

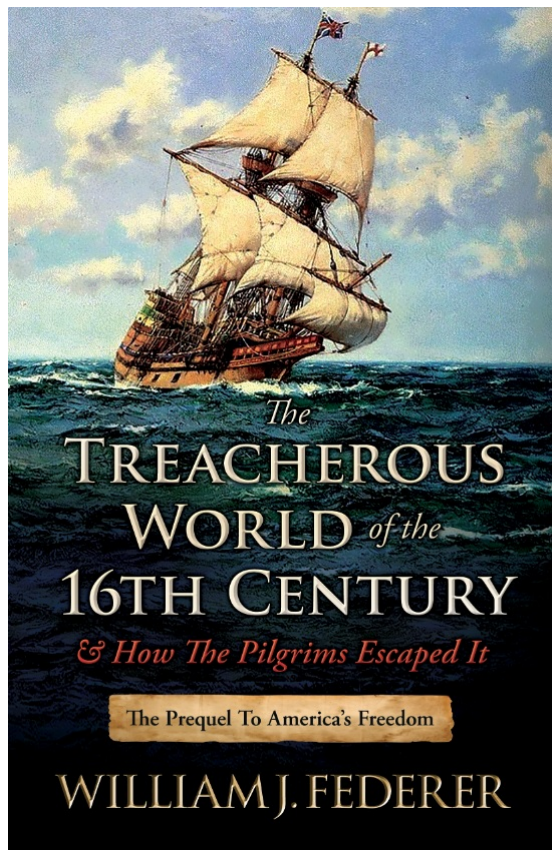
American Minute with Bill Federer

From fighting the Sultan to the founding Georgia:
Eugene of Savoy, James Oglethorpe, John &
Charles Wesley, and a review of Georgia's Religious
Heritage

Early in his career, **Eugene of Savoy**, under the command of **Polish King Jan Sobieski**, helped repel 200,000 Ottoman Turks on **September 11, 1683**, thus saving the city of Vienna, Austria.



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[The Treacherous World of the 16th Century and How the Pilgrims Escaped It: The Prequel to America's Freedom](#)

Austrian Prince Eugene of Savoy went on to become one of **Europe's most famous commanders.**



Savoy helped drive the Ottomans from **Budapest** in 1686.

In 1687, he gallantly commanded a cavalry brigade defeating the

Turkish army at the **Second Battle of Mohács** in **Hungary.**

This defeat was so significant that the **Ottoman army** mutinied against its leadership, resulting in the



Grand Vizier, Sarı Süleyman Pasha, being **executed**, and the **Sultan, Mehmed IV**, being **deposed.**

Prince Eugene of Savoy was famous for his victory over 100.000 Islamic warriors at the **Battle of Zenta**,



Serbia, September 11, 1697.

The Ottoman army then invaded Russia.

The new Turkish Grand Vizier, **Baltacı Mehmet**, defeated **Peter the Great's Russian Army** in the **Russo-Turkish War (1710-1711)**.



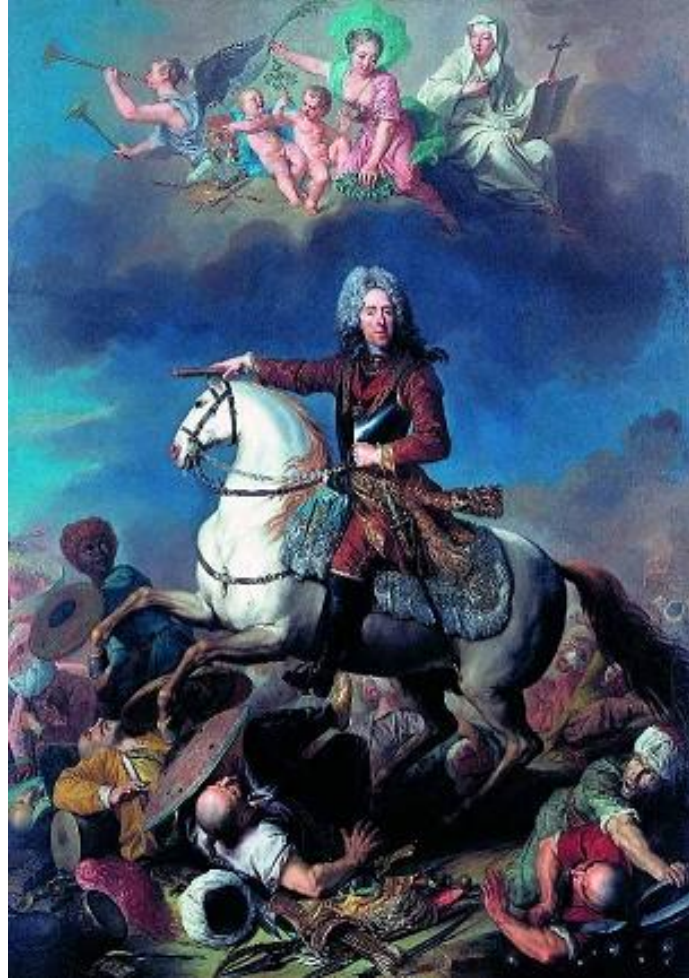
Turks then went on the offensive, invading **Greece** and **Venetian territories**, led by **Turkish Grand Vizier Damat Ali** in the **Turkish-Venetian War (1714-1718)**.



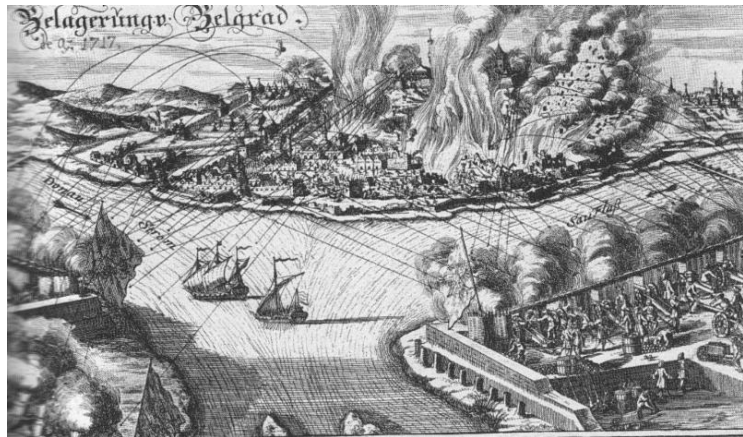
Once again, Europe was rescued by **Austrian Prince Eugene of Savoy** in the **Austro-Turkish War, 1716-1718**.

In 1716, **Savoy** defeated the

Ottoman Turks at **Petrovaradin**, captured the **Banat** (areas of **Romania**, **Serbia** and **Hungary**) and the capital city of **Timisoara**.



In 1717, **Savoy** recaptured **Belgrade, Serbia**, whose Christian population had been brutally crushed and enslaved by numerous Islamist campaigns dating back to 1521.

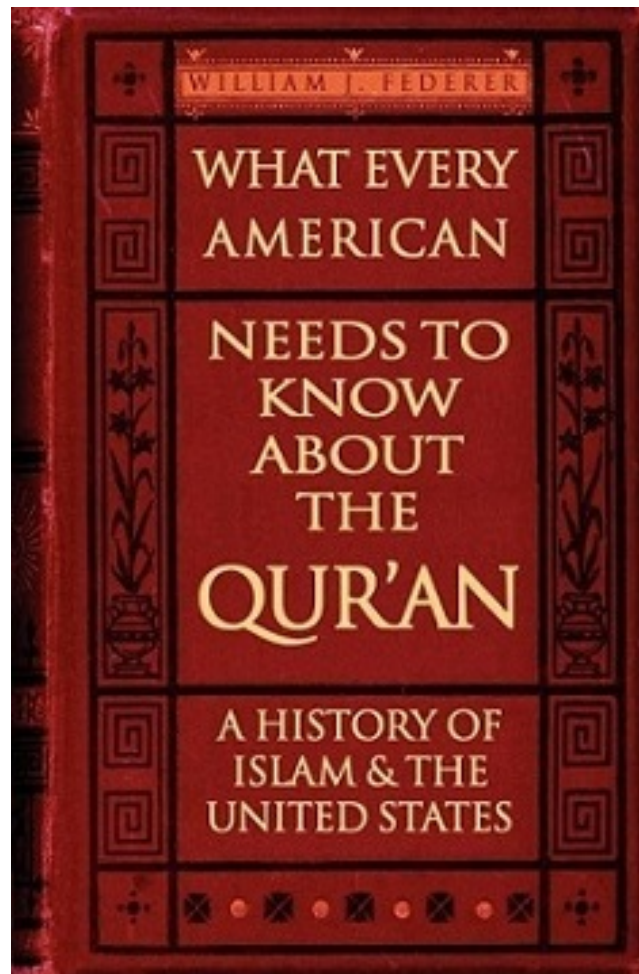


Savoy's successful halt of the **Ottoman invasion** into Europe resulted in the Turkish Empire suing for peace in 1718 with the **Treaty of Passarowitz**, as

the sharia practice was, when you are strong fight without mercy, but when you are weak, make treaties until you can become strong again.



[What Every American Needs to Know About the Qur'an-A History of Islam and the United States](#)



One of the young soldiers fighting at the **Battle of Belgrade**, who served as an **aide-de-camp to Prince Savoy**, was 17-year-old Englishman

James Oglethorpe.



Oglethorpe fought with distinction in the **Austro-Turkish War**, and then returned to England at the age of 21.

He unintentionally killed a man in a brawl and spent five months in **prison**.

Upon release, **James** followed in the footsteps of his father, **Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe**, and became a **member of Parliament**, where he served for 32 years, 1722-1754.



In **Parliament**, he became known for **opposing slavery**.

In 1728, one of



James Oglethorpe's friends, **Robert Castell**, was unable to pay his debts and was thrown into **London's**

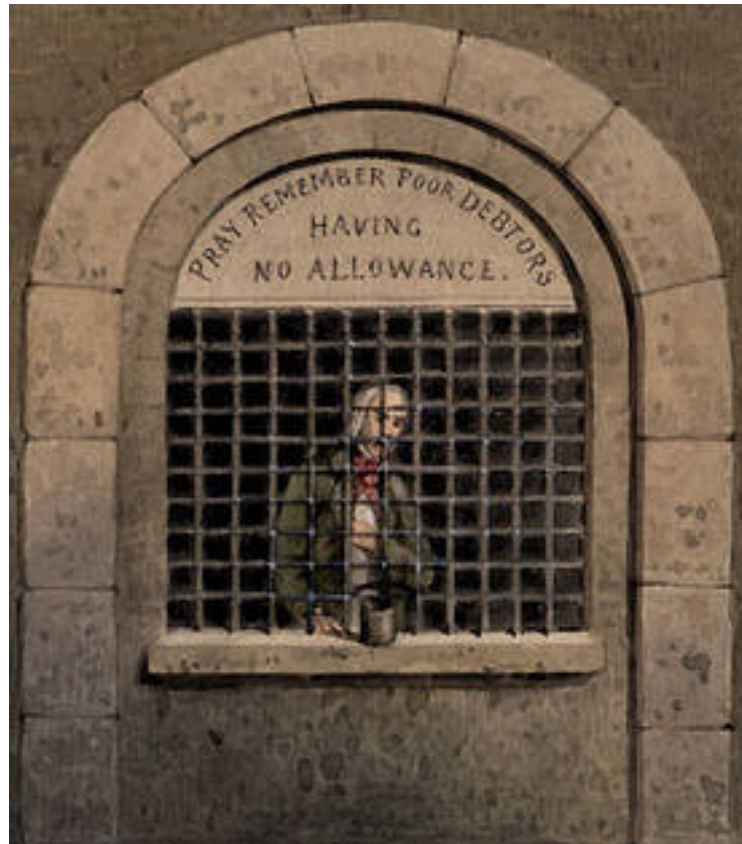
notorious Fleet Debtor's Prison.

At the time, in English prisons, **prisoners had to pay the guards to get food** and a decent room. As Castell was unable to pay, he was put in a cell with someone dying of smallpox.

Castell caught the disease and **died**.

When **Oglethorpe** heard the news, he was distraught. He began a **national campaign for prison reform**, and headed a parliamentary committee to investigate them.

Steps were made to end the extortion and abuse of prisoners, and improve sanitary conditions.



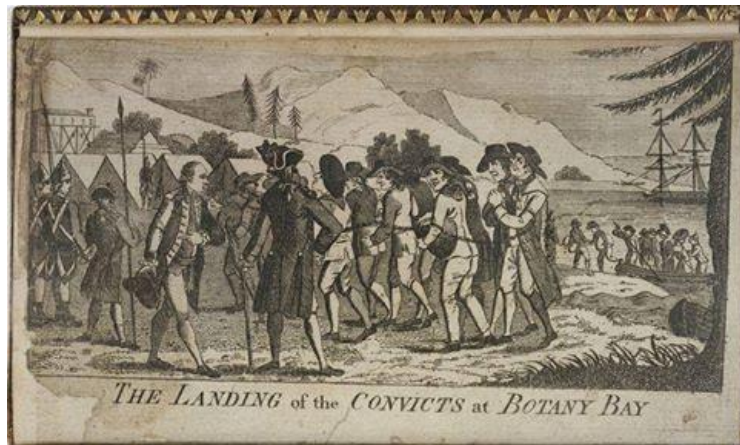
James Oglethorpe conceived of an idea for a **colony in America** where **poor debtors and religious**



refugees could get a second chance.

He named the colony "**Georgia**" after Britain's **King George II**.

A side note is, that after **America** became independent, **Britain** began to send their **convicted felons** to the **penal colony** of **Australia** in 1783.



Georgia's Colonial Charter, 1732, stated regarding religious freedom:

"There shall be a **liberty of conscience** allowed in the **worship of God ...** and that all such persons, **except papists**, shall

have a **free exercise of their religion.**"

Sailing on the ship *Ann*, the 115 settlers landed on

JANUARY 13,
1733.

A year later,
**Protestant
refugees** from
Salzburg, Austria,
called
"Salzburgers,"
settled the town of
**Ebenezer,
Georgia.**



In 1735, **Moravian
Christian settlers**
from **Bohemia**
arrived through
Fort Argyle.

**Scottish
Presbyterians**
arrived from **New
Inverness** in
1736.



**Huguenot
Protestant**
refugees had
arrived from **France.**

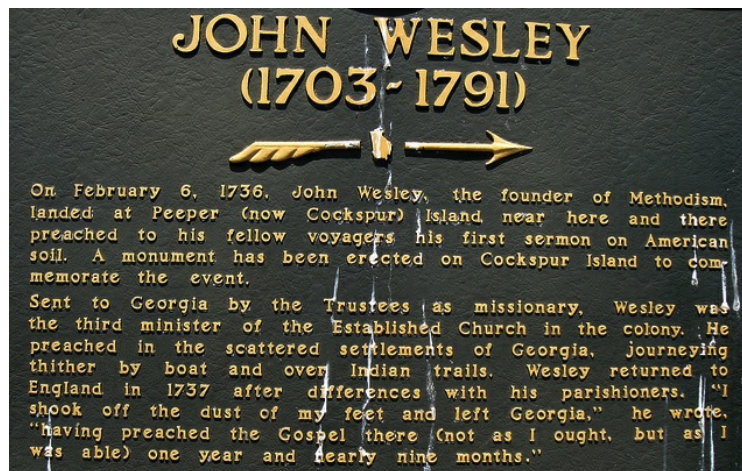
James Oglethorpe's
secretary was **Charles
Wesley**, who later
became a hymn writer,
composing among
others, the carol
"Hark, the Herald

Angel Sings."



Charles Wesley's brother, John Wesley, served in 1735 as the Georgia's Anglican minister.

They later began the Methodist revival movement within the Anglican Church.

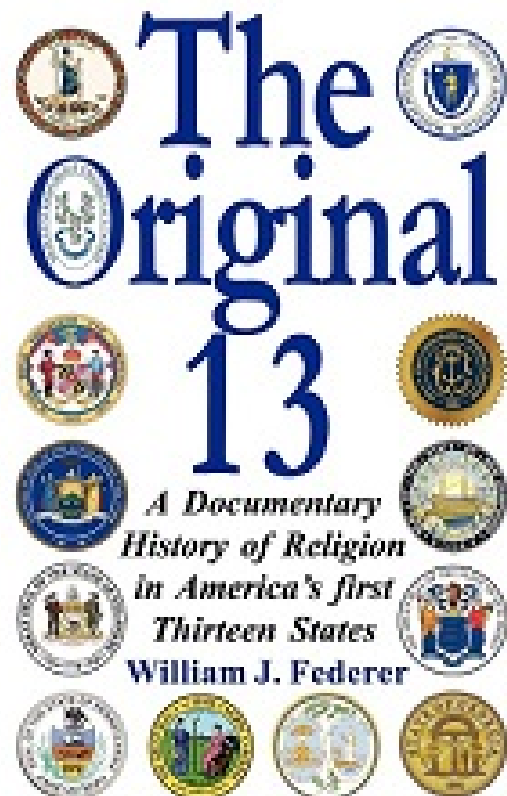


The Wesleys' friend, Rev. George Whitefield, preached to enthusiastic crowds in Georgia in 1738, and later started an



orphanage there.

[THE ORIGINAL 13 - A
Documentary History of
Religion in America's First
Thirteen States](#)



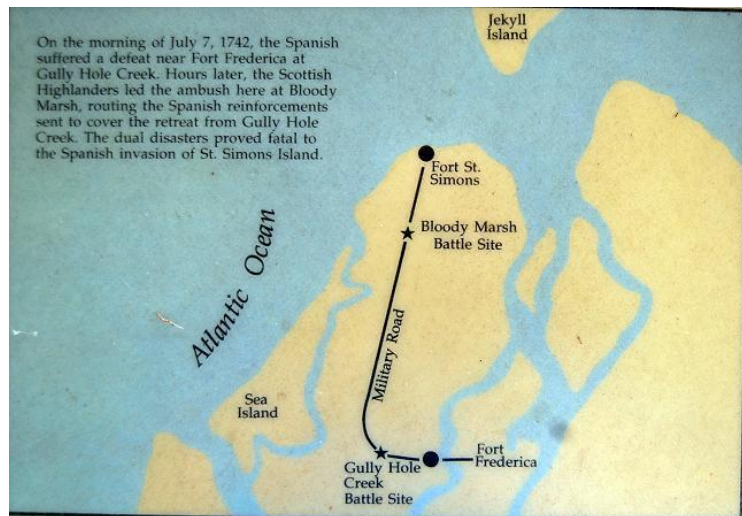
On July 11, 1733, 34
**Portuguese
Sephardic Jews** and 8
**German Ashkenazic
Jews**, arrived in
Savannah, Georgia.
This was the largest
group of Jews to land in
North America prior to
the Revolutionary War.

They began the **Holy
Congregation Hope of**



Israel-"Kahal Kodesh Mickve Israel," the third oldest Jewish congregation in the United States.

In 1742, during the **War of Jenkin's Ear**, some 3,000 **Spanish soldiers** landed on **Georgia's St. Simon's Island**.



Oglethorpe repelled the Spanish in the **Battle of Bloody Marsh**, July 7, 1742.

The next year, **Oglethorpe** returned to England where he served in the military.



Georgia's Royal Governor Henry Ellis made peace with the **Creek Indians**, and issued an Act regarding religion in 1758:

"Establishing Religious Worship therein, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of **the Church of England**;

and also for empowering the Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the respective Parishes ... for the repair of churches, the relief of the poor, and other Parochial service."

This Act **established the Anglican Church** as the Colony of **Georgia's official denomination**, with a £25 per annum salary for every **Anglican clergyman**.

Catholics were specifically excluded from the

colony.



Beginning in 1755,
**Britain expelled
all French
Catholics** from
Acadia, Canada.

Some 400 **French
Catholics** arrived
in **Savannah,
Georgia.**



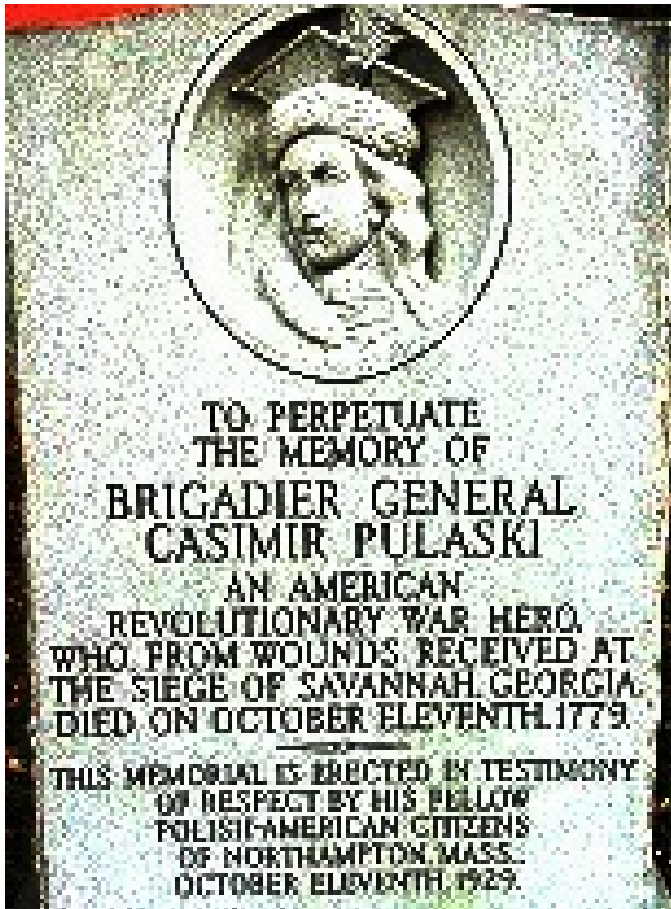
They were only allowed to stay the winter before being
ordered to leave.



Some expelled
Acadians traveled
to South Carolina,
others to St.
Dominique Island,
and still others to the **French
Catholic Louisiana Territory**, where the pronunciation
of "Acadian" evolved to "**Cajun.**"

Other Protestants arrived in Georgia.

In 1772, **Daniel Marshall** established Kiokee Baptist Church - the **first Baptist Church in Georgia.**



Georgia is also known for **Polish General Casmir Pulaski**, father of the American cavalry, who died fighting the British at **Savannah.**

Georgia had many Revolutionary War patriots, such as **Nancy Hart.**

While her husband was away, six British soldiers converged on their

frontier home.



Soldiers shot her prize gobbler and ordered her to cook it.

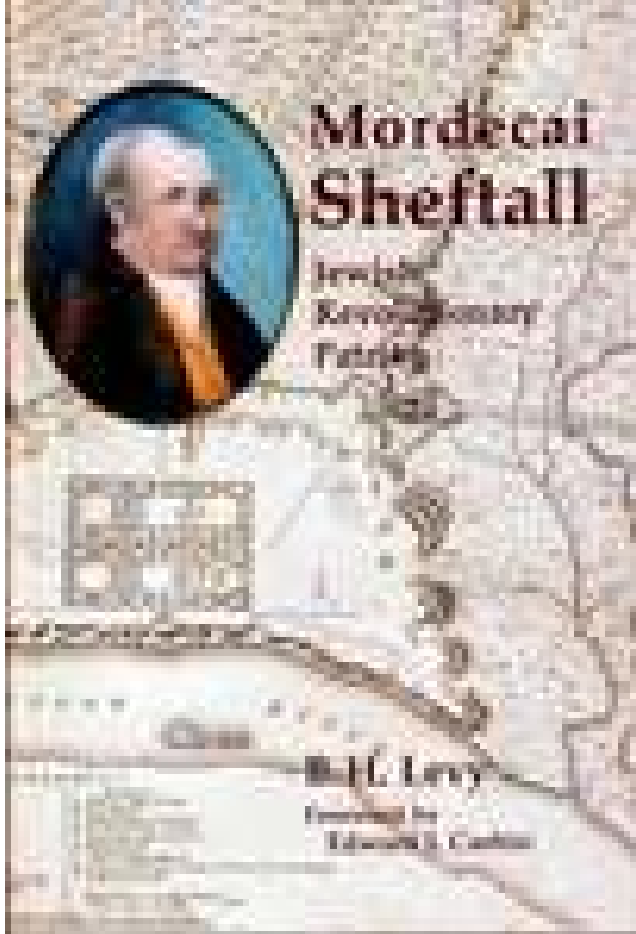
After feeding and serving them lots of wine **Nancy** grabbed one of their guns,

promising to shoot the first one that moved.

After shooting two, her husband showed up and they hung the rest.

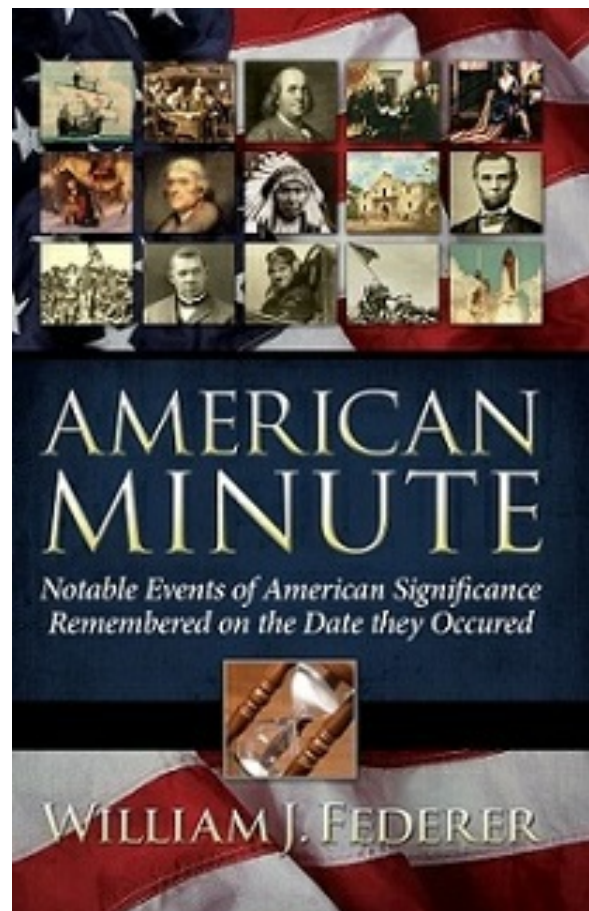


Colonel Mordecai Sheftall of Georgia became the Continental Army's **highest ranking Jewish**



officer, serving as Deputy Commissary General for American troops in 1778.

[American Minute-Notable Events of American Significance Remembered on the Date They Occurred](#)



In 1777, **Georgia** passed its **first State**



Constitution,
stating:

"We the people of Georgia, relying upon the protection and guidance of **Almighty God**, do ordain and establish this Constitution."

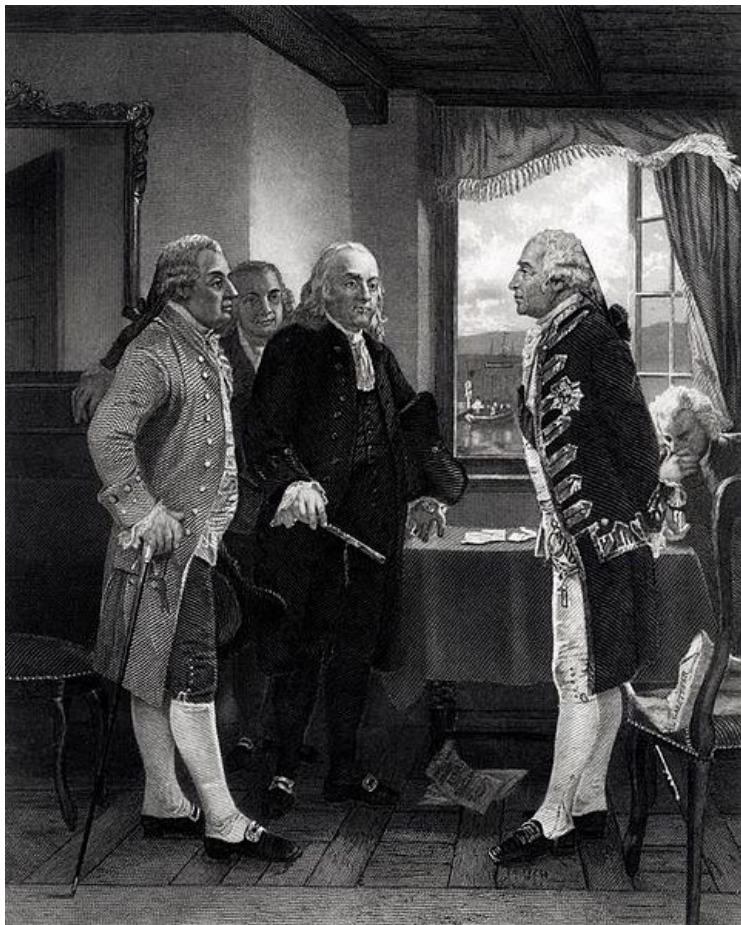
Georgia's Constitution,

1777, Article 6 stated:

"Representatives shall be chosen out of the residents in each county ... and they shall be of the **Protestant religion.**"

In 1785, **John Adams** was sent as the **first U.S. Ambassador to Britain.**

While there, **Adams visited with James Oglethorpe** just months before his death.



In 1788, **Georgia** was the 4th State



to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1789, **Georgia's** population was over 82,000. It adopted a **second Constitution** which **removed the Protestant requirement**, simply stating:

"All persons shall have the free exercise of religion."

A third **Georgia Constitution** was adopted in 1798, establishing **religious toleration**.

In the first 34 years of **Georgia's** statehood, conflicts arose between settlers and **Indians**, especially when **gold was discovered on Cherokee land** in 1829, causing the **Georgia Gold Rush**.



An **Indian Removal Act** was **hurriedly rushed through a Democrat controlled Congress** in 1830.

This resulted in



the tragic "**Trail of Tears**" where over 16,000 men, women, and children of the tribes **Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee**, were evicted from their

homes and rounded up at gun point by Federal troops.

They were first put in wooden stockade **Federal internment camps**, then, in the bitter winter of 1838, marched from Georgia and southeastern regions of the United States to the Oklahoma Territory.

Over 4,000 died on the march.

Georgia's religious history included the **Jewish Mickve Israel**

Congregation, which in 1786 had an attendance of 73.

In 1790,

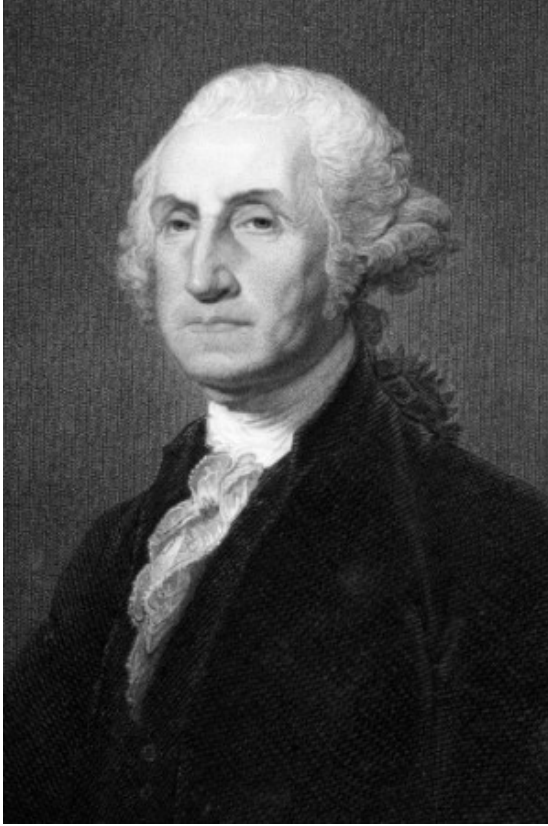
Georgia's

Governor granted

the **Jewish congregation** a State Charter.



President Washington wrote to the **Hebrew Congregation** in **Savannah, Georgia**, May 1790:



"May the same **wonder-working Deity**, who long since delivered the Hebrews from their Egyptian oppressors, planted them in the promised land,

whose **Providential Agency** has lately been conspicuous in establishing these United States as an independent nation,

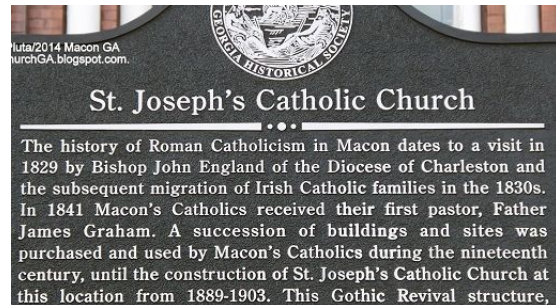
still continue to water them with the **dews of Heaven**, and make the inhabitants of

every denomination partake in the temporal and spiritual blessings of that people, whose **God is Jehovah.**"

The **first Catholic residents** moved into **Georgia** from Maryland around 1793.

They initially had no priests, but when the **French Revolution** sparked a **slave revolt** on the **Island of St. Dominique-Haiti**, a few **French priests** fled to Georgia.

In 1810, the State Legislature incorporated the **Catholic Church of Augusta**.



In 1820, **Irish Bishop John England** was appointed over the State's one hundred **Catholics** in **Savannah**, plus a few more in



Augusta.

Bishop England founded **America's first Catholic newspaper**, *The United States Catholic Miscellany*.

In 1826, **Bishop John England** delivered the **first Catholic Sermon in the U.S. Capitol**, at a Sunday morning Church service held in the House of

Representatives.

The overflow audience included **President John Quincy Adams**, who had previously referred to the Catholic Church in an address, July 4, 1821, as "fetters of ecclesiastical domination" incompatible with republican institutions.



Bishop England reassured the predominately Protestant audience, January 8, 1826:

"We do not believe that **God** gave to the **Church** any power to interfere with our civil rights, or our civil concerns ...

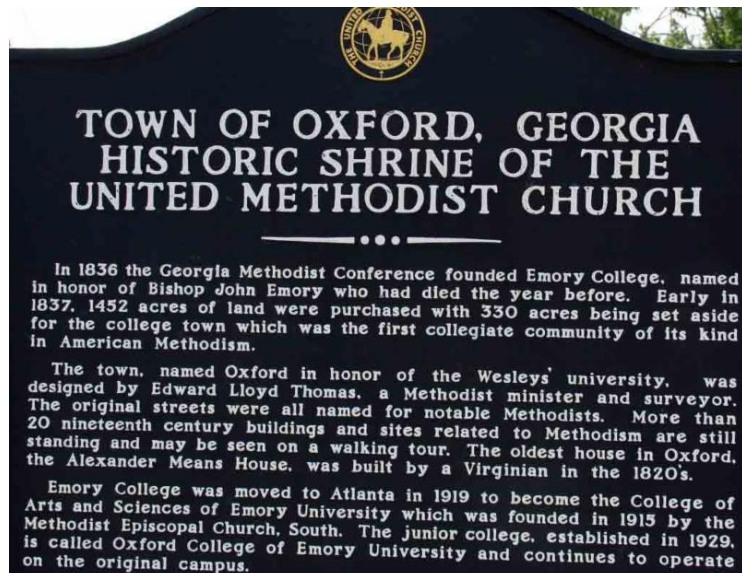
I would not allow to the Pope, or to any bishop of our Church ... the smallest interference with the humblest vote at our most insignificant balloting box."



By 1839, **Bishop John England** listed 11 priests in **Georgia**.

The population of **Georgia** in 1830 was 516,823.

In 1836, **Methodists** founded **Emory College**, named after **Methodist Bishop John Emory**, in the city of **Oxford**, and **Wesleyan Female College** at **Macon** -- the **first** **institution of learning** founded **specifically for women** in **America**.

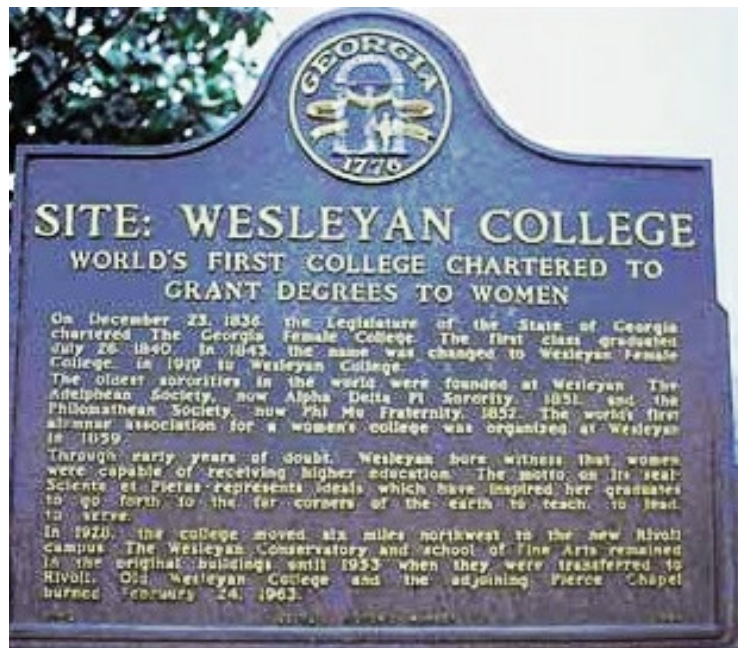


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The Original 13

A Documentary History of Religion in America's first Thirteen States
 William J. Federer

Georgia supported the State's Right doctrine before the outbreak of the **War Between the States**, and when Lincoln was elected, politicians moved for secession from the Union.



Georgia was devastated as the Civil War progressed, especially in the **fall of Atlanta** and **General Sherman's** march to the sea.

In 1865, **Atlanta University** was founded by the **Protestant American Missionary Association** to help freed slaves, as was **Clark University**, founded in 1869 by the **Methodist Episcopal Church**.



The population of **Georgia** in 1870 was 1,184,109.

In 1877, **Georgia's Constitution** stated:

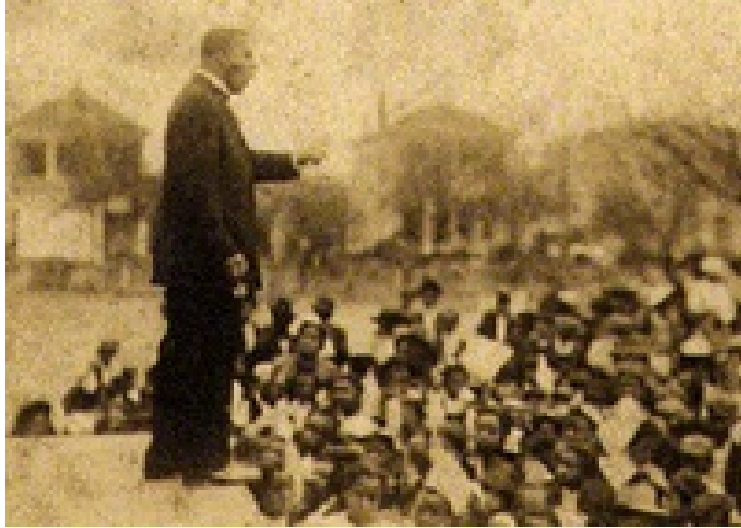
"Relying upon the protection and guidance of **Almighty God** ...

All men have the natural and inalienable right to worship **God**, each according to the **dictates of his own conscience**."

In 1877, **Baptists** founded **Shorter College** at Rome, and in 1881, **Methodists** founded **Morris Brown College**.

In 1895, history was made at the **International Exposition in Atlanta** when the

black **President of the Tuskegee Institute, Booker T. Washington**, was invited to give a **keynote address**.



In 1900, the population of **Georgia** was 2,216,331.

As of 1910, the **State of Georgia** gave full **liberty of conscience** in matters of **religious opinion and worship**, but **did not legalize willful or profane scoffing**.

It was unlawful to conduct any **secular business** on **Sunday**.

Georgia's oath of office was administered with one hand upon the **Bible** and the other uplifted, with the affirmation:

"You do solemnly swear in the presence of the **ever living God**" or "You do sincerely and truly affirm, etc."

Legislative sessions opened with **prayer**.

The U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, conducted by *The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life*, 2007, published in the *USA Today*, listed Georgia as:

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Organized in 1819, this Church is an outgrowth of Grant's Meeting House, the first Methodist Church building in Georgia, erected 5 miles E. in 1787. In 1820, the Methodists built the first church building in Washington. It was shared by other denominations. In 1823, Rev. Alexander Webster, first pastor of the Washington Presbyterian Church, was ordained there. A Methodist Sunday School was organized in 1871. A Woman's Missionary Society, started in 1878, was the first in the Conference. On the site of the first structure, a second, now the Masonic Temple, was erected in 1882. In this building, erected in 1907, the first Methodist Men's Club in Methodism was chartered in 1919, during the pastorate of Rev. G. S. Frazer. Bishop Francis Asbury visited Washington many times during his 17 trips to Georgia. He held the second Methodist Conference in Georgia in the log Courthouse, near the site of the present Wilkes County Courthouse. Rev. Hope Hull and Rev. Lorenzo Dow were among the famous pioneer Circuit Riders to hold revival meetings in Washington. Rev. Lovick Pierce, leader in early Methodism, was the first recorded pastor of this church.

83 percent Christian, consisting of:

- Evangelical Protestant - 38 percent
- Mainline Protestant - 16 percent
- Black Protestant - 16 percent
- Catholic - 12 percent
- Orthodox - <0.5 percent
- Other Christian - <0.5 percent

1 percent - Jewish

<0.5 percent - Mormon

<0.5 percent - Jehovah's Witnesses

<0.5 percent - Muslim

<0.5 percent - Buddhist

<0.5 percent - Hindu

<0.5 percent - Other World Religions

<0.5 percent - Other Faiths

<0.5 percent - Did not answer

12 percent - Unaffiliated

When **James Oglethorpe** and the first settlers touched **Georgia's shore**, JANUARY 13, 1733, they knelt while **Rev. Herbert Henry** offered prayer. They declared:

"Our end in leaving our native country is not to gain riches and honor, but singly this: to live wholly to **the glory of God.**"



Their object was: "To make **Georgia** a religious colony."

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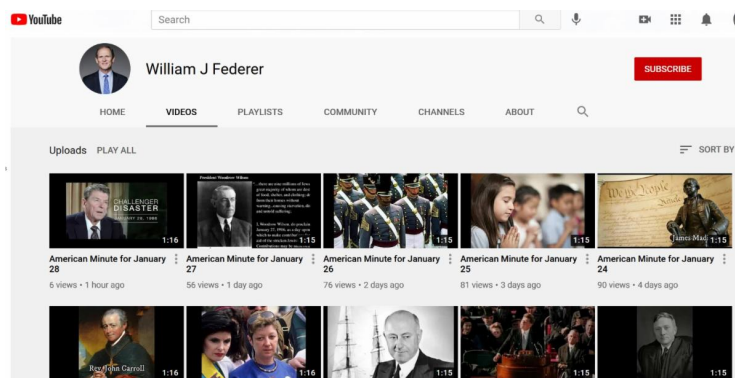
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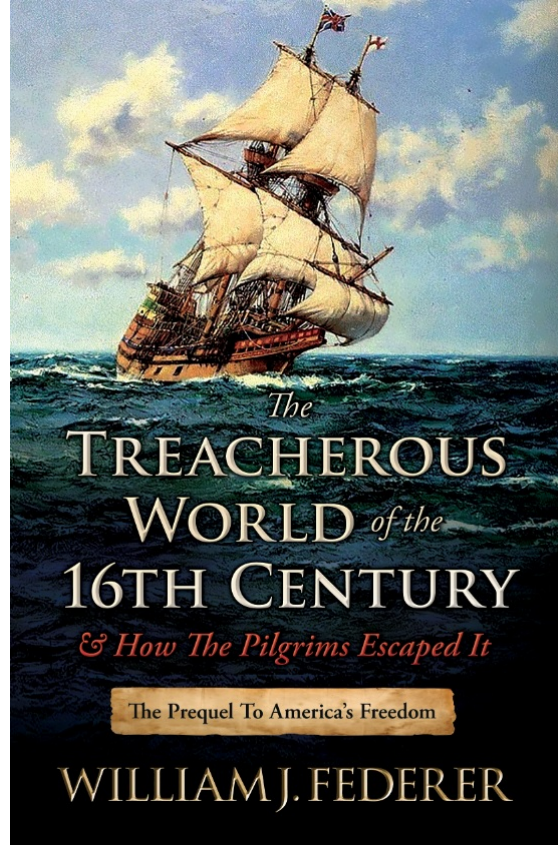


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