



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

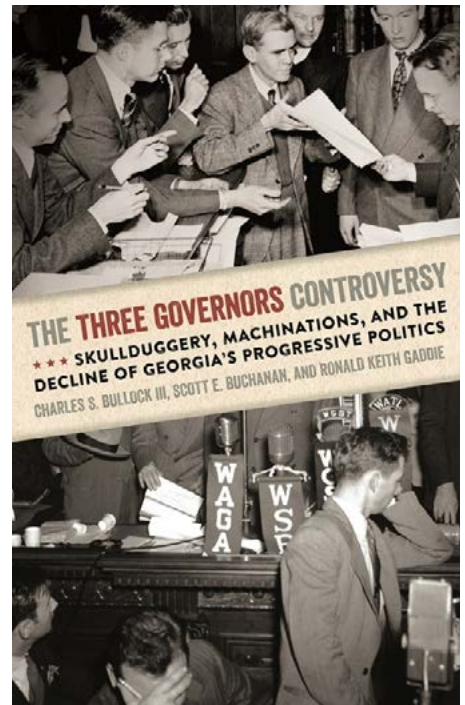


Library of Congress

## “Seasons of Change: Elections That Shaped Our National and State History”

American elections have always been harbingers of change—not just of elected officials, but of policies, attitudes, and how we as a nation conduct elections themselves. Coastal Georgia Historical Society’s 2024 Chautauqua Lecture Series will explore changemaking elections that had a significant impact, both in Georgia and for the U.S. Presidency.

**On August 8**, Scott Buchanan, Ph.D., will deliver a lecture titled, **“Georgia’s Gubernatorial Election of 1946: The Triumph of Rural Georgia.”** The elected candidate in 1946, Eugene Talmadge, died before taking the oath of office. Three politicians, including Talmadge’s son, Herman, claimed the office, causing three months of tension and uncertainty. Dr. Buchanan is a professor of political science and Department Chair of Government and Sociology at Georgia College and State University.



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He is the co-author of *The Three Governors Controversy: Skullduggery, Machinations, and the Decline of Georgia's Progressive Politics*. His previous works include *Some of the People Who Ate My Barbecue Didn't Vote for Me: The Life of Georgia Governor Marvin Griffin*.

**At the program on August 15**, Laurence Jurdem, Ph.D., will present **"A Parting of the Ways: Theodore Roosevelt, Henry Cabot Lodge and the Presidential Election of 1912."** During this controversial contest, Roosevelt launched a third-party bid, in opposition to his own party and incumbent William Taft. Ultimately, this threw the election to Woodrow Wilson. Roosevelt's actions will be examined through the lens of his friendship with political colleague Henry Cabot Lodge, who refused to support Roosevelt's independent bid for a third term. Dr. Jurdem is an Adjunct Professor of History at Fairfield University and Fordham College's Lincoln Center campus. A frequent writer on American politics, his articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. His most recent book is *The Rough Rider and the Professor: Theodore Roosevelt, Henry Cabot Lodge, and the Friendship that Changed American History*.

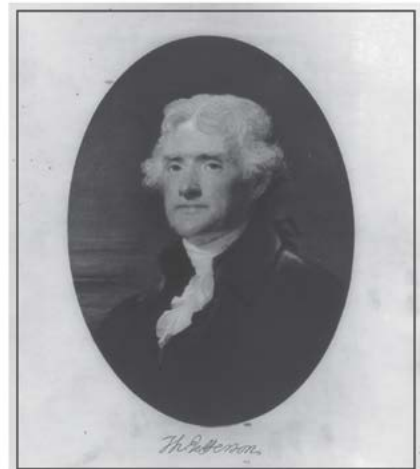
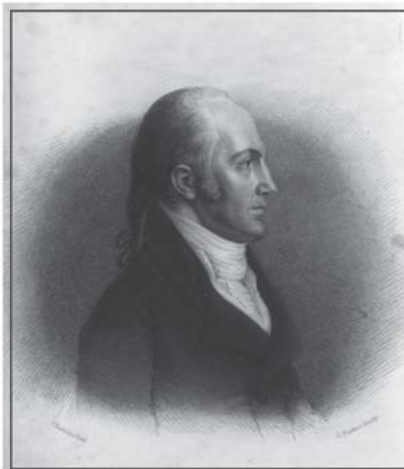


Harold Holzer  
Photo by Matt Capowski

**The lecture on August 22** will feature award-winning historian Harold Holzer who will deliver **"Electing and Re-electing Lincoln: The Immigrant Impact in 1860 and 1864."** The program will be based on his new book, *Brought Forth on This Continent: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration*, which describes the effect of the influx of foreign born people on the political landscape of an increasingly divided nation. One of the nation's leading authorities on Lincoln, Mr. Holzer serves as the director of Hunter College's Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute and is chairman of the Lincoln Forum. He has written numerous books on Lincoln and has appeared in specials for C-SPAN, PBS, CNN, and other networks. He is a recipient of the National Humanities Medal and the Gilder-Lehrman Lincoln Prize.

Richard Brookhiser, also a National Humanities Medal winner, will present the final program in the series on **September 5, "1800—America's First Two-Party System Goes to the Polls."** In this third contest for the presidency, Thomas Jefferson and his own vice presidential running mate, Aaron Burr, tied for electoral college votes, and it took 36 ballots for the House of Representatives to elect Jefferson. This election also featured the first peaceful transfer of power to the non-incumbent party. Mr. Brookhiser, a journalist and biographer, has written extensively about the Early Republic and the Founders, including books on George Washington, James Madison, John Marshall, and Alexander Hamilton. He also wrote and hosted the PBS documentary *"Rediscovering George Washington."* His latest work is *Glorious Lessons: John Trumbull, Painter of the American Revolution*.

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Aaron Burr and Thomas Jefferson  
Library of Congress

The programs will be presented on Thursday evenings, August 8, August 15, August 22, and September 5, at 6 p.m. at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church. They will be available via livestream and recorded. Please note the schedule skips August 29. The cost for the series is \$50 for members and \$95 for non-members. To register, visit [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org).

We are grateful for the support of our generous sponsors!



## Celebrating the F.J. Torras Causeway

The Society is excited to partner with the Torras Foundation to celebrate the centennial of the F. J. Torras Causeway. On **June 26 and July 10**, Allison Dupuis, Director of Public Programming, will present a lecture on the history of the Torras Causeway. Entitled “**Celebrating 100 Years of Connection: Imagining, Building, and Keeping the F. J. Torras Causeway**,” the lecture examines the factors that led to the construction of the road, the personalities that made it possible, and its social and economic impact in the decades since its completion.

Lectures will take place at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center at 6 p.m., and the June 26 program will be available via live stream. The programs are free of charge and open to the public. To register, visit [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org).

The Society will also participate in the Causeway Celebration on Saturday, July 13. Mirroring the opening ceremonies of the causeway a century ago, the celebration will feature performances, a parade and motorcade, and an education tent staffed by local historical organizations. More details, including a schedule for the day, can be found at [causewaycelebration.com](http://causewaycelebration.com).



## Strategic Planning Surveys

The Board is excited to spend the summer collecting feedback from our members, volunteers, visitors, and community as we begin to develop a new strategic plan. We are requesting insight from members during this process in the form of surveys and other opportunities to share your individual thoughts. Every member’s perspective is valuable, and we look forward to receiving your feedback through the survey that was recently sent to you. **Please respond by Monday, July 1.** The Board will finalize the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan in December and share our vision and plans for the future in the new year. Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts with us!



## We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

The Society hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 17 to thank our enthusiastic and hardworking volunteers. Volunteers are a vital part of our organization and contribute to the Society in many important ways: docents for the Home Front and Lighthouse Museums; administrative, archive, and archaeology volunteers; school tour docents; those who assist with lectures and Little Light Music concerts; and the Coast Guard Auxiliary who keep our light shining bright. Many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who help us realize our mission!

We encourage you to join our volunteer team! We are especially in need of docents for the Lighthouse Museum over the summer. Contact Annie Martin, Education Director, at [amartin@coastalgeorgiahistory.org](mailto:amartin@coastalgeorgiahistory.org) or 912-638-7093 for more information.



*These volunteers contributed over 100 hours of service in 2023 (\* indicates over 200 hours)*

*Back row: Mark Lawrence, Jerry Hardiman, Patrick Kelley\*, Myrna Crook\*, Les Breen, Larry Bacon, Richard Altman*

*Front Row: Becky Bridges, Nancy Chastain, Nancy Jenkins, Pam Balsley\*, Rene Boven, Gretchen Negles\*, Janis Rodriguez\**

*Not pictured: Sallie Sasser, John Versaggi, Walter Oglesby, Marti Jeffers, Sally Gilfillan, Jim DeLong, Chris Bone*

## Society Receives Excellence in Stewardship Award

The Society's Preservation Campaign recently won the 2024 Excellence in Stewardship Award from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation! The award "recognizes those who ensure the preservation of historic properties through long-term care and maintenance, stabilization, protection or continuous family ownership." This statewide recognition was made possible by the generosity of members whose support will ensure that our iconic landmarks will always shine for our region and serve the public well into the future.



## Walter Hawthorne and Enslaved.org

On May 9, Walter Hawthorne, Ph.D., presented “Enslaved: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade” at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center. Dr. Hawthorne is a professor of African and digital history at Michigan State University. He is also the director of Enslaved.org, an online database that is a repository of richly detailed stories of the lives of enslaved people. In his lecture, Dr. Hawthorne described the origins of the Enslaved.org project, its achievements, and its ongoing work and research.

On Friday, May 10, the Society hosted a second session in Brunswick. The program was held in partnership with the College of Coastal Georgia’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion and took place at the Brunswick-Glynn County Library. Dr. Hawthorne spoke to an audience of genealogical researchers, leaders of Coastal Georgia organizations, and members of the community. He explained to attendees how the Enslaved.org project operates and how they can participate.



*Pictured left to right: Griffin Lotson, Myrna Scott Amos, Brenda Thompson, Walter Hawthorne, Alex Tripp, Mimi Rogers*



*Mike Bennett (left) from the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse restoration team with Ralph Ainger*



*The Fresnel lens, Photo by Dan Spinella*

## Preserving Our Lighthouse

Over the past month, the St. Simons Lighthouse tower and Fresnel lens mechanism have been inspected to ensure visitor safety and identify any maintenance issues. On April 29, Jude Kostage, Principal of Atlantic Engineering Services in Jacksonville, completed an assessment of the tower, which the Society commissions every three years. Mr. Kostage has 15 years of experience with our Lighthouse. He provided engineering services during the extensive restoration of the tower in 2010.

On May 17, Mike Bennett, Operations Director at Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum, did a detailed inspection of the French-made Fresnel lens mechanism, which consists of a fixed light surrounded by four lens panels that rotate to create the characteristic flash every 60 seconds. Mr. Bennett is a member of the lens restoration team at Ponce Inlet, one of only a few facilities in the country that undertake repair of historic lenses. He was assisted by Ralph Ainger, a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary team that faithfully maintains the light as a Federal Aid to Navigation.

# Little Light Music Concert Series

Join us this summer! For news and weather updates, please visit our website or Facebook page.

**The Society is grateful for the support of our 2024 concert sponsors:**



Morgan Stanley  
BROWN-ROSE WEALTH MANAGEMENT  
AT MORGAN STANLEY



**JUNE 23**  
**Squirt Gun**

**JULY 7**  
**The Tams**  
(rescheduled)

**JULY 21**  
**Pinebox Dwellers**

**SEPT 1**  
**Sounds of Motown**

## Heritage Trail Welcomes New Partner

The Georgia World War II Heritage Trail is proud to announce its newest member site. The Thomaston-Upson Archives in Upson County recently opened their exhibition, "Thomaston Goes to War...On the Home Front." In the Archives, located in the former George Harrison Memorial Library Building in Thomaston, visitors can view an exhibit that highlights how this small town produced wartime products and how its people made important contributions to the war effort. The nearby Pettigrew-White-Stamps House Museum has been transformed into a typical World War II-era residence, where guests can immerse themselves in the home life of the period. As a site that highlights our own area's contributions to the war effort, the World War II Home Front Museum is proud to welcome Thomaston Goes to War to the Heritage Trail.



Exhibits showcase daily life on the home front during World War II  
Thomaston-Upson Archives





## Membership Highlights

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

### Keepers of the Light

Doug and Cece Bowen—Benefactor  
John Dunham and Jane Beadles—Benefactor  
Lois and Tom Marchetto—Sustainer  
Nancy and Jeff Molitor—Patron  
Chet and Christine Walker—Sustainer  
Dennis and Gayle Winchester—Benefactor

### General

Rene and Peter Boven—Lamplighter  
Dale and Paul Cronin—Assistant Keeper  
Maggie Gallagher—Family  
Patti and Pat Montgomery—Assistant Keeper  
Leann Pask—Assistant Keeper  
Michael Stroud—Lamplighter  
Jane Thau—Lamplighter  
Phil and Janet Villiotte—Lamplighter

## Welcome New Members!

### Keepers of the Light

Dean and Molly Cottrill—Sustainer  
Ben Fendig—Sustainer

### General

Brenda Boltz—Individual  
Kate and Carl Burnes—Family  
Richard Chandler—Individual  
Peter and Debbie Doyle—Family  
Laurie Larue—Individual  
Sara O`Dea—Individual  
Vaibhavi Patel—Individual  
Cathy Pittman—Family  
Keith Post—Individual  
John Samford—Assistant Keeper

## Memorial and Tribute Gifts

In Memory of Patty Cole  
By Patricia Lynch, Forrest Bloodworth  
In Honor of Jan and Dwight Payne  
By Frankie Carrigan  
In Honor of Ginnie Schroder  
By Ann, B.B., B.R., C. A., Kay, and Sandy

## Calendar of Events

### Little Light Music Concert Series

7-9 p.m.  
Lighthouse grounds  
\$20 per person  
Free: Children under 12 and Keepers of the Light

June 23—Squirt Gun  
July 7—The Tams (rescheduled)  
July 21—Pinebox Dwellers  
Sept 1—Sounds of Motown

June 26 / July 10

“Celebrating Connection: Imagining, Building, and Keeping the F. J. Torras Causeway”

Allison Dupuis

6 p.m.  
A.W. Jones Heritage Center  
Free of Charge

### Chautauqua Lecture Series

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

August 8

“Georgia’s Gubernatorial Election of 1946: The Triumph of Rural Georgia”  
Scott Buchanan, Ph.D.

August 15

“A Parting of the Ways: Theodore Roosevelt, Henry Cabot Lodge and the Presidential Election of 1912”  
Laurence Jurdem, Ph.D.

August 22

“Electing and Re-electing Lincoln: The Immigrant Impact in 1860 and 1864”  
Harold Holzer

September 5

“1800—America’s First Two-Party System Goes to the Polls”  
Richard Brookhiser



## BRUNSWICK LECTURE SERIES

Save the Date

The 2024 Brunswick Lecture Series will take place on Tuesdays, October 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 4 p.m. at the College of Coastal Georgia. This year’s series will feature local speakers on topics including an overview of Brunswick history, the history of Selden Park, Temple Beth Tefilloh, and the life of aviator Paul Redfern.



# COASTAL GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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St. Simons Island  
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