

THE
WESTMINSTER
MAGAZINE

VOL. XIII

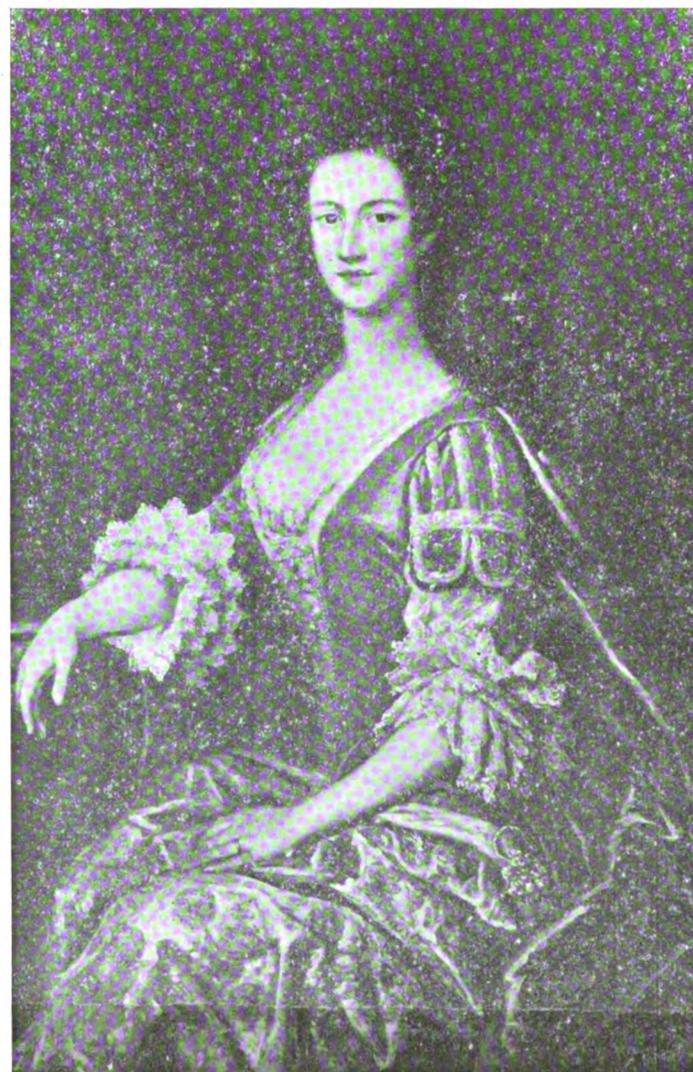
OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY, GEORGIA

DECEMBER, 1923



The interior of the little church at Cranham where General and Lady Oglethorpe lie buried. The name of the church is All Saints and Rev. Leslie Wright is its beloved and distinguished Rector. The memorial tablet hangs just to the right. The church was not constructed exactly on the foundations of the former building but about one foot and three inches to the east (Right). This throws the vault, itself, out of alignment with the center line of the chancel. The spot excavated is covered by the strip of carpet. The vault begins about three feet from the step leading from the chancel to the altar.

This spot will be sacred forever in the life of Oglethorpe University and the people of Georgia, who, having now discovered the exact spot where the founder of our commonwealth lies, will never again permit it to be forgotten.



These two portraits of General and Lady Oglethorpe are of exceeding great interest to Georgians. The portrait of General Oglethorpe shows him at a younger age than the drawings and pictures generally seen. The portrait of Lady Oglethorpe is believed to be the only one in existence. She was Miss Elizabeth Wright and the story goes that, at a party given to raise funds to pay the expenses of transporting the colonists to Georgia young James Oglethorpe met "Bess" Wright, who later became his wife. They lived happily for forty years at old Cranham Hall hard by little All Saints Church.

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"Who Is This That Cometh To Disturb My Rest?"

[At The Opening Of The Vault, October 10th, 1923, 4.30 P. M.]

Oglethorpe, awake, it is we!
From Georgia, thy Georgia, dost recall?
Castell—the Anne—old Charleston—then the bluff
Of densely wooded Yamacraw--
Savannah, drawn by thine own hand--
•Old Ebenezer--Frederica--Spanish guns--
And that red day at Bloody Marsh?
Awake, we come for Thee!
Numbered no longer by an hundred and a score,
But million-voiced, we call!
Come, see the travail of thy soul:--
Glynn's marshes, to sweet music their Lanier
Hath taught, wave rythmed welcome.
Tomochichi beckons, though his Creeks
Have followed fair Ioskeha to the West.
Cities by hundreds hum their grateful notes
Within the land thou gavest them,
Wherefrom great commonwealths have sprung:--
Rich Birmingham is thine; Augusta fair;
Electric, thine, Columbus, where the Chattahoochee
roars.
While at thy Georgia's farthest Western bounds,
By mighty Mississippi, Vicksburg waits.
And lo, thy capital upon her watchful ridge,
Atlanta, toils and sings and dreams of thee!
O Founder--Father, Oglethorpe, awake!

Thou art no longer precious dust
Nor group of sacred bones.
But living once again thou hast become
Monarch of millions! Dominant, again, thy will pre-
vails.
Hear this thy praise that rings throughout the land;
Thine is this adulation, this vast love;
Thine this memorial University;
Wherein thou canst unhand thy mighty soul
And teach us, as of yore, thy fairest dreams:
Of Friendship, militant for sad humanity;
Of conduct mailed in wise sobriety;
Of human liberty, uncowed by slaves;
Of Anglo-Saxon oneness; O Thou first
American and Englishman in one.
Thou honored Chief of England's swords,
Who would not fight against thy flesh and blood.
Didst see, afar that Vaster Essex,
That sisterhood of nations, Saxon wombed,
To whose warm heart and steady will
A world hegemony would come?
Great Oglethorpe, awake from visioned sleep!
All thou hast dreamed is true!
At last, thy morning dawn.
And thou dost rise, a King!

—THORNWELL JACOBS.

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THE DISCOVERY OF GEN. OGLETHORPE'S TOMB

By Dr. Thornwell Jacobs

I am indeed happy in the belief, so kindly expressed by others that my recent trip to England has revived the memories and loyalties that cluster around the name of James Edward Oglethorpe, founder of the commonwealth of Georgia.

The greatest gift that is ever made to any people is the gift of a great man.

The greatest gift that is ever made to any man is the gift of a high resolve.

Happy is the state that is born of a high resolve in the heart of a great man.

In such case stands Georgia. In the early days of the 18th century, a young Englishman named Robert Castell, an architect and artist, desiring to do a beautiful thing for the world, published a volume entitled, "The Villas of the Ancients." It was a very expensive book, and the sale being slow it involved the author in heavy debt. His importunate creditors, empowered to do so by the English law of the day, thrust him into the old Fleet prison which was conducted by that notorious scoundrel, Thomas Bambridge. In the endeavor to extract money from his friends through his sufferings, Castell was finally thrown into a ward in which small-pox was raging and there he was found by his friend, James Edward Oglethorpe, in a dying condition. Fired by his death which followed, Oglethorpe resolved that, in so far as it lay within his power, men who tried to serve their generation by making the world more beautiful—as did his friend, Castell—should never again suffer such an ignominious end. He went to his King, George II, and secured a grant of all that tract of land lying between the Savannah and the Altamaha rivers East of the Mississippi and West of the Atlantic, a territory which embraces the states of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

Having organized and chartered his company, having carefully examined every applicant whom he selected, Oglethorpe set sail from Gravesend with 119 colonists and landed at Charleston on January 13th of the year following, 1733. A month later he had reached Savannah.

The story of the ten years that he spent in Georgia is too well known to rehearse even in outline, but it is well here and now to emphasize the thing that made this colonization different from that of any other in America and the things that distinguished the founder of Georgia from all other founders of American colonies.

The first of these was that true democracy of personal friendship, which is exhibited from the inception of his plan. Georgia was born in the kind heart of a good man who, although he was descended from the best blood and one of the oldest families of England, nevertheless, made himself one of his colonists and became a personal friend of every person whom he led into the wilderness of America. He was called "Father" by those who went with him in the "Anne" and by those who followed in their footsteps. If one of them was ill, Oglethorpe was quickly by his bedside. If one of them was in trouble, it was Oglethorpe who brought help. He was their judge, arbitrating their disputes. He was their defender against every enemy. He was their ambassador, making and preserving an unbroken peace with the surrounding natives. He was their law-giver, pointing out to them all the fundamental principles of a happy, industrious community. He was their architect and landscape-artist, drawing with his own hand the plan of Savannah, with its public gardens and parks, which is today one of the few properly planned cities in this country. He was their Governor, exercising by their consent a power among them far more autocratic than a King. He was their General, leading them to repeated victories. He taught them how to farm, how to fight, how to pray. He brought with him John and Charles Wesley and George Whitfield that they might convert the Indians, not not only but develop and preserve the Christian graces among the settlers. Himself an Episcopalian, he, nevertheless, declined to refuse admission to the Salzburgers and the Jews and the non-conformist. In short, he loved all men and was a friend of every person, and wished to found in Georgia a place where any man who wished to do a beautiful thing for the world might have his opportunity to do it. Sometimes we call this quality humanitarianism, sometimes we call it magnanimity, sometimes we call it generosity. It is the ultimate civilization, the only enduring democracy. We speak of a man possessing it as being big-hearted, great-souled. We know that it is a thing most needed in 1733 and most needed in 1923. Oglethorpe had it. He possessed a heart that loved mankind, and for love of all mankind he founded his Georgia.

If this had been the only quality of his greatness he would have been great enough for immortality, but to his philanthropy he added this second principle—that the citizenship of his Georgia should possess self-con-



The original of this photograph hangs in the National Portrait Gallery of London. It shows the trial of the notorious Thomas Bambridge before the Committee of Parliament of which Oglethorpe was Chairman. Bambridge is seen standing at the extreme left close to Oglethorpe who holds in his left hand some of the instruments of torture used in the old Fleet prison. A prisoner is kneeling before one of the Committeemen in the foreground. Oglethorpe University is having a copy made of this painting to be hung in the library of the University.

trol and moderation in all things. At a time when white men, for the sake of a little profit, were selling whiskey to the Indians, thereby dooming the red-skins to disaster and thousands of the whites to destruction, Oglethorpe, wiser than those who preceded him and more far-seeing than any who followed, forbade absolutely the sale of whiskey within his colony. Now, James Edward Oglethorpe was an English gentleman, coming of a long line of ancestors, one of whom was sheriff of York, at the time of the Norman Conquest, a man to whom a whiskey and soda was as natural a beverage as water to a prohibitionist, yet he is perhaps the only statesman of his day who perceived that drunkenness, whether white or Indian, was inefficiency. He knew that "fire-water" in the hands of an Indian was dynamite and on the lips of a colonist poverty. He did not forbid the sale of beer or light wines but rum and whiskey from the beginning were prohibited in Georgia. It took this country nearly two hundred years to attain to that measure of statesmanship which was with him a fundamental of his task. Also, against fanaticism on the one hand and indifference on the other, he chose the wise, statesman-like course of protecting the bodies, the minds, and the souls of his colonists and of the Indians upon whose sanity and good will they were largely dependent for their safety. One of the most astonishing facts of his career was his devotion to the Indian tribes with whom

he made friends and who learned that the trust they reposed in his promises would never be betrayed. The name of Tomochichi, Mico of the Yamacraws is immortal for the simple reason that this great Indian trusted this great white man and was never betrayed. As a consequence, during the entire time that Oglethorpe was Governor of Georgia, he not only had no trouble with the Indians but they consistently supported him against the invasions of the Spainards in Florida and their Indian allies. It was this rare combination of common and moral sense that made the success of his colony possible.

And to these two qualities of greatness, Oglethorpe added yet a third, for Georgia was founded, as was no other state in the Union, upon the principle of human liberty, the rights of every man to a place in the sun. His was the first and only anti slavery state before the Revolution, and this was due entirely to the iron will and the far vision of one single man, the founder of Georgia. No man knew better than he the tremendous forces of selfishness against which he would have to contend. From Canada to Cape Horn slaves were common and by universal belief considered necessary in the Southern colonies, but Oglethorpe founded his Georgia upon the principle of individual industry and labor and efficiency. It was not only against slavery as a principle but against slavery as an inefficient eco-

conomic system that he fought. He wanted a state of happy villages and pretty country-side where every man owned his own land and was blessed in the labor of his own hands upon it. As long as Oglethorpe was Governor of Georgia not a slave was permitted to be sold within her bounds. For this stand he was roughly criticized in the Parliament of his native land where time and time again, as a member from Haslemere, he was called upon to defend his action. Against his position also every neighboring state was arrayed and every British and New England ship bearing slaves from Africa endeavored to break through the barrier that he had erected. That was in 1733 to 1743. In but a little more than one century America was drenched in blood because her statesmen were not as wise as the man who founded Georgia. We now know how much better it would have been for all America—and for the whole world—if the English Parliament and New England slave merchants and a false Southern economic system had not been able to overcome the wise plan of the greatest among the founders of American commonwealths. Nor is it any little thing that Georgia is thus able to claim as one of her finest traditions the principle of human liberty, and it adds emphasis to her protests of the sixties. For had not slavery been forced upon her by her neighbors in America and her fathers in England? And then was she not robbed of her property without compensation?

Now, surely it would have been enough to make a man immortal among the immortals to have thus looked forward two centuries beyond his time and upon such beliefs to have founded a commonwealth, but these were not all. No less fine among his qualities of statesmanship was his conviction and his action based upon it, that men had a right to rule themselves at home and that the dealings of nation with nation should be founded upon justice. It is a familiar story, dear to all Georgians, that when the Revolution came and the colonies were at war with their Mother country, Oglethorpe was the Senior General in the British army. It is known that he was offered a commission and it is said that this commission was that of Commander-in-Chief of the British army to subdue the colonies. One report has it that he refused, saying that he 'could not fight against his fellow-countrymen'; another, that he signified his willingness to accept provided that his hand should be left free to deal justly with the men of America. Neither such men could serve the purpose of the then mood of English policy. So Oglethorpe did not take part in the Revolution. He was an Englishman and could not take up arms against his country. He was a Georgian and could not take up arms against his fellow-Georgians. He stands forth as the first great Anglo-American, not only, but as the first Englishman whose position in international politics as to the colonies

was that they had a right to determine their own destiny and to rule their own souls. For this he will be loved forever by Georgians and Americans, not only, but by all the citizens of all the colonies of England.

These I consider to be the four great fundamental principles upon which our state was founded. They are essentially American principles. They were not acceptable to England of his day but they are dear to Georgians of all days.

The next chapter in my story has to do with the memory of this great man upon two continents. In England the story is very simple. At the age of fifty-five he was married to Miss Elizabeth Wright who lived in Cranham Hall in Essex, sixteen miles out of London. There he lived in retirement until his death at the of age of ninty-six. He was buried in a vault constructed by his wife in the center of the Chancel in the little church that bears the name of All Saints. Years lengthened into decades and decades into centuries. By the thoughtful pre-vision of his wife, there was erected on the wall of the church a tablet reciting his many deeds of philanthropy and statesmanship and closing with words concerning her own self, the last sentence reading "and she is buried with her husband in the vault in the center of the Chancel".

Now, all this seems plain enough, and there would have been no question as to where James Edward Oglethorpe was buried had not the hand of time gradually undermined the little church until it became necessary that it should be rebuilt. A faculty was obtained from the ecclesiastical authorities to that end and a new building was constructed. That was one-half a century ago and the men who labored upon it were either buried themselves or dispersed over the face of the earth. The plans were mislaid, nor could the most careful search bring them to light. No one living in the community could tell whether the church had been rebuilt upon the old foundation or upon a new site. Certain witnesses indeed stated that in their opinion the old foundation had not been used but the location of the church had been changed. It was known definitely from comparative photographs that the new church was not exactly the shape of the old. A lady who lived near by stated positively that the site was quite different. So that when application was made for the privilege of excavation in the center of the Chancel, it was declined upon the ground that the location of the grave of General Oglethorpe was no longer known. Thus, in 138 years, the very site of his tomb had been forgotten.

Last summer I had the privilege of a conference with the President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in which institution Oglethorpe had been a gentleman commoner and of which he was a Master of Arts



A drawing of Westbrook, the ancestral home of the Oglethorpe family at Godalming. It overlooks the river Wye and passed out of the family through the marriage of Oglethorpe's sister to a French nobleman. It is here that the founder of Georgia was reared.

graduate. I asked the President whether there was any monument to Oglethorpe in the college or in any other college of Oxford and his reply was in the negative. Thus, even his Alma Mater had allowed his name to sink into oblivion.

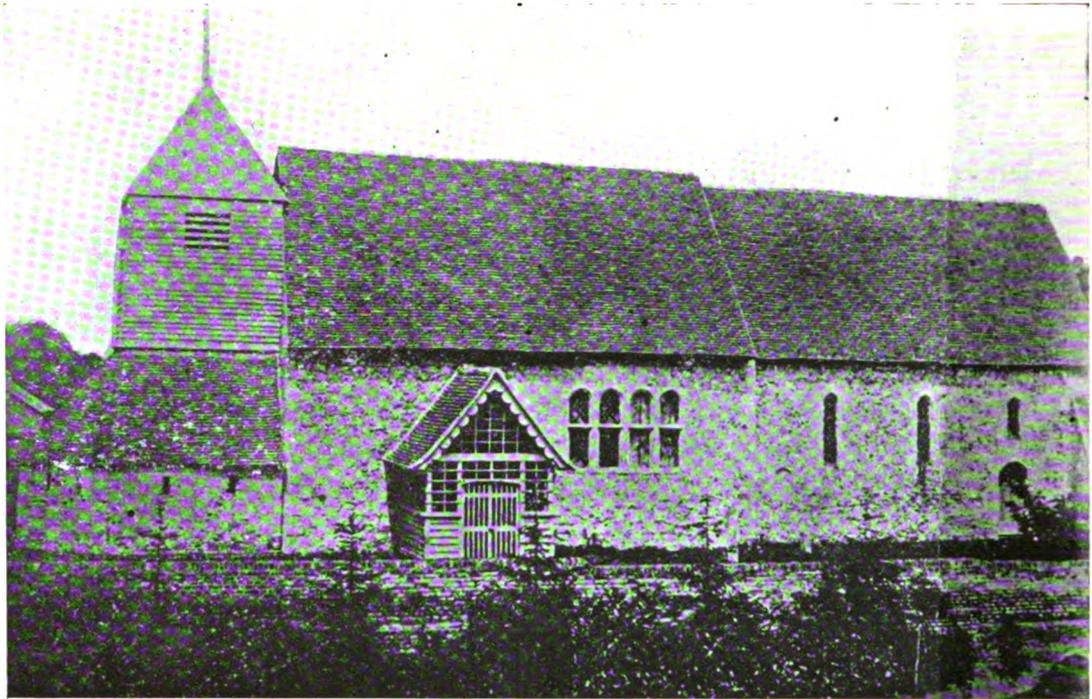
Upon my arrival in England last summer, I asked carefully as to whether there existed in England or the British Isles, or indeed in the entire British Empire, any monument to the founder of Georgia. The reply was uniformly in the negative. Thus the memory of General James Edward Oglethorpe had sunk into utter oblivion in England, into forgetfulness so complete that there was not a human being in the whole wide world who knew the exact site of his tomb, that there was not a monument to his memory in the whole British empire and not even a portrait of him in his Alma Mater.

In Georgia the story was quite different, but even here the brightness of his memory had been tarnished by time. Georgians had erected a monument in Savannah, one of our 165 counties had been named for him, a little village in south Georgia bears his name, and a Fort near the Tennessee line. Numerous streets and avenues, and here and there a hotel and apartment house had been named for him. His picture appears in our school histories, and there is in the hearts of all Georgians a certain indefinite sort of gratitude for and appreciation of his life. Remembered by students of history, by educators and by hero worshipers, he had,

nevertheless, been largely forgotten even in the state that he founded.

My personal judgment is that the finest and most perfect attempt to perpetuate his memory in the way that he himself would have wished, was made by our forefathers who, in the year 1835, laid the corner stone of Oglethorpe University on the old midway Hill, a suburb of Milledgeville, the then capital of the state. After all is said and done, this truth remains, that a man who is deserving of immortality should never die, and that man is already dead, regardless of how many monuments of marble or stone have been erected upon plaza and avenues bearing his name, the principles of whose life have been forgotten. And that man lives when and where the things for which he strove are remembered, when and where things that he taught are still taught, when and where the aspirations of his soul abide as ideals for other men to follow.

Had old Oglethorpe University not loved the South so well in the days of the sixties when all of her students went into the Confederate army and all her money into Confederate bonds, when her buildings were used for barracks and later largely burned, the story of the memory of Oglethorpe might have been different. The new Oglethorpe University was founded largely to revive and perpetuate the principles of his life, that they might again become the ideals of Georgia, and that James Edward Oglethorpe might once more become the dominant personality of his common-



A picture of the original All Saints Church at Cranham in which General Oglethorpe was buried on July 13, 1785. A careful comparison of this structure with that of the new church just opposite will show the difficulty connected with the question of its location. Not only is it of different size but its shape and form are quite different.

wealth. It was in the belief that where a man lives there he should be that I undertook my mission to England. The trip itself had been preceded by the necessary investigation as to the proper steps to be taken in the matter. By English law, the custody of the remains of any person buried in the Chancel of an English church reposes in the will of the Rector of that church, subject to the approval of his Parochial Church Council and of the Chancellor of the Diocese. Nearly two years ago I took this matter up with Congressman of our district, Mr. W. D. Upshaw, who, in turn, approached our Department of State with the request that they should approach the proper parties in Great Britain, asking the permission of all parties concerned to the removal of the remains of General James Edward Oglethorpe from their resting place in England to Atlanta, the capital of the state of Georgia, and to the campus of Oglethorpe University, his memorial university. A full statement concerning the University, its history, its assets, its prospects was made at the time and transmitted to England by our State Department. The matter was taken up in England by Mr. R. P. Skinner, our Consul General. I also had the pleasure of a visit to England about that time when I spoke directly to the then Rector of the Church whose approval was immediately given. Further negotiations were conducted by Mr. Skinner. Shortly after my return to America a change took place in the Rectory and Rev. Leslie Wright succeeded Rev. W. C.

Cluff as Rector. He also approved our plan. A petition in the usual form, according to English ecclesiastical law, was then presented to the Chancellor of the Diocese, asking for permission to excavate the center of the Chancel of the Church with the object of locating, if possible, the resting place of our founder. This permission was later absolutely refused. On the 14th of August, Mr. Wright wrote me as follows: "You will, no doubt, have heard by now from your Consul General the issue of the Oglethorpe matter. A petition was duly put forward by me to the Chancellor for an exploratory faculty, but it has been absolutely refused. The most careful enquiries failed to bring any information as to the exact resting place of the remains, and no ground plan of the old church is in existence. An exploratory faculty is but rarely granted as it implies extensive disturbance of the floor of the building. Unfortunately, the Press stirred up no little ill feeling about it, and many people seemed suddenly to discover rights and interests in our affairs who never darken Cranham Church. Am afraid you will be very disappointed about it, but I have done all that is in my power to further your wishes."

After conference with the Chairman of our Executive Committee, the President of our Board of Trustees, I went to England to see whether, by personal investigation, I could not secure enough evidence to definitely locate General Oglethorpe's grave. I found upon arrival there that the situation was as I have outlined above.



A typical little English country church and grave yard built in the 70's of the last century. We were able to prove it was constructed almost upon the foundations of the former building. Rev. Leslie Wright, now loved of all Georgians is the brilliant young rector.

No one knew where he rested. I found also that a number of protests had been printed in the papers around Cranham and in the London press in which the writers resented indiscriminate exploration such as they claimed had been made in the effort to recover the bones of Princess Pocahontas. I explained that unless we could find the exact spot where the General rested we would not attempt any excavation. For week after week old records were searched, archeological reports were investigated, architectural drawings studied and even hear say evidence sifted. A careful examination was made of the foundation of the present church and a study of the adjacent tomb-stones, and indeed of every tomb-stone of the entire church-yard. At last the argument was complete and was submitted in detail to the Chancellor, and after very careful review by him he, according to English custom, held a court in the little church and read the following decision.

“THE CHANCELLOR, in giving Judgement said: In this case a petition has been made to me as Chancellor of this Diocese, by the Rector of the Parish, asking that by a faculty authority may be given to make excavations in the Chancel of the Church for the purpose of ascertaining and finding if possible, the remains of one—General James Oglethorpe. There has been no appearance entered to the citation and in the ordinary way, having given due and careful consideration to the circumstances of the petition I should have been included without further procedure, to have directed

that a faculty should be issued as prayed. In this case, however a good deal of misunderstanding has apparently arisen as to the propriety of such examination of the floor of the portion of the Church for the purpose mentioned in the petition, and I am very anxious that those who are interested in the Church should understand—and clearly understand—the care that the Chancellor takes when a petition of this nature is made to him, before he grants a faculty to enable the petitioners to carry out that which they prayed for in the petition. The petition which is the subject of my judgement today is not the first Petition. A Petition was originally presented to me which indicated on the face of it that search was to be made for the remains of General James Oglethorpe for certain stated reasons, but indicated no particular spot where it was believed the remains rested. I considered that matter, and it appeared to me that a Faculty granted for a Petition of that kind would give a roving commission to dig up here and to dig up there. I think, therefore, in the interests of all concerned in this matter that I should read my judgment in that Petition so that you can see that Faculties are not granted hapzard and without careful and anxious consideration. In endorsing the original Petition I wrote that no indication was given to me as to the position in the Chancel where the expected remains might be found. It was doubtful, indeed, whether the examination would result in the discovery of remains definitely assignable as the

remains of General James Oglethorpe. I therefore absolutely refused, by virtue of my office, to authorize exploratory excavations in the vault of the Chancel in the hope of finding the remains referred to. I said I understood the remains of many others would be disturbed and, in the uncertainty of excavations, would, in my judgment, be wrongly disturbed. In the Petition upon which I am giving Judgment there is new evidence as to the exact spot where General Oglethorpe and his wife are buried and I thought it my duty to consider the new application in the light of the fresh evidence so adduced before me. Originally my great doubt was whether the Church, which was built in 1873, was rebuilt on exactly the same foundations and in the same position as the ancient one, which was destroyed by fire. I am satisfied from the evidence which been brought before me that the present Church was raised upon the old foundations so that the dimensions of the Church are the same as before. I do not think having regard to the fact that no appearance has been entered to the citation that it is necessary for me to go into the details of the evidence which has been brought before me to convince my mind. The evidence is outside the Church for all to see if they will use their eyes. There are on the north side and there is on the east side of the Church tombs antecedent to the rebuilding of the Church and yet so close to the walls of the Church --- and so far as appearances go they have not been disturbed --- to make it clear that the present Church rests on the same foundations as the old. If I am satisfied of that I have to look at the tablet which is upon the wall of the Chancel and which sets forth the many graces which General James Oglethorpe possessed, and which states that he and his wife are buried in a vault in the centre of the Chancel. So, then, so far as one can humanly speak, beyond peradventure, in the centre of the Chancel, and beneath the centre of the Chancel, there is a vault, and in that vault are the remains of General James Oglethorpe. When this Church was rebuilt an undertaking was given that the tablet should be placed as nearly as possible in the old spot on the wall where it was before the wall supporting it was burnt down. I have little doubt that so far as evidence of that sort can convince one's mind that the limited exploration asked for can be properly made and the excavations, in the circumstances, piously made, therefore, in directing that a Faculty should issue I shall, by that Faculty, limit the amount of disturbance to the spot indicated by the tablet. The Application is exceptional in this way. It is desired that if the remains are found a Petition shall be made that they may pass from here beyond the seas into the custody of our brothers and sisters in the State of Georgia in America. How comes it that a transference of that sort is desired or desirable? The reason is this. Long years ago, to be accurate, on the last day of this month in 1732, General James Oglethorpe, in

the largeness of his heart and desiring to benefit those whose lives in this country were sad and who had no work, embarked on the Anne Galley at Deptford with 119 English people, designing to take them out and found a Colony named after George the Second -- Georgia. He founded that Colony. It was his life's work and he left a mark in America as deeply and clearly as any Englishman has ever left his mark in any country. Those 119 Englishmen whom he took over with him were the foundation and the very core of the great State of Georgia with the millions of people that it now possesses. It is therefore not unnatural -- indeed it is a pious and honorable wish on the part of the inhabitants of that State which he, with his inergy, humanity, and uprightness, founded, -- that they should ask that the the body should rest in that State. It has been misapprehended by some, and misunderstood by others, because some people have thought it was some sort of private enterprise. I have had communications, under the State Seal, from the Governor of the State of Georgia, from the City of Atlanta, its Capital, and from great American citizens. It is a matter which does honour to those who desire to have the remains of their founder in their midst. So it comes about that on the second Petition, having considered the matter deeply, and, I hope, religiously and sympathetically, I have felt it my duty to grant the Faculty to search. There will be guarded, as the Rector would desire it should be guarded, the Divine Worship carried on within the walls of this Church, from disturbance. If, as the result of the excavations the remains of General James Oglethorpe are found a further Petition will be made for the remains to be allowed to pass across the seas into the bosom of Georgia, where they will rest --- honoured and loved --- a link between that great country and our own. So let the Faculty issue."

I shall never forget as long as I live the scene in the little Church on that afternoon of the 10th of October when the vault of General Oglethorpe was discovered. To appreciate the situation it is necessary to remember that our argument whereby we proved that the new Church had been built upon the foundation of the old, or thereabouts, was not convincing to the people of the neighborhood. While we, ourselves, were convinced, we were nevertheless not certain. Excavation were begun at eleven o'clock on the morning of October 9th. The tiling of the Chancel floor was removed over a space three by six feet which was less than one half of the space permitted us by the Chancellor for excavation -- his decree being a space eight by eight. Underneath the tiling we found concrete, perhaps seven inches in thickness, and the afternoon of the 9th was spent in making an opening through it. Just before the workmen left that afternoon a probe showed that some three feet under the concrete there was something solid, which we thought would probably



An excellent picture of Cranham Hall where Oglethorpe lived for forty years. It is located just opposite the church. The present building is a replacement, its predecessor having been destroyed by fire.

prove to be the brick of the vault. A few hours work the following morning, October 10th, proved our guess correct. We found the vault was arched by two layers of brick above. The workmen reverently drew one and then another of these brick from their position. I noticed that they seemed to be as fresh and new as if they had been laid yesterday. After a small opening was made a candle was lowered into the vault and the glimmer of the light was reflected on what seemed to be gold and silver lace-work on two long dark objects that lay side by side at the bottom of the vault. The opening was then enlarged so that one of the workmen could be lowered and he was asked to see whether there were any inscriptions on the coffins. He quickly replied that the name of Oglethorpe was on both. The Superintendent of the work then asked me to descend into the vault in order that the identification might be more complete. I shall never forget the sense of reverence and affection that swept over my soul as I read the name of General Oglethorpe on the plate of his coffin and that of his wife, Elizabeth, that rested side by side with his. For 138 years he had lain where no man had cared until all the world had forgotten the spot of his resting place, and now the whole English-speaking world, within a few moments, would know that he had risen from the dead and had become once more Governor of Georgia. After the identification had been completed by the descent of the Rector and of a friend who was with us, and after the vault had been

closed, we walked reverently down the aisle of the little church, out through the church-yard--so quiet that a hundred yards away could be heard the song of a little English Robin red-breast upon the rose bush, and in the dull gray of an English autumn, made more dreary by a drizzling rain we realized that a thing had been done that would ever be remembered--Georgia had discovered again her founder and as long as Oglethorpe University lasted he would never be forgotten!

In the meantime, I had taken the opportunity to speak with a number of distinguished Englishmen concerning the entire matter, particularly the editors of three outstanding newspapers and of four neighborhood newspapers. Out of the seven approached, six definitely committed themselves as being in accord with our purpose. In these papers, and indeed in the entire English press, a brief statement of our plans and purposes was printed as follows:

"Fundamental in the making of the United States were the ideals brought direct from England: ideals that affected the whole problem of living together in the new land, in honour, happiness and prosperity. That heritage is the priceless thing today in the United States, a fact which, more and more, my countrymen are coming to realize. Especially in Georgia was the very flower of all that was best in life in England planted in the new colony. And this was done through the courage of a single man--James Edward Oglethorpe.

He made Georgia. The record of his life today is the light of Georgia, and my mission to England now is to win the consent of the parties concerned to transfer his mortal remains to the commonwealth that he founded. Oglethorpe's chief work was the making of Georgia. Let me repeat, his life was the light of Georgia, and will continue to be more surely the light of Georgia if his remains are fittingly enshrined, as proposed, in the capital city of his State, on the campus of the university which bears his name.

"Upon my arrival in England I was amazed to learn that the request of the people of Georgia and America, and their plan concerning the shrine of General Oglethorpe had, in some essential points, been misunderstood. Articles appearing in the English Press suggested that the local public considered the proposal in the light of other incidents, to which it really offers no parallel. The proposal is neither a private enterprise nor is it one involving an indiscriminate disinterment of remains of others, but is a dignified request of one great people of another with the most solemn and reverent purpose. The matter was initiated through the representative of the State of Georgia in the Congress of the United States, and officially endorsed under the Great Seal of the Commonwealth by the Governor of Georgia, and has received the approbation of the Department of State of the Government of the United States at Washington.

"To understand this request it is only necessary to recall the part played by General Oglethorpe in the founding of Georgia. The story of how his friend Castell, who, having published an expensive volume on European villas, and being unable to pay the cost of it, had been thrown into the smallpox ward of the old Fleet prison, where Oglethorpe found him in a dying condition, and of how the General received from King George II a charter for the colony of Georgia, is familiar to most English folk but perhaps the other reasons why Oglethorpe is loved so in Georgia are not so well known. Chief among these was his quality of generous far-seeing statesmanship, his executive wisdom, his English justice. While he was Governor of Georgia no slave was allowed in the State, nor any whiskey sold to the Indians. But most important for the present occasion, he was the first great Anglo-American. When, as senior general of the British Army, he was offered a commission, by some reported to have been that of General-in-Chief to subdue the Colonies in 1776, he is said to have declined the offer, explaining that he could not fight against his fellow-countrymen. To him the Englishman living in Essex and the Englishman living in Georgia were both fellow-citizens in that great Anglo-Saxon world for whose upbuilding he spent his life.

"And now the people of Georgia and America ask of the people of Essex and England permission to remove his remains to the Capital of Georgia and to the campus of the University bearing his name. Recent researches have definitely located the exact spot of his resting-place. No other grave would be touched in the dis-interment. They propose to make the occasion of his re-internment in Georgia perhaps the greatest Anglo-Saxon hour the world has yet known. A commission of distinguished Englishmen will be invited to represent the British people and the highest officials in America to represent Canada and the United States, not only to pay honour to this first great Anglo-American but to re-emphasize the essential unity of traditions, law, literature, religion, blood and interests of the two branches of the English-speaking world. From this it will be readily seen that while Oglethorpe is only one of a hundred thousand greatest Englishmen, he is the one greatest Georgian, having planned, founded and nourished his infant colony single-hearted and single-handed, and to us of Georgia he represents more than any other man who ever lived that highest ideal of Anglo-Saxon solidarity based upon justice, generosity, and wisdom. Having served this great cause so well while alive, who is willing to deny him, dead, the privilege of perpetuating that service forever?

"We, therefore, the English in America, some fifty million pure-blooded sons of the old Motherland, ask of you, our brothers across the sea to be generous to us, as we in the Western lands love to think that England always is to her children; to grant to us from your own great treasures of mighty men the mortal remains of this one great man who to us is father, teacher, and hero. We do not believe for one moment that we shall ask in vain.

"This gift to us would be a seal of blood and kinship and affection, which might mean in the future more than we of this generation can very well tell."

Now the plan that lay in my mind was this, that both the name and the mortal remains of this great and good man should be rescued from the oblivion into which they had sunk in his native land and that a thing should be done for him which he deserved to have done, believing him to be the greatest of all founders of American commonwealths; believing that he laid the substructure of Georgia with greater stones than those of any of its sister states. I believed that once the people of Georgia had the matter presented to them properly they would be willing to build him a monument that would render him utterly immortal. Already his memorial university had been established upon broad and generous lines. In its students, in its Woman's Board, in its Board of Trustees-Founders, the whole spirit of his Georgia had been gathered. Episcopalians were there to represent his own church,

and Methodists to add the fervor of his own John Wesley. Presbyterians and Baptists and Salzburgers and men of all faiths were upon its campus and guiding its councils. It was being built along the most artistic lines, of the most enduring of material. Its ideals were his ideals, and its purposes his purposes. It was located in the capital of his state and it was planned that there should be erected on its campus a tower worthy to be compared with the Cleveland tower at Princeton, surmounting a university Chapel. It was planned to reproduce the Chancel of the little church in which he had for two centuries rested, with its memorial tablet, its beautiful altar, its historic pulpit and its holy memories. It was planned in this church on stated occasions to hold memorial exercises in honor of this great and good man in order that he should no longer be the forgotten founder of Georgia, but that he might live again in throbbing hearts, inspired thoughts, and consecrated lives.

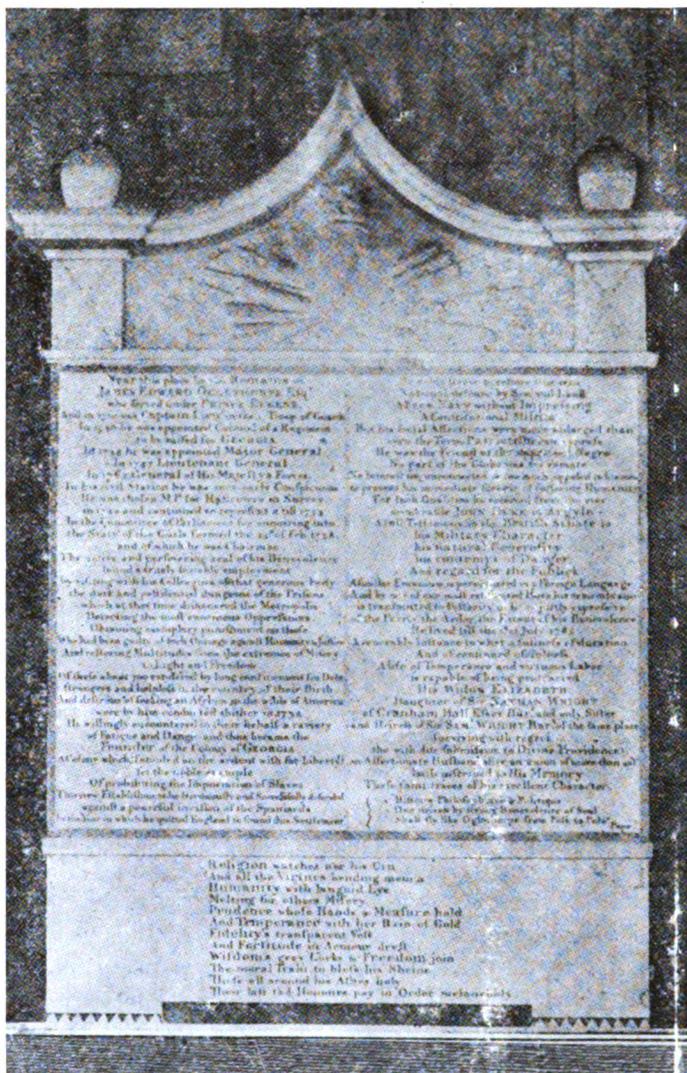
For myself, I believe that it would be a good thing for Georgia to obtain that new emphasis upon the principles on which she was founded, that new devotion to the ideals of her hero's life, that new vision of his greatness and that new consciousness of his presence which would have been here had the remains of her Oglethorpe been enshrined on her soil, and I believe that Georgia, had this request been graciously granted, would have seen new value in her English traditions and have gathered new power from her English inspiration.

And I believe that it would have been a still better thing for England to have shown that magnanimity of spirit and that appreciation of the sentiment of other people which so frequently she has shown in the past.

I believe that had she so acted, the eager gratitude of the Georgia people would have expressed itself in undying devotion to the mother country which on some later occasion she may look for and lack.

After the Chancellor's decision had been rendered, only one step remained to be taken before the plan would be successful. It was necessary that the Chancellor should give permission for the exhumation and the re-internment of the remains of the General and Lady Oglethorpe in consecrated ground in America. This he had already intimated in his previous faculty that he would do. The usual notice was posted on the church door at Cranham where it must needs stay eight days, and the Chancellor had set the date of his court to render his final decision on the Saturday following the expiration of that period.

It was at this time that the first protests from Savannah were received. I do not think it fair to criticize the motives of the senders of these protests and in what I have to say I only shall attempt impartially to



A photograph of the remarkable tablet that hangs upon the wall of the church on the right-hand side of the Chancel as one approaches the altar. After the death of lady Oglethorpe the following words were added: "And she was buried with her husband in the vault in the center of the Chancel."

state simple facts. It would not be exactly true to say that the Savannah protests were the whole cause of the failure of our plan. They were the match that set fire to the tinder.

Before going further, also, I wish to make plain the fact that I hold in highest respect the quality of character of the British people and for many of them whom I have the privilege of calling my friends I hold the most affectionate regard. In what I say, therefore, no syllable is to be construed as criticism of them. I learned to love them for their courtesy, their hospitality and their culture. Of course, they are in England, as here in America, many rude and coarse persons, and there is a certain element of their press that is as yellow as the fifth ribbon of the rainbow. One of the

dangers that I had quickly learned to watch lay in the fact that the English people are more averse to exhumations than are we in America. For example, America brought home her boys from France. England did not. Yet exhumations are common in England. Whole grave-yards are some times moved in the public interest and this is done frequently with great carelessness as compared with the reverent and dignified way in which we approached our task. Also, the English brought back one of their boys from Flanders to bury him in Westminster Abby as the Unknown Soldier. It was not a difficult matter to handle that particular danger, therefore. There was another that was greater. The English people are for the present abnormally sensitive about America. For centuries Britain has dominated the ocean, for centuries she has commanded the trade of the world, for centuries she has financed the economic life of the earth, and now a newer and younger people, with a franker and quite independent policy, has attained to a power so great and a wealth so enormous that England looks upon it with a feeling in which anxiety is mingled with alarm. Unfortunately, also, there is a certain proportion of American tourists, belonging especially to the nouveau riche who lack the courtesy that is common to all upperclass Englishmen and Americans and who have distinguished themselves by their coarse and flamboyant conduct to the detriment of our reputation in England. And to this should be added the fact that American wealth has substituted itself for British wealth in exchanging gold for the precious artistic possessions of Europe until now they feel that no master-piece is safe from the long arm of American prosperity. There is, therefore, a definite fear of the American souvenir hunter in England and anything that savors of that sort of thing is fated to fail.

Now up to the time to which we have come in our story, the entire plan had been kept upon the highest possible plane. It was a request that was dignified and reverent and had been conducted in a way that would command the respect of two great nations.

But, when the Savannah protests began to pour in, one from the Society of Colonial Wars, one from the Mayor and Alderman of the City of Savannah, and one from the "Bishop of Georgia" who is a citizen of Savannah, the English people were first astonished, then puzzled, and then angry. It was not possible, even had I been willing to be so discourteous, to explain to the English people the civic relations existing between Atlanta and Savannah but, indeed, it was not necessary. The matter had by that time reached the stage where the English-speaking world were grasping for every item of information concerning the enterprise, and there began to appear from various correspond-

ents, quotations of editorials from the Savannah papers. One of them read, "Savannah should interpose her serious objection to the taking of General Oglethorpe's bones to Atlanta. If they are to be brought to this country, let them rest here—Savannah should do what is needful to have the plans to bring them to America so changed that the place of his burial will be here." Another said, "we ask any student of history whether Savannah is not the proper place for General Oglethorpe to rest." Over night the whole plan developed from a dignified and reverent request of a University, endorsed by the Mayor of the capital city, and under the seal of the State by the Governor of the commonwealth, and transmitted through the state Department of the Government of the United States to the parties concerned in England and became a scramble over dead bones between two American cities. Indignant protests filled many English papers. The cablegram of the Bishop of Georgia was particularly effective. The English people could think of the Bishop of Georgia as meaning only what it would mean in England where he would rank with the Archbishop of Canterbury and represent the entire religious life of the commonwealth. The situation, therefore, became one where for the sake of Savannah as well as Atlanta, for the sake of England as well as Georgia, I decided that the courteous and proper thing to do was to withdraw our request which I did in the following words:

"In deference to the wishes of many Englishmen, I have decided to withdraw our request that the remains of General Oglethorpe should be transferred to the proposed shrine on the campus of his memorial university in Atlanta, Georgia.

"The purpose of the request was two-fold; first, that the grave of our Founder, the exact spot of which had actually been forgotten in England, might be made the center of instruction in the great principles upon which he founded our commonwealth; and a holy sanctuary of Georgian patriotism.

"The second purpose was our desire to make his and his sacred memory an eternal tie of goodwill between England and America.

"It is this last purpose that seems at present impossible of realization.

"As to the first, it is already partly accomplished. We know where he is buried, exactly, and, by the gracious courtesy of the English people, Oglethorpe University will endeavor to see that it is forever remembered. Also, if the little church at Cranham will permit us to do so, we shall endeavor in the future to show it and its rector what the love of millions of Georgians means. For their kindly sentiment toward

the enterprise and their unanimous approval of it they will never be forgotten in Georgia.

"I take this opportunity of thanking the many English friends of our plan—including many members of his family—and of assuring them that an enterprise endorsed for the Capital city of our state by its Mayor, for the state itself by its Governor, and transmitted through the National Government, could have had only one actuating motive, that of deepest love and affection for the forgotten Founder of Georgia to whom after the lapse of two centuries England has raised no monument."

THORNWELL JACOBS.

The Rector of Cranham Church replied to the protests from Savannah in plain and unmistakable language, as follows:

"I see by the papers that Savannah is on the war-path. But Savannah is wrong. There would be no point in our sending these relics to her, for she cannot propagate the principles which this man's life enshrined. We desire to give them to Oglethorpe University alone—for it, founded in Oglethorpe's honour—can train the youth of Georgia to grow up in his moral image.

"And, if it is to the point, you may tell them that I said so."

LESLIE WRIGHT.

Thus was the purpose of my mission to England relinquished. We had hoped to bring back the forgotten founder on an American battleship that would follow the track taken by the "Anne" 191 years ago—from Gravesend to Savannah. Great preparations had been made in Georgia to that end. Special escorts, notably that of the Infantry School at Camp Benning, had been offered. The erection of his memorial tower was assured when, for the sake of Savannah as well as Atlanta, for the sake of England as well as America, it was thought best to withdraw our petition. Perhaps the tower will yet be built, enshrining a replica of the little chancel at Cranham with its altar, its memorial windows, and its pulpit. Perhaps a good part of this beautiful dream may yet come true. All that is upon the knees of the Gods.

But of one thing we may be sure, the name of James Edward Oglethorpe will never again be forgotten in England nor will his burial spot sink again into oblivion. The people of Georgia, and especially his memorial University, will see to it that the location of his grave is remembered. It is planned that each year on the day that he founded Georgia, two wreaths of laurel shall be placed, one above his coffin and the other above that of Lady Oglethorpe. We know now where they should lie and we shall never again forget, and we must see to it also that the fine purpose of his heart, the high ideals of his soul and the great tra-



One of the familiar sketches of the founder of Georgia.

ditions of his life are never again forgotten, for to that purpose his memorial University has already set her will and in the execution of it we invite all who love to see a beautiful thing well done to help us.

As I stood in the vault in which he rests, on that wonderful afternoon of October 10th, there came to me the thought that I was nearer to James Edward Oglethorpe than any living Georgian had ever been, but that soon all Georgians who pleased to do so could be just as near to him as I. Shall we not make this come true—at least in a deeper, spiritual sense? He is no longer a little group of revered bones or a heap of human ashes. He is risen from the dead and has become again the dominant figure in the state he founded. We have been entrusted—at least in part—with the guardianship of the Oglethorpe tradition and we shall see to it, as far as we may, that his spiritual power shall forever abide to bless and guide the millions who inhabit the state he founded.