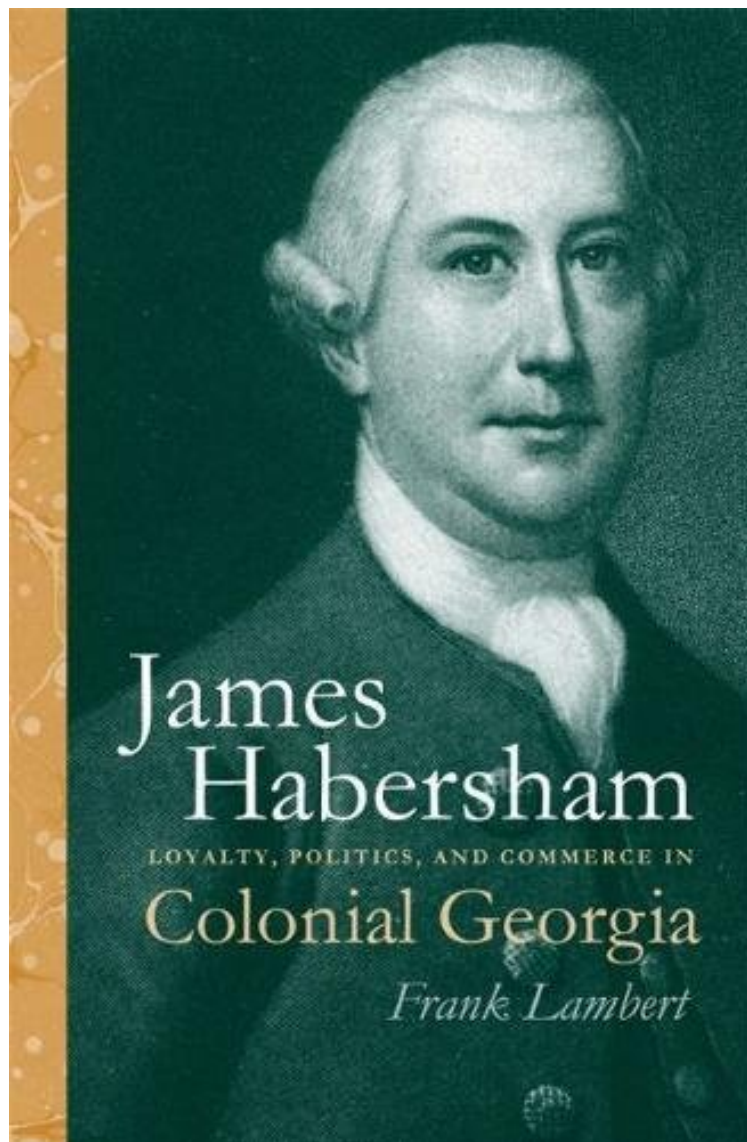


[Download] James Habersham: Loyalty, Politics, and Commerce in Colonial Georgia (Wormsloe Foundation Publication Ser.)

## James Habersham: Loyalty, Politics, and Commerce in Colonial Georgia (Wormsloe Foundation Publication Ser.)

*Frank Lambert*

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#3169938 in Books University of Georgia Press 2012-06-01 2012-06-01 Original language: English PDF # 1  
9.00 x .70 x 6.001, .65 #File Name: 0820343439208 pages | File size: 76.Mb

**Frank Lambert : James Habersham: Loyalty, Politics, and Commerce in Colonial Georgia (Wormsloe Foundation Publication Ser.)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised James Habersham: Loyalty, Politics, and Commerce in Colonial Georgia (Wormsloe Foundation Publication Ser.):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A very readable story of a Colonial giant who faced a moral issue  
By L. Russell  
This is a must read for any serious student of Colonial America. I have read earlier works on James Habersham because I am a descendant of his through his son also named James. This work, however, provided me with a rich historical context in which his interaction with his peers was fully explained and played out. The "names" from history came alive. It gave me an understanding of that era that all other books had failed to convey. Of particular interest was how business was conducted across the Atlantic. Apparently aside from finding honest partners the key was the use of the written documents: those merchants who could be absolutely clear about what their remote partners should do/not do thrived while the rest withered. The book also explained James Habersham's switch on slavery in Georgia. South Carolina had it, but Georgia did not. Habersham analyzed the feeble economy of the Georgia colony and said that it was sick and would die were slavery not introduced. It was and he and his family thrived until the Civil War. History is what it is.

James Habersham was an early American success story. After arriving in Savannah in 1738, he failed in his efforts to wrest a living from the Georgia wilderness and lived his first year at public expense. Then, by dint of his own efforts and through the connections he forged, Habersham emerged as one of the colony's most influential and prosperous citizens, making his name as a planter, merchant, evangelist, and political leader. The third wealthiest person in the colony at the time of his death in 1775, Habersham had a public career that included service as the secretary of Georgia, president of the King's council, and acting Governor. But Habersham's story is more than biography. It also provides a window into colonial Georgia and its transformation from a struggling colony on the brink of collapse in the 1740s to a prosperous province in the 1770s, confident enough to defy the Crown. Ranging over such topics as the rise of Methodist missionary fervor, the development of transatlantic trade, the introduction of slavery, and the escalating debate over American independence, Frank Lambert tells how Habersham's success is inextricably tied to Georgia's fortunes and how he played a major role in helping the colony exploit its abundant resources. Habersham's economic development plan provided a blueprint for attracting new settlers, supplying an abundance of cheap labor, and opening new markets. Habersham's achievements, however, are obscured by his unpopular stance on American independence. While his three sons distinguished themselves as Patriots, Habersham remained loyal to the Crown, though he had opposed Britain's new imperial policies in the 1760's. Nevertheless, it was Habersham's loyal service to colonial Georgia that enabled the colony to separate successfully from the mother country and assume its place in the new republic as a prosperous, vigorous state.

There are many historical figures that have deservedly been neglected by history and historians; James Habersham is not one. He deserves to be rescued and to be put in the center of colonial Georgia, where he was when he lived. Frank Lambert sheds light on the workings of colonial mercantile culture and how a merchant class grew from a decidedly uncommercial colonial experiment. It is a pleasure to see this book and it is my hope that it marks a revival in scholarship of this early period. (Harvey H. Jackson III Jacksonville State University) Lambert adroitly links [it] all together, sketching the details of Habersham's life while using broad strokes to show its connection to larger men and events. . . . No account of early Georgia is complete without a portrayal of James Habersham. (Chuck Mobley Savannah Morning News) Fills a significant gap in the history of Colonial Georgia. (Choice) Lambert's book is impressive . . . a good story [that] effectively interweaves Habersham's activities into the larger context of the Atlantic world. (American Historical ) Lambert's masterful study of James Habersham (1715-1775) is a long-overdue assessment of one of colonial Georgia's principle tidewater grandees . . . Admirably organized and lucidly written, James Habersham does ample justice to its subject and richly details the era and the world in which he moved. This is impeccable life-writing, vivid, judicious, and balanced (Journal of Southern History) Habersham's importance in the commercial and political development of Georgia merits an in-depth study, and Lambert has produced a solid and very readable biography. (Journal of American History) Lambert presents a thoroughly satisfying biography of one of Georgia's founding figures. (Georgia Historical Quarterly) A valuable addition to this field, and shares many of the strengths and a few of the weaknesses of the genre . . . rich absorbing, and significant . . . a concise and engaging overview of Habersham's life and times, which will provide scholars with valuable ammunition for further debating. (H-Net) From the Publisher The first biography of a remarkable figure in early Georgia About the Author Frank Lambert is a professor of history at Purdue University. He is the author of six other books, including "The Battle of Ole Miss: Civil Rights v. States' Rights," "Religion in American Politics: A Short History," and "The Barbary Wars: American Independence in the Atlantic World."