

Tomochichi & Trahlyta: Fact vs. Legend

History is made up of stories, some based in fact, some come from legend, and others are combination of the two.

A **fact** is a “thing that is known or proved to be true.” There is evidence that supports the story.

A **legend** is a traditional story told about a particular place or person, and can include elements of folklore, mythology or explanations for natural occurrences.

Let's explore how fact and legend impact two well-known Georgia stories - Yamacraw leader, Tomochichi, and Cherokee princess, Trahlyta.

Tomochichi

What do we know about Tomochichi? Where do the stories come from? Investigate these sources to learn about Tomochichi.

Primary Sources

[Image of Tomochichi and Toonahowi](#)

[Monument to Tomochichi](#)

[1733 The Pennsylvania Gazette](#)

Secondary Sources

[Brief Biography of Tomochichi](#)

[Today in Georgia History: Tomochichi](#)

[Marker Monday: Tomo-Chi-Chi's Grave](#)



Based on these sources, what did you learn about Tomochichi and his role in the early days of the Georgia colony?

Trahlyta

What do we know about Trahlyta? Where do the stories come from?
Investigate these sources about Trahlyta

Primary Sources

Cultural Resources
Survey - University of
Georgia

Secondary Sources

Marker Monday:
Trahlyta's Grave

Based on these sources, what did you learn about Trahlyta and her role in history?

Questions to consider:

1. Why do you think there are more sources about Tomochichi than Trahlyta?
2. Were there any primary sources that verified Trahlyta was an actual person?
3. Why do you think the legend might have been created? Is it similar to any other legends you know?

Compare & contrast the stone markers for Tomochichi's and Trahlyta's graves.
What are the similarities? What are the differences?



Tomochichi's stone marker is located in Wright Square in Savannah, GA. The original marker was a pyramid of stones. In 1899, this stone marker was placed by the Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America.



The stone pile commemorating Trahlyta is located in a traffic circle at the intersection of US19 and State Road 60 in Dahlgonega, GA. This is also known as Stone Pile Gap. The stones are added by visitors and passers-by.