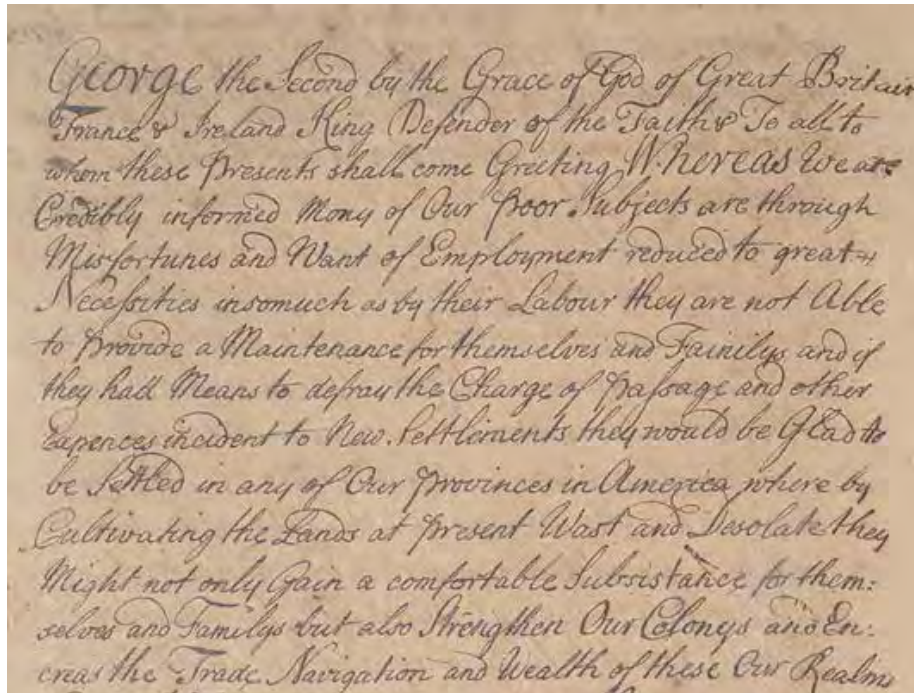


Citation: Royal Charter of Georgia. Trustees, Colony of Georgia, RG 49-2-18, Georgia Archives.

About: King George II of Great Britain granted a royal charter for the Colony of Georgia to the "Trustees for Establishing the Colony of Georgia in America" on June 9, 1732.

A photograph of a handwritten document in cursive script, likely a royal charter. The text is written in dark ink on aged, slightly yellowed paper. The handwriting is elegant and consistent throughout the document. The text describes the plight of poor subjects in the colonies and the king's intention to encourage settlement in Georgia to improve their lives and strengthen the colony's economy.

Transcript:

“GEORGE the second, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, and so forth. To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting.

Whereas we are credibly informed, that many of our poor subjects are, through misfortunes and want of employment, reduced to great necessity, insomuch as by their labor they are not able to provide a maintenance for themselves and families; and if they had means to defray their charges of passage, and other expenses, incident to new settlements, they would be glad to settle in any of our provinces in America where cultivating the lands, at present waste and desolate, they might not only gain a comfortable subsistence for themselves and families, but also strengthen our colonies and increase the trade, navigation and wealth of these our realms.”

Citation: Letter from General Oglethorpe to the Trustees, July 26, 1736. *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, Volume III.*

About: James Edward Oglethorpe was the only Georgia Trustee to go with the original colonists to Georgia in 1733. Oglethorpe acted as the unofficial Governor of the colony from 1733 to 1743.

Gentlemen,

The Town on the Altamaha is already settled; The King's Independent Company is fixt on the same Island...

We are in great want of servants. If some 100 of them could be sent over by one of the next ships yet to come, there are persons enough here & to the South who would be glad to purchase them immediately.

I shall reduce the Expences by all possible Means, especially by encouraging the Lazy to leave the Colony, tho' I do not doubt but they will abuse the Place, as many have already done...

Tis a very wise Resolution of you to send over no more people upon the Charity: for we have too many mouths and not labouring hands in proportion.

What would be very necessary is, some more Persons to form the Morals of our People & instruct them in Religion. The change since the arrival of the Mission is very visible with respect to the increase of Industry, Love and Christian Charity among them. But on their removal to the Indians, we shall be left entirely destitute, and the People by relapse, if possible worse than before.

*I am,
Gentlemen*

*Your most obedient
humble Servant
JAMES OGLETHORPE.*

Citation: "A State of the Province of Georgia, Attested upon Oath in the Court of Savannah," November 10, 1740. *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, Volume II.*

About: William Stephens wrote this report for the Trustees in 1740. Stephens served as Secretary to the Georgia Trustees. He came to the Georgia Colony in 1737 and was very involved in running the colony.

The persons sent from England on the Charity were of the unfortunates, many of whom have, by their industry, proved that they deserved better, and have thriven; many also showed they were brought into those misfortunes by their own faults; and when those who quitted their own country to avoid labor, saw labor stand before their eyes in Georgia, they were easily persuaded to live in Carolina by cunning rather than work.

This has been a great misfortune also upon many persons who brought over servants indented to serve them, for a certain number of years, who being picked up on the streets of London, or some such manner, their masters found them unfit for labor, and many of them took such opportunities as they could get, to desert and fly to Carolina, where they could be protected...

To enable the industrious English settlers to go on with planting, who are truly desirous of cultivating land, we humbly conceive nothing could be a greater inducement to it, than that the honorable trustees would please to import yearly, so long as they see good, a number of English or Welch servants, such as are used to hard labor in the country...

Citation: "A True and Historical Narrative of the Colony of Georgia in America," 1741. *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, Volume II.*

About: These paragraphs are from a pamphlet written by a group known as the Malcontents. They were unhappy with James Oglethorpe and the Georgia Trustees. The authors of the report were most upset about limits on landownership and the outlawing of rum and slavery.

...in all the applications we made for redress, we were brow-beat, obstructed, threatened, and branded with the opprobrious names, such as proud, idle, lazy, discontented, and mutinous people, and several other appellations of that kind...

In the first place, there was an excessive quit-rent laid upon the land, being a great deal more than his majesty's subjects in the other British colonies pay....

No regard was had to the quality of the ground in the divisions, so that some were altogether pine barren, and some swamp and morass, far surpassing the strength and ability of the planter: and indeed, what could be done at any rate, with such small parcels of land separate from one another...

The falling of timber was a task very unequal to the strength and constitution of white servants; and the hoeing the ground, they being exposed to the sultry head of the sun, insupportable; and it is well known that this labor is one of the hardest upon the negroes, even though their constitutions are much stronger than white people, and the heat no way disagreeable nor hurtful to them; but in us it created inflammatory fevers of various kinds, both continued and intermittent; wasting and tormenting fluxes, most excruciating colics, and dry belly-aches; tremors, vertigoes, palsies, and a long train of painful and lingering nervous distempers, which brought on to many a cessation both from work and life; especially as water without any qualification was the chief drink, and salt meat the only provisions that could be had or afforded.