

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

K-12 TEACHER GUIDE

Based on the 2017 Summer Institute
*Recognizing an Imperfect Past: History,
Memory, and the American Public*

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MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES K-12 TEACHER GUIDE

Contents:

- Frequently asked questions about monuments
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About:

Recognizing an Imperfect Past: History, Memory, and the American Public was a two-week NEH Summer Institute produced and hosted by the Georgia Historical Society during the summer of 2017 in Savannah, Georgia. NEH scholars engaged in an exploration of how we as a country recognize, remember, and memorialize controversial people and events in the American past as viewed through a presentist lens.

The Institute has resulted in new educational resources including:

- recorded interviews with visiting faculty relating to the topic of teaching an imperfect past
- a K-12 teacher guide about monuments as primary sources
- ideas shared by participants on how their Institute experiences have shaped their own work and teachings

Visit imperfectpastinstitute.org for more information.

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a monument?

Monuments are built for the specific purpose of commemorating a person, group of people, or event. Often called memorials, monuments come in many different forms, from simple stone markers to elaborate statues and towering obelisks.

Humans have been erecting monuments for thousands of years. Many of the ancient monuments still in existence today had a sacred meaning to the people who erected them—Stonehenge, the Parthenon, the Pyramids of Giza. In the United States, our most famous monuments commemorate famous people from history and major historic events—the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Statue of Liberty, the 9/11 Memorial.

You do not have to travel to Washington, D.C. or New York City to see examples of monuments. Every community, large or small, is likely to have one or more monuments. Start your search in cemeteries, public parks, and in front of government buildings. You may be surprised by how many monuments you will find!

What can we learn from monuments?

Monuments are a primary source we can use to study the past. In history, sources created during the time period of study or by someone who lived through the time period of study are considered primary sources. For example, the Declaration of Independence is a primary source we use to study the American Revolution. You probably think of primary sources as being documents, artifacts, and oral histories, but there are many kinds of primary sources, including monuments.

Monuments can teach us a lot about the people who built them because monuments are really all about memory. How do people choose to remember the past? What events and people are memorialized and why? What events and people are not memorialized and why? What artistic choices did the monument creators make? Has the monument been moved, restored, or altered?

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

Frequently Asked Questions

What are historical markers and how are they different from monuments?

Unlike monuments, the primary goal of a historical marker is not to honor the memory of a particular person, group of people, or event. Instead, historical markers are designed to provide information about a topic of historic significance using text, not art or architectural features. Most states have an official historical marker program that oversees the erection of historical markers, but not all markers are part of a specific program. Individuals, companies, and other institutions might place a historical marker or plaque without being part of an official program.

Similar to monuments, markers not only tell a historical narrative but also tell us about the who erected the marker and about the time period when it was erected. You can usually find a good amount of information about who erected a historical marker and when on the marker itself. The internet is another good place to find information on markers. In Georgia, you can access over 2,000 historical markers on the Georgia Historical Society online historical marker database. For markers outside the state, try the historical marker database HMdb.org.

Name _____

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

Site Visit Worksheet

Before You Visit the Monument

Research the monument to see what information you can find in advance. Has anyone written about the background of the monument? Do records exist of the organization that erected the monument? Was there any newspaper coverage concerning the monument? Are there any city/county government meeting minutes or records from the time the monument was erected? Are there any pictures of the dedication ceremony?

Summarize your research in the box below. Attach any primary and secondary sources you find to the worksheet for easy reference when you visit the site.

Name _____

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

Site Visit Worksheet

While Visiting the Monument

Directions: Use the guided questions below to help you take notes while visiting a monument.

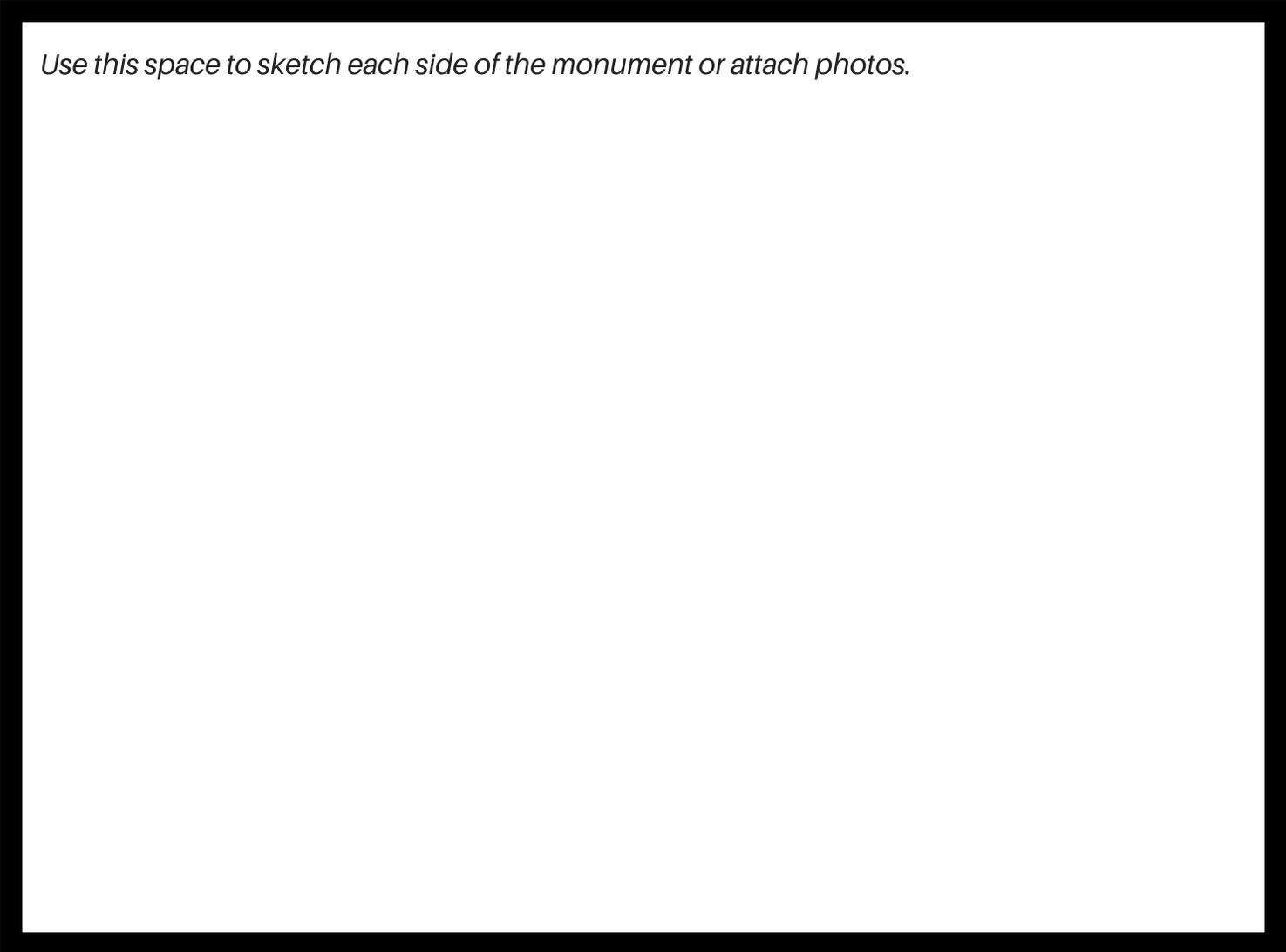
What do you see?

Where is your eye drawn?

What did you notice first?

Based on what you see, what materials were used to make this monument? (metal, stone, wood, marble, bronze, brick...)

Use this space to sketch each side of the monument or attach photos.



Name _____

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

Site Visit Worksheet

While Visiting the Monument

Directions: Use the guided questions below to help you take notes while visiting a monument.

Who or what is the focus of the monument?

What specific person, group of people, or event does this monument commemorate?

Who erected the monument?

Look for any plaques or engravings that tell who erected the monument.

Who made the monument?

Look for any plaques or engravings that give the name of the artist or manufacturer who designed and built the monument.

When was the monument erected?

Look for any plaques or engravings that tell when the monument was erected.

Where is the monument located?

List the country, state, and city/county where the monument is located.

Is the monument in a specific neighborhood or area of the city?

Give a description of the monument's immediate surroundings. Is it in a park, on a major city road, in a cemetery?

Name _____

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

Site Visit Worksheet

After Visiting the Monument

Directions: Use the guided questions below to help you reflect on your site visit.

How did the research you did before viewing the monument impact your experience?

How do you think the person/event/topic of the monument would be handled differently if it were featured on a historical marker or in academic writing?

How has the area where the monument is located changed since it was erected?

Does any controversy exist concerning the monument you visited? What do you think about the controversy after your research and experience?

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

—

SAVANNAH'S TOMOCHICHI MONUMENT

—

A CASE STUDY

—

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MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

SAVANNAH'S TOMOCHICHI MONUMENT: A CASE STUDY

Background:

In 1899, a public monument to Tomochichi was erected in the southeast corner of Wright Square in Savannah, Georgia. Tomochichi was chief of the Yamacraw Indians, a small band of Native Americans living on the site of Savannah at the time of the colony's founding. Tomochichi befriended the colony's founder James Edward Oglethorpe and was buried in the center of Wright Square (then Percival Square) in 1739. Oglethorpe ordered that a pyramid of stones be erected over Tomochichi's grave to honor his contributions to Georgia.

The Tomochichi monument offers an excellent case study of monuments as primary sources because of the long history of confusion and controversy surrounding the monument. A local myth exists that Tomochichi's gravesite was desecrated and the pyramid of stones erected by Oglethorpe flattened in 1882 to make way for a monument to William Washington Gordon, founder of the Central of Georgia Railroad. You will find this myth perpetuated in print and online sources, including the Wikipedia entry on Tomochichi.

A careful study of the archival record reveals that the original pyramid of stones and memory of Tomochichi's gravesite disappeared much earlier. Robin Williams, one of the visiting faculty at the Georgia Historical Society's 2017 NEH Summer Institute *Recognizing an Imperfect Past: History, Memory, and the American Public*, has done extensive research on the Tomochichi monument and the myths surrounding it. His research was invaluable in creating this case study.

This case study will use the "Monuments as Primary Sources Site Visit Worksheet" to explore Savannah's Tomochichi monument as a primary source.

Name Sample Student

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

Site Visit Worksheet

Before You Visit the Monument

Research the monument to see what information you can find in advance. Has anyone written about the background of the monument? Do records exist of the organization that erected the monument? Was there any newspaper coverage concerning the monument? Are there any city/county government meeting minutes or records from the time the monument was erected? Are there any pictures of the dedication ceremony?

Summarize your research in the box below. Attach any primary and secondary sources you find to the worksheet for easy reference when you visit the site.

In my research about Savannah's Tomochichi monument I was able to gather the basic facts about the monument's erection and some interesting background information on the history of memorializing Tomochichi in Savannah.

Basic Facts on the Monument:

Erected in 1899

Located in Wright Square in historic downtown Savannah, Georgia

Erected by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Georgia

Made from one large granite boulder from the Stone Mountain Company

The Stone Mountain Company charged \$1 for the boulder

The History of Memorializing Tomochichi in Savannah

There is a local myth that Tomochichi's grave was "desecrated" to put up the William Washington Gordon Monument in the middle of Wright Square. The archival record does record that Tomochichi was buried in Wright Square in 1739. Oglethorpe ordered a pyramid of stone be erected over the grave in his honor. Maps, newspaper articles, and other documents from the archives suggest that the pyramid disappeared sometime in the late 18th century. A biography was written about Tomochichi in 1868 by the famous Charles Colcock Jones, Jr. The popularity of the biography brought Tomochichi back to the minds of Savannah's citizens.

A new mound of stones was placed in Wright Square and several other squares in the 1870s. This mound had nothing to do with Tomochichi, but because it was removed to make way for the William Washington Gordon Monument, a legend grew that the mound was the original pyramid erected by Oglethorpe. William Washington Gordon's daughter-in-law Nellie K. Gordon was president of the Society of Colonial Dames of America in Georgia when the Tomochichi monument was erected in 1899. Many people believe she led the effort to get the monument because of family guilt over desecrating Tomochichi's grave.

SEE ATTACHED SECONDARY & PRIMARY SOURCE RESEARCH

Name Sample Student

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

Site Visit Worksheet

While Visiting the Monument

Directions: Use the guided questions below to help you take notes while visiting a monument.

What do you see?

Where is your eye drawn?

It is a simple boulder. My eye was drawn to the center where the plaque is located.

What did you notice first?

The first thing I noticed was the shape of the monument (a rough-cut boulder).

Based on what you see, what materials were used to make this monument? (metal, stone, wood, marble, bronze, brick...)

It is a stone boulder.

Use this space to sketch each side of the monument or attach photos.



Name Sample Student

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

Site Visit Worksheet

While Visiting the Monument

Directions: Use the guided questions below to help you take notes while visiting a monument.

Who or what is the focus of the monument?

What specific person, group of people, or event does this monument commemorate?

The monument commemorates Tomochichi. The plaque states "In Memory of Tomo-CHI-Chi The Micro of the Yamacraws The companion of Oglethorpe and the Friend and Ally of the Colony of Georgia."

Who erected the monument?

Look for any plaques or engravings that tell who erected the monument.

The Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America

Who made the monument?

Look for any plaques or engravings that give the name of the artist or manufacturer who designed and built the monument.

There is no mention of the artist or manufacturer on the monument. My research lets me know the boulder was from the Stone Mountain Company.

When was the monument erected?

Look for any plaques or engravings that tell when the monument was erected.

There are two dates on the plaque: 1739 and 1899.

Where is the monument located?

List the country, state, and city/county where the monument is located.

USA, Georgia, Savannah

Is the monument in a specific neighborhood or area of the city?

Wright Square. Historic downtown Savannah.

Give a description of the monument's immediate surroundings. Is it in a park, on a major city road, in a cemetery?

The monument is located in the southeast corner of Wright Square. The square is well landscaped with trees and shrubbery. The square is in the historic district of Savannah, Georgia.

Name Sample Student

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES

Site Visit Worksheet

After Visiting the Monument

Directions: Use the guided questions below to help you reflect on your site visit.

How did the research you did before viewing the monument impact your experience?

The actual monument is very simple. It is a single granite boulder with a plaque in the center. The plaque provides only a small inscription and the name of the organization that erected the monument. My research provided a full background on the monument itself and the interesting history of how people in Savannah have reacted to the monument. The research provided context that made the site visit more meaningful.

How do you think the person/event/topic of the monument would be handled differently if it were featured on a historical marker or in academic writing?

A historical marker or piece of academic writing would provide more historical information about Tomochichi's life and legacy. Instead of a warm description of his friendship to Ogelthorpe and the colony, a longer work would try to investigate Tomochichi's desire and motives for working with the English.

How has the area where the monument is located changed since it was erected?

Today, Savannah is a tourist destination. In addition to the William Washington Gordon monument in the middle of the square, there are now several historical markers in the square. The square itself has more trees and greenery to make it attractive for tourists walking through. The court house is still adjacent to the square and many of the buildings may still stand, but are now filled with modern retail and other businesses.

Does any controversy exist concerning the monument you visited? What do you think about the controversy after your research and experience?

Controversy over the monument has erupted from time to time over the years. Some people believe Tomochichi deserves a more prominent monument and are unhappy with the current monument's placement and size in comparison to the William Washington Gordon monument. Tomochichi has been memorialized in other ways in Savannah. For example, the Tomochichi Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse. I think there needs to be more education for the general public to dispel the myths surrounding the Tomochichi monument.

Secondary Source Research on Savannah's Tomochichi Monument

Williams, Robin B., David Walter Gobel, Patrick Haughey, Daves Rossell, and Karl Frederich Schuler. *Buildings of Savannah*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2016.

Excerpts from pages 55-56, 2.31 William Washington Gordon Monument:

"In 1739 Oglethorpe erected an earlier stone monument on this site (possibly the first public monument in America) over the tomb of Tomochichi, but it had disappeared by the late eighteenth century. Photos of a decorative earthen mound installed here by the City in 1872 (one of at least four placed in Savannah squares) and removed for the 1882 tribute gave rise to the local myth that the Gordon Monument "desecrated" the chief's tomb."

"The nearby Tomochichi Monument (1899) resulted from rekindled interest in the local Indian chief, or Mico, in the late nineteenth century, paralleling improved attitudes towards Native Americans nationally. The Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Georgia (led by their first president, Gordon's daughter-in-law, Eleanor Kinzie Gordon), who secured a large granite boulder from the Stone Mountain Company in Atlanta for one dollar, commissioned this monument."

Williams, Robin B. "The Challenge of Preserving Public Memory: Commemorating Tomochichi in Savannah." *Preservation Education & Research* 5 (2012): 1-16. <https://architecturalhistoryscad.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/offprint-williams.pdf>

Excerpt from page 13:

More broadly, the history of commemoration of Tomochichi in Savannah illustrates not only the vulnerability of monuments to shifting social and political values but also how such values can lead to a falsification of history. Memories of a mound in Wright Square combined with well-intentioned efforts to redress a perceived wrong done to the chief's gravesite fostered a persistent and erroneous belief that the Gordon Monument displaced the chief's burial mound. The coincidental resemblance of Native American burial mounds to the mound installed in Wright Square in 1871 makes for a tantalizing connection, but the fact that the Wright Square mound was one of at least three erected in Savannah squares in the early 1870s indicates that they were merely decorative and had no specific connection to Tomochichi.

Georgia Historical Society's Tomochichi featured historical figure web page "Death and Burial." <http://georgiahistory.com/education-outreach/online-exhibits/featured-historical-figures/tomochichi/tomochichis-death-and-burial/>

Excerpts from web page:

"In William Gerard De Brahm's *Plan of Savannah, 1757* map, Tomochichi's grave is depicted in Wright Square. At the time of Tomochichi's death, Oglethorpe ordered a monument to be placed to honor his friend and ally. In reports, the monument was translated as a pyramid of stone. However, by the 1830s, the pyramid of stones was no longer in Wright Square. In his famous painting, *View of Savannah* from 1837, Joseph Louis Firmin Cerveau depicts the view of Savannah from the City Exchange on Bay Street looking down on Bull Street. In the painting, there is no monument or pyramid of stones in Wright Square. It is unknown what happened to the monument between the creation of these two sources. Perhaps the memory of Tomochichi's burial was simply forgotten by the citizens of Savannah, or perhaps the memorial was purposefully removed due to changing relationships with Native Americans, especially after the American Revolution."

"In the late 1800s, Tomochichi came back into the spotlight. In his biography of the chieftain, *Historical Sketch of Tomo-Chi-Chi, Mico of the Yamacraw* (1868), Charles C. Jones, Jr. laments that Tomochichi had not been remembered by the public. The biography caused the public to once again recall the role Tomochichi played in establishing the young Colony of Georgia. A few years later a series of mounds appeared in some of Savannah's Squares, including Wright Square. However, these mounds were not meant as a monument to Tomochichi or anyone else. It is believed that the city placed the decorative mounds in the center of the squares to prevent streetcar tracks from being laid through the squares on Bull Street."

Primary Source Research on Savannah's Tomochichi Monument

1. The Gentleman's Magazine X (March 1740): 129. Original from New York Public Library. Accessed on Hathi Trust <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433081686523?urlappend=%3Bseq=145>.
2. Allen D. Candler, *Stephen's Journal, 1737-1740 The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia, Volume IV* (Atlanta: The Franklin Printing and Publishing Company, 1906), 428. <https://books.google.com/books?id=qXxBAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA1#v=onepage&q&f=false>
3. Plan of Savannah, 1757 in John Gerar William De Brahm, *History of the Province of Georgia: With Maps of Original Surveys*, 1849. From the Georgia Historical Society Rare Folio Collection, F289.D42 1849.
4. View of Savannah, 1837 by Joseph Louis Firmin Cerveau. From the Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1361-623.
5. Charles Colcock Jones, *Historical Sketch of Tomo-chi-chi, Mico fo the Yamacraws* (New York: J. Munsell, 1868), 126-127. Accessed on the Internet Archive <https://archive.org/stream/historicalseetch00joneiala#page/126/mode/2up>
6. "The Mound Builders," *Savannah Morning News*, January 17, 1872. From the Georgia Historical Society Vertical Files.
7. Savannah Morning News Index, February 14, 1872. From the Georgia Historical Society Vertical Files.
8. "The Mound in Court House Square," *Savannah Morning News*, December 6, 1882. From the Georgia Historical Society Vertical Files.
9. Wright Square, Looking North on Bull Street, circa 1875. From the Foltz Photography Studio Collection, MS 1360. Courtesy of the Georgia Historical Society.
10. Gordon Monument, circa 1883-1892. From the William E. Wilson Photographs, MS 1375. Courtesy of the Georgia Historical Society.
11. "The Sesqu-Centennial: A Monument to Oglethorpe," *Savannah Morning News*, November 3, 1882. From the Georgia Historical Society Vertical Files.

12. "The Remains of Tomochichi Disinterred," *Savannah Morning News*, February 15, 1878. From the Georgia Historical Society Vertical Files.
13. Letter to Mrs. Craig Barrow from L.S. Sturtevant., ca. 1923. From the Georgia Historical Society Vertical Files.
14. Letters regarding the Tomochichi Monument. From the Gordon Family Papers, MS 318. Courtesy of the Georgia Historical Society.
15. Address of Hon. Walter Glasco Charlton at the Dedication of the Memorial to Tomochichi. "Dedication of the Memorial to Tomochichi; Laying the Corner Stone of the Whitefield Memorial Chapel at Bethesda: Two addresses by Walter Glasco Charlton," (Savannah: Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1917), 2-13. From the Georgia Historical Society Rare Pamphlet Collection, F294.S2 C475 1917.
16. "Tomochichi," *Savannah Morning News*, February 14, 1937. From the Georgia Historical Society Vertical Files.
17. "Wrong Place in the Wright Square," *Savannah Morning News*, February 2, 1993. From the Georgia Historical Society Vertical Files.
18. "To Truly Honor Tomochichi, Restore His Final Resting Place," *Savannah Morning News*, February 29, 2004. From the Georgia Historical Society Vertical Files.

fought stoutly for some time, and were all killed on the Spot, the rest are yet un- taken; and in the whole Action about 40 Negroes and 20 Whites were kill'd. The Lieutenant Governor sent an Account of this to General Oglethorpe, who mer his Advices on his Return from the *Indian* Nation. He immediately order'd a Troop of Rangers to be rais'd, to patrol thro' *Georgia*, plac'd some Men in the Garrison at *Paticocolas*, which was before abandon'd, and near which the Negroes formerly pass'd, being the only Place where *Horses* can come to swim over the River *Savannah* for near 100 Miles, order'd out the *Indians* in Pursuit, and a Detachment of the Garrison at *Port-Royal* to assist the Planters on any Occasion, and publish'd a Proclamation, ordering all the Constables, &c. of *Georgia* to pursue and seize all Negroes, with a Reward for any who should be taken. It is hop'd, these Measures will prevent any Negroes from getting down to the *Spaniards*.

Savannah in *Georgia*, Oct. 10, 1739.
KING *Tomo Chichi* died on the 5th at his own Town 4 Miles from hence, of a lingering Illness, being aged about 97. He was sensible to the last Minutes, and when he was persuaded his Death was near, he shew'd the greatest Magnanimity and Sedateness, and exhorted his People never to forget the Favours he had received from the King when in *England*, but to persevere in their Friendship with the *English*. He express'd the greatest Tenderness for General Oglethorpe, and seem'd to have no Concern at dying but its being at a Time when his Life might be useful against the *Spaniards*. He desired his Body might be buried amongst the *English* in the Town of *Savannah*, since it was he that had prevail'd with the *Creek Indians* to give the Land, and had assist'd in the founding of the Town. The Corps was brought down by Water. The General, attended by the Magistrates and People of the Town, met it upon the Water's Edge. The Corps was carried into *Per-cival Square*: The Pall was supported by the General, Col. *Stephens*, Col. *Montaignet*, Mr *Carteret*, Mr *Lemon*, and Mr *Maxwell*. It was followed by the *Indians*, and Magistrates, and People of the Town. There was the Respect paid of firing Minute Guns from the Battery all the Time from the Burial, and funeral firing with small Arms by the Militia, who were under Arms. The General has order'd a Pyramid of Stone which is dug in this Neighbourhood, to be erected over

the Grave, which being in the Centre of the Town, will be a great Ornament to it, as well as Testimony of Gratitude.

Tomo Chichi was a *Creek Indian*, and in his Youth was a great Warriour. He had an excellent Judgement, and a very ready Wit, which shew'd itself in his Answers upon all Occasions. He was very generous, giving away all the rich Presents he received, remaining himself in a wifful Poverty, being more pleas'd in giving to others than possessing himself, and he was very mild and good-natured.

General Oglethorpe has order'd 400 *Creeks*, and 600 *Cherokee Indians*, to march down to the Southern Frontiers, and is arming out several Boats. All the Arms of the Militia have been view'd, and Powder has been issued to them out of the Magazines. Twenty Volunteers, who find themselves Horse and Arms, have desir'd Leave to go against the *Spaniards*, no Purchase, no Pay. An Express arriv'd last Night from *Frederica*, that a Privateer Ship from *New York* put in there for Refreshments, and then sail'd to cruize off *Augustine*. We expect most of the *North America* Privateers will make this Province their Rendezvous, since near it is the best Station for cruizing upon the homeward bound *Spanish* Trade, and Provisions are plentiful upon this River.

There is one Privateer of 24 Pieces of Cannon fitted out from this Town, at the Charge of Capt. *Davis*, one of the Freeholders here, the *Spaniards* having seiz'd Effects of his to the Value of 40,000 Pieces of Eight. We have taken a *Spanish* Spy.

Frederica in *Georgia*, Nov. 15, 1739.
ADVICE is now just now arriv'd from *Amelia*, that the *Spaniards* land'd by Night on that Island, and skulk'd in the Woods there. Two Highlanders went into the Wood without their Arms, to fetch Fuel. *Francis Brooks*, who commands a Scout-Boat which is on Dury at that Island, heard five Muskets, and then thirteen; he made a Signal to the *Fr*, which is garrison'd by a Party of General Oglethorpe's Regiment; a Detachment march'd out, and found the two Highlanders murdered in the Wood, their Heads cut off and cruelly mangied. The *Spaniards*, after they had butcher'd the two unarm'd Men, fled with such Precipitation, that the Party could not overtake them, tho' they pursued very briskly. The General has order'd several Boats to be got ready, by which we imagine he intends to retaliate this Hostility.

Copies

Original from

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Defiance, without the Appearance of any Dread of the Spaniards.

1789.
October
3.

THURSDAY,	} So little Intermission was found these	4.	
FRIDAY,		} few Days from attending the General's	5.
SATURDAY.		} Commands, which rather multiplied	6.

than abated, through his incessant Application, that the most material Thing which happened abroad, and I thought worth noting, was the Death of the old Mico Thomo Chichi, said to be upwards of ninety Years of Age: And as the General always esteemed him a Friend of the Colony, and therefore showed him particular Marks of his Esteem, when living; so he distinguished him at his Death, ordering his Corpse to be brought down; and it was buried in the Centre of one of the principal Squares, the General being pleased to make himself one of his Pall-Bearers, with five others, among whom he laid his Commands on me to be one, and the other four were military Officers: At the Depositing of the Corpse, seven Minute Guns were fired, and about forty Men in Arms (as many as could instantly be found) gave three Vollies over the Grave; which the General says he intends to dignify with some Obelisk, or the like, over it, as an Ornament to the Town, and a Memorial to the Indians, how great Regard the English would pay to all their Nations, who maintain true Friendship with us.



there is therefore but a single monument — the grave. Take from the savages the bones of their fathers, and you take from them their history, their laws and their very gods.”

Surely the highest proof that the aged mico could give of his abiding affection for his friends the whites, was the dying request that his body might be buried amongst them. The sequel shows that the influence of this act of confidence and final trust lingered in the recollection of his people long after his bones had mingled with the sands of Savannah. Every respect and the proudest funeral honors were paid to this early and fast friend of the colony. The governor and the most noted men of the city bore him to his grave; — a grave not located in a spot designated for the general dead, but prepared in Percival square. On every hand the citizens assembled to testify the universal sorrow, while minute guns from the batteries gave marked token of the public respect. Nothing was omitted which could evidence the profound esteem and grief of the entire community.

★ More than a century and a quarter has elapsed since those funeral honors were paid; and the monument ordered by Gen. Oglethorpe has never been erected. Even the precise spot where this Indian chief was interred has passed from the recollection of the thousands who daily throng the streets and loiter among the parks of the beautiful city of Savannah. Neither street, nor public square perpetuates his name, and his memory scarce lives in occasional remembrance. This should not be. Ingratitude, alike in communities and individuals, is a grievous fault; and it is earnestly hoped, for the sake of her good name, in response to the express wish of Gen. Oglethorpe, and as an acknowledgment of the debt of gratitude which she owes

to this noted Indian, that the city of Savannah,— itself a living witness of the enterprise, courage, and taste of the founder of the colony of Georgia,— a city which has rendered such signal tribute to the memories of Greene and Pulaski, will, at no distant day, cause to be erected in one of her high places a suitable monument in honorable appreciation of the virtues and the valuable services of the venerable Tomo-chi-chi.



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 and Florida.
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GOODS

THE

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GOODS

SMN 1-22-72

SMN 1-17-1872

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Primary Source 06

A Confidence Operator.

A circular from the superintendents of the several Express Companies in the country, warn the community against a confidence operator and ex-convict, who is going about the country representing himself to be a special detective in the employment of the different companies. He is loaded down with aliases, going under the names of Fay, Laville, Hammond, Montrose, Deville, and Charles Hildebrand, (under which cognomen he served a term in the Ohio penitentiary.) He is also known as Chas. Rouville and Chas. Nelson. The fellow is about thirty years of age, weighs one hundred and thirty pounds, is five feet eight inches high, has full dark eyes which are constantly in motion, speaks rapidly and is always boasting of himself. He wears a dark mustache and has black hair. All persons having business with the Express are warned against him.

The Mound Builders.

The mound built some weeks ago in Madison square in accordance with the suggestion of Alderman Ferrill, Chairman of the Committee on Parks, is generally regarded as a decided improvement. The large and gilded vase by which it is surmounted is a very appropriate ornament.

The mound builders are now working in Wright's square opposite the Court House. We are under the impression that a similar improvement might be made in Columbia and St. James, and Chatham square. Washington and Warren squares are pastures for a number of goats.

A New Line to Baltimore.

We are informed that another steamship line to Baltimore is to be immediately established, and the fine steamship "Alhambra," Capl. Wright, favorably known as one of the Boston line last winter, will be put on at once, and other boats added as fast as the business warrants.

Days of sailing and other information will be given in a few days. Messrs. Richardson & Barlard are to be agents here, and if fair rates of freight, and accommodating consignees generally will secure business, we think the new line will get a full share of it.

The Two Fishes.

While the schooners Tom Fish and Loretta Fish were being towed down the Satilla river the latter grounded, causing a collision, whereby the jibboom and forward rigging of the Tom Fish were carried away. The main-topmast and starboard rigging of the Loretta Fish...

sons.

The Theatre - DeCordova.

The distinguished humorous lecturer, M. DeCordova, again appeared at the Theatre last night before an audience much larger than that of the preceding night. The subject was handled in a manner which won from the audience decided expressions of approbation. Mr. DeCordova has a happy style of delivery, and his audiences never come fatigued but sit as if in the control of the lecturer and to laugh and applaud with the moment to express approval arrives. The gentleman is an excellent personator of characters which were referred to in his lectures.

To-night Mr. DeCordova will deliver his third lecture of the course, and no one should fail to hear him.

Where Are the Ku Klux?

Among the passengers who arrived here this week on one of the steamships from North were a band of fanatics from Chelsea, Massachusetts, on their way to a place which they called the "Happy Land," located, understand, somewhere above Augusta. From a gentleman who conversed with members of the party, we learn that their so-called religious belief is a mixture of internationalism and Radicalism. They think they have a right to go anywhere, do anything, and take what does not belong to them, and that they will live just as long as they want to. We recommend this party to the kind attention of the Ku Klux Klan wherever part of the State they may settle.

Haight & Co's. Circus, Museum and Menagerie.

The above superior combination made its first appearance of the present season yesterday afternoon. The audience was a good one, much larger than we expected, considering the extreme cold weather. Last night the entertainment was a great success in every respect, and the display of wild animals was generally referred to in most complimentary terms.

Another balloon ascension and performance will be given this afternoon, and tonight the last entertainment will be given.

The Post Office Muddle.

The last Post Office muddle seems to be assuming a serious aspect, and the removal of Mr. W. H. McCormick, an old and faithful employe of the department, who has served the public interests with fidelity for many years, to make room for a freshly port-d carpet-bagger from Maine, will probably cost Mr. Osgood his place. It appears strange

Morning News: Elbert Square - smallest square. January 7, 1872 3/2

Primary Source 07

Morning News: January 17 3/1

The Mound Builders. Madison square surmounted by a large and gilded vase - very appropriate ornament.

City Council Minutes: February 14, 1872

A communication was received from Major John O. Ferrill, ex Alderman and Chairman of the Committee on Parks, stating that he had collected the sum of one hundred and Fifty dollars for the purchase and putting in position the Warwick Vase in Wright Square the sum being individual subscriptions by the residents in the immediate ~~area~~ neighborhood of said square, which he had disbursed as per appended vouchers, viz:

A. W. H. Thomas, Warwick Vase	\$137.50
B. Butler & Co. painting railing	8.00
C. P. Killorin, curb	<u>5.00</u>
	\$150. 50

On motion the communication was received and ordered to be placed on file in the proper office.

Northern half of lot 24 Columbia ward, with improvements, bought in for \$3,100. Eastern half of lot No. 9 Wylly ward, corner of Montgomery and Duffy streets, to Mr. Kernan for \$300; two houses on Joachim street and three houses on Mill street to Wm. Demers for \$1,950; three houses on Ann street to Wm. Swoll for \$2,500.

Primary Source 08

Messrs. Kennedy & Blun sold a number of horses and live stock at good figures.

Sheriff Ronan sold the stock of teas and coffees, a large amount of wrapping paper, etc., seized as the property of Reily & Moloney for \$5,025. The horses and wagons belonging to the same firm brought fair prices.

Festival of the "Earnest Workers."

On Thursday evening the "Earnest Workers," a society composed of the young lady teachers and scholars of the First Presbyterian Sunday School, will give a festival in the hall on Drayton street, near State, lately known as Sherwood's Dancing Academy. The festival will open at 4 p. m. and continue during the afternoon and evening, and also on Friday during the same time. A full supper and all the good things which are usually offered to visitors at fairs will be furnished by the "Earnest Workers" and their friends, and those who wish to spend a pleasant hour or two and at the same time assist in the good work which the society has in charge cannot do better than assist the festival.

The Mound in Court House Square.

The familiar mound in Court House square is being rapidly removed. A force of workmen, under the direction of the Chairman of the Streets and Lane Committee, Alderman Aylsworth, yesterday morning commenced its demolition. The mound is being removed preparatory to the erection of the monument to the late W. W. Gordon, first President of the Central Railroad. It was constructed by the city in 1871, through the instrumentality of Hon. John O. Ferrill, then a member of the Board of Aldermen and Chairman of the Committee on Parks and Squares. A full description of this proposed monument has already appeared in the columns of the News. Its erection will probably be commenced the latter part of January, or early in February.

Santa Claus' Headquarters.

The two bearish looking figures making their exit from a snow-capped chimney are the latest representations of good old Santa Claus, who, according to the advertisement, has this year made his headquarters at J. G. Pournelle's, 132 Broughton street. At this store will be found a most elegant assortment of holiday goods, work boxes, desks, dressing cases, China and glass vases and wares, dolls, new styles of toys, plaques, statuettes, Prang's celebrated Christmas cards; in fact, an immense variety of first-class goods at reasonable prices. Those in search of something nice should not fail to give Mr. Pournelle's store a visit.

In Port Again.

The steamship Saragossa, from Balti-

more and liberal applause. Shakespeare's "Hamlet" was presented, and in the character of the young "Prince of Denmark," Mr. Keene gave still further evidence of his past careful study, the rendition being decidedly an improvement on his previous effort.

In the personation of the character of "Hamlet" Mr. Keene has evidently made the elder Booth his model, and the hard study of such a master of the passions and their presentation to a critical audience evidences his high histrionic genius. The scene in the encounter with his father's ghost we have never seen surpassed by any tragedian of the day, and the contest between the passions of love and revenge in the interview with his mother when he kneels at her feet and presents the portrait of his murdered father could not be surpassed. Altogether, we regard Mr. Keene as the most promising young tragedian on the American boards.

Miss Anna Storey rendered the character of "Ophelia" excellently, well, and the "Queen" of Miss Hamblin was very good. Mr. Beach made a fair "Ghost," and the "Laertes" of Mr. Learock and "Polonius" of Mr. Ahrendt were quite effective. The play was well mounted and presented in a style that met the approbation of the discriminating audience.

At the matinee this afternoon will be given "The Merchant of Venice," and at night Mr. Keene closes his engagement in Bulwer's "Richelieu," and we are satisfied from his recent performances this season that he will portray the grand old Cardinal with great effectiveness. If you desire to secure good seats, call at Bren's early this morning.

"Chispa."

The New York Sun says of the new play "Chispa:"

"Chispa," a new play by Clay M. Greene and Slason Thompson, authors of "Miss" and "Flats and Sharps," was brought out in Haverly's Fourteenth Street Theatre last evening. It is intended to be the means of displaying the capabilities of Miss Marion Elmore, a vivacious young woman who can talk brightly, sing well and dance easily. The scenes in the four acts after a prologue are laid in lumber camps of California, and the scenery is not the least of the elements of the play. "Chispa," in a short dress, yellow leggings, and a damaged straw hat, half covering a mass of tangled hair, is the "idol of Bachelor's Gulch," and consequently has her own way in almost everything, and thereby causes considerable trouble before she is happy and contented as the wife of the man who saved her from death on the plains. That man is Zeke Stevens, a guide, who in the course of years is a lumberman and mill owner. The role might be stronger than it is, although Frank Losee made all there is of it. An entirely original character is that of Indian Jack, a Pinte, who kills villains in the nick of time and is otherwise useful. The comedy element is furnished by Doc Jones, a loquacious individual, and Anastasia Mount Auburn, a governess for the indispensable heiress. Incidents follow one another quickly, and the play will be popular undoubtedly.

United States Circuit Court.

Hon. JOHN ERSKINE, Judge of the South-

All have come to say, and to bear testimony in my ministry as a servant of none of us, alas! what we often we mourn over wrong words and wrong each of us there is the de that when we have been ours alone, that the our tower has not slumbered true to his vows. For a tury you have broken in life, preaching the pur Word and ever holding l of Christ. As we think o how could we do otherw to meet us here, in this it is by so many sacred.

In every age the wi versal to mark the pr of the heart by some something upon which wards rest and bring limage of what has move tokens are mementoes again, they are pledged Illustrations of this desi hand. So, too, we read, from that stony couch been with him, and fro seen that wondrous angels ascending and raised a pillar to ma memorial, that ever a feet might wander thith should once more bring before him. So when t dan parted, and the mi passed over to their inl by God's expressed con stones from the river's up as a memorial for t their children after the loving care and guidan himself set His bow covenant token of his pl.

We, too, dear Doctor, and have therefore eac stone to commemorat happy day. In the nan people, and acting by your acceptance of this. Accept it as a memo affection that has bouc past and as a covenant of undiminished love future.

Beloved pastor, may years be peaceful and and anxiety have no p may you go on to the e the sacred desk from v long listened to "the tered by your lips; an us, may it only be to "Enter thou into the jo

At the close his rem Dr. Axson in the na the congregation, wit watch, bearing the fol on the inside case:

Our Pas
I. S. K. A:
XXV ye:
Savannah, Dec

This testimonial wa another in the shape of of silver, consisting o and comprising one d teaspoons, one dozen h spoons, one dozen heavy one dozen heavy silver

Primary Source 09



Primary Source 10



SMN 11-3-1882 - Plea for a monument to Tomochichi (again showing the mound had nothing to do with T...)

A SENSATION IN THE PARK.

A Demented Woman Claims a Stranger as Her "Own."

Yesterday morning, as a stranger, a well-dressed, respectable looking gentleman, was strolling through the Park admiring its beauties, he was accosted by a decently attired, middle aged white woman, who greeted him with every demonstration of joy. The gentleman had never seen her before, and being greatly surprised by this welcome, suggested that there must be a case of mistaken identity. The woman vehemently asserted there was not, and seizing the stranger's hat, walked off with it and refused to give it up. He followed her, and endeavored by persuasion to obtain his hat, the situation becoming rather embarrassing to him, as there were a number of people in the Park at the time, whose attention was attracted to the unusual scene. Finding it impossible to recover his hat from the woman without using violence, the stranger sought a policeman, who took her in custody. She held on to the gentleman's hat, however, insisting that he belonged to her, was her "own dear one" and she would not let him get away. The woman was carried to the police barracks, and the stranger followed. The woman's demeanor was firm but not violent, and, both parties being perfect strangers to the policeman, he was rather perplexed by the statements of the excited lady. In response to inquiries, the gentleman asserted most emphatically that he had never seen her before, and was at a perfect loss to understand her actions. On reaching the barracks two physicians were summoned, who pronounced her demented. She said she was a married woman, and gave her name as Mrs. Lugin, and when asked where her husband was, pointed to a gentleman present, and said "There he is," which assertion occasioned considerable amusement. She maintained at the same time her claim on the stranger, who in the meantime had secured possession of his hat and was glad to depart. The woman was retained in custody at the barracks for safe keeping, and her case will probably be referred to the Ordinary to-day.

A Mechanical Genius.

On Jefferson street, a little south of New Houston, in this city, is a small, wooden tenement; row, facing an open square or park to the east, shaded by a grove of patriarchal oaks. Hearing that the occupant of one of these tenements had invented a piece of machinery, we thought much needed in the country, on Wednesday last we knocked at the third door in the range, and was ushered in and conducted up stairs. In a very small bedroom, before an open window, looking out upon the grove and quietly eating a frugal dinner from a plate on his lap, sat the inventor. He turned his great hoary face full upon us and presented a picture for an artist. He was mounted upon a three-wheeled adjustable car or vehicle of his own manufacture, uniquely modeled and quaint enough to suggest the ancient war chariots seen in pictures. The man himself seemed exactly in harmony with the vehicle, and parapoiled in an ancient Eastern monarch, with his huge flowing gray beard, high cheek bones, massive head, and somewhat rugged exterior, he would have presented no faint ideal of a venerable Nereus or Pharoah. This was Mr. Elias Dail, 92 years of age, a native of North Carolina, but for many years a resident of this city, where, thirty years ago, while engaged in some work which exposed him to wind and water, he contracted a cold, was prostrated upon a bed of affliction, and suffered excruciating agony for many long and weary years. Much was done by physicians and friends to alleviate his sufferings and restore him to usefulness, but the demon of deathliness agony and woe seemed to claim him all its own. His wrinkled and worn features, though strong in the evidences of manly developed manhood, gave abundant proof

THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL.

A Monument to Oglethorpe.

Editor Morning News: There seems to be a growing interest among our citizens in the proposed celebration of February next, and it is greatly to be wished that this interest shall not flag. I trust it is an omen of success, and that the General Sesqui-Centennial Committee may devise a wise scheme, and skillfully carry it out, that shall give Savannah the honor of an attractive and creditable celebration. It is expected ceremonial shall be the means of drawing hither people from all sections of Georgia to learn more than they know of their beautiful and enterprising seaport, and of quickening the pulses of trade and business, the celebration will have done more than gratified a sentimental taste. Let then, the city authorities and our business men respond liberally to the plans of the Sesqui-Centennial Committee, and let us have a grand festival that shall revive old memories and reflect honor on Savannah.

Is it too much to hope for a feature not yet suggested that would do credit to Savannah and to Georgia, and remain a perpetual memento of both the city and the State's gratitude and justice long after the show of the centennial is gone and perhaps forgotten? Is it too much to ask that while we are recalling the memories of Oglethorpe's landing; and are trying to picture to this generation the scenes of the eventful day that brought Englishmen first within our territories, we should gratify our own pride, and do honor to our heroic founder, by raising a monument to the soldier and the gentleman who, with the purest motives and at the greatest sacrifices, laid deep, in "Wisdom, Justice and Moderation" the foundations of this Commonwealth?

Let it be that we have not as yet the means to erect a shaft worthy of the dignified character of Oglethorpe; may we not now consecrate, for such a fit purpose, a spot that his feet have often trod, and lay the foundations of a monumental column to be hereafter built by the united liberality of Savannah and Georgia, the city and the State that alike owe their existence to him. This spot should be the centre of Wright square, midway in the line of streets east and west, and the farthest south of the city as laid out by him. I am told that the city has granted this square for the Gordon monument, but an equally suitable and a more central location for that would be the next square south, Chippewa, leaving Oglethorpe's memorial to be placed within the original town and the line of fortifications on South Broad street, as he laid it out. There, too, within a few yards of that spot lie the remains of the aged Mico of the Yamacraws, and the faithful friend of Oglethorpe, buried there at his own request, that he might lie in death with the friends of his last years, the white. Over his body, after one hundred and forty-four years of silence and neglect, there should rise a modest shaft with the simple inscription of

TO MOCHICHI.

Mico of the Yamacraws. The Faithful Friend of Oglethorpe.

Thus within the half acre of that square familiar to both would stand the memorials, visible to the eyes of every passer-by, of the noble hero who founded our city, and the no less noble Indian who, with singular simplicity and faith, welcomed him here and protected the infant life of his colony—two characters of which any colony might be proud, and of which Savannah and Georgia ought never to lose the remembrance.

It is too late, Mr. Editor, by one act to display our gratitude, to adorn Savannah with its most significant monument, and to do justice to the dead? CIVIS.

Savannah, October 30, 1882.

OCTOBER WEATHER.

The Meteorological Report for the Month.

BRADSTREET'S BUDGET.

The Failures of the Past Week in Georgia and Florida.

There were 17 failures in the United States reported by Bradstreet's during the past week, 4 less than the previous week, and 20 more than the corresponding week of last year. The Middle States had 94, a decrease of 5; New England, States 19, a decrease of 7; Southern States 23, an increase of 5; Western States 56, an increase of 1; California and Territories 19, an increase of 1; Canada and the provinces 14, a decrease of 13. The failures generally were of minor importance. In the principal trade there were as follows: General traders 2; grocers 19, liquors 13; dry goods 10; clothing 9; manufacturers 8; hardware 7; shoes 4; tobacco and cigars 5; fancy goods 4; furniture 4; hotels 3; drugs 3; gent's furnishing goods 3; books and stationery 3; millinery 3; grain 2; coal 2; jewelry 1; banker 1. FLORIDA.

Manatee—B. S. Curry, general store, has failed and been attached. Liabilities \$3,000; nominal assets \$700.

Halatka—T. Myers, dry goods, has assigned. He began about two years ago.

GEORGIA.

Atlanta—C. L. Redwine, drugs and cigars, has been placed in the hands of a receiver. Butler—G. J. Willie, saloon, who recently failed with liabilities of \$2,000, has since disposed of all of his stock.

Macon—D. Flinders & Son, grocers, have failed. Liabilities \$29,000; assets \$26,000. They began business in 1867.

Union—John F. Gilles, general store, has failed.

The following testimonial is signed by twelve of the leading physicians of Halifax N. S.: "COLDEN'S LIQUID BEER TONIC is a very agreeable article of diet, and particularly useful in Dyspepsia, Fever, and every depressing disease. We cheerfully recommend it. Every family should have a few bottles." Ask for Colden's; take no other. Of druggists generally.

Yes Do It.

It is our aim to make our place of business just as interesting for men as for boys by keeping the best of everything in clothing, hats and gent's furnishing goods, and selling only reliable goods at moderate prices. Clothing buyers realize the advantages we offer, as our growing trade shows. We leave every purchaser 25 per cent. off in plain words, a suit of which the regular price is \$25, you can buy from us for \$20; or a suit that others will charge you \$15 for, you can buy from us for \$12. This fact has been proven to the satisfaction of good judges here and again at the "Famous" New York Clothing House, 140 Congress street.—Ads.

Dr. Aborn, 218 Bryan street, Eye, Ear, Head, Throat and Lung Physician, Hours 9 to 12.

Devlin's Fine Clothing to Order. Samples shown by LaFar.—Adv.

The Great Comet Hursts into a Million Pieces—The Explosion Perfectly Audible in Savannah.

This morning about four o'clock the great comet exploded, illuminating the heavens for a few minutes, producing a sound similar to rolling thunder. The phenomenon was witnessed by a gentleman of Jones street, and arranged to say he was immediately taken with a chill, which lasted over an hour, followed by a high fever. However, he resorted to the world renowned remedy, "Kieffer's Peruvian Cure," and of course will be well by to-morrow. It is warranted to cure all malarial diseases, and is for sale by druggists and country dealers at twenty-five cents a bottle.—Adv.

Fail Stocks in Mass. LaFar has opened his stock.—Adv.

Goodyear's Rubber Coats. The best—all sizes, at LaFar's.—Adv.

To-Day

Meeting

Landrum Lodge No. The Constitution of the Grand Master of the Georgia, will take place THIS EVENING at 8 o'clock. Members of sister Lodges are fraternally invited to be By order J. O. ALEX. H. MAUDSLAND, Sec.

Hall of Pulaski Council A regular meeting of the held THIS (Friday) EVENING at 8 o'clock. CLARENCE S. CONWAY, Sec.

Hall of Jasper Council A regular meeting of the held THIS (Friday) EVENING at 8 o'clock. CLARENCE S. CONWAY, Sec.

Irish National Hall Will meet at Mozart Hall at 8 o'clock. Every member present, as business of the union be transacted. D. E. O'NEILL, Rec. Sec'y.

Special Notice

Neither the Captain nor I am responsible for any defects in the crew of the "Caleb."

Notice.

The recent fire in my Bank

interfere with my filling orders

Candy with the same prompt

Notice.

Neither the Captain nor I am responsible for any defects in the crew of the British steamship "Strathmore," will be responsible for any by the crew. A. M.

Amusement

THEATRE-COM

Chas. E. Ford's Com TO-NIGHT, the Success of Johann Stra

Merry War, M

The cast includes Misses Mari Chapman, Genevieve Re Elsie, Messrs. Doni Lang and Rayn SATURDAY MATINEE, by Sullivan's

SORCEI

SATURDAY NIGHT OLIVE

By Audran, the author of 'Beats at Brno's.

New Advertis

DISSOLUT

THE firm of THOS. H. H. this day dissolved. Her part of the firm will be

Primary Source 12

The returns so far successful, and it is not too great their self imposed duty. A number of articles last evening with the fol-

first choice M. Garfunkel, as E. Chase, third choice garstand, won by C. Eliz; on by Miss Rachel First; abjects first choice Mrs. Joe First; set of mats,annah Turkenheimer; fine table No. 1, won by Mr. a handsome pin cushion — J. M. Frank, second choice; ladies' work bag, sse Solomonus; champagne won by Mr. Fred Jones; look, won by Master Edwin basket of flowers, framed, Behz; handsome doll won o L. Solomonus; handsome by Mr. Joe Bernhard; table, Stutes; basket of worsted. A Vetsburg; mersbaum Sam. Heiman; embroidered Mrs. Hegler; the old woman by Mrs. Demere; cigar Berg; box candy, won by enthal; fine velvet ead al-Leder; watch "Wave" won child's handsome knif sack, chairman.

Change Two Trains to Jacksonville.

erved by the schedule of the Railroad, published on g. that some important made in the running of ter Sunday next. There will us to Jacksonville without The fast small train, with at rail and Savannah and as will connect, will leave a daily, 6:45 a.m. excepted. Jacksonville at 9:15 p. ing the trip in the quick hours. The second train will 20 instead of 4:15 p. m. These e of great convenience to rally, will facilitate the trans-mails, and will be of especial ough passengers to Florida. from Jacksonville will arrive 6:18 p. m. We direct atten-entertainment.

To-Day - 27 Bull Street.

orning News
ndly's Magazine for March.
ally's Magazine for March.
ally's Railroad Guide.
es (No. 137 Lakeside Library).
edger, No. 6.
mer, No. 66.
Weekly, No. 15.
glet, No. 24.
& Paper, No. 229.
npanion, No. 539.
Herald, World, Times, Tri-

a Daily Times
a Weekly Times.
an
News and Courier.
Journal of Commerce.

Musical Evening

g Miss Rose O'Erina will give
and musical evenings at the

the city. It is understood that its guests at the Ocean House, whose business calls them daily to Jacksonville, can take their dinners at his restaurant. This feature will certainly be an inducement to many to spend the summer in Tybee.

The Remains of Tomteichtl Disinterred.

We have noticed the fact that Mr. Thomas Henderson had lately removed the frame residence on lot 133 York street, near Bull, to the second lot on the west, with the view of constructing a store on the former site. One of Savannah's oldest citizens, now in his eighty-eighth year, says that the frame building just removed has been, to his own knowledge, standing for the past seventy years, having escaped the terrible conflagration in 1820. In making the excavations for the foundation for the new store on the site formerly occupied by it, the workmen came upon the remains of a human skeleton, about four feet below the surface, together with several rusty and corroded coffin handles, pieces of iron, shaped like the blade of a hatchet, and a piece of ivory. All the bones of the frame were found, but several were broken. No remnants of the coffin or box could be discovered.

It is believed that these are the remains of the famous Indian chieftain Tomteichtl, who was interred in 1738 in Wright square. This lot, as also the adjoining ones, were at that period embraced in Percival square, now known as Court House square. The building which has been removed has been standing for over seventy years according to the recollection of the old citizen referred to, and was probably the first building erected on that site after the extreme portions of the square was laid off into lots. There is, consequently, no reason to believe that the ground has ever been disturbed before, and as there is no account of any other interment having been made in the square other than that of Tomteichtl, the supposition is well founded that the remains unearthed are those of the famous chieftain. In support of this we give the following extract from the "Historical Record of Savannah," which shows that Tomteichtl was buried in Wright square in 1738. The account says:

"In October of 1737, a grand council of the chiefs of the four towns of the Creek nation was held in Savannah, and with the assistance of Tomteichtl another treaty was arranged, by which the Indians agreed to form a friendly alliance with the English and assist them against their enemies. This was the last opportunity that Tomteichtl had to show his friendship to the colonists, who were indebted greatly to him for protection. He died the following October. In compliance with his request that he might be buried among the English, his remains were brought from his place above the town in a canoe, and were met at the wharf by Oglethorpe, the civil authorities, and the citizens, all of whom, out of respect, assembled to assist in the funeral obsequies. A procession was formed, and the corpse, with Oglethorpe and Colonel Stephens, the President, as pallbearers, was escorted to Percival (now Court House) square, minute guns being fired from the batty the while. As the body was lowered into the earth, three volleys of musketry were fired by the militia."

Matters and Things Laconically Noted.

Charming moonlight nights now.
The police report the situation quiet.
The Blues have a special important meeting to-night.
The next attraction at the Theatre will be

passed an act providing in all parts of the Majesty's possessions. That act was in force in New Brunswick previous to incorporation. By the fifth section of the act admitted is given for the passage of the law for the carrying out of the treaty, and such a law was passed in Ontario and was re-enacted by the Dominion Parliament in 1868. The Queen gave her assent to this measure, and by an order of Council suspended the Imperial Act so that after 1868 the English act of 1843 ceased to be in operation in the Dominion. In 1870 the British Parliament repealed the act of 1843, and Mr. Palmer has held the Colonial act was thereby repealed and that there is no provision for carrying the treaty into effect. His Honor said he could not agree with Mr. Palmer. The British Parliament had given authority for the passage of the law, such a law was passed by an independent power, and, although the Imperial act was repealed, the Dominion act remains in force. This principle was laid down by Clarke in his *Colonial Law*, and it was also decided in the Supreme Court of this Province. He was satisfied that the act of 1843 was in operation.

His Honor proceeded to consider the first charge against Miller—that of uttering three forged acceptances. He detailed the facts as given in the evidence, and overruled the many objections of Mr. Palmer regarding their admissibility of depositions, etc. His Honor dealt in the same manner with the second charge against Miller, for uttering forged drafts. He then proceeded to consider whether Miller, when he uttered the forged papers, knew them to be false. He was forced to the conclusion that the prisoner had a guilty knowledge. As to the question of passing them with intent to defraud, the evidence, he considered, clearly showed that to be the case. His Honor, in concluding his able judgment, said it was his duty to hear the testimony in this case, and upon the evidence presented he would be justified, under the laws of the Province, in committing the prisoner for trial, it would be his duty to commit. The evidence was quite clear and compelling, as he did, that a gross fraud had been perpetrated, it was his duty to carry out the law giving effect to the treaty, and he accordingly committed the prisoner to jail, there to remain until surrendered according to the stipulations of the treaty or discharged according to law.

Mr. Palmer intends to appeal from this decision.

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

A Helpless Colored Woman's Bed Catches Fire and She is Burned to Death.

On Wednesday afternoon an old colored woman named Bash Reid, about sixty years of age, was burned to death in the house of Simon Sutton, colored, near Woodlawn, a mile and a half from the city. The Coroner, Dr. F. B. Smith, was notified yesterday, and, proceeding to the place, empaneled a jury and opened an inquest.

Simon Sutton and his wife, Grace, were the only witnesses examined, and the following facts were ascertained:

The woman, Bash Reid, had been an invalid for the last two months, during which time she occupied a room in Sutton's house. On Wednesday morning Sutton and his wife went to work as usual, but returned to the house about an hour afterwards, when the old woman complained of feeling cold. Grace Sutton dressed up the pallet on which she was lying, and put some more clothes on her, and Simon made a fire in order to render the room more comfortable. They then left

1125, W. H. Justice house and Wm. H. ward C. Hollis for 1 ton & Businger for 1 1127, N. Y. Hen in il. fa., vs. H. C. J. (a. Jar. L. S. S. S. DeMontcollin for 1 for defendant.

1128, Hugh Murr A. P. & S. B. A. & Charlton, Hartr fendant.

1129, In the matt G. Com. for a ce hands of G. A. B of the estate of J J. R. Sassy for a for defendant.

1129 to 1138, In ch the Mayor and Al vannah, Appeal I Court. A. P. & S. ant; W. D. Harder 1130, John H. Assumpt. Jack for plaintiff; R. E.

1140, Henry Su Patrick Roach an in il. fa. Cathen Claba; R. R. B. Garrard for clidit

1142, Wm. C. B vs. Marika W. W Equity. Geo. A. R. R. Lester for d 1143, Same vs. A. Mercer for on defendants.

1150, Patrick R the Mayor and Al vannah, defendan et. al., for comp defendants.

1151, Binda A rarl, vs. Cyrus W rarl, Cf. Gardn, plaintiff; P. W. A

1152, John N. B. Lued, garnis Lester for plaitt

1055, J. R. Col Wm. Garrard for defendant.

983, John Nic others, Actioe plaintiff; R. R. B

1017, Elizabeth Planters' Accon Company, Cas George R. Black 1975, Andrew van Foreclosa plaintiff; P. W. 237, Solomon Michael Walsh, for plaintiffs; J.

TUESD 848, John D. O'Byrne, by Jess Rod, casual eite possessor. Ejo Lester and Merc & Chisholm, J. fendants.

WEDNES 1023, John S. Appeal. J. R. S. S. B. Adams for 1017, John S. Appeal. J. R. S. S. B. Adams for As heretofore 18th of February, be taken up in

Morning News 2/15/1878 - showing they believed T. at that time buried elsewhere (though this was really for the colonists)

Primary Source 13

[ca.1923]

Dear Mrs. Barrow, [Mrs. Craig Barrow]

Upon reading in the M News about your book soon to be published , it occurred to me that it might be well to acquaint you with some information concerning the supposed resting place of Tomochichi.

Mr. Harden [William Harden] says an old map by de Brahm states he was buried in the center of Wright Square. My aunt of 77 who had on that square was [a] girl and others say that there was a pump there to which she went many a time with the "old mammy" for water. This pump was afterwards moved over by the old Chatham Artillery Armory. In my childhood, before the Gordon monument was erected, a mound of rocks and Ivy was there.

Now, in July 1877 my grandfather's furniture establishment on Whitaker & Broughton was burned down. As he owned property on York near Bull he decided to build there. This property had been a grant to the Union Society and the houses thereon had been built by persons who leased from said Society. These houses were made from hand hewn timbers and hand wrought nails & built just a few feet from the ground. My grandfather, Thomas Henderson, bought this property from the Union Society. As he wanted to build nearer Bull St. he decided to move a two story house to the west of his residence on the garden lot. This house stood in the middle of the street on Xmas 1877.

As the building was to be brick and three stories high, excavations had to be made for a foundation. When the workmen were digging they came across the skeletons of several Indians (judging by the length of same) and by one was found handles, a silver tomahawk & whistle and other things which tended to show that it must have been a chief. Your grandfather, Mr. De Renne, Mr. R. Habersham, Col. Estill, Mr. Chas. La Motte & others all came to see it. There was an account of it in the papers at the time. Miss Georgia Weymouth ? (Miss Adelaide Wilson) in her book unfortunately gave the wrong date. Mr. Harden says he never could find the article. It must have been during Jan. or Feb. 1878. Bones were boxed & reburied. Grandfather promised to have the box made from some Bonaventure wood to contain these relics as Mr. De Renne wanted them for the Georgia Historical Society. Mr. Harden says there

are no such relics there. Whether your grandfather ever received them we do not know. He was away so much and ill at times.

Then came the big fire of 1889 and destroyed the property and any relics we had. When grandfather began to re-build during the summer, then on his sick bed from which he never recovered, he begged that when they went to excavate that they must not disturb the remains of Tomochichi, so convinced was he that his remains lay there. For he believed with Shakespeare

Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear
To dig the dust enclosed here,
Blest be the man that spares these **stones**,
And curst be he that moves my bones.

When excavations were made farther to the west other bones were seen. I asked Mr. Harden to be on the lookout when the present Lindsay & Morgan building was erected. I have never heard whether any bones were found there or not.

My aunt, Miss Maria Henderson, tho seventy-seven and a paralyzed invalid remembers it all distinctly.

I think I could find others who were there [a few words torn on fold and illegible] at the time.

In delving for other data you might run across something pertaining to this.

You must pardon me for transgressing on your time but thought you would be interested.

Sincerely,

(Signed) L.S. Sturtevant

COMMISSIONERS. } P. D. DAFFIN, CHAIRMAN.
MALCOLM MACLEAN,

C. S. ELLIS.

GEO. A. MERCER, VICE-CHAIRMAN
S. E. THEUS, SECRETARY.



Primary Source 14

City of Savannah,

Office Park and Tree Commission.

February 3rd, 1899

Mayors Myers,

City.

Copy.

Mr Myers,

We find that the expenses incident to erecting a monument are heavier than we anticipated and we may be considerably delayed in the undertaking so will beg to recall through Mr. Rockwell the note asking permission to use a certain location for the purpose until such time as we are ready to act.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Thomas S. Morgan,

Chairman.

COMMISSIONERS. } P. D. DAFFIN, CHAIRMAN
MALCOLM MACLEAN.

C. S. ELLIS.

GEO. A. MERCER, VICE-CHAIRMAN
S. E. THEUS, SECRETARY.



City of Savannah,

Office - Park and Tree Commission.

Jan 30th, 1899

Mr. P. D. Daffin Chairman,
Park & Tree Commission,
Savannah.

Copy.

Dear Sir:-

As Chairman of the Tomo-Chichi Committee of the Georgia Society of Colonial Dames, I have written the Mayor to ask permission to erect a monument in Court House Square to the memory of the noble old Indian Chief

The spot to be selected will probably be that portion of Square fronting the Court House.

We write to ask permission and the co-operation of your Commission in this commemoration and patriotic work.

There will be held a meeting of the Committee tomorrow afternoon about 4 o'clock and it would give me pleasure and facilitate our work if I am able to announce to Committee that your Commission has been favorably heard from.

I am my dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

(H. C. Morgan)
()
(Mrs. Thomas S. Morgan)

Chairman.

Savannah
March 31st '99

Dear Mrs Morgan,

I wrote the Venus-
ble on Saturday night
and got a reply on Mon-
day morning to say the
Boulder was shipped
that day.

Your letter to the Park
and Ten Commission
asking to withdraw our

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Gordon Family Papers
No. 318 Item No. 1242

request to place the Jones
Chicki Monument in
Court House Square,
was not acted upon
by them, further than
to place your letter
on the minutes, &
fortunately there is
nothing to block our
at once having the
Monument set up,
on the site selected.

Very sincerely,

Wm. K. Connor

Savannah March 29. 1899
Mrs. Nellie K. Gordon
President Society Colonial
Dames.

Dear Mrs. Gordon
The application of the
Society for leave to
place a suitable
memorial to Tomachite
in the Court House
Square was considered
and granted by the
Park and Tree Com-
mission, and all details

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Gordon Family Papers
No. 318 Item No. 124

were referred to me.
Your Society is at
full liberty to place
this Memorial in such
portion of the Square as
you may deem best
and in accordance with
your own plans. If the
Palmetto tree, in the south
eastern quarter of the
Square, is in your way
you may remove it.

Very Respectfully Yours
Geo. A. Mercer
Member Park & Tree Comm^{ns}.

Primary Source 15

Address of
Hon. Walter Glasco Charlton

At the Dedication of the Memorial to

Tomochichi

Wright Square,
Savannah, Georgia
April 21st, 1899

For the Georgia Society of the
Colonial Dames of America

Mrs. Eleanor Kinzie Gordon, President

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Roane
Roanoke

ADDRESS OF
HON. WALTER G. CHARLTON

At the Dedication of the
Memorial to Tomochichi

“Let us, my fellow Georgians, congratulate ourselves that after a century and a half of forgetfulness we have at length been stirred to a realization of a duty unfulfilled, and are, therefore, here to-day to dedicate to the memory of a great Georgian a memorial such as Oglethorpe directed and Tomochichi deserved. You will recall that the great soldier who controlled the destinies of this colony commanded that a pyramid of Georgia stone should mark the resting place of him who had been the loyal and devoted friend and ally of the people of Georgia and the comrade of their leader. There has been placed here, on the spot where tradition tells us he lies, through the disinterested efforts of this society of noble and remembering Georgia women, this piece of Georgia granite, that all the coming time may know that here in the heart of our town rests in honored memory a man who was a Georgian and a Georgian who was a man. Of his early life we know but little. He was of the Lower Creeks and born, probably in Middle Georgia, that nursery of brave

men and fair women; although in his remarks in the conference at Savannah he speaks of coming back here to the graves of his ancestors. We know that he was banished from his tribe; and his strong, self-reliant spirit and dominant character suggest that he must have rebelled against some great injustice. Certainly he brought into his exile the respect and esteem of those who had banished him. At the conference of the Indian tribes at Savannah with Oglethorpe, the Chief of the Oconas said of him in the presence of the representatives of the Creek Indians, that he was a good man and had been a great warrior, and that it was for his wisdom and courage that the banished men had chosen him for their king. When he and Oglethorpe first met at Yamacraw Bluff in January, 1733, he was, according to Jones: "A man of commanding presence, grave demeanor, marked character, established influence, of a philosophical turn of mind, and in the possession of all his faculties." He was at this time in his ninety-first year. He had gathered about him Indians of the Lower Creeks and the Yemasees and formed them into the tribe of the Yamacraws, having their town four miles west of Savannah.

"It is a singular thing in the history of Georgia that at this moment when her future was trembling in the balance; when by every unhappy

precedent the little band of Englishmen who were about to land upon her soil must take up the task of civilization in toil and suffering and blood, with the relentless nature of the savage upon the one hand and the merciless Spaniard upon the other—that at this eventful moment there should have met here in the wilderness one of the greatest and boldest spirits of Europe and one of the wisest and bravest Indians of whom we have any account. It is entirely certain that the confidence with which Oglethorpe inspired Tomochichi and the prompt measures adopted by the latter to further the scheme of colonization, made possible the settlement of Savannah by ensuring for years a tranquility in which the foundations of the State were laid in peace. The New Englander had fought his way with bitterness and the Virginian had constantly slept upon his arms, but in Georgia the friendship and admiration which these two great men extended each other made practical the founding of the town and the establishment of the colony. It was with affectionate pride that Tomochichi, on his death-bed, recalled his part in the founding of the colony; and seeing with that wise and prophetic sight which is the gift of noble minds, that in time his people must pass away and be no more seen of men, linked the Indian forever with the civilization which was destined to spring

from the midst of the bending pines and sandy soil of Savannah.

"Save that human suffering and misfortune have always the element of the tragic, there was little of the heroic about the early days of Georgia. That the oppressed and stricken people who landed here on the 13th day of February, 1733, to be the military bulwark of the Province of South Carolina, did not repeat the experience of the other colonies of America and write their history in blood, was due to the nobility and generosity of this old Indian warrior who lies here, receiving now as he earned then the gratitude of the people of Georgia. In the old records we catch an occasional glimpse of him as a warrior. Busily as was Oglethorpe engaged in building his town, he never took his eyes from the south. He knew almost by intuition when the Spaniards started from Florida or Cuba to harry the coasts of Georgia, and with the expedition of a true soldier he was always on hand when they landed. If the enemy rested too long between forays, it was the habit of that great man to seek him and stir him into unwilling activity. It was his policy to give him no rest, and he never ceased his determined and aggressive warfare until the last Spaniard was driven from Georgia forever. It is one of the humorous features of that protracted struggle that Oglethorpe was

in the habit of going up and down the St. John's in a long boat, with a single swivel gun, treating the military demonstrations of the enemy with absolute contempt. Apparently they shot then as they do now. In most of these expeditions was Tomochichi, then upward of ninety years of age, but full of fire and bravery and devotion. His impetuosity was such, that in the expedition to Amelia Island it was with difficulty that Oglethorpe could restrain him from attacking an overwhelming force of the enemy. We can imagine how desperate must have been the circumstances which made Oglethorpe conservative. But, my friends, bravery is no such uncommon thing that we must needs raise monuments to it alone. It is everywhere and of all times: With Jackson at Port Republic; with Pickett at Gettysburg; with Skobelev at Plevna; with Sidney at Zutphen; with Oglethorpe on the Danube and at Bloody Marsh. It has stood upon the brink of a Crater and poured the fire of artillery into the face of a triumphant host, unmindful of the fate which looked into its eyes, and it has walked up the steep incline of Cemetery Ridge and so left its record that without monument or mark the generous thought of mankind stands uncovered at the recollection of the deed. Still, common as is this attribute it pleases

us to know that he who was Georgia's friend was a warrior in truth as in name.

"A break in the routine of his life came when upon the invitation of Oglethorpe, and in company with several of his warriors, he embarked for England to visit the King. The appearance of these allies of the Crown created the greatest interest in that country. Tomochichi seems to have been able to preserve the dignity of his demeanor before monarch and subject, and all the entertainment which was lavished upon him did not turn his thoughts from his own responsibilities nor his heart from his own home. All the great sights and institutions of England were shown him and the people vied with each other to make his stay memorable and impressive. At Eton he was asked what might be done to signalize his visit, and he replied by requesting a holiday for the boys. When at his audience with the Archbishop of Canterbury that venerable prelate, burdened with his seventy years, insisted on standing as he addressed Tomochichi, that vigorous Georgian, being only ninety-two years of age, at the conclusion of the remarks forbore to respond for fear that it would mean discomfort to his host. An incident which reflects credit upon Tomochichi and is proof conclusive that there are circumstances under which a Georgia orator can resist the temptation to talk. As

he looked from day to day upon the civilization which surrounded him, the comfort and order and splendor, his thought was to bring back to Georgia all that he could, and to this end he begged that missionaries might be sent to his people that they might know the truth. It is not too much to say that it was largely because of this insistence upon the part of Tomochichi that the Wesleys came to Georgia. During the period of his stay his bearing and thought and conduct were those of a gentleman; considerate of others, and manly under all circumstances.

"But this life upon which the welfare of the colony so largely depended, and which had extended far beyond the allotted time of man, began to draw to a close. On the 5th of October, 1739, in the midst of his people, and with a mind full of affectionate remembrance of Oglethorpe and of constant interest in the colony and its future, he passed away still the leader of his own people and having the respect and honorable consideration of the people of our race who had come to his shores.

"Time had laid its hand upon his heart

Gently, not smiting it;

But as the harper lays his open palm upon his
harp

To deaden its vibrations."

“Because of his part in founding the colony, it was his wish to be buried in Savannah. So they brought him here with all the circumstance and state which the times and surroundings permitted. There may have been in our history larger demonstrations in honor of the dead; there was never a greater than on that occasion. Moving to the sound of minute guns, there came in procession to this square the general and all the chief men of the town, its magistrates and all its people. As his name had been upon the lips of all, so the remembrance of his services and character was in their hearts. We can imagine the solemnity of that scene. It was the first great grief of the whole people, and whatever of honor they had to bestow was freely given. And so he was buried on this spot, as tradition tells us, and it was directed by Oglethorpe that a pyramid of Georgia stone should mark the place. And now one hundred and sixty years after come again the chief men of the town, with its magistracy and its people, that in their presence the pledge made in their behalf by the great Founder of the colony may be carried into effect and the memory of Georgia’s friend and ally be perpetuated for all time in Georgia rock. What if tradition be wrong and we have missed the spot where he was laid to rest! We know that it was within the boundaries of this

square, and what matters it where he lies? He is all Georgia dust by now, and, therefore, all Georgia is his grave. This massive fragment of Georgia granite will stand here so long as the people of Savannah shall be true to themselves and be a monument at once to the claims of the dead and the gratitude of the living.

“Let me, as I draw to the close of these brief remarks, congratulate this Society, which is doing so much to perpetuate the history and memories of Georgia, that it should have occurred to its members to lift a memorial first to a Georgian. There is nothing in his career of which we need feel ashamed. He was brave, true, hospitable and generous. To the mind of a statesman and philosopher and warrior were added the instincts of a gentleman. He earned and enjoyed in life the respect and esteem of those who had come to his land and at his death received the tribute of their affectionate regret. Not the least claim upon us is that he loved the land of his birth. He besought Oglethorpe to use his influence to bring the Yemasseees back to Georgia that they might look upon their graves before they died. How often has that spirit of allegiance to this soil and sky tugged with the strength of a strong man at the chords of our hearts! How often, as our feet have pressed her sod, has it seemed to spring responsive to our

tread and thrill with conscious presence through our being! O, land of our fathers! Land which the great and good have blessed and consecrated with their lives and names and deeds, let us not in these newer times, when winds begin to rise and storms to blow and all seems dark and strange and troublous, forget that here is our safe anchorage and here our haven sure! From every rounded hill come back the echoes of her greatness; from every sweeping plain flare up the signals of her fame. From Bloody Marsh to Gettysburg, from Tybee Roads to China's Sea, her name, writ large across the face of history, glows with eternal light. Let us hold to our ideals, to our traditions, to our past! Let us cling with the tenacity of fate to our faith in her greatness and her destiny! Let us live for her and die for her, and when the end shall come pray, like the old warrior whose memory we keep alive, that we, too, may rest beneath her sod.

“Georgia, my native state! my cherished home!
 Hallow'd alike by smile and tear,
 May glory o'er thee build her dome
 And fame her temples rear!
 I love thee for the burning sky
 'Neath which my feet have ever trod;
 I love thee for the forms that lie
 Cold, cold beneath thy sod!

One hope is to my heart most dear;
 One boon at fortune's hand I crave:
 Fate made me date my being here—
 Let fate make here my grave.'

“On behalf of the Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America, I now dedicate this rock to the memory of Tomochichi, the King of the Yamacraws; the companion of Oglethorpe, and the friend and ally of the colony of Georgia. For countless ages has it stood amid the blue hills of Georgia typifying the strength and majesty of the State which was to come and the stern qualities of those who were to make her great. Here let it rest forever, not only in honor of the illustrious dead, but as the breezes of the sea shall play about its constant strength and the soft light of our skies fall like a benediction upon its rugged form, that all of us may feel that the mountains of Georgia have sent their message to her sandy coast—the message of unity and comradeship and loyalty.”

An Historical Research Into the Records of His Burial and Its Locality—Evidence Supports the Tradition That the Mound of Rocky Earth Which Was Removed From the Exact Center of Wright Square, in 1882, Was the Pyramid Which Had Marked the Burial Place of Tomochichi.

(This is the first of two parts of an interesting historical research into Tomochichi's burial place by Mrs. Dolores Boisfeuillet, the second of which will appear next Sunday in the Morning News.)

BY
DOLORES BOISFEUILLET FLOYD

When Tomochichi, a Creek Indian, mico of the Yamacraws, and friend of the infant colony of Georgia, died in 1739, his remains were interred with pomp in Savannah; and Oglethorpe, founder of the colony, ordered that a pyramid of stone be erected over his grave to perpetuate the memory of his loyalty and services to Georgia. In the course of time, the significance of that monument was forgotten except by a few, and the pyramid was removed in the wake of progress. There is historical evidence, however, to support the tradition that the mound of rocky earth which was removed from the exact center of Wright Square, in 1882, was the pyramid which had marked the burial place of Tomochichi.

The inquiry of later generations for the site of Tomochichi's burial place is due to an increasing appreciation of him that arises from the historic retrospect which permits a better view of the true greatness of his character with its attendant results as a factor in shaping the destiny not alone of Georgia but the course of North American history. Applicable to him would be a paraphrasing of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" (Act V, Scene 5): "This was the greatest Creek of them all." The services of that Creek Indian is well summarized by C. C. Jones, in his "Historical Sketch of Tomochichi" (p. vii), as follows:

"Tomochichi at the very outset, freely and without reward consented not only to extend to the colony his personal friendship and that of his immediate tribe, the Yamacraws, but also to secure the good will of neighboring and powerful nations whose jealousy and opposition might otherwise have been easily excited, and whose animosities and positive hostilities would, beyond all question, have proved disastrous to the hopes and material interests of the settlers. This action on his part seems the more remarkable when we remember the natural sympathies which allied him to his people and their antipathies, and the peculiar trials which had been put upon the natives by rapacious traders from Carolina on the one hand, and designing emissaries from the Spaniards of Florida on the other. From the first he appears to have appreciated the fact of the superior power of the white race, and the eventual triumph of the civilization which it enjoyed; and to have been fully persuaded that in an alliance with and not in opposition to the followers of that civilization rested the safest hopes of his countrymen for protection and existence."

It was in conformity with Tomochichi's own wish, as he lay dying, that he sleeps in the city of Savannah. He had lived to a very old age—ninety-seven years according to one record—and died of a lingering illness, October 5, 1739, at his town New Yamacraw, which was four miles westward up the river from Savannah. According to an account, dated October 10, 1739, of his death which was published in The Gentleman's Magazine, in London: "He was sensible to the last Minutes, and when he was persuaded his death was near he showed the greatest magnanimity and Sedateness, and exhorted his People never to forget the favors he had received from the King when in England, but to preserve their Friendship with the English. He expressed the greatest tenderness for Gen. Oglethorpe, and seemed to have no concern at dying but its being at a Time when his Life might be useful against the Spaniards. He desired his Body might be buried amongst the English in the Town of Savannah, since it was he that had prevailed with the Creek Indians to give the Land, and had assisted in founding the Town."

Due regard was paid to Tomochichi's request for place of sepulcher. Because Oglethorpe "always esteemed him a Friend of the Colony, and therefore showed him particular Marks of his Esteem, when living," wrote Col. William Stephens in a contemporary account, "so he distinguished him at his Death, ordering his Corpse to be brought down; and it was buried in the Centre of one of the principal Squares, the General being pleased to make himself one of his Pall-bearers." (Candler: "The Colonial Records of Georgia," IV, 428.)

The account of his funeral, in "The Gentleman's Magazine," related that: "The Corpse was brought down by water. The General, attended by the Magistrates and people of the Town, met it upon the Water's edge. The Corpse was carried into Percival Square. The pall was supported by the General, Colonel Stephens, Colonel Montalgu, Mr. Carteret, Mr. Lemon and Mr. Maxwell. It was followed by the Indians and Magistrates and People of the Town. There was the Respect paid of firing Minute Guns from the Battery all the time during the Burial, and funeral-burial with small Arms by the Militia who were under Arms." Col. William Stephens, who was one of the pallbearers, in recording an account of the funeral in his journal that day stated: "The depositing of the Corpse, seven guns were fired, and about forty men in Arms gave three Volles over the Grave." (Candler: IV, 428.) Oglethorpe further honored Tomochichi by ordering a monument for his grave. Col. Stephens also recorded in his journal under date of October 6, 1739, in regard to the place of burial, that: "The General says, he intends to dignify it with some Obelisk, or the like over it, as an Ornament to the Town, and a Memorial to the Indians how great regard the English would pay to all the Nations, who maintain true friendship with us." (Ibid.) That Oglethorpe did give the intended order is seen from the account dated Savannah, October 10, 1739, published in The Gentleman's Magazine, which said: "The General has ordered a Pyramid of Stone, which is dug in this Neighborhood, to be erected over the Grave, which being in the Centre of the Town, will be a great Ornament to it as well as a testimony of Gratitude."

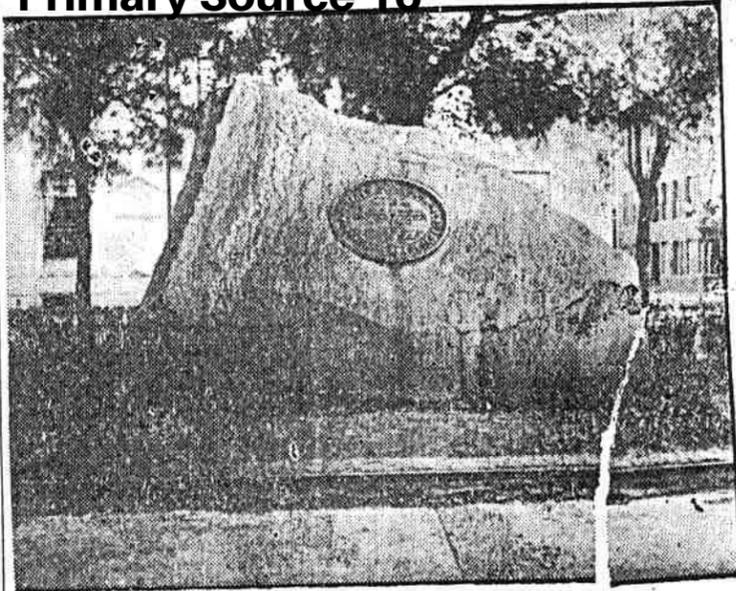
The pyramid for a monument over Tomochichi's grave appears to have been chosen not only to serve as a cairn from the European standpoint, but also as a deliberate means for preserving the earth mound over the grave which was a feature of Indian burial custom especially in the interment of chiefs. Thus Oglethorpe diplomatically gave satisfaction to the Indian allies of Georgia in this further honor to Tomochichi by such an appropriate selection of a monument; because with the Indians "the graves of their dead were invested with peculiar sanctity and guarded with ceaseless care," and "the last resting places of their chiefs claimed general attention, never losing either their distinctive memories or the tribal regard to which they were entitled by common consent. . . For the tribes of the new world there is but a single monument—the grave. Take from the savages the bones of their fathers, and you take from them their history, their laws and their very goods." (Jones, 125-126.) Therefore, when Tomochichi gave proof of his abiding affection for the Georgia colonists by the gesture of his desire that his body might be buried amongst them, Oglethorpe could not have done otherwise than provide a means by which the Indians would be satisfied that his grave would be preserved.

That the burial place of Tomochichi was upon the exact spot where the Gordon monument stands today in the center of Wright Square, in Percival Ward, and that the pyramid ordered by Oglethorpe was actually erected there and stood until 1882, are facts borne out by historical evidence as will be shown.

The Square of Percival Ward did not receive the name "Wright Square" until late in the colonial period when it was called so in honor of Sir James Wright, last of the royal governors of Georgia. Before and after it received that name, it was sometimes referred to as "Court House Square." Col. Stephens, as already related, stated that Tomochichi's corpse "was buried in the Centre of one of the principal Squares;" but the account in The Gentleman's Magazine was more explicit and said "Percival Square" was the place "into" which the body was carried; and further, William Gerard de Brahm's "Plan of the City of Savannah and Fortification"—which fortification was made by him about 1757—shows the site of Tomochichi's grave in the exact center of what is Wright Square in Percival Ward.

From another source, besides De Brahm's "Plan of Savannah and Fortification," it is unmistakable that Tomochichi's grave was a conspicuous landmark in Savannah during the colonial period. Under date of September 18, 1759, the journal of the proceedings of the governor and council at Savannah records that: "His Excellency proposed to the Board that the Public Market intended to be built round the public Pump should be removed to Thomoe Chichi's Burial Place Which the Board approved as a more convenient Station." (Candler, VIII, 135, 136.) It was further stated in the journal of that day's proceedings that: "It was resolved by his Excellency in Council to build a Market House round Thomoe Chichi's burying Ground sixty Feet Square, consisting of four Buildings twelve Feet Square each, the Interspaces to be covered with a Shed of the same Breadth supported in the Centre by Cedar Posts." (Ibid.) From those statements of the journal, it is apparent that the allowance of an opening in the center of the proposed market implies that some form of marker distinguished Tomochichi's burial place.

Primary Source 16



This boulder lies within short distance of where the Mico of the Yamacraws, friend of the early colony, is said to have been buried. The research by Mrs. Floyd into the records regarding his actual burial place is interestingly told in the accompanying article.

There is evidence that the monument ordered by Oglethorpe was erected. In his "Plan of Savannah and Fortification," De Brahm's use of an exact square as a symbol for the grave of Tomochichi appears to have been chosen to designate the four equal sides of the base of the pyramid. That the square symbol was chosen to represent the pyramid base shape appears certain from the fact that, also in his "Plan," he used a circle as the symbol to designate the well at Bull and Broughton streets, and a dot within a circle for the sundial in the center of Johnson Square, Derby Ward. The actual representation of the pyramid in perspective, upon the precise spot designated by De Brahm in Wright Square, is shown in a large pictorial view of Savannah in 1855, painted by J. W. Hill, lithographed by Charles Parsons, and printed by Endicote and Company, New York, several copies of which are privately owned in Savannah. Also, an old photograph of the pyramid as it appeared about 1882, and information obtained from the late William Harden, who had been librarian of the Georgia Historical Society at Savannah for seventy years, give details of the structural appearance of that monument.

Before considering the photograph and Mr. Harden's information, it is necessary to digress in order to note that the pyramid which stood in Wright Square had, by the middle of the Nineteenth century, become meaningless to the citizens of Savannah, and even the historian C. C. Jones was unaware of its identity. In his "Historical Sketch of Tomochichi," published in 1868, Jones noted that The Gentleman's Magazine indicated that Tomochichi was buried in Percival Square; but in his remark (page 126) that: "More than a century and a quarter has elapsed since the funeral honors were paid," he erroneously added: "and the monument ordered by General Oglethorpe has never been erected." Even the precise spot," Jones continued, "where this Indian chief was interred has passed from the recollection of thousands who daily throng the streets and loiter among the parks of Savannah. Neither street, nor public square perpetuates his name, and his memory scarce lives in occasional remembrance." Therefore, he urged: "for the sake of her good name, in re-

sponse to the express wish of Oglethorpe, and an acknowledgment of the debt of gratitude, which she owes to this noted Indian, that the city of Savannah . . . cause to be erected in one of her high places a suitable monument in honorable appreciation of the virtues and valuable services of the venerable Tomochichi."

The monument, however, which Jones mistakenly thought had never been erected, was still in existence at the very time his statements were published, and it stood for more than a decade afterwards as is disclosed by the old photograph and the information received from Mr. Harden.

Mr. Harden's personal acquaintance with a tradition of Tomochichi's burial place was an invaluable link with the documentary evidence on the subject. Mr. Harden was born in Savannah in 1844, and lived until January, 1936. About four years before his death, he asserted, in conversation, his belief that the burial place of Tomochichi was the exact spot where the Gordon monument stands in Wright Square. He said that from the earliest recollections of his childhood, a high, vine-covered rocky-earth mound stood upon that site; that, long before the War Between the States it had been pointed out to him by his father and several aged inhabitants of Savannah as Tomochichi's grave; and that it was still there until the year 1882. Also, according to him, the mound was demolished at that time for the express purpose of erecting upon so desirable a location the elaborate monument to William Washington Gordon, a Savannahian, prominent in economic history.

Mr. Harden was an eyewitness daily to the work of demolishing the mound and erecting the monument. Therefore, the writer questioned him, as to whether or not the skeletal remains of Tomochichi were disinterred at the time of the erection of the Gordon monument; and he replied emphatically "No," that they were in no way disturbed, nor was any attempt even made to reach them. He said no excavating at all was done in preparing the foundation for the Gordon monument, and that instead the surface ground was pounded down very hard. Thus it is evident that the remains of Tomochichi still rest where he was solemnly laid in 1739.

Mr. Harden related that when the demolishing of the mound was begun, he protested that Tomochichi's burial place was being destroyed, but that no attention was paid to his plea for its preservation. It is apparent that the reason for ignoring his request was because he had only tradition on which to base his claim; and moreover, an incident, which had occurred only four years previously, caused that tradition to lose any favor.

(To be continued.)

FEB 14, 1937

TOMOCHICHI

Mistaken Belief Had Arisen That Remains of Tomochichi had Been Recovered From a Site Elsewhere in Percival Ward—Oglethorpe Had Ordered a Monument to Dead Chief and Photograph of It Is in DeRenne Library. William Harden Recounted Story of Original Site—It Was First Monument Erected in Savannah.

(Second and last installment of interesting research by Mrs. Dolores Boissefeuille, Floyd of Tomochichi's burial site)

BY

DOLORES BOISFEUILLET FLOYD

A mistaken belief had arisen that the remains of Tomochichi had been recovered from a site elsewhere in Percival Ward, as appears from an account in Adelaide Wilson's Historic and Picturesque Savannah (pp. 17-18), as follows: "In the Morning News, of sixth of February, 1878, appeared this notice: 'The remains of Tomochichi disinterred.' According to this account, upon the removal of a former residence on York street, near Bull street, to the second lot on the west, for the purpose of building a store on the first lot, workmen, in making excavations there for the foundation of the store, came upon the remains of a human skeleton about four feet below the surface, together with several rusty and corroded coffin handles, pieces of iron shaped like the blade of a hatchet and a piece of ivory. All the bones of the frame were found, but several were broken. No remnants of a coffin or box were found. These were believed to be the remains of the famous chief Tomochichi. . . . No account of any other interment makes it reasonable to suppose the remains Tomochichi's."

In the foregoing quotation, the claim that the remains were Tomochichi's on the basis of there being no other account of interment on the York street lot is worthless argument because there is evidence to the contrary. Apparently, by 1878, knowledge also had become lost of the fact that Savannah's earliest cemetery, which antedated Christ Church Cemetery (now called "Colonial Park"), had occupied the site of the two York street lots on the southwest corner at Bull street. In 1759, it was referred to in official colonial records as "the old burying ground."

The historical evidence for the cemetery that was on those York street lots follows: In 1755, trust lot, letter R, in Reynolds Ward, was reserved for a public school; but later it was sold, and the proceeds, in the hands of the governor, was ordered to be paid into the hands of the schoolhouse trustees and used towards defraying the expense of building. (Candler, VII, 108; VIII, 373.) In 1759, it was agreed that the schoolhouse should be erected "on the old burying ground. . . . And as the Burying Ground included two lots, his excellency proposed that one of the two should be sold" and that money also be used towards the expense of building. (Ibid. VIII, 136.) In 1760, a grant "of a Lot in Savannah known by Number two in Holland Tything Percival Ward" was ordered to be given to the schoolhouse trustees "in Trust for the Purpose of erecting a schoolhouse;" and at the same time it was ordered "That the Moneys arising from the Sale of the Lot adjoining the Lot on which the School House is now intended to be built be paid into the Hands of the Trustees for the same Purpose." (Ibid. 372-373.) As maps of Savannah show lots one and two of Holland Tything Percival Ward are on the southwest corner of York and Bull streets, therefore that was the site of the old burying ground which, in 1759, was agreed on as the place upon which to erect the public schoolhouse. Because of a cemetery having been there, obviously, it should not be a surprise that skeletal remains were found.

There are probable reasons why Tomochichi was not interred in the York Street old burying ground. The official colonial records make distinctive mention of "Thomoe Chichi's burying Ground," the "old burying Ground," and "a Cemetery of Burial Place" for the Jewish inhabitants of Savannah. (Candler, VIII, 135, 136; XIII, 758.) "The old burying Ground" — unmistakably for the use of Christians — was located, as has been shown, at the southwest corner of York and Bull streets; and there is a well-founded tradition that the cemetery of the Jews was located just to the south of that and west of Bull Street where now is the parkway in the center of Oglethorpe Avenue and opposite the Independent Presbyterian Church. Therefore, as Tomochichi was neither Christian or Jew, that fact may have entered into the selection of the separate place of burial for him in the general vicinity of those cemeteries.

It is now seen that claims contrary to Mr. Harden's tradition of the site of Tomochichi's burial place are without foundation; and that his tradition is supported by—it will be recalled: (1) Stephens' statement that Tomochichi was buried in the "centre" of one of the principal squares; (2) The Gentleman's Magazine mentions that his body was carried into "Percival Square"; and (3) De Brahm's map showing the grave in the exact middle of that square.

As to evidence that the monument ordered by Oglethorpe was actually in existence and over the site of Tomochichi's grave, it should be noted: (1) that De Brahm symbolized the monument with a square to indicate the base of a pyramid; (2) that Hill's painting of Savannah in 1855 pictures the pyramid; and (3) that an extant photograph of the mound spoken of by Mr. Harden as demolished in 1882, confirms Mr. Harden's description of it and the historical data about the pyramid.

The photograph of Tomochichi's monument is in an album of old stereoptican views of Savannah, in the DeRenne Library at Wormsloe; and Mr. Wymberly DeRenne, the owner, graciously consented to the re-photographing of it.

When the photograph was shown to Mr. Harden several years ago, he confirmed the identification of the scene it represented, and said that the mound was just as it appeared at the time it was demolished. The view is of Bull Street looking northward; and in the foreground is Tomochichi's grave, a high mound topped with an ornamental cast iron urn containing a century plant similar to the urns containing century plants which are today seen in the strand of park in the vicinity of the Cotton Exchange on the Bay in Savannah. The urn on top of the mound over Tomochichi's grave was a late addition because it does not appear in the painting by Hill in 1855. The mound is unmistakably an elevation in Wright Square because, as seen through a magnifying glass applied to the original photograph, the urn and plant are boldly silhouetted against the shaft of the monument to General Nathaniel Greene in the center of the square next beyond, and the shaft in turn is silhouetted against the architecture of the former City Hall which blocked the north end of Bull Street.

The casual impression of the picture is that the mound was generally hemispherical, but a careful examination discloses its pyramidal character. Under a magnifying glass is discernible a flat-sided form tapering towards a flattened top; and the flat sides are noticed as corresponding to the compass directions of the square

symbol which De Brahm used to designate the form of its base. The whole elevation had a rough surface with a growth upon it, probably the vines which were said to have grown there. What Mr. Harden had called a mound was, therefore, in reality the pyramid.

The photograph dates, probably, close to the time when the pyramid was demolished; and at that period, due to the easy erosion of the material of which the pyramid was constructed, the mound had lost the sharp corners and apex it had in former years. Mr. Harden, in describing that monument over Tomochichi's grave, mentioned its "rocky earth" out of which the vines grew. In that connection, therefore, it should be recalled that The Gentleman's Magazine said Oglethorpe "ordered a Pyramid of Stone which is dug in this Neighborhood." The stone referred to was iron stone, a crumbly substance, but the only kind of stone found in this region; and which, in 1740, was referred to then as being "looked upon as a Rarity," and greatly desired for building chimneys and other purposes. (Candler, IV, 603, 604.) It follows, therefore, that the deterioration of the iron stone had, in the course of years, produced the "rocky earth" condition of the pyramid, even if that material alone had been used to compose the monument; but it is very probable that the iron stone pyramid had been superimposed as an outer covering of an earth mound raised there at the burial of Tomochichi in accordance with usual Indian burial custom.

As to the size of the pyramid as it was originally, it is possible to arrive at conclusions about its dimensions. In 1759, the specifications for the sixty foot square market house, intended to be built around Tomochichi's burial place, allowed for a thirty-six foot square opening in the center. That sixty foot area corresponds to the present day sidewalk bordered square of the intersection of Bull and President streets which forms the central plat within Wright Square; and De Brahm's and present day maps show those two streets as being seventy-five feet wide from property line to property line. Therefore, the sixty foot square market allowed for a walkway of seven or eight feet around the outer side of that structure; and it is very probable that the thirty-six foot square space within the market area contained a similar walkway of seven or eight feet on all of its sides which, if that were the case, left a space for a square of about twenty feet for the pyramid. Dr. Brahm's "Plan" indicated the base as about

fifteen feet square); and Hill's painting in 1855, which is unreliable in scale, indicates the base as less than that; but, the old photograph of about 1882 shows the pyramid as then occupying about twenty feet of the space between the property lines on Bull Street. That increase from the size shown by De Brahm can be reasonably accounted for by the erosive substance of the pyramid and by the flattening of the apex into the platform top. Judging from the relative height of the man seen in the foreground of the photograph and allowing for perspective, the height of the pyramid, or mound, about 1882, appears as eight or ten feet. Therefore, taking all these matters into consideration, it seems probable that the pyramid, as it was when erected by Oglethorpe over Tomochichi's grave, measured about fifteen feet at the base and a height of twelve feet to the apex.

After the pyramid was destroyed, no monument to Tomochichi existed in Savannah until 1899, when one was erected, in its present place in the northeast section of Wright Square, by the Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America. It is a rough hewn granite boulder, suggestively pyramidal in form, about eight feet in height, and twelve feet in width, with a bronze tablet bearing an inscription set in the western side.

The erection of that monument by the Colonial Dames indicates that the belief in the traditional burial place was then reviving. The Savannah Morning News, April 28, 1899, in its report of the unveiling of the boulder on the previous day, related that the orator of the occasion was Walter G. Charlton; that it was through his efforts for recognition of Tomochichi that the Colonial Dames had "conceived it one of their first duties to establish a lasting reminder for the instruction of future generations;" and, that in his address, the orator stated that the monument was placed in the square where tradition says he lies.

Tomochichi's burial place today, however, is no longer a matter of tradition because of accumulative evidence; yet, above his remains fares an imposing monument not to him, but to another of distinguished services, while about sixty or seventy feet distant is the boulder that, though its erection was an admirable gesture, can never compensate for the loss of the pyramid that was over the grave. Also, it should be noted that the monument which Oglethorpe erected over Tomochichi's grave and intended for an ornament to the town, but which Savannah allowed to be destroyed, was the first in the series of monuments in the squares which has become a feature of this city.

Wrong Place in Wright Square Claxton Man: Move Monument

By TOM ROSE ^{SMN}
Staff Writer ^{SEP 2-2-93}

A Claxton man wants to end what he sees as more than 110 years of injustice to the memory of one of the important men in the founding of Savannah.

Ever since he learned about it as a child in Savannah, Ira S. Womble Jr. has been disturbed that the memorial monument to Tomochichi, chief of the Yamacraw Indians, is not over his burial site.

The monument, a granite boulder, sits in the southeast corner of Wright Square. However, Womble believes Tomochichi's remains are buried about 15 yards away, under the site where a monument now stands in honor of William Washington Gordon, founder of the Central of Georgia Railroad.

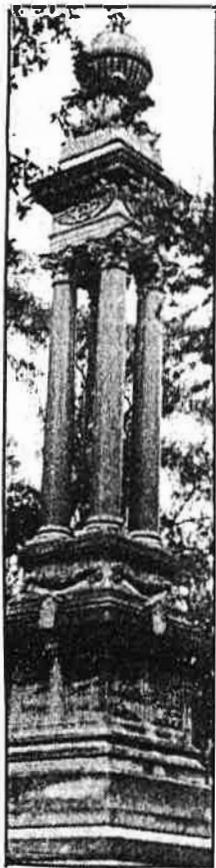
"I think the city should move the (Gordon) monument," Womble said. "It's a beautiful monument, but I just hate the idea that it's parked right on top of Tomochichi's grave."

Womble is proposing the Gordon monument be moved to the Savannah Visitor's Center, which is housed in a renovated railroad depot. While he's found support from a Creek Indian activist, some local American Indians are not sure about the proposed move.

Historical accounts of Savannah's settling in the 1730s credit Tomochichi with paving the way for a peaceful settlement on Yamacraw Bluff by the English. He signed a friendship and trade treaty with General James Oglethorpe on May 18, 1733.

The two leaders became friends, with

■ See MONUMENT, Page 2C



GORDON MONUMENT

Monument

Continued From Page 1C

Oglethorpe even taking Tomochichi and his family to England. The friendship lasted until Tomochichi's death in 1739.

Oglethorpe honored the Indian chief with a military funeral and burial in Percival Square, later renamed Wright Square. The burial site was marked by a large earth and stone mound.

"The General (Oglethorpe) has ordered a Pyramid of Stone to be erected over the Grave, which being in the Centre of the Town, will be a great Ornament to it, as well as testimony of Gratitude," a writer stated in a letter to London's "Gentleman's Magazine" in 1739.

The burial mound remained in Wright Square until 1882, when it was leveled to make way for a monument to Gordon.

The razing prompted little objection at the time, according to newspaper accounts. One reader of the paper did suggest that Wright Square would be better suited for a proposed monument to Oglethorpe since he and Tomochichi were friends.

"Thus within the half acre of that square familiar to both would stand the memorials, visible to the eyes of every passerby, of the noble hero who founded our city, and the no less noble Indian who with singular simplicity and faith, welcomed him here and protected the infant life of his colony, two characters of which Savannah and Georgia ought never to lose the remembrance," the reader wrote.

Tomochichi's burial site remained unmarked for several years

until the Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America, headed at the time by Gordon's daughter-in-law, purchased the boulder for \$1 and had it placed in the square.

Many visitors to the square are left with the false impression that Tomochichi is buried under the boulder, Womble said.

While historical accounts show that he is not buried in that location, there is now some question as to whether Tomochichi's remains are still at the center of the square. Some have speculated that a skeletal remain found in the foundations of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension on the perimeter of the square was Tomochichi, however the discovery came prior to the destruction of the burial mound.

Based on accounts of the leveling of the burial mound, Womble thinks the grave was left intact. Others disagree.

"The grave is gone," said John Duncan, a history professor at Armstrong State College, who noted that the Gordon monument must be anchored at least 10 feet deep.

"It was probably a mistake to put the Gordon monument on that site, but now that it's been there more than 100 years . . . well, there are much more pressing problems for Savannah, Georgia and the country than moving a monument," Duncan said. "I appreciate the view that an Indian grave was desecrated, but to move the monument now would seem almost frivolous."

While Tomochichi has been honored as one of Savannah's early heroes, the importance of his role in its history is arguable. American Indians had left the Georgia coast by the time the English arrived and Tomochichi, apparently banished from western Georgia, had only a small band of Indians with him.

"The history of Savannah would

pretty much be the same had there been no Tomochichi," Duncan said.

Womble, an avid history buff who owns the Georgia Fruitcake Co. in Claxton, had a great, great grandmother who was full-blooded Creek Indian. He said Jim McGhee of Creek Indians Inc., based in Townson, plans to lead a demonstration in Wright Square on Georgia Day, Feb. 12.

McGhee, who does not have a telephone, could not be reached for comment on how plans for the demonstration have progressed.

Several Savannahians of Indian descent said that while they had not heard about Womble's proposal or the planned demonstration, the issue of Tomochichi's grave is known to them.

"I'm undecided on what the right thing is on that," said Sparrow Sines, a Savannah woman of Cherokee Indian descent. "I'm not wild about the monument being on Tomochichi's burial site, but I'm not sure about moving it."

Pat Whitlock, of Seminole Indian descent, said he is not sure what moving the monument would accomplish.

"I don't think anything would ever wipe out the insult, for one," Whitlock said. "Secondly, I question what's left under it (the Gordon monument). If we leave it alone we can say Tomochichi is under there, but if we go under it and don't find anything, what are we going to do then?"

For Womble, moving the monument would be one step toward righting the wrongs of Savannah's forefathers.

"It was just one of those things that shouldn't have happened, but it did," Womble said. "If they would now do what's right, it would be a benefit to the entire city."

SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

Feb 2, 1993

COMMENTARY

To truly honor Tomochichi, restore his final resting place

Bio: Tomochichi

It's fitting that Congressman Max Burns is pushing to honor one of the most important men in Georgia's early history.

No, not James Oglethorpe. The memory of the British general who founded the Georgia colony when he arrived in Savannah this month in 1733 is plastered all over the city. There's a big statue of him in Chippewa Square.

There's also a square named after him, along with a major downtown street and southside shopping mall.

Instead, Burns wants to recognize Tomochichi for his critical contributions to Georgia's birth. It's long overdue.

Tomochichi was the Yamacraw Indian chief who welcomed the first English settlers to Georgia. He became a close friend and ally of Oglethorpe, mainly for two reasons — the chief needed the general to protect his tribe from Creek

Indian raiders who were aligned with the Spanish down in Florida, and the general needed the chief to ensure the colonists' survival in a raw, brutal place.

Burns convinced a U.S. House committee last week to name the federal courthouse on Wright Square after Tomochichi. He's deserving. Had Tomochichi taken a different approach when boatloads of white people first started coming up the Savannah River, the colonists could have had their heads handed back to them, literally.

But to truly honor the man who got Georgia off to a running start, don't name a government building after him. Restore his grave. Or, at the very least, give him an honorable resting place.

When Tomochichi died in 1739 in his late 90s, he was buried in the middle of Wright Square, or what was then called Percival Square, on Bull Street. Cannons boomed a final salute. Oglethorpe served as a pallbearer. It was a grand, dignified send-off, befitting a man who did so much for the first Georgians.

To mark his grave, a traditional Indian

burial mound was built on top. It later would be covered in ivy and adorned by a large urn containing palmetto fronds.

A large, grainy photograph of this tastefully understated memorial hangs on the second floor at the Massie Heritage Interpretation Center on Gordon Street.

Unfortunately, that's the only place in Savannah where you'll see it.

In 1881, Savannah City Council gave permission to the state's biggest railroad to erect a monument in Wright Square on top of Tomochichi's grave to honor William Washington Gordon, the founder of Central of Georgia Railroad and Banking Co. It was one of City Council's most shameful decisions ever.

Gordon, who died in 1842, was a powerful business tycoon who ran a powerful company and had powerful friends in high places. And given what the railroads did for Georgia — especially for Atlanta, which boomed because of rail — his contributions to the state's economy merited remembering in some fashion.

But not at the price of erasing the

memory of one key man who made Georgia possible.

City officials, choosing a recently deceased industrialist over a long-dead Indian, agreed to have the burial mound removed from the public square. In its place, they allowed Central of Georgia to erect something totally different — a towering, gaudy stone pile complete with four pink pillars topped by Corinthian-style capitals, a tall urn and four cherubs sitting around what looks like the world's largest golf ball.

It no doubt was considered classy when it was finished in 1883. But today it seems pretentious.

And given what it replaced, sacrilegious.

The Georgia Society of Colonial Dames, much to its credit, placed a granite boulder in Wright Square in 1899 in Tomochichi's name. It's one of the city's best-known monuments — and just steps away from its namesake's resting place.

It's fitting that Tomochichi's Rock will face the Tomochichi United States

Courthouse across Wright Square. But a more appropriate act would be to restore his Indian burial mound and put his bones to rest in an honored place.

Moving the Gordon monument would probably be cost prohibitive. However, I wonder if it's possible to tunnel underneath its wide granite base. Then remove Tomochichi's remains and reinter them in another downtown square that doesn't have a signature centerpiece. There are several of them.

Then rebuild the Indian mound (it shouldn't be too costly). Ask Native Americans of Yamacraw or Creek ancestry to bless it in a special ceremony.

Such an addition to the city's proud procession of memorials would be a noble one. And respectful.

Tomochichi deserves to have his name on a wall for his contributions to Georgia. But he has earned his own place in the ground.

Tom Barton is the editorial page editor of the Morning News. His e-mail address is tom.barton@savannahnow.com.



Tom Barton

MONUMENTS AS PRIMARY SOURCES K-12 TEACHER GUIDE

SUGGESTED READINGS

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