
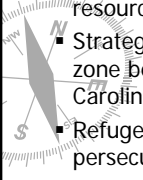


Georgia Colonization



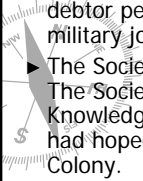
The Georgia Colony

- ▶ It was the last of the British colonies to be established in North America.
- ▶ There were many motives for the formation of the Georgia Colony.
 - Mercantilism—goods, supplies & natural resources were to be sent to England.
 - Strategic—Imperial defense, set up as a buffer zone between Spanish held Florida & the Carolina Colony. (prison colony idea starts)
 - Refuge/Humanitarian—a refuge from religious persecution & debtor relief.



Trustee Georgia

- ▶ 1730 – 21 men signed a petition to get a charter for a colony south of the Carolinas. This group became known as the Georgia Society.
- ▶ 1732 – the charter was granted.
- ▶ Gen. James E. Oglethorpe & Rev. Thomas Bray were hoping to build a colony free of religious & debtor persecution. But, Oglethorpe also had a military job to do.
- ▶ The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel & The Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge were both founded by Rev. Bray. He had hoped to get them going in the new Georgia Colony.



- ▶ 1733 – around 120 colonists arrived with Oglethorpe & settled at Yamacraw Bluff, on the banks of the Savannah River. The city of Savannah would be built later.
- ▶ Tomachichi, the Yamacraw Indian Chief, was the principal mediator between the native population and the new English settlers during the first years of settlement, he contributed much to the establishment of peaceful relations between the two groups and to the ultimate success of Georgia.

- ▶ About 1728 Tomochichi created his own tribe of the Yamacraws from an assortment of Creek and Yamasee Indians after the two nations disagreed over future relations with the English and the Spanish.
- ▶ His group, approximately two hundred people, settled on the bluffs of the Savannah River because the location was the resting place of his ancestors and had close proximity to English traders

- ▶ When Gen. James Oglethorpe and his fellow settlers reached the region in February 1733, they realized the need to negotiate fairly with the neighboring Indian tribes or risk the success of their enterprise.
- ▶ Among Oglethorpe's entourage was Mary Musgrove, daughter of a Creek mother and an English father, who served as interpreter between the general and the chief.
- ▶ Tomochichi had had previous contact with English colonists, making him unafraid yet cautious.
- ▶ The aging warrior had several different options available, but he decided to receive the new arrivals and to give them permission to establish Savannah in order to take advantage of trading and diplomatic connections.

Tomochichi & Early Settlement

- ▶ Tomochichi provided invaluable assistance to the new colony. One year after Oglethorpe's arrival, the Indian chief accompanied him back to England along with a small delegation of family and Lower Creek tribesmen.
- ▶ There, Tomochichi expertly fulfilled the position as mediator for his people during numerous meetings with important English dignitaries.

- ▶ He politely followed English mannerisms in his public appearances while pushing for recognition and realization of the demands of his people for education and fair trade.
- ▶ Upon his return to Georgia, Tomochichi met with other Lower Creek chieftains to reassure them of the honest intentions of these new Englishmen and convinced them to ally with the English despite previous deceitful encounters with their northern neighbors in South Carolina.

- ▶ After Oglethorpe returned to Georgia in February 1736, the chief received John Wesley, minister of Savannah, his brother Charles, and their friend Benjamin Ingham.
- ▶ Tomochichi reiterated his requests for Christian education for his tribe, but John Wesley rebuffed him with complex replies. Ingham, on the other hand, assisted in creating an Indian school at Irene, which opened in September 1736 much to the delight of the elderly chieftain.
- ▶ The same year, Tomochichi and Oglethorpe participated in an expedition to determine the southern boundaries of Georgia and helped mediate interactions with the Spanish.

- ▶ Tomochichi exerted his best efforts to maintain peace, and Oglethorpe regularly asked his friend for advice and assistance in achieving this goal.
- ▶ During the summer of 1739 Oglethorpe made an unprecedented journey to Coweta, deep in Indian Territory, to bolster his connections to the Lower Creeks, which resulted in a mutually favorable treaty.
- ▶ Tomochichi was unable to partake directly in Oglethorpe's negotiations; instead, he lay at home in his village fighting a serious illness.

- ▶ Tomochichi died on October 5, 1739, and while sources differ over his exact age, historians and contemporary observers generally agree that he was in his late nineties.
- ▶ His contributions to the colony of Georgia were celebrated with an English military funeral, and the grave site was commemorated with a marker of "a Pyramid of Stone" collected from the vicinity.
- ▶ He left his wife Senauki and his nephew Tōonahowi in charge of his small tribe, but he appointed no one to take his place as the impartial mediator between the Indians and the English.
- ▶ It was in this role that he provided his most lasting contributions, a role that both cultures accepted and applauded.

- ▶ The mound of stones honoring his final resting place in Savannah was removed in the early 1880s, and as a replacement, a large granite boulder with a decorative copper plate was installed southeast of the original structure with a dedication ceremony on April 21, 1899. The Georgia Historical Commission later placed a large marker in Savannah's Wright Square, which details the achievements of the Yamacraw chieftain.

- ▶ Tomochichi & his nephew, Toonhawi



Trustee Georgia

- ▶ The first twenty years of Georgia history are referred to as Trustee Georgia because during that time a Board of Trustees governed the colony.
- ▶ England's King George signed a charter establishing the colony and creating its governing board on April 21, 1732.
- ▶ His action culminated a lengthy process.



- ▶ Gen. James Oglethorpe confided to his friend John Lord Viscount Percival that he intended to help released debtors begin a new life in America.
- ▶ Oglethorpe had received a grant of £5,000 to carry out his plan.
- ▶ 1729 - Dr. Thomas Bray chose trustees to administer his estate.
- ▶ The Trustees, called the Associates of Dr. Bray, included several future members of the Georgia Trust, notably Percival, James Vernon, and Thomas Coram, the founder of the Foundling Hospital in London.
- ▶ Oglethorpe decided to add Bray to the funds in hand for the purpose of establishing a new colony between the Savannah and Altamaha rivers, in territory claimed by both the province of South Carolina and the Spanish colony of Florida.



- ▶ Sept. 17, 1730, the associates presented a petition for a charter to the Privy Council, Parliament's executive body, headed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Robert Walpole.
- ▶ The petition was routinely passed on to the notoriously inefficient Board of Trade, which debated for a year without acting.
- ▶ Walpole, the prime minister, was less than eager to challenge the Spanish, who had a prior claim to the region requested by the petitioners. But he needed support of key people in Parliament.

- ▶ After going through several revisions, the notion of helping debtors gave way to a more pragmatic plan to send over "the deserving poor" who would protect South Carolina while producing such goods as wine and silk for England.



The Georgia Charter

- ▶ The charter contained several contradictions.
- ▶ The colonists were entitled to all the rights of Englishmen, yet there was no provision for the essential right of local government.
- ▶ Religious liberty was guaranteed, except for Roman Catholicism and Judaism. Some Jews landed in Georgia without permission, however, and were allowed to remain.
- ▶ The charter created a corporate body called a Trust and provided for an unspecified number of Trustees who would govern the colony from England.
- ▶ 71 men served as Trustees during the life of the Trust.

- ▶ Trustees were forbidden by the charter from holding office or land in Georgia, nor were they paid.
- ▶ Presumably, their motives for serving were humanitarian, and their motto was *Non sibi sed aliis* ("Not for self but for others").
- ▶ The charter provided that the body of Trustees elect 15 members to serve as an executive committee called the Common Council, and specified a quorum of 8 to transact business.

- ▶ The council frequently lacked a quorum; those present would then assume the status of the whole body of Trustees
- ▶ Historian John McCain counted 215 meetings of the Common Council and 512 meetings of the corporation.
- ▶ July 20, 1732 - 12 Trustees attended the first meeting at the Georgia office in the Old Palace Yard, conveniently close to Westminster.

- ▶ Committees were named to solicit contributions and interview applicants to the new colony.
- ▶ November 17, 1732, 7 Trustees gave their farewells to Oglethorpe and the first settlers as they left from Gravesend aboard the *Anne*.
- ▶ The Trustees succeeded in obtaining £10,000 from the government in 1733 and lesser amounts in subsequent years. Georgia was the only American colony that depended on Parliament's annual subsidies.

- ▶ The most active members of the Trust,
 - James Vernon, the earl of Egmont
 - Henry L'Apostre
 - Samuel Smith
 - Thomas Tower
 - John Laroche
 - Robert Hucks
 - Stephen Hales
 - James Oglethorpe
 - Anthony Ashley Cooper, fourth earl of Shaftesbury.

- ▶ James Vernon, arranged the Salzburger settlement and negotiated with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts for missionaries.
- ▶ He differed from Egmont and Oglethorpe in his willingness to respond to the colonists' complaints.
- ▶ When Oglethorpe became preoccupied with the Spanish war, Vernon proposed the plan of dividing the colony into two provinces, Savannah and Frederica, each with a president and magistrates.

- ▶ The Trustees named William Stephens president in Savannah, and he served until 1751, he was replaced by Henry Parker in 1752.
- ▶ Oglethorpe neglected to name a president for Frederica, and the magistrates there were instructed to report to Stephens.
- ▶ The Trustees did not want to appoint a single governor because the king in council had to approve the appointment of governors, and the Trustees preferred to keep control in their hands.

- ▶ After Egmont's retirement in 1742, Vernon became the indispensable man.
- ▶ He missed only 4 of 114 meetings during the last nine years of the Trust and supervised the removal of restrictions on land tenure, rum, and slavery.
- ▶ Egmont, the 1st president of the Common Council and the dominant figure among the Trustees until his retirement, acted as Georgia's champion in Parliament.

- ▶ Henry L'Apostre advised on finances, Samuel Smith on religion, and Thomas Tower on legal matters, particularly on instructions to Georgia officials.
- ▶ Stephen Hales's closeness to the royal family and his standing as a scientist lent prestige to the body of Trustees.
- ▶ Shaftesbury, a political opponent of Walpole, joined the Common Council in 1733 and, except for a brief resignation, remained faithful to the end. He led the negotiations to convert Georgia to a royal colony.
- ▶ For the entire 20 yrs. the Trustees employed only two staff members, Benjamin Martyn as secretary and Harman Verelst as accountant.

Salzburgers, Moravians, & The Highlanders

- ▶ 57 Salzburgers (German speaking Protestants) joined the 42 families already in Georgia at Ebenezer.
- ▶ The Georgia Salzburgers built several firsts in Georgia: first church building, first grist mill, first rice mill, first saw mill, first silk filature and first orphanage.
- ▶ A group of Lutheran Salzburgers and Germans agreed to go to Georgia, organized their congregation at St. Ann's Lutheran Church in Augsburg, Germany.

- ▶ 1734 & 1735 - 2 groups of Moravians (Bohemian Protestants) went to Georgia.
- ▶ 1735 - an American settlement and mission to the Indians was established in Georgia, but was abandoned after five years because of irreconcilable differences with the local government, namely they were opposed to doing military duty.
- ▶ After delivering the Indians and Salzburgers to Georgia, Cpt. George Dunbar took his ship, the *Prince of Wales*, to Scotland.



- ▶ Dunbar and Hugh Mackay recruited 177 Highlanders, most of them members of Clan Chattan in Inverness-shire
- ▶ 1736 the Highlanders founded Darien on Georgia's southern boundary, the Altamaha.
- ▶ Oglethorpe went to Georgia in 1736, with the approval of his fellow Trustees, to found two new settlements on the frontiers,
 - Frederica on St. Simons Island
 - Augusta at the headwaters of the Savannah River in Indian country.
- ▶ Both places were garrisoned by troops.



- ▶ 1737 - Oglethorpe returned to England to demand a regiment of regulars from a reluctant Walpole.
- ▶ Not only did he get his regiment and a commission as colonel, but Egmont persuaded Walpole to pay for all military expenses.





Trustee Legislation


- ▶ 1735 - the Trustees proposed 3 pieces of legislation to the Privy Council and had the satisfaction of securing the concurrence of king and council.
- ▶ An Indian act required GA. licenses for trading west of the Savannah River.
- ▶ Another act banned the use of rum in GA.
- ▶ A third act outlawed slavery in GA.
- ▶ South Carolina protested the Indian act and objected to the Trustees' order to restrict the passage of rum on the Savannah River.

- ▶ The Board of Trade sided with South Carolina, and a compromise was reached, allowing traders with Carolina licenses to continue their traditional trade west of the Savannah River.
- ▶ The Trustees objected to the Board of Trade's tampering and refrained from proposing any additional legislation requiring approval of the Privy Council.
- ▶ Continual complaints by the colonists and the near abandonment of GA. during the war with Spain discouraged all but the most dedicated of the Trustees.

- ▶ A committee went through the motions of looking into the complaints and then exonerated the Trustees. Stephens was made to kneel in apology on the floor of Parliament.
- ▶ The prestige of the Trustees had been wounded, and their influence in Parliament weakened. Walpole lost office in 1742, and the new administration declined the Trustees' request for funding.
- ▶ Egmont resigned in protest, but not all the Trustees gave up. Under the leadership of Vernon and Shaftesbury, the Trustees conciliated the administration, and the government renewed the annual subsidies until 1751, when the Trustees' request was again denied.

- 
- ▶ Oglethorpe returned from GA. in 1743 and never again showed the same enthusiasm for the work of the Trust.
 - ▶ He disagreed with the relaxation of the ban on rum in 1742 and with the admission of slavery in 1750.
 - ▶ No agreement was reached. Oglethorpe attended his last meeting on March 16, 1749.

- 
- ▶ March 1750 the Trustees called upon Georgians to elect delegates to the first representative assembly but cautioned them only to advise the Trustees, not to legislate.
 - ▶ Augusta and Ebenezer each had two delegates, Savannah had four, and every other town and village had one. Frederica, now practically abandoned, sent no delegate.
 - ▶ Jan. 14, 1751 - 16 representatives met in Savannah and elected Francis Harris speaker. Most of the resolutions concerned improving trade.

- 
- ▶ The delegates requested the right to enact local legislation, and they opposed any annexation effort on the part of South Carolina.
 - ▶ The Trustees intended to permit further assemblies, but the failure of Parliament to vote a subsidy in 1751 caused the Trustees to enter into negotiations to turn the colony over to the government a year before the charter expired.
 - ▶ Only 4 members of the Trust attended the last meeting on June 23, 1752, and of the original Trustees only James Vernon persevered to the end.

- ▶ The Earl of Halifax, the new president of the Board of Trade, secured broader powers and infused new life into the administration of the board.
- ▶ He regretted that the colonies had been neglected for so long, and he intended to make GA. a model colony and an example to others.
- ▶ Thus Georgia passed from the control of one set of gentlemen of Parliament to another.
- ▶ 1752 – the Trustees lost the charter for GA. & now the process begins for GA. to become a Royal Colony.

GA. – A Royal Colony

- ▶ From 1752 – 1754, posed no particular changes for the colony as leadership changed hands from Trustee to Royal Governor.
- ▶ Royal rule was instituted by Cpt. John Reynolds of the Royal Navy in Oct. 29, 1754.
- ▶ He was seen as a reformer, somewhat & wanted GA. to have a full-fledged legislature & a complete set of courts. Neither of which GA. had at the time.

- ▶ The Royal Charter would establish a very strong governor, he would also serve as the Commander in Chief of the Militia & Navy, Head of the Court of Appeals, & the Religious Overseer.
- ▶ Cpt. Reynolds also had the power to set-up an assembly, pass on legislation, establish courts, approve land grants, enforce the laws, and see to the daily task of running the colony.
- ▶ The legislature consisted of an Assembly of 2 representatives from each county of the colony, which were created as soon as possible.
- ▶ A Council that would serve in the capacity of the Upper House, as well as a Court of Appeals.
- ▶ The Board of Trade nominated the governor and members of the council, subject to the approval of the king.

- ▶ Reynolds was a lifetime navy man, not a politician.
- ▶ He lacked the necessary skills & experience in dealing with politics. Not to mention oversee a Royal Colony.
- ▶ Edmund Gray would be his 1st enemy. Gray was a Quaker, a back country planter & a very powerful politician.
- ▶ Gov. Reynolds refused to look into claims of fraud in Georgia's first election in 1754 and by calling the protestors "Rebels". Thus alienating the back-country farmers. (This is prominent in all of the Colonies at the time.)
- ▶ Gov. Reynolds then insulted his Council members by giving a very important colonial offices to William Little.

- ▶ Little was a Royal Navy surgeon that traveled with Reynolds to GA. Causing the Council to turn against him, & forced the Gov. to seek allies with the followers of Edmund Gray, who shared his dislike of the Savannah-dominated council.
- ▶ Gov. Reynolds also did not know how to deal with the Indian situation. A valuable skill since he took office at the start of the French and Indian War (1754-63).
- ▶ GA. was vulnerable to attacks from the Creek and Cherokee Nations, instigated by the French in Louisiana.
- ▶ Lord Halifax reacted to the complaints from GA. by firing Gov. Reynolds at the end of 1756 and placing Henry Ellis as the new Royal Governor.

- ▶ Henry Ellis, 36 yrs. old, was a Gentleman, a Naturalist, & an Irish Protestant. A very intelligent politician. A product of the Enlightenment.
- ▶ Ellis arrived in Charleston, SC., on Jan. 26, 1757, then headed to Savannah, where he was greeted as a hero in Feb. 1757.
- ▶ Georgians were tired of Reynolds & were ready for a change.
- ▶ William Little, the friend of Cpt. Reynolds, had been elected Speaker of the Assembly and prepared a speech opposing Ellis.
- ▶ Ellis took care of the situation by dismissing the assembly until Reynolds and Little left GA.

- ▶ From 1756 to 1760, Gov. Ellis established himself with a Council & House.
- ▶ He had fortifications built due to the increasing threat of Indian attack. By this time there were approximately 8-10,000 Indians in the area.
- ▶ Gov. Ellis realized that GA. was a weak & low populated colony. His 1st agenda was to get colonists to settle in GA.
- ▶ To do that he would have to secure GA.
- ▶ He went to great depths to improve relations with the Creeks & Cherokees.

- ▶ Gov. Ellis also regulated Indian trade, to their benefit in most cases, & allowed them to punish their own criminals instead of subjecting them to English punishment.
- ▶ He also improved relations with South Carolina, just in case it did not work out with the Indians.
- ▶ He relied on the Gov. of South Carolina, William Lyttleton, for advise & council.
- ▶ Within 6 months, Ellis had imposed peace & order in GA. Not an easy feat.

- ▶ Gov. Ellis will only serve for 3 years, from 1757-1760, but will continue to look out for the colony.
- ▶ He left GA. in Nov. 1760, sailed to New York to meet with Gen. Jeffrey Amherst to request military assistance for the Southern colonies.
- ▶ Ellis planned the British victory in Cuba & advised England to give Cuba back to Spain in exchange for Florida in the peace settlement.
- ▶ This removed the Spanish threat from Georgia's southern border.

- ▶ James Wright replaced Henry Ellis as the Royal Gov. for the GA. Colony.
- ▶ Wright will be the longest serving Gov. & the last Royal Gov. for the colony.
- ▶ Gov. Wright took office in 1760 & would stay in office until 1782. Even with a brief break when the Revolution made it's way into Savannah, from 1776-1778.
- ▶ Gov. Wright was Ellis' equal in every way except he did not have the same flair with the people.

- ▶ He was, no doubt, the best qualified Royal Governor that GA. ever had & the best Chief Executive for GA. – EVER!!
- ▶ He had served as the Attorney Gen. for South Carolina & brought that experience with him. He also brought his connections from there & London.
- ▶ Gov. Wright agreed with Ellis in the aspect that Georgia's problems are connected: lack of wealth, lack of people & lack of defenses.

- ▶ Gov. Wright's 1st area of concern was defenses.
- ▶ The GA. colony was spread very thinly along the coast as far south as Darien & Frederica, with no Active fort or fleet to protect the settlers.
- ▶ The colony's military consisted of 1 under-manned, ill-equipped gunboat that Ellis acquired & a very small, rag-tag militia.
- ▶ The western boundary of GA. was open to attack. Indian war parties could arrive on the outskirts of Savannah before being spotted.

- ▶ The greatest help would come from the Treaty of Paris – 1763.
- ▶ This ended the 7 Years War & removed the Spanish threat in the South, the French threat in the Mississippi River valley, thus stopping the Indian raids from the west.
- ▶ GA quickly incorporated the area all the way to St. Mary's.
- ▶ Now the colony could focus on increasing its population.

Indian Land Cessions

- ▶ Gov. Wright gained additional land cessions from the Creek Indians by reaffirming old land agreements.
- ▶ He would play a vital role in gaining land & establishing boundaries for GA.
- ▶ The Treaty of Augusta – Nov. 1763- Wright, along with 3 other Southern Governors & John Stuart, the Indian Superintendent, met in Augusta & agreed upon boundaries up from the Ogeechee west by northwest of Augusta. This land came from the Creek Land Cessions that Gov. Wright had pushed for.

- ▶ The next major land cession would be in 1773.
- ▶ The Indians had amassed a very large debt with the various traders. They in turn were putting pressure on the Gov. to do something about it.
- ▶ Land speculators were also pushing for more land to be settled.
- ▶ Also, would-be settlers were pushing for more land before they would relocate to the Georgia Colony.

▶ Gov. Wright, along with John Stuart, met with the Cherokee & Creek Indian representatives at Augusta & agreed on 2 very large land cessions, over 2 million acres, & the Indian debts were assumed by the government.

▶ The land north of Augusta, the larger of the 2, would become Wilkes County.

▶ The land south of Augusta, pushed deeper into Creek Indian territory, thus expanding GA.'s western boundary.

▶ Gov. Wright was very successful in dealing with the Indians because he had their respect.

▶ They felt he was fair, realistic & consistent when dealing with them.

▶ He never tried to pull a "fast one" over on them, nor did he try to cheat them.

▶ GA. had about 1 million acres of settled land in 1760. Gov. Wright added over 6 million acres, legally & without warfare during his tenure.

▶ Gov. Wright also "fought" off the encroachment of South Carolina into GA.

▶ Gov. Thomas Boone of SC, claimed the land south of the Altamaha river were Carolina's.

▶ SC supposedly had rights spelled out in their charter to this territory, but Gov. Wright was able to persuade the Board of Trade that Georgia's growth would be slowed severely if the SC grants were approved.

▶ The Board of Trade agreed & assured him that the land would be given to GA., thus down-playing the SC Charter & claim.

- ▶ GA. grew very quickly from Gov. Wright's efficient government.
- ▶ The colony started to grow as a major seaport also. 36 ships called Savannah their home-port.
- ▶ By the late 1760's, GA. looked to overseas trade to sell its goods. Not just England.
- ▶ By 1775, slavery was well established in the colony, mainly to help the coastal rice plantations located at Sunbury.
- ▶ Ga.'s settlement pattern became very rural under Wright's administration.

- ▶ But the plantation system never did dominate the economy.
- ▶ There were several large land owners & land-holders. Gov. Wright owned 11 plantations & over 500 slaves. As did several other prominent Georgians of the time. But these men were the exceptions, not the rule.
- ▶ Gov. Wright was considered the "wealthiest man in GA."
- ▶ Through the early 1770's, there was an increase in immigrants coming to GA.

- ▶ Mainly due to Gov. Wright's policies with the Indians, with trade & establishing a better equipped militia.
- ▶ James Johnston set-up the 1st Printing Press in Savannah in 1762 & in 1763 he printed Georgia's 1st newspaper, *The Georgia Gazette*.
- ▶ Political & ecclesiastical representation was established in 1763 by Parishes.
- ▶ The Church of England was the established church in GA., but had very little representation within these Parishes.

- ▶ The other denominations, i.e. Lutheran, Baptist, Presbyterian, & Congregationalist were the 4 hardest working denominations in GA. at the time.
- ▶ Not only in the areas of saving men's souls, but also in making GA. a viable colony.



The Era of Discontent

- ▶ England began tightening down on it's laws within the Colonies & creating new taxes.
- ▶ As the discord within the colonies grew, GA. stayed out of the Rebellious fervor.
- ▶ When the Stamp Act was passed by Parliament in 1765, GA. was the only colony that actually collected the tax.
- ▶ At the Stamp Act Congress, GA. was the **ONLY** colony that did not send a representative

