

Fall Membership Meeting

Gullah Spirituals: Their History and Evolution

by Eric Crawford, Ph.D.

On Thursday, November 11, the Society welcomes musicologist Eric Crawford, Ph.D., to discuss the power of Gullah Geechee music at its Fall Membership Meeting. The lecture will feature stories and music from Crawford's most recent publication, *Gullah Spirituals: The Sound of Freedom and Protest in the South Carolina Sea Islands*. The book follows the evolution of songs from West Africa origins to their height as songs for social change and Black identity in the twentieth century American South.

In his presentation, Crawford will describe connections between the music traditions of South Carolina and Georgia. While studying the music of South Carolina's St. Helena Island, he explored the history of shouting and rowing songs, which retain the strongest links to their West African sources. As noted in Crawford's book, actress and abolitionist Fanny Kemble, during her visit to Coastal Georgia in the 1830s, recorded the words to a rowing song of the enslaved oarsmen she encountered. Crawford traces the documentation of St. Helena Island's music to the publication of the first serious study of Gullah music, *Slave Songs of the*

United States, in 1867. The next extensive study came from Coastal Georgia, when Lydia Parrish published *Slave Songs of the Georgia Sea Islands* in 1940 and included information about West African influences.

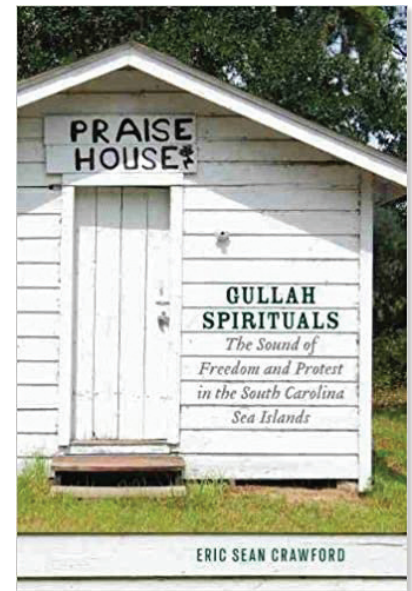
Eric Crawford is Director of the Honors Program at Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina. He holds a Ph.D. in musicology from The Catholic University of America and is the author of numerous books, articles, and accompanying field recordings. Most recently, he appeared in Henry Louis Gates' miniseries "The Black Church," and he serves as music



Eric Crawford, Ph.D.

consultant for the new Amazon miniseries "The Underground Railroad."

The program will be held on **Thursday, November 11, at 6 p.m. at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church** and will also be available via live stream. The lecture is free for Society members, and \$10 for non-members. To register, visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org.



A Painting Reveals a World War I Story



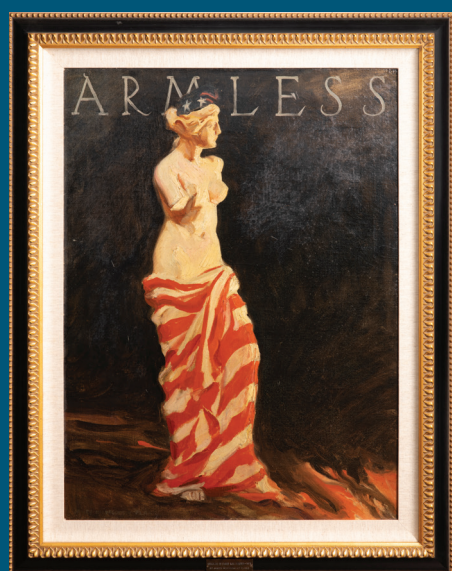
From left to right: Bill Jones III, Society Executive Director Sherri Jones, and Society Board President Duane Harris

On August 5, the Society celebrated the donation of a significant painting, known as “Armless,” by the Alfred W. Jones, Sr., family. During a reception at the Heritage Center, Bill Jones III shared the fascinating story of Howard Coffin, cousin and mentor of Bill’s grandfather, who originally owned the painting. Curator Mimi Rogers displayed other Coffin artifacts donated to the Society by Kappy O’Connor, Alfred W. Jones, Sr.’s daughter. Three generations of the Jones family have been champions and protectors of the history of Coastal Georgia, and Bill Jones’ advocacy with the Host Committee during the G8 Summit of World Leaders in 2004 provided the lead gift to build the Heritage Center.

Keepers of the Light who demonstrated exceptional loyalty during the pandemic. As a thank you, the Society has scheduled special events during the summer and fall, such as the August 5 reception. The support of the Keepers sustained the staff and organization over the past eighteen months, and we are now focusing on exciting new initiatives. One project that will have tremendous impact is the digitization of our collections and placing our unique holdings online. Scheduled to go live in November, this initiative will ensure that information about artifacts such as “Armless” is accessible 24 hours a day to all those interested in coastal history

Over the next several months, we are hosting events for our Keepers of the Light to provide opportunities to meet our historians and experience the impact of investment in our mission. If you would like more information on becoming a Keeper of the Light and supporting the Historical Society at a level of \$1,000 or above, please contact Sheila VanderWood at svanderwood@coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

The event also recognized the generosity of our



Howard Coffin is mainly remembered as a pioneer in the automotive industry and founder of Sea Island Company. Less well known are his contributions to national defense during World War I. As war raged in Europe and threatened America, President Woodrow Wilson asked Coffin to inventory U.S. factories to determine the country’s capacity for defense production. His committee gathered information from 50,000 companies and formed a corps of 30,000 engineers.

To educate the public about the urgent need for preparedness, noted American artist and illustrator James Montgomery Flagg was commissioned to create a keynote image for a publicity campaign. His painting depicts an “armless” Columbia and appeared on the cover of the magazine *Puck* in May 1916. Howard Coffin received the original oil on canvas, which has now been donated to the Society.

Broadening Our Reach

As part of the Society's brand launch and efforts to reach wider audiences, we are running four full-page advertisements/articles in *The Brunswick News* this fall. The first article appeared on September 11, and the

Our mission is to connect people to Coastal Georgia's dynamic history through the stories we share and the collections we preserve.

remaining three will be published on October 9, November 13, and December 11. The goal of the articles is to introduce CGHS to the community with refreshed branding and an updated mission statement and to provide opportunities for Glynn County residents to interact with us through

memorable experiences. We hope that these interactions will be a starting place to develop relationships. Each article will feature, in story form, an important aspect of the Society along with an opportunity for Glynn County residents to attend, visit, or explore our programs, services, or museums. The September 11 article, entitled "Spanning the Marshes of Glynn: A Road to the Future" is available on the News page of our website, coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

Historic Brunswick Walking Tours: Markers, Memorials, and Monuments



covering a potpourri of topics in Brunswick's diverse history. These built memories will provide a learning opportunity about not only the event or person that they feature, but also about the time in which they were constructed.

The tour takes approximately two hours, with two miles of walking. Opportunities for seating are limited along the route. In the case of inclement weather, the tour may be rescheduled.

The cost for the tour is \$20 per person. Registration is required by visiting coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

The Society is continuing its wildly popular Historic Brunswick Walking Tours, part of our efforts to explore and share more of Coastal Georgia's dynamic history. The new topic this fall is "**Markers, Memorials, and Monuments.**" Historical markers are one of the most common ways that visitors and locals alike learn about the history of an area. But with such a limited number of words, how much information is lost? And whose history has not been represented?

The tour will begin at the Glynn County Courthouse and continue down the historic business corridor on Newcastle Street,

TOUR DATES

OCTOBER 3
3–5 p.m.

OCTOBER 24
3–5 p.m.

NOVEMBER 21
3–5 p.m.

DECEMBER 12
3–5 p.m.

Buddy Sullivan Presents a New Lecture Series

An Overview of Historic Brunswick: Our City by the Sea

The Society's Senior Historian Buddy Sullivan is turning his focus on the City by the Sea in a special two-part lecture series presented at the Brunswick-Glynn County Library. Lectures will be held on **October 5 and 12 from 4–6 p.m.** Buddy will cover the history of Brunswick from the earliest colonial settlement of Georgia to the late 20th century.

The presentation will concentrate on the story of Brunswick's growth and development as a commercial center and seaport. Brunswick's transportation facilities,

including the railroads and the port, saw their greatest growth in the late 19th century when the town became one of the leading producers and exporters of naval stores in the world. While the emphasis will be on economic history, the story of education in Brunswick will also be discussed, particularly that of African American schools established after the Civil War. For the 20th century, the lectures will cover Brunswick's important Home Front contributions during World War II with its major shipbuilding initiative, as well as the thriving commercial seafood industry that developed in Brunswick after the war. Dozens of historical images and Brunswick scenes will illustrate the city's rich history, making this a program not to be missed!



Oglethorpe Hotel, circa 1950



Hurricane of 1898, Downtown Brunswick

The cost for the pair of lectures is \$35, and registration is required.

The lectures will be held at the **Brunswick Library, 208 Gloucester Street**. To register, visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org

This program is presented jointly by the Coastal Georgia Historical Society and the Friends of the Brunswick-Glynn County Library.



Educators' Webinar

Hometown Stories on the National Stage: Using Local Resources to Teach U.S. History

Coastal Georgia Historical Society is partnering with the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) in Savannah to present a one-hour webinar exploring how historical institutions bring local history to life for students, teachers, and the public. Local stories detailing the unique histories in our communities and hometowns offer engaging windows into understanding the complexity and nuance of larger historical themes and events.

During this professional development webinar, CGHS Education Director Sandy White will explore the ways in which the Society tells the stories of its hometown through the World War II Home Front Museum. Participants will also hear from GHS Education Manager Lisa Landers on GHS's work to support communities telling their own stories through historical markers and how those markers paired with primary sources offer engaging lessons to teach Georgia and American history.

This program is part of the Society's work to achieve our strategic initiatives of serving wider audiences and expanding our statewide impact through partnerships with other organization.



Torpedo damage on SS *Oklahoma*, attacked by U-123 on April 8, 1942.



SS *Oklahoma* Captain Theron P. Davenport (right) is debriefed at the St. Simons Coast Guard Station after the attack on his ship by U-123.

The webinar will be held on November 9, from 3–4 p.m. Society members and the general public are invited to attend at no charge. To register, visit the Georgia History Festival website at georgiahistoryfestival.org/educators/.

In partnership with
GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thanks to our Sponsors

Little Light Music

The Society was thrilled to host another fun-filled Little Light Music Concert Series after having to cancel last year due to the pandemic. We would like to thank our wonderful sponsors for a great 2021 season.



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Chautauqua Lecture Series

The Society would like to thank Raymond James for sponsoring the 2021 Chautauqua Lecture Series. Thank you to Kevin Lokey for making this year's Lecture Series a success.



Save the Date

Holiday Open House

The Lighthouse Museum Store will host their Holiday Open House event on Saturday, November 13. More details to follow.

Buddy Sullivan's Local History Course

Buddy Sullivan will present his six-week history course, "An Overview of Coastal Georgia History," on Tuesday afternoons January 11–February 15, 2022, from 4 – 6 p.m. at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center. The cost is \$65 for CGHS members and \$110 for non-members.

Annual Meeting

The Society's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 16, 2022, will feature bestselling and Pulitzer Prize winning author Rick Atkinson who will discuss his latest book, *The British Are Coming: The War for America*. This book, which has won numerous awards, is the first volume of a trilogy about the American Revolution. In covering the first 21 months of the war, Atkinson vividly introduces the main characters, including King George III, George Washington, and Nathanael Greene, the general from Rhode Island who, three years after the war, died at the plantation near Savannah given to him by the state of Georgia. The meeting will be held at 3 p.m. at The Cloister on Sea Island.

Membership Highlights

Upgraded Members

Keepers of the Light

Gayle and Jimmy Alston – Patron
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Dana and Jim Manning – Luminary
Jack and Betty Moore – Benefactor

General

Mary Lou Folts – Family
Lyn Hunt – Assistant Keeper

New Members

General

Hank and Dian Ash – Family
Pam and Mike Balsley – Family
Grace Barone – Family
Susan and Chip Benson – Family
Al and Terri Bickley – Family
Beverly Bittinger – Individual
Becky and Lawrence Bridges – Family
Wheeler and Katy Bryan Jr. – Family
Tracy Carver – Family
Sally Chao – Curator
Ray and Kris Cutright – Family
Eric Dierks – Individual
Ed and Jean Ellis – Family
Greg Gates – Family
Catharine and Carl Gilchrist – Family
Joe Girardot – Individual
Erin Granados – Individual

Randy Head – Curator
Kirk Herring – Family
Marsha and Ronald Jacobs – Family
Emily Jones – Family
Jon Kelley – Family
Thomas Kempkes – Family
Beth Knittel – Individual
Libby and Dan Lane – Family
Emerson and Jennifer Mungin – Family
Carol and Gary Nikoukary – Family
Tara Perry – Individual
Ridge Rairigh – Family
Esther Smith – Family
Judy Smith – Family
Ward and Mary Olivia Sweat – Family

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

In Honor of Lewis and Nancy Glenn
By Cindy and William Fowler
In Memory of Martha Ellis
By Duane and Carol Harris
In Memory of Pearl Spencer
By Albert and Joyce Fendig

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

Brunswick Walking Tours: Markers, Memorials, and Monuments

3–5 p.m., Tour begins at the Glynn County Courthouse
\$20 per person

Tour dates:

October 3, October 24
November 21, December 12

October 5 and 12 An Overview of Historic Brunswick: Our City by the Sea

Buddy Sullivan
4–6 p.m.
Brunswick-Glynn County Library
\$35 per person for the series

November 9 CGHS and GHS Educator Webinar

3–4 p.m.
Free and open to the public
To register, visit georgiahistory.com

November 11 Fall Membership Meeting *Gullah Spirituals*

Eric Crawford, Ph.D.
6 p.m.
St. Simons Presbyterian Church
Also available via live stream
CGHS Members free;
\$10 non-members

November 13 Holiday Open House

10 a.m.–5 p.m.
A.W. Jones Heritage Center
Lighthouse Museum Store



COASTAL GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 21136
St. Simons Island
Georgia 31522

Our Staff

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Curator

Mimi Rogers

Director of Interpretation and Preservation, World War II Home Front Museum

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