

Chapter Two**CHRISTIAN LEIMBERGER (1710-1763)**

Christian Leimberger was an original settler of the town of Ebenezer, which was located about twenty-five miles up the Savannah River from Savannah. Ebenezer eventually became a part of the Parish of St. Matthews which later was renamed Effingham County after the War for Independence.

He began to clear the land for farming purposes that he was granted in 1734. By 1736, he had harvested 20 bushels of corn. In 1739, Christian harvested 47 bushels of corn, 16 bushels of peas, and 8 bushels of sweet potatoes which placed him among the top producers in Ebenezer.

During this time, he had developed a close friendship with Christian Riedelsperger, who had arrived at Ebenezer with the second transport of displaced Salzburger. Riedelsperger gave up his original grant of land which was of good quality for one of poorer quality in order to be nearer his friend, Leimberger. The Crown Grants to the Salzburger were later called "long-lots" because they were unique in being extremely narrow in width and long in length. They were surveyed in this manner in order to have close neighbors for companionship and protection.

Christian Leimberger remained unmarried in 1739. He, along with other single Salzburger men, was faced with a shortage of single females. The single Salzburger men were looking for "some unmarried Salzburger women or other honest member of the female sex who it is hoped would not regret to marry here and likewise establish an orderly household" (1). The men had decided that "they would endure much disorder in their households rather than marry persons in which they could discern the token of a genuine fear of God and an exceptionally honest life." The men further stated that they would not marry a "woman who was indiscriminate but one that was Christian, painstaking, and honorable."

Christian Leimberger apparently had enough of single life for on Saturday, September 6, 1740, he visited and talked with Rev. Boltzius for the second time about marrying a widow in Ebenezer named Mary Margretta Staud Bach. Mrs. Bach had carried on an adulterous relationship in Savannah with a bigamist named John Staud (2). Rev. Boltzius had interrupted this common-law marriage and brought her to Ebenezer and required Margaret Staud to perform humiliating church penance before allowing her to marry Gabriel Bach, a Salzburger, on February 4, 1740. Bach was killed by June 4th of that year in hostilities with the Spanish at St. Augustine. Rev. Boltzius writes in his journal:

"Bach's widow, who has been working for a time in the orphanage as a maid, has kept herself so well till now that we are hoping the Lord will attain his goal through his word, which she has heard publicly and in the preparation lesson for Holy Communion: that she undergo a heartfelt conversion to Christ and in his blood be purified of all her

recognized and unrecognized sins. A few people have advised Leimberger to take her for his wife, for which purpose he saw me last week and today. It is now certain on both their parts, and tomorrow the banns will be published for them. She has cause to thank God for his solicitude, for in Leimberger she is getting an upright, very capable, diligent, and in his husbandry [farming], clearly blessed man. She has a very tractable mind, is very simple and modest; and therefore I am hoping she will let herself be steered towards everything good by Leimberger, who is quite knowledgeable in all matters, and will become a real help meet to him." (3)

Apparently, Rev. Boltzius had a high regard for Christian Leimberger not only for his piousness but for his industriousness.

"Mr. Thilo accompanied me to the devotional hour on the plantations because he wished to visit a child injured in its foot, to take some exercise on account of his current weakness, and to view the mill construction. He is amazed, as we are, at the extensive and very constant and also blessed labor of our Salzburgers; and he can now conceive better than before that the mill will be completed under divine blessing. At the same time the total of sawn boards was indicated to me: there were in all 2,134 feet, which Leimberger and Schweiger alone had cut with great industry. Today these two gallant workers were busy moving earth like the others, which can well rouse the rest to similar diligence." (4)

Christian Leimberger married Mary Margretta Staud Bach, from Saarbrucken in the Palatine, on December 6, 1740 (5).

Christian must have prospered in farming since he was able in 1750 to have a servant in his employment named Martin Burckhart. In addition, his wife presented him with a third child. On November 15, 1750, he received a second Crown Grant which consisted of 100 acres of land which was the third part of a grant originally intended for the Reverend Lemke. By 1755, he and his wife had four children. Grief struck their home in the early summer of that year as Christian and Margaret lost two sons, John and Jacob, within a month's time (6).

In April of 1757, Christian received a third Crown Grant consisting of 100 acres of land in the Mile [Mill] District of St. Matthews Parish and a second town lot in Ebenezer # 6. The following petition for land is very interesting because it shows that Christian and Margaret Leimberger had two children in addition to the two that died.

"December 1758

Read a petition of Christian Leimberger setting forth that he had been many years in the province, had had but one hundred Acres of Land granted him, and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a wife and two children[.] Therefore Praying for one hundred Acres upon Mill Creek Ebenezer adjoining the lands heretofore granted him Which if granted he engaged to Cultivate and improve the same." (7)

Following the petition, a fourth Crown Grant consisting of 100 acres of land in the St. Matthews Parish was received by Christian Leimberger. The third and the fourth grants joined each other just west of the Augusta Road. At some time during the next four years that preceded his death, he received a fifth Crown Grant of land consisting of 200 acres of land in St. Andrews Parish. In all, Christian received 550 acres of land through grants.

Early in the morning on July 22, 1763, Christian Leimberger died and was buried on the same day (8). It is not known at this time where he was buried. He could have been buried in the Ebenezer, Zion or in the Plantation Cemetery which was located on his third grant of land. He had allowed the Salzburger [Jerusalem] Congregation the privilege of interring their dead in this small cemetery [two acres] but had never given the Congregation a deed to it (9).

His widow, Mary Margretta Leimberger, applied for her first husband's [Bach] property in April of 1764. Later that month, she received a temporary grant of Gabriel Bach's property which consisted of a "Town lot in Ebenezer Number 4 in the third row seventh Tything , and East of the center street with a Garden Lot thereunto belonging situate West of the town for which no grant had passed" (10). No further record of Margaret can be found at this time.

Christian and Mary Margretta Bach Leimberger had the following known children:

1. Anna Margretta, born ca. 1741, married Peter Janson on July 31, 1764. (11). She applied for a widow's lot in Ebenezer in October of 1765. (12).
2. Christian Israel, born ca. 1743, married Appollonia Daumer on August 28, 1764. He died in the Fall of 1780.
3. John, born 1750, died peacefully on April 30, 1755 (13).
4. Jacob, born ca. 1752, died on June 29, 1755 (14).

References

1. G. F. Jones, ed., Detailed Reports on the Salzburger Emigrants Who Settled in America, Vol. V, (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1738. pp. 320-321).
2. Ibid, Vol. VII, 1740, pp. 7-8

3. Ibid, Vol. VII, 17 40, p. 230
4. Ibid, Vol. VII, 1740, p, 242
5. Ibid, Vol. VII, 1740, p. 8
6. C. A. Linn, Ebenezer Record Book, (Savannah, Georgia: Braid & Hutton, 1929. p. 85).
7. A. D. Chandler, ed., The Colonial Records of Georgia (Atlanta, Georgia: Franklin Publishing & Printing Co., 1906, Vol. VII p. 357).
8. C. A. Linn, Ebenezer Record Book, (Savannah, Georgia: Braid & Hutton, 1929. p. 94).
9. Georgia, Effingham County Deed Records, Vol. K. p. 256
10. A. D. Chandler, ed., The Colonial Records of Georgia (Atlanta, Georgia: Franklin Publishing & Printing Co., 1906, Vol. IX p. 161).
11. C. A. Linn, Ebenezer Record Book, (Savannah, Georgia: Braid & Hutton, 1929. p. 75).
12. A. D. Chandler, ed., The Colonial Records of Georgia (Atlanta, Georgia: Franklin Publishing & Printing Co., 1906, Vol. VII p. 433).
13. C. A. Linn, Ebenezer Record Book, (Savannah, Georgia: Braid & Hutton, 1929. p. 85).
14. Ibid. p. 85

The Royal Colony of Georgia

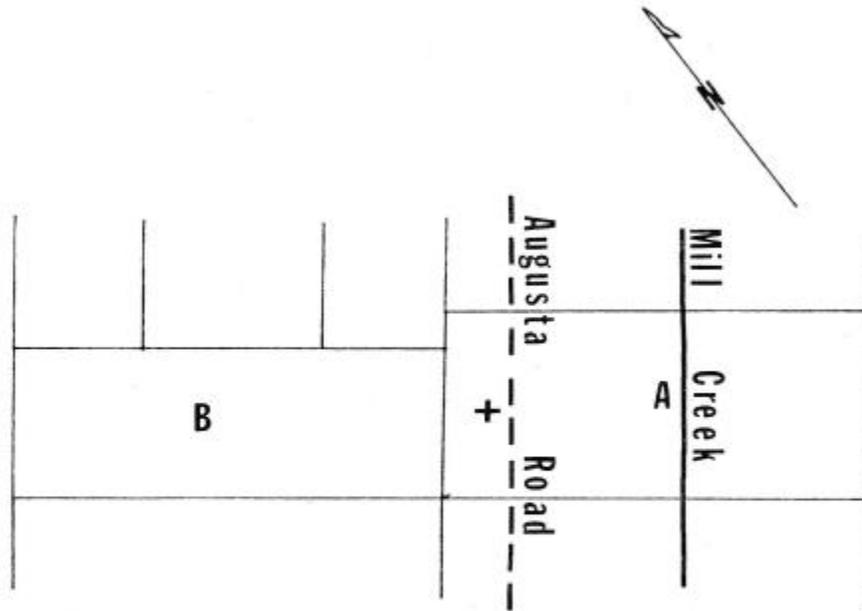


CHRISTIAN LEIMBERGER'S PLANTATIONS

Redrawn from DeBrahms's

"The Salzburger's Settlement in Georgia"

British Museum, King's MSS 210 ca. 1760



- A** 100 acres granted April 1757
- B** 100 acres granted August 7, 1759
- +** Leimberger Plantation Cemetery known now as Dasher Cemetery