



George Whitefield, founder of Bethesda, laid out the school and orphanage on a grant of 500 acres which he received from the Georgia trustees instead of his salary as minister of Christ Church. Until the house on the Vernon River could be built, Whitefield rented a large house in town "and took in all the orphans I could find in the colony. A great many, also, of the town's children came to school gratis."

This bronze eight-foot high statue of George Whitefield stands at Dormitory Triangle, University of Pennsylvania. The leader of the Evangelical revival movement and one of the founders of the Methodist Church was born in Gloucester in 1714 and died on a preaching trip to Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1770. He is buried there. Lord Chesterfield called him "The greatest orator I ever heard . . . I cannot conceive of a greater."

*Courtesy Juliette Gordon Low
Girl Scout National Center*



This now-peaceful scene at Fort Frederica on St. Simon's Island marks the base where James Oglethorpe had his southern defenses against the Spanish in Florida. Laid out in 1736, it was named for Frederick, Prince of Wales and oldest son of King George II, who died in 1751 after being hit in the eye with a ball. Here Oglethorpe started the first Georgia mail service, later extended to Savannah and Augusta. At Fort Frederica on July 7, 1742, Oglethorpe, with some 600 soldiers, defeated a Spanish naval force of more than 3,000 men from thirty-six ships by a strategic ambush after the Spanish had landed and were preparing supper in the place later called "Bloody Marsh." Confused by a later ruse of Oglethorpe's which led them to believe he was expecting heavy reinforcements, the Spanish sailed south a week later and never attacked the English colonies again. Oglethorpe was assisted at Fort Frederica by his Creek allies, by Captain Noble Jones and his Georgia Rangers from Savannah, and the Scotch Highlanders. The British essayist Thomas Carlyle called the battle one of the most momentous in history; the Reverend George Whitefield said that its like could only be found in the Old Testament.

*Courtesy Tourist Division
Georgia Department of Community Development*