

Altamaha *Echoes*

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for members and friends of the
Lower Altamaha Historical Society
Summer 2021 Issue

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

LAHS receives 2 grants A Word from Wes

I was recently notified by the Georgia Humanities Council that LAHS has received 2 grants on behalf of ongoing efforts on Butler Island.

The application for the Weeping Time Light Commemorative Programming 2022 has been awarded a grant of \$2500. The Georgia Humanities Grant will support 6 tours in the fall and spring on Butler Island, led by descendants Eunice Moore and Griffin Lotson, and also 2 additional programs, one with Joseph McGill and the Slave Dwelling Project, which brings awareness and advocacy to African American history on historic sites, and a genealogy workshop to be held in the spring.

The second grant awarded is the MK Pentecost Grant, an ecology fund established through the Savannah Presbytery for the application of the Butler Island Ecological Sensitive Solar Light Installation and Signage for the amount of \$2250. For the 2021 March Weeping Time Commemorative, local volunteers Eunice Moore and Missy Brandt Wilson originated the idea to place 436 solar lights for each of the enslaved listed for sale during the national event March 2-3, 1859, which would come to be known as the Weeping Time. The MK Pentecost grant will enable a more permanent ecologically friendly installation on Butler Island.

Volunteers will be needed for each of these events, please stay tuned!

Best regards,

Wes

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ZOOM MEETING - Thursday, August 18

Featuring **Stacy Ashmore Cole**, creator of **TheyHadNames.net**, a website containing more than 30,000 references to names African Americans, enslaved and free. Discover where records were found and the impact of creating this searchable, countywide-wide reference resource. Watch your email for complete details.

THE BUDDY SULLIVAN SCHOLARSHIP: AN UPDATE

As part of the successful Coastal Incentive Grant to begin an assessment of the overall site and historic structures on Butler Island prior to stabilization, the team submitting the grant was required to include public outreach and education about the history of Butler Island. A component of this outreach was to work with McIntosh Academy to develop a curriculum for McIntosh County History. This class will be introduced in January of 2022. This presented an opportunity for the LAHS Buddy Sullivan Scholarship Committee to more closely tie our scholarship to the teaching of our local history. Beginning with the 2022 application for this award, LAHS will be tying the award to the successful completion of this new class. The required essay included with the scholarship application will now include a focus on the applicant's understanding of our local history and culture. Each successful recipient will be assigned an LAHS mentor/liason who will be in touch with the student during their first year of post high school education. That scholarship student will provide a follow up report of their college experience at the Spring semester when the second half of the scholarship is available to ensure accountability with the scholarship by demonstrating academic success.



Buddy Sullivan and Missy Brandt Wilson award Alexis McQuaig as the 2020 LAHS Buddy Sullivan Scholarship Recipient. The 2020 Scholarship was awarded belatedly due to the cancellation of ceremonies last year. Alexis is a student at East Georgia State College, and has just finished her first year.

The 2021 Recipient is Jimmy NeeSmith, who received his scholarship on Awards Night from Scholarship Chair Bill Barton. He will be attending the University of Georgia this fall.

BUTLER ISLAND REMEMBRANCE OCTOBER 29-30, 2021

As the Butler Island Weeping Time Committee expands its observance of the Great family Divide of 1859, also known as the Weeping Time, there will be a Fall event to call attention to the deep history of Butler Island, a history that resonates to this day.

Over 2 days at the end of October, Butler Island will be the site of local school field trips, tours and lectures, presentations by local historians, and opportunities for our local school children to showcase their talents. A centerpiece of this event will be the presence of **Joseph McGill Jr.** of the Slave Dwelling Project, <https://slavedwellingproject.org/>.

Joseph McGill, Jr. is a history consultant for Magnolia Plantation in Charleston, South Carolina, and the founder and director of The Slave Dwelling Project. Previously, as a field officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Mr. McGill worked to revitalize the Sweet Auburn commercial district in Atlanta, Georgia, and to develop a management plan for the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area. He is a former executive director of the African American Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and a former director of history and culture at Penn Center, St. Helena Island, South Carolina. He has also served as a National Park Service park ranger at Fort Sumter National Monument in Charleston.

There will be an opportunity to meet Mr. McGill and visit with him on Friday night during a Fireside Chat on Butler Island.

FOCUS ON FORT STEWART

LAHS MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 7 PM FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE

James Atwater, Director of THE 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION MUSEUM at FORT STEWART in Hinesville will be the featured speaker at the LAHS September 16th meeting at Fort King George.

With an undergraduate degree from Anderson University in Indiana, Atwater went on to earn his Masters from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He worked for three years at Colonial Williamsburg; then moved on to the Old Casemate Museum at Fort Monroe and the Quartermaster Museum at Fort Lee before spending fifteen years as a Curator of the Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis. He became Director of the recently renovated Fort Stewart Museum a year and a half ago.

The "mission" of the museum is to interpret the history of the 3rd Infantry Division from 1917 to the present day; be a place to collect, preserve and display historic artifacts related to its history; provide and support Division education, historical programs, research and training opportunities. The Museum has four galleries. The first and main gallery is dedicated to the history of the 3rd Infantry Division and its many artifacts and collections. The "Thunder Run" room is a gallery all about the assault into Baghdad by the 2nd Brigade and contains video of the assault itself. The final two galleries tell of the history of Fort Stewart and its supporting air fields, such as Hunter Army Airfield.

We look forward to seeing you at this long-awaited program!

FIELD TRIP TO FORT STEWART MUSEUM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

On our way to Fort Stewart, we will enjoy a "dutch treat" lunch at Zum Rosenhof German Restaurant in Hinesville. Because the government requires the names and addresses of all who will attend, the final day to register for this event will be September 16th, the day of Director Atwater's presentation at Fort King George.

LAHS Director Harriet Roberson is taking reservations for this field trip and you can make your reservation by calling her at 912.265.6729 (messages will be returned) or by emailing her at wilwave@att.net; Harriet will provide you with all of the particulars.



*Barbara Bodamer
Morris Carter
Winifred Durden-Fanning
Mattie Gladstone
Terry Kammer
Jon Traer*

A Page from Our Scrapbook

JUNE 25 TOUR OF FORT MORRIS



Jason Baker, the sole state employee at Fort Morris State Historic Site in Sunbury, shared stories with our LAHS group as we walked around the earthen fort that dates back to 1741. The fort is best known for its role in defending Sunbury, then a thriving international seaport, from the British during the Revolutionary War.

Wearing the blue uniform of the 2nd Company of the Georgia Artillery, Baker ended our tour by firing a musket allowing us to hear the blast, see the gray cloud of smoke and smell the burnt gunpowder.

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