



COASTAL GEORGIA
**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

2025 Annual Report



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.

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Executive Director's Report

It's a tradition to take stock of the year as it closes, and that's certainly true for us at Coastal Georgia Historical Society. As an organization dedicated to preserving and sharing our region's history, it's no wonder we believe in the importance of examining our past to learn from it. And 2025 has lots to teach us.

First, the strength of our organizational foundation. I spent 2025 delving into all aspects of CGHS, first as Director of Collections & Education and now as Executive Director. From collections and preservation to finances and management, the foundations of CGHS have been carefully and intentionally laid by our predecessors, especially Sherri Jones and Mimi Rogers. With this strong base established, we now get to focus on building upward, and in so doing strive toward our founders' ambitious goal for CGHS to be recognized as one of the best historical societies in existence.

Second, the support of our community. In 2024, we incorporated the voices of many in our community during strategic planning. In 2025, we were excited to share our vision more widely through programs and printed materials. Your enthusiastic responses—as shown by an increase in membership—emboldens our commitment to deepening our roots as a community museum while embracing our role as the region's center for historical education and research. We're eager to roll out new events and initiatives next year, including History Traveling Trunks that will bring our region's dynamic and vital stories into the classrooms of students across Glynn County.

Third, the power of our work. I had the pleasure of spending much of 2025 listening to our members, staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, community partners, and museum visitors. I learned a great deal from those conversations, and the overarching takeaway was simple: what CGHS does is important. People believe that history matters, not only to better understanding what came before but to better comprehending our world today and envisioning a better future. We will embrace the power of history and engage even more people in the interactive, connective process of exploring the past.

As we move into 2026, we will take these lessons with us as we strengthen and expand our work. We will continue to provide top-notch cultural programs and museums that annually reach tens of thousands while also making Coastal Georgia history more tangible, representative, and participatory. History is not just something you passively read; it's something you actively do. So, let's engage students and adults, tourists and residents, scholars and the wider public in investigating and experiencing the richness of Coastal Georgia history. With your support, I can't wait to bring more people into the exciting process of doing history together.

Next year is a perfect opportunity to do just that as we honor the nation's 250th birthday. All year long, the A.W. Jones Heritage Center will display a new Semiquincentennial-themed exhibit exploring the role of Coastal Georgia in the American Revolution. Our Winter Program featuring Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky, Executive Director of the George Washington Presidential Library, spotlights Washington's Southern Tour in Georgia, revealing how 1776 was just the beginning of the nation's founding. The main CGHS Semiquincentennial commemoration in March is the week-long history festival **Revolution on the Coast: A 250th Celebration**. With lectures, debates, move sing-alongs, and a special exhibit of the Continental Army's mobile command center from the Museum of the American Revolution, this is a can't miss event for our community.

2025 has been a year of change at CGHS, and I am particularly grateful for your continued support during the periods of transition. I look forward to seeing you throughout 2026 and beyond. Always feel free to give me a ring at 912-634-7080 or stop by my office in the Heritage Center to say hello.



Dr. Whitney Nell Stewart
Executive Director



The Coastal Georgia Historical Society received a 2025 William Bernard McCloud Community Impact Award from Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation

Board of Directors' Message

There is an old saying: “lightning never strikes the same place twice.” In reality, lightning is likely to hit the same target multiple times, especially if it stands tall and alone. We at CGHS know this well now; our proud lighthouse was the victim of two separate lightning strikes in 2025. This is just one of many lessons learned in a year unlike any other.

In this first year of our new strategic plan, “Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future: 2030 Vision,” we had a lot of groundwork to set. CGHS is a strong, vital organization prepared to take on these bold moves with our new leadership at the helm. We created an ambitious 5-year plan which we quickly embraced and look forward to building upon in 2026.

This is also my first year as Board President, and throughout 2025 I have been emboldened by the growing enthusiasm for the future of the organization. The CGHS team offered new formats in programming to engage members and the community. In response, we have seen record levels of membership support. Our innovation is shaping our future and does not stop with our annual events and lectures. The growing Archaeology Lab allows the Society to tell the history of our community beyond the written word, and the staff is developing creative additions to our educational resources to reach more students and teachers. Throughout 2025 we have assembled many building blocks to prepare our organization to rise to the next level as the center for Coastal Georgia historical research and education.

I am thankful to my colleagues on the Board of Directors for their many contributions to these efforts. They have been called on to go above and beyond what was originally expected when the year began and rose to the challenge. I extend my deepest appreciation to the members who are completing their service this year, Janis Rehlaender, who served as Secretary and Development Chair, and Susan Myers, former Governance Chair. Their years of leadership and dedication are inspiring. I heartily welcome new (and one returning) members to the Board: Patti Barnes, Ben Easterlin, Susan Imhoff, Bill Jones III, Deb Luginbuhl, and Tanya

McDowell. The incoming Board officers—Greer Brown, Vice President; Johnny Evans, Treasurer; and Brad Danowski, Secretary—are ready to make the most of what opportunities lay ahead. I look forward to working with this strong team on the next phase of our Strategic Plan.

Lightning can be thought of in several ways. Its power can be destructive and ruinous, or it can be the spark to create electricity. We have embraced the symbolic spark, using this year to strengthen the organization. A strong, vital institution like CGHS is rare in a community of our size, yet thanks to our staff, volunteers, Board, and members, we stand tall on the stories of our people and confident in our purpose. We will continue the path of success with, we hope, only **metaphorical** lightning in 2026.



Steve Kerr
President, CGHS Board of Directors

Financial Report

(Unaudited)

Operations

Revenues	\$	1,887,218
Transfer from General Support Fund	\$	100,000
Expenses (Excluding Depreciation of \$427,250)	\$	1,934,679
Net Income from Operations	\$	52,539

General Support Fund

Beginning of Year Balance	\$	1,089,081.96
Transfer to Operating Account	\$	100,000
End of Year Balance*	\$	1,134,590.79

St. Simons Lighthouse Museum Preservation Fund

Beginning of Year Balance	\$	1,188,908.73
Donations during 2025	\$	42,925.04
End of Year Balance*	\$	1,281,235.86

World War II Home Front Museum Preservation Fund

Beginning of Year Balance	\$	1,196,611.57
Donations during 2025	\$	30,084.47
End of Year Balance*	\$	1,348,662.30

Ellen H. "Mimi" Rogers Endowment Fund

Beginning of Year Balance	\$	0
Donations during 2025	\$	441,042.35
End of Year Balance*	\$	441,042.35

*Includes investment income and expenses for 2025.

Programming

At our core, the Coastal Georgia Historical Society is a community museum. We are proud to partner with local organizations, collaborate with historical and educational institutions, and serve as a resource for curious community members and visitors. We honor our status as stewards of the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum and World War II Home Front Museum and prioritize the preservation of our archaeological and archival collections. As always, we strive to provide high-quality programs to the widest audience possible, including school children and our members.

Museum Visitation

Single Ticket Admission	67,500
Adult Group Tours	165
Participants	1,150
School Group Tours	51
Participants	1,841
Total	<u>70,707</u>

Educational Programming

Attendees at lectures, special tours, and children's programs	7,787
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Events

Little Light Music	
Concert Series Attendees	5,000
Number of Event Rentals	46

Programs, Lectures, and Events

■ On Sunday, January 26, Nathaniel Philbrick presented the **Society's Winter Program** at St. Simons Presbyterian Church. 362 members and guests registered for the program, titled "In the Hurricane's Eye: Winning the American Revolution." The Cunningham Bowl was awarded to Pam Balsley, a Lighthouse and school tour docent who contributed over 200 volunteer hours in 2024. Lucy Glasebrook, a board member, Development Committee member, and leader of the Society's Preservation Campaign, received the Rodriguez Service Award. The 2025 Winter Program also featured the announcement of the Ellen H. "Mimi" Rogers Director of Collections and Education, the Society's first Endowed position. Following the program, a reception for Keepers of the Light was held at the Lodge at Sea Island.

■ Buddy Sullivan, CGHS's Consulting Historian, presented his annual lecture series, "**History of the Golden Isles—And Slightly Beyond**" to 78 participants on January 21 and 28 and February 4 and 11.

■ Allison Dupuis, the Society's Historian, attended **Oglethorpe Point Elementary School's annual Georgia History Day** on February 7. Fifth grade students learned about the World War II Home Front Museum and the role of the Coast Guard through the lens of codes. Student volunteers spelled their names and other secret code words in flag semaphore, the NATO phonetic alphabet, and Morse code.

■ In commemoration of **Black History Month** and the **100th anniversary of the Historic Harrington School**, CGHS hosted "Memories of Harrington" on February 13. This panel celebrated the completion of a new exhibit on the history of the Harrington neighborhood. 138 people registered for the program, which featured a dialogue between Harrington community member panelists and host Justus Davis, followed by a lively question and answer session.



The St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition's exhibit, "The History of the Harrington Community," was on display at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center throughout February 2025

■ Both the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum and the World War II Home Front Museum participated in **Super Museum Sunday** on February 9. On this day, part of the Georgia Historical Society's annual Georgia History Festival, 350 visitors took advantage of free admission to CGHS's museums between 12:00 and 4:00.

■ On March 20, Greg Brooking, Ph.D., presented the **Society's Spring Program**, based on his book *From Empire to Revolution: Sir James Wright and the Price of Loyalty in Georgia*. 116 members and guests attended.

■ CGHS Historian Allison Dupuis and volunteer Tom Luckstone attended Glynn County Schools' annual **STEAMFest** on March 22. More than 1,000 visitors walked through the halls of Brunswick High School, where CGHS engaged them in codebreaking activities related to the World War II Home Front Museum.

■ On April 8, CGHS Historian Allison Dupuis joined Bike Walk Golden Isles to lead their recurring "Walk With A..." series. This installment, **"Walk With A World War II Historian,"** took the group on a two-mile journey from the Golden Isles Welcome Center to the King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort. The walk served a dual purpose: education and the commemoration of the 83rd anniversary of the U-Boat attack on the SS **Oklahoma** and SS **Esso Baton Rouge**.

■ The **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** on April 16 The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 16 honored the work of the Society's dedicated volunteers throughout 2024. Overall, volunteers contributed 6,548.5 hours of service in 2024. 16 volunteers were recognized for working over 100 hours, including 5 who contributed 200 hours or more.

■ The first installment of the **Little Light Music Concert Series**, featuring the Tams, was rescheduled from May 11 to May 24. Squirt Gun performed on June 22, followed by the Pine Box Dwellers on July 27. Sounds of Motown closed the 2025 series on August 31.

This popular series attracted **5,000** concertgoers and generated around \$49,500 for CGHS. We are thankful to our generous sponsors: Ameris Bank; Brown-Rose Wealth Management at Morgan Stanley; Coastal Greenery; Elegant Island Living; Moore Stephens Tiller; Peach State Staging; SeaPak; and Taylor Odachowski Schmidt and Crossland LLC.

■ For the fourth year in a row, the Society welcomed Glynn County teachers to both of our museums as part of the **"History Happens Here" workshop**. The K-12 teachers toured both the World War II Home Front Museum and the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum on May 3 and discussed the inclusion of concepts, artifacts, and experiences from both sites into their lesson plans.

■ On May 15, **Justene Hill Edwards, Ph.D.**, presented a lecture based on her latest book, *Savings and Trust: The Rise and Betrayal of the Freeman's Bank* at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church. The program explored the post-Civil War story of the bank, the collapse of which became a major financial setback for African Americans. 190 participants registered to attend the program.

■ The 2025 **Chautauqua Lecture Series**, titled "Just Passing Through: Famous Faces in the Golden Isles," explored early twentieth century Coastal Georgia through the eyes of four of its most well-known visitors. All four lectures were offered in person at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church and were recorded for later viewing by virtual attendees. In 2025, CGHS offered a new option: attendees could either purchase tickets for the entire series or for individual programs. 192 members

and guests registered for the series, and 54 participants bought tickets to individual lectures. The 2025 Chautauqua Series was generously sponsored by Gilbert, Harrell, Sumerford & Martin, P.C.; Lokey Asset Management of Raymond James; and Rich Products Corporation.

On **September 4, Michel Paradis, Ph.D.**, delivered the first lecture on Dwight D. Eisenhower and Eisenhower's 1946 visit to Sea Island. Based on research for Dr. Paradis's book *The Light of Battle: Eisenhower, D-Day, and the Birth of the American Superpower*, the lecture examined Eisenhower's rise to prominence during World War II and his post-war activities, including his visit to Sea Island, that led to his presidency.

Daniel de Visé presented the program on **September 11**. His lecture focused on B.B. King, who performed at Jekyll Island's Dolphin Club Lounge in 1961. De Visé's book *King of the Blues: The Rise and Reign of B.B. King* served as the basis for this program, which took attendees from King's origins in the Mississippi Delta to his status as a blues legend and his strenuous performance schedule. Earlier in the day, de Visé also conducted a program about journalism and research for an audience of 150 students at Glynn Academy.

The program on **September 18** featured **Jennifer L. Freeman Marshall, Ph.D.** Dr. Marshall spoke about Zora Neale Hurston, who came to St. Simons Island as an anthropological researcher in 1935, interviewing residents of the island's African American neighborhoods and recording their traditional music. Hurston's fiction works are well-known, and Dr. Marshall's book *Ain't I An Anthropologist: Zora Neale Hurston Beyond the Literary Icon* sheds light on her anthropological contributions like the St. Simons Island project.

The series concluded on **September 25**. **John F. Ross** presented a lecture on Eddie Rickenbacker, the United States' most decorated World War I flying ace and a frequent visitor to Sea Island. Like Ross's book *Enduring Courage: Ace Pilot Eddie Rickenbacker and the Dawn of the Age of Speed*, this final lecture spotlighted Rickenbacker's

pioneering contributions to the fields of aviation and automobiles and his far-reaching connections.

■ The **Brunswick Lecture Series**, held at the College of Coastal Georgia's Stembler Theatre, attracted 119 registrations for the full series and 25 registrations for individual lectures. This year's topics covered a wider geographical area, and the year's series was titled "Brunswick and Beyond" to reflect the expansion.

The first lecture of the series on **October 7** featured **Buddy Sullivan**, the Society's Consulting Historian. Sullivan's program highlighted the history of Butler Island and the life of Frances Anne Kemble, the English wife of Pierce Butler whose time on Butler Island and at Hampton Point became her *Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation in 1838-1839*. The lecture covered five generations of the Butler family and the rice cultivation industry on the island south of Darien.

On **October 14**, the College of Coastal Georgia's **Hector Montford, Ph.D.**, presented "Brunswick's New Deal." The presentation highlighted the array of New Deal projects in the Brunswick area, the individuals who made them possible, and the impacts of the projects that remain today.

The program on **October 21** featured local historian **Josh Dukes**. Dukes's program, "Why Was the Oglethorpe Hotel Torn Down?," took attendees through the storied hotel's history and architecture, as well as the chain of events that led to its demolition. The lecture also traced physical remnants of the Oglethorpe Hotel, including objects in Dukes's own collection.

The series concluded on **October 28** with a lecture by **Allison Dupuis**, the Society's Historian. In "Story of Stories: The Brunswick Advocate and the Life of a City, 1837-1839," Dupuis illustrated early nineteenth-century Brunswick through the lens of a short-lived local newspaper. The lecture covered local events like the construction of the Brunswick-Altamaha Canal as well as local reactions to national events and the story of the paper's editor, Charles Davis.



Dr. Aaron Ellrich leads the Society's Journeys field trip, November 20, 2025

■ On October 16, Whitney Nell Stewart, Ph.D., the Society's Executive Director, presented the **Fall Program**. In "Georgia Wine History, An Interactive Talk and Tasting," Dr. Stewart illuminated the failures and successes of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Georgia winemakers. 55 participants attended the lecture and tasted three twenty-first-century Georgia wines.

■ 2025's **Journeys programs** highlighted waterfront commerce and plantation life in Darien. On November 13, Buddy Sullivan, the Society's Consulting Historian, presented a lecture on the history of Darien at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center. The program provided an overview of this unique community's timeline, with an emphasis on its maritime development and waterfront commercial district. 112 members and guests attended the lecture.

31 members gathered for the Journeys field trip on the following Thursday, November 20. Led by Aaron Ellrich, Ph.D., the Society's archaeologist, participants visited Hopeton-on-the-Altamaha and Darien's historic waterfront. The field trip continued with lunch and a presentation at the Adam Strain Building, a 200-year-old tabby structure in Darien that now houses a brewery. Extensive preservation and archaeological work on the Adam Strain site was recently completed with help from the Society's Archaeology Lab. After lunch, the group visited Elizafield and Laurel Grove Plantations to conclude the trip.

■ The Museum Store's **Holiday Gift Open House** took place from Friday, November 7, through Monday, November 10. Members of the Society enjoyed a preview on the morning of November 7.

■ The Society presented the "**History Highlights**" feature in *Elegant Island Living* magazine for each month of 2025. Produced by Allison Dupuis, Caitlyn Price, and Dr. Aaron Ellrich, these articles spotlighted images and objects from the CGHS collection and covered a variety of local historical topics, including a feature on the Archaeology Lab.



WPA: Relief for Families









"The workers work an average 11 days a month, during time they make about 900 garments of all descriptions. These garments go to about 400 families throughout the community, which represent approximately 1,200 persons"

-Brunswick News, 5/1940



"The program goes a long way toward taking surplus crops and hungry people together, resulting in benefits to both farmers and needy people"

-Brunswick News, 5/18/1940

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Hector Montford, Ph.D., at the Brunswick Lecture Series, October 14, 2025

Preservation Projects

In 2023, the Society and its supporters established a dedicated Preservation Fund which will ensure that resources are permanently available to complete essential work on the historic buildings. Thanks to the members and donors who supported this fund, the Lighthouse and Home Front Museum will continue to stand as unique landmarks of Coastal Georgia that connect thousands of people to our area's rich history each year.

We are also thankful for the specialized craftsmen and companies who completed the work to the exacting standards required:

Shawn Sandow, Southern Lights Unlimited, LLC
Cathy Ammons, Ammons Awnings & Handrails
Parker Wood, Coastal Coverage Painting & Design Inc.
Jay Saunders, Pease Construction
Jon Collett, Custom Tree Works
Alan Smith, Island Air
Razorback, LLC

The following examples are the most important preservation projects completed in 2025:

Lighthouse & Keeper's Dwelling

- The Museums and Museum Stores were closed for an annual week of **maintenance and inventory** from January 6 through 10, 2025. The Keeper's Dwelling's wood floors were cleaned, and interior paint in the dwelling was repaired and refreshed.
- In March, Razorback, LLC and Coastal Coverage Painting & Design Inc. completed several **exterior maintenance projects at the Lighthouse**

and Keeper's Dwelling. The Lighthouse's observation deck and handrail were sanded, repaired, and painted by Razorback, who also cleaned, repaired, and painted the tower's exterior masonry. Coastal Coverage painted the Dwelling's windows, shutters, soffits, and corbels, as well as its porch and benches.

- Over the summer, several **windows at the Keeper's Dwelling** were replaced. One window on the eastern wall underwent repairs. All salvageable pieces were repaired, and new pieces replicated elements of the original windows.

- The windows on the Dwelling's upper floor received new **shutters**, installed by Austin Historical and inspected to ensure that they can be closed to protect these windows during hurricanes. Fourteen sets of shutter hinges were removed and replaced with lacquer-coated steel hinges, adjusted to latch correctly to protect the windows during hurricane season.

- The Keeper's Dwelling had **termite protection** installed, and the Terne metal roofs of the Dwelling and Oil House were cleaned and repainted.

- Several **small-scale repairs** were made around the Lighthouse and Keeper's Dwelling. A piece of window trim was replaced and painted in the children's room on the second floor of the Dwelling, and the building's front door had its strike plate repaired with epoxy to ensure proper latching and locking. The iron and steel window on the Lighthouse's second floor landing was also adjusted to ensure proper closure.

- **Additional window replacements** were completed: eight sashes were replaced with newly-built sashes, and rot damage to the bottom of the south facing window was repaired.



Glynn County Fire Rescue at work on the World War II Home Front Museum's American flag halyard in October 2025

Home Front Museum

■ **New lights** were installed to illuminate the World War II Home Front Museum's historic flagpole. Existing lights on the site were relocated to the front of the museum, improving its nighttime visibility. The Society is thankful to Shawn Sandow at Southern Lights Unlimited, LLC, who generously donated time to this project.

■ Extensive work was undertaken to improve the **archive rooms**, which house the archaeological collections within the Main Station. A large dehumidifier was installed on the Main Station's third floor to prevent condensation in the rooms. A large archive room was created from the existing space, including the installation of insulation boards on the space's ceiling and the creation of a new wall.

■ White PVC **fence posts**, kindly donated by **Ammons Awnings & Handrails**, were installed to replace previous wood posts in the grass around the edge of the museum grounds.

■ The wooden two-rail fence around the museum's buildings was power washed and repainted to protect the wood.

■ In October, the **American flag halyard**, or rope hoisting mechanism, broke on the World War II Home Front Museum's flagpole. With help from **Glynn County Fire Rescue**, the **Glynn County Police Department**, and the **United States Coast Guard Auxiliary**, this element of the museum's historic 60-foot flagpole was quickly repaired.

■ The **crow's nest** on top of the Main Station received new windows, along with new wood siding and paint to surround them, to prevent rain leaks. The windows of the Main Station's basement were also sealed with special caulk and paint for the same purpose.

■ Old sealant was removed from the museum's **porch**, and the top of the porch was resealed. This will also prevent rain damage.

■ A previously unprotected window received custom-made **shutters and hardware**. All shutters around the museum had properly working bolts installed, which help to close the shutters and protect the windows in the event of a hurricane.

■ Wood on the **Aerial Marker** was replaced and repainted.

■ Missing roof shingles, twenty feet of rain gutter, and two signs at the Home Front Museum were replaced.

Lightning Strike

Lightning strikes over the summer affected both the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum and the World War II Home Front Museum, as well as the operation of the Lighthouse's beam.

■ On June 8, **lightning struck the St. Simons Lighthouse**, temporarily disabling the light and lens. The Aids to Navigation Team at the U.S. Coast Guard post in Jacksonville quickly delivered a replacement motor, which turns the "flash plate" around the light source to create the Lighthouse's flash pattern—a bright white beam of light once every sixty seconds. On July 10, lightning struck again. The Lighthouse went dark for nearly a month as the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary awaited a replacement bulb. By the beginning of August, this important Aid to Navigation along our coast was fully functional once again. The repair process was featured in the *Brunswick News*.

■ To **protect the Lighthouse Museum**, the security and fire alarm systems were replaced after each strike. The building's thermostats and Honeywell box were replaced once, along with one of the dehumidifiers in the attic. Both the Lighthouse and the Keeper's Dwelling had high and low voltage suppression installed to mitigate damage from future lightning strikes.

World War II Home Front Museum

■ In the wake of the strikes, the museum's fire alarm panel was replaced. **All three of the museum's buildings**—the Main Station, Boat House, and Bath House—had high and low voltage suppression installed.

Collections

Historians rely upon primary sources to understand the past, and we at CGHS are grateful to have a constantly expanding collection in which to explore our region. The following items were donated to the Society's Collection in 2025:

Archives – A.W. Jones Heritage Center

- First edition of Frances Anne Kemble's *Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation, 1838–1839* and two framed prints: chart of St. Simons Sound and Brunswick Harbor, 1856; and illustration of *USS Constitution* from 1897 edition of *Harper's Weekly*.
—Donor: Edwin E. MacKethan III
- 1965 Georgia history scrapbook, created by the donor.
—Donor: Bill Strother
- Twelve U.S. World War II-era posters: one extra-large "Remember Dec. 7th" (1942); one "Remember Dec. 7th" (1942); one small Savings Bonds & Stamps (1942); four-in-one Revolutionary era (1942); one "A Careless Word..." (1942); one extra-large "A Careless Word..." (1943); one "United We Are Strong" (1943); one "A Careless Word..." (1943); one "Millions of Troops..." (1943); one

"Won't You Give My Boy..." (1944); one "Serve Those..." (1945); one small \$200 War Savings Bond (1945).

—Donor: C.J. Drake on behalf of Brunswick Cellulose

■ Memorabilia and planning documents related to the Quincentennial of Christopher Columbus's 1492 voyage and the 1992 visit of his three ships to St. Simons Island. Includes books, a documentary on VHS, commemorative souvenirs, and three folders of planning materials, especially related to the St. Simons Chamber of Commerce, regarding the ships' visit.
—Donor: Mildred Huie Wilcox

■ Two framed maps of Sapelo Island and Dobby Sound and the Southern United States; framed prints of Norman Rockwell's "Four Freedoms."
—Donor: C.J. Drake on behalf of Brunswick Cellulose

■ Two copies of *Flags of Five Nations* with Cloister Hotel imprint.
—Donor: Lewis Glenn

■ Letter from Richard Gaines Kirkland to Timothy Kirkland, December 17, 1862.
—Donor: Lee Owen

■ Scrapbook of Howard Edward Burford

(1911-1965), Brunswick, Georgia.

—Donor: Jim Causey

■ Set of glass bottles found in Brunswick between 1969 and 1971.
—Donor: Rick Krause

■ World War II era Field Ration, Type C: non-corrugated tin plate can with key, includes coffee, sugar tablets, biscuits, and wrapped hard candy.
—Donor: Phil Belt

■ Christening gowns of Svendsen children. Addition to existing Carl O. Svendsen, Jr. Collection.
—Donor: Carl O. Svendsen III

Archaeology—Coast Guard Station

■ **Held in trust:** Archaeological artifacts collected during excavations and site surveys completed in the 1970s by University of Florida personnel. Artifacts originate from over twenty sites, many located around Cannon's Point. Objects spanning more than 4,000 years of St. Simons Island history (including Native American pottery, tableware and glassware, metal, bone, and shell tools, buttons, and animal bones) number in the tens of thousands, essentially doubling CGHS's archaeology collection.
—Donor (in-trust agreement): Bill Jones III



Glass bottles found in Brunswick between 1969 and 1971, donated to CGHS by Rick Krause

Education Collection

- Two framed prints (George Washington and *USS Constitution*); Washington portrait postcards from National Gallery of Art and Mount Vernon.
—Donor: C.J. Drake

Library

- *Memories from the Marshes of Glynn: World War II*, compiled and edited by Thora Olsen Kimsey and Sonja Olsen Kinard; *Ships of the Esso Fleet in World War II*, published by the Standard Oil Company.
—Donor: Patrick Kelley
- Approximately 45 books from Frederica Academy's upper school library. Topics include general Georgia history, the American Revolution, American Civil War, Reconstruction, Georgia government, ecological history, and architecture.
—Donor: Steven Jobe
- *George Washington: A Biography* by John R. Alden; *His Excellency—George Washington* by Joseph J. Ellis; *Enduring Ideals: Rockwell, Roosevelt, & the Four Freedoms* by Stephanie Haboush Plunkett and James J. Kimble
—Donor: C.J. Drake

- *Historical Glimpses of St. Simons Island 1736–1924*, published by the Coastal Georgia Historical Society; *Jekyll Island Club* by the Jekyll Island Authority, Museum and Historical Preservation Division; *Coastal Georgia* by Beth Lattimore Reiter, photography by Van Joens Martin; *Welcome to St. Simons Island—the Ultimate Area Guidebook 2007*, published by Due South Publishing Inc.; *Island Passage: An Illustrated History of Jekyll Island* and *Sapelo: People and Place on a Georgia Sea Island* by Jingle Davis
—Donor: Jacque Moss

- *Savings and Trust: The Rise and Betrayal of the Freedman's Bank* by Justene Hill Edwards, Ph.D.; *The Light of Battle: Eisenhower, D-Day, and the Birth of the American Superpower* by Michel Paradis, Ph.D.; *King of the Blues: The Rise and Reign of B.B. King* by Daniel de Visé; *Ain't I an Anthropologist: Zora Neale Hurston Beyond the Literary Icon* by Jennifer L. Freeman Marshall, Ph.D.; *Enduring Courage: Ace Pilot Eddie Rickenbacker and the Dawn of the Age of Speed* by John F. Ross
—Donor: Coastal Georgia Historical Society

For more information on our collections, including research, image, or donation requests, please visit us at <https://www.coastalgeorgiahistory.org/learn/archives-and-collections/>. We look forward to hearing from you!



**WE CAN . . .
WE WILL ..
WE MUST!**



.. Franklin D. Roosevelt

BUY U.S. WAR SAVINGS BONDS & STAMPS NOW

Archaeology Laboratory

During the first year with our full-time professional archaeologist, Dr. Aaron Ellrich, the Archaeology Laboratory continued to serve as an important repository for local archaeological collections and a resource for researchers, community organizations, and the public. Under Dr. Ellrich's leadership, day-to-day operations and specialized conservation work were carried out with the support of dedicated volunteers, whose contributions remain essential to the lab's impact. Together with Myrna Crook, Dr. Ellrich hosted visitors, facilitated academic and agency partnerships, and processed new and existing collections. Research activities included excavations, site monitoring, report preparation, and professional presentations, while outreach efforts cultivated new relationships and strengthened established ones.

Activities during the year included:

- Hosting more than 50 lab visitors—including board members, donors, scholars, students, and community partners—and providing tours, research assistance, and opportunities to learn about Coastal Georgia archaeology.
- Conducting site visits and monitoring at Cannon's Point, Guale Preserve, the A.W. Jones Center, Laurel Grove, Creighton Island, Sapelo Island, St. Simons Grand, and Point Peter, supporting stewardship, documentation, and site management.
- Reaching approximately 1,000 people through site cleanups and public outreach, including St. Catherine's Island Beach Sweep, Elizafield Sugar Mill maintenance, Oglethorpe School History Day, Ft. Frederica African American Day, St. Simons Land Trust Family Day, and site tours for Cassina Garden Club members and Georgia Southern University students.
- Providing more than 1,400 volunteer hours, with nine lab volunteers supporting artifact conservation, cataloging, inventory, public

outreach, site tours, and exhibit design and installation at the Tabby House Brewery in Darien, Georgia.

- Facilitating the St. Simons Island Archaeology Collections transfer, bringing in over 30 new collections, analyzing and cataloging over 5,400 artifacts, and preparing a new room to accommodate growing collections.
- Conserving more than 100 metal artifacts, including contract work for the Florida Museum of Natural History's Historical Archaeology program.
- Sustaining and expanding collaborations with universities, museums, agencies, and organizations, including the Florida Museum of Natural History, East Tennessee State University, Georgia Southern University, Georgia Tech, the St. Simons Land Trust, the National Park Service, the State Archaeologist, and Morningstar CFS.
- Conducting collaborative fieldwork with partners from East Tennessee State University, the University of Florida, James Madison University, the University of South Carolina, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and the Cassina Garden Club.
- Publishing a peer-reviewed article in *Southeastern Archaeology* and presenting a poster on artifact conservation at a professional conference.
- Strengthening the lab's digital presence by launching an online blog and developing new educational materials for public programming and outreach.
- Organizing the annual **Journeys** program field trip and developing an accompanying informational booklet for attendees.
- Coordinating with our Director of Development to manage incoming donations and contributions for the lab.



CGHS Archaeologist Dr. Aaron Ellrich and archaeology lab volunteers Myrna Crook and Connie Meranda at the St. Simons Land Trust's Family Day in October 2025

Volunteers

Since the Society's founding, volunteers have worked diligently to bring our mission to life for visitors and members. Our success is due to the dedication, commitment, love of history, and support demonstrated by these faithful stewards. We extend our appreciation to these individuals who continue to devote their time and talent to the work of the Society serving as museum docents, tour guides, archives registrars and researchers, event volunteers, administrative volunteers, archaeology volunteers, and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Lighthouse crew.

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Kerry Blind	Marie Hane	Mike Negles	
Buddy Bloodworth	Bill Hansen *	Walter Ogelsby **	<i>* Volunteered over 100 hours</i>
Chris Bone *	Duane Harris	Linda Olsen	<i>** Volunteered over 200 hours</i>
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Volunteers honored at Appreciation Luncheon in April 2025

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The Coastal Georgia Historical Society sincerely appreciates the generous support from the following individuals, families, businesses, and foundations.

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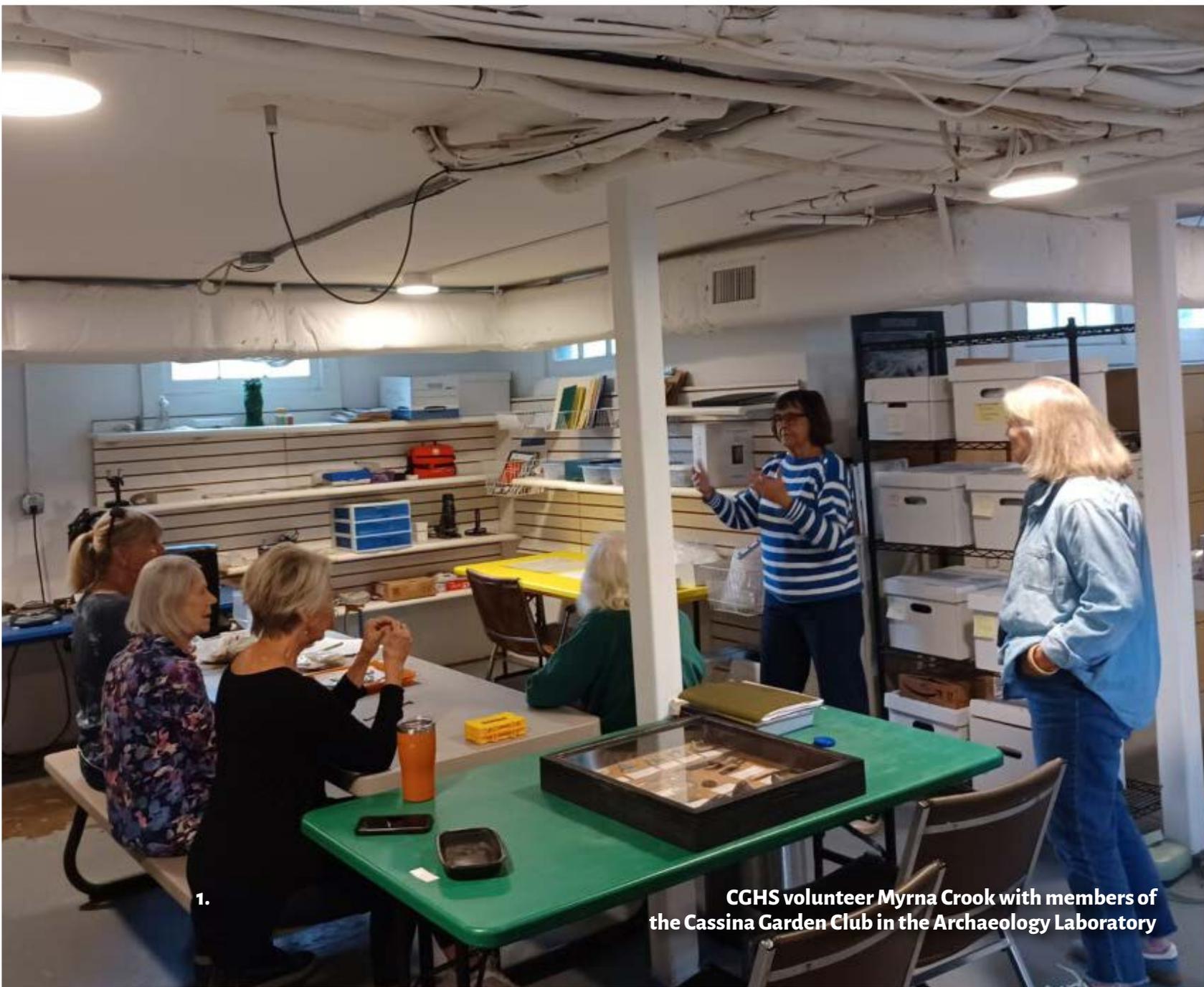
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1.

CGHS volunteer Myrna Crook with members of the Cassina Garden Club in the Archaeology Laboratory

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We are fortunate to have a strong and loyal group of members. Our Keepers of the Light have provided leadership and support since 2008, which sustained the organization during challenging times and allowed us to complete bold initiatives. Totaling over 200, Keepers contribute 20% of our operating budget each year.

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CGHS Historian Allison Dupuis leads a World War II-focused program with Bike Walk Golden Isles in April 2025. Photo courtesy of Tavel Cowan

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Jerry Harper
Debbie Harrison

Richard Hathaway
Sue Havey
Elaine Hearn
Tricia Heath
Joyce Heinz
Jo Heller-Orr
Al Henderson
Tim Henning
Norma Hiday
Martha Hodge
Debbie Hoffmann
Lurlyne Holland
Betsy Howard
Kathy Hubsch
Karen Huff
Karen Hufnagel
Thea Jarvis
Nancy Jenkins
Gael Johnson
W.M. Kampschmidt
Joye Karstensen
Beth Keaton
Sandy Keeler
Judi Kelley
Chandra Kendall
David Lakari
Harriet Langford
Laurie LaRue
Timothy Leach
Guy Leake
William Lee
Bet Leemhuis
Astor Lim
Fred Lindquist
Eric Locke
Kathryn Lorenzo
Thomas Luckstone
Charlotte Lueckel

Individual, continued

Matthew Lund
Pat Lynch
Barbara Lyon
Lee Malone
Gail Manning
Anna Mansfield
Vincent Marchionna
Kanda Martin
Anna Belle McCaskill
Gary McClure
Catherine McCrary
Janet McDonald
Barbara McIntyre
Vanette McKinney
Frances McLean
Trish McMillan
Bob Meek
Rebecca Mehnert
Carla Melvin
Judy Merrick
Judy Miller
James Miller
Nancy Montgomery
Vicky Moore
Fred Morrison
Pam Mueller
Robert Murphy
Bascom Murrah
Natalie Murrah
Shannon Murray-Corsale
Marion Nelson
Trammell Newton
Creta Nichols
Eric Oberg
Sara O'Dea
Catherine Oswald
Rachel Overton

Nancy Paris
Judy Parker
Vaibhavi Patel
Don Peacock
Helen Peppiatt
Ann Pequigney
Tara Perry
Chris Phelps-Thiry
Gloria Phillips
Nan Phillips
Daren Pietsch
Carole Ploeger
Dave Pointon
Diane Pollack
Richard Poppell
Keith Post
Judy Powell
Robert Reifsnyder
Bob Rightnour
Gail Rivard
Laura Robb
Ginny Rosner
Freda Roulhac
Sallie Sasser
Katherine Scalingi
Ginnie Schroder
Patti Scott
Linda Seierstad
Julie Sellers
Charlotte Seymour
Catherine Seymour
Ashley Shanks
Kellie Sharpe
Betty Lou Shaw
Peggy Sheffield
Linda Shonesy
Vickie Simmons
Wayne Simpson

Beth Simpson
Scott Slechta
David Smith
Ellen Smith
Bill Smith
Beth Smith
Sheila Smith
Dianne Smoot
June Sortwell
Mike Souther
Barbara Sprouse
Deborah Squires
Melanie Staab
Kay Stahl
Deborah States
Ann Stephens
Mason Stewart
Debra Stockton
Keith Strigaro
Tess Stuermer
Elizabeth Sudduth
Patricia Sullivan
Steve Swain
Phil Tardif
Jenifer Tate
Pattie Tennille
Sally Tillapaugh
Evelyn Ting
Sheryl Trenor
Laura Trippe
Michael Truckey
Ruth Trudeau
Becky Tufts
Kristel Tyre
University of Georgia Main Library
Deborah Vagasi
Virginia Von Allmen
Nancy Wainwright

Christine Walden
Frank Walsh
Jeanne Warwick
Kristina Watson
Josiah Watts
Elizabeth Weems
Kevin Weiss
Wanda Wetherington
Susan Williamson
Faith Willis
Barbara Wilsher
Brian Womble
Bootie Wood
Ellen Woodside
Marie Younkun
Gloria Zocchi

*Lists include members as of
December 31, 2025.*

**Deceased*

Thank You

The Coastal Georgia Historical Society
deeply values the contributions of our
members, our volunteers, and our visitors.
We thank you for your support throughout
2025, and we look forward to another great
year exploring the past together.



COASTAL GEORGIA
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