

Georgia Salzburger Society  
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Rincon, GA 31326



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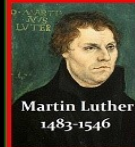
Jerusalem Lutheran Church (1769)

Circa 1985

# The Georgia Salzburger

FALL / WINTER 2017-18

Volume 114, No. 24



If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

John 8:31b-32 NAS

## Reformation



### ✠ Reformation as Return, Recovery and Continuing ✠

In 1517 (five hundred years ago), it was not the purpose of Martin Luther (1483-1546) to separate from the church. He, as had several pious Christians before him, found problems in the practices of the church; he turned to the Word of God as the highest authority, and he appealed to the church for reform. Schism was not his purpose—the Protestant movement was meant to reform church practice according to the Word of God; Luther did not intend to form a new Christian denomination (and certainly not one named after himself).

Following his expressing his concerns to his Archbishop, in short order the church burned Luther's writings and demanded recantation; then the church excommunicated Luther and sought his death (as the church had done, usually successfully, with those several preceding pious Christians who sought reform).

Protestantism desired reform of the church and return to Biblical worship and belief. Modern expressions of Protestant principles, rendered in Latin (and thus appearing as if expressed just so in Luther's lifetime) include these modifications of the ideas of reformers expressed as:

- *Ecclesia semper reformanda est* ("the church is ever reforming")
- *Ecclesia reformata semper reformanda* ("the church reformed, always to be reformed")
- *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei* ("the church reformed, always reforming according to the Word of God")

Abuse of the first two of these modern expressions (through the Fallen Human Nature attraction to anything new, through the bottomless pit of "new revelation," through the libertine approaches of the "Our Lady of Anything Goes" apostasy, &c.) makes the third, most modern expression the best of the three, for "according to the Word" was a guiding principle of the Reformers in recovering Biblical Christianity.

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:31-32 KJV

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# Georgia Salzburger Society

Founded 1925

Address:  
2980 Ebenezer Road  
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Office Hours:  
Tuesday and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1.00  
p.m.

912-754-7001

E-mail: [gaslzbrgr@aol.com](mailto:gaslzbrgr@aol.com)  
An Affiliate Chapter of the  
Georgia Historical Society

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Henry Mingledorff  
VICE-PRESIDENT: Claudia Christensen  
SECRETARY: Rebecca Heidt  
TREASURER: Francis Hutto  
CURATOR: Patsy Zeigler  
ASSISTANT CURATOR: Robert Peavy  
REGISTRAR: Debra Herrin  
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Charlie Arnsdorff  
CHAPLAIN: Reverend Steve Plonk  
STAFF ADM.IN ASST: Carolyn Arnsdorff  
IMMED. PAST PRESIDENT: Gary Nizzi

## DIRECTORS

### To March 2018

Ruth Dostal  
Debra Herrin  
Allen Kieffer  
Harold Schwanebeck  
Larry Zettler

### To March 2019

Sandy Gibson  
Noble Boykin  
Barbara Scott  
Kevin Seckinger  
Rebecca Harris

### To March 2020

Sandra Wingate  
Larry Bradham  
Brenda Dasher  
Wingard Rahn  
Kirk Bridgers

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2980 Ebenezer Road,  
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## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

If you missed our 2017 Heritage Day Celebration you missed a Grand Event. VP Claudia Christensen and her crew did a fantastic job creating the Event. Only positive comments were given by those present. The hit of the activities was the demonstration by the Revolutionary War Reenactors. They had the youth and many adults marching around shouldering muskets and then demonstrating musket-firing during a mock battle. Many youths were repeat customers. It has been strongly requested that they be invited to return.

The Church was nearly full for the Service Program. Thanks to Reverend Plonk for leading an inspiring service. Then, Reverend Bridgers presented an excellent program on the Reformation and its Impact on Salzburger over the 500t years since the Reformation. He tied all parts together well. An attendee recorded this program, and agreed to provide a copy, when available.

Other matters: Needed maintenance on the Old Salzburger House has begun. The Board of Directors has authorized the first \$5,000 to cover expenses in the first phase.

Allen Kieffer's crew did an excellent job in preparing the structure, as did Patsy Zeigler's crew in cleaning and straightening the interior for Heritage Day.

Our current membership is 1,200 Life, as well as 600+ Regular and Associate Honorary Members. Confirming the number of Life Members can be difficult, as often families fail to notify the GSS Office of their relatives passing. Please let us know so that we may share in your loss.

The longevity of our Society depends on the pride of ownership passed down to the younger generations. As I look around, I see that a large number of active members who are advancing in age; like me. We need more of the younger generation to become actively involved. This will happen only through our encouragement., such as I am doing with my grandchildren now. How about you?

Your servant---Henry Mingledorff

## THE SALZBURGER COLLECTION

Joyce Ann Tuten, Flarleen Young, Barbara Scott, and Debra Herrin 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, Rabenhorst, J.E. and Christopher Bergmann; all of whom served as Pastor at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Ebenezer, Georgia.

## Hinely Salzburger Heritage Poster Contest

The Annual Poster Contest is held to foster a greater appreciation of our Salzburger heritage and culture. Posters are judged on historical accuracy, educational value, creativity, originality, and neatness. This year's Poster Contest Winners are as follows:

### Elementary School

Win - **Braeden Kessler**, 5th grade, \$100  
Place - **Mason Pilcher**, 4th grade, \$50  
Show - **Jaylin Berry**, 2nd grade, \$25

### Middle School

Win - **Emma Harrison**, 8th grade, \$200  
Place - **Natalie Greene** 7th grade, \$100

### High School

Win - **Isaac Kessler**, 9th grade, \$300  
Adult: Win - **Ruth Dostal**, \$200  
Senior Adult: Win - **Libby Heidt**, \$200

If you are interested in serving on the 2018 poster Contest committee, please speak to a GSS board member or contact the GSS office.

## NEW EBENEZER RETREAT CENTER

*Are you interested in visiting Ebenezer and staying overnight for our various activities and festivals? New Ebenezer Retreat Center has accommodations and meals available for you! 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 and visit with other Salzburger descendants gathered for that particular activity.*

*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 per person.*

[www.newebenezer.org](http://www.newebenezer.org)  
or email  
[retreat@newebenezer.org](mailto:retreat@newebenezer.org) (912) 754-9242

## NEWSLETTER DELIVERY INFORMATION

*Default Newsletter Delivery is by email only to members of the Georgia Salzburger Society. These are available on the website. Please contact the Office at 912-754-7001 or [gaslzbrgr@aol.com](mailto:gaslzbrgr@aol.com), and leave a message to correct or update your email address. Please let us know immediately when a member has passed away. No postal-mailed newsletters delivered, except by special request to [scotti3275@aol.com](mailto:scotti3275@aol.com).*



## German Monuments in Savannah

Claudia Christiansen

Not to be confused with the Salzburger Park and Monument of Reconciliation, the serenity of Orleans Square is the setting chosen for the annual German American Day celebration. An ornamental fountain was established there in 1989 to commemorate the early German Immigrants of Georgia. The fountain monument was erected by the German Heritage, German Friendly, and German Salzburger Societies.

The first German-American Day celebration held in Savannah was October 6, 1988 and the fountain monument was dedicated in 1989. Full text on the historic marker may be found at [waymarking.com](http://waymarking.com).

Salzburger Park is a half-acre of land next to Emmet Park in Savannah, Georgia. It marks the place where the first group of German speaking Salzburger were welcomed by Gen. James Edward Oglethorpe on March 12, 1734.

The most notable point in the park is the towering stone with engraving of the Exiles along with their story. The sculpted monument was dedicated in February 1996 and the park was officially named Salzburger Park in July 1996.

More details about the park and monument are found at:



*GSS President, Henry Mingledorff with wife, Sandy, beside the fountain in Orleans Square, Savannah, Georgia on German-American Day.*

## German Teacher Exchange Project

Claudia Christiansen

As a part of the ongoing Sister City Program with Halle, Germany, a teacher exchange project was started two years ago. Two groups of local teachers and one German group have already experienced many great opportunities as part of this teacher exchange project. There has been an amazing collaboration with the Teutonic Council, Armstrong State University, the Effingham and Savannah Public School Systems, and in Germany, Sabine Proschel and Matthias Schwitzer to bring this program forward. The second group of teachers from Germany will be arriving here soon to spend about two weeks with teachers who went to Germany from here in June.

Ebenezer will also be visited by an additional organized educational exchange group of teachers and students traveling to Savannah from Germany. They are hoping to find host families within the Savannah community.

These increasing numbers of German teachers and student visitors are becoming a part of our Salzburger Story and keeping it alive and relevant into contemporary times.

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31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples,

32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**John 8:31-32 ESV**

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples.

32 You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

33 "We are descendants of Abraham," they answered Him, "and we have never been enslaved to anyone. How can You say, 'You will become free'?"

34 Jesus responded, "I assure you: Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.

35 A slave does not remain in the household forever, but a son does remain forever.

36 Therefore, if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

**John 8:31-36 HCSB**

—His Wayfarer—JRP (Robert Peavy)



# *Deutsch-Amerikanischer Tag*

## **German-American Day**

Claudia Christiansen

German American Day is October 6th, as established in 1983, by President Ronald Ragan. In August 1987, it became public law. President Ragan then called on Americans to observe German-American Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. The Teutonic Council of Savannah, Georgia held the annual German-American Day celebration in Orleans Square on the afternoon of October 8, 2017. The day was commemorated with pride in German Heritage, commendation of recent accomplishments in the areas of culture, and education and news of the flourishing Sister City relationship with Halle, Germany.

Please mark your calendars now for German-American Day next year for your opportunity to join in the annual celebration.



*Pictured above: Yvonne Arnsdorff, seated center, enjoying German American Day in Savannah. Yvonne spent 2 weeks in Halle as participant in the Halle - Savannah Sister*



**Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday 9AM to 1PM**

**Museum Hours: Saturday and Sunday 3-5PM**

**or by appointment. Phone: 912-655-4555**

## **MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOPPE NEWS**

*The GSS Museum is open*

***Saturday and Sunday (except Holidays)***

***3-5 PM***

- ◆ Tours....please call Patsy Zeigler, Curator@912-655-4555 for scheduling appointments.
- ◆ We share our heritage with many tourists—Please give us a call.

**Your contributions and help were much appreciated for Heritage Day, especially to Becky Morgan and Carly Kieffer! A special THANK YOU to Francis Hutto for donation of water cooler; Sandi Bridgers for paper cutter; and Anne Miller for printer.**

*Please visit our gift shoppe for:*

*Books, Prints, Jewelry, Tee Shirts, Filet-Crocheted Swans, and Other Salzburger Related Items*

**Curator: Patsy Zeigler**

**Assistant Curator: Robert Peavy**

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



## What Are You Doing To Preserve Your Heritage?

Claudia Christiansen

Because our contemporary lives are busy and diverse, please focus for a few minutes on Your Salzburger roots at Ebenezer. Maybe you have heard stories or seen family treasures from the colonial days. But maybe you have no memories of times spent at Ebenezer or you have no identity with the ancestors who once formed this quiet, Christian community on the banks of the Savannah River. But we do know that some were farmers, tradesmen, merchants, teachers, sawyers, and builders. They were vital components of the creation of the colony of Georgia.

As beneficiaries of their contributions to the building of America, we can live, make choices, and create new memories to share with future generations. We are fortunate that some buildings and artifacts at Ebenezer can be viewed as valuable links to the cultural heritage of the Georgia Salzburgers.

The old Salzburger Haus, also known as The Fail House, is one of the buildings we can share to depict a portion of what life was like at Ebenezer. It was built in 1755 on a site near the present day cemetery at Ebenezer. And later moved to its current location near the GSS museum. The foundation blocks under this house were hewn from Longleaf "heart pine" that is saturated with a resinous material that is known to resist rot. These block footings of this historic home have weathered many years supporting the building and daily living. Now is the time to restore, preserve, and protect the foundation. In order to continue using it to learn and appreciate its part of our heritage we must take action to stabilize this valuable building.

Currently, Allen Kieffer, chair of maintaining Buildings and Grounds at Ebenezer, has begun the restoration efforts with the assistance of Harold Schwanebeck and others to do specific tasks. These historically focused members and contractors will be in the process of repairing and restoring each need in order of priorities, some more visible than others. What can be done to insure that some tangible parts of our heritage remain for future generations to appreciate?

Please remember that all ongoing efforts to keep the Salzburger Saga alive and growing are made possible because of the generosity of members like you who are committed to preserving the irreplaceable heritage of Ebenezer. Let's ask, "*What can we do to help?*" With that being said, please strongly consider making a donation to the GSS Building and Grounds Fund.



Above: GSS Exhibit at Effingham County Fair, which won First Place in the Community Service Category.

Below: GSS "Action Team" for the Effingham County Fair: Patsy Zeigler, Claudia Christiansen, Ann Miller, and Scotty Scott.





### **Note From the Registrar**

*Debra Stafford Herrin*

Heritage Day was a great success! It was a joy seeing old friends and meeting many of you newer members. The membership table was full of activity from the time we arrived until time to go home. A few stopped by to pay membership dues. We had four regular members upgrade to a life membership. Seven people completed applications and five paid for memberships that day. Several took an application home with the intent of filling it out and mailing it to the office along with a check. I hope they follow through.

I would like to thank Sandra Wingate for her help at the membership table. I could not have done it without her! Backwater Expeditions, I want to thank you guys for giving up your tent and keeping us out of the sun.

#### **Christmas is just around the corner**

A GSS membership would make a great Christmas gift for anyone in your family, plus it is a great way to preserve your family history!

Applications must be approved before the next board meeting in order to be voted on at the November board meeting. The approval process takes time so please get your applications in by November 7th. If you have ques-

### **Membership from Third Semester, 2017**

#### **Update to Life**

Francis Chapman "Chip" Tuttle

#### **Ancestor**

Johannes Heinle

#### **Life Membership**

Georgianna Keller Valentino

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

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

#### **Associate Regular Membership**

Yvonne Dupre Touchton Arnsdorff,  
Wife of Dan Jeffrey Arnsdorff

Andreas Lorenz Arnsdorff

### **Labor Day 2018**

*Claudia Christiansen*

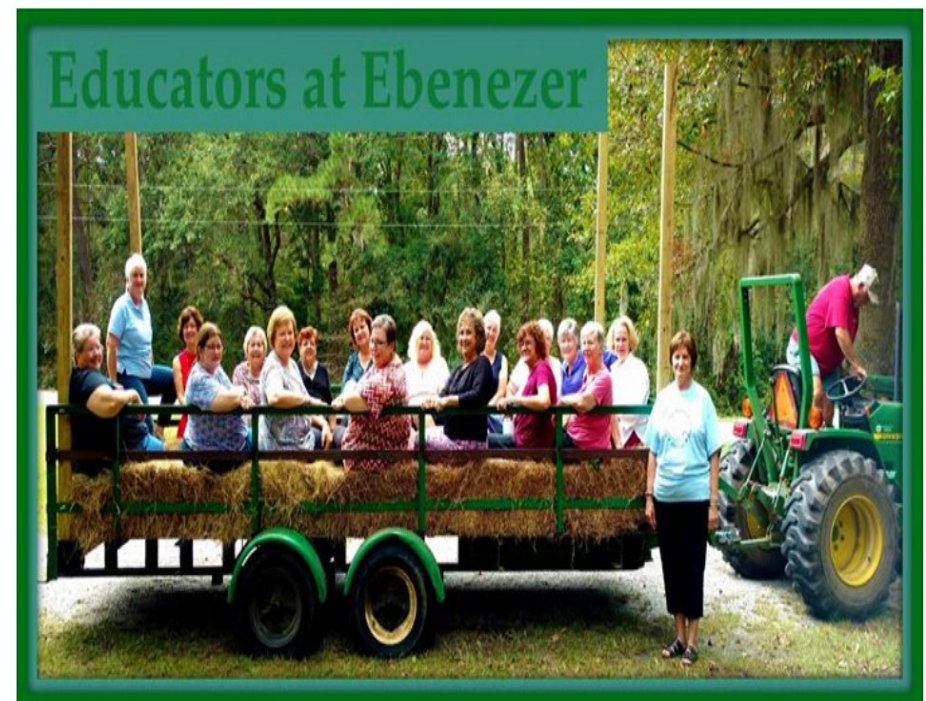
A huge thank you to all who contributed their time, talents, energy, and other support to making this 2017 Heritage Day Festival a memorable success. Thanks to all who attended the festival enjoying the fun, fellowship, good food, and a variety of activities throughout the day.

Some of the favorite things this time included noted Reformation program speaker, Reverend Doctor Kirk Bridgers; the Revolutionary War soldier reenactments marching around the grounds; tasting German Food and the fresh boiled peanuts! The yearly favorites -lemonade made in the old wooden barrel, and homemade Raisin Bread with hand-churned butter, and, of course, the amazing cane grinding and cooking syrup!

Some adults discovered that the Hayride wagon tours are not just for fun, but also a great review of the history surrounding Ebenezer. Every booth or demonstration was a favorite of someone. All vendors and booths received lots of compliments, too numerous to

Members of the Effingham County Retired Educators on a Hay Ride in Sep 2017.

Fun was had by all...





(continued from page 6)

## New GSS memberships, Fourth Semester, 2017

Debra Stafford Herrin, Registrar

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Joseph Virgil Dasher, Jr.	Martin Dasher
Donald Wayne Graham	Matthias Seckinger
Marcus Franklin Graham	Matthias Seckinger
Ronald Lane Graham	Matthias Seckinger
William Gordon Graham	Matthias Seckinger
Virginia Susan Dasher Merritt	Martin Dasher

### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Elizabeth Rodgers Clarke	John George Haid
Kenneth Dillon Dixon	Johann "Hans" Schmidt
Michael Stephen Elkins	John George Haid
Jon Lawrence Green	Christian Zipperer
Henry Grady Lewis, Jr.	Solomon Hieronymus Addy
Jack Mendes, Love, Jr.	Peter Gruber
Colt Marshall Pilcher	John George Zeigler
Sadie Claire Pilcher	John George Zeigler
Mason Charles Pilcher	John George Zeigler
Sadie Clair Pilcher	John George Zeigler
James Cashwell Rahn	Conrad Rahn
Clayton Hamilton Ramsey	Peter Gruber

### Past Notes 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 2 May 2017, twelve additional memberships were approved, totaling 85. If you are interested in attaining membership, and/or in need of assistance, please call me at (912)-657-5675. I am always willing to assist anyone wanting to join our Society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sandra Wingate for her vital assistance at the membership table, during the "Olde Effingham Day Festival" in Springfield, on 22 Apr 2017. 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, identifying them as descendants of **Melchior Oechsle**. Those certificates have been reissued, with the immigrant ancestor's name corrected as **Christian Oechslin**. One of our main charges as a member of the Georgia Salzburger Society is to perpetuate the memory of our early ancestors, so please contact when mistakes, such as this, have been made. I can then promptly and gladly make necessary corrections.



Above: Visitors participate in the a Revolutionary War interpretative activity presented by Coastal Heritage Society at Ebenezer during the Heritage Day Festival .

Below: Ye Olde Salzburger Haus, aka The Fail House, erected 1755.







## **FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS**

Louis Bunker	2 Jan 2016
Ralph Cecil Beard, Jr.	1 Feb 2016
Johnnie Austin	2 Feb 2016
Samuel Zittrouer	15 Mar 2016
Harold Burgsteiner	8 Nov 2016
Bonnie L. Hinely	16 Mar 2017
Carolyn Kicklighter Heyman	19 Jun 2017
Nan A. Denniston	5 Jul 2017
Harry E. Hart, Jr.	8 Aug 2017
Ernest Wardlaw Seckinger, Jr.	2 Sep 2017
Mabel Nora Neckinger Hodge	27 Sep 2017

*Please keep us informed when one of our cherished members passes away.*