

history of athens ga

History of Athens GA: A Journey Through Time in the Classic City

History of Athens GA is a fascinating tale that weaves together Native American heritage, European settlement, educational milestones, and cultural evolution. Nestled in northeastern Georgia, Athens has grown from a modest settlement into a vibrant city known for its rich past and dynamic present. If you've ever wondered how Athens, Georgia, came to be the bustling college town and cultural hub it is today, let's take a stroll through its history, uncovering the layers that have shaped its identity.

The Origins: Native American Roots and Early Settlers

Before European settlers arrived, the area that would become Athens was inhabited by the Creek and Cherokee peoples. These Native American tribes thrived in the region, utilizing its fertile lands and abundant waterways. The Oconee River, which flows near modern Athens, was a crucial resource for fishing, transportation, and trade.

The Creek and Cherokee Influence

The Creek Nation, in particular, played a significant role in the early history of northeastern Georgia. They established villages and cultivated crops, living in harmony with the land. The cultural and social structures of these tribes laid a foundation that European settlers would later encounter and disrupt.

In the late 18th century, European-American settlers began moving into the area following the American Revolutionary War. This migration was part of a broader westward expansion encouraged by the newly formed United States government.

Founding of Athens: A City Built Around Education

Athens was officially founded in 1806, when the Georgia General Assembly established Clarke County and designated Athens as its county seat. The city's name was inspired by Athens, Greece, reflecting the founders' aspirations to create a center of learning and culture.

The University of Georgia: The Heartbeat of Athens

One of the most defining moments in the history of Athens GA was the establishment of the University of Georgia (UGA) in 1785, even before the city itself was founded. UGA holds the distinction of being the first state-chartered university in the United States. The university's presence has continuously influenced the city's growth, economy, and cultural life.

The decision to locate the university in Athens attracted students, educators, and professionals,

turning the city into an intellectual hub. Over the centuries, the university expanded, adding various colleges, research facilities, and sports programs, all of which contributed to Athens' identity.

19th Century Growth: From Agriculture to Industry

During the 19th century, Athens developed from a primarily agricultural community into a more industrialized city. The fertile lands surrounding Athens supported cotton farming, which was a major economic driver. Unfortunately, this prosperity was built on the institution of slavery, which deeply affected the social fabric of the region.

The Impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction

The Civil War (1861-1865) brought tremendous challenges to Athens, as it did to much of the South. Though the city itself did not witness major battles, the war disrupted its economy and society. The abolition of slavery forced Athens and its residents to adapt to a new economic system during Reconstruction.

Post-war Athens saw attempts to rebuild and diversify its economy. Textile mills and other manufacturing ventures began to appear, providing new employment opportunities. The arrival of railroads further connected Athens to regional and national markets, facilitating trade and growth.

Cultural Renaissance: Athens in the 20th Century

The 20th century marked a period of significant cultural and social change for Athens. As the university grew, so did the city's cultural offerings. Athens became known for its music scene, arts, and progressive attitudes, especially in the latter half of the century.

Music and Arts: Athens as a Creative Hub

Athens gained national attention in the 1970s and 1980s as a cradle of alternative rock and new wave music. Bands like R.E.M. and The B-52s originated in Athens, putting the city on the musical map. This cultural boom attracted artists, musicians, and creative minds, further enriching the city's character.

Urban Development and Preservation

Alongside cultural growth, Athens faced the challenges of urban development. Efforts to preserve historic buildings and neighborhoods began to take shape, recognizing the importance of maintaining the city's architectural heritage. Today, Athens boasts a charming downtown area with historic landmarks that tell stories of its past.

The Role of Education and Innovation Today

In modern times, the history of Athens GA continues to be closely tied to education and innovation. The University of Georgia remains a central institution, driving research, technology, and community engagement. Athens has also embraced its role as a center for startups, tech companies, and sustainable initiatives.

Community and Historical Preservation

Local organizations and historians work diligently to preserve Athens' unique history. Museums, walking tours, and festivals celebrate the city's origins and milestones. Visitors and residents alike can explore sites such as the Georgia Museum of Art or the State Botanical Garden, blending natural beauty with historical significance.

Exploring Athens' Historical Landmarks

For those interested in diving deeper into the history of Athens GA, several landmarks offer tangible connections to the past:

- **The Morton Theatre:** Built in 1910, this historic theater was a center for African American entertainment during segregation.
- **City Hall:** An architectural gem reflecting Athens' governmental history.
- **Downtown Athens Historic District:** Home to many 19th-century buildings and the heart of the city's early commerce.
- **University of Georgia Campus:** Featuring historic buildings like North Campus and the Arch, symbolic of academic tradition.

Visiting these sites offers a glimpse into the lives of those who shaped Athens over the centuries.

Understanding the Social Fabric and Demographics

The history of Athens GA also includes its evolving demographics and social dynamics. From its origins as a predominantly European-American settlement, Athens became more diverse over time. African American communities have played a vital role in the city's cultural and economic development, despite facing systemic challenges through much of its history.

Efforts toward civil rights, educational equality, and community development have significantly influenced Athens' modern character. Recognizing these social histories adds depth to understanding

the city beyond just dates and buildings.

Tips for History Enthusiasts Visiting Athens

If you're planning to explore Athens with a focus on its historical roots, here are some tips to enrich your experience:

1. **Join a guided walking tour:** Local historians offer tours that reveal hidden stories and architectural details.
2. **Visit the Georgia Museum of Art:** Located on UGA's campus, it offers exhibits that connect art to regional history.
3. **Attend cultural events:** Festivals and concerts often highlight Athens' musical and artistic heritage.
4. **Explore the State Botanical Garden:** Learn about the natural environment that early inhabitants and settlers experienced.

These activities help visitors connect more meaningfully with Athens' past and present.

From its Native American beginnings to its role as a vibrant college town, the history of Athens GA reflects resilience, creativity, and a strong sense of community. Each era, from frontier settlement to cultural renaissance, adds a unique chapter to the city's ongoing story. Whether you're a history buff or simply curious, Athens offers a rich tapestry of experiences waiting to be discovered.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was Athens, Georgia founded?

Athens, Georgia was founded in 1806 and is one of the oldest cities in the state.

Why was Athens, GA named after Athens, Greece?

Athens, GA was named after Athens, Greece to reflect the city's commitment to education and culture, inspired by the ancient Greek city's reputation as a center of learning.

What role did the University of Georgia play in Athens' history?

The University of Georgia, established in 1785 and located in Athens, is the oldest state-chartered

university in the United States and has been a central influence on the city's development and culture.

How did Athens, GA contribute during the Civil War?

During the Civil War, Athens was a strategic location for the Confederacy, serving as a supply and manufacturing center, and it was occupied by Union forces in 1864.

What is the significance of the Athens Historic District?

The Athens Historic District contains many buildings dating back to the 19th century, showcasing Greek Revival and Victorian architecture, and reflects the city's rich historical and cultural heritage.

How did Athens, GA become known for its music scene?

In the late 20th century, Athens gained national recognition for its vibrant music scene, producing influential bands like R.E.M. and The B-52s, which helped shape alternative rock.

What economic activities shaped Athens' early history?

Athens' early economy was based on agriculture, particularly cotton farming, as well as education and manufacturing tied to the University of Georgia.

How has Athens' population changed over time?

Athens has grown from a small frontier town in the early 19th century to a mid-sized city with a diverse population, largely due to the influence of the University of Georgia and its cultural attractions.

What historic events are commemorated in Athens, GA?

Athens commemorates several historic events including its founding, the role in the Civil War, and its cultural contributions through festivals and preservation of historic sites.

Additional Resources

History of Athens GA: A Comprehensive Exploration of Its Origins and Evolution

history of athens ga is a subject that intertwines the rich cultural, economic, and social developments of one of Georgia's most iconic cities. Founded in the late 18th century, Athens has grown from a modest settlement into a vibrant college town known for its historic architecture, influential music scene, and pivotal role in the broader narrative of the American South. This article delves into the historical trajectory of Athens, Georgia, uncovering the layers of its past while highlighting the factors that have shaped its contemporary identity.

The Founding and Early Years of Athens, Georgia

The origins of Athens, GA, trace back to 1801 when the Georgia General Assembly designated the area as the site for a new town centered around the establishment of a university. The University of Georgia (UGA), chartered in 1785, was the first state-chartered university in the United States, and Athens was strategically chosen as its home due to its proximity to fertile lands and the Oconee River, crucial for transportation and trade at the time.

The early years of Athens were marked by rapid development centered on education and agriculture. The town quickly became a hub for local farmers and merchants, supported by the university's growing influence. The grid layout of the town, which remains evident today, was designed to accommodate both academic and residential needs, reflecting the city's dual focus on scholarship and community life.

The Impact of the University of Georgia on Athens' Growth

The University of Georgia has been a cornerstone of Athens' identity from its inception. As the first public university in the United States, UGA attracted students and faculty who played integral roles in shaping the city's intellectual and cultural landscape. Over the 19th and 20th centuries, UGA expanded its academic offerings and campus facilities, which, in turn, spurred population growth and urban development in Athens.

The university's presence also fostered a progressive atmosphere relative to the surrounding region, encouraging debates on education, governance, and social issues. This academic environment contributed to Athens becoming a center for political activism and cultural innovation, particularly during the civil rights movement and the rise of alternative music scenes in the late 20th century.

Athens During the Civil War and Reconstruction Era

The history of Athens GA cannot be fully understood without examining its role during the Civil War and the subsequent Reconstruction period. While Athens was not the site of major battles, its strategic location and resources made it a significant logistical hub for the Confederacy. The city's economy, heavily reliant on agriculture and trade, suffered disruptions due to blockades and the conscription of local men into Confederate forces.

Following the war, Athens faced the challenges common to many Southern towns: economic hardship, social upheaval, and the integration of formerly enslaved African Americans into civic life. Reconstruction policies and the presence of federal troops influenced local governance and race relations, leading to a complex and often contentious transition period.

Economic and Social Changes Post-Civil War

Post-war Athens experienced a slow but steady economic recovery, aided by the resilience of its agricultural sector and the university's continued operation. However, the city also saw significant

demographic changes, including the growth of its African American population, which established vibrant communities despite the pervasive segregation and disenfranchisement of the era.

The emergence of railroads in the late 19th century further transformed Athens by connecting it to larger markets and facilitating industrial growth. This period also saw the rise of local businesses and cultural institutions that laid the groundwork for Athens' modern economic diversity.

The 20th Century: Cultural Renaissance and Modernization

The 20th century marked a pivotal chapter in the history of Athens GA, characterized by modernization, cultural evolution, and increased national prominence. Athens emerged as a regional center for education, healthcare, and the arts, balancing its historic roots with contemporary growth.

Music and Arts: Athens as a Cultural Hub

Arguably, one of the most defining aspects of Athens' 20th-century history is its reputation as a vibrant music and arts hub. The city became internationally recognized in the 1980s and 1990s as a birthplace of influential alternative rock bands such as R.E.M. and The B-52s. This cultural renaissance attracted musicians, artists, and tourists, significantly impacting the local economy and cultural identity.

Athens' music scene is intertwined with its university environment, which provided fertile ground for creative expression and collaboration. The preservation of historic venues and the establishment of arts festivals continue to bolster Athens' reputation as a dynamic artistic community.

Urban Development and Demographic Shifts

Throughout the 20th century, Athens experienced significant urban development, including the expansion of residential neighborhoods, commercial districts, and public infrastructure. The growth of healthcare facilities and educational institutions contributed to demographic diversification and economic stability.

However, like many Southern cities, Athens grappled with issues of segregation, urban renewal, and economic disparity. Efforts to revitalize downtown areas and preserve historic neighborhoods have been ongoing challenges, reflecting broader trends in urban development and historic preservation.

Contemporary Athens: Balancing Heritage and Progress

Today, the history of Athens GA serves as a foundation for understanding its unique blend of tradition

and innovation. The city continues to leverage its historical assets—such as antebellum architecture, historic districts, and the legacy of the University of Georgia—while embracing technological advancement and cultural diversification.

Sustainability initiatives, downtown revitalization projects, and investments in education and the arts illustrate Athens' commitment to fostering a vibrant, inclusive community. These efforts not only honor the city's past but also position it for future growth in a competitive regional economy.

Key Features of Modern Athens Connected to Its History

- **Historic Districts:** Areas like the Downtown Athens Historic District preserve architectural styles dating back to the 19th century, serving as tangible links to the city's formative years.
- **University Influence:** UGA remains a major economic and cultural driver, influencing demographic trends, research initiatives, and community engagement.
- **Music and Arts Festivals:** Events such as AthFest celebrate the city's rich musical heritage, drawing visitors and supporting local artists.
- **Economic Diversity:** Athens' economy now spans education, healthcare, technology, and tourism, reflecting a transition from its agrarian and industrial roots.

Understanding the history of Athens GA offers insight into how the city has navigated challenges and opportunities over more than two centuries. From its origins as a university town to its current status as a vibrant cultural and economic center, Athens exemplifies the evolving story of the American South—where tradition meets innovation in a dynamic and ongoing dialogue.

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history of athens ga: *A Post Card History of Athens, Georgia* Gary L. Doster, 2002

history of athens ga: *A Portrait of Historic Athens & Clarke County* Frances Taliaferro Thomas, 2009 Athens, Georgia, seems the quintessential southern university town. With a geography chiseled over geologic time by its lifeblood, the slow-flowing Oconee River, Athens has developed a unique culture as the two-century-long home of the state's bustling center of learning and research, the University of Georgia. A multitude of influences have powered the emergence of Athens from its eighteenth-century rustic solitude to its current incarnation as a community striving to preserve the old while embracing the new. *A Portrait of Historic Athens and Clarke County* gives equal attention

to Athens's natural and built environments and their coevolution into one of the modern South's most dynamic small cities. Starting with the town's beginnings, Frances Taliaferro Thomas emphasizes settlement patterns, key events, institutions, architecture, landscape, economics, and the highly distinctive personalities that have molded Athens into what it is today. This edition includes two new sections of color photographs as well as a comprehensive new chapter tracing the milestones that led town and gown into the twenty-first century. Topics include the emerging cultural importance of the Classic Center; restoration and revitalization of many historic sites; vast building projects under two presidents of the University of Georgia; the progression of the greenway along the North Oconee River; and initiatives to address rising poverty rates within the county. Blending scholarly research with archival materials, official data, newspaper accounts, interviews, and personal letters and diaries, *A Portrait of Historic Athens and Clarke County* is the definitive account of a place that makes history each and every day.

history of athens ga: Sketches from the Early History of Athens, Georgia, 1801-1825

Henry Hull, 1884

history of athens ga: Athens Streets and Neighborhoods Gary L> Doster, 2020-12-08

Though they have changed much over the years, the streets of Athens, Georgia, hold centuries of history in just their names alone. Historical researcher Gary Doster delves into the streets and neighborhoods of the Classic City, revealing previously unreported stories from its past.

history of athens ga: Antebellum Athens and Clarke County, Georgia Ernest C. Hynds,

2009-08-01 Published in 1974, *Antebellum Athens and Clarke County, Georgia* is a chronicle of sixty years of change in Clarke County and the city of Athens. In 1801, Clarke County, newly created from Jackson County, was virtually all Georgia farmland, and Athens was a portion of land set aside for the establishment of a state university. In those first years of the century, the university began with thirty or forty students. They received instruction from Josiah Meigs--president and faculty of the university--in a twenty-by-twenty-foot log cabin. By 1846, the population of the county was over four thousand, and the area prospered. Cotton mills dotted the banks of the Oconee River, the Georgia Railroad connected Athens with Augusta, numerous schools and churches had been established, and newspapers, banks, and small businesses were all part of the Athens scene. *Antebellum Athens and Clarke County, Georgia* is rich with detail. This historical narrative recalls not only the growth of industry, government, and education within Clarke County, but also contains many anecdotes of the early people who lived there. The chronology of dates and events and the comprehensive listing of public officials, professional men, planters, and businessmen found in the appendixes of *Antebellum Athens and Clarke County, Georgia* add to the value of this work of local history.

history of athens ga: *Ghosts of Athens* Tracy L. Adkins, 2016-09-20 *Ghosts of Athens* blends

the historical with the haunted for more than thirty locations in the Classic City. First, the history of each location unfolds, then details are disclosed of creepy events that occurred there, including contemporary anecdotes, historical folklore, and tales told from one generation to the next. From humorous to heartwarming to hard-to-believe, these spooky tales are more than just Halloween fun. Join an excursion through the vibrant history of this colorful Southern town and meet the residents who can't seem to say goodbye. Join author and long-time Athens, Georgia resident Tracy Adkins on this tour of haunted locations in this Classic City. Stories include: Demosthenian Hall The Wedding Cake House Lustrat House Candler Hall The Stairway to Nowhere Waddel Hall The Morton Theatre The T.R.R.Cobb House The Foundry (Graduate Hotel) Fire Hall Number One The Ware-Lyndon House The Taylor-Grady House Memorial Park Old Athens Cemetery Oconee Hill Cemetery Arnocroft Bernstein Funeral Home Athens Ben Epps Airport Eagle Tavern And more...

history of athens ga: A Standard History of Georgia and Georgians Lucian Lamar Knight,

1917

history of athens ga: Appalachian Epidemics Christopher M. White, Kevin T. Barksdale,

2025-01-14 As the COVID-19 virus swept across the nation in spring 2020, infection and hospitalization rates in states like West Virginia remained relatively low. By that July, each of Appalachia's 423 counties had recorded confirmed cases. The coronavirus pandemic has taken an

enormous toll on the health of individuals and institutions throughout the region—a stark reminder that even isolated rural populations are subject to historical, biological, ecological, and geographical factors that have continually created epidemics over the past millennia. In *Appalachian Epidemics: From Smallpox to COVID-19*, scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds assess two centuries of public health emergencies and the subsequent responses. This volume peers into the trans-Appalachian South's experience with illness, challenging the misconception that rurality provides protection against maladies. In addition to surveying the impact of influenza, polio, and Lyme disease outbreaks, *Appalachian Epidemics* addresses the less-understood social determinants of health. The effects of the opioid crisis and industrial coal mining complicate the definition of disease and illuminate avenues for responding to future public health threats. From the significance of regional stereotypes to the spread of misinformation and the impact of racism and poverty on public health policy, *Appalachian Epidemics* makes clear that many of the natural, political, and socioeconomic forces currently shaping the region's experiences with COVID-19 and other crises have historical antecedents.

history of athens ga: *Annals of Athens, Georgia, 1801-1901* Augustus Longstreet Hull, 1906 *Annals of Athens, Georgia, 1801-1901* by Henry Hull, first published in 1906, is a rare manuscript, the original residing in one of the great libraries of the world. This book is a reproduction of that original, which has been scanned and cleaned by state-of-the-art publishing tools for better readability and enhanced appreciation. Restoration Editors' mission is to bring long out of print manuscripts back to life. Some smudges, annotations or unclear text may still exist, due to permanent damage to the original work. We believe the literary significance of the text justifies offering this reproduction, allowing a new generation to appreciate it.

history of athens ga: *Through the Arch* Larry B. Dendy, 2013-09-15 *Through the Arch* captures UGA's colorful past, dynamic present, and promising future in a novel way: by surveying its buildings, structures, and spaces. These physical features are the university's most visible--and some of its most valuable--resources. Yet they are largely overlooked, or treated only passingly, in histories and standard publications about UGA. Through text and photographs, this book places buildings and spaces in the context of UGA's development over more than 225 years. After opening with a brief historical overview of the university, the book profiles over 140 buildings, landmarks, and spaces, their history, appearance, and past and current usage, as well as their namesake, beginning with the oldest structures on North Campus and progressing to the newest facilities on South and East Campus and the emerging Northwest Quadrant. Many profiles are supplemented with sidebars relating traditions, lore, facts, or alumni recollections associated with buildings and spaces. More than just landmarks or static elements of infrastructure, buildings and spaces embody the university's values, cultural heritage, and educational purpose. These facilities--many more than a century old--are where students learn, explore, and grow and where faculty teach, research, and create. They harbor the university's history and traditions, protect its treasures, and hold memories for alumni. The repository for books, documents, artifacts, and tools that contain and convey much of the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of human existence, these structures are the legacy of generations. And they are tangible symbols of UGA's commitment to improve our world through education. Guide includes 113 color photos throughout 19 black-and-white historical photos Over 140 profiles of buildings, landmarks, and spaces Supplemental sidebars with traditions, lore, facts, and alumni anecdotes 6 maps

history of athens ga: *The Bicentennial of the United States of America* American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, 1977

history of athens ga: *The Courthouse and the Depot* Wilber W. Caldwell, 2001 Their songs insist that the arrival of the railroad and the appearance of the tiny depot often created such hope that it inspired the construction of the architectural extravaganzas that were the courthouses of the era. In these buildings the distorted myth of the Old South collided head-on with the equally deformed myth of the New South.

history of athens ga: *The New South, 1945-1980* Numan V. Bartley, 1995 First published in

1955 to wide acclaim, T. Harry Williams' P.G.T. Beauregard is universally regarded as the first authoritative portrait of the Confederacy's always dramatic, often perplexing general (Chicago Tribune). Chivalric, arrogant, and of exotic Creole Louisiana origin, Beauregard participated in every phase of the Civil War from its beginning to its end. He rigidly adhered to principles of war derived from his studies of Jomini and Napoleon, and yet many of his battle plans were rejected by his superiors, who regarded him as excitable, unreliable, and contentious. After the war, Beauregard was almost the only prominent Confederate general who adapted successfully to the New South, running railroads and later supervising the notorious Louisiana Lottery. This paradox of a man who fought gallantly to defend the Old South and then helped industrialize it is the fascinating subject of Williams' superb biography.

history of athens ga: *Genealogist's Address Book. 6th Edition* Elizabeth Petty Bentley, 2009-02 This book is the answer to the perennial question, What's out there in the world of genealogy? What organizations, institutions, special resources, and websites can help me? Where do I write or phone or send e-mail? Once again, Elizabeth Bentley's Address Book answers these questions and more. Now in its 6th edition, The Genealogist's Address Book gives you access to all the key sources of genealogical information, providing names, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail addresses, websites, names of contact persons, and other pertinent information for more than 27,000 organizations, including libraries, archives, societies, government agencies, vital records offices, professional bodies, publications, research centers, and special interest groups.

history of athens ga: *"The Women Will Howl"* Mary Deborah Petite, 2015-06-08 In July 1864, Union General William T. Sherman ordered the arrest and deportation of more than 400 women and children from the villages of Roswell and New Manchester, Georgia. Branded as traitors for their work in the cotton mills that supplied much needed material to the Confederacy, these civilians were shipped to cities in the North (already crowded with refugees) and left to fend for themselves. This work details the little known story of the hardships these women and children endured before and--most especially--after they were forcibly taken from their homes. Beginning with the founding of Roswell, it examines the pre-Civil War circumstances that created this class of women. The main focus is on what befell the women at the hands of Sherman's army and what they faced once they reached such states as Illinois and Indiana. An appendix details the roll of political prisoners from Sweetwater (New Manchester).

history of athens ga: *Gwinnett County, Georgia, and the Transformation of the American South, 1818-2018* Michael Gagnon, Matthew Hild, 2022-07-15 In Gwinnett County's two hundred years, the area has been western, southern, rural, suburban, and now increasingly urban. Its stories include the displacement of Native peoples, white settlement, legal battles over Indian Removal, slavery and cotton, the Civil War and the Lost Cause, New South railroad and town development, Reconstruction and Jim Crow, business development and finance in a national economy, a Populist uprising and Black outmigration, the entrance of women into the political arena, the evolution of cotton culture, the development of modern infrastructure, and the transformation from rural to suburban to a multicultural urbanizing place. Gwinnett, as its chamber of commerce likes to say, has it all. However, Gwinnett has yet to be the focus of a major historical exploration—until now. Through a compilation of essays written by professional historians with expertise in a diverse array of eras and fields, Michael Gagnon and Matthew Hild's collection finally tells these stories in a systematic way—avoiding the pitfalls of nonprofessional local histories that tend to ignore issues of race, class, or gender. While not claiming to be comprehensive, this book provides general readers and scholars alike with a glimpse at Gwinnett through the ages.

history of athens ga: *Behind the Mask of Chivalry* Nancy MacLean, 1994 Elegantly written and meticulously researched, this book offers a major new interpretation of the Ku Klux Klan in America, placing the organization in its context of class and gender as well as race and religion.

history of athens ga: *James Oglethorpe, Father of Georgia* Michael L. Thurmond, 2024-02-15 Founded by James Oglethorpe on February 12, 1733, the Georgia colony was envisioned as a unique social welfare experiment. Administered by twenty-one original trustees, the Georgia

Plan offered England's "worthy poor" and persecuted Christians an opportunity to achieve financial security in the New World by exporting goods produced on small farms. Most significantly, Oglethorpe and his fellow Trustees were convinced that economic vitality could not be achieved through the exploitation of enslaved Black laborers. Due primarily to Oglethorpe's strident advocacy, Georgia was the only British American colony to prohibit chattel slavery prior to the American Revolutionary War. His outspoken opposition to the transatlantic slave trade distinguished Oglethorpe from British colonial America's more celebrated founding fathers. James Oglethorpe, Father of Georgia uncovers how Oglethorpe's philosophical and moral evolution from slave trader to abolitionist was propelled by his intellectual relationships with two formerly enslaved Black men. Oglethorpe's unique "friendships" with Ayuba Suleiman Diallo and Olaudah Equiano, two of eighteenth-century England's most influential Black men, are little-known examples of interracial antislavery activism that breathed life into the formal abolitionist movement. Utilizing more than two decades of meticulous research, fresh historical analysis, and compelling storytelling, Michael L. Thurmond rewrites the prehistory of abolitionism and adds an important new chapter to Georgia's origin story.

history of athens ga: *Seeking Eden* Staci L. Catron, Mary Ann Eaddy, 2018-04-15 *Seeking Eden* promotes an awareness of, and appreciation for, Georgia's rich garden heritage. Updated and expanded here are the stories of nearly thirty designed landscapes first identified in the early twentieth-century publication *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933*. *Seeking Eden* records each garden's evolution and history as well as each garden's current early twenty-first-century appearance, as beautifully documented in photographs. Dating from the mid-eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries, these publicly and privately owned gardens include nineteenth-century parterres, Colonial Revival gardens, Country Place-era landscapes, rock gardens, historic town squares, college campuses, and an urban conservation garden. *Seeking Eden* explores the significant impact of the women who envisioned and nurtured many of these special places; the role of professional designers, including J. Neel Reid, Philip Trammel Shutze, William C. Pauley, Robert B. Cridland, the Olmsted Brothers, Hubert Bond Owens, and Clermont Lee; and the influence of the garden club movement in Georgia in the early twentieth century. **FEATURED GARDENS:** Andrew Low House and Garden | Savannah Ashland Farm | Flintstone Barnsley Gardens | Adairsville Barrington Hall and Bulloch Hall | Roswell Battersby-Hartridge Garden | Savannah Beech Haven | Athens Berry College: Oak Hill and House o' Dreams | Mount Berry Bradley Olmsted Garden | Columbus Cator Woolford Gardens | Atlanta Coffin-Reynolds Mansion | Sapelo Island Dunaway Gardens | Newnan vicinity Governor's Mansion | Atlanta Hills and Dales Estate | LaGrange Lullwater Conservation Garden | Atlanta Millpond Plantation | Thomasville vicinity Oakton | Marietta Rock City Gardens | Lookout Mountain Salubrity Hall | Augusta Savannah Squares | Savannah Stephenson-Adams-Land Garden | Atlanta Swan House | Atlanta University of Georgia: North Campus, the President's House and Garden, and the Founders Memorial Garden | Athens Valley View | Cartersville vicinity Wormsloe and Wormsloe State Historic Site | Savannah vicinity Zahner-Slick Garden | Atlanta

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