

Georgia's Trustee Period



SS8H2b. Evaluate the Trustee Period of Georgia's colonial history, emphasizing the role of the Salzburgers, Highland Scots, malcontents, and the Spanish threat from Florida.

What is the importance of this time period?

This was a uniquely unsuccessful social & economic time for Georgia. Both the trustees and the British government hoped for entirely different things out of colonizing Georgia. It explains how the colony essentially changed over time from a trustee colony to a royal colony.

Who were the Salzburger?



- ❧ Peaceful, hardworking German speaking Protestant refugees from present day Austria
- ❧ Persecuted by Catholic monarch and were forced to leave their country
- ❧ Were offered the opportunity to settle in Georgia by King George II (was a German Protestant himself)
- ❧ Led by Johann Martin Boltizus

Salzburgers Part II



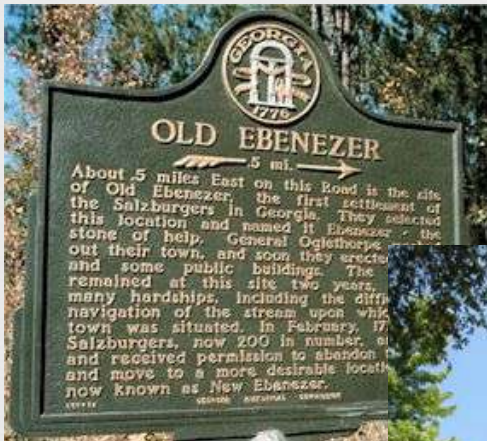
- ❧ Settled a town they called Ebenezer (meaning “Stone of Help”) along the Savannah River
 - ❧ Was too far inland and too swampy, poor water
 - ❧ Many died during 1st 2 years
- ❧ Granted permission to move to a better location, named it “New Ebenezer” (Fort Frederica: present day St. Simon’s Island)
- ❧ Became Georgia’s most successful & industrious colonists
 - ❧ Credited with developing a water powered grist mill, a Sunday school & an orphanage
 - ❧ Had huge success with silk production
 - ❧ Were strictly antislavery
 - ❧ Loyal to the trustees
 - ❧ Helped defend the colony against Spanish invasion

Salzburgers



✧ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q645YA27TE4>

✧ http://www.gpb.org/georgia/stories/story/stone_of_help



Who were the Highland Scots?



- ❧ Strictly antislavery, valued hard work & religion
- ❧ Brought to Georgia by Oglethorpe because they had a reputation of being great soldiers and with the promise of owning land
- ❧ Given land near Old Fort King George which they named Darien near the Altamaha River



Highland Scots



- ❧ Fought in the Battle of Bloody Marsh on St. Simon's Island and in 2 failed attempts to capture St. Augustine
- ❧ Played an important role in Georgia's history
- ❧ McIntosh County is named after a notable Scottish family

http://www.gpb.org/georgiastories/story/scottish_highlanders

Who were the Malcontents?



- ❧ Colonists who disagreed with the Trustees rules: no rum, no slaves, no land ownership, no passing on land to females
- ❧ Most of the Malcontents paid their way to the colony and were not obligated to the trustees in any way

Malcontents Part II



- ❧ They were facing economic hardships:
 - ❧ Mulberry trees were the wrong kind for producing large amounts of silk
 - ❧ Unable to grow hemp, flax, indigo or grapes



Malcontents Part III



- ❧ To make matters worse, their South Carolina neighbors, who had large amounts of land, slaves and rum, were doing well.
- ❧ They were growing rice, cotton, and tobacco, and their success was due, in part, to the use of slave labor.
- ❧ After years of complaints, in 1751, the trustees ending restrictions on land ownership and slavery

The Spanish Threat from Florida



- ❧ Great Britain controlled Georgia's borders.
- ❧ Spain controlled Florida's borders.
- ❧ In the fall of 1739, a war broke out between Great Britain and Spain.
- ❧ It was called the "War of Jenkins's Ear"
 - ❧ Several years earlier, Spanish sailors were said to have cut off the ear of Robert Jenkins, a British seaman, to serve as a warning to British ship captains smuggling goods off the Florida coast.



The Spanish Threat from Florida



- ❧ Oglethorpe welcomed the war.
- ❧ It gave him a reason to invade Florida.
- ❧ A force of about 2000 men, Salzburgers, Highland Scots, Creek Indians & English colonists from Georgia and South Carolina, was quickly organized.



The Spanish Threat from Florida



- ❧ They tried to take major Spanish forts in Florida, particularly St. Augustine.
- ❧ However, a well-organized Spanish militia met Oglethorpe and his soldiers with a surprise attack on June 15, 1740.
- ❧ The Spanish won, and Oglethorpe's forces had to retreat to St. Simons Island.



The Spanish Threat from Florida



- ❧ During the next 2 years, there were numerous attacks and counterattacks between the Spanish and British settlers, with neither side gaining much ground.
- ❧ In July 1742, Oglethorpe got the opportunity he needed.
- ❧ His forces, assisted by the Highland Scots, waited in the dense woods along the marshes on St. Simons Island.

The Spanish Threat from Florida



- ❧ Spanish troops who came that way were caught completely by surprise and forced back across the Florida border.
 - ❧ Known as the Battle of Bloody Marsh
- ❧ Georgia was never threatened by Spain again
- ❧ Georgia claimed the “debatable land” between the Altamaha & St. Mary’s Rivers
- ❧ This win against Spain secured Georgia’s safety and allowed the colony to begin growing both economically & geographically



An Evaluation of the Trustee Period

- ❧ Oglethorpe left Georgia for good in 1743
- ❧ The sale of rum was legalized
- ❧ Slavery abolished
- ❧ Land ownership was allowed
- ❧ During the 20 years of the original charter
 - ❧ 5,500 people settled in Georgia
 - ❧ Many were European Protestants who came to escape religious persecution
 - ❧ Treaties had been signed with Indians
 - ❧ Spanish threat from Florida had been eliminated.

An Evaluation of the Trustee Period

- ❧ The colony also had noteworthy religious, social, and political accomplishments:
 - ❧ An orphanage was established in Ebenezer
 - ❧ America's 1st Sunday school was established in Savannah (Methodist church)
 - ❧ A court system
 - ❧ Women were able to inherit property
 - ❧ Set the stage for Georgia to become a successful and profitable Royal Colony.

Georgia as a Royal Period



SS8H2c. Explain the development of Georgia as a royal colony with regard to land ownership, slavery, government, and the impact of the royal governors.

How did Georgia become a royal colony?

- ❧ The period after Georgia returned its charter and became a British royal colony until the end of the American Revolution was a time of unrest and turmoil in Georgia and in the other colonies.
- ❧ In 1752, Georgia ceased to be a proprietary colony (governed by trustees) and became a royal colony (governed by the crown). The trustees were frustrated with the lack of economic and social successes. They chose to return the colony to the king, a year before the Charter of 1732 expired.

The Royal Governors



John Reynolds

Henry Ellis

James Wright

Governor John Reynolds



- ❧ Appointed 1st royal governor in 1754
- ❧ Was a naval officer
- ❧ Was warmly welcomed by the colonists in the beginning
- ❧ Colonists were allowed assembly, a court system and elected officials for the 1st time
- ❧ Made many mistakes during time as governor
 - ❧ Did not listen to the colonists
 - ❧ Did not relate well to the Indians
 - ❧ Tried to move the capital out of Savannah
 - ❧ Was recalled from office in 1756

Governor John Reynolds

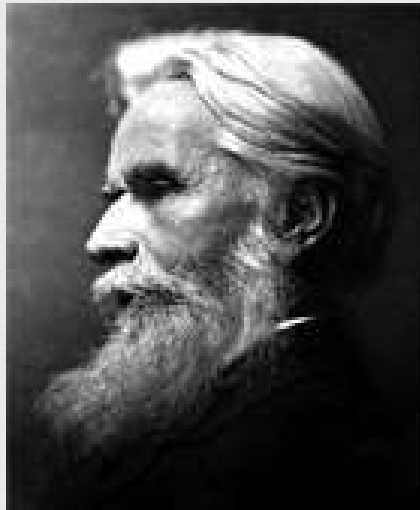
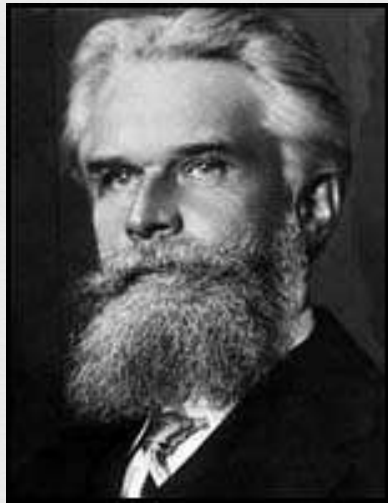


Governor Henry Ellis



- ❧ Was governor from 1757-1760 (very successful and liked governor)
- ❧ Was a naturalist, scientist & a slaver trader (for 5 years)
- ❧ Helped restore peace and order back to the colony by allowing colonists a voice in government
- ❧ Reformed government and improved the economy (farmland was more profitable and merchants had more of a variety of products to sell)
- ❧ Divided GA into 8 parishes (counties)
- ❧ Helped to keep the Creek Indians neutral during war with the Cherokee therefore improving their relationship
- ❧ More slaves were brought into GA
- ❧ Forced to leave GA due to illness, but continued to play a role in forming GAs boundaries
 - ❧ Was able to strike a deal with Spain by way of Cuba and moved GAs border to the St. Mary's River
- ❧ Was known for walking the streets of Savannah with a thermometer around his neck, checking the temperature; he claimed GA was one of the hottest places on Earth

Governor Henry Ellis



Governor James Wright



- ❧ Born in Charleston, but educated in Great Britain
- ❧ Was governor from 1760 – 1776, until the American Revolution
- ❧ Was South Carolina's attorney general for 21 years
- ❧ Loyal to the king, wanted the colonies to do well
- ❧ Was a popular governor
- ❧ Expanded GAs boundaries even further
- ❧ Increased Savannah's defenses, strengthened the economy: more farmland allowed for more crops to grow & more money to be made, built more schools (more people were reading), started GAs 1st newspaper, larger houses were built
- ❧ Did his best to keep the colonists from protesting and revolting against Britain leading up to the American Revolution
 - ❧ Was the only colony to continue to sell stamps during the Stamp Act of 1765 and did not send a representative to the 1st Continental Congress of 1774
 - ❧ Eventually, Revolution took over in GA. He was arrested, but escaped to England where he called for a full scale attack on GA in 1778

Governor James Wright



Landownership & Slavery



- ❧ GA's population was growing because of land reformation from Native Americans, Spanish and new policies
- ❧ More settlers were moving to the colony, bring slaves with them
 - ❧ Scots-Irish: called "the undesirables" or "crackers", often claimed land without permission
 - ❧ Slaves: forced to come to GA

How did the governors, landownership and slavery impact the development of GA?



- ❧ The governors brought improvements in the economy, political and social successes of GA
- ❧ Landownership strengthened GAs economy and increased the borders
- ❧ Slavery changed the dynamic of the colony and tremendously increased the population and helped the economy