COLONIAL GEORGIA: EARLY SETTLERS AND THEIR RECORDS

Robert Scott Davis
Wallace State College
Hanceville, AL 35077-2000

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


Candler, Allen D. The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia.* 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 The unpublished volumes and comprehensive typescript indexes are at the Georgia Department of Archives and History and the University of Georgia Libraries.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.*

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 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.*


**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.


**Miscellaneous**


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.

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.


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.

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

Appraisements and Administrations of Estates. 1
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. 2
1754-1778. Book B-1. Record Group 49-1-10; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/39.

Conveyances (Deeds; individual books are indexed). 3
1751-1775. Unbound. Record Group 49-1-20; Georgia Archives microfilm reels 230/23.
1750-1766. Book C-1. 4 Record Group 49-1-3; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/19.
1761-1765. Book O (indexed). Record Group 49-1-9; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/34.
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. 5
1751-1775. Unbound records. Record Group 49-1-20; Georgia Archives microfilm reels 230/23.
1755-1762. Book J. 6 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.7
1757-1777. Book N. Record Group 49-1-8; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/31.

Inventories of Estates.8
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.9
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.10
1754-1794. Book H. RG 49-1-11; Georgia Archives microfilm reel 40/40.

Wills.11
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.

Notes:

2 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.


5 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).


12 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).