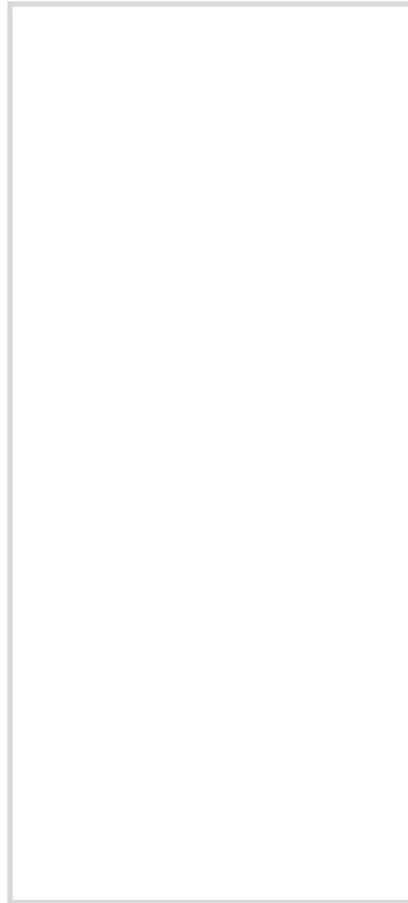


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The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 34 No. 2

Spring 2023

HERITAGE DAY 2023

We hope you will plan to attend the annual Georgia Salzburger Society Heritage Day Festival. Over the last few years, the planning committee has extended the one-day festival into a celebration that lasts the entire weekend. This year will be no exception!

The Heritage Day festivities will run from Saturday, September 2, 2023 though Monday, September 4, 2023.

Here is a glimpse of the events planned.

On Saturday, there will be a trolley tour,



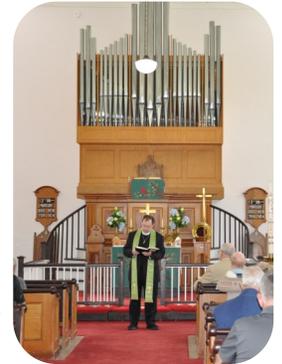
kayak tours
on Ebenezer

Creek, veterans' graves recognition
and tombstone cleaning project,
and a genealogy and research
workshop.



On Sunday, there will be a church service and communion at Jerusalem, and an afternoon organ concert.

On Monday, the festival is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities will include Hinely Scholarship Poster Contest, heritage displays and demonstrations, family tents, and the speaker, Charlotte M. Crabtree, will tell the story and history of the Salzburger chalice. ~ Erika Bragg





Founded in 1925

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://govisitebenezer.com>

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Noble Boykin
VICE PRESIDENT: Erika Bragg
SECRETARY: Gaye Royal
TREASURER: Jerry Groover
CURATOR: Patsy Zeigler
ASST CURATOR: Robert Peavy
LOEST RESEARCH LIBRARIAN:
Dylan Mulligan
ASST LOEST RESEARCH LIBRARIAN:
Tom Grovenstein
REGISTRAR: Debra Herrin
ASST REGISTRAR: Sandra Wingate
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Charlie Arnsdorff
CHAPLAIN: Pastor Richard Johnson
PAST PRES: Claudia Christiansen
ADMIN ASST: Jennifer Nash

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

To March 2026

Linda Brannen Dot Cauley
Judy O'Neal Jean Thomas
Dan Wilson, III

Edited by Kristin Everson
Published by Anne Miller

Newsletter
Published Quarterly

Send news and inquiries to the
GSS Office.



President's Message

I am honored to be the president of the Georgia Salzburger Society for 2023-2025. I would like to commend our immediate Past

President, Claudia Christiansen, as well, and thank her for all of her service to the Society. We have an excellent Board for this year and I am excited to work with all of the Board members.

We have already started to brainstorm for the Heritage Day Celebration which, of course, will be held on Labor Day. In addition to the usual displays and vendors, we also have scheduled for the preceding Sunday an organ concert which will be in the church. The organist will be Tom White, the Cantor and organist at the Lutheran Church of Ascension in Savannah.

Heritage Day will also include family tables, including Helmlly, Hinely, Neidlinger, Gruber, Rahn, and Seckinger. A catered barbeque lunch is planned to be served in the Jerusalem Social Hall. Our speaker will be Charlotte M. Crabtree with the topic "And He Took the Cup: The Salzburger Chalice."

The Board approved at its most recent meeting on May 20, 2023, the translation and publishing of the remaining portions of the journal of Pastor Boltzius from the old German transcripts. These remaining portions total approximately 166 pages and contain much information in regard to day-to-day life at Ebenezer and the deteriorating health of Pastor Boltzius during his latter years. These portions will be translated from the old German into modern German, and then into English, and will be combined into one volume. The time periods to be covered in the final publication of the journals are April 16-May 16, 1746; February 9-21 and March 8-16, 1757; and August 1-September 30, 1763.

The Francke Foundation in Halle has also agreed to manage the distribution of the book in the USA, eliminating the difficult and expensive search for a publisher and a distributor.

We are continuing the placement of a new roof on the Fall House to replace the wooden shingles, as the roof is now leaking in several places and threatens deterioration of the other elements of the house. The old parsonage is also being restored and repaired, including receiving a new air conditioning unit and insulation in the attic. We hope to have the buildings repaired and in proper shape this year, before Heritage Day.

The Society is continuing all of the above projects and all are progressing well. I would like to thank all of our committee chairs and committee members for their diligence and devotion to the Society and our shared heritage. ~ Noble Boykin, GSS President

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

I was honored to participate in the 72nd National Day of Prayer, held at the Effingham County Veterans Park, on Thursday evening, the 4th of May, 2023. Amidst our music (including ♪ the **National Anthem** ♪ and its God-honoring fourth stanza), prayer, proclamations and a sermon, I was asked to speak on **The Foundation of Prayer in Effingham County** (with an emphasis on Salzburgers). A large part of my (uncharacteristically) brief, somewhat updated, remarks follow.



Many of us in Effingham County are descended from the Lutherans, Baptists and Methodists who arrived here —or were converted here— within Georgia's first six or seven decades.

Our Lutherans were exiled because of their belief, because of their faith; more than 20,000 Germans from Salzburg were forced to leave their homeland, and everything they knew about an ordinary, quiet life — to trek, on foot, across Europe, in Winter, to find a new home. As they walked, they encouraged each other with prayer and the singing of hymns. They sang Luther's ♪ **A Mighty Fortress is Our God** ♪, of course, and other hymns, as well as this one stirring song, **the Salzburgers' Exile Song [Exulantenlied]**, which had been written by a prior Salzburger religious exile, almost five decades earlier. I'll spare you the other 13 stanzas, and just sing a translation of the first:

♪ *I am a lowly exile here — so must my name be given
for I am banished from my home — to spread God's Word and Glory.* ♪

The great majority of our Protestant exiles settled in other parts of Germany; thousands died on that snowy trek, particularly the elderly and the babies; only three hundred came to Colonial Georgia — they began to arrive in 1734, a year after Georgia was founded. Prior to the coming of other ministers to our frontier, Ebenezer's two Lutheran pastors also served people outside of their Salzburger community, officiating at marriages and baptisms.

The Salzburger community at Ebenezer, and Georgia generally, attracted not only Europeans, but many Carolinians and Virginians. A Baptist mission was begun at Tuckaseeking in Colonial times, about 1767. During peacetime in the Early Republic, within a then larger Effingham County, Little Ogeechee Baptist (in Screven 1793), Nevils Creek Baptist and Union Methodist (both in Bulloch 1796) were all founded in 1790.

In today's Effingham County, Turkey Branch Methodist was founded in 1785 along with the Methodist Campmeeting in 1790, and there were Methodists at Tuckaseeking by 1801. The 1755 Goshen Lutheran Church had Methodist pastors after 1790, and became a Methodist congregation by the 1820s. Many Effingham Countians were drawn to these blossoming denominations and, eventually, joined them. Other folk came and joined as well — the descendants of European, African and North American peoples.

Returning to that **Exile Song** — that last line was *to spread God's Word and Glory*. The Salzburgers looked upon their trials, their troubles, as ministry, as a witness to their faith. (Continued on page 10)



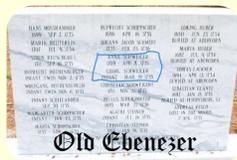
The Schweighofer Family in Georgia

Paulus (Paul) Schweighofer was baptized 30 June 1690 in Bramberg in the Pinzgau region of Salzburg, Austria. Paul's father was Michael Schweighofer, and his mother's maiden name was Ursula Daller. (In modern day, Bramberg is known as Bramberg am Wildkogel in the Zell am See district in the Pinzgau region of Salzburg, Austria.)

Paul married Margaretha Prindlinger on 10 May 1723 in Bramberg. Her father was Martin Prindlinger, and her mother's maiden name was Anna Wallner. Margaretha's parents moved around in the Zell am See district as evidenced by the multiple churches in which her siblings were baptized. As of the writing of this report, her baptism document has not yet been located.

Paul and Margaretha Schweighofer were the parents of at least six children baptized in Bramberg:

Joannes	baptized	18 May 1724
Maria	baptized	1 April 1725
Maria	baptized	30 May 1726
Thomas	baptized	8 Dec 1728
Simon	baptized	9 Oct 1730
Ursula	baptized	11 Oct 1732



The Schweighofer couple came to Georgia from Mittersill, a town in the district of Zell am See, with three children: Maria, Thomas, and Ursula. The first daughter named Maria, born in 1725, was not the child who lived to come to Georgia with her parents. As was common in this time period, parents would reuse the name of the deceased child for the next child born to them. The second daughter to be named Maria, born in 1726, was the daughter who came to Georgia in 1734. ~ Erika Bragg

Introduction to DNA And DNA Testing



This class will go over the basics of DNA testing for genealogical purposes and explain what you can learn from your DNA results.

**Saturday, June 17th at 1:30 pm
In the GSS Parsonage**

**Georgia Salzburger Society
2980 Ebenezer Rd. GA Hwy 275
Rincon, GA 31326 912-754-7001**

(Continued from page 11) Our Christian heritage came to us through those lives, those who worshipped God as faithful Lutherans, Baptists, Methodists and others, our saints who came before, our people of prayer,
—those called to **Love God, and Serve Him with All Heart and All Soul** [Deuteronomy 4:29, Joshua 22:5, Matthew 22:38],
—those called to **Act Justly, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with God** [Micah 6:8],
—those called to **Humble Themselves, Pray, Seek His Face, and Repent** [2 Chronicles 7:14],
—those called to **Make Disciples, Baptize Them, and Teach Them Obedience to His Word** [Matthew 28:19-20].

That heritage of faith is still with us as we worship Him, serve others, study His Word, and talk with Him in prayer.

All who attended then sang four stanzas of ♪ *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* ♪. ~ JohnRobert Peavy

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Landing Day, 2023



On Saturday, March 11, 2023, GSS members observed the annual Landing Day thanksgiving celebration.

The traditional lunch of good rice soup was served in the social hall. Rahn and Gruber family tables were set up in the parsonage. Visitors were able to view the old family photos and documents compiled by GSS volunteers.



Rahn Table

Phillip Officer gave an informative presentation about Fort Frederica and its connection to Ebenezer. You can view the video on the Loest Research Library Archive on YouTube.



Gruber Table

During the service, Jerusalem's bells were rung while the names of the recently deceased GSS members were read aloud. The service concluded with the swearing in of the new officers

and directors of the GSS Board. ~ Erika Bragg



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3

HERITAGE DAY GUEST SPEAKER

Charlotte M. Crabtree will be the guest speaker for the Heritage Day 2023 program. Her presentation is entitled "And He Took the Cup: The Salzburger Chalice".

Charlotte holds diplomas from the Gemological Institute of America, is a certified personal property appraiser, and is a qualified expert of antique silver by the South Carolina judicial system. She has served on the boards of South Carolina Archives and History Foundation and of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, and she is a member of the Nathaniel Russell Acquisition Committee.



Charlotte Crabtree



The Salzburger chalice was made of silver bequeathed to the Salzburgers in Ebenezer by George Matthias Kiderlin, a twenty-year-old from Nordlingen who died in October 1741. The silver was sent to Augsburg where it was cast into the chalice and gilded with two gold coins also from Kiderlin. The finished product was brought to Ebenezer by Henry Melchior Muhlenberg in October of 1742. ~ Erika Bragg

GeorgiaTrend Magazine

The Magazine Of Georgia Business, Politics & Economic Development Since 1985

Georgia Salzburger Society is in the news! The May issue of *GeorgiaTrend* magazine featured a well-written article about historic Ebenezer and the Georgia Salzburger Society. Claudia Christiansen and Patsy Zeigler were interviewed to provide information for the article. A variety of photographs were included with the article. *GeorgiaTrend* magazine is seen throughout the state to provide current information on a variety of locations of interest to families and businesses throughout Georgia. Thanks to *GeorgiaTrend* magazine for keeping the Georgia Salzburgers visible throughout the state!

~ Claudia Christiansen



Georgia Day Celebration at Ebenezer

Georgia Day was celebrated on Friday, February 10th.

Approximately 100 homeschooled students and parents gathered in Jerusalem church for a skit about General James Oglethorpe and Mary Musgrove. After leaving the church, GSS members and volunteers conducted activities, with students rotating to various learning stations:

- Museum--Activity based on facts about General James Oglethorpe and John Adam Treutlen
- Parsonage--Learning Georgia facts by playing "Bingo"
- Salzburger Kitchen--Colonial cooking
- Pavilion--Archaeology activity

What a wonderful way to commemorate Georgia's 290th birthday!
~ Patsy Zeigler



Attention: The Hinely Scholarship Poster Contest
topic is "The History and Evolution of Communion Vessels".

GSS Memberships



Membership Approved

May 20, 2023

Debra Stafford Herrin, GSS Registrar

UP-GRADE TO LIFE

Roger Allen Bainbridge
Bobbie Arnsdorff Bookhoop
Charlotte Ann Nizzi Bridges
Harold Martin Bridges (Associate)
Dorothy Ann Oglesby Cauley
Mary Fetzer Dean
John Griffin
Robert E. May
Elaine Wood Wallace

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Elizabeth Jane Christopher-Pena
Bruce Marshall Gregory
William Rast Groover, Jr.
John David Myers
Benjamin Shamgar New
Melanie Gray Reiser
Jim Bob Richards
Randy Bartow Reiser
Lowell Watkins White, Jr.

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Ronnie Upson Allen
Jason Michael Peery
Jay Allan DeLoach
Jesse Howell DeLoach
Sarah Janet Freyermuth
Michael Kennedy Semken
Patricia Jean Steward Strickland
Carolyn Painter Gilleece Calhoun

FRIEND

Bill Beckemeyer

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Johannes Scherraus
Andreas Lorenz Arnsdorff
Johannes Scherraus
Spouse of Charlotte Nizzi Bridges
Moses Pengree
Johannes Scherraus
Nicolaus Helmlle
Matthias Zettler
Peter Gruber

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Daniel Schubdrein
John Adam Treutlen
Peter Gruber
Christian Dasher
Johannes Neidlinger
Bartholomaeus Riesser
Conrad Rahn
Bartholomaeus Riesser
Peter Gruber

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Christian Oechslin
Johannes Heinle
Daniel Schubdrein
Daniel Schubdrein
Adam Freyermuth
Jorg Mengersdorff
Ruprecht Eischperger
Johann Georg Heid



SALZBURGER 'DISCOVERY CENTER'

Greetings! If your son or daughter (or grandson/ granddaughter) were to ask you if you would please, please take them to the library just for fun, what would your response be? Surprise? Worry? Outright fear?

If those same children were to ask you to please take them to the Discovery Center - well, that sounds more like it. Here at the Loest Research Library (LRL) at the Georgia Salzburger Society in Effingham County, we see ourselves as a Discovery Center. Yes, we are a library, but not just any ole library. We truly are a place where you can discover your own history. Most of you have heard of ancestry.com. Some of you may have watched shows about discovering your roots. Perhaps you have even discussed with your family a bit about just where you come from. "Who are my ancestors?"

If you are reading this, there is a very good chance you or someone you know has Salzburgers in their family history. If you and those around you are Interested in the roots that go back into your past, perhaps now is the time to seek out the answers that will get you on the road to a lifetime of learning and, yes, discovery. I am often asked, as an assistant librarian here at the LRL, why is it so important to look back into our family history. Well, let me tell you that very interesting answer.

Europe in the 1600s and early 1700s was a seething cauldron of intrigue. Kingdoms, dukedoms, churches fighting over people's souls all made living during this time very dangerous. Some of those people decided to leave Europe and come to a new land. New settlements were starting all over America, and a very new colony of England was called Georgia. One of the communities that started in this new colony in 1734 was Ebenezer.

These hardy souls wanted to begin a life where they could worship their own way and be allowed to raise their children without fear of reproach. Over the years, hardship, great strides in personal freedoms, even fighting for their beliefs when it was necessary, all combined to make this hardy group, known as the Salzburgers, people who produced an amazing family of people. These people became you and me. Did one of your ancestors fight for freedom in the Revolutionary War? Were your ancestors able to obtain long term happiness and stay in the area? Are there direct descendants of yours living close to Ebenezer today?

The LRL is here for you! We want you to visit Ebenezer, walk the grounds, check out the museum and come up and see just what this Discovery Center called the Loest Research Library is all about. Thank you for reading and I really hope you will come and visit us. We want you to see just where you fit in and become an expert in your very own family tree. Our roots run very deep.

~ Tom Grovenstein, Assistant Loest Research Librarian

GSS Board Members Participated In Local Events Focused On Genealogy.

Genealogy Fair

On April 14, Dylan Mulligan, Tom Grovenstein, Sandra Wingate, Gaye Royal, and Erika Bragg attended the Genealogy Fair held at the Statesboro Regional Library. The event was organized by SRL Genealogy Coordinator Lillian Wingate. The goal of the fair was to bring local genealogy and history enthusiasts together in one place to learn more about the genealogy resources offered by the genealogy, lineage, and/or historical societies represented at the fair.



Our Board members appreciated these opportunities to represent the Society and to network with others. The GSS displays attracted the attention of participants who showed interest and enthusiasm in finding their Georgia Salzburger roots and in joining the Society. ~ Erika Bragg

Scottish and Salzburger Connection

On May 6th the Scottish Games were held at Bethesda in Savannah. Lillian Wingate and Gaye Royal were invited by the Savannah Area Genealogical Association to set up genealogy booths representing the Bulloch County Genealogy Society, the Statesboro Regional Library, and the Georgia Salzburger Society. The Georgia Salzburger Society and the Bulloch County Genealogical Society have "intertwining roots" from the early European settlers of Georgia and a VERY interesting connection to BETHESDA. And yes. . . there is a Scottish connection. ~ Gaye Royal



GSS Tourism Committee

On May 12th Anne Miller and Claudia Christiansen, GSS Tourism Committee, represented the Georgia Salzburger Society by taking their PowerPoint presentation to Statesboro. This committee strives to maintain ways to help the Georgia Salzburger Society remain visible and vital in the community and surrounding areas. Recently the topic they were requested to present was, "Who are the Georgia Salzburgers?" Lillian Wingate, regional Genealogy and Local History Coordinator of the Statesboro-Bulloch County Library, welcomed the team to speak to the group eagerly gathered to learn more about ancestry and genealogy. Everyone was interested in researching and gathering more information about their own ancestry and possible Salzburger connections. Several attendees knew they were Salzburgers and others will be contacting the Loest Research Library team to discover more about their early ancestors. One



of the highlights of the presentation was the brief discussion regarding the ship's transport lists found in volume 10 of the *Detailed Reports!* Attendees received GSS information on rack cards and trifold brochures. They were told how to find the GSS website and use the QR codes found on the handouts and walking tour signs at Ebenezer. Thanks to Ms. Wingate for providing this opportunity to tell the Salzburger Story!
~ Claudia Christiansen

IN MEMORIAM



- Clarence A. "Sandy" Bridgers, Jr. (1939-2023)
- * Walter E. "Scotty" Scott (1954-2023)
- * James L. "Jim" Clanton (1938-2023)
- * F. Justin Burgstiner, Jr. (1941-2023)
- * Carolyn Kessler Arnsdorff (1937-2023)
- * Lowell David Grovenstein, Sr. (1927-2023)
- Dallas E. Exley (1943-2023)

