



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

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Christkindlmarkt
December 3, 2022

The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 33, No. 4

Fall 2022

Come One! Come All!
to the
Christmas at Historic Ebenezer
Saturday, December 3, 2022
11 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Lunch: Chili or Brunswick Stew

German Coffee Shop

GSS Marktplatz

Vendors

Live Music

And More

Crafts for Christmas

Philip Weidinger and his Theremin

Please Note: Christmas at Historic Ebenezer is an event planned to raise funds for the important repairs and restorations of GSS buildings. Please make your plans to attend! It's a fun way to do some of your Christmas shopping with one-of-a-kind gifts.



Founded in 1925

Georgia Salzburger Society

An Affiliate Chapter of the Georgia Historical Society



President's Message

ADDRESS for
Georgia Salzburger Society
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
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

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To March 2025

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Marty Edwards Tom Grovenstein
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Edited by Kristin Everson
Published by Anne Miller

Newsletter
Published Quarterly



Each one of us is essential to continuing the Salzburger saga. Every year that has gone by since the GSS was organized has provided opportunities to preserve that heritage and renew the many diverse stories that have led us to where we are today. Many thanks to those of you who have contributed your time, advice, membership updates and donations. Because of members and friends like you, we are continuing to preserve our buildings and artifacts with the needed care and proper materials to maintain them into the future. What is your vision for Ebenezer into the future? We have learned much from what our ancestors left here for us. What will our future generations find when they return in 5 or 10 years? Please think seriously about this question. I feel certain that you will have some good ideas and suggestions for how to make good things happen in the future of the Salzburger Society and the historic site of Ebenezer. Please let us hear from you with your input. We need the continuing support of members and friends like you to sustain our ability to protect and preserve our treasures from any threat of deterioration, damages or loss due to neglect, lack of foresight, or oversight. Please encourage new memberships, donations and volunteering at Ebenezer. On December 3rd the 2022 Christmas Market at Ebenezer will be open for celebrating and fundraising. If you can't attend, please contact the GSS Museum shop for ordering your purchases. There is now a wider variety of gift options available and moderately priced items for you to select from. Please be generous with your purchasing or sending your contribution for program operating costs. We wish everyone a blessed and happy holiday season... and remember the reason 2 for the Advent season. ~ Claudia Christiansen

Shearouse Genealogy Update

In October, the research committee held two meetings to discuss important findings related to the Shearouse genealogy recognized by the GSS. All of the known Shearouse children were mistakenly listed under one man, #5 John Shearouse (*Georgia Salzburgers and Allied Families (GSAF)*, Vol. 3, page 2662). The children were actually the children of two different men, both named John Shearouse. At the conclusion of the virtual meetings, the committee voted to recommend the following updates to the Shearouse genealogy:

- Recognize George Shearouse as a Georgia Salzburger immigrant.
- Recognize the fact that there were two men named John Shearouse living in the Salzburger community. One was the son of Johannes and Helena (Ott) Shearouse and was baptized in Ulm on November 18, 1735. The other John was the son of George and Angelica (Frey) Shearouse, and he had been baptized in Langenau on September 27, 1733.
- Recognize George Shearouse's son John as the father of these children: Friedrich, Maria, Hanna, Magdalena, and Catharina based on the births listed in the *Ebenezer Record Book (ERB)*.
- Recognize Johannes Shearouse's son John as the father of these children: Godlieb, Salome, John, Anna Maria, Johanna, Maria Frederica, Hannah Elizabeth, Lydia Elizabeth, and Dorothea based on the births listed in the *ERB* and an irrefutable Effingham County land record naming the children of John Shearouse and his wife Anna Maria (Mohr) Shearouse.

At the November 12, 2022, meeting of the Board of Directors, Erika Bragg presented the findings of the committee and made the recommendations for the proposed amendments to the Georgia Salzburger Society's genealogy. Anne Groover Miller made the motion to accept the changes, and Jerry Groover seconded the motion. All Board members present voted to accept the changes.

A report entitled "Shearouse Siblings" was entered into the holdings of the Loest Research Library to be made available to all researchers. The purpose of this article is to make these important changes known to GSS members.

NOTE: The updates will affect the families of Hanna and Catharina Shearouse. Hanna was born February 5, 1775, and on November 13, 1798, married David Groover, the son of George Groover and his wife Elizabeth Schwartzwelder. (This Hanna's birth was mistakenly assigned to Hannah Elizabeth Shearouse who went on to marry John George Arnsdorff around 1786.) Catharina was born September 9, 1780, and married John Michael Mock, Jr. on April 10, 1802. The genealogy of the other children of John Shearouse, the son of George, is not complete at the time of this publication.

Anyone with questions is welcomed to contact a member of the research committee for further clarification. ~ Erika Bragg

A Letter to the Salzburger's Lineage

Merry Christmas to All!

As we near Christmas, I would like to take a few minutes of your time to ask a great favor. We need your help. The fact that you are reading this letter means that you are either very interested in your heritage or you are curious about just who "those Salzburgers" are. Well, we are interested in giving you all of the necessary information so that you can find out much more about your heritage and your Salzburger lineage.

Here in Ebenezer, Georgia, there is a great amount of research material in the Loest Library and the Salzburger History Museum that will show you how your ancestors arrived in the colony of Georgia in the 1730s. I am proud of my history and the fact that I am a 7th generation Salzburger. I learned so much about who those men and women who came to a new and mostly unknown land to seek out the freedoms that had been taken from them in the "old world". Even now, as I work in the Loest Library, I continue to learn about my ancestors.

Now, about the help I mentioned earlier. We would like for each member to reach out to others and get them to become members. Any organization requires growth to thrive. Yes, we can use the funds that membership dues provide, but that isn't the real reason that we want to have each of you get members of your family to join. The Georgia Salzburger Society (GSS) needs "new blood" in the form of young Salzburger descendants who are willing to learn about where they came from and the history of Georgia and Ebenezer in the early 1700s. Each person who becomes a member of the GSS becomes a living part of Georgia and American history.

There are always young people who require a "special" gift for Christmas; a gift that shows both an interest in that young person as an individual and to help them become better citizens. Giving a gift of a Georgia Salzburger Society membership can provide that. Give the gift of sparking an interest in a young person's family tree and teach them about the history of early Georgia and where they fit into that history.

Thank you for reading this letter and I hope you will use the information provided in the GSS newsletter to get more involved. Please accept my personal invitation to visit Ebenezer, walk the grounds of the old Salzburger cemetery, investigate the Loest Library, and the Salzburger museum. Call us to set up a tour if you cannot make the visit during our open hours. Hope to see you soon and May God Bless! In His Name.

~ Tom Grovenstein, GSS Board Member

GSS Memberships

Membership Approved

November 12, 2022

Debra Stafford Herrin, GSS Registrar



LIFE MEMBER

Donald Joseph Griner
Brian Austin Grovenstein
Betty Allen Sikes
Martha Talulah "Tulie" Wheeler Taylor
Shelba Lynn Cone Kieffer
Christopher Allen Kieffer
Allison Elizabeth Kieffer Rahn
Zeke Harvey Rahn

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Thomas Marshall Reiser

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Judy Helvey O'Neal
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Esther Rockett Palmer
Harriet Abigail Stanton McKay

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Deborah Jean Coursey

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Josiah Zeigler

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John Justus Grovenstein
Christian Oechslin
Hieronymus Solomon Adde
Johann Martin Niess
John Theobald Kieffer
John Theobald Kieffer
Conrad Rahn

Bartholomaeus (Balthasar) Reiser

Daniel Schubdrein, Sr.
Andreas Lorenz Arnsdorff
Michael Burkhalter
George Frederick Rester
Valentine Kessler
John George Haid /Heidt
Ruprecht Eischperger
Johann Caspar Greiner

Spouse of Roger Coursey,
Immigrant Ancestor
is Johannes Scherraus

John George Zeigler

In Memoriam

. Gregory Emory Arnsdorff (13 Mar 1958 - 08 Nov 2022)

Donald Sibley Durant (07 Jan 1951 – 04 Apr 2022)

Dr. William Kerry Smith (04 Apr 1968 – 24 Oct 2022)



THE OLDEST BELLS IN GEORGIA – Part the First

George Whitefield (1714-1770) was an English Anglican priest and Calvinist Methodist. With the encouragement of the Wesley brothers (both English Anglican priests and Arminian Methodists), Whitefield succeeded them in service to the new British Trust Colony of Georgia. The Wesleys had each crossed the ocean twice (once in each direction);

Rev. Whitefield was to make 13 crossings. The Wesleys made him aware of Georgia's need for an orphanage.

On 7 May 1738, Whitefield first arrived in Savannah; he came to visit New Ebenezer (and its 60+ families) in July, just two years after the move of the town to its current Red Bluff location.

Whitefield learned from our Salzburger community about its orphanage and school which had been established in 1737 (Georgia's **first orphanage**), with its building erected in early 1738. Our Museum is based on its pattern (although not placed quite in its location).

Whitefield would establish his **Bethesda Orphanage** near Savannah in 1740; today, Bethesda is the **oldest orphanage** in America. In England, Whitefield had preached and raised money for Georgia; he would also do so throughout the British colonies to support many worthwhile endeavors, including the "sister" orphanages, his at Savannah, and ours at Ebenezer.

In his Journal of Tuesday, July 11, 1738 (O.S.), Whitefield writes of his first visit to our town, pleased with its *Order and Industry*, its *pious Ministers*, its **Orphan-House**, in which are *seventeen Children, and one Widow*.

In his Journal entry of January of 1739, while in London, Whitefield writes that he preached *for erecting a church for the Saltzburghers of Georgia, and collected £33*.

By January of 1740, Whitefield had returned and sent to the Jerusalem Lutheran congregation an English brass **bell** and other hardware for our first, wooden house of worship, built the following year.

In an entry from the **Detailed Reports** of Rev. **John Martin Bolzius** (1703-1765) for Thursday 24 January 1740 (O.S.) we are reminded of the need for a large bell: *Yesterday evening only a few people heard the ringing for the prayer hour. On the next day, the bell and a large barrel of all kinds of hardware, which Mr. Whitefield had bought in England for church construction arrived by boat. The bell weighs ninety-one pounds without the clapper. . . [we will] use it first to call the people of our village together to praise the Giver of all these and other gifts and to pray for the benefactors.* On that day, Whitefield himself was near Savannah, taking possession of the land on which he would build his orphanage, Bethesda.

(Continued on page 9)



GSS MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOPPE NEWS

CURATOR: Patsy Zeigler

"A NEW ADDITION TO THE MUSEUM"

Thanks to **Virginia Ferrell Spano** for donating this beautiful and meaningful print to the GSS Museum.

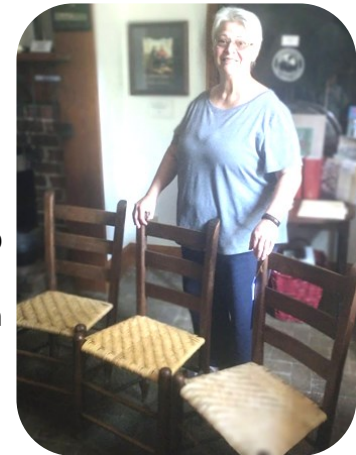
The original painting is "The Expulsion of the Salzburgers" in 1731 painted by the Chinese artist Hong Min Zou.

All the *unpropertied* Protestants (without property) were required to leave the country within eight days, taking only what they could carry on their backs. They were expelled just as winter was beginning. Many of these wretches died as they marched poorly clad and badly fed through deep snow and icy blasts.



Thank you Sandy Gibson

for recaning the chairs in the museum. The patterns on the top resemble the herringbone design and the bottom is checkerboard.



(Continued from page 4)

From Whitefield's journal entry of Wed. 25 Jun 1740 (O.S.), he saw (New) Ebenezer again *with no small Satisfaction*. He found that *All other Places of the Colony seem to be like Egypt, where was Darkness; but Ebenezer, like the Land of Goshen, wherein was great Light*. He continued: *Our Sister, or Orphan-House there, is blessed by their Means*.

In 1752, the Salzburgers requested that Rev. Whitefield obtain an additional, larger brass bell for which the congregation would pay. When the second, brick (our present) church was completed in 1769, the two bells were installed in its belfry; they are still rung every Sunday morning prior to the worship service, more than 250 years later. ~ JohnRobert Peavy

Lemke — Ernst Genealogy Update

Following the recent publication of *The Letters of Johann Ernst Bergmann*, major errors were revealed in the Ernst and Lemke genealogies of the Georgia Salzburger Society. The invaluable translation by Dr. Russell C. Kleckley was the catalyst for the genealogy updates recommended by the research team and approved by the Board. Dr. Jürgen Gröschl also translated two important letters about the birth of Gottlieb Ernst; one letter was written by the Jerusalem trustees, and the other by Henry M. Muhlenberg.

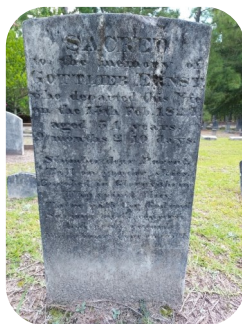
In the summer of 2022, the Salzburger Heritage Research Committee held virtual meetings to discuss important findings related to Gottlieb Ernst. At the conclusion of the meetings, the committee voted to recommend updating the genealogy of the Lemke and Ernst families.

The research committee compiled documents to prove the following:

- The genealogy of the Ernst family in *Georgia Salzburgers and Allied Families (GSAF)*, Vol. 1, page 335 is wrong. Gottlieb Ernst listed as #5 and #11 was one man who lived his life without a last name. He was not the son of John Ludwig Ernst.
- The genealogy of the Lemke family in *GSAF*, Vol. 3, page 2015 is wrong. Hannah, listed as #3, is an incorrect name, and three men are incorrectly identified as her husbands.
- Johannah Christina Lemke was the oldest daughter of Rev. Hermann Heinrich Lemke and his wife Hanna Catharina Kroehr. Johannah's only marriage was to Hermann Herson.
- Gottlieb Ernst was the son of Johannah Christina Lemke.
- Gottlieb Ernst's rightful ancestry is in the LEMKE family tree.

At the August 13, 2022, meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Salzburger Society, Erika Bragg presented the above findings and presented the committee's recommendation to make the changes to the accepted GSS genealogy. Pastor Rick Johnson made a motion to make the change, and Jerry Groover and Alli Bledsoe simultaneously seconded. All present at the meeting voted in favor of the genealogy update.

A report entitled "Lemke – Ernst Genealogy" was entered into the holdings of the Loest Research Library to be made available to researchers. The purpose of this newsletter article is to make the changes known to GSS members. ~ Erika Bragg



The **2023 GSS calendar**, "Historic Churches of Effingham", is now available and can be ordered by calling the GSS office at **912-754-7001** or by emailing gaslzbgr@aol.com.

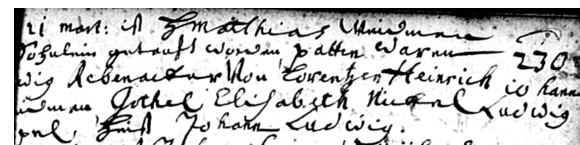
Spotlight on the Loest Research Library

The New Alsace Book

In July, the Loest Research Library committee voted to use its funds to purchase *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from Northern Alsace to America* written by Annette Kunselman Burgert. The book is a compilation of records from churches and government offices from many regions in Alsace and also in Pennsylvania. The area covered by the book is Northern Alsace in modern day Bas-Rhin, France. Several locations important to Georgia Salzburgers were researched for this book, most notably Lorentzen, Dehlingen, Hirschland, and Weyer.

The following Georgia Salzburger immigrants were found within the pages of this book:

- **Schubdrein** – Members of the Daniel and Anna Margaretha Schubdrein family were likely the first "Alsations" to arrive in Ebenezer. Their large family came from Weyer, and their baptism records were found in the Hirschland Lutheran Church.
- **Tussing (Dusseign)** – Jacob Dusseign came to Georgia in 1751 and is now referred to as a Swabian because he arrived on one of the Swabian transports. Jacob was an "Alsation" from Weyer who was baptized in the Hirschland Lutheran Church. Note: Jacob arrived in the Ebenezer community as a single man. Such men are nearly impossible to research in old church and/or government records. Some researchers have politely declined to look for Jacob because of his marital status. The purchase of this book made possible the discovery of his baptism record which led to the confirmation of four generations of Tussings before him.
- **Weidmann (Weitman)** – Johann Ludwig Weidmann is a well-known Georgia Salzburger immigrant with many descendants. His baptism record, found in the Dehlingen Lutheran Church, and several important government records from Dehlingen are listed in the book.
- **Freyermuth** – There are a few Freyermuth records discussed. This family also was living in Weyer. No records of an Adam were mentioned, but there was a Peter Freyermuth listed as having married Anna Margaretha Schubdrein.
- **Walter and Schneider** are two other notable surnames which appear in the book; however, no connections to Georgia Salzburger immigrants have been established at this time.



Are you interested in learning more about the Alsations that settled in the Ebenezer community and the surrounding settlements? Plan to research them in our library the next time you visit Ebenezer.

~ Loest Research Library Committee

**Saturday's
Historic Savannah
Bus Tour**

Heritage Weekend Highlights

**Sunday's
Concert**

Monday's Heritage Day Festival

