

Chautauqua Lecture Series

Eden and Empire: Coastal Georgia's Ties to Shaping Early American National Identity



The Society is excited to announce the return this summer of our annual Chautauqua Series, which was suspended last year due to the pandemic. This year's four lectures will be presented virtually, via Zoom. As we phase into regular programming, we will offer the option of attending the first lecture in person.

The series will focus on how conflicting concepts in the early 19th century shaped the future of the American Republic. The new nation was viewed by many as an Eden with natural riches that were seemingly limitless and beneficial. At the same time, it was understood that development of those resources could make the country an economic powerhouse of global significance. The process of moving from Eden to Empire would forever change the national landscape and create the industrialized country that is modern America.



Clay Jenkinson

On August 12, the series opens with **Clay Jenkinson**, humanities scholar and a leader in the modern Chautauqua movement, who will return to Coastal Georgia for an in-person presentation. In a dramatic portrayal of Thomas Jefferson, Jenkinson will examine the evolving concepts of early America in his program, **"Empire for Liberty: The View from Thomas Jefferson's Monticello."** Jenkinson will describe the third president's deep commitment to American horticulture and agrarian ideals. He will also discuss Jefferson's determination to expand the boundaries of the nation westward to create an "Empire of Liberty...an extensive and fertile country."

Winner of the National Humanities Award, Jenkinson hosts a nationally syndicated radio program “The Thomas Jefferson Hour” and is author of several books on prominent Americans. He has appeared in four Ken Burns documentaries on American history. Jenkinson also presented a program on President Theodore Roosevelt as part of our 2019 Chautauqua Series.

The lecture on August 19 will explore a more local topic, as author **Jennifer Goloboy presents “Isabella and James Hamilton, Merchant Family of St. Simons, Charleston, and London.”** Business partner to John Couper of Cannon’s Point Plantation on St. Simons, James Hamilton represented the entrepreneurial spirit of the Early Republic as a merchant and land owner, who immigrated to Coastal Georgia in the late 18th century. He was owner of Hamilton Plantation at Gascoigne Bluff, but lived mainly in Charleston and Philadelphia. Drawing from her book, *Charleston and the Emergence of Middle-Class Culture in the Revolutionary Era*, Goloboy will use the early 19th century letters of Hamilton’s wife Isabella to reveal the circumstances of merchant family life. James was headquartered in Charleston, while Isabella and their children lived in the environs of London.

Based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Goloboy is a literary agent and an independent scholar, who specializes in the history of the early American middle class. She earned her Ph.D. in the history of American civilization from Harvard University and is the editor of *Industrial Revolution: People and Perspectives*.



Victoria Johnson

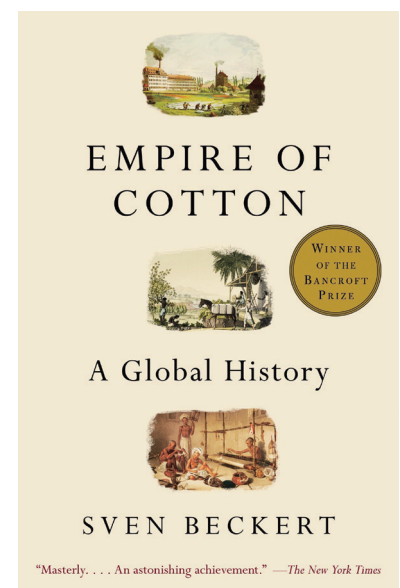
The concept of America as Eden will be the topic of a lecture on **September 2, presented by scholar and author Victoria Johnson.** Her book ***American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic*** recounts the life of one of America’s most prominent physicians and medical botanists. Though best known as the physician who attended Alexander Hamilton after he was fatally shot by Aaron Burr, Hosack was also a pioneering botanist and established the nation’s first botanical garden in New York City.

Hosack’s influence spread to Georgia. Louis and John Eatton LeConte, whose family owned Woodmanston Plantation near Midway, Georgia, were his students. Both developed a passion for botany, and Louis became a medical doctor. Louis eventually moved to Woodmanston and created an acclaimed botanical garden, while John, who spent winters with his brother, wrote extensively on Georgia fauna.

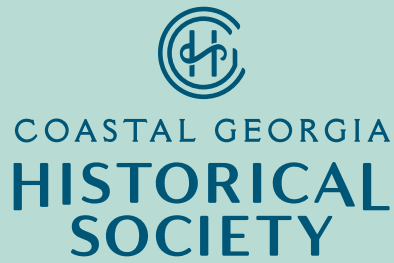
Victoria Johnson is a Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at Hunter College in New York City. She holds a doctorate in sociology from Columbia University and an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Yale. *American Eden* was a finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize in History in 2019.

Coastal Georgia’s position in the global economy will be examined in **the final lecture presented by Sven Beckert on September 9.** Based on his book ***Empire of Cotton, A Global History***, Beckert will trace the history of cotton production, concentrating on the first half of the 19th century, when sea island cotton was the major cash crop in Coastal Georgia as part of a Trans-Atlantic system that depended on enslaved labor.

As Professor of History at Harvard University, Beckert’s area of concentration is 19th century America, with emphasis on the history of capitalism. He is also Visiting Professor of History at Harvard Business School. *Empire of Cotton* won the Bancroft Award and was a finalist for the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in History.



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2020–2025 Strategic Plan – We are making progress!

In the Spring Newsletter, we revealed the Society's new brand, which completed an essential element of the 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan. This plan directs the organization to focus outward and prioritize community needs alongside the stringent requirements of maintaining two accredited museums, presenting high-caliber speakers and programming, and preserving the unique collections of Coastal Georgia. The new plan and the branding exercise led to the creation of an updated mission, **“to connect people to Coastal Georgia's dynamic history through the stories we share and the collections we preserve.”**

Now, we are energized and equipped to serve wider audiences through exciting new initiatives that are already underway:

1. Serve audiences beyond St. Simons Island

We are reaching out in Brunswick through pilot programs such as a new history course in the fall by Buddy Sullivan, focusing on Brunswick, and walking tours, led by Society historians. We are also collaborating with Glynn County high schools and the College of Coastal Georgia's Office of Diversity Initiatives to present a schedule of award-winning authors to students.

2. Provide online access to Collections

We are committed to increasing public access to our unique collections through digitization and an online database. This critical tool will enable us to widely share significant items from the Society's archival collection of manuscripts, photographs, oral histories, maps, paintings, and objects related to Coastal Georgia history and culture. The project will transform the Society's ability to deliver information and is essential to our future growth.

3. Expand Statewide Impact

Glynn County Schools designated the Home Front Museum as an “approved” field trip because it relates directly to the Georgia Standards of Excellence for 5th, 8th and 11th grade students. Using teaching materials developed with Glynn County Schools, our Education staff is now reaching out to school systems across Georgia to share this valuable teaching tool. The new Georgia World War II Heritage Trail is working with partners across the state to raise public awareness of Georgia's rich World War II history and the sites dedicated to preserving and presenting that history.

The Society is actively pursuing new audiences and making our services more accessible. We are a community-based organization and believe that an understanding of our past informs future actions and builds better communities. We strive to be inclusive and build partnerships with people and other organizations. We encourage you to take ownership of the new plan, mission and brand because you, our members are vital to our continued impact. Please contact us with your comments and ideas!

Duane Harris
President

Mary Schellhorn
Vice President, Development

Volunteer Appreciation Reception

The Society thanked volunteers for their service over the past two years with a special Toast to Volunteers event at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center on Wednesday, May 12. Each volunteer was given a mug with the new CGHS logo as a small token of our appreciation. Nine individuals were recognized for volunteering over 100 hours in 2020: Chris Bone, Becky Bridges, Nancy Chastain, Myrna Crook, Maggie Glennon, Janis Rodriguez, Bob Shell, Mary Shell, and Merry Tipton. Society staff presented them with an extra gift in thanks.



Sara Sheffield and Grace Hopper



Les Breen, Nancy Chastain,
Mark Lawrence



Sandy White and Kim Campbell with 100-
hour volunteers Maggie Glennon, Nancy
Chastain, and Janis Rodriguez.

Georgia World War II Heritage Trail



Pictured are (from left to right) Darlene McLendon (Trail Vice-Chairman, Museum of Aviation), Brenda Carlan (Currahee Military Museum), Sherri Jones (Trail Chairman, World War II Home Front Museum), and Pearl Fyderek (Mighty Eighth Museum) who accepted the award on behalf of the ten partner sites.

TravelBlazers Award Ceremony

On May 18, the new Georgia World War II Heritage Trail was presented with a TravelBlazers Award by the Georgia Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus (GACVB) at their annual conference in Savannah.

Jay Markwalter, GACVB Executive Director, said, "This tourism award recognizes a variety of new destination attractions and innovative ideas that have resulted from the creativity, passion, and teamwork of community leaders from various city, county, travel and business / industry sectors. These new projects make a significant impact on the economic development of the community and enhance the vitality of a region."

Eagle Scout Project



Boy Scout Ryan Walsh chose the World War II Home Front Museum as the beneficiary of his Eagle Scout project. Inspired by Coast Guard and U.S. Navy operations during the war, Ryan built a portable knot and coding table, as well as a mobile radar chart. Ryan designed both items with school children in mind. The knot table has adjustable legs, allowing smaller visitors to easily access it, and the radar chart can be placed outside so that kids can practice writing backwards just like the men in Combat Information Centers on Navy Ships did! The project took fifty-eight and a half hours of work by eight different

individuals. The participants were: Ryan Walsh, his father Patrick Walsh; Scouts Aiden Hedger, Spencer Cason, and Jesse Nephew; Scout Leaders John Diestel, Ray Cason, and Paul Sullivan. The print work on the table was completed by Nitrosigns and Chris Sanchez. All of the wood for the project was donated by The Home Depot in Brunswick.

2021 Little Light Music Concert Series

The first Little Light Music Concert featuring the Tams was a great success! It was wonderful having the community back for this special event, and it was our biggest concert to date! The transition going cashless went well, and we appreciate everyone who purchased tickets in advance online or in the Museum Store. We look forward to the remaining shows!

Concerts are from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults; children under 12 and Keepers of the Light are admitted free of charge. Due to the pandemic, we are transitioning away from handling cash the evening of the concerts. We encourage you to purchase tickets in advance in the Museum Store or on the Society's website. For news and weather updates during the concert season, please visit our website or Facebook page.

The Society is grateful for the support of our 2021 concert sponsors.

JULY 11
Michael Stacey
Band

SEPT 5
Sensational
Sounds
of Motown





John Xipolitus and Anthony Presutti of Razorback LLC reinstall the repaired vent ball.

Courtesy of: Terry Dickson/The Brunswick News

Vent Ball

In early April, the St. Simons Lighthouse underwent a significant but invisible repair. The copper vent ball at the top of the tower was carefully removed so that a hole in its internal chimney could be patched. The hole was caused by corrosion over the past 149 years. A repair was necessary to prevent rain water from intruding into the lantern room which houses our Fresnel lens. Metalsmith Alex Klahm, who has worked on 38 lighthouses, identified and photographed the damage during a maintenance project in 2017.

The chimney served an important purpose before the St. Simons Lighthouse was electrified in the 1930s. Gases from the kerosene lamp that originally produced our light were vented to the outside through holes in the chimney and vent ball that were strategically placed to prevent rainwater from leaking into the lantern room, especially during a driving rainstorm.

Once the vent ball had been lowered to the ground, Klahm riveted and soldered into place a copper sheet that covered the hole and reinforced the chimney. After cleaning, the ball was raised back to the top of the tower and screwed into place on a supporting shaft. A lightning rod that runs to the ground was then reconnected to the ball. The work was done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Structures and was funded by the Society's Lighthouse Museum Preservation Fund.

Chautauqua Lecture Series *Continued from p. 2*

The virtual series will be presented on Thursday evenings, August 12, 19, September 2, and 9, at 6 p.m. Please note that the schedule skips August 26. The August 12 lecture will be presented in person, as well as virtually, at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church, which accommodates 400 people. To allow social distancing, the audience will be limited to 200. The cost of the series is \$50 for members and \$95 for non-members. To register, visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org. Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, and a Zoom link will be sent the day before the first program. If you would like to attend Clay Jenkinson's lecture in person, please RSVP when you register.



The 2021 Chautauqua Lecture Series is generously sponsored by Raymond James.

Membership Highlights

New Members

Keepers of the Light

Coastal Barrier Island
Foundation – Sustainer
Mike Hoepfinger – Sustainer
Gayllis Ward – Sustainer

General

Mark Albertus – Individual
Mary Ellen Barton – Family
Kimberly Blackburn – Individual
Rene Boven – Family
James Rouse Carter – Individual
Becky Clements – Family
Daron Cochran – Family
Michelle Crook
Marlene and Paul Early – Family
Anna Henry – Individual
Peggy Herman – Family
Claire Jackson – Family
Amanda Johnson – Lamplighter
Larry Kemper – Family
Jim Lane – Individual
Julainne Layman – Family
Marcie Mallin – Family
Shawn Pitzer – Family
Holley Shafer – Curator
Greer and Phil Shinall – Family
Robert Tebbetts – Family
Philip Villiotte – Curator
Shuntale Whitesell – Individual

Upgraded Members

Keepers of the Light

Craig and Elsa Donahue – Luminary
Linda and Tom Heagy – Benefactor
Susan and Larry Bacon – Sustainer
Gail and Scott Ledbetter – Sustainer
Martha Martin – Sustainer

General

Diane Barnsley – Family
Chris and Amy Bone – Lamplighter
Ronald Kalil – Assistant Keeper
Teri and Bob Kelterborn – Curator
Patti and Pat Montgomery –
Lamplighter
Creta Nichols – Curator
Dwight and Caroline Plyler –
Assistant Keeper
Early and Bill Smith – Curator
Chet Walker – Assistant Keeper
Neile Weis – Curator

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

In Memory of Elkin Goddard Alston
– By Lewis and Nancy Glenn
In Memory of Dr. Bill Disque –
By Thomas and Anne Whelchel
In Memory of Bill Downey –
By Thomas and Anne Whelchel
In Memory Bob Huggins –
By Janis and Cesar Rodriguez
In Memory of Paul Pandolfi –
By Thomas and Anne Whelchel
In Memory of Keith Weikel –
By Carol and Duane Harris

Online Renewal Reminder We are always looking for ways to streamline your membership experience. Renewing online is a quick and convenient way to continue your support of the Society and enjoy the many benefits. Visit www.coastalgeorgiahistory.org, then navigate to Support, Memberships to access the new online renewal platform.

Calendar of Events

Little Light Music Concert Series

7 - 9 p.m. , Lighthouse grounds
\$15 per person; no cash
Free: Children under 12
and Keepers of the Light

July 11– Michael Stacey Band

Sept 5– Sounds of Motown

Chautauqua Lecture Series

6 p.m. – Presented via Zoom
\$50 members; \$95 non-members

August 12 (Also available in person)

“Empire for Liberty: The View from
Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello”
Clay Jenkinson

August 19

“Isabella and James Hamilton,
Merchant Family of St. Simons,
Charleston, and London”
Jennifer Goloboy, Ph.D.

September 2

“American Eden: David Hosack
and the Garden of
the Early Republic”
Victoria Johnson, Ph.D.

September 9

“The Empire of Cotton: How the
Cotton Industry Shaped the History
of the Southern Coast, the Nation,
and the World”
Sven Beckert, Ph.D.

All Society events require pre-
registration. For more information
on programs and the Museums’
hours of operation, please visit
coastalgeorgiahistory.org.



COASTAL GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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