

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



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The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 35 No. 2

Spring 2024

HERITAGE DAY 2024

The annual GSS Heritage Day Festival is only a few months away! The planning committee is working diligently to make this year's festival as successful as ever. The celebration will begin on Saturday, August 31st with a



Savannah trolley tour in the morning, followed by a Gruber family workshop at Ebenezer in the afternoon.

On Sunday, September 1st, all are invited to Jerusalem Lutheran Church for the Sunday morning worship service at 11 AM, and are encouraged to stay for a potluck lunch afterwards. An afternoon concert in the church will conclude Sunday's special activities.

The GSS Museum and the Loest Research Library will be open with extra hours throughout the weekend.

On Monday, September 2nd, the Heritage Day festivities will run from 10 AM to 3 PM and will include heritage demonstrations, colonial games and clothing, local authors, and vendors selling handmade products. The Museum committee will also set up the ever-popular MarktPlatz. Lunch choices will include barbeque, hot dogs, bratwurst, and items from local food trucks. Don't forget the lemonade!



Students from 2nd through 12th grades and college students who are current members of the Georgia Salzburger Society are eligible to enter the Hinely Salzburger Heritage Scholarship poster contest. This year's contest theme is "Life in Ebenezer from 1734 to 1752." The registration form will be available from the GSS office.



Our special speaker for the Heritage Day program will be Professor Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke, Director of the Francke Foundations (Franckesche Stiftungen) in Halle, Germany.

Please make plans to attend the Heritage Day festival. It's an event you won't want to miss! ~ 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://govisiteebenezer.com>

OFFICERS

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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 Arnsdorf
CHAPLAIN: Pastor Richard Johnson
PAST PRES: Claudia Christiansen
ADMIN ASST: Jennifer Nash

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



President's Message

The Society's successful Landing Day meeting and program included a most interesting talk about Ebenezer during the Revolutionary War given by our good friend, archaeologist with the Lamar Institute, Dan Elliott. Rita Elliott, also an archaeologist with the Lamar Institute, participated as well, and provided an educational archaeological display. Many thanks to both of them for attending and making the program so informative and enjoyable.

At that meeting, we had a number of visitors, including the President of Salzburger Verein (German Salzburger Society), Ms. Margrit Kempgen, and Mr. Hans Martin Arnold, chairman of the Northern Bavarian Salzburger Society. The Salzburger Verein, through Ms. Kempgen, presented our Society with a map tracing the route of the Salzburger exodus during the expulsion. The Society has had that map framed for the GSS museum.

On another note, the Executive Board was given a tour of the building and gardens at historic Massie School in Savannah. The tour was hosted by Gale Steves, the Vice President of the Friends of Massie. The Massie School and Heritage Center is open for tours and is quite interesting. The emphasis of our visit was the heritage garden, which has a number of plants which would have been common in area gardens in the 1800's; we visited with an eye toward establishing such a garden at Ebenezer.

Finally, the Board is preparing for commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Georgia Salzburger Society, which was established in September of 1925. The Centennial Committee is planning for a program, a dinner, and the erection of a stone or small monument to commemorate the occasion.

In summary, things are progressing at our Society: We are continuing to gain new members, as well as receiving generous donations from members and friends, including items for the museum and the old parsonage. ~ Noble Boykin

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Sit and Chat a While

Have you ever been to Ebenezer and discovered a cousin you had never met before? At Ebenezer, have you bumped into a friend or cousin you haven't seen in many years? It's a joyful occasion and the perfect opportunity to sit, rest and chat, talking and catching up on the news.

You will find that recently two new metal benches have been donated and placed near the museum entrance and a wooden bench added to the front porch of the old Fail House. These benches have already gotten hours of use providing a much needed place to relax and chat a while!

Several GSS members have suggested that, since these new benches are so convenient, several **more benches are needed, and** could be placed throughout the grounds between buildings and the pavilion. The additional benches will be great at any visit, but especially on festival days!

If you would like to donate a new bench, please contact Patsy Ziegler at the museum for details about making your contribution. If you send a check, please designate your donation be used for purchase of benches. Thank you for your interest in what's happening at Ebenezer and for the contributions you are sending for the continuing upkeep of our historic site.

~ Claudia Christiansen



Girl Scouts Complete a Take Action Project at Ebenezer

Girl Scout Juniors from Troop 30387 were given permission by JLC and GSS to place a sign between the Museum and church. The sign the girls painted, built, dug the holes for and placed, encourages visitors to take their trash with them to help protect wildlife. They also weeded the azalea bed and placed pine straw. This project helped the girls complete requirements for Agent of Change badges.

~ Jennifer Nash



Verein Visit (Continued from p. 4) Margrit especially enjoyed her opportunity to play the old pump organ in the parlor. Others enjoyed browsing titles of old books on the shelves or seeing the beautiful handmade beds and quilts. Visitors enjoyed the glimpse of the real life setting where Georgia Salzburgers had lived.

When visitors come to visit Georgia, they often ask, "Where are the old Savannah plantations and houses? When can we see one?" Their request is based on the images of life in the old South that they have read about or seen in movies, such as "Gone with the Wind" and "The Color Purple." Knowing of this frequent request, the third tour held Monday after Landing Day was arranged as an answer: Mr. Buck Meeks hosted our visitors at his family's home, Myrtle Grove (1849),



an antebellum house built near the Ogeechee River. He gave a history of life there after the Civil War, toured examples of cabins lived in by tenant farmers and sharecroppers, and made sure that we saw very old Oak trees draped in Spanish moss, as well as real crops of sugar cane and cotton plants. Buck took time for showing details of the cane stalks and



how to lay them in the ground for growing. Intriguing stories, of movie productions and set design, were woven throughout the tour of the plantation-style house and grounds. Mr. Meeks was very generous with his guided tour featuring examples of true Southern hospitality and real life examples of a history of plantation life.

Back to Ebenezer on Tuesday, Robert Peavy gave Margrit a guided tour of previously missed Ebenezer sights and of Richard Kessler's new finely curated Martin Luther memorabilia collection located at the Retreat Center. Being very knowledgeable and

familiar with the details of Martin Luther's life and work made this tour especially meaningful for Margrit. That was a fine way to close the wonderful times spent with the visitors from the German Salzburger Verein.

You may be wondering about the extent of the attention to detail given our visitors. Especially during Covid years of closed businesses, cancellations, and social distancing, hospitality diminished or became an assumed thing of the past. The members of the Visit Ebenezer committee and our Museum volunteers continue to strive to maintain hospitality as part of our GSS heritage. Additionally, when the Georgia Salzburgers travel to Halle, the Francke Foundations, and beyond, the German Salzburgers and our Sister City friends of Halle make every effort to host and guide the Georgia Salzburger visitors throughout their travels in Germany. Our long-standing tradition is nurtured with hope that it continues for many years to come. We shall continue to celebrate our common bond and reciprocate our friendship as well as kinship.

~ Claudia Chistiansen



ARNSDORFF BERRY BURGSTEINER CASPAR DASHER DENZLER ECKHART EXLEY FEYERMUTH

A Genealogy SHARE and a Donors' Reception

Your society will be holding two activities jointly on Saturday, the 1st of June at 2 PM at the Old Parsonage.

- The GSS library and research committees will host a **Genealogy SHARE**: This event will provide an opportunity for you to share and compare your family tree with others. You may meet new cousins and may be able to solve a family history mystery.

Bring your family tree(s) and research materials, whether in file folders, binders, booklets, or posters. You may even bring your favorite old family photos.

Do you need help with your family tree? Volunteers from the research and library committees will be available to help you.

- The GSS museum committee will host a **reception** to highlight several recent generous donations, including beautiful quilts, a new display cabinet, a model of a Colonial Georgia coastal waters vessel (periagua, German: Petiäger), and a newly framed map given by members of the Salzburger Verein (the Salzburger Society in Germany). ~ Erika Bragg

HINELY HUBER JAUDON KALCHER KEEBLER KIEFFER MALLETT METZGER MINGLEDOPH MORGAN NEASE NEIDLINGER OCHSLE ORTMANN RAHN REISSER REITER SCHUMANN SECKINGER SHEAHOUSE

TEBEAU USHER WALDHOUR WEITMAN ZEIGLER ZIETRAUER ZIPPERER ZOLLEI

FISCHER GIEGER GNANN GREINER GROVENTEIN GRUBER HELDT HERTZOG

ATLANTA CHAPTER FRIENDS, FOOD AND FORT FREDERICA!

The Atlanta Chapter was pleased to welcome Phil Officer, Park Ranger at Fort Frederica National Monument, as the guest speaker at the membership meeting in February. His presentation on "The Salzburgers and their Involvement in the Founding of the New Colony" was a big hit, with many saying it was one of the best meetings in recent memory. Additionally there were nearly 60 members and guests in attendance (ages 1-90) – bringing us back to pre-pandemic levels! After the meeting, the fun continued with the traditional tasty German dinner being served up with bratwurst, sauerkraut, wiener schnitzel, shrimp and grits, and everyone's favorite, Black Forest cake. We credit Chef Roger and his team at Peachtree Lutheran Church for preparing the best German meal anywhere on Peachtree!

Please make plans to attend our next membership meeting on Sunday, September 29, at 3 PM at Peachtree Road Lutheran Church, 3686 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, Georgia. Come see old friends and meet new ones. Learn more about your Salzburger heritage!

~ Dan Wilson



German Salzburger Verein Visit for Landing Day, 2024

Landing Day 2024 was celebrated amid wide spread tornado warnings and cancellation of travel. It is always a pleasure to see GSS families and friends who come from near and far to remember and give thanks for our many blessings throughout the years. This year, a small crowd of Georgia Salzburger welcomed two German Salzburger visiting from the Salzburger Verein, an organized group of descendants from many families exiled by religious persecution (see Detailed Reports for further information about the Salzburger Expulsion).

Mrs. Margrit Kempgen, president of the Salzburger Verein and Mr. Hans Martin Arnold chairman of the Northern Bavarian Salzburger Society, not only attended our annual GSS meeting but scheduled time to tour several locations of interest with German Heritage and Salzburger history.

They had not been to Ebenezer and Savannah in many years, so first on their list of sights was a grand tour of the colonial district in Savannah and beyond.



They enjoyed a unique trolley tour around Savannah featuring Salzburger and German contributions and heritage locations. Claudia Christiansen, Margarete Froelicher and Anne Miller collaborated to create this one-of-a-kind tour, offered in both English and German, to provide clarification on details of the sites.

We plan to offer an updated version of the tour on Labor Day weekend of 2024: Watch for details to be announced.

The Visit Ebenezer committee and volunteers arranged and conducted tours of three more locations enjoyed by visitors.

On the Sunday after Landing Day, Norman Turner hosted a tour of the Zoller/Reiser family centennial farm (more details of this family farm will be offered in a future publication).

The farm tour was of great interest, giving a perfect example of how the descendants of some Salzburger immigrants made a home and found ways to make a successful living in their new land. Norman showed old maps of the farmlands, demonstrated use of farm implements and described uses of structures still standing as they did in days when agriculture was their way of life. Norman told stories and showed the interior of his family farmhouse, including many family heirlooms. (Continued on p. 10)



The Goings-On at the Museum

SPECIAL MUSEUM BOOK **SALE** - THE DETAILED REPORTS

Select volumes of the *Detailed Reports on the Salzburger Emigrants who Settled in America* are now available at the GSS Museum for just \$20 each (hardback, tax included)! Cost of shipping, if needed, will depend on the number of volumes ordered.

If you are beginning to collect the series, or working toward its completion, this sale represents an unprecedented opportunity. The available volumes for this sale are numbered 1, 3, 5, 7 & 8; a summary of the first of these follows.

Volume 1 of the *Detailed Reports* includes the Travel Diaries of Pastors Bolzius and Gronau for the years 1733–1734 (with the 1st Transport), as they met their new flock, the Jerusalem Lutheran congregation, proceeded with them through the English Channel to Dover, England and crossed the Atlantic to Charles-town and Savannah — as well as events of daily life in the pioneering settlement at Ebenezer.

A good introduction, two travel diaries of Baron Von Reck, and several interesting letters from the period are also included.

Note: The map here is a portion of an illustration from Volume 1. ~ JohnRobert Peavy



Amphitheater Renovation

The JLC amphitheater, on the banks of the Savannah River, is a beautiful location, used by GSS and by Jerusalem Lutheran Church for tours, outdoor classroom space, event space, and Easter sunrise services, as well as just a quiet place to reflect. Because of safety concerns, the planning process has begun for repairs to improve site safety for all of our visitors. Donations are needed to move forward with renovation of the amphitheater. We need you to join in this effort to help improve this valuable feature for future use. Please contribute to help this project along. Be sure to designate your donation for “Amphitheater Renovation.”



Please send your contributions to:

Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 2966 Ebenezer Road, Georgia Highway 275, Rincon, GA 31326 or

Georgia Salzburger Society, 2980 Ebenezer Road, Georgia Highway 275, Rincon, GA 31326 Phone: 912-754-7001 Email: gaslzbrgr@aol.com

GSS Memberships Approved

May 18 , 2024

Debra Stafford Herrin, GSS Registrar



Life Membership

Michael Allen Crawford
Cynthia Hickman Flanary
Alvin Hayne Haigler, Jr
Luci Amelia Haigler Bias
Kenneth Paul Mingledorff
Cole Michael Newkirk
Gracie Hutton Newkirk
Anne Howard Tipton

Upgrade to Life Membership

Gerald Charles Becham
Lennie Dasher Brannen
Gail Lowman Crosby
John Wesley Krulic
Christopher Mark Luke
Kenneth Wolfe Trobaugh
Henry Berrien Zettler

Regular Membership

James Robert Baggs
James Daniel Bunch, Jr.
Deanna Melissa Caruthers
April Blackburn Clark
Carol Elaine Sanders Godbee
Larry William Hadwin, Jr.
Theresa Bowlick Mund
Warren Randolph Thompson, Jr.

Young Salzburger

Thomas James Bunch
Thomas Brodie Clark

Associate Membership

Sandra Ozbolt Rahn,
widow of Daniel Page Rahn
Carol Sullivan Thompson,
spouse of Warren Randolph Thompson
Kathleen Hughes Wendelken,
widow of William Ralph Wendelken

Friend for Life

Alan Cameron Schlukbier

Immigrant Ancestor

Johannes Heinle
Hans Schmidt
Jacob Gnann
Jacob Gnann
Jorg Mengersdorff
Nicolaus Helmle
Nicolaus Helmle
Johannes Scheraus

Daniel Schubdrein
Martin Dasher
John Jacob Helfenstein
Jacob Dusseign
Abraham Geiger
Paulus Schweighoffer
Matthias Zettler

Johannes Scheraus
Jacob Gnann
Christian Zipperer
Matthias Seckinger
Johann Caspar Greiner
Martin Schumann
Paulus Zieterauer
Johann Martin Niess

Jacob Gnann
Matthias Seckinger

Conrad Rahn

Johann Martin Niess

Christian Oechsle

Jacob John Schlukbier

Kinely Salzburger Heritage Scholarship

Poster Contest 2024

Students from 2nd through 12th grades and college students who are current members of the Georgia Salzburger Society **in good standing**.

For more information on how to become a member, contact Debra Herrin at (912) 657-5675 or

Email: gssdebraherrin@gmail.com

2024 Title: "Life in Ebenezer from 1734 to 1752"

Purpose: To research and learn about early life in Ebenezer, the culture and the communities, and the communications with other settlements and people. Students may also choose to research the relationship between the community of Ebenezer and the Francke Foundations.

The registration form will be available at the GSS office, Or email gaslzbrgr@aol.com to have it sent to you.

In Memoriam

JoAnn Hogg Graham

January 27, 1944 – September 28, 2023

Daniel Page Rahn

May 10, 1947 – November 17, 2023

Lonadine Morgan Webb

January 23, 1932 - April 9, 2024

Samuel Caldwell Corey, Jr

June 15, 1943 – April 20, 2024

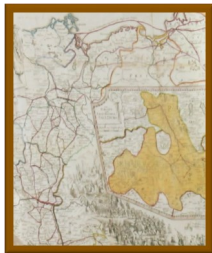


Traditional Gift Exchange

What is a gift exchange? Why do organizations have this tradition?

The Georgia Salzburger Society and the Salzburger Verein exchange gifts at annual meetings. The gifts are a token of appreciation, remembrance and celebration of the importance of continuing the relationship. The exchange of gifts is considered appropriate, important, and representational. Each gift expresses something felt beyond words and is selected to be a part of hospitality without words. Very often the gifts reflect something about the history or heritage of the Salzburgers. The monetary value is not the focus. The value and worth of the gift is based on a meaningful selection.

Recently GSS was presented three vintage art prints depicting locations connected with Salzburger history. They have been framed and displayed in a prominent location at the GSS museum. On Landing Day a very impressive map depicting where the exiles traveled during the years of expulsion was presented to GSS by Margrit Kempgen, president of the Salzburger Verein. This poster-sized print has been framed and will hang in the museum for viewing and discussing more about the history of Salzburger expulsions.



The Georgia Salzburger Society presented a unique gift to the Salzburger Verein (SV) at their annual meeting in Halle, June 2023. To make the gift a meaningful token, representing the spirit of Ebenezer and the GSS, Claudia Christiansen and Anne Miller created a book containing poems and photos: "Strolling Ebenezer". Not meant to be a scholarly publication, the theme of the book is created to provide a souvenir of images one would want to see and remember about visiting Ebenezer.

We know that members of the Salzburger Verein are very interested in Ebenezer and what has been done to preserve the site through the years. Unfortunately we also know that some SV members may never have the opportunity to travel here to stroll Ebenezer. Through this book, they may have a glimpse at the sites to remember! Also, on the occasion of the tour of Archives at the Franke Institute, Claudia Christiansen presented a copy of "Strolling Ebenezer" to Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke, director of the Franke Foundations since 2003.

Most recently, the gift presented to members of the Salzburger Verein here in March is an impressive brass compact compass. The GSS logo is engraved on the front cover of the compact lid. The compass is presented as a symbol of traveling back to visit Ebenezer and a reminder that SV members are welcome whenever they return.
~ Claudia Christiansen



Genealogy Fair

On Saturday, March 23rd, GSS Board members and other volunteers attended the 2024 Genealogy Resource Fair organized by Lillian Wingate, Statesboro Regional Library Genealogy and Local History Coordinator. This second fair organized by Ms. Wingate, was held in Statesboro at the Georgia Southern Continuing Professional Education Building. The vendor hall was full of local historical and genealogical societies, and there were presentations held throughout the day. ~ Erika Bragg



CHRIS GRUBBS - CHARCOAL ARTIST

Chris Grubbs, a retired illustrator and practicing fine artist, visited Ebenezer on April 22nd. Portions of his portfolio are held by The Library of Congress. He has had a long association with architects, landscape architects and city planners. He was also a part of the design team on the 911 Monument in New York as well as other noted projects in the United States and abroad.

Chris Grubbs met with a number of board members to discuss his plans: Doing four to eight charcoal drawings of scenes around Ebenezer, such as the Church, the Museum, the Savannah River view from the amphitheater, or even of a fingerprint brick from the church. His strategy is to give the Georgia Salzburger Society the prints for us to make copies in any form we decide and then sell them.

Some ideas are:

- A set of numbered prints of each charcoal drawing, which Mr. Grubbs says he will sign.
- Half-size prints.
- Sets of post and note cards of each print.

All funds will go to the Georgia Salzburger Society. ~ Jerry Groover



(Continued from page 7) On a later trip I visited to Ulm, a delightful German town on the Danube with a famous, towering Protestant church. The highlight of the Ulm trip was taking a local train to the tiny suburb of Langenau, home to the Neidlingers and other Georgia Salzburger families. Langenau is not a place frequented by tourists. I was a curiosity, but locals appreciated my interest in my family roots.

Langenau is also a very German village. The streets leading to the beautiful Martinskirche, the church where many of our ancestors worshipped, have names like “Hindenburg Street,” “Goethe Street,” and even “Richthofen (Red Baron) Street.” But once inside the Martinskirche, I started to feel more at home: inscribed on the back wall of the sanctuary are lists of people with family names well known in Effingham County. These were the local young men whose lives were thrown away in two World Wars. The lists of names are long.

That visit to the Martinskirche helped me to appreciate the sacrifice of our Salzburger ancestors, people who gave up their settled lives in the Old World for uncertain prospects in the New. Here in Langenau were folks like us, even if they spoke a funny language, whose families were denied the freedom and opportunity that we enjoy as Americans. Only a few brave emigration decisions stood between them and me. To know their tragic wartime experience was to know my own good fortune.

Last summer, at the European Salzburger Verein meeting in Halle, I was again challenged to use my German. The meeting and all the tours were in German. And though some members spoke English, it was often rusty. Though imperfect, I put my even rustier German out there. Years spent struggling through those grammar charts finally paid off. I understood most of the meeting and spoke to German/Austrian attendees from throughout the “German Sprachraum” (German language areas).

The German philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein wrote “the boundaries of my language are the boundaries of my world.” My attempts to learn German, however flawed, have made my world slightly larger, and my gratitude for our heritage much deeper. There are classes available at the Goethe Institute (zoom option),

through adult education programs, and even on Duo-lingo and other apps. I urge everyone with an interest in their Salzburger heritage to “cross the line” and give German a try. ~ Anne Bourne



“One day speak I German and that should you too”?

(Translated headline using German word order)

After many years of attending Georgia Salzburger Society meetings, I took a dive into learning what a linguist would call my Heritage Language: German. A Heritage Language is the language of one’s ancestors, a language not spoken as one’s native language.

Why did I become a language student in middle age? Reasons were varied. I loved the passionate faith of Luther’s Bible that led my ancestors to New Ebenezer. I also longed to visit homes of my Salzburger ancestors, to chat up locals, understand the culture, and maybe even research my Neidlinger clan.

So much for good intentions. The reality was that at age 40 I found myself in a small German town, Boppard am Rhein, immersed in what Mark Twain called “that awful German Language.” Awful in that every object can have an unpredictable gender. Men, women, and children are easy to guess, but what about onions (feminine), vacations (masculine), and luggage (neuter)? Once gendered, all nouns, pronouns, and adjectives then have to be placed in the correct case: nominative, accusative, dative, and genitive. Verbs disappear and then pop up at the end of the sentence. Even worse, every German four-year old understands this system perfectly.

Eventually I quit worrying about how infantile my language sounded and just started talking German with people. Most of them forgave my bad grammar and many enjoyed correcting me. But they all appreciated the fact that I spoke their language in their native countries (Germany and Austria; Dashers beware: Swiss German is another matter).

On the other side of the language curtain, I began to understand certain facets of German culture. Time is really important. Order matters. Standards of personal behavior are high. Politics is to German/Austrian conversations what UGA football is to chitchat in Georgia: always good to have an informed opinion on the quarterback (Bundeskanzler). Honesty, even brutal honesty, is a virtue: Pastor Bolzius did not hold back in his sermons.

Upon reaching intermediate language expertise, I journeyed to the home towns of my Salzburger ancestors, including the Maurers, the Steiners, and others. Sandra Pichler, a Salzburg native who wrote her master’s thesis on the Georgia Salzburgers, enthusiastically traveled with me to historical sites in the Salzkammergut and Pongau. People in these mountain villages were uncomfortable speaking English, so my ability to speak German was again helpful. (Continued on page 10)



A LETTER FROM THE DESK OF THOMAS GROVENSTEIN

Loest Assistant Research Librarian

Greetings Cousins,

The Loest Research Library (LRL) has an exciting announcement to make that truly involves each one of us. We are embarking on a long range project: **"The Salzburger Oral History Project."** I alluded to this endeavor in the Winter 2023 newsletter, but now I hope to put everyone to work bringing it to life. What will make our project exciting to young and old alike is that everyone is needed to make this work at the optimum level.

As we get older, most of us become more interested in our families' histories. Fortunately, Salzburger descendants have a good start through the availability of the LRL. Yet, the LRL needs much more historical information to fill in many gaps. As our parents, grandparents and great grandparents age and pass into history, we as a people lose huge volumes of historical information. Our Oral History Project can bring this information back from possible extinction.

Over the next year, we hope that you readers will use the information that LRL provides, as well as information that you find on the internet, to interview those in your family who are older and who remember information vital for long range history gathering. All that we are is because of those who came before us; having an oral history is essential for long range historical perspective. We want to put into future generations the past before us now. So, if you have read this far - thank you! Now, what next?

We suggest this method: Almost everyone today owns or has ready access to a cell phone with a camera. Using the 'video' function on your phone, you can make your very own history documentary. By using short, pointed questions, ask the interviewee (that makes you the interviewer) to answer the questions to the best of their memory and ability. There are no 'wrong' answers and often, one question leads naturally to the next question. Informality is the most comfortable way to interview, and the overall question and answer session can take multiple interviews. On page 9 is the list I have put together, although it is by no means the full list, and the questions are in no particular order.

With that, the only thing left is to get your information to the LRL. We ask that you send your written works to the GSS office via email gaslzbrgr@aol.com or via mail to Georgia Salzburger Society, 2980 Ebenezer Rd., Rincon, GA. 31326, and send completed video interviews on a flash drive to that same address. Once received, we will catalogue and place it onto a dedicated server. The videos will be available to LRL volunteers and GSS members who are currently involved with specific research on individual family. With the permission of the interviewee, the video may be edited for length and uploaded to the GSS YouTube channel. To give you an idea as to what a completed oral history interview looks like, go to the YouTube channel: Georgia Salzburger Society, and find the video where Erika Bragg is interviewing Tom Grovenstein. (Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8) While this interview is not a full length video, it will give everyone an example of the process, which Erika and I completed in less than half an hour. Those without videoing capabilities may make an appointment to film a video on-site at the GSS in Ebenezer.

Below is a list of questions. Good luck with the project and thank you very much for participating in this endeavor! ~ Tom Grovenstein

Examples of Questions

- What is your full name, and where and when were you born?
- What has been the role of religion throughout your life?
- Describe the neighborhood or community you grew up in.
- How would you describe your personality?
- Do you have stories about how your family survived the great depression?
- How did your family celebrate holidays? Any favorite holiday memories?
- Do you have hobbies or play sports?
- Did any of your family serve in the military? Who and what conflicts and specific stories?
- What stories have been passed down in your family?
- Do you have siblings? What are their names? Tell me about them.
- Who is the earliest ancestor you know about? Where and when did they live?
- Who had the greatest influence on you as a child or as an adult?
- What would you say are the greatest challenges you've faced in your life?
- What were you like growing up? What were your interests? Who were your friends?
- What are your memories of events such as wars?
- How has the world changed since you were young? How has your profession or community changed?
- Have you been married? Tell me about how you met your partner.
- What has provided you with the most satisfaction in life? What are you most proud of?
- Tell me about your children / grandchildren. What family traditions do you have?
- What was your first job? How did your career or job skills change over the years?
- What was school like for you, your favorite teacher, classes you like?
- Tell me about your parents. Where they are from and what do/did they do for a living?