



COASTAL ■ GEORGIA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 21136  
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA 31522

[saintsimonslighthouse.org](http://saintsimonslighthouse.org)



**50 YEARS**  
1965-2015

COASTAL GEORGIA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING AND 2015 REPORT TO MEMBERS  
THE CLOISTER | SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA | JANUARY 24, 2016



HISTORY. CELEBRATED DAILY.

The purpose of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society is to aid in the administration, restoration and maintenance of those historic facilities and resources entrusted to its care so that they will be preserved as a living part of the historical and cultural foundations of our coastal community.

Our mission is to present and interpret the history and culture of coastal Georgia as it is reflected in its heritage of significant sites and resources. Through exhibits, educational programs and interpretation, the value of this heritage gives meaning and orientation to present day life and creates an awareness of the need for the preservation of our treasured past for future generations.

## ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

Welcome and Call to Order	Hillary Stringfellow
Executive Director's Message	Sherri Jones
Introduction of Board Members and Executive Committee	Lewis Glenn
George C. Cunningham Award	Hillary Stringfellow
Rodriguez Service Award	Hillary Stringfellow
Speaker Introduction	Mimi Rogers
Lecture <i>The American Plate: A Culinary History</i>	Libby O'Connell
Adjourn	Hillary Stringfellow

*Keepers of the Light Appreciation Reception will follow the Annual Meeting at the home of Sybil and Ed Ralston on Sea Island.*

## FEATURED SPEAKER: LIBBY O'CONNELL, PH.D.



**Dr. Libby Haight O'Connell** spent 18 months researching the history of food before writing her book *The American Plate: A Culinary History in 100 Bites*, published in 2014. Her interest in American eating habits began during an undergraduate semester spent at Plimoth Plantation, the 17th century living history museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Dressed as a pilgrim, she worked in the cook house, where she milked cows, baked bread in a Dutch oven, churned butter, and “fell in love with social history, the story of everyday life.”

After receiving a Ph.D. in American history from the University of Virginia, Dr. O'Connell became an historical advisor at A+E Network, which eventually led to the position of Chief Historian for the History Channel. During her 21-year tenure, she focused on social history and the minutia of everyday life so important to the accurate portrayal of earlier times. Dr. O'Connell has received four Emmy awards and, as executive producer, has created many short films for organizations such as the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian, ranging in topics from civil rights to First Ladies' gowns. Recently, the White House appointed her to the World War I Centennial Commission.

In today's presentation, Dr. O'Connell will discuss the individuals and cultures that have influenced the way we eat. She will share interesting tidbits from her book, the unusual delicacies our ancestors enjoyed and Coastal Georgia eating traditions.

## SOCIETY LEADERSHIP

### 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Executive Committee

Hillary Stringfellow, President  
Anne Stembler, Immediate Past President  
Lewis Glenn, Vice President  
Kevin Lokey, Secretary  
Rusty Bolt, Treasurer  
Dave Fox, Special Advisor  
Ralph Jernigan, Endowments

Kay Cantrell  
Nancy DeLong  
Patty Deveau  
Ellen Fleming  
Susan Hartman  
Tom Heagy  
Bill Jones III  
Jeanne Manning  
Mike Martin  
Cindy Rackley  
Janis Rodriguez  
Elizabeth Sorrells  
John Tuten

#### Board Members Completing Service in 2015

Rusty Bolt, 2010-2015  
Patty Deveau, 2010-2015  
Dave Fox, 2008-2015  
Elizabeth Sorrells, 2013-2015  
John Tuten, 2013-2015

### 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lewis Glenn, Vice President  
Cindy Rackley, Secretary  
Kevin Lokey, Treasurer  
Ralph Jernigan, Endowments

Kay Cantrell  
Myrna Crook  
Nancy DeLong  
Ellen Fleming  
Susan Hartman  
Duane Harris  
Tom Heagy  
Bill Jones III  
Brenda Jones  
Jeanne Manning  
Mike Martin  
Janis Rodriguez

#### Honorary Trustees

Mary Burdell  
Don Carter  
Albert Fendig  
Albert F. Shelander

### STAFF

Sherri Jones  
Executive Director  
Mimi Rogers  
Curator  
Curt Smith  
Events Coordinator/  
Store Manager  
Susan Bacon  
Development/  
Membership Coordinator  
Sandy Jensen  
Education Director  
Leigh Ann Stroud  
Public Relations Director  
Marsha Johnson  
Office Manager  
Buddy Sullivan  
Senior Historian  
Nick Honerkamp, Ph.D.  
Consulting Archaeologist  
Ray O'Brien  
Facilities Manager  
Kathy O'Brien  
Assistant Store Manager

#### Store Staff

Wanda Bernhardt,  
Carol Cudahy, Linda Culver,  
Mike Peck, Sue Rinehart,  
Gail Rivard, Mark See,  
Theresa Spangler,  
Archie Watkins

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: HILLARY STRINGFELLOW

The 50th anniversary year was memorable for the Historical Society, and I was honored to be President during such an eventful time. The Society's future is brighter than ever with exciting projects underway that will further enrich the lives of the people in our community. A highlight of the year was the formal beginning of our project to rejuvenate the Historic Coast Guard Station at East Beach, preserving and enhancing another historic icon for the Golden Isles.

I am amazed at the number of programs, lectures and events that the Society hosts every year. Personally, I enjoy the Chautauqua Lectures and the Little Light Music Concert Series, both long-standing summer traditions which are enjoyed by thousands. The annual report includes a comprehensive listing, and I encourage you to take a minute to review 2015's impressive list of activities. One of the best measures of the popularity of our programs is growth in membership over the past five years. Membership revenues have grown from \$80,000 to over \$280,000 during this period. The largest increase is in the Keeper of the Light category, which has gone from 19 to 164 members! I am grateful to the Development Committee, chaired by Cindy Rackley, for the fabulous job they have done engaging new people in our mission and encouraging our existing members to increase their investment in our organization. My heartfelt thanks to our membership, the lifeblood of our organization, for your ongoing commitment, enthusiasm and support of Society facilities and programs.

As 2015 draws to a close, we give a special thank you to Dave Fox, Rusty Bolt, Patty Deveau, John Tuten and Elizabeth Sorrells who are completing their terms of service on the Board after offering exemplary service and contributing to the betterment of the Society. Dave has provided esteemed leadership to the Society since 2008,

providing both valuable counsel and significant leadership gifts to the Society's projects, including the Keeper's Dwelling Campaign. Rusty has served since 2010, initially chairing the Human Resources Committee. Since 2013, he has served as the Society's Treasurer and leaves us on a solid financial footing based on professional accounting practices. Patty Deveau has also served since 2010 and has been a strong advocate for African American Heritage and provided leadership in building professional affiliations at the state and national level. Thanks to Patty for making the Society a richer, more diverse organization. John Tuten and Elizabeth Sorrells are both finishing their first term of service this year and their contributions in facilities management and finance, respectively, are greatly appreciated. John's experience in the design and maintenance of public buildings has been particularly valuable in our stewardship efforts.

As we start a new year, the Board of Directors is energized by the continued efforts of the staff who are leading the Society towards major goals and significant projects. The strategic plan of the Society is brought to life by the staff, and the Board is grateful for their dedication and efforts. I would also like to welcome our new Board members Myrna Crook, Duane Harris and Brenda Jones, who are already making a meaningful contribution. I look forward to partnering with all of you to serve our community in 2016!

Hillary Stringfellow  
President



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: SHERRI JONES

The Society's 50th anniversary celebration in November provided the grand finale of a milestone year! I will remember 2015 for many significant reasons including valuable additions to our team of educators and experts, winning the Georgia Trust Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation for the Keeper's Dwelling Restoration project, securing a 50-year license and County-funded renovations on the Historic Coast Guard Station, and hosting a busy summer of children's history and archaeology programs. I will also remember the fun that we had during the anniversary celebration week looking back over the wonderful accomplishments of the past 50 years, reconnecting with old friends of the Society, and making new ones right here in our community.

The celebration week began with a lecture by Richard Brookhiser about Abraham Lincoln, which many members commented was the "best program ever presented by the Society." The lecture was followed the next evening by a reception for the membership, attended by over 300 people and enjoyed by all. As wonderful as those events were, my favorite part of the week was "Community Appreciation Day" when we opened the museums to the community free of charge and provided a festival of events during the day for children and families. That day, over 1,000 people came to the lighthouse—many of them families with children who have lived in Glynn County for years and had never climbed the lighthouse! The Board and staff of the Society all agreed that a tradition was born that day, and we cannot wait to host the event again next year.

As we embark on our next 50 years, the Coastal Georgia Historical Society is energized by a mission that is as vibrant now as it was in 1965. We have achieved excellence in stewarding the iconic structures entrusted to our care and are passionate educators on the history and culture of coastal

Georgia. We have found our audiences and continue to learn new ways to entertain and serve them. Our organization is sustained by members, visitors, donors, and volunteers who cherish and appreciate our coastal heritage and are eager to learn and discover more about history. Our Board of Directors and staff are focused on the long-term success of the organization and working together, produce extraordinary results.

This time last year the Board of Directors completed strategic planning discussions and approved two key priorities for the Historical Society over the next three to five years. The first priority is to expand cultural education for adults and school children. During 2015, we hired Sandy Jensen as Education Director. A history and archaeology summer program was presented for the Boys and Girls Club of St. Simons, funded by a grant from the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation, and "Friday Fun Days" were held during the month of June for local children. Sandy will continue to develop programming for families and children during 2016, building on the success of this year's programs. In response to requests from our membership, a new educational series for adults called *Journeys* will be presented for the first time in March 2016. The signature series will be comprised of educational programs in coordination with an expert-led field trip. For the inaugural *Journeys*, our theme will be the American Bomber Boys of World War II, which will also be a chance to embrace our local World War II legacy as we move forward with our plans to create a World War II museum at the Historic Coast Guard Station.

The strategic plan also calls for the implementation of a new vision for the Historic Coast Guard Station at East Beach. Project and pre-campaign planning began during 2015 to transform the Station into a beautiful historic landmark for our

community and a new World War II Museum interpreting homefront activities. On May 21, 2015, we secured a long-term operating license from Glynn County to operate the Station as a museum, similar to the license that we have on the Keeper's Dwelling. A 50-year interest in the building is critical to reassuring donors that the Historical Society has a long-term commitment to the project. Glynn County agreed to complete repairs and ADA alterations on the buildings and grounds so that the Society will assume responsibility for a site that is in good condition. The architectural plans for the project have recently been finalized, and the county is on track to select a contractor and begin construction by summer 2016. The project is expected to take about four months and should be completed during 2016.

During recent pre-campaign planning meetings, the Society's Development Committee concluded that the Society should be ready to implement work on the Station site, including the addition of an outdoor archaeology classroom for children, funded by a grant from the Terry Thomas Foundation, and install new exhibits during 2017. This year, Curator Mimi Rogers has been working with a task force of experts, including our Senior Historian Buddy Sullivan, to develop the concept for the new World War II exhibits. She has also been collaborating with our Consulting Archaeologist Dr. Nick Honerkamp to bring the Archaeology Lab at the Coast Guard Station up to professional curation standards with proper cataloging and storage. Nick is also contributing to discussions on the expansion of the research lab to accommodate children's education. To gather input into the master planning process, I have been consulting with other stakeholders and experts in the community to determine how to maximize the positive impact of the beautification project at the Station. Therefore, the Executive Committee will be

seeking Board approval to commission a master plan for the site and an exhibit design plan early in 2016, with a goal of completing the plans by early 2017.

The expansion of the Heritage Center to add a new exhibit hall is also identified in the Society's five-year plan and, therefore, was another key area of discussion during the Development Committee planning meetings. It was agreed that the Society is facing space limitations in several areas that will negatively impact our ability to expand service to the community. The committee agreed that we need to think "boldly" when it comes to the expansion in order to ensure that the Society is prepared for the next decade. During 2016, a Board-appointed task force will be charged with defining the scope and cost of an expansion project.

We begin 2016 with even more clarity about how our organization can uniquely serve our community and great momentum from the support and enthusiasm of a growing family of history lovers. During the 50th anniversary events, I visited with many of our members and appreciated their encouraging words about their enjoyment of our fabulous speakers. They expressed the need to build an exhibit hall because they miss the Society's rotating exhibits and, recognizing that we are growing out of the Heritage Center, they offered their help with a future project. The Society is committed to our dreams and making them a reality in partnership with the community. At the same time, we are grounded in a daily commitment to excellence, continual self-assessment, and a deep appreciation of the esprit de corps that we enjoy with all those connected to our organization. Thank you again for your friendship and another memorable year!

Sherri Jones  
Executive Director

# 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

Unaudited

## Operations

Revenues .....	\$ 1,098,611
Transfer from General Endowment .....	\$ 22,000
Expenses .....	\$ (1,131,902)
Net Income from Operations .....	\$ (11,291)
Donation Restricted for Archaeology Lab .....	\$ 50,000
Total Net Income .....	\$ <u>38,709</u>

## General Endowment

Beginning Balance .....	\$ 1,352,105
Dividend and Interest Income .....	58,487
Realized and Unrealized Loss .....	\$ (112,228)
Management Fees .....	\$ (4,941)
Transfer to Operations and Keeper's Dwelling Endowment .....	\$ (64,000)
Ending Balance .....	\$ <u>1,229,423</u>

## Keeper's Dwelling Endowment

Beginning Balance .....	\$ 225,463
Contributions .....	\$ 33,186
Dividend and Interest Income .....	\$ 12,220
Realized and Unrealized Loss .....	\$ (15,523)
Management Fees .....	\$ (898)
Transfer from General Endowment .....	\$ 42,000
Ending Balance .....	\$ <u>296,448</u>

## ADMISSIONS

The new St. Simons Lighthouse Museum completed its first full year of operations in 2015. Admission revenues generated over \$320,000 during the year, the highest admission figures ever achieved. Even more exciting is that we have also received some of our best reviews on TripAdvisor. We are pleased that the restoration project is having a positive impact on our organization and our visitors!

# 2015: HIGHLIGHTS OF AN EXCITING YEAR

The Society's primary service to the community continues to be providing stewardship and public access to the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum and the Maritime Center at the Historic Coast Guard Station.

## Museum Visitation

Lighthouse Museum:	38,492
Maritime Museum:	10,000
Number of Group Tours:	292
Tour Participants:	7,188
Number of School Tours:	30
School Children:	1,053

## Educational Programming

Attendees at lectures, special tours and children's programs:	2,919
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## Events

Number of Event Rentals:	88
Event attendees at rentals:	8,800

## Programs, Lectures and Events

The Society strives to be a center for educational and cultural excellence in our community. The opening of our headquarters building in 2008, coupled with new staff leadership in 2010, has produced a dramatic increase in attendance to our programs. The A.W. Jones Heritage Center serves as the venue for a full schedule of activities, lectures and exhibits during the year, as well as providing space for the Society's offices, archives, library, the Museum Store and event rentals.

■ The Historical Society, in conjunction with the St. Simons Land Trust, offered in-depth **history tours of Cannon's Point Preserve** January 16, 30 and February 27 with a total of 32 participants. Archaeology consultant Myrna Crook provided a detailed interpretation of the historic site, including the John Couper family and life at Cannon's Point during the plantation period.

■ **The Society's Annual Meeting** was held on January 25 at The Cloister Ballroom on Sea Island. Keynote speaker Dean Norton, Director of Horticulture at Mount Vernon, presented a lecture entitled *George Washington's Mount Vernon: Legacy of an American Gardener*, to 321 members and guests in attendance. At the meeting, Myrna Crook was awarded the Cunningham Bowl for outstanding volunteer service. Sherri Jones and Mimi Rogers were awarded the

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*Programs, Lectures and Events, continued*

Rodriguez Service Award for extraordinary service to the Society. A reception honoring Keepers of the Light was held after the Annual Meeting at the home of Penny and Tom Flickinger. Board member Cindy Rackley chaired the event.

■ **Buddy Sullivan**, noted historian on coastal Georgia history, presented his annual six-week course, *An Overview of Coastal Georgia History*, January 13 through February 17. The course attracted 82 participants.

■ In celebration of **Black History month**, tours led by local expert Amy Roberts examined the history of the African American experience on St. Simons Island. Tours were offered on February 5 and 12 and there were 33 attendees.

■ For **Georgia History Day** on February 6, volunteer Cesar Rodriguez presented a program about the Lighthouse to 3rd – 5th graders at Oglethorpe Point Elementary School.

■ For the tenth year, the Society sponsored the regional contest for **National History Day**, a highly regarded annual academic program for middle and high school students organized by the Georgia Humanities Council. The 2015 contest, held on March 17 at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center, attracted over 100 students.

■ The **Spring Membership Meeting** was held on March 24. Dr. Keith Ashley, Research Coordinator for the Archaeology Laboratory at the University of North Florida, presented

“The Quest for a Lost Spanish Mission.” He discussed the Mocama Indians and reviewed UNF’s work at a Florida mission site. There were 200 members in attendance.

■ Over fifty Society volunteers attended the annual **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** on April 15. Special recognition was given to Larry Bacon, Bea Boglione, Myrna Crook, Norma Harris, Gail Rivard and Janis Rodriguez for dedicating over 100 hours of volunteer service.

■ The St. Simons Lighthouse Keeper’s Dwelling received an **award for Excellence in Restoration** from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation at its 38th annual Preservation Awards ceremony held April 17 in Athens, Georgia.

■ **The Little Light Music Concert Series** opened the series on May 3 with the Tams, followed by Victor Wainwright and the Wildroots on June 14. Mason Waters and the Groove Allstars performed on July 19. Island Garage Band played August 9 and Sensational Sounds of Motown closed the season on September 6.

The Series entertained 5,000 concertgoers and generated approximately \$25,000 for the Society. We are grateful to our generous sponsors: Brown-Rose Wealth Management, Hudson Heating and Air, Sea Island Landscaping and Elegant Island Living.

■ **Buddy Sullivan presented his new book**, *A Georgia Tidewater Companion: Essays, Papers and Some Personal Observations on 30 Years of Coastal Georgia Research*, on

May 7 and June 25. A book signing followed both talks, and there were a total of 259 attendees.

■ On May 21, the Society secured a **long-term operating license** with Glynn County for the Coast Guard Station, similar to the license we have for the Keeper’s Dwelling.

■ Every Friday morning in June, the Society had **Friday Fun Days** at the Lighthouse. Educational programs and activities were free with admission and included Historic Games, Nautical Navigation, Keeper for the Day and A Very Victorian Flag Day. Approximately 125 children enjoyed this exciting series.

■ For six weeks, the Society hosted 13 upcoming 4th, 5th, and 6th graders from the **Boys & Girls Club of St. Simons**. Made possible by a grant from the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation, Sandy Jensen led a history and archaeology camp which included several exciting trips. They visited East Beach with a marine biologist, the Lighthouse Museum, Cannon’s Point, Cassina Garden Club’s Tabby Slave Cabins and the Archaeology Lab at the Coast Guard Station where they completed a mock dig and artifact analysis.

■ For several weeks this summer, **Dr. Nick Honerkamp’s field school** of eight students from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga worked to define boundaries for the Cannon’s Point north end plantation site. Artifacts, including Native American and Plantation Period, from 80 shovel test sites were processed at the Archaeology Lab at the Coast Guard Station.

■ In celebration of the Society’s 50th Anniversary, the 2015 **Chautauqua Lecture Series** of four lectures examined key people in the world of American lighthouses, with special emphasis on the St. Simons Light. Experts presented programs to 222 people on our own lighthouse keepers and their island home; French inventor Augustin Fresnel and the struggle to bring his revolutionary lens to America; Charles Cluskey and the competition to design a new U.S. Capitol under the threat of Civil War; and Founding Fathers Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, who created the Federal lighthouse system.

On **August 13**, Tyler E. Bagwell kicked off the series with “Keeping the Light: Stories from St. Simons Lighthouse.” His focus was our local keepers and life on St. Simons before construction of the Causeway. Bagwell is an assistant professor of communication at the College of Coastal Georgia and has spent nearly twenty years researching and writing about the history of the Golden Isles. He has authored two books, *The Jekyll Island Club* and *Jekyll Island: A State Park*, and numerous magazine articles about the region.

Dr. Theresa Levitt presented “Why did the Yankees want the St. Simons Lens?: The Invention and Turbulent History of Fresnel’s Lighthouse Lens” on **August 20**. As in her recent book, *A Short Bright Flash: Augustin Fresnel and the Invention of the Modern Lighthouse*, Levitt wove together technology and personal drama to tell the tale of Fresnel and his famous lens. Her lecture also examined the fate of lighthouses along the southern coast, including the St. Simons Light, during the Civil War. Dr. Levitt is associate

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### Programs, Lectures and Events, continued

professor of history at the University of Mississippi. A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she has an M.A. in history from Iowa State University and a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

On **August 27**, Guy Gugliotta presented “Freedom’s Cap: The United States Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War.” His 2012 book by the same title tells the dramatic story of the Capitol Building expansion, in which Charles Cluskey, the builder of our Lighthouse, was involved. Gugliotta was national reporter for *The Washington Post* for 16 years, covering the Gulf War, the impeachment of President Clinton, and the Columbia space shuttle tragedy. Before joining *The Post*, he was foreign correspondent for *The Miami Herald*, and covered Colombia’s drug wars and the Iran hostage crisis. Since going free-lance in 2006, Gugliotta has written for, among other publications, *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian* magazine, *Discover*, and *The New York Times*. He holds a B.A. from Columbia College and an M.A. from Columbia University’s School of International Affairs. He served in the U.S. Navy as a watch officer on a destroyer before commanding a swift boat in the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War.

David O. Stewart concluded the series on **September 3** with the lecture, “James Madison and Alexander Hamilton: A Nation-building Partnership.” Based on Stewart’s 2015 book, *Madison’s Gift: Five Partnerships That Built America*, the lecture included the founding fathers’ role in establishing the lighthouse system. After practicing law for many years, Stewart published *The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Invented the Constitution*, which was a *Washington Post*

bestseller in 2007. This was followed by *Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln’s Legacy* and *American Emperor, Aaron Burr’s Challenge to Jefferson’s America*, an examination of Burr’s Western expedition. Stewart has also written an historical mystery, *The Lincoln Deception*, based on the John Wilkes Booth Conspiracy. He graduated from Yale College and Yale Law School and served as law clerk to Associate Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr.

The Society is grateful to Wells Fargo Advisors for their financial support of the Chautauqua Lecture Series.

#### ■ 50th Anniversary Celebration

On Wednesday, **November 4**, the Society hosted journalist, biographer and historian Richard Brookhiser. Mr. Brookhiser, a recipient of the National Humanities Medal, is widely known for a series of biographies of America’s founders, including George Washington and Alexander Hamilton. He has also written and hosted documentary films about Washington and Hamilton for PBS. Mr. Brookhiser discussed his most recent book, *Founder’s Son: A Life of Abraham Lincoln*. The lecture had 128 attendees.

On Thursday, **November 5**, a member celebration and cocktail reception was held. Steve Penley, well-known for his vibrant paintings of our founding fathers, was present to put the finishing touches on an original oil painting that was raffled to raise funds to purchase an artifact for the new World War II Museum. Leslie Kaufmann was the raffle winner. Artifacts featured in *Elegant Island Living* during the year and a timeline slideshow were on display as part of a 50th anniversary exhibit. Several past presidents and directors of the Society were among the 300 guests in attendance.

On Saturday, **November 7**, the museum was open to the community free of charge and provided a festival of events during the day including tours of the museum, educational crafts and activities for children and families, presentations by interpreters from Fort King George and the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, and historic lawn games. Over 1,000 visitors attended.

■ The Museum Store hosted a series of **Christmas at the Lighthouse** events for the holiday season. Sharon Collins, host and producer of GPB’s *Georgia Outdoors*, gave a talk on November 12 about her experiences filming the Georgia Lighthouses episode featuring our very own lighthouse. There were 130 people in attendance. The Holiday Open House on November 21 resulted in record breaking sales for the Store. On December 10, Curt Smith gave a talk to 80 people on the South’s favorite winter flower, the camellia.

■ The Society presented “**SSI Archives**” on a monthly basis in *Elegant Island Living* magazine this year. Produced by Society curator Mimi Rogers and Lawrence Certain of Faulkenberry Certain Advertising, each article was themed around notable objects from the Society’s archives to celebrate our 50th anniversary. This popular series will continue in 2016.

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY LAB

In 2011, the Society recognized the need for an archaeology laboratory to serve as a repository of artifacts from local sites. Originally envisioned by archaeologist Ray Crook, the laboratory was set up in the Education Building at the St. Simons Coast Guard Station. Since 2012, all artifacts recovered from approved archaeological projects at Cannon’s Point Preserve have been processed and curated at the Lab. In 2015, artifacts from a Glynn County Board of Commissioners project, conducted at Gascoigne Bluff by the Society’s first archaeology intern Marie Meranda, were processed at the Lab. Over the past four years, the Golden Isles Archaeological Society has provided invaluable financial and volunteer resources.

#### Additional projects during 2015 have included:

- Supporting two University of Tennessee at Chattanooga field schools and one University of Tennessee at Knoxville research project
- Curating artifacts from eight Cannon’s Point Preserve projects
- Creating a collections database
- Setting up a metal preservation station
- Designing two display cases for Cannon’s Point Preserve artifacts
- Designing and administering a mock dig for school children
- Providing lectures and other educational services



## ACQUISITIONS

### 2015.001

Booklet: Dedicatory Exercises of Glynn County White Memorial High School and Auditorium, 1923

Donor: McDaniel College, Westminster, MD

### 2015.002

Books and U.S. Navy officer's buckle belonging to the Couper family of St. Simons Island and Brunswick

Donors: Frances and Michael Robinson

### 2015.003

Slides: St. Simons, Brunswick, Sea Island, Jekyll Island and NAS Glynco, 1960s

Donor: David G. Blood

### 2015.004

Pillowcases, two, early 20th century

Donor: Sybil Ralston

### 2015.005

Booklet: "An Introduction to LeConte-Woodmanston," 1978

Donor: Frances J. Allen

### 2015.006

Commemorative Plate: The Cloister Hotel

Photograph: St. Simons Island beach in front of the Ship House

Donor: Merry T. Tipton

### 2015.007

Program: Georgia-Sea Island Festival, 1993

Donor: Susan W. Hartman

### 2015.008

DVDs of 2015 CGHS programs:

Annual Meeting Lecture: "George Washington's Mount Vernon: Legacy of an American Gardener" by Dean Norton

Spring Membership Meeting Lecture: "The Quest for a Lost Spanish Mission" by Dr. Keith Ashley

2015 Chautauqua Lecture Series (4): "Our Lighthouse History Illuminated"

"St. Simons Keeper's Dwelling Restoration," 2013-14

Booklet: "Coastal Georgia Historical Society: Fifty Years of Living History, 1965-2015"

Museum Acquisitions

### Additions to existing collections:

#### 1998.015

Yearbooks, newsletters, scrapbooks, notecards and an ornament

Donor: Cassina Garden Club

#### 2014.012

DVDs and transcripts (6): Interviews with St. Simons Island African Americans, organized by Dr. Melanie Pavich, Penfield College of Mercer University, March 2015

Donor: St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition

### Education Collection

Map (copy): Framed copy of John Thomas map of Proposed Fort St. Simons, etc. 1740

Donors: Sissy and Peyton Lingle

### Research Library

Book: *A Georgia Tidewater Companion* by Buddy Sullivan

Donor: Buddy Sullivan

Booklet: "An Island Life between the Wars: Taylor Brothers of St. Simons Island, Georgia" by Charles E. Pearson, Sally Taylor Pearson, and Jim E. Pearson, Jr.

Donor: Charles E. Pearson

Books: *British Drums on the Southern Frontier* by Larry E. Ivers

*Freedom's Cap: The United States Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War* by Guy Gugliotta

Donor: John J. Rogers

Magazines: *Golden Isles Life*, 13 issues, 1991-1994

Donor: Merry T. Tipton

Book: *Antique Tins: Identification and Values* by Fred Dodge

Donor: Sybil Ralston

## SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS

Since the Society's founding, volunteers have worked diligently to bring our mission to life as the front-line connection with visitors to our museums. Our successes are due to the dedication, commitment, love of history and support demonstrated by these faithful stewards. We extend our appreciation to these individuals who continue to devote their time and talent to the work of the Society serving as museum docents, tour guides, archives' registrars and researchers, event volunteers, administrative office volunteers, archaeology volunteers, and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Lighthouse Crew.

Barbara Abbate

Donna Ainger

Ralph Ainger

Leslie Aldinger

Anne Ambrose

Larry Bacon

Mary Baldwin

Jim Barnett

Billy Bice

Bea Boglione

Les Breen

Patty Breen

Lucy Lynn Brinson

Dottie Brodhag

June Brown

Jonathan Bryant

Linda Bullock

Mary Jo Busby

Kay Cantrell

Leslie Carlton

Jean Choate

Lindsey Cochran

Jeff Cole

Patty Cole

Ann Corley

Doug Cranford

Melanie Cranford

George Cressman

Judy Cressman

Myrna Crook

Linda Culver

David Curtis

Leah Curtis

Sybil D'Amico

Deana Davis

Jeremy Davis

Mary Jo Davis

Patty Deveau

Nancy DeLong

Liz Demato

John Dieterman

Al Dixon

Marie Dodd

Martha Jane Dodson

Kyle Elliott

Nancy Evenson

John Farmer

Albert Fendig

Judi Fergus

Carol Ferguson

Ellen Fleming

Steve Ford

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