

Georgia Studies: Exploring and Connecting - 8

Chapter 9: Colonial Georgia – Quick Notes

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SECTION 1: GEORGIA'S FOUNDING

➤ Essential Question:

- What were the reasons for the founding of Georgia?

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SECTION 1: GEORGIA'S FOUNDING

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

- philanthropy
- charter
- trustee colony
- buffer
- mercantilism
- slavery
- militia

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GEORGIA'S FOUNDING

➤ By the early 1700s, Great Britain had twelve colonies in North America – all located along the East Coast:

➤ Carolina had two settlement areas:

- The north, settled by small farmers from Virginia
- The south, settled by planters from Barbados, with plantations surrounding Charles Town
- By 1729, Carolina and Charles Town became royal colonies under control of the king.

➤ 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.

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THE CHARTER OF 1732 AND THE TRUSTEE PERIOD

➤ James Oglethorpe and his associates asked King George II for a land grant to found the colony: philanthropy, defense, and economics.

- **Philanthropy** is when people give their time, money, or resources to help others without expecting something back.

➤ Oglethorpe and his fellow trustees received the Charter of 1732, which stated the trustees could not profit from their position.

- A **charter** was a document that granted territory to trustees and set up rules under which the trust would work.
- Because the colony of Georgia was governed by trustees, it was considered a **trustee colony**.

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Philanthropy

- The Georgia colony was established to attract both deserving poor English people and persecuted Protestant Europeans.
 - Trustees would pay for the passage of some colonists.
 - Males who became charity colonists would receive 50 acres of land to farm along with tools and other supplies for a year.
 - However, no one from a debtor's prison was chosen to be an original colonist.

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Defense

- Georgia was established to be a **buffer** (protection) between southern Carolina and the Spanish in Florida.
 - Georgia colonists existing in the region between would make it harder for Spain to attack southern Carolina and disrupt their rice production.

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Economics

- Trustees believed the new colony could also grow plants England couldn't, which would reduce import costs of those goods.
 - This was part of the government's economic policy of **mercantilism** (favorable balance of trade).
- Colonies were expected to help their home countries by supplying raw materials as well as serving as a market for manufactured goods.

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AUTHORITY OF THE TRUSTEES

- The Charter of 1732 granted the trustees the land between the Savannah and Altamaha Rivers and westward to the Pacific Ocean.
- Trustees would control the colony till 1752, and they could raise money, grant land to settlers, make rules and regulations, establish courts, and maintain a military defense until that time.
- Trustees banned **slavery** (owning people as property) and the sale and use of "spirits".
- Land ownership was limited to ensure families owned and farmed the land rather than large plantations.

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SAVANNAH, THE FIRST SETTLEMENT

- Oglethorpe (the only trustee who came to the colony) led the first settlers:
 - 1732 – ship *Anne* set sail from England with chosen settlers (voyage took 57 days)
 - settlers welcomed by Carolinians who donated food, provisions, slaves, etc., to help work
 - site chosen for first settlement – a high bluff known as Yamacraw (good defense against enemies)
- Tomochichi (leader of Yamacraw people and good friend to Oglethorpe) was valuable in ensuring early success of the colony.

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SAVANNAH, THE FIRST SETTLEMENT, Pt. 2

- John and Mary Musgrove, local trading post owners who spoke English and Creek, acted as interpreters between Oglethorpe and Tomochichi.
 - Mary became the main interpreter after John's death in 1735.
- Oglethorpe brought the settlers to the future site of Savannah in February 1733, where they set up tents and began planning the town.
- Oglethorpe supervised the town's construction and led the people as the only trustee in Georgia.

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JAMES OGLETHORPE, TOMOCHICHI, AND MARY MUSGROVE

- Tomochichi gave Oglethorpe permission to settle on Yamacraw land and acted as a diplomat between the British settlers and the Creek.
- Oglethorpe promised to protect Tomochichi's people from their mutual enemies and gained access to trade opportunities for his community.
- Mary Musgrove helped build alliances and communicate needs effectively between each group, and she personally gained influence and trade opportunities.

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DEFENDING GEORGIA

- Oglethorpe had concerns about the colony's defense and convinced the British government to pay for building forts at the northern and southern ends of the colony.
- Oglethorpe built more forts and roads along the coast and was promoted to the rank of general, putting him in command of local British troops and **militias** (citizen soldiers).
- When war broke out between Britain and Spain in 1739, Oglethorpe fought Spanish forces in Florida but eventually was forced to retreat despite initial success.

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DEFENDING GEORGIA, Pt. 2

- Spain invaded St. Simons, Georgia, in 1742, but Oglethorpe pushed them back and convinced them British reinforcements were coming, so they retreated.
- Oglethorpe returned to England in 1743 after thanking Mary Musgrove for her work and never returned, but he did live long enough to see Georgia become part of the US.

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SECTION 2: DIVERSE GROUPS IN THE GEORGIA COLONY

➤ Essential Question:

- What reasons did the diverse groups of settlers have for settling in Georgia?

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SECTION 2: DIVERSE GROUPS IN THE GEORGIA COLONY

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

- Malcontents

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DIVERSE GROUPS IN THE GEORGIA COLONY

- Oglethorpe traveled to England in 1734 to advertise the colony, raise money, and prepare for the colony's defense.
- When Oglethorpe returned to Georgia in 1736, he brought cannons and weapons for the defense of the colony.
- A pair of brothers, ministers John and Charles Wesley, also came along to work in the colony, but they didn't stay long.
 - After returning to England by 1738, the brothers ended up founding the Methodist branch of Protestant Christianity.

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JEWISH SETTLERS

- Forty-two Jews arrived a few months after the colony began, but the group did not ask for permission from the trustees.
- The trustees wanted Protestant Christians in the colony, so they didn't like the idea of Jews living there.
- Oglethorpe gave them permission to stay since the colony doctor and 20 others had died from a fever and the Jews had a doctor with them.
- Dr. Samuel Nunez saved the lives of several victims suffering from the fever that was killing so many Georgians.

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THE SALZBURGERS

- Many people across Europe were persecuted for their religious choices.
- The Salzburgers, German-speaking Lutherans, first came to Georgia in 1734 to escape this persecution.
- The group was given land up the Savannah River and became very hardworking colonists.
- They were successful farmers, were anti-slavery, and dedicated to producing silk.

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THE HIGHLAND SCOTS

- Highland Scots were recruited by Oglethorpe himself to settle the colony, as they had a reputation for being good soldiers and fighters.
- Many settled in the town of Darien and helped build other forts on Georgia's islands.

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THE MALCONTENTS

- Some Georgia colonists became unhappy with the trustees' policies and laws.
- The Rum Act often ignored or not enforced.
- Colonists objected to the rule of not allowing women to inherit land.
- Grape, olive, and mulberry trees did not grow well in coastal Georgia despite trustee hopes.
- The biggest complainers, **Malcontents**, were mostly Scottish settlers who'd paid for passage and didn't like the land policies.
- They felt limited by 500 acres and wanted to allow slavery.

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SECTION 3: GEORGIA FROM TRUSTEE TO ROYAL COLONY

➤ Essential Question:

- What were some of the changes Georgia experienced when it became a royal colony?

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SECTION 3: GEORGIA FROM TRUSTEE TO ROYAL COLONY

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

- royal colony
- indentured servant
- headright system
- cash crops

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GEORGIA FROM TRUSTEE TO ROYAL COLONY

➤ Georgian settlers in the trustee period spent most of their time working to meet their basic needs.

- They built homes, cleared land, farmed, and made clothes for themselves.

➤ The trustees tried governing from Britain, but they didn't understand the colonial experience.

➤ The trustees had big plans, rules, and dreams for the colony, but the economy they needed never developed.

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THE END OF THE TRUSTEE PERIOD

➤ By the late 1740s, the trustees were disillusioned with the colony and gave in to many of the colonists' demands.

➤ Parliament failed to provide additional funds for Georgia in 1751, so the trustees turned over the colony to the government.

- Georgia became a **royal colony** (a colony under control of the king).

➤ Despite its "failings", Georgia had succeeded in repelling the Spanish, turned Augusta into a trade center with American Indians, and build homes and farms for basic survival.

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BECOMING A ROYAL COLONY

- The colony finally had its first legislatures as a royal colony, and both its population and economy grew.
- Land settlement expanded after more treaties were signed with Native Americans.
- Despite the positives, this time also saw the beginnings of slave laws and plantation systems that would devastate African men and women for generations.

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Government

- A royal governor appointed by the king oversaw the colony.
- The royal governor set up a new framework and rules for how Georgia would be governed.
- The Governor's Council, made up of 12 local leaders, was both the upper legislature and supreme court of the colony.
- The Commons House of Assembly would be the lower house and was made up of an elected assembly.

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Land Ownership

- During the royal period, settlers could procure land in three ways:
 - buy it
 - receive it as a gift or inheritance
 - receive it as a gift from the government
- Land grants were made by the governor and his Council, the size of which was based on the applicant's household.
 - Households included family members, **indentured servants** (persons sold into servitude for a period to gain passage to the New World), and slaves.

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Land Ownership, Pt. 2

- The **headright system** allowed the head of a household to ask for 100 acres for themselves and 50 additional acres for each household member.
- As the British expanded Georgia's territory, many Carolinians began moving to the state from expensive land in South Carolina.

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Enslaved People in Georgia

- **Cash crops** are crops grown to be sold for income, and crops like rice and indigo required a lot of labor.
- Indentured servants had been used in Georgia during the trustee period, but they were free when they completed their terms.
- Planters in the royal period favored using slaves to have a permanent workforce.
- Most slaves were of African heritage, and until the 1770's, most of Georgia's slaves lived in coastal areas on plantations.

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SECTION 4: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ROYAL GEORGIA

➤ Essential Question:

- What were the goals of the Trustees who controlled the Georgia colony?

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SECTION 4: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ROYAL GEORGIA

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

- artisan

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ROYAL GEORGIA

- The royal period saw increased growth and prosperity for Georgia.
 - As farmers introduced new crops, more slave labor was needed to grow them.
 - Changing land policies made it easier for settlers to get large amounts of land.
- By the end of the period, Georgia's economy was very similar to South Carolina.

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A CHANGING ECONOMY

- Georgia's economy depended on small-scale farming and trade, and all farmers grew **subsistence crops** (crops used to meet the needs of farmers and their families).
- If farmers had a surplus, they could sell it to a nearby town or community.
- Georgians also made money from pine trees, as both their timber and sap held value.
 - Pine sap was used to make tar, pitch, and turpentine, which were considered **naval stores** because the Royal Navy used them so much.

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IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

- Wheat, rice, indigo, silk, and tobacco were essential to the colony's economy.
 - Wheat could be exported as grain or milled into flour.
 - Rice, which required field-flooding and lots of labor, became profitable after Georgia adopted slavery.
 - Used to make blue dye, indigo was in high demand in England, and it grew well in Georgia.
 - Silkworms produced silk, but many didn't know how to care for them, and mulberry trees (their habitat) didn't grow well.
 - Tobacco was in high demand in Europe, and slavery made tobacco production more successful.

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THE GROWTH OF TOWNS

- Most Georgians were farmers or planters and lived away from others on farms.
- However, towns provided places for trade and professional occupations.
 - Doctors, government officials, and lawyers resided in towns.
 - Artisans, cartwrights, blacksmiths, carpenters, bakers, tailors, printers, and chandlers were all important professions.
 - Few people worked as teachers for children, and taverns and inns served both as traveling accommodations and gathering places.

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