

Georgia Studies

**Unit 2: Exploration and
Georgia Colonization**

**Lesson 2: Georgia as a
Trustee Colony**

Study Presentation



Lesson 2: Georgia as a Trustee Colony

- **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**
 - What were the important people and events that led to the colonization and development of Georgia?
 - What difficulties did the colony of Georgia face that eventually led to the end of the Trustee Period?

James Oglethorpe

- James Oglethorpe was born in England in 1696.
- At age 25, Oglethorpe was elected to Parliament and learned about numerous problems facing his country.
- One of Oglethorpe's friends, Robert Castell, was put in prison for being a debtor (a person who owes someone money that they can not pay back). Castell later died in prison.
- Oglethorpe and 20 other influential men in Great Britain made a plan to create a colony for the working poor (debtors). They envisioned a colony for people who faced jail time for bad debts.

Charter of 1732

- In 1732, King George II created a charter allowing 21 Trustees, including Oglethorpe, to create a Georgia colony and oversee it for 21 years. It included the land between the Savannah and Altamaha rivers and extended west to the Pacific Ocean.
- According to the charter, Georgia had three purposes:
 1. **Charity** – The working poor would be able to work in Georgia to help pay off their debts while contributing to England's economy.
 2. **Economics** – Georgia would help to increase England's trade and wealth (mercantilism). Oglethorpe promised that silk, dyes, wine, spices, and semi-tropical fruit would be sent from Georgia back to England.
 3. **Defense** – Georgia would serve as a military buffer between the British colony of South Carolina and Spanish controlled Florida.
- The Charter of 1732 also placed numerous limits on the colonists. Georgia would have freedom of religion except for Catholics. Catholics, blacks, liquor dealers, and lawyers were not admitted to the colony. Slavery, alcohol, and gambling were also prohibited in Georgia.

The First GA Colonists and the City of Savannah

- Few debtors, former prisoners, or working poor ever made it to Georgia during its early settlement.
- Georgia's first settlers were given land, tools, and food. They promised to defend the colony from invaders and to grow Mulberry trees that would attract silk worms.
- Between 114 and 125 settlers sailed from England on the ship *Ann* in 1732. Oglethorpe befriended Tomochichi, chief of the Yamacraw Indians.
- Tomochichi led the settlers to Yamacraw Bluff overlooking the Savannah River. This became the **city of Savannah**, the first settlement of the new Georgia colony.

Tomochichi and Mary Musgrove

- Oglethorpe befriended **Tomochichi**, chief of the Yamacraw Indians.
- The Yamacraw Indians were struggling to survive and had become dependent on European goods. Tomochichi believed that befriending Oglethorpe would benefit his people and form a new trading partnership.
- Tomochichi led the settlers to Yamacraw Bluff overlooking the Savannah River. This became the first settlement of the new Georgia colony.
- Mary Musgrove and her husband John had created a trading post near the Yamacraw Bluff where they would trade British goods to the Native Americans.
- Tomochichi spoke very little English so **Mary Musgrove** served as the interpreter between Oglethorpe and Tomochichi.

The Salzburgers Arrive in GA

- Forty original settlers died in the first year. In 1733, 42 Jews were allowed to settle in Georgia, including a much-needed doctor.
- **The Salzburgers** – In 1734, a group of German protestants from Salzburg arrived, and settled a town called Ebenezer, about 25 miles from Savannah. Three years later they moved to Red Bluff and settled New Ebenezer.
- Oglethorpe and Chief Tomochichi returned from a trip to England in 1736 with 300 more settlers, including German protestants from Salzburg and Saxony. Religious leaders John and Charles Wesley also arrived in Georgia.

The Highland Scots and the Malcontents

- The **Highland Scots** (from Scotland) arrived and settled in Darien, GA in 1735.
- A group of **malcontents** (mainly from Scottish descent) became unhappy with the Trustees. Malcontents wanted to purchase additional land and enslave people to help them achieve greater wealth.
- The Trustees aided many of the colonists but did not aide the malcontents as they were wealthy enough to pay for their own voyage to Georgia.

Spanish Threat from Florida

- After the explorations of Hernando DeSoto and other Spanish conquistadors, Florida was colonized by Spain.
- The Spanish were interested in the land north of their colony that later became Georgia.
- The British built Fort Frederica in Georgia in an effort to protect the colony.
- Georgian soldiers led an attack on St. Augustine, Florida in 1740. Two years later the Spanish attacked Fort Frederica.
- The Battle of Bloody Marsh was the main battle between British Georgia and Spanish Florida. James Oglethorpe led the Georgia soldiers to victory (though he did not capture St. Augustine) and Spain never again attacked a British colony on the eastern coast.

End of the Trustee Period

- In 1743, Oglethorpe was called to Great Britain to answer charges that he had not acted correctly when he failed to capture St. Augustine.
- Oglethorpe was cleared of the charges but he did not return to Georgia.
- Georgia still had many problems. People were also allowed to begin buying and selling rum (alcohol) in 1742.
- People still wanted to own more land and slaves. By 1750 laws against land ownership (each person could only own 500 acres of land) and slavery were repealed. People were now able to own as much land and as many slaves as they could afford.
- In 1752, one year before the end of the Charter of 1732, the trustees returned Georgia to the authority of King George II and Georgia enters the Royal Period.