

## Chapter 13. Seige of Fort Augustine - May 1740

### COLONIAL GEORGIANS

Oglethorpe heard that the garrison at St. Augustine suffered for lack of provisions, and on 9 May of 1740 he decided to attack Augustine, hoping to take the castle. This was the fort which Sir Francis Drake had once sacked and which Governor Moore had attacked during Queen Anne's War. What Oglethorpe did not know was that beginning in 1735, Governor Manuel de Montiano had greatly strengthened the fortifications, using the engineering skills of Arrendondo.

Then Oglethorpe hastened to Charles Towne where he urged the cooperation of the Carolina Regiments. He haggled for a regiment of 500 men, with 100 soldiers to come later. The Carolina Legislature, by an Act of 5 April 1740, agreed to contribute a Regiment of five hundred men as well as a troop of Rangers, presents for the Indians, and a schooner under the command of Captain Tyrrell of fifty men, ten carriages and sixteen swivel guns. They were to rendezvous at the mouth of the St. Johns River. In the meanwhile, Oglethorpe collected his Indian allies.

Colonel Alexander Vanddussan was made commander of the South Carolinians, but the soldiers enlisted for only four months duration, with a promise of plunder. By late spring<sup>1</sup> Oglethorpe had collected 900 regulars and provincial troops, and 1,100 Indians with which to invade Florida. The whole force was to rendezvous at the mouth of the St. John's River.

It appeared that the Spanish had sent their galleys to Havana for supplies and reinforcements, and he thought the coast would not be defended well. The Highlanders and South Carolinians marched across country, while Oglethorpe took his forces by water, for which the British Navy had provided nine small vessels. General Oglethorpe had with him four hundred men from his own regiment, a large force of Indians led by Molochi, son of Prim, the late Chief of the Creeks, the war chief of the Cherokees and a nephew of Tomochichi. Just 17 miles north of St. Augustine was Fort Francis de Papa, which this body of men succeeded in capturing.

As the moved southward on 10 May, detachments seized Ft. St. Diego, taking more than fifty prisoners. Captain Dunbar and sixty men were left to hold this post, while they moved on to Ft. Moosa, two miles from Augustine, the Spanish had already evacuated to Augustine. They burned the gates at Moosa, but were disappointed that their maneuvers had removed the element of surprise. Captain Mackay, who was at the siege, said that 35 Darien men were slain, and that the siege miscarried entirely by the neglect of the ship's captains.<sup>2</sup>

Then Oglethorpe proceeded to rendezvous with Captain McIntosh and his company of Highlanders as well as the Carolina troops under the command of Colonel Vanderdussen. But they were disappointed that the expected horsemen, pioneers and Negroes did not arrive.

In the meantime Oglethorpe's troops camped outside of the castle walls. The St. Augustine castle was a stone fort having a curtain sixty yards in length, a rampart twenty feet high, and a parapet nine feet thick. From captured prisoners and Spanish-Indians, Oglethorpe was disappointed to learn that the structure had recently been made bomb-proof, and that its armament consisted of fifty cannon. The town itself was protected by intrenchments, mounted with some field pieces.

It was his plan to take 400 regular troops, one hundred Georgians, and such additional forces as South Carolina could contribute, and attack St. Augustine by land and water. As the area was so well-fortified, the men of war ships would have to back up land forces by firing on the castle. So, he instructed his naval commanders to rendezvous off the bar of the north channel, and thus create a blockade at the Matanzas pass to St. Augustine. Captain Warren was to land on Anastasia island with two hundred soldiers and erect the batteries necessary to bombard the front of the castle. While this was happening, Oglethorpe's land forces prepared the assault. St. Augustine would be attacked on all sides.

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<sup>1</sup> ibid

<sup>2</sup> 29 November report

He awaited the signal from his naval forces, but it was not given. Again, he signaled with no response. He knew that without the navy, the defenses could not be breached. He did not know that the reason the British were not attacking was because they had failed to make harbor in the shallow waters, and could not gain an adequate firing distance to the Spanish ships to dislodge them. He reluctantly withdrew his troops from the original plan, instead determining to launch a projected siege on the town.

Oglethorpe sent Colonel Palmer along with ninety-five Highlanders and forty-two Indians to scout the woods around Fort Moosa (a mile or two from Augustine) and to intercept cattle and supplies from the enemy. This was to be done in quick skirmishes, thus avoiding engagement with the enemy. The Highlanders were adept to guerilla-style warfare, and performed these excursions expertly, never taking camp at the same spot.

Colonel Vanderdussen and his South Carolina Regiment were ordered to erect a battery at a small neck of land located about a mile from the castle, and known as Point Quartel, while Oglethorpe, his Indians, and some regiment soldiers embarked in boats and landed on Anastasia Island, and in the process driving off a small guard of Spaniards who were stationed on the island. They positioned their cannon to fire on the castle. Oglethorpe made the first move by launching an attack against Castillo de San Marchco in St. Augustine, while demanding that the Spanish Governor surrender. Oglethorpe's strategic moves failed to impress the Governor, and the Governor replied by sending a message that he would be glad to shake hands with Oglethorpe in his castle.

Oglethorpe responded by shelling the town, but fire was returned by the Spanish from the fort as well as the half galleys in the harbor. The vantage point of the siege was inadequate; it was simply too far a distance from the castle for damage to either side. Nevertheless, cannonade was maintained for three weeks. However, when one visits Fort Augustine, the marks of impact of the balls are yet visible today.

Since the batteries on Anastasia Island could not penetrate the walls of the fort, Captain Warren offered to lead a night attack upon the half galleys which lay in the harbor, but it was discovered that these vessels were being protected by guns from the castle. The Spanish Governor sent out a detachment of three hundred men against Colonel Palmer who was maintaining the hold at Fort Moose and succeeded in regaining the fort. Colonel Palmer was slain early in the morning of the battle, while the Highlanders fought in hand-to-hand combat using their swords against the Spanish soldiers. Twenty Highlanders were killed and twenty-seven captured and taken prisoners, among whom was the Macintosh clan leader, John Mohr. During the night attack, over half of the brave Scotchmen were massacred.

In June, some small vessels from Havana were able to reach St. Augustine with provisions and reinforcements of approximately seven hundred men. The possibility of starving the enemy dissipated, as Oglethorpe himself became ill with fever, in the midst of a fatigued regiment. While ill, news reached him of an incident occurring among his own men - Peter Grant, a Naval Officer stationed in Frederica, then Cadet of Army, quarrelled with Mr. Shenton, a Cadet, which resulted in a dual with swords and Grant was killed.<sup>3</sup>

Colonel Vanderdussen's Carolinians were becoming disobedient and were deserting. This disorderly regiment retreated in the direction of St. Johns River, leaving Oglethorpe and his men within half-cannon shot of the castle. Oglethorpe was thoroughly frustrated as he ordered the artillery and stores removed from Anastasia Island. "The Spaniards made a sally, with about 500 men, on me who lay on the land side. I ordered Ensign Cathcart with twenty men, supported by Major Heron and Captain Desbrisay with upwards of 100 men, to attack them; I followed with the body. We drove them into the works and pursued them to the very barriers of the covered way. After the train and provisions were embarked and safe out of the harbour, I Marched with

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<sup>3</sup> 12 June 1740

drums beating and colours flying, in the day, from my camp near the town to a camp three miles distant, where I lay that night. We discovered a party of Spanish horse and Indians whom we charged, took one horseman and killed two Indians; the rest ran to the garrison. I am now encamped on St. Johns river, waiting to know what the people of Carolina would desire me further to do for the safety of these provinces, which I think are very much exposed to the half-galleys, with a wide extended frontier hardly to be defended by a few men."<sup>4</sup>

Col. Kenneth Baillie, formerly an Ensign in the Darien Company of Rangers, was captured and taken to Old Spain, but in January of that year escaped and returned to England. While in England, he told the Trustees that the attack would have succeeded had it not been for the captains of the boats who did not capture Spanish vessels to prevent them from reinforcing Augustine with provisions and guns.<sup>5</sup>

Also, from his plantation, the *Hermitage*, Capt. Mark Carr wrote a long accounting of General Oglethorpe's expedition into Florida to General James Campbell. Also, of Oglethorpe's pursuit of the Spanish and of taking Ft. Picolata and Ft. San Francisco, noting that the only strengths which the Spanish have in Florida is Augustine. St. Mark at the Apalachies had a garrison of 50 men and is about 8 days' journey from Augustine on the road to Mexico. The prisoners reported that Augustine is strong, having a ditch around the town, a yard deep and three yards wide with a palmetto royal hedge within; the earth thrown up is faced with wood, man's height; 10 bulwarks on the lines, 200 yards distance; two 4 pounders and other cannon in each bulwark, and 4 gates made of 4 inch plank; that in the town is a village of 200 armed negroes, and there are 9 villages of Indians about 400-500 able to bear arms; that the Castle is very strong, the ditch around it 24 yds wide and 11 feet deep, filled with water at pleasure, both sides faced with stone and on the outside of the ditch a covered way faced with stone; the walls 7 ells thick, with 4 bullworks, the curtain about 60 yds high on the inside; within the castle 50 canon, 3 are 40 pounders, 2 are 32 pounders and two are 24 pounders; there are embrasures and all the ramparts casemated with lodging rooms under, which doubled with flooring would lodge all the people in Florida; that is arched with stone 3 ft thick and covered with earth of same thickness; and there was plenty of water within the castle. He remarked that last season was the "wettest known in America", and that 50 out of 1200 persons had died of fevers.<sup>6</sup>

Mark Carr was promoted to Colonel, commander against the Spanish under General James Oglethorpe's command and was known to be the greatest improver in the Georgia Colony, owning extensive plantations in St. Patrick's Parish and several town lots at Frederica. It was General Oglethorpe who told him where to make his plantation on St. Simon's Island, at a place called *The Hermitage*. Of course, the Hermitage was in the midst of danger – amid Indian attacks and other dangers, as Carr describes in his letters. "18 July 1740. ...It is agreed by all, that the enemy suffered twice as much; for our men finding themselves enclosed, fought desperately, and made their way thro' and thro' them, sword in hand: But the certain loss they sustained, is not to be discovered; for the remaining Masters of the Field a-while, they buried their dead, leaving us to do the same with ours; which we did soon after. But to countervail the loss of Colonel Palmer, the principal commander of the Spaniards there was killed at the first onset, when our men maintained a brisk fire for some time, before they engaged hand to hand; and it is still said that the Spaniards were upwards of five hundred.... They made a faint attempt very lately of sallying with a party of horse, to perform some further exploit; But the General was so well provided for them, that they made more haste back, than they had done so far, and a great many horses were seen to have left their riders; as we were before told by those two men whom

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<sup>4</sup> Letter from Oglethorpe dated 19 July 1740 to the Secretary of State.

<sup>5</sup> The Austin Collection by Jeannette Holland Austin

<sup>6</sup> Letter dated 28 January 1741

we talked with on last Tuesday; and what the same men then told us of the General having shipped off his Artillery and his reasons for so doing; as also of the Men of War standing off farther to sea, for fear of the Hollandians, was now confirmed. Moreover, the General seeing his men beginning to grow sickly, and finding little more could be done, resolved to turn the siege into a bloackade (as I imagined would be the case) till they were recruited with good health, and some additional strength, intending after Michaelmas to have something more to say to them. In the man time, he was Marched, with his little Army, to his former Camp at St. Juan's." <sup>7</sup>

After the expedition ended in Florida in July, Oglethorpe still lay sick with fever and protracted fatigue. In September, <sup>8</sup>when Secretary William Stephens visited him, he found the General still confined to bed, and without strength of body.

Knowing the enemy would enact a retaliatory chase after the regiment, as soon as the troops recovered from the fever, new fortifications were erected on the southeastern end of St. Simons Island. Also, more guards were garrisoned at St. Andrew, Fort William, St. George and the outposts on Amelia Island, keeping regular watches. By May (1741), eight hundred Spanish soldiers were newly arrived at St. Augustine, intending to invade Georgia and Carolina. Oglethorpe urgently wrote the Duke of Newcastle <sup>9</sup>to post men-of-war to guard the water approaches, artillery, arms, ammunition, and the authority to recruit two troops of Rangers (60 men each) and the Highland Company (100), enlist 100 boatmen, as well as purchase or build and man two half-galleys. As Oglethorpe worked diligently to fortify the town, making magazines, he maintained thirty prisoners at Frederica.

In the meanwhile, Noble Jones came to Savannah with his boat crew, leaving a guard behind him at the fort, to tell that Spanish Privateers were on the coast, cruising between Carolina and Augustine, and had, overtaken two or three small trading vessels, fraughted with provisions from the northern province to the southern, which privateers were fitted out at Augustine. The people figured this to be Van Ding, a native of Spain, of Dutch parentage, and that several of the American deserters at the Siege of Augustine were sailing with him. They feared the privateers might man out a boat to come within the inlets, among some of the settlements, for pillage, and could possibly outrow the guardboat at Savannah. Therefore, a gun was brought out to the port, ball a small cannon, carrying a four pound ball, to be used in the event the privateers landed.<sup>10</sup>

Oglethorpe sent Lieutenant Horton to England to raise thirty recruits for the Regiment.

In August a detachment of his regiment, under the command of Major Heron, attacked a Spanish ship lying at anchor off the bar of Jekyll Sound.

While the Spanish vowed to utterly destroy the provinces of Georgia and Carolina and to have no mercy on captives, whether English or Indians, Oglethorpe sent urgent messages to Governor Bull, who simply turned a deaf ear. Georgians would single-handedly fight the war against Spain on the American Continent.

In May of 1740 Thomas Christie was still under suspicion. As William Stephens refused to swear Christie into the Magistracy, he launched a campaign against Stephens. He traveled to Charles Towne where he threatened to sail to England and complain to the Trustees. In May of 1740, Thomas Christie left the colony accompanied by his mistress.

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<sup>7</sup> Capt. Tingley's accounting

<sup>8</sup> 1740

<sup>9</sup> 12 February 1741, Frederica

<sup>10</sup> Journal of William Stephens, dated February 15, 1741

In October, Colonel Carr went out on a voyage on Davis' Sloop, which became lost on the coast and was driven ashore, but all the men aboard were saved. It was not until June of 1741 that he returned, and William Stephens, Secretary of the Colony, expressed his relief.<sup>11</sup>

Mr. Cooksey, returned to London after having visited Savannah, and reported to the Trustees, giving his account of life in the Georgia settlement, saying that black mulberry trees grew wild in the country, but in hickory ground or swampy land, and the silk people were not using the leaf: it being too harsh for the worm. The white mulberry trees were not thriving, and leaves were being exported from Purysburg, Carolina, a community where the silk worm was also being cultivated.

Savannah now had warehouses and huts and at least one hundred thirty houses. Homes were built around spacious public squares on wide streets at some distance from one another, to prevent the spreading of fires. There was a courthouse, store-house, a goal, a wharf, a guard-house, and some other public buildings. A house was built for the trust servants, but by early spring, 24 of them were reported dead. Ships of up to 300 tons could navigate the river and come within six yards of the town. Oglethorpe compared the Savannah River favorably with the River Thames in London.

Savannah Gaols were filled with criminals, and dissolute women were scourged with sixty lashes of the cat-o'-nine tails, then paraded down Bull Street for everyone to observe. Robert Parker complained to the trustees that "I have seen a woman sit in the stocks for three hours when it rained hard..."<sup>12</sup>

Twenty plantations within twenty miles round Savannah had cleared from 5 to 30 acres. Abercorn only had ten settlements, with three owners being dead, three deserted, and eight of the ten dead or gone. And between them all only fifteen acres had been cultivated. Hampstead had twelve settlements, three of which were vacant, with only 50 free acres cleared and some planted. Highgate had twelve settlements, three vacant, one deserted, with only fifty two acres cleared or planted.

And when Mr. Lacy went to take command at Augusta, Thunderbolt was almost deserted, except for his widow whose character was suspect.

Troubles continued as the corn purchased for the support of the Trustees' Cowpen was disposed of by Mr. Barker who, instead of feeding the Trust horses, fed his own hogs. Barker frequently fed strangers as well as his own horses with said corn, giving grain to the animals both raw and boiled. And that all strangers who passed that way stayed at Barker's House as a public house. Henry Miers testified that the corn provided for the Trustees horses was frequently given to feed fowls, about 300, as also hogs, 17, and whenever the corn grew short, he privately concealed it, and denied the trustees horses their food, while Barker's fowls and hogs never missed being fed. That also rice was generally given to the fowls and hogs, especially when the corn fell short. And strangers passing by were provided with provisions for their journeys, for which Barker received payment.

As a result of this news, the Trustees would not grant Barker any lands in the Colony within 100 miles of the Trustees Cowpen. Barker was subsequently discharged as the Trusts Cowpen keeper. Appointed in his stead was Christopher Hopkins, along with his wife.<sup>13</sup>

Industrious people like Andrew Duche struggled to invest in their crafts. Duche was a potter who used earth to bake into china-ware. Oglethorpe complained that Duche boggled his first attempts at making the chinaware, however, Duche responded by saying that he had found the true manner of making porcelain or china ware, but needed money to build conveniences and

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<sup>11</sup> Journal of William Stephens dated June 1, 1741

<sup>12</sup> The Lost Legacy of Georgia's Golden Isles by Betsy Fancher, pp. 39

<sup>13</sup> Colonial Records of Ga by Candler, Vol. VI

lay in a stock for making large quantities to export, and to employ 100 people or more in the town. The trustees appropriated 12 lbs to purchase a pestle and mortar, lead, smalt and block tin; asking Duche to send them to Spain. From this, he made chinaware for Lady Egmont, who said his ware was perfect.<sup>14</sup>

In October of 1741, the Trustees finally took some action to get the colonists to return to Georgia by summoning to London Mr. Crockat, their representative. Mr Crockat complained with other dissidants that Carolina had an advantage with slave labor and that Georgia was stopping her run-way slaves, thereby protecting her from the Spanish. Also, that an acre of Carolina land could be bought for 1 shilling, and on 100 acres, 4 shillings were paid as quit rents; whereas, in Georgia, 20 shillings were paid for every hundred acres, being 4 shillings to the Crown and 16 shillings to the Trustees. The Trustees still refused slave labor for cultivating the colony, on the ground that the white man's throats would be cut and negroes would run to the Spanish, in view of the nearness of Augustine to the colony. But Georgians argued that if negroes were well-used and threatened, they would never run away.

Although the ban against slavery was at the root of poverty, the question of having slaves in the colony was ever present in the minds of colonists. In 1739 and 1740 there had been a Negro conspiracy in South Carolina, during which time the freeholders of Georgia clamored for Negroes.<sup>15</sup> During the rebellion, dozens of whites and Negroes were killed, and thereafter drums were outlawed.

As it was, the Spanish in Florida were offering freedom to any slaves who ran way from the Carolinas, and the proximty of Negroes in Georgia would encourage the Spanish to raid and steal them off. South Carolina was more civilized, and the slaves could run away to that colony to escape the severe conditions of weather and feavers.

Yet, the Trustees made some feeble attempt to satisfy colonists on some things ~ they extended land tenures so that a daughter could inherit land; 3-year leases could be written; and freeholders could mortgage and dispose of their own lands by their Last Will and Testament.

As colonists struggled and continued to fear invasion by the Spanish forces, the notorious Van Ding tantalized them further by privateering the Georgia coast. Cannon was mounted on the Savannah docks.

The Spanish landed at Mark Carr's plantation on the Main over against Jekyll Island where there was a Corporal's guard and killed several soldiers and servants, carrying away what they found, as well as a large boat belonging to the plantation. The women and children locked themselves in the cellar. Colonel Carr was out in a boat with General Oglethorpe putting down other attacks. On 24 April 1741 Oglethorpe wrote a letter to the President: "I shall very freely give my advice in the difficulty you mentioned relating to the Saltzburghers or any other matter I can advise in: First you will remark that the Red Hill which is spoke of by the Trustees is Land belonging to the Uchee Indians, affectionate Subjects to his Majesty, that a large Party of them under their King came to assist his Majesty's Troops at the Siege of Augustine, in which Siege twenty or thirty of them were killed fighting bravely, Several were taken Prisoners and the Spaniards had such a Reverence for their brave Behaviour that they gave some of them Presents and set them at Liberty and desired them to make propositions to their Country Men to join the Spaniards and they would give them great Presents; these Men were so faithfull that they brought me the Letters that the Governour of Augustine had given them for the Commander of Saint Marks, and did carry his Message to the People but at the same time declared their Abhorrence (as the whole Nation did) of the Spaniards Propositions: Now if we should attempt

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<sup>14</sup> Made Constable of Savannah, he surrendered his warrant to be such on 6 January 1741 and in July of 1742 he privately removed his family from Savannah to Charlestown. In May his application for 500 acres of land on Hutchinson's Island had been rejected.

<sup>15</sup> Colonial Records of Georgia by Candler, pp. 396-397

to take or purchase their Lands it is probable they will go to the Spaniards, for when they have no Lands how should they stay, what should they maintain them...." <sup>16</sup>

During the summer months from Savannah and the surrounding countryside increased significantly. Secretary Stephens commented that only about seventy men stood ready to defend the town. The year following retreat from St. Augustine was spent waiting, and watching. Rev. William Norris took this opportunity to sail to England where he attempted to clear his name, but his testimony before the colonies trustees was unfavorable. Oglethorpe wrote the Trustees in London denying Norris' claim. The Earl of Egmont recorded in his diary that Elizabeth Penner had given birth to a daughter, Elizabeth. Norris not only lost his reputation, but had to sue the Trustees for backpay, which he did not collect until 1745-1746. <sup>17</sup>

Meanwhile, others arrived in the colony. The Swiss protestants began arriving in Georgia as early as March 1741, when one hundred distressed German and Swiss protestants migrated.

Since Mr. John Rea's arrival from Belfast about 1741, or earlier, he began a joint effort with his brother, Matthew Rhea, to promote land settlements in Georgia. They advertised in the "Belfast News" for persons desiring to come to Georgia, but offered no real deals or encouragements, as South Carolina land promoters were doing, such as paid passage, etc. John Rea resided at Augusta and acquired a large land grant, along with George Galphin, his partner, in 1768, of 50,000 acres. Some Irish came at first, but wrote back home to friends and relatives that Georgia was an accursed place to live and that John Rea was not concerned with anything except using them as a hedge between his own lands and those of the Indians. Some of these letters were published in the newspapers. The enterprise continued until about 1772, with John Rea dying shortly thereafter.

From 1741 through about 1772 Scotch-Irish from Nova Scotia and settled around Savannah and Augusta. From 1760 to 1769, six vessels arrived from Nova Scotia to South Carolina and Georgia, three to four thousand Irish.

In 1746, dutch servants arrived on the ship the *Judith*, with Captain Quarmer. Their first attempt to reach Georgia was via the *Two Sisters* which sailed for Philadelphia in 1744) with Capt. Charles Stedman. Paying their own expense, the passengers had scarcely left the English coast when their vessel was captured by Spanish privateers who took them to Bilboa. After being robbed by the Spanish, they were then ransomed by the British who took them to the southern coast of England where those who could afford to pay their passage were returned to England, while others were stranded at Gosport and dependent upon the charity of the townspeople. The unlucky *Judith* voyage left port with a group of 173 protestants who'd petitioned the Trustees through their spokesmen, Matthias Wust and Wendel Brakefield, to go to Georgia. The voyage onboard the *Judith* was plagued with fever, and the passengers were sick. When Capt. Quarmer died and the first mate was too sick to navigate, Rev. Bartholomew Zouberbuhler came to the rescue. Zouberbuhler was from St. Gall, Switzerland, his father being a Reformed minister who had died in Puryburg. Bartholomew was onboard the *Judith* as an ordained minister of the Anglican Church. His knowledge of geometry enabled him to plot the ship's course. The fever killed the captain, Walter Quarme, and also Thomas Causton, who was returning to Savannah after being summoned to London to have his books audited. Among the survivors were Hermann Heinrich Lemke and Bartholomew Zouberbuhler. Passengers were: Bormann, Brachfeld, Foltz, Hermann, Ihle, Jackli, Knipping, Kusmaul, Leinbacher, Litola, Mick, Muller, Betz (Pett), Portz, Raag, Ratien, Richard, Schaaf, Staheli, Treutlen, Ulman, Volz, Walthauer, Weissenbacher, Weisengert, Wust and Zorn. Most of them ended up in Frederica. <sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Vol. VI, Colonial Records of Georgia by Candler

<sup>17</sup> Letters of the Earl of Egmont; Colonial Records of Georgia by Candler; The Anglican Church is Planted in Georgia by Henry Thompson Malone

<sup>18</sup> The Georgia Dutch

The widow Quarmer made a claim for primage on the freight of the German passengers which her husband had transported from Gosport to Georgia in November of 1745.

By 1744, 22 families were settled at Acton, near Ebenezer, all being industrious persons. Their lots were run out in oblong squares, 12 of which each direction made one mile. William Stephens remarked how these people (who were a mixture of Germans and Swiss) had distinguished themselves by their industry and opened land settlement. Among the earliest settlers were Robert Fox, Abraham Frye, Jacob Harback, Casper Harback, Christian Levenburger, Joseph Wachter, Christian Levenburger, John Ring, Jacob Banner and Samuel Leon. Among those granted land were: Frye, Abraham, granted 50 acres October 1759; Harback, Jacob, granted 50 acres June 1759; Herback, Casper, granted 50 acres August 1759. Casper Hirbach and Jacob Danner, both of Acton, they had cultivated their 50 acre lots, wanted 100 acres each situated between Acton and Vernonburgh, partly adjoining lands by Michael Burghalter. 5 July 1753; Levenburger, Christian, granted 50 acres October 1759. 2 November 1743. Application for 50 acres each in Acton: Christian Levenburger, Conrade Hauver, Joseph Waxter and George Derrick. Granted, and one of the tracts granted them was instead of Joachim S. Chad, Deceased; and Wachter, Joseph petitions for Lott among the Switzers his countrymen at Acton, one vacant lot in said village granted.<sup>19</sup>

On 18 April 1743, 50 acres were granted to Jacob Harbeck, Gasper Harbeck, Samuel Lyon, John Erixman, Christopher Burgemeister, Joachim Schad, Rudolph Bargi, Leonard Rigler, Jacob Danner, Henry Juradi, Ulrich Betz, Ezekiel Stoll, Johannes Torgler, Nicholas Hanner Sr. and Jr., Hans Stutz, and Joseph Wachter. And on 26 April 1743, John Rinck applied for himself and his son, having both served out their time as indentured servants, and were granted 50 acres each in the village of Acton.<sup>20</sup>

In December of 1755, a settlement from Arcadia, France sent two vessels to Savannah, one loaded with 120 women and children, and the other with 280 men. Governor Ellis supplied them with provisions and hired boats to carry some of them to plantations, while others built huts near Savannah. Many of these settlers built boats and used them to leave Georgia, while several hundred remained in Georgia. The Acadians soon became unhappy, as they were unwilling to learn new customs and the language. They left Georgia, going to San Domingo and the other French Colonies.

In August of 1741, General Oglethorpe was onboard the sloop *Falcon*, accompanied by a detachment of his regiment under the command of Major Heron in the schooner *Norfolk*. Their purpose was to go against a Spanish ship anchored in Jekyll Sound, however, as they came near, a heavy rain storm commenced, enabling the vessel to sail away under a heavy sheet of rain.

Oglethorpe was determined to do damage to the Spanish, and sailed to the harbor of St. Augustine where he found a notorious privateer ship *Black Sloop*, commanded by Destrade, the French pirate. Oglethorpe commenced challenging all the vessels lying inside the inner harbor, urging them to put out to sea and meet his combat. But as nothing happened, he remained anchored all night long, observing the castle. Then for days afterwards he doggedly cruised off

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<sup>19</sup> Colonial Records of Georgia by Candler

<sup>20</sup> The Georgia Dutch by George Fenwick Jones



the Mantanzas, looking for action. Oglethorpe's actions served to sufficiently did terrify the Spanish who prepared defenses while his squadron was able to return to Fort Frederica without incident.

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