



## Summertime in the Village

Since the 1890s, the Village has welcomed summertime visitors to St. Simons Island. Before the F.J. Torras Causeway was built in 1924, ferry service provided transportation to the island, stopping at the Village Pier. To accommodate those seeking ocean breezes, sand and surf, small hotels sprang up along the water's edge and shops were built on Mallery Street. Islanders opened boarding houses, sold handicrafts and took visitors on tours of colonial and plantation ruins.

In the early 20th century, the Pier Hotel was a popular establishment, offering food, drinks and bathing suits, as advertised in bold letters on the building's exterior. For a short time, the hotel operated a particularly enticing amenity – a water slide. This three-story wooden structure whisked intrepid swimmers, seated in small sleds, down a steep ramp into the water.

This month's images from the Coastal Georgia Historical Society archives show visitors strolling in front of the Pier Hotel in 1907 and the short-lived water slide.



Our monthly images on this page are from the vast archives of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society. The Society's mission includes the "administration, restoration and maintenance of historic facilities and resources . . . preserved as a living part of the historical and cultural foundations of our coastal community." Society facilities include the St. Simons Lighthouse and Museum, the A.W. Jones Heritage Center, and the Historic Coast Guard Station. To learn more about the Society, its diverse programs, and the benefits of Society membership, please call (912) 638.4666, or visit [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org).