

# The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 31, No. 4

FALL 2020

The GSS fall board meeting was held November 14, 2020 in the social hall at the Jerusalem Lutheran Church. After the business meeting, the group moved out to the area between the church and the Fail House for the groundbreaking for the Dan Wilson Memorial Pavilion. Dan Wilson III and his mother, along with Allen Kieffer, the



contractor, Claudia Christiansen, GSS president,

and the board members were excited to commemorate this long awaited project. As stated in an earlier newsletter, the family of Dan Wilson, Jr. is donating estate funds toward construction of a much needed dining pavilion on the grounds at Ebenezer.



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Georgia Salzburger Society  
2980 Ebenezer Road  
Georgia Highway 275  
Rincon, GA 31326



Plans in the  
Works for a Pavilion





# Georgia Salzburger Society

Founded in 1925

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@aol.com](mailto:gaslzbrgr@aol.com)

Website: <http://visitebenezer.com>

## OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** Claudia Christiansen  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Noble Boykin  
**SECRETARY:** Linda B. Jones  
**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

## DIRECTORS

### To March 2021

Diane Holder Emery Fennell  
Becky Morgan Anne Miller  
Harold Schwanebeck

### To March 2022

Mary Sue Kessler Lisa Repasy  
Leiston Shuman, Jr.  
Joshua Zeigler Marty Edwards

### To March 2023

Larry Bradham Dan Wilson, III  
Erika Bragg Lena Ruth Nizzi  
Linda Brannen

Edited by Kristin Everson

Published by Anne Miller

## Newsletter

Published Quarterly

Send news and inquiries to the  
GSS Office

## Next Board Meeting

February 13, 2021



## President's Message

It is hard to believe that 2020 is ending soon and looking back over the year behind us GSS has much to be proud of. Even though our activity and organizing were modified by the pandemic protocol, committees functioned, proceeded and achieved some new and interesting additions to the GSS mission. Overall the time has been productive. I am not listing all the good things being done because you will read about them throughout this newsletter and updates will be periodically posted on the website and Facebook.

Let's take time to be thankful for each volunteer who has so diligently and faithfully worked to make GSS visible and vital. There have been many compliments given for the way our museum committee has conducted scheduled tours, finding ways to remain open to visitors and maintain the safety of all. The names of volunteers will be seen throughout the articles in the GSS newsletters, so please take time to let them know we appreciate them. Sometimes we get busy and forget to realize how much it takes to keep Ebenezer safe and clean and maintained, but these volunteers are working together to see to it that not only the visible things like the grounds, but the Salzburger history is still being researched, documented and published.

Exciting news that we have been looking forward to is finally happening soon....even as this edition is being published! On November 23rd, work will begin on the Salzburger House Repairs project. This will be another milestone achievement that everyone can be proud of. Thanks are also given to the many GSS members and friends who are making generous contributions toward the ongoing efforts of GSS. Some donations are being used to help with the expenses of the newsletter, grounds upkeep, ink and materials for publications, and various supplies needed in the office and buildings. (Continued on page 11)

## Guidelines for Acknowledgements

In the spirit of being more vigilant and completing our obligations, we have created a set of guidelines and who is responsible for doing or delegating someone specific to do it.

### Guidelines for Acknowledgements

Effective January 1, 2021

#### Sympathy

In the event of the death of a current GSS member, past or present board member, or past or present officer: The deceased member's family will receive a sympathy card from GSS. (The registrar is responsible for this task.)

#### Appreciation

1. Donations of \$100 or more to GSS General Fund or Endowment Fund will receive a THANK YOU card from a designated board member.
2. Donations of \$1,000 or more to GSS General Fund or Endowment Fund will receive a THANK YOU card from and signed by all board members in attendance at BOD meetings. (An appointed board member is responsible for this task.)
3. Acknowledge of donations made to a committee will be the responsibility of that committee.

*The above guidelines were created on November 3, 2020 by: Erika Bragg, Claudia Christiansen, Debra Herrin, Anne Miller, Becky Morgan, Barbara Scott, and Patsy Zeigler*

(Continued from page 2)

Thank you to all who have sent designated funds to be used in the Fail house repairs. The first thing being done will be under the house so it won't look much different for a while, but the cost of raising up the house, replacing floor joists and support beams and footings will be covered by the current donations. Updates will be posted as the next repair phases are evaluated and costs determined.

We are going to plan towards Landing Day with creativity and with the safety of guests in mind. It will be a different format than past Landing Day experiences you have attended, combining some of the festival activities and the thanksgiving celebration into one fun and informative weekend. We will be trying to make a schedule that out of town members and friends will find things to enjoy other than the one day event. Many have not been out and traveling since March 2020 so we want March 2021 to be safe travels, as well as safe accommodations and safe activities on the grounds of Ebenezer.

The new Dan Wilson Memorial Pavilion will be complete by March and a huge asset to the more outdoor activities being expected for future programs. Please take time to thank the Wilson family for their memorial contribution toward building the structure. If anyone would like to contribute funding for adding the ceiling fans, electrical and water hook ups, or other accommodating additions, please designate on your checks or donation envelopes. ~ Claudia Christiansen

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.



**2020 RENEWAL NOTICE**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Georgia Salzburger Society 2020 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**

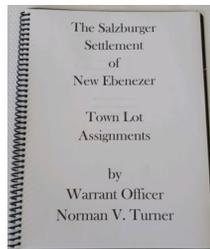
*Thank you for your support of the Georgia Salzburger Society!*  
 For further information call the office at 912-754-7001.

**NEW in the GSS Museum Gift Shop**

- Journals (5.5" x 8.5") - \$10
- Notepads (3" x 5") - \$1
- "Salzburger Settlement of New Ebenezer: Town Lot Assignments" by Norman Turner - \$11
- "History of Grace Lutheran Church" by Alvin O. Gnann - \$5
- 1" Swan Pins - \$8



*Journals and notepads were created by museum committee members.*



# GSS Museum News

## Abner and Myra Pace Exley Donations



The descendants of Abner and Myra Pace Exley donated a number of family portraits to the museum. They are displayed in the parsonage. The GSS is very appreciative of these special family portraits.



## Shuptrine Family Bible

In October, Sarah Tombone contacted the GSS office about donating her family Bible. Sarah's mother, Sarah Shuptrin, had inherited the Bible from her grandfather, Daniel R. Shuptrine. The family had long considered donating the Bible to the GSS Museum but had never had the opportunity to do so.

We were thrilled to hear that this part of the Georgia Salzburger story was on its way to Ebenezer.

The Bible was safely shipped from Orlando to Effingham and is now housed in the GSS Museum's Bible cabinet. The records have been photographed to be added to the LRL Family Bible Project.

**Thank you, Sarah and Sarah!** ~ Erika Bragg



# In The News at GSS

October 2020

## The GSS Buildings and Grounds Committee



In this time of unusual circumstances and uncertain changes, GSS is continuing the focus of preserving the Salzburger history. Good news is in the works!

Members of the GSS Buildings and Grounds committee met with preservation contractor, Greg Jacobs to ask questions

and discuss the process of repairing and stabilizing the foundation and piers under the old Salzburger house. Considerations that day were regarding the process and materials to be used. Norman Turner is serving as the project historian, seen here describing how the house was moved from Waldhour Road to its present site at New Ebenezer. Also involved with the planning shown in the photo are project chairman Marty Edwards, GSS President, Claudia Christiansen, and GSS board representative, Leiston Shuman.

## Finalizing Plans for Dan Wilson Memorial Pavilion

This photo shows Allen Kiefer discussing plans with Leiston Shuman. The GSS Buildings and Grounds committee met recently to discuss updates for the Dan Wilson Memorial pavilion. The updates include positioning the structure on the site of the old Augusta Road through Ebenezer and being careful not to build on top of a former Salzburger settler's lot. You may remember Dan as an active member of GSS and the Atlanta chapter. The two corners of the pavilion are circled in red.



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## GSS HOSTS TOURS

The museum has been operating by appointment only most of the year. Museum volunteers have been busy for the last two months with tour groups of all ages. The museum has hosted homeschool students on three different occasions. Kayaking groups have toured the museum and grounds twice. One kayaking group was from Savannah, but the other group was made up of people from other states including Pennsylvania and Alabama. One special opening was held for a California resident who is originally from Austria. ~ Erika Bragg



Patsy Zeigler is explaining Red Bluff to a group of students.

## Atlanta Chapter Happenings

The Atlanta Chapter of The Georgia Salzburger Society held its membership meeting on September 27, 2020. Ken Thomas, our guest speaker, was unable to present the program due to an accident. Pastor Don Hanberry stepped in and presented a program on Salzburger history. The meeting was both in person and live on Facebook. You may watch the program on the Peachtree Road Lutheran Church Facebook page.

The Atlanta Chapter of The Georgia Salzburger Society has donated \$1,000 towards the Wilson Memorial Fund to be used for construction of the Dan Wilson Memorial Pavilion at Ebenezer. Ground breaking for the pavilion was held on Saturday, November 14. Link for picture: <https://visitebenezer.com/2020/11/16/dan-wilson-memorial-pavilion/>

The Heritage Tour has been postponed until 2021 due to the pandemic and travel concerns.

Sylvia Wood Exley, wife of Vincent Exley, recently passed away. She was a long time member of GSS and GAC. She was mother to members Sheryl Exley and Pamela Weinelt and grandmother to member Heidi Weinelt. ~Paulette Gebhardt

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# GSS Memberships Approved

## November 14, 2020

### Life Members

Loy Karon Atkins  
Devlin Higgins Dwyer  
Susan Smithwick Dwyer  
Robert Vernon O'Kelley  
Reuben Thompson Walize, III  
Homer Floyd Willis

### Up-Grade to Life

Jan McCall Rogers  
Jill DeAnne Fountain Robertson

### Regular Membership

Jimmy Durelle Hagin  
Carolyn Jean Hagin Lucas  
Sandra Brooker Natho  
Katherine Hay Owens  
Eva Mae Ballard Underberg  
*Debra Stafford Herrin, Registrar*

### Immigrant Ancestor

Johannes Scherraus  
Ruprecht Eischperger  
Ruprecht Eischperger  
Johann Martin Niess  
Michael Walliser  
Johannes Michael Lastinger

Matthias Seckinger  
Johann Scheraus

Jacob Gnann  
Jacob Gnann  
Conrad Rahn  
Johannes Michael Lastinger  
Peter Gruber

# Loest Research Library Spotlight



Time is running out for you to order a "Salzburger History Sketches" 2021 wall calendar. You will not want to throw it away when the year is over but will want to pass it on from generation to generation. Each page has a beautiful photograph related to Salzburger history and is accompanied by information researched by GSS members. It was a labor of love for those of us that worked on it. The cost of the calendar is \$15.00. If you would like your calendar mailed, please add \$8.40 for packaging and postage. Please mail your check to Barbara Scott at 1890 Old Dixie Hwy. S., Clyn, GA 31303. If you have questions call Barbara Scott (912) 660-1786 or Erika Bragg (912) 658-2460. ~ Barbara Scott



## Researching Our Salzburger Heritage

### The Elkins Family Bible

Genealogical research sometimes involves returning a family heirloom to the family to which it rightfully belongs. Recently GSS President Claudia Christiansen was contacted by a friend, Sherry Simmons, who visited an estate sale and purchased a box of assorted items. Sherry found an old family Bible amongst the assortment and was interested in donating it to the GSS Museum.

The rediscovered Bible originally belonged to Thomas Alexander and Sarah McCall Elkins. Elkins is an Effingham family name without a Salzburger connection, so the Bible didn't belong in the GSS Museum. The decision was made to find a living descendant of the former owners.

How does one find a descendant of people who died decades ago? Thankfully, the Bible's birth and marriage records had been faithfully filled in, and a quick search of Effingham census records confirmed the birth records. The marriage record preserved in the Bible helped to locate the new families formed once the Elkins children began their married lives. The obituary of Helen Smith Elkins, a daughter-in-law of Thomas and Sarah Elkins, revealed a name familiar to the researcher.

The Bible is currently in the possession of Ella Elkins Thomas, a granddaughter of Thomas and Sarah. Mrs. Thomas was thrilled to learn of the Bible and was elated to have it returned to the family. A big "thank you" to Sherry Simmons for rescuing and returning the family Bible to the Elkins family. ~ Erika Bragg





## In Memoriam



**Josie Lee Herrin Adams**  
14 October 1942 – 20 September 2020

**Homer Sylvester "Chip" Durden, III**  
22 July 1948 - 19 September 2020

**Preston G. Exley**  
5 December 1938 – 10 September 2020

**Sylvia Wood Exley**  
18 February – 3 October 2020

# Christmas Market at Ebenezer

Sunday, December 6, 2020 from 2 to 5 p.m.  
 Christmas gifts and baked goods for sale at the GSS Museum Gift Shop!



## Events:

- 🕒 2:30 The Christmas Story from Luke 2; Responsive Reading in German & English
- 🕒 3:00 Christmas Hymns Sung by Elam Egypt Baptist Church Choir
- 🕒 4:00 Christmas Hymns Sung by Susan Hartzog, Aileen Tuten, and Robert Peavy.

