

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 *In the Hurricane's Eye: Winning the American Revolution*



Battle of the Virginia Capes, 5 September 1781, *Naval History and Heritage Command*

The Coastal Georgia Historical Society's Winter Program will set the stage for the U.S. Semiquincentennial celebration in 2026 by featuring award-winning author **Nathaniel Philbrick** on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 4 p.m. He will discuss his book *In the Hurricane's Eye: The Genius of George Washington and the Victory at Yorktown*, with a focus on Nathanael Greene, a major-general in the Continental Army with significant ties to Coastal Georgia. Washington named Greene the commander of the Continental Army in the southern theater, where Greene's campaign against Cornwallis contributed to the successful outcome of the war. Philbrick will weave together the crucial events of the Revolution's final years and bring to life the fascinating personalities who fought on land and sea for the ultimate prize of American independence.

An avid sailor and resident of Nantucket Island, Philbrick has written several *New York Times*



Nathaniel Philbrick

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bestsellers, including *Mayflower*, *Bunker Hill: A City, A Siege, A Revolution*, and *In the Heart of the Sea*, which won the National Book Award for Nonfiction. *In the Heart of the Sea* was also the basis of the 2015 film of the same title, as well as the 2010 PBS American Experience film “Into the Deep.” His book *Sea of Glory*, which described the U.S. Exploring Expedition (1838-1842) to map the Pacific Ocean, won the Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Naval History Prize and the Albion-Monroe Award from the National Maritime Historical Society. For his latest work, *Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy*, the author retraced Washington’s journey as U.S. president through the thirteen original colonies. Philbrick’s writing has been featured in *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, among other publications, and he has appeared on numerous television programs.

The lecture will take place at 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

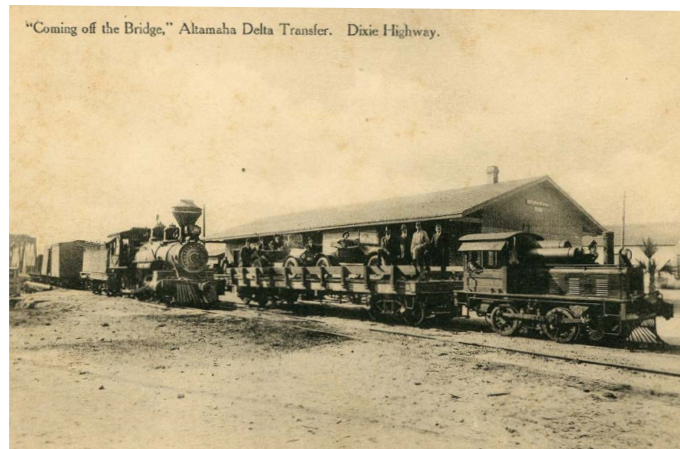
Buddy Sullivan will present a four-week lecture series, *“History of the Golden Isles—and Slightly Beyond,”* on Tuesday afternoons, **January 21 and 28 and February 4 and 11, 2025, from 3 – 4:30 p.m.** at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center. **Please note the time change from previous years.** The winter 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.

This popular series has been conducted by Buddy Sullivan each year since 1995. In addition to his position as the Society’s Senior Historian, Sullivan is the author of 20 books about Georgia history, with a focus on his home region of Coastal Georgia. His recently published titles include *Georgia: A State History* and *Sapelo: People and Place on a Georgia Sea Island*. He served as Director of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve from 1993 to 2013, and in 2005, he received the Governor’s Medal in the Humanities from the Georgia Humanities Council in recognition of his literary and cultural contributions to the state.

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



Postcard of St. Simons Island Pier, ca. 1930s



Railroad transfer near Darien, ca. 1920s

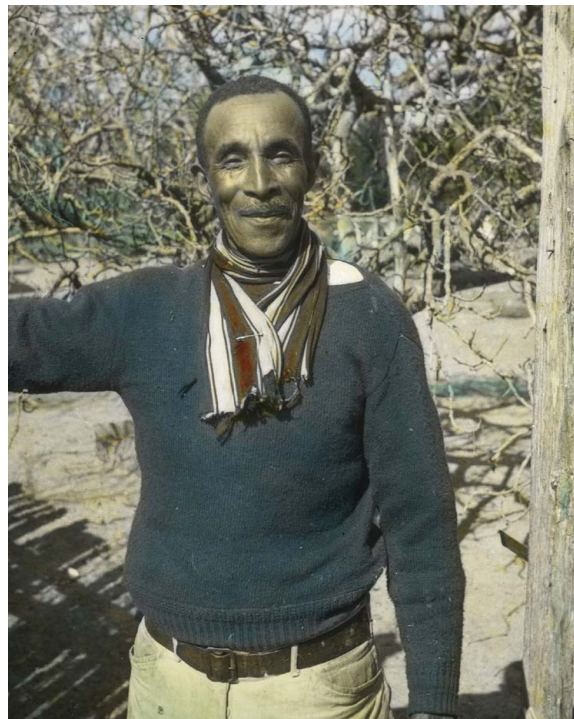
CELEBRATING *Black History*

Harrington School Exhibit and Upcoming Program

In celebration of Black History Month 2025, the Society will host an exhibit on the history of the St. Simons Harrington neighborhood at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center throughout the month of February. The Coastal Georgia Historical Society contributed images and information to the exhibit, which had its debut on November 2, 2024 at the Historic Harrington School. In seven panels, the exhibit traces the development of the neighborhood through its land and through its community. The timeline begins with the Demere family's Harrington Hall and Harrington Plantation, tracing the neighborhood's development into a vibrant African American community after the Civil War. From Reconstruction to the present day, the exhibit also traces the theme of land loss and development in Harrington and in historically black communities across the country. Using maps, written sources, personal histories, and images, including photographs from the Society's archives, the exhibit places the Harrington neighborhood in both a local and a national context. The exhibit will be located in the Event Hall and will be open to visitors during the Society's regular hours.

To further celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Harrington School, the Society will host a program exploring the history of the neighborhood, the school, and the community. The program will take place during February and will be free and open to the public. Please visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org for more details, including a date announcement and registration, as Black History Month approaches.

Throughout 2024, Allison Dupuis, the Society's Director of Public Programming, has assisted the St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition with projects for the 100th anniversary of the Historic Harrington School. Since the beginning of the year, Allison has worked with Patty Deveau to write a weekly feature on African American history in Coastal Georgia. Each month's facts have followed themes, including music, civil rights, education, and community. All completed features can be viewed at ssiheritagecoalition.org.



Harrington neighborhood resident Ben Sullivan, circa 1940s



Planned Giving

Making a difference through planned giving has a long history in the United States. Notable examples can be traced back to our Founding Fathers. Benjamin Franklin established trusts to assist industrious young tradesmen in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. George Washington, whose formal schooling was limited, provided funding for educational institutions in his will. A bequest by James Madison supported the library at Princeton University, his alma mater.

We hope that you will carry on this tradition by remembering the Historical Society in your will. Through the generosity of our members and friends, the Society has achieved important objectives in education and preservation. **Planned giving is a way to ensure that quality programming and protection of our collections and historic structures can continue far into the future.**

For more information on how to include the Society in your estate planning, please visit www.coastalgeorgiahistory.org/planned-giving/ or contact Sheila VanderWood at svanderwood@coastalgeorgiahistory.org and (912) 634-7096.

Veterans Day at Burroughs-Molette Elementary

The Society's Director of Public Programming, Allison Dupuis, visited Burroughs-Molette Elementary School on November 8 for the school's annual Veterans Day program. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students learned about the history of the St. Simons Coast Guard Station and the importance of the Coast Guard during World War II. Students also learned the flag semaphore alphabet and tested their classmates' knowledge by spelling words for others to decode.



GSU Archaeology Class Visits Cannon's Point



On November 9, Myrna Crook, manager of the Society's Archaeology Lab, and Stephanie Knox, stewardship director of the St. Simons Land Trust, gave students from the Archaeological Methods and Theory class at Georgia Southern University a specialized tour of Cannon's Point Preserve. This is the third year that Dr. Matt Compton, anthropology professor and director of the GSU Laboratory of Archaeology, has brought this

class to the Preserve. Since excavations have been carried out at Cannon's Point over many decades, the Preserve provides a comprehensive record of changing methodologies from the 19th-21st centuries.

Kate Clarke Lemay Visits Frederica Academy

The Society's Fall Program speaker, Kate Clarke Lemay, Ph.D., presented a program on the U.S. women's suffrage movement to three groups of students at Frederica Academy on November 15. Adapting the program she gave the previous evening at the Heritage Center, Dr. Lemay encouraged the students to view history through careful examination of the art of a period. Attendees included the entire eighth grade, the AP U.S. History class, and a U.S. and World Affairs class. Members of the Frederica Academy Women's History Club also attended Dr. Lemay's presentation.



Spring Program Save the Date

On Thursday, March 20, 2025, **Greg Brooking, Ph.D.**, will present a lecture on **Sir James Wright, the third and final royal governor of Georgia**. Born in England and raised in Charleston, South Carolina, Wright became South Carolina's attorney general and colonial agent to London. He served as the royal governor of Georgia from 1760 until 1782. Dr. Brooking, an Atlanta high school teacher and a research fellow at the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, recently published his book ***From Empire to Revolution: Sir James Wright and the Price of Loyalty in Georgia***. His lecture will examine his research on Wright, colonial Georgia, and a new perspective on loyalism and the American Revolution.



Lighthouse Inspection

During this year's hurricane season, the high winds of two storms caused loss of paint in several areas on the Lighthouse tower. After consulting Jude Kostage of AES Structural Engineers in Jacksonville, it was determined that the tower surface should be closely examined to assess the extent of the issue.

This took place on Friday, December 6, when Kostage and Mike Keeling, a paint specialist from Coastal Construction Products in Jacksonville, were lifted approximately 80 feet to take samples at various locations. A report will be prepared describing their findings and recommendations. We want to thank Jon Collett of Custom Tree Works in Brunswick, who graciously volunteered his time to operate the boom truck.

Staff Update

Join us in welcoming **Trish Scott** as our new Office Manager. For the past eight years, she has overseen the day-to-day administrative operations of a local family-owned business. In her new role at the Society, Trish will provide bookkeeping services, schedule and facilitate maintenance projects, coordinate communication, and handle various tasks to keep our office running smoothly. On your next visit to the Heritage Center, please come to the second floor and introduce yourself to Trish.



Membership Highlights

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

Keepers of the Light

Barbara and Bill Abbate – Sustainer
Gayle and Jimmy Alston – Patron
John Bauser and Cheryl Hargrove – Sustainer
Hoke Brunson – Sustainer
Linda and Jay Buchert – Patron
Joy and Mario Corti – Patron
Cheryl and Dan DuPree – Patron
Chris and Tom Ernst – Patron
Maggie Glennon – Sustainer
Shirley and Tony Guthrie – Sustainer
Eileen and Clay Scofield – Sustainer
Maria and Tom Wheeler – Sustainer

General

Michael Bauser – Lamplighter
Lauren and Lee Hopkins – Lamplighter
Catherine and Victor Jost – Assistant Keeper
Lodi Palmer – Assistant Keeper
Cary and Herron Weems – Assistant Keeper

Welcome New Members!

Keepers of the Light

Patty and Emmett Barnes – Sustainer
Karen and Mark Koulogeorge – Luminary

General

Nina Braziel – Individual
Ruth Brown – Individual
Linda Casotti – Family
Richard and Tabitha Cross – Family
Denise Waters Cummings – Individual
Jean DeRosa – Individual
Andy Desmond – Individual
Kelly Enser – Individual
Jody Furr – Family
Robin Halpern – Family
Elaine Hearn – Individual
Gregory and Cindy Husnick – Family
Libby Hydrick – Individual
David and Xin King – Family
Robert Muller – Family
Debbie Rodriguez – Family
Ann Stephens – Family
Patti Scott – Individual
James and Kristal Tadcock – Family
Diane Wilson – Family

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

In Honor of Janet and Rawson Gordon
By Don and Susan Myers

In Memory of Loretta Stuckey Cramer
By Ann Cramer

Reminder | Communication Preferences and Online Membership Renewals

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 online renewal platform.

If your contact information has changed, or you'd like to update your communication preferences, please visit our website to complete the Member Contact and Preference Form. You are also welcome to contact me directly at svanderwood@coastalgeorgiahistory.org or (912) 634-7096.

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

Sheila VanderWood

Calendar of Events

Museums and Museum Stores Closed for Inventory and Maintenance

January 6-10

Winter Program

January 26

*In the Hurricane's Eye:
Winning the American Revolution*
Nathaniel Philbrick

4 p.m.
St. Simons Presbyterian Church
CGHS members free;
\$25 non-members

Local History Course

January 21, 28, and February 4, 11

*History of the Golden Isles –
and Slightly Beyond*
Buddy Sullivan

3-4:30 p.m.
A.W. Jones Heritage Center
\$50 CGHS members;
\$95 non-members

Black History Month

On view throughout February 2025

Harrington School Centennial Exhibit

Harrington School Program

February TBD

A.W. Jones Heritage Center



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

Executive Director

Sherri Jones

Curator

Mimi Rogers

Director of Public Programming

Allison Dupuis

Director of Development

Sheila VanderWood

Public Relations Director

Leigh Ann Stroud

Office Manager

Trish Scott

Director of Retail Operations

Eric Oberg

Events Coordinator

Jessica Aldridge

Senior Historian

Buddy Sullivan

Consulting Archaeologist

Lindsey Cochran, Ph.D.

2024 Board of Directors

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



American
Alliance of
Museums