

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



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The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 34 No. 1

Winter 2023

Landing Day 2023

Make plans to attend the annual Landing Day celebration on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at Ebenezer.

- The day will begin at **10 a.m.** when the JROTC cadets of ECHS raise the five flags of Ebenezer.
- Returning this year... FAMILY TENTS... indoors! Please be sure to visit the Board Room in the GSS Parsonage to view the documents and photographs set up there. Volunteers have compiled information and gathered photos of the RAHN and GRUBER families and will display those inside the Seckinger Board Room away from the wind and weather.
- Lunch will be served from **11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** in the social hall of Jerusalem. Please join us for the traditional lunch of good rice soup, a meal originally served to Salzburgers upon their arrival in Savannah on March 12, 1734. Lunch costs \$10 (please bring cash), and all proceeds will benefit the Buildings & Grounds fund for the preservation of GSS buildings.
- The worship service in the church will begin at **1:00 p.m.** and will include the election of the new officers and directors of the GSS Board.
- The guest speaker, Phillip Officer, will give his presentation at **2:00 p.m.** in the church and will discuss the important connections between Frederica and Ebenezer. His biography is on page 5.
- The GSS Museum, Gift Shop, and the Loest Research Library will open at **9:30 a.m.** and will close at **1:00 p.m.** so our volunteers may attend the service in the church. The gift shop will reopen at the conclusion of the speaker's presentation.
- A reception for the outgoing and incoming GSS Board members will be held at **3:00 p.m.** in the GSS Parsonage. Cake and punch will be served. ~ Erika Bragg



Georgia Salzburger Society

An Affiliate Chapter of the Georgia Historical Society

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:
Tom Grovenstein
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 Erika Bragg
Published by Anne Miller

Newsletter
Published Quarterly
Send news and inquiries to the
GSS Office.



President's Message

GSS is starting the year off right with busy days at Ebenezer and grant-writing for needed funds. A big thank you to the generosity of The Americana Corner Grant program. The buildings and grounds committee was able to complete repairs and paint the exterior of the historic parsonage with funds from this grant. We hope you will be there to see how beautiful it looks on Landing Day, March 11, 2023!

As this is my last message to you as President of GSS, I would like to express my gratitude to all who have made my tenure both enjoyable and successful. It has been a great honor as well as a challenge throughout the years of the Covid pandemic. I am happy to say that GSS stayed focused, and with the dedication of our museum and library volunteers, Ebenezer historic site continued to maintain a modified schedule throughout. Thank you to all who continued to keep your memberships current and to those who presented GSS with your generous donations. A special thank you to all who have made it possible for the young Salzburgers to become regular members at birth and beyond. The number of young memberships has increased substantially.

I am happy to report that window repairs, another phase of preservation on the Fail House, is complete. Plans are being made to move forward with the next phase: replacing the leaking roof.

This preservation progress will be possible only through generous donations and memorial gifts made by GSS members and friends.

We are looking forward to hearing Phillip Officer's presentation about Ft. Frederica on Landing Day. Did you know? The Salzburgers of the third transport faced turbulent times because their supplies were sent to Ft. Frederica. Please mark your calendars for March 11th to attend the annual Landing Day thanksgiving service in the Jerusalem Lutheran Church. We continue to worship in the Jerusalem Church to honor our ancestors who dreamed of it and built it by their hard work and dedication to their faith. Do you know if you have ancestors who arrived on the third transport? We hope to recognize their descendants and celebrate the heritage they have created for us to enjoy and honor.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 11, 2023

OFFICERS

President:	Noble Boykin
Vice President:	Erika Bragg
Secretary:	Gaye Royal
Treasurer:	Jerry Groover
Curator:	Patsy Zeigler
LRL Librarian:	Dylan Mulligan
LRL Asst Librarian:	Tom Grovenstein
Asst Curator:	Robert Peavy
Registrar:	Debra Herrin
Asst Registrar:	Sandra Wingate
Parliamentarian:	Charlie Arnsdorff
Chaplain	Pastor Richard Johnson
Past President:	Claudia Christiansen
Administrative Asst.	Jennifer Nash

DIRECTORS to serve through 2026

Linda Brannen	(2nd term)
Dot Cauley	(1st term)
Judy O'Neal	(1st term)
Jean Thomas	(1st term)
Dan Wilson, III	(2nd term)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Becky Morgan	(chair)
Alli Bledsoe	
Diane Holder	
Sandra Wingate	
Josh Zeigler	



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Recent Repairs to GSS Buildings

December and January have been busy months for contractors completing repairs to GSS buildings.

The parsonage was painted with fresh coats of paint including the shutters, porches, and ramp.

In December and January, employees of Landmark Preservation completed work on the windows of the Fail House and its kitchen. All 18



windows were reglazed. Some were removed so that work could be done to stabilize the windows. A few sashes that had rotted were replaced.



In January, HVAC technicians removed the old insulation from the parsonage ductwork and reinstalled new insulation. This was an important step to take to help the HVAC system run more efficiently. ~ Erika Bragg

Visitors at Ebenezer

Girl Scouts and leaders from Effingham County met at the parsonage to become certified in Red Cross CPR and First Aid. ~ Jennifer Nash



Ebenezer Alive



On January 24th, the GSS Museum hosted 36 students from South Effingham Middle School. The 8th graders learned about the Georgia Salzburgers, completed a scavenger hunt in the museum, and toured the parsonage and the Fail House. ~ Patsy Zeigler

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Guest Speaker for Landing Day

Our guest speaker for Landing Day 2023 will be **Phillip Officer**. Phillip is a Supervisory Park Ranger at Fort Frederica National Monument and is in charge of the Interpretation Operation.

His previous work experience includes employment at such well-known locations as Yellowstone National Park, Death Valley National Park, and Harper's Ferry National Historical Park.

His presentation will center on Frederica and its connection to Ebenezer:

- German settlers at Fort Frederica
- Salzburgers at Frederica
- Fort Frederica and the establishment of the colony of Georgia
- Relationships with Ebenezer
- The role of James Oglethorpe



Atlanta Chapter Happenings

Erika Bragg, GSS Research Committee chair, will present a program entitled "Maintaining Our Salzburger Legacy" which will include exciting documents and images newly uncovered.



Many fascinating discoveries have recently been made that answer questions about our Georgia Salzburger history. Some answers were to questions we knew we had; other answers, and the most interesting ones, were to questions we had no idea needed to be asked. Some of the research may be considered groundbreaking.

Important documents have been found relating to the following families: Kieffer, Weitman, Dasher, Gruber, and Shearouse, just to name a few. In three instances, the genealogy recognized by the Society has been updated by the GSS Board.

The program will conclude with Ebenezer Happenings, the updates on all the goings-on at Ebenezer.

The meeting will be held on February 26, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Peachtree Road Lutheran Church, 3686 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, Georgia.

After the meeting is our fabulous German buffet: traditional German cuisine, Wiener Schnitzel, shrimp and grits, and more. Our traditional Black Forest cake and beer and wine will also be served. Cost is \$17.

The meeting will be broadcast live on the Facebook page of Peachtree Road Lutheran Church. ~ Annette McEachin

"Come See What's Happening in the Museum"

Volunteers have been busy in the museum. Allen Kieffer installed a new lock on the front door.

The bathroom is being renovated. Jennifer Nash & Gill Zeigler painted the walls and ceiling. A new toilet and ultra-vinyl flooring has been installed. Allen is working on the molding and installing bars.

Christopher Bragg donated and installed a LED light in the upstairs storage room.

We are very appreciative for our faithful volunteers!

Thank you, Patsy Zeigler



Repair of the Parsonage Side Door

Allen Kieffer repaired the parsonage side door's rotting threshold due to extensive water damage from the rain.



GSS Memberships

Memberships Approved

February 11, 2023

Debra Stafford Herrin, GSS Registrar



Life Memberships

Lloyd Wayne Arnsdorff
Christopher Rylander Brock
Heidi Howard Chauhan
Addie Mariah Kicklighter Eckles
William Griner "Billy" Howard
Claude Milton "Mickey" Kicklighter, Jr.
Elizabeth Jane Kicklighter
Kelsey Lane Kicklighter
Heather Howard Porter
Gwendolyn Gracie Newkirk Waters

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Andreas Lorenz Arnsdorff
Friedrich Rheinlander
Johann Caspar Greiner
Bartholomaeus Rieser
Johann Caspar Greiner
Bartholomaeus Rieser
Bartholomaeus Rieser
Bartholomaeus Rieser
Johann Caspar Greiner
Nicolaus Helmle

Associate Life Member

Kimberly Caven Kicklighter

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Spouse of Mickey Kicklighter

Regular Memberships

Jason Michael Perry
Brandi Nichole Selling

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Johannes Heinle
Johann Ludwig Weidmann

Young Salzburger Membership

Monty Poole
Memphis Selling

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

John Morgan
Johann Ludwig Weidmann

Landing Day Lunch

(Church Social Hall, 11am-1pm)



- Good Rice Soup
- Choice of Bread
- Choice of Dessert
- Beverage (tea or water)
- Price: \$10



All proceeds from lunch will go toward the preservation of GSS buildings.

The Most Important Word

In an 1802 letter to Pastor Nebe of the German School in Halle, Pastor Johann Ernst Bergmann first wrote about the details surrounding the death of Theobald Kieffer. Bergmann also described the death of John Adam Treutlen in a later letter.

These two letters were possibly his most significant and were first translated into English decades ago. Because of the translations,

Georgia Salzburgers have long known about the circumstances of the deaths of these important men in Ebenezer's history. There was only one man named John Adam Treutlen, but that was not the case with the name Theobald Kieffer. For years, there has been confusion over the identity of the Theobald who died after being beaten by Stamp Act protestors.

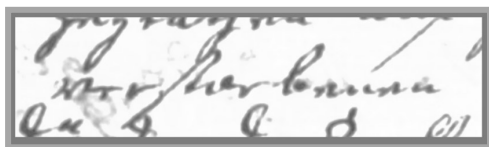
Theobald's death was recorded in the *Ebenezer Record Book*. "Joh. Theobald Kieffer, an important member of Ebenezer congregation and a faithful deacon of the same, entered into his rest Dec. 7, 1766, and received Christian burial on the 8th with the attendance of many members of the congregation."

Theobald's last will and testament was recorded on February 25, 1767. Pastor Christian Rabenhorst testified to the fact that he saw Theobald alive at the end of November of 1766. Theobald's estate was appraised on April 28, 1767.

Which Theobald was still alive in November 1766? Which Theobald died in December 1766? Whose will was recorded in February 1767? Whose estate was appraised in April 1767?

Pastor Boltzius kept a journal during the months of August and September 1763. In an entry dated August 23, 1763, Boltzius referred to the elder Theobald Kieffer of Purryburg as *verstorbener*, which means deceased. Again on September 26, 1763, Boltzius referred to the older Kieffer as being deceased.

All of the confusion over the identity of the Theobald Kieffer who died at the hands of Stamp Act protestors can be put to rest. Theobald Kieffer II was the victim of those "wild rabble-rousers" because his father, Theobald Kieffer I, was already dead in 1763. One important word proves that fact: *verstorbener*. ~ Erika Bragg



LOEST LIBRARY AND YOU: A PATH TO DISCOVERY



Greetings and welcome to 2023! As we move along into this new year, I want to invite everyone to visit us at the Loest Research Library (LRL) here at Ebenezer, Georgia. Many of you who are reading this right now may be aware of your Salzburger connection with your ancestors; however, you might not have all of the individual names necessary to fill up your family tree. We want to help you fix that!

The LRL is the clearinghouse for all things involving Salzburger genealogy. Our records go back to the beginnings of Ebenezer, Georgia in 1734, and in some cases, the records go all the way back to the archives in Europe. As one of the researchers at the LRL, I am often asked why knowing about our family history is so important. Genealogy is a journey of self-discovery. As you learn about your ancestors and who they were, you learn more and more about who you are. I find that learning about my ancestors as individuals — as people, not 'just' names — that I become much more connected to them than I could have imagined. While we certainly don't have all of the answers, we do have the tools necessary to get you on your way to a lifetime of discovery.

I am very interested in getting our young people more involved. I very seldom see visitors between 12 and 30 years old. The question is always pretty much the same. "Why should I care what happened to dead relatives 100's of years ago?" Well, more than ever, young — and not so young — people need to know where we came from. Knowing, recording, and preserving your family history directly impacts you, your family, and even future generations of people you may never know. The more we discover about our past, the greater a connection we feel to our ancestors. With the advent of DNA sequencing, those from our past become more important than ever.

We want you to come and visit Ebenezer, walk the grounds where Revolutionary War patriots walked, where Civil War battles were waged, where burials in 'our' cemetery go back over 200 years. Walk through the Fail House, built of heart pine in the mid-1800s. Come and visit the Salzburger Museum and see artifacts exhibited from our collection. Then, walk up the stairs, visit the LRL and begin the journey of discovery. We can get you started on finding your roots, and you can take your first steps back into time and history. You might even decide to join if you are not already a member, or sign someone up (perhaps one of the young people in your family)!

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this short letter that I wrote just for you. Please feel free to visit. We are regularly open on Saturdays from 3 - 5 pm. One of our LRL volunteers can, on special occasions, set up a visit for those who are out of town or for groups including school groups. Come and visit and start that most wonderful of all journeys, the journey into your own past!

Before closing, I have one favor to ask any of you who are able to help with making the Georgia Salzburger Society even better. We could use volunteers to assist with a variety of jobs, from greeting guests and helping with groups to providing some hands on labor with grounds maintenance. Please consider joining our small active group of volunteers in making the GSS the best we can be!

~ Tom Grovenstein, Asst Loest Research Librarian, Descendant of John Justus Grovenstein

THE PARSONAGE/GSS OFFICE

In December, the old paint was scraped from the parsonage. The entire building was painted with fresh coats of paint using paintbrushes and rollers. The shutters were painted dark green, and the porches and wheelchair ramp were painted a dark gray. The rotten wood around the side door was replaced, and the windows were reglazed.

The parsonage looks like a new building!

This project was funded through a grant approved by the Americana Corner Preserving America Grant Program.

