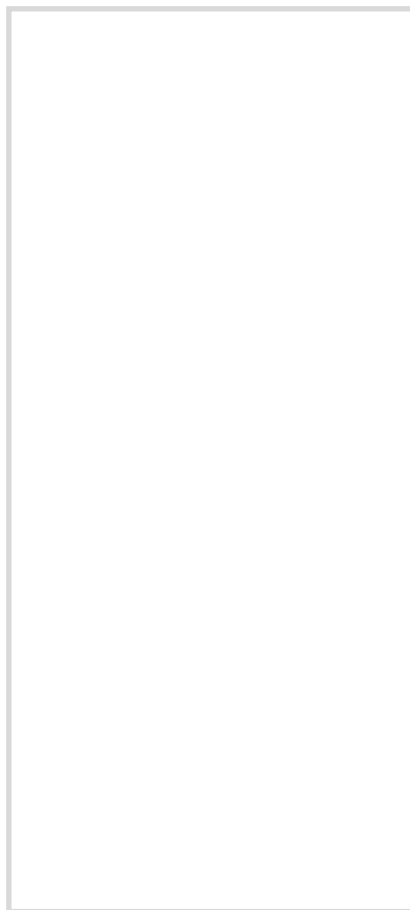


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Here Today, Gone Tomorrow
Without Your Help and Donations



The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 30, No. 2

Spring/Summer 2019

The Fail House Preservation Project

Who Holds the Keys to the History of the Salzburger House?

Researching the Waldhour-Fail House has been a challenge. An article written at the time the house was dedicated stated the home was built for Mrs. Naomi Gugel. Naomi Gugel was first married to Patrick Stanton. After his death she married Matthew Weitman. Naomi was born in 1795; therefore, the house could not have been built for her in 1755.

The lives of the Gugel, Cramer, Seckinger, Weitman, Waldhour and Zeigler families are so entwined that I find myself asking, "Who held the keys to the house?" On census records they are neighbors and at times they lived in the same house.

One thing we know. The house could not have been built for Naomi Gugel Stanton Weitman in 1755 because she was born until 1795. She is not found living in Effingham County until 1840 and in 1870 she is living in Savannah caring for her grandchildren. One preservationist believes the house was built circa 1840 to 1850.

If anyone has documentation on the people or property in question, please call Debra Herrin at (912) 657-5675. ~ Debra Herrin



Funding of Fail House Preservation Project

Various suggestions for funding and restoration have been made over time. Completion of the restoration project will be accomplished by phases, because each part completed will support the ongoing repairs. First and foremost, stabilization or replacement of footings are important to level the structures. Also the roof has some damage that will be replaced because of moisture retention and decay. The real issues are more serious than pressure washing and tree removal, although these are important steps to prevent further damage. We are grateful for those who have sent generous contributions and we look forward to many others who would like to become a part of this important effort to restore the buildings, both the house and kitchen. If you, too, would like to be involved with seeing the preservation completed, please contact the GSS office or a GSS board member. Checks can be mailed or delivered to the GSS office on Tuesday and Friday between 10:00AM and 1:00PM or by appointment. Call 912-754-7001 for details.

Those who contribute funds and/or materials toward the repairs will be recorded as participants of another chapter of the Salzburger Story.



Founded in 1925

Georgia Salzburger Society

An Affiliate Chapter of the Georgia Historical Society

ADDRESS

2980 Ebenezer Road
Georgia Highway 275
Rincon, GA 31326

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday and Friday
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Phone: 912-754-7001

Email: gaslzbrgr@ol.com

Website: <http://visitebenezer.com>

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Claudia Christiansen
VICE PRESIDENT: Noble Boykin
SECRETARY: Linda B. Dasher
TREASURER: Francis Hutto
CURATOR: Patsy Zeigler
ASSISTANT CURATOR: Robert Peavy
REGISTRAR: Debra Herrin
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR: Sandra Wingate
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Charlie Arnsdorff
CHAPLAIN: Pastor Mark Cerniglia
PAST PRES: Henry Mingledorff
ADMIN ASSISTANT: Jennifer Nash

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To March 2020
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Brenda Dasher
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Sandra Wingate

To March 2021
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Becky Morgan
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To March 2022
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Leiston Shuman, Jr.
Joshua Zeigler

Edited by Kristin Everson
Published by Anne Miller

Newsletter

Published Quarterly

Send news and inquiries to:
GSS Office
2980 Ebenezer Road
Georgia Highway 275
Rincon, GA 31326
Email: gaslzbrgr@ol.com



President's Message 2019

Because the Georgia Salzburgers were a very important part of the early colonization of Georgia, it is important that Ebenezer and the Salzburger story remain relevant in the eyes of modern day society. At this point in history people tend to focus on activities with family, friends, or personal interests, ignoring preservation projects or historic landmarks. We take those things for granted as they have been there in place for a long time, even as long as we can remember. The fires in many historic structures have been a wake up to many and suddenly more attention is being focused on how to preserve our historic landmarks.

What can we do to preserve our Salzburger story? Our first priority is the visual and tangible artifacts and structures that we are honored to keep for future generations to learn from. We do not mistakenly hold onto them as treasures to be admired by GSS members or tourists, but to promote understanding of the struggles our ancestors faced and the faith that sustained them throughout the previous centuries.

Over time these artifacts and structures must be maintained and restored. At this time it has been determined that serious attention to detail must be focused on the old farmhouse structure at Ebenezer. As years have gone by, weather and time have both caused damage and decay. The buildings and grounds committees have been doing a few various repairs, but now that is no longer adequate to sustain not only the historic style, but the safety of the structure. Members of the GSS board have met with several architects and construction contractors who specialize in historic preservation to get input and guidance for where to begin and how extensive the repairs will be. The expense will depend on the complexity of need and the cost of labor and materials. We have not completed the research process yet, but it is obvious that it can't be tabled for future discussion.

GSS MEMBERSHIPS APPROVED 2019

Memberships Approved

May 18, 2019

Life Memberships

Robert Keith Hamilton
Nathan Albert Newkirk

Immigrant Ancestors

Paulus Zieterauer
Nicolaus Helmle

Regular Memberships

Penny Sue Bryant-Crouse
Neal Inman Groover
Thomas Gannon Grovenstein
Alexander James Hill
Calhoun Shaw Hodges
Gaye Lynn Royal

Peter Gruber
George Groover
John Justus Grovenstein
Peter Gruber
Martin Dasher
Paulus Zieterauer

Submitted by Debra Stafford Herrin, Registrar

Teutonic Council



of Savannah, GA

The Savannah Voice Festival 2019

with the Teutonic Council as a sponsor presents:

Song Night: A "Liederabend"

Saturday, August 10th at 7:00 pm

Christ Church Episcopal, 28 Bull Street

General Seating: \$35.00

Please join the Teutonic Council in promoting German culture by purchasing tickets at:

<https://savannahvoicefestival.org/festival/song-night-a-liederabend/>

We encourage you to learn more about other Voice Festival 2019 Concerts by going to: <https://savannahvoicefestival.org/>



The German tradition of song is a focus of a great evening of international fare. The "Liederabend" defined the art of song in a way that spans across the classical world. From Schubert and Goethe to Britten and Shakespeare – this special concert presents Festival Artists in songs from around the world where languages are the framework of the music we make.



The Teutonic Council of Savannah received its 501(c)(3) designation as a charitable organization in March of 2015. Its mission is to support meaningful cultural exchange between Savannah and the German speaking countries, of Germany and Austria, and the Savannah's Partner City of Halle, Germany.

<https://www.teutoniccouncilsavannah.org/>



Your membership is vital to the operation of the Georgia Salzburger Society. It is only through your financial support of fees and donations that the society, museum and research library, can continue. Please give generously to carry on the mission of the Georgia Salzburger Society.

2019 RENEWAL NOTICE



Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Georgia Salzburger Society 2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$25.00 \$ _____

**Change from Annual Membership to LIFE \$250.00 \$ _____

Georgia Salzburger Society Contributions - **Optional**

General Fund \$ _____

Endowment Fund \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$ _____

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Make checks payable to Georgia Salzburger Society

Please send your check along with this invoice to:

Georgia Salzburger Society

Membership Renewal

P. O. Box 1629

Rincon, GA 31326-1629

Thank you for your support of the Georgia Salzburger Society!

Please Note: Due to the COST of production and postage, this will be the last newsletter mailed to you if you have not paid your 2019 membership renewal. For further information call the office at 912-754-7001.



Marilyn Rester Adams, May 24, 1936 - January 31, 2019

Berkley Ivy, life member. Death - January 31, 2019

Allen "Butch" Webb Kieffer, Sr. July 5, 1945 - May 30, 2019

Salzburger Heritage Day 2019

Jerusalem Lutheran Church marks 250 years as a house of worship.



Dr. Armin Siedlecki,

The heritage of the Salzburgers in Georgia is tied to the building of the church on the grounds of New Ebenezer and we rejoice with thanksgiving to have this legacy to share with generations of worshipers. At this point in history, all worshipers at Jerusalem are not of Salzburger descent, but regard it as their home church, too. The first Salzburgers came to Ebenezer by their faith in God and toiled with locally sourced

materials, prayer and trust to create a church building to worship in with freedom to choose their method of worship.

From the beginning, as far back as the voyage to Georgia, the Salzburgers influenced others along the way. **Dr. Armin Siedlecki**, the guest speaker for the Heritage Day program, will present his research on the impact of the Salzburgers on religion in Georgia. When the Salzburgers first arrived in Georgia in 1734, they brought with them the tradition of Lutheran Pietism. This also had an influence on John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who had traveled with the Salzburgers to Georgia in 1735. Dr. Siedlecki's research will provide greater understanding of the importance of Jerusalem Lutheran Church and the Salzburger's contributions to religion in the community surrounding Ebenezer.

The title of Dr. Armin Siedlecki's presentation is **"German Pietism and English Methodism: The Impact of the Salzburgers on Religion in Georgia."** It will focus on the intersection of Pietism and early Methodism and their connection to colonial Georgia. The presentation during the program will cover general topic points. Further discussion will follow at 2:00pm in the church social hall.

Dr. Armin Siedlecki, Ph.D. currently works at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He has the distinction as Head of Cataloging and Rare Books at Pitts Theology Library, one of Emory University's instructional libraries. Its collection of theological materials provides resources for Candler School of Theology and Emory University Community, as well as visitors from around the world. He is also author of "Negotiating Identity: The Portrayal of Foreigners in Ezra - Nehemiah."

At 2:00 PM in the social hall, Dr. Siedlecki will conduct the viewing of a display of 18th Century source materials. He will entertain questions and discuss more details and points of interest from his earlier program presentation.

Celebrating the 285th Year in 2019

The Congregation of Jerusalem Lutheran Church arrived in Georgia on 12 March 1734, and moved from Ebenezer- Old Town to Ebenezer-New Town in February of 1736. This current brick house of worship was built 1767-1769 and consecrated 12 March 1770. Services are still held there every Sunday morning.

The town of Old Ebenezer was new in 1734, and was replaced by the town of New Ebenezer, which was new in 1736; Ebenezer means "stone of help." The congregation chose this God-honoring name for the town during their voyage to the New World, for He is our only help.

The Jerusalem Lutheran congregation had been formed by Salzburger exiles at St. Anne's Church in Augsburg, Bavaria, in October of 1733. (St. Anna Kirche had been founded in 1321 and became Lutheran in 1545.) The Jerusalem Lutheran congregation is the oldest continuous worshipping Lutheran church in America.

The congregation arrived in Georgia on the 12th of March of 1734. The Georgia Salzburger descendants and friends annually celebrate on the Saturday nearest March 12th. The much more extensive heritage celebration is observed annually on Labor Day in September.

Interesting Facts about the GA Salzburger at Ebenezer:

- The first Sunday School in Georgia was held here in 1734.
- Georgia's first orphanage was built here in 1737.
- Georgia's first sawmill, first rice mill and first grist mill were built nearby in 1740.
- During most of Colonial Georgia history, (New) Ebenezer was the second largest town in Georgia. The colony's German-speaking inhabitants may have outnumbered the English speaking inhabitants at one time.
- The church structure, built 1767 to 1769 of brick formed from nearby clay deposits, was dedicated in 1770. The walls are 21 inches thick. It is the oldest church building in Georgia.
- Because the Georgia State Legislature met here during the American Revolution, this structure is also the oldest public building in Georgia. ~ John Robert Peavy

Earliest know picture of JLC



JLC today



MEET NEW GSS BOARD MEMBERS

Leiston Shuman, Jr. is a life member of GSS and the German Friendly Society and a deeply involved member of the German Heritage Society and Teutonic Council. His family includes his wife Mary Jane Martin, a descendant of the Grovenstein and Truetlin families, and his two children, Mary Allison Bledsoe and Leiston T. Shuman, III., also GSS Life Members.

Leiston is a lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. He is a life member of the UGA Alumni Society and retired as Agency Manager of Prudential Financial Agency, however he continues to maintain his licenses to serve his longstanding clients. Currently, Leiston serves on the GSS Buildings and Grounds Committee. He is also involved with recruiting other Shuman family members to join and become contributing members of GSS.

Mary Sue Kessler is a life member of GSS as a descendant of Martin Dasher. She is a past secretary of the GSS board and currently sits as an active board member. She retired after teaching special education in Chatham County with a Masters Degree in Education from Armstrong. Using her UGA Horticulture Degree, Mary Sue has worked for 35 years as a master floral designer. She enjoys her horticultural experience arranging flowers for the Jerusalem ELCA where she is a member. Her hobbies also include basket weaving with the local Ebenezer Weavers group.

.....

German Exchange Teachers Visit Ebenezer



The two German exchange teachers visiting from Elisabeth Gymnasium in Halle are Ulrike Thurn and Sandra Krause-Horn. They were hosted by Valarie Granzo and Brandon Howard, teachers at South Effingham High School. They toured Ebenezer on April 8, 2019 led by Patsy Zeigler, GSS Museum Curator. The German Teacher Exchange Program is sponsored by the Teutonic council, an organization of the three local German Heritage Societies.

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German-American Day

Sponsored by the Teutonic Council

Please support your German and American culture by participating in the German American Day Festival and celebration.

Saturday, September 28, 2019. 10:00AM - 3:00PM

The DeSoto Hotel, 15 East Liberty Street, Savannah, GA 31401



Atlanta Chapter Happenings

The Greater Atlanta Chapter of The Georgia Salzburger Society Membership Meeting
The Greater Atlanta Chapter of The Georgia Salzburger Society held its biannual membership meeting on February 24, 2019 at Peachtree Road Lutheran Church. Past President, Vince Exley was the guest speaker and presented a program on "Germans in Colonial Georgia". The slide show was very informative and enjoyed by members and visitors. The executive chef at Peachtree Road Lutheran Church prepared a fabulous German buffet dinner including brats, salmon, and other German foods served with wine and beer. This is always a highlight at the February Membership Meeting, when everyone enjoys visiting with old friends and getting acquainted with new friends.

Addition to Peachtree Road Lutheran Church Library

Recently, Pearl Gnnann's set of books, *Georgia Salzburgers and Allied Families*, was purchased by The Greater Atlanta Chapter and placed in the library at Peachtree Road Lutheran Church. The Board approved the purchase for members of the Society to use for family research and to encourage others to look to see if they have Salzburger heritage.

The next membership meeting will be on Sunday, September 29, 3:00 p.m., at Peachtree Road Lutheran Church ~ Paulette Gebhardt

What Are You Doing To Preserve Your Heritage?

We were so grateful when the Dasher sisters contacted the museum to share



some family heirlooms. Donations of 1800's penmanship books, a 1926 Salzburger Bank receipt, and a trunk were accepted from the family of Everett Dasher, brother of L.O. Dasher, former pastor of Jerusalem Lutheran Church. Items were donated by Everett's wife Helen and his children

Ruthie Dasher, Eileen Chapman, and Larry Dasher. Please consider donations of heirlooms that have relevant meaning to the Salzburger heritage.

~ Patsy S. Zeigler, Curator



Hinely Salzburger Heritage Poster Contest Directions and Entry Form



Hinely Salzburger Heritage Poster Contest

Open to all **Salzburger Society Members** from Second Grade through Senior Adults
Purpose: To promote a greater understanding of the importance of Jerusalem Lutheran Church in the lives of Salzburgers **then and now**. Include points supporting the impact of JLC on the religion in Georgia and the churches of Effingham County.

2019 Title: The Importance of Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Then and Now

Categories:

1. Elementary School 2nd - 5th grades
2. Middle School 6th - 8th grades
3. High School 9th - 11th grades
4. Seniors 12th - college students
5. Adults All adults not in college
6. Senior Adults 80 and over

Prizes

| 1 st Place | 2 nd Place | 3 rd Place |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$100.00 | \$50.00 | \$25.00 |
| \$200.00 | \$100.00 | \$50.00 |
| \$300.00 | \$200.00 | \$100.00 |
| \$400.00 | \$300.00 | \$200.00 |
| \$200.00 | \$100.00 | \$50.00 |
| \$200.00 | \$100.00 | \$50.00 |

Guidelines:

Deadline For All Entry Forms: They must be received by noon, Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at the GSS office by Jennifer Nash, the administrative assistance. She needs your name and contact information. Send to GSS Poster Contest, 2980 Ebenezer Rd., Rincon, Georgia 31326 or email to gaslzbrgr@aol.com and put "poster contest" in the title bar.

Poster Delivery Date: Deliver your poster Monday, September 2nd at 9:00 AM to the church social hall for judging. Contestants can submit only one poster. You may use a tri-fold project board. Attach a copy of the entry form on the top right corner on the back of your poster.

Criteria: Posters are judged on historical accuracy, educational value, creativity, originality, and neatness. There should be a list of sources where you researched for facts. Please include maps, pictures and research documentation.

Poster contest winners are encouraged to attend and be present when winners are announced during the 11:00 AM meeting in the Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church. Posters should remain on display until 3:00 PM at which time they should be picked up.

Research Suggestions: The use of the Loest Library and the *Detail Reports* are strongly encouraged. The museum shop has other books with useful information. You may consider using maps and interviewing church historians for helpful input.

Please Note: In case of a tie in any category, the prize will be equally divided between both winners.

Detach the **ENTRY FORM** along the dotted line.

Must mail or email the following registration form by noon, Tuesday, August 27, 2019

To: GSS Poster Contest, 2980 Ebenezer Rd., Rincon, Georgia 31326 or email to gaslzbrgr@aol.com.

Name: _____ Category: _____

Address: _____ Grade in School: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Immigrant Ancestor _____

Exploring Salzburger History *Archaeology at Its Finest*

Outside of her duties as administrative assistant of the GSS, Jennifer Nash has added a program for school aged children at the Parsonage at New Ebenezer. She provides hands on prehistoric and historic archaeological activities to foster an understanding of how the people who came before us lived their lives from what they ate to how they built their houses and organized their lives. Mrs. Nash also travels to local public schools to present programs.



Using pottery, the natural environment, and the buildings in the area,

Mrs. Nash tells the story of the Salzburgers at Ebenezer and Yuchi Indians at Mount Pleasant and what their day to day activities might have looked like. Kid's activities include studying south-eastern Native American prehistoric and historic period pottery and projectile points as well as colonial historic pottery and glass pieces; making and decorating pinch pots and coiled pots using Native American Indian techniques; cross mending replica colonial plates, and sifting, identifying and mapping pre-historic and historic artifacts in large "pit" containers. The artifacts she uses are on loan from Georgia Southern University's Anthropology Department.



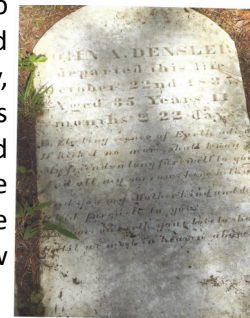
Archaeologists are like detectives trying to use clues left behind by man. They use artifacts such as pottery, stone, and bone to tell a story of the past. Historic archaeologists also have access to historic documents, maps, illustrations, photographs and oral history to help piece together the past. Even buildings, roads, gardens, and canals over 50 years old are considered archaeological resources.

Student groups have included three large home school co ops and summer day campers from Dublin and the Savannah area or staying at the Ebenezer Retreat Center. ~ Jennifer Nash



PRESERVING SALZBURGER HISTORY *DENSLER FAMILY CEMETERY*

Imagine my excitement upon hearing that a colonial cemetery had been discovered on White Bluff Road under a construction site. Recognizing the Densler family name as one of our allied families, I grabbed the phone and called the TV station. I told them that I had information on the Densler family and left a message for the reporter to call me. My call was returned a few days later and I then emailed information about the Salzburgers, The Georgia Salzburger Society, and the Densler family. Fortunately, construction of an auto parts store had been stopped by the city when an area resident notified them there had once been grave markers on the property. The Densler family cemetery was identified on a city map, said Julie McLean, Savannah Development Services Director. Under state law you cannot develop on top of graves.



Grave markers for Ann and Michael Densler, as well as their son John, once located on the Densler Plantation, had been moved some years ago to Gravel Hill Cemetery in Bloomingdale, GA. The remains of Densler family were not removed and an archaeological report by New South Associates indicates at least four possible graves have been found at the construction site.

Conrad Densler, along with his family, arrived in Savannah on December 20, 1737, aboard the 7th transport ship, "Three Sisters". They settled at Vernonburg. Conrad's daughter, Ann, married Michael Burkhalter and son, Henry, married Catherine Barbara (last name unknown).

Michael Densler (c.1760–1808) listed in his will: wife, Ann, sons, David and John, and daughters Anne Margaret and Sophia. In the will of Henry Densler, probated 13 May 1790, he bequeathed to his four sons all his lands. The oldest son, Michael, was to have first choice. If



this is the son, Michael, who was buried at this reported grave, that makes him the son and grandson of original immigrants. If they are careful when excavating they may find more graves than the four they believe to be there. Henry, the father of Michael, may be buried there as well.

Although, the Salzburger side of this story has not been reported by television or newspaper, the Director of Planning and Urban Design, as well as the construction company, are aware of our interest.

The cemetery is located near the corner of Wilshire Blvd and White Bluff Road next to Wendy's Restaurant. It was heartbreaking to see hallowed ground looking like a dump site.

For further information call Debra Stafford Herrin at 912-657-5675.