

# The Lost Town of Sunbury

By Jeannette Holland Austin



Marker on the Road to Sunbury

Deep in the entrals of Liberty County lies the old town of Sunbury. After General Oglethorpe left Georgia, one of his officers Colonel Mark Carr who

was granted lots of acreage, donated over 500 acres of land to a town in 1757. Carr maintained a substantial plantation and was a prominent force towards wealth and prosperity. Before the Revolutionary War, Sunbury thrived as a popular seaport town which attracted residents of New England who built homes for their winter residence and supported as many as five wharves along the Medway River.

Around 1800 the town was struck by a hurricane and afterwards, fevers. During the War of 1812 the port was occupied by American soldiers to protect Georgia against an attack by the British. Thereafter, the area seemed to have vanished.

When I visited the region in 1966, only a portion of the arch into the port was still standing. The property was privately owned and being used as a farm. The pier and cottages were gone.

The old cemetery was sunken into the dirt and tombstones difficult to read. The Colonial Deed Records of Georgia reveal a thriving port whereby goods were received and shipped, contracts made with merchant ships detailing cargoes provide information as to its residents. In 1758 the town plat showed 496 lots arranged around three large squares.