

## **Dr. Andrew Turnbull's New Smyrnea Establishment was a COLONY.**

The Turnbull colony was a formal endeavor under British law, with its foundation and operation outlined by royal proclamation. Established with 1,403 individuals, it was designed as a large, permanent colony with incentives for growth. Operating directly under British authority within the legal framework of a colony, its indentured servants were entitled to all the privileges and protections of British citizens. However, attaining these rights was nearly impossible, as the courts and judges were 70 miles away in St. Augustine. While some may regard the Turnbull colony as a 'multicultural settlement,' it essentially mirrored traditional colonies of the era, tied closely to Britain's economic interests in producing cash crops for export and exploiting natural resources. Viewing New Smyrna as more self-sustaining or less tied to British economic interests might lead some to classify it as a settlement. However, self-sustaining crops at the Turnbull plantation were secondary to, and most importantly, aimed at providing goods for the Mother Country. Its function extended far beyond that of a mere settlement.

Using the term "settlement" to describe the Turnbull colony minimizes the scope and significance of the venture, possibly reflecting an underestimation of its role within the broader spectrum of British colonial efforts. A preference for the term 'settlement' over 'colony' may reveal contemporary biases and perspectives.

The debate between calling Turnbull's plantation a colony versus a settlement reflects the complexities of historical interpretation and the nuanced understanding of the past. Each term carries its own connotations and implications, influencing how the history of such endeavors is understood and remembered.

British writers and others might not want to acknowledge that the largest colony founded during the colonial era consisted of Minorcans who were living under the British flag in Minorca in 1768 when they set sail for America. Due to the Turnbull colony's failure in 1777 for various reasons, some historians might prefer to label the colony as a settlement, perhaps because it did not succeed. However, most of the narratives I have read properly refer to Turnbull's enterprise in New Smyrnea as a colony.

One of the strongest pieces of evidence proving it was a colony is Carita Doggett, his third, fourth, or fifth great-granddaughter, chose the title of her book to be, "Dr. Andrew Turnbull and the New Smyrna Colony of Florida."

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## **CONFIRMATION NEW SMYRNEA WAS A COLONY.**

Dr. Andrew Turnbull wrote his inaugural letter regarding the Turnbull colony a full two years before the final vessels carrying Minorcan colonists arrived in St. Augustine and then at New Smyrna. The 1,403 Minorcan, Greek, and Italian colonists who voyaged across the Atlantic Ocean for 70 days in 1768 represented the largest single British colonial endeavor in America during the colonial period. These brave individuals, contracted as indentured servants within Turnbull's colony, unequivocally qualify as colonists—a status that is indisputable.

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to James Grant, Governor of British East Florida (1764-1771).  
[London], Circa July 1766

“I acquainted your Excellency some months ago that I had then solicited an order for a grant of land in your Province under your government. I obtained that order last month, and am now preparing to depart for Charlestown in the beginning of September at farthest. I flatter myself of being in St. Augustine in November, and I bring my family with me, not doubting but that the soil and climate of East Florida will encourage me to continue in the intention. I mentioned before to your Excellency of settling a Greek **colony** in that Province. I cannot omit mentioning that I have the greatest satisfaction imaginable in being assured by your friends here that no protection, assistance, and advice will be wanting on your part to promote this affair.

Your Excellency's  
Most obedient and  
Most humble Servant,  
Andrew Turnbull  
James Grant Papers, Roll 18, File 469-471

A sample of books and articles affirming New Smyrna was a **colony**.

*Dr. Andrew Turnbull and the New Smyrna **Colony** of Florida*-Carita Doggett. ISBN: 1611530261, the title of Dr. Turnbull's direct descendant recognizes the Minorcan were colonists in a colony.

*Minorcans in Florida: Their History and Heritage*-Jane Quinn- Library of Congress Catalog Number 75-6573 - page 24, “Maria Turnbull encouraged her husband to take along Roman Catholic priests. The British governor went at the obvious breach of official instructions in loading ships with Catholic settlers bound for a British **colony**, where their religious practices would be held against them. “ Colony and colonists mentioned other times in this book.

*Fromajadas and Indigo-The Minorcan **Colony** in Florida*- Kenneth H. Beeson Jr. Page 32, ISBN 1.59629.113.3 “Now that he had land in East Florida, Doctor Turnbull began in earnest to make preparations for the formation of his **colony**.”

*New Smyrna An Eighteenth Century Greek Odyssey by Panagopoulos* - E.P. Panagopoulos, Library of Congress Catalog Number 66-29456 – Page 1 “ it was a British **colonial** enterprise of great magnitude.”

*The Background of the Greek Settlers in the New Smyrna Colony*- E. P. Panagopoulos - Florida Historical Quarterly-Number 2-Florida Historical Quarterly 1956. Page 1, “Andrew Turnbull, the principal founder of

the New Smyrna **Colony**, was not the first who thought of bringing Greeks to people Florida.” The word **colony** is used 44 times in this article.

*The Minorcans of Florida, Their History, Language and Culture*- Philip D. Rasico- ISBN 1-877633-05-4- Chapter Three, Page 36- The New Smyrna **Colony**.

*Stories of Old St. Augustine by Elizabeth Edwards*-St. Augustine Historical Society 1971 – Page 8, “In spite of all sorts of difficulties, Father Camps held his flock together and ministered to their spiritual needs with devotion and courage, but things were going from bad to worse in the Turnbull **colony**.”

*Archaeology of the New Smyrna **Colony***, Produced for the City of Port Orange, the City of New Smyrna Beach, and Volusia County by Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc.-The title says it all.

*Mullet on the Beach-The Minorcans of Florida 1768-1788* by Patricia C. Griffin-ISBN 0-8130-1074-8. Chapter 3, page 28-A **Colony** Begins.

*St. Augustine’s British Years 1763-1784* by Daniel L. Schafer, ISSN-0014-0376- Chapter Two, Page 16- “Peopling & settling the new Established **Colonies**.”

*True Tales of St. Augustine by Fredrick de Coste*, 1966 - in cooperation with the St. Augustine Historical Society.-Page 53, “Originally, the doctor planned to recruit **colonists** in the Greek Islands, from one of which he had chosen his bride. In her honor, the Florida **colony** was named New Smyrna.”

*Architectural Ruins in New Smyrna Beach*, The Florida Historical Quarterly -- Dot Moore spent more than 30 years working with professional archaeologists and historians, uncovering historic sites and artifacts in New Smyrna. “Dr. Andrew Turnbull, along with a partner, William Duncan, received large land grants from the British government in 1766,” Moore says. Turnbull himself was appointed plantation manager of these, and he had all the responsibilities of recruiting people, hiring people, buying slaves, providing whatever resources that were needed to establish the Smyrnea settlement, as it was called by the British. Dr. Andrew Turnbull, along with a partner, William Duncan, received large land grants from the British government in 1766,” Moore says. “Turnbull himself was appointed plantation manager of these, and he had all the responsibilities of recruiting people, hiring people, buying slaves, providing whatever resources that were needed to establish the Smyrnea settlement, as it was called by the British. Turnbull arranged to bring Greek, Minorcan, and Italian settlers to New Smyrna in 1767. He envisioned a **colony** that would grow cotton and other crops, to trade with Great Britain. The ships carrying the settlers were plagued with rough weather and sickness, and 148 of the 1,403 people aboard died before the ships reached Florida. Turnbull arranged to bring Greek, Minorcan, and Italian settlers to New Smyrna in 1767. He envisioned a **colony** that would grow cotton and other crops, to trade with Great Britain. The ships carrying the settlers were plagued with rough weather and sickness, and 148 of the 1,403 people aboard died before the ships reached Florida.

## Dr. Turnbull Letters defining and affirming New Smyrna as a colony.

Dr. Andrew Turnbull in a letter from London, Circa July 1766, to Governor James Grant writes:  
"I mentioned before to your Excellency of settling a Greek colony in that Province. (**Emp. Added**)

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir William Duncan from St. Augustine, November 26, 1766 writes,  
"I can only see that a Greek colony will be of much more importance both to the Proprietors of Lands here & to the Mother Country than I imagined.

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan, January 21, 1767 writes," I have entered largely into expenses in preparing for our Greek Colony, and have drawn on you this day one bill for 496 pounds sterling, and five bills more for 100 pounds each."

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan, February 1, 1767 writes: "I have purchased and engaged for fourty Negroes, and that two overseers are to be the care of these Negroes, also of the white people which are to be employed building houses and preparing for our Greek Colony.

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Governor James Grant from London, April 7, 1767 writes: "A peopled Province may do very well without a Residence of their officers but a new colony will stand in need of every aid. I think I have heard you say, Sir, that the officers should be obliged to reside in the Province."

Report of the Board of Trade to the Earl of Shelburne upon Doctor Turnbull's Memorial for a Bounty to Greeks imported into East Florida. From Whitehall the Board writes," The ballance of this fund now lying in the agent's hands unappropriated, in eleven hundred pounds; the amount of the bounty will be one thousand pounds; and we submit to your Lordship whether it may not be expedient; that the remaining £100 should be allowed to the first Priest of the Greek Church which shall be established in that colony. "As to Mr. Turnbull's proposal for the disposition of what Parliament may hereafter think expedient to grant for the service of this Colony, We think it will more properly become an object of consideration when the estimate on which any future grant shall be founded shall be directed to be prepared."

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan, from Port Mahon, July 1767, write:" will endeavour to take only those who have such qualifications as are necessary in a new colony. I have these first recruits here under proper care and regulations and I hasten to Turkey for the Greek colonists."

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan, from Minorca, February 21, 1768, writes: "I have sent you three letters since my arrival here, but had not time to acquaint you with the particulars of my voyage into Turkey and the measures I was obliged to take to procure people for our colony, which were, that when I found that the Turks were apprised of my Scheme by the Levant Company's consuls, and that the Priest, engaged to meet me, was stop't by his Patriarch at Constantinople, and consequently could not fulfill his contract with me, I then turned myself to that part of the Peloponnese where the Greeks are not subject to the Turks, who they drove out of their Country fifty years ago, and still maintain their independency." "I beg the favour of my humble respects to Lord Hillsborough with my hearty congratulations on his being appointed Secretary of State for America. I hope our Infant Colony will grow up to Manhood under his Lordship's administration."

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan from Port Mahon, March 16, 1768 writes: ""I think our colony will be worth your while to come and see in two or three years. My colection (sic) is none of the

worst I assure you: being composed of People brought up to Husbandry, and almost all of a proper age. Our young brood also look well.”

Governor James Grant letter to Captain Adam Bachop from St. Augustine, June 22, 1768 write: “The governor instructed Bachop to go Mosquito Inlet to unload provisions for the Turnbull **colony**, and to help disembark the settlers shipped on board the Broughton Island packet and a small schooner under command of James Warner. Dr. Turnbull and the remaining settlers were expected to arrive in other vessels.”

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan, from St. Augustine, June 28, 1768 writes: “As our **colony** is much greater than first intended, I propose to add 20,000 acres of land to first three grants, which 20,000 will be taken up in family plots, so that the whole to be divided at expiration and agreement will be 80,000 acres, one tract extending from the banks of Hillsborough River to those of St. Johns River giving each a front on both. I flatter myself of scheming into your hands very noble estates at the end.”

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan from St. Augustine, July 17, 1768 writes: ““I came here lately from our Plantation to settle accounts with the captains who brought our People from Europe, and also to provide many things wanted for our **colony**. I have begun to fix the families on the banks of the Hillsborough where we have eight miles in front. This will be all settled in farms in a few days. Each family to have about seventy yards in front on the River and to run back to as many acres as the family can cultivate.”

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Governor James Grant from New Smyrna, August 29, 1768 writes: ““Though this affair carries a loss with it, yet I think it a kind of lucky accident to the **colony** for at present it not only clears us of villains but it will keep the others in awe for the future.”

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan from St. Augustine, September 22, 1768 writes: ‘Turnbull argued that great advantage for the **colony** could result from introducing settlers from Southern Europe because it wold bring along “different modes of culture into the province, many of which seem superior to which is generally practiced in America; and we have now a prospect before us of bringing many valuable articles of commerce to market, as cheap if not cheaper than the French and Spaniards.”

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan from Smyrnea, January 8, 1769 writes: “He begged Sir William to keep paying the bills until the **colony** was established. As to his own fate he commented: “as to mine it will be jail.” He predicted that he would be forced to give up everything but that he would still carry on. But if his credit was called in question “the People must starve.”

Dr. Andrew Turnbull to the Earl of Hillsborough from Smyrnea, January 7, 1769 writes: ‘This **colony** needs people or it fails,” Turnbull stated. Roads were also needed, but people were of major importance.”

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan from Smyrnea, January 24, 1769 writes: “I do not mention ovens, smiths, forges, etc. The mending of Tools, and making what cannot be found for present use employs four Smiths of whom we have very good ones, as well as every other trade necessary in a new **colony** which enables us to carry on everything as easily, and with as much regularity as if we had been settled for twenty years.”

Sir Willaim Duncan to Andrew Turnbull from London, August 4, 1769 writes: “In order to save our colony and hinder your bills from being protested, I have exceedingly distressed both Lady Mary and me and ruined all our Schemes of Amusement; and I give you fair warning that I will not accept one bill more after the £300, happen what will. I think I have already advanced 13 or 1400 more than our partner; wherefore if you should want more money at any time for the future, which I scarcely think is possible, you must write to our friend beforehand and persuade him to pay up his share, till that is done I repeat it again, I will not advance one shilling more.

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan from Smyrnea, September 24, 1769 writes: “Turnbull encouraged Duncan to ask Humphreys “anything about this colony.”

Governor James Grant to Andrew Turnbull from St. Augustine, December 14, 1769 writes: ““It was lucky that a bounty was obtained from His Majesty for the support of your colony for this fear that additional charge for provisions would have been discouraging, but if government had not given the money your constituents must have paid the money, or have given up everything which has already been advanced, for as your provision crop failed, if the two thousand had not been thrown in your people must have starved, and as corn is so uncommonly dear in Carolina and Georgia, that money will barely carry you on to next crop.”

The Earl of Hillsborough to Governor James Grant from Whitehall, Dec. 11, 1770 writes: “ “Your despatches No. 38 & 39 have been received and laid before the King & I am very glad to find you have so good hopes that the improvement of the important colony under your government will not be impeded by any real difficulty attending the navigation into its ports. “I am very sensible of the advantage which the public may derive from the success of Dr. Turnbull’s Settlement at New Smyrnea, but as the £2000 which His Majesty was most graciously pleased to grant for that purpose upon a former application from you, was at the time declared to be in consideration of the then distress of that colony and by no means intended to encourage any expectation of a further bounty. I cannot take upon me to authorize any further expence to the public on that account. I will, however, transmit your letter to the Lords of the Treasury and shall be very glad if it shall have the effect to obtain some further bounty in support of so meritorious an undertaking.”

Dr. Andrew Turnbull letter to Sir Willaim Duncan from Smyrnea, May 27, 1771 writes: “He complained that Creek Indians had terrorized his settlers, but that the acting governor, John Moultrie, had refused to send a reinforcement of five soldiers needed at Smyrnea. Moultrie, because he hindered Turnbull’s efforts and diminished his enthusiasm for the colony, “threatens to break the back of this settlement. “This incident, Sir, besides other things which happen daily, convince me that it would be of importance for the protection and safety of this small colony who, being foreigners, are suspected by Indians not to be English....[Turnbull says he suspects that he would be held in high regard by the Indians, and also in high esteem by “his People” were he to be appointed lieutenant governor, showing his] influence in the province or to let his people see that he has power to protect them the worst of which I feel much at present.”