraine Koenn
Harriet Langford
David Miller
Ward & Chris Milner
Bill & Sherry Minnich
Barbara Poetzman
Frances Pollard
John Rheelling
Jeff & Kelly Sprat
Eric Teal
Jesse & Glenda Varnedoe
Mike Frace & Vickie Wallace
Mark Yeager

PLEASE NOTE!

This newsletter is being delivered
both electronically and
by the post office.
If you **HAVE NOT** received an email
copy, **PLEASE** send your
email address to Jim Bruce
jim@oatland.org

Lower Altamaha Historical Society
P. O. Box 1405
Darien GA 31305

