

The Georgia Salzburger

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

Volume 114, No 23

REV. DR. KIRK BRIDGERS TO SPEAK ON 500 YEARS OF THE REFORMATION AND ITS IMPACT UPON THE SALZBURGERS.



The Georgia Salzburger Society is honored to welcome Rev. Dr. Kirk Bridgers as our featured speaker for the Heritage Day Program on Labor Day, September 4, 2017. A graduate of Newberry College and the Southern

Seminary, Rev. Bridgers is a direct descendant of Georgia Salzburgers, Matthias Seckinger and Casper Waldhauer. He is a valued member of the Georgia Salzburger Society and Past President of the Greater Atlanta Chapter of GSS.

Rev. Bridgers' presentation will review the political, social, and theological climate of Germany and Austria at the point of Luther's posting of The 95 Theses upon the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, October 31, 1517. Rev. Bridgers will present interesting facts and details of events leading to the tensions between the evangelical communities and Rome and the ultimate Divisions resulting in the 1731 Edict of Expulsion.....20,000,000 Salzburgers being forced from their Homeland.

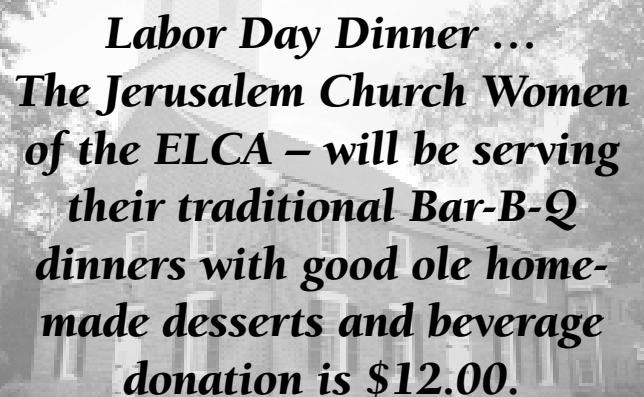
Rev. Bridgers will summarize the basic teaching of Martin Luther and the consequent changes in Europe, the expulsion, the Halle and the Franke

Foundation connections, and the founding of Ebenezer as a Colonial village in the 13th Colony of America. Our ancestors therefore have an established place in the Birth of Civilization in America. Rev. Dr. Bridgers will proudly connect the impact of the Reformation on our Salzburger ancestry and explain the relevance it has to Salzburger history and our modern day society.

This is an opportunity for you to honor and celebrate your heritage by attending the Heritage Day events at Ebenezer on September 4, 2017. We hope to see you there.

"Shall We Gather At The River? Yes!"

News from the Old Ebenezer Church



***Labor Day Dinner ...
The Jerusalem Church Women
of the ELCA – will be serving
their traditional Bar-B-Q
dinners with good ole home-
made desserts and beverage
donation is \$12.00.***



Georgia Salzburger Society

Founded 1925

**2980 Ebenezer Road
Rincon, Georgia 31326**

Office Hours:

**Tuesday and Friday
9:00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.**

912-754-7001

E-mail: gaslzbrgr@aol.com

**An Affiliate Chapter of the
Georgia Historical Society**

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Kirk Bridgers

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Send news and inquiries to:

Georgia Salzburger Society Office

2980 Ebenezer Road, Rincon, Georgia 31326

or Email: gaslzbrgr@aol.com

Website

www.georgiasalzburgers.com

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

First, along with my thanks for your confidence, we need to thank Gary for excellently steering our "Ship of State" through rough and calm waters over the past years. Gary gave of himself above and beyond the call of duty and set a very high standard for all to emulate. We look forward to his advice and wisdom over the year to come as Past President.

Next, we need to continue to find more ways to promote active membership in our Society. In today's world, our fellow descendents are spread far and wide rather close-in to Ebenezer. And, with current competing attractions drawing their attention we need to continue to find new ways to attract families and specially youth to Ebenezer and their historic heritage. The efforts by a few through the schools to promote Heritage Day over the past years have been a huge blessing. Likewise, the effort of the Jerusalem Church ladies handling the venues.

Finally, for now, we must continue to find ways to protect the investments of our ancestors—the buildings and their contents. First among these needs is the Salzburger House which is in critical need of more than just routine maintenance either directly from experts or via their guidance, by our helping hands. Without this the House is in danger of sliding down the slope to being lost.

Our Society has advanced to present through the noble efforts of many. I look forward to many more participating in our events this year.

Henry Mingledorff

GSS Property Repairs Status

Member Funded Accomplishments this year:

Next on List needing donations.

Re-Leveling/updating the "Salzburger Haus" foundation requires funds, material, time and talent.

Also Salzburger Haus windows, siding, 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.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY INFORMATION

Default Newsletter Delivery is by email only 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- leave a message) to correct/update your email address. Also, please keep us in the know when a member has deceased! No postal mailed newsletters delivered-----Except by Request (gaslzbrgr@aol.com or 912-754-7001)

“GEORGIA SALZBURGER SOCIETY’S 2016 HERITAGE TRIP”

Reformation Jubilee at Francke Foundations (Halle (Saale), Germany)

Greetings,

This article is to tell you about the most wonderful and moving trip to the Francke Foundations celebration from March 24-26, 2017. I represented the GSS for this celebration. This is part of a series of events during the year celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation due to the efforts of Martin Luther and many others. It is a celebration of August Hermann Francke’s birthday. First you should know that the Francke Foundation was founded as an orphanage and educational institution based on changing the world through education. Doesn’t that sound familiar? The original Salzburger leaders Boltzius and Gronau were educated at the Francke Foundation and their salaries paid by the Foundation, so no small wonder the orphanage at Ebenezer was high on the agenda for the settlement. It is amazing how we arrived and survived. Imagine the odds, Samuel Urlsperger was in the only position to convince King George (German) of England and SPCK and August Hermann Francke to fund the new colony at Ebenezer. This was not the first rodeo for Francke as he already had successfully funded a colony in 1703 in India (another English colony) to spread Lutheranism. Due to these people’s generosity and our forefather’s determination we succeeded and thrived to drive Georgia’s economy and help begin the United States of America become successful. We were but one of many successful endeavors the Francke Foundation undertook. What an amazing place.

I cannot describe what it feels like emotionally to hold a document signed by John Adam Treutlen as the first Georgia governor and a product of the Orphanage at Ebenezer. We were, are, and will continue to be an amazing group with Salzburger roots into the future. This is but one of thousands of documents the Francke Foundation has within its collection dealing with the Ebenezer colony. The celebration began with a concert on Friday night that was like a professional recital with orchestral pieces, piano/Oboe, piano/viola, choirs – boys, adult, etc., A Capello choir, etc. I had the honor of our friend Christine Koch to serve as my interpreter for these events, and try to keep me out of trouble.

Saturday morning began with visiting dignitaries to the Francke Foundation to get acquainted and then do our homework communicated during a round table international conference type discussion of future collaborations (Sunday). In my group was representation of an orphanage in England (sound familiar?), India museum and settlement

plus the Lutheran (ELCA) Bishop from India, doctors, Museum in St. Petersburg, etc. A luncheon, more tours, bread from the original 300 yr. old bakery. I placed flowers at the Francke Monument for “birthday commemoration” with Jürgen Schroeter of the German Salzburger Society. Then the day culminated with another very fine art orchestral concert in the great hall at the Francke Foundations, followed with an international reception. Sunday began with a Festival Service of the Francke Celebration at the Marktkirche (market church), more study of manuscripts/books, our homework delivery, followed by another concert “From Halle to London”. My request was to translate correspondence from the pastors Rabenhorst and Triebner (before Bergman) which starts before and continues through the 1776 Revolution in conjunction with the SPCK. This was during a time Ebenezer and the congregation was torn between loyalties to England and America. This will be one of the most profound translations to accomplish and offer a true peek into life at the time of the revolution. This will follow the footsteps of the completed translations of Boltzius and Bergman by the Francke Foundation.

A tickler was researching all the medicines in use through the Francke Foundations by a group of Indian Lab Doctors to prefabricate one tincture containing gold from a sample in Halle. The Indians discussed much research of old remedies using organic compounds that cured old diseases to apply to today.

My many thanks to all the great visitors I met, the wonderful Francke workers, friends President Jürgen Schroeter and the Bergers, Dr. Jürgen Gröschl, Christine Koch, and most appreciatively to Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke for the invitation. Additionally, I had a great meeting with Sabine Pröschel discussing Sister cities Halle / Savannah’s successes and plans for the Teutonic Council with Savannah.

Gary Nizzi

Correction on Article in the Winter Newsletter

"The Georgia Salzburger Society's 2016 Heritage Trip" Should have read: "We were led by our current president, Mr. Gary Nizzi, past president, Rev. Donald Hanberry, and Charlie Arnsdorff." We apologize that Charlie's name was missing.

HOW DO YOU PRESERVE YOUR HERITAGE ?

On Labor Day each year The Salzburger Saga continues. We will hold the festival of Thanksgiving and Celebration at the annual Heritage Day Festival on Monday, September 4, 2017. Please come and invite family and friends to enjoy a day of fun, food, heritage crafts, and hearing stories of the Salzburger history. Remembering that the state of Georgia almost dropped our story from the history books used in GA schools, we have a responsibility to observe the importance of not only Your Salzburger heritage, but to your roll in the actual building of the 13th Colony. Please come to reminisce as you view displays and demonstrations throughout the grounds of Ebenezer and Jerusalem Church. You can count on a drink of fresh squeezed



lemonade made from the old Salzburger recipe and ladled from the traditional wooden barrel. Always a highlight of the day! Sample foods from a variety of family booths such as: Cast iron cooking, fried peach pies, blackberry cobbler, collard kraut, fresh made bread and handmade butter. Purchase favorite things from the traditional Marketplatz, selling homemade goods. Tour the Salzburger Museum and several historic structures around the grounds. A barbeque lunch will be served by the WELCA ladies in the church social hall. The Jerusalem Youth group will

return serving fresh cooked Brats 'n Kraut with sides. And they are planning a few new food choices this year for added variety.

There will be a selection of children's crafts, stories, games, and other interesting and fun things to see and do. We are planning to add some crafts with a Native American focus on the local Yuchee heritage...our Ebenezer neighbors.

Backwater Expulsions will have a booth featuring Kayak tours of historic Ebenezer Creek.

The annual Thanksgiving Service and program will feature the reveal of the Hinely Poster Contest winners in all categories...children through senior adult levels. Our featured speaker this year will be one of our own Salzburger members, the Rev. Dr. Kirk P. Bridgers. What an honor it will be to hear him tell the story of our Salzburger heritage through the years of religious changes leading up to the Reformation, through the Salzburger Expulsion and on to the subsequent settlement at Ebenezer, Georgia. Step back into history....celebrate your Heritage....enjoy a family friendly day at historic Ebenezer....a historic landmark located on the beautiful Savannah River.

**The day begins at 9:00AM for
Posters to
be delivered for judging.
Festival hours will be 9:30AM
until 3:00PM
Church service 11:00AM with
historic bell ringing.
Program immediately after the
service, including poster contest
winners announced!**

Be sure to stop by the welcome booth. Visit with the genealogy team, pay your annual dues or join for the first time! Ask about the reduced dues for Salzburger Kids. Remember, You don't have to be a Salzburger to Join and Be a part of the Salzburger Saga!

Note from the Registrar,

Debra S. Herrin

I am happy to say that from May 2016 through Feb 2017, we gained 73 new GSS members. At our board meeting on May 20th, 12 additional memberships were approved. If you are interested in membership and in need of help please call me at (912)657-5675. I am always willing to assist those wanting to join the Society.

I would like to thank Sandra Wingate for her assistance at the membership table during the "Olde Effingham Day Festival" in Springfield on April 22nd. Even in the sizzling heat we had a great time.

In November membership certificates were incorrectly issued to Gary Michael Nizzi, Jr. and Matthew Harold Nizzi as descendants of Melchior Oechsle. Those certificates have been reissued. The correct immigrant ancestor is Christian Oechslin.

One purpose of the Society is to perpetuate the memory of our early ancestors so please let me know when a mistake has been made. I will gladly make corrections

THE SALZBURGER COLLECTION



Joyce Ann Tuten, Flarleen Young, Barbara Scott, and Debra Herrin

The volunteers of the Loest Research Library visited the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives in Columbia, South Carolina on April 5, 2017. The archives received the collection of 146 books from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary on May 31, 2016. Scott Reeves, Archival Assistant stated that the books have an undeniable connection to the Salzburger emigrant community that settled at Ebenezer. A few of the books were inscribed with the names Boltzius, Granau, Lemke, Rabenhost, J.E. and Christopher Bergmann. All have served as pastor at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Ebenezer, Georgia.

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.

Please visit our gift shoppe for your gifts of:
Books - Prints - Jewelry - T-Shirts
Filet Crocheted Swan
Other Salzburger Related Items

Curator: Patsy Zeigler—912-655-4555

Assistant Curator: Robert Peavy

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

We would appreciate donations for selling in
"The Market Platz" at the Labor Day Heritage
Celebration. Please help us by donating jams,
pickles, baked goods, bread, cakes, pies, ect also
handmade articles, garden plants, vegetables, or fruit.
All proceeds go to the Museum Operating Fund.

NEW EBENEZER RETREAT CENTER

Are you interested in visiting Ebenezer and
staying overnight for the Salzburger Labor
Day Festival? New Ebenezer Retreat Center
has accommodations and meals available for
you week end of Labor Day!

Just steps away you can visit the
museum and research library on Saturday
and/or Sunday afternoon, attend services at
the historic Jerusalem Church at 11:00 am on
Sunday, attend the festival on Monday and
visit with other Salzburger descendants gathered for the weekend

Overnight lodging is available in
private rooms with private baths. Six meals
are provided beginning with dinner on
Saturday. The cost for the two night visit is
\$148.00 Per person. www.newebenezer.org
... email --- retreat@newebenezer.org
(912) 754-9242

LANDINGS DAY CELEBRATION....MARCH 11, 2017

Large crowd enjoyed a wonderful day celebrating the landing of our fore fathers (First Transport of Salzburger). Dr. Candace Rausch, a Georgia Salzburger Society/Greater Atlanta Chapter board member presented a program highlighting the events of the recent Georgia Salzburger Society trip to Germany. Prior to the meeting all enjoyed a delightful lunch in the church fellowship hall featuring the popular “good ole rice soup” (was served to the Salzburger on the morning after arrival). (*Photos from Landings Day 2017*).



Article from Savannah News-Press, Sunday, December 25, 1983-Letters to the Editor Bethesda Oldest “in Use”

Editor, Tom Coffey's articles are very informative and delightful; however, I had to stop after reading his Dec. 20 column's reference to Bethesda as the oldest orphanage, and put in my two cents' worth. Granted, it is the oldest in use, but news media never recognize that George Whitefield was so impressed with Salzburger orphanage at Ebenezer (in Effingham County) that it gave him the inspiration to build Bethesda.

By the same token, I believe Christ Church claims the baptism of the first black in the colony, July 7, 1750. According to the translations of Dr. Lowther Trest, University of Georgia, Special Studies, "American -- Austriaca," Vol. II, the Reverend Bolzius baptized a baby Negro boy by belonging to a young black couple and sponsored by Theobold Kieffer (my ancestor) on March 30, 1747, at Ebenezer. The Zettlers sponsored a baby Negro girl shortly after. This was three years before slavery was introduced in Georgia.

Trusting this will be of interest and open a few eyes.

Hinely Salzburger Heritage Poster Contest

Purpose: To promote a greater appreciation of Georgia Salzburger cultural heritage

2017 Theme: Impacts of the Reformation on the Georgia Salzburgers

Research suggestions: Many church communities will have Reformation programs filled with information and resources. Try to connect the impacts of the Reformation on the Salzburgers’ expulsion, the colonization in GA, the community at Ebenezer, and your heritage as a descendant of a Georgia Salzburger.

		Prizes		
		1st	2nd	3rd
Categories		Place	Place	Place
Elementary School	2nd -5th Graders	\$100	\$50	\$25
Middle School	6th-8th Graders	\$200	\$100	\$50
High School	9th-11th Graders	\$300	\$150	\$75
Seniors	12th Graders and College Students	\$400	\$200	\$100
Adults	Adults not in college	\$200	\$100	\$50
Sr. Adults	Adults age 75 and older	\$200	\$100	\$50

Guidelines: Open to all Salzburger descendants from Second Grade through Sr. Adults
Contestants may submit only one poster. Please use a tri-fold project board.
Attach a copy of the completed Entry Form to the project board – on the back – top right corner.
All poster entries must be delivered before 9:00 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 4, 2017. Entrants will be informed by email of the designated place for drop off and pick up of posters.
Posters will be judged on historical accuracy, educational value, creativity, originality, and neatness.
Participants are encouraged to attend the 11:00 a.m. meeting in Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church for the presentation of poster contest winners. Attendance is NOT a requirement for participation. The winning posters will be displayed at this meeting. All posters will be on display in the designated area until the 3:00 p.m. pick up time.

Completed entry forms must be received by noon, Wednesday, August 30, 2017. See mailing information below.

Registration form DEADLINE – In office by noon, Wednesday, August 30, 2017
Mail to: Poster Contest, Georgia Salzburger Society, 2980 Ebenezer Rd. Rincon, GA 31326; or
Email to: . **For further information:** 912-754-7001.

Detach ENTRY FORM along the line

Name _____ Category _____

Address _____ Grade in School _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Email Address _____ Descendant of _____

GSS Members Approved Febuary 11th, 2017

Life Membership

Lisa Michelle Murray
Thomas Richard Nizzi
Sara Beth Eisner Rosen
Bess Peninna Rosen
Rebecca Celeste Rosen
Mary Jane Martin Shuman

Regular Membership

Charlotte Ann Nizzi Bridges
James Phinney Baxter Crouch
Michael Ray Henderson
Sheri Lynn Nizzi Posey
Miriam Barnard Porter
William Wingard Rahn
Christopher Travis Shearouse

Regular Associate Membership

Leiston Thomas Shuman, Jr.

New Members approved May 20, 2017

Update to Life:

Francis (Chip) Chapman Tuttle

Life Membership:

Georgianna Keller Valentino

Ancestor

Johann Martin Niess
Johann Georg Gnann
Jorg Mengersdorff
Jorg Mengersdorff
Jorg Mengersdorff
John Justus Grovenstein

Johann Georg Gnann
Jorg Mengersdorff
Jorg Mengersdorff
Johann Georg Gnann
Peter Gruber
Conrad Rahn
Johannes Scherraus

Spouse of Mary Jane
Martin Shuman

Ancestor:

Johannes Heinle

Jacob Casper Waldhauer

Regular Membership:

Dan Jeffrey Arnsdorff

Melvin Joe Carter
Elizabeth Victoria Colson
Thurmon Marcus Dasher, Jr.
Wade Phillip Griner
Joyce Elaine Tedder Perryman
Melvin Wendell Stafford
Donna Neidlinger Tugwell

Associate Regular Membership:

Yvonne Dupre Touchton Arnsdorff,
Wife of Dan Jeffrey Arnsdorff

Ancestor

Andreas Lorenz
Amsdorff
Arthur Ryall
Jorg Mengersdorff
Martin Dasher
Johann Caspar Greiner
Hans Ulrich Geiger
Peter Gruber
Johannes Neidlinger

Andreas Lorenz
Arnsdorff

A GSS membership is a
great gift for any occasion.

GSS Extends Sympathy

Mavin E. Brown, Sr.	2-12-2017
Rachel Davis	1-08-2017
Jane Edwards	1-11-2017
Joyce Sands Mingledorff	12-7-2016
Ernest “Bem” Mingledorff	1-11-2017