

Why Oglethorpe Won the Land War with Spain

By Jeannette Holland Austin

They Fought Guerrilla Warfare



Map of Ft. Frederica

General Oglethorpe first put settlers on St. Simon's Island in 1736; the transport was primarily Englishmen and highlanders from Scotland.

The protestant highlanders, known for their guerrilla warfare against the British, were hand-picked by Oglethorpe for the purpose of establishing regiments at Midway and on St. Simon's Island to protect Savannah and Charleston from the Spanish in Florida. After 1748 when Oglethorpe won the land war with Spain and disbanded his Georgia regiment and returned to England, settlers began to desert the military post and find land grants in other parts of the region. Many of them removed into McIntosh and Liberty Counties.

The Colonial period was divided by the parishes of St. David, St. Patrick and St. Jones, organized in 1758. Glynn County was created in 1777 and named in honor of John Glynn, a member of the British House of Commons who defended the cause of the American Colonies in the difficulties which led to the Revolutionary War. Research should also include the Colonial Records of Georgia by Candler; McIntosh and Liberty Counties.

The Threat of Castillo San Marcos



Castillo de San Marcos

The Spanish held Northern Florida beginning in 1565. On September 8th, Pedro Menendez de Aviles landed on the shore of what is now called Matanzas Bay and began the founding of the Presidio of San Agustin. Later the settlement was called St. Augustine, Florida. The castle or fort was constructed on the site of an ancient Native American village, and near the place where Ponce de Leon landed in 1513 in search of the legendary Fountain of Youth.

General James Edward Oglethorpe held a siege against the fort in 1742, however, cannon balls were unable to penetrate the well-secured stone fortress and a fleet of ships promised by Governor Johnson of South Carolina designed block the harbor became stuck on a sandbar. Meanwhile, the regiments of Oglethorpe suffered from yellow fever and dysentery, and

Oglethorpe himself had to be transported on a litter back to Ft. Frederica.
The Spanish waited two years before they retaliated.