

Conclusion

Although many people think the colonists were lazy, this is only true of certain persons who failed to put their shoulder to the wheel during the first years. There were many industrious persons who planted seed and bore their weapons against the Spanish. The crisis years of 1837 to 1839, were mostly caused by droughts. Settlers depended on the stores their first year, and the Trustees kept their promises by sending supplies to the stores, but these supplies were frequently misappropriated by the storekeepers.

Oglethorpe depended on Secretary William Stephens to carry on the business of the colony while he was absent shoring up its defenses. Also, his other appointments, such as Magistrates and Bailiffs, were charged with maintaining a peaceful domestic scene. But corrupt officials took advantage by allotting the best supplies to themselves, and when that happened, citizens complained. Their corrupt actions were overlooked by Oglethorpe because he was busy preparing for war. Even though the major complaints were against corrupt officials, during Oglethorpe's absence, some of the most trivial disputes arose in the court system. It was not unusual for petty cases to be held over for his decision.

The population, in addition to building their homes and developing an economy, carried the burden of fighting a war with Spain. While this fear loomed over the colony, Oglethorpe tried to deploy troops from South Carolina regiments, but they never came, and it was the citizen-soldiers of Georgia who single-handedly removed the threat.

Oglethorpe played a powerful role in colonization and led a small group of brave adventurers to victory.

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