



COASTAL GEORGIA  
**HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

NEWSLETTER

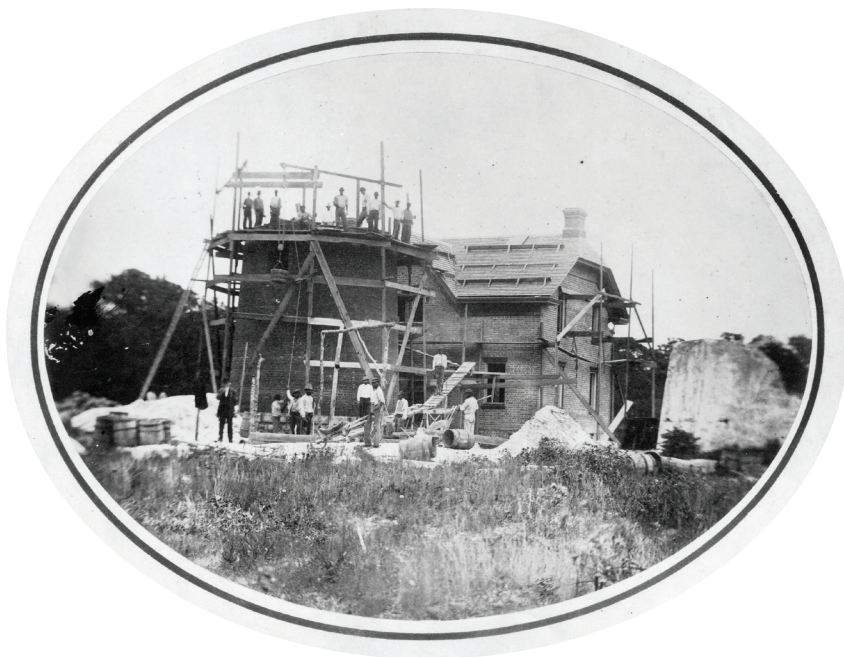
The mission of the Society is to connect people to Coastal Georgia's dynamic history through the stories we share and the collections we preserve.

## Chautauqua Lecture Series

It Happened in 1872:

*National Events from the Year*

*Our Lighthouse was Illuminated*



The St. Simons Lighthouse under construction, May 1871. *Courtesy of the National Archives.*

In honor of the 150th birthday of the St. Simons Lighthouse, the year 1872 will be the focus of our lecture series. During that year, several events took place that had far-reaching effects. Two significant American institutions were launched, one that would protect an awe-inspiring area of natural beauty and another that would become one of the world's premier museums. In the realm of social history, a pivotal movement gained traction, eventually leading to a voting rights amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Our 2022 series will examine these fascinating milestones that share a moment in history with the St. Simons Lighthouse. It will conclude with a look at the noted engineer who was responsible for the design of the lighthouse.

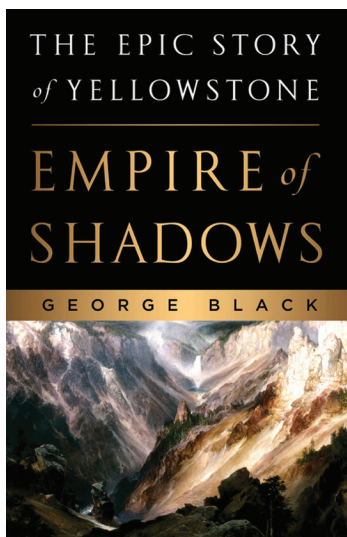
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**Celebrating 150 Years  
on September 1<sup>st</sup>!**

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The series will begin on **Thursday, August 11**, with a lecture by author George Black on the epic story of the creation of the national park system, entitled **“Empire of Shadows: The Founding of Yellowstone National Park.”** On March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act into law. Black’s lecture, based on his book, *Empire of Shadows*, will tell of the conquest of Yellowstone, Wyoming, a landscape uninhabited, inaccessible, and shrouded in myth in the aftermath of the Civil War.

George Black is a writer and journalist living in New York City. A native of Scotland, he has written seven books on topics ranging from India and China to the history of American fly fishing. His in-depth articles for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and other publications have often reflected his lifelong passion for mountains and rivers.

On **Thursday, August 18**, our series will continue with **“In with the New: American Artists and the Metropolitan Museum of Art,”** by Thayer Tolles, the museum’s Marica F. Vilcek Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture. Founded in 1870, the Metropolitan opened its doors to the public in 1872. Tolles will describe the early years of the museum, when some of America’s foremost artists were involved in forming the early collections, as were Jekyll Island Club members J. Pierpont Morgan and Emily and Robert De Forest.

A sculpture specialist, Tolles received her Ph.D. from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She served as editor and co-author of a two-volume catalogue of the Metropolitan’s historic American sculpture collection. Among her exhibitions are *Augustus Saint-Gaudens in The Metropolitan Museum of Art* and *The American West in Bronze, 1850-*

*1925*. She also contributed to the Museum’s sesquicentennial exhibition, *Making the Met*.



“Interior View of the Metropolitan Museum of Art when in Fourteenth Street” by Frank Waller, 1881. Courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art

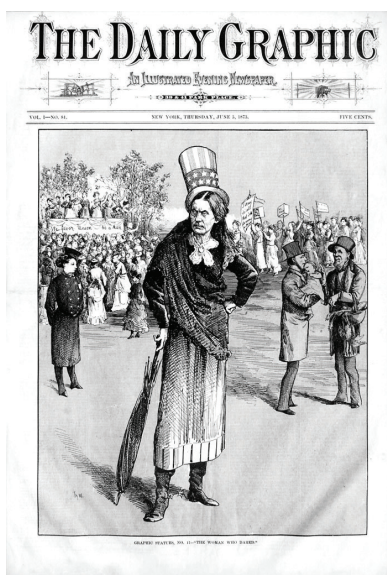


Illustration of Susan B. Anthony – “The Woman Who Dared” Courtesy Library of Congress

The program on **Thursday, August 25**, will explore the presidential election of 1872. This was the first election after the formation of the National Woman Suffrage Association. In her lecture **“The Year Susan B. Anthony Voted and Women Almost Secured Voting Rights for All Americans,”** historian Ellen Dubois will describe how Anthony, along with women in several other localities, attempted to vote in Rochester, New York, which led to her arrest and widely publicized trial.

Dr. Dubois is Distinguished Research Professor in the history department of UCLA and has written numerous books on the history of women’s suffrage. A recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, she received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University. Her most recent book, *Suffrage: Women’s Long Battle for the Vote*, is the first comprehensive history of the U.S. suffrage movement in more than half a century.



Orlando Poe, Courtesy of the Library of Congress

entitled *My Dear Nelly*.

After skipping the week of the Lighthouse's birthday, the series will conclude on **Thursday, September 8**. Author Paul Taylor will present a lecture on the engineer who led the design of the St. Simons Lighthouse, entitled "**Orlando Poe: Civil War General and Lighthouse Engineer**." Poe, an academically gifted West Point graduate, served under General William T. Sherman, who appointed him to oversee the burning of Atlanta. After the war, Poe was Engineer Secretary of the U.S. Lighthouse Board when plans for our Lighthouse were developed. He then supervised the design and construction of several Great Lakes lighthouses and is today recognized for the graceful elegance of his "Poe-style" towers.

Paul Taylor has written numerous books on the Civil War. His biography of Poe, based on an extensive collection of the engineer's unpublished papers, received the Library of Michigan's Notable Books Award and the Historical Society of Michigan's State History Award for 2010. Taylor has also edited a collection of Poe's Civil War letters to his wife Eleanor,

The programs will be presented on Thursday evenings, August 11, 18, 25, and September 8, at 6 p.m. at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church. They will also be available via live stream. **Please note that the schedule skips September 1.** The cost of the series is \$50 for members and \$95 for non-members. To register, visit [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org). Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10, and a virtual link will be sent the week of the first program.

**The 2022 Chautauqua Lecture Series is generously sponsored by Raymond James.**



## Fitting Celebration for the Icon of the Golden Isles!



Light, technology, and music will be used to celebrate the St. Simons Lighthouse on its 150th birthday. The Society is working with Jacksonville digital design firm, Castano Group, to develop a show that will be unforgettable! **Premiering on September 1 at a member-only event**, thousands of lumens of laser illumination will project images and illustrations from the history of our lighthouse onto its iconic white tower together with a dynamic soundtrack. We are excited to share the show with the community on Friday, September 2 through the Labor Day weekend.



# Community Celebration for Long-Awaited Marker



Members of the Glynn Academy Ethnology Club pose with Amy Roberts in front of the marker. At far left, Marie Feazel, AP US History teacher and Member of CGHS Collections and Education Committee. At far right, Jason Chasse-Fernald, AP World History teacher and sponsor of the Glynn Academy Ethnology Club. Ms. Roberts is to the left of the marker in a hat.

Roberts, director of the St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition (SSAAHC). Sandy White explained the role the Glynn Academy Ethnology Club students who successfully applied for one of only five markers approved in 2021. After the unveiling, Rachael Walters, president of the Club, read the marker text for the first time. The most poignant moment took place after the prepared tributes when attendee Chip Wilson sang in his mellow baritone, "Oh, freedom; Oh freedom; Oh, freedom; Oh freedom over me," with many African Americans in the audience joining him. "And before I'd be a slave, I'd be buried in my grave and go home to my Lord and be free. Oh, freedom." Following the ceremony, the entire crowd was invited to a luncheon at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center to celebrate this special event.

On May 24, Coastal Georgia Historical Society (CGHS) hosted a community celebration to dedicate the new Georgia Historical Marker on St. Simons Island – Ibo Landing: The Legacy of Resisting Enslavement. Over 100 people gathered at the Old Stables Corner where the new marker was placed. After an invocation by Reverend Franklin Graves, Sherri Jones thanked the partners for their unique contributions which made the marker possible. Elyse Butler, Marker Manager for the Georgia Historical Society, spoke about their statewide program. The significance of Ibo Landing to the Gullah Geechee community was then described by Amy

## Little Light Music Concert Series

Join us for the last two concerts! 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 2022 concert sponsors.**

**JULY 10**  
**Mainstream Band**

**SEPT 4**  
**Sounds of Motown**



# We Appreciate our Volunteers!



A reception was held on April 26 to thank our amazing volunteers, who contributed approximately 5,000 hours of service during 2021. A record-breaking 17 people volunteered over 100 hours each!

Pictured in the 100+ hour volunteer photo (L to R) are: Becky Bridges, Les Breen, Larry Bacon, Sandy White – Education Director, George Cressman, Maggie Glennon, Nancy Jenkins, Gail Rivard, Janis Rodriguez, Mary Shell, Bob Shell. Honored, but not pictured: Chris Bone, Nancy Chastain, Myrna Crook, Jim DeLong, Jerry Hardiman, Mark Lawrence, and Merry Tipton.



Pictured are (L to R) Sherri Jones, Mary and Bob Shell, Sandy White.

## Cunningham Bowl: Volunteers of the Year

During the reception, the Cunningham Bowl was awarded for exemplary volunteer service to the Society in the previous year. This year our volunteers were so outstanding that we could not recognize just one! Mary and Bob Shell are “double docents” who volunteer at both Society museums. Each contributed over 100 hours during the past year. They are natural interpreters, making sure that answers to questions are not only accurate but also thoughtful and interesting. Our congratulations and thanks to the Shells for their loyal service to the Society.



Pictured are (L to R) Craig and Elsa Donahue, hosts of the Keeper of the Light reception; Nancy and Jim DeLong; and Duane Harris, President of the CGHS Board.

## Rodriguez Service Award

At the Society’s spring lecture featuring Rick Atkinson, Jim and Nancy DeLong were presented with the Rodriguez Service Award. Established in 2010, the annual award honors exemplary acts of stewardship and service.

The DeLongs have been leading supporters of the Society for over a decade. Both have served on the Board of Directors, chaired or served on the Collections and Education Committee, and currently volunteer as docents. Because of their personal commitment, the DeLong-Sweet Family Foundation provided major investments in our organization, including the DeLong Courtyard at the

lighthouse site and the Airship Gallery at the Home Front Museum. Most recently, the Foundation provided funding for the addition of a large touch table interactive in the gallery that will simulate flying an airship. The interactive, currently under development, will be a wonderful resource for teaching schoolchildren STEM concepts.



# Archaeology Laboratory Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary



Dr. Honerkamp (center) and Myrna Crook (far right) with Field School Participants, 2015.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society's Archaeology Laboratory. The lab began as the vision of the late Ray Crook, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Antonio J. Waring Archaeological Laboratory Emeritus, University of West Georgia. Dr. Crook was inspired by the commitment of the St. Simons Land Trust to acquiring and preserving Cannon's Point, where a number of archaeological projects had yielded important findings in the 1970s.

An expert in the study of Coastal Georgia, Dr. Crook worked with the Society to develop the lab, and its mission of promoting Coastal archaeology and

preserving *local* collections in a *local* repository. Prior to his passing in 2012, he arranged for Dr. Nicholas Honerkamp, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, to hold a field school on St. Simons, which generated the first collection curated at the lab. Dr. Honerkamp is now the Society's consulting archaeologist.

Dr. Crook's equipment, research files, and extensive book collection were donated to equip the lab. Now housed in the basement and second floor of the main building of the World War II Home Front Museum, it is under the leadership of Myrna Crook. Volunteers aged 18 to 97 have been trained to assist, giving generously of time, materials, and funding. The Golden Isles Archaeological Society has also provided both financial support and volunteers.

Productive partnerships have been formed with local organizations. Since the opening of Cannon's Point Preserve by the St. Simons Land Trust, the lab has processed and preserved all artifacts found during excavation. For educational outreach, display cases have been created featuring Native American and 19th century items from the Preserve. For the Cassina Garden Club, artifacts found at the Gascoigne Bluff Slave Cabins site have been curated, and mock digs have been held for Girl Scouts. The lab also assisted Fort Frederica by using electrolysis to conserve a cannon ball discovered locally.

Currently, over 50 collections are being curated, comprised of tens of thousands of artifacts. This research has been featured in professional publications, academic papers, and master's degree theses. In addition to assisting university field schools, the lab has hosted internships and advised anthropology/archaeology graduate students. Contract work is now being done at significant sites such as the early 19th century Adam Strain Building in Darien, Georgia.

Over the past decade, the lab has assisted more than a hundred researchers and students and has participated in over 50 local excavations. Dr. Crook's vision has become an invaluable vehicle for recovering and preserving the cultural resources of our coastal area.



Excavation at Gascoigne Bluff led by Marie Meranda (standing, with camera), 2015. A former Society intern, Meranda is now pursuing her Ph.D.

# Membership Highlights

**Thank you to those who have generously upgraded their membership or increased their level of annual giving.**

## **Keepers of the Light**

Andrea and Richard Altman – Sustainer  
Billie Huggins – Sustainer  
Susan and Tommy Lawhorne – Sustainer  
Gail and Scott Ledbetter – Patron  
Cindy and Gene Rackley – Sustainer  
John Rodman – Sustainer

## **General**

Carol Bell – Family  
Brenda and Frank Baker – Curator  
Pattie Boykin – Curator  
Gail and Tavel Cowan – Family  
Harriet Langford – Family  
Judith Miller – Family  
Eileen and Clay Scofield – Lamplighter  
Marion Savic – Assistant Keeper  
Leslie Veres – Family

## **Welcome New Members!**

### **Keepers of the Light**

Robert Cummings and Annette Bacola – Sustainer  
Lois and Tom Marchetto – Sustainer  
Carrie and Tadd Wessel – Sustainer

### **General**

Albert Alayon – Individual  
Tom Alexander – Family  
Sarah Baker – Family  
Melissa and Matt Basztura – Family  
Erin Benedetto – Individual  
Melissa Broadman – Curator  
Lori and Rich Campe – Lamplighter  
Beth and Ed Carpenter – Family

Nancy Chastain – Family  
Jim Connelly – Individual  
Barbara and Roger Cook – Family  
Doug Cummings – Lamplighter  
Debbie Foster – Family  
Gail and Jim Eskew – Family  
Tanny and Branham Garth – Family  
Brenda Harbison and Mark Vaizer – Family  
Gail Hecko – Family  
Wendy and Jeff Henderson – Family  
Tom Jones and Celeste Whitsett-Jones – Family  
Suzanne and Michael Kane – Family  
Larry and Kitty Kemper – Family  
Corrine and Larry Kock – Family  
Holmes Marchman – Family  
Jan McCabe – Family  
Lou and Les McGuire – Family  
Jane and Jim Olausen – Family  
Debbie and Jon Osgood – Lamplighter  
Cindi and Dave Rawlins – Family  
Eric Ryzdak – Family  
Trammell Newton – Family  
Jan Shiver – Family  
Ford Stephens – Individual  
Kay Stahl – Individual  
Gwendolyn Ulrey – Individual  
Sally and Mel Westmoreland – Family  
Ronald Wilson – Curator  
Mary Winter – Individual  
Jeff Zoul – Curator

## **Memorial and Tribute Gifts**

In Memory of Martha Ellis  
By Friends of Coastal Georgia History

In Memory of William Ramsaur  
By Mimi and John Rogers

## **Reminder– Please Update Your Communication Preferences**

We have an exciting summer and fall schedule ahead and want to make sure that you receive Society news first and in a format that is convenient for you. To that end, we need accurate contact information for your household, including your preference in terms of paper or digital communication, or both!

**Please visit [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org) and complete the Member Contact and Preference form by Friday, July 8.** You are also welcome to contact me directly at [svanderwood@coastalgeorgiahistory.org](mailto:svanderwood@coastalgeorgiahistory.org) or (912) 634-7096.

Thank you for your continued participation, loyalty, and support.

Sheila VanderWood

# Calendar of Events

## **Little Light Music Concerts**

7–9 p.m.

Lighthouse grounds

\$15 per person

Free: Children under 12 and  
Keepers of the Light

**July 10 – Mainstream Band**

**Sept. 4 – Sounds of Motown**

## **Chautauqua Lecture Series**

6 p.m. – St. Simons Presbyterian Church  
\$50 members; \$95 non-members

August 11

**“Empire of Shadows: The Founding of  
Yellowstone National Park”**

George Black

August 18

**“In with the New: American Artists and  
the Metropolitan Museum of Art”**

Thayer Tolles

August 25

**“The Year Susan B. Anthony Voted and  
Women Almost Secured Voting Rights  
for All Americans”**

Ellen Dubois

September 8

**“Orlando Poe: Civil War General and  
Lighthouse Engineer”**

Paul Taylor

## **Lighthouse 150th Birthday Celebration**

September 1

Lighthouse Lawn

Invitation to follow

All Society programs and events require pre-registration. For more information on programs and the Society's hours of operation, please visit [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org).



# COASTAL GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Brunswick, GA  
31520  
Permit No. 369

## Our Staff

### Executive Director

Sherri Jones

### Curator

Mimi Rogers

### Education Director

Sandy White

### Director of Development

Sheila VanderWood

### Public Relations Director

Leigh Ann Stroud

### Office Manager

Heather Cason

### Director of Retail Operations

Eric Oberg

### Events Coordinator

Jessica Aldridge

### Senior Historian

Buddy Sullivan

### Consulting Archaeologist

Nick Honerkamp, Ph.D.

## 2022 Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

Duane Harris

*President*

Kevin Lokey

*Immediate Past President*

Mary Schellhorn

*Vice President, Development*

Mike Hodges

*Finance*

Jan Payne

*Collections and Education*

Sherri Jones

*Executive Director*

Mimi Rogers

*Curator*

Keith Calhoun

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Cheryl Hargrove

Ed Hawie

Michelle Johnston

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Janis Rehlaender

Bill Stembler

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