

# James Glen Well Suited To Be Governor

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AND RON CHEOESIUK

Of all the colonial governors, none sent to South Carolina by the English king was better suited to the task, by training temperament, than was James Glen, governor for 12 years from 1744 to 1756.

Born in Scotland in 1701, Glen was trained as a lawyer and served as High Sheriff of Scotland. He was a man of action and a showman, but he was respected for his high principles and keen intelligence.

Appointed governor of South Carolina in 1738, Glen lingered in England for five years and did not land in Charles Town until 1744. He was greet with military pomp and ceremony, which he loved, and immediately fell into business of governing.

Glen encouraged indigo and rice exports, and the general level of profits rose in the colony. Wishing to restrain the importation of slaves, he encouraged the Commons House to place embargoes.

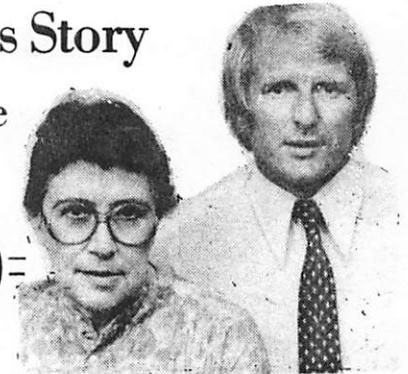
Most of all Glen wished to attract immigrants to fill the back country. In order to do this he had to secure title so that he could transfer the land from Indian claim to the colony. Then he had to inform the world of the desirable qualities of Carolina. Glen accomplished each of these goals.

Previous governors had played one Indian tribe against another. That practice made the back country dangerous for white settlers. Glen, demonstrating great skill, managed to unite the Indians and turn them into allies of the English against the French.

His major triumph came in 1755 when he persuaded the Cherokees, the largest South Carolina tribe, to cede to the English lands that make up the present counties of Edgefield, Abbeville, Laurens, Newberry, Saluda, Greenwood, McCormick, Spartanburg, Union, Cherokee, Richland, Fairfield, Chester, and a portion of York. This opened the way for the great migration of settlers down from Virginia and Pennsylvania.

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## South Carolina's Story The making of a state



James Glen's book "A Description of South Carolina," published abroad anonymously, painted an attractive picture. The book attracted immigrants from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Germany, many coming through the port of Charles Town.

Glen frequently entertained Indian groups in his home. One tale told about the Catawba chief, King Haigler, is that while visiting Gov. Glen, the Catawba observed the numerous courses and changing the plates. Back in his more simple surroundings, Haigler amused a visiting white dignitary by providing clean new pieces of bark for each new course he served.

Glen saluted Indian chiefs with cannon when they arrived in Charleston, provided gifts of every description, arbitrated their disputes, and sent immediate warning of Indians on the warpath in more Northerly areas.

Unscrupulous white traders vexed Glen who continuously had to mend fences with the Indians. When Cherokees claimed that traders had "cut off the yardsticks," Glen's solution was to send them iron yardsticks and to issue an order to the traders that only the iron yardsticks were permitted in trade.

Forts were ordered built for the protection of Indian allies and for white settlers fearful of the French and their Indian allies.

Glen was not only sympathetic toward the Indians, but when the Acadians (of Longfellow's "Evangline" fame) sought asylum in South Carolina, he warmly welcomed them. In 1755 a starving, desperate set of these Frenchmen arrived. The council and the citizenry were both indifferent and hostile. Glen fought for means to house and feed the refugees.

In 1756, James Glen turned over the governorship of South Carolina to a king's favorite who turned out to be one of the poorest colonial governors, William Henry Lyttleton.

Glen stayed in the colony until June 1761, when he sailed back to England. Little is known about this life there before his death in London on July 18, 1777.

The inscription "James Glen, Esq. of Longcroft" was placed on the coffin.