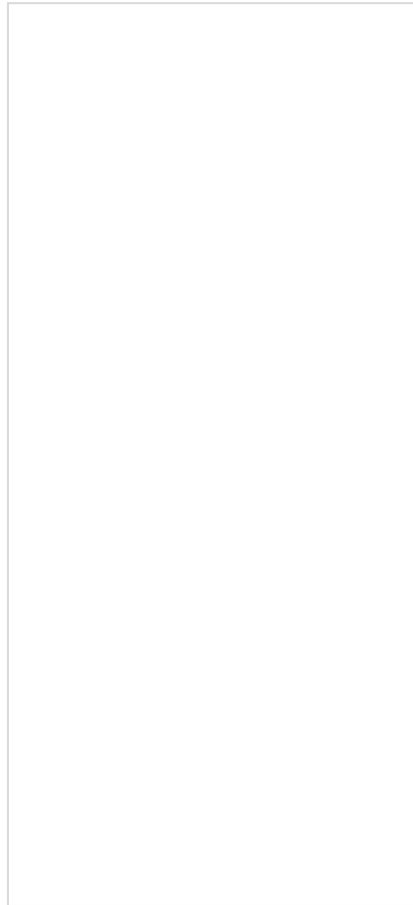


Georgia Salzburger Society
2980 Ebenezer Road
Georgia Highway 275
Rincon, GA 31326



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Hurricane Helene Wreaks Havoc at Ebenezer

The fierce winds of Hurricane Helene have caused significant damage across the grounds of Ebenezer. Several large trees have fallen, one of which struck the front corner of the Salzburger House, damaging the porch roof and flooring. Cleanup and repair efforts are already underway. Allen Kieffer and his work crew have completed a remarkable job of restoring the porch and roof of the Fail (Salzburger) House.



Josh Zeigler is focusing on the reconstruction of the demolished Syrup Shed and will provide further details soon. Plans are in motion to rebuild the shed with some improvements, including the addition of a wall to shield the syrup boiling process from river winds.



As part of their ongoing interest in preserving the Salzburgers' syrup-making heritage, Josh and Claudia are compiling pictures of the traditional process. They are also taking this opportunity to conduct further research and create



photo displays show-casing other agricultural contributions of the Salzburger settlers and their descendants.



Josh and Claudia are planning traditional cast-iron cooking events, not only to celebrate the progress being made but also to raise the funds needed for rebuilding the Syrup Shed with these new improvements. Your generous donations are greatly needed and deeply appreciated!



~ Claudia Christiansen & Josh Zeigler



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

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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 2025
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Marty Edwards Tom Grovenstein
Virginia Spano

To March 2026
Linda Brannen Dot Cauley
Judy O'Neal Jean Thomas
Dan Wilson, III

To March 2027
Ronnie Allen Rebecca Heidt
Diane Holder Sandra Wingate
Joshua Zeigler

Edited by
Published by Anne Miller

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



President's Message

We are still dealing with the damage from the hurricane/tornado that struck Ebenezer with damage to the Fail House, syrup shed, and numerous broken and damaged trees. Of course, Christmas is also upon us, ready or not.

Allen Kieffer of our Building and Grounds Committee has done a yeoman's job in repairing the damage to the porch of the Fail House. Allen and his helper have replaced much of the damaged flooring on the porch, rafters, and roofing slats. They have now also procured galvanized tin to replace the damaged portions of the porch roof. They have also stained the new rafters and slats, which are visible from below, and the remainder of the staining is to follow in the next few days.

Luckily, Allen has access to a small sawmill at his home and was able to saw up and salvage the larger pine tree trunks for use in the repairs. (A fine example of Salzburger ingenuity and recycling!)

We are also continuing to deal with the insurance carrier, Church Mutual, which provides the insurance coverage on the Church grounds and the Salzburger buildings. Hopefully, we will have a final figure from the insurance carrier in the next several days. Pending the final insurance quote we will commence a fund raising campaign for any repairs beyond that covered by insurance. We hope to deal with that in the coming days. Most of the trees have already been removed using Society funds but to be reimbursed by the insurance carrier.

Also, the Society was the subject of a continuing resolution in the Georgia Legislature made by the Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives, Jon Burns. Another similar resolution was made by our Past President Anne Purcell in her capacity as Chair of the Georgia Department of Transportation. Quoting the resolution, it was resolved by Speaker Burns and the House of Representatives *(Continued on page 4)*

2

THANKS
for your
DONATIONS

An anvil and measuring wheel were donated to the GSS museum by David and Betty Exley. They were made by his grandfather, Abner Lovick Exley.



David & Betty Exley



Jimmy Bell & Cary Williams

The spinning wheel, belonging to Eliza Victoria Exley Metzger, was donated to the GSS Museum by Cary Williams and Ann Williams Ford. ~ Patsy Zeigler

Make Someone's Christmas Special with a Gift from the Museum Gift Shoppe

GSS 100th Year Commemorative Coins and Medallions will make excellent Christmas gifts! They are on sale at the Museum Gift Shoppe for \$15.

COINS are 2 inches in diameter and the MEDALLION is 1 1/4 inches in diameter, ribbon included.

Dr. Müller-Bahlke Visits Ebenezer

Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke's presentation on Heritage Day offered a fascinating insight into the institution that Boltzius referred to as "the blessed Halle orphanages." The presentation featured numerous visual aids, with the most striking being photographs of the buildings and holdings before their meticulous restoration.



Dr. Müller-Bahlke also detailed the founding of the Francke Foundations, including information about the Francke publications that have played a vital role throughout the centuries. The presses in Halle were instrumental in building the once substantial library of Ebenezer and provided Bibles for the town's residents.

The presentation is available for viewing on the library's YouTube channel, *Loest Research Library Archive*.



GSS Memberships Approved

November 10, 2024

Debra Stafford Herrin, GSS Registrar

Life Membership

Henry Porter Burgstiner, Sr
 Norma Heidt Gregory
 Clayton Rush Griner
 Jessica Laine Griner
 Arnold Layton Elliott McDonald
 Helen Pauline Hendry
 Dalton Jacob Shuman
 Kenneth Brian Shuman

Immigrant Ancestor

Mathias Burgstiner
 Johannes Scheraus
 Johann Caspar Greiner
 Johann Caspar Greiner
 Johann Caspar Greiner
 Johann Philipp Paulitsch
 Martin Schumann
 Martin Schumann

Regular Membership

Jerry Neal Cadle
 Matthew Lee Gregory
 Larry William Hadwin
 Robert Wayne Hadwin
 Tabitha Marie Lauderdale
 Caro Louise Gregory Massari
 Seandee Dan-Yel Myers
 James Harry Seckinger
 Tracey Oglesby Smith
 Charlene Hope Turner

Martin Dasher
 Johannes Scheraus
 Martin Schumann
 Martin Schumann
 Nicolaus Helmle
 Johannes Scheraus
 Johann Frederick Von Holtzendorff
 Matthias Seckinger
 Nicolaus Helmle
 Matthias Seckinger

Regular Associate Membership

Linda Lee Allen
 Delma Deloris Seckinger
 Michele L Shuman

Spouse of Ronnie Allen
 Spouse of James Harry Seckinger
 Spouse of Kenneth Brian Shuman

Young Salzburger Membership

Angela Kay Shearouse
 Lucius James Shuman

Johannes Scheraus
 Martin Schumann

Supplemental Certificate

Norma Heidt Gregory

John George Haid

Atlanta Chapter Happenings

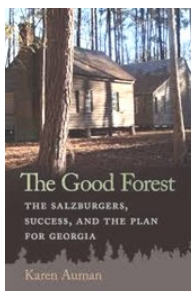
The Board of the Atlanta Chapter had the honor of hosting a dinner in late August for Dr. and Frau Müller-Bahlke, who were en route to Ebenezer for Heritage Day. Vince Exley, who hosted the Müller-Bahlkes during their visit, organized the dinner at an Italian restaurant in Woodstock. The meal was outstanding, and the gathering provided a wonderful opportunity to thank Dr. Müller-Bahlke for his many years of support and friendship.

The Atlanta Chapter welcomed a special guest for its September meeting. Dr. Karen Auman traveled from Salt Lake City to discuss her recently published book, *The Good Forest: The Salzburgers, Success, and the Plan for*



From L to R. Vince Exley, Dr. and Frau Müller-Bahlke, and Sandy Hanberry
 (8 - 28 - 24, Woodstock, GA)

Georgia (University of Georgia Press, June 1, 2024).



Approximately 40 members attended the meeting in person, while nearly a dozen joined the live broadcast via Facebook. The presentation was widely regarded as informative, educational, and entertaining.

You can watch Dr. Auman's presentation on the Peachtree Road Lutheran Church Facebook page: [Why Do the Salzburgers Matter?](#) ~ Dan Wilson

In Memoriam

Mary Zoller Turner June 11, 1925 - Oct 22, 2024

Edward Helmey Zipperer Aug 8, 1931 - Oct 24, 2024

Ernestine Oglesby Butler Oct 10, 1947 - Oct 31, 2024

Fred Lee Groover Dec 29, 1926 - Nov 5, 2024

Inman Price "Buddy" Morgan, III Dec 21, 1949 - Nov 16, 2024

A Visit from Chris Grubbs

Christopher Grubbs, retired illustrator and practicing fine artist, attended the November Board meeting in order to present the GSS with a series of five drawings that help tell the story of Ebenezer. Chris considers Ebenezer a beautiful oasis set apart from all the hustle and bustle.



The outside dimensions of the drawings are 7 3/8 x 9 1/8, and each drawing is being recreated as a limited-edition print.

1. **Cross, River, and Ebenezer Creek** – charcoal – “The experience of just there reminds one of the way it must have looked to the Salzburger when they first arrived.”

2. **The Salzburger Chalice** – charcoal & India ink – Photography source: Anna Bragg – Before Georg Matthias Kiderlin died, a wealthy young man in Nördlingen, he wished to honor the colonists with a silver-gilt communion chalice. It was crafted in Augsburg by Johann Mittnacht III and delivered to New Ebenezer in 1742.

3. **Jerusalem Lutheran Church in New Ebenezer, 1769** – charcoal, graphite, and India ink.

4. **Late Summer 1742 in Ebenezer** – charcoal and graphite – The colony farm as described in the journal of Pastor Johann Martin Boltzius.

5. **A Brick in the Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 1769** – charcoal – Some bricks show the handprints of those that made them. ~ Erika Bragg

Landing Day – March 8, 2025

Make plans now to attend the annual Landing Day celebration on Saturday, March 8, 2025. This special day was “set aside for a memorial and thanksgiving day” and was first observed on March 15, 1735. That was 290 years ago!

The guest speaker will be Dr. Brent W. Tharp, Director of the Georgia Southern University Museum and adjunct assistant professor in the Department of History. He will give a presentation on the Native Americans in the area from the late archaic period forward to the contemporaries of the Georgia Salzburger at Ebenezer. ~ Erika Bragg



(President’s Message continues from page 2) that Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke was to be congratulated for his “honored roll as (program) speaker at the 2024 Heritage Day Celebration” as well as in his capacity as Director of the Francke Foundations in Halle, Germany. The resolution from Chairperson Anne Purcell of the Georgia Department of Transportation was also made in regard to Dr. Müller-Bahlke and his appearance at the Georgia Salzburger Heritage Day Celebration for his “exemplary contributions for preserving the history of our Salzburger ancestors from Austria, the town of Ebenezer, and the State of Georgia.”

Finally, the Congregation of Jerusalem Church is attempting to raise funds for repairs to the amphitheater adjacent to the river.

Other than the above, all is well at the Society and day-to-day activities are continuing. 4

A LETTER FROM THE DESK OF THOMAS GROVENSTEIN

Loest Assistant Research Librarian



Greetings Cousins!

Many of you are very aware that our area had an uninvited guest last month by the name of Hurricane Helene. The grounds and some of the structures were damaged, and the job of cleanup and repairs is ongoing. While the Loest Research Library (LRL) received no structural damage, we lost our dehumidification system and are currently in the process of getting this rectified.

The LRL is constantly receiving books and other publications that are related to all things Salzburger. Recently, the library received a particularly welcome addition, and I’d like to share its significance and origin with you.

The Salzburger Society shares an important connection with an organization in Halle, Germany called the Francke Foundations. The director of the Francke Foundations is Dr. Müller-Bahlke, who was also the keynote speaker at the 2024 Heritage Day Festival in Ebenezer, GA. Dr. Müller-Bahlke provided much information regarding the early years of the emigration from the “Old Country” to the New World, including both here in Georgia and in Pennsylvania.

The books, entitled “*Hallesche Pastoren in Pennsylvania, 1743-1825* (*Halle Pastors in Pennsylvania, 1743-1825*) is a valuable eight volume set of books that provides researchers with a greater understanding of the Francke Foundations-trained pastors, such as Martin Boltzius and Christian Gronau, and their influence on the lives of those who fled to America seeking a life free from Catholic oppression.

These important books provide details into the lives of the pastors that were sent from Halle to preach in Pennsylvania. It was Dr. Müller-Bahlke’s initiation that allowed the Francke Foundations to gift these books to the LRL. The LRL is very happy to have these books and to have someone of Dr. Müller-Bahlke’s stature as a friend.



Until next time, continue to learn about your ancestors and to visit 5 your Loest Research Library when you are in the area!



Updates on Neidlinger and Gruber Families

Greetings GSS members and friends,

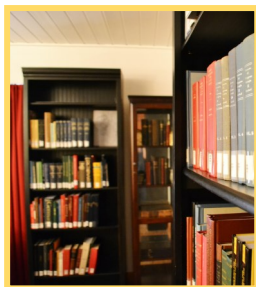
I am very happy to share some exciting genealogy updates with you. The recent digitization of *Even More Palatine Families*, a monumental work by Henry Z. Jones,

Jr. and Lewis Bunker Rohrbach, revealed some very important information to help fill in the blanks of Neidlinger history.

Waldburga Fischer Neidlinger

Johann Ulrich Neidlinger was included in this work. The paragraph about him stated that he married **Waldburga Fischer**, a daughter of Andreas Fischer, in Leipheim on April 21, 1750. The marriage record is a treasure, as it states, "the young couple will travel...to Eben-Ezer in Georgia in America." I checked the Leipheim church books and found, not only the marriage record of Ulrich and Waldburga, but also several other Fischer family records. Waldburga Fischer was born on November 28, 1722 to Andreas Fischer and his wife Angelica, née Zeiher. Andreas Fischer was a widower when he married Angelica Zeiher on February 3, 1721. Andreas Fischer was born January 21, 1686 to Michael and Waldburga Fischer in Leipheim.

A marginal note in the baptism registry gave Andreas's death date as August 25, 1756. Angelica Zeiher was born December 22, 1695 to Martin and Catharina Zeyer of Leipheim. A marginal note listed Angelica's death date as Christmas Day of 1729.



Maria Kraer Gruber

A large contingent of Gruber descendants are GSS members, and it always amazes me when I meet Grubers who have just recently learned of their ancestry. My mother-in-law is one such Gruber, as we only learned of her heritage five years ago. Peter Kraer and Margaretha Grundtner were the parents of Maria Kraer, the wife of Peter Gruber. Here are some important dates to add to the maternal side (Kraer) of your Gruber family tree:

- Peter Kraer was baptized November 14, 1678 and Margaretha Grundtner was baptized December 31, 1684. Peter and Margaretha were married on February 7, 1702.
 - ◆ Children
 - ◇ Johannes April 2, 1703
 - ◇ Maria August 12, 1704
 - ◇ Salome August 11, 1706
 - ◇ Martin May 21, 1708
- The widower Peter Kraer married secondly to Brigittae Aperger on October 23, 1709.
 - ◆ Children
 - ◇ Anna August 25, 1710
 - ◇ Magdala May 9, 1712
 - ◇ Johannes May 14, 1713
 - ◇ Martin May 14, 1713
- Again a widower, Peter married Barbara Rohrmoser on October 19, 1715. Barbara was baptized December 5, 1696.
 - ◆ Children
 - ◇ Catharina October 24, 1716
 - ◇ Gertrude February 25, 1719
 - ◇ Anna November 14, 1721
 - ◇ Barbara April 30, 1724
 - ◇ Rupert November 19, 1726
 - ◇ Anna August 9, 1729
 - ◇ Nicolaus October 7, 1732

Peter Kraer died January 24, 1748 in the town of his birth.

May you all have a very blessed Christmas season. In the new year, please make plans to visit the Georgia Salzburger Society Museum and Loest Research Library because there is always more to uncover about your heritage.

Erika Bragg, GSS VP and Research Committee Chair