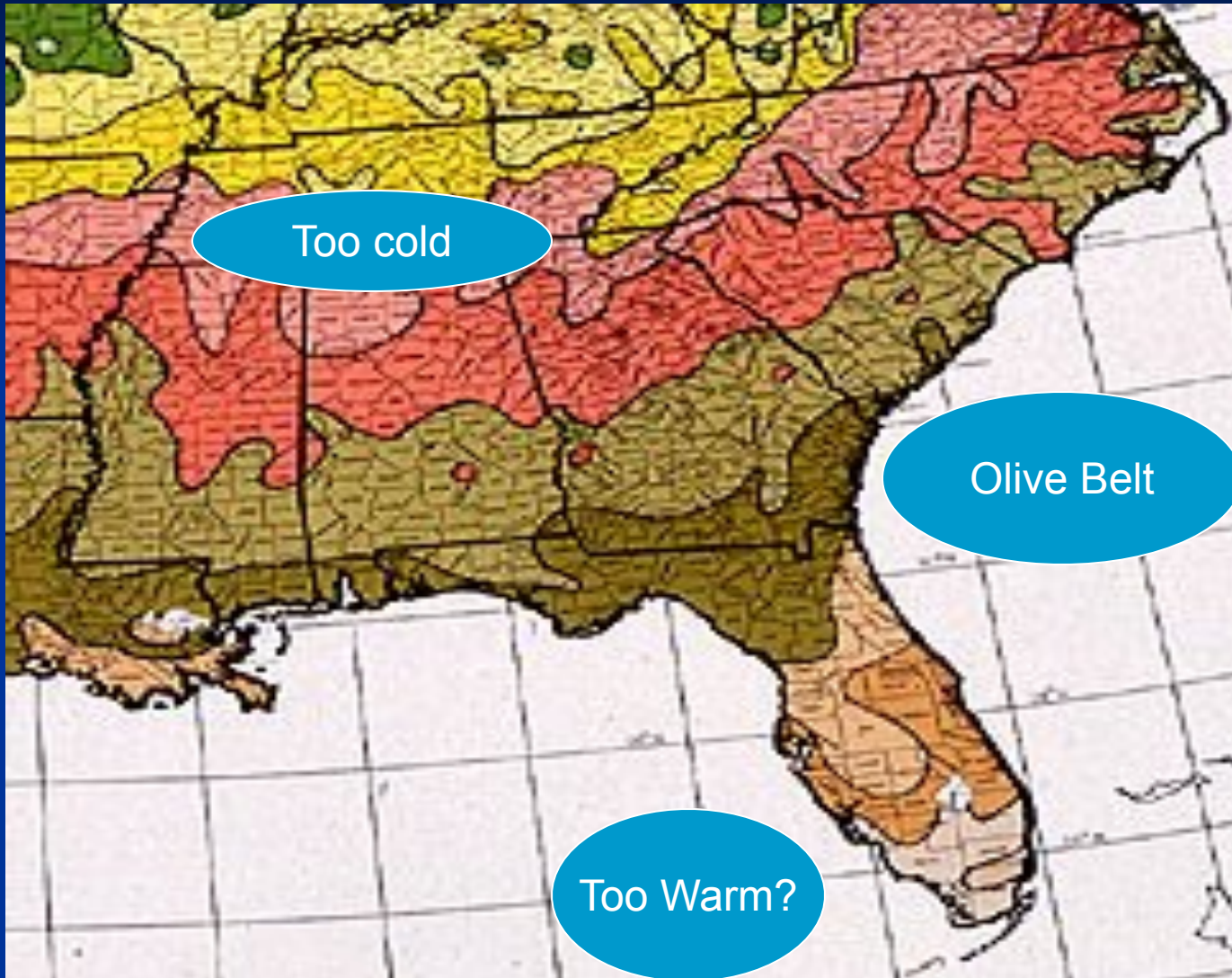


Historical Perspective on Olives in Georgia

Dr. Gerard Krewer
UGA Extension Pomologist

Climate of the Southeast

Where do olives have the best chance?

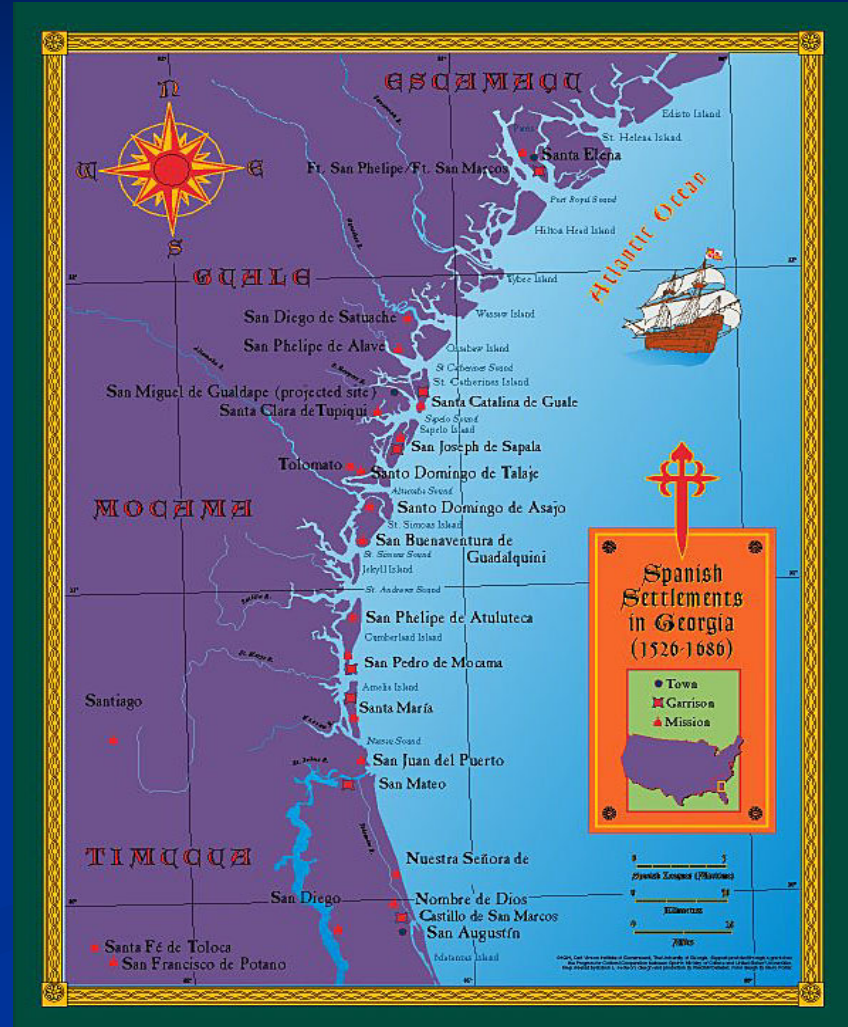


St. Augustine
The Capital of Spanish “La Florida”
About 400 Years Ago



Spanish Colonial Period (1595-1684)

- Two provinces of La Florida were in Georgia
- Mocama
- Guale
- Eighteen missions were located in Georgia, some for a period of almost 100 years.
- Olives were planted at many of the missions



Typical Mission Church in Georgia



Convento

Extensive farms supplied the mission



English Colonial Era

- 1732-1776
- Numerous olive trees were found at the old mission sites
- More olive trees were planted in the experimental gardens in Savannah

Thomas Jefferson

- Circa 1804
- Apparently Thomas Jefferson obtained olive trees for James Couper on St. Simons Island, Ga.
- Shared with Phineas Nightingale on Cumberland Island, Ga.

Washington Mar. 22. 04.

Dear Sir

You remember how anxious I was, when with you at Marseilles, to get the admirable olive of your canton transferred to my own country, and how much trouble you were so kind as to take to effect it. it did not happen that any one of those among whom the plants were distributed took up the plan with the enthusiasm necessary to give it success, and it has failed. Mr. John Couper of St. Simon's island in Georgia now proposes to undertake it; it being led to it by inclination, and a gentleman of property, in the most favorable situation, he will give the culture a fair trial, and I trust it's favorable issue is beyond a doubt. he has been informed of the superior excellence of the olive of Marseilles, and knowing your friendly disposition to our country I have taken the liberty of advising him to address himself to you to put his commission into faithful & careful hands. I ask the favor of you to give such aid to his operations as you can with convenience, and will deem it a great personal obligation rendered myself. Accept for yourself & your respectable family my friendly salutations and assurances of great esteem and consideration.

Th. Jefferson

From Reed Ferguson
6 Bay Tree
St. Simons
Ga.
31522

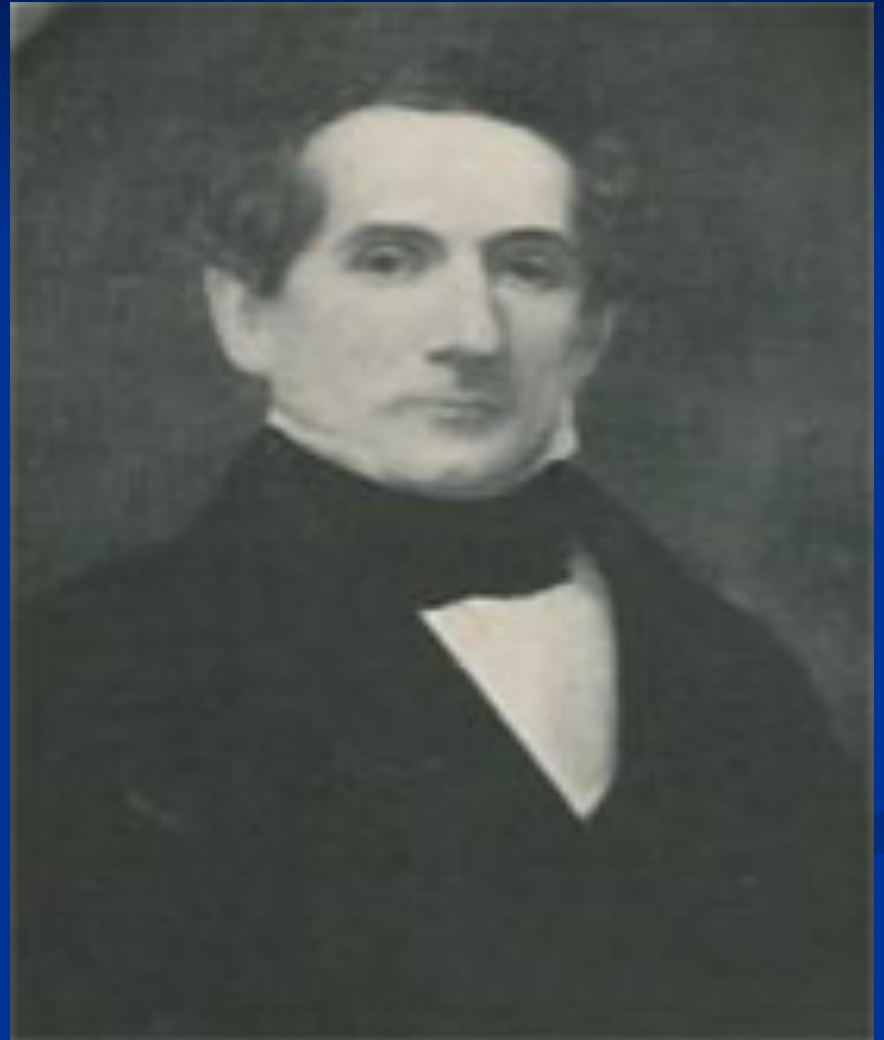
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This letter addressed to

James Hamilton Couper

Also planted 200 trees from Europe on St. Simons in 1825.

Produced both olive oil and table olives



General Nathanael Greene

- Found Spanish olive trees on this plantation on Cumberland Island, Ga. in the 1780's.
- Planted additional groves with trees from France from the Jefferson/Couper connection.



Thomas Spalding

- Imported trees from Italy in 1827
- One of the great agriculture experimenters of the antebellum South
- Produced both oil and table olives



Jefferson Olive? Fruiting on Cumberland Island, Ga. 2010



Jekyll Island Club

- Tree growing near old Marina on Jekyll until late 1970's
- Made good table olives

Sea Island, Ga. 2010

- Numerous olive trees have been planted for ornament purposes
- Appear to be doing well



Questions??