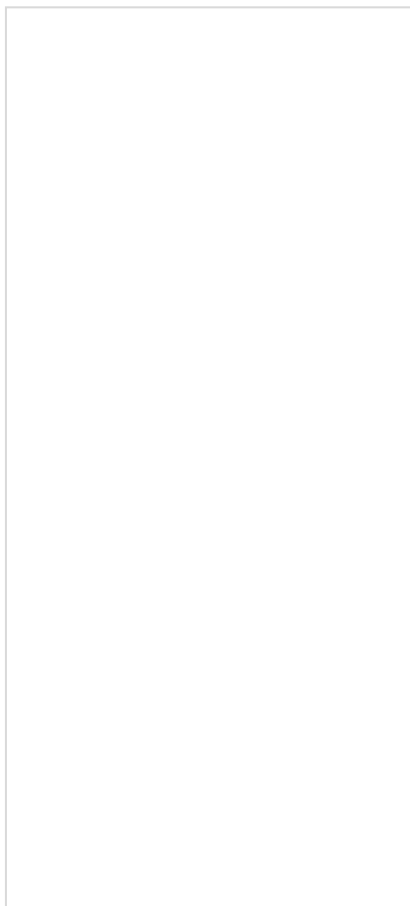


Georgia Salzburger Society
2980 Ebenezer Road
Georgia Highway 275
Rincon, GA 31326



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



The Georgia Salzburger Society

Vol. 36 No. 3

Summer 2026

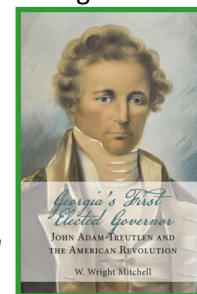
HERITAGE CELEBRATIONS



W. Wright Mitchell: 2026 Heritage Day Speaker

W. Wright Mitchell is President and CEO of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. A former attorney specializing in civil litigation and historic preservation law, he founded the Buckhead Heritage Society in 2005 and served as its volunteer president for 10 years. He assumed leadership of the Georgia Trust in 2023.

Mitchell is the **6th great-grandson of Georgia's first elected governor, John Adam Treutlen**, through his paternal line. His new book, *Georgia's First Elected Governor: John Adam Treutlen and the American Revolution*, draws on original research in American, British, and German archives to tell Treutlen's story—from his childhood in Germany and years at the Salzburger settlement at Ebenezer to his political leadership during the American Revolution.



The Heritage Fest Banquet

A Special Evening of History, Music, Food and Fellowship!

By popular request, the Heritage Fest Banquet is back! Last year's guests loved the delicious meal, wonderful atmosphere, and opportunity to relax and reconnect with family and friends. This year promises to be just as memorable!

Join us as we **commemorate the Salzburger Patriots of 250 years ago** and recognize the descendants who continue their legacy.

Enjoy **patriotic music by Aileen Tuten and her daughter, Susan Hartzog**, followed by a fascinating presentation by GSS member **Cynthia Tiger, a direct**



Yuchi descendant. Cynthia will share Yuchi cultural traditions, heritage wisdom, and the continuing importance of medicinal plants—including traditional knowledge that may inspire recipes and customs for today!

Come for the **history, music, delicious food, and fellowship—and stay afterward to visit and share memories with friends.**

Tables are filling fast, so make your reservation now!

RSVP by August 28.....Call or text Patsy: 912-655-4555





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: gaslbgr@aol.com
Website: <http://govisiteebenezer.com>

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Erika Bragg
VICE PRESIDENT: Joshua Zeigler
SECRETARY: Gaye Royal
TREASURER: Jerry Groover
CURATOR: Patsy Zeigler
ASST CURATOR: Claudia Christiansen
LOEST RESEARCH LIBRARIAN:
Tom Grovenstein
ASST LOEST RESEARCH LIBRARIAN: *
REGISTRAR: Debra Herrin
ASST REGISTRAR: Sandra Wingate
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Charlie Arnsdorff
CHAPLAIN: Pastor Richard Johnson
PAST PRES: Noble Boykin
ADMIN ASST: Jennifer Nash

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To March 2027

Ronnie Allen Ella HeidtHarris
Diane Holder Jan Tankersley
Sandra Wingate

To March 2028

Angela Beck Julie Hynes
Sandy Gibson Allen Kieffer
Anne Miller

To March 2029

Dot Cauley Tonya Donaldson
Judy O'Neal Jean Thomas
Dan Wilson, III

* Vacancies

Edited by Kristin Everson

Published by Anne Miller

Newsletter

Published Quarterly

Send news and inquiries to the
GSS Office.



President's Message

The past few months have been busy with preparations for Heritage Day. Our faithful volunteers have been working hard to ensure the celebration continues to be memorable.

We are looking forward to Monday's festival and to Wright Mitchell's presentation about Ebenezer's favorite son, John Adam Treutlen. Please plan to attend.

The publication project is well underway. The diligent work done by Dr. Jürgen Gröschl and Dr. Erika Pabst led to the timely delivery of the Lemke letters to Dr. Russell Kleckley for translation. This work promises to be significant, revealing a great deal of Ebenezer history and some genealogy.

A balance of 41,470 euros (approximately \$48,000) remains before this four-year project is completed. This balance would be covered if every member were able to contribute \$25. Please consider helping with this important endeavor by donating to the GSS and designating your funds for the publication.

There will be more details shared on Heritage Day.

Hope to see you in Ebenezer!



GSS MEMBERSHIPS APPROVED

August 8, 2026

Debra Stafford Herrin, GSS Registrar

Life Membership

Denise Waters Cummings
Diane Elizabeth Crawford Jordan
Betsy Kennedy Purcell
Francis Jeffrey Tarzia

Immigrant Ancestor

Johann Georg Mengersdorff
Johannes Heinle
Johann Ludwig Weidmann
Martin Dasher

Upgrade to Life Membership

Nancy L. Waters

Immigrant Ancestor

Johannes Scherraus

Associate Life Member

Michael Elvin Kelly

Spouse of Mae Logan Kelly

Regular Membership

Karen Elizabeth Zipperer Brindley
Mae Louise Logan Kelly
Jack Howard Logan, Jr.
Lori Medley Beavers Long
Carla Hope Peavy McCutchen
James Alfred Odum

Immigrant Ancestor

Peter Zipperer
Paul Schweighofer
Paul Schweighofer
Nicholaus Helmle
Ruprecht Eischberger
Hans Schmidt

Young Salzburger

Flora Catherine Skinner

In Memoriam

Homor Floyd Willis
December 12, 1941 - June 1, 2026



GoVisit
EBENEZER
Home of the Georgia Salzburger Society

Atlanta Chapter Happenings

- **Date:** Sunday, September 27, 2026
- **Time:** 3:00–5:00 PM (Light refreshments to follow)
- **Location:** Peachtree Road Lutheran Church
3686 Peachtree Rd. NE
Atlanta, GA 30319



Featured Speaker: Robert Scott Davis Jr.

Award-winning historian and one of Georgia's leading authorities on the American Revolution.

Program: *Ebenezer and the Salzburgers During the Revolutionary War Years*

As America celebrates its 250th Anniversary, discover the remarkable story of Ebenezer and the Salzburgers during the Revolutionary War.

This engaging presentation is sure to be informative, entertaining, and filled with fascinating Insights. Don't miss it.

Live Stream  Out of town members and guests can watch the program live (or playback) on the Peachtree Road Lutheran Church's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/peachtreeroadlutheran/>

If you plan to attend in person or have any questions please, RSVP at dan.wilson@pentagonsvcs.us or call (470)792-9318. ~ Dan Wilson

The Annual Heritage Sunday Concert



The Heritage Festival has long been a highlight of the Salzburger story. As families grew and descendants moved farther away, attending the traditional Labor Day celebration became more difficult. To provide more opportunities for fellowship, entertainment, and meals, Heritage Weekend was expanded to include Saturday and Sunday activities.

Museum Curator Patsy Zeigler and Assistant Curator Claudia Christiansen, along with the Visit Ebenezer Committee, began planning a full weekend of activities, including additional educational and cultural events. Saturday and Sunday soon became a time for learning, dining, relaxing, and exploring more about our Salzburger heritage. From this effort came the Sunday afternoon concert and evening meal. The first concert featured the beautiful organ of Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, classical music by German composers, and a traditional Low Country Boil.

This year's Heritage Concert will feature the church's new **Steinway B grand piano**, generously given by former GSS President Richard Kessler.



Our featured performer is **Donna Shearouse Dasher**, a Salzburger descendant and master pianist. She is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music in Piano and has been featured in several recent films as an actress, pianist, and piano coach for other performers.



The concert will focus on a patriotic theme, including popular compositions and familiar sacred anthems connected to America's military heritage.

During the concert, descendants of American Revolution and veterans of all military services will be recognized with a token of appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

Following the concert, enjoy an **Abendbrot**, a light German-style supper with desserts, in the church's social hall.

Concert: Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church Sanctuary, Sunday- 3:00 PM
Come as you are, relax, and celebrate our Salzburger heritage through music, fellowship, and remembrance! ~ Claudia Christiansen



Museum Spotlight



Zeigler and Zeagler cousins get together at Ebenezer.

Benjamin Dasher descendants from Washington and Atlanta.



Members from Abundant Life Church in Springfield enjoyed touring church and museum.

Swabian Roots

Edited and published by Vincent C. Exley, Marietta, Georgia

No. 7

July 4, 2026

Special Edition

Commemorating the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.

On this day, 250 years ago, American independence was declared. At this time of remembrance and celebration, this issue is dedicated to contributions of Swabians in the struggle for human progress and freedom, specifically, in two historic events: 1) the German Peasants War, and 2) our American Revolution in Georgia.

The Peasants War, 1525 - 1526

This 1525 conflict was the greatest blow struck for freedom before the American and French Revolutions. German historian Wilhelm Zimmermann wrote that the movement contained "pure and noble forces . . . alongside impure and sinister ones." However, he said the "spirit from which the whole struggle emerged was the spirit of freedom and light" (*Großer Deutscher Bauernkrieg*, p. 5). Although the rebels failed to achieve victory, they had great aspirations, such as the abolition of serfdom. The rebellion began in **Swabia** in the lower Black Forest, where peasants rallied under the flag of the *Bundschuh*—the peasant's shoe. The conflict spread across various regions of the German speaking world and beyond. Historian Peter Bickle viewed the historical event as the "revolution of the common man" (*Revolution of 1525*, p. 11). In Swabia, where fighting began, a representative assembly convened in the city of Memmingen.

The Twelve Articles

The "Memmingen Peasant Parliament" met on March 6-7, 1525, and drafted a list of grievances entitled *The Twelve Articles of the Peasantry in Swabia* (Bickle, *op. cit.*, p. xvi). Among enumerated grievances were these: 1) the right to call their pastors; 2) the abolition of serfdom; 3) the "right to hunt and fish freely"; and 4) work requirements were to be "reduced to a tolerable level, using tradition and the Gospel as guidelines" (Bickle, *op. cit.*, pp 19 & 20). Historian Bickle stated that "The demand for the total abolition of serfdom was revolutionary" (*op. cit.*, p. 21).

The Battle of Leipheim

A great battle in the struggle occurred in spring of 1525, near the town of Leipheim east of Ulm. The peasants battled a force of mercenaries, hired by Swabian nobility. No match for the professional soldiers, the rebel army was routed and slaughtered. Many sought escape in the Danube River where they drowned. Because the Leipheim army included troops from towns in the Ulm area, especially Langenau (see Waiblinger, *Langenau*, p. 147), towns that later contributed members of the travel groups to Georgia, the Swabian settlers of Ebenezer, undoubtedly, had ancestral relatives who fought in the Battle of Leipheim.

The Blue Bluff Militia

In the minutes of the Georgia Revolutionary Council of Safety, July 2, 1776, is written: "ORDERED that commissions do issue for Jacob Tusing, as Captain; Matthias Rahn, First Lieutenant, and Casper Griener, Second Lieutenant of **Bethany Company of Militia**, the Second Battalion First Regiment" (see Candler, *Revolutionary Records of the State of Georgia*,

(Continued on page 5)

The Importance of the Markt Platz

Since the Middle Ages, the Markt Platz, or town square, has been the heart of community life. In Halle, Germany, home of the Francke Foundation, the marketplace has long been a gathering place for shopping, conversation, music, food, and fellowship.

In keeping with our mission of preserving heritage and tradition, we are enhancing what we know as the Salzburger Market Platz!

At this year's Heritage Festival, stop by and explore an array of handcrafted items and vintage replicas, along with fresh tomatoes and the special treat of fresh tomato sandwiches! Enjoy pulled pork, schnitzel on a skewer, and homemade cookies and pastries.

Cool off with a cup of hand-squeezed lemonade, then relax in the shade on our "gossip benches" or gather around the bistro tables with friends. Weather permitting, cheerful accordion music will add to the atmosphere.

Come enjoy good food, good conversation, and the opportunity to count cousins and share memories of the past!

See you at the Salzburger Market Platz on Monday, September 7, 2026!

~ Claudia Christiansen



Shop, Browse & Discover at the Marktplatz!

Heritage Day wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Marktplatz!

Come browse, shop, and discover an assortment of homemade goodies, handmade treasures, and garden favorites—all while supporting the **Georgia Salzburger Society Museum Operating Fund!**

Our Marktplatz is the perfect place to find something special, including:

- Tomato sandwiches, pulled pork, schnitzel on a skewer
- Homemade breads and baked goods
- Cookies, cakes, and candies
- Jellies, preserves, and pickles
- Garden plants, fresh vegetables, and fruits
- Handmade crafts and other unique treasures

Have something homemade to share? We would love your donations! Your generous contributions make the Marktplatz a favorite stop for Heritage Day visitors, and **all proceeds benefit the Museum Operating Fund.**

Please bring donated items to the **museum beforehand** or directly to the **Marktplatz on Heritage Day, Monday, September 7.**

Come shop the Marktplatz, find a homemade treasure, and help support the Georgia Salzburger Society Museum! ~ Patsy Zeigler

FROM THE DESK OF THOMAS GROVENSTEIN

Loest Research Librarian



Greetings Cousins!

As we put July 4th and the celebration of Independence Day behind us, I want to leave you with some food for thought.

Many years before 1776 and the Declaration of Independence, a small group of religious exiles left a world that did not want them and journeyed to unknown and very different shores. Our very own Salzburger descendants of the 1730s laid the foundations for what America would stand for in the 1770s.

Look at the comparisons: Here at Ebenezer, our ancestors established churches and schools, cared for orphans, kept detailed records, farmed the land, organized the community for the common good, and learned to govern their own affairs and work together.

No, the Salzburgers did not write the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence. But the experiences these first Georgians had provided a blueprint for what came later. **We came seeking freedom of conscience and, within two generations, became citizens of a new nation whose founding documents helped protect that freedom.** That is the remarkable connection between the Salzburgers of Ebenezer, Georgia, and the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

At this point, I want to extend a very special invitation to each of you to join us for **Heritage Day!** On September 7th, Labor Day, we are putting together a number of events that celebrate all that makes us—and that means you—Salzburgers.

Please join us as we share the history of a great people with the greater community. **All are welcome, and everyone is needed to help make this the best Heritage Day ever!**

Oh, and I extend a special invitation to come visit me at the **Loest Research and Genealogy Library**. If you haven't already,

come see me and let's start your very own family tree!

Thank you, and I hope to see you on September 7th!



(Continued from page 4)

Swabian Roots

July 4, 2026

The Blue Bluff Militia

Vol. I, p. 149). The Georgia House of Assembly, July 7, 1781, authorized payment to "Capt. Rhan [Rahn] for the Pay & Subsistence of the **Blue Bluff Militia** under his Command" (*Colonial Records*, XXXVII, Pt. 2, p. 607). So, in the American Revolutionary Army there was a Bethany Company, later the Blue Bluff Militia. Because the Bethany District of Ebenezer, located on the Blue Bluff, was highly populated by Swabian settlers, without question, this militia unit must have been comprised of many second-generation Swabian settlers of Bethany.

John Adam Treutlen

One of the foremost leaders of the American independence movement in Georgia was John Adam Treutlen, a Swabian (see No. 6). On February 24, 1777, he was commissioned with the rank of Captain in the Georgia Militia. On May 8, 1777, the Georgia Legislature, convened in Savannah, elected Treutlen "by a large majority" the first Governor of the State of Georgia (*Revolutionary Records*, Vol. I, pp 305-306). When British forces occupied Georgia, including Ebenezer, in 1778-1779, Treutlen left the state and relocated in Orangeburg, S. C. Near that town in 1782, in a pitched battle with British troops, Treutlen was killed (see Gordon Smith, *History of the Georgia Militia, 1783 – 1861*, Vol. III, p. 125). Ebenezer Pastor Ernst Bergmann commented in a letter written in 1790 that Treutlen "was hacked to pieces by British soldiers" (*Salzburg—Halle—North America*, p. 766).

THE NEW HERITAGE TOUR

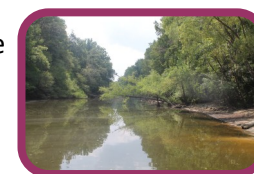
The focus of the 2026 Heritage Tour is to commemorate the important role Ebenezer played during the Revolutionary War and the unexpected impact it had on the outcome of the war.

- The cost of \$20 will include lunch, a tour resource guide booklet, a souvenir, and plenty of cheerful conversation!
- Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring your sunglasses, camera, and water—along with your creative spirit!

Our research uncovered some little-known facts, so this year's tour will include new discoveries and interesting details about places we thought we already knew. The documented information we have collected will help tell "The Rest of the Story!"

One of the stops will feature Yuchi descendant **Cynthia Tiger**, who will share information about Yuchi life in a village along the Savannah River at Tuckasee King Landing.

- **Please RSVP** so we can provide an accurate headcount for lunch at the Retreat Center.
- Call or text: Claudia, 912-547-4631 Anne, 912-661-3696



Cynthia Tiger



Heritage Weekend Celebration 2026



Saturday, September 5

10:00 AM – Annual Salzburger Heritage Tour
“Salzburger Heritage and Revolutionary War Connections”

The tour will include a caravan to Tuckasee-King, lunch at the New Ebenezer Retreat Center, and a walking tour of Ebenezer. **\$20 per person** for the tour and lunch. **RSVP for the tour and lunch by August 28, 2026** by texting (912) 661-3696 or (912) 547-4631, or by emailing lamiller_2@msn.com.



2:00 PM – Workshop in the Parsonage
“Ebenezer at 250”

Presenter: Erika Bragg

**6:00 PM– Banquet at the New Ebenezer
Retreat Center**

Program: *Uchee Culture and Traditions*
Presenter: Cynthia Tiger

Silent Auction:

Banquet: Meal cost: \$25 per person. Enjoy a delicious Southern-style meal with beverages and dessert. Please **RSVP** by August 28 by calling or texting Patsy **(912) 655-4555**.



Sunday, September 6

11:00 AM – Worship at Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Following the service – Covered-Dish Lunch

3:00 PM – Piano Concert - Donna Dasher

4:30 PM – Reception in the Social Hall



Monday, September 7

9:00 AM – Poster Contest Judging

10:00 AM 3:00 PM – Heritage Day Festival

ACTIVITIES, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND VENDORS



11:00 AM – Program at Jerusalem Lutheran Church
W. Wright Mitchell Presentation and Book Signing

“Georgia’s First Elected Governor: John Adam Treutlen and the American Revolution”

