

Georgia Salzburger Society
2980 Ebenezer Road
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Rincon, GA 31326



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Landing Day
March 12, 2022

The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 33, No. 1

Winter 2022

Landing Day Speaker, 2022

Our speaker for Landing Day, **March 12, 2022**, will be Arlin C. Migliazzo, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of History at Whitworth College, Spokane,



Arin C. Migliazzo, Ph.D,

Washington. Professor Migliazzo taught history at Whitworth College for more than thirty years where he was also department chair, specializing in modern American history and the colonial South. Professor Migliazzo is the author of the book, *To Make This Land Our Own: Community, Identity, and Cultural Adaptation in Purrysburg Township, South Carolina, 1732-1865*, published 2007.

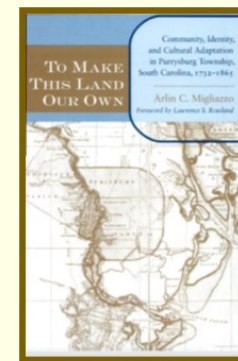
Dr. Migliazzo's talk will focus on the Purrysburg settlement on the Savannah River in South Carolina and its close connection with the settlement at Ebenezer. A number of families who lived in Ebenezer had initially settled at Purrysburg and then later migrated to Ebenezer as the settlement of Purrysburg declined.

If you have ever been interested in learning more about the settlement at Purrysburg, the Swiss Huguenots who settled there, and its connections to Ebenezer, this lecture will be of special interest.

Dr. Migliazzo has been awarded numerous grants from organizations including the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Fulbright Commission. He holds an M.A. from Northern Arizona University and a Ph.D. from Washington State University. Dr. Migliazzo is a former Fulbright/Hays Scholar in American Studies and the editor of *Teaching as an Act of Faith: Theory and Practice in Church-Related Higher Education*, and *Lands of True and Certain Bounty: The Geographical Theories and Colonization Strategies of Jean Pierre Purry*.

Dr. Migliazzo's book will be for sale in the museum gift shop on Landing Day.

~ Noble Boykin, Jr. — GSS Vice President





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://govisitebenezer.com>

OFFICERS

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Edited by Kristin Everson

Published by Anne Miller

Newsletter

Published Quarterly

Send news and inquiries to the
GSS Office



President's Message

As we conclude another year filled with pandemic news and modifications being implemented almost everywhere we turn, we at Ebenezer have much for which we can express thanks and count as successful. The first point of gratitude came with the completion and dedication of the Dan Wilson Pavilion in March 2021. It is now a focal point of activity for events and festivities. Most recently we used it for the performers at the Christmas Market on December 6, 2021. Musical groups were featured throughout the day. One of much amazement to all, was Phillip Neidlinger and his "Gabriella", a special radio wave controlled instrument called a Theremin.



Throughout the year much of our focus was on gathering funds for the preservation repairs needed on the Fail House. We now have enough to cover the next phase of work to be done on the windows. We are ready to begin and have a proposal from Greg Jacobs, Preservation Contractor. We expect to see work begin on the windows in the Fail House very soon.

Although the needed repairs are very different, the parsonage is in need of work, too. We have now gathered the funds to repair the decayed wood and flaking paint on the exterior of the parsonage. Your commitment and donations have made a real difference in what we are doing to save our historic buildings at Ebenezer. (Continued on page 6.)



The 14-Foot Long Seahorse

Part three of volume one of *The Detailed Reports on Salzburger Emigrants Who Settled In America* is the travel diary of Commissioner Von Reck written as he traveled from Ebenezer to Europe.



On the 8th of July in 1734, von Reck wrote: "Today, I saw a sea wonder, called a seahorse, which is about 14 feet long, thick-skinned, and covered with short, reddish-white hairs. Its eyes are large, its nose looks like the nose of a horse . . . It has two large teeth, nearly a foot long. The rest of its teeth are like those of a foal. It has two feet which end in fins. At the rear it looks like a fish. This animal lives in the water but goes on land occasionally and grazes like an ox."

The administrative assistant at the UGA Marine Institute on Sapelo Island shared the following: the scientific name of the walrus is *Odobenus rosmarus*, which means "tooth-walking seahorse". According to Sea World's website, the origin of the word walrus is *hvalros*, the Danish word meaning "seahorse". The Old Norse word for walrus is *hrosshvalr*, or "horse whale".

Have you read any of the volumes of the *Detailed Reports*? In addition to the important information about your Georgia Salzburger immigrant ancestors, you will learn plenty of fun facts, too.

~ Erika Bragg and Kristin Everson

Georgia Salzburger Society- Go Visit Ebenezer

ATTENTION!

Website

Name Change

Please Notice This



govisitebenezer.com



Atlanta Chapter Happenings



The quarterly board meeting of The Greater Atlanta Chapter of The Georgia Salzburger Society was held on January 9, 2022. The board members confirmed dates for quarterly meetings and bi-annual membership meetings in 2022. Dates for Landing Day and Heritage Day were announced. Plans for the February 27th Membership Meeting were discussed.

Clayton H. Ramsey will be the guest speaker, but topic is yet to be announced. Clay is a native of Atlanta and a ninth generation Georgian, a descendant of Salzburger, Peter Gruber, who was a passenger on the first transport to Georgia in 1734. Peter was one of the first inhabitants of the Ebenezer community. Clay retired after nineteen years with a research group in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in the School of Medicine at Emory. He is also a two term president of the Atlanta Writers Club and serves as Officer Emeritus and VP of Contests, Awards and Scholarships on the AWC Board of Directors. Clay has moderated author panels at the Decatur Book Festival and worked on the reading committee for the Townsend Prize for Fiction. He has been published in *Georgia Backroads*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *The Blue-Mountain Review*, *Mash Stories*, *Fickle Muses* and an anthology of Atlanta writers entitled *The Treasure Trove*, among others. Clay has been honored by the Atlanta Writers Club, the Georgia Writers Museum and The Writers magazine.

- The February 27th meeting starts at 3:00 p.m. See the details below.
- The Board will present a slate of officers and directors to be voted on by the membership.
- Members will be reminded to use smile.amazon.com when placing online orders and that a percentage of their purchases is donated to GSS.
- Following the meeting attendees are invited to socialize over a fabulous buffet meal prepared by **Chef Roger**. He always prepares a fabulous German dinner with a few surprises. Brats, shrimp and grits, red cabbage, salmon, and other German foods will be served with wine and beer. Always a highlight at the February dinner, traditional Black Forest Cake will be served for dessert.
- Cost of meal is \$15.00 . . . What a deal! ~ Paulette Gebhardt

MEET THE CHEF: Rogerio Martine, of Sao Paulo, Brazil, is currently Executive Chef of the Peachtree Road Lutheran School.



In the past he has been Executive Chef at the award-winning Mitra Restaurant in Midtown, Sia's in Johns Creek, and Tasca Latin Bistro, also in Johns Creek. He has also been among Atlanta's "50 Best Chefs" for the SOS Taste of the Nation Atlanta.

Read more about Chef Roger at:

[Menus – Peachtree Road Lutheran Preschool \(prlpreschool.com\)](https://prlpreschool.com)

Meeting: Peachtree Rd. Lutheran Church
3686 Peachtree Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA
Optional: Mask and social distancing
OR
Online at Facebook page of:
Peachtree Road Lutheran Church

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RAHN Family Workshop

With Erika Bragg



As part of our Landing Day celebration, an informational family history workshop focusing on the RAHN family will be held on Saturday, March 12th at 10 a.m. in the social hall of Jerusalem Lutheran Church.

Attendees will view a presentation filled with documents and photographs that tell the RAHN story in Germany, Pennsylvania, and Georgia.

The one-hour workshop, presented by Salzburger Heritage Research Committee chair, Erika Bragg, is ideal for all those interested in learning more about Georgia Salzburger immigrants whether descendants of Conrad and Barbara Rahn or not.

This workshop is free to attend, but attendees are encouraged to sign up by emailing the office at gaslzbrgr@aol.com or Erika Bragg at erikabragg@windstream.net by March 4th.

New Books for the Loest Research Library

Georgia Governor and Council Journals

Mary Bondurant Warren's *Georgia Governor and Council Journals* are known as "critical for discovering who was here and what was going on". The Loest Research Library's holdings included three books from this 10-volume series: 1772-1773, 1774-1777, and 1778-1779.



Ms. Warren died in 2021, and her daughters inherited her bookstore and its inventory. In an effort to clear out some books, the Georgia Governor series was marked down to the fantastic price of \$15 per volume. (They typically range in price from \$29 to \$40.)

In January, the library's holdings were increased with the addition of the following seven volumes: 1753-1760, 1761-1767, 1768-1771, 1779 Supplement, 1780, 1781, and 1782.

With numerous Georgia Salzburgers listed in the index of each book, you are likely to find information about some of your ancestors.

~ Barbara Scott

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THE EXILE SONG – PART TWO

At our two yearly gatherings, our society commemorates the travails of our Salzburger forefathers of 1731 by singing the first stanza of their Exile Song, written by an exile in 1686 (please see our Summer newsletter for the history of its writing). Here, we'll consider the hymn's text.

The *Exile Song* is a confessional hymn of 14 stanzas which tells the story of exiles in defense of their Protestant faith, sung by a thousand Lutheran exiles of 17th Century Salzburg when written, and by 20,000 Salzburger Lutheran exiles of the 18th Century, 300 of whom came to Georgia. The latter expulsion has been referred to as "the scandal of Europe."

Naturally, English translations of this 1686 German hymn have varied over the last two centuries. We won't look at every word of each stanza, but the beauty of the text comes through, even in a fairly literal rendering, this of the first stanza: 1. *I am a poor exile; thus I must write of myself. I am taken from my fatherland to drive out/disperse God's word.* Lacking any even pretended credentials to precisely translate the 17th Century German of that Alpine Region: The meaning may be that the exiles looked upon their expulsion as an attempt to drive God's Word from Salzburg. A corollary meaning, whether or not intended for the 18th Century exiles of so vast a number, is that their expulsion spreads God's Word through the scandalous Diaspora of His people who take His Word with them, as well as through their witness of the Word to the rest of Europe.

We'll use singable English translations for a look at some of other thirteen stanzas. The 2nd stanza likens their ill treatment to that which Jesus Christ endured for them. The 3rd stanza sees their literal pilgrimage to *foreign climes/roads*, and their spiritual journey to follow Christ. In the 5th stanza, although labeled "heretics," the exiles do not deny their faith in God, even in the face of death. The 7th, 10th and 13th stanzas refer to earthly losses and heavenly gains. The 11th stanza would wrench any parent's, or indeed any child's, heart: *Upon this day I leave my home, my children . . . must I leave them? My God! My tears, they start to stream - Shall I no more receive them?*



The 3rd (see above) and 12th stanzas would have been of special interest to our Georgia-bound Salzburger:
*O lead me God unto that place though
in some distant nation, where I may
have Thy glorious Word and learn Thy
great salvation.*

The 14th stanza announces its author's anonymity and takes a parting shot at the teaching of the Pope.

In Part 3, we'll add a translation of the 14-stanza text and its tune.

~ JohnRobert Peavy

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GSS Memberships Approved

12 FEB 2022

Debra Stafford Herrin, Registrar

REGULAR

Pamela Hickman Dunford
Cynthia Hickman Flanary

Johann Schmidt
Johann Schmidt

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Betty Burgstiner Brannen
Lauren Gnann
Madeline Gnann
Lisa LaTona Hinely
P. Lauren Hinely
Kevin Larry Owens
Sheri-Lyn Blewett Owens

Mathias Burgsteiner
Jacob Gnann
Jacob Gnann
Johannes Heinle
Johannes Heinle
Johannes Heinle
Matthias Seckinger

YOUNG SALZBURGER

Alaya Lea Horne
Killian Jon Horne
Ava Jammoul
Dylan Harrison King
Olivia Nicole King
Sydney Lyn Owens
Allison Brooks Stewart
Bain Thomas Stewart
Charles Davis Stewart
Lawson Allen Ward
Wyatt Thomas Ward

Johann Schmidt
Johann Schmidt
Johann Schmidt
Johann Schmidt
Johann Schmidt
Johannes Heinle
Johann Schmidt
Johann Schmidt
Johann Schmidt
Johann Schmidt
Johann Schmidt

Friend

William Newcomb Barrs

Supplemental Certificate

Tonya Michelle Donaldson

Ruprecht Kalcher

GSS MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOPPE NEWS



Donations Needed for Market Platz on Landing Day

"The Market Platz" will be open on Landing Day, March 12, 2022. We would appreciate donations of items to sell. Please help us by donating:

- Homemade Jams, Jellies, etc
- Baked Goods
- Soaps and Candles
- Handmade Goods
- Honey
- Cane Syrup
- Pickles
- Breads
- Sweet Rolls, Pies, Cakes, Cookies
- Potted Plants
- Other Handcrafted Items



Michael and Agnesia Zeigler

In December, a graduate student contacted the GSS office for research assistance. The student needed help finishing his paper about a Westerwald mug held by a North Carolina museum. The mug is believed to have belonged to Georgia Salzburger immigrant Michael Zeigler. I discovered several important "new" facts about this Zeigler family while helping the student with his work.

- Michael Zeigler came to Georgia with the Third Swabian transport in November of 1752. There is evidence that he arrived with his wife, Agnesia, his daughter, Agnesia, and his sons, Lucas and Jacob.
- Michael died in the summer of 1754. In September of that year, Agnesia wrote a letter to her father, Jacob Herrmann, telling him that her husband and her dear child Jacob had died at the beginning of summer.
- Agnesia was a very poor widow and called her children fatherless waifs.

She told her father that she had no gold and very little household items left. On May 17, 1756, the widow Agnesia Zeigler married Andreas Seckinger, who was a widower himself. Based on the date of Agnesia's second marriage, most descendants claim Michael's death occurred in 1756; however, I discovered a primary document published by Samuel Urlsperger that reveals the strength and determination of Agnesia Hermann Zeigler. For nearly two years, this impoverished and sickly widow took any job she could find to provide for herself and her family. ~ Erika Bragg

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Georgia Salzburger Society.

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5. Start shopping!
6. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at [AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com).

Reason to use AmazonSmile:

Every time I click "place my order", I know that a percentage of that amount goes to our Georgia Salzburger Society. It doesn't take long for a little from a lot to add up.

~ Annette Beasley McEachin



In Memoriam



Jeffery Baker Allen - 8 Aug 1943 – 2 Dec 2021

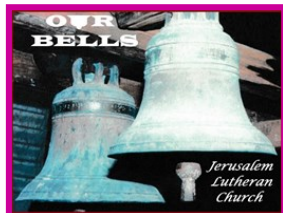
Kay Rahn Kessler - 28 Feb 1943 – 20 July 2021

Harry F. Seckinger- 29 June 1941 – 1 Sept 2021

LuNeil Exley Neurath- 20 Oct 1940 – 11 Sept 2021

Wiley Branch Kessler, Jr - 23 Jan 1928 – 25 Jan 2022

(President's Message, continued from page 2.) Your annual membership renewals and upgraded commitment of Life Memberships have made many things possible. I hope that these few highlights of 2021 have instilled your feelings of pride and a lasting desire to preserve our shared heritage. These few building and artifacts at Ebenezer serve to help us describe and remember events and people who helped build Georgia. There is so much more that



we can accomplish by working together towards a goal to continue donating, preserving, and researching our history today for generations in the future. I need you to help me spread the good news. Although we can all agree that being born a Salzburger is just not the only thing that matters at this point in Salzburger history. Although our shared heritage is a common bond, we need to provide for a lasting heritage for those who come after us, so they see where our roots began and visit places where they can see the beginnings of how our story developed. Please remind your friends and relatives that being a Salzburger by birth does not maintain our historic site or provide volunteers to tell visitors of Ebenezer why our site is important to American history. We need



new people to be involved with GSS because GSS is the group that maintains the buildings, creates publications, and preserves artifacts that tell the Salzburger story. Your love of history and Salzburger heritage, your recognition that actually standing where our ancestors walked and worked, are things that tell who we are and provide a feeling that cannot be otherwise experienced. GSS members are valued partners in our work and I hope that you value your role as someone we depend on to help continue with

strength and the momentum we currently see happening. Historic preservation and traditions enrich our lives and leave a legacy that reflects our values. The tangible things we leave, such as artifacts, handmade bricks, church bells, and grinding stones . . . help tell parts of the story of how people lived and worked and worshipped. As you understand the importance of more than saving Ebenezer, we look forward to your participation whenever and however you can. We look forward to seeing you on Landing Day and to your continued encouragement and support of new success stories in the year to come. We are truly grateful that you treasure your heritage and value the efforts of those who are volunteering "feet on the ground," when needed!!!

~ Claudia Christiansen – GSS President

Proposed Nominations for Upcoming Election

As presented at the February 12th board meeting by chair Dan Wilson, III and approved by the board. Each nominee has agreed to serve in the respective position.

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<i>President</i>	Claudia Christiansen
<i>Vice President</i>	Noble Boykin
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jerry Groover*
<i>Secretary</i>	Gaye Royal*
<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>	Dylan Mulligan*
<i>Assistant Loest Research Librarian</i>	Pending
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Charlie Arnsdorff
<i>Chaplain</i>	Pastor Richard Johnson
<i>Past President</i>	Henry Mingledorff, III
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Jennifer Nash

*New to the position

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To March 2023

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

To March 2024

Allison Bledsoe
Becky Morgan
Diane Holder
Joshua Zeigler
Sandra Wingate

To March 2025

- Allen Kieffer – previous Board member, builder in Effingham County
- Anne Miller – previous Board member, publisher of GSS newsletter, assistant administrator of GSS website and Facebook page
- Marty Edwards – current Board member, returning to serve second term, Buildings and Grounds Committee chair
- Tom Grovenstein – new to GSS Board, lives in Bulloch County
- Virginia Spano – previous Board member, Effingham County native, member of Jerusalem Lutheran Church