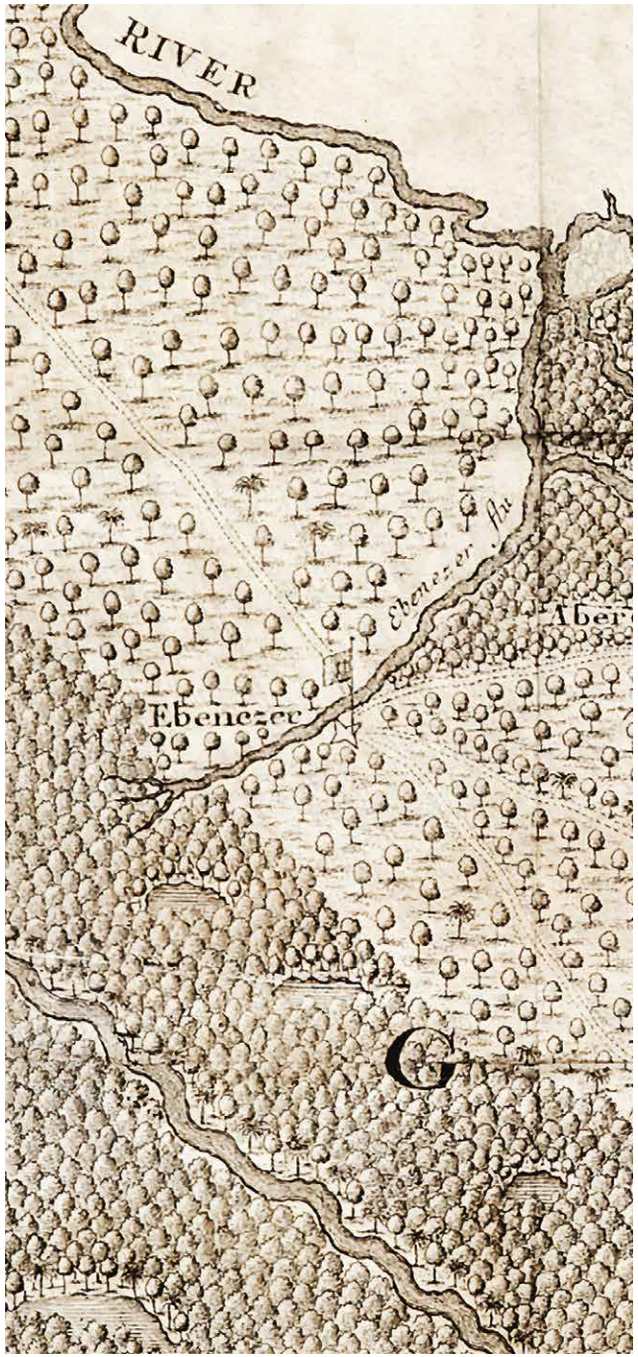

Ebenezer on a map of Savannah and the surrounding area (detail), in: Samuel Urlsperger: Continuation der ausführlichen Nachricht [...]. Halle 1741, p. 184–185; BFSt: MISS: A 5:1; Photo: Klaus Eberhard Göltz

Renewing Faith, Improving Society. A Comparison of Protestant Reform Movements in Prussia, England, and Georgia, 18th c.

FRANCKESCHE STIFTUNGEN

FRANCKESCHE STIFTUNGEN

Venue
Francke Foundations, Franckeplatz 1,
Neubauer Hall (House 52–53)
06110 Halle (Saale)

Contact and Registration
Please register for on-site or online participation by October 8, 2026: *weiss@francke-halle.de*

Concept and Direction
Johannes Süßmann (University of Paderborn),
Holger Zaunstöck (Francke Foundations Halle)

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More Information at
https://www.francke-halle.de/en/programme/event/renewing-faith-improving-society-conference

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A conference, organized by the Francke Foundations Halle and the Chair of Early Modern History at Paderborn University

October 12–13, 2026

THE HALLE FOUNDATION

HISTORISCHES INSTITUT

UNIVERSITÄT PADERBORN

Monday, October 12

10.00 Welcome Coffee, Event Floor, Historic Orphanage (House 1)

10.30 **Opening**

Welcome remarks
Marianne Schröter (Francke Foundations Halle)
Christoph Ehland (University of Paderborn / Halle Foundation)

Introduction
Johannes Süßmann (University of Paderborn)
Holger Zaunstöck (Francke Foundations Halle)

Presentation of Georgia related archival material and prints
Jürgen Gröschl (Francke Foundations Halle)

12.00 Lunch

Day I: Pious Inspiration, Politics, and Charisma

13.30 Eschatological Delimitation: The pluralization of protestant expectations of the future around 1700 and its impact on social practice
Wolfgang Breul (University of Mainz)

Imagining Prayer in August Hermann Francke's »Pietas Hallensis« and Thomas Wilson's »Essay Towards an Instruction for the Indians«
Laura Stevens (Oklahoma State University)

Encountering Pietist Catechesis: Framework, Expectations, and Implementation
Peter Yoder (Montreat College)

15.30 Coffee Break

16.00 The Foundations after the Death of August Hermann Francke
Thomas Grunewald (Francke Foundations Halle)

Assumptions and Agendas: The Historiography and Mythology of Halle Pietism and Prussia
Benjamin Marschke (California State Polytechnic University)

18.00 Dinner

19.00 **Keynote Lecture**

The Anglo-American Moment in Continental Protestantism of the Early Eighteenth Century
Alexander Schunka (Freie Universität Berlin)

20.00 Reception

Tuesday, October 13

Day II: Establishing the Georgia Experiment

9.00 Politics from the Pulpit? The Sermons to the Trustees for the Colony of Georgia
Andreas Pečar (University of Halle-Wittenberg)

Practiced Reform in a Colonial Borderland: Reflections on the Influence of Protestant Renewal on the Georgia Project
Jan Helmig (University of Paderborn)

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 Establishment of Institutions in Colonial Georgia: The Orphanage in Ebenezer
Christine Hante-Koch (University of Paderborn)

The Halle Orphanage and its Influence on Early Methodist School Projects in England and Georgia
Markus Berger (Francke Foundations Halle)

12.30 Lunch

13.30 A short-guided tour through the Francke Foundations – from Wunderkammer to Library to Children's Hospital

14.15 Religion, Liberty, and the Darien Anti-Slavery Petition of 1738–39
Felix Behler (University of Paderborn)

15.00 Coffee Break

15.30 Writing Across the Atlantic: Did the Orphans at Ebenezer leave genuine »Footprints«?
Holger Zaunstöck (Francke Foundations Halle)

16.15 **Discussion**
Results and Unresolved Issues

17.00 Farewell and departure
optional Guided tour of historic Halle