

Summer 2023

Chautauqua Lecture Series

World War II Home Front Experiences — Here and Abroad



Shipyard employees, ca. 1943

In celebration of the fifth anniversary of our Home Front Museum, the Society will present four programs devoted to World War II topics. Our lectures will delve into the dramatically different wartime experiences in three nations — Britain, the United States, and France. The series will also examine one of the most significant and controversial achievements of the war, the development of the atomic bomb, as seen through the eyes of the brilliant scientist who headed the project. This series gives us the opportunity to invite back four exceptional speakers who presented popular programs in the past.



Donald L. Miller, Ph.D.

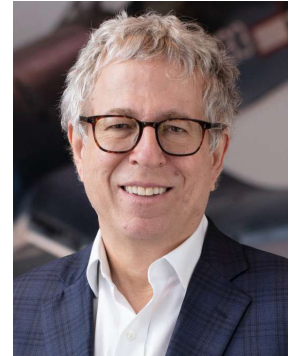
On **Thursday, August 17**, best-selling author Donald L. Miller, Ph.D., will kick off the series with the lecture “**Over There: The British Home Front during World War II.**” Dr. Miller will examine the impact of the war throughout Britain, especially those areas in close proximity to U.S. military bases. He will draw from personal journals kept by ordinary citizens.

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Author of 10 books, Dr. Miller is the John Henry MacCracken Emeritus Professor of History at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania. He is a frequent consultant and adviser on historical productions for PBS, HBO, The History Channel, and Apple Productions. A miniseries based on his book *Masters of the Air* is scheduled to be released in the fall. Dr. Miller previously presented three programs for the Society, the most recent topic being his award-winning Civil War history, *Vicksburg*.

The following **Thursday, August 24**, historian Robert M. Citino, Ph.D., will examine the U.S. home front in the lecture **“Cradle of Victory: The American South in World War II.”** As the region where vast U.S. military forces trained and prepared themselves for war, the South played a key role in America’s victory over the Axis alliance. No region of the country was more dramatically affected by the war. The impact spread across social, economic, and military fields, and left no part of the region untouched, including Coastal Georgia.

Dr. Citino is the Samuel Zemurray Stone Senior Historian at the National World War II Museum, New Orleans, and has published 10 books and numerous articles on 20th century military affairs. In 2021, he won the Society for Military History’s Samuel Eliot Morison Prize for lifetime achievement in the field. When the Home Front Museum opened in 2018, Dr. Citino presented the keynote address.



Robert M. Citino, Ph.D.



Clay Jenkinson as J. Robert Oppenheimer

After skipping the Thursday before Labor Day, the series will continue with the return to Coastal Georgia of humanities scholar Clay Jenkinson on **September 7**. Mr. Jenkinson will present a **dramatic portrayal of physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Los Alamos Laboratory**, site of the development of the atomic bomb. Oppenheimer was selected for this position by General Leslie Groves, head of the Manhattan Project. When researching Brunswick’s role in Liberty ship production, Society staff discovered that General Groves attended the launch of the 80th Liberty ship built at the J.A. Jones Construction Company shipyard in Brunswick. Shortly after the launching, Groves traveled to Los Alamos to meet with Oppenheimer to plan testing of the bomb.

Mr. Jenkinson is author of a number of books on significant U.S. personalities and places and has appeared in several Ken Burns documentaries, the most recent being *Benjamin Franklin*. A recipient of the National Humanities Award, Jenkinson has hosted the nationally syndicated radio program “The Thomas Jefferson Hour” since 1994. Mr. Jenkinson portrayed Thomas Jefferson for our 2021 Chautauqua Series.

The closing lecture on **September 14** will focus on France and the crucial role women played in resisting Nazi occupation. According to U.S. intelligence sources, women were the lifeblood of the resistance movement. Our speaker, Lynne Olson, will draw from her two most recent books, *Madame Fourcade’s Secret War* and *Empress of the Nile*, to explore this often-overlooked contribution in the presentation **“The Forgotten Women of the French Resistance.”**

Before becoming a full-time author, Ms. Olson worked as a journalist for ten years, first with the Associated Press as a national feature



One of Marie-Madeleine Fourcade’s false identity cards.

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writer in New York, a foreign correspondent in AP's Moscow bureau, and a political reporter in Washington. She left the AP to join the Washington bureau of the *Baltimore Sun*, where she covered national politics and eventually the White House. In 2019 she spoke on her best-selling book *Citizens of London* at the Society's annual meeting.

The programs will be presented on Thursday evenings, August 17 and 24 and September 7 and 14 at 6 p.m. at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church. They will also be available via live stream. Please note that the schedule skips August 31. The cost of the series is \$50 for members and \$95 for non-members. To register, visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

**The 2023 Chautauqua Lecture Series is generously sponsored by
Raymond James and Gilbert, Harrell, Sumerford & Martin, P.C.**



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Exciting Additions to the Home Front Museum



We are pleased to announce that a new 86-inch interactive touch table has been added to the Airship Gallery. The animated experience is centered around operating an airship (blimp) during World War II. Visitors can select from five flight crew positions – rudder pilot, elevator pilot, mechanic, rigger, or radioman. Working as a team or individually, players can patrol shipping channels to protect the convoy of merchant ships, search for submarines, and drop depth bombs on German U-boats. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) animations make the interactive

a fun and interesting teaching tool for the many students who visit the museum each year. We are grateful to the **DeLong-Sweet Family Foundation** for making this touch table possible. Other changes have been made to the gallery to reposition images and the personal stories station for easier visitor access.

A significant interactive station has also been added to the Legacy Gallery. Visitors can now enjoy an audiovisual presentation of six personal stories about life in Coastal Georgia after the war. We extend our appreciation to the **Terry Thomas Foundation** for their support of this project.

To maintain the quality and aesthetics of the museum installations, the original firms, Gallagher & Associates and 1220 Exhibits, were selected as designers and fabricators. The software was developed by Relative Scale of Raleigh, North Carolina, a creator of bespoke digital products.

Members are encouraged to visit the Museum and enjoy these new experiences.

Coast Guard Beach Park Update

In 2015, the Society began planning for the new World War II Home Front Museum. We worked with Glynn County to restore the historic buildings in 2016 and engaged Gallagher & Associates later that year to plan the museum and design the exhibits. From conversations with Scott McQuade, President and CEO of the Golden Isles Convention and Visitor's Bureau (GICVB), and museum neighbors and stakeholders, it became clear that there was widespread interest in redesigning the entire area surrounding the Coast Guard Station site.

In 2017, the GICVB and the Society formed a Master Plan Committee which included community leaders and committed stakeholders to develop a concept plan for comprehensive beachfront amenities and solutions to challenges that existed on the site, such as lack of parking and flooding of the surrounding neighborhoods. Through funding supplied by the GICVB, the group employed experts in park design, adopted best practices, and incorporated public/stakeholder feedback to set a new standard for major infrastructure projects in our community. The resulting plan was approved by the County Commission in May 2018.

In December of last year, the County and the GICVB agreed to jointly fund the \$7m project using bed tax revenues. The Master Plan Committee also successfully applied for a state grant of \$1m to offset the cost of a lifesaving tower, a central element of a modern lifesaving system. With funding in place, the County requested bids in January to engage a design team to develop the master plan into construction drawings. In May, the County selected a design firm to complete the task.

Since there is no indication that the Master Plan Committee will play a leadership role going forward, the Society wants to express our gratitude for the work of the Committee and the support of our loyal members during this initiative. Together, we were able to achieve important milestones towards an exceptional destination and a beautiful and functional operating environment for the Home Front Museum. The Society was grateful for the opportunity to work with the Museum's neighbors and other community leaders. As the County completes the project, please be assured that we will remain active advocates for the operating needs of the Museum and preservation of the historic site.

Little Light Music Concert Series

Join us for the last two concerts of this summer season! For news and weather updates, please visit our website or Facebook page.

The Society is grateful for the support of our 2023 concert sponsors:



July 16
Kenny on
the Keys

Sept. 3
Sounds of Motown

Welcome to New Employees



Allison Dupuis, Director of Public Programming

Allison Dupuis is originally from Marietta, Georgia. She received her B.A. in History from Agnes Scott College in 2018. She then moved to Washington, D.C., where she completed her M.A. in Museum Studies at George Washington University. While at GW, Allison interned at both the National Museum of American History and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Throughout her museum career, she has worked in roles ranging from living history to archives. Most recently, she worked as the Museum Educator for Mosaic, the Jekyll Island Museum. Allison moved to Coastal Georgia in 2021. She lives in Brunswick and loves exploring the history and beauty of the area.



Annie Martin, Education Director

Annie grew up in Atlanta and received a B.A. in Integrated Studies from Brevard College and M.A. in Museum Studies from Baylor University. She has 10 years of experience developing educational programs for nonprofit organizations, including the Stark Museum of Art in Orange, Texas, and the Seward Community Library and Museum in Seward, Alaska. Since 2021, she worked at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, where she created their interpretive content for exhibitions and collections. Annie now lives in Brunswick with her son and too many art supplies.

We are happy to have Allison and Annie join our staff to enhance our public and school programming, as well as expand volunteer services.



Glenn Grant Provides Museum Experiences for Children

On March 13, the Society offered local children and their families free admission to the St. Simons Lighthouse and World War II Home Front Museum. Thanks to the generosity of the **Jack and Anne Glenn Charitable Foundation**, over 550 people visited our museums free of charge while schools were closed for a teacher planning day. At each location, the children received a special souvenir and a scavenger hunt brochure to guide their experience. Due to the success of the day, we plan to hold another free event on Tuesday, October 10.

We Appreciate Our Volunteers!



Volunteers over 100 hours, pictured left to right: Gretchen Negles*, Patrick Kelley*, Myrna Crook*, Wyck DeLong, Bob Shell, Mary Shell, Nancy Jenkins, Jerry Hardiman, Becky Bridges, Les Breen, Rene Boven, Nancy Chastain, Chris Bone, Pam Balsley, Larry Bacon. Honored but not pictured: Richard Altman, Jim DeLong, Sally Gilfillan, Maggie Glennon, Marti Jeffers, Mark Lawrence, Janis Rodriguez*, Al Wessel.

*over 200 hours

A luncheon was held on April 20 to thank our loyal and hardworking volunteers, who contributed over 6,000 hours of service during 2022. Twenty-three volunteers were recognized for working over 100 hours, including four who contributed 200 hours or more!

Our volunteers' time and talents are essential to the smooth operation of the organization. They serve in a variety of roles, including museum docents, administrative support, and volunteers for school tours and events. Also, the Coast Guard Auxiliary inspects and maintains the lighthouse lens.

We encourage you to consider joining our volunteer team! There is a particular need for assistance with school tours. To learn more, contact Annie Martin at amartin@coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

Archaeology Lab News



On May 10, David Zelski (pictured left), producer and host of Georgia Public Television's *The Excursion*, visited the lab to view and film artifacts recovered during the historic preservation project at the Adam Strain building in Darien, Georgia. Before visiting the lab, Zelski filmed the work being done in Darien to stabilize and rehabilitate the early 19th century building. At the lab, Zelski interviewed lab manager Myrna Crook, who described the artifacts and explained how they provided information about the history of the building.

As part of Archaeology Day at Fort Frederica on May 13, Myrna presented a program on the relationship between the natural and cultural resources of Coastal Georgia through the centuries and how this interaction is revealed by the archaeological record.

Membership Highlights

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

Keepers of the Light

Jim and Barbara Bruce – Sustainer

General

Wendy Baker – Curator

Lauren and Lee Hopkins – Curator

Becky and John Marshall – Curator

Edith Smoak – Family

Matilon and Mike Tillitski – Lamplighter

Welcome New Members!

Keepers of the Light

Becky and Jim Calvert – Patron

General

Sharon Bowman – Curator

Robbie Clark – Individual

Jacqueline Gallegos – Individual

Sheryl and Bert Manire – Family

James Myers – Curator

Dotty Plage – Individual

Yvonne Rios – Individual

Karen and Douglas Rucker – Family

Kim Schwartz – Assistant Keeper

Eric Wilson – Family

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

In Memory of Albert Shelander

By Laura and Greer Brown, Mrs. Richard Brown, Vickie and Fred Coolidge, Robert and Dana Driggers, Linda Grijalva, Amy and James Hubbard, Mimi and John Rogers, Gordon and Frankie Strother, Ben and Cheral Turnipseed

In Memory of Janet Hays

By Mary Louise and T.A. Creager, Jr.

In Memory of Stan Johnston

By Timothy A. Parker

Calendar of Events

Little Light Music Concerts

7–9 p.m.

Lighthouse grounds

\$20 per person

Free: Children under 12
and Keepers of the Light

July 16 – Kenny on the Keys

Sept. 3 – Sounds of Motown

Chautauqua Lecture Series

6 p.m.

St. Simons Presbyterian Church
\$50 members; \$95 non-members

August 17

**“Over There: The British
Home Front during
World War II”**

Donald L. Miller, Ph.D.

August 24

**“Cradle of Victory:
The American South
in World War II”**

Rob M. Citino, Ph. D.

September 7

“J. Robert Oppenheimer”

Clay Jenkinson

September 14

**“The Forgotten Women of the
French Resistance”**

Lynne Olson

A Legacy of Light Projection Show

Lighthouse Lawn

15-minute loop

8:30–10 p.m.

August 31, September 2, 4

9–10 p.m.

September 3

Please see insert and website
for more details



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P.O. Box 21136
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FIRST CLASS
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Mimi Rogers

Education Director

Annie Martin

Director of Public Programming

Allison Dupuis

World War II Home Front Museum Director

Julya Lizarralde

Director of Development

Sheila VanderWood

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Events Coordinator

Jessica Aldridge

Senior Historian

Buddy Sullivan

Consulting Archaeologist

Lindsey Cochran, Ph.D.

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