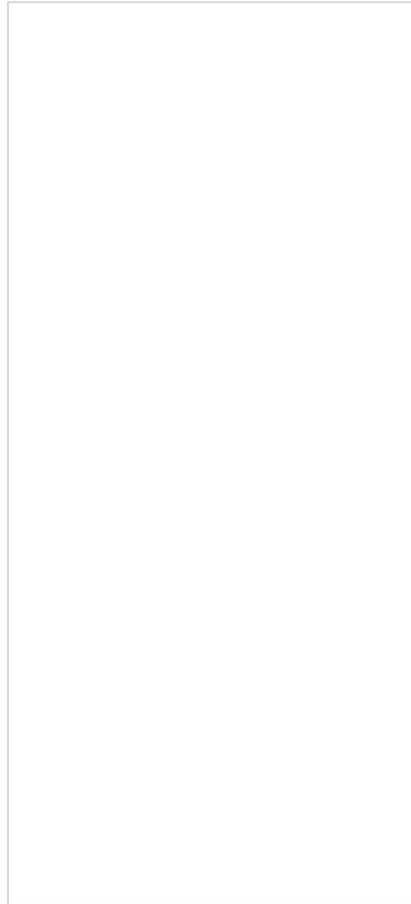


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2980 Ebenezer Road  
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# The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 35 No. 3

Summer 2024

## Heritage Day Speaker, Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke

Professor Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke and his wife Anne will be visiting Ebenezer to attend the GSS Heritage Day and various heritage related activities throughout the weekend. Prof. Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke will be the featured speaker for the annual program on Monday, September 2, 2024. He is a long-standing friend and associate of several members of GSS for many years. It is an honor and privilege to have him bring his remarks and presentation entitled, *The Francke Foundations in Halle: Historical Background, Renewal, and International Relations*.



Born in Mexico City in 1959, Dr. Müller-Bahlke's interest in history and sciences led him to study history and communication sciences at the George-August University of Göttingen. He further received a research grant from the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. and the Lutheran Church in North America.

In 1992, he became a Research Assistant and Head of the Francke Foundation Archives. From 1993 to 1995, he reconstructed the Cabinet of Artifacts and Natural Curiosities. In 2003, he became Director of the Francke Foundations, and in 2015, he was honored for his work and research with his new title, honorary professor.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke's legacy of work has been both complex and extensive. He is both talented and creative in exhibitions and publications. Included in his accomplishments were supervising a six-year research project, compiling letters and journal writings of contacts in North America, from Halle pastors, German settlers, and Lutheran congregations in North America. The eight-volume edition has been published in the series Publications Department of the Francke Foundations until 2003. Dr. Müller-Bahlke is also the author of numerous publications and co-editor of the series Hallesche Forschungen and Hallesche Quellenpublikationen.

As director of the Francke Foundation, he has supported the process of establishing the sister-city designation between Halle and Savannah. Due to the long history of the Salzburgers and the Francke Foundation in Halle, the sistership was established and maintained throughout the many years since the document was signed in 2011. (Continued on page 8)



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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Website: <http://govisiteebenezer.com>

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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  
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**ASST REGISTRAR:** Sandra Wingate  
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**Edited by**  
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**Newsletter**  
**Published Quarterly**  
Send news and inquiries to the  
GSS Office.



## President's Message

The Society has been quite busy over the summer, primarily preparing for the Labor Day Festival scheduled for Monday, September 2, 2024. The Labor Day Committee, chaired by the Vice President of our Society, Erika Bragg, has prepared what looks to be a remarkably interesting program with the speaker being Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke of the Francke Foundation in Germany. Of course, the Francke Foundation is the organization which supplied Pastors Bolzius and Gronau upon the establishment of the settlement at Old and New Ebenezer. The Francke Foundation was also extremely instrumental in the recruitment of Salzburger settlers to the Colony of Georgia and provided much of the financial and practical support for the Ebenezer settlements.

The Board has, of late, also addressed updates to the Society website including the home page, and various tabs. We are also, at the same time, undertaking a review of the Society's online presence, including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and other social media platforms, and are actively attempting to solicit younger members for assistance in regard to these platforms.

In the meantime, I want to encourage all our members, their friends, and families to attend the Heritage Day Festival on Labor Day. As usual, there will be a number of displays and activities, along with the Markt Platz featuring homemade raisin bread, fruit, jams, and vegetables. As always, homemade lemonade will be provided from the wooden barrel! It promises to be an enjoyable day. Hope to see you there! ~ Noble Boykin

## OPEN HOUSE AND RECEPTION

The Open House and Reception was held on Saturday, June 1, 2024. Guests visited the parsonage and museum viewing our new additions. Pictured here is Julie Rose Wilde with donation of a china cabinet displaying beautiful quilts made by her mother, Rosa Mae Kessler



Quilt Display

Wilde.

Also displayed was a model of a Colonial Georgia coastal water vessel, Periagua, constructed and donated by Michael Toogood, a framed map given by the Salzburger

Society in Germany), and beautiful paintings and prints donated by Tina Ladson.

Appreciation is extended to all who donated such valuable treasures! ~ Patsy Zeigler, Curator



Periagua

Map

## Markt Platz on Heritage Day



Labor Day brings lots of homemade goodies to the Markt Platz.

We would appreciate donations for selling in the Markt Platz at the Heritage (Labor) Day celebration.

So please, if you can, donate homemade jellies, pickles, baked goods, bread, candies, handmade articles, garden plants, vegetables or fruit, etc.



Please bring items to the museum or to the Markt Platz on Labor Day, Sept. 2nd. All proceeds go to the Museum Operating Fund. ~ Patsy Zeigler





## Heritage Day 2024

The annual Georgia Salzburger Society Heritage Day Festival will run from Saturday, August 31, 2024 through Monday, September 2, 2024.

On Saturday morning, the fourth annual Salzburger and German heritage trolley tour will be held in Savannah.

At 4 PM, in the sanctuary of Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Thomas J. White, Cantor of Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Savannah, will present a concert featuring traditional Lutheran hymns. A reception in the social hall will follow the concert.

On Sunday, worship services at Jerusalem Lutheran Church will begin at 11 AM. A covered dish lunch in honor of our guest speaker and his wife will take place in the church social hall immediately following the church service.

At 3 PM, there will be a Gruber family research workshop at the GSS Parsonage at Ebenezer.

On Monday, the festival will begin at 10 AM and will conclude at 3 PM. Activities will include the Hinely Poster Contest, vendors, children's activities, and heritage displays and demonstrations.

At 11 AM, the church service and annual meeting will be held in the sanctuary. The keynote speaker, Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke, Director of the Francke Foundations in Halle, Germany, will give his presentation entitled "The Francke Foundations in Halle: Historical Background, Renewal, and International Relations."

For lunch, there will be a catered BBQ dinner, bratwurst, and hot dogs. Stop by the lemonade barrel for a sampling of Salzburger lemonade. Shop for souvenirs in the GSS Museum Gift Shop and Market Platz.

The transport lists have been created as large banners and will be on display under the Dan Wilson, Jr. Memorial Pavilion.

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

All the specific details will be found throughout this newsletter.

~ Erika Bragg, Chairman, Heritage Day Committee

## The Grubers Workshop

A Gruber family research workshop will be held on Sunday, September 1, 2024 at 3 PM at the Georgia Salzburger Society Parsonage. Erika Bragg's presentation will include many primary records related to Hans, Peter, and Georg. Several church records of the Kroehr, Kalcher, and Rohrmoser families will also be included. The workshop is free to attend.

~ Erika Bragg, GSS Research Committee Chair

## SYRUP MAKING TRADITION AT EBENEZER

A favorite heritage exhibition will be back to Ebenezer on Heritage day this year! Sugar cane syrup! It will be so nice to see the new cane grinding crew fire up the pot to boil

cane syrup under the old boiling shed out by the river.

Josh Zeigler has encouraged the renewed interest in this cherished age-old tradition and he is looking forward to learning and assisting Jay Neurath

and Danny Harden to boil the cane juice into good old Georgia Cane syrup.



Cane will not ripen in Georgia in time for a grinding on Labor Day; therefore, the syrup boiling crew will drive down to get a load of fresh sugar cane from the Stein Farms in Bell Glade, Florida. That is over seven hours away from Ebenezer! The sugar cane requires long months of warm weather to ripen; therefore, the warmer climate of Florida allows sugar cane to ripen by September.



The crew will use a mechanical juice extractor to get the cane juice to be boiled and bottled at Ebenezer. Kendall Zeigler is perfecting her biscuit recipe for visitors to sample the fresh cane syrup on Labor Day. Josh is designing a special label for bottles of syrup for sale.





## A LETTER FROM THE DESK OF THOMAS GROVENSTEIN Loest Assistant Research Librarian

Greetings Cousins!

As I write this, we are in the middle of a ridiculously hot and wet summer. However, we are looking forward to an exciting time here at Ebenezer. The biggest weekend of the year is right around the corner - Heritage Day, known as Labor Day to those who don't know better! Heritage Day is not just one day, but a fun filled weekend, starting on August 31 and running through September 2, Heritage Monday.

While I leave the specific details regarding the many events to other articles in this newsletter, I do want to address the goings-on at the Loest Research Library (LRL). The start of our new Oral History Project begins with some promising contacts, and we are overly excited to receive what looks to be a very gratifying start to a long running program. Please get your own stories in order and start your own Oral History Project.

Now, an incredibly special invitation to all of you who are, think you might be or would like to start the process of finding out if you are part of the family of Salzburgers. As I alluded to earlier, Heritage Day is almost upon us. Please mark your calendars: August 31 - September 2nd. On Saturday from 2:00 - 5:00, Sunday from 1:30 - 3:00 and Heritage Day, August 2 from 10:00 - 3:00, the Loest Research Library (LRL) will be open for you to visit and ask questions regarding your own place in the large line of Salzburgers. Please come in and look up one of your long, lost relatives or simply find out how many heritage names that you can link with your own name/family. The farther back we go in our genealogical past, the more links we will discover.



Please come and say hello to the folks who will be up in the LRL and look through the many books we have. You may be surprised just by who you find! ~ Tom Grovenstein



## Salzburger-Savannah Connections Trolley Tour

The 4th Annual Old Savannah Trolley Tour of Colonial Savannah and Lunch at the Pirates' House!

- **When:** Saturday, August 31, 2024
- **Time:** 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- **Place:** Pirates' House – back parking lot
- **Tour:** \$20.00



Enjoy lunch at the legendary Pirates' House after the trolley tour.

Please RSVP by Thursday, August 29th

Reservation by Email: lamiller\_2@msn.com

or text 912-661-3696 **(Please include names and how many.)**



For more information about the Trolley Tour: [facebook.com/visitebenezer](https://facebook.com/visitebenezer)

## GSS 100th Year Commemorative Coins

GSS will be celebrating 100th year in 2025.

The museum is excited to present commemorative coins and medallions for sale for \$15 at Heritage Day. Visit the Marketplatz to get yours!



### COINS

2 inches in diameter



### MEDALLION

1 ¼ inches in diameter

Ribbon included





## GSS Memberships Approved

August 10, 2024

Debra Stafford Herrin, GSS Registrar

### Life Membership

Robert Edward Caruthers II  
Constance Krisann Chancey  
Jamie Leah Haller  
Robert Christopher Hodge

### Immigrant Ancestor

Peter Zipperer  
Peter Zipperer  
Peter Zipperer  
Peter Gruber

### Upgrade to Life Membership

Corbina Ike

Nicolaus Helmle

### Regular Membership

Elaine Lowery James  
Laura Michele Wright

Peter Gruber  
Johann Martin Paulitsch

### Associate Membership

Paul N. Coia

Spouse of Laura Michele Wright

## 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](mailto: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, email [gaslzbrgr@aol.com](mailto:gaslzbrgr@aol.com) to have it sent to you or download at [Heritage Day Weekend 2024 | Visit Ebenezer GA - Home of the Georgia Salzburger Society \(govisitebenezer.com\)](#)



## NEED A GIFT

Membership in GSS makes a wonderful gift.



Birthday, Wedding,

Anniversary, Retirement, Graduation.

And it's not too early to think about Christmas.

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

Debra Herrin at (912) 657-5675

Email, [gssdebraherrin@gmail.com](mailto:gssdebraherrin@gmail.com)

(Continued from page 1) The documentation and signing in Savannah and Germany took place as a part of the official festivities of the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Henry Melchior Mühlenberg (1711-1787). Halle and Savannah continue to exchange information, tokens of friendship, and official visits whenever possible and appropriate.

With much appreciation for Professor Dr. Müller-Bahlke's wisdom and efforts, let us celebrate our longstanding connection with the Francke Foundation, Halle and welcome him and his wife to the Georgia Salzburgers' 8 Heritage Day Celebration! ~ Claudia Christiansen

## In Memoriam

Roger DeWitt Stephens (January 12, 1936 – June 19, 2024)

Nellie Zipperer Jones (August 11, 1920 - June 24, 2024)

Elizabeth Ann Hendrix Stephens (June 27, 1937 - July 5, 2024)

Thomas C. Strickland, Jr. "Tommy"  
(September 26, 1942 - June 11, 2024)



# Heritage Day Weekend Schedule

August 31, 2024 – September 2, 2024  
Food, Demonstrations, Exhibits and Activities



All Are Welcome - Free Admission

## SATURDAY, August 31, 2024

- 9:30 AM – The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Salzburger-Savannah Connections Trolley Tour
  - Meet at Pirates' House – BACK Parking Lot
  - RSVP: lamiller\_2@msn.com or text (912) 661-3696



- 4:00 PM – An Organ Concert at the Jerusalem Lutheran Church by Cantor, Tom White
- 5:00 PM – A reception in the social hall following the concert



Museum, Gift Shop and Loest Research Library will be opened:

Saturday: 2:00PM – 4:00 PM  
Sunday: 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM  
Monday: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



## SUNDAY, September 1, 2024

- 11:00 AM – Worship services at Jerusalem Lutheran Church
- 12:00 PM – Covered dish dinner in the church social hall following the church service
- 1:30 PM – Tour of the Luther Exhibit at Ebenezer Retreat Center
- 3:00 PM – Gruber family research workshop at the GSS Parsonage at Ebenezer



## Monday, September 2, 2024

- 10:00 AM-3:00 PM – The Heritage Day Festival
- 11:00 AM – The church service and annual meeting in the sanctuary. The keynote speaker, Prof. Dr. Thomas Müller-Bahlke, Director of the Francke Foundations
- 10:00 AM-3:00 PM Food Vendors – Throughout grounds
  - BBQ dinner, Hot dogs and Bratwurst, Peach Fritters, Lemonade and more
- 11:00 AM – Until..... BBQ Dinner in Social Hall



### Heritage Demonstrations, Activities and Vendors

- Archaeology
- Arrowheads and Flint Knapping
- Basket Weaving
- Beekeeping
- Cakes by Savannah
- Cammack's Creations (Jellies and Preserves)
- Chair Caning
- Children's Activities
- Colonial Games
- Colonial Clothing
- Corn Shelling and Grinding
- Cotton Candy
- Dream on Honey Co
- GSS Gift Shop
- GSS Museum
- Hayride
- History of Beekeeping
- Kettle Corn
- Kona Ice of Effingham



- Leather Crafting
- Local Authors - Children's Books and Local History Books
- Markt Platz
- Native / Heritage Plants
- Peach Fritters
- Peanuts
- Petting Zoo
- Revolutionary War Reenactors
  - Brier Creek SAR
  - Wiregrass SAR
- Savannah Fiber Guild
- Scouts - Popcorn
- Sheila's Handmade Bags
- Soap Making Display
- Survivalist Exhibit
- Syrup Cooking
- Transport Lists
- And More

