



# Frederica Almanack

## On Huts, Bowers and Booths Frederica's Not So Comfortable Colonial Housing

*Imagine this. You have just spent months in cramped, dank quarters aboard a ship. During your journey from London you had plenty of time to imagine your new home in the Georgia Colony. You are like many of your fellow travelers. Your home at Frederica will be the first home that you will own - a dream that was hard to imagine as you were laboring away as 'worthy poor' in London. After being transferred to smaller boats at Savannah, you made an arduous trip through the marshes and a strange, new land. When the boat rounds the bend in the river, you get your first view of your new town and realize that there is much work to be done to accomplish your British dream of owning your very own home. All you see in front of you is a burned out field and months of hard work before you can rest in your new home. Until that time you better enjoy your very own palmetto hut or bower.*

### Hut, Sweet Hut

Many of the huts first built at Frederica were constructed with a crutch and pole method. This quick shelter used palmetto leaves weaved for a thatched roof. While not the most luxurious of housing, these huts or bowers were actually quite practical for the time of year



For most families who settled at Frederica in 1736, small huts like this one sketched by Philip Georg Friedrich von Reck were their first shelter.

the settlers arrived. Francis Moore, Frederica's recorder, wrote in his journal, "Each Family had a Bower of Palmetto Leaves, finished upon the back street in their own Lands....These Palmetto Bowers were very convenient Shelters, being tight in the hardest Rains; they were 20 Foot long, and 14 Foot wide, and in regular Rows, looked very pretty, the Palmetto Leaves lying smooth and handsome, and of a good Colour. The whole looked like Tents, only being larger and covered with Palmetto Leaves instead of canvas."

As the seasons changed, however, these palmeto huts offered little protection against the incesant biting insects so prevelant at Frederica nor the reptiles that come

out in Spring. For many of the settlers this palmetto hut provided little comfort, but others built more substantial booths of logs and palmetto.

Booths were described as being larger and more substantial than huts or bowers although the terms are used at times interchangeably in the historic record. One variant included logs placed vertically. While it did provide a modicum of comfort most settlers immediately set to building more permanent houses after their initial needs were met.

To see replicas of a hut and a booth in mid-construction visit the townsite. Eagle Scouts Aaron and Levi Moore built these structures based upon 1736 drawings.

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## A Message from the Fort Frederica NM Superintendent

It is a true pleasure and honor to be a part of the Fort Frederica National Monument team. I arrived in late August and was welcomed warmly by staff and community members alike. As I grow and learn the wonderful Fort Frederica story that shaped a future nation, I would invite each of you to stop by my office for a visit and share your thoughts and ideas with me. I look forward to meeting and becoming better acquainted with community members in the months ahead.

In future almanack editions, I will update readers on the numerous projects and events that will take place as we look to the future.

This will be my first fall and winter in Georgia and I am looking forward to it with great enthusiasm. We have a lot to prepare for and much to accomplish here at the park.

Mary Beth Wester  
Superintendent



## Autumn Weekend Programs at 11 a.m and 2 p.m.

Now that summer is over, Fort Frederica National Monument will offer programs on weekends throughout the fall at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Programs vary from a tour of the town and Fort of Frederica, a pub crawl of the various taverns, to

a hands-on musket drill program. Join a park ranger to learn more about the incredible history of Fort Frederica and find out how this little site settled the struggle between Britain and Spain for control of Georgia.

### Special program for October - December include:

#### Frederica Folkway Series:

Making Tabby - October 13 - 2 p.m.

The Colonial Tavern - November 3 - 2 p.m.

The Life of a Soldier - December 1 - 2 p.m.

#### Bloody Marsh Musket Programs

October 27 - 2 p.m.

November 18 - 2 p.m.

#### Holiday Open House

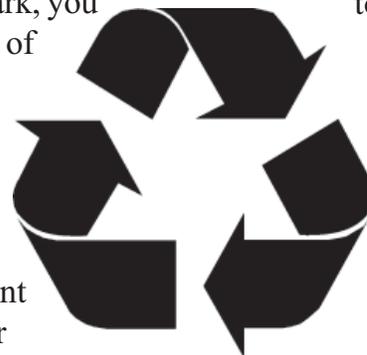
December 15 - All day. Celebrating General James Oglethorpe's Birthday.

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## Help the Park —

## Recycle Your Brochure

While visiting the park, you may notice a couple of wooden boxes for recycled brochures at the Visitor Center and near the Cemetery. Due to rising costs to print these beautiful color pamphlets, we are trying



to conserve our resources by reusing the brochures for future visitors. If you do not want to keep your brochure as a souvenir, please do your part by using the recycling boxes.

Thank you!

# A First Timer's Guide to Visiting Fort Frederica

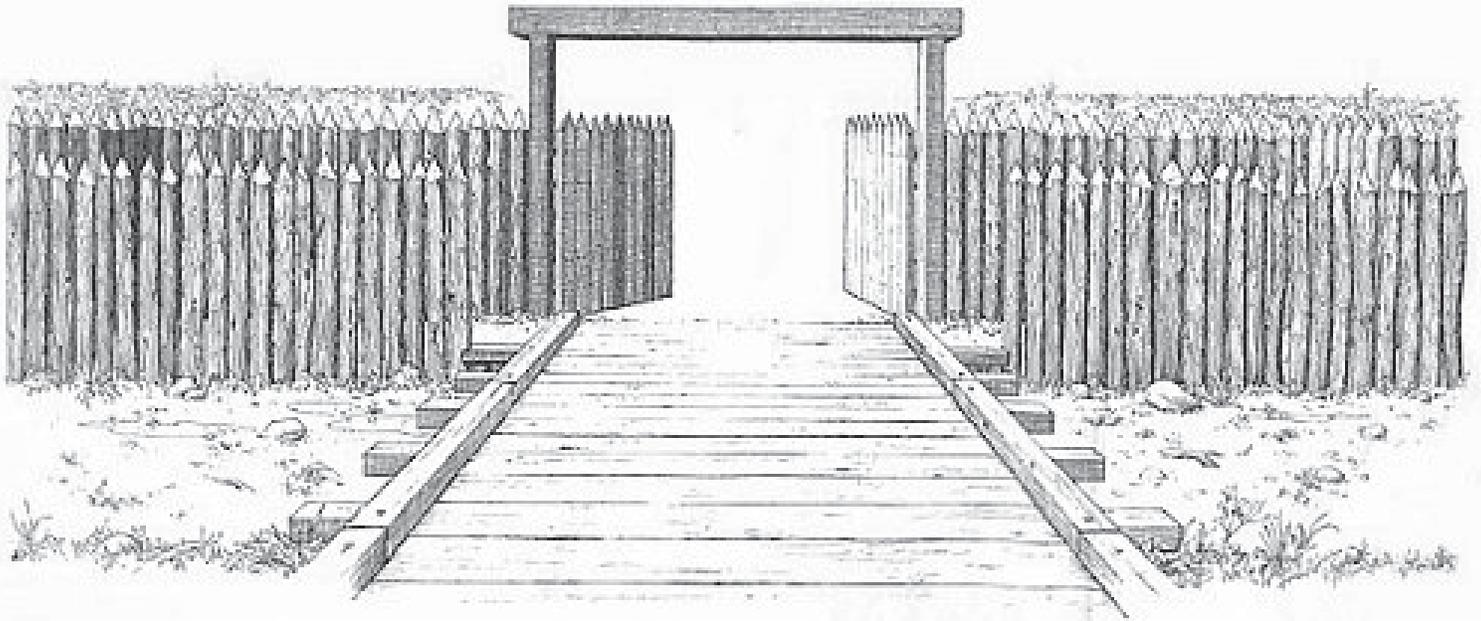


## **Welcome to Fort Frederica National Monument.**

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

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

**Enjoy!**



## Visitor Center Museum

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

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

## Orientation Film

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



**Running Time: 23 minutes**  
**Shows every 30 minutes in the Visitor Center Theater.**

## Kid's Activities

**History comes to life for kids at Fort Frederica.**

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

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

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

**Hands-On Musket Drill.** Learn about the life of a British soldier by participating in a hands-on musket drill program. For more information, ask at the Visitor Center Information Desk.

## Safety

Fort Frederica National Monument is committed to providing visitors with a quality and safe experience and you can help.

### Safety Notes

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

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

## Accessibility

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

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

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

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

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

## Interpretive Programs

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

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

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

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

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



## Bloody Marsh

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



## The Spanish Side of the Story

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



# Fort Frederica's New Superintendent

Mary Beth Wester has been selected as the new superintendent of Fort Frederica National Monument.

"We are delighted to have Mary Beth coming on board as the superintendent at Fort Frederica," said Patricia Hooks, regional director for the Southeast Region. "She has great energy and, with her tremendous Park Service background, she brings excellent knowledge and experience to the park."

Wester has served as recruitment coordinator for Midwest Region since 2001. A native of Erie, Pennsylvania, she began her Park Service career in 1985 as a seasonal park interpreter at New River Gorge. She has also served as the director of visitor services at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and as a district interpreter at Canyonlands National Park.

"I am very excited and honored to be selected as superintendent of Fort Frederica National Monument," Wester said. "I look forward to working with the local community,



partners, stakeholders and staff and welcome the opportunities the position offers to manage this precious resource."

Some of Wester's recent assignments include details to the 60th and 65th commemorations of the attack on Pearl Harbor at the USS Arizona Memorial, a detail to the Eastern Incident Management Team following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and a detail as acting superintendent of Fort Scott.

Wester earned an A.S. degree from the Community College of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and a B.S. degree in earth and mineral sciences from Pennsylvania State University. Her husband, Randy Wester, is also a career employee of the NPS and currently serves as superintendent at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. They enjoy scuba diving and motorcycle riding.

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## Opportunities for Exploring Frederica's History

Fort Frederica's history is complex and difficult to grasp sometimes. Where once a flourishing town stood, bleaching ruins and foundations now dot the landscape. Here are a few suggestions to really immerse yourself in Frederica's history.

- ❖ Watch the new park orientation film, *History Uncovered*.

- ❖ Attend a ranger-led program.

- ❖ Stand at the fort and watch the waters of the Frederica River slip past until a dolphin surfaces or a ship sails past.

- ❖ Become a Junior Ranger.

- ❖ Read Francis Moore's Journal while sitting next to his house foundation.

- ❖ Take the new audio tour.

- ❖ Visit the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, Florida to learn the Spanish

perspective on Frederica's history.

- ❖ See the fort from a boat on the Frederica River and estimate the number of times the long-range cannon of Frederica could have shot at you before you could shoot at Frederica.

- ❖ Visit Jekyll Island's Horton House ruins.

- ❖ Ask questions of the rangers and volunteers.

# Fort Frederica National Monument 2007/2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All programs, dates and scheduled times subject to change (912) 638-3639  
[www.nps.gov/fofr](http://www.nps.gov/fofr)

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>13 Frederica Folkways: Making Tabby 2:00 PM</p> <p>27 Bloody Marsh Musket Program 2:00 PM</p>	<p>3 Frederica Folkways: Taverns 2:00 PM</p> <p>18 Bloody Marsh Musket Program 2:00 PM</p> 	<p>3 Frederica Folkways: The Life of a Soldier 2:00 PM</p> <p>15 General Oglethorpe's Birthday Celebration</p> <p>25 Christmas Day (Park Closed)</p>	<p>26 Bloody Marsh Musket Program 2:00 PM</p> 	<p>16 Frederica Festival 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</p> <p>23 Bloody Marsh Musket Program 2:00 PM</p> 	<p>22 Bloody Marsh Musket Program 2:00 PM</p> 

## Fort Frederica Celebrates James Oglethorpe's Birthday

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

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

On Saturday, December 15th, the National Park Service at Fort Frederica National Monument will celebrate Oglethorpe's birthday in true colonial style from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

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



William Stephens  
December 21, 1737  
Savannah



A Demonstration of the new King's Arm,  
Long Land Pattern Musket.

Including,  
A Description of the Battle of Bloody Marsh  
and the  
Method used to win the late war  
against the forces of Spain  
and the  
effects of this war upon the future of  
Frederica and the Colony of Georgia

As told by  
A Soldier in his Majesty's Army  
serving in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot.

**Saturday, October 27 & November 18, 2007.**  
**2:00 PM**  
**Battle of Bloody Marsh Site.**

## New on the Web

With the help of Sue Lacy, park volunteer, and Anne Llewellyn, curator at Timucuan National Preserve, Albert Manucy's 1945 Fort Frederica

Historic Site Report is now available online for the public. Albert Manucy (1910-1997) was a native of St. Augustine, Florida where he developed a keen interest in colonial construction and architecture. "After graduating with a master's degree from the University of Florida in 1934, Manucy went to work for the National Park Service, first on WPA projects and later on the permanent payroll. His career with the park service as one of its few, at the time, historians took him all over the United States, South American and Europe. He was in charge of researching the Castillo de San Marcos, [from] the edifice itself, the furniture and artillery inside, to the Cubo Line outside."



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Frederica National Monument is a premier historical and archaeological site that shares and preserves the history associated with the British settlement of the Colony of Georgia and the struggle with Spain for control of the region. The National Park Service values working with partners and the public to bring this special history to life.

**Fort Frederica National Monument**  
6515 Frederica Road  
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

**Phone**  
912-638-3639

**Web Site Address**  
[www.nps.gov/fofr/](http://www.nps.gov/fofr/)

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Historic snapshot from Manucy's report (circa 1880s), showing Mrs. Belle Stevens Taylor's house on the left, and the ruins of the King's Magazine on the right. "Miss Belle" started the preservation of Frederica when she donated the fort site to the Colonial Dames of America in 1903.

He published his first book, *The Houses of St. Augustine, 1566-1821*, in the 1950s, and with a leave of absence, explored Spanish architecture on a Fulbright scholarship. In 1966 he became curator for the Southeast Regional Office of the Park Service. Following retirement, he continued his research on St. Augustine and, in 1997, published *Sixteenth Century St. Augustine: the People and Their Homes*.

In 1945 Albert Manucy researched and wrote a Historic Site Report for the newly established park unit, Fort Frederica National Monument.

Written over 50 years ago, the historical research is still valid, a tribute to Manucy's work as a historian. This report is also valuable for his architectural drawings, maps, and other artwork he created for it. The digital copy we have online doesn't do his work justice (difficulty with scanning colored pencil drawings on onion-skin paper) but is the only way to share this work with the public as only one original exists in archival storage.

To read the report online:  
[http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/fofr/manucy.pdf](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/fofr/manucy.pdf)

### Fort Frederica Needs You!

Are you interested in history? Would you like to help share the story of Fort Frederica and the early settlement of the Colony of Georgia? Do you want to help the National Park Service preserve this incredible place for future generations?

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

The *Frederica Almanack* is published quarterly by Fort Frederica National Monument. The purpose of the *Almanack* is to provide information about Fort Frederica NM to interested visitors, partners, and volunteers. The *Volunteer Dispatch* is named after military dispatches that were sent to posts and troops throughout Coastal Georgia. The *Almanack* is also available online at [www.nps.gov/fofr](http://www.nps.gov/fofr).

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Every year, hundreds of young visitors complete the requirements to earn a Fort Frederica Junior Ranger Badge. If you want more information on the Junior Ranger program ask a ranger in the Visitor Center.

A few of the latest Junior Rangers include:

- ★Camryn Oststifin, age 8, Holland, OH
- ★Madison Ketchie, age 8, Charlotte, NC
- ★Michael Lombardi, age 7, Prairieville, LA
- ★Maddie Dill, age 11, Atlanta, GA
- ★Callie Dill, age 8, Atlanta, GA
- ★Grace Whitesell, age 7, Covington, KY
- ★D. J. Hadden, age 8, Lyons, GA
- ★Naomi Starr, age 7, Woodbine, GA
- ★Gabriel Starr, age 6, Woodbine, GA
- ★Christian Seither, age 9, Abita Springs, LA
- ★Haley Seither, age 10, Abita Springs, LA
- ★Kelly A. Thompson, age 13, Habersham, GA
- ★Shannon Kane, age 9, Virginia Beach, VA
- ★Kobe Elixson, age 10, Windy Spring, FL
- ★Klay Elixson, age 8, Windy Spring, FL
- ★Jessica Hires, age 9, Windy Spring, FL
- ★Addson Schmitz, age 10, Iowa City, IA
- ★Ella Schmitz, age 6, Iowa City, IA
- ★Nichol Brown, age 9, Kennett Square, PA
- ★Cody Brown, age 8, Kennett Square, PA
- ★Alex Gallegos, age 15, Albuquerque, NM
- ★Ayden Havener, age 8, Jacksonville, FL
- ★Isabella Havener, age 6, Jacksonville, FL
- ★Michelle Jolly, age 13, Kennesaw, GA
- ★Devin Long, age 13, Kennesaw, GA
- ★Hayley Wheatley, age 8, Hebron, CT
- ★Tyler Wheatley, age 9, Hebron, CT
- ★Jonathan Thrower, age 10, Bainbridge, GA
- ★Mallory Lawrence, age 10, Carrollton, GA
- ★Mary Amos, age 10, Plantation, FL
- ★Catherine Amos, age 12, Plantation, FL
- ★Jack Wilde, age 8, Sanger, TX
- ★Louis Carter, age 5, Thomasville, GA
- ★Elizabeth Nobles, age 10, Brunswick, GA
- ★Joshua Nobles, age 8, Brunswick, GA
- ★Lindsay Moran, age 9, Matthews, NC
- ★Vallerie Abbattista, age 8, Golden, CO
- ★Gehrig Abbattista, age 6, Golden, CO
- ★Nicholas Zumbrun, age 11, York, PA
- ★Grace King, age 6, Dahlonge, GA
- ★Tanner Gray, age 9, Douglasville, GA
- ★Trey Gray, age 13, Douglasville, GA
- ★Andrew Murfee, age 7, Atlanta, GA
- ★Alex Murfee, age 10, Atlanta, GA
- ★Lilly Chin, age 12, Atlanta, GA
- ★Emily Diehl, age 10, Pottstown, PA
- ★Anna Diehl, age 7, Pottstown, PA
- ★Samuel Diehl, age 5, Pottstown, PA

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