

NON-PROFIT
PRESRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
RINCON GA
PERMIT NO. 11

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



The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 34 No. 4

Fall 2023

Highlights of Preservation

Highlights from the Georgia Salzburger Society's progress in the 3 R's: **Restorations**, **Renovations**, and **Repairs**. GSS could not have done it without your donations, volunteers, grants and contributions. There is still much to be done.

Fail house and kitchen: structural repairs and new tin roof





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: 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.



Events are progressing at the Society and there has been much activity following the Heritage Day Festival on Labor Day weekend.

As many of you know, we have agreed as a Society to pursue publication of the remaining fragments of the journals of Pastor Boltzius. They were originally translated and published years ago but certain portions of the journals were omitted. The Board thought it wise, in conjunction with the Franke Foundation in Halle, Germany, to translate the remaining portions of the journals to complete the total work. These consist of fragments of the journals from years 1746, 1757, 1759, and 1763. The Georgia Salzburger Society is undertaking the translation from modern German to English, and have enlisted Dr. Russell Kleckley for this task. We are happy to report that Dr. Kleckley has already provided a rough draft of the portions of the journal from 1746, and is working currently on the remainder. The goal is to have them completed of by the 100th Anniversary of the Salzburger Society, which falls just before the Heritage Day in September 2025.

We have also agreed with the congregation of Jerusalem Church to fund half of the cost for erection of a new fence along the highway. The congregation has enlisted Lance Miller, a local contractor, to construct the fence and he provided the church with a quote of \$4,777.00. The congregation agreed to accept that quote and the Society has agreed to fund half of that. The Society already has the funds earmarked for that project.

A grant GSS received last year from Americana Corner funded placement of the metal roof on the Fail House and kitchen. We are happy to report that the metal roof has stopped any further deterioration. GSS has applied for another grant from Americana Corner. This one is intended to fund mold remediation on some of the oil paintings in the parsonage, the damage having been caused by moisture. (Continued on page 5)

2

THROUGH THE EYES OF A VISITOR AND A SALZBURGER DESCENDANT

By Stephen Johnson

I spent Labor Day weekend celebrating the German heritage of early Colonial Georgia. The occasion was the Georgia Salzburger Society's Festival weekend, held at Ebenezer, a "dead town" in Effingham County, 30

miles north
of Savannah.
Ebenezer
was once a

thriving community of some 2000 German-speaking residents, but now nothing remains except the cemetery and a handsome brick church, built in 1769 and still in use. It is the

oldest church in Georgia that has been in continuous use since its beginning.

During the weekend we enjoyed a trolley tour of Savannah, a genealogy lecture, a church service in the old church where communion was served using a silver chalice brought from Germany in



1742, a concert of organ music and German hymns from the 18th century, a festival featuring a Markt Platz (market place) with all sorts of handmade items and food for sale, demonstrations of blacksmithing, spinning, weaving and other pioneer crafts, hay rides for the children, and Revolutionary War re-enactors. A lecture by an antique silver expert gave the history of the church's silver chalice, plus accounts of silversmiths in Colonial America.

Exert from the article "German Heritage Weekend in South Georgia: by Stephen Johnson in Central Georgia Genealogical Society NEWSLETTER



15

Look What's New at Ebenezer!

Over many years, the roof of the Fail House was in need of replacement. GSS is very grateful to the Americana Corner Preserving America Grant program for selecting Ebenezer to receive this much needed funding. The completion of the roof replacement was in part funded through this grant and other generous donations from members and friends of GSS!



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

Thank you to the Americana Corner Preserving America Grant Program!



Americana Corner

(Continued from page 3) The Foundations' famous archives contain many documents concerning Ebenezer, including the copious writings of Pastor Boltzius. Dr. Gröschl placed many of these documents on display for our tour.



Francke Foundation Archives

An especially meaningful document for me was an original list of passengers who would board the second Salzburger transport (1734), including my ancestor, Gabriel Maurer.

Other group activities included a tour of Halle and a bus tour to nearby towns: Naumburg and Merseburg. These towns are home to Protestant churches that provided shelter for the Salzburg exiles as they traveled to East Prussia. Both cities have

beautiful medieval buildings and their churches are architectural wonders. At the Marien-Magdalenen Kirche in Naumburg, we were treated to an organ concert on an instrument that was played by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Claudia, Annette, and I are grateful to all the Salzburger Verein members for their kind hospitality, and especially to their President Margrit Kempgen and to Jürgen Schroeter, who arranged for our visit. As we departed, several Salzburger Verein members expressed interest in visiting Ebenezer and Savannah. When they do, I hope we can give our sister society members the same warm welcome that they showed us. ~Anne Boune



Second Transport Passengers List

Georgians, German Salzburgers Celebrate Common Heritage at Halle Gathering

The saga starts in 1732 when 20,000 Protestants were expelled from the archbishopric of Salzburg. Some of these people, our ancestors, emigrated to Georgia and founded New Ebenezer. A small group emigrated to the



Netherlands, but most of the Salzburgers settled in East Prussia, a remote part of Germany where they endured many hardships. Their descendants have a society, the Salzburger Verein, which honors the struggles of their ancestors.

The members of the Salzburger Verein meet every June and this year a group of Georgia Salzburgers (Claudia Christiansen, Annette McEachen, and I) were guests of honor at their meeting. The meeting was held in Halle, Germany, home to the Francke Foundations (Frankesche Stiftungen), the same institute that sponsored our

ancestors' settlement in Georgia and provided our pastors, including Pastor Boltzius. There were about 75 Verein members in attendance, Salzburger descendants from different parts of Germany and Austria.

The meeting provided an opportunity for GSS members to connect with people who share our Salzburg history. All meeting activities were together, so there was much time to get acquainted. People were friendly and sometimes we talked in English, other times in German, but language never got in the way of our common bond. One night the group sat outside on the hotel patio for hours. We sang hymns such as "Grosser Gott, wir loben Dich" (Holy God We Praise Your Name) and folk songs, often in four-part harmony: a spine-tingling moment of togetherness.

The meeting included two events where the Georgia group received special recognition. At the opening night reception, Claudia displayed a quilt sewn by Georgia Salzburgers that was a gift to a museum in Goldegg, Austria. She told our story by pointing to colorful fabric squares (ships, church, Indians, etc.) for illustration. Claudia presented a book, "Strolling Ebenezer," featuring her artwork and text. The next day we visited the Francke Foundations. There, we were introduced to the staff and city officials by Prof. Thomas Müller-Bahlke, director of the Foundations, and each presented a coin that commemorates the Verein's second founding (postwar) in 1954. Afterward, we were given a personalized tour of the Foundations by its archivist, Dr. Jürgen Gröschl. Both Prof. Müller-Bahlke and Dr. Gröschl have been keynote speakers at Ebenezer.



(Continued on page 14)

ON SALE NOW!

Order Your Calendar for 2024 Today

Johannes Heide, a son of Hans and Engle Heide, was born February 14, 1796 in Germany. He married Barbara Rau on November 21, 1798. Their son Johannes was born May 6, 1733, and their second son Johann-Jacob was born June 7, 1799.



The family of four came to Georgia on October 29, 1790 on the First Swallow Transport. Johannes and Barbara were servants at the general. The oldest son Johannes served George Clark, and the younger son Jacob served Johann Schmidt.

Johannes Heide died November 28, 1791 after what Pastor Balthus described as a long and hard sickness. His widow Barbara continued to work in the mills and died March 22, 1796.

Johannes (John) Heide was married twice, first to Maria Rager and second to the widow Barbara Schneider. Jacob Heide was also married twice, first to the widow Christina

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

These wall calendars measure 11" x 17" and make fabulous Christmas gifts. They are designed to be keepsake booklets and will hold their value long after 2024 is over. **Each calendar costs \$15.** Out-of-town shipping is available. See below.

All profits from calendar sales will benefit the Georgia Salzburger Society general operating fund.

Order your 2024 calendar by mailing a check and this form to the Georgia Salzburger Society, 2980 Ebenezer Road, Rincon, Georgia 31326. **Enclose \$15 per calendar ordered.** Out of town shipping via USPS Priority Mail costs an extra \$10.40 for a maximum of 3 calendars. Orders over 3 calendars, please call the GSS office at (912) 754-7001 for shipping costs.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

It's not too early to think about Christmas. Membership in GSS and/or a calendar would make a wonderful Christmas gift.



For more information on membership: [Membership](#) | [Visit Ebenezer GA](#)
- [Home of the Georgia Salzburger Society \(govisitebenezer.com\)](#)

The Georgia Salzburger Society's 4th annual calendar for 2024 is available to order.

This year's calendar includes twelve biographical sketches of the following Georgia Salzburger families: Exley, Gnann, Gruber, Helmly, Hinely, Kieffer, Rahn, Reiser, Seckinger, Shearouse, Weitman, and Zeigler. The sketches include important information about the origins of the families and the first generation to live in Georgia.

Each month also features a beautiful full color photo taken on the grounds of Ebenezer, our heritage site.

The Goings-On at the Museum

Fall is in the air! As the wind gently blows the leaves from the oaks around the church and museum, visitors walk the grounds, touring our "hidden treasure".

Several groups have visited Ebenezer since Labor Day.

Highlights of some of those visits:



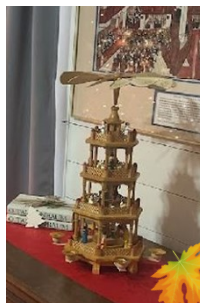
Coastal Museum Association tour

Ebenezer Alive School Groups

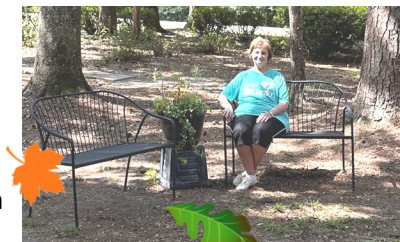
Bible Baptist School from Statesboro

Sojourn Kayaking visitors

Charlotte Crabtree shared information about chalice with members of Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts.



The beautiful German Christmas spinning pyramid was donated to the museum by Joyce Ann Shearouse Tuten Brown and daughter, Amy Tuten Helmly.



New benches in front of the museum

"Christmas Open House"

is being planned for Saturday, December 2nd from 2-5 p.m.

Plan to do some Christmas shopping in the gift shop. ~ Patsy Zeigler

GSS Memberships Approved



November 11, 2023

Debra Stafford Herrin, GSS Registrar

UP-GRADE TO LIFE

Michael Stephen Elkins
Florian S. Farrington
Lu Parrish Howard

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Sandra Joan Flournoy Ahlbrand
Don Shelby Bazemore
JoAnn Moye Long Minter
Shawn Marie Long New
Debra Bell Perkins
Lisa Haigler Ryba
Mary Louise Shearouse Kennedy
Anne Howard Tipton

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Matthew Caines
Juliana Mae Sobey Hatcher
Brenda K. Heath
Krey Lee Lowther, Jr.
Krey Lee Lowther, Sr.
James Arthur Nease
Andrew L. Osteen
Gloria Charlene Doyle Osteen
Brandon John Padgett
Lauren Grace Caines Pearl
Carla Ann Poston-Colquett
John Chapman Shearouse

ASSOCIATE

Katherine Virginia Lane Nease

YOUNG SALZBURGER

Gracelyn Leigh Jones
Bennet Elizabeth Spitzer Koontz
Brielle Melody New

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

John George Haid
Ruprecht Eischberger
Johannes Scherraus

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Abraham Geiger
Johann Caspar Greiner
Johannes Neidlinger
Johannes Neidlinger
Johann Caspar Greiner
Jacob Gnann
Johannes Scherraus
Johannes Scherraus

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Johannes Scherraus
John Adam Treutlen
Peter Gruber
Matthias Seckinger
Matthias Seckinger
Johann Leonard Niess
Abraham Geiger
Moses Pengree
Martin Schumann
Johannes Scherraus
Peter Gruber
Johannes Scherraus

Spouse of James Arthur Nease

John Adam Treutlen
Matthias Seckinger
Johannes Neidlinger

12

The Traveling Salzburger Quilt!

This quilt was designed and created by a small group of GA Salzburger ladies at Ebenezer many years ago to be hung in the Salzburger room in the Schloss Goldegg. Martha Zeigler was the GSS Museum Curator and saw to it that only the finest of stitching was done.

A layout was done to include the specific images that would depict the historic settlement of Salzburgers at Ebenezer, GA. Each lady was responsible for the images and materials she used to create the topic so it would be recognized by those who would be viewing it throughout the coming years. Some designs are very intricate, some required much skill and ingenuity, and some were quite simple but in need of distinguishing details. Special attention was given to the portraits of Rev. Boltzius and the Native American image representing the Yuchi or Yamacraw scouts who helped the first settlers navigate the swamps and forests they faced as they moved towards settling the town of Ebenezer. It was important to represent them with dignity and features of distinction.



After creating each square, Ms. Martha organized a group of faithful volunteers who stitched the squares together and then "quilted" the layers together.

At one time "handwork," embroidery and mending, were done mostly by women. An old saying was, "a lady is known by her stitches," meaning that quality work had smooth even stitches. This quilt measures up.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 2) We are also re-applying for a grant with the Effingham Chamber of Commerce. The grant was previously applied for and awarded, but now requires re-application due to personnel changes at the Chamber.

The GSS by-laws allow board members to serve two, three-year terms. They are then required to go off the board. Any change in this practice would require an amendment to the by-laws. Certain current board members who are involved in ongoing projects are scheduled to go off the board in March 2024. They have asked to be able to remain on the board to continue that work. The board is exploring that possibility and recommending that the Society members in attendance at the upcoming March Landing Day meeting consider certain amendments to the by-laws.

I wish you all happy and blessed holidays and look forward to seeing all of you at the Landing Day meeting in March ~ Noble Boykin

5

Martin Luther Exposition at Ebenezer Retreat Center

Several GSS members attended the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Martin Luther Exposition at the Ebenezer Retreat Center. Our own Lisa Waldhour Repasy represented Jerusalem Lutheran Church (as well as



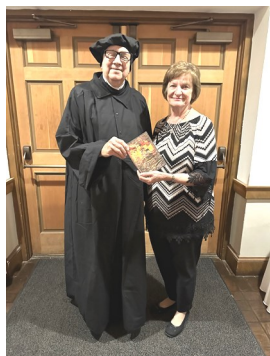
the board of the Retreat Center), giving a very brief history of the congregation. This truly impressive exhibit of Luther memorabilia was obtained by Richard C. Kessler, who made a home for it in rooms at the Retreat Center. Those attending enjoyed presentations, music, and heavy hors d'oeuvres, and were



able to tour through this one-of-a-kind exposition, which reflects Luther's life, Reformation beginnings, including sculpture, stained glass windows, ceramics, stamps, coins, models of buildings, and even . . .

bobble-heads of Martin and Katie Luther.

~ Robert Peavy



Pastor Paul Arnold, dressed as Martin Luther for the evening's festivities, presented Patsy Zeigler, GSS Museum curator, the gift of a documentary DVD movie of Martin Luther. Pastor Arnold is of German descent and is a retired Lutheran pastor.

In Memoriam

Paul Henry Seckinger 8-6-1939 - 5-3-2023

Frank Wilkins "Sonny" Seller 2-20-1933 - 8-28-2023

Edna Neidlinger Allen 1-24-1929 - 9-3-2023

Rev. Donald E. Hanberry 7-28-1933 - 9-29-2023

Libby Jean Arnsdorff Heldt 7-4-1929 - 11-23-2023

LANDING DAY, 2024 - THE 290TH YEAR

Please make plans to attend the annual Landing Day celebration to be held Saturday, March 9th, 2024. The day will begin with a service held at the historic Jerusalem Lutheran Church. This year's featured speaker will be Mr. Daniel T. Elliott, President and Research Associate of LAMAR Institute, Inc. Mr. Elliott has conducted numerous archaeological digs in South Georgia, including several on the grounds of Ebenezer. He has dedicated many years to researching the unique history of Ebenezer, which was used intermittently by the British as local headquarters for four years during the American Revolution. Mr. Elliott's presentation this Landing Day will be an excellent overview of Ebenezer during the American Revolution, providing the background of the occupation and its importance to our understanding of the Salzburger story. ~ Erika Bragg



THE BIG BAND

Members of the Big Band from Martin Luther University in Halle, Germany, enjoyed a 10 day trip to the USA, playing concerts and experiencing life in Georgia. Highlights for the Big Band included a look at the Atlantic, pelicans, and dolphins jumping, playing "Georgia on My Mind" at Plant Riverside, appearing on two TV shows, and savoring the wonderful southern meal at Ebenezer!

Hartmut Resze, band leader, commented: "We were already impressed by the first performance in Rincon, where Salzburgers settled in the 18th century. At that time, there were close ties with the Francke Foundations and Pastor Johann Boltzius, who also went to Georgia from Halle."



The Greater Atlanta Chapter Schwanbrief

The speaker for the February 25, 2024 meeting of the GAC/GSS is tentatively scheduled to be Phil Officer of Fort Frederica and the US Park Service.

The Atlanta Chapter paid membership is now at 41. We are following up with another 18 individuals who are members but have not yet paid dues for 2023/2024.

The Atlanta Chapter Board approved at its August meeting a \$500 contribution to the insulation and dehumidifier project for the Parsonage.

We all agreed that number could be increased pending the final cost estimate which I presume will be ready by year end.

In addition to the passing of Don Hanberry in September, Margaret Davis passed on September 25th. She was the daughter of Dr. Harold Davis, who was a founding member of the Atlanta Chapter back in the 1980s.

~ Dan Wilson



Letter From the Loest Research Library

Greetings to the Salzburger Society Members and Friends of the Society!

As you can see from our newsletter, there has been a lot going on here in Ebenezer. Of special interest to me was a discussion had by the members of the Georgia Salzburger Society (GSS) Board in our last board meeting. The old saying, "We're not getting any younger," is certainly true; and, for many of us, there is much family history that we hold in our memories that may not have been shared with members of the family.

The Loest Research Library (LRL) exists, in part, to gather those memories together and store them and share them with others. With that in mind, the GSS is asking those of you who are reading this today to help us gather those memories together into a usable database. Basically, we are asking for each family to do a "Oral History Project" that asks the matriarchs and patriarchs of each family to answer a series of questions that are then sent in to the LRL to be entered into a database for posterity. One thing that I have learned while working in the LRL is that so many of us have information that we may not think is of any interest but that is of vital importance. In order to assist each family with putting together their own oral history, a basic guideline is in the works. It will be posted on the website and in the next newsletter. We hope that each of you will take the time to put your own family history in order and send the LRL a copy so that we can docket and share with others. Thank you! ~ Tom Grovenstein



More information will be forthcoming. Go ahead and begin your plans for your family's oral history project. We are looking forward to hearing each of your stories. To be continued.

The Gift of the Benches

While visiting small towns near Halle, Germany, Claudia Christiansen and Anne Bourne learned of a long-standing tradition there. Benches are built into the architecture so that merchants can sit out front to catch the talk of the town as people are walking by. These Neidlinger descendants decided to donate two benches to GSS to enhance the experience of exploring Ebenezer. One bench has been placed in front of the GSS Museum and one is for the porch of the Fail house.



(Continued from page 5) Those who saw it up close recently were fascinated with the fine stitching and attention to detail exhibited on the now vintage wall hanging. The quilt was obtained, borrowed from the museum in Schloss Goldegg and hung on display at the 2023 annual meeting of the Salzburger Verein in Halle, Germany by Mr. Peter Vogelreuter. ~ Claudia Christiansen

SATURDAY

HERITAGE DAY WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

The Heritage Day festivities began Saturday morning in Savannah. Over thirty people embarked on the trolley tour led by Corbina Ike, Margarete Froelicher, and Claudia Christiansen. Meanwhile at Ebenezer, a group led by Lillian Wingate treated and cleaned the gravestones of the veterans and their families. The material was donated by Mr. Trae Zipperer, who was unfortunately unable to attend the festival. Special thanks to Ms. Lillian Wingate for filling in, and to Mr. Zipperer for generously providing our Society with the supplies. Saturday



afternoon, fifteen people attended a genealogy workshop presented by Erika Bragg in the boardroom of the parsonage. The workshop provided updates of some of the highlights of hard work done by the GSS genealogy research team during the past year. The importance of a researcher's reliance on primary sources was also stressed.



SUNDAY

Sunday morning began with a traditional service at Jerusalem Lutheran Church. Many visitors from out of town were in attendance as Pastor Johnson preached from Jeremiah, Romans, and Matthew. He led the congregants in communion by intinction, using the Salzburger chalice. Following the service, the social hall overflowed with hungry cousins and friends who stayed to enjoy a potluck dinner provided by the JLC ladies and GSS members.



At 3:00 p.m., the German Heritage Hymn Concert and Festival, was performed by organist Mr. Thomas White, cantor at the Lutheran Church of Ascension, and four immensely talented vocalists. This unique concert gave a tour through music of the Lutheran church calendar year.

MONDAY

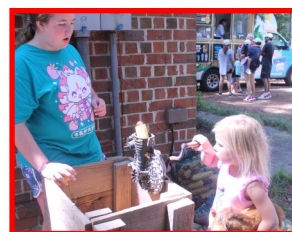
Monday, Heritage Day was a great success. There was a large community turnout with hundreds of visitors. GSS hosted multiple food vendors and others selling their wares. Highlights of the day included: period games, Revolutionary War reenactors who fired their cannons on the hour, and the heritage demonstrations of corn shelling, blacksmithing, chair caning, weaving, and needle working. The hayride was also a hit, and the tractor hardly had a moment to cool down.



The Markt Platz and lemonade barrel were popular stops. Underneath the pavilion were numerous tables dedicated to Salzburger and allied families that were manned by descendants. The visitors to these tables had the opportunity to mingle and connect with new-found relatives.



During the Monday afternoon worship service, Pastor Johnson read to the congregation several passages of scripture that were referenced in Pastor Boltzius' *Detailed Reports*, emphasizing the importance of communion to the body of Christ. Following the service, the special speaker, Ms. Charlotte M. Crabtree, gave a presentation entitled, "And He Took The Cup: The Salzburger Chalice", which provided many details about the special chalice and about antique silver-smithing in general. She also shared information on her research into the life and family history of Georg Mathias Kiderlin, the pious youth who donated the chalice to the Ebenezer community in 1741. Ms. Crabtree very generously donated several copies of *Georgia Matters: Celebrating Two Decades of Scholarship, The Tenth Henry D. Green Symposium of the Decorative Arts*, a publication by the



University of Georgia Museum of Art, to be sold in our museum gift shop.

Six students submitted their research posters for the annual Hinely Salzburger Heritage Scholarship poster contest.



The museum and Loest Research Library were open for special hours throughout the weekend. Many thanks to the volunteers who gave their time and knowledge to assist our guests. This Heritage Day, GSS was honored to have scores of Salzburger descendants in attendance, some of whom travelled several hundred miles across several states to be in attendance over the weekend. The GSS Board and



Heritage Day planning committee extend sincere appreciation to Jerusalem Lutheran Church for its continued hospitality and to all of the volunteers who helped to make this Heritage Day a profound success. ~ Erika Bragg

