

gia and, securing an order from the Continental Congress, he took with him his deputy adjutant-general, his son, Captain Lachlan McIntosh, and his brigade major, Captain John Berrien, and reported at Washington's headquarters for assignment to another field for service.

Gwinnett was an able, patriotic citizen, devoted to American institutions, but he was over-ambitious and intense in his prejudices. An implacable enemy and intolerant of opposition, his career was brief but brilliant. He died May 27, 1777. In front of the City Hall in Augusta a monument has been erected 150 feet high in honor of Gwinnett and the two other signers of the Declaration of Independence. No one knows where his remains were deposited.

W. J. NORTEN.

## James Habersham.

ONE of the most prominent of Georgia's early settlers was James Habersham, the ancestor of a long line of descendants, many of whom have been distinguished in the history of the State.

He was born at Beverly, Yorkshire, England, in January, 1812. In company with his friend, the Rev. George Whitefield, he left England for Georgia in December, 1737, and according to his letter dated May 15, 1771, he arrived in Georgia on May 8, 1738. Soon after his arrival he opened a school for orphans and destitute children, and co-operated with Whitefield in establishing and maintaining the Orphan House of Bethesda, an institution dear to the hearts of both throughout their lives.

When Whitefield returned to England in 1741 he left Habersham in charge of the Orphan House, and under his wise management it flourished greatly. He selected the site for the new Orphan House at Bethesda, and on November 3, 1741, he moved his orphans to their new home.

In 1744 he resigned his position at Bethesda, and entered into a copartnership with Colonel Francis Harris to carry on a general mercantile business in Savannah. The house of Harris and Habersham was the first commercial enterprise established in Georgia, and to it much of Savannah's prosperity and importance was due. Extensive trade relations were established with the principal cities of the North, with the West Indies, and with London, and through it was transacted a large import and export business. James Habersham raised and exported the first cotton ever shipped from America.

In 1750 James Habersham was appointed, in conjunction with Mr. Pickering Robinson, Commissioner to advance the culture of silk in the Colony, and his letters upon this subject show how deeply interested he was in this new industry.

In 1754 he was appointed, by the King, Secretary of the Province and one of the Councillors, and in 1767 he was made President of the Upper House of the General Assembly.

When Governor Wright left Georgia, July 10, 1771, on a leave of absence to England, James Habersham, by virtue of his position as President of the King's Council, assumed the duties of Governor, and for nineteen months he discharged these duties with dignity, ability and fidelity. The cares and responsibilities of the office, however, during these stormy times were not congenial to his calm and peaceful nature. The rising tide of the Revolution filled his heart with sadness and apprehension. In common with many of the older men of the time he remained loyal to his King, but at the same time he sympathized deeply with the Patriots in many of their grievances.

To the cares of his office were added those of his own private affairs, as well as those of Governor Wright and Mr. Knox, the Provincial Agent living in London. James Habersham was a successful man of affairs, and of considerable fortune. He owned several farms; among them was Beverly, his country seat, about nine miles southwest of Savannah, and Silk Hope, on the Little Ogeechee, about seven miles from the city. At one time he owned 198 slaves. Governor Wright had eleven plantations in Georgia, and at one time he owned 523 slaves. William Knox, the Provincial Agent in London, and a warm personal friend of Habersham, was a large rice planter also. The supervisory care of all this vast interest for his friends added no little to the weight of his responsibilities. When, therefore, Governor Wright returned to Georgia, in February,

1773, Habersham gladly turned over to him again the reins of government.

By this time his health was much impaired by frequent attacks of gout, from which, at times, he suffered greatly. He planned to visit England for the benefit of his health, and to renew his old acquaintances. These plans, however, were frustrated by a threatened Indian uprising in Georgia, and he was destined never again to see his native land.

In the summer of 1775 he visited New Brunswick, New Jersey, with a hope that the change of climate would benefit him; but he soon grew worse, and at that place he peacefully passed away on the 28th day of August, 1775. Two of his sons were with him at the time of death, his wife having died several years before. His body was taken to New York and interred in a vault of Trinity church, preparatory to its removal to Georgia. On November 14th his body was landed in Savannah and deposited in the family vault in the old Colonial Cemetery, where it now remains.

James Habersham was married on December 26, 1740, to Mary Bolton, at Bethesda, his friend, Whitefield, performing the ceremony. Mary Bolton, the daughter of . . . . . Bolton, of Philadelphia, was born April 5, 1724, and died January 4, 1763. Ten children were born of this marriage, three of whom, James, Joseph and John, survived their father. James Habersham, Jr., was a prominent merchant of Savannah. He had poor health, and from his quiet and polite manner he was called "the gentleman of the family." All three of the sons were educated in part at Princeton, and all of them warmly espoused the patriot cause. Joseph and John became prominent in the Revolution, and distinguished in State and National affairs afterwards.

Of the character of James Habersham, Col. C. C. Jones truly says, he was "one of the sweetest, purest, most useful, and noblest characters of the long line of Colonial worthies." He was deeply religious, and profoundly interested in the spiritual welfare of his fellowman. In all of his correspondence there is not an unworthy line. His letters breathe a spirit of Christian faith and feeling that permeated his whole life.

He was in no sense a politician. Though loyal to his King, he did not approve the unjust acts of England against America, and he deeply deplored those conditions which finally broke into revolution.

When we consider the loyalty of James Habersham to the mother country and his affection for Georgia as well, in connection with those dramatic events which swept nearly all the people of the Province, among them his own sons, into the whirlpool of the Revolution, we cannot but feel that his death was fortunate for him. In his letter of April 7, 1775, he says: "I would not chuse to live here longer than we are in a state of proper subordination to, and under the protection of Great Britain, altho' I cannot altogether approve of the steps she has lately taken." He saw with prophetic vision the coming storm, but death kindly drew the curtain and closed his eyes forever to the bloody fulfillment of his prophecy.

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