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



The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 35 No. 3

Summer 2025



2025 HERITAGE DAY

AT HISTORIC EBENEZER

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Date: September 1, 2025

Where: 2980 Ebenezer Rd.

in Rincon, GA on the grounds of

Jerusalem Lutheran Church

Explore, Discover, Learn about the Past

Hands-on Activities • Live Demonstrations • Step into History

All are Welcome

Free Events - Fun for Kids!



CRAFTS



CARPENTERS' TOOLS



FARM TOOLS



COLONIAL TOYS



HISTORY



PETTING ZOO

Proudly presented by the Georgia Salzburger Society and Jerusalem Lutheran Church

For more information call: 912-754-7001 or email: gaslzbrgr@aol.com

Website: govisiteebenezer.com Facebook: facebook.com/visiteebenezer



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

PRESIDENT: Noble Boykin
VICE PRESIDENT: Erika Bragg
SECRETARY: Gaye Royal
TREASURER: Jerry Groover
CURATOR: Patsy Zeigler
ASST CURATOR: Robert Peavy
LOEST RESEARCH LIBRARIAN:
Tom Grovenstein
ASST LOEST RESEARCH LIBRARIAN:
Dylan Mulligan
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 2026

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

To March 2027

Ronnie Allen Ella HeidtHarris
Diane Holder Sandra Wingate
Joshua Zeigler

To March 2028

Julie Hynes Allen Kieffer
Anne Miller Dylan Mulligan
Virginia Spano

Edited by Robert Peavy
Published by Anne Miller

Newsletter

Published Quarterly
Send news and inquiries to the
GSS Office.



President's Message

All hands have been on deck in preparation for the upcoming **Heritage Day Festival** and for the **Centennial Celebration** marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Georgia Salzburger Society (GSS). To commemorate this milestone, the Board of Directors placed a granite monument near the museum. The monument, shipped from the quarry in Elberton, Georgia, and supplied and installed by Oglethorpe Marble of Savannah, is of the same type and size typically used by the DAR to memorialize important locations from the American Revolution. The monument dedication will be Monday, September 1, 2025, at 10:45 AM, during the Festival. We encourage members and friends to contribute toward the cost of the memorial monument and its placement; all contributors will be acknowledged in the permanent records of the Society. Our fundraising goal of \$10,000 will cover the monument and inscription.

On Friday, August 29, 2025, the Society will host a **Centennial Banquet** at the New Ebenezer Retreat Center. All members, along with their families and guests, are invited to attend at a cost of \$25 per person — please RSVP (information on how to RSVP can be found in the second article on page 3). Special invitations are being sent to former GSS presidents.

Plans are also well underway for the **Heritage Day Festival**, which promises to be an excellent event featuring numerous vendors, demonstrations, displays, and activities. Special thanks go to the Heritage Day Chair, Vice President Erika Bragg, and to the Centennial Committee co-chairs, Museum Curator Patsy Zeigler and Past President Claudia Christiansen, and to all of our dedicated volunteers, especially Buildings and Grounds Chair Josh Zeigler and Allen Kieffer. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Festival activities, please contact the GSS office.



Ebenezer Goes Ever Green

Ebenezer has a new look these days, and it's not just from the spruced-up buildings. A grounds crew has been busy replacing mounds of pine straw with colorful flowers and tranquil rest areas. A handicapped-accessible path now connects GSS buildings, making it easier for everyone to get around. Related grounds improvements have

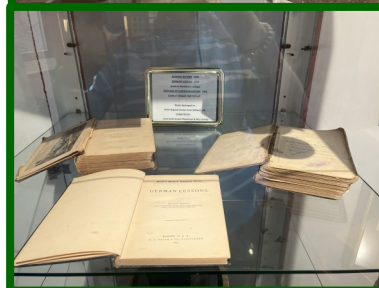
included construction of the Dan Wilson pavilion and placing antique-style benches near the museum. Beds of blooming flowers frame building entrances. Future landscaping plans include a camellia remembrance garden, and a timed irrigation system which will keep the new plantings well-

watered. **Plant lovers wanted! Join the landscaping crew.** GSS members and friends can contact Museum Curator Patsy Zeigler. Donations of plants, funds, or elbow grease are very much needed and welcomed. ~ Anne Bourne



Special Thank You to all Donations to the Museum

- Artifacts and documents given by Janice J. Dorminey, daughter of M.C. "Monk" Jaudon, "The keeper of Old Ebenezer."
- Three Books belonging to Alvin O. Gnann given by the Nizzi family.
- ♦ Two dirndls and a picture of Jerusalem Lutheran Church given by Nancy Schuter Grooms
- ♦ Books given by Katy Connelly, daughter of Gay Zeigler Yates
- ♦ Uniforms given by Thomas and Charity Miles ~ Patsy Zeigler





GSS MEMBERSHIPS APPROVED

August 9, 2025

Debra Stafford Herrin, GSS Registrar

Life Membership

Kirby Suzanne Wheat Pierce
Karen Ketchum Still
Elizabeth Anne Corbett Wallace Wil-
liam Joseph "Joey" Wheat
Lindy Suzanne Beam Wheat
William Guerry Wheat
Lisa Weitman Wilson

Immigrant Ancestor

Peter Zipperer
Bartholomaeus Riesser
Peter Zipperer
Peter Zipperer
Peter Zipperer
Peter Zipperer
Johann Ludwig Weidmann

Regular Membership

Jasmine Alaina Hathaway
Ella Lynn HeidtHarris
Laura Fair Randell

Johann Georg Heidt
Johann Georg Heidt
Johannes Heinle

Young Salzburger

Isabelle Eve Bainbridge

Johannes Scherraus

In Memoriam

Gordon Newton Baker
June 30, 1954 - June 08, 2025

George Harland Zittrouer
May 12, 1944 – June 4, 2025

Ginely Salzburger Heritage Scholarship

Poster Contest – 2025

2025 Title: Milestones in Georgia Salzburger Society History (1925 – 2025)

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

For more information contact the GSS office. The registration form can be found on the GSS Facebook page (VisitEbenezer) and the GSS website. The form may also be picked up at the office or received by email by contacting the GSS office. The forms must be received by noon, Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at the GSS office or by email.



What's new?

THE GSS CENTENNIAL BANQUET

The Centennial Banquet will celebrate an important milestone. Through one hundred years, it is difficult for us to realize how much has happened and how much we can honor about our history. This banquet and celebration will be unlike other Heritage Day events because it marks the 100th anniversary of our society. It is fitting that we deviate from our routine to gather and observe this notable year. The evening will be an enjoyable time to social-



ize, share memorable events, and honor those who have made our success possible. The evening includes a meal of Southern favorites, a young singer performing hit music from years past, a chance to view a new documentary about the settlement of Ebenezer and the Salzburgers, plus hearing from a few members who have agreed to



share highlights of historic events or achievements. Period hats and gloves may make an appearance—along with a “flapper” or “dapper dresser.” Remember to save the date and reserve your prepaid seat for \$25. We expect this 1925-themed celebration will be *the bee's knees!*

~ Claudia Christiansen

Enjoy Good Food, Great Company, and Festive Cheer!

Your Invitation: Enjoy Good Food, Great Company, and Festive Cheer! Please join us for an evening of celebration, reflection, and fellowship as we honor a century of Georgia Salzburger Society history at our Centennial Banquet. Enjoy a warm gathering filled with meaningful memories, festive cheer, and a delicious Southern buffet.



Date: Friday, August 29, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM – Meet & Greet

6:00 PM – Banquet & Program

Location:

Ebenezer Retreat Center Hall
2887 Ebenezer Road
Rincon, GA 31326

Reservations Required

Contact the Georgia Salzburger Office:

912-754-7001

Cost: \$25 per person (Open Seating)

\$30 at the door

\$200 for a reserved table (Seats 8)

Please send reservation payments to:

GSS Office
2980 Ebenezer Road
Rincon, GA 31326

Attn: Banquet Reservations

NATURE HAPPENS!

The Buildings and Grounds Committee needs more hands to help maintain the Ebenezer property. Twigs, roots, limbs, and grass don't just disappear on their own, and right now just a few dedicated members are doing all the work. Some of us are getting older and facing physical challenges that make it harder to keep up. Your help is needed now more than ever! Workdays are Saturday **August 16 and 23**. Please contact Allen: (912) 663-4962 and/or Patsy: (912) 655-4555 if you can help. Or just show up – your help is appreciated and needed!! Bring your yard tools and work gloves. Work starts at 9 AM, but anytime is fine after 9.



Markt Platz on Heritage Day

Shop at the **Marktplatz** on Heritage Day! Labor Day brings an abundance of homemade goodies and unique treasures to your **Market Place**, all to help raise funds for the Museum Operating Fund. We very much welcome donations of breads, cookies, candies, jellies, preserves, pickles, baked goods, handmade crafts, garden plants, vegetables, fruits, and other homemade items—always popular sellers! Please bring your items to the museum beforehand or directly to your **Marktplatz** on Heritage Day, Monday, September 1st. Your support is greatly appreciated! ~ Patsy Zeigler



John Adam Treutlen Workshop

John Adam Treutlen, Georgia's first constitutional governor, is the focus of this year's Heritage Day weekend



Research Workshop.

The schedule:

- Date and Time : Saturday, August 30, 2025, 3:00 PM
- Place: Georgia Salzburger Society parsonage
- Topic: The presentation will highlight the Treutlen family's history in Germany, Georgia, and South Carolina and will include the family's connection to Pennsylvania.

Presenter: Erika Bragg, GSS Research Committee Chair

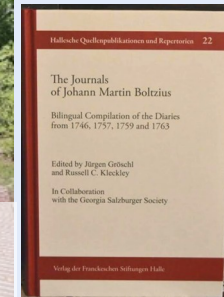
The workshop is free to attend.



It was wonderful sharing our Salzburger history with Johannes Wege from Leipzig.

The GSS Museum recently received a shipment

of *The Journals of Johann Martin Boltzius: Bilingual Compilation of the Diaries from 1746, 1757, 1759, and 1763*. Copies of this new publication may be purchased at the gift shop for \$50 each.

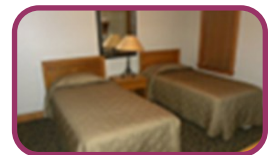


New Ebenezer Retreat Center



New Ebenezer invites you to stay with us during Heritage Day Weekend. We have private cottages available; a cottage has 6 bedrooms, (2 single beds and a bathroom in each), a full kitchen, and living room. Price per person is \$74 for double occupancy and \$85 for single occupancy. Linens are included.

[Contact | Rincon, GA | \(912\) 754-9242](mailto:Contact | Rincon, GA | (912) 754-9242)



Atlanta Chapter – Fall Meeting

Sunday Sept. 28. 3-5pm
Peachtree Road Lutheran Church
3686 Peachtree Rd NE. Atlanta, GA 30319



Guest Speaker: **Dr. Russell Kleckley** – Dr. KLECKLEY is professor emeritus of religion at Augsburg University. He is the editor of *The Letters of Johann Martin Boltzius, Lutheran Pastor in Ebenezer, Georgia*. Topic: “Pastor Boltzius, Meet Pastor Bergmann: An Imaginary Conversation on the Very Real Lives and Times of Ebenezer’s First and Last German Pastors.” Though Johann Boltzius and Johann Bergmann never met, their letters and journals reveal striking similarities and differences as pastors and people, as well as their unique views on Ebenezer. This presentation imagines a heavenly conversation where they introduce themselves and share their experiences. Join us for a rare glimpse into the lives of two influential—but very different—leaders. Following the meeting please join us for light German refreshments and get to know other Salzburger in the Atlanta area. For more information, please call Dan Wilson (917) 456-2400.



Live Stream

Out of town members and guests can watch the Program live (or play-back) on the Peachtree Road Lutheran Church’s Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/peachtreeroadlutheran/>



Heritage Weekend



Join us for Heritage Weekend as we celebrate a century of Georgia Salzburger Society leadership and membership! Some ask, “Why join?” Whether born a Salzburger or not, your membership keeps Ebenezer alive. Without dues and donations, we could not maintain the site—especially after recent storms strained our small budget. Your contributions have been stretched carefully, but costs like electricity and mail keep rising, even though membership fees have not. Please invite a potential new member this Labor Day, and please thank the GSS board members for their hard work. At our Centennial Banquet, thank a Past President for preserving our history. Please join us as we kick off our celebration with the **Centennial Banquet** on Friday, August 29, 2025, through the conclusion with the **Heritage Day Festival** on Monday, September 1, 2025. ~ Claudia Christiansen



Speaker. Friederike Lippold

Shaping Tomorrow: How the Francke Foundations Connect Heritage and Community

Founded over 300 years ago in the spirit of education, faith, and community, the Francke Foundations in Halle continue to build meaningful connections between history and the present day. Today, the Foundations support innovative projects that engage children, young people, families and adults with historical heritage—fostering creativity, scientific inquiry, and sustainable action. This presentation will highlight inspiring examples of how tradition and innovation go hand in hand. From student-led historical research to artistic interpretations of the past, the Francke Foundations bring history to life in dynamic, participatory ways. International collaborations are a vital part of this mission, including partnerships with a Lutheran congregation in southern Poland and the Museum for Intercultural Dialogue in Tharangambadi, South India. The presentation invites reflection on how the partnership with the Georgia Salzburger Society could grow in new directions by engaging in shared educational and cultural initiatives. Friederike Lippold holds master's degrees in Art History and Slavic Studies (with a focus on Russian and Polish). After spending ten years working in Central and Eastern Europe, she joined the Francke Foundations in 2004. Her international work initially focused on projects with Russian and Polish partners, a priority that shifted following the onset of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In 2024, she visited partners in South India for the first time. In 2025, she will have the honor of participating in the Georgia Salzburger Society’s Heritage Day for the first time, and she looks forward to engaging in dialogue and building connections around shared history and future cooperation. She is also a specialist in intercultural communication and currently heads the Digital Media Division within the Communications Department at the Francke Foundations. ~ Erika Bragg



Heritage Day Weekend Schedule

Friday, August 29, 2025 – Monday, September 1, 2025

Food, Demonstrations, Exhibits and Activities

All Are Welcome - Free Admission



FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025

GA Salzburger Society Centennial Banquet

5:30 PM – Meet & Greet

6:00 PM – Banquet and Program at
Ebenezer Retreat Center Hall
2887 Ebenezer Road
Rincon, Georgia 31326



RSVP Reservation by August 15, 2025: Cost \$25

At the door \$ 30

(Seating may be limited without reservations.)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

- ♦ 11:00 AM – Worship Service at Jerusalem Lutheran Church (JLC)
- ♦ 12:30 PM – Covered dish luncheon in JLC social hall
- ♦ 1:30 PM – International presentation by Dr. Jürgen Gröschl
live streaming in JLC social hall
- ♦ 3:00 PM – Afternoon Concert: Local musical group to perform at JLC
- ♦ JLC Social Hall: *500 Years in the Making*, a documentary about
Salzburgers commissioned by Richard Kessler.
- ♦ Reception in JLC Social Hall immediately following concert

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025

♦ Salzburger-Savannah Connections Sightseeing Day and Luncheon

When: August 30, 2025 • **Time:** 9:30 AM

Where: Meet at the Pirate's House back parking lot.

RSVP: lamiller_2@msn.com or text (912) 661-3696

♦ Treutlen Family & Historical Research Workshop at 3:00 PM in GSS Parsonage at Ebenezer

Museum, Gift Shoppe, and Loest Research Library

will be open:

Saturday: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Sunday: 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Monday: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

*On Monday, Library will be
closed 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM*



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025



The Heritage Day Festival

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

- ♦ Heritage Demonstrations, Activities, Displays and Vendors
 - ♦ 11:00 AM – The program and annual meeting in the Jerusalem Lutheran Church
- The keynote speaker: Friederike Lippold – *Shaping Tomorrow: How the Francke Foundations Connect Heritage and Community*
- ♦ 11:00 AM – Until – BBQ Dinner in Social Hall
 - ♦ Food Vendors – Throughout grounds
- Hot dogs and Bratwurst, Peach Fritters, Lemonade,
Boiled Peanuts, Popcorn, Shaved Ice and more.

