

Kids Page

Lowndes County Historical Society
January - February 2006

Salzburgers in Georgia

Georgia Day is February 12. We all know James Edward Oglethorpe brought a group of English settlers to Savannah in 1733, but have you ever heard of the Salzburgers and the town of Ebenezer? In 1734 the first group of emigrants came to Georgia from the Principality of Salzburg. They were forced to leave their homeland and were seeking freedom, but not just religious freedom; they also wanted freedom of speech, thought, and conscience.

They came at the invitation of the Trustees of the Colony of Georgia, who also made money available to help with the voyage. The Trustees also gave each emigrant fifty acres of land and enough supplies to feed their family until crops grew. The emigrants came on three different ships which sailed from Rotterdam to Savannah:

<i>Purysburg</i>	Departed – December 14, 1733 Arrived – March 12, 1734.
<i>Prince Frederick</i>	Departed – October 31, 1734 Arrived – December 28, 1734.
<i>London Merchant</i>	Departed – September 30, 1741 Arrived – December 2, 1741.

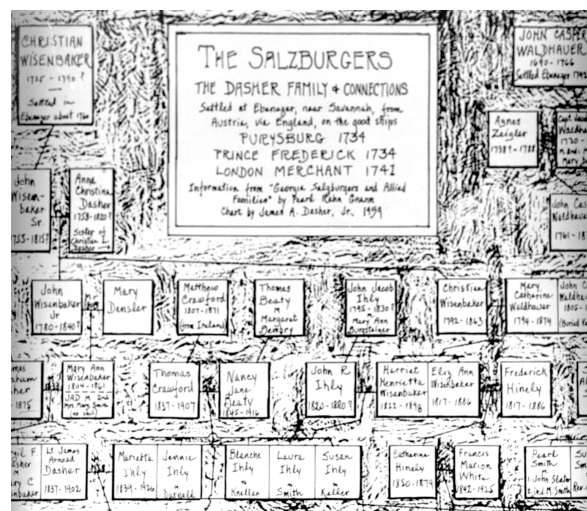
The Salzburgers were good, hardworking people. By the time the last ship arrived in 1741, there were more than one thousand German speaking people living in Georgia. Most of the emigrants settled in the town of Ebenezer upriver from Savannah in Effingham County. There were also Germanic settlers at Bethany, Savannah, Frederica, Goshen, and along the road to Ebenezer.

The Salzburgers were leaders in education and culture in the early Georgia colony. They appreciated the finer things in life: religion, music, art, and science. They had the first schools at Bethany and Ebenezer. They were concerned for the care of orphans and established the first orphanage at Ebenezer. They also opposed slavery and petitioned against it to the Trustees of the Georgia colony. The settlers farmed, but they also manufactured silk.

Ebenezer was occupied by the British during the American Revolution and the inhabitants evacuated to Savannah. After the war the settlement recovered a bit, but did not regain its commercial and manufacturing prominence. Perhaps that is why many of the Salzburgers migrated to Lowndes County one hundred years later in the 1830s. People with names like Dasher, Griner, Burgsteiner, Hiers, Wisenbaker, and Zeigler moved here. How many people do you know with these names? You might even have ancestors who came to Lowndes with these groups many years ago.



A section of Hinton's (1779) map showing the location of Ebenezer on the Savannah River. (Atlas of Georgia 1986)



This is a portion of a genealogy chart showing the Salzburger ancestors of people who moved to Lowndes County. Collections of the LCHS.

For more information on Salzburgers and their descendants visit the Lowndes County Historical Society Museum or ask your parents and check these sites:

The Georgia Salzburger Society –
www.georgiasalzburgers.com

The Georgia Historical Society –
www.georgiahistory.com

Also check out:
The Lake Park Area Historical Society

For more about history ask your parents if you may visit our museum.

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Did you know that a young man named Philip Georg Friedrich von Reck came to Georgia with the Salzburgers? His sketchbooks and drawings were found in the Royal Library at Copenhagen, Denmark by a researcher in 1976. The young artist died in 1790 and his sketches were given to the King of Denmark.

Von Reck kept a diary and made beautiful drawings of the plants, animals, Native people, and daily life in the Georgia colony. His writings were published in the eighteenth century, but the drawings were lost until they were discovered in 1976. Von Reck came to Georgia on the ship *London Merchant*. His sketchbook even included a plan of the ship.

For more information about von Reck and to see his wonderful drawings see the book *Von Reck's Voyage: Drawings and Journal of Philip Georg Friedrich von Reck*, edited by Kristian Hvidt. The Beehive Press, Savannah, 1980.



Von Reck's drawing of an Indian camp (Hvidt 1980).

Other books with information about the Salzburgers include:
 Charles C. Jones Jr., *The Dead Towns of Georgia*.
 George Fenwick Jones, *The Salzburger Saga: Religious Exiles and Other Germans along the Savannah*.
 P. A. Strobel, *The Salzburgers and Their Descendants*.

SALZBURGER NAMES WORD FIND - Do you recognize any of these names?

H	I	E	R	S	D	A	Y	B	D	N	U	B	C	L	Y
A	S	P	A	N	L	A	R	U	O	C	K	L	I	Y	O
V	S	F	F	O	M	R	E	R	E	P	P	I	Z	E	T
A	G	W	L	G	C	A	V	G	N	L	C	T	I	L	N
R	I	V	R	R	G	I	L	S	A	R	P	C	L	X	E
N	R	Y	E	I	U	C	E	T	O	S	A	H	W	E	D
E	E	R	V	N	L	Z	E	E	C	M	O	V	A	A	T
D	K	E	O	E	N	A	C	I	R	T	S	I	S	C	S
O	A	D	O	R	O	N	O	N	R	K	C	H	K	G	I
E	B	T	R	N	S	T	T	E	O	D	E	A	V	A	T
T	N	O	G	C	N	C	L	R	T	R	A	S	L	I	N
J	E	O	H	N	H	G	N	R	Y	D	N	S	L	T	E
O	S	P	A	E	I	P	A	R	E	G	Z	T	E	M	D
R	I	N	O	E	I	R	A	P	H	Y	O	O	S	E	Y
F	W	O	Z	T	T	R	E	G	R	E	B	E	N	I	L

Find the following words. They are written forward, backward, upside-down, and diagonal.

- | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------|---------|-----------|
| HIERS | WISENBAKER | GROOVER | ZEIGLER | VARNE DOE |
| LINEBERGER | GRINER | ZANT | EXLEY | BLITCH |
| DASHER | BURGSTEINER | ZIPPERER | VARN | METZGER |