

**Johann Jakob Haid after Jeremiah Theus, Portrait of Johann Martin Bolzius, 1754, mezzotint in black on paper, 164 x 123 mm (image), 167 x 125 mm (plate), 211 x 169 mm (sheet), inscription in the image lower left "Jeremias Theus pinxit / S'd Carolina 1753." and lower right "Joh. Jacob Haid sculps / August. Vindel. 1754", and below the image "JOHANN MARTIN BOLZIUS / Erster Evangel: Prediger der Salzburgl. Colonistengemeine [sic!] / zu Ebenezer in Georgien. / geb. A. C. 1703. den 15.tē Decbr. Ordinirt 1733. den 11.tē Novbr.". Condition: Overall good, some minor areas, such as the face of the subject, could be mended.**

**The print was provided – in museum quality – with a new passe-partout (40 x 30 cm) of the company HALBE. A fitting frame – in museum quality – with museum glass (anti-reflective, very high UV protection, anti-static, abrasion resistant) of the company HALBE can be provided on request.**

Johann Martin Bolzius (Forst 1703 – 1765 New Ebenezer), often spelled Boltzius, was a theologian of immense importance to American religious history who led Salzburg Protestants to the British colony of Georgia in 1734. Under his leadership, the religious refugees founded the towns of Ebenezer and New Ebenezer, where he remained Lutheran pastor until his death.

Born into modest circumstances in Lower Lusatia, Brandenburg, Bolzius was raised in the spirit of Pietism under the influence of his maternal uncle, Pastor Johann Müller. His uncle also secured him a scholarship, enabling him to study theology at the University of Halle an der Saale from 1727 onwards after completing his secondary education in Berlin. There he was influenced by Pietist professors such as Paul Anton (1661–1730) and Joachim Justus Breithaupt (1658–1732). In 1730, he became deputy inspector at the Latin school of the orphanage in Halle, which belonged to the Franckesche Stiftungen (Francke Foundations).

When Professor Gotthilf August Francke (1696–1769), son of the founder of the Franckesche Stiftungen, August Hermann Francke (1663–1727), was asked in 1733 by the pastor of St. Anna's Church in Augsburg, Samuel Urlsperger (1685–1772), to find two theologians to accompany a group of 78 Salzburg emigrants to the British colony of Georgia and remain with the colonists as pastors and teachers, he offered Bolzius the position. Bolzius accepted, as did his colleague Israel Christian Gronau (1714–1745) to assist him. Both were examined and ordained in Wernigerode at the end of 1733.

They then met up with the Salzburgers arriving from Augsburg in Rotterdam and accompanied them via Dover to Georgia, first to Charleston, then to Savannah. The Salzburg Protestants were a group of around 20,000 people from the Catholic Archbishopric of Salzburg who had been expelled because of their faith and forced to leave their homeland due to an expulsion decree issued in 1731. They found refuge mainly in Prussia. During the crossing, Bolzius learned the English language. General James Edward Oglethorpe (1696–1785), representative of the trustees for the establishment of the colony of Georgia, allocated a piece of land near Savannah to the settlers, where the Salzburg exiles founded the town of Ebenezer in 1734 under the leadership and organization of Bolzius.

The first few years there were extremely difficult. Although a settlement with a church was built within a short time and the community grew as settlers arrived in subsequent years, many colonists succumbed to hardship or died of disease. Poor soil quality, flooding, and pests led to crop failures. At Bolzius' request, Oglethorpe therefore allocated them a more climatically

favorable piece of land on the Savannah River in 1736. New Ebenezer developed into a thriving town, but was largely destroyed by the British in 1778 during the American War of Independence. The town has been uninhabited since 1855. However, the church, built in 1769, is the oldest church building in Georgia, the fourth oldest building in Georgia, and the oldest continuously existing Lutheran parish in the United States.

This rare mezzotint print was created by Johann Jakob Haid (Kleineislingen 1704 – 1767 Augsburg) based on a portrait by Jeremiah Theus (Chur 1716–1774 Charleston), a Swiss-American painter who was one of Georgia's leading artists for decades and is significant in American art history for his adaptation of the primarily English Rococo style in his portraits. Haid went to Augsburg in 1726, where he became a pupil of the famous battle and animal painter, engraver and director of the renowned Reichsstädtische Kunstakademie Georg Philipp Rugendas (1666–1742). He was married to Anna Barbara from the Augsburg artist dynasty Haid, a relative of Johann Jakob. Another teacher was the equally important painter, engraver, publisher and successor as director of the academy Johann Elias Ridinger (1698–1767).

Johann Jakob Haid devoted himself primarily to mezzotint and copperplate engraving and founded a successful publishing house that specialized in portrait series, especially in mezzotint art. He was also a teacher of later famous artists such as Anton Graff (1736–1813) and Daniel Chodowiecki (1726–1801). His son Johann Elias Haid (1739–1809) became his closest collaborator, successfully continued the publishing house, was director of the Augsburg academy for a long time and painted and engraved portraits of many of the most prominent personalities of his time.