

## \_\_\_\_\_ E B E N E Z E R \_\_\_\_\_

(“Rock of Help”)

### A Refuge for German Protestants in Georgia, founded 1734

as described in the journals of leaders Rev. Johann Martin Bolzius and Philip Georg Friedrich von Reck

In 1734, just a year after Georgia had been founded by James Oglethorpe, a group of German Protestants arrived to create a new town, Ebenezer, as a refuge for Lutherans expelled from Catholic-controlled Salzburg (in the Alps Mountains in present-day Austria). Its leaders included Rev. Johann Martin Bolzius and Philip Georg Friedrich von Reck, whose journals are excerpted here, along with several of von Reck’s drawings. Because the first town was poorly sited—too far from the coast and river transportation—a second town, New Ebenezer, was built two years later on the Savannah River. The town flourished until it was destroyed by the British during the Revolutionary War.

#### P. G. F. Von Reck

#### Rev. J. M. Bolzius

**January 8** [1734]. Having a favorable Wind, we left Dover [England] and again set Sail. An universal Joy appeared amongst the Salzburgers, who praised GOD that he had heard their Prayers. . .

**Jan. 28.** An Alarm of Fire caused a great Consternation in the whole Ship, but no ill Accident ensued. For my part, I think that GOD designed by this Alarm to call us to Repentance and to put us in mind of the Uncertainty of this Life, and the Eternity of the next. . . .



von Reck, refugees' ship in the English Channel<sup>1</sup>

National Humanities Center, 2009: [nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/](http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/). In *An Extract of the Journals of Mr. Commissary Von Reck, Who Conducted the First Transport of Salzburgers to Georgia: and of the Reverend Mr. Bolzius, One of their Ministers . . .* (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1736); in Peter Force, ed., *Tracts and other Papers Relating Principally to the Origin, Settlement, and Progress of the Colonies in North America from the Discovery of the Country to the Year 1776*, vol. 4 (Washington, D.C.: Wm. Q Force, 1846). Full text online from the Library of Congress at [hdl.loc.gov/loc/gdc/hbcb.7018d](http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gdc/hbcb.7018d). Some spelling and punctuation modernized by NHC for clarity. Von Reck drawings reproduced by permission of the Royal Library of Denmark; sketchbook online at [base.kb.dk/manus\\_pub/cv/manus/ManusIntro.xsql?nnoc=manus\\_pub&p\\_ManusId=22&p\\_Lang=alt](http://base.kb.dk/manus_pub/cv/manus/ManusIntro.xsql?nnoc=manus_pub&p_ManusId=22&p_Lang=alt). Complete image credits at [nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/becomingamer/imagecredits.htm](http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/becomingamer/imagecredits.htm).

<sup>1</sup> Some of the von Reck drawings reproduced here depict the second voyage of Salzburgers from England to Georgia (1735-1736), which von Reck also accompanied.

**Mar. 7.** At Nine, there came from Charles-town, a Pilot on Board our Ship, we immediately cast Anchor; and at Ten, the Captain, the Reverend Divines, and I went into the Pilot's Boat. At one in the Afternoon we came to Charles-town, where I immediately waited on his Excellency Robert Johnson Esq[ui]re; and Mr. Oglethorpe. They were glad to hear that the Salzburgers were come within six Leagues, all safe and in good Health, without the Loss of any one Person. Mr. Oglethorpe showed me a Plan [map] of Georgia, and gave me the Liberty to choose a Settlement for the Salzburgers, either near the Sea or further in the Continent. I accordingly accepted his Favor, and chose a Place 21 Miles from the Town of Savannah, and 30 Miles from the Sea, where there are Rivers, little Hills, clear Brooks, cool Springs, a fertile Soil, and plenty of Grass. . . .

Mr. Oglethorpe sent on Board our Ship, by the Pilot's Sloop, a large Quantity of fresh Beef, two Butts of Wine, two Tunn of Spring Water, Cabbage, Turnips, Radishes, Fruit, &c. [etc.] as a present from the Trustees, to refresh the Saltz-burgers after their long Voyage; for which Kindness (under GOD) we cannot be sufficiently thankful to them.

**Mar. 8.** We thought this Morning to have gone with the Pilot's Long Boat, on Board our Ship the *Purrysburg*, for the Captain had taken here a Pilot to bring us into the River Savannah. Mr. Oglethorpe had given us for our Guide Mr. Dunbar, who knows the Country very well and was already settled in Georgia near the Place appointed for us. We thought, I say, to have gone this Morning; but the Boat was too much loaded, and the Wind, which was E[ast]. S[outh]. E[ast]. though favorable for Georgia, was contrary for us to reach our Ship. We returned to the Town, and lay there.

**Mar. 9.** We beg'd of GOD, that he would permit us to go to our Georgia. We went away this Morning at ten, and got on Board our Ship at two in the Afternoon.

**Mar. 10.** GOD blessed us this Day with the Sight of our Country, our wish'd-for Georgia, which we saw at ten in the Morning; and brought us unto the Savannah River, and caused us to remember the Vows we had made unto him, if He did through his infinite Goodness bring us

**Thursday, March 7.** Though the Wind is fair, the Ship will not go into Charles-town Harbor, but lie at Anchor, till we get a Pilot to carry us to Georgia.

We have Liberty to go with our Captain in a Boat to Charles-town, where we intended to get our Habits [clothing] made: But finding no Tailor here that understands it, we must endeavor to find one at another Place. Charles-town makes a fine Show at a Distance in the Sea, and is very regularly built. What we observed here is as follows:

1. THAT everything in this Place is very dear [expensive], except some sort of Victuals [food].
2. THAT they have here Money made of Paper, the Value of which is express'd upon it with Letters: and though you give the People Gold or Silver Coin, yet they give you the Change in Paper. This Money is current over all Carolina.
3. THAT notwithstanding almost everything is dear here, anybody that will work may get his Living.
4. THAT there are more Black than White People here; who all are kept to work, but not to Christianity. Few are Baptized; the rest live like Brutes, in relation to the Seventh Commandment. They are brought hither from Africa, by whole Ship-loads, to be sold.
5. THAT the Weather is very hot here. In the Beginning of the Spring all Trees are in Blossom, and the Gardens full of Cabbage, Turnips, Radishes, Salad, and other Fruits.
6. THAT we found here some Germans, who were very glad of our Arrival and will come to us in order to receive the Sacrament [Communion].
7. THAT three Weeks ago, a rich laden Ship lying before this Town was burnt to Ashes by the Carelessness of a Boy.
8. THAT the Black Slaves are about 30,000 in Carolina only. A credible Man told us that about two Months ago, in the two Islands of St. Thomas and St. John, belonging to the Swedes and Danes, the Black Slaves had killed all the White People, the former being more numerous than the latter.
9. THAT Mr. Oglethorpe received us with great Kindness and went with us to the Governor, a very good Man, where we dined. Mr. Oglethorpe told us many good Things of the Heathens that were to be our Neighbors: That

hither. We were to day very much edified with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of Genesis and the 26<sup>th</sup> of Leviticus. At Noon, we cast Anchor because of the Tide: at eight, during the Evening Prayers, we enter'd the River of Savannah; and were shelter'd by the Divine Goodness, from all Dangers and Inconveniencies of the Sea. This River is in some Places broader than the Rhine, and from 16 to 25 Foot deep; and abounds with Oysters, Sturgeon, and other Fish. Its Banks were clothed with fresh Grass; and a little beyond were seen Woods, old as the Creation; resounding with the Music of Birds, who sung the Praise of their Creator.

**Mar. 12.** The Magistrates of the Town sent on Board our Ship an experienced Pilot; and we were carried up to the Town of Savannah by 11 in the Forenoon. They returned our salute of five Guns with three; and all the Magistrates, the Citizens, and the Indians were come to the River side. The two Divines [clergymen], Mr. Dunbar, some others, and myself, went ashore in a Boat. We were received with all possible Demonstrations of Joy, Friendship, and Civility. The Indians reach'd their Hands to me, as a Testimony of their Joy also for our Arrival. The Saltz-burgers came on shore after us; and we immediately pitch'd a Tent for them, in the Square of the Town. . . .

**Mar. 13.** I went to see the Indians, and their King Tomocha-chi: I caused some Raisins, of which they are very fond, to be distributed amongst them. It is worth taking Notice of, that as we were at Evening Prayers, after our Return

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von Reck, "Indians going hunting," detail

they were good and friendly to everybody; but if they were offended, they calmly demanded Satisfaction three several times; which if denied them, they used no more Words but never forget the Offense, and will revenge themselves many Years after. If a Man behaved himself friendly to them, he could have of them what he pleased.

Mr. Oglethorpe took Care likewise of the Saltzburgers, and sent on Board the Ship a whole Ox killed, Wine, fresh Water, and Garden Fruit. He also sent a Man to serve the People, and to bring us to Georgia, because he knew the Way.

**Friday, March 8.** We went off with the Sloop in order to go to our Ship again, but the Wind being contrary, we were obliged to turn back.

**Saturday, March 9.** This Day we came to our People again, which caused great Joy. We found them all in good Health, and they had edified each other by the Word of GOD, which gave us great Comfort when they told us of it at the Evening Prayers.

**Sunday, March 10.** Blessed be the LORD, that he has brought us within the Bounds of Georgia upon the Sunday *Reminiscere*; the Gospel of which Day tells us That our Blessed Savior "came to the Borders of the Heathen, after he had been persecuted in his own Country." He hath done great Things for us. He comforts our Bodies with wholesome Food. And lying in fine and calm Weather under the Shore of our beloved Georgia, where we heard the Birds sing melodiously, everybody in the Ship was joyful. . . .

**Monday, March 11.** The Captain, to lighten the ship, order'd that all Casks of fresh Water should be emptied, which we had now no more Occasion for. Before that time, the Captain was so sparing of the Water that the People could not quench their Thirst; and now he is obliged to spill so many Casks full.

**Savannah, Tuesday, March 12.** At the Place of our Landing, almost all the Inhabitants of the Town of Savannah were gather'd together; they fired off some Cannons and cried Huzzah! which was answer'd by our Sailors and other English People in our Ship in the same manner. Some of us were immediately fetch'd on Shore in a Boat and carried about the City, into the Woods, and

from the Indians, who have their Huts at 100 Paces distance from the Town, one of the Salzburgers should tell us that he was edified to Day by this Passage of St. John, that God loved all the World.

**Mar. 14.** Mr. Oglethorpe had given Orders for three Horses to be ready for my Service, to take a View of the Country, and to ride to the Place where the Salzburgers were to settle. I went this Morning at nine of the Clock with a Constable and a Guide; but after we had gone a Mile or two, we enter'd some thick Woods, divided by deep Brooks of Water; and though we could with great Difficulty pass over some, yet there were others we could not pass; wherefore we returned back to the Town.

**Mar. 15.** I received the List of the Provisions and Tools for the Salzburgers.

Mr. Oglethorpe and Mr. Jenys, Speaker of the Assembly of Carolina, arrived at Savannah from Charles-town; the first having out of Love to our Salzburgers put off his Journey to England, being resolved to see them settled before he went. Having informed him that the Floods had made it impossible for me to pass the Woods by Land, he said he would go himself to show me the Country and see what Place I would choose. The Speaker desired to accompany him, and I did myself the Honor to make one of the Company. He sent to the Indian King, to desire two Indians to hunt for him in the Journey; who not only granted them, but his chief War Captain, Tuskeneoi, out of Civility to Mr. Oglethorpe, came along with them to accompany us. We went on Board a ten-oar'd Boat to the Place where a House was building by Mr. Musgrove, six Miles up the Savannah River.

**Mar. 16.** Having slept well in a Tent which we pitched under the Shade of a Tree by the River side last Night, I accompanied Mr. Oglethorpe on Horseback, and the Speaker and others went by Water.

If you ask, how a Country that is covered with Wood, and cut with Rivers and Morasses, is passable, I must acquaint you that since the Colony was settled, the Ways were marked by Barking of the Trees to show where the Roads should go and where the Rivers were passable.

the new Garden belonging to the Trustees. In the meantime, a very good Dinner was prepared for us; And the Salzburgers, who had yet fresh Meat in the Ship, when they came on shore, they got very good and wholesome English strong Beer. and besides the Inhabitants showing them a great deal of Kindness, and the Country pleasing them, they were full of Joy, and praised God for it. . . .

**Wednesday, March 13.** Our Salzburgers were lodged in a Tent, pitch'd on purpose for them, till Mr. Oglethorpe's Arrival from Charlestown. A Jew invited our Salzburgers and treated them with a good Rice-Seep for Breakfast. And GOD hath also moved the Hearts of several others here, to be very good and hospitable to us. The Coun-try, as the Inhabitants say, is very fruitful; and the Land chose by us, which is about 21 English Miles from hence, is still better. All that is sowed, grows in a short Time.

**Thursday, March 14.** Last Night we Prayed on shore for the first time, in the English Chapel, made of Boards, and used for divine Worship, till a Church can be built; the Use of which is allowed us during our Stay here. The Inhabitants join with us and show much Devotion. The Jews likewise, of which there are 12 Families here, come to Church and seem to be very devout: They understand the German Tongue. Though the Chapel is but of Boards, it is very convenient and pleases the Salzburgers.

This Afternoon, we were carried to a Camp, which some Indian Hunters had in this Neighborhood, who were in such a Condition as made our Hearts bleed; for in the Absence of their Chiefs (who were gone to meet Mr. Oglethorpe) they had much disordered themselves with drinking of Rum, a Liquor very pernicious to them, and which has occasioned the Death of great Numbers. . . .

**Friday, March 15.** This Day Mr. Oglethorpe arrived here and received our Salzburgers and us in a friendly manner, and we dined with him. He will speedily give Orders that our People shall go to the Place intended for their Settlement. . . .

**Sunday, March 17.** Though it is but yet Beginning of the Spring here, it hath for some Days past been hot, which makes the Nights, Mornings, and Evenings more pleasant. To every House is allotted a good Spot of Ground, of which

After passing through a Morass covered with Canes, we came to an unfordable River, through which the Indians swam our Horses, and we crossed over upon a great Tree, cut down for that Purpose: The Tree was cut down so as to lie across the River and serve for a Bridge; and after riding some Leagues in the Woods we passed another River. Night overtaking us, we were obliged to take up our Quarters upon a little Hill, round a Fire with the Indians, who brought us a wild Turkey for our Supper.

**Mar. 17.** We continued our Journey and set out by Break of Day, and at nine arrived at the Place where the Salzburghers were afterwards settled. I shall here give a short Description of it. The Lands are enclosed between two Rivers which fall into the Savannah. The Saltzburg Town is to be built near the largest, which is called Ebenezer, in Remembrance that God has brought us hither; and is navigable, being twelve Foot deep. A little Rivulet, whose Water is as clear as Crystal, glides by the Town; another runs through it, and both fall into the Ebenezer. The Woods here are not so thick as in other Places. . . . The Earth is so fertile, that it will bring forth anything that can be sown or planted in it, whether Fruits, Herbs, or Trees. There are wild Vines, which run up to the Tops of the tallest Trees; and the Country is so good that one may ride full gallop 20 or 30 Miles an end. . . .

From hence I returned to the Town of Savannah, through Abercorn [Abercorn], a Village newly settled by Order of the Trustees, upon the Savannah River, near where the Ebenezer falls into it.

**Mar. 22.** Mr. Oglethorpe, after a great deal of Fatigue, returned this Morning to Savannah; everything was immediately prepared for his Departure, and he really thought to have gone this Afternoon; but the Multiplicity of Affairs, the Complaints which were made before him, and several other Things which fell out together, kept him back till tomorrow.

**Mar. 23.** And then He went away. All the People were so concerned at it, that they could not refrain their Tears when they saw Him go, who was their Benefactor and their Father; who had carefully watched over them, as a good Shepherd does over his Flock, and who had had

the People make Gardens, where they may have all sorts of Fruit and Herbs. But at present there is very little Greens in them, because they have but lately been made. All Houses and Gardens are laid out in a Mathematical Equality, which will make a fine Show when they come to Perfection. The People have Horses, Cows, Fowls, &c. in plenty; yet Milk, Eggs, and other Victuals (except Pork) is much dearer than in Germany, because They do not care to kill the Cattle, rob the Calves of the Milk, nor take the Eggs, for fear of lessening the Breed. For as the Settlement is but new, they are eagerly desirous of increasing their Stock; and the Cows go Day and Night in the Woods with Bells on their Necks. The greatest Labor is the cutting down and clearing away of the Trees, for the Country is all covered with Woods. . . .

**Friday, March 22.** This Day Mr. Oglethorpe arrived here again, to the great Satisfaction of all the Inhabitants. He is to go tomorrow Night from hence to Charles-town, and from thence to embark directly for London.

**Saturday, March 23.** Mr. Oglethorpe did intend to depart from hence yesterday in the Evening, but many Complaints, and other Business of Importance happening, his Departure was deferr'd till this Morning. From what Knowledge we have of Him, we conclude that He hath a great Esteem for GOD's holy Word and Sacraments, and a great Love for GOD's Servants and Children, and wishes to see the Name of Christ glorified everywhere. GOD hath also blessed his Presence and Undertakings in these Countries. And the People being well persuaded of his Fatherly Mind, and indefatigable Labor for their Welfare, his Departure was very sorrowful to them. God bless Him and bring Him well home, and hear all our Prayers for Him. He hath taken all possible Care of us. . . .

**Tuesday, March 26.** It is a great Pleasure to us that Mr. Oglethorpe approved of our calling the River, and the Place where our Houses are to be built, Ebenezer; 1 Sam[uel]. vii. 12. Then Samuel took a Stone, and set it between Mispeh and Shen, and called the Name of it Ebenezer; saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. Which Denomination is already known among the People that live hereabout. This Word hath at our Arrival here, and when we were yet on board the Ship,



so tender a Care of them, both by Day and by Night; and they were the more afflicted that the Fatigues and Difficulties of so long a Voyage, left them very small Hopes of seeing Him again.

**Mar. 24. Sunday.** We were spiritually comforted by receiving the Holy Communion.

**Mar. 27.** Mr. Jones, who is a Surveyor, and I, went away this Night in a small Boat, for Abercorn, in order to go from thence to seek and clear the River Ebenezer. It thunder'd and lighten'd; and the Wind being contrary and strong, we could go up no higher than Musgrove's Land, where we lay under the Canopy of Heaven, upon the bare Ground, having made a good Fire to warm our benumbed Limbs; for tho' it be hot here in the Day-time, yet it is cold in the Night.

**Mar. 28.** After Breakfast, we continued our Journey and came at Noon to Abercorn. At five in the Afternoon, we entered into a small River, but at nine at Night we perceived that it was lost among the Trees and Marshes. We entered the same Night into another River, more towards the West. very large, and having a good Stream, adorned with Woods on each side of it. At last, we reach'd a rising Ground, where we landed; we cut some Canes, made a Fire, lay round it, and GOD granted us a good Rest.

**Mar. 29.** We went farther up the River, but not without great Difficulties.

**Mar. 30.** Towards Night we came out of the River, which fell into the Savannah, 8 Miles above Purrysburg; so our Design was frustrated, by missing the River Ebenezer, and we returned the same Night to Abercorn, where we stayed.

**Mar. 31.** We arrived this Afternoon at Savannah.

**April 1.** We put on Board a Sloop, Provision for three Months, with necessary Tools, and the Baggage of the Salzburgers. . . .

**Apr. 3.** We came to the Village of Abercorn at Four in the Afternoon: from hence, we were forced to carry our Provision and Baggage to Ebenezer by Land.

**Apr. 4.** I stay'd at Ebenezer, and could not but commend the Diligence and Industry of the nine Salzburgers who were come before, and whose Labor God had given a Blessing unto. They had

made us joyful to the Praise of God, and will do it for the future as often as we name the Name of our Town or River, or hear it named.

This Afternoon, an Indian Man that is married cut both Ears and Hair off from an Indian Woman, his Wife, for being too familiar with a white Man.\* Mr. Oglethorpe hath left Orders behind him to send our Salzburgers to Ebenezer as soon as possible. The Commissary went this Morning with some Men to the River of the same Name, in order to take out the Trees that lie in it, and hinder Boats from going up, that our Baggage may be carried thither by Water.

\*This is the usual Punishment for Adultery amongst the Indians. The White Man was tried by a Jury at Savannah, found guilty, and punished severely: With which piece of Justice, the Indians were greatly satisfied. [footnote in Bolzcius]

**Friday, March 29.** Yesterday and today we had cold Weather, which is very surprising to us, because the Weather hath for some time been rather too hot. This cold Weather is a Blessing of God, since the Vermin and little Flies, which incommoded us much, have been destroyed thereby. . . .

**Tuesday, April 2.** A House being built at our Ebenezer for the Saltzburg Women and Children, all our Baggage was today put on Board a Shallop, which was so filled therewith, that there was no room for the People. Therefore I (Bolzcius), the Physician, and the Salzburgers, must stay here some Days longer. Several of the Saltzburgers were displeased that they could not go with their Goods; however, they were soon appeased. Mr. Causton, one of the Magistrates, who hath the Inspection of the Store-house here, hath given unto the Salzburgers Provision for fourteen Days more, because the former is sent on Board the Shallop. . . .

**Thursday, April 4.** The Indians come often to see us. They tell us many Indian Words, showing us the Things we want to know in their Language. It hath happened very well for our Salzburgers, that they were obliged to stay here some Days longer, for they have got by it a good deal of Linen Cloth, Shoes, and other Things.

**Friday, April 5.** Last Night, the Vessel which carried our Things to Ebenezer came back, so that we, and the rest of our Baggage, can also go thither. GOD be praised for all the Good we have received in this Place.

erected two good Tents made of the Barks of Trees, one of which was 40 Foot long; and had cut down abundance of Trees in order to breathe a free Air; and besides all that, they were obliged in the greatest Heats, almost every Day, to walk to Abercorn, which is 12 Miles; and to carry their Utensils and daily Provision upon their Backs. After this, GOD was pleased, to show us a more convenient Road than the other, by which we avoided one of the greatest Brooks.

**Apr. 5.** I returned to wait the Arrival of the other Salzburger, who were to follow us immediately.

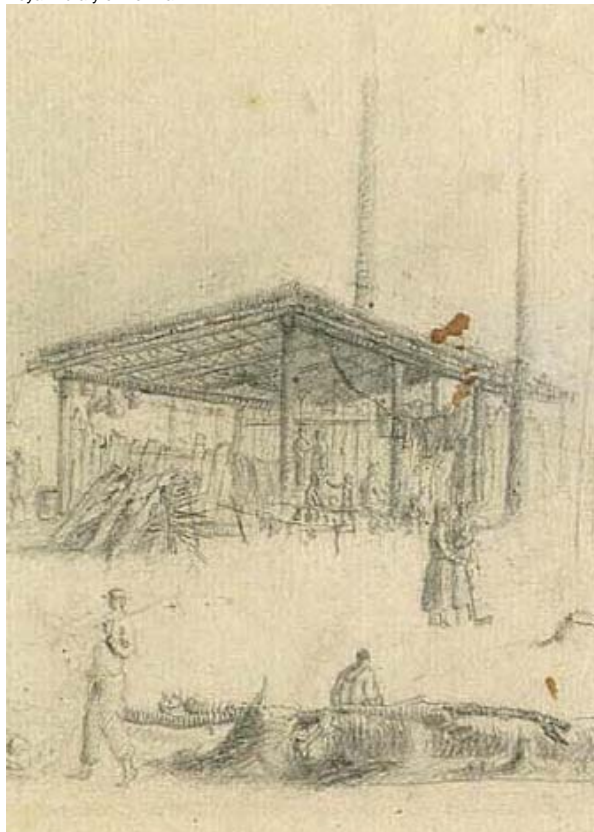
**Apr. 7.** The rest of the Salzburger arrived.

**Apr. 8.** Mr. Bolzius made ardent Prayers that our Savior would assist us in our Beginning and bless our Labors with Success.

**Apr. 9.** We began to make a Bridge over a Brook, and finished it.

**Apr. 10.** In the Morning we went on cutting and cleansing.

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von Reck, "The first huts and shelter in Ebenezer," 1734, detail

**Saturday, April 6.** One of our Congregation, namely Lackner, is grown dangerously Sick, so that according to all Appearances, he hardly will recover. He is troubled with the Diarrhea and Shortness of Breath, and very weak. Mr. Zwefler, the Doctor, assists him as much as possible. We and the Salzburger would be very sorry if he should die, for he is a godly Man, and a Man of very good Sense, useful in everything; GOD do with him as he pleases.

**Abercorn, Sunday, April 7.** Today we arrived at a Village called Abercorn upon the River Savannah, where we must stay till a Road is made by Land to our Ebenezer; because at present, the Trees hinder the Passage thither by Water. Certain wicked People having maliciously spoken false Things of our Place of Settlement, not only that it was impossible to make a Way thither, but also that the Ground was Barren Sand, and exposed to the Invasion of the Enemies. We showed in the Afternoon Sermon, out of the Gospel upon this Day, Palm-Sunday, Mat[thew]. 21, the Nature of Christ's true Disciples, viz [which is], to go whither the Lord sends them, notwithstanding it seemed difficult and contrary to Reason. That it is GOD's way to lead his Children through crooked and strange Paths and then to bring them to a happy End. . . To this plain discourse GOD gave his Blessing, and the People resolved to go farther, in the Name of GOD . . . .

**Monday, April 8.** Notwithstanding it rained this whole Day, by Intervals, very hard, the Saltzburger have made a pretty good Beginning, in making the Way; after having at the Place of their first Work, implored God for his Blessing and Assistance. . . .

**Tuesday, April 9.** The Wind being today Northerly, cooled the Air; which is strange to us, because we expected continual hot Weather in this Country. We all make shift, by Day and Night, as well as we can. The Salzburger have pitched two Tents; and we, the Ministers, live with two English Families, in a Hut in which we cannot sit dry when it rains; Besides other Inconveniencies, it being low, and the Doors on both sides continually open, yet Providence preserves our Health. The chief Labor in Georgia is that they must cut down the Woods, of which the whole Country is full, before they can Till the Ground. . . .

**Apr. 12. Good Friday.** GOD was pleased to take to himself the Soul of one of our People, called Lackner. The Resignation and sweet Death of this Man, who expired the same Day that Jesus Christ did on the Cross, did not fail to touch everyone, and raise in us a fervent Desire of enjoying soon the same Felicity with our Savior in the Heavenly Jerusalem. We put up a Box for the Relief of the Poor and of the poor Children of the Indians; and as the first Foundation, we put into it the Deceased's Money, which though but small, we pray GOD to increase. . . .

**Apr. 14, and 15. Easter.** GOD was pleased to awaken our Zeal for his Service and to animate us to more ardent Endeavors to enter through the strait Gate into the Kingdom of Heaven, and to pass through this Vale of Miseries, Troubles, Sufferings, and Persecutions, to the eternal Felicity which is prepared for Those who shall remain faithful unto the End, and who shall fight and overcome.

**Apr. 16.** Our Salzburgers continued to work upon the Road.

**Apr. 18.** Our People had made Sledges; I caused Horses to be put to them, and we brought Provisions to Ebenezer.

**Apr. 19.** This Day the Salzburgers finished the Way for Carriages, which surprised the English mightily, to see they had compared it in so short a Time, having built seven Bridges over several Rivers, besides cutting the Thickets and Trees that were in the way; and this for the Length of 12 Miles, from Abercorn to Ebenezer.

We found before my Tent a strong white Horse; and as we wanted [lacked] Horses, and knew not from whence he came nor to whom he belonged, we received him with Thankfulness to GOD. I received Letters from Captain Mackpherson, that he would soon deliver us at Ebenezer the Oxen which Mr. Oglethorpe had bought of him on our Arrival, to supply the Salzburgers with fresh Meat.

**Apr. 22.** We found another Horse in the Woods today, which proved very fit for our Service. We found also very good Honey in a hollow Tree, which very much refreshed us. Parrots and Partridges make us here a very good Dish. The Earth is of several sorts, some sandy, some

**Friday, April 12.** This Day we kept holy for the Honor of our Redeemer.

**Saturday, April 13.** Lackner having been long sick, died last Night of a Ptisick [?] and a wasting Fever: He died in the Lord, whom he loved with his whole Heart, in Health and in Sickness. His Departure from this World was so quiet and still, that those who sat up with him in the Tent did not perceive it. . . .

**Sunday, April 14.** The Death of Lackner, and the Preaching of the Word of GOD on that occasion, prepared our Congregation for the present Easter Holy-days; so that the first Day thereof was spent in great Devotion, though we are yet in an unsettled State. We wish that all Ministers of the Gospel were blessed with such a Flock. They pray for us, that GOD will give us Grace and Wisdom to preach the Gospel in its purity. During the Sermon, they are as attentive as if they would devour every Word we spoke. . . .

**Thursday, April 18.** We intended this Afternoon to see the Salzburgers at work; but finding they were advanced far, made us afraid we should not come to Abercorn again, and we turned back. One must take care not to go into the Woods without a Guide. The whole Country is covered with Wood; and if one loses sight of the Trees that are marked, whereby the Way is known, one is in danger of being lost; as hath happened to two Germans, belonging to [residing in] Purrisburg.

**Friday, April 19.** This Day hath been very remarkable and comfortable; GOD hath not only edified Old and Young by the hearing of his Word, but also shown us plain Proofs of his Fatherly Care; First, Our Salzburgers have brought the Road to Perfection, which some thought impossible; and are gone to Ebenezer to give GOD Thanks for his Mercies, and to begin to Work there. Secondly, A certain Captain (left by Mr. Oglethorpe with his Troops to have an Eye upon the Behavior of the Spanish Indians) sent a Letter to the Commissary, desiring that a Pasture Ground might be enclosed for some Oxen, which he would send soon for the Salzburgers. Thirdly, When the Way was made, we wanted [lacked] Horses to bring our Baggage and Victuals to Ebenezer; but GOD, who knew our Want, ordered it so, that four Horses were sent us from Pallachoccolas; and a young strong Horse, that



black, fat and heavy, and some of a clayey nature. The first is good for Potatoes and Peas, the second for all sorts of Corn, and the third for to make Bricks, Earthen Ware, &c. And the Meadows and Valleys are good for feeding Cattle, Rice, and Indian Corn: So that we might hope, with the Blessing of God, for plentiful Harvests every Year; if there were more People who would apply themselves to the Tilling of the Ground.

**Apr. 24.** The Inhabitants of the Island of Edistow, having given 30 Cows for the Use of the Colony of Georgia, Mr. Oglethorpe order'd them to be sent up to the Salzburgers.

**Apr. 27.** We sent every Day loaded Sledges to Ebenezer.

**Apr. 29.** I went this Day from Abercorn in order to take my Leave of Ebenezer and begin to build a Chapel.

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von Reck, "Great blue heron"

had no Master, coming to Ebenezer, was brought to us. Fourthly, A certain Man, who lives amongst the Indians, not far from Ebenezer, sent us some Seeds, though he does not know us.

**Saturday, April 20.** Because there is not yet any Malt made here, the Salzburgers have learnt of the English People to Brew a sort of Beer of Molasses with Sassafras and the Tops of Fir-Tree, instead of Hops, which they boil in a Kettle with Water; some add Indian Corn: The Inhabitants here reckon this Liquor to be wholesome, and the drinking of Water unwholesome; but we prefer the Water to this Mixture, and find ourselves well after it . . . .

**Wednesday, April 24.** GOD hath moved the Hearts of our Benefactors, who have made a Present to our Salzburgers of 30 Cows, and will send them free hither; 12 of them arrived here last Night; GOD be praised for this Benefaction. The Way to Ebenezer is grown deep by the hard Rain, which makes it troublesome for the poor People to carry their Baggage and Provision thither. Having as yet no Wagons, our People make use of a Sledge, till a Wagon is made; but it will cut very deep in the Ground and be tiresome, especially because the Horses that are sent us are lean and not used to draw. A Salzburger named Mittensteiner, who rode into the Woods, is not yet come back; he being simple, we fear he is lost. Several Men who know the Woods are sent to find him. A Cannon hath likewise been discharged four times for his Direction, but he hath not been seen again yet. GOD seek this lost Sheep and hear our Prayers for him. He is a good Christian, and a good Workman. . . .

**Friday, April 26.** The Horse which Mittensteiner rode into the Wood came back this Afternoon without his Rider. The Horse would have brought him back if he had given him the Bridle. GOD have Mercy upon him, and grant that this Example may make others more circumspect. The Horse coming back without his Bridle, and the Man being not used to ride, and very simple, makes us fear he is killed with a Fall from the Horse. . . .

**Wednesday, May 1.** The Carriage of our Baggage and Provision goes on very slow, and troublesome, because of the Rain, and deep Road.

**May 1.** I had Lots drawn for the Places for the Houses in the Town of Ebenezer, through which all the Commerce from Savannah by Land to Carolina must pass. . . .

**May 5.** I received by the Post Letters from Mr. Oglethorpe, acquainting me That we were to receive Twenty Cows and Calves, ten Sows, with Corn for to feed them, and some Fowls and Ducks.

**May 9.** A Sloop brought us ten Casks full of all Sorts of Seeds; GOD be praised for it. We do not deserve, O Lord, all the loving Kindnesses thou hast done to thy Servants.

**May 10.** The Indians brought us a Deer, which mightily refresh'd our Salzburgers.

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von Reck, "The Indian King . . . of the Yuchis," 1736

**May 13.** Mr. Bolzius made a Discourse upon these Words of Jacob; LORD, I am not worthy of the least all thy Mercies, and of the Truth which thou hast showed to thy Servant, Gen. 32, 10. The 60<sup>th</sup> Psalm, ver[ses]. 9, 10. the 66<sup>th</sup>, and 107<sup>th</sup> were quoted, and expressed lively our own Condition. I spoke to the People in the Afternoon and put them in mind of GOD's Kindnesses, by an Enumeration of them, according to my Observations. I read the 26<sup>th</sup> Chapter

**Thursday, May 2.** Some Days ago, an Indian Man, with his Wife and Children, arrived here in a little Boat, not far from Abercorn; and because we had showed him some Kindness, he brought us this Morning a Deer, part of which we gave to our Salzburgers that are here, and other People; and he came again towards Evening, and brought us half another Deer.

**Friday, May 3.** Today arrived a Sloop from Savannah which brought us ten great Casks of all sorts of Seeds for our Salzburgers to sow their Fields and Gardens with. GOD be praised for this Blessing.

**Saturday, May 4.** Today arrived the Cows and young Calves lately promised to our Salzburgers. The Cattle are very wild, so that it is troublesome to bring them to Ebenezer, because they are used to run about Night and Day in the Woods.

**Ebenezer, Tuesday, May 7.** Mr. Oglethorpe, who on account of some Business of Importance was not gone from Charles-town, sent a Letter to the Commissary, assuring him of all Care and Affection towards the Salzburgers; and that besides the Cattle they had received already, He had ordered Hogs, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks and Fowl to be delivered to the Salzburgers as a Gift from the Trustees [of the Colony of Georgia], and that the Magistrates of Savannah would send us, whatever We, the Ministers and the Commissary, should think needful for the Salzburgers. Today I had the Happiness of seeing Ebenezer; having been detained on account of three sick People in Abercorn, Mr. Gronau being in Ebenezer. The good People are already much advanced in Tilling the Ground; and to the End that they may advance better, two and two work together, to assist one another. The Place they have chosen to build on is very pleasant and fruitful. They had liberty to choose a Place where they pleased. . . .

**Monday, May 13.** This Day was by the Consent of the Congregation appointed for a Holy-day of Thanksgiving, on which our People met twice in remembrance of GOD's Blessings and praised him for them in public. In the Forenoon's Sermon were explained the Words of the travelling Jacob, which during our Voyage, and here in Ebenezer, have been very comfortable [comforting] to us, out of Gen. 32, 10. and thereby shown (1) The Blessings GOD hitherto had shown us; (2) Our Duty, according to the Example of Jacob. Instead



of Leviticus, and the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, of Deuteronomy. I applied them to the Congregation, and we made a strict Covenant with GOD, to serve Him for the future with a more fervent Zeal, to give Him all that is his, to walk uprightly before his Face, to seek only the Kingdom of GOD, and its Righteousness, and we renewed the Vows we had made when at Sea. Have Mercy on us, O our Savior; Guide us by thy Holy Spirit into the Paths of Truth; and grant unto us the Grace to perform in Truth and Sincerity all that we have promised and sworn unto Thee. After that, I took my Leave of them and left them some Rules for their Direction, and was very much concerned at my leaving such good Christians, and good Friends.

of an Introduction, we used the 107<sup>th</sup> Psalm, out of which we showed our former Circumstances, and present Duty, which GOD also hath blessed. In the Afternoon we intended to explain the Words 2 Cor[inthian]. v. 9, 10. but it could not be done, because the Commissary, who was to go away next Day, would take his Leave of the Saltz-burgers and give them some good Advice before his Departure, which was very moving on both sides and caused many Tears. GOD bless the good Man and send him the Fruits of our earnest Prayers, and of all his Labor of Love and Faithfulness to us.

**FINIS.**

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P. G. F. von Reck, "The supreme commander of the Yuchi Indian nation, whose name is Kipahalgwa," Georgia, 1736

- (1) The topknot on his head is slightly painted with red color.
- (2) The face is painted in this way with the black signs on the temple, the breast and neck burned.
- (3) A bunch of soft feathers drawn through the ear, from which a pearl is hanging
- (4) A shirt
- (5) Leggings
- (6) Shoes

translation: Kristian Hvidt, *Von Reck's Voyage: Drawings and Journal of Philip Georg Friedrich von Reck* (Savannah, Georgia: The Beehive Press, 1980), p. 114.