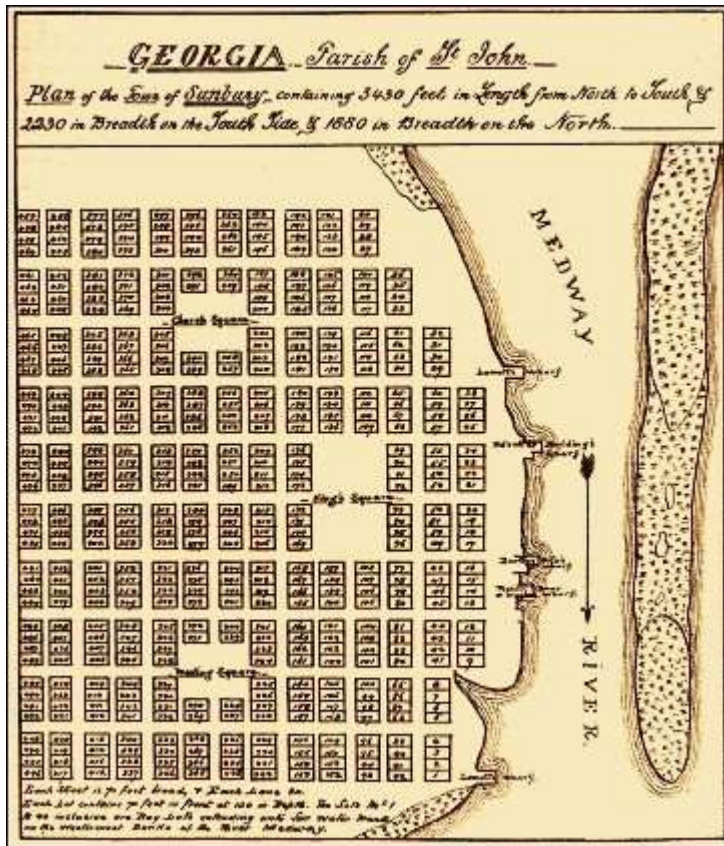


Colonel Kenneth Baillie, founder of Sunbury, Georgia



COLONEL KENNETH BAILLIE, a farmer in England, born in 1715, embarked from England to the Colony of Georgia on October 20, 1736, arriving January 10, 1736. He was part of a voyage from the Glen of Stralbdean, Inverness (the Highlands) of Scotland who sailed on the ship "Prince of Wales", Capt. George Dunbar, Skipper. The Scots were brought over to establish a fort in McIntosh Co., (Ft. George), and to fight the Spanish. Oglethorpe was impressed with Highlanders who knew how to fight in the woods. The Spanish Indians were constantly raiding, plundering, and were on the warpath. He established himself as a planter of a rice plantation, also having timberlands and two lots at Sunbury. He owned over 1,000 acres of land on St. Mary's Island, his home stood overlooking the Midway

River, and he called this place "Baillie's Island".

In 1742, while an Ensign to the Darien Company of Rangers who, while Gen. Oglethorpe was planning an attack on Augustine, was captured by the Spanish, and taken to Ft. Moosa. The planned attack failed. So, Ensign Baillie was taken prisoner and carried off by the Spaniards to Old Spain, but escaped from there, and returned to England. While in England, he appeared before the Trustees and made a report on the siege of Augustine. He said that the attack would have succeeded had it not been for the captains of the boats who did not capture Spanish vessels to prevent the Spanish from coming into Augustine with provisions and guns. He also reports on the conditions of the soil and the complaints made by settlers for not being permitted negro slaves. When asked how he felt on the matter, he said that the Colony did not need slaves as long as the Spanish and Indians were threatening the settlements. Georgia was not supposed to have rum, but at Augusta, an Indian trading post just south of the South Carolina border, rum was readily sold, and negro slaves were used on the plantations. Baillie was completely in favor of rum; and told the Trustees that he thought it was wholesome for the Colony.

Colonel Kenneth Baillie died in September of 1766 in Georgia. His LWT dated July 7, 1766, probated September 2, 1776, St. John's Parish. He may have been buried in the old Colonial Cemetery in Liberty County, on the site of the lost town of Sunbury. I visited this site circa 1960, however, found mostly sunken graves and buried markers.

The colonial deeds of Georgia reflect a thriving economy during the lifetime of Baillie, with vessels delivering supplies to the pier. Evidence is given by documents stating that certain vessels anchored at the pier, with spoiled and/or unspoiled goods. (It seems that captains attempted to recover certain items; or monies).

After the death of Colonel Baillie, the coastal land and pier was developed into a resort town. An old map reflects some-100 lots and the owners

were all northerners from the New England States. The town was swept away from a hurricane about 1800. Today, there is a sign, but it is private property.

Sources: <https://exploresouthernhistory.com/sunbury1.html> cemetery

Links for members of 8 Genealogy Websites

<a
href="<https://georgiapioneers.com/restricted/colonial/colgeorgians.html>">
Colonial Georgians by Jeannette Holland Austin

<a
href="<https://georgiapioneers.com/restricted/genealogies/baillie.html>">
Baillie Genealogy