



## **Proprietary and Royal Colony History**

### **Influential People**

Two notable early residents were the Surveyor General of the Colony John Lawson and the first Chief Justice of the Colony Christopher Gale. However, a man less notable, but a philanthropist and minister of the faith, the Reverend Thomas Bray in 1700 organized a collection of contemporary religious and general interest titles in London that would become the American colony's first public library located in Bath Town's St. Thomas Parish in 1701. In fact, this collection and library would be the only public library in the American colonies during the colonial period. The only surviving title from the collection is Gilbert Towerson's "Application of the Church Catechism."

Reverend Bray, an Anglican clergyman sent to the Carolina Province from the Province of Maryland to recruit new clergy members, found the Native American and African American populations exceedingly under-served and without any educational, or spiritual opportunity. Reverend Bray upon his return to England enlisted the help of the newly formed Society of the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, officially chartered in 1701. Reverend Bray's mission was to gather three collections. However, only the collection in Bath was officially established. Upon Reverend Bray's return to the Carolina Province he then created the first free school to give hope to the Native American and African American peoples of the Carolina Province.

### **The Cary Rebellion**

The Carolina Province's Thomas Cary, in Charles Town was named Provincial Governor by the Lord's Proprietors in 1705. Cary, an ardent supporter of the Anglican Church party invoked the Society of Friends to send Emanuel Low to England on their behalf to plead for the removal of Cary from office. Low, upon returning from England and having accomplished his mission found Governor Cary and the President of the Council were acting on his behalf. It soon became evident to Emanuel Low that William Glover was a

much more zealous supporter of the Anglican establishment and thus withheld the Lord's Proprietor's orders to expel Governor Cary from office giving himself opportunity to influence Thomas Cary's allegiance.

In 1707, the province's first gristmill and shipyard were established in Bath. By 1708 Bath consisted of only 12 houses and a rough population of about 50 people. The staples of the early economy of the region was trade in naval stores, furs, and tobacco. All were vitally important, and Bath became the first port of entry into the Carolina Province for the Lord's Proprietors.

in 1708 Governor Cary managed to oust William Glover from office forcing many of the Anglican supporters to return to the Virginia Colony seeking refuge. Emanuel Low can be credited with flipping Governor Cary's allegiance and allowing him to retain his lucrative post as Provincial Governor. From 1708 to 1710 the Society of Friends party dominated the political landscape. However, in 1711 Edward Hyde, a loyal Anglican arrived to the Province of Carolina claiming Governorship over the province. Governor Cary not having perfected the technical aspects of his office, entertained Edward Hyde's attempt at succession until such time that Edward Hyde made clear his political policies opposed the Society of Friends political interest.

Given the precedent that Edward Hyde was not able to produce his commission, Governor Cary thus refused to recognize him and reclaimed governorship. It is at this point that the province became forever divided and ultimately is the device that separated the northern part of the colony from the southern part.

Thomas Cary remained in the northern part of the province on his plantation on the Pamlico Sound and as an original grant holder of land in Bath was closely identified with the town and therefore indirectly sanctioned Bath as the de facto seat of government for the province.

Many residents of Bath were loyal Cary supporters and when Hyde filed arguments and legal process began to fail, Hyde declared Cary in open

rebellion and solicited an endeavor to seize Cary by force. Hyde then proceeded to assemble an armed force of 80 armed men from his the Salmon Creek area of the Bertie Precinct where he resided at his plantation and entered the Roanoke River where he joined forces with 70 more armed men on its south shore. Hyde, now 130 strong and making marching his force for two days, arrived to the Colonel Cary's abandoned plantation. Colonel Cary having received forewarning of Hyde's advance had repositioned his force of 40 armed men and fortified his position with five artillery pieces at the plantation of Colonel Daniels a former Provincial Governor at Archbell Point on Bath Creek.

Hyde's force the 29th of May began their assault found out immediately that their position was the weaker and thus retreated from the field returning to the Albemarle region on 1 June.

Hyde having once again being bested by Cary effectively rallied Cary's supporters increasing morale and influencing the new recruits coming to the aid of Governor Cary. Soon after the engagement and the retreat of Hyde, Cary declared himself the true Governor of the province both by military success and commission. Cary then commissioned the re-outfitting of six-gun brigantine (a two-masted sailing ship with a square-rigged foremast and a fore-and-aft-rigged mainmast) and two smaller vessels.

On 30 June 1711 Cary's naval force sailed to the plantation of Colonel Thomas Pollock on the Chowan River and attacked Hyde's force of 60 men and two canon. Cary with two landing parties headed to shore lost their appetite for battle as Hyde's canon s severed one of the brigantine's mast. As they cut anchor to make way, Hyde dispatched a sloop to board the Cary's disable vessel. As the expedition entered the sound they quickly discovered Cary's men had disbursed after the brigantine was beached giving Hyde additional armament and ordnance to further his campaign for governorship.

Unknown to Hyde, Richard Roach had been sent from England to aid Cary. Roach fortified a small island in the Pamlico sound and began to organize a

large armed force to end Hyde's encroachments. Pushing Hyde's men from the area, the Colonial Governor of Virginia, Alexander Spotswood came to the aid of Hyde having formed a militia to march into the Carolina Province with a company of Royal Marines from the Chesapeake Bay immediately dispatched to give aid to Hyde in July of 1711.

Cary having spotted her Majesty's Navy coming to the aid of Hyde, and unwilling to commit treason against the crown, lay down their arms and returned to their homes until later arrested, sent to London, tried and released.

Black Beard and Provincial Governor Charles Eden.

In 1712, the division and distinction of Carolina was redefined and divided into the northern districts and the southern districts of the province. In 1712 they were finalized with the separation of their governments being lawfully completed.

Across the bay from Edenton to the west, the point of land visible is Archbell Point. It was near this location that Provincial Governor Charles Eden lived during his time in Bath. Eden, who hailed from an ancient and prominent English family, became governor of the province in May 1714. The governor occupied a 400-acre plantation on the west side of Bath Creek.

Blackbeard arrived in Bath sometime in June 1718, and immediately received the "gracious pardon" of the Royal Proclamation from Governor Eden.

Edward Teach was most likely born in Bristol, England and although little is known about his early life. In 1716 he joined the crew of Benjamin Hornigold a privateer captain turned pirate who operated from the Caribbean to the island of New Providence. Captain Hornigold on 28 November 1718 captured the the French La Concorde de Nantes, a 330 ton frigate near the island of Martinique. The ship originally built in England in 1710 and Christened Concord was later captured by the French in 1711 and renamed La Concorde de Nantes. She was captured while sailing as a slaver and turned over to

Edward Teach, or Blackbeard the Pirate. Teach renamed the ship the Queen Anne's Revenge and re-outfitted her to his own necessity. The vessel eventually was deliberately anchored, ditched and sank on a shoal in old Topsail Inlet. The ship is presently being salvaged.

Virginia's Governor Spottswood fearing Blackbeard's plundering received word that the infamous pirate had weighed anchor at Ocracoke Island on the outer bank of what would become North Carolina. He sent Lt. Robert Maynard and on the evening of 21 November Maynard had located the pirates in the harbor of Ocracoke Island. 10 pirates and 10 of the King's men would be dead a day later after Maynard executed a perfectly placed broadside of Blackbeard's vessel. After a grueling battle, Maynard had taken Teach. Maynard later examined Teach's body, noting that it had been shot no fewer than five times and cut about twenty. He also found several items of correspondence, including a letter to the pirate from Tobias Knight. The decapitated corpse was then thrown into the inlet and Teach's head suspended from the bow-spirit of Maynard's sloop giving indication that bounty was due.

### **Significant Bath Town Events**

- The first Beaufort County courthouse was built in Bath Town in 1723.
- The states oldest church St. Thomas Church was commissioned in 1734.
- Ferry service was established across the Pamlico River, and a post road linked Bath to New Bern and Edenton in 1734.
- The General Assembly met in Bath in 1743, 1744, and 1752.
- In 1746 the town was considered for capital of the colony. Governors Robert Daniel, Thomas Cary, Charles Eden, and Matthew Rowan made Bath their home.
- In 1776 a new town, Washington was formed 15 miles up the Pamlico River.
- When Beaufort County government relocating from Bath to Washington in 1785, Bath began its demise.

## **Beaufort Town - 1709**

North Carolina's 2nd oldest town and port of entry first granted to the Reverend Roger Green in 1653. The 1653 grant was for a 1000 acre choice from a 10,000 acre tract on the south side of the Chowan River.

Reverend Green's son Timothy Green married Anne Farnfold and was born, 30 May 1674 in St. Stephen's Parish, Northumberland County Virginia.

Farnifold Green would marry Hannah Kent Smithwick, the widow of John Smithwick in Bath Town, Carolina Province a Quaker. Farnifold and Hannah had 6 children all born in Bath Town from 1698 to 1708 with his oldest child Thomas killed in 1714 by the Tuscarora.

The family maintained a 1700 acre plantation on the north side of the Neuse River and in 1707, or 1708 received a land grant for 780 acres from the Lord's Proprietors described as land beginning at the mouth of the Coree River running up the creek 245 poles to a pine and then east 345 poles to a gum, north 80 degrees and east 45 poles to a pine at the North River along the sound to the first station.

The area is in the general vicinity of Cape Lookout to Beaufort Town, the home of the Coree, Coranine, or Cwariok nation.

15 August 1698, Fornyfeild Green, with wife Hannah, James Hogg with wife Ann, Thomas Pierce with wife Mary sell to William Long their interest of 250 acres of land of Lawrence Consolvo, deceased for 40£ the that lays by a creek called Indian Creek on the Yeopim River, Perquimans Precinct and the deed registered Jan 1699. Perquimans Count/Beaufort County Deed Book 1, page 9. All four men are brother's in-law of the deceased.

1 July 1701, Furnifold Green deeds to James Hogg part of an entry of land made by him on 2 April 1698. Beaufort County/ Washington Deed Book I, Page 3.

9 September 1701, Furnefold Green has 550 acres surveyed and laid out for him for the transportation of 15 unnamed persons. Beaufort County Deed Book I, Page 6

12 December 1701, Furrnifold Green "lays five rites upon an entry made by sonne Thomas on 17 Nov 1701, land called Nonowarrittsa. Beaufort County Deed Book I, Page 9

7 July 1706, Furnifold Green and wife Hannah sell Neuse River land to Christopher Dawson Beaufort County Deed Book I, Page 101

1707, the Lord's Proprietors grant 1700 acres to Farnifold Green on the north side of the Neuse River in present day Craven County, North Carolina.

27 June 1708, Furnifold Green and his wife Hannah, of the Parish of St. Thomas in Archdale again sell land to Christopher Dawson.

8 October 1708, Furnifold Green sells land to John Putnall witnessed by Christopher Dawson

Beaufort County Deed Book I, Page 103

Beaufort Town established in 1709, is the third oldest town in North Carolina populated initially with predominantly by Quakers, Huguenots, Palatines and Protestants.

Not up until the early 1800's did Front Street come into existence running in concert with Taylor's creek for 10 to 12 blocks. Taylor's Creek was the primary thoroughfare to take you to The Straits where you could access the Lenoxville, Glouster, Marshallberg and Harker's Island communities. As you left The Straits headed east you were in the Core Sound with Core Banks directly in your path. Portsmouth Island and Ocracoke Island lay north east up the banks as the Core Sound joins the Pamlico Sound.

On 4 April 1722 Beaufort was designated an official port for the unloading and discharging of vessels by the Lords Proprietors' deputies. The original town commissioners overseeing this operation were Christopher Gale, John Nelson, Joseph Bell and Richard Rustill. Carteret Precinct was formed from Craven County which extended through the entire province to Charles Town.

Beaufort was incorporated by the aforementioned men on 23 November 1723 and included development of the town lots with stipulation that you must build a 15 x 20 building on the property to secure the property within two years, or the property reverted back to the previous owner, or back to the town if the town be the previous owner.

On the same day that incorporation was filed, five lots were sold that ultimately after the two year period had lapsed were reclaimed by the town's commissioners.

Thomas Lovick originally arrived to the Carolina Province via Port Edenton in 1719 as shown in his 10 November 1719 petition to obtain and patent 640 acres lying at the head of Salmon Creek which joins Edenton Bay opposite the town of Edenton to the south.. Thomas was well educated in London and from a well connected family of land and title holders in London, The West Indies, Barbados and the Province of Carolina.

In 1725 the Royal Government nominated Thomas Lovick as Justice of the Peace for the Beaufort Precinct of Carteret County. Thomas Lovick in 1734 became Her Majesty's Tax Collector for Port Beaufort and ultimately Chairman of the Court for Carteret County to the Upper and Lower Assemblies.

Additionally, from 1715 to 1718 after Queen Anne's war had ended, attacks were frequently executed by the Yamasee and Pirates such as Blackbeard. A group of men from the West Indies known loosely as the **Goose Creek Men** grew increasingly frustrated with the Lords Proprietors lack of general defense from attacks by native peoples and the Spanish of La Florida and ever increasing forays into the political dealings of the colony.

In 1719, the South Carolina assembly sent a petition to England requesting that the proprietors be replaced with Crown administration. In 1720 King George, I appointed Royal Governors for North and South Carolina thereby transitioning the colony's status from a Proprietary Colony to a Royal Colony

which in effect allowed the colony self governance with Royal Military support.

In 1729, the Crown bought out seven of the eight of the Lords Proprietors for £22 500, approximately the amount they had spent on the colony. The eighth proprietor, John Carteret, Lord Granville, refused to sell and retained title to the lands and quit rents in the northern third of North Carolina.

Efforts then began to locate and buy out the Lords Proprietors, the Crown in 1729 completed their buyout of 7 of the 8 proprietors less Sir George Carteret's share which had passed to his heirs. The heir, the great grandson of Sir George Carteret was John Carteret, 2nd Earl Granville. The northern and southern districts were now defined as North Carolina and South Carolina respectively. John Carteret retained ownership of a 60 mile wide strip of land in North Carolina adjoining the Virginia border and stretching into the western wilderness to the French held Louisiana territory. This area was referred to as the Granville District until it was seized by the revolutionary government of North Carolina during the American Revolution.

When Beaufort Town was captured by Spanish Privateers in 1747, Colonel Thomas Lovick's militia regiment regains control of Beaufort Town from the Spanish Privateers on September the 10th, 1747. Thomas Lovick served as Collector of Taxes for the town of Beaufort, Collector of Customs for Port Beaufort and Chairman of the Lords Proprietor's Courts until his death in 1759.

The Spanish Privateer attack of 1747 is the point where we first discover the presence of Laughlin Quin. On 10 September, 1747 in defense Port Beaufort and the Town, the militias were mustered on the beach and in the town. Laughlin served for six days from September 4th to September 10th 1747 and was paid and accounted for on the Militia Pay Records for Colonel Thomas Lovick's Carteret County Regiment.

For those fans and, or unfamiliar with historic fiction, please take a moment to read Sara Whitford's rendition on the Spanish Alarm in North Carolina's history. The works are a part of the Adam Fletcher Series under the heading **The Spanish Invasion of Beaufort: How slaves turned settlers became pawns in Spain's hand.**

Thanks Sara, great work. She does a great job getting after documents that I was going to speak of here, but her version makes me happier, she tells the whole story.

Places like Bath, Edenton and Beaufort were fairly well isolated over land to the Virginia Colony to the northeast and also to the growing colonial presence in Charles Town and Port Royal. The Spanish Colony of Saint Augustine was just beyond the southern boundary of the Carolina Provincial Charter originally granted to the Lords Proprietors.

Between 1765 and 1770, 37 of the town's lots changed hands with 9 of these lots having had substantial buildings erected upon them. The main density of the population resided on the west end of Front Street as indicated in a map of the area that was completed in 1770 by Claude Joseph Sauthier.

Beaufort remained remote and very isolated from the interior of North Carolina. Roads constructed in the early 1700's are still extant in some more remote areas and are lined with oyster shells as they were then to light the way. When the moon reflects brilliantly off the smooth small pieces of the the oyster's interior shell, it becomes easy to distinguish road from bog. The interior shell, a smooth polished surface created over time as the oyster filters sand and water, reflects light brilliantly marking the boundaries of the old foot paths and roads built in those early days of settlement. It was not uncommon to find very large piles of oyster shells that had been left as a result of the local Coree Tribe that lived in small numbers, mostly hidden from the English after the Tuscarora War. Atlantic Beach, Pine Knoll Shores, Indian Beach and Bear Island were areas where they retreated as more barbarian settlers were arriving steadily. The Core were nearly driven to

complete extinction. Ultimately the Coree assimilated into the European populations of other regional Algonquin speaking cultures.

## **Transportation and Communication**

Up until the late 1760's Beaufort residents received news quickly from the civilized world via the packets stopping off from the West Indies, Barbados, Boston, Havana, Santa Domingo and New Orleans finding safe haven from pirates and summer storms and other unpredictable weather patterns. The result was that Beaufort, Edenton, Wilmington, Charleston, Port Royal, Saint Augustine and New Orleans received news daily as a steady stream of mariners visited their ports to take on and receive stores, provisions and passengers.

The residents of the small coastal communities received news and information far in advance of the general populations inhabiting the interior areas of the state.

## **New Bern - 1710**

North Carolina's 3rd oldest town and port of entry is in present day Craven County. The city is located at the confluence of the Trent and Neuse rivers and served as the capital until a fire destroyed the capital in 1794 and the capital was relocated to Raleigh.

Originally a Swiss immigrant settlement, the city is named for Bern Switzerland and its flag bears similar characteristics. The settlement was established by Marian exiles, or Calvinists and Swiss Paletines as my paternal grandmother's line came with Von Graffenreid to New Bern in the settlement of farmers up the Trent River toward Pollocksville and Comfort in Jones County.

The principal founder was Christoph von Graffenried, born 15 November 1661 at his family's home Schloss Worb in Worb, a German speaking part of the

Canton of Bern. Christoph was the eldest son of Anton vo Graffenried and Katrina Jenner.

Christoph von Graffenried met Franz Ludwig Michel who had discovered silver in Virginia and owned lands in both the Virginia Colony and the Carolina Province and thus recommended that the Carolina Province would better suit an endeavor to purchase cheap land to pay his debts in Switzerland.

Christoph intrigued by the lure of maintain his family's wealth, secretly departed for London leaving his debts to his father. Christoph would meet John Lawson in London as Lawson was publishing A Voyage to Carolina.

Lawson was Surveyor General to the Carolina Province and promised to show Graffenried and his settlers a perfect place to establish a community. In 1709, Graffenried then met with the Lords Proprietors of Carolina who granted to him ten thousand acres on the Neuse and Cape Fear rivers as well as imparting the title Baron of Bernberg of Christoph after the settlement he was to establish with German Palatines and Swiss immigrants.

Christoph von Graffenried and his entourage were attacked by French Privateers as they made way to their new settlements and were relieved of all their valuables. Upon making landfall in the New World, the settlers relived themselves of all worldly possessions except for the clothes on their backs and proceeded with John Lawson to the junction of the Trent and Neuse rivers which they named New Bern.

After a first season's crop failure and lack of food and supply, Graffenried returned to Europe to resupply and quickly returned to New Bern.

As the area where the settlers began to establish for themselves was the historical home of many native Carolina Tribes, their presence was very much contested by Chief Hancock of the Tuscarora.

In 1711, Graffenried, now the Landgrave of Carolina evicted a group of Tuscarora from nearby lands without payment and the start of the Tuscarora War ensued. Graffenried and Lawson hoping to establish a vineyard and cross breed European grapes with native varieties sailed up the Neuse River. The Tuscarora captured both Graffenried, Lawson and a slave of Graffenried's. While in captivity, the men were given three separate trials, each in a different Tuscarora village. One group found the men not guilty, the other two found them guilty of wrongful crimes against the Tuscarora people and sentenced them to death.

Because Graffenried's dress and demeanor was perceived as elegant. The group of Tuscaroran elders thought him to be the Governor. When they told Christoph of their plans to attack his settlements, they released him to a burning and abandoned New Bern the following day. Lawson was tortured and executed as Graffenried was sent on his way.

Graffenried having lost his fortune returned to Bern in 1714 destitute and owing the settlers in the Carolina Province heavy debt. Graffenried, in his escape managed to sell Thomas Pollock his land grants for 800£.

Graffenried soon wrote a book entitled "Relation" as an apology and explanation as to why his settlement had failed. He included several documents, among them a letter written to the Governor of the Province of Carolina with detailed layouts of the settlements of New Bern along with sketches of the Carolina Province. Graffenried was also a trained artist.

Graffenried also wrote about how Lawson was responsible for his own demise and that Lawson wanted the settlements to fail, so that he would be able to sell his services again. Graffenried died destitute in 1743 in Bern.

The Tuscarora missed the settlers living across the Neuse and Trent Rivers at what today between Havelock and New Bern. For more information please visit <https://quinngenealogy.org/rivenbark-dna> where I go into greater detail.

## **Edenton - 1722**

North Carolina's 4th oldest town and port of entry was originally incorporated in 1716 as The Towne on Queen Anne's Creek and then later as Ye Towne on Mattercommack Creek and then Port of Roanoke. Charles Eden having died in 1722 lived in Ye Towne on Mattercommack Creek and influenced the town's assembly to rename the town Edenton, in honor of Governor Charles Eden.

Edenton served as the capital of the Carolina Province from 1722 to 1743 with governor's establishing their residences there.

Edenton did not gain any amount of notoriety until 1774 when the Tea Act in Boston encouraged the a group of women led by Penelope Barker to sign a protest petition agreeing to boycott English tea and other products in what later became known as the Edenton Tea Party.

The Edenton Tea Party is the first known political action by women in the British American colonies. In London's papers the women were depicted as uncontrollable harlots. The Barker home is currently open daily for tourist to visit.

Joseph Hewes another resident of Edenton would later become the first Secretary of the Navy in 1776 and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

James Iredell also of Edenton at age 38 would be the youngest member appointed to the US Supreme Court by George Washington. Iredell also served as the Democratic-Republican Governor of North Carolina and then became a US Senator. His home may also be toured daily.

US Supreme Court Justice James Wilson, also a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution died in Edenton on 21 August 1798 at the age of 55 while riding his Judicial Circuit.

Also of Edenton's history a Capt. Michael Quinn turned sides soon after Benedict Arnold did while in Charles Town. His ship aptly named the General Arnold was a Row Galley. The galley under command of Cat. Quinn ran aground exiting the Chowan River and ran aground, unable to escape. Himself, his crew, powder and canon were all captured in tact by Edenton's militia. Capt. Quinn had previously served the NC Continental Line and originally enlisted in Edenton as a Fireman Apprentice before being advanced to Lieutenant. He is my first cousin 8 times removed. After spending time in the Edenton jail, he was transported to Halifax jail where Private Hardy Murphy was ordered by Capt. Linton to kill Quinn. Capt. Linton was convicted of Murder and discharged several years after.

For a better description see <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p249901coll37/id/38240> or to simply download the full pamphlet, use this link:

### **Brunswick Town - 1726**

North Carolina's 5th oldest town and port of entry is a Province of Carolina ghost town located across the Cape Fear River from present day Wilmington North Carolina. It is immediately adjacent to the Smithville Township in Brunswick County, North Carolina. Brunswick Town is the first known settlement in the Lower Cape Fear region. Brunswick Town served as a major port in the Carolina Province for almost 50 years and was home to three Provincial Governors until it was razed by Cornwallis in the American Revolution. It was never repopulated or rebuilt.

The area surrounding Brunswick Town was originally inhabited by the Tuscarora, but after their defeat in 1715 English settlers began to colonize the area and move up the Cape Fear.

Brunswick Town was founded in July of 1726 by the sons of the South Carolina Royal Governor James Moore, the son of Irish Nobleman Rory Moore. The brothers Maurice & Roger Moore were owners of the nearby Orton Plantation.

Maurice, would later become Royal Governor. Maurice's son Alfred Moore would become a US Supreme Court Associate Justice.

When the Village of Newton was founded in 1733, the two towns jointly formed the Port of Brunswick. Roger Moore's tomb is located in Brunswick Town.

During the 1730's Brunswick Town became the political center as the seat of New Hanover Precinct. In March of 1731 George Burrington became the first Royal Governor of North Carolina and located to Brunswick Town enabling the the town became the official port of entry for the Cape Fear River. For two decades the Port of Brunswick was the busiest business district in North Carolina with strong commercial ties to England the the West Indies.

As Wilmington began to overtake Brunswick Town in terms of commercial activity and being reduced to 25% of the ports overall activity. The town slowly fell victim to Wilmington's success.

In 1748 the town was attacked by Spanish Privateers and held for three days until Colonel William Dry's militia recaptured the town.

Arthur Dobbs the Royal Governor of North Carolina arrived in Brunswick Town in 1754 when he had constructed the Governor's Mansion; Russellborough.

Dobbs' presence, along with the construction of the Royal Chapel at St. Philip's Church kept the town active for a short period while nearby Wilmington continued to increase its economic importance & political influence. With Dobb's death in 1765, William Tryon was appointed Royal Governor of North Carolina and continued using Russellborough as the governor's official residence for a short while.

## **Wilmington - 1739**

North Carolina's 6th oldest town and port of entry was formed in 1729 in the New Hanover Precinct of Craven County. By 1730 there were a few Quaker settlements being established in the Cape Fear region.

The Lower Cape Fear by 1731 was growing rapidly and 35 members of the Moore family owned 115,000 acres of the land comprising the Lower Cape Fear.

The Moores; Maurice, Roger and Nathaniel, Edward Mosely, John Baptista Ashe, Samuel and John Swann, Thomas Jones, Edward Smith, Mosely Vail, Eleazer Allen, John Porter, and John Grange comprised the Moore consortium.

In April of 1731 Royal Governor George Burrington an opponent of the Moore family petitioned the General Assembly to pass an Act for building a Town on the Lower Cape Fear and began appointing Commissioners to support that end.

Wilmington, having been laid out in 1733 was known by many names. New Carthage, New Liverpool, Village of Newton and New Town.

John Watson was granted 640 acres in New Hanover Precinct. Watson, along with Joshua Grainger, Michael Higgins, and James Wimble were the chief owners of the lands on which Wilmington now stands. In April of 1733 these men joined forces and laid out the town resembling that of Brunswick Town which was visible across the Cape Fear River.

James Campbell referred to himself in 1734 as a "merchant of New Liverpool," and became the first town commissioner with his sons; James, John, Samuel, and William Campbell becoming his successors. Campbell had died by 1756 as reflected in New Hanover County Deed Books, A & B, Pages 100 & 101

In March 1735, the inhabitants in and around the Village of Newton petitioned the governor's council to designate the place as a town. On 13 May 1735, Royal Governor Gabriel Johnston announced his intention to open a land office and

ordered the Council and Court to meet in The Village of Newton. (Saunders, Colonial Records, IV, 44, 45, 48.)

Market Street, Front Street, Dock Street, Mulberry Street, Chestnut Street, Red Cross Street, King Street, Queen Street, and Nun Street were listed in existence as of 1736. In October of 1736 a bill that failed to win legislative approval was introduced to establish the town of Wilmington in the place known as the Village of Newton.

Richard Eagles was granted land that is now called Eagles' Island in 1737. The area is the present location of a museum dedicated to the Battleship North Carolina.

Michael Dyer operated a shipyard between Church and Castle streets reflected in New Hanover Deed Books, AB, Page 60.

George Whitfield, the English evangelist preached in Newton in 1739.

On February 20 1740, Colonel William Bartram of Bladen County introduced a bill to the General Assembly for the establishment of the town and township of Wilmington. The bill passed into law and the Village of Newton was incorporated as Wilmington. It was named in honor of Spencer Compton, Earl of Wilmington, and patron of Royal Governor Gabriel Johnston.

An alarm was sounded in Wilmington in 1748 when Spanish warships dropped anchor down the Cape Fear River and captured Brunswick Town for three days.

The original St. James Episcopal Church was constructed in 1751 on land donated by Michael Higgins. To raise funds for the building, subscribers reserved space for family pews, each pew in proportion to the amount donated. The early church was a simple, square brick building with a peaked roof and no belfry.

Vail's plan of Wilmington was accepted as official by a final Wilmington Act in 1754 and with slight changes and allowances for increase of territory, remains the official plan for the present city. Wilmington Town Book of 1755 reveals 106 taxables in the city; one year later this number had increased to 125. These statistics do not include women, white males below the age of sixteen, or negroes below the age of twelve, and accordingly are not an accurate record of the town's population, but, there were in the town 58 house owners with property subject to tax evaluations. Royal Governor William Tryon in 1765 took the oath of office in the town of Wilmington.

## NORTH CAROLINA Seats of Government

From April 1692 to March 1712, North Carolina and South Carolina were combined into the single province of Carolina and Charles Town served as the official seat of government.

The legislature met in Edenton in 1708. Before and for a few years after that date, it evidently met in various private homes and public buildings in the colony.

The Executive Council called for the Assembly of 1715-16 to meet at the home of Capt. Richard Sanderson in Little River, "instead of the Church in Chowan which was the place of ye last meeting."

From 1725 to 1736 the Assembly again met at Edenton where later sessions were also conducted in New Bern, Wilmington, and Bath.

In 1746 the legislature passed an act to make New Bern the permanent capital and was vetoed by the royal government, in part due to objections from the northern counties.

The Assembly in 1758 located the capital at Tower Hill, a place on the Neuse River near Kingston, modern day Kinston where a new town, to be called George City, was to be built. The plan stalled and was dropped.

New Bern at last was made the permanent capital in 1766, when the Assembly voted to build what came to be known as Tryon Palace and the site for colonial governor William Tryon's mansion.

After the American Revolution was underway, the seat of government was considered to be wherever the legislature met.

Before an Assembly for the patriots was organized, the Provincial Council met at the "court house in Johnston County" in 1775-76.

In 1776 the Council of Safety met at Wilmington in the home of William Whitfield in what was then Dobbs County and also the Joel Lane home Wake County.

Between 1774-76 the Provincial Congress of North Carolina met twice in New Bern, once in Hillsborough, and twice in Halifax.

The General Assembly of 1777 met in New Bern.

From 1778-81, it convened in New Bern, Hillsborough, Halifax, Smithfield, and the Wake County Court House.

In 1781 officials chose Hillsborough as the permanent capital. When the town was raided later that year by Loyalist forces under David Fanning, the legislature determined that it was not a safe location for a capital. After the Revolution, the General Assembly continued to move, holding sessions at Hillsborough, New Bern, Fayetteville, and Tarboro.

In 1788 the lawmakers decided to resolve the issue of a permanent state capital once and for all. At a convention in Hillsborough to consider ratification of the U.S. Constitution that failed that summer, they created a committee, led by Willie Jones, to fix an "unalterable seat of government of this state" within ten miles of Isaac Hunter's plantation in Wake County. Willie Jones and the committee favored this location but left the choice of a particular site to the legislature. Advocates of Fayetteville as the capital kept the issue alive.

When the proposal came to a vote on 29 March 1790, the House and Senate split evenly, with the House Speaker voting for Wake County and the Senate Speaker in opposition. On 5 December the legislature finally approved the Wake County site and appointed a nine-member commission to purchase a tract of land. After visiting more than a dozen farms, the commissioners continued to put off a decision. Joel Lane, however, gave a lavish dinner for them, and his property soon was chosen. Most historians credit Governor Alexander Martin with suggesting that the site be named to honor Sir Walter

Raleigh. The General Assembly met in Raleigh for the first time during the 1794-95 sessions and a capitol building was completed in 1796. As state law required, the governor was required to live in Raleigh where a house for the chief executive was provided by 1797.

**Sources:** Candy Lee Metz Beal, Raleigh: The First 200 Years (1992). William K. Boyd, History of North Carolina, Vol. 2: The Federal Period (1919). John L. Cheney Jr., North Carolina Government, 1585-1979: A Narrative and Statistical History (1981). Elizabeth Reid Murray, Wake: Capital County of North Carolina (1983). William S. Powell, North Carolina through Four Centuries (1989). James Vickers, Raleigh, City of Oaks: An Illustrated History (1992).