



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.



First Oval Office Project of the Museum of the American Revolution

As loyal members of Coastal Georgia Historical Society, you have heard about this upcoming event for months. Now the time has come to register and spread the word! Coastal Georgia Historical Society invites history lovers of all ages to the beautiful Golden Isles for a special Semiquincentennial experience: **Revolution on the Coast: A 250th Celebration**. From March 9 through 15, 2026, locals and visitors alike will experience and explore the American Revolution through engaging and interactive programs. The main event is the First Oval Office Project of the Museum of the American Revolution, which over the weekend will bring a replica of George Washington's Revolutionary War tent—the mobile command center of the Continental Army—to St. Simons Island. Register for all events at www.CoastalGeorgiaHistory.org/RC250

Monday, March 9 | 6 p.m.

CGHS Spring Program at St. Simons Presbyterian Church, presented by Dr. Zara Anishanslin (Free for CGHS Members, \$10 for Non-Members)

Tuesday, March 10 | 6 p.m.

Patriot vs. Loyalist Debate at the College of Coastal Georgia's Southeast Georgia Conference Center (\$15)

Wednesday, March 11 | 5 p.m.

Hamilton Singalong at Island Cinemas (\$20)

Thursday, March 12 | 6 p.m.

Lecture by Hermina Glass-Hill and Reception with St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition at A.W. Jones Heritage Center (Free)

Saturday, March 14 | Sunday, March 15 | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

First Oval Office Project of the Museum of the American Revolution at Gascoigne Bluff Park

Thank you to the Sponsors of Revolution on the Coast: A 250th Celebration



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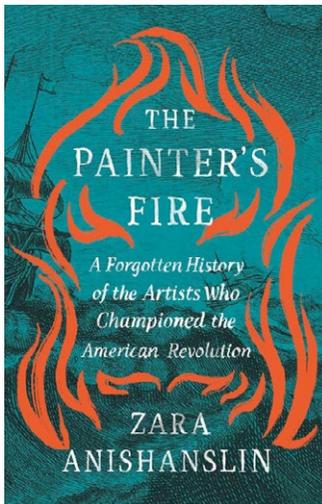
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The Painter's Fire cover

Spring Program and Revolution on the Coast Kickoff

On Monday, March 9, at 6 p.m., Zara Anishanslin, Ph.D., will present the Society's Spring Program, based on her book *The Painter's Fire: A Forgotten History of the Artists Who Championed the American Revolution*. The war that we now call the American Revolution was not only fought in the colonies by soldiers with muskets and bayonets. On both sides of the Atlantic, artists played an integral role in forging revolutionary ideals. Black and mixed race as well as white, and women as well as men, their largely forgotten histories uncover a fascinating history of the creative people who risked their lives and independence—often in the heart of enemy territory in Britain itself—to declare independence. Dr. Anishanslin's lecture will illuminate the intertwined lives

of three forgotten artists: Robert Edge Pine, Prince Demah, and Patience Wright, who defied the British monarchy, armed with paint, wax, activism, and espionage.

Zara Anishanslin is Associate Professor of History and Art History at the University of Delaware, where she also is Director of its Museum Studies and Public Engagement Program. Her award-winning first book, *Portrait of a Woman in Silk: Hidden Histories of the British Atlantic World*, was published by Yale University Press in 2016. An avid public historian, she often works with museums on exhibitions, including the reinstallation of the Early American Wing at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and as Material Culture Consult for Lin-Manuel Miranda's show, "Hamilton: The Exhibition."



Zara Anishanslin, Ph.D.,
photo by Catherine Hamilton
Bernhardt

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The 2026 Spring Program will be held at **St. Simons Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m.** and will be recorded. The lecture is **free for Society members and \$10 for non-members.**



Scan to Register
and for More
Information



Gregory Taylor, Ph.D.



Kyle Fox, Ph.D.

Patriot Versus Loyalist: A Modern Debate

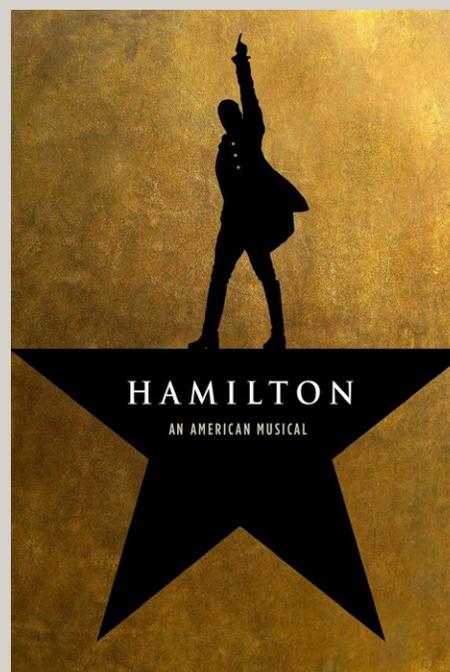
When the Revolution came calling, how did Coastal Georgians side—and how did they choose? Join the Coastal Georgia Historical Society for an exploration of both sides of this complex conflict, revealing the groups, individuals, and motivations that were so central to the American Revolution and to our modern ideas of liberty. Dr. Kyle Fox, Chair of the Department of Arts and Humanities, and Assistant Professor of Communication, and Dr. Gregory Taylor, Associate Professor of History, will debate these ideas live on stage. Aided by historical background from local historian Patty Deveau and CGHS, they will show why local players in the Revolution made their choices and allow the audience to come to their own conclusions.

The Patriot versus Loyalist debate will begin at **6pm on Tuesday, March 10 at the College of Coastal Georgia's Southeast Georgia Conference Center.** The Coastal Georgia Historical Society is thankful to the College of Coastal Georgia for providing the space to host this program.

Hamilton Singalong

Come ready to belt out your favorites to ***Hamilton*** on the big screen! Featuring the 2020 live stage recording of the game-changing Broadway musical, this screening experience features the chance to experience all your favorite moments—and show off your lyrical knowledge—in a brand-new way. Here on St. Simons, we have an enduring historical connection to Aaron Burr, and before the show begins, Coastal Georgia Historical Society staff will cast the film in a new light with the story of Burr's 1804 journey to our island.

This program begins at **5pm on Wednesday, March 11 at Island Cinemas, located at 44 Cinema Lane #6600, St. Simons Island, GA 31522.** The showing will last approximately three hours (runtime of the film is 160 minutes). The Coastal Georgia Historical Society is thankful to Island Cinemas and the Georgia Theatre Company for providing the space to host this program.



Black History and the Revolution in Coastal Georgia, Presented with the St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition

When the new colony of Georgia was established in the 1730s, its Trustees at first voted to ban slavery. This ban was revoked in the 1750s, however, and by the time of the Revolution, enslaved Africans made up nearly half of Georgia's population. These thousands of people made decisions and took actions that deeply impacted the Revolution, the new state of Georgia, and the fledgling United States.



Hermina Glass-Hill, M.H.P.

Jointly presented by the St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition and the Coastal Georgia Historical Society, join us for a program by Hermina Glass-Hill, M.H.P., a distinguished public historian, museum curator, writer, preservationist, and the President of the Liberty County Historical Society. Renowned as the leading scholar on Susie King Taylor—a Gullah Geechee freedom seeker, educator, and nurse from Coastal Georgia—Glass-Hill established the Susie King Taylor Women's Institute & Ecology Center and the Susie King Taylor Gullah Geechee Museum in 2017. Her lecture will highlight Susie King Taylor and the questions of freedom raised by the Revolution—an informative, dynamic, interactive performance centered on themes of independence and freedom.

This program will be held at **6pm on Thursday, March 12 at CGHS's A.W. Jones Heritage Center, located at 610 Beachview Drive, St. Simons Island, GA 31522.** Please join us for a reception after the program concludes, held onsite at the Heritage Center and graciously catered by Mr. Shuck's.

First Oval Office Project

The main event of Revolution on the Coast, the First Oval Office Project of the Museum of the American Revolution, is

free and open to the public on Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15. Visitors will experience the Museum's replica of George Washington's Revolutionary War tent, which served as both his sleeping marquee and mobile headquarters. Costumed interpreters will also present common soldiers' tents, a dining tent, and the experience of life in camp during the Revolutionary War.

CGHS and our community partners will also provide hands-on educational programming during the weekend, such as silhouette drawing, quill writing, tricorne hat making, archaeology digs, and more, within a Revolutionary Village.

This will be the first time the First Oval Office Project has visited the state of Georgia, providing a wonderful opportunity to engage with the deeply significant and perennially relevant history of the American Revolution.

The First Oval Office Project and the nearby Revolutionary Village will be open to the public from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15. All activities will take place at Gascoigne Bluff Park on St. Simons Island.**



Semiquincentennial Spotlight

In January, CGHS debuted a new eleven-panel exhibit on Coastal Georgia's Revolutionary history. The exhibit, free for all visitors to view, encompasses the period from the origin of the Georgia colony to the end of the Revolutionary War. The panels will remain on display through the end of 2026. Stop by the A.W. Jones Heritage Center any time during our open hours to take in this new display!

CGHS is far from the only Georgia institution putting on a show for the Semiquincentennial. The Georgia Historical Society released a new publication, *Georgia at the US250*, for the occasion and, like CGHS, will contribute to the celebration through a series of public programs and educational resources shared throughout the year. The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation is launching their initiative "Georgia250:

Celebrating America's Last Colony," which will include author talks, a thirteen-part video series released throughout 2026, and interactive digital resources. Visit georgiatruster.org/georgia250 to see their virtual guide to Georgia's Revolutionary War sites and an interactive map.

To see sites around Georgia that are participating in the Semiquincentennial festivities, visit Explore Georgia's statewide resource at exploregeorgia.org/ga250.



Education Day

On Friday, March 13, CGHS, the Museum of the American Revolution, and our community partners will host hundreds of local students who will tour the tent installation at Gascoigne Bluff. Groups of fourth and eleventh graders will complete a scavenger hunt, receive a "swag bag" with items from CGHS and community partners, and interact with the costumed staff members of the Museum of the American Revolution. CGHS is grateful to the Friends of Coastal Georgia History for their generous sponsorship of this student-focused event.



Caitlyn Price, Education and Programs Coordinator, and Chip Lewis

Volunteer Awards

The Society's dedicated volunteer corps is crucial to our mission to connect people to Coastal Georgia's dynamic history through the stories we share and the collections we preserve. Throughout 2025, volunteers contributed over 6,400 hours to roles throughout our museums, archives, administrative offices, and archaeology lab and at events and programs. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their steadfast commitment to the Coastal Georgia Historical Society.

Beginning in 1978, the Cunningham Bowl has been awarded to an outstanding Society volunteer from the previous year. **Chip Lewis** received the Cunningham Bowl at the 2026 Winter Program. Beyond his longstanding service as a volunteer at CGHS's museums and special events, in 2025, Chip stepped up as a fill-in volunteer coordinator. He organized the docent calendars for the Lighthouse and Home Front Museums and trained incoming Education and Programs Coordinator Caitlyn Price when she took over these duties in July 2025. The Society is deeply grateful to Chip Lewis for his work this year and throughout his time as a volunteer.

Continued on next page

The Rodriguez Service Award was established in 2010, and each year honors exemplary acts of stewardship and service performed by a staff member, board member, or individual serving in an official capacity to the Society. The 2025 award was given to **Janis Rehlaender and Mary Schellhorn**. After six years of service, Janis agreed to return for a seventh year and took the role of Secretary and the Development Chair for the Society. Because of her leadership, the Society was confident we would succeed during this transition year. Our membership and their contributions grew significantly in 2025 and far exceeded our expectations. Mary Schellhorn is a past Board President and has been invaluable in providing her leadership in all matters relating to our Board responsibilities and strategic vision as we embarked on our ambitious five-year plan. With Mary's guidance, the Board has been successful in keeping the five-year plan on track and preparing the Society for a very fruitful 2026. We are grateful for their unwavering support to the Society.



Mary Schellhorn, Steve Kerr, and Janis Rehlaender

HISTORY IS HAPPENING



Archaeology Lab volunteers Myrna Crook and Maria Hane at Cannon's Point

It's been a busy start to the year at CGHS! Dr. Aaron Ellrich, the Society's Archaeologist, kicked things off with a pilot study focused on the Spanish mission San Pedro de Mocama on Cumberland Island. Working alongside Dr. Kristopher Krasnosky of Ocean Exploration Trust and archaeologist Marie Meranda, Dr. Ellrich hit the water in January to help collect multibeam sonar data along Cumberland's western shoreline. The goal of this research is to better understand site loss associated with the mission, work that will carry forward into the year. In another collaborative effort, Dr. Ellrich partnered with the St. Simons Land Trust to help stabilize a site on Cannon's Point Preserve. This stabilization effort wouldn't have been possible without a team of dedicated volunteers who braved the cold mornings of February. Special thanks go to Myrna Crook, Doug and Melanie Cranford, Tom Hodge, Connie Meranda, Maria Hane, and Julie Abitz.

Executive Director Dr. Whitney Nell Stewart spoke about CGHS and our exciting upcoming events with members at Marsh's Edge, the Jekyll Island Rotary Club, and the local Colonial Dames of America chapter. She also presented a lecture on her award-winning book at the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies's Quaff & Quill Series at the American Irish Historical Society in New York City. Additionally, she was honored to serve on the jury to choose the 2026-2027 Fellows of the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon. Historian Allison Dupuis spoke about the city of Roswell's Coastal Georgia connections at a lecture in January and presented the history of transportation and tourism in Brunswick at Vitality Living Frederica. Education and Programs Coordinator Caitlyn Price engaged fifth graders in World War II history at Oglethorpe Point Elementary's annual Georgia History and STEAM Day in February. CGHS was also delighted to host History Teachers from Frederica Academy for a private tour of the Research Library, Archival Collections, and St. Simons Lighthouse Museum.

Membership Highlights

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

Keepers of the Light

George and Lynn Bartley – Patron

John Bauser and Ms. Cheryl Hargrove – Sustainer

Jim and Nancy DeLong – Patron

Beth Downey – Sustainer

Mary Alice Isele – Patron

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Welcome New Members!

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Ron and Christine Dorrestein – Sustainer

Marilyn Friddle – Sustainer

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Tom Fiske – Family

Mary Hayden – Individual

Emma Humphries – Family

Jim Johnson – Family

Ellen Jones – Family

Sandy Keeler – Individual

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Mary Lynch – Individual

Laura and Joel Maddox – Family

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Mitzi Michelson – Individual

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Donna Summers – Family

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Helen and Chris Adkins – Family

Margaret Bartley – Individual

Mary Bley – Individual

Renee and Robert Bready – Family

Tribute Gifts

In Honor of

Mimi Rogers and Sherri Jones

By William and Anne Stembler

In Memory of

Elizabeth Sharkey

By Martha Green

We appreciate you, our loyal members, for your continued support. Please consider CGHS when making your required minimum distribution from your traditional IRA or 401(k) before the end of the year.

Revolution on the Coast Calendar of Events

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coastalgeorgiahistory.org/RC250



COASTAL GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Director of Development

Sheila VanderWood

Director of Museum Operations

Eric Oberg

Historian

Allison Dupuis

Archaeologist

Dr. Aaron Ellrich

Education and Programs Coordinator

Caitlyn Price

Office Operations Manager

Trish Scott

Events Manager

Emmy Thompson

Consulting Historian

Buddy Sullivan

Consulting Archaeologist

Dr. Lindsey Cochran

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