

Sophia's Schoolhouse Video Guide
Episode 14: Get to Know James Edward Oglethorpe
Part 2, 1717 - 1732

This video guide includes:

- 1) video script
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- 3) video quiz
- 4) suggested links and readings
- 5) video image credits

View the video at this link:

<http://schoolhouse.georgiahistory.com/episode-14-get-to-know-james-edward-oglethorpe-part-2-1717-1733/>

Video Script

After the **Turks** were defeated, Oglethorpe returned to England. In 1722 he was elected to the **House of Commons**. The **House of Commons** was and still is a legislative body in the British Government. Members of the **House of Commons** are elected to represent the people living in a certain geographic area.

Oglethorpe was a very active member of **parliament**. He joined a lot of committees. Committees investigate particular issues important to England and suggest **legislation** to address those issues. Oglethorpe became very passionate about several issues. One of them was bad conditions for sailors in the British Navy and the practice of **impressment** or forcing men to serve in the navy against their will.

He was also passionate about making conditions better for people put in prison because they were in debt - meaning they owed money and couldn't pay it back. Oglethorpe's friend Robert Castell died in debtors' prison.

Robert Castell was an architect and a writer- some historians even think Oglethorpe used Castell's research and writings to help him select the best location for the new **colony** of Georgia's first city on the Savannah River.

Oglethorpe worked hard to investigate England's prisons and change the way debtors were treated. He had help from other **committee** members like Lord John Percival, the Earl of Egmont.

The Earl of Egmont was a part of a group known as Dr. Bray's Associates. This group was also interested in making life better for debtors, and they were involved in missionary work in England's colonies. Oglethorpe and Dr. Bray's Associates decided the best way to make life better for England's poor was by making a new **colony** in North America where they could start over.

In 1732, they got the King's approval to found a new **colony** between Spanish Florida and English South Carolina. The purpose of the colony would be to help relieve the poor, bring wealth to England, and defend against the Spanish in the south. The king called on these men to manage the **Colony** of Georgia for him. They were called the Georgia Trustees.

Video Script Continued

The Georgia Trustees' dream was that Georgia would be full of hard working colonists who were farmers and when necessary soldiers. The Trustees made it illegal to own slaves and drink rum. They also made strict rules about owning land to try and keep everyone in the colony equal.

The Trustees had rules too. They were not allowed to make money from the colony. James Oglethorpe played a major role in creating these rules and deciding what life in the colony would be like.

Vocabulary

colony: A *colony* is a group of people who settle in a new place but keep ties to their homeland. The people who founded the United States first came to America to live as part of a British *colony*.

committee: A *committee* is a group of people who come together to work on a project. Members of a *committee* commit their efforts to accomplishing a particular task, which can be anything from throwing a party to ending a war.

Georgia Trustees: a group of men appointed by the King to administer the Georgia Colony from 1732 to 1752.

House of Commons: the lower house of the British parliament

impressment: the act of coercing someone into government service

legislation: The noun *legislation* refers to the actual law enacted by a legislative body at the national, state, or local level.

Parliament: The most common meaning of parliament refers to a country's legislative (law-making) body. England's parliament is very famous.

Turks: natives or inhabitants of Turkey

The logo for Vocabulary.com, featuring the word "vocabulary.com" in a white, sans-serif font with a checkmark symbol above the 'v', and the tagline "learn new words every day" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. The logo is set against a green rectangular background.

The definitions on this list were taken from Vocabulary.com. [Read a review of vocabulary.com on Sophia's Schoolhouse.](#)

Video Quiz

Question 1: True or False? James Edward Oglethorpe was elected to the House of Commons. _____

Question 2: Which of the following was not a reason for establishing the Georgia colony? _____

- a. relieve the poor
- b. bring wealth to England
- c. make money for the Georgia Trustees
- d. defend against the Spanish in the south

Question 3: Which of these issues was James Oglethorpe passionate about? _____

- a. the conditions in debtor's prisons
- b. bad conditions for sailors in the British Navy
- c. All of the above
- d. None of the above

Question 4: True or False? Colonists in Georgia were not allowed to have slaves or drink rum. _____

Question 5: True or False? The Earl of Egmont played an important role in Georgia's founding? _____

Video Quiz Answers

Question 1. True; Question 2. D; Question 3. C; Question 4. True; Question 5. True

Suggested Links and Readings

Links:

[James Edward Oglethorpe Featured Historical Figure Pages](#)

[Three Centuries of Georgia History Online Exhibit: 18th Century](#)

[Georgia Trustees Since 2009](#)

[Today in Georgia History June 30, 1785 "James Oglethorpe Died."](#)

[Jackson, Edwin L. "James Oglethorpe \(1696-1785\)." *New Georgia Encyclopedia*.](#)

[Cashin, Edward J. "Trustee Georgia, 1732-1752." *New Georgia Encyclopedia*.](#)

Suggested Readings:

[Spalding, Phinizy. "Myths and the Man: James Edward Oglethorpe." *The Georgia Review* 28, no. 1 \(Spring 1974\): 52-57.](#)

Insoe, John, ed. *James Edward Oglethorpe: New Perspectives on His Life and Legacy*. Savannah: Georgia Historical Society, 1997.

Jackson, Harvey H., and Phinizy Spalding, ed. *Forty Years of Diversity: Essays on Colonial Georgia*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1984.

Image Credits

[Portrait of James Edward Oglethorpe at Belgrade in 1718 by R. W. Habersham. From the Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1361-327.](#)

[Accurater Prospect und Grundris der Königl. Gros-Britan̄sch. Haupt- und Residentz-Stadt London by Johann Baptist Homann, 1740. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division.](#)

["House of Commons, as it appeared in 1741/2." The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Print Collection, The New York Public Library Digital Collections.](#)

[Bambridge on Trial for Murder by a Committee of the House of Commons, engraving by Thomas Cook, 1803. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-DIG-pga-03617.](#)

["The Sailors Advocate. \[No. 1\]. To Be continued." London, H. Whitridge, 1728. Downloaded on Hathi Trust Digital Library. Original from the New York Public Library.](#)

[The Liberty of the Subject. \[England\] : Publish'd Octr. 15th, 1779, by W. Humphrey, No. 227 Strand, 1779. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-77783.](#)

[Oglethorpe Visiting Prisoners, engraving, in, *First lessons in Georgia History* by Lawton B. Evans. From the Georgia Historical Society Main Collection, F286.E925 1913.](#)

[Title Page of Robert Castell's *The Villas of the Ancients Illustrated* \(1728\). From copy in Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries.](#)

['The Goals Committee of the House of Commons' by William Hogarth. Oil on Canvas, Circa 1729. © National Portrait Gallery, London. NPG 926.](#)

John Perceval, 1st Earl of Egmont by and sold by John Faber Jr, after Hans Hysing mezzotint, 1734. © National Portrait Gallery, London. NPG D1851.

Seal from *An Account of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts*. London: Printed by Joseph Downing, 1706.

Map of Original Grant, 1732, in, *Reasons for Establishing the Colony of Georgia*. From the Georgia Historical Society Rare Book Collection, F289 .M37 1733.

Seal of the Georgia Trustees, engraving, in, *First lessons in Georgia History* by Lawton B. Evans. From the Georgia Historical Society Main Collection, F286.E925 1913.

Stamp Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Settlement of Georgia, 1733 - 1933, with a portrait of General Oglethorpe, 1933. From the Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1361-532.