Fort Frederica Celebrates James Oglethorpe’s Birthday

“This being Mr. Oglethorpe’s Birthday the magistrates, military Officers, and principal Inhabitants, met at the Fort, where some Bottles of Wine and some Biscuit being prepared, about Noon his Majesty’s Health, and the Royal Family’s were drank, under a Discharge of thirteen guns; then the honourable Trustees; and next the Captain General of these provinces. In the Evening a handsome, cold Entertainment was provided at a Tavern by the Subscription of upwards of thirty, who (as many as could find them) brought Partners to dance; which they did and were marry.”

William Stephens
December 21, 1737
Savannah

As the leading figure of the new colony of Georgia, General James Edward Oglethorpe was feted on his birthday in the young settlements of the colony.

On Saturday, December 13th, the National Park Service at Fort Frederica National Monument will celebrate Oglethorpe’s birthday in true colonial style from 11 am until 5 pm.

Join park staff and living history volunteers for cannon and musket firings, toasts and joviality. Meet Mr. Oglethorpe on his special day and learn the important role of these celebrations in lifting the spirits of the settlers. The Stewart-Law Baroque Ensemble Trio will provide colonial-era music at 1 pm. The visitor center will be decorated in colonial style by the Neptune Garden Club.

Refreshments will be served.
On Sunday, October 5th, the rich heritage of the Golden Isles comes to life as the area’s historic sites extend an invitation to the community to “Discover Your Own Backyard!” From 2 pm to 6 pm Fort Frederica, St Simons Island Lighthouse, Howfyl-Broadfield Plantation, the Mildred Huie Museum at the Mediterranean House and the Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum will open their doors to the public free of charge offering the public the opportunity to experience local history.

Each location will offer special events and programs during the afternoon that will transport visitors to the past by bringing history alive. At Fort Frederica, join a soldier from the 42nd Regiment of Foot as he talks about what life was like at the fort in 1742; young and old alike will learn how to play colonial games, such as “Farkle”, cribbage and Skittles. At the Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum at Epworth-by-the-Sea, Susanna Wesley will welcome visitors and guide them through not only Methodist history but Gullah culture and Sacred Harp or shape-note singing.

Folks dropping by the St Simons Island Lighthouse will have a rare chance to meet the Lighthouse Keeper who will share the tales of his struggles to keep the light burning, and the importance of his work to the growth of St Simons and Brunswick. An exciting exhibition of St Simons Island and Mainland plantations and plantation personalities will be showcased at the unique Mediterranean House on Frederica Road. And don’t miss the opportunity to share “An Afternoon with Ophelia Dent” at Howfyl-Broadfield Plantation as Sudy Leavy portrays the last heir of that important coastal family.

Visitors can grab a “passport” at any location that will be stamped at each site and perhaps take advantage of a special discount in the museum’s stores. So come out and discover the amazing treasures in your own backyard on Sunday, October 5, 2008 from 2 pm to 6 pm. For detailed information at a specific site, please call the museum directly.

Help the Park — Recycle Your Brochure

While visiting the park, you may notice a couple of wooden boxes for recycled brochures at the Visitor Center and near the Cemetery. Due to rising costs to print these beautiful color pamphlets, we are trying to conserve our resources by reusing the brochures for future visitors. If you do not want to keep your brochure as a souvenir, please do your part by using the recycling boxes.

Thank you!
Glimpses of Frederica’s Past: Developing the Park

From the pages of the Fort Frederica Association

1956 saw much development in the 10 year old Fort Frederica park unit. The National Park Service had convinced the Administration of the need to fund deferred maintenance and needed development work throughout the entire National Park system. This program, known as “Mission 66”, was a ten year plan to be completed in 1966. Frederica was at the top of the list because it was ready. The Fort Frederica Association had successfully pressed for completion of a long-range plan for the park and had stimulated local interests in the area.

The total expenditure planned for Fort Frederica National Monument under “Mission 66” was $348,000. Scheduled improvements included construction of the Museum and Visitor Center, expanded archeological work, two new employee dwellings, utility buildings and a parking area.

The Park Service announced these plans on May 20, 1956. Some 2,500 people gathered at the park to witness a ceremony in which two 18th century cannon were transferred from a US Navy vessel to the site of the fort ruin.

As a “goodwill gesture from a British Colony to a former British Colony,” the cannons were a gift from the people of Jamaica, when they learned that Frederica had only one of its original cannon left.

In December 1956, ground was broken for the Museum and Visitor Center. Dedication ceremonies for the new building were held on February 23, 1958. More than 100 descendants of Frederica’s original settlers and soldiers who attended the dedication were introduced by Historian Margaret Davis Cate. Mrs. E.W.G. Chapman of Nova Scotia, the descendant who traveled farthest to attend the ceremony, had the honor of cutting the ribbon to mark the formal opening of the Fort Frederica National Monument Museum and Visitor Center.

National Parks Passport Book and Stamps

A great way to explore your National Parks is to have a handy guide with you in the form of the National Parks Passport Book. Many visitors mark their journeys by collecting cancellation stamps in these books and collecting the colorful national and regional stamps each year. For more information ask in the visitor center bookstore.
Experience a Year of History with the Fort Frederica Pass

The number of special programs at Fort Frederica National Monument is growing. With all the new offerings you might want to consider purchasing an annual Fort Frederica pass. The $10 pass entitles the holder (including spouse, children, and parents) to free admission to Fort Frederica for one year from the time of purchase. You can purchase the pass at the counter in the Visitor Center. A portion of each park pass sale stays in the park and supports special projects and programs.

EXTREME FIRE DANGER. Please be careful with cigarettes.
Welcome to Fort Frederica National Monument.

You are in store for an adventure through a surprising history. Frederica’s stories range from the broad — clash of empires, life and death battles that will decide the fate of an entire region — to the personal stories of struggle, hardship and victory/defeat. You have many options to uncover these tales.

Over the next few pages, this guide will help you get the most out of your visit today.

Enjoy!
Fort Frederica National Monument’s Visitor Center is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily. It offers exhibits that feature many of the artifacts recovered from archeological digs. Interactive computers and hands-on activities are designed to introduce the site’s history and prepare visitors for exploration of this town and fort.

**Allow 10-20 minutes in the museum exhibits.**

**Orientation Film**

*History Uncovered* is a good place to start your discovery of Fort Frederica. It provides an introduction to the history of Fort Frederica and its archaeological resources. The British-Spanish struggle for control of the region is brought to life utilizing living history interpreters and subject experts.

**Running Time: 23 minutes**

**Shows every 30 minutes in the Visitor Center Theater.**

**Kid’s Activities**

**Junior Ranger Program.** Experience one of the most unique junior ranger programs in the National Park System. Kids can check out a soldier’s haversack loaded with colonial tools and items that will help them complete activities to earn a junior ranger badge. The activities take about 1 1/2 hours to complete.

**Try-on Colonial Clothes.** Dress as a colonial lady or soldier. Located in the Visitor Center Museum.

**18th-Century Games and Activities Table.** Try your hand at colonial games and learn about children in the 18th-Century. Located in the Visitor Center Museum.

**Hands-On Musket Drill.** Learn about the life of a British soldier by participating in a hands-on musket drill program. For more information, ask at the Visitor Center Information Desk.
Safety
Fort Frederica National Monument is committed to provide visitors with a quality and safe experience and you can help.

**Safety Notes**
- Please take note of any signs that guard against hazards.
- While walking the beautiful tree-lined streets, watch out for hazardous limbs.
- Please do **NOT** seek shelter under any of the huge live oaks if thunder and lightning are in the area.
- Please stay out of ruins to help us preserve them for the future.

Although we strive for a safe environment, we may miss something. Please let us know how we can improve.

Accessibility
At Fort Frederica National Monument, we want everyone to be able to experience the surprising history of Fort Frederica. To accomplish this goal, we offer a few services to allow everyone the opportunity to explore this history fully.

**Golf Carts** - For those with mobility impairment, a golf cart can be used. Simply inquire with a ranger or volunteer at the front desk. In order to reserve a cart you will need to supply a driver’s license, which will be returned upon the return of the cart.

**Open Captioning** for the film *History Uncovered* - Captions are specifically designed for viewers with hearing loss to enable their full participation when viewing the park film. The captions include information regarding on- and off-screen sound effects such as music or laughter. Captions also hold secondary benefits for people who are learning a foreign language, or learning how to read, as well as those who understand best by processing visual information.

**Audio Description** for the film *History Uncovered* - Audio description describes the visual content of the film. It provides individuals who are visually impaired with information that further describes the visual content not provided by the primary audio track. An audio description narrator describes actions, gestures, scene changes, and other visual information.

If there is any way that we can make your visit better, please let us know.

Interpretive Programs
Interpretive programs offer a great way to discover the many layers of Frederica’s history.

**Audio Tours.** This 45-minute tour takes you through the heart of Frederica to the Fort. Narration and the sounds of the town help bring the town to life.

**Guided Tours.** Explore Frederica’s history with a park ranger.

**Historic Weapons Programs.** Learn about the life of a British soldier and experience a musket firing demonstration.

**For more information about today’s schedule ask at the Visitor Center Information Desk.**
**Bloody Marsh**

Six miles south of the main unit of Fort Frederica National Monument is a small site that memorializes the final battle between British and Spanish forces on St. Simons Island. The site has a few exhibits and a great view of what is now known as Bloody Marsh. Bloody Marsh is located on Demere Road. For directions, please ask at the Visitor Center desk.

**The Spanish Side of the Story**

Consider traveling a few miles south to visit the Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas located in St. Augustine, FL. These National Park Service sites tell the story of the Spanish settlement and claims to the region and figure prominently in the history of Fort Frederica.
Upcoming Events at Fort Frederica

Colonial Game Night: Fox and Geese

On Saturday, November 15, the park will host another Colonial Game program at 7:00 pm. Fox and Geese is an 18th Century pegboard game that delights all who play it. Learn a little about the lifestyles of Frederica’s settlers and this historic game.

Frederica Folkways 18th Century Cooking

On Saturday, October 25, from 10 am until 3 pm join a Park Ranger for an on-going cooking demonstration. Learn how the settlers adapted both new foods and cooking methods to help them survive in the infant colony of Georgia.

A costumed interpreter will spend the day cooking, explaining and demonstrating 18th century cooking techniques. New settlers to the infant colony of Georgia faced many problems, not the least of which was keeping their families fed.

Cooking was a major part of a woman’s life here at Frederica and it was an all-day process. A task that started before dawn to get fires started (that needed to be tended all day) and did not end until the last of the clean-up was finished. Settlers needed to adapt new foods and cooking methods in order to survive.

If so, please consider becoming a National Park Service volunteer. If you are interested in making a difference in your national park, please visit the Visitor Center to get a volunteer application or contact volunteer coordinator Jon Burpee at 912-638-3639 or e-mail Jon_Burpee@nps.gov.

A Demonstration of the new Long Land Pattern Musket

Including,
A Description of the Life of a Soldier &
a Tour to the sites important to these HEROES
including the Barracks, the Sentry Post, Bastions, Magazine, the Parade Ground and TAVERNS

As told by A Soldier in his Majesty’s Army serving in the 42nd Regiment of Foot.

October 11, 2008. 2:00 p.m.
ALL INTRÉPID ABLE-BODIED HEROES,

HO are willing to serve His Majesty King George the Second, in defence of their country, laws and constitution, against the usurpations of the Spanish and French, have now not only an opportunity of manifesting their spirit, by assisting in reducing to obedience their too-long deluded enemies, but also acquiring the polite accomplishments of a soldier, by serving only seven years.

Such spirited fellows, who are willing to engage, will be rewarded at the end of their service, besides their laurels, with 50 acres of land, where every gallant hero may retire, and enjoy his bottle and lass.

Each Volunteer will receive, as a bounty, one shilling, besides arms, clothing and accoutrements, and every other requisite proper to accommodate a gentleman soldier, by applying to Captain Alexander Heron at the Barracks at Cross-street in the Town of Frederica.

Fort Frederica National Monument is recruiting a few interested volunteers to portray the soldiers of Heron’s Company of the 42nd Regiment of Foot. For information about an upcoming organizational meeting, please contact Park Ranger Jon Burpee at 912-638-3639 or Jon_Burpee@nps.gov
Historian’s Corner:

Oglethorpe’s Own: How Oglethorpe’s Regiment Helped Bring Down the Government

Editor’s Note: Perhaps the least understood aspect of Frederica’s history is the role of the soldiers stationed at Fort Frederica. Over the next several issues of the Almanack we will bring you a series of articles about the regiment’s history.

The establishment of Oglethorpe’s regiment is full of intrigue and shows his determination to get his way.

Almost immediately upon the creation of the new province of Georgia, James Oglethorpe was concerned about the protection of the new settlement. Fearing attacks from the French to the west and the Spanish to the south of Georgia, he engaged in hard-handed maneuvering to get his way.

He pushed Prime Minister Robert Walpole’s government for a large troop presence in Georgia. Walpole was concerned that the presence of a regiment in the contested area might spark a war with Spain. Having received a diplomatic note from the Spanish government stating that any move to bring troops into the new province would be seen as an act of aggression, the Prime Minister essentially attempted to bribe Oglethorpe. Walpole asked Oglethorpe to put aside his demands for a Georgia regiment by offering him a regiment to command in England.

Oglethorpe reponded warmly to the Prime Minister and asked “whether he thought he had no conscience, to be the instrument of carrying over 3,000 souls to Georgia, and then abandoning them to be destroyed by the Spaniards, for the consideration of a regiment.” Not getting his way with the prime minister, Oglethorpe went a step further.

After a hunt with King George II and Walpole, Oglethorpe was able to announce to the other trustees that he would be given a new regiment to command in Georgia. Desiring to name his own officers, Colonel Oglethorpe was aghast at hearing that the Prime Minister had convinced the King to take the Earl of Rothe’s regiment (25th) stationed at Gibraltar and send it to Georgia. To accomplish this he planned on removing the Earl from his command for being too friendly to rebels in Scotland. Oglethorpe argued that this would lead to a duel.

Oglethorpe broke rank and directly courted the king’s support. A compromise was struck where Oglethorpe would inherit 250 of Rothe’s men and a few officer’s from the half-pay list but was able to appoint the majority of officers.

Oglethorpe’s ability to work behind the scenes to accomplish his goals helped bring a regiment to Georgia, but it also led to the downfall of the prime minister. The war that Walpole attempted to avoid erupted in 1739. When news of several military disasters in Florida and Central America reached London, he was forced to step down as prime minister.

Right: (Top) Sir Robert Walpole, (Center) James Edward Oglethorpe, (Bottom) King George II.
Every year, hundreds of young visitors complete the requirements to earn a Fort Frederica Junior Ranger Badge. If you want more information on the Junior Ranger program, ask a ranger or volunteer in the Visitor Center.

A few of the latest Junior Rangers include:

- Pete Garcia, age 8, Waxahachie, TX
- Rona Garcia, age 10, Waxahachie, TX
- Brent Wilkes, age 13, Carnesville, GA
- Kyle Wilkes, age 10, Carnesville, GA
- Jacob Hinson, age 8, St. Clair, MO
- Alana Hinson, age 6, St. Clair, MO
- Sylvia Coren, age 13, Buford, GA
- Alyssa Sachs, age 8, Cudahy, WI
- Andrew Walsh, age 9, San Antonio, TX
- Iseland Walsh, age 11, San Antonio, TX
- Doug Goodin, age 9, Americus, GA
- Alexandra Gerberick, age 13, Ft. Myers, FL
- J.D. Tyler, age 11, Hutchinson, KS
- Hayley Benedict, age 10, Greenville, SC
- Damon Francisco, age 12, San Jose, CA
- Dillon Knight, age 8, Monroe, GA
- Wyatt Knight, age 6, Monroe, GA
- Tori Casey, age 10, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- Sofia Starkey, age 8, Tampa, FL
- Sierra Calleson, age 6, Tallahassee, FL
- Kaileyn Kellogg, age 10, Gulfport, MS
- Thomas Mitchell, age 11, Alpharetta, GA
- William Mitchell, age 10, Alpharetta, GA
- Austin Smith, age 13, Georgetown, TX
- Gray Alexander, age 11, Hermitage, TN
- Allison Lloyd, age 9, Long Beach, CA
- Ashley Lloyd, age 10, Long Beach, CA
- Jackie Rambo, age 13, Houston, TX
- Duncan Feaster, age 9, Kissimmee, FL
- Acacia Marie Crowe, age 11, Prospect, OH
- Emily Parks, age 11, Cypress, TX
- Aubrey Parks, age 8, Cypress, TX
- Jordan Purdy, age 10, Oakfield, GA
- Dee Purdy, age 9, Oakfield, GA
- Jay Webb, age 10, Mooresville, NC
- Jesha Ruth Roady, age 9, Santa Fe, TX
- Peter Talsness, age 8, Grayson, GA
- Andrew Cunningham, age 9, Griffin, GA
- Rebecca Cunningham, age 12, Griffin, GA
- Rachael Cunningham, age 11, Griffin, GA
- Ashley Phillips, age 10, Simpsonville, SC
- Josh Phillips, age 9, Simpsonville, SC
- Jordon Smith, age 11, Brooks, GA
- Emily Smith, age 8, Brooks, GA
- Breana Rinker, age 8, Grovetown, GA
- Ian Matheson, age 10, Brentwood, NH