



The Story of Georgia, Chapter 1

By: _____

Long, long ago in a land far away, there lived a monarch. King George II ruled over Great Britain, which included the country of England. King George II wanted Britain to be strong and powerful. More powerful than the countries of Spain and France. In the beginning the king sent out explorers for God, gold and glory. In time, the English landed in the New World, also known as America. That was the beginning of the English colonies in America. When the English landed they were not alone. The Native Americans lived here long before the Europeans arrived. Many Indian groups were not happy see the Europeans and many fights occurred between them. Eventually, the English set up many colonies in America. Some big and some small, but they still were not the greatest of them all. In the 1700's a man by the name of James Oglethorpe had an idea for a new kind of colony. James Oglethorpe and his group of Trustees made plans to build a new colony named Georgia. The colony was named in honor of King George II. They planned and they planned until it was finally right and the king agreed to their plan. The charter of 1732 was granted and Oglethorpe and the trustees were on their way. Oglethorpe viewed the Georgia colony as a type of charity. He wanted debtors who owed money to have a fresh start and not go to prison. King George II thought the Georgia colony would be good for economic and defense reasons. The search for colonists to live in Georgia was underway. Most people who did go were not debtors, but people that could pay. Lawyers, blacks, Catholics and liquor dealers were told they had to stay. After an 88 day trip on a ship named Anna the colonists finally arrived and landed in Yamacraw Bluff, Savannah "Oh Boy!," they shouted with joy. Before moving on to Georgia negotiations had to be done. With the help of Mary Musgrove, James Oglethorpe and Yamacraw Indian Chief Tamochichi agreed that they could settle at Yamacraw Bluff. Eventually Yamacraw Bluff became the city of Savannah and the colony of Georgia was underway. With such a great beginning Georgia was surely here to stay. But that's where the story ends and more is sure to come. We'll keep studying Georgia and see what happens next.

