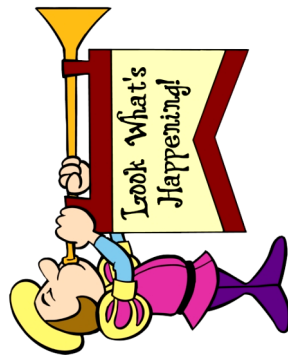


Georgia Salzburger Society  
2980 Ebenezer Road  
Georgia Highway 275  
Rincon, GA 31326



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# The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 33, No. 3

Summer 2022

## Heritage Day Weekend Events



Heritage Day is always looked forward to and this year especially, because we will introduce the long awaited *The Letters of Johann Ernst Bergmann, Ebenezer Georgia, 1786-1824*! Our guest speaker, Dr. Russell Kleckley has worked hard on translations and writing the book and he will be here at Ebenezer to enjoy our yearly heritage fest and sign copies of the new book.

We have planned a nice variety of activities for the convenience of GSS members and friends whose interest in Salzburger heritage may be varied. So many people at this point in time decline the opportunity to be at Ebenezer on Heritage Day. One of the most common questions I hear is, "Do you have to have it on Labor Day?" Yes, according to the documents we have had handed down to us, Labor Day is the time for Heritage Day Celebration. So, in order to accommodate more people we have planned some very interesting activities on days other than Labor Day!

- Starting on Friday evening at 5pm in Springfield, GA, you will have a chance to meet our cousins, friends and those just interested in knowing about history. Meet, greet, and eat! A perfect time to reminisce, ask questions, tell stories, and maybe discover a family connection we never knew about. Location: Central Station at 116 N. Laurel Street, Springfield, GA.
- Saturday morning, meet in Savannah at the Pirate's House at 9:45 A.M. for a trolley tour and lunch. The tour highlights the Salzburger and German history in the Colonial District of Savannah. We will have an opportunity to stop and visit the Salzburger Monument of Reconciliation and see landmarks with a Salzburger or German connection.
- Back in Effingham County, take a kayak tour of Ebenezer Creek with Backwater Expeditions.
- Interested in genealogy or research? Attend a 2:00 P.M. workshop at Ebenezer.
- Attend a church service on Sunday morning at the Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ebenezer, The Lutheran Church of Ascension in Savannah or one of many churches in the Effingham area with a Salzburger connection.
- Volunteer after church to help set up tents and tables for the annual 1 Heritage Day Festival. (Continued on page 2)





Founded in 1925

# Georgia Salzburger Society

An Affiliate Chapter of the Georgia Historical Society



## President's Message

### ADDRESS

2980 Ebenezer Road  
Georgia Highway 275  
Rincon, GA 31326

### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday and Friday  
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.  
Phone: 912-754-7001

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

Website: <http://govisiteebenezer.com>

### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** Claudia Christiansen  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Noble Boykin  
**SECRETARY:** Gaye Royal  
**TREASURER:** Jerry Groover  
**CURATOR:** Patsy Zeigler  
**ASSISTANT CURATOR:** Robert Peavy  
**Loest Research Librarian:** Dylan Mulligan  
**Assistant Loest Research Librarian**  
**REGISTRAR:** Debra Herrin  
**ASSISTANT REGISTRAR:** Sandra Wingate  
**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Charlie Arnsdorff  
**CHAPLAIN:** Pastor Richard Johnson  
**PAST PRES:** Henry Mingledorff  
**ADMIN ASSISTANT:** Jennifer Nash

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### To March 2023

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

#### To March 2024

Allison Bledsoe Becky Morgan  
Diane Holder Joshua Zeigler  
Sandra Wingate

#### To March 2025

Allen Kieffer Anne Miller  
Marty Edwards Tom Grovenstein  
Virginia Spano

**Edited by** Kristin Everson  
**Published by** Anne Miller

### Newsletter

**Published Quarterly**

Send news and inquiries to the  
GSS Office.



If you can't be here on Labor Day Weekend, please send greetings, donations or encouraging words of thanks for all the volunteers who strive to preserve and celebrate our Salzburger Heritage! Thanks to all GSS members who have renewed or updated memberships and sent generous donations that help us maintain the Ebenezer historic landmark. I think you will agree that this expanded schedule of events will provide many more opportunities for each one to fit in an opportunity to celebrate your Salzburger heritage at some point over this Labor Day weekend. Please encourage our high school seniors to enter the poster contest as the prize money is a nice addition to the budget for those continuing their education. Looking forward to seeing Salzburgers from far and near on Heritage Day weekend!

(Continued from page 1)

- On Sunday at 3:00 P.M. enjoy a special concert of music by German composers. Cantor Tom White of The Lutheran Church of Ascension will play the pipe organ at Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church. Lyrical baritone, Robert Peavy will sing selections of German Lieder, and Leigh Martin will perform on the grand piano.
  - After the concert please take part in the low country boil, around 5:00 P.M.
  - Then on Monday, we will have the traditional Heritage Day Festival and speaker. Get an early start on holiday shopping at the GSS Market Platz. They will have a great variety of handmade items to choose. Be prepared to cheer the Revolutionary War reenactment soldiers demonstrating cannon firings each hour. More details, times and costs will be described throughout the newsletter. Please RSVP for all meals, trolley or kayak tours
- ~ Claudia Christiansen

## GSS Memberships

Membership for Approval

August 13, 2022

Debra Stafford Herrin, GSS Registrar



### Life Member

Beau Huggins  
Mary Leonora Blackburn Shumake Jones  
Luke James Newkirk  
Sara Catherine Fletcher Reynolds

Peter Gruber  
Johann Schmidt  
Nicolaus Helmle  
Matthias Seckinger

### Up Grade to Life

Tonya Michelle Donaldson  
William O. Johnson  
Porter Seckinger

Peter Gruber  
Nicolaus Helmle  
Matthias Seckinger

### Regular Member

Roger Allen Bainbridge  
Debra Seckinger Bragg  
Diane Seckinger Eason  
Bryton Wyatt Hawkins  
Abigail Elizabeth Morris  
Jane B. Wienke

Johannes Scherraus  
Matthias Seckinger  
Matthias Seckinger  
Johann Schmidt  
Johann Martin Niess  
Johannes Neidlinger

### Friend

Harriett Marie Story DeWitt  
Terry Martin DeWitt  
Alan Cameron Schlukbier

## In Memoriam



Sarah Davis Coursey	3 Apr 1928 – 6 Jul 2022
Ruth Exley McCormick	26 May 1926 – 2 Jun 2022
Eloise Herring Porter	8 Oct 1929 – 20 Jun 2022
Mallory Suzan Tuttle	16 Jan 1991 – 2 Jun 2022

## Atlanta Chapter Happenings

The Greater Atlanta Chapter of the Salzburger Society will meet Sunday, September 25, 2022, at Peachtree Road Lutheran Church at 3 P.M. Further details will be available closer to the



## New Ebenezer Retreat Center

### Reservations for Salzburger Heritage Day Lodging

Make your plans to spend the weekend at the New Ebenezer Retreat Center on September 2-4, 2022.

New Ebenezer Retreat Center invites you to stay with them.

Accommodations will be in private rooms with 2 twin beds and private baths.

Bed and bath linens are provided.

Double occupancy: \$67 per person per night

Single occupancy: \$77 per person per night

They can provide meals if at least 20 people make a reservation.

- Breakfast: \$8.25 • Lunch: \$10.25 • Dinner: \$12.50

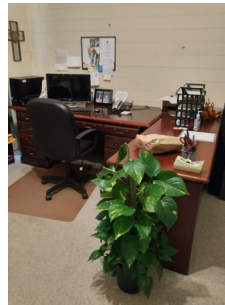
Contact the Retreat Center at (912) 754-9242 to make your reservation.



## New Desks in the Office

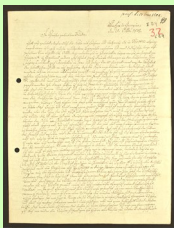
Ladson Law of Richmond Hill recently donated three desks to the GSS. Jennifer Nash and Jerry Groover volunteered to pick up the desks, and Marty Edwards and Harold

Schwanebeck met them at the parsonage to help move the new furniture into the office. All three desks are of similar style and matching wood tones and create a more professional look. Thank you to the four hard-working volunteers and to the generous donors, Brice and Tina Ladson!



## Reading Old German Workshop

An educational workshop detailing how to read Old German will be held in the GSS Parsonage on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 P.M. Our Georgia Salzburger ancestors lived their lives in German-speaking regions and left behind church and government records written in a script now known as Old German.



Learn how to read the baptism, marriage, and death records that tell the life stories of our ancestors before they came to Georgia.

The one-hour workshop will be taught by research committee chair, Erika Bragg. Each workshop attendee will receive pre-printed materials, so PLEASE sign up by August 30<sup>th</sup> by emailing Erika at erikabragg@windstream.net or the GSS office at gaslzbgr@aol.com. ~Erika Bragg

## GSS Museum Update

The GSS Museum has received its first shipment of *The Letters of Johann Ernst Bergmann, Ebenezer, Georgia, 1786-1824*. The long-awaited, highly-anticipated book was published in the spring of 2022 and was a joint project of the GSS with the Francke Foundations in Halle.

Dr. Russell C. Kleckley has done a fantastic work with this translation, as we all knew he would. He has included a large amount of background material and provided plenty of references to help readers more fully understand the content and its context.

There is so much information to glean from these 500+ pages. Readers will learn the history of the post-Revolutionary War Ebenezer, a period in our history that is relatively unknown to us. The devastation of the town of Ebenezer and the fate of its residents is well-documented.

We learn Bergmann's thoughts on important American leaders, such as Washington, Adams, and Jefferson. We also learn of the pastor's interactions with Georgia leaders and clergymen.

The long-lasting conflict between Triebner and Rabenhorst and their factions is fully explained. We also learn, most of us for the first time, of the matter of the Rabenhorst estate.

Pastor Bergmann wrote a letter detailing the death of Theobald Kieffer. Dr. Kleckley is the first scholar to consider the possibility that this letter was referring to Theobald Kieffer II, the son of Theobald Kieffer of Purrysburg. We can read Bergmann's account of Kieffer's death and Dr. Kleckley's footnotes on the event. There is also a great deal of new genealogical material in this book. We learn more about:

- John Martin Dasher Sr. and Jr. (not to be confused with the immigrant Martin Dasher)
- John Adam Freyermuth
- John Adam Treutlen
- Gottlieb Ernst
- Gotthilf Smith
- Juliana Schmidt Meyer
- Jonathan Seckinger
- Jonathan and Matthew Rahn
- Peter Zipperer
- Johannah Lemke and Hannah Wertsch
- The Herb family of Savannah
- The death of the first husband of Maria Margaretha Arnsdorff who later married Jacob Gnann

(Continued on page 4)



## Heritage Day Speaker: Dr. Russell C. Kleckley

Dr. Russell C. Kleckley will be the keynote speaker at our Heritage Day Festival. Dr. Kleckley (Doctor of Theology, 1990, University of Munich) is Professor of



Religion Emeritus at Augsburg University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has edited, translated, and published many works that are important to Georgia Salzburger history.

Here is a glimpse into the scope of Dr. Kleckley's work: *The Letters of Johann Martin Boltzius, Lutheran Pastor in Ebenezer, Georgia*, is a set of two volumes published in 2009. These books are comprised of 157 letters written by Ebenezer's first pastor with the final letter (158) written by Christian Rabenhorst telling of the death of Pastor Boltzius.

Dr. Hermann Winde's *The Early History of the Lutheran Church in Georgia*, was originally written in 1960 when Dr. Winde was a doctoral candidate at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. Dr. Kleckley translated this "comprehensive representation" into English, and publication took place in 2021.

Read more about Dr. Kleckley's newest translation *The Letters of Johann Ernst Bergmann, Ebenezer, Georgia, 1786-1824*, in this newsletter.

The soon-to-be-published Salzburger transport project focuses on the four transports responsible for bringing religious refugees from the Archbishopric of Salzburg to Ebenezer in Georgia in 1734, 1735, 1736, and 1741.

Dr. Kleckley is scheduled to make his presentation on Monday at 11 a.m.

He will explain: Who Johann Ernst Bergmann was.

What Bergmann has shown us.

The process of translating the work from concept to creation to conclusion.

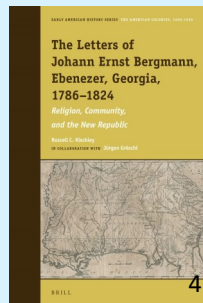
Due to the fact that a great deal of new information has been revealed to English speakers through this publication, Dr. Kleckley will open the floor for discussion at the conclusion of his presentation. ~ Erika Bragg

(Continued from page 3)

- Families of Ebenezer's pastors: Boltzius, Gronau, Lemke, Rabenhorst, Triebner, & Bergmann

Readers even get to see the orders and receipts of the Halle medicines that were so important to the residents. We also learn about the shipments of the books that built the once-magnificent library of Ebenezer.

You can order your copy today by calling GSS Museum Curator Patsy Zeigler at (912) 655-4555. Total cost of the book is \$180; GSS members receive a 10% discount. ~ Erika Bragg



## Marktplatz



"Shall We Gather at the River?" Yes!

**Come visit the Marktplatz for lots of baked goodies and other items.**

**We would appreciate donations of items to sell in the Marktplatz, such as raisin bread, jams, pickles, candy, homemade items, etc. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Patsy at 912-655-4555. All proceeds go to help with operating and maintaining museum.**



## What is Going on at Ebenezer?



Why would they remove moss from the trees, put a road between the houses, add skirting on the buildings, shutters on the parsonage, and remove the ramp?

**Wait for answers in future newsletters.**

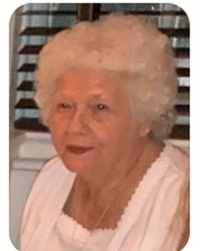


## What Can You Do?

What can you do to help preserve our Salzburger history?

Proud of her Salzburger heritage, **Leonora Blackburn**

**Shumake Jones** celebrated her 93rd birthday recently by joining the GSS with her Life Membership. She spoke to her relatives and descendants about setting a good example for others by contributing her membership which will help the ongoing efforts to maintain Salzburger history and the historic home of the GA Salzburgers at Ebenezer. ~ Claudia Christiansen





## Spotlight on the Loest Research Library

The Loest Research Library committee has acquired a large number of items that have recently been added to the library's holdings. These acquisitions include ten new books, one booklet, two articles, an estates binder, and numerous documents.

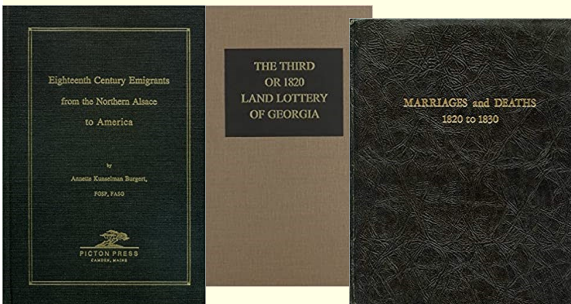
Two books, *Salzburg: A Synthesis of Art and Nature*, were donated by Mrs. Herta Westreicher Funk, a native of Salzburg. The committee voted to purchase several books with the library funds. Those books are: *The Letters of Johann Ernst Bergmann, Ebenezer, Georgia, 1786-1824* by Russell C. Kleckley, *Marriages and Deaths 1763 to 1820* and *Marriages and Deaths 1820 to 1830* by Mary Bondurant Warren, *1805 Georgia Land Lottery Persons Entitled to Draw* and *1807 Georgia Land Lottery Fortunate Drawers and Grantees* by Paul K. Graham, *Third or 1820 Land Lottery of Georgia* by S. Emmett Lucas, Jr., and *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from the Northern Alsace to America* by Annette Kunselman Burgert. A copy of *The Dead Towns of Georgia* by Charles C. Jones, Jr. was donated.

"Finding Christoph Heinrich Mueller" is an article written by Dr. Kai Dose detailing his important research into the identity of the artist of the drawings previously attributed to Baron von Reck. "Ophthalmology in North America: Early Stories (1491-1801)" by Christopher T. Leffler, et al, references the eye problems suffered by Ebenezer's Pastor Boltzius. "Three Bacher Families in Colonial Ebenezer, Georgia" by Paul A. Ritter, a GSS member and Bacher descendant, is very useful in sorting out the confusion about the three Bacher families. An Estate Records Binder has been compiled and includes estate information on about a dozen families.

Two of the documents added are The Church in Bethany and the Zipperer Board Action. All fifteen of the others are photocopies obtained from University of Georgia Digital Library.

The Loest Library's old computer recently crashed and was unsalvageable. The committee used the library funds to purchase a new computer and organizing software, which will serve the library for many years to come. One generous donation has been made to help offset the expense of this big purchase. If anyone would like to help by donating to the Loest Research Library, please mark your check "LRL computer" and mail to the GSS office.

~ Dylan Mulligan



## Our Salzburger Composer, "Cousin" Wolfgang

**Mozart** (né **Wolfgangus Theophilus**) was born in the German Archbishopric-Principality of Salzburg on Tuesday, 27 January 1756, the Feast Day of St. John Chrysostom; his baptismal name **Joannes Chrysostomus** was prefixed the following day at St. Rupert's



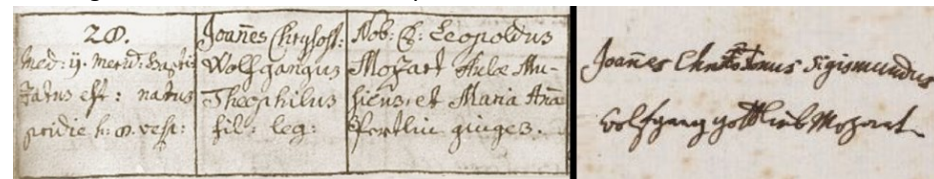
Cathedral. **Theophilus** (Greek "Lover/Beloved of God") was variously rendered as **Amadeus** (Latin), **Amadeo** (Italian), **Amadè** (French) and **Gottlieb** (German). An All Hallows Eve confirmation gave him yet another: **Sigismundus**.

His beloved (*after God comes Papa*) scholarly father, **Leopold** (1719-1787), born in Augsburg to a family of builders, became a violinist in the court of the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg. He composed, conducted, taught music and violin, and published a violin textbook. In 1747, Leopold married a Salzburger, **Anna Maria** (née **Pertl**, 1720–1778). Two of seven babies survived infancy, **Maria Anna**

"**Nanerl**" (1751-1829), and "**Wolferl**," musical prodigies both. **Leopold** homeschooled them in academic disciplines as well as languages and music. During European exhibition tours, the children performed before royalty, **Wolferl** beginning at age eight; they were exposed to a variety of cultures and musical styles.

Mozart played harpsichord at age four, and composed at five. At eight he published two sonatas, at nine he composed his first symphony, at eleven his first piano concerto, at twelve his first opera. He was the Archbishop's Concertmaster at 14. At age 25, he left for Vienna, in neighboring Austria, where, in 1782, he married a German singer, **Constanza** (née **Weber**, 1762-1842); their six children were born 1783-1791. Mozart produced 600 compositions; his works for voice involved speaking, understanding and tailoring his compositions to French, German, Italian and Latin texts (he also spoke English). Mozart died at 35 at home in Vienna on Monday 5 December 1791.

Mozart was born in the German principality of his mother's family, which would not become a part of Austria until Napoleonic times, more than a decade after his death, and more than seven decades after our ancestors were expelled from Salzburg. Mozart's paternal family had originated in Swabia/Bavaria; thus, Mozart may also be our very distant cousin through German lines of the Ebenezer community other than those of our Salzburger exiles. ~ JohnRobert Peavy



Baptismal Record 1756 and Letter 1777

We invite you to celebrate the music of Mozart and other German composers in our German Heritage Concert on the afternoon of Sunday, 4 September 2022, including organ, piano and voice compositions.



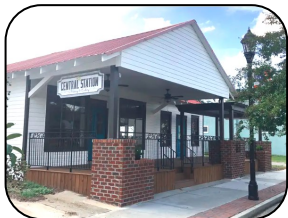


**"Come one, Come all! Fun Filled weekend planned ending with Heritage Day Festival."**

## Heritage Day Weekend Schedule

### FRIDAY: SEPT. 2, 2022

- Meet, Greet and Eat at 5:00 P.M. at Central Station  
116 N. Laurel Street in Springfield



[Central Station Bakery and Eatery](http://centralstationbakeryeatery.com)  
- Bakery in Springfield, GA  
([centralstationbakeryeatery.com](http://centralstationbakeryeatery.com))

### SATURDAY: SEPT. 3, 2022

- Kayak Tour: Brian Cohen of Backwater Expeditions - Will meet at Tommy Long Landing for kayak tours of Ebenezer Creek at 9 A.M. and 11 A.M.
- Historic Savannah Tour by Corbina Ike, Claudia Christiansen & Margarete Froelicher – Meet at Pirate's House parking lot at 9:45 A.M.  
RSVP by 12:00 P.M. Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> Call: 912-754-7001 or email [gaslzbrgr@aol.com](mailto:gaslzbrgr@aol.com)
- Workshop: *Reading Old German* by Erika Bragg - Saturday, 2 P.M.

### SUNDAY: SEPT. 4, 2022

- Church
- Lunch on your own
- Festival setup
- 3:00 P.M. German Heritage Concert: Tom White, Robert Peavy, and Leigh Martin
- 5:00 P.M. Low-Country Boil Catered by LuAnne Howell (RSVP by Tues. Aug 30th)  
Call: 912-754-7001 or email [gaslzbrgr@aol.com](mailto:gaslzbrgr@aol.com)

### MONDAY: SEPT. 5, 2022

- Booths and Activities 9:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
- 11:00 A.M. Program in Church  
Speaker: Dr. Russell C. Kleckley, translator and editor for the book: *The Letters of Johann Ernst Bergmann, Ebenezer, Georgia, 1786-1824.* He will answer these questions:  
Who was Johann Ernst Bergmann?  
What has Bergmann shown us?
- Poster Contest Presentation & Awards
- 11:30 P.M. Lunch in Social Hall—Catered by LuAnne Howell

### Salzburger-Savannah Connections Trolley Tour

#### BEST PRICED HISTORIC AND SALZBURGER TOUR EVER

Enjoy a guided trolley tour of the colonial district and German landmarks in historic Savannah!

- Meeting time: **9:45 A.M.** in the Pirate's House parking lot. (Free Parking)
- Cost: \$15.00 each, **plus trolley driver tips**
- Lunch at the Pirate's House
- Please RSVP by 12:00pm Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>

The tour guides will be **Corbina Ike, Claudia Christiansen & Margarete Froelicher**. This is a great opportunity and we need a confirmation of people going. This tour will be for GSS members and friends. It may fill up soon, so please RESERVE your seat ASAP.

Call: 912-754-7001 or email [gaslzbrgr@aol.com](mailto:gaslzbrgr@aol.com)



### Hinely Salzburger Heritage Scholarship Poster Contest

Directions and Entry Form can be found on the website, [govisitebenezer.com](http://govisitebenezer.com) or at the GSS office and museum.



### SEE EBENEZER CREEK BY KAYAK

#### Backwater Kayak Tour

Guided tours by Brian Cohen of Backwater Expeditions. Ebenezer Creek is located in Effingham County, Georgia with pristine tupelo/cypress swamps, trees over a thousand years old, abundance of wildlife, scenic beauty and rich history.

- Meet Saturday, September 3<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. or 11:00 A.M. at Tommy Long Landing (RSVP)
- Limited to 20 participants per tour
- Address: 158 Tommy Long Rd, Rincon, GA
- Phone: (912)398-6930. Call as soon as possible.

Cost: \$50 each includes kayak, paddle, vest and guide

Cost: \$30 each if you bring your own kayak and gear



**All proceeds go to GSS Building Fund.**