

Chapter 10

Georgia in the Royal Period

Chapter Preview

TERMS

French and Indian War, parish, vestry, cede, naval stores, cash crop, headright system, tutor, immigrant, cracker, profit, slave code, denomination

PEOPLE

John Reynolds, Henry Ellis, James Wright, Puritans, Quakers, Scots-Irish, Bartholomew Zouberbuhler

PLACES

Midway, Sunbury



Becoming a royal colony brought many changes to Georgia, most of them positive. Georgia was the last colony to be turned over to the royal government. In the years that Georgia was under the king and his appointed governors, the colony also had its first representative assemblies. The colony's population grew, and its economy prospered. The land available for settlement expanded as the royal governor made two important treaties with the Indians. It was also a period of cultural growth as institutions for education, religion, and social life were established, although on a limited scale. On the other hand, this was also the era that saw the first slave laws and the entrenchment of the plantation system that would have a devastating effect on men and women of African heritage.

Surveyor Nobel Jones built his fortified house at Wormsloe on the Isle of Hope, south of Savannah. You can visit the tabby ruins of the house at Wormsloe Historic Site. His descendants still live nearby.

Section 1

Government in Royal Georgia

Opposite page, above: The front of the royal seal of Georgia showed a figure symbolizing the colony giving silk to the king; the other side had the king's coat of arms. **Opposite page, below:** Guides at Wormsloe Historic Site reenact the lives of the colonists during the royal period. King George II granted Noble Jones title to the estate in 1756.

As you read, look for

- Georgia's first legislature,
- Georgia's royal governors,
- the French and Indian War,
- the Treaty of Augusta,
- terms: **French and Indian War, parish, vestry, cede.**

Government in Georgia was quite different after the trustee period ended. The executive of the colony was a royal governor appointed by the king. He was the king's representative to the colony and the colony's representative to the king. When the trustees gave up their charter to the king, Georgia no longer had that document to serve as a framework for government. Instead,

Figure 20 Timeline: 1752 to 1764



1752
Georgia became royal colony

1754
John Reynolds arrived in colony; French and Indian War began

1755
Slave code enacted

1757
Henry Ellis arrived in colony

1758
Georgia divided into parishes

1760
James Wright became royal governor

1763
French and Indian War ended; Treaty of Augusta

1752

1754

1756

1758

1760

1762

1764

1752
Pennsylvania Hospital, the first hospital in the United States, opened in Philadelphia

1754
Benjamin Banneker built first clock made entirely in America

1757
First street lights appeared in Philadelphia

1760
George III became king of England

each royal governor arrived with instructions from the king, which set the rules under which he would govern Georgia. The royal governor had many powers, including the right to call the legislature into session or to dismiss it, to grant land, to commission ships, to pardon those convicted of crimes, to spend funds, and to serve as commander-in-chief of the colony.

The royal government also included a twelve-member council, officially appointed by the king. The men chosen were prominent local leaders like merchant James Habersham, surveyor Noble Jones, and planter Jonathan Bryan. This Governor's Council, in addition to advising the governor, also served as the upper house of the bicameral (two-house) legislature. As such, it could propose and vote on laws. The council, along with the governor, was also the supreme court of the colony.

For the first time, the colony was to have an elected assembly called the Commons House of Assembly. This would be the lower house of the legislature, similar to today's House of Representatives. This body could also propose and vote on laws. Only the lower house could initiate (be the first to introduce) bills that pertained to money.

To be eligible for the assembly, one had to be a free white man who owned at least five hundred acres of land. To vote for the representatives to the assembly, a person had to be a free white man who owned no less than fifty acres of land. The first assembly had nineteen members elected from the settled areas of Georgia. Although many could not vote or hold an elected office, this assembly gave Georgians far more power than they had during the trustee years.



John Reynolds

On October 29, 1754, the first royal governor, appointed by King George II, arrived from England. A former navy captain, John Reynolds got a hearty welcome in Savannah, with bells ringing and guns saluting him. The colonists were happy to have a new beginning and thought they would live better under a royal government. The governor met with his council that November.

Although the Council House, on what today is Wright Square, was a large structure, it was also decaying. In the very first meeting, part of the building fell in! So under the direction of Noble Jones, a sturdier structure was built.

The French and Indian War

The year that Governor Reynolds came to Georgia was also the year that the conflict known in the colonies as the **French and Indian War** began in the Ohio River valley, far north of Georgia. It started as a struggle between Great Britain and France for the land west of the Appalachian Mountains. The French claimed the land and had Indian allies in the area. They had built a string of forts, one of which, Fort Duquesne, was located where the Allegheny



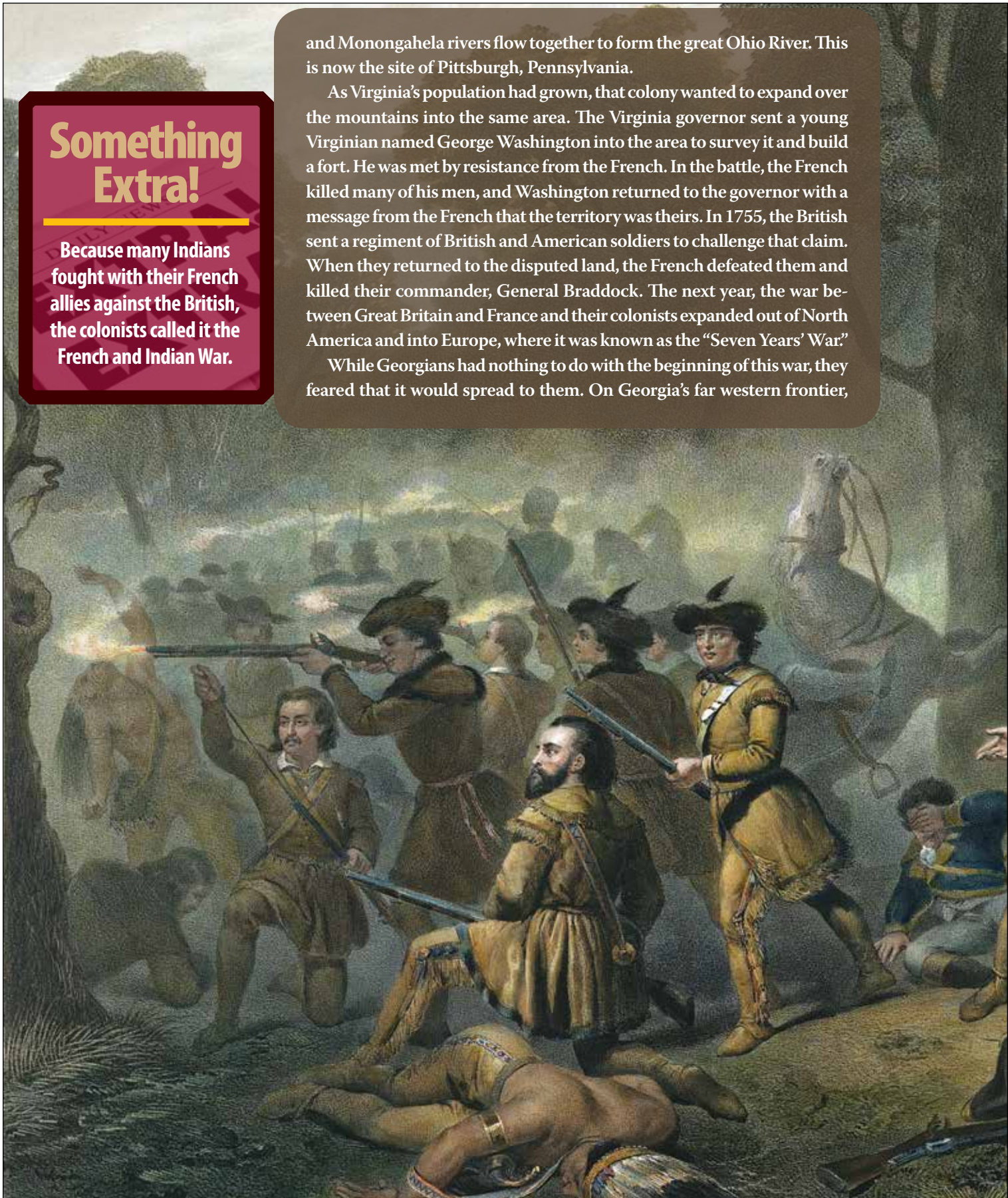
Something Extra!

Because many Indians fought with their French allies against the British, the colonists called it the French and Indian War.

and Monongahela rivers flow together to form the great Ohio River. This is now the site of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

As Virginia's population had grown, that colony wanted to expand over the mountains into the same area. The Virginia governor sent a young Virginian named George Washington into the area to survey it and build a fort. He was met by resistance from the French. In the battle, the French killed many of his men, and Washington returned to the governor with a message from the French that the territory was theirs. In 1755, the British sent a regiment of British and American soldiers to challenge that claim. When they returned to the disputed land, the French defeated them and killed their commander, General Braddock. The next year, the war between Great Britain and France and their colonists expanded out of North America and into Europe, where it was known as the "Seven Years' War."

While Georgians had nothing to do with the beginning of this war, they feared that it would spread to them. On Georgia's far western frontier,



near the Mississippi River, were the Choctaw Indians who traded with the French. On the western and northern edge of the colony were the Creek and Cherokee. The Georgians feared they too might ally with the French. To the south were the Spanish, who eventually did come into the war on the side of the French.

Georgia had to plan for its defense in case the war came to its borders. One of the first laws passed by the new assembly in January 1755 was the Militia Act. All males ages sixteen to sixty had to enroll in the militia. If the colony went to war, Georgia would be protected by its citizen-soldiers. Governor Reynolds pushed for new forts for Georgia. He hired engineer William G. DeBrahm, who was working in South Carolina, to design a plan for Georgia's defense. DeBrahm drew up plans for forts and cannons along Georgia's borders. But Governor Reynolds could not get the council to agree to pay for these defenses with higher taxes. The British government would not pay for them either.

The Battle of Monongahela occurred on July 9, 1755, when a British force led by Gen. Edward Braddock, sent to take Fort Duquesne from the French, unexpectedly encountered a French army of about 800, mostly Indians, in woods about 10 miles from the fort. The Indians took advantage of the trees to fire upon the British soldiers, and in the confusion, Gen. Braddock was mortally wounded. In this picture, Col. George Washington (on horseback), who had accompanied the expedition, attempts to rally the British troops for an orderly retreat.



Something Extra!

Henry Ellis was the first governor to live in the Royal Government House, which was built on St. James Square (today's Telfair Square).

Right: Royal Governor Henry Ellis invited the leaders of the Indian tribes on Georgia's frontier to Savannah in 1757. According to one account, he pulled back his sleeve to assure them that his arms were not red to the elbow, and that they would not sicken and die if they touched him, as the French had told the Indians.

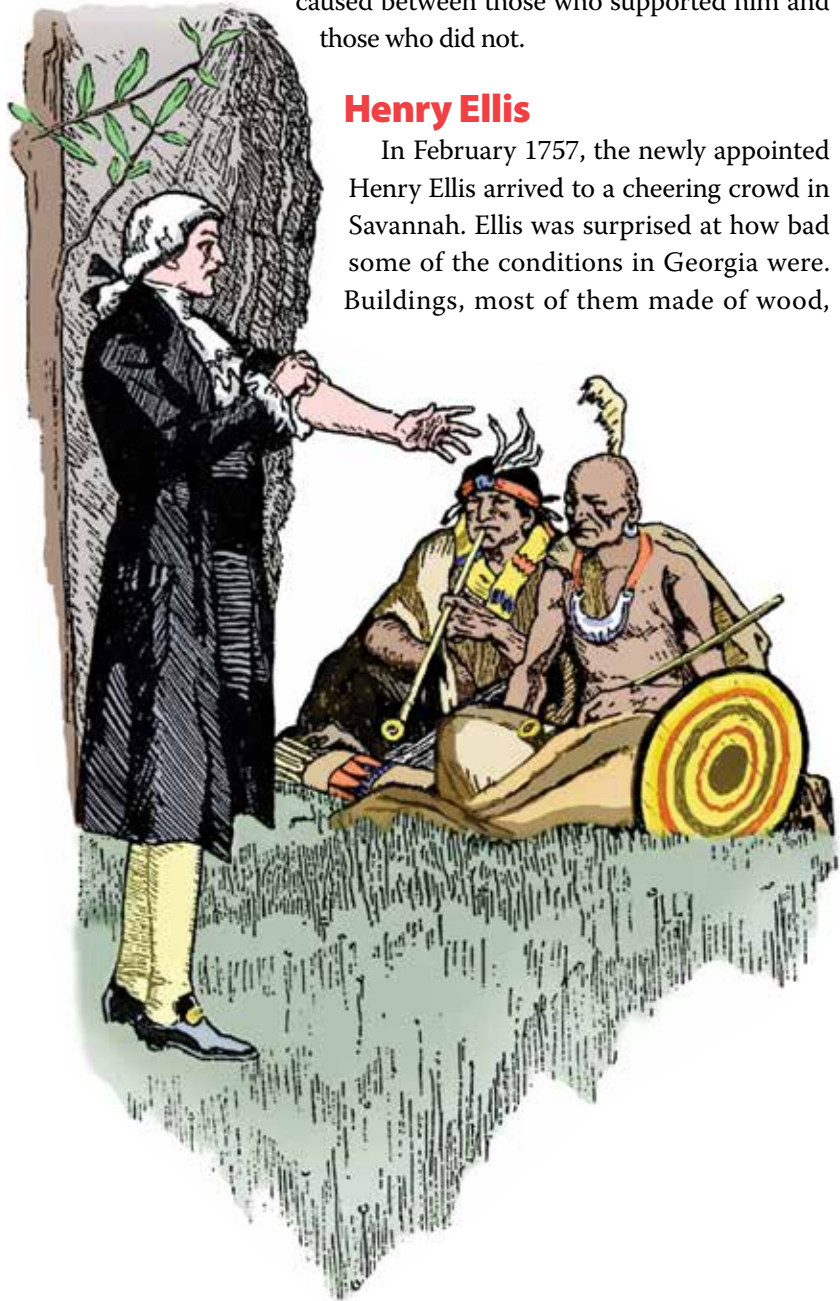
A Tense Time

The governor tried to run the colony like the military. He did not work well with the leading citizens and tried to exercise control as he did when he was an officer in the navy. An angry Governor Reynolds dismissed the council and assembly whenever they did not do what he wanted. Increasingly, he relied on his closest aide and advisor William Little and did not consult with the council. This led to even more resentment from many of the people, and the governor became more and more unpopular. By March 1756, the council asked the Board of Trade, the British governing group that oversaw the colonies, to remove the governor.

In 1757, with the war still ongoing, Reynolds left the colony. His major impact had been his efforts to increase defense and the conflict that he had caused between those who supported him and those who did not.

Henry Ellis

In February 1757, the newly appointed Henry Ellis arrived to a cheering crowd in Savannah. Ellis was surprised at how bad some of the conditions in Georgia were. Buildings, most of them made of wood,



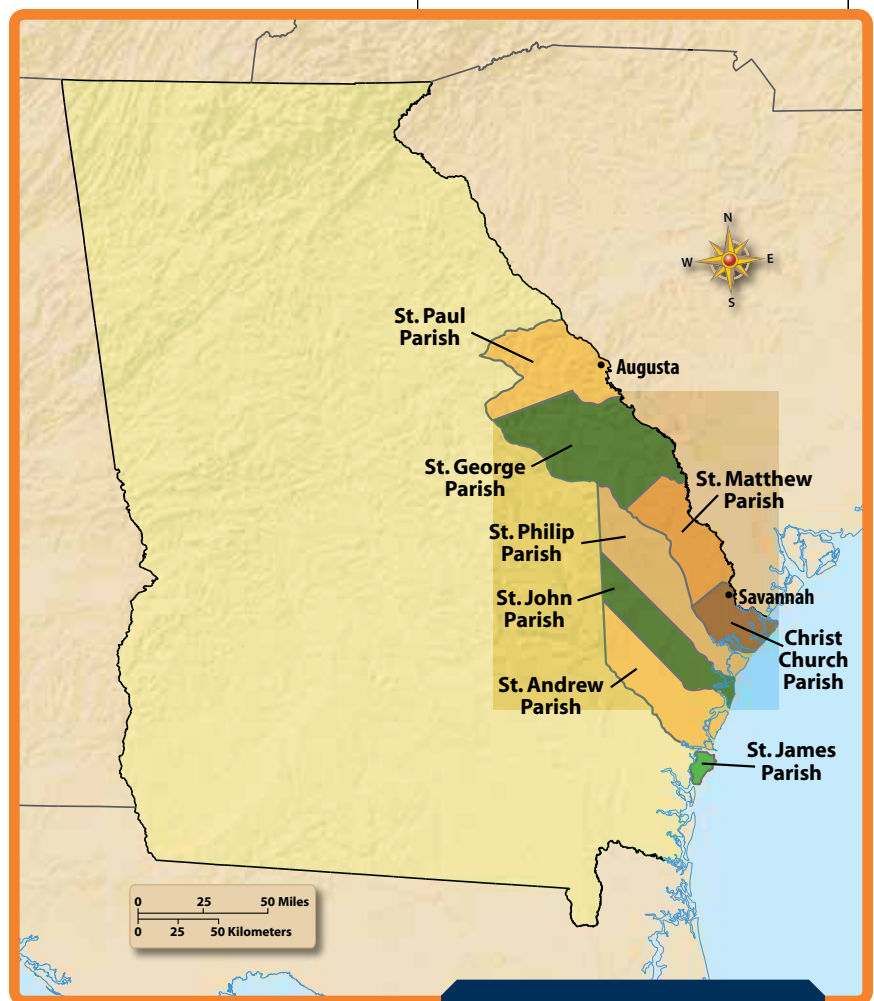
were in disrepair. The colony badly needed defenses, and the people were, he said, “exceedingly dissatisfied with each other.” A capable leader, Ellis set about to work with Georgians to improve the colony, and he soon became very popular with all Georgia groups. With the advice of engineer DeBrahm, Ellis ordered that forts be built, including a palisade around Savannah.

Ellis worried about the loyalty of the Indians on Georgia’s frontiers. In late 1757, after the Savannah fortifications were completed, he invited some of the *micos*, or head men, of the Indians to Savannah. They were greeted with a display of the cannons and a musket salute from the militia. There is no way to know if this military show impressed them, but the meeting was a great success. The Indians made an agreement with the Georgians during this meeting that renewed their pledges of friendship.

Ellis had other accomplishments besides his defense build-up. In March 1758, Georgia was divided into eight **parishes**, which were both government and religious districts. After that, representatives to the assembly were elected from their parishes. Each parish also had a **vestry**, which served as a local governing board. The vestry could levy taxes, provide charity for the poor, maintain roads, and oversee churches. The Church of England (the Anglican Church) became the official or “established” church in the colony, although other religions were still allowed to worship. Taxes, however, could be used for the Anglican Church and its ministers. The parish in and around Savannah was Christ Church Parish, with the other parishes named for various saints. These changes brought order and organization to Georgia’s local areas.

Despite his popularity, Henry Ellis only stayed in Georgia three years. He found the heat and humidity too difficult. In fact, he walked around Savannah holding an umbrella with a thermometer hanging from the handle and complained that the climate was bad for his health. He asked the Board of Trade to relieve him so he could come home for health reasons.

Even though he did not stay very long, he had a positive impact on Georgia. By the time he left, Georgians were better defended, were doing better, economically, and were happier.



Map 16
Original Georgia Parishes

Map Skill: In which parish was Augusta located?

Opposite page: A popular and able administrator, Georgia's third royal governor, James Wright, saw an increase in Georgia's population and prosperity during his twenty-two years in office.

James Wright

Before he left in 1760, Ellis welcomed the third, and final, royal governor to the colony, forty-four-year-old James Wright. Wright was a very good leader for Georgia. Although he had been raised in England, he had spent much of his adult life in South Carolina, so he understood the colonies and was used

to the southern climate. He had experience working in government as South Carolina's attorney general. In addition, Wright truly cared about the colony and wanted it to be successful. He worked hard to make sure that Georgia grew in population and wealth. He made Georgia his home and planned to live there for the rest of his life. Wright himself became personally successful. He eventually had eleven plantations and over 25,000 acres of land.

Fortunately for Wright and for Georgia, the French and Indian War ended with a British victory. The Treaty of Paris, signed in 1763, benefited the young Georgia colony. (A treaty is a formal agreement between two or more nations.) According to its terms, Spain gave up Florida to the British. France gave up its North American lands. Great Britain received Canada and all French land east of the Mississippi River. Although it gave up Florida, Spain received the land west of the Mississippi River. So Georgia's borders now extended to the Mississippi River, not the Pacific Ocean.

Georgia had also been lucky in the war, for the feared invasions from France or Spain never happened. The Chero-



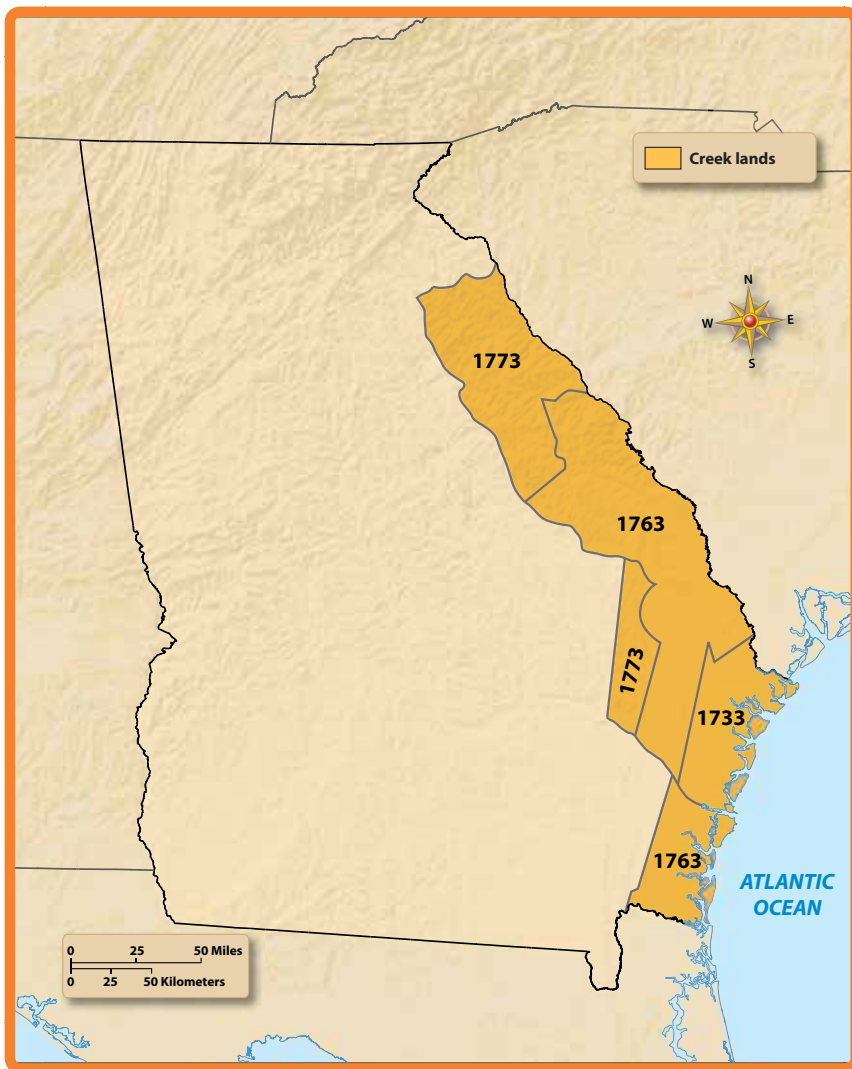
Map 17 North America after 1763

Map Skill: What territory did France control after the French and Indian War?

Right: Brig. Gen. George Washington was present when the British finally took Fort Duquesne in 1758.







kee Indians had attacked in South Carolina and fears that they might attack farmers in the backcountry of Georgia had led many settlers to come to Augusta for safety.

With the war over, Governor Wright wanted to ensure good relations with the Indians. In 1763, he arranged a large meeting in Augusta, attended by the Royal Indian Superintendent John Stuart; the governors of four southern colonies; and the Creek and Cherokee Indians. There they negotiated the important Treaty of Augusta. The Indians agreed to **cede** (to surrender) to the Georgia colony all the land between the Ogeechee and the Savannah Rivers north to Little River, which is now the dividing line between Columbia and Lincoln Counties. This was the land west and northwest of Augusta. The Indians also gave up the coastal land between the Altamaha and St. Marys Rivers. This treaty opened up well over three million acres for settlement and led to the creation

of four new parishes in the area south of the Altamaha River. The new land above Augusta became part of St. Paul's Parish.

Ten years later, a final treaty was negotiated in which Georgia agreed to pay debts that the Creek and the Cherokee owed to traders. In return, the colony acquired over two million acres of land. The largest portion of this land was north of Little River and in the west from a line connecting the south fork of the Broad River with the headwaters of the Ogeechee River. This opened up vast new lands for settlement, although Wright's plan was to sell this land to raise the money to pay the debts to the Indian traders. Georgia's relations with the Indians remained mostly peaceful.

Map 18 Indian Land Cessions

Map Skill: In what year was the land around Savannah ceded to the colonists?

Reviewing the Section

1. Define: French and Indian War, parish.
2. Name Georgia's three royal governors.
3. Why do you think there were land-ownership requirements to run for the assembly or to vote for those running?

Discovering Georgia's Past

Mary Musgrove and Her Land Claims

During the trustee period, Mary Musgrove had been an invaluable aid to the young Georgia colony, serving as an interpreter and a diplomat. As the daughter of an English trader and an Indian mother, she was able to bridge the two worlds. Her mother was sister to the Creek leader Brim; after he died, her cousin Malatchi became an important mico.

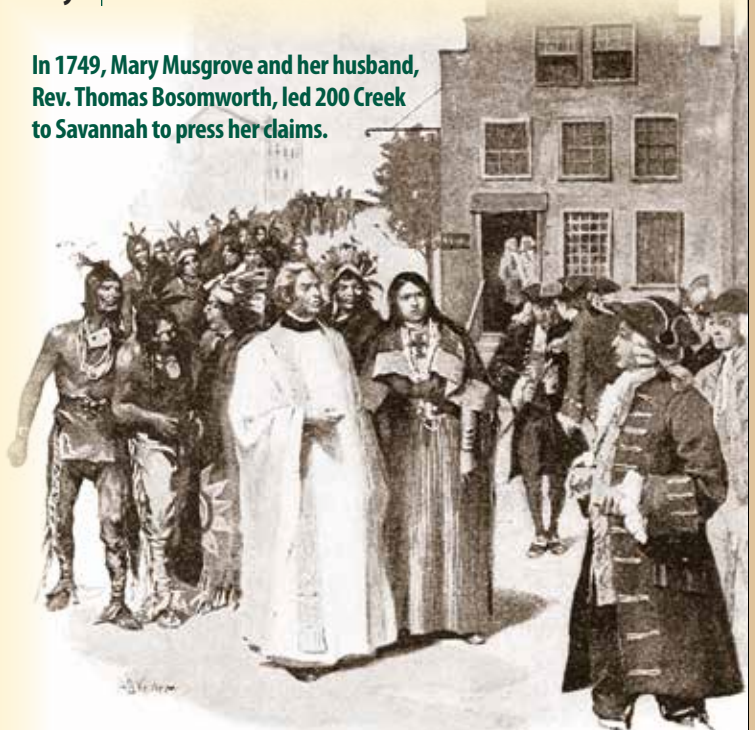
In the original agreement between Oglethorpe and Tomochichi, the Indians had allowed the British to settle along the coast. They had reserved for themselves their tract near Savannah on three islands—Ossabaw, St. Catherines, and Sapelo. In 1737, Tomochichi had granted Mary land near Savannah; several years later, Malatchi gave Mary the three islands belonging to the Creek. However, the trustees and the British government refused to recognize the Indians' right to grant land to individuals.

Mary believed that she had never been adequately rewarded for her services to the British. When he left in 1743, Oglethorpe had given Mary a diamond ring and promised that she would be rewarded for her efforts on the colony's behalf. When that did not happen, Mary and her third husband, Anglican minister Thomas Bosomworth, began to push to have her claims recognized. In July 1749, over two hundred Creek led by Malatchi visited Savannah for a month to argue for Mary's claims. In 1754, Mary and her husband went to London to present her case to the British government. The government referred the issue to the Georgia

courts. While Mary was in England, the authorities in Georgia made an agreement with some of the Creek towns to sell the disputed land to the British. Malatchi, however, did not agree to this.

When Henry Ellis became the royal governor, the dispute had still not been resolved. Governor Ellis proposed a settlement: Mary would receive St. Catherines Island (where she lived) and a sum of money from the proceeds of the sale of Ossabaw and Sapelo islands. The British government agreed to the compromise. In 1760, Mary signed an agreement giving up the other two islands. The governor then signed a grant for the 6,200 acres of St. Catherines Island.

In 1749, Mary Musgrove and her husband, Rev. Thomas Bosomworth, led 200 Creek to Savannah to press her claims.



mistress named Eliza Lucas, but it also grew well in Georgia. Georgia's production of the dye peaked in 1775, when 22,000 pounds were shipped to the mother country.

Georgians continued to make money from their native pine trees. The trees were valuable not only for their timber, but also for their gooey sap from which tar, pitch, and turpentine were manufactured for use by the royal navy. Tar and pitch plugged gaps in the wooden ships, and turpentine was used for cleaning. These products were known as **naval stores**.

In the backcountry, the fur and skin trade with the Indians continued, with Augusta as its center. In 1755, almost 50,000 pounds of deerskins went down the Savannah River for shipment to Great Britain. By 1765, that amount had risen to almost 200,000 pounds of skins; by 1770, it was almost 285,000 pounds. In 1770, almost 1,500 pounds of beaver furs were exported from Georgia.

Over time, problems emerged in the new lands of the backcountry because the new farmers settling in the area resented Indians traveling to Augusta along the well-established trading paths. The farmers had begun to grow tobacco, which was the main **cash crop** (a crop grown to be sold for income) of Virginia and North Carolina. They did not want Native Americans near their fields.

Land Policy

The key to doing well in Georgia was getting land. The restrictions of the trustee period were gone. In the royal period, settlers could acquire land in three ways: (1) they could buy it; (2) they could receive it as a gift or an inheritance; and (3) they could receive it as a grant (gift) from the colonial government.

Every Tuesday, the governor and his council met and made grants of land. The size of a grant was based on the size of the applicant's household, which included not only family members, but also indentured servants and slaves. A head of a household could ask for one hundred acres for himself or herself, and fifty additional acres for each member of the household. This method of granting land was called the **headright system**.

While most land grants went to males, many went to women, mainly those who had never married (called *spinsters*) or those whose husbands had died (called *widows*). By the end of the royal period, women had received more than 70,000 acres in grants. If a woman got married, however, all of her property automatically became her husband's under the laws of that time.

In the early years of the royal period, most settlers were attracted to the low-lying lands between the Savannah and Altamaha Rivers. In 1763, the



Above: The backcountry fur trade, centered in Augusta, increased dramatically during the royal period.

Something Extra!

Once a settler was granted land, he or she was required to "improve" it. The usual method was to clear the land of trees and plant a crop.



Above: The blacksmith was one of the most important artisans in any town, producing and repairing almost anything made of iron, including horseshoes, tools, nails, and blades for knives and swords.

British government extended Georgia's territory to include the land between the Altamaha and St. Marys Rivers. Until then, that land had been part of South Carolina, although few had settled there yet. After 1763, planters wanted the rice lands in this new area of Georgia. By this time, land in South Carolina was increasingly expensive and hard to get. Many Carolinians came to Georgia, bringing with them their slaves and the knowledge of rice and indigo production.

The Growth of Towns

Most Georgians were farmers or planters, but Georgia's towns and villages supported other occupations. In Augusta, several important Indian traders formed a company called Brown, Rae and Co.; they were known as the "Gentlemen of Augusta." Savannah had many successful merchant firms. Professionals also worked in towns. Doctors practiced medicine and pharmacy, although some early "treatments" like bleeding could result in weakening the patient. Savannah also had many government officials. Lawyers, who had not been allowed to practice in the colony during the trustee period, came to Georgia during the royal period. They were respected and valuable members of the colony. Many of these prominent townspeople also owned plantations in the countryside.

Communities had artisans such as coopers, who made buckets and barrels. Cartwrights made carts and buggies; blacksmiths made tools, nails, horseshoes, and other items from iron. Carpenters built with wood; tanners made leather items from animal skins. Bakers made mainly bread; tailors sewed men's clothing; chandlers made candles. There were many other occupations. In the ports of Savannah and Sunbury were men who built and repaired boats and ships. James Johnston made his living as the printer of the Georgia colony, founding the first newspaper, the *Georgia Gazette*, in 1763. A few men were **tutors**, who made money by teaching children for a fee. Some men, and a few women, made their income by operating taverns and inns, the colonial equivalent of restaurants and hotels. These were gathering places where people talked about the events of the town. Taverns were important meeting places in the period of the American Revolution.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define: naval stores, cash crop.
2. Name the three ways settlers could acquire land in colonial Georgia.
3. How was the economy of royal Georgia different from that of trustee Georgia?

Doing Business in Georgia

Harris & Habersham

In 1738, James Habersham (pictured below) came to Georgia as a follower of George Whitefield and his Methodist ideas. In spite of a business background in London, he planned to serve as a missionary and schoolteacher. He helped Whitefield establish Bethesda orphanage and school. When Whitefield returned to England in 1741 to raise money, Habersham took charge of Bethesda. The difficulty of supporting the orphanage and school led Habersham to return to business. With some of his profits, he became a supporter of the orphanage.

In the mid-1740s, Habersham teamed with Francis Harris in a business. Harris had come to Georgia in 1733 and had worked in the store provided by the trust. When that closed down in 1742, Harris had opened his own store. Harris needed goods from Charleston to sell in his store. James Habersham was using a schooner (a small boat) to get provisions for the orphanage. In 1744, the two men formed the partnership of Harris & Habersham to sell goods to the colonists. Habersham made the early trips to Charleston for goods and kept the accounts, while Harris ran the store.

The partners soon decided that they wanted to trade directly with London. In that way, their customers could buy British goods cheaper because they would not have to pay the Charleston middleman merchants. They were the first Savannah firm in

the trans-Atlantic trade. They established business contacts in London and built a dock in Savannah that was large enough for oceangoing vessels. Harris & Habersham, and later other firms, traded directly with merchants in Great Britain, shipping out rice and other raw materials and importing British-made goods for sale to the colonists. They also traded directly with the West Indies. From 1742 to 1752, the paper bills issued by Harris & Habersham were used for money, just as we use dollar bills.

In the mid-1750s, Habersham and Harris became rice planters outside Savannah. They became the silent partners with Thomas Rasberry & Company, who ran the stores. After Rasberry died, Habersham returned to live in Savannah in the early 1760s. He helped others, including his nephew Joseph Clay and his sons James Jr. and Joseph, become merchants.

As a leading planter and merchant, Habersham held important positions in the colonial government. During the late trustee period, he and Harris served on the Board of Assistants to the President. Habersham was a member of the Governor's Council beginning in October 1754 and acting governor while Wright was away in the early 1770s. He was a good friend to Henry Ellis and James Wright. His old friend and business partner Francis Harris died in 1771. Habersham died in 1775. They had been important men in the growth of Savannah's economy.



Section 3

Population Growth in Royal Georgia

Something Extra!

The Puritans were a group of dissenters within the Church of England. Many left England and settled in New England.



As you read, look for

- new settlers to the colony,
- the growth of slavery in the colony,
- terms: **immigrant, cracker, profit, slave code.**

The economic opportunities and stable government of the royal period resulted in a growing population. Many came because they could get land for free through the headright system. Entire townships were granted by the royal governors to some groups, including two new religious groups.

But many of the Georgia newcomers were slaves brought unwillingly to work in Georgia's fields. Much of the economic wealth of the state was made by their labor. Their lives were very different from those of other settlers.

New Settlers for the Colony

By the 1760s and 1770s, settlers were moving into Georgia from many places. While there was no census that counted each person, the governors and others often estimated the population in their reports. Around 1750, the colony had fewer than 3,000 whites and 600 blacks. In the early years of James Wright's governorship, he estimated around 6,100 whites and 3,600 blacks. By the 1770s, those numbers had risen to 33,000 whites and 15,000 blacks.

In 1752, a group of Puritans came from Dorchester, South Carolina, and settled below Savannah in St. John's Parish. They founded the town and church of Midway about ten miles inland and the port of Sunbury where the Ogeechee River flowed into the Atlantic Ocean. The Puritans were very good for the Georgia economy. Many became successful planters and made Sunbury into a thriving port.

Another group of settlers was the Quakers, who obtained a large grant from Governor Wright in St. Paul's Parish on the frontier (the edge of the settled area). There, in 1770 they founded the town of Wrightsboro, now a historic site in McDuffie County outside Thomson. The Quakers were a Christian religious group who believed that all persons had a spark of God, or "inner light," within them. This idea led them to believe in the equality of



Something Extra!

Non-Quakers were settled in the Wrightsboro area partially to ensure that the area would be defended.

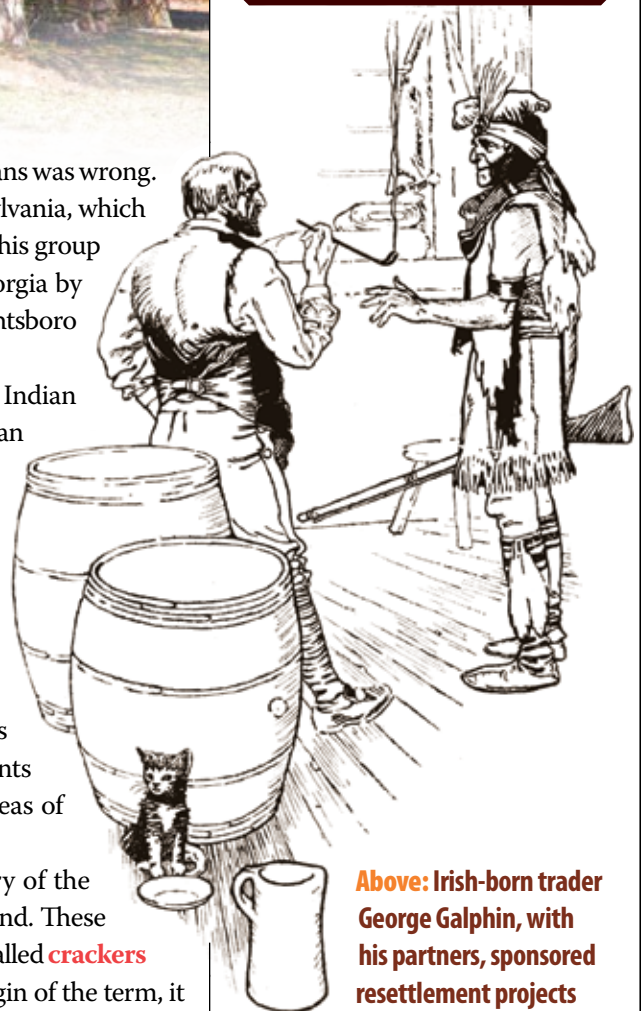
all peoples and to believe that violence against fellow humans was wrong. During the colonial period, most Quakers lived in Pennsylvania, which had been founded by Quaker William Penn as a place for his group to live without persecution. These Quakers came to Georgia by way of North Carolina. Non-Quakers did settle in the Wrightsboro area with the Quakers.

Another new group came as a result of the efforts of Indian trader George Galphin and his partners John Rae and Lachlan McGillivray. The three traders received a large land grant to establish the township of Queensborough on the Ogeechee River near Galphin's trading post. To populate the community, the traders recruited the Scots-Irish (Scots who had left Scotland and settled in Ireland). Attracted by the opportunity for land, these new **immigrants** (those who move into a country to live) arrived from Belfast, Ireland, in 1768. Between then and 1774, five additional shiploads of Scots-Irish came to Georgia. Not all of these immigrants settled in Queensborough; many spread out to other areas of Georgia's frontier.

Settlers also moved to Georgia from the backcountry of the Carolinas and Virginia, attracted by the chance to own land. These farmers, often illiterate and uneducated, were sometimes called **crackers** by the upper class. While historians have debated the origin of the term, it was not meant as a compliment. Nevertheless, many of these became hard-working farmers on land they owned in the frontier areas of Georgia.

Enslaved People in Georgia

Both rice and indigo were crops that required much work. Indentured servants from Europe had been part of trustee Georgia, but they became less desirable in the royal period. When they completed their term, the indentured servants were free, and the planters had to find new workers.



Above: Irish-born trader George Galphin, with his partners, sponsored resettlement projects that brought Scots-Irish immigrants to Georgia. **Top left:** Vestiges of the Quaker community, like this cabin, can still be seen at Wrightsboro. **Opposite page, below:** Puritans from South Carolina moved to Georgia in 1752, establishing the towns of Midway and Sunbury.



Something Extra!

The first Africans were brought to America, probably as indentured servants, in 1619.

Planters who grew rice and indigo relied increasingly on the labor of slaves, who remained a permanent work force.

Although some of the older colonies had tried to enslave Indians, slaves in royal Georgia were of African heritage. In the 1750s, most were brought to Georgia from other colonies or from the Caribbean islands (also known as the West Indies). Georgians also went to South Carolina to purchase slaves. By the mid-1760s, slaves also came directly to the port of Savannah mainly from areas in West Africa, especially Gambia and Sierra Leone. More of the slaves were men than women because men were needed for the physical work of clearing fields on new plantations. The larger the plantation, the higher the percentage of male slaves was. Until the 1770s, most of Georgia's slaves lived in the coastal areas, and most were on plantations rather than on farms. In fact, about three-fourths of all slaves lived on plantations that had at least twenty slaves.

The Work of Slaves

Rice cultivation was difficult work, in water-flooded fields, “half leg deep.” According to one colonist, “the quantity of water let into the rice-fields make it very sickly.” The waters could also be dangerous, as alligators and poisonous snakes infested them. The waters also attracted mosquitoes, which sometimes carried diseases like yellow fever and malaria.

Most rice plantation slaves worked under the “task system” brought to Georgia from South Carolina. In this method of working, the individual slave was assigned a certain amount of work (tasks) to complete each day. When slaves had completed their tasks, they might have time left for themselves, although usually not much. Most rice plantations produced some food to feed their households, so tasks were assigned for that work also. Enslaved men and women received some food and clothing from their masters, although the amount was generally limited. Plantations were businesses created to make a **profit** (the amount left after all costs, or expenses, are paid). Most planters did not want to spend more than necessary taking care of their slaves.

Slaves on most plantations were not required to work on Sunday. On some plantations, slaves were given small plots on which, the Reverend John Martin Bolzius wrote, they could grow “something for themselves after the days work also on Sundays.” Sometimes slaves sold or traded the extra produce they raised, although whites often tried to stop that activity. For example, slaves could not sell goods in the Savannah market without their owner's permission.

In addition to working in the fields on plantations, some slaves learned special skills such as carpentry, blacksmithing, or, for women, sewing. Such slaves could be hired out to others, which could make extra money for the owner. Planters sometimes had house servants for tasks such as cooking and cleaning, but that was a luxury only the wealthiest could afford.

The backcountry filled up with small farmers, who had few slaves, if any. Slaves on small backcountry farms worked beside their white owners to produce mainly food crops and, by the late royal period, a little tobacco. This work was nowhere as intense as the work of rice country slaves.

Slave Codes

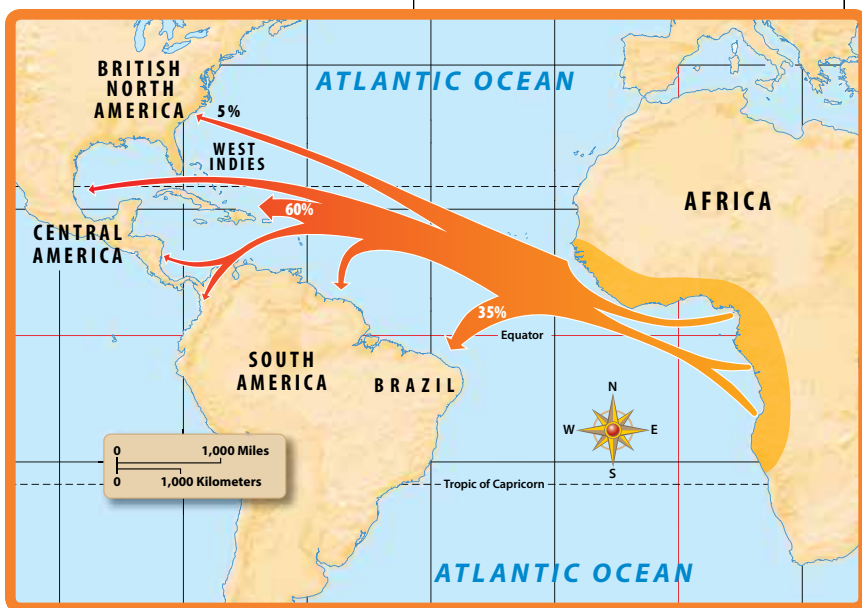
In 1755, Georgia passed a **slave code**, a series of laws governing what slaves and masters could and could not do. Georgia based its laws on those of South Carolina, where slaves made up more than half of the population. Using South Carolina as a model is not surprising since many of those who served in Georgia's Governor's Council and Commons House of Assembly had come from that colony or from the West Indies, where enslaved workers were used to grow sugar.

The new laws put some restrictions on slave owners, including banning some punishments considered too cruel. Slave owners could not force slaves to work more than sixteen hours a day or on the Sabbath (Sunday). Owners had to provide enough food and clothing, although "enough" was not defined. Masters were not allowed to teach their slaves to read or write.

Much of the slave code was about what slaves could and could not do. Slaves were not permitted to travel away from their plantations without written permission from their owners. They could not beat drums or blow horns in the slave quarters for fear that they might be sending messages. Slaves who committed crimes, such as destroying crops and stealing, could be tried in court.

Slave patrols were established to try to enforce these codes. Over the years, other codes were passed as white Georgia leaders tried to control the lives and behavior of slaves.

Sometimes enslaved people resisted their situation. Running away was a frequent form of resistance. For example, some tried to run away to the Spanish in Florida. Some were trying to escape cruel treatment. The *Georgia Gazette* had many advertisements from owners trying to find their runaway slaves. In the 1760s, Savannah built a work house to hold and punish slaves who were disorderly or rebellious. Captured runaways were taken there until their owners came to get them. Most slaves did not participate in rebellious behavior but tried to live their lives as best they could under the restrictions that existed.



Map 19 Transatlantic Slave Trade

Map Skill: According to the map, what percentage of slaves taken from West Africa came to British North America?

Something Extra!

Most of Georgia's early rice production lay along the four "rice rivers": the Savannah, the Ogeechee, the Satilla, and the Altamaha.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define: immigrant, cracker.
2. Which group settled the town of Sunbury?
3. Why did Georgia think it necessary to enact a slave code?

Section 4

Society and Culture in Royal Georgia

Below: Jerusalem Church was built in 1769 by the Salzburgers. It is one of only a few buildings in Georgia to have survived the Revolutionary War.

As you read, look for

- the growth of religious groups in Georgia,
- opportunities for education,
- term: **denomination**.



For the free white settlers of Georgia, especially those who lived in Georgia's towns, opportunities for education improved, although they remain limited. Opportunities for religious worship also grew as new churches were founded. In Savannah especially, new clubs and social groups provided ways for colonists to join together for such purposes as helping others and having fun. African slaves sometimes had time for worship, but they had little freedom and few opportunities for gathering together for enjoyment.

Religion

As Georgia increased in both population and stability under the royal government, organized religion also grew. As you learned earlier, the government-supported church was the Church of England, and the parish vestry was the local governing body. In fact, there were vestries in every parish, but some parishes did not yet have churches. Ministers of the Anglican Church were ordained in England and then sent to the colony. Some ministers were supported by a charitable organization called the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (S.P.G.), whose purpose was to encourage the Anglican religion in all parts of the British Empire. Without its support, there would have been even less formal religion in the colony.

The most successful Anglican minister to Savannah was Bartholomew Zouberbuhler, who served from 1745

until his death in 1766. Zouberbuhler was dedicated to his parishioners and well liked in the colony. The church membership grew, he ministered to those outside Savannah, and he finally got the first church building constructed. He also asked the S.P.G. to send a minister to convert slaves to Christianity. Not all Anglican ministers were as effective. The first Anglican minister sent to Augusta wrote that he was in “the wilds of America.” He did not stay, nor did several who followed. Finally, in 1765, James Seymour arrived and effectively served the backcountry area of St. Paul’s Parish.

Although Georgia was officially an Anglican colony, other religious groups practiced their worship without much interference. Royal Georgia still had a large Lutheran population, not only in Ebenezer but also in the communities of Bethany, Goshen, and Zion. The Jerusalem Church, built in Ebenezer in 1769, still stands. John Martin Bolzius was the principal minister, and he had an assistant and later a second assistant. Between them, they served all the Lutheran churches in Georgia, including the one in Savannah. Unfortunately, after the death of the capable Bolzius in 1765, a split occurred among the Lutherans that caused great discord. No minister emerged as the leader, and church members divided their loyalties between the remaining ministers.

The Puritan Congregationalists built two churches, in what is called meetinghouse style, in Midway and in Sunbury. They believed that church buildings should be simple with very plain lines and no decorations. In their religion, each congregation made its own decisions and did not have to answer to church leaders from somewhere else.

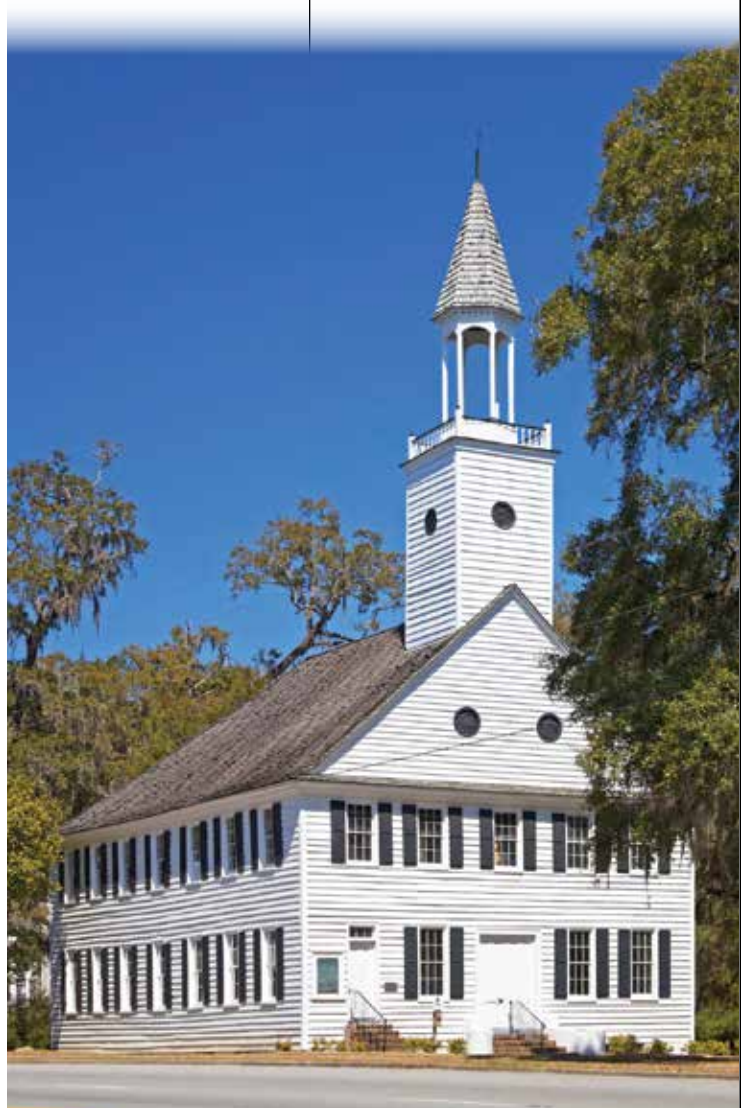
The Presbyterians originally were centered in Darien, part of St. Andrew’s Parish. As more Scots-Irish Presbyterians migrated to the colony in the royal period, they lived and worshiped in various places. Presbyterian minister John (Joachim) Zubly preached at the church called the Independent Meetinghouse in Savannah. Like Zouberbuhler, Zubly became well liked in the community.

There were other religious groups in royal Georgia, but their numbers were small. The Jewish community in Savannah grew slightly. However, their numbers were few, and they met for the Jewish Sabbath in members’ homes. By the 1770s, the Baptist movement was gaining converts in the backcountry. In 1774, Baptist minister Daniel Marshall founded a Baptist congregation near Kiokee Creek near modern-day Appling in Columbia County. This **denomination** (an organized religious group) grew quickly in the backcountry

Something Extra!

John Zubly spoke a number of languages. It is said he preached in English in the morning, in French in the afternoon, and in German in the evening.

Below: Midway Congregational Church is in the meetinghouse style. It was built in 1792 to replace the building destroyed during the Revolution.

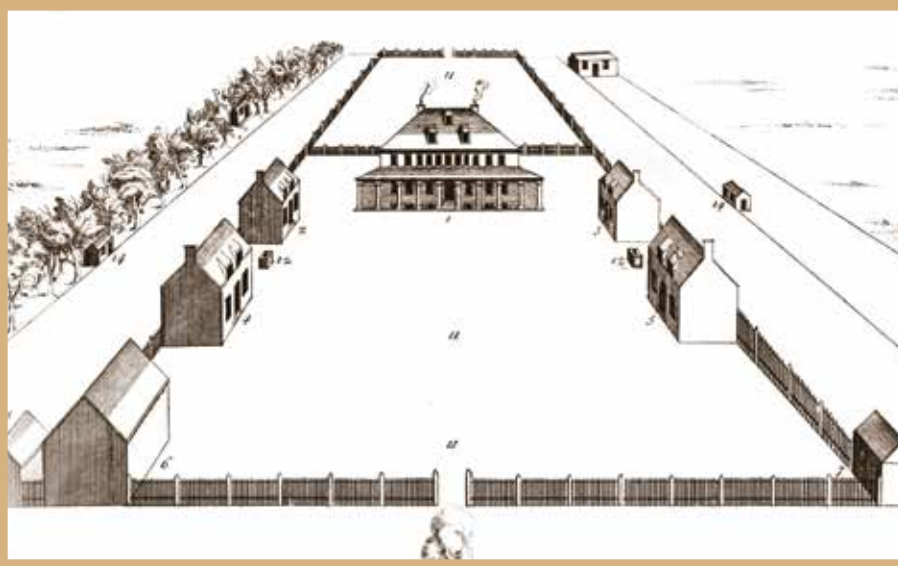


during the next few years. Each Baptist congregation was independent, and that worked well on the frontier.

While some slave owners kept their slaves away from churches, many churches served both blacks and whites. Some slave owners brought their slaves with them. Reverend Zouberbuhler was pleased to see blacks join his service, and many blacks also came to the Independent Presbyterian Church where Reverend Zubly preached. The Reverend John Osgood at Midway Church also had a biracial congregation. Many slaves also worshipped on the plantations where they lived and worked.

Education

The opportunities for getting an education in colonial Georgia remained limited, but they did improve during the royal period. Schoolmasters sometimes advertised that they would teach children for a fee. The resulting income for teachers was low, and many could do better by getting land and becoming farmers. Bethesda remained the most effective school, but founder George Whitefield's dream of turning it into a college did not happen.



Above: The Bethesda orphanage was founded by Anglican minister George Whitefield in 1740. It operated until the main building was destroyed by fire in 1773. The orphanage continued on a smaller scale and then as a school for the poor until another fire in 1805, at which point it was dissolved and the land sold. Another orphanage of the same name was built on the site in 1855. It is still in operation today as the Bethesda Home for Boys.

The Anglican Church opposed it because Whitefield had Methodist leanings. Unfortunately, Bethesda burned down in 1773 and was not rebuilt for many years. The other effective school was the one the Lutherans in Ebenezer maintained for their children.

The lack of an organized system of formal education does not mean that all Georgians were uneducated. Many of the ministers, as well as merchants and planters, were learned men. They read the *Georgia Gazette* as well as books. Merchants and planters sometimes sent their sons to other colonies or to England for an education. There, they studied such regular subjects as English, math, and foreign languages including Latin, Greek, and sometimes French. Classes might also be offered in fencing, dancing, surveying, and, for women, needlework. Books were available in bookshops such as the one owned by *Georgia Gazette* printer James Johnston. Some Georgians kept libraries of their own, and Savannah had a library that colonists could pay a subscription to use.

Social Life

Georgians occasionally abandoned work for special events in the colony. Those special events included celebrations held each year in honor of the king's birthday and the days honoring England's and Scotland's patron saints, St. George and St. Andrew. Parades of government officials, flag raisings,

cannons and guns firing, and bonfires all marked these gatherings. Weddings and funerals were also times for coming together.

As the coastal area became more settled, clubs and organizations began to emerge in the more urban areas, especially Savannah. These groups were for men, since women were expected to concentrate their efforts in their homes.

One of the earliest groups—the Union Society—had begun in 1750 during the trustee period. Originally an organization of artisans, it later included planters and professionals. The officers elected were a mixture of middle-class artisans and more elite planters and professionals, so men of different economic classes mixed together. The society did charitable deeds, such as paying for the schooling of several children each year. The Union Society planned and oversaw the annual St. George’s Day celebration. The St. Andrew’s Club, founded at MacHenry’s Tavern in 1764, was in charge of the St. Andrew’s Day festivities. There was also a St. Patrick’s Society in honor of Ireland’s patron saint. The Freemasons, founded early in the trustee period, continued during the royal period and had many prominent Georgians as members. They were a secret society whose activities were not known to the general public.

By the end of the royal period, although still not as strong or as prosperous as the older colonies, Georgia had become more like the others. The colony was growing, becoming economically stronger, and developing institutions for education, religion, and social life. The idealism of the trustees had been replaced by the reality of slavery and the inequality of social classes among the free inhabitants. Much of the growth and increasing prosperity had occurred under the leadership of Governor James Wright, who had been popular with those he governed. Unfortunately for Wright, events beyond his control would end the relative harmony of Georgia and put the colony on the road to rebellion.



Above: Weddings on the frontier were a big event, and an excuse for the scattered families to get together to socialize and celebrate, often for days, or even weeks, at a time.

Something Extra!

Two clubs whose purpose may have simply been fellowship were the Ugly Club and the Amicable (which means friendly) Club.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define: denomination.
2. What was the “official” church of colonial Georgia?
3. What was the purpose of special celebrations held every year in Georgia?

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1 Government in Royal Georgia

- When Georgia became a royal colony, the charter that had served as the framework of government no longer applied. The royal government was headed by a governor appointed by the king.
- The governor was assisted by a 12-member Governor's Council of prominent local leaders appointed by the king. The council was also the upper house of a bicameral legislature.
- The colony also had an elected assembly, called the Commons House of Assembly, consisting of and elected by the free white men of the colony who owned property.
- Georgia's three royal governors were John Reynolds, Henry Ellis, and James Wright.
- The French and Indian War began during Governor Reynolds' term. Georgia was not much affected by the war, although Georgia's southern border was extended to the St. Marys River.
- In 1758, Georgia was divided into eight parishes, which were both government and religious districts. The vestry was the local parish governing board.
- The 1763 Treaty of Augusta opened up over three million acres to settlement. Four new parishes were established in the new territory south of the Altamaha River.

Section 2 Economic Development in Royal Georgia

- In the period after the French and Indian War, Georgia's economy was basically agricultural. Important cash crops of the period were rice and indigo. Naval stores and the fur trade were also important parts of the economy.
- The three ways to acquire land in royal Georgia were (1) to buy it, (2) to receive it as a gift or inheritance, and (3) by the headright system. Under the headright system, the government granted a certain number of acres to the head of a household based on the number of dependents.
- Georgia's growing towns supported a number of occupations.

Section 3 Population Growth in Royal Georgia

- New settlers came into the colony including Puritans, Quakers, Scots-Irish, and crackers.
- Georgia also saw the growth of slavery as slaves were brought in to work on the rice and indigo plantations.
- In 1755, Georgia passed a slave code, which governed the actions of both slaves and slave owners.

Section 4 Society and Culture in Royal Georgia

- While the Church of England was Georgia's "official" church, other faiths flourished in the colony, including Lutheran, Congregationalist,

Presbyterian, Jewish, and Baptist.

- Many denominations of the period had both black and white members.
- Opportunities for formal education during the royal period were limited. Merchants and planters often sent their sons abroad for education or hired tutors.

Activities for Learning

Understanding the Facts



1. Explain some of the key changes that took place in the Georgia colony when the royal governors took control.
2. Summarize the impacts of the French and Indian war on the Georgia colony.
3. Describe the headright system. Include what it was and the requirements for applying to the governor.
4. List the crops that were successful during the royal period.

Developing Critical Thinking



1. Compare and contrast the trustee era and the royal period. Evaluate the success of the Georgia colony during each time period. Which form of leadership do you think was most successful and why?
2. The royal governors established formal ways for the colonists to participate in shaping the future of their colony. Examine the ways that colonists began to assume leadership roles and describe how institutions such as the Governor's Council and the Assembly may have contributed to a stronger desire for independence.

Writing across the Curriculum



Georgia's slavery rules changed under the royal governors. Assume the role of a colonist and take a position for or against the introduction of slavery in Georgia. Write a persuasive letter to the royal governor that outlines your position.

Extending Reading Skills



Copy the timeline from page 216 onto a separate sheet of paper. Add three events mentioned in the chapter to the top part of the timeline. Research and add three events to the bottom part of the timeline.

Exploring Technology



Use a credible search engine to look for the major crops grown in Georgia today. Compare these crops to the crops grown during the days of the Georgia colony. What are the similarities and differences?

Practicing Your Skills



Make a chart that shows each royal governor and summarizes his time as leader. Include the dates he was in control and key events that he oversaw during his tenure.