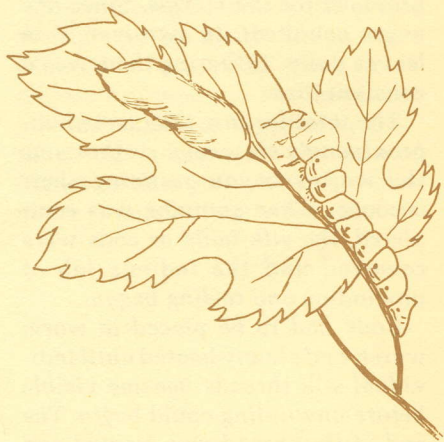


Heavier cocoons were saved in order to produce a new crop of worms the following year.

Oglethorpe took the first silk produced in Georgia to Queen Caroline on a trip to England in 1734. She is said to have expressed her satisfaction "for the beauty and fineness of the silk," and "so early a product from the colony." She had the silk made into a beautiful dress.

In 1741, Georgia's silk crop totaled 600 pounds. To the disappointment of the Trustees, the colony produced only about a thousand pounds of raw silk during their 20-year reign. Most of this was produced by the industrious Salzburgers in Ebenezer rather than the original colonists. Throughout the state's silk-produc-



ing years, the industry was artificially supported by England and could not have survived without subsidies.

The German Salzburgers were the most successful silk producers in the colony. While most colonists became disinterested in production and turned their efforts to the cultivation of rice and other products, the Salzburgers continued for about 20 years longer.

In 1766, they produced 20,000 pounds of cocoons. However, Britain reduced the bounty paid for production and within the next three years raw silk production dropped to 290 pounds. In 1769, production again increased to an average of 450 pounds a year.

During the Revolution, Ebenezer was destroyed by British invaders. This, coupled with the disappearance of British bounties after the colonies declared independence, caused the silk industry to slowly die.

Silk was produced in Georgia as late as 1790. Efforts were made to revive production throughout the 19th century but ended in ultimate failure.