

# Colonial Society and Culture

- NC Population: 1730 30,000 whites 6,000 blacks  
1775 265,000 whites 80,000 blacks
- Major growth in colony due to immigration from SC, PA, MD, NJ with additional new settlers from Scotland, Ireland, and Germany.
- Early settlers primarily English followed by Highland Scots, Lowland Scots, and Scots-Irish; Scots started arriving in 1730s; Gov. Gabriel Johnston (Highland Scot) got Assembly to pass ten year tax exemption for any Highland Scots who came to NC.



# Highland Scots

- Largest settlement in American before Rev. / Presbyterians.
- Act of Union 1707 forced unification.
- Battle of Culloden, April 16, 1746 defeat of the Scots; clan system broken, pardon for oath of allegiance-immigration.
- Scots moved up Cape Fear; 1754 Cumberland County created; Campbelltown later became Fayetteville; County named for “Bloody Duke” of Cumberland.

## Scots-Irish

- Mostly Lowland Scots who came overland from PA.
- The Scots originally settled in Ireland to “civilize” island.
- Well read, independent, opposed to Church of England

# Germans

- With exception of early settlement of New Bern, most Germans came from PA. By 1775 about 8,000 Germans in North Carolina.
- Moravians constituted the largest group. First arrival was 1753; bought land in Granville District and started Wachovia [98,985 acres].
- Salem was their primary village.



# Black Slaves

- Slaves generally animists.
- Need for labor resulted in 50 acres land for every slave imported.
- Most slaves prior to 1730 were in NE NC raised tobacco & in naval stores; by 1740 rice-growing.
- In 1763 about 1/5 pop. was slave; by 1790  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; 1790 Census 100,572 slaves & 4,975 free blacks.
- 1741 slaves forbidden to raise animals or to testify in court; harsh punishments for escaping.
- In 1774 law passed making “wilful and malicious” killing of a slave a crime but only carried a fine.



# Free Blacks

- By 1790 numbered just under 5,000.
- Child took the status of the mother.
- Most freed in wills (Manumission).
- From 1715 to 1776 intermarrying and voting prohibited; free blacks given vote in 1776 and maintained until 1835.
- Law requiring freed slaves to leave colony was not enforced.
- Most free Negroes were small farmers, some even owned slaves.

# Social Classes and Orders

- The Gentry—Planters, public officials, merchants, professionals (including clergy).
- Small Farmers—husbandman or yeoman—were the largest social class and had class pride; hardworking, honest, democratic, crude in manners, dogmatic in religion.
- Indentured Servants—Worked for passage to new world; terms 3 to 5 years; entitled to 50 acres at end of term until 1715.
- Apprentices—Children, orphans, etc. being taught a trade.
- Blacks—Free had certain rights; Slaves were property.

# General Physical Conditions

- Housing—Wood structures one to two stories; Mansion houses had 4 upstairs & 4 downstairs rooms; Kitchen from house; outdoor privies; farmers one room with dirt floor; clothing hung on pegs.
- Food—Beans, squash, potatoes, corn common; Tea, coffee, chocolate only available to gentry; Alcohol production & consumption widespread.
- Public Accommodations & Entertainment—Very poor; most stayed in private homes; horse racing, cock fighting, dancing.



# Life of Colonists

- Men often remarried, but women seldom outlived their first husband; marriages were not important social occasions.
- Funerals were great public occasions; private burials prohibited; body had to be viewed by 3 to 4 neighbors; wakes practiced.
- Court Days & Militia Muster (5 days a year) very important; fighting on muster days outlawed in 1754.
- Tobacco used by all males and lower class women—pipes, chewing, and snuff common.

# Religion

- Few ministers in early NC & little organized religion.
- Quakers first missionaries to colony, but declined after Revolution due to pacifism.
- Anglican Church was official church and between 1708 and 1783 sent 33 missionaries; St. Thomas Church in Bath is oldest in NC; replaced by Episcopal Church in 1817.
- Presbyterians—Scots and Scots-Irish.
- Baptists—First church organized Shiloh in 1727; Sandy Creek near Asheboro “Mother of Southern Baptist Churches;” Henry Abbot & religious liberty.
- Methodists—George Whitfield visited colony in 1739, but not organized officially until 1784.
- A small minority of Catholics and Jews in colony.



# Education

- Charles Griffin first school in Pasquotank Co. in 1709
- Assembly allocated money for school at New Bern in 1764.
- Rev. James Tate, Presbyterian minister, started Tate's School in 1766.
- Assembly chartered Queen's College in Charlotte in 1771 but school failed during Revolution.
- Education was viewed as a private matter in the colonial period.



# The Colonial Economy

- Economy was agricultural; crops planted in rows.
- Land and slaves were the major sources of wealth; land plentiful and cheap.
- Large estates in the east; smaller farms in the west.
- Corn most plentiful crop; wheat grown for export; tobacco was important export (hogsheads).
- In 1754 the Assembly directed establishment of warehouses at crossroads & early towns developed.
- Livestock—Hogs most common form; 50,000 head driven to VA in 1733.
- Forests—By 1768 60% of naval stores from NC; casks, barrels, planks, shingles, oak bark for tanning.

# Transportation & Communication

- Road were mere trails or footpaths; falling trees; floods.
- Assembly law for public roads.
- Horses and oxen used for transport; wagons common.
- Travel by carriage was a sign of upper class status.
- No postal service; mail passed from farm to farm; Moravian mail service.



# Sectional Controversies

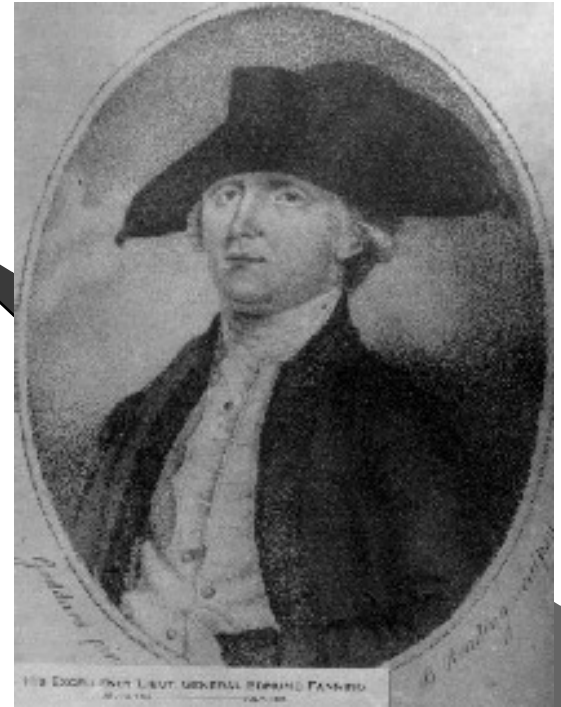
- Sectionalism: North v. South; Rep. of Albemarle 5 delegates per county; Neuse & Cape Fear 2 each; Albemarle used position to keep down reps. of newer counties; Albemarle vs. Cape Fear region; dispute over capital; William Tryon increased taxes for Governor's house (a.k.a. Tryon Palace).
- East v. West; Pop. of backcountry grew; in 1770 Assembly had 65 eastern & 15 western members (but 1/3 pop.); Officials appointed from east; "Courthouse rings;" fees set by Assembly disregarded by collectors; taxes.

# Unrest Starts

- Background: 1759 riots broke out in Granville District; rioters broken out of jail.
- In 1765 riot in Mecklenburg on land of Geo. Selwyn; Surveyors beaten in “War of Sugar Creek.”
- George Sims issues “Address to the People of Granville County” in June of 1765 (a.k.a. “The Nutbush Address”); appeal ignored by the Assembly.
- Regulators organized in 1766.

# War of the Regulation, 1766-1771

- Regulators organized by Herman Husband (primary spokesman), Rednap Howell, and James Hunter (“General of the Regulation”).
- Opposition to Edmund Fanning, NY, graduate of Yale, member of Assembly, Register of Deeds, Col. of Militia, corrupt & arrogant.
- In 1768 Sheriff called for payment of special tax for construction of Tryon Palace. Protestors organized: tax boycott, pay no fees greater than law allowed, attend regular meetings, contribute to organization as able, decisions by will of majority.



# War of the Regulation, 1766-1771

- Regulators issue a statement calling for an accounting of county officials; Sheriff acts against Regulators; attack on Fanning's house; march on Hillsborough jail; Fanning arrested charged with extortion, found guilty and not punished.
- Gov. dissolved Assembly; County Court in Hillsborough attacked; beat Edmund Fanning; Tryon gets passage of the Johnson Act, also called "The Bloody Riot Act."



# Battle of Alamance, 1771

- Gov. Tryon orders special court at Hillsborough & raises 1,452 militia to protect the session; on May 14<sup>th</sup> they camp near Great Alamance Creek.
- Force of 2,000 Regulators arrive with a list of demands; Tryon calls for them to lay down their arms and they reply: “Fire and be damned!”
- Tryon gives the order to fire and a 2-hour fight ensues; Regulators are driven off and defeated; 12 Regulators convicted of treason and 6 hanged; Tryon issues pardons to 6,409 who took the Oath of Allegiance; 1,500 families move from NC.
- Regulation was primarily a sectional conflict.