



# The Georgia Dutch: From the Rhine and Danube to the Savannah, 1733-1783

By George Fenwick Jones

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## **The Georgia Dutch: From the Rhine and Danube to the Savannah, 1733-1783** By George Fenwick Jones

This is the first comprehensive history of the German-speaking settlers who emigrated to the Georgia colony from Germany, Alsace, Switzerland, Austria, and adjacent regions. Known collectively as the Georgia Dutch, they were the colony's most enterprising early settlers, and they played a vital role in gaining Britain's toehold in a territory also coveted by Spain and France.

The main body of the book is a chronological account of the Georgia Dutch from their earliest arrival in 1733 to their dispersal and absorption into what was, by 1783, an Anglo-American populace. Underscoring the harsh daily life of the common settler, George Fenwick Jones also highlights noteworthy individuals and events. He traces recurrent themes, including tensions between the realities of the settlers' lives and the aspirations and motivations of the colony's trustees and supporters; the web of relations between German- and English-speaking whites, African Americans, and Native Americans; and early signs of the genesis of a distinctly new and American sensibility.

Three summary chapters conclude *The Georgia Dutch*. Merging new material with information from previous chapters, Jones offers the most complete depiction to date of Georgia Dutch culture and society. Included are discussions of religion; health and medicine; education; welfare and charity; industry, agriculture, trade, and commerce; Native-American affairs; slavery; domestic life and customs; the arts; and military and legal concerns.

Based on twenty-five years of research with primary documents in Europe and the United States, *The Georgia Dutch* is a welcome reappraisal of an ethnic group whose role in colonial history has, over time, been unfairly minimized.

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**Bibliography**

- Rank: #4476710 in Books
- Brand: Brand: University of Georgia Press
- Published on: 1992-08-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.20" h x 6.30" w x 9.20" l, 1.58 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 384 pages

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This extremely detailed chronicle of the various German-speaking groups who settled in the colony of Georgia traces their movements from Europe to settlements on the Savannah River, then describes the failure of their communities and their dispersion throughout the continent after the American Revolution. Professor emeritus Jones (German and comparative literature, Univ. of Maryland) has spent a lifetime scouring European and American archives for material, and he gives the reader full benefit of his labors. In addition to the chronological account, he includes three topical summaries covering the groups' complex religious beliefs and domestic economy, their health and daily life, and their perceptions of Indians and blacks. Of particular interest to genealogists and historians of the colonial South. For research collections.

- David B. Mattern, Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville

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### Review

"Offers a wealth of invaluable, carefully assembled data on a hitherto marginalized topic and challenges the interpretative imagination of future historians."--*Journal of American History*

### About the Author

George Fenwick Jones is a professor emeritus of German and comparative literature at the University of Maryland. He is the author of *The Salzburger Saga; Religious Exiles and Other Germans Along the Savannah* (Georgia, 1984) and the general editor and translator of sixteen volumes of the *Detailed Reports of the Salzburger Emigrants Who Settled in America* (Georgia, 1968-1991).

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