

## COLONIAL GEORGIA: EARLY SETTLERS AND THEIR RECORDS

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*Everything indicated with an asterisk (\*) can be found in our collection at Wallace.*

### ***Background***

Georgia was atypical of colonial American. It was the thirteenth and last British colony founded on the American mainland and, being started in 1733, was begun fifty years after the previous colony (Pennsylvania) was established. This last colony was also the only British province founded as a utopian experiment in improving the human condition. (However, contrary to popular myth, no one ever sent to colonial Georgia was a debtor or a criminal.)

As a British colony, Georgia lasted only fifty years and had a relatively small population that was constantly under threat of extermination in an Indian war. However, for the descendants of the colonial Georgians, the Thirteenth Colony is a rich source of genealogically valuable records. The early years of the province, when it was a charitable trust, was heavily documented. The records from the Royal Period (1752-1782), have survived with the exception of the Church of England parish records, the colonial court records, and most of the colonial land surveys. Loss of the parish records is significant but the contents of the other missing documents are largely duplicated elsewhere.

Some of the important printed sources for genealogical research in colonial Georgia are:

### ***The First Settlers/Land Grant Records***

Bryant, Pat. Entry of Claims for Georgia Landholders, 1733-1755.<sup>\*</sup> Atlanta: Georgia Surveyor General Department, 1975. Other lists of land grants under the Georgia Trustees, 1733-1752, include George White, Historical Collections of Georgia<sup>\*</sup> (New York: Putney & Russell, 1855), pp. 35-40 and George Gillman Smith, The Story of Georgia and the Georgia People (2nd ed., Macon: The Author, 1902), pp. 557-60. Deeds of these first Georgians are abstracted in Frances M. Beckemeyer, Abstracts of Georgia Colonial Conveyance Book C-1, 1750-1761 (Atlanta: R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, 1975). Also see Davis, A Researcher's Library<sup>\*</sup> below.

Candler, Allen D. The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia.<sup>\*</sup> Atlanta: various state publishers, 1904-1940. Not all of these volumes are published. The unpublished volumes and comprehensive typescript indexes are at the Georgia Department of Archives and History and the University of Georgia Libraries. This series is incomplete but remains the most comprehensive single source for historical and genealogical research in colonial Georgia. We have all of the volumes on microfilm, with indexes.<sup>\*</sup>

Coulter, E. Merton. A List of the Early Settlers of Georgia.\* Rep. ed., Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1967. This list of the persons sent to Georgia by the Trustees is supplemented by Sarah Temple Gober, Georgia Journeys (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1965) and Thomas B. Jones, Passengers of the Ann and Their Descendants: Georgia's Colonial Families (Albany, GA: 1985).

Davidson, Grace G. Early Records of Wilkes County.\* 1932; rep. ed. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1976. These two volumes have been reprinted as one vound volume, with the index to volume one in the middle of the reprint. Volume one contains the Ceded Lands Journal, records of lands sold in what became Wilkes County in 1773-1774. Also see Robert S. Davis, Jr., The Wilkes County Papers (Easley, Sc: Southern Historical Press, 1980), 1-21.\*

Warren, Mary B. Georgia Governor and Council Journals, 1753-1767 (9 volumes).\* Danielsville, GA: Heritage Papers, 1992-1994. These books abstract petitions by colonial Georgians for land. Often these petitions contain genealogical information.

Idem. Georgia Land Owners Memorials, 1758-1776.\* Danielsville, GA: Heritage Papers, 1988. This book is the most complete listing of the colonial Georgia land grants under the royal period. Most of the surviving colonial grants and plats are by parish in Marion R. Hemperley, English Crown Grants In Georgia\* (9 vols., Atlanta: Georgia Surveyor General Department, 1974-1976).

### ***Local Government Records***

Dumont, William H. Colonial Georgia Genealogical Data, 1748-1783.\* Washington, DC: National Genealogical Society, 1976. Abstracts of land warrants; deeds of gift; marks and brands; deeds; and many related records. Not all of the colonial Georgia books of local government records have been indexed or published; especially the mortgage books.

R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation. An Index to Georgia Colonial Conveyances and Confiscated Estates Land Records, 1750-1804.\* Atlanta: The Author, 1981. This index does not include the colonial deed of gift and mortgage books of Georgia.

Idem. Index to Probate Records of Colonial Georgia, 1733-1778.\* Atlanta: The Author, 1983.

### ***Miscellaneous***

Clark, Murtie June. Colonial Soldiers of the South.\* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983.

Davis, Robert S. A Researcher's Library of Georgia.\* 2 vols. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1988 and 1991. Included herein is a number of miscellaneous Georgia colonial records such as the names in the Governors papers of the Telamon Cuyler Collection, 1755-1786, University of Georgia Libraries.

Filby, P. William. Passenger and Immigration Lists Index.\* Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 1981- . Includes all known colonial Georgia passenger lists.

Warren, Mary B. Marriages and Deaths, 1763-1820, Abstracted From Extant Georgia Newspapers.\* Danielsville, GA: Heritage Papers, 1968. A typescript index to the Savannah newspapers is at the Georgia Department of Archives and History; the University of Georgia Libraries; and the Georgia Historical Society. We have Elizabeth Evans Kilbourne, Savannah, Georgia, Newspaper Clippings (Georgia Gazette).\*

### *Ethnic Groups*

Cofer, Loris D. Queensborough or the Irish Town and Its Citizens. Louisville, GA: The Author, 1977. Queensborough, in present-day Jefferson County, was settled by the Scots-Irish families from Northern Ireland.

Davis, Robert S. Jr. Quaker Records in Georgia: Wrightsborough and Friendsborough.\* Augusta: Augusta Genealogical Society, 1987. North Carolina Quakers settled at Wrightsborough, in modern McDuffie County, GA, and nearby were indentured servants from Scotland.

Dobson, David. Scots in Georgia and the Deep South, 1735-1845. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1999.

Jones, George Fenwick. The Salzburger Saga.\* Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1984. On pages 147-91 there is a documented alphabetical list of the Salzburgers that is not included in the index. The Central European Protestants (Salzburgers) who settled in Georgia under the Trustees must be the most heavily documented ethnic group, per person, of early America. They settled in what is now Effingham and Screven counties, where many of their descendants can still be found. An organization of Salzburger families is the Georgia Salzburger Society, P.O. Box 916, Rincon, GA 31326-0916. Dr. Jones has also published many other volumes of Salzburger records. Also see Pearl Rahn Gnann, Georgia Salzburger and Allied Families\* (Savannah: The Author, 1956) and Works Projects Administration, "The Beginning of the Salzburger Settlement in Georgia", a typescript on microfilm reel 55/63 at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. Volume two contains considerable information on individual Salzburgers.

Stacy, James. History and Published Records of the Midway Congregational Church.\* Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Co., 1979. This book covers the New England Congregationalists who settled at Midway and Sunbury, in present-day Liberty County. Also see John M. Sheftall, Sunbury on the Medway (Atlanta: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1977).\*

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Georgia Land Surveying History and Law (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1991).

APPENDIX: Georgia Colonial and Early State Record Books. Microfilm microfilm reel numbers refer to the Georgia Archives, Morrow. We have this microfilm at Wallace State.

**Appraisements and Administrations of Estates.<sup>1</sup>**

1756-1794. Unbound. Record Group 49-1-21; Georgia Archives microfilm reels 230/20-24, 33-34.

1777-1778. Book G. Record Group 49?; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 81/5.

**Commissions, Civil and Military Officials.<sup>2</sup>**

1754-1778. Book B-1. Record Group 49-1-10; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/39.

**Conveyances (Deeds; individual books are indexed).<sup>3</sup>**

1751-1775. Unbound. Record Group 49-1-20; Georgia Archives microfilm reels 230/23.

1750-1761. Book C-1.<sup>4</sup> Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/19.

1761-1766. Book C-2. Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/19.

1766-1769. Book S. Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/20.

1769. Book U. Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/21.

1769-1771. Book V. Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/21

1771-1772. Book X-1. Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/42.

1772-1774. Book X-2. Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/42.

1774-1775. Book CC-1. Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/23.

1775-1778. Book CC-2. Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/23.

1775-1778. Book DD. Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/25.

1783-1804. Book BBB. Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/25.

**Deeds of Gift, Bonds, Marriage Settlements, and Miscellaneous.<sup>5</sup>**

1751-1775. Unbound records. Record Group 49-1-20; Georgia Archives microfilm reels 230/23.

1755-1762. Book J.<sup>6</sup> Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/34.

1762-1765. Book O (indexed). Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/34.

1765-1772. Book R (indexed). Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/34.

1772-1774. Book Y-1 (indexed). Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/35.

1774-1777. Book Y-2 (indexed). Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/35.

1777-1787. Book HH (indexed). Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/37.

1779-1780. Book JJ (not indexed). Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/37.

1780-1781. Book KK-1 (not indexed). Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/37.

1781-1782. Book KK-2 (not indexed). Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/37.

1783-1792. Book CCC (not indexed). Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/38.

1792-1813. Book DDD (not indexed). Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/38.

Guardianships, Letters of.<sup>7</sup>

1757-1777. Book N. Record Group 49-1-8; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/31.

Inventories of Estates.<sup>8</sup>

1754-1771. Book F or D. Record Group 49-1-6; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/33.

1776-1777. Book FF. Record Group 49-1-6; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/32.

1777-1778. Book GG. Record Group 49-1-6; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/32.

Land Grants, Fiats for. (no index)

1755-1767. Book L. RG 49-1-14; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/44.

1767-1771. Book T. RG 49-1-14; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/44.

1772-1776. Book BB. RG 49-1-14; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/44.

Marks and Brands.<sup>9</sup>

1755-1778. Book K or Y3. Record Group 49-1-12; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/42.

Mortgages. (no index)

1755-1763. Book E. Record Group 49-1-4; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/26.  
(rough index at Georgia Archives)

1762-1765. Book P. Record Group 49-1-4; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/26.

1765-1770. Book Q. Record Group 49-1-4; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/27.

1770-1775. Book W. Record Group 49-1-4; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/27.

1776-1778. Book EE. Record Group 49-1-4; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/28.  
(rough index at Georgia Archives)

Proclamations.<sup>10</sup>

1754-1794. Book H. RG 49-1-11; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/40.

Wills.<sup>11</sup>

1733-1777. Unbound. Record Group 49-1-2; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 231/43-4.

1754-1772. Book A. Record Group 49-1-5; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/29.

1772-1777. Book AA. Record Group 49-1-5; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/30.

1777-1778. Book B.<sup>12</sup> Georgia Archives microfilm reel 17/24.

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<sup>1</sup> These records are indexed in R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, *an Index to Georgia Colonial Conveyances and Confiscated Land Records 1750-1804* (Atlanta: R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, 1981).

<sup>2</sup> A commission book C (1754-1806) was among the records in the state capitol in Milledgeville in 1845. Lilla Mills Hawes and Albert S. Britt, Jr., "The Search for Georgia's Colonial Records," *Georgia Historical Society Collections* 18 (1976), pp. 114-16.

<sup>3</sup> These records are indexed in R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, *an Index to Georgia Colonial Conveyances and Confiscated Land Records 1750-1804* (Atlanta: R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, 1981).

<sup>4</sup> This book has been published as Frances H. Beckemeyer, *Abstracts of Colonial Conveyance Book C-1, 1750-1761* (Atlanta: R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, 1975).

<sup>5</sup> The marriage settlements from these records and other miscellaneous personal information from these books is abstracted in William H. Dumont, *Colonial Georgia Genealogical Data 1748-1783* (Washington: National Genealogical Society, 1971).

<sup>6</sup> The contents of this book have been abstracted in George F. Walker, *Abstracts of Colonial Book J, 1755-1762* (Atlanta: R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, 1977).

<sup>7</sup> These records are indexed in R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, *an Index to Georgia Colonial Conveyances and Confiscated Land Records 1750-1804* (Atlanta: R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, 1981).

<sup>8</sup> These records are indexed in R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, *an Index to Georgia Colonial Conveyances and Confiscated Land Records 1750-1804* (Atlanta: R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, 1981).

<sup>9</sup> These records are abstracted in William H. Dumont, *Colonial Georgia Genealogical Data 1748-1783* (Washington: National Genealogical Society, 1971).

<sup>10</sup> The proclamations for escaped wanted felons are abstracted in Robert S. Davis, *The Georgia Black Book: Morbid, Macabre, and Sometimes Disgusting Records of Genealogical Value* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1982), 3-14.

<sup>11</sup> The loose wills and the wills in volumes A and AA are abstracted in Atlanta Town Committee, *Abstracts of the Colonial Wills of the State of Georgia* (Atlanta: Atlanta Town Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1962). All of the colonial Georgia wills are indexed in indexed in R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, *an Index to Georgia Colonial Conveyances and Confiscated Land Records 1750-1804* (Atlanta: R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, 1981); also see "Corrections of Some Colonial Georgia Wills," *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly* 27 (1991): 116.

<sup>12</sup> The original of this record is in the Probate Court of Chatham County. It is abstracted in Mabel F. LeFar and Caroline P. Wilson, comps., *Abstracts of Wills, Chatham County, Georgia* (Washington, DC: National Genealogical Society, 1936).