The first embarkation included both those citizens who paid their own passage with the promise of land lots and land grants, and the "worthy poor". The selected vessel was a 200-ton frigate that carried tools, guns and bayonets, and foodstuffs, and every man onboard sent as a charity passenger was given a watchcoat, musket and bayonets, hatchet, hammer, handsaw, shod shovel or spade, broad hoe, narrow hoe, gimlet, drawing knife, iron pot, pair of pothooks and a frying pan.

It was the dead of winter when colonists assembled themselves at Gravesend to board *The Ann*. As the brave souls boarded the vessel, they were hopeful of the future.

Some of Oglethorpe's distinctive and noble friends were quite surprised to see him boarding the vessel, but the colony needed his adventuresome attitude and indominable spirit to make it happen. He was a gentleman bred into wealth and politics, devoted to the idea of social experimentation and class improvement and he did not hesitate to step onboard for the adventure.

From the beginning, Oglethorpe was geniunely interested in the personal affairs of everyone aboard, and during the voyage, his candor, honesty, and inexorable sense of fairness won their hearts. Oglethorpe's titles, expressed throughout official documents, were Mr., Colonel and General. However, he was truly a founding father, and the first voyagers affectionately called him "father", a title which he would hold throughout the tenure of the colonization.

Also onboard was a clergyman of the Church of England, Dr. Henry Herbert, the son of Lord Herbert of Cherbury. Dr. Herbert agreed to come to Georgia without pay, and was commissioned to do so in November of 1732 when Oglethorpe was ordered by the Common Council of the Trustees to appropriate 300 acres of land in Georgia for the use of a church and glebe in the Town of Savannah. As the Trustees were not fully funded, they turned to The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts to provide books and furniture until the colonists could support a minister. He conducted services throughout the voyage. Luckily the voyage was a fair one, and Oglethorpe was pleased that only two deaths had occurred, and that was of two infant children: Richard Cannon's youngest son, 8 months old, and Robert Clark's youngest son, aged one and a half. [1]

In January of 1733 *The Ann* landed at Charles Towne, South Carolina. Although the town was well-established and populated there awaited dangers, such as Spanish-Indians who frequently raided the coast, as well as the threat of a French and Spanish invasion. Even before Oglethorpe's departure from England, disaster with Spain was already feared.

Just as they neared Charles Towne's harbour, Oglethorpe armed each man with a gun and bayonet. The passengers were anxious to disembark, but were advised by Oglethorpe not to do so. He knew that once they saw the thriving town, they would prefer to settle there. So he urged them to remain aboard, telling them the people would ridicule their desire to found a new colony so near the Spanish fort at Augustine.

The ship sailed southward along the South Carolina coast line to Port Royal where he temporarily settled his colonists and arranged for them to camp inside the new barracks built for soldiers. Then he took some boats down the Savannah River in search of a permanent place in Georgia. He would have to travel overland into the new province in search of a good place for the colony. It would have to be on a site by the Savannah River for convenience in trading with Carolina. As he sailed the coast he saw a semi-tropic land filled with palm trees, giant live-oaks dripping with Spanish moss, and thatched with a heavy undergrowth of palm phonds.

At a high bluff, about fifteen miles from the sea, he landed and Oglethorpe climbed the bluff and saw a flat land studied with pine trees. The bluff was situated overlooking the

[1] 13 January 1733 letter from Oglethorpe

Savannah River, on sandy soil, having a forest canopy of southern magnolias, pines, cabbage palms, red bay, yapon and cherry-laurel, with an underbrush of saw palmettos, wood flowers and ferns.

The land was a strange place of alligators, snakes, bears, deer, all cast against a sultry landscape of palm trees and sandy beaches.

At the top of the bluff he met a Creek Indian, Tomochichi, the mico of a local tribe of Indians who were living at Yamacraw Bluff, a settlement of about 100 Creek Indians. Oglethorpe found them gentle and civilized, despite their "rude dress, painted faces, sliced ears, nose bobs! And tattooed skin Oglethorpe noticed that they had good teeth and sweet breath, and he had no compunction about sleeping with them.

His new Indian friends dispatched scout boats to look at nearby land. The grand mico surrendered to King George fertile Indian fields, even his own settlement at Yamacraw Bluff, which was an easy corridor for the passage of boats, sloops and trade. Tomochichi presented Oglethorpe with a buffalo skin adorned on the inside with the head and fathers of an eagle … because the eagle is an emblem of speed and the buffalo a sign of strength. He compared the English to a bird, saying birds flew over the water. "The feathers of the eagle are soft and signify love; the buffalo skin is warm and signifies protection. Therefore I hope the English will love and protect their little families," he said. [2]

With all this settled, on 30 January, Oglethorpe returned to Port Royal to fetch his colonists. The captain of *The Ann* refused to take the passengers down the Savannah River, as he had never used those waters before, and was afraid that they might be too shallow. The agitated Oglethorpe could not change his mind, and hastily loaded his passengers and tonnage into a sloop and five small boats. They sailed down the Savannah River, arriving at the site, Yamacraw Bluff.

On a cold night the first day of February, the whole people arrived. Dr. Herbert, the Anglican minister, stepped off one of the small boats, and humbly offered the first prayer on Georgia soil.

The first shelters were little palmetto huts; roofs were tightly woven with the broad leaves against the wind and rain. Eventually, some clapboard and log houses were built. The floors were packed dirt, and the chimneys were made of clay and stakes. Oglethorpe had several sawyers, and within a short time, four houses were up. With the furious haste to provide shelter and fortifications for the settlers, Oglethorpe never had a house built for himself. Instead, he pitched a tent near the edge of bluff which overlooked the River. When in Savannah, this is where he slept and it was here that he sat by candle light and wrote the Trustees that he planned to finish two houses each week.

Oglethorpe marked off the Town and Common areas which was surrounded by rich soil, and choice planting land. Trees were cut down on the spot. From a sketch made by General Oglethorpe the town was laid out which would include a square for every two blocks.

The townships were divided up into lots, surrounded by contiguous farm lots. He created four wards, each one of them to be made up of four tythings. Each ward was run by a constable to whom four tythingmen reported concerning the conduct and welfare of the families. Ten men in each tything ward were ready to bear arms at all times, and took turns standing watch every fourth night, until other colonists would arrive to afford relief.

A tall wooden palasade was built which would surround the town itself, which included part of the common areas, and throughout the next year settlers worked on this palisade, clearing pine trees, and laying out the public garden.

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[2] The Lost Legacy of Georgia's Golden Isles by Betsy Fancher, pp. 27

To encourage the idea of habitual guard duty, he gave muskets to orphan boys It was the duty of the colonists to protect the colony, even to fighting stragetic battles, such as the Battle of Bloody Marsh on St. Simon's Island.

A total of 5000 acres of land were set aside as trust for new settlers. Increments of 50 acres each could be granted to every man 21 years of age, or upwards. In addition to the town itself, settlers were entitled to land grants of 500 acres if they transported 10 male servants at their own expense, with the express condition that their character was such that the Trustees would approve, after inquiries were made. During the infancy of the colony, lands were granted in tail mail, preferable to any other tenure, because it was thought that the strength of each township would soon be diminished should unmarried female children be entitled to one lot which would result in taking away a soldier's portion. Also, that by intermarriage several lots might be united into one. Within a month from the land grant, applicants were to register the same with the Auditor of Plantations. Servants had to be 12 years and upwards of age. Also, they must clear and cultivate 200 of the 500 acres within 10 years. And, plant 2000 white Mulberry-trees or plants thereon which were furnished by the Trustees' Garden in Savannah. If any part of the 500 acres was not cultivated, planted, cleared and fence with a worm fence, or pales 6-feet high within 18 years from the Grant, all land would revert back to the Trustees.

This inconvenience, as well as the fact that women couldn't serve on juries or act as soldiers, would lessen the proportion of the number of men in the township who could serve as remaining lot holders, and thus the town would become less defensible to an attack from the Indians, French or Spanish. The Trustees also feared a monopoly of lots held by the freeholders, and the consequences of the free liberty of buying and selling lands in the province, so they limited the maximum amount of land granted not to exceed 500 acres. On determination of the estate in tail male, the land was to revert to the Trust, and when the land reverted back to the Trust, it could be granted again to such persons as the Common Council of the Trust thought would be most advantageous for the colony. Obvious reversion did occur in the virgin days as settlers either were too lazy to fulfill their commitment or quit the colony by running away to Charles Towne, South Carolina. And, the Trust had special regard to the daughters of those who had made improvements on their lots, not already provided for, by having married, or marrying. And the wives of such persons, in case they should survive their husbands, were entitled to the mansion-house during their lifetime and one half of the lands which their husband had improved; that is to say, enclosed with a fence six feet high.

Colonists of such land grants could not leave the colony without a license, and all forfeitures for non-residence, high treason, felonies, etc., returned the land to the Trustees. As colonists moved about, they wrote letters to the Trustees,
justifying their actions.

The colonists agreed that for the first twelve months they would work and labor in clearing their lands, making habitations and necessary defenses and other works for the common good.

To sustain this first boatload of passengers during the first year, they were allotted 300 pounds of beef or pork, 114 pounds of rice, 114 pounds of pease, 114 pounds of flour, 44 gallons of strong beer, 64 quarts of molasses, 18 pounds of cheese, 9 pounds of butter, 9 ounces of spice, 9 pounds of sugar, 5 gallons of vinegar, 30 pounds of salt, 12 pounds of soap and 12 quarts of lamp-oil and a pound of spun cotton from the public stores. Mothers, wives, sisters or children of such men were given equal quantities. For bedding they were given a pallias and bolster and blanket. For clothing – a frock and trousers of lintsey wolsey, trousers of osnabrigs, pair of shoes from England, and two pair of country shoes.

The climate was hotter than expected. La Rochefoucauld, an 18th century visitor, boasted that on a typical summer day he could put an egg on the sand and cook it in about 12 minutes. Thomas Causton wrote his wife in 1735: "Every insect here is stronger than in England. The ants are half an inch long and, they say, will bite desperately."

Soon the chilly days turned into a warm spring, and the woods were scented with yellow jasmine vines and other flora, while game was plentiful. Now, ploughing could begin. Two or three gardens were planted withvarious sorts of seeds, thyme and other pot-herbs, sage, leeks, skallions, celeri, liquorice, etc., and several sorts of fruit-trees. The land that was sowed in wheat produced a healthy crop.

As the weeks and months passed, the Trustees soon discovered that these first settlers were not suited for the strenuous physical labor of clearing the wild forests, surviving the elements, nor maintaining the economy of a town. They frequently heard complaints of the ill effects of drinking rum, and other spirituous liquors. Traders gave intoxicating liquors to the Creeks, and their disorderly conduct as a result of the liquor brought about problems between the Indians and the settlers.

Oglethorpe was a man of strict discipline, and used English beer as special incentives and rewards. Colonists could have all the English beer they wanted. The general attitude of the English was that beer was wholesome and healthy, while spirituous liquors, such as rum and wine, were to be used disparingly. When people became sick, he immediately attended them, taking great care of them, and when differences arose, was the person who administered justice.

Thus, An Act to Prevent the Importation of Rum and Brandies into the Province of Georgia was enacted. However, the stores were furnished beer from England, molasses for brewing beer, and also Madeira wines, all of which the people could purchase at a reasonable rate. The Trustees said that this was more refreshing to them than spiritous liquors.

As other voyages arrived in the colony, some carried indentured servants who bound themselves over to the Trustees for specified periods of labor until the price of passage and subsistance had been worked out. At first, indentured servants received 25 acres of land of their own, irrespective of how much land their masters were granted, but later than was changed to 20 acres. Most trust servants were indentured for 7 years. Also, it was generally true that a man in a family would come, working himself out of indenture, and then send for his family; but sometimes he allowed his wife to join him as a servant.

As the settlement was underway the first year, various persons petitioned the Trustees to be sent, such as Edward and Mrs. Elizabeth Ash, William Gouch, Sr. and William Gouch, Jr. who produced Robert Sanders, age 44, Richard Sanders, 18, with servants. As the first servants were reported as being idle and lazy, some ran away to Charles Towne. South Carolinians were practiced in stopping inbound vessels for Savannah which first landed at Purysburg and Charles Towne, to warn the passengers that Georgia was not a fit place to live. Ships did not yet dock at Savannah, and settlers had to travel overland to reach their destination. During the overland travel and before a wharf was floated, propagandists were quick to criticize. And they had good reason, as colonists could not earn their living, nor could they get sufficient sustenance from the colony's stores. Settlement was continued to be promoted in the London newspapers, seeking whole protestant congregations because they usually brought with them personal servants and industry.

The crown paid passage for any person who would indenture themselves as a servant in the colony for prescribed periods of time. The required time in servitude was for not less than 4 years. Once they had served their tenure, freed servants were entitled to twenty acres of land in tail male. Needless to say, the Georgia voyages did not consist primarily of indentured servants, although the Trustees welcomed them. Many, many, many private individuals paid their own passage, bringing their families and servants with them to make their homes in Georgia. There were more freeholders than indentured servants in the colony, and they appeared to have survived better than the servants.

Colonists were given provisions from the stores, and if they requested to leave the colony, were denied. Thomas Causton was appointed as Quartermaster of Oglethorpe's Rangers, bailiff, and later Magistrate in Savannah. As Causton and the various storekeepers entered the picture, colonists discovered they were refused their full allotments, especially during times of dire stress. As disenchantment wove itself into the fabric of existence, colonists found that their

prospects and opportunities to create a better society for themselves dissipated in the personality of these figures.

Great Britain wrote thousands of land grants, just to get large groups settled, but they relied on two or three persons to achieve this, while granting 50,000 acre tracts of land to promoters, partnerships, and the like. Ministers usually travelled with their Protestant congregations, and England even went so far as to give them free use of cows for 5 years, as well as use of the land. After an indentured servant was freed, he petitioned for lands for himself, and they were granted. But he had to have specific purposes. The Trustees learned of dissidants by examining the Journals kept by William Stephens, President of the colony, and from his son, Thomas, as well as those records kept by Thomas Christie, Town Recorder.

But the Trustees would only defray the expenses of the most industrious males, who were often recommended by members of the Nobility, etc., thought to be good candidates. The Mother Country did not want vile, fool-hearted men. They would learn about the conduct of the settlers from their correspondents, James Oglethorpe, or from William Stephens.

In 1736, General Oglethorpe wrote: "There are Upwards of 300 houses, besides huts. The country seems to Agree with me very well, for every coat and waistcoat I Have is so much too little for me, that it will not button Within four inches and I am grown tall and tanned with the Sun, so that nobody guesses me to be under twenty years of Age…I like the place very well…There is an island about twelve miles off, where there are but Ten lots and there are about seven of them taken…the island is surrounded with salt walter, which is much healthier than the town, and one may keep one's cattle there safe and upon the mainland one can't. If a man has but 20 pounds Sterling here and lays it out in cattle, he may clear that 20 pounds the first year and have the cattle too."[3] Oglethorpe obtained favorable land concessions from the Creeks who first offered Tybee Island as pastureland for the Trustee's cattle. Next they conceded St. Simon's Island which Oglethorpe viewed as a favorable spot for establishing a town and fort.

[3] Savannah. 3 November 1736, General Oglethorpe's Georgia, Colonial Letters, 1733-1737, edited by Mills Lane, Vol. I