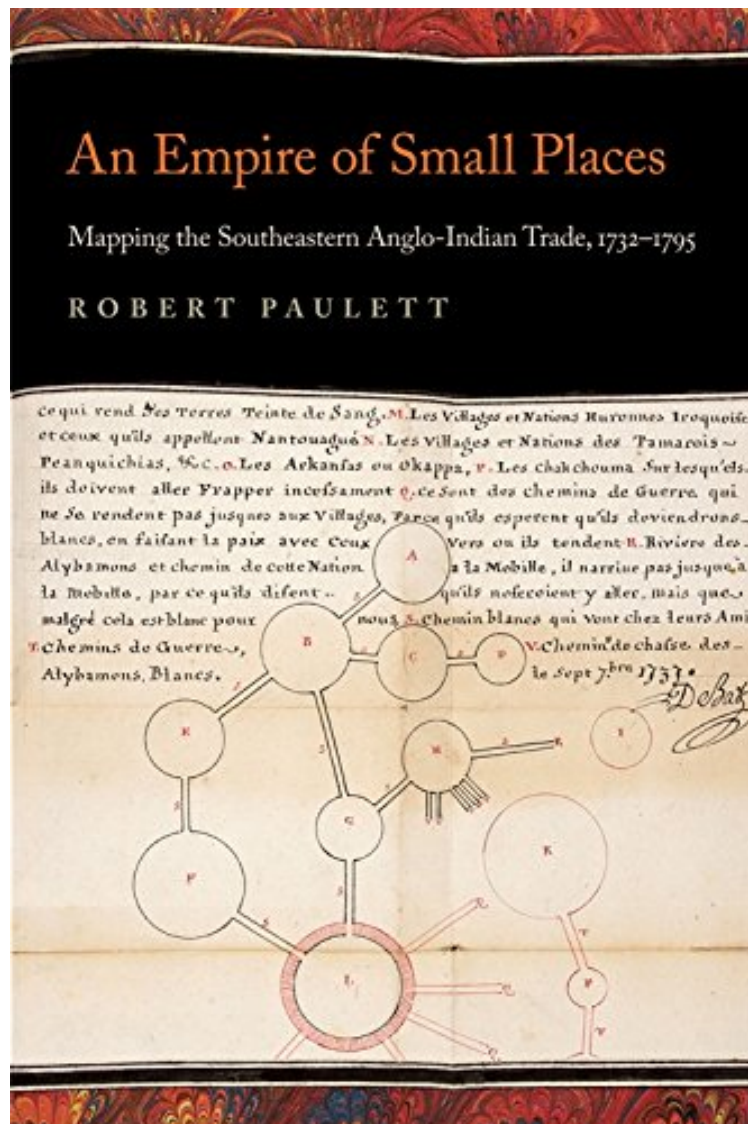


(Free) An Empire of Small Places: Mapping the Southeastern Anglo-Indian Trade, 1732-1795 (Early American Places Ser.)

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Robert Paulett

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Robert Paulett : An Empire of Small Places: Mapping the Southeastern Anglo-Indian Trade, 1732-1795 (Early American Places Ser.) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Empire of Small Places: Mapping the Southeastern Anglo-Indian Trade, 1732-1795 (Early American Places Ser.):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. "Anglo-Creek-Chickasaw trading route"--"1670-1795"By T. phillipsI like this book but feel that the average reader will find it difficult to read. I recommend this book to serious students of Creek and Georgia and Alabama history but not to the casual reader. It is not "light reading", how ever it is professional and well researched.As a long time collector of books of anything related to Creek Indians and early Alabama and Georgia history I ordered this book with great anticipation of seeing maps of trading paths. There are about 10 maps offered in this book but there is one big problem...the maps are not legible. I dont blame this on the author but the printer. Why the University of Ga would print a book with maps one cannot read is beyond me. I recently read the very fine book on Fort Mims by Dr Waselkov and he provided many maps that are highly legible so this proves that good maps can be done by book printers if they want to. It takes some effort.The map on the front of the book, very legible, done by a Chickasaw Indian is a stunning map but there is one problem..its almost impossible to interpret and the author doesn't attempt to interpret it. The wording on it is in French and there is no translation. The author gets a bit caught up in "spatial" concepts about how Indians interpreted and made maps which got beyond my understanding. The author wanders off often into area of "spatial concepts" in history and architecture related to history and even maps and geography but often in mystical ways that lost me.Thus, if you are interested in this book to study trading paths and maps of the time period of 1730s to 1790s-- you will be disappointed as was I.The maps are difficult to read and I was ready to stop reading the book when I discovered this.But hold on there is some good news----- The author has written a fine scholarly book and you really don't need the maps to follow the story. He goes in depth into trading routes especially those of Augusta and the Savannah River.He gets into depth in the people involved and the boats and horses and gives us a good picture of the trading activity going on. He also covers some of the Cherokee trading out of Augusta and wars that develop between the two. He goes into depth into the powerful trading companies and the people involved in them. We find that a dozen or so "Gentlemen of Augusta" traders control the Indian trade who provide a network of spies as well as embassies for the British government with their creek village based stores. This has been covered in other books but he does carry the ball a few yards more down the field.Here is the author's description of the book " I have focused on one segment of the Anglo-Indian deerskin trade within a specific set of years. This book is concerned with those spaces linked by the Anglo-Creek-Chickasaw trading route running from Charles Town up the Savannah River through Augusta, through the Creeks, and finally reaching the Chickasaws"-----"I have devoted the bulk of the study"---"1732 and the American Revolution in 1774" This book focuses on the era from the founding of Savannah by Oglethorpe to the time of the American Revolution and the Anglo-Creek trading routes and patterns and practices that evolve.He interestingly claims that Augusta was formed by Oglethorpe with the express purpose of taking the deer skin trade away from Charles Town and shifting the trade from South Carolina to the new colony of Georgia. Georgia is always the aggressor!!He focuses heavily on the city of Augusta Ga from its founding until it becomes the hub of deerskin trading in the Southeast during most of the latter half of the 18th century. He focuses on the traders who formed large trading houses such as Brown, Rae, McGillivray, (father of the famous Creek Chief Alexander McGillivray) Galphin, and many others in Augusta, Ga. He demonstrates how these traders became a vital link between the British empire and the Indian nations in the Southeast. He digs deeply into the Colonial Record of Georgia and South Carolina and finds all kinds of arcane and interesting tidbits of quotes from traders, travelers,and local officials as well as the British governors. He brings us many colorful eyewitness accounts I have not seen before.He borrows heavily from the well known eye witness accounts of Adair (a Chickasaw trader) and Bartram (a naturalist) which should be required reading for anyone interested in this time period in the Southeast.He cleverly points out that both Adair and Bartram already carved out "civilization plans" for the Indians long before Washington and Jefferson hatch their plans of civilization for the Indian Tribes in the 1790s.The author seems to have a great interest in boats and covers well the subject of boat travel up and down the Savannah River especially as it relates to deer skin trading and as a vital means of communications (oral and written) for both Whites and Blacks. His descriptions of life on the trading trail and on the river are very good as well as his overall overview of the Anglo-Creek trade during the time period.As an aside, the Creek deerskin trade does not die after the Revolution (when this book ends) but shifts to the Pensacola and Mobile area dominated by the giant trading firm of William Panton. As the author states this is outside of his coverage time . There is a wonderful book on the subject of the Panton trading company in Pensacola. See the following:Indian Traders of the Southeastern Spanish Borderlands: Panton, Leslie and Company and John Forbes and Company, 1783-1847by William S. CokerFor someone interested in the general subject of Creek Indians and trading check out authors Braund. Cashin, and Amos J Wright jr.Deerskins and Duffels: The Creek Indian Trade with Anglo-America, 1685-1815 by BraundLachlan McGillivray, Indian Trader: The Shaping of the Southern Colonial Frontier by CashinThe McGillivray and McIntosh Traders by Amos J WrightWilliam Bartram on the Southeastern Indians (Indians of the Southeast) edited by Waselkov and Braund (recent and excellent edited version of Bartram's travels among the Indians in the Southeast)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book, long neededBy Robert Davis Jr.One of many books needed to better understand the Southeast in early American History; it is well written and researched.

Britains colonial empire in southeastern North America relied on the cultivation and maintenance of economic and

political ties with the numerous powerful Indian confederacies of the region. Those ties in turn relied on British traders adapting to Indian ideas of landscape and power. In *An Empire of Small Places*, Robert Paulett examines this interaction over the course of the eighteenth century, drawing attention to the ways that conceptions of space competed, overlapped, and changed. He encourages us to understand the early American South as a landscape made by interactions among American Indians, European Americans, and enslaved African American laborers. Focusing especially on the Anglo-Creek-Chickasaw route that ran from the coast through Augusta to present-day Mississippi and Tennessee, Paulett finds that the deerskin trade produced a sense of spatial and human relationships that did not easily fit into Britain's imperial ideas and thus forced the British to consciously articulate what made for a proper realm. He develops this argument in chapters about five specific kinds of places: the imagined spaces of British maps and the lived spaces of the Savannah River, the town of Augusta, traders' paths, and trading houses. In each case, the trades' practical demands privileged Indian, African, and nonelite European attitudes toward place. After the Revolution, the new United States created a different model for the Southeast that sought to establish a new system of Indian-white relationships oriented around individual neighborhoods.

This is an important and insightful analysis of the development of colonial Augusta, the Indian trade, and the geography of the Southeast. Paulett convincingly demonstrates how the region was transformed geographically from a world where Natives and newcomers understood that they were interconnected by a series of paths to one where they believed they lived in discrete neighborhoods. This ideological and physical transformation has tremendous explanatory value and will be of interest to historians of the early South, Native Americans, urban America, and the frontier in general. (Andrew K. Frank author of *Creeks and Southerners: Biculturalism on the Early American Frontier*) In this interesting and engaging book, Paulett contributes to important conversations about eighteenth-century colonialism and Indian-European relations. (Joshua Piker author of *Okfuskee: A Creek Indian Town in Colonial America*) [Robert Paulett] encourages us to understand the early American South as a landscape made by interactions among American Indians, European Americans, and enslaved African American laborers. (Bob Edmonds McCormick *Messenger*) Robert Paulett has given us a refreshing consideration of life in the eighteenth-century deerskin trade. His focus on disparate groups occupying the same arena but living different experiences challenges us to reimagine the complexities of life among multiple cultures and changing landscapes. . . . [H]is work adds new information and a different perspective to studies of the American South. (Sarah H. Hill *Southern Spaces*) The blend of geography, history, and social observation makes for a fine survey examining Britain's colonial empire in North America and its economic and political ties with various Indian nations. (Midwest Book) Any scholar of the colonial South, particularly those interested in Indians and slavery, will want to add this title to her or his bookshelf. (Lisa L. Crutchfield *South Carolina Historical Magazine*) About the Author Robert Paulett is an assistant professor of history at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.