

**GEORGIA; A GUIDE TO ITS
CITIES, TOWNS, SCENERY
AND RESOURCES**

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Georgia; A Guide to Its Cities, Towns, Scenery and Resources by J. T. Derry

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J. T. DERRY

**GEORGIA; A GUIDE TO ITS
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AND RESOURCES**

GEORGIA:

A GUIDE TO
ITS CITIES, TOWNS, SCENERY, AND
RESOURCES.

WITH TABLES CONTAINING VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR PERSONS DESIRING TO SETTLE OR TO MAKE INVESTMENTS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE STATE.

BY

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.



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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Introduction	5

CHAPTER I.

Historical Sketch of Georgia	9
--	---

CHAPTER II.

Atlanta and Northwest Georgia—The Western and Atlantic Road, or the Kenesaw Route—Places of Historic Interest—Battles of Atlanta, Kenesaw Mountain, Resaca, Ringgold, Allatoona, Rome, and Chickamauga	31
--	----

CHAPTER III.

The Air-Line Road and Northeast Georgia—Toccoa Falls—Tallulah Falls—Nacoochee Valley	51
--	----

CHAPTER IV.

Augusta and Middle Georgia—The Georgia Railroad and Branches—Revolutionary History of Augusta, etc.	58
---	----

CHAPTER V.

Macon, Columbus, and Western Georgia—Central Railroad and Branches—Atlanta and West Point Railroad—Places of Interest—Battles of Jonesborough, Griswoldville, Newnan—Affair at West Point	73
---	----

CHAPTER VI.

Savannah and the Georgia Coast—Incidents connected with Colonial and Revolutionary History—Fort McAllister	87
--	----

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER VII.

	PAGE
Southern Georgia—Atlantic and Gulf Railroad and Connections	100

CHAPTER VIII.

Education in Georgia	105
--------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER IX.

Religious Denominations in Georgia	113
--	-----

CHAPTER X.

Water-Power of Georgia	120
----------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XI.

Manufactures—Mineral Region—Iron-Furnaces—Character of the Minerals—Height of Mountains	145
--	-----

CHAPTER XII.

Productions of Georgia	153
----------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

Climate and Health of Georgia	171
---	-----

INTRODUCTION.

GEORGIA, one of the original thirteen States of the American Union, extends in latitude from $30^{\circ} 21'$ to 35° north, and in longitude from $80^{\circ} 48'$ to $85^{\circ} 40'$ west (reckoning from Greenwich). Its extreme length from north to south is three hundred and twenty miles, and its greatest breadth from east to west is two hundred and fifty-four miles. Its area is fifty-eight thousand square miles, equal in size to England and Wales combined. The surface is low and level on the coast, hilly in the centre, and mountainous in the north and northwest. Owing to the diversity of climate and soil, the productions are wonderful in variety. The famous Sea Island cotton is raised on the islands along the coast, and cotton is also the great staple of the central and southern portions of the State. The rice-fields along the coast give a bountiful yield, and in the south a considerable amount of sugar is made. In all sections of Georgia corn is cultivated with the greatest success, and through the central and more northern sections all the grains common to the more Northern States of the Union are produced. The fruits embrace not only those usually found in the temperate zone, but also many of those that belong to the tropics. No country in the world can offer greater inducements to the industrious immigrant seeking a pleasant home where he may enjoy the privileges of churches, excellent schools, and good society. All these advantages

may be enjoyed in all sections of the State, and are not confined, as some writers of limited knowledge would lead their readers to suppose, to the cities and the large towns.

Agriculture has always been the chief employment of the citizens of Georgia, and her magnificent railway system affords ready access to the markets for the produce of the planters. For many years past great attention has been paid to manufactures, especially of coarse cotton fabrics. It is the custom of many writers to represent the people of the South as just beginning to wake up to the necessity of diversified industry, while the truth is that long before the War of Secession the people of the South were engaging in manufacturing enterprises and in the construction of extensive lines of railway. In these things Georgia was, and is yet, the foremost of the Southern States, and in many of her towns and villages one may hear the busy hum of spindles and mark the evidences of progressive industry. Manufactures are encouraged by an act of the Legislature exempting all enterprises of this sort from taxation for a period of ten years. The lands in most parts of the State are good, and even the so-called "worn-out lands" are, by proper cultivation, made to produce abundant crops. The soil is particularly rich in the valleys, in the lowlands, on the coast, and on the adjacent islands. In the eastern part of the State, and a little below the central portion, are extensive forests, from which the best of lumber is obtained. It is estimated that one-fifth of the lumber trade of the Union is carried on through Savannah and the other ports along the coast of Georgia. The sea-coast is about one hundred miles in length. The ports are Savannah, Darien, Brunswick, and St. Mary's. The three latter are small towns, and are chiefly engaged in

the lumber trade. Savannah, though a city of only about thirty thousand inhabitants, is, in the value of its exports, the third city of the Union. Augusta, on the eastern side of the State, and Columbus, on the western side, are great manufacturing centres. The manufactures of Georgia are destined at no distant day to add greatly to the prosperity and wealth of the State. Probably no State possesses a greater number of splendid sites for mills and factories, and the policy of the State government is, as has already been mentioned, such as to foster in every way enterprises of this sort. No State of the Union is blessed with a greater variety of soil, climate, and productions. Dr. George Little, the State Geologist, in his report for 1875, says: "Every fruit and cereal and textile fibre useful to man can be cultivated in one portion or another of the State. Every variety of climate is afforded, as illustrated in my own experience during the present month, when leaving one party on the southern border sleeping in the open air on the islands of the Okefinokee, with oranges and bananas hanging in the gardens on its borders, I joined in the same week another party on the Cohutta mountains covered with snow; while in passing through Atlanta, balmy breezes were blowing as if it were spring-time."

Georgia is rich in minerals, metals, and building-stones.

The value of improved lands in Georgia varies from fifty-one cents to fourteen dollars and forty-two cents per acre, while the value of wild lands varies from eleven cents to one dollar and seventeen cents per acre.

GEORGIA:

ITS CITIES, TOWNS, SCENERY, AND RESOURCES.

CHAPTER I.

Historical Sketch of Georgia.

A CHARTER for the establishment of the colony of Georgia was obtained from George II., King of England, in June, 1732. At first it embraced a territory between the Savannah and the Altamaha rivers, but its limits were afterwards extended to the Mississippi River, so that within its bounds were included not only the present State of Georgia, but also most of what now constitutes the States of Alabama and Mississippi.

The object of the founders of Georgia was to establish a barrier against the hostile encroachments of the Spaniards on the Province of South Carolina, and at the same time to provide a home for the poor of Great Britain, and also to furnish a place of refuge for the Salzburgers, and other persecuted sects on the Continent of Europe.

James Edward Oglethorpe was selected by the trustees to take charge of the affairs of the new colony, and in November, 1732, he set sail from England with one hundred and sixteen emigrants. In January, 1733, after a voyage of nearly two months, they arrived in the harbor of Charleston, where they were received with the greatest