

# The Early Settlement of North Carolina

## Chapter Preview

### Terms:

neck, Lord Proprietor, customs duty, quit-rent, General Assembly, Navigation Acts, Culpeper's Rebellion, refugee, naval stores, royal colony, boycott, Granville District, French and Indian War, backcountry, prairie, girdling, gristmill, toll, appropriate, Regulator, extortion, militia

### People:

George Durant, Quakers, Thomas Miller, Thomas Eastchurch, Seth Sothel, John Archdale, Huguenots, Anglicans, Thomas Cary, Maurice Moore, George Burrington, Gabriel Johnston, Arthur Dobbs, Scots-Irish, Germans, Moravians, Highland Scots, Herman Husband, Alexander Craighhead, David Caldwell, William Tryon, Edmund Fanning, Josiah Martin

### Places:

Albemarle, Carolina, Great Dismal Swamp, Pamlico, Bath, New Bern, Cape Fear, Fort Dobbs, Halifax, Hillsborough, Salisbury, Wachovia, Edenton, Alamance Creek

George and Ann Marwood Durant were the most notable first settlers of what became North Carolina. The Durant house was more than a family farm. It was also a tavern and a store, and host to some of the first significant political events in our early history. So important were the Durants to the founding of North Carolina that each new governor is given the chance to take the oath of office on the Durant Family Bible. In January of 2013, Governor Pat McCrory included this historic book among the stack of Bibles on which he took the oath of office.

George Durant was a man of many talents. He often referred to himself as a "mariner." He was frequently at sea, carrying to market the goods he and his neighbors grew. He farmed as well and held a variety of public offices—including speaker of the Assembly and attorney general.



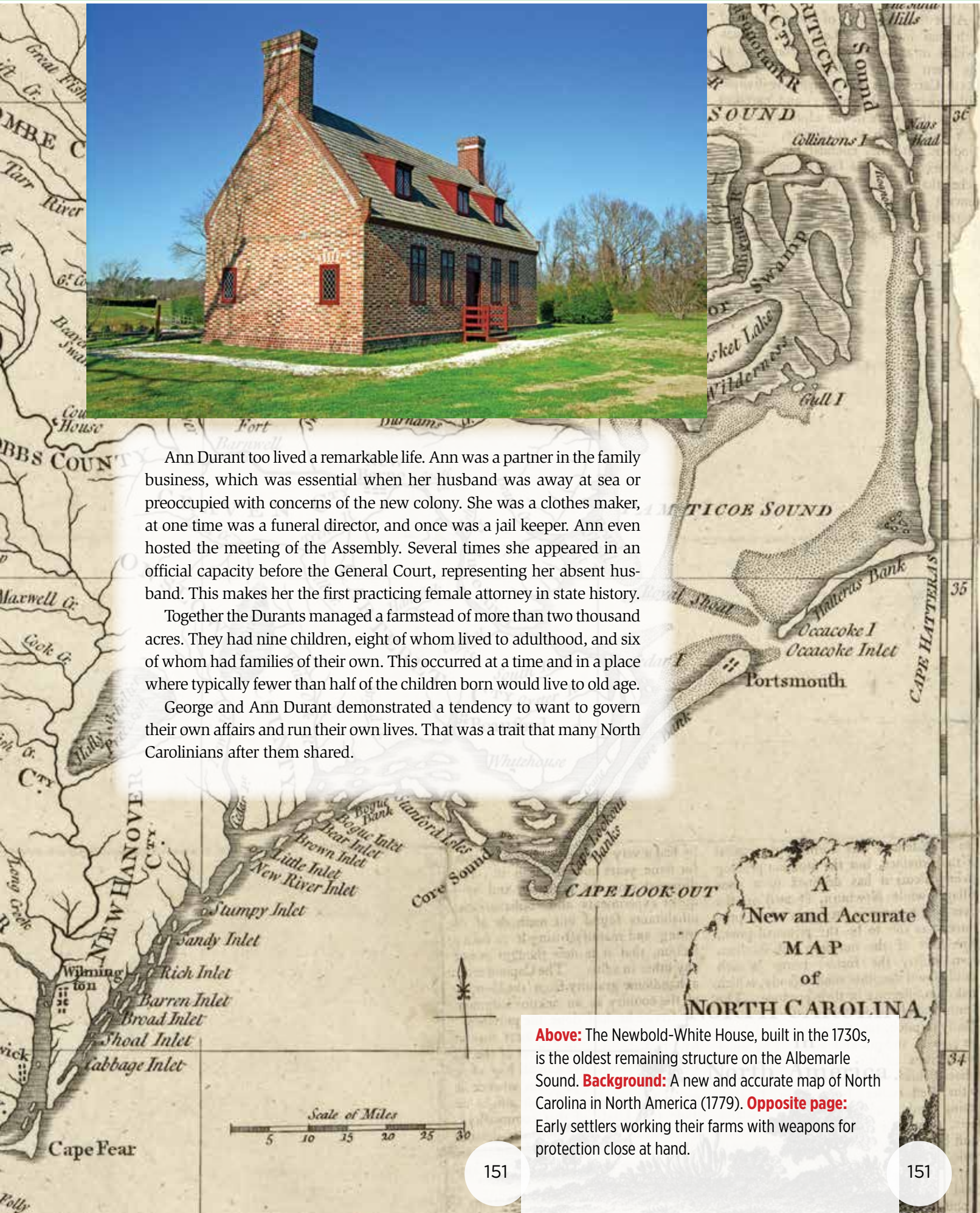




Ann Durant too lived a remarkable life. Ann was a partner in the family business, which was essential when her husband was away at sea or preoccupied with concerns of the new colony. She was a clothes maker, at one time was a funeral director, and once was a jail keeper. Ann even hosted the meeting of the Assembly. Several times she appeared in an official capacity before the General Court, representing her absent husband. This makes her the first practicing female attorney in state history.

Together the Durants managed a farmstead of more than two thousand acres. They had nine children, eight of whom lived to adulthood, and six of whom had families of their own. This occurred at a time and in a place where typically fewer than half of the children born would live to old age.

George and Ann Durant demonstrated a tendency to want to govern their own affairs and run their own lives. That was a trait that many North Carolinians after them shared.



**Above:** The Newbold-White House, built in the 1730s, is the oldest remaining structure on the Albemarle Sound. **Background:** A new and accurate map of North Carolina in North America (1779). **Opposite page:** Early settlers working their farms with weapons for protection close at hand.



# Signs of the Times



## Science and Technology

Sir Isaac Newton developed the reflecting telescope around 1668, soon after the Lords Proprietors received the Carolina Charter. In 1752, Benjamin Franklin's kite experiment proved that lightning was electricity. Because of Franklin's fame, a prominent city street in Chapel Hill was named after him.

## Books

Soon after John Lawson became the first North Carolinian to publish a book, England in 1709 adopted the first copyright law. The law was designed to make sure that a publisher could not steal an author's work. Lawson never benefited from the law. Native Americans executed him in 1711 because his book had encouraged whites to settle on their land.

## Everyday Life

English-speaking people gained new household items during the Proprietary period: minute hands on clocks and watches (1670), checks for holders of bank accounts (1681), toilet commodes (1700), and mercury thermometers (1714).

## Music

During the Proprietary period, Europeans created new instruments like the bassoon, oboe, clarinet, slide trombone, and piano. What North Carolinians would come to know as classical music was at its peak in the Royal period. George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*, completed in 1741, later became a favorite event in North Carolina churches, including Duke University Chapel.

## Religion

The thirteen colonies were caught up in a religious revival known as the Great Awakening. From this movement came the Methodist and Baptist denominations. George Whitefield, the leading minister of the movement, would inspire renowned North Carolina preacher, Billy Graham.

## Education

The Great Awakening created a need for ministers. The College of New Jersey, created by Presbyterians in Princeton, became the college of choice for new settlers in the Carolina backcountry. Princeton graduates became the leading educators of early North Carolina.

## Population

Before it became a royal colony, North Carolina was the slowest growing of the thirteen colonies. Afterward, it was the fastest. The population was 50,000 in 1730. It doubled by 1750, then doubled again by 1770.



**Figure 5.1**

**Timeline**  
1660-1775



1660

1663 - Carolina Charter

1669 - Fundamental Constitutions

1673 - Culpeper's Rebellion

Charles II restored to the English throne - 1660

1680

Colony of Pennsylvania founded - 1681

William and Mary became joint English monarchs - 1689

1700

1701 - Law passed establishing Anglican Church

1704 - Test Act

1705 - Bath founded

1711 - Tuscarora War; New Bern founded

1712 - Carolina officially split into two colonies

Anne, sister of Queen Mary, became English queen - 1702

United Kingdom of Great Britain formed (England, Wales, Scotland) - 1707

George I became British king - 1714

1720

1729 - North Carolina became a royal colony

Colony of Georgia founded - 1732

1740

1744 - Granville District granted

1752 - Moravians arrived in colony

Captain Vitus Bering discovered Alaska - 1741

French and Indian War began - 1754

1760

1762 - Charlotte founded

1770 - Tryon Palace completed

1771 - Battle of Alamance

French and Indian War ended - 1763

1780

**Top:** The original Carolina Charter of 1663 is housed at the State Archives building in Raleigh. **Bottom:** Montcalm trying to stop Native Americans from attacking British soldiers and civilians as they leave Fort William Mchenry.



## Section 1

# Early Settlement and Proprietorship



**Above:** The colonial people's daily life back then was not like our daily life now. They had to sew their own clothes and hunt for their own food. **Below:** The Perquimans River bounds Durant's Neck on the west. In the distance is the Albemarle Sound.

## As you read, look for

- ▶ why early settlers became known as “rogues”;
- ▶ how the Lords Proprietors came to possess the Carolina colony;
- ▶ the lifestyle of the early settlers;
- ▶ conflict and rebellion in the colony;
- ▶ **terms: neck, Lord Proprietor, customs duty, quit-rent, General Assembly, Navigation Acts, Culpeper's Rebellion.**

Setting a Purpose

One of the more unusual places to live in North Carolina is on a **neck** (a peninsula located only in the northeastern corner of the state). It was in these *peninsulas* (where land is surrounded on three sides by water) on the northern shore of the Albemarle Sound that the colony of Carolina had its origins.

From the 1650s to the early 1700s, the people of the Albemarle made homes for themselves, fought over who would rule them, and developed some *feisty* (not afraid to fight or argue) attitudes about government and authority. Beginning in 1663, the Carolina colony was owned by English aristocrats called the **Lords Proprietors**. The Proprietors and their colonists seldom got along.

## Settlers from the North

After the failure of the Roanoke colony, the English waited until 1607 to establish their first permanent base in the New World, at Jamestown. A prosperous, tobacco-growing colony of Virginia grew up around the James River. Few settlers came south into “Carolina” (the name given the former Roanoke colony). Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay was deeper and easier to navigate than the shallow Roanoke Sound. The overland way to Carolina was hindered by the Great Dismal Swamp—a stretch of cypress, cedar, and standing water that extended more than thirty miles along the eventual border between the colonies of Virginia and Carolina.





Profits to be made from tobacco eventually spurred interest in lands below the Dismal Swamp. Tobacco severely *leached* (pulled the nutrients out of) the Virginia soil. After seven years, a field had to be abandoned. Farmers were always looking for more land. In 1622, a Virginia official, John Pory, waded through the swamp and went all the way to the “South River Chawonock some sixtie miles” where he found “a Very fruitful and pleasant Countrie.”

In 1629, King Charles I gave a patent, or royal permission to use, a large tract of land south of the Dismal to his attorney general, Sir Robert Heath. The Heath patent went unused, as Englishmen concentrated their efforts on the lands of the Chesapeake.

By the 1650s, the best Virginia lands had been taken, and tobacco prices had fallen. George Durant and others looked to the Albemarle, hoping they could grow more tobacco there with less effort and expense. Sometime in the 1650s, Durant and his partners in trade with the Indians, Virginians Richard and Nathaniel Batts, explored the area. Richard stuck to the sea, while Nathaniel and George took out some of the earliest deeds in the area, in 1660 and 1661. Durant and his neighbors were also speculating on land, buying land in the hopes that prices would rise.



## Carolina “Rogues”

Available land wasn’t the only reason the Albemarle Sound beckoned new settlers. Tax evasion, or the attempt to avoid paying taxes, was another enticement. A lucrative tax on tobacco, collected as **customs duties** (fees paid when a good was shipped out of a port), had become a means for England to support its New World colonies. Virginians were constantly watched to make sure they paid their taxes. The first settlers to the Albemarle developed a reputation for being “rogues” (cheaters), because they often shipped their tobacco and other products through back channels without paying the tax collector.

Someone like George Durant could make a profit by growing his own tobacco and buying up his neighbors’, then arranging to ship the tobacco on small boats that came down the coast from New England. Unlike the large English ships that sailed the Chesapeake, these Yankee sailing vessels could cross the shallow sounds, then head back north along the edge of the Gulf Stream with small cargoes of tobacco, corn, and wheat. A Boston merchant could combine several boatloads of produce into a larger shipload that would bring a profit in England.

For several years, the Durants and their neighbors did well, and others joined them. Their success was helped by the uncertain status of their property. Were they part of Virginia or part of the new colony of Carolina? It would take years to decide the matter, and the contentious character of the colony would be established.

**Top:** Sir Robert Heath was not able to plant a colony in Carolina. In 1638, Heath gave the patent to Henry, Lord Maltravers. He too could not settle a colony in Carolina. During the 1640s and 1650s, unrest in England put a stop to colonizing efforts.



# special Feature

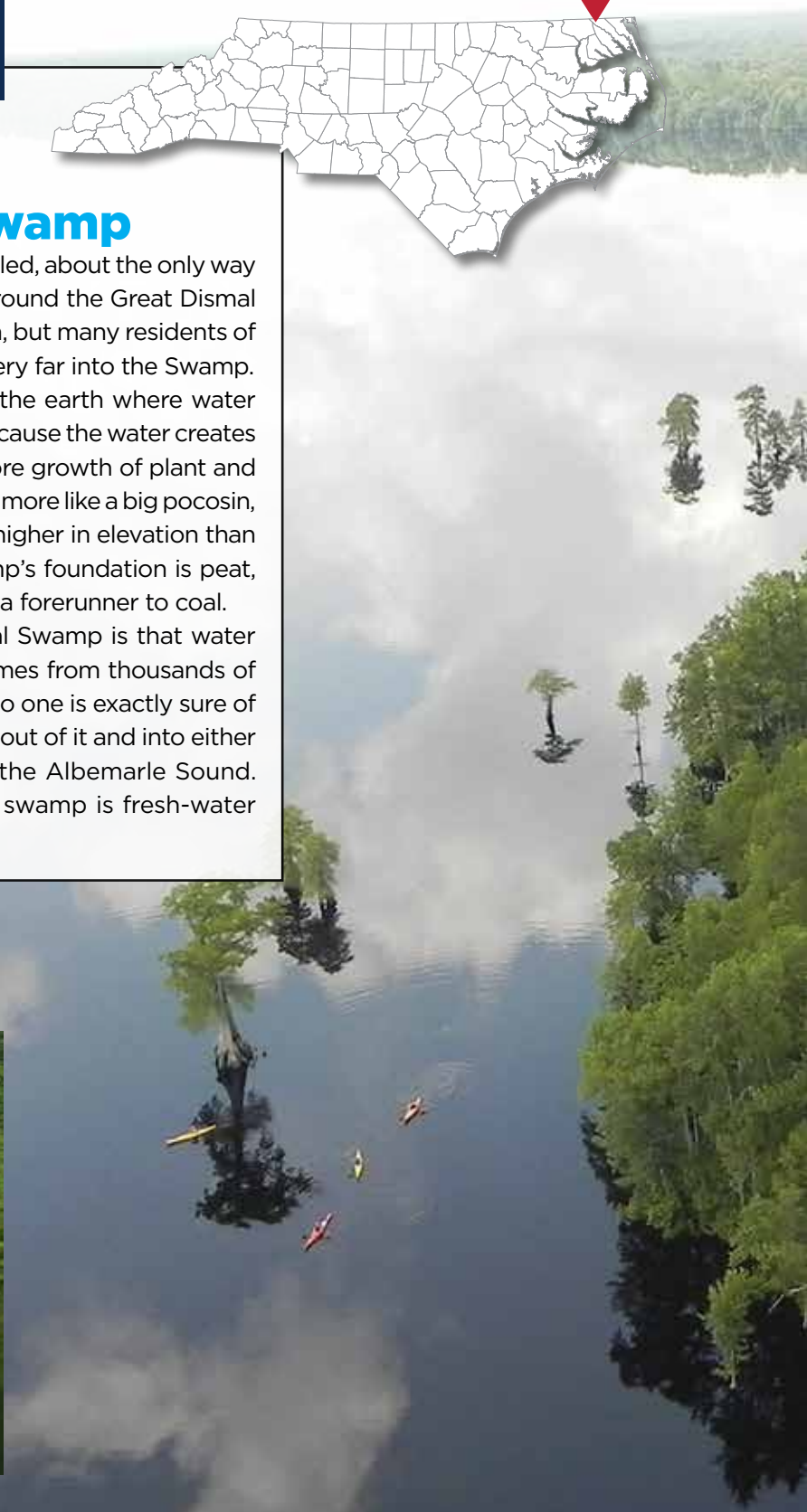


## Carolina Places The Great Dismal Swamp

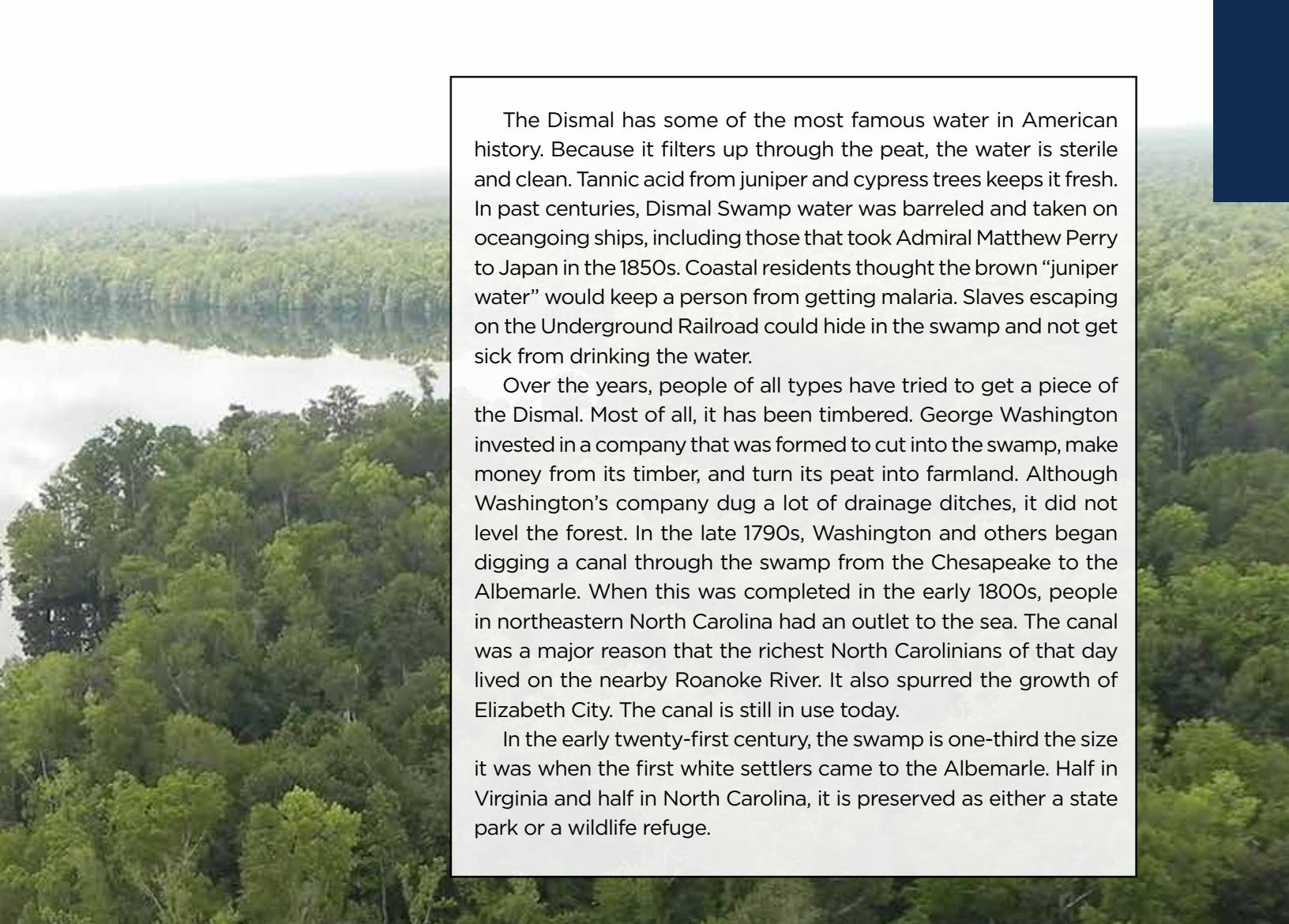
When the Albemarle area was being settled, about the only way to reach it by land was to go through or around the Great Dismal Swamp. The place was lush with vegetation, but many residents of the early Albemarle were afraid of going very far into the Swamp.

A typical swamp is a low-lying part of the earth where water stands much of the year. It stays swampy because the water creates muck in the earth, which in turn fosters more growth of plant and animal life. The Dismal Swamp, in contrast, is more like a big pocosin, a “swamp on a hill.” The Dismal is actually higher in elevation than the surrounding Tidewater area. The swamp’s foundation is peat, a spongy form of decayed plant life that is a forerunner to coal.

What is really strange about the Dismal Swamp is that water flows out of it, but not into it. Its water comes from thousands of springs that rise up through the peat, but no one is exactly sure of the springs’ source. Seven short rivers flow out of it and into either the Chesapeake Bay or the Albemarle Sound. Near the middle of the swamp is fresh-water Lake Drummond.







The Dismal has some of the most famous water in American history. Because it filters up through the peat, the water is sterile and clean. Tannic acid from juniper and cypress trees keeps it fresh. In past centuries, Dismal Swamp water was barreled and taken on oceangoing ships, including those that took Admiral Matthew Perry to Japan in the 1850s. Coastal residents thought the brown “juniper water” would keep a person from getting malaria. Slaves escaping on the Underground Railroad could hide in the swamp and not get sick from drinking the water.

Over the years, people of all types have tried to get a piece of the Dismal. Most of all, it has been timbered. George Washington invested in a company that was formed to cut into the swamp, make money from its timber, and turn its peat into farmland. Although Washington’s company dug a lot of drainage ditches, it did not level the forest. In the late 1790s, Washington and others began digging a canal through the swamp from the Chesapeake to the Albemarle. When this was completed in the early 1800s, people in northeastern North Carolina had an outlet to the sea. The canal was a major reason that the richest North Carolinians of that day lived on the nearby Roanoke River. It also spurred the growth of Elizabeth City. The canal is still in use today.

In the early twenty-first century, the swamp is one-third the size it was when the first white settlers came to the Albemarle. Half in Virginia and half in North Carolina, it is preserved as either a state park or a wildlife refuge.





## The Carolina Charter

Every one of Great Britain's American colonies was eventually organized by a charter, a contract granted by the king to individuals or groups who were to be in charge of settlement and then govern the settlers. Virginia was established through a charter to the London Company, which established Jamestown in 1607 hoping for financial profit.

Despite the popularity of tobacco, early Virginia did not succeed, so the company sold its interest back to the king in 1622. These legal transactions canceled out the old rights to Roanoke held by the Raleigh interests. Thus, the Durants and others on the Albemarle still lived in Virginia.

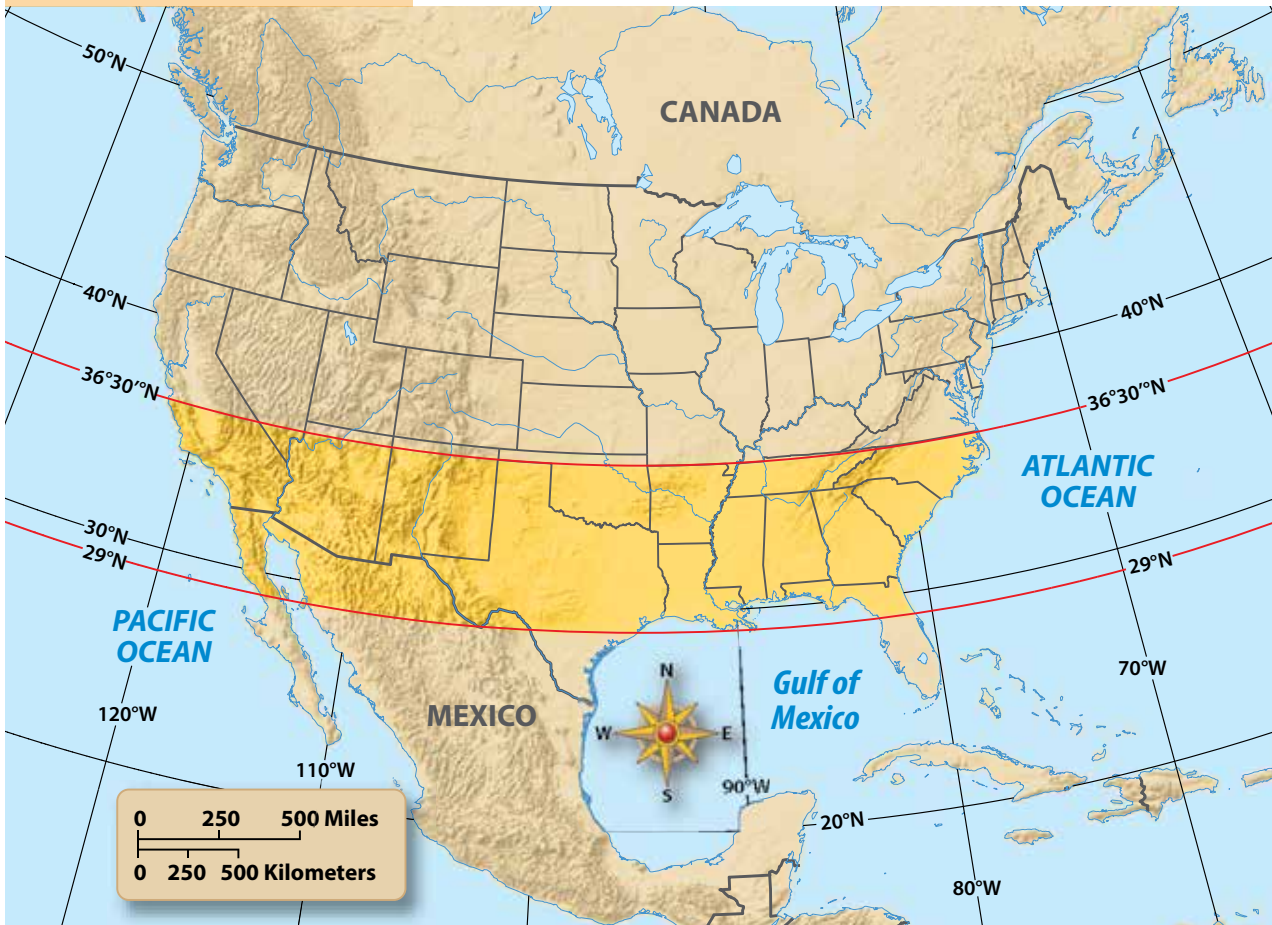
In 1663, King Charles II of England created the new Carolina colony. Charles II's father, Charles I, had been executed during a long civil war in which the monarchy was abolished. Charles II was "restored" to the throne in 1660. The new king owed favors to those who had put him back in charge, so he gave a group of English aristocrats the southern part of Virginia.

On March 24, 1663, eight Lords Proprietors received the Carolina Charter. In 1665, the king expanded their charter to include all the territory that is North and South Carolina, Georgia, and part of Florida today. The Proprietors also had claim to all territory west to "the South Seas" (the Pacific Ocean). Although no one at the time knew just how much land was involved, the Carolina colony claimed most of what became the southern half of the United States, extending all the way to California.

### Map 5.1

#### The Carolina Charter

**Map Skill:** What current states were included in the lines of the Carolina Charter?





## The Lords Proprietors

The Lords Proprietors were some of the most powerful men in England. For example, George Monck, the Duke of Albemarle, was “master of the king’s horse,” which meant he commanded the English army. Anthony Ashley-Cooper was “chancellor of the exchequer,” which meant he was national treasurer.

**Figure 5.2**

**The Thirteen English Colonies**

Colony	Year Settled	English Colony	Reasons for Settlement
<b>New England Colonies</b>			
Massachusetts Bay	1620	1630	Religious freedom
Connecticut	1633	1636	Religious freedom, agriculture
Rhode Island	1636	1644	Religious freedom
New Hampshire	1623	1679	Commercial venture
<b>Middle Colonies</b>			
New York	1626	1664	Trade, agriculture
New Jersey	1626	1664	Trade, agriculture
Pennsylvania	1642	1681	Religious freedom
Delaware	1638	1701	Trade
<b>Southern Colonies</b>			
Virginia	1607	1607	Commercial venture
Maryland	1634	1632	Religious freedom, buffer against Dutch
North Carolina	1650s	1712	Agriculture
South Carolina	1669	1729	Agriculture
Georgia	1733	1732	Commercial venture, philanthropy, buffer against Spain

Why would these men even want a colony so distant from their London homes? Money was the answer! Like a real estate developer of today, they wanted to sell the land and earn their money through financing the deal. To encourage settlement, the Proprietors almost gave the land away, charging mostly for *surveying* (measuring) the property and filing the deed. But they expected each year to receive a **quit-rent** (an old form of payment that had existed for centuries in Europe). The owner held title to his land but had to pay an annual land tax to the Proprietors. This could have gone on forever, even for the settlers’ descendants. Because only a portion of the quit-rents would be used to maintain the colony, the Proprietors hoped to reap a great profit over the coming years.

The Proprietors saw this as a good deal for all concerned. In return for the revenue from quit-rents, they were obligated to govern the colony fairly. The “Concessions of 1665” required them to protect the colonists from invasion and attack and to give the colonists the same “liberties, franchises, and privileges” that were given in England itself. A key phrase in that document was that all taxes were to be “reasonably assessed...by and with the consent of the free people” living in the colony.



**Above:** Province of Carolina coat of arms.



## DID YOU KNOW...

The eight original Lords Proprietors were Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon; George Monck, Duke of Albemarle; William, Earl of Craven; John Lord Berkeley; Anthony Ashley-Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury; Sir George Carteret; Sir William Berkeley; and Sir John Colleton.

## IN OTHER WORDS

Today, members of the Religious Society of Friends use the names “Friend” and “Quaker” interchangeably. The term “Quaker” began as a nickname that was meant to make fun of the new religious group. Because the name was so widely recognized, members began to use it themselves, so people would know what they were talking about.

**Above Right:** George Monck, the Duke of Albemarle, was one of the original Lords Proprietors. His royal title was used for the naming of the Albemarle Sound in the 1660s.

In 1669, the Proprietors approved a document called the Fundamental Constitutions. This document established a form of government run by men with an elaborate series of titles and ranks, like *caciques*, *landgraves*, and *yeomen*. At the top rank was the *palatine*, who came from the ranks of the Proprietors but who ran the colony from England.

The Proprietors hoped that establishing order in the colony would help everyone involved. But as it turned out, “rogues” had very different views

about society than “landgraves.” The Albemarle region turned out to be the least profitable and governable part of Carolina. Poor access to the sea hindered economic growth there, and the social attitudes of the early settlers often diminished the Proprietors’ efforts to get results from the northern necks of their colony.



## Social and Economic Conditions

Most Albemarle settlers were not nearly as wealthy as their Virginia counterparts. They typically lived in wood frame huts that rested on cypress piles. Wooden pegs substituted for expensive nails. Most houses had one or two rooms, with a loft above and a chimney for cooking and heating. Families used the main room as a gathering place, where they mixed work and play on a daily basis.

Most early farmers did not even own a plow but used hoes and shovels instead and sowed their tobacco plants by hand. They sold their tobacco, corn, and other crops at a small profit to the New England ship captains who came to the Albemarle each summer.

Most early Albemarle families did the labor themselves. Only about one in ten settlers was an African slave. Still, many settlers got by with the least effort they needed. This inspired the derogatory nickname often given to them—“lubbers,” referring to someone with lazy habits. Some Virginians called the Albemarle “Lubberland.”

There were no churches or schools in the first neighborhoods. People worshipped in homes, especially members of the Society of Friends (Quakers), a new religious faith that had recently originated in England. Because Quakers did not need to have a minister to conduct a service, no clergyman was in residence in the Albemarle for years, and no meetinghouse was erected until after 1700.

## Unrest in the Colony

The so-called “lazy lubbers” of the Albemarle reacted energetically to any effort by the Proprietors to impose order on them. They had little desire to pay the quit-rent and little use for the fancy titles of the few rich people in their midst. In fact, the Albemarle settlers were very assertive of their independence from the start.

When the Proprietors convened the first **General Assembly** (the lawmaking body made up of representatives from the various necks), one of the first laws it passed was a declaration that land deeds already held by the inhabitants be respected. The representatives also insisted that they pay quit-rents at the same rate as in Virginia. The Proprietors approved these ideas in 1668 with the Great Deed of Grant.

## Culpeper’s Rebellion

Albemarle citizens showed their independence again in 1673, when the Proprietors decided to enforce the **Navigation Acts** (laws passed in the 1660s that listed which colonial goods would be subject to customs duties). This new enforcement meant that many Albemarle residents who sold to New England shippers would no longer avoid the duties. Most of the Albemarle residents would not pay. The Proprietors tried to stop the tax evasions, but their first tax collector let most of the ships depart without checking their cargo.

Some residents of the Albemarle sided with the Proprietors, often for selfish reasons. Thomas Miller, who was an *apothecary* (druggist), wanted to be the tax collector so he could receive a portion of duties as his fee. Also, if tax evaders *forfeited* (lost) their property, people who sided with him could buy up the forfeited land and resell it for a profit. Miller’s ally was surveyor Thomas Eastchurch, who could collect more fees if land was sold.

Miller and Eastchurch brought about an event that was called **Culpeper’s Rebellion**, even though John Culpeper was only a minor player in the drama. In 1676, Miller and Eastchurch went to England to describe the “deplorable situation” in the colony. George Durant also went there—to plead that limited access to the sea made the settlers too poor to pay the duties. To please the king, the Proprietors appointed Eastchurch governor of the colony and made Miller the tax collector. However, when their ship docked in the Caribbean on the return trip to Carolina, Eastchurch stayed there to marry a rich woman. Miller went on to the Albemarle, arriving in 1677 on a small ship he had armed to help collect duties. When George Durant returned from London, Miller tried to arrest him, but within days, Miller and his followers were put in prison.



**Above:** This illustration from an 1890 history book shows Thomas Miller being taken prisoner after Culpeper’s Rebellion.



## DID YOU KNOW...

Seth Sothel had become a Proprietor when he bought Edward Hyde's share of the colony. After Sothel was banished from the Albemarle, he went to Charles Town, where he became a governor for South Carolina.



**Above:** Seth Sothel in Charles Town, Carolina colony.

In the midst of the chaos, Eastchurch finally arrived. As official governor, Eastchurch could charge Durant and his rebellious comrades with *treason* (the act of trying to overthrow the government). But Eastchurch became sick and died, and the fight resumed. Both sides sent complaints to the Proprietors in England. Fearing that the king would think they were ineffective and would take the colony back, the Proprietors sent Seth Sothel to be governor. But on the way, Sothel was captured by Turkish pirates and was taken away as a prisoner!

The Proprietors appointed John Harvey governor. Harvey began to send some quit-rents and customs duties back to England. Then, Harvey died. Thomas Miller escaped prison, went to London, and once again told the Proprietors he was the real leader of the Albemarle.

By 1680, with so many competing stories, the king had to step in. A

hearing was conducted about whether to revoke the Carolina Charter. The desperate Proprietors decided to blame Miller for the whole matter, because Durant and others were the taxpayers.

In 1683, four years after his kidnapping, Seth Sothel finally arrived in the Albemarle. Sothel took land titles away from residents who angered him and jailed anyone who disagreed with him, especially George Durant. Angry Albemarle residents imprisoned Sothel, then set up their own court to force Sothel to leave the colony.

### The Gibbs Rebellion

The Albemarle continued to have troubles even after the Sothel affair. A resident of the Currituck Neck, John Gibbs, led a small rebellion that tried to stop the new governor from taking office. This “Gibbs Rebellion,” however, was short-lived. Gibbs’s neighbors made him flee into Virginia.

### The Colony Is Split

In 1691, the frustrated Proprietors split their colony in two. They told the governor to live in Charles Town, where customs duties on rice were substantial. A deputy governor of “north” Carolina was sent to the Albemarle. That governor, John Archdale, was a Quaker and largely left the Albemarle region alone.

### It's Your Turn

1. What three adjectives would you use to describe the early settlement of NC? Justify your choices.
2. How did the quit-rent help the Proprietors? What were they to do for the colonists in exchange for this payment?
3. Why did Thomas Miller and Thomas Eastchurch side with the Proprietors concerning the collection of duties?

## Section 2

# Settling the Pamlico Sound and the Cape Fear



### As you read, look for

- ▶ what led settlers to the Pamlico and the Cape Fear;
- ▶ the first towns in North Carolina;
- ▶ a religious conflict called Cary's Rebellion;
- ▶ tensions between the settlers and the Tuscarora that led to war;
- ▶ terms: **refugee, naval stores, royal colony.**

After 1690, the Lords Proprietors made special offers of cheap land to refugees from religious wars in Europe. In 1696, a group of Huguenots (French Protestants), thrown out of their own country because they refused to be Catholics, settled on the northern edge of the Pamlico Sound, not far from the mouth of the Tar River. That year, Governor John Archdale convinced the General Assembly to divide the Albemarle into two counties. They were Albemarle (all the land north of that Sound) and Bath (all the land south on the Pamlico).

People from other places saw the advantages of living nearer Ocracoke Island, where inlets provided shipping lanes into the Atlantic. The settlers hoped to raise cattle on the rich grass that grew among the longleaf pines of the nearby forests. They could slaughter the cows and pigs, cure the meat, and ship it in barrels to the nearby Caribbean Islands. The newcomers "at vast labour and expense recovered and improved vast quantities of land," noted one visitor. So many Virginians headed for the Pamlico that Virginia actually tried to pass laws forbidding them to leave.

**Below:** The Proprietors tried to develop the Pamlico Sound area after 1700. Today, it is well developed as a "watersports playground" for vacationers and a productive fishing ground for commercial fishermen.





## HAVE YOU VISITED...



Historic Bath? Its original town limits today encompass a historic district that includes several historic homes and the Buzzard Hotel. Guided tours originate from the visitor center on Carteret Street.

## Settlement of the Pamlico

The Pamlico grew so fast that some newcomers ambitiously started Bath, the colony's first town, in 1705. In 1711, the Proprietors approved the establishment of a second town, New Bern, where the Trent and Neuse Rivers come together.

Where Bath was named for a city in England, New Bern referred to the original home of its first residents. Baron Christoph von Graffenried led a group of Germans and Swiss from Bern, Switzerland. The **refugees** (those fleeing danger or persecution) had turned up in London, where Queen Anne helped pay for their trip across the Atlantic. Von Graffenried soon had the town of New Bern laid out. The settlement of the Pamlico caused a new round of troubles for the North Carolina colony. The Lords Proprietors again tried to instill order, but many settlers again resisted.



### Map 5.2

#### Early Towns of North Carolina

**Map Skill:** Which of these towns were not established on necks?

## Cary's Rebellion

The Proprietors turned to religion as a way to organize the colony. England was organized very successfully into parishes of the Church of England. Its members, called Anglicans, provided educational and welfare services for the people.

In contrast, North Carolina was notable for its lack of churches. The Quakers were a minority of the people. According to an Englishman visiting in 1704, there "were a great many who have no religion." The Lords Proprietors reasoned that introducing the Church of England might make Carolinians better citizens—and better taxpayers.

In 1701 and 1703, the General Assembly passed laws "establishing" the Anglican Church in the colony. Establishment meant that all colonists officially belonged to the Anglican faith, whether they wanted to or not. All citizens were expected to pay church taxes, which would be used to build Anglican churches and pay Anglican clergymen.

In 1704, the General Assembly passed the Test Act, which required anyone in public office to put his hand on a Bible and swear to uphold the principles of the Anglican Church, not any other. This proved problematic for the Quakers, whose faith opposed swearing any sort of oath.

Governor Thomas Cary used the Test Act to keep Quakers from holding office. They protested to the Proprietors, arguing that they had been the colony's best taxpaying citizens for years. The Proprietors just sent another governor to Bath, who then tried to require an oath.

Carolínians once again prepared for a fight. Thomas Cary sided with the Quakers in order to regain the governorship. The General Assembly held elections to let the voters decide. After much dispute, the "Cary faction" took control. Cary made himself governor for three years, from 1708 to 1711, and let Quakers hold office without taking the test.

In 1711, the frustrated Proprietors sent Edward Hyde to be the official governor. He quickly had the General Assembly pass new laws aimed at restoring the established church and the political rule of the Anglicans.

Cary gathered an armed crowd and attacked the Anglicans, but the arrival of English soldiers from Virginia—requested by the Proprietors—persuaded Cary and his followers to flee the colony. In the midst of these troubles, the whole colony was almost lost in an Indian war.

## The Tuscarora War

As Cary's Rebellion kept the colony in an uproar, the Tuscarora Indians attempted to destroy the Pamlico settlements in 1711. Several hundred colonists, including as many as eighty young children, were murdered. The most notable victim was John Lawson, the colony's surveyor, who was scouting for new land when he and Baron von Graffenried were captured. The Tuscarora demanded that von Graffenried promise to leave the Pamlico with his settlers (which he later did). They then tortured and executed Lawson, because he was the one most responsible for white intrusions onto their land.

The Tuscarora were angry about more than lost land. Their desire to hunt wherever they wanted conflicted with white farmers' need to protect their planted fields. In addition, white traders cheated the natives with poor quality goods and kidnapped Native Americans to sell into slavery in the Caribbean.

The Pamlico was "totally wasted and ruined." Governor Hyde acted quickly to defend the colony, but only a few men were readily armed. The Quakers and their friends were not going to fight, given their *pacifist* (antiwar) faith and their anger over their loss of power. South Carolina sent troops to help, mostly Native Americans from its region who were longtime enemies of the Tuscarora. Commanded by Colonel John Barnwell ("Tuscarora Jack"), the South Carolínians defeated the Tuscarora in a series of battles along the Neuse River. But when Barnwell allowed the Native Americans to stay on the Neuse in order to save the lives of hostages, the General Assembly refused to reimburse his expenses. Barnwell then took Tuscarora hostages back to Charles Town, intending to sell them into slavery to recover his losses.

## DID YOU KNOW...



King Charles II was succeeded by his brother, James II. Because James II was a Catholic, he was later deposed, and William and Mary became England's monarchs. (Mary, James II's oldest daughter, and her Dutch husband William were Protestants.) When Mary, then William, died, Mary's younger sister Anne became the queen.



**Above:** Edward Teach or Edward Thatch (c. 1680 – 22 November 1718), better known as Blackbeard, was a notorious English pirate who operated around the West Indies and the eastern coast of the American colonies.



Barnwell so angered the Tuscarora that they attacked the Pamlico again in 1712. James Moore, another South Carolina commander, came from Charles Town and once again defeated the Tuscarora in 1713. This time, any Native Americans who were not forced into slavery decided to leave the region. Some went to New York where they had kin among the Iroquois.

By the summer of 1714, the colony had its first “peace and quietness” since 1700. In 1712, the Proprietors had officially separated the two areas of the colony into the provinces of North Carolina and South Carolina. In 1715, the newly established colony of North Carolina rewrote all its laws and added sixty new ones. The Church of England remained the established faith, but Quakers and others could “Act for Liberty of Conscience” and avoid oaths and other hated obligations. The new laws still required a quit-rent each year.

## DID YOU KNOW...

By 1725, four-fifths of the pitch and tar used in England came from the American colonies.

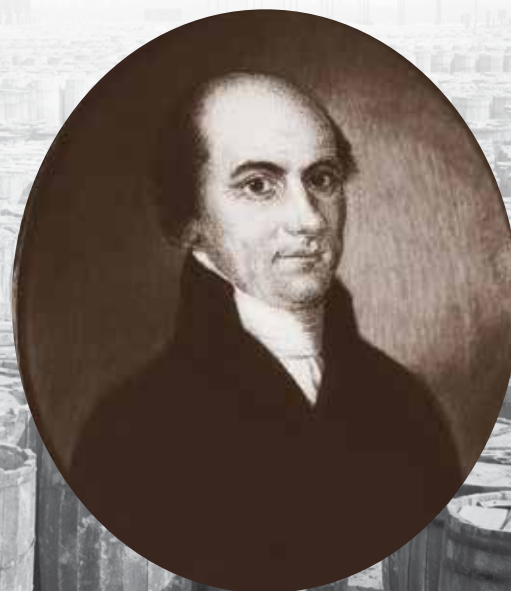
### Settlement of the Cape Fear

The defeat of the Tuscarora opened up new lands to white settlement after 1715. Most significantly, the Cape Fear region (which included the lands on both sides of the Cape Fear River from its mouth to fifty miles inland) became the most prosperous area of the colony through its production of **naval stores**. The longleaf pines of Carolina gave the British pitch, tar, and turpentine. Pitch was used to seal ships and keep them from leaking on oceangoing voyages. Tar was painted on ships’ *rigging* (the rope that held the masts and sails in place). During the early 1700s, the British paid bounties for naval stores, which meant they made sure producers got a good price for these essential products.

The first settlers to the Cape Fear were led by Maurice and James Moore, who tried to move there around 1723. The Lords Proprietors, considering the Cape Fear to be part of South Carolina, restricted who could live there. To deal with this problem, the Moores called on their friendship with North Carolina Governor George Burrington. He granted land to the Moores (once they paid their quit-rents in advance), in spite of the Proprietors’ instructions.

**Right:** Maurice Moore Jr. was born on the Cape Fear and grew up in the 1730s at Rocky Point, north of Wilmington. His father was one of the leaders of “the Family” who settled the region after the Tuscarora War. The Moores made a fortune producing tar and other products. The son grew up to be one of the first judges of the state.

**Background:** Naval stores were kept in barrels for shipment to England. The naval stores industry remained strong in North Carolina through the time of the Civil War.



## Blank Patents

Acting like a real estate developer, Governor Burrington left the Albemarle in 1724 and set up an office at the mouth of the Cape Fear. Burrington took some land deed forms (called *blank patents* in that day), sold them to the Moores and others, and let them fill in the blanks as to the location of the land later. Maurice Moore acquired more than 9,000 acres, his brother Roger took 2,000, and other in-laws picked up a few thousand more.

The Proprietors eventually dismissed Burrington, fearing that Burrington and the Moores might convince the king to take the North Carolina colony away from them. While all these matters were being argued, a select group of South Carolinians moved into the Cape Fear. So many of them were related to the Moores or their in-laws that they became known as “the Family.” They used the blank patents to gain more than 80,000 acres. Maurice Moore built a wharf at the mouth of the Cape Fear River and called the tiny cluster of buildings there the Town of Brunswick. Governor Burrington even granted himself 10,000 acres of good forests.

## The End of the Proprietorship

The real estate scandal on the Cape Fear pleased no one but “the Family.” South Carolina leaders were angry that land they claimed was being given away. Albemarle leaders were angry that the Cape Fear interests were getting lots of land for very little money. British King George I was unhappy that Carolina continued to be such an impossible place to govern and control. Finally, the Proprietors were fed up with the unending troubles that their investment brought them. They decided to sell out and get what money they could from a bad deal.



When Queen Anne died, English law did not permit any of her many Roman Catholic English relatives to inherit the throne. Anne’s closest living Protestant relative, a cousin from Hanover (in today’s Germany), became King George I of Great Britain.



**Left:** When St. Philip’s Church in Brunswick Town was completed in 1768, it was designated “His Majesty’s Chapel in North Carolina.” During the Revolutionary War, the British army burned the church, leaving only these walls intact. Both royal governor Arthur Dobbs and the infant son of royal governor William Tryon are buried on the site.





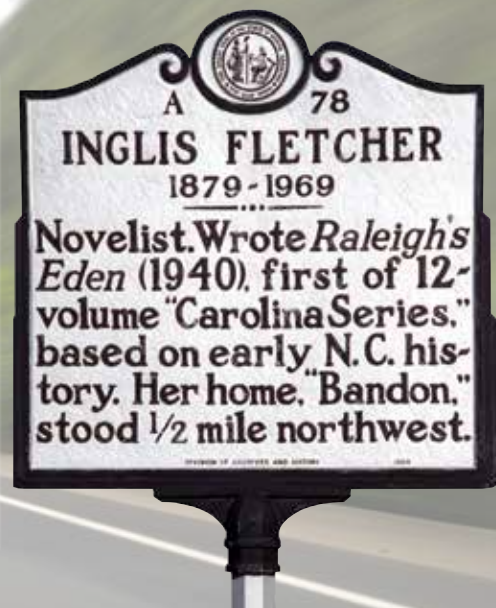
After some negotiation, the Crown bought back its interest in the lands that had become the colonies of North and South Carolina. Each Proprietor got £2,500, a considerable fortune in those days. In 1729, North Carolina went from being a proprietary colony to a **royal colony**. It now belonged directly to the king. As might be expected, the transfer did not go smoothly. One Proprietor, Lord Granville,

refused to give up his one-eighth ownership of the land. Granville was happy to let the king run the place, but he still wanted to collect his share of quit-rents. So the British Crown acquired the whole colony to rule, but only seven-eighths of the land to tax. The question, which took years to resolve, was which one-eighth did Lord Granville obtain? Not surprisingly, that dispute led to even more rebellions and fights.

## History by the Highway

### Inglis Fletcher

The early Albemarle was the setting for a series of novels Inglis Fletcher wrote about the first settlers. She mixed real people with imagined characters to capture the struggle and flavor of life—from the failure at Roanoke to the success of the American Revolution. Actual events like the Lost Colony and Culpeper's Rebellion were the focus of the stories. Each had a love story. They sold millions of copies and were translated into seven languages.



## It's Your Turn

1. Who were the first settlers of the Pamlico Sound? Why did they leave their home in Europe?
2. Why did the Tuscarora rise up against the settlers? What was the outcome of the War?
3. What product was instrumental in the settlement of the Cape Fear? What were some of the uses of it?

**Top Left:** The Union Jack, or Union Flag, was originally a maritime flag used on ships on the high seas from 1606 to 1801. It came into use as a national flag when the United Kingdom of Great Britain was formed in 1707.

**Top Right:** The seal of the royal colony.

## Section 3

# A Royal Colony Struggles

### As you read, look for

- ▶ North Carolina's first royal governors;
- ▶ conflicts between the Albemarle and the Cape Fear;
- ▶ the dilemma of the Granville District;
- ▶ the impact of the French and Indian War;
- ▶ terms: **boycott, Granville District, French and Indian War.**



The colonists hoped that life under the royal governor, Gabriel Johnston, would get better, but the handicaps of geography continued to plague the colony. Because it was so difficult to navigate the Outer Banks, goods cost 50 percent more to ship from North Carolina than from ports like Philadelphia or Charles Town. Although the top 10 percent of North Carolina families were wealthy, they did not live as well as rich people elsewhere. Even North Carolina's poor seemed poorer.

### DID YOU KNOW...

Gabriel Johnston was North Carolina's longest-serving governor, from colonial to contemporary times.



**Left:** This is the main street of Old Salem, a living history museum of the main Moravian settlement in North Carolina. Land for the site was purchased from John Carteret, 2nd Earl Granville, in 1753.



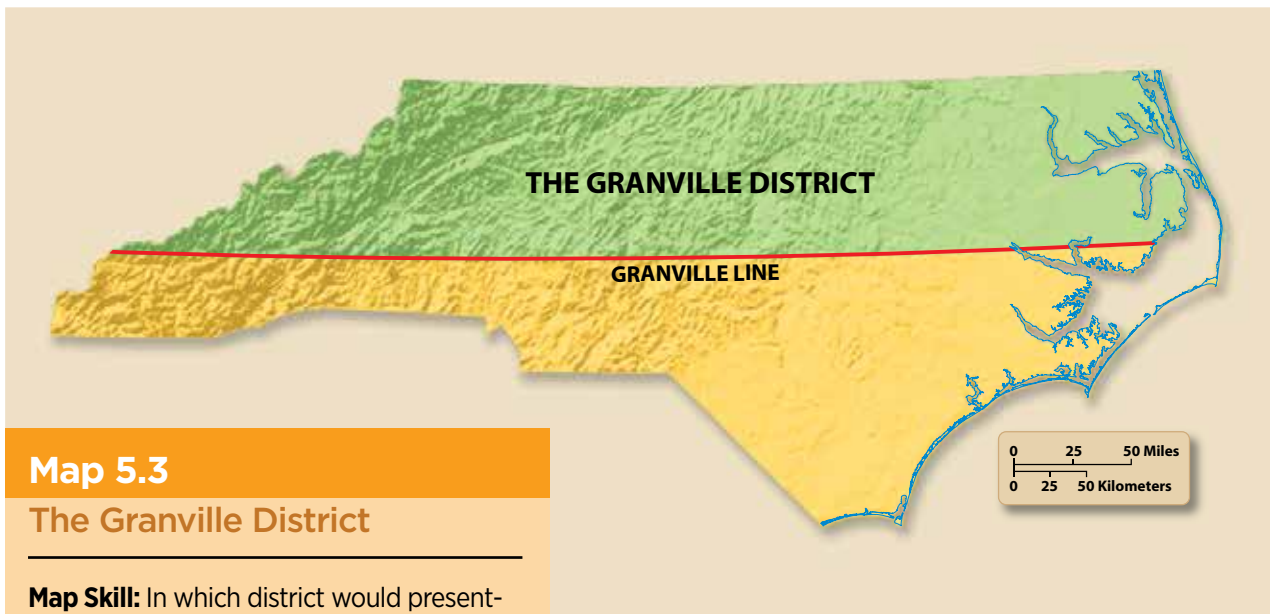
## DID YOU KNOW...

The Granville District began at the Virginia border and extended south for seventy miles.

## Sectional Conflicts

The settlement of the Cape Fear continued to cause conflict. The Albemarle resented that the Cape Fear residents had gained wealth and power selling naval stores. Albemarle leaders tried to stop the Cape Fear planters from taking advantage of blank patents. When the Cape Fear demanded equal representation in the General Assembly, the Albemarle **boycotted** (refused to participate in) the Assembly from 1746 to 1754. As a result, very little was accomplished.

In 1744, the king granted Granville what amounted to the northern half of the colony. Granville could sell this land and continue to collect the quit-rent—but the colony was still responsible for the government of this **Granville District**. When it later turned out that Lord Granville's agents demanded bribes for their services, people all across North Carolina were angry.



### Map 5.3

#### The Granville District

**Map Skill:** In which district would present-day Raleigh be located? In which district would your school's town be located?

**Right:** The Earl Granville, John Carteret. From 1663 until 1779, the Granville District was held under control of the descendants of Sir George Carteret, one of the original Lords Proprietors of the Province of Carolina.



## Governor Arthur Dobbs and the French and Indian War

After the death of Governor Johnston, the king sent Arthur Dobbs to govern the colony in 1754. He faced a dire situation. Only half the lawful revenue was actually being put into the treasury. Public expenses were higher than ever, because there were so many new settlers west of the Fall Line. Settlement was moving closer to the Cherokee, who were beginning to threaten the settlers.

The **French and Indian War** (1754-1763) made matters worse in North Carolina. This conflict (which was called the Seven Years' War in Europe) was fought over European control of North America. Because the French controlled the territory west of the Appalachians, they and their Native American allies could attack along the borders of the thirteen English colonies. The Cherokee sided with the French.

North Carolina acted to protect itself. Governor Dobbs got the feuding Cape Fear and Albemarle to do a better job collecting taxes. The colony used the money to erect Fort Dobbs near the present site of Statesville. Fort Dobbs served as headquarters for defending the backcountry.

The Treaty of Paris ended the war in 1763. The French lost all their land in America. This left Great Britain in control of all the land east of the Mississippi River.

Dobbs tried to unify the colony by setting up a permanent home for the General Assembly, upriver from New Bern. No one, however, agreed to that location. He did set up more courts, making it easier for citizens to settle their disputes without long-distance travel.

Because Dobbs's policies put the colony in debt—and for other reasons—in the early 1760s, the leaders of the General Assembly sent the king fifteen different charges related to Dobbs's leadership. Dobbs, however, held onto his office until his death in 1765.



Fort Dobbs State Historic Site? Located in the Piedmont near the foothills of the Blue Ridge, this is the only state historic site associated with the French and Indian War. Battle reenactments, demonstrations, workshops, and a summer camp for kids bring history alive at Fort Dobbs.

**Below:** On February 27, 1760, Fort Dobbs was attacked by a force of more than 60 Cherokee warriors.

### It's Your Turn

1. Why did the Albemarle boycott the General Assembly from 1746 to 1754?
2. Who did the king appoint as royal governor in 1754?
3. What was the outcome of the French and Indian War?





## Section 4

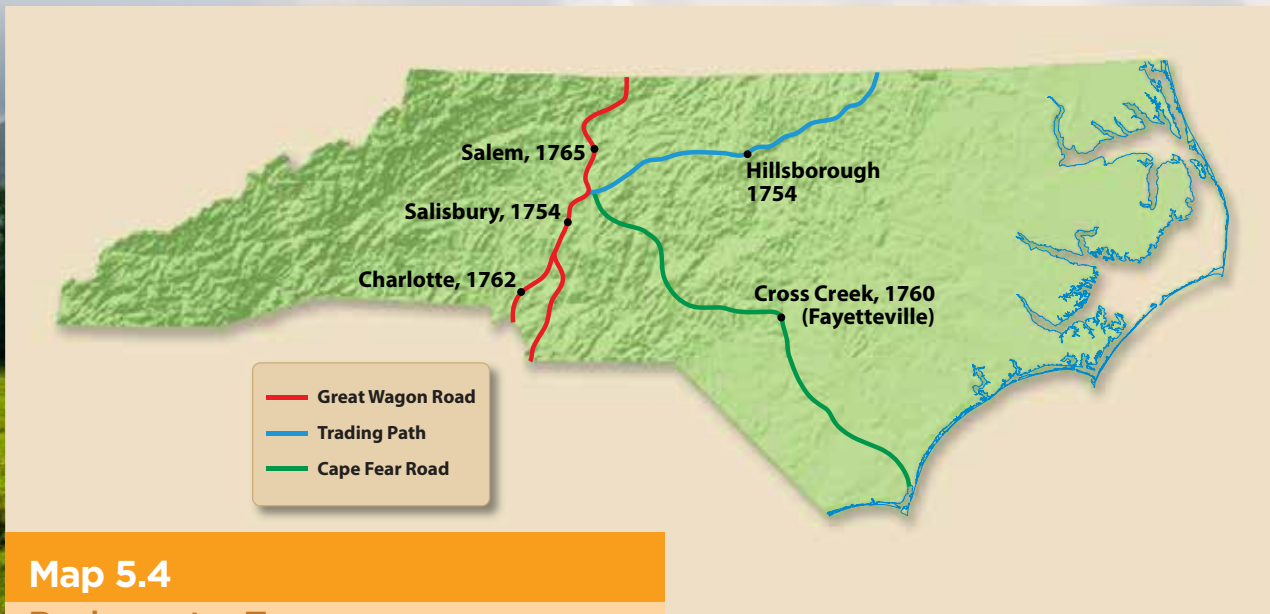
# Life in the Backcountry


 Setting a Purpose

## As you read, look for

- ▶ the significance of the Great Wagon Road;
- ▶ different groups of immigrants who came to North Carolina;
- ▶ farming methods in the backcountry;
- ▶ how settlers in the backcountry passed on their culture;
- ▶ terms: **backcountry**, **prairie**, **girdling**, **gristmill**, **toll**.

Until 1730, almost every resident of North Carolina, aside from the Native Americans, lived east of the Fall Line. Only a few settlers had even ventured onto the Coastal Plain. After 1730, however, settlers filled in the Coastal Plain and moved west of the Fall Line. By the 1750s, backcountry towns, like Cross Creek (later to be named Fayetteville) on the Cape Fear and Halifax on the Roanoke, were being created to serve as market and government centers. Hillsborough, Salisbury, and Charlotte were founded primarily to serve as county seats.



### Map 5.4

#### Backcountry Towns

**Map Skill:** In what year was Charlotte founded?

## Newcomers to the Backcountry

Most of the newcomers traveled from the northern colonies, particularly Pennsylvania. The lower cost of land in North Carolina drew them south. The name **backcountry** was new to the colony at the time. The word referred to the land that was “back” of the settled “country,” the land near the coast.

Many newcomers followed an Iroquois warpath down the great valley along the Shenandoah River in Virginia. This 731-mile trail was gradually widened and became known as the Great Wagon Road. Benjamin Franklin estimated that a thousand wagons a month went down the Great Wagon Road after the fall harvest. Travelers knew they had left Virginia and entered North Carolina when they could see the craggy top of Pilot Mountain.



William Penn, an English Quaker, founded the colony of Pennsylvania (“Penn’s Woods”). In 1681, King Charles II repaid a large debt he owed to William’s father by granting William the land in America that became Pennsylvania. People of all kinds, including many Quakers, were able to buy land from Penn at reasonable prices and move to this colony of diverse inhabitants.

## History by the Highway

### Trading Path

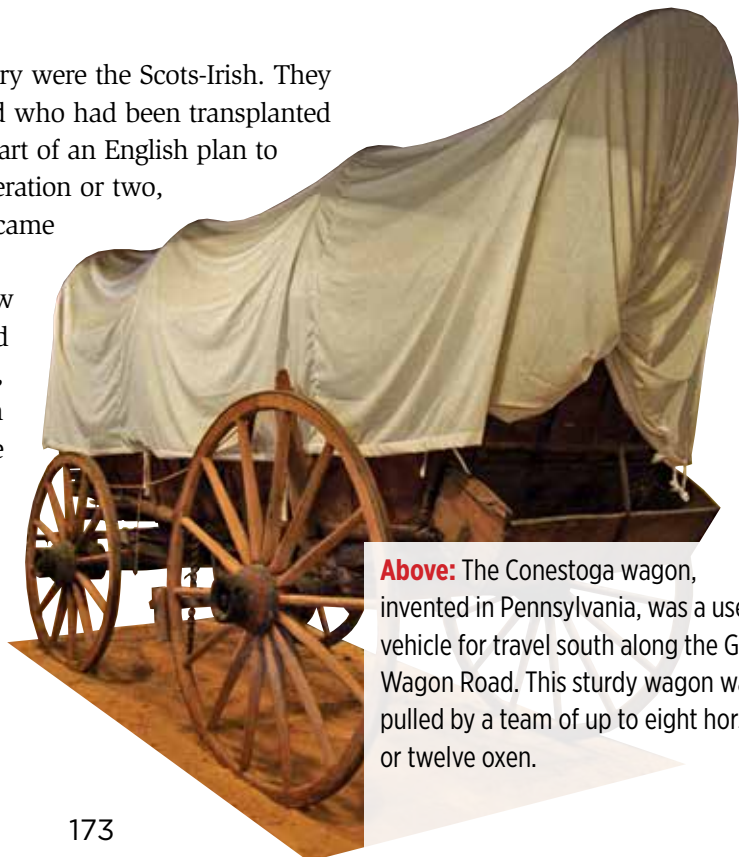
The Trading Path was the first path that actually crossed through North Carolina. It likely dated to Native American trails that predated Columbus, but it was widened and straightened in the 1670s when Virginians came to trade with the Catawba and Cherokee tribes. Later, white settlers pushing into the backcountry used it. There are fifteen historical markers tracing the route of the Trading Path. This one is in Salisbury.



## The Scots-Irish

The first people to settle the backcountry were the Scots-Irish. They were descendants of people from Scotland who had been transplanted to Northern Ireland during the 1600s as part of an English plan to conquer the Irish Catholics. Within a generation or two, the lands of Ulster (Northern Ireland) became too crowded.

When the English began to tell them how to worship, many Scots looked for new land and religious freedom in Pennsylvania, which accepted people of all types. Then Pennsylvania too grew crowded. Because unwelcoming Iroquois lived to the north, the Scots-Irish headed south and scattered themselves from one end of the backcountry to the other. A few took up farms in today’s Orange County. Most settled between the Yadkin and Catawba Rivers, concentrating in the area today bounded by Salisbury, Statesville, and Charlotte.



**Above:** The Conestoga wagon, invented in Pennsylvania, was a useful vehicle for travel south along the Great Wagon Road. This sturdy wagon was pulled by a team of up to eight horses or twelve oxen.



**Below:** John Haley, a blacksmith, sheriff, tax collector, and road commissioner, built this brick house on the Petersburg (Va.)-Salisbury road, now in High Point, in 1786. The house is built on the Quaker plan, with three rooms and three interior chimneys. This was uncommon in the southern Piedmont at the time.



## IN OTHER WORDS

These “Dutch” place names do not refer to the Dutch people of the country of Holland. German settlers who came into Pennsylvania and later headed south into North Carolina were called “Pennsylvania Dutch” because their language was called *Deutsch* in German.

## DID YOU KNOW...



William Penn created the name Philadelphia by combining the Greek words for love (*phileo*) and brother (*adelphos*), thus giving his city the nickname that is still used today, the City of Brotherly Love.

## The Germans

Coming right after the Scots-Irish were the Germans from Pennsylvania. These people had first come to Philadelphia in 1690 to escape conflicts in their homeland. They filled up the hills to the north and west of this City of Brotherly Love in less than fifty years.

Then great numbers of them headed south for new homes on the western edge of North Carolina. The largest “Dutch Settlement” was in what is today eastern Rowan and Cabarrus Counties. John Lippard, who had first come to Philadelphia on a ship from Rotterdam in 1739, left Pennsylvania with his father’s and his own household in 1754. Their new home was on a branch of Dutch Buffalo Creek in what became Cabarrus County.

## English Quakers

Mixed into the backcountry by the 1760s were people who were English in their background. Many were Quakers, part of the religious movement started in England in the 1600s. Because the Society of Friends rebelled against some English customs, many took refuge in Pennsylvania. Some came to North Carolina.



### African Slaves

Quite a few of the early Scots-Irish households brought along one or two slaves with them. Twins Paul and Saul, owned by Adam Sherrill, became the first backcountry settlers to cross the Catawba River in 1747. Only a few Germans owned slaves, and Quakers had already begun to question the idea of humans as property within their faith.

### The Moravians

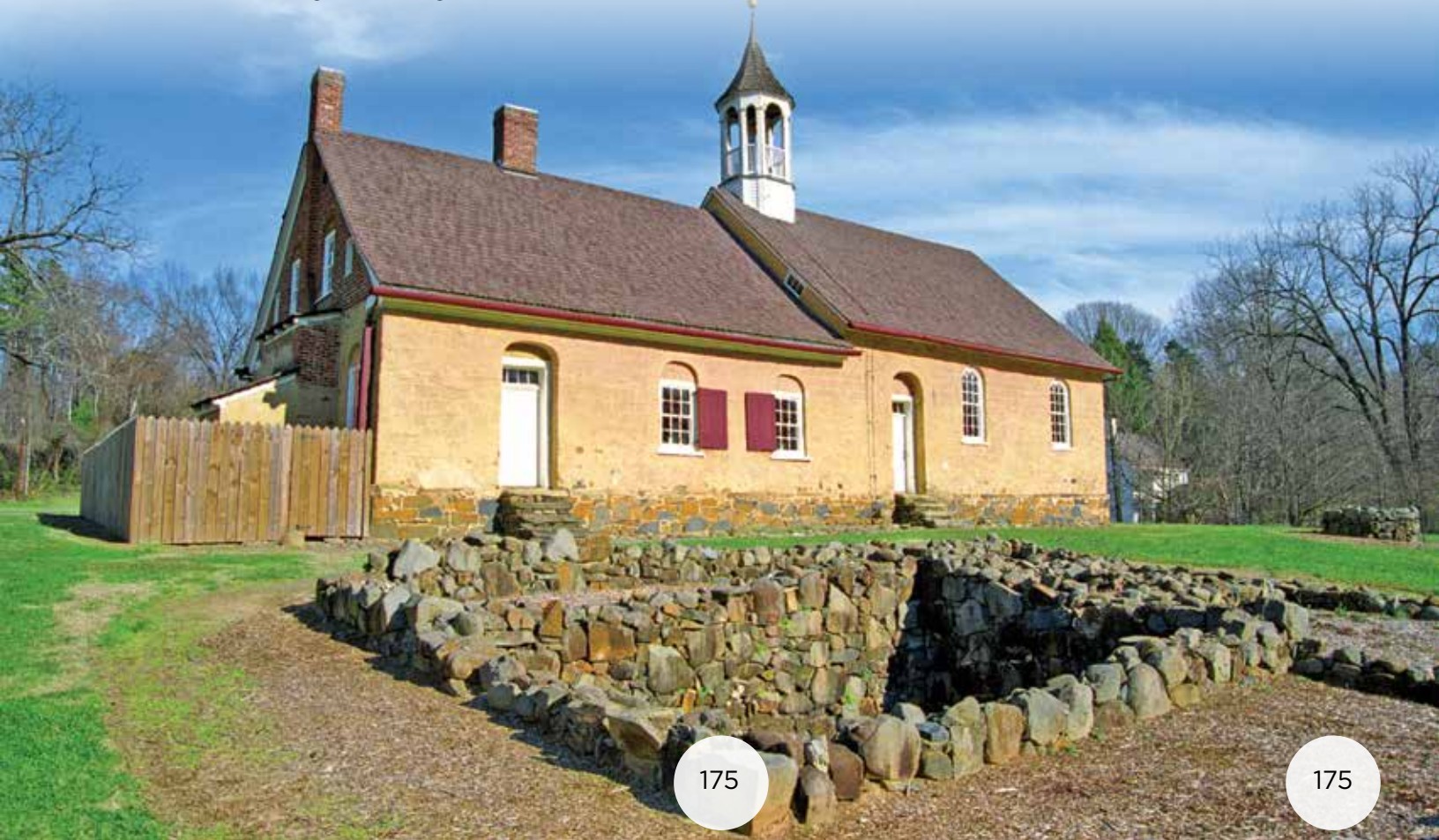
The most distinctive people to come to the North Carolina backcountry were the Moravians, a close-knit German-speaking community who first arrived in 1752. The group originally came from Moravia, which today is part of the Czech Republic in Europe. They continued to live in tightly organized villages where they worked and worshipped with one another. Their official name, the United Brethren, described their approach to living. They practiced brotherhood, and sisterhood for that matter, every day, all day.

Like most other immigrants who sought religious freedom, the Moravians came first to Pennsylvania. When land became scarce, they petitioned Governor Dobbs for permission to send some of their members to the backcountry. Dobbs, delighted that such an industrious people would move there, quickly got Lord Granville to give them a land grant of 100,000 acres. The area came to be called Wachovia, which means “little meadow” in German. They constructed their first village, Bethabara, in 1753 and a second village, Bethania, the next year. In 1766, the Moravians had established their principal town, Salem. Today, Moravian culture of the 1700s can be seen during a visit to Old Salem, a historic site featuring several original buildings or recreations, within the city of Winston-Salem.



The Wachovia National Bank was founded in 1879 by a Moravian family and was a prominent bank throughout the twentieth century. In 2008, it was acquired by Wells Fargo & Company.

**Below:** Gemeinhaus is one of the buildings at Historic Bethabara. Gemeinhaus is the last surviving 18th-century Moravian church with attached minister’s living quarters.





### The Highland Scots

The last of the many ethnic groups to come to the backcountry were the Highland Scots, who wedged themselves into the Sandhills. Most were victims of a rebellion against the British in 1745. To punish the Scots, the British laid waste to much of the Highlands, reducing thousands to poverty. Then British real estate agents tricked thousands into coming to North Carolina in the 1770s, promising fine land. The immigrants found that the sandy slopes were not what they had been promised. Most stayed, however, for going home was not a better option.



### Native Americans

Finally, a few remnants of Native American groups could still be found in the backcountry of the 1760s. North of Wachovia lived the Saura, part of the Siouan people who had once controlled the region. Near the South Carolina line lived the Catawba, the largest native group left in the backcountry. By the 1750s, the Catawba had only about one hundred warriors, one-tenth their previous strength. Periodically present, however, were the numerous Cherokee, who resented any intrusion into their mountain hunting grounds. Most whites did not venture that far.

### Carving Out Farms on the Frontier

The earliest settlers to the Carolina backcountry found exactly what they wanted—land. The area near the Great Wagon Road had long stretches of **prairie**, meaning that there was more open grassland than there were woods. The prairies had been managed by the Native Americans, who burned off the grasses each hunting season. The woods in the bottomlands near the streams had trees as wide across as the Conestoga wagons that had brought the settlers down the road.

**Top Right:** The annual Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain are sponsored by the McRae and Morton families, descendants of some of the original Highland Scots to come to the colony in the 1770s. **Above:** The Schiele Museum has a reconstructed Catawba home showing how they adapted the log cabin style. **Right:** This painting depicts a Conestoga wagon. Note the severe angles at either end and the curved center, characteristics of the large Conestoga compared to other varieties of covered wagon.



All a backcountry farmer had to do was first burn off the grass then cut into the roots and soil with a plow and a hoe. The settlers cut down enough trees for houses and fences, then practiced girdling on the rest. **Girdling** consisted of stripping the bark for about two or three feet around the tree. Over time, the severing of the sap lines dried out the wood. When the dried trunks fell over, they were easily chopped for firewood. Because of these practices, the area had dark, black soil, not the red clay that so many later North Carolinians would know.

These open spaces provided the earliest settlers with two ways to make a living: grazing cattle and growing grain. Cattle were allowed to roam free. Each family registered a “mark” (a notch on the ear) that identified an animal as theirs. Each fall, the younger sons of families gathered up the cattle and took surplus cows to the seaports and sold them for slaughter. Some families did the same with hogs, which lived off acorns and grubs in the woods.

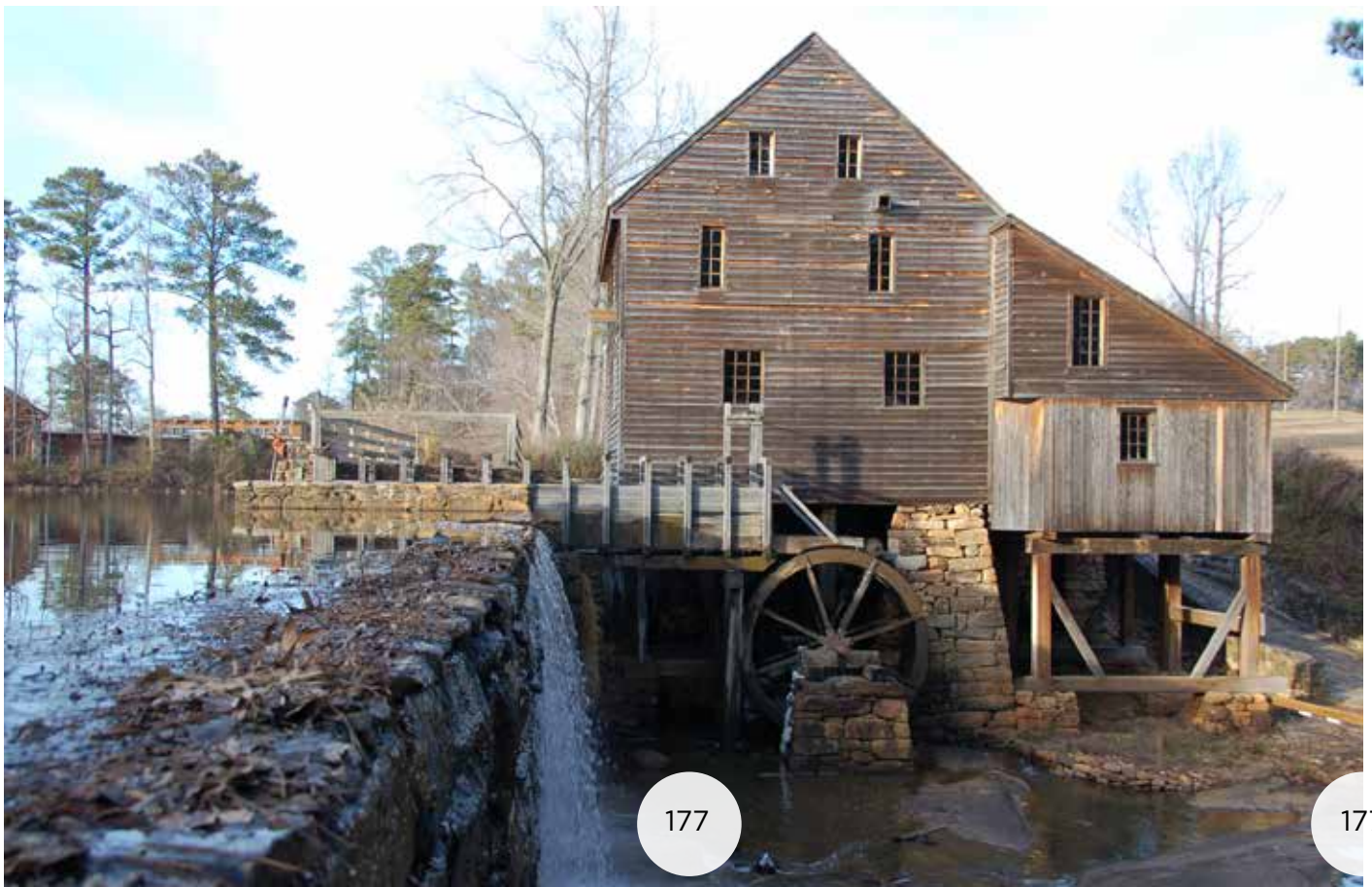
Growing grain was as important as raising livestock. The Germans in particular planted wheat and rye in the fall, let it grow slowly over the winter, and reaped it in the spring. Farmers like Herman Husband stored the kernels in barrels, then took them to be ground into flour as they needed them for bread. One of the first ways any settler could become wealthy in the backcountry was to build a **gristmill** (a place to grind grain into flour). A miller took a **toll** (a payment of a portion of the grain) each time the mill was operated. The smart miller then sold his collected flour locally or loaded it on wagons and shipped it to the coast.

Everyone planted corn, which fed both person and beast. It could be planted among the girdled trees in the bottomlands and left to grow on its own and dry on the stalk. In winter, it was put in a crib and shucked and shelled as needed. If properly stored, it could last for years.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Removing the stump of a tree was difficult, given the tools of the time. It could take as much as a month to remove just one stump. Frontier farmers often planted around tree stumps.

**Below:** Yates Mill, one of the oldest buildings in Wake County, is the region’s only surviving operable gristmill. For nearly 200 years the water-powered mill produced lumber, milled corn and wheat, and carded wool.







### The Home Front

Most settlers quickly worked to improve their places. The smart ones put up zigzag split rail fences around their grain fields to keep out unwanted animals. Almost all the families built double pen barns. These log storage sheds had “pens” or stalls separated by a passageway. The structure was roofed over with wooden shingles. Most backcountry families lived in log houses that resembled the size and shape of their barns.

A few families came south with enough money to build large homes for themselves. Michael Braun, a German, erected an immense stone house for his family in 1764 right off the Great Wagon Road, not far from Salisbury. Hezekiah Alexander, a Scots-Irishman, built another to the east of Charlotte, which he helped found in 1762.

All families kept kitchen gardens not far from the door, where vegetables, herbs, and flowers were grown inside a tall picket fence that kept the animals out. The kitchen gardener, usually the mother of the family, could draw from it all year long. Even in winter, the family could eat carrots and other root vegetables that were stored in the root cellar under the house.

### Building Communities

All backcountry settlers brought their culture with them. Almost all valued religious expression, and most neighborhoods soon started to teach their values.

The Scots-Irish built both a church and a school everywhere they settled. The first resident Presbyterian minister, Alexander Craighead, settled in Mecklenburg County in 1755. He established the first two schools in the backcountry. Craighead’s assistant, David Caldwell, married Craighead’s daughter Rachel, became a minister, and moved up to Orange County to teach and preach there. In 1767, the Caldwells built a house and school near the new Guilford County Courthouse.

#### DID YOU KNOW...



Five students at David Caldwell’s school became governors of different states—including John Motley Morehead of North Carolina.

**Above:** The Allens, a Quaker family, lived in this small, one-room log house for more than a century. It was originally located at Snow Camp, a Quaker settlement, but was moved to the Alamance Battleground to show the typical housing of backcountry families.

Germans often built union churches. People of their two principal denominations—the Lutherans and the Reformed—could worship together in those churches whenever a German-speaking minister came by. The English Quakers who moved into the Uwharries started meetinghouses at Cane Creek in today’s Chatham County and at New Garden in today’s Greensboro. Deeper into the Uwharries, sixteen Baptists from New England settled on Sandy Creek. Brothers-in-law Shubal Stearns and Daniel Marshall took the Baptists’ religious message back and forth along the paths of the backcountry. By 1765, they had established more than a dozen new churches. Thousands of backcountry people became Baptists because of their work.

The most active religious community in the backcountry was Wachovia. The Moravians lived in a more organized and structured environment than anyone else, and Wachovia became the most prosperous place in the backcountry. People journeyed as much as a hundred miles to go there to buy needed goods, including stoneware pottery made of the area’s bright red clay. The Moravians, in turn, bought up farm goods from their neighbors, combined them with their own produce, and shipped wagonloads of grain and other goods to Wilmington or Charles Town. The Moravians did so well that many neighbors resented their prosperity and religion.

That jealousy was reported in the Moravian records in 1772, the year of a political controversy known as the Regulation. Strife and anger were evident everywhere in the backcountry after years of conflict between the new backcountry settlers and the more established areas on the coast. The Regulation magnified some of the colony’s old problems and created new ones, problems with which North Carolina struggled for a long time.



## DID YOU KNOW...

The Moravians were among the first to create a pottery industry in North Carolina.

## It's Your Turn

1. How had the Native Americans managed the prairies?
2. How did the practice of girdling benefit the backcountry farmer?
3. What were the two things that the Scots-Irish built in their communities?
4. Why were Moravians sometimes resented by other settlers?

**Above:** The Moravians made churches a central part of their life. When Home Moravian Church was completed in 1800, it held the town clock, which told the people of Salem when to rise, work, and worship.



# special Feature



## Growing Up... Moravian

Perhaps one of the first sounds a newborn baby heard in Wachovia was a song, for the Moravians were always musical, and they used song to worship and celebrate their lives together. Moravians were especially noted for their hymns and their horns, a distinctive sound found nowhere else in North Carolina.

Moravians lived in communities that shared some property and many tasks. A person could only do a job approved by the whole community, and advancement through life was as much a group effort as an individual one. Although Moravians generally lived in families in their own houses, all believers belonged to different choirs at different stages of their lives.

This way of life was part of the Moravian childhood. When children reached school age, they were separated into boys and girls choirs. Both boys and girls went to school in Wachovia. At some point, they graduated into Single Brothers and Single Sisters

choirs in Salem, the central town. Each young person left his or her home and moved into new quarters with other unmarried people. As teenagers, each Moravian acquired some sort of skill. A young man might become a tanner or a brewer or a tinsmith. Most girls learned spinning and weaving.

Choirs ate together and, during the week, held short worship services together. Sometimes these services were "love feasts" where each worshiper drank coffee and ate a special potato bun; the act of eating together was their version of traditional communion. Life in choirs helped Moravians create a "general economy." They shared their worldly burdens to ease the way to religious celebration. The whole community came together for religious holidays like Christmas Eve and Easter Morning.





Moravians also believed in the “lot.” They made major decisions for the whole community and for individuals by drawing one of two pieces of paper out of a box. They believed that the color of the paper—white for yes, black for no—directed them to take the right action. The members of the community required that anyone wanting to marry had to agree to what the lot said. Since the sexes were separated at an early age, most young men and women only saw one another at certain work and worship events, like snitzing bees—where apples were cut and dried in an oven. They seldom could talk to one another and were not allowed to be alone together. The lot, then, determined if someone should marry another person he or she barely knew. Sometimes a young man simply asked the male elders to select a bride for him. If a black piece of paper was drawn, however, that marriage could not happen. The young people had to wait for another person to come along. Young women could refuse the match even if the paper was white. But they had to live in the Single Sisters house until the next lot determined their marriage status.

Most Moravian marriages seem to have been as happy as any in other communities. It was considered the best part of one’s life to have a home and family and continue the religious ways of sharing and obeying the needs of the community. When widowed, a man or woman joined a new choir, where their needs were taken care of until their death. Moravians were buried in “God’s Acre” with identical stones over their graves, a symbol of the equality they practiced with one another.





## Section 5

HAVE YOU VISITED... 

Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens? The original Tryon Palace was reconstructed in the 1950s and is open for tourists. Visitors can view the palace's English antiques, walk through fourteen acres of gardens, and learn about various periods of New Bern's history at the Academy Museum and the Stanly, Hay, and Dixon Houses.

# William Tryon and the Regulation

## As you read, look for

- ▶ Governor William Tryon's reforms;
- ▶ reasons for the Regulator movement;
- ▶ the Battle of Alamance and its aftermath;
- ▶ terms: **appropriate, Regulator, extortion, militia.**



When Arthur Dobbs died in 1765, his assistant, William Tryon, was appointed the new royal governor. Tryon and his wife (the former Margaret Wake for whom Wake County was named) were already influential residents of the Cape Fear. Tryon, who came from a military background, combined his organizational skills with his professional ambitions to bring change to North Carolina. In fact, Tryon did more in a decade to alter life in the colony than anyone else had done in the previous century.

Tryon wanted North Carolina to be better organized to take advantage of its economic resources. He also wanted the colonists to be more respectful of

authority, particularly toward the government officials in charge of the colony. Tryon wanted to please the king by making North Carolina finally pay its own way.

## Tryon's Reforms

Tryon quickly moved the colony toward his goals. First, he convinced the General Assembly to have a permanent seat of government, which they established at New Bern. It **appropriated** (set aside) a large sum of money for a building that would house both the royal government and its governor. The capitol building—later in North Carolina history called Tryon Palace—was completed in 1770. Its wide halls and impressive meeting rooms made it the finest structure ever seen in the colony, one that rivaled the public buildings in New York, Charles Town, or Williamsburg.



**Above:** A famous architect of the time, John Hawks, designed Tryon Palace. The style is called “Georgian” after King George of England and features distinctive symmetry.

Second, Tryon got the General Assembly to reorganize the Church of England in North Carolina. He tried to make residents accept it as the colony's established religion. At the time, only port towns like Edenton, New Bern, Bath, and Wilmington had strong churches, and even they had a problem keeping pastors. By 1769, Tryon had repaired old churches and built six new ones, including small chapels for worship out in the farming areas.

Third, Tryon was able to stimulate growth in the economy. He increased customs collections in the colony's ports, despite the onset of protests about British taxation that would lead to the American Revolution. He helped merchants set up stores and encouraged the expansion of the wharves on Portsmouth Island to ease shipping through the Outer Banks.

Fourth, Tryon gained more control over the colony by having his allies appointed to local offices in the backcountry. He helped well-educated Englishmen get these positions, the most important of whom were Edmund Fanning in Hillsborough and John Frohock in Salisbury.

### The Regulator Movement

All of Tryon's measures improved the organization of North Carolina, but each came with a cost to the average taxpayer. Residents near the coast could see a return for their higher taxes, because life in the port towns improved. But the newcomers to the backcountry were not so sure. They claimed, rightly, that a palace in New Bern was so far away that few of them would ever see it. They would rather see the money used to improve the roads from the backcountry to the coast.

Few of the backcountry residents were Anglican, and they had little desire to support that church with their taxes. Most of all, the backcountry settlers were angry that Tryon had done little to stop bad government. It was commonly believed that backcountry officials were just as corrupt as in the Proprietary period. The problem had grown worse since 1763. When Lord Granville died, thousands of his land grants were involved in the settlement of his estate. People were not even sure that they owned their property. Moreover, many newcomers to the Granville District who had surveyed their land claimed that courthouse officials—like Edmund Fanning of Orange County— would only register the title if they were paid a bribe.

**DID YOU KNOW...**

One of the new chapels was New Hope Chapel on a hilltop about ten miles south of Hillsborough. It would give its name to the town of Chapel Hill after the American Revolution.



**Above:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Edenton is the second-oldest church still standing in North Carolina.





The backcountry residents began to protest the same year Tryon became governor. In the summer of 1766, Uwharrie residents gathered at Quaker meetinghouses to talk about their grievances. Hundreds signed petitions calling for “honest regulation.” The petitioners soon took the name **Regulators**, and their principal spokesman was Herman Husband. Despite the promise by Governor Tryon to deal with the injustices, the Regulators got little relief. For example, the sheriff of Orange County no longer went house to house to collect taxes, as was the custom. Instead, people had to pay their taxes at selected places that were often far from home. If they failed to come on time, the sheriff increased their tax bill.

### Tensions Mount

Matters worsened in 1768. When one Regulator’s mare was seized to pay off a debt, citizens marched on Hillsborough to get it back. While there, some of them fired shots into Edmund Fanning’s house. Other Regulators threw John Frohock out of the courtroom in Salisbury.

Fanning had Husband put in jail, accusing him of being behind all the disorder. Hundreds of people marched on Hillsborough to get him released. Fanning was forced to let Husband go and promise to have Governor Tryon deal with the problem.

Even though two Regulators, schoolteacher Rednap Belk and farmer James Hunter, walked all the way to New Bern with evidence of corruption, Tryon did little. Instead, he held military parades in Hillsborough, Salisbury, and Charlotte to show off his power. Fanning was tried for **extortion** (charging illegal fees) and found guilty, but he was fined only a penny and was allowed to keep his position. Husband, tried for inciting a riot, was found not guilty.

Frustrated backcountry settlers saw little being done about their grievances in 1769 and 1770. In September 1770, Regulators again marched on Hillsborough, some waving cow whips and pitchforks. They took over the courtroom and attacked a number of public officials. The next day, they learned that Judge Richard Henderson had fled town. Furious and frustrated, the Regulators dragged Fanning out of his house and tore it down. Later, someone burned down Judge Henderson’s farm in nearby Granville County.

The mayhem in Hillsborough prompted Governor Tryon to take strong measures. He got the Assembly to pass the Johnston Riot Act, named for Samuel Johnston, a nephew of former governor Gabriel Johnston. The new law called for strict punishment for all public acts of disorder. Tryon then used the Riot Act to arrest Herman Husband, a Quaker, and he called out the **militia** (citizen soldiers) to prevent the Regulators from rescuing him. Fearful that they too might be assaulted by angry backcountry residents, the Assembly passed several laws better regulating the collection of public fees. Later, a New Bern grand jury refused to indict Husband under the Riot Act, and he was allowed to return home.

### DID YOU KNOW...



In the backcountry, taxes were supposed to be paid in money, not in trade goods. The problem was that there was little cash money in the backcountry.

**Above:** To the Regulators, Edmund Fanning represented the corruption and unfairness of government. In 1770, they beat him severely and wrecked his house.

## The Battle of Alamance

Governor Tryon, assuming that the Regulators would rise again, gathered militia from across the Coastal Plain and marched on Hillsborough. Fanning joined him with a few Orange County soldiers. Hugh Waddell, who had been in command at Fort Dobbs, tried to march from Charlotte with others to surround the Regulators. Thousands of shouting Regulators kept Waddell from crossing the Yadkin River. Tryon continued marching west from Hillsborough.

The Regulators gathered at Alamance Creek, about fifteen miles southwest of Hillsborough. On May 16, 1771, Tryon ordered them to disperse. When they did not, he ordered the militia to fire upon them. The Battle of Alamance lasted a couple of hours. The Regulators, who had no commander and no organization, ran out of ammunition and fled through the woods. At least 20 were killed and another 150 wounded. Husband, at the first shot, fled all the way to Pennsylvania.

Tryon made sure that every backcountry resident knew never to challenge the authority of the king. He executed one Regulator even before the battle, ordering him shot in front of the other protestors. The day after the battle, he hanged another without a trial. Tryon then marched his small force toward Salisbury, demanding loyalty oaths from everyone along the way. Tryon's troops dismantled Herman Husband's farm down to the lowest fence railing. Eventually, more than six thousand backcountry men came into Salisbury and Bethabara to gain a pardon.

After returning to Hillsborough, twelve more Regulators were tried and condemned. Tryon pardoned six of them and hanged the rest.

The end to the Regulation did not solve any of the problems North Carolina faced in the 1770s. The king promoted Tryon to governor of New York. Fanning went along as Tryon's secretary. He eventually became a general in the British army. Herman Husband never returned to North Carolina. As an old man, he was jailed for helping lead the Whiskey Rebellion of 1792—a fight against unfair taxes in Pennsylvania.

Many other Regulators fled the colony. Some went to westernmost South Carolina, others over the Blue Ridge to the upper tributaries of the Tennessee River. Those who stayed often faced poverty.

Josiah Martin, who became royal governor after Tryon, was surprised at Tryon's reaction to the Regulation. Although he tried hard to make amends and once again get North Carolina on the path to government and commerce, he could do little. The sheriffs of the various counties still owed the colony more than £66,000, equal to millions of dollars today. To make matters worse, within two years of Martin's arrival, the American Revolution broke out.



HAVE YOU VISITED... 

Alamance Battleground? This forty-acre state historic site near Burlington has a granite marker to identify the battleground's location and a visitor center where maps and museum objects are displayed. On the battleground itself are flags marking battle positions and the Regulator campsite. Programs and demonstrations are presented throughout the year. Another feature of the grounds is the Allen House, a log cabin characteristic of those built by backcountry people.

## It's Your Turn

1. North Carolina had no established capital until the 1760s. Where was North Carolina's first capital?
2. Who were the Regulators? What did they want?
3. Why did the General Assembly pass the Johnston Riot Act?

**Above:** This plaque is from the James Hunter Monument, also known as the Battle of Alamance Monument, at the Alamance Battleground State Historic Site.



# Chapter Review

## Chapter Summary

### Section 1: Early Settlement and Proprietorship

- In 1663, King Charles II of England granted ownership of the Carolina colony to eight Lords Proprietors.
- Carolina “rogues” were drawn to the area hoping to evade taxes and ship their goods without paying customs duties.
- The Lords Proprietors hoped to profit in the Carolina colony by collecting quit-rents (annual land taxes).
- In 1669, the Proprietors approved the Fundamental Constitutions.
- Albemarle settlers were involved in Culpeper’s Rebellion and Gibbs Rebellion.

### Section 2: Settling the Pamlico Sound and the Cape Fear

- North Carolina’s population increased when the Lords Proprietors offered cheap land to religious refugees from Europe.
- The Pamlico area grew quickly. Bath was established in 1705 and New Bern in 1711.
- The Anglican Church became the colony’s official church, and all people had to pay taxes to support it.
- The 1704 Test Act required officeholders to swear allegiance to the Anglican Church. This upset Quakers and led to Cary’s Rebellion.
- The Tuscarora War was fought from 1711 to 1713. The colonists eventually won and the Tuscarora left the region.
- In 1712, the Carolina colony was officially split into North and South Carolina.
- In 1729, North Carolina became a royal colony.

### Section 3: A Royal Colony Struggles

- The Albemarle region boycotted the Assembly from 1746 to 1754 over issues of representation and land speculation.
- The French and Indian War impacted North Carolina, as the Cherokee sided with the French. Fort Dobbs was erected to protect backcountry settlements.
- Governor Arthur Dobbs set up more courts, but his ideas put the colony in debt.

### Section 4: Life in the Backcountry

- Around 1730, settlers (including Scots-Irish, Germans, English Quakers, African slaves, and Highland Scots) started moving into the backcountry. Many came from Pennsylvania along the Great Wagon Road.
- Moravians, who settled in an area they called Wachovia, were highly organized and became very prosperous.
- Each group of settlers brought their own traditions and founded churches of different denominations.

### Section 5: William Tryon and the Regulation

- Royal Governor William Tryon, appointed in 1764, better organized the colony and established a capital at New Bern.
- Backcountry settlers who were upset about taxation and government corruption called themselves Regulators.
- Governor Tryon’s victory at the 1771 Battle of Alamance ended the Regulator movement.

## Activities for Learning

### Reviewing People, Places, and Things



Match the following with the correct description that follows.

**Lords Proprietors**  
**Great Wagon Road**  
**Regulators**  
**Moravians**

**Quakers**  
**prairie**  
**quit-rent**  
**backcountry**

- religious group also known as the “Society of Friends”
- group that protested the colonial policies of Governor Tryon
- a tax on land
- nobles who owned the Carolina colony beginning in the late 1600s
- important transportation route by which settlers came to North Carolina
- religious group that settled Wachovia
- area west of the Fall Line
- open grassland that many settlers built farms upon

### Understanding the Facts



- Why did King Charles give the Carolina colony to the Lords Proprietors?
- Why were some early settlers called “rogues”?
- What were the first two towns established in the colony?
- What was the “Test Act”?
- Why were the Tuscarora upset at white settlers?
- In what year did the Proprietors officially separate the Carolina colony into North and South Carolina?
- Why were settlers drawn to the Cape Fear area?
- Why did the Lords Proprietors decide to sell the colony back to the king?
- Why did one Proprietor choose not to sell his share of the colony back to the king?

- How did geography affect the shipment of goods from the Carolina colony?
- Fort Dobbs was built to protect settlers during what war?
- Who were the first people to settle the backcountry?
- From which colony did most of the immigrants to North Carolina come?
- Describe the environment in which the Moravians lived.
- What happened as a result of the Battle of Alamance?

### Developing Critical Thinking



- Was Governor Burrington’s issuance of blank patents fair? Why or why not?
- Governor Tryon had a Regulator executed in front of the protestors and another Regulator hanged without a trial. Do you think his actions were appropriate under the circumstances? Under what circumstances, if any, would those actions be appropriate today?
- Do you think the Regulators were justified in their protest? Explain why or why not.

### Writing across the Curriculum



- The Lords Proprietors and their governors wanted to increase the number of settlers to Carolina. Create an advertisement to encourage more people to come to the colony. Be sure to include relevant facts and details about the colony that would persuade more people to settle there.
- Imagine that you and your classmates are Regulators and are writing to Governor Tryon to express your concerns about the injustices within the colony. Make a list of your complaints about your colonial government and put them together into a petition. The petition should describe the problems you are experiencing with taxes and royal officials, and address ways in which to solve these issues.