14-012 Georgia: The Founding II

Sunday Nov 28, 2010

Lead: The founding of the colony of Georgia in 1732 was the happy coincidence of security needs of British North America and the need to deal with the problem of overcrowded prisons in England.

Intro.: A Moment in Time with Dan Roberts.

Content: James Edward Oglethorpe was a soldier from a family with a fighting tradition. He fought in continental armies but was prevented from receiving a British army commission because of his family’s strong support for the old Stuart line of royalty. They were Jacobites. After distinguished service in the army of the Prince of Savoy and a brief stint at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, he returned home to manage the family’s business affairs in Surrey. In the early 1720s he stood for Parliament from Haslemere and held the seat until 1754.

His early years in Parliament were lackluster, but in 1728 Oglethorpe was propelled to national fame over the appalling conditions of English prisons. His good friend Robert Castell fell onto hard times and was thrown into the infamous Fleet prison for debt. With no money with which to bribe for himself better living conditions, Castell contracted smallpox and died. Horrified, Oglethorpe headed a Parliamentary committee examining English jails. In the course of that examination, he stumbled upon the opportunity presented by the need in North America for a buffer colony between the Spanish and the rich rice fields of South Carolina. He reasoned that Parliament would be open to supporting a colony of soldier-farmers to provide security for Carolina and also be a dumping place for excess prisoners.

In 1732 he obtained the charter for the colony, and in February 1733 Oglethorpe and some 100 settlers established a village eighteen miles up the Savannah River and named it Savannah.

Oglethorpe was not the best leader. He chose poor associates and tended toward authoritarian leadership himself--but his military prowess kept the Spanish at bay, his clout and determination in Parliament kept support for the colony alive and, as long as he was directly involved in Georgia affairs, he fought a rear-guard action and successfully blocked the introduction of black slavery into the colony.

At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

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[**A Moment in Time Daily Transcript**](https://webmail.vbschools.com/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://feedblitz.com/r.asp?l=49232890%26f=426333%26c=3925921) **- 09-035 Benedict Arnold: Hero and Traitor I**

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Lead: For most of his career, Benedict Arnold was one of the most revered heroes in American military service. In 1780 he became America’s most famous traitor.

Intro: A Moment In Time with Dan Roberts.

Content: Benedict Arnold was born in the bustling seaport town of Norwich, Connecticut in 1741. Apprenticed to an apothecary in his youth, he also fought for periods in the French and Indian War. At twenty-one, Arnold started a book and drug store in New Haven, Connecticut, eventually becoming a successful merchant importing goods from the West Indies and Great Britain. Arnold's first wife was Margaret Mansfield and the couple had three children before her death in 1775. He learned of his wife's death upon returning from the expedition in which he and Ethan Allen led militia forces to capture British Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain.

General George Washington sent Arnold to lead an assault on Quebec in the fall of 1775. Although the attack was not successful, Arnold's maneuvers had the side effect of deflecting a powerful British advance on New York city the following year. He was a brave and effective leader but was initially passed over for promotion by Congress in early 1777. Disappointed, Arnold nearly left the army, but General Washington convinced him to stay. Washington's confidence was rewarded. Arnold’s leadership was decisive during the Battle of Saratoga. The Saratoga campaign is considered a milestone because this first major American battlefield victory convinced the French to assist the cause of independence. Wounded in battle and bitter over his slights, Arnold became military commandant of Philadelphia.

Next Time: Love and treason.

The producer of A Moment In Time is Steve Clark. At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

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