



The Impact of Early Tallahassee Land Sales on the Capital's Development



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Abstract

Land sales played a crucial role in the development of many U.S. cities, including Tallahassee, Florida. The present study examines the impact of early land sales on Tallahassee's development through political, economic, and social lenses. It aims to answer two research questions: (1) How did land sales influence Tallahassee's development, and (2) Why were Georgia and South Carolina banned from purchasing land in early Tallahassee, while other states, such as New York, Louisiana, and Alabama, were not? The study draws on primary and secondary sources to qualitatively analyze the data and answer the research questions. The findings suggest that land sales brought new wealth and economic opportunities to the city, spurring the growth of new industries such as cotton and tobacco production, transportation, and trade. Land sales also contributed to Tallahassee's political power and influence by establishing the city as the capital of Florida. Additionally, land sales led to the development of new social institutions and cultural practices in Tallahassee. However, the study is inconclusive about the exact reasons why Georgia and South Carolina were excluded from purchasing land in Tallahassee. The study's limitations include its reliance on historical records that may not be fully comprehensive or accurate. Additionally, the impacts of land sales on different groups and communities may not have been uniformly positive. Future research could examine potential reasons for the exclusion of Georgia and South Carolina from land sales, including political tensions, currency stability concerns, historical and cultural factors, and economic and political interests.

Keywords: Tallahassee, early Tallahassee, Tallahassee history, Tallahassee development, Florida capital, Tallahassee land sales, land sales, early Tallahassee economy, early Tallahassee politics, early Tallahassee society, Florida, frontier Florida

Research Questions

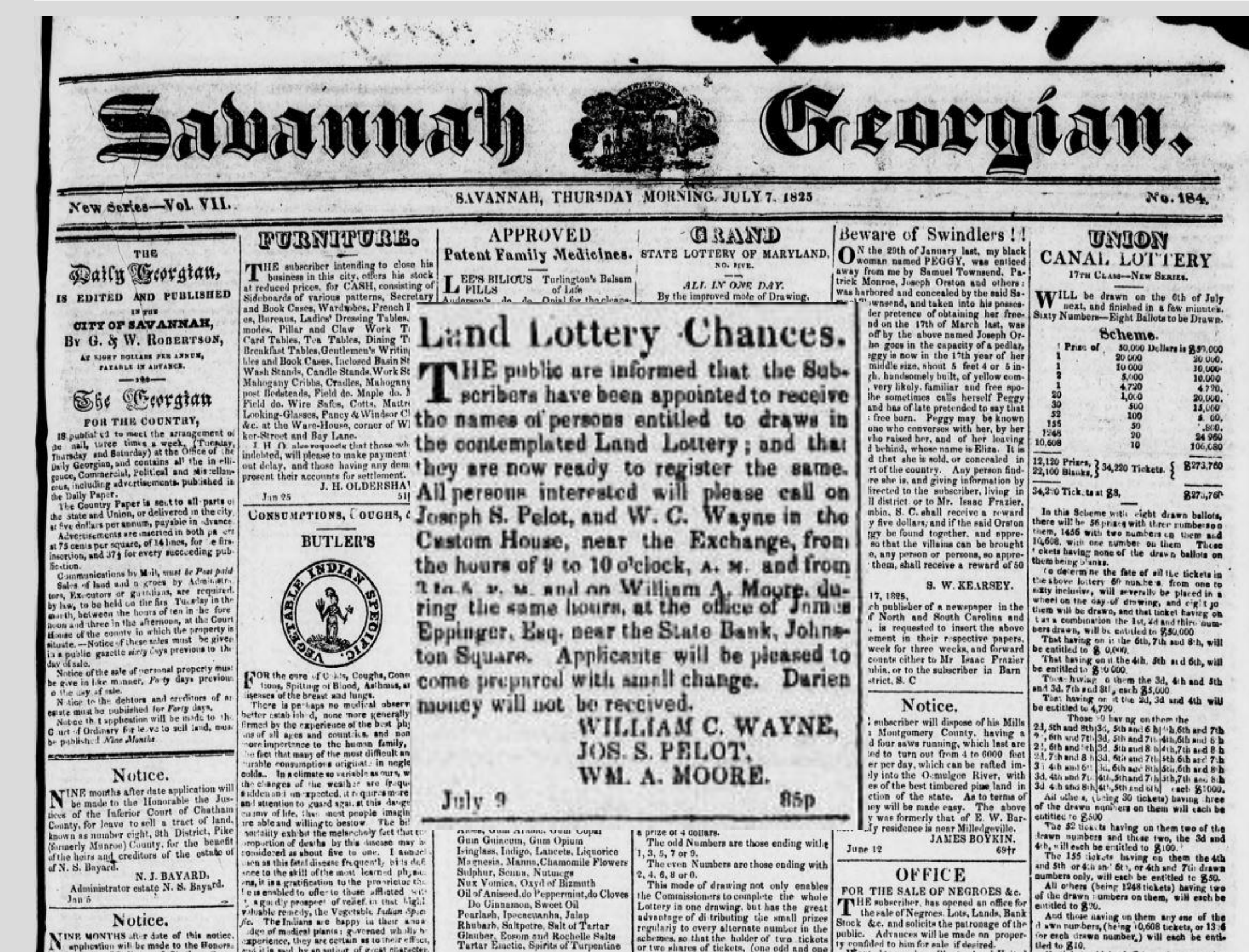
- Q1:** How have land sales in early Tallahassee influenced its development, including any political, economic and social changes?
- Q2:** Why were the states of Georgia and South Carolina, and their banks, banned from purchasing land in early Tallahassee, while other states, such as New York, Louisiana, and Alabama, were not?

Methods

Primary sources: Photographs, laws, government documents, letters, newspaper and magazine articles

Secondary sources: Scholarly journal articles, books, encyclopedia entries

- Data for this project was obtained by analyzing a variety of primary sources and secondary sources
- These sources were used to gain a better understanding of the history of early Tallahassee
- This information was subsequently used to address more specific research questions, specifically concerning land sales in territorial Tallahassee
- The collected information about early Tallahassee land sales was related to the political, economic, and social developments in the capital at the time
- The information obtained from all sources, qualitative in nature, was used to attempt to answer the two research questions



"Sir, in payment for land [around Tallahassee] you are authorized to receive bills from the banks of the United States and its branches, the notes of the incorporated banks in the cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Richmond, and of the specie paying banks in the states of Louisiana and Alabama" - Samuel L. Southard, Acting Secretary of the Treasury



Results

The sale of land in Early Tallahassee...

Economic Impact

- Brought new wealth and economic opportunities to the city and its residents, including land speculators, farmers, and business owners
- Spurred the growth of new industries, such as cotton and tobacco production, as well as transportation and trade
- Contributed to the growth of Tallahassee's real estate market and property values, which had ripple effects on the local economy and social structure (Groene, 1981)

Political Impact

- Was part of the U.S. government's broader efforts to expand westward and settle new territories, which had significant political implications
- Spurred the growth of local government and political institutions, as well as new political movements and organizations due to the influx of settlers and new businesses
- Helped establish Tallahassee as the capital of Florida in 1824, which brought significant political power and influence to the city

Social Impact

- Brought new settlers to the area, including white settlers and enslaved people, which had significant social consequences
- Led to the development of new social institutions and cultural practices in Tallahassee, such as churches, schools, and social clubs
- Contributed to the growth of a new middle class in Tallahassee, which had significant impacts on social stratification and cultural practices

- In June 1825, Acting Secretary of the Treasury Samuel L. Southard issued a directive to the receiver of public money in Tallahassee stating that payments for public lands in that area would be accepted in the bills of certain banks, but not in the bills of Georgia or South Carolina's specie-paying banks
- The reason for the exclusion is not clear, but it may have been due to concerns about the stability or reliability of Georgia and South Carolina's currencies at the time
- The United States was still using a system of multiple currencies issued by various banks in the early 19th century (Gouge, 1833) and there were frequent concerns about the reliability and stability of these currencies and the banks that issued them
- Banks at the time were not as heavily regulated as they are today, and there were frequent bank failures, counterfeiting, and other issues that could affect the value of a bank's notes or bill
- Without more specific information about the context and factors involved, it's difficult to say for certain why Georgia and South Carolina's specie-paying banks were excluded from payment for land in the Tallahassee area in 1825

Conclusion

Discussion

- In the early 1820s, the U.S. government sold public lands in Tallahassee, Florida, as part of a broader effort to expand westward and settle new territories
- Why the states of Georgia and South Carolina were banned, unfortunately, remains unclear
- The land sales had significant political, economic, and social impacts on Tallahassee and its surrounding areas
- The land sales brought new settlers and businesses to Tallahassee, contributing to the growth of local government, political institutions, and new social and cultural practices
- The land sales also created new economic opportunities, including the growth of new industries and a booming real estate market, which had ripple effects on the local economy and social structure

Limitations

- The findings are based on historical records and may not be fully comprehensive or accurate
- The impacts of the land sales may have varied across different groups and communities in Tallahassee, and may not have been uniformly positive
- The findings do not take into account the broader historical context of U.S. westward expansion and settlement, which had complex and multifaceted impacts on Native American communities and the environment

Future Direction

- Future studies could examine political tensions, concerns about currency stability, historical and cultural factors, and economic and political interests as potential reasons for Georgia and South Carolina's exclusion from the land sales
- Methods for examining these factors could include archival research, expert interviews, and statistical analyses.
- Future studies could also examine the broader context of westward expansion and settlement, particularly with regard to Native American communities and the environment
- Comparing the impacts of land sales in Tallahassee with those in other regions of the U.S. could provide further insights into the patterns and differences in the processes and impacts of settlement

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