

The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 32, No. 1

Winter 2021

The Salzburger-Fail House Restoration

On the grounds of New Ebenezer there is a house that sits among a halo of pines. It is called the Fail house, for the family who donated the building to



GSS. The larger rooms are furnished to represent a parlor and an adult bedroom. There are two small rooms, one displays children's artifacts and the other has vintage tools and farm implements. An open breezeway connects the main house and the large detached kitchen which houses old cooking and sewing implements.

Originally the house was built across the road from Jerusalem Lutheran Church in the present area of the Retreat Center. Over time it was sold to the Fail family and relocated to Waldhour Rd., then years later they gave it to GSS and it was moved back to the present location at Ebenezer. It has experienced age-related issues over time, including damage to the foundation, roof, walls, and windows. Repairs to footings and stabilization of the building were recently contracted and completed by Greg Jacobs of Landmark Preservation. If you would like to give a donation to help with this restoration project, please send your gifts to the address below.

GSS extends thanks to accredited archeologist, Jennifer Nash, for recording information on the artifacts found at the site while repairs were in progress. The Salzburger Heritage Research committee chaired by Erika Bragg and Debra Herrin are compiling a booklet containing the history of the old house.

Please send your donations to:

Georgia Salzburger Society

PO. Box 1692

Rincon, GA. 31326

Include on your check the note "Fail House Restoration Project".

~ Diane Holder



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





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

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 Richard Johnson

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

GSS NEWSLETTER

Published by Anne Miller

Edited by Kristin Everson

Newsletter

Published Quarterly

Send news and inquiries to the
GSS Office

Next Board Meeting

May 15, 2021



President's Message

As president of GSS, my role of leadership has been stretched in various directions during recent months. My goal is to be positive and pull things together in a productive way when challenges arise. Please celebrate with me! GSS has much to be thankful for at this time, as we continue adding to the Salzburger story. The first major accomplishment of 2021 is completing the first phase of repairs on the old Fail House. We would like to compliment Greg Jacobs and his crew for their diligence and attention to detail as they completed the job in a timely manner. Thanks to members who stopped by to encourage the workers and take photos of the progress. A huge thank you to Patsy and Gill Zeigler for rearranging their plans to bring lunch to the construction crew on their last day of work on the Fail House. The workers were very surprised and grateful for the unexpected invitation to meet a few board members and enjoy the luncheon treat. Hospitality is always in style and a good way to show gratitude for work done beyond the basic expectation.

Appreciation is given to the research committee for creating a file on the Fail House to keep a record of the history and updates done on the repairs, beginning with the stabilization of footings and leveling the structure. More details will be provided through the committee reports. We will get an estimate for the next phase of repairs within the next week. Members are being asked to contribute information, stories, and photos as the committee continues adding to the file.

Much appreciation to Jennifer Nash, GSS office administrator, for keeping things moving smoothly during the increased activity around the work being done at Ebenezer. Special thanks to Jennifer for using her archaeology degree to survey and record artifacts found while digging for the footings under the house. Remember to look at visitebenezer.com for updates and photos.

(continued on page 9)

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.

2021 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!*



Museum Gift Shop Spotlight

Immigrant Families in Ebenezer, Georgia is a series of books detailing the history of these Georgia Salzburger families: **Seckinger, Helmle, Rieser, Neidlinger, and Rahn.**

Included in each volume:

- German Baptism and Marriage Records
- Towns of Origin with Maps
- Modern Photos of Important Locations
- Genealogy of the First Generation at Ebenezer
- Ebenezer Birth and Marriage Records

Each volume has been meticulously researched using primary sources. All German documents have an English translation. Each hardback volume costs \$34.24.

Shipping is available for the added cost of \$8.50.

To order, call the office at (912) 754-7001 or Patsy Zeigler at (912) 655-4555.



Atlanta Chapter Happenings

Speaker: Russell Kleckley

at 3:00 p.m.

Don't forget: February 28, 2021

Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner will be held at **Peachtree Road Lutheran Church** on February 28, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.. Dr. Russell Kleckley, Professor of Religion at Augsburg University in Minneapolis, will be the guest speaker. Russell is active in the Lutheran Historical Society and was the editor and translator of *The Letters of Johann-Martin Boltzius* (2009). He will be speaking on "**Ebenezer's Mysteries Uncovered Secrets Revealed: A Preview of Soon-To-Be-Published-Work**". The presentation will provide an update on three projects about to be published: the translation of Dr. Hermann Winde's 1960 dissertation on the early history of the Lutheran church in Georgia; the letters of Johann-Ernst Bergman; and the translation of Norbert Stein's chronology of the Salzburger transports to Georgia. He will offer a brief summary of each work and highlight some of the particularly surprising, interesting and informative discoveries from these sources.

German cuisine dinner will be offered following the meeting. It will include wine or beer and traditional Black Forest Cake. **Cost is \$15** per person. Masks and Social Distancing optional. You may also watch online at [Peachtree Road Lutheran Church | Facebook](#) ~ Paulette Gebhardt



The **Dan Wilson, Jr.**

Pavilion construction is going quickly and we look forward to the **dedication** on Landing Day, March 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m..



Thank you to everyone who sent contributions for improvements at Ebenezer. Your generosity is vital and important to GSS. Many things are being accomplished because of generous contributions like yours.

GSS Report of the Nominating Committee February 13, 2021

Each nominee has agreed to serve in the respective positions.

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Claudia Christiansen
<i>Vice President</i>	Noble Boykin
<i>Treasurer</i>	
<i>Secretary</i>	Linda B. Jones
<i>Museum Curator</i>	Patsy Zeigler
<i>Museum Assistant Curator</i>	Robert Peavy
<i>Registrar</i>	Debra Herrin
<i>Assistant Registrar</i>	Sandra Wingate
<i>Loest Research Librarian</i>	Barbara Scott
<i>Assistant Loest Research Librarian</i>	Farleen Young
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Charlie Arnsdorff
<i>Chaplain</i>	Pastor Richard Johnson
<i>Past President</i>	Henry Mingledorff, III
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Jennifer Nash

Note: The above Officers are the same with the exception of the Treasurer and the Chaplain. The Treasurer's chair is vacant, and Rev. Richard Johnson, minister of Jerusalem Church, will replace Rev. Mark Cerniglia.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To March 2022

Lisa Repasy
Leisten Shuman, Jr.
Josh Zeigler
Marty Edwards
Mary Sue Kessler

To March 2023

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

To March 2024

- Becky Morgan has agreed to serve a second term.
- Diane Holder has agreed to serve a second term.
- Sandra Wingate previous board member and assistant registrar
- Allison Bledsoe, new to the Board, is a life member of the GSS, a graduate of Augusta State University in history, a direct descendent of John Adam Treutlen, John Justice Grovenstein, and Martin Henry Schumann, is a homemaker and mother of three children, and lives in Johnston, S.C.
- Dylan Mulligan, new to the Board, is a life member of the GSS, a historian, a published writer, and an attorney in the Claxton-Reidsville area.

GSS Memberships Approved

February 13, 2021

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Nicholas Helmly Newkirk
William Allen Newkirk
James Newton Wilson
Laura McCutchen Wilson

IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR

Nikolas Helmle
Nikolas Helmle
Urban Buntz/Christian Oechsle
Urban Buntz/Christian Oechsle

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

William James Hagin
Sarah Elizabeth Lucas
Dianne Elizabeth Rogan Martin
Frederick David Weitman, Jr
Shirley Caroline Manes Hagin Weitman

IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR

Jacob Gnann
Jacob Gnann
Bartholomew Zant
Johann Ludwig Weidmann
Jacob Gnann

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Charlotte Ann Woods Hagin
Lori Estes Hagin

Spouse of William James Hagin
Spouse of William Joseph Hagin

Submitted by Debra Stafford Herrin, Registrar

GSS Museum News

In January, a grinding stone and a mill stone were donated to the Georgia Salzburger Society Museum by Sandi and Arnaldo Correia. Committee mem-



bers were on hand Monday, January 25, when the Correias arrived at Ebenezer. Sandi is a Georgia Salzburger descendant with ties to the Shearouse, Nease, and Zittrouer families. She and her husband had acquired a sandstone grinding wheel and a mill-stone made of freshwater granite. The mill stone, likely over 200 years old, was used as the bottom

stone on a mill and still has a French Burr wheel rod through it. Both stones are now on display in the tool room of the old Salzburger house at Ebenezer. THANK YOU, Sandi and Arnaldo, for your generosity! ~ Patsy Zeigler

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Researching Our Salzburger Heritage

A Tale of Two Seckingers

Grandma Vivian was proud to be a Salzburger. Her maiden name was Seckinger, so her ancestry is very easy to trace. My grandma was the only one of the three daughters of Herschel Seckinger to marry someone with no Salzburger ancestry... or so she thought.

I remember asking my granddad, "Gayha, are you a Salzburger, too?" He immediately replied, "No, Flossie, the Hodgeses aren't from around here." That conversation took place over thirty years ago. Fast forward to 2019. The year my granddaddy would have turned 100 years old was the year I discovered he was a Salzburger too.

Granddaddy's grandmother was Sarah Helmly Hodges. She died a few years before my granddad was even born. Her three sons didn't discuss her family history often, so the ancestry of Sarah Hodges was largely forgotten. I found out that Joshua Helmly, Jr. was Sarah's father and was the son of Joshua Helmly, Sr. and Salome "Sally" Seckinger Helmly. So in the year both Grandma and Granddaddy Hodges would have been 100, I determined they shared a common ancestor. Their great-great-great grandfather was Jonathan Seckinger! Our family tree wasn't a tree at all, but it was actually a wreath!

Dear Georgia Salzburger descendant, don't stop researching your ancestry. You are sure to discover more connections and cousins. You may even find your family tree circles back to form a wreath, too. ~ Erika Bragg

(Continued from page 2) Please share the good news with others as we strive to maintain our historic buildings and grounds, by showing that we are actively preserving our history.

Allen Kieffer deserves recognition for his generous donations of time, skills and knowledge used to construct the beautifully crafted memorial pavilion. Much appreciation is due to the family of Dan Wilson, Jr. for their lasting memorial for his love of Salzburger history and heritage. Thank you to all who have contributed to the pavilion project, including helping plan, taking photos, and donating funds towards the completion of amenities yet to be added to the basic structure. Further donations will be used to purchase tables, benches, fans, water and electrical installation and for the memorial plaque. Please continue to promote membership and to volunteer on committees. Your efforts help us keep GSS visible and viable in the community and recognized as an important part of Georgia history. Last, but of major importance, please thank the GSS board for keeping the organization's momentum going throughout the challenges of shut downs and pandemic protocols. ~CSC

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Loest Research Library Spotlight

The Colonial Records of Georgia

The original assembling of the Colonial Records of Georgia took much effort due to the Revolutionary War and its aftermath. During the war, the records were moved from place to place in order to keep them safe from the enemy. The records, at this time only a huge collection of papers, rested in places like Charleston, New Bern, and Maryland.

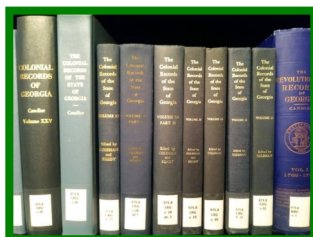
In 1837, the Georgia Legislature passed an act to obtain the original records or copies. Reverend Charles Wallace Howard was appointed to go to London and transcribe the records, a task that took him two years to complete. The transcribed records were brought to Georgia and housed in the Capitol Archives Room.

In 1848, Reverend Doctor Stevens was working on a scholarly history of Georgia, so the records were moved to the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah. Col. Charles C. Jones used them in his history of Georgia that was published in 1883. The records were then moved back to the Capitol Archives Room. They were again used by Professor Scomp from Emory to prepare a historical work. In June of 1891, a fire at the professor's house destroyed almost all of Rev. Howard's transcripts, but three volumes escaped damage because they had been left at the Capitol.

In 1902, the Legislature provided for the Governor to appoint a person to compile and publish the Colonial Records of Georgia. Allen D. Candler was tasked with that challenge. He compiled the records into the thirty-one volumes now known as *The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia*.

From its inception, Loest Research Library has housed nearly a complete collection of the books. Committee members knew there were six volumes needed to complete the set. Over a period of several years, numerous searches for the six books yielded zero results. In January, searches for the missing volumes resumed, but this time searches were done using the exact titles of the volumes instead of only volume numbers. Bingo! One volume was discovered at the fantastic price of \$5. Three other volumes were found at a book store in South Carolina. These four books were ordered, delivered, and are now at home in the library.

Collecting the books for the library has been a monumental task. This seems fitting after learning about the tremendous efforts made to originally compile them. ~ **Barbara Scott**



GSS Welcomes Daisy Girl Scouts

January 9, 2021

The Daisy Girl Scouts from Troop 30235 were excited to be able to spend some time exploring the grounds at Ebenezer and learning some history of the area. They worked on their Welcome to the Flower Garden daisy journey. This journey focused on the girls discovering themselves, learning



values, connecting with each other, and taking action through practicing the Girl Scout Law. For the take action part of the journey the girls planted flowers beside the path leading to the museum. They love being able to be a part of the ongoing history at the Georgia Salzburger Society Museum and they look forward to future endeavors within the community at Ebenezer. ~ **Jennifer Nash**



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

GSS has an Amazon account and it has already generated funds towards the society.

AmazonSmile is a way for you, as Georgia Salzburger Society **members and friends**, to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop with Amazon.



Start at smile.amazon.com. You will find the same Amazon you know and love, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice.

Here's how to shop **AmazonSmile**:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com.
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials.
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations, or search for the charity of your choice (GSS).
4. Select your charity (GSS).
5. Start shopping!
6. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at **AmazonSmile**.



The completing of the first phase repairs on the old Fail-Salzburger House by Greg Jacobs and his crew at Landmark Preservation, . (January 2021)



Landing Day at Historic Ebenezer

Date: March 13, 2021

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Where: On the grounds of
Jerusalem Lutheran Church
2980 Ebenezer Rd. in Rincon, GA



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:30 Flag Raising Ceremony
- 10:00 Jerusalem Cemetery Tour: Matriarchs of Salzburger Descendants
This event will highlight the lives of these six women: Lydia Weitman Dasher, Christina Rahn Gnann, Salome "Sally" Seckinger Helmly, Charlotte Rahn Reiser, Jane Eliza Gnann Stanton, and Naomi Gugle Weitman.
- 11:00 Museum Market Platz, Lunch, Booths
Browse outdoor market: souvenirs, research books, individually wrapped baked goods, etc.
Lunch: Chick-Fil-A sandwiches, chips, and bottled water will be for sale.
- 12:30 Landing Day Thanksgiving and Memorial Dedication of the Dan Wilson, Jr. Pavilion
The Dan Wilson, Jr. family will dedicate the Pavilion recently constructed on the grounds of New Ebenezer, in memory of Dan Wilson, Jr.

1:00 Program: Guest Speaker - Jennifer Nash

Topic: Archaeology at the Pavilion Site

Jennifer Nash, project archaeologist, will describe the findings of the artifacts and their significance.

1:30 Annual GSS Business Meeting

Election of officers and board members, recognition of outgoing members, moments of remembrance
Meeting Adjourned

BOOTHS and EXHIBITS

- Archaeology Exhibit
Jennifer Nash
- GSS Museum Market Platz
baked goods, gift shop items, and honey
- Beekeeping
beeswax lip balm and lotion
- GSS Registrar - GSS membership, ancestry, and genealogy
- Backwater Expeditions - Kayaking information with Brian Cohen and crew
- Native Plants of GA - display of native plants with free samples
- Handmade Ragdolls
by the Cokers sisters
- Local Authors- selling and signing books
 - Lynn Skinner- children's books
 - Rickie Bragg- about his childhood in Effingham
- Loest Research Library
information and books for sale
- Soap Making Exhibit
handmade soaps for sale
- Petting Zoo - small barnyard animals, Bruce Peth
- The Teutonic Council of Savannah
information and membership

This event will be entirely outdoors. Program is subject to change based on weather conditions and Covid-19 protocol on March 13, 2021. Social distancing is requested.

You may want to pull out this flyer and post it on your refrigerator or bulletin board, or make copies and share it with your family and friends.