

The Georgia Salzburger

Winter 2016

Volume 114, No 22

DR. CANDACE RAUSCH TO SPEAK AT THE GEORGIA SALZBURGER SOCIETY'S 2016



Dr. Candace Rausch, DDS, is a graduate of Newberry College and the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry. Candace and her husband Gerald practice dentistry in Stone Mountain, Georgia, where they have been for 32 years. They have two grown sons, David and Daniel and one daughter, Diana. They also have two God-children, Madison and Anslee. They are members of Oak Road Lutheran Church in Lilburn, Georgia.

You are invited to join the Georgia Salzburger Society for Landing Day, which will be held Saturday March 11th at 2:00 PM, at Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ebenezer, Ga.

Dr. Candace Rausch, a Georgia Salzburger Society/ Greater Atlanta Chapter board member, will present a program highlighting the events of the recent Georgia Salzburger Society trip to Germany.

Members of the Georgia Salzburger Society met with members from the German Salzburger Society in Berlin.

As the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is approaching in 2017, we are privileged to share with you the first-hand the sights pertaining to Martin Luther. To interest you in our upcoming program, here are some of the highlights of the recent trip to the "Fatherland," Germany this past June.

Our Georgia delegation included nine persons of Salzburger descent. We were led by our current president, Mr. Gary Nizzi and our past president, Rev. Donald Hanberry. After departing from Atlanta, Georgia, we began our journey in the largest city in southern Germany, Munich, where we arrived just in time to see the famous Glockenspiel. From there we travelled by coach to our sister city, Augsburg, founded in 15 B.C. by the Romans. The city of Augsburg is rich in heritage, as it was here that the exiled Salzburgers were befriended by Rev. Urlsperger and St. Anna's Church for their transfer to Ebenezer. We were greeted by the Rev. Freudenberger for a personal tour of St. Anna's Church, the church who generously welcomed, provisioned our ancestors for their journey, and the site the congregation of Jerusalem was formed.

As the year 2017 will be the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, there was much ado about Martin Luther and his wife Katherine. Visiting Erfurt where he entered the Monastery, Eisleben, his birthplace, Wittenberg, where the 95 theses were attached to the Castle Church door for debate and where the Luther's took residence were all wonderful sights for our group. Per Dan Wilson, "One of the high points for me on our recent trip to Germany was the taking of communion in the castle church in Wittenberg."

Another wonderful tour was that of the Franke Institute in Halle (Saale), Germany. We were greeted by Institute Director Dr. Thomas J. Müller-Bahlke and intern Ms. Christine Koch. We were given a complete tour of the large complex which is now a center of education. Also, Pastors Johann Martin Boltzius and Israel Christian Gronau were educated at Franke and sent to meet the exiles for their trip to the new world.

We will not share all the details right here as there is much more to tell! For those of you who were unable to travel with us, come see and hear the wonderful presentation. For a Salzburger descendent it is a unique experience and opportunity to learn about our heritage first-hand. It is the next best thing to travelling there yourself!

(Our nine GSS members touring the countryside of Germany, visiting both heritage and Luther sites were: Gary Nizzi, current GSS president, and his mother, Lena Nizzi, Dan Wilson, Charlie Arnsdorff, Donald and Janet Hanberry, Sanford Hanberry, Candace Rausch, and Diana Rausch)



Georgia Salzburger Society

Founded 1925

**2980 Ebenezer Road
Rincon, Georgia 31326**

**Office Hours:
Tuesday and Friday
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912-754-7001**

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An Affiliate Chapter of the
Georgia Historical Society**

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all,

I hope this newsletter finds you in great health after the holidays (one small talent passed on by our ancestors is fantastic baking skills: pies, cakes/fruitcake, raisin breads, etc., plus sausage making-but we seem to be missing a brewery). My thanks to all of you that supported the society by both gifts of resources, time and your talent this past year. The gifts to the main museum HVAC system and dehumidifier for the Loest Library are foundational and very much appreciated. Next up in priority are gifts for refurbishing the foundation to the Salzburger Haus. I also wish to mention we are a 501c3 organization and your gifts are tax deductible, plus you can leave an endowment gift at any time with the same tax benefits.

Looking back, we had a very busy year. To mention a few below:

- First and foremost is our gratitude to everyone for assisting the successful re-instatement of Salzburger heritage in the Georgia Social Studies Core Curriculum. This endeavor took many months with much coordination plus the help of our members and representatives all over the state that stood up for keeping our importance to the Georgia Colony's success taught to our children. We hope the educators of Georgia never fall into this horrible crevice again. You may ask "what benefit do I get as a member?" Just the basic reason that you exist today because your ancestors paid many dues causing Georgia to succeed, the Revolution to succeed and their Christian ethic for their families to succeed. This supports one of the founding pillars of our society's establishment. "Remembering" means we must document and provide all this wonderful knowledge to future generations so it may provide and instill the will to pursue a free and godly life as our ancestors did. Leaving relatives, crossing mountains in a snowy winter, volunteering travel to a new world, beginning a new colony and making it succeed because they were Lutheran.
- We installed a new HVAC system to provide the protective environment for the donated historical items.
- Thankful for gifts provided to continue our society's endeavors and many new members for our future success.
- Supporting and participating the documentary film segment on the founding of Ebenezer and continuance of Jerusalem.
- Great programs and healthy relationships with our Austrian/German brethren.
- Participation in the success of the Teutonic Council (3 charter societies) with student and teacher exchanges supported by Effingham County School Superintendent/Board.

- Continued great relationship and support with Jerusalem and Ebenezer Retreat Center, the other legs of our triad of three entities inheriting from our ancestors.
- Successful support of our members in transitioning to more web based and electronic communications to help conserve our finances.

On March 11 is a lunch of "good rice soup" (healthy cream of chicken and rice) as was served to our newly arrived ancestors on Landing Day by a Jewish family – (a true glimpse of diversity success). There may be other items served as we develop the menu for Landing Day Celebration. Please call Patsy Zeigler to assist with this. Plus, notify the office of your planned attendance to help predict the food quantities needed.

One other observation: Our society cannot flourish without your continued donation of time. We have many committees you can choose to offer your help. I would especially like to request more involvement from our younger members, not a draining large commitment, to help with items only you can choose. Please contact us. Thank you for allowing me to serve you,

Gary Nizzi

LANDING DAY MEAL

Like last year, join us for a meal of "good rice soup" as was served to the first Salzburger Transport arriving in Savannah. Additionally, we will offer Brats, German potato salad, and deserts. The hearty chicken with rice soup and other items make a nice lunch before the meeting starts. To help plan, please send an email to gaslzbrgr@aol.com or call 912-754-7001 the office with your number attending. What a great way to rekindle our ancestor links at our Landing Day celebration!

Amazon Purchases

For those who use Amazon to purchase items, please use "Smile.Amazon.com". Go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select a charitable organization (the Georgia Salzburger Society) and they will donate a small percentage to the charity you list from their proceeds. (Or you can go to your account and select your charity). It doesn't cost you any additional money and is transparent to your purchases. Amazon has donated almost 38 million dollars to date to all organizations.

MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOPPE NEWS

The GSS Museum is open Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday (except holidays) 3:00PM-5:00PM

Tours.... please call Patsy Zeigler, Curator @912-655-4555 for

scheduling appointments. We share our heritage with many tourists...Please give us a call.

"GREETINGS FROM THE MUSEUM"

With Heritage Day and Christmas behind us, hopefully your schedule is slowing down. You might like to come visit us in the museum. One Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday, take a trip to New Ebenezer and look around. Ruth Kessler Dostal has written a new book, "Little Cricket's Tour of Ebenezer." Children of all ages would enjoy the story and pictures. If you're a grandparent, you may want to read this story and share your heritage with your grandchild. Also, don't forget 8th grade students study Georgia History and could benefit from the historical facts. So don't delay, come visit us in the museum today!

Curator: Patsy Zeigler—912-655-4555

Assistant Curator: Robert Peavy

Volunteers: Lisa Repasy, Roger Stephens, Larry Zettler, Gill Zeigler, and Sandy Gibson

Saving Grace Documentary Update

Saving Grace....a video documentary on the history of rural churches in Georgia.

Portions of the project were filmed at Ebenezer over a 3 day period during July 2016. Some breathtaking footage filmed by a drone over Jerusalem Lutheran church can currently be seen online in a brief video featuring beautiful landscapes untouched by development and construction. The promotional air during January-February. We eagerly await viewing of the Georgia Salzburger portion of the Saving Grace video production documentary to be aired during February on Georgia Public TV. Several GSS members will be seen in the final release, costumed as the early Salzburger settlers at Ebenezer. If you have not yet seen the Saving Grace video clip posted on the Visitebenezer.com, please check it out. Be prepared to be impressed with the amazing scenery of Ebenezer along the bank of the Savannah River side, set to the music of "I Went Down to the River to Pray". There, you may catch a glimpse of someone you know, walking along the sun dappled riverside. More information to come, as soon as it becomes available!

Cultural Exchange News – Teutonic Council

One of the goals of the Teutonic Council is to promote cultural exchanges between Germany and the Savannah area. The first was the performance by the German opera and Savannah Symphony a few years ago. The most recent project is the teacher exchange project. The Teutonic Council committee of Dr. James Anderson, Dr. Mark Linsky, Claudia Christiansen, and Anne Miller, met many times for over a period of about two years exploring ways to create a successful exchange. We knew that the best place to begin would be the Effingham County School system, because of the deep roots of the Salzburger history in the Ebenezer area. Although the two teachers who ultimately qualified for the first teacher exchange were not of Salzburger heritage, they found a genuinely successful match with 2 teachers in Halle, Germany.



Pictured above are Ed Hahn of the Teutonic Council, Effingham County superintendent, Dr. Randy Shearouse, and exchange teacher Kristen Denney, of South Effingham Co. High School. Dr. Shearouse met with us several times helping us to plan toward everything that best suited the schedules of the Effingham school system. Applications were sent out to both High Schools and ultimately the two teachers who applied and qualified were from South Effingham County. The other teacher (not pictured) is John Cook of South Effingham HS. They went to Elisabeth Gymnasium, a school in Halle, teaching and touring the area for two weeks during June 2016.

Recently Kristen Denny came to the GSS Board meeting to share a few details of her experiences with the students and two teachers in Germany. Also, this group of four teachers visited Ebenezer after school one day for a very informative tour of Jerusalem Church and the

Salzburger museum, conducted by Robert Peavey, assistant curator of the Salzburger Museum. They extended much appreciation for the tour and gifts provided for the two visiting German teachers.



Pictured above from left, German exchange teacher Mattias Schwitzer, Dr. James Anderson, Claudia Christiansen, and German exchange teacher Ilka Schuchard of Elisabeth Gymnasium/ Halle, Germany. Seen in the background on the left are Gerda and Denis Blackburne, consul general of Germany for Savannah. In the background on the right is Margerete Froelica, native German, and GSS member. We sent the teachers back home with souvenirs and gifts thanking them for their participation in the successful teacher exchange project.

On December 6th, the Teutonic Council hosted a “Meet and Greet” dinner to provide an opportunity for celebrating the success of the 2016 teacher exchange project. More than 30 guests representing the Savannah area International cultural efforts assembled to express good wishes and congratulations to all involved. Thank you to the Georgia Salzburger Society members who were present at the celebration dinner held at Vic's on the River in Savannah, GA. Your presence and support are very much appreciated by everyone involved with the Teacher Exchange Project.

The Teutonic Council planning committee has already begun plans for the next phase of the Teacher Exchange Project. Currently underway are plans to evaluate and update project goals and accomplishments. In 2017 we expect to add teachers to the number involved, to include two teachers from the Chatham County schools in addition to the two from the Effingham County school system.

Heritage Day at Ebenezer— A Five Year Old’s Perspective

I want to tell everybody about the great time I had on Heritage Day at Ebenezer! I am Samantha and I am five years old. My granny says she is something called a Salzburger—she says I am, too. Last Monday we went to an old church at a place called Ebenezer to have some fun and learn things, she said. I wore my German girl costume to get into the spirit of things. When we got there, my granny went to help kids make corn husk dolls and after I made one, I went exploring! What fun I had!

I met some new friends and we went into the Museum. There were lots of interesting things to see in there. We saw some old houses where those Salzburger people used to live. It was a little spooky, but we liked them—especially the old well. There was a place where they grind sugar cane. You could taste it if you wanted to.

I showed my friends an old water pump. We did get a little wet, but it cooled us off! Another thing that helped us get cooler was Uncle Gil's lemonade. Delicious! Mrs. Claudia helped us go all around looking for special things for her scavenger hunt. We won prizes for finding everything. We heard the church bells and the gown ups went inside to have a meeting. But we went over to Mr. Charlie's place to play old timey games and walk on stilts. I learned how to grind corn and how to hammer a nail.

There was plenty to eat. Mrs. Amy gave us a hot dog and we were ready to go again. My friends and I rang a cow bell to get people to play Salzburger Bingo. We won prizes and learned some neat things. We heard a story and sang some songs, too. We saw the animals at the petting zoo and got a chance to touch them. I liked the bunny the best. When it was time for the hay ride, we stopped by on the way to stick our faces into a board that made us look like old time people, had our picture made, and headed for the hay wagon. That was really fun--we even rode into the woods.

I guess the gown ups had a good time too. They were eating all kinds of food and buying things under the tents. There was music for them to hear, too. They kept talking to lots of people and hugging and shaking hands.

So, if you have a Mommy, Daddy, or a grandparent, see if they will take you to this festival next year. You will have so much fun, I promise! See you there!

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY INFORMATION

The Default Newsletter Delivery is by email to members of the Georgia Salzburger Society. All Newsletters are available on the website. Please contact the office (gaslzbrgr@aol.com or 912-754-7001) to correct/update your email address. No Postal Mailed Newsletters Delivered--Except by Request (gaslzbrgr@aol.com or 912-754-7001)

CHRISTINE KOCH VISITS LOEST RESEARCH LIBRARY



Christine Marie Koch, a Doctoral Candidate from the University of Paderborn in Germany has visited the Georgia Salzburger Society’s library on several occasions this year. She has been working on her thesis: “Talking about America: German Immigrants in Georgia and Their Perception

of the U.S. Culture.” Christine states, “The library has helped me immensely with my research.” “I think you have gathered a great collection.” She recently translated four chapters of Norbert Stein’s book, Chronik der Marschzüge: Salzburger Emigranten 1731 bis 1741 from German to English for the Georgia Salzburger Society. The translation is important because it gives us new information in regard to these four transports. This work will be published in the near future.

Christine was an Instructor of German at Kennesaw State University but is returning to Germany in December to continue work on her thesis at The Franke Foundations in Halle, Germany. It has been an honor to have Christine work in our library. We look forward to her return to the United States and to Ebenezer.

GSS Property Status

The Loest library dehumidifier to control humidity is in work.

Bible and Book storage unit with humidity controls is in work with a donation.

Office separate HVAC window unit to be replaced.

Next on List needing donations:

Re-Leveling/updating the “Salzburger Haus” foundation requires funds, material, time and talent. Salzburger Haus windows, siding and roofing

We continue to ask for contributions to the building and grounds fund for these needs. Please consider a gift to help with this important need.

GSS Members Approved November 12, 2016 Debra Stafford Herrin,

Life Membership (9)

Charles Marvin Exley III	Christian Oechslin
Robert Aki Exley	Christian Oechslin
Amanda Mamie Exley Lower	Christian Oechslin
Anna Jean Lower	Christian Oechslin
Matthew Elton Lower	Christian Oechslin
Gary Michael Nizzi, Jr.	Melchior Oechsle
Matthew Harold Nizzi	Melchior Oechsle
Susan Allison Palmer Johnson	Martin Dasher
Robert Alexander Palmer IV	Martin Dasher

Life Associate Membership (3)

Kiyoko Ito Exley	Spouse of Robert Aki Exley (Oechslin)
Robert Darren Harrison	Spouse of Lara Herrin Harrison (Burgsteiner/Gruber)
David Elton Lower	Spouse of Amanda Mamie Exley Lower (Oechslin)

Upgrade to Life Associate Member (1)

Elizabeth Perry Rahn	Spouse of Herman P. Rahn (Rahn)
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Regular Membership (18)

Jacqueline Taylor Boykin	Peter Gruber
Emily Camille Bradham	Matthias Seckinger
Gary D. Bradham	Matthias Seckinger
Larry A Bradham	Matthias Seckinger
Nell L. Beebe Bradham	Matthias Seckinger
Randy D. Bradham	Matthias Seckinger

Thomas Ashby Bradham	Matthias Seckinger
Charlotte Robinson Bragg	John Michael Zeigler
Anna Shearouse Curran	Johannes Scherraus
Martha Elaine Griffin Goodwin	Nicholas Helmly
Carmen Renee Stafford Herndon	Peter Gruber
DeNorah Leigh Stafford Huggins	Peter Gruber
Nelle Dasher Mullis	Martin Dasher
Virginia Shearouse Phillips	Johannes Scherraus
Shelby C. Wilson	James Wilson
Shirley Bradham Woods	Matthias Seckinger
Harry Berrien Zettler	Matthias Zettler
William Claus Zipperer	Christian Zipperer

Associate Membership (1)

James Logan Porter	Hans Ulrich Geiger
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Friends (1)

Sandra L. Bonser

Membership would make a great gift for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and for a birthday gift.

The GSS extends our sympathy to the families of the following deceased members.

Harold Burgsteiner	Date unknown
Angela Exley Dearing	December 1, 2016
Albert O. Gnann, Jr	November 25, 2016
Lois M. Livingston	2014
Roberta Walcher Dickey	December 13, 2016