

Brief History of North Carolina

Ed Note—We are printing this week a brief history and facts about our state that should be of interest to every reader, especially the school children who start to school next week. The material used is taken from Hill's Young People's History of North Carolina, the 1927 Manual of the Historical Commission, and Nobel's, A History of the Public Schools of North Carolina. The facts were compiled by the state superintendent of public instruction.

Name

In 1629 King Charles the First of England "erected into a province," all the land from Albemarle Sound on the north to the St. John's River on the south, which he directed should be called Carolina. The word Carolina is from the word Carolus, the Latin form of Charles.

First Settlers

Our first settlers were largely from Virginia. Some came from New England and others came direct from Old England. Still others came from the English Colonies in the West Indies. There were small settlements of French, German and Swiss. Some of these people were seeking

better farming lands, some a better range for their stock, some to trap and hunt and be apart from their fellowman, and some even to escape taxes, tithes and rents. The vast colony were poor, but by hard work, saving, and good business sense, the men of this class built for themselves comfortable homes and improved their economic condition in general.

Our First Government

The first government in the Province of Carolina was the proprietary government. It was called this because the king had granted this terri-

tory to eight of his favorite friends who were called the Lords Proprietors. A governor and six or more men composed the Council, which attended to the duties of the State. The governor, his Council, and a group of men chosen by the people made the laws, but all laws had to be approved by the Lords. This body was called the Assembly.

The Governor

Under the proprietary government, William Drummond, a Scotchman by birth, was the first governor. So far as known his rule pleased the people, and the colony grew under his administration.

After the separation of Carolina into North Carolina and South Carolina in 1712, Edward Hyde was appointed by the Lords as "Governor of the North part of Carolina." He was therefore, the first governor of what is now North Carolina.

The first governor under the Constitution of 1776 was Richard Caswell. Under this Constitution the governor was elected by the Legislature to serve one year.

The Constitution of 1835 amended the Constitution to provide for the election of the governor, by popular vote for a term of two years. The present term of office is four years.

Some of the First Laws

In 1670 the population was nearly four thousand. More people were wanted, and hence the Assembly passed several acts encouraging people to come to the colony.

(1) One of these acts excused a man with a family from paying taxes for one year. (2) Another provided that for five years after a man moved into the colony he could not be sued for debts made before he came. (3) Since ministers were scarce, in order to help people get married, the Assembly ordered that a simple ceremony in the presence of the governor or a member of the Council should be lawful. (4) Other laws relating to the

growing of tobacco were passed

The First Town

The oldest town in the State, Bath, was begun in 1705. In 1709 it had twelve houses but no church. Saint Thomas's Church, the oldest church building now standing in the State was built some years later. Other old towns are New Bern, Edenton, Beaufort, Brunswick and Newtown, now Wilmington.

First Schools

"As far as our records show, the first school in North Carolina was opened in 1705. In that year Charles Griffin, a teacher by training, arrived from the West Indies, and opened a church school in Pasquotank precinct. In 1712 Mr. Marshburn was teaching at Sarum on the frontiers of Virginia."

Early School Legislation

In 1745 the commissioners of the town of Edenton were authorized by an act of assembly to erect and build a pound, bridges, public wharf, market-house, and schoolhouse in such public places as would be most convenient for the inhabitants of the town. A few years later (1754) the Assembly appropriated six thousand pounds for "founding and endowing a public school" in the province. This money however, was never applied to this purpose.

The first incorporated public school in North Carolina to receive aid in the form of gifts of both public land and annual public taxes was established at New Bern. This school was started in 1764 and in 1766 it was incorporated by the name of "The Incorporated Society for promoting and establishing a Public School in New Bern." This was the beginning of free public education—the beginning of State aid and free admission of children into tax-aided schools.

The Constitution of 1776 made provision for the establishment of schools and for a university. The Revolu-



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Further information given upon request.

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Copy of The Passed in

(Ed Note—We are printing an exact copy of a bill that was passed in the House Of Commons of the State of North Carolina, then the Buncombe County. We are printing this bill in a convenient form so that it may be preserved.)

Laws of North Carolina from 1805 to 1838

At a General Assembly begun and held at the City of Raleigh, on the 11th day of Nov. 1808, and in the 33rd year of the Independence of the State.

David Stone, Esq., Gov.

Chap. I.

An Act erecting the west part of Buncombe and distinct county, and also part of Brunswick and distinct county into a separate and distinct county.

Whereas the inhabitants in the said part of Buncombe County are very inconvenient to the court house in that county, and renders the attendance of jurors and witnesses at the said court house very expensive and almost impossible in the remedy whereof,

Be enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the said State, that all that part of the County of Buncombe, to the south of the southern boundary line of this State crossing the ridge dividing the waters of the French Broad and the waters of the French Broad of the Tuckaseegee River, then along the said ridge dividing the waters of Pigeon and French Broad, and thence along the top of the ridge dividing the waters of the French Broad and those of Pigeon River to the north of the said ridge, and with the state line to the line which separates the State of Georgia, and with that line, shall be, and is hereby erected into a separate and distinct county, by the name of Haywood, in honor of the said David Stone, Esq., Governor of this State.

2. And be it further enacted, that all Jurors who shall be summoned to attend the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County of Haywood within the bounds of the said County of Haywood, shall be subject to the same authority as they have heretofore been subject to, in the County of Buncombe; and the justices hereafter to be appointed to the said County, shall exercise all the power and authority, and be subject to the same penalties that justices of the peace of several counties of this State are subject to, or have a right to enjoy.

3. And be it further enacted, That the said County of Haywood shall be part of the district in which the County of Buncombe is included for electing representatives to the Congress of the United States; and for elector to vote for President of the United States; and elections hereafter to be held in the said County of Haywood shall be conducted in the same manner as elections in the County of Buncombe, and for the like purpose are conducted in the several counties of this State.

4. And be it further enacted, That John Montgomery, John Dodson, William Deever, Hiram Battle, and John Bryson be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners for fixing on the proper place for a court house at or near the center of said County, whereon the duties of which appointment they are requested to execute as soon as possible after the date of this act; but until a court house shall be erected, the duties of which appointment shall be performed in the convenient place fixed on by the commissioners appointed for that purpose; and the County of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the said County of Haywood shall be held at Mt. Prospect.

5. And be it further enacted that the County of Haywood shall hold the County Court on the fourth day of the month of March, June, September and December in each and every year: Provided, that the said County Court shall be holden on the fourth