



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.

Winter Program

Silent Spring Revolution and Its Connection to Coastal Georgia

On Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 4 p.m., Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D., will present the Society's Winter Program. Dr. Brinkley will focus on his latest book, *Silent Spring Revolution: John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Great Environmental Awakening*, with an emphasis on Coastal Georgia's role in the story of the environmental movement.

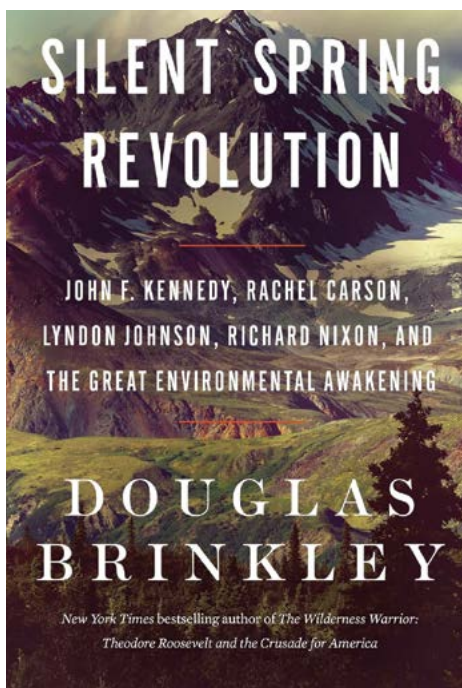


Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D.

The book chronicles the rise of environmental activism during the long sixties. It tells the story of an indomitable generation who worked to save the natural world under the leadership of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon. Doris Kearns Goodwin praised the book as "not only a majestic work of history; it is an urgent call for our time."

Dr. Brinkley is the Katherine Tsanoff Brown Chair in Humanities and Professor of History at Rice University. He serves as the CNN Presidential Historian and as U.S. Presidential Historian for the

New York Historical Society. The *Chicago Tribune* dubbed him "America's New Past Master."



Other books by the award-winning author include *American Moonshot: John F. Kennedy and the Great Space Race* and *Cronkite*. He received the Robert F. Kennedy Book award for *The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina,*

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New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, two Grammy Awards for *Presidential Suite: Eight Variations on Freedom*, and *Fandango at the Wall*, and he was awarded the Arthur S. Link-Warren F. Kuehl Prize for *The Nixon Tapes*.

The lecture will be held at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m., and live streaming will be available. The program is free of charge for CGHS members and \$25 for non-members. Registration is required for both members and non-members at coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

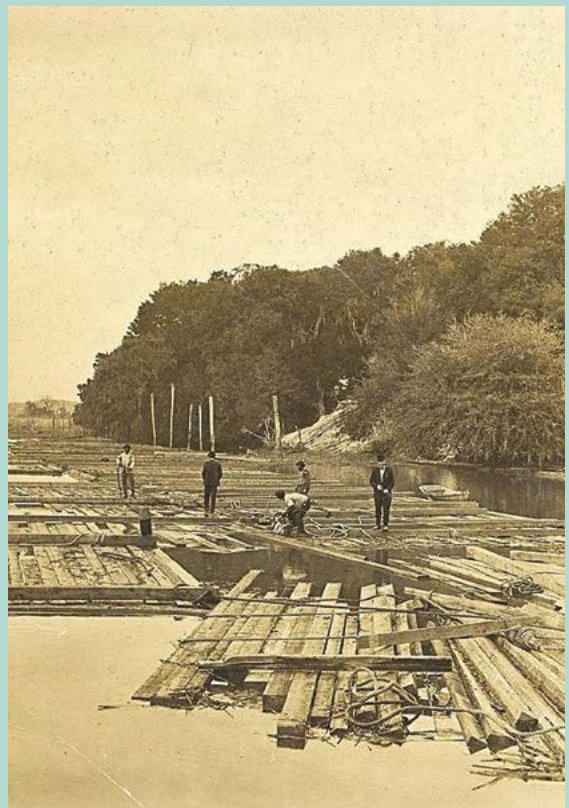
Buddy Sullivan's Local History Course

Buddy Sullivan will present a four-week lecture series, "History of the Golden Isles—and Slightly Beyond," on Tuesday afternoons, January 16, 23, 30 and February 6, from 4 – 5:30 p.m at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center. The winter series will feature St. Simons, Sea Island, Jekyll, Sapelo, Brunswick, and Darien, and will trace chronologically Georgia's coastal history from Native American culture through 20th century events, including World War II.

The cost is \$50 for CGHS members and \$95 for non-members. Registration is required at coastalgeorgiahistory.org.



Hotel St. Simons, ca. 1890

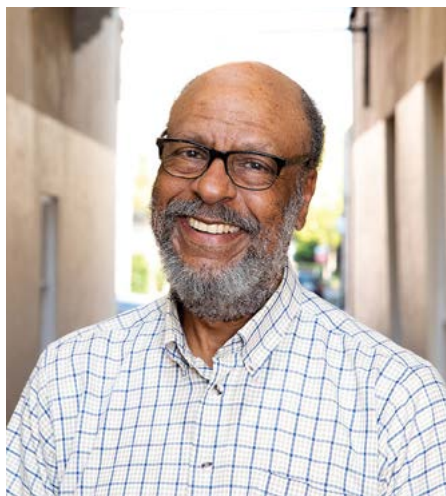


Timber rafted down the Altamaha River, 1895

CELEBRATING *Black History*

Honoring Black History Month with Journeys

On Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6 p.m., Bernard Powers, Ph.D., will present a program in honor of Black History Month. The lecture is part of the **2024 Journeys** program, which combines a lecture with a field trip. Dr. Powers will discuss African American history in the Lowcountry and will examine ongoing research at the Center for the Study of Slavery at the College of Charleston, including the findings of graduate student Lauren Davila. In 2023, Davila uncovered the largest known U.S. auction of enslaved people, which took place in Charleston in 1835 and involved the sale of 600 people. This sale surpasses the previously acknowledged largest sale of enslaved people in the United States, often known as the Weeping Time, which took place in March 1859. Although this sale was conducted in Savannah, the 436 people sold were brought to the city from Pierce Mease Butler's plantations on St. Simons and Butler islands.



Bernard Powers, Ph.D.

Dr. Powers is Professor Emeritus of History at the College of Charleston, the founding director of the Center for the Study of Slavery, and the lead academic liaison for the College's work with the Universities Studying Slavery consortium. He earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in American History at Northwestern University. He is the author of *Black Charlestonians: A Social History 1822 – 1885* and a co-author of *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel*. Dr. Powers is past president of the South Carolina Historical Association and the Advisory Board of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture. Most recently, Dr. Powers served as interim CEO of the recently opened International African American Museum.

The program will be held at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church, at 6 p.m., and live streaming will be available. The lecture is free of charge, but registration is required by visiting coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

The Journeys field trip on **March 5** will explore the lives and legacies of enslaved people in Coastal Georgia, including those involved in the Weeping Time. Our group will first visit the remains of Hampton Plantation, acquired in 1774 by Major Pierce Butler. We will also visit Butler Island, which was operated as a rice plantation by the Butler family. Fanny Kemble, the wife of Major Butler's grandson, Pierce Mease Butler, stayed here in the winter of 1838 – 1839. Kemble was shocked at the treatment of enslaved

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people that she witnessed and later authored a book, *Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation in 1838 -1839*, about her experiences on St. Simons and Butler islands. The couple divorced in 1849, and in 1859, Pierce Mease Butler sold people enslaved at both plantations during the Weeping Time to save himself from bankruptcy. This history will be explored by speakers at each location who will provide more information about the lives of the enslaved and the impact of events like the Weeping Time in Coastal Georgia.

The field trip to Hampton Plantation and Butler Island includes transportation, guided experiences at both locations, and lunch. The tour will depart from the A.W. Jones Heritage Center. Once purchased, tickets are non-refundable, although they may be transferred to another person. Please look for an email in the **second week of January for registration and field trip details.**



Rice Mill Ruins on Butler Island
Margaret Davis Cate Collection, CGHS



Welcoming Local Families to our Museums

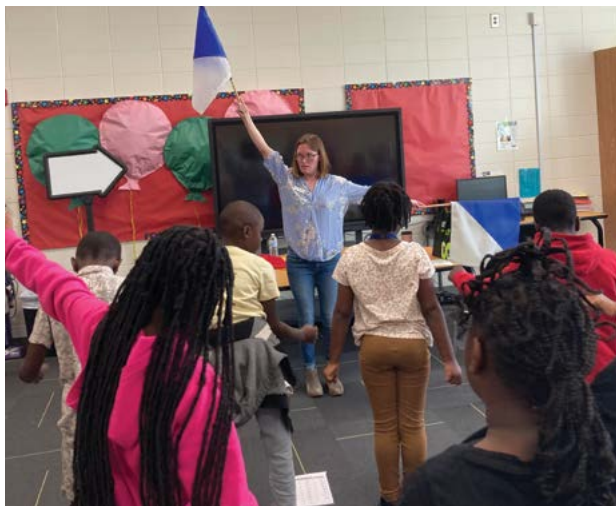
On October 10, the Society offered local children and their families free admission to the St. Simons Lighthouse and World War II Home Front Museums. Thanks to the generosity of the Jack and Anne Glenn Charitable Foundation, 565 people visited our museums free of charge while schools were closed for a teacher planning day.

Archaeology for Families at St. Simons Land Trust Event

On October 14, Myrna Crook and Janis Rodriguez represented our Archaeology Lab at the SSLT's Family Day at Guale Preserve. Through a variety of hands-on activities, visitors of all ages learned about Native American shell middens, pottery making, and foodways, as well as pirate activity along our coast. Myrna and Janis also used a display case of pottery sherds to show how coastal people decorated their pots thousands of years ago. Rebecca Cushing of the Land Trust graciously assisted with the activities.



Photo from Sam Ghioto Studio



Celebrating Veteran's Day at Burroughs-Mollette Elementary School

The Society's Education Director, Annie Martin, along with the Director of Public Programming, Allison Dupuis, presented a Veteran's Day program at Burroughs-Mollette Elementary on November 10. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students learned the flag semaphore alphabet and tested their classmates' knowledge by spelling words for others to decode.

Thank You for Being a Friend

The Friends of Coastal Georgia History have supported the Society over decades. Recent gifts supplied American flags which are flown at the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum and conserved and displayed the painting "Armless" by James Montgomery Flagg. Over the past two years, the Friends have given generously to the Preservation Campaign. We are grateful for their longstanding support to preserve and share Coastal Georgia history.

Volunteer Social

On November 13, a social was held at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center for the Society's volunteers. The well attended event gave the volunteers an opportunity to meet our newest staff members, Annie Martin and Allison Dupuis, and to spend time with other volunteers. Annie and Allison welcomed and thanked them for their dedicated service.



Save the Date

Spring Lecture

On March 21, Leslie Dunlap, Ph.D., will present a lecture on Vara Majette in celebration of Women's History Month. An important figure in Coastal Georgia history, Majette was a pioneering social worker and became one of the first women admitted to the Georgia Bar Association. She moved to St. Simons in 1932 and became fascinated with local history. In later years, she produced a series of watercolors depicting the island's historic landscapes. Dr. Dunlap, Continuing Professor of History at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, will examine Majette's research on Native American life in Coastal Georgia.

World War II Heritage Trail

The World War II Home Front Museum is proud to be a part of the **Georgia World War II Heritage Trail!** In 2023, the Trail launched a comprehensive social media campaign, founding both a Facebook and Instagram page. Each month, these central pages feature exciting stories, artifacts, and programs from every museum Trail partner. To support the Georgia World War II Heritage Trail, please follow its social media pages on Facebook at facebook.com/georgiawwiitrail and on Instagram at [@georgiawwiitrail](https://instagram.com/georgiawwiitrail).



Membership Highlights

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

Keepers of the Light

Mario and Joy Corti – Sustainer

John Dunham and Jane Beadles – Patron

Albert and Joyce Fendig – Sustainer

Amanda and Tom Lister – Patron

Joanie and Stewart Long – Sustainer

Eileen and Clay Scofield – Sustainer

General

Palmer Bliss – Family

Mary Lou Folts – Family

Marti and Bill Jeffers – Curator

Carol and Stiles Kellett – Assistant Keeper

Beth Kempe – Curator

Ginny Rosner – Lamplighter

Pam and John Versaggi – Curator

Welcome New Members!

Keepers of the Light

Jim Farish – Sustainer

Virginia and Christopher Hopkins – Sustainer

Larry and Mary Montani – Patron

Samuel and Judith Spanos – Sustainer

General

Judy Basham – Family

Judy Bozarth – Individual

Alan Brown – Family

Peggy Chamberlin – Individual

Laura Cruser – Family

Sally Gilfillan – Individual

Thomas Harrison – Family

Irene Hatch – Individual

Trey & Martha Hayden – Family

Stephanie and Peter Hill – Family

Diane and Bud Keller – Family

Eric Locke – Individual

Jody Madden – Family

Wayne Perry – Curator

Lou Pollie – Individual

Marsha Rauscher – Family

Beth Simpson – Individual

Lucia Smeal – Family

Elizabeth Sudduth – Individual

Ruth Trudeau – Individual

Virginia Walker – Family

Elizabeth Weems – Individual

Mary Beth Whittaker – Family

Brenda Williams – Family

Yvonne Williams – Family

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

In Memory of Albert Shelander
By Carol Cartus, Joyce and Albert Fendig

In Memory of BB Shelander
By G. Alex Bernhardt, Carol Cartus, James and Amy Hubbard, Cathy and Stan Kyker, Judith Parker

In Memory of Ruth Hester
By Tanja Sucher

Calendar of Events

Museums and Museum Stores Closed for Inventory and Maintenance

January 8-12

Winter Program

January 14

Silent Spring Revolution and Its Connection to Coastal Georgia

Douglas Brinkley

4 p.m.

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

CGHS members free;
\$25 non-members

Local History Course

January 16, 23, 30, and February 6

History of the Golden Isles – and Slightly Beyond

Buddy Sullivan

4 – 5:30 p.m.

A.W. Jones Heritage Center

\$50 CGHS members;
\$95 non-members

Black History Month

February 22

African American History in the Lowcountry

Bernard Powers

6 p.m.

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Free of charge

Journeys

March 5

Hampton Plantation and Butler Island

Details coming in January



COASTAL GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Brunswick, GA
31520
Permit No. 369

Our Staff

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Sherri Jones

Curator

Mimi Rogers

Education Director

Annie Martin

Director of Public Programming

Allison Dupuis

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

Lindsey Cochran, Ph.D.

2023 Board of Directors

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Jeffrey Molitor

Treasurer

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Brenda Nease

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Janis Rehlaender

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Call (912) 634-7090, follow us online,
or visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org



American
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Museums