

# Chapter 9

## Georgia in the Trustee Period

### Chapter Preview

#### TERMS

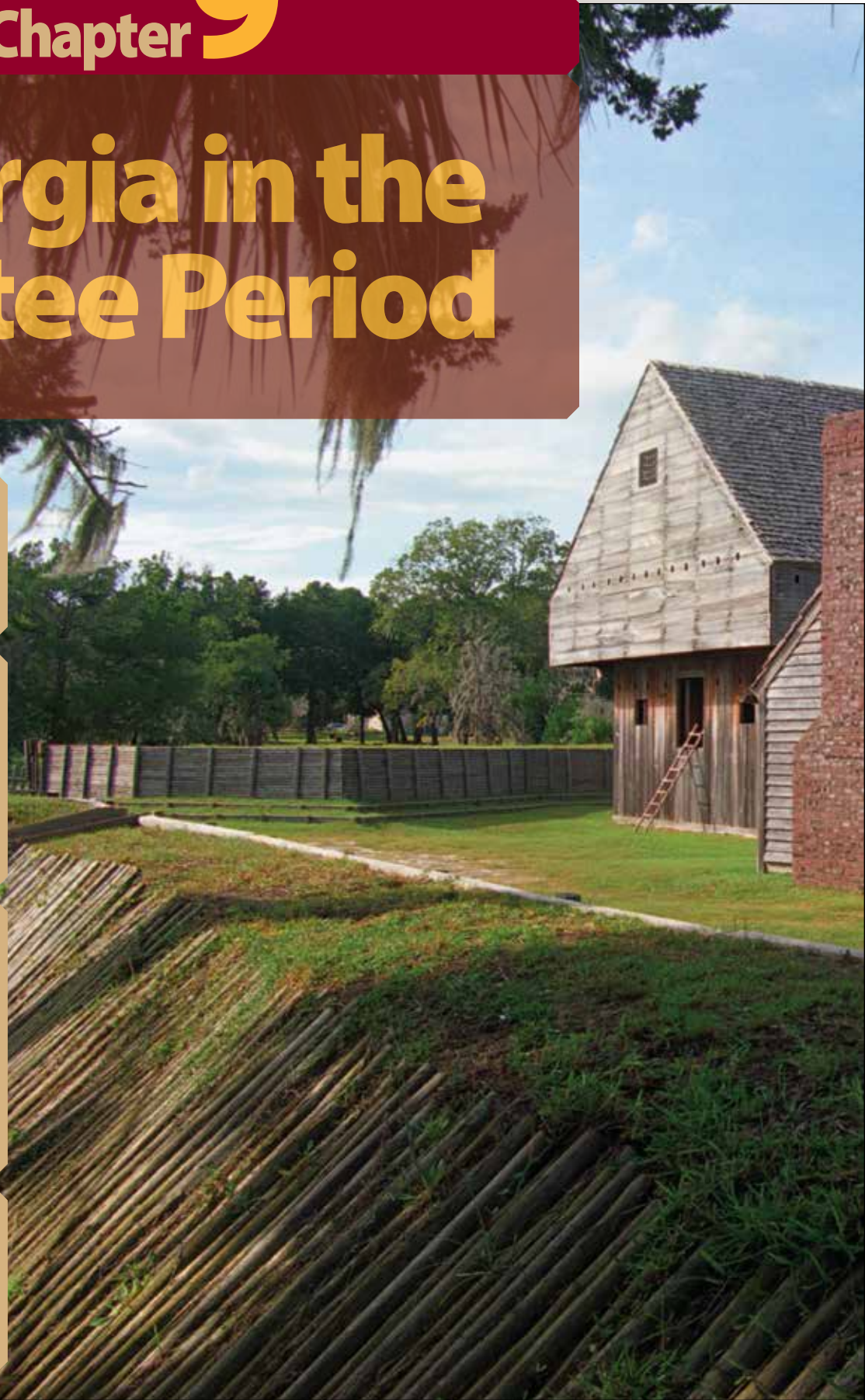
proprietor, royal colony, mercantilism, charter, trustee, militia, ally, slavery, indentured servant, pacifist, Malcontent, artisan

#### PEOPLE

James Edward Oglethorpe, Tomochichi, John and Mary Musgrove, William Bull, Salzburgers, John Martin Bolzius, Moravians, Highland Scots, William Stephens

#### PLACES

Georgia, Yamacraw Bluff, New Ebenezer, Darien, Frederica, Augusta







**In the 1700s, many gentleman and ladies in Great Britain** became interested in charity. They were concerned about poverty and immorality (behavior that is wrong or evil). They began giving money to charities that helped the poor and tried to spread religion to encourage better behavior.

One such group was an organization called the Associates of Dr. Thomas Bray. James Edward Oglethorpe was a member of this group. In the 1720s, Oglethorpe, along with twenty other gentlemen, got the idea of forming a new colony in North America for people who were poor but willing to work hard. Oglethorpe had worked on a committee to inspect the English jails and was shocked at their horrible conditions. He felt especially sorry for debtors, those who were imprisoned because they were too poor to pay their debts. His friend Robert Castell had died of smallpox while he was in prison for debt. Oglethorpe's reform efforts led to the release of hundreds of debtors, although most remained poor. His original vision was that some of these debtors and other poor could go to the new colony.

In the end, however, Georgia did not become a debtor colony. But the mission to help the "worthy" poor remained the goal of Oglethorpe and his associates.

**When James Oglethorpe and the colonists arrived in 1733, they found the ruins of Fort King George. The fort, built in 1721, was the southernmost fort built by the British in North America. In 1736, Oglethorpe brought the Highland Scots to the site of the fort where they founded the town of Darien. The fort was reconstructed on its original location to create the Fort King George Historic Site.**

# Section 1

## Georgia's Founding

### As you read, look for

- reasons for establishing a colony in Georgia,
- James Oglethorpe and his plans for the colony,
- the charter of 1732,
- the first settlement in Georgia,
- terms: **proprietor, royal colony, mercantilism, charter, trustee, militia.**

By the early 1700s, Great Britain had twelve colonies in North America, all located along the East Coast between the Atlantic Ocean and the Appalachian Mountains. The oldest—Virginia—was over 120 years old. It had originally been founded by the Virginia Company of London in hopes of

**Figure 19**  
**Timeline:**  
**1732 to 1752**







## Something Extra!

In 1717, Sir Robert Montgomery and two partners proposed a colony west of the Savannah River to be called the “Margravate of Azilia.” He did not have the financial backing to found that colony.

**Left:** Born to a wealthy and influential family, James Edward Oglethorpe became a crusader for the rights of those less fortunate. His efforts on behalf of the “working poor” led him to found a colony where such people could go to start a new life. He was the only trustee to come to Georgia. He left permanently for England in 1743.

making a profit. The youngest colony, established in 1681, was Pennsylvania. It was given as a gift by King Charles II to William Penn. Penn founded the colony as a refuge for members of his Christian religious group—the Society of Friends, also known as Quakers.

In the 1660s, King Charles II had given a large grant for a colony south of Virginia to eight of his supporters. These **proprietors** (owners) thanked the king by naming the colony Carolina, which comes from the Latin word for Charles.

From its beginning, Carolina had two separate areas of settlement. The north was settled by small farmers moving down from Virginia. Further south, planters from the English sugar colony of Barbados had founded Charles Town (now Charleston) and set up plantations in the area around it. The two areas were very different and, for many years, operated separately. In 1729, the proprietors gave up control of the two colonies, and they became **royal colonies** under the control of the king.



**Above:** The trustees believed that Georgia's climate would be suitable for growing warm-weather crops like grapes and olives. They were especially interested in growing mulberry trees to feed silkworms. Silk is produced from fibers that make up the cocoons.

By the late 1720s, no one had settled the part of South Carolina south of the Savannah River, which was the dividing line between the Carolinians and the Indian nations. James Oglethorpe and his associates were not the first Englishmen who had the idea to settle there, but they were the first to actually turn their vision into reality.

### Reasons for Settling Georgia

When Oglethorpe and his fellow philanthropists (those who give money to worthy causes) asked King George II for a land grant, they presented three basic reasons for founding the colony. First, it would be a *charitable* effort that would take deserving poor people from England,

and other Europeans who were persecuted for being Protestants living in Catholic areas, and give them a new start in the colony.

A second reason was *military defense*. By the 1720s, South Carolina was a very successful colony producing a major product that Great Britain wanted—rice. No British lived south of the Savannah River because they did not want to anger the Spanish living in Florida, who also claimed some of that land. If a new colony were settled south of the Savannah River, it would be a buffer, or protection, between South Carolina and the Spanish in Florida, the French on the Gulf Coast and New Orleans, and the Indian allies of both of those nations. Having colonists in that region would make it more difficult for Spain to attack South Carolina. South Carolinians also feared the French and their influence on Native Americans in much of the Mississippi River Valley. Having settlers in Georgia would provide some protection there as well.

A third reason for the colony was *economic*. The trustees believed that, because of its location so far south, the new colony would be able to grow plants that England could not grow and, therefore, had to buy from other countries. For example, they thought Georgia had a good climate for growing mulberry trees on whose leaves silkworms fed. They also thought that grapes and olives would grow in Georgia. This was part of the government's economic policy of **mercantilism**. The economic goal of mercantilism was to have a favorable balance of trade. This was accomplished when the mother country (and its colonies) produced as much as possible of what it needed (selling any extra to other countries) and did not have to spend its money buying goods from other countries. The prosperity of the country as a whole was more important than the wealth of individual people or parts of the country. Under mercantilism, colonies existed to help their mother countries by producing raw materials and serving as markets for goods manufactured in the mother country. If Georgia could produce the products, then Great Britain would not have to buy silk thread, wine, or olive oil from other countries.



## The Charter of 1732

For these charitable, defense, and economic reasons, James Oglethorpe and his associates received the Charter of 1732, which named them the “Trustees for the Establishing of the Colony of Georgia in America.” The **charter** was the document that granted the territory to the trustees and set up the rules under which the trust would work. **Trustees** are people who hold responsibility and act on behalf of others.

Much of the charter was about how the trust would operate in Great Britain. It named Sir John Percival as the first president of the trust. He was one of the most dedicated trustees in the first decade of the colony. The charter also required that the trust have an executive committee, called the Common Council, which met more often than the entire trust. The council was to more closely supervise the colony. The charter also stated that, just like members of a modern charity’s board, the trustees themselves could not make a profit in any way and could not get any land or money for serving on the trust.

The trust members were trying to do a good deed. Their motto was “Non Sibi Sed Aliis,” Latin for “not for self, but for others.” While the trust members could receive no salary, the charter did allow them to hire employees. An accountant and a secretary, who took minutes at their meetings and handled much of the trust’s correspondence, became paid employees.

The charter granted the trust the land between the Savannah and Altamaha rivers and all the land between their headwaters (the source or spring from which a river first flows) westward to the Pacific Ocean. The name of the colony was to be “Georgia” in honor of King George. According to the charter, the trust would have the colony for twenty-one years (until 1753). Until then, the trustees had full authority to raise money for their charity, to grant land to those settling there, to make rules and regulations for the colony, to establish courts, and to maintain a military defense. Any laws they made would have to be approved by the king; any governor they appointed would also have to have the king’s approval. To get around this approval requirement, the trustees made only three laws. Instead they mainly used regulations and policies to govern the colony. They also never appointed a governor. In keeping with the charitable purpose of the colony, the charter said that no one person could receive more than five hundred acres of land.

## Something Extra!

In the Georgia charter, the king granted the “free exercise of religion” to all but Catholics. The trustees believed that the nearness of the Spanish Catholics in Florida made having Catholics undesirable.



## Map 15 The Georgia Charter

**Map Skill:** Name the other present-day states shown on the map that were included in the Georgia charter.



## Choosing the Colonists

The regulations the trustees made were in keeping with the reasons for founding the colony. The trustees would pay for the passage of some to the new colony. Each male who went to Georgia as a charity colonist would receive fifty acres of land to farm, along with tools and a year's supply of food and other necessities from the trust's store. Because Georgia was to be a buffer between Florida and South Carolina, the male citizens had to be prepared to serve if necessary in a **militia** (a force of citizen-soldiers). The trustees wanted to make sure a man who could serve as a soldier lived on every fifty acres of land, so women were not allowed to inherit the land. If a man had no sons or other male heirs, his land went back to the trust to be re-granted to a male. That also prevented the settlers from building up larger

farms by marrying women who had inherited land. Settlers could not sell or rent their land or use it to borrow money. Because Great Britain hoped that Georgia would produce silk, colonists were required to plant some of their land in mulberry trees.

The trust also allowed for colonists who paid their own way and did not want to get food and supplies from the trust store. These "adventurers" could get a grant of up to five hundred acres of land, but they would have to have a male, either a relative or a servant, for every fifty acres. Using

these land restrictions, the trustees hoped that Georgia would be very different from South Carolina. They had a vision of Georgia as a land of small farms rather than large plantations.

With these rules in place, the trustees began to raise money for their charity and interview potential settlers. They chose unemployed and poor people, mainly from London; the poor chosen were those they considered "deserving," which meant they were poor for reasons beyond their control. The trustees' goal was to colonize Georgia with families, so 44 of the first 114 colonists were female, most either wives or daughters of male settlers. They believed that women were crucial to maintaining the households and bringing stability to the colony. They also believed that wives and daughters could produce silk and contribute to the income of the household. Later, the colony realized that they needed more single women of marriageable age, so new families could be started.



**Top:** The seal of the trustees of Georgia featured two male figures representing the Savannah and Altamaha rivers, and a female figure with a cornucopia, or "horn of plenty," symbolizing the hoped-for prosperity of the colony. **Above:** This was the first map of Georgia, drawn in 1733 to attract prospective colonists.



## Savannah, The First Settlement

James Oglethorpe decided to lead the first settlers himself; in fact, he was the only trustee who ever came to the colony. The others remained in England, where they made decisions to govern Georgia, raised money and donated funds of their own, and supported the Georgia cause in Parliament, Great Britain's legislature. Unfortunately, the trustees did not understand Georgia's environment very well, and some of their policies made life difficult for the settlers.

In November 1732, the ship *Ann* set sail across the Atlantic Ocean with the chosen settlers. It arrived in Charles Town, South Carolina, in January 1733. The South Carolina colonists were happy to have the new settlers between



## Something Extra!

The voyage of the ship *Ann* from England to America took 57 days.

**Left:** James Oglethorpe's early meetings with the Indians were greatly aided by the presence of John and Mary Musgrove, who ran a trading post nearby. Both had Indian mothers and British fathers, and thus were able to act as interpreters for the colonists.



them and Spanish Florida, even though the Georgia land was originally part of South Carolina. The Carolinians donated farm animals, food, and other provisions; they even sent some slaves to help with the early work.

While the Georgia colonists waited at Port Royal (Beaufort), Oglethorpe and several other men left to find a good site for the first settlement. Sailing up the Savannah River past several islands, Oglethorpe chose a high bluff

known as Yamacraw, named for the small band of Creek Indians who lived nearby. Being on high ground would give them a defensive advantage against any enemies coming from the sea.

The elderly leader of the Yamacraw people was Tomochichi, who became a good friend to James Oglethorpe. The Indians agreed to give the colony all the land along the coast from the Savannah to the Altamaha “as far inland as the tidal waters.” They did keep three islands—Ossabaw, Sapelo, and St. Catherines—and a small strip along Pipemaker’s Creek.

Fortunately for the British and the Indians, John and Mary Musgrove owned a trading post nearby where they did business with South Carolinian traders. Both John and Mary (his wife) had mothers who were Creek Indians and fathers who were British traders. As a result, they spoke both languages and were able to interpret all the meetings between Oglethorpe and Tomochichi. After John died in 1735, Mary became the main interpreter.

On February 12, 1733, now celebrated as Georgia Day, Oglethorpe brought the settlers to the future Savannah. There they put up tents to live in while they cleared land and set up their town. With the help of South Carolina surveyor William Bull, they laid out the streets and squares of this first Georgia community. Savannahians and their visitors today still enjoy Oglethorpe’s orderly design. The town began with four squares, each having twenty lots on the north side and twenty lots on the south side. Each town lot was 60 feet by 90 feet. Each square with its forty lots was called a *ward*. Each male head of a household received his fifty acres of land, which included one of these town lots on a square, a garden lot on the edge of town, and a forty-five-acre farm lot further out.



**Above:** Tomochichi was chief of the Yamacraw tribe, which gave their name to the bluff where Savannah is located. His warm welcome and friendship went a long way towards ensuring the early success of the colony. This portrait with his nephew Toonahowi was probably painted during their visit to England in 1736.



James Oglethorpe continued to live in a tent while supervising the building of the town. He did not have the official title of governor. However, as the only trustee in Georgia, he was in charge, and the people looked to him for direction. He wrote the trustees that he was busy “looking after a hundred . . . things.”

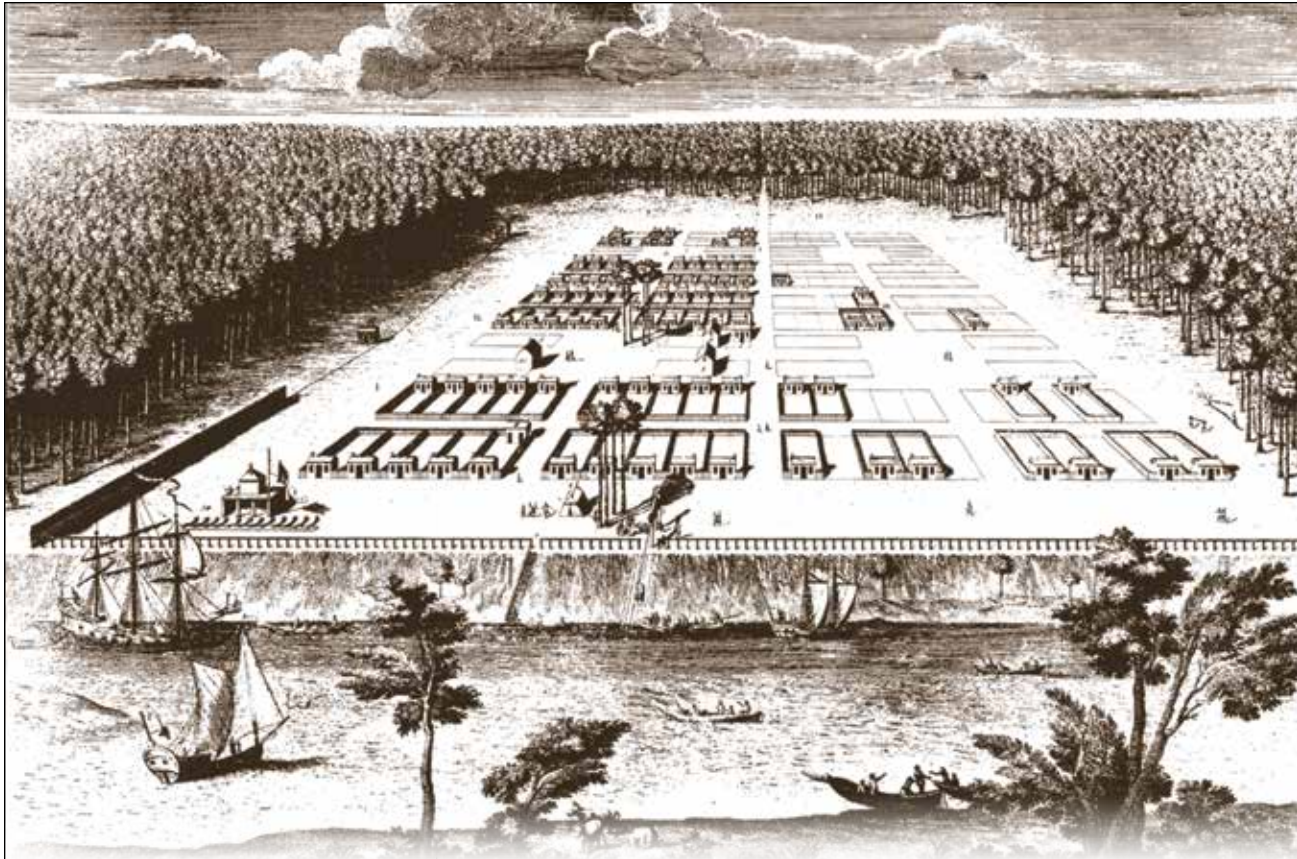
### **Life in Early Georgia**

Beginning a new life in Georgia was not easy for these first settlers. Coming from a very different climate, they struggled with the heat and humidity of Georgia summers. They were afraid of alligators and rattlesnakes. They found mosquitoes to be very pesky, although they did not realize that the insects could make them sick. Some of the water they used for drinking also caused illness. In the very first spring and summer, many of the colonists, including the only doctor, died from what they called “fevers” and “agues,” probably typhoid.

The work of building the new colony was hard. The men spent their days clearing the land, building small homes of less than four hundred square feet, and cultivating crops. Preparing the fields for planting was first done with hoes until the roots of old trees had rotted enough for plows to be used. Coming mainly from London where many had been craftsmen or laborers, the colonists had much to learn about farming. Women planted and tended the family gardens, milked cows and raised chickens, cooked all their family meals, made and mended clothing, cleaned homes and laundered clothes, and took care of children. A woman’s work was to “establish an orderly household.”

**Above: Fort King George Historic Site in Darien features a re-creation of the earliest days of Georgia, when the colonists were still living in tents.**





**Above:** The earliest view of the new town of Savannah was drawn by Peter Gordon, an upholsterer who had come over with the first group of colonists on the *Ann*. He also kept a journal describing the voyage.

## Something Extra!

When Savannah was complete, there were twenty-four squares. Today, twenty-two remain.

In addition to the private homes, Oglethorpe also oversaw the building of public structures. The first to be built in Savannah was the courthouse, which also served as the church. Oglethorpe established a town court to decide disputes and handle criminals, although the colonists had to defend themselves since there were no lawyers in the colony. Near the guardhouse on the east end of town, a pillory (wooden stocks in which a person's head and hands were locked) was erected for the punishment of those who disturbed the "harmony" of the colony. In addition to time in the pillory, offenders often received whippings. Other public buildings and structures included a storehouse, a mill for grinding grain into flour, and a large public oven for baking bread.

Building defenses for the colony was also a priority. In the late summer and fall, Fort Argyle was constructed on the Ogeechee River, along with a fort at Thunderbolt on the Wilmington River and outposts called Highgate and Hampstead. Tybee Island, where the Savannah River meets the Atlantic Ocean, got both a fort and a lighthouse.

### Reviewing the Section

1. Define: mercantilism, charter, militia.
2. What Indian chief was a friend to the Georgia settlers?
3. Why do you think Catholics were forbidden to settle in Georgia?

# Discovering Georgia's Past

## Tomochichi's Funeral

**Georgia founding Trustee James Oglethorpe** and Yamacraw Mico (leader) Tomochichi developed a relationship of mutual respect and friendship during the early years of the colony. On October 5, 1739, Tomochichi died while Oglethorpe was away visiting the Creek town of Coweta in what is now west Georgia. According to Trust Secretary William Stephens, Tomochichi was said to be “upwards of ninety years of age” when he died, although some modern historians doubt that he was really that old.

Tomochichi had helped the Georgia colony by agreeing to give them land, and he had also helped keep the peace between the British and other Creek

Indians. He, his wife, and his nephew had traveled to England with Oglethorpe, further cementing their friendship. William Stephens said in his journal that Oglethorpe “always esteemed him [Tomochichi] as a Friend of the colony.” When Oglethorpe returned to Savannah and learned of Tomochichi’s death, he wanted to honor him.

Tomochichi’s body was brought to Savannah from his New Yamacraw village by boat. A procession of colonists and Indians followed the coffin to the burial site in one of the main squares, present-day Wright Square. Both Oglethorpe and Stephens were pallbearers, along with four military officers. As part

of the ceremony, guns (called “minute guns”) fired once a minute seven times to honor Tomochichi as a warrior. That was followed with three firings of muskets by the forty militiamen in attendance, a salute given to all soldiers. William Stephens said that it was not only a tribute to Tomochichi, but also an example to the Indians “how great regard the English would pay to all their nations, who maintain true friendship with us.” As a memorial to Tomochichi, his grave was marked with stones. That memorial was moved in the 1880s, and in 1899 a granite boulder was dedicated in the square in his honor.



In 1883, the pyramid of stones marking Tomochichi’s grave in Wright Square was removed to make room for the Gordon monument. This granite boulder dedicated to Tomochichi was placed in Wright Square in 1899.



## Section 2

# Changes and Challenges

### As you read, look for

- new laws imposed by the trustees and the discontent among some settlers,
- the arrival of new settlers,
- the War of Jenkins's Ear and the Battle of Bloody Marsh,
- terms: **ally, slavery, indentured servant, pacifist, Malcontent.**

**In the spring of 1734, James Oglethorpe went to** England, taking with him Tomochichi and other Indians. They were very popular there during the four months they stayed, even meeting the royal family and the Archbishop of Canterbury (the head clergyman of the Church of England). Oglethorpe used his time in England to advertise the Georgia colony, raise money, and prepare for the colony's future defense.

When he returned to Georgia in 1736, he brought cannons and other weapons for defense. Also on this return voyage were two new Anglican (Church of England) ministers for the colony, brothers John and Charles Wesley. Born at Epworth in England, John and Charles graduated from Christ Church College of Oxford University, where they helped found and belonged to the Holy Club. Other members of the Church of England began to call them "Methodists" because of the methodical way they tried to live a holy life. John became a missionary with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. At that time, Georgia was considered a frontier in need of missionary services. John hoped to work with the Indians and perhaps convert some to Christianity. Charles came with his brother to Georgia, working as a secretary for Oglethorpe and serving as a priest at Fort Frederica.



On June 28, 1734, James Oglethorpe and his party of nine Indian guests, including Tomochichi, reached London. The British wanted the assistance of the Indians in developing their enterprises in the colony. They entertained them with numerous parties and dinners during their stay. King George II even granted them a meeting at Kensington Palace. This painting of the Indians meeting the trustees of Georgia was painted by William Verelst in 1736.







**Above:** John Wesley spent the years from 1736 to 1738 as the minister of Christ Church in Savannah. Following his return to England, he founded the Methodist Church with his brother Charles, who had also visited Georgia.

## Something Extra!

The usual period of servitude for an indentured servant was 4-7 years.

John was the minister for the Savannah colonists at Christ Church. However, some colonists did not appreciate the strictness in religious life that both brothers tried to encourage. Charles returned to England in 1736. John stayed until 1738.

After returning to England in 1738, John had a spiritual experience at a religious meeting and believed that his heart had been “strangely warmed.” Charles had a similar experience. This led them to become traveling preachers. Charles expressed his religious fervor through preaching and writing hundreds of hymns. Although the Wesleys did not intend to found a new religious group, and Charles was especially tied to the Church of England, Methodism did become a separate denomination.

## New Laws

When Oglethorpe returned, he also brought with him copies of three laws approved by the British government. One law made the sale and use of rum and other “spirits” illegal in Georgia, although the colonists could still drink beer, wine, and cider. In addition to believing that rum made the colonists sick, the trustees did not want it used in trade with the Indians. The second law also related to the Indians. It required that anyone trading with the Indians in Georgia have a license. The trustees hoped to keep good relations with the Indians by making sure that the traders treated them fairly. This was especially important because Georgians did not want the Indians to become allies of the Spanish in Florida. (An **ally** is a person, group, or country who joins with another for a common interest.) This law, however, angered the South Carolinians who thought Georgia was trying to steal the Indian trade from them.

The last of the three laws made slavery illegal in Georgia. (**Slavery** is the practice of owning people as property.) The trustees wanted the settlers to do the work in their gardens and on their farms themselves. They also feared that having slaves could be dangerous to the defense of the colony, because the Spanish might encourage the slaves to run away or to revolt against the Georgians. White **indentured servants**, however, were allowed in Georgia when extra workers were needed. These were people from Europe who sold their labor for a period of years in return for passage to the colony and support during their period of servitude. Unlike slaves, indentured servants became free when they had worked the agreed-upon time. Slavery, as it was practiced in the British colonies, was not only for the lifetime of the slaves, but also for the children of slave mothers. The children of indentured servants were not automatically indentured, although many were in order to have support. But they, too, became free as adults.

## New Settlers

Only a few months after the colony began, a ship carrying forty-two Jews arrived unexpectedly from England. Their voyage had been paid for by the Jewish community in London, although they had not asked the trustees for permission to come. The trustees, who wanted Protestant Christians in the colony, did not like the idea of the Jews living in Georgia, but Oglethorpe decided that they could stay and granted them lots. Among them was Dr. Samuel Nunez, who was able to save the lives of some of the victims of the fever that was killing so many Georgians.

In some parts of Europe, people were persecuted (ill-treated) for their religion. In the Europe of the 1700s, citizens of a country were required to belong to the religion established by the government. In some areas and countries, Catholics were in power; in other areas, Protestants of various denominations were in power. The British tolerated different religious groups, but they did not allow total religious freedom. Those who were not members of the Church of England were under certain restrictions, and their taxes were used to support the government-established religion. In other places in Europe, religious groups different from the government religion were persecuted more harshly.

That was the case for the German-speaking Lutherans who lived in and near Salzburg in central Europe. Their supporter, the Reverend Samuel Urlsperger, contacted the trustees, who agreed to allow them to become colonists. The first Salzburgers arrived in 1734. Oglethorpe gave them land to settle about twenty-five miles up the Savannah River. The first site chosen, which they called Ebenezer, turned out to be too swampy. Two years later, they asked for and received better land. They called this town New Ebenezer, which means “stone of help.” There they built a church, school, orphanage, and mills. Under the leadership of their minister John Martin Bolzius, the Salzburgers became hardworking colonists. They not only farmed, but they were also the colonists most dedicated to producing silk. The trustees were more pleased with these settlers than any others.

Another group of German-speaking Protestants who came to Georgia were the Moravians, whose religious sect was the Unity of Brethren. They worked hard to educate the Indians and convert them to the Christian religion. Although most lived in Savannah, some Moravians lived nearby in Irene, about five miles up the river where an Indian school had been established. The Moravians were **pacifists** and believed that any kind of fighting or violence was wrong. They had difficulty being accepted by the other colonists. By 1740, the Moravians left Georgia, most for Pennsylvania.



**Above:** The Salzburgers came to Georgia in 1734, just a year after the founding of the colony, to escape the persecution they had been suffering because of their Lutheran religion.





**Above:** The Salzburgers settled in Ebenezer, about 25 miles upriver from Savannah. When that proved unsuitable, they established a new town called New Ebenezer. The Salzburgers were among the most hardworking of the colonists, even having limited success with silk cultivation.

James Oglethorpe recruited one of the groups who came. Because relations between Great Britain and Spain were so tense, Oglethorpe was concerned about Georgia's defense if war should break out. To have colonists who could serve as soldiers in the south of the colony, Oglethorpe recruited men from the highlands of Scotland. The Scottish clans had a reputation for being good soldiers and fighters. Many of these Highland Scots settled the town of Darien and helped build other forts on the Georgia islands.

The most successful farmers were the Salzburgers who were happy in New Ebenezer with their fifty-acre grants. They supported the law against slavery and supported the trustees' vision of small farms. They even produced some silk. They were grateful to the trustees for giving them a new life where they could practice their Lutheran faith without persecution, so they defended the trust and its policies. So did the Highland Scots in the southern area of the colony.

### **The Malcontents**

Unfortunately, some Georgia colonists became unhappy with the trustees' policies and laws. The Rum Act was often ignored; by the early 1740s, no one tried to enforce it. Before they had even left England, some colonists had objected to the rule that women could not inherit land. Men thought it was not fair that they might work hard to clear and plant land and build houses that might have to go back to the trust if they had no male heirs. They also worried about what would happen to their widows and daughters. The trustees had to agree to consider allowing some women to inherit. The colonists also found out that grapes, olives, and mulberry trees did not grow very well in Georgia. They resented having to work hard for very little produce.

Many of the leaders of these complainers or **Malcontents** had paid their own passage and did not like the trustees' land policies. Most of them were Scots who had come from the lowlands of Scotland. By 1738, they had become more organized. In December, they sent a long letter to Great Britain, calling for changes. They especially did not want to be limited to five hundred acres. They knew that plantations in South Carolina made high profits because they could grow rice. Rice required not only many acres of land but also many workers. A small farmer on fifty acres without extra workers could not grow it. They also began to pressure the trust to allow slavery.

By 1740, some of the loudest Malcontents left to settle in South Carolina. From there, they published a book entitled *A True and Historical Narrative of the Colony of Georgia*, summarizing the colony's problems and their criticism of the trustees. Even with some of the Malcontents in Charles Town, the discontent over trustee policy did not go away.

### Defense of Georgia

James Oglethorpe became very concerned with the colony's defense. On his trip to England, he had convinced Parliament that the British government should pay for the colony's protection, since Georgia was the buffer between Spanish Florida and all the British colonies north of it. Upon his return in 1736, Oglethorpe ordered that forts be built at both the northern and southern ends of the colony. In honor of the marriage of King George's son Frederick Prince of Wales to his German bride Princess Augusta in April of that year, the southern fort and town on St. Simons Island was named Frederica, and the northern fort and town became Augusta.

## Something Extra!

Fort Frederica was built of *tabby*, a southeastern concoction of lime, water, sand, oyster shells, and ash.



**Below:** You can see the tabby ruins of Fort Frederica at Fort Frederica National Monument on St. Simons.







**Above:** The Urlsperger Map, drawn around 1735, gives a detailed view of the fledgling colony only two years after its founding. Already, a number of settlements had grown up outside the planned community of Savannah. **Opposite page:** This statue of James Oglethorpe in Savannah was created by Daniel Chester French, who carved the statue in the Lincoln Memorial.

Augusta was a center of the trade with the Indians for deerskins and beaver furs because both the Creek and Cherokee paths to the Savannah River came together a few miles north of the fort near the Fall Line. To lay out the town around the fort, the settlers had the help of the small band of Chickasaw Indians. (South Carolina had recruited those Chickasaw in 1723 to help protect the Carolinians from other Indians.) For their help to the Georgians, they received land on the Georgia side of the river. Most of their fellow Chickasaw lived on the Mississippi River; this group kept their ties with the western Chickasaw, so they knew about French movements in the Mississippi River area.



Oglethorpe made Frederica his home; from there, he oversaw the building of several more forts along the sea islands. He also had the colonists lay out roads, which today would be called paths, connecting the settlements of the colony. He traveled to Great Britain again in 1737 to make sure that Parliament would support Georgia against the Spanish. This time, Parliament agreed that Georgia could have a regiment of British troops. When Oglethorpe returned in 1738, he brought with him several hundred soldiers. He was soon asking the trustees to send over some “industrious wives” for the men. Oglethorpe believed that women would settle them down.

Appointed to the rank of general, Oglethorpe commanded the British regiment and the militias of South Carolina and Georgia. In 1739, Oglethorpe traveled into the Indian lands, going as far as the Creek town of Coweta, near modern Columbus on the Chattahoochee River. He wanted to maintain the friendship of the Creek, especially if war should break out with Spain. Although Tomochichi died while Oglethorpe was on this trip, Mary Musgrove became an important diplomat between the Georgians and the Creek. Oglethorpe came back through Augusta, the center of Georgia Indian trade, and met with representatives of the Cherokee. Both Indian nations agreed not to help the Spanish.

Oglethorpe’s defense efforts became important when the War of Jenkins’s Ear broke out between the Spanish and the British that very year. Oglethorpe left Savannah for Frederica after Tomochichi’s funeral. In his first trip to Florida, Oglethorpe and his men had skirmished with the Spanish at the St. Johns River before going back to Frederica. In the second attempt, he captured a Spanish fort on the river.

The main action began in 1740, when Oglethorpe planned and led an invasion of Florida where the Spanish had the town of St. Augustine with its big fort of San Marcos. He was able to get help from hundreds of Indians. Accompanied by some Creek, Euchee, and Chickasaw Indians, British soldiers, and militia from Georgia and South Carolina, Oglethorpe led one group by water, while the other marched by land. They took two small forts on the St. Johns River along the way. The second one, Fort Mose, was only two miles from St. Augustine. However, Oglethorpe and his troops were unable to get to their planned landing place near Fort San Marcos because Spanish ships were there. Rather than attacking directly, they decided to surround the fort. The Spanish led a surprise attack at Fort Mose, defeating the British in the skirmish. Meanwhile, the bombardment of both Fort



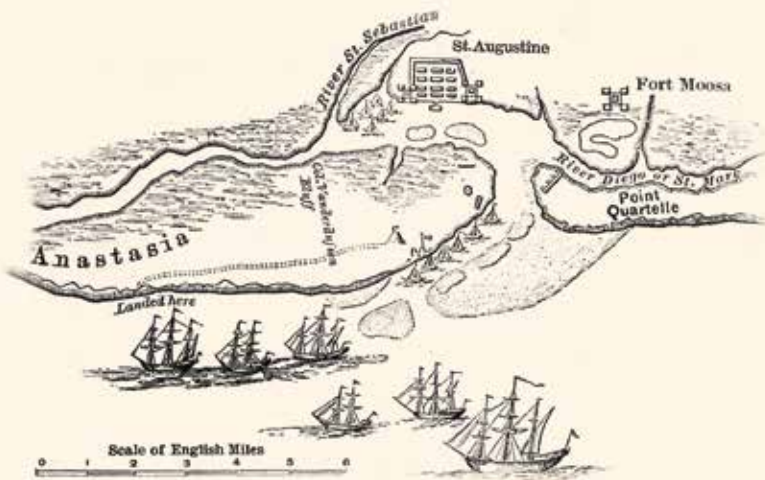


**Below:** This map shows the plan of attack for Oglethorpe's ill-fated 1740 attempt to invade Spanish Florida at St. Augustine. **Bottom:** Oglethorpe was able to take two small forts, but was not able to overcome the defenses of Castillo de San Marcos. In fact, San Marcos has never been taken by force. It still stands today, preserved as Castillo de San Marcos National Monument. It is the only surviving 17th-century masonry fort in North America.

San Marcos and the town of St. Augustine, which began in late June, did not go well. The cannon were so far away that they did little damage. The Spanish would not come out of the fort to fight. When three Spanish ships slipped in and resupplied the fort with food, the plan began to fall apart. British troops got sick from the weather, some deserted, and the Indians wanted to leave. Oglethorpe believed he had no choice but to retreat. It was a terrible failure. By that time, Oglethorpe himself was sick with a fever. He knew, however, that the confrontation with Spain was far from over.

In 1741, Spain ordered its officials in Cuba and Florida to prepare an expedition against Georgia for the following spring. Over fifty ships and seven thousand men left Cuba, arriving in St. Augustine after enduring a terrible storm at sea. Oglethorpe knew the invasion was coming and that he was outnumbered and outgunned. He brought all his forces together at Fort Frederica on the northern end of the island.

The Spanish arrived at the south end of St. Simons Island on July 5-6, 1742, camping in the abandoned Fort St. Simon. On July 7, the Spanish tried to attack Fort Frederica on the other end of St. Simons Island. The Georgia troops were able to defend it. The day had begun when Spanish scouts ran into British patrols; the two forces fired upon one another. Oglethorpe himself rode out to help scatter and push back the Spanish troops. When the Spanish sent additional troops in the afternoon, the British fired at them from the marshes, forcing them to



retreat back to Fort St. Simon. This defeat of the Spanish troops became known as the Battle of Bloody Marsh.

The Spanish remained on St. Simons, although other attempts to attack Oglethorpe and his troops failed. Oglethorpe also tried trickery to make the Spanish think that reinforcements were on the way. As the Spanish commanders debated what to do, they saw three British ships. Unsure if they might be the beginning of major reinforcements, they decided to evacuate. After burning Fort St. Simon, the Spanish left the island in mid-July 1742, retreating into Florida. The war soon became a larger war (called King George's War) when France became involved, but no further fighting took place in Georgia. Thanks to the victory at the Battle of Bloody Marsh, Georgia remained a British colony.

With Georgia successfully defended, Oglethorpe left for England in 1743 and never returned to the colony he had founded. He did stay active on the board of the trust until the end. In fact, he lived long enough to see his colony become a state in an independent United States. Before leaving, he thanked Mary Musgrove and promised her more rewards for her years of service. She remained part of the story of colonial Georgia well into the 1760s.



**Above:** On July 7, 1742, Georgia troops under the command of Gen. Oglethorpe repulsed a Spanish attack of St. Simons Island at the Battle of Bloody Marsh, ending the Spanish threat to the southern colonies.

### Reviewing the Section

1. Define: slavery, indentured servant, Malcontents.
2. What were the three laws Oglethorpe introduced in 1736?
3. Why did Oglethorpe want to build up Georgia's defenses?





## Section 3

# Life in Trustee Georgia

### Something Extra!

Oglethorpe returned to England to answer charges that he had not acted correctly by not capturing Spanish St. Augustine. He was cleared of the charges.

#### As you read, look for

- the positive events of the trustee period,
- the end of the trustee period,
- terms: **artisan**.

**Throughout the trustee period**, Georgians spent most of their time working to meet their basic needs. Building homes, clearing land, planting and tending their crops, and providing the food and clothing to survive each day was their focus. The trustees continued to try to govern the colony from Great Britain, although they did not really understand what actual living in the colony was like. They did appoint men in Georgia to report to them and carry out their instructions, but they never allowed much government representation



for their colonists. In spite of trustee plans and rules, the economy did not develop as they had hoped, although some areas did experience economic growth. Because of the focus on daily necessities, institutions such as education and religion usually took a back seat.

## Government and the Economy

Because Oglethorpe was so busy, he seldom wrote reports to Great Britain. In 1737, the trust hired William Stephens as a secretary to write them about the colony's problems and its progress. With Oglethorpe focusing on forts and defense in the south, Stephens became the link between the colonists and the trustees who governed them.

In 1741, the trust divided Georgia into a northern province, overseen by Stephens, and a southern province, overseen by Oglethorpe. When Oglethorpe left in 1743, the trustees appointed Stephens president of the entire colony. He governed with the help of a Board of Assistants, the first Georgians to have any input. While they acted as the agents for the trust in the colony, they did not have the power to make laws. The trustees never allowed elected representation of the colonists.

During the War of Jenkins's Ear, Savannah struggled economically, and many settlers left for South Carolina. After the war, some began to return. To try to keep current settlers and attract more, Stephens encouraged the trustees to relax their rules, which they finally did by the late 1740s. Restrictions on land ownership came to an end, so large plantations began to appear. In 1750, they began to allow slavery in Georgia, although the rules for slaves were more lenient than they would be later. In the next year, hundreds of slaves were brought in, many by South Carolina planters who got land in Georgia. Before long, the islands, coast, and rivers near the coast had thousands of acres devoted to the cultivation of rice.

There were other aspects to Georgia's economy besides the rice culture. In the Augusta area, a thriving trade with the Indians for deerskins and beaver furs had already been firmly established. Many small farmers throughout the colony continued to grow food crops and raise animals. Georgia's pine trees and the sap they produced also became important trade products. Conducting trade became an important occupation, and merchants and storekeepers began to set up businesses, as did **artisans** (skilled craftsmen), who made goods needed by the colonists.

## Education and Religion

Most Georgians were concerned about survival. What education their children received was at home and covered practical matters. Boys learned how to plant and harvest crops; girls learned how to cook and sew. The founding of schools was just not a major focus for most Georgians. There were some schoolmasters who took students for a fee. The most successful attempts at formal education were in the New Ebenezer community. There, the Salzburgers had teachers for their children. In 1740, Anglican minister George Whitefield, a follower of the Wesleys and Methodism, founded the Bethesda orphanage and school. (*Bethesda* means "House of Mercy.")

## Something Extra!

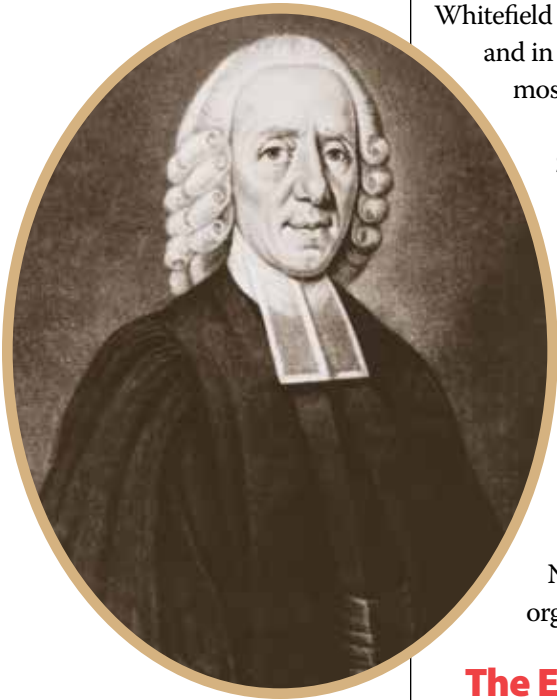
The Salzburgers established the first Sunday school in Georgia in 1734.



**Above:** George Whitefield founded the Bethesda orphanage and school and became a famous preacher as he traveled around the country.

**Opposite page:** The foundations of some of the original houses at Fort Frederica National Monument have been excavated by archaeologists.





**Above:** The Reverend John Martin Bolzius was the spiritual leader of the Salzburgers. He was an outspoken opponent of introducing slavery into the colony. A labor shortage amongst the Salzburgers in the late 1740s caused him to change his mind, and he actually came to own slaves.

Whitefield became famous preaching throughout the American colonies and in England to raise money for his orphanage. These were the two most significant educational institutions in Trustee Georgia.

Organized religion also had a difficult time. The Presbyterian Scots in the southern part of the colony only had a minister for a short period. Early Church of England ministers sent to Georgia had to hold worship services in public buildings. In 1745, the new Anglican minister in Savannah, Bartholomew Zouberbuhler, was determined to have a church building. He was finally successful when the Anglicans dedicated Christ Church in July 1750, near the end of the trustee period. That was the same year that Augustans requested that a minister be sent to their area. The most successful colonists in organizing religious services were the Salzburgers. The Reverend John Martin Bolzius was the dedicated leader of all aspects of life in New Ebenezer. For the colonists who lived away from the towns, organized religion was mostly unavailable.

### The End of the Trustee Period

By the late 1740s, many of the trustees were disillusioned. Their early vision of the colony had failed. The cultivation of olives and grapes had not been successful. Silk culture was a major disappointment. The trustees had given in to demands for changes on the land policies, on the sale and use of rum, and on slavery. Maintaining enthusiasm on the trustee board became increasingly difficult; sometimes they did not even have enough people at their meetings to conduct business. When Parliament did not vote them any money in 1751, they decided to turn the colony over to the British government in 1752, a year earlier than required. And so Georgia became a royal colony.

Even though Georgia did not become the colony the trustees had envisioned, it did have accomplishments. Georgia had successfully defended itself and South Carolina from Spain. Augusta had become an important center of trade with the Indians, a business that would continue to prosper until the disruption of the American Revolution. The colonists had cleared fields for planting and built homes and public buildings, although most were very basic. They had learned to survive in this new environment. By the time the first royal governor appointed by the king arrived, Georgia had started on the path to growth and prosperity.

### Reviewing the Section

1. Define: artisan.
2. When did the trustees return Georgia to the king?
3. What effect did changing land policies have on the colony?

# Georgia Portraits

## William Stephens

**One of the ways that we can learn** about our past is by studying the documents that those living in the past created, which are known as *primary sources*. Some of the most important primary sources for studying colonial Georgia are those from William Stephens, including the journal in which he recorded events and observations. In the title of her recent book about him, historian Julie Ann Sweet called Stephens the “forgotten founder” of Georgia. In many ways, Stephens kept the Georgia colony going through some of its hard times. He was, according to Professor Sweet, a “man of duty.”

In 1737, when he was sixty-six years old, William Stephens agreed to come to Georgia to work as the secretary for the trustees. The trustees wanted someone who would send them regular reports about the colony, something Oglethorpe failed to do. Stephens, because of some economic problems, needed a job. Leaving behind his wife and eight of his nine children, Stephens left England for Georgia in the fall of 1737. His adult son Thomas came with him, as did several indentured servants who were to work on the land Stephens received from the trust. Thomas worked hard to make this plantation, called Bewlie, a success, while William Stephens worked hard to report accurately to the trustees about the conditions and people in the colony. His letters and journal tell us much about the life in this period.

Stephens’s arrival was at the time of growing discontent with trustee policies. Stephens particularly dis-

approved of the Malcontents. As an employee of the trustees, Stephens believed it was his responsibility to uphold the trust policy. Stephens was very upset when his son Thomas went back to England and began to write defenses of the Malcontents.

When Stephens arrived in Georgia, he did not have any power to make decisions. This changed in 1740 when the trustees gave him oversight of the finances. In 1741, the trustees divided the colony into two counties, putting Stephens in charge of Savannah and Oglethorpe in charge of Frederica. When Oglethorpe left Georgia for good in 1743, Stephens became the president of the entire colony, a position he held until 1751. Even then, he did not have much executive power. Throughout his service, he was loyal to the trustees, trying to carry out their policies. He also oversaw the colony when the trust began to change many of its rules. His efforts helped the colony survive, and his writings help us understand life in early Georgia.



The entrance to Bewlie Plantation is framed with beautiful oak trees.



# Chapter Review

## Chapter Summary

### Section 1 Georgia's Founding

- James Edward Oglethorpe and twenty associates received a grant from British King George II to establish a colony south of the Savannah River.
- Oglethorpe offered three reasons for founding the colony: (1) *charitable*, the new colony would be home to deserving poor; (2) *military defense*, the new colony would be a buffer between South Carolina and Spanish Florida; and (3) *economic*, the new colony would grow plants England was then buying from other countries.
- Under the economic policy of mercantilism, a colony existed to help its mother country gain a favorable balance of trade.
- The charter of 1732 set up the rules under which the colony would work. Those receiving the colony were called trustees.
- James Oglethorpe led the first colonists to Georgia on the ship *Ann*. Tomochichi, the leader of the Yamacraw people, agreed to give the settlers the land along the coast a few miles inland between the Savannah and Altamaha rivers.
- John and Mary Musgrove served as interpreters for the colony.
- The colonists chose Yamacraw Bluff for their first settlement—Savannah. William Bull helped lay out the streets and squares of Savannah. Each household received a lot on a square, a garden lot, and a farm lot.
- Oglethorpe also established several forts as protection for the settlers.

### Section 2 Changes and Challenges

- New laws approved by Great Britain in 1736 outlawed the sale and use of rum, required Indian traders to be licensed, and made slavery illegal in the colony.
- New settlers to the Georgia colony included the Jews, the Salzburgers, the Moravians, and the Highland Scots. The Salzburgers were the most successful farmers. The Moravians were pacifists, which caused tensions with other settlers; the Moravians had all left the colony by 1740. The Highland Scots settled the town of Darien and helped defend the colony.
- A number of colonists, called Malcontents, were unhappy with the trustees' policies. A number of the Malcontents left Georgia to settle in South Carolina.
- Oglethorpe oversaw the construction of a number of forts in the colony, including Forts Frederica and Augusta.
- In 1739, the War of Jenkins's Ear between Great Britain and Spain broke out. Georgia suffered from fighting with the Spanish in Florida. Oglethorpe led an unsuccessful invasion of Florida in 1740. When the Spanish tried to take Fort Frederica, Georgia's forces were able to defeat them in the Battle of Bloody Marsh.

### Section 3 Life in Trustee Georgia

- William Stephens was hired as secretary for the colony. He eventually was named president of the colony.
- After the War of Jenkins's Ear, many of the trustees' original rules and regulations were changed. Restrictions on land ownership ended, and slavery was permitted. Rice plantations soon appeared.

- Reverend George Whitefield established the Bethesda orphanage and school.
- Although the original ideals for the colony were never fulfilled, Georgia made progress and survived.
- The trustees decided to return the Georgia colony to the king in 1752. Georgia thus became a royal colony.



### Understanding the Facts

1. List the primary reasons for the establishment of the Georgia colony. Based on your reading in the chapter, evaluate the success or failure of each of these reasons at the end of the trustee period.
2. Define *mercantilism* and explain how the Georgia colony fit into this ideal.
3. Define *trustees* within the context of the Georgia colony, and explain their role in establishing the colony.
4. Explain the role of Chief Tomochichi and Mary Musgrove in the establishment of the Georgia colony.



### Developing Critical Thinking

If you were a poor citizen of London during the time that Oglethorpe and the trustees were searching for colonists, would you have signed on for the venture? List the advantages and disadvantages of this opportunity, as well as the risks and rewards that were at stake.



### Writing Across the Curriculum

1. Imagine that you are a passenger on the ship *Ann* bound for the Georgia colony. Think about the sights, smells, and sounds aboard the tiny vessel. Write at least three diary entries on your experience of crossing the Atlantic Ocean.
2. After some time in Georgia, many colonists felt that progress and economic success were coming too slowly. Take on the role of a malcontent, and write a letter to your family back in England that describes life in the Georgia colony.



### Extending Reading Skills

Read pages 203-207 under Defense of Georgia. Create a timeline of the events that occurred during that period.



### Exploring Technology

The role of women during the colonial era is often ignored. Use your favorite search engine to look for information about the daily life and roles of Native American and European women in the colonies. Prepare a chart that compares various aspects of their lives.



### Practicing Your Skills

Compare a map of modern-day Savannah to the early design and lay-out of the city under Oglethorpe. List the similarities and differences that you observe.