

## North Carolina Seventh State To Own Charter

This issue of the News starts an account of how the North Carolina Charter of 1663 came to the state. In this article William Stevens Powell tells of how the charter was discovered, how it was purchased, and finally brought "home" to the Old North State. Only six other states have their colonial charters. This account was published by the State Department of Archives and History at Raleigh.

The story follows:

In the spring of 1947 word came that the Carolina Charter of 1663 had been found in England. An antiquarian bookseller, Charles W. Traylen of Guildford, Surrey, had bought it with other papers from a Mr. Howes, who in turn had gotten it in a miscellaneous lot at a sale of some papers owned by a Baker family. The charter was offered for sale at 2500 pounds or 10,000 dollars. Widespread interest was immediately shown by historians, antiquarians and educators not only in the Carolinas but in adjoining states. There were only 6 other states having their

colonial charters — Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

Steps were taken at once toward its acquisition. The director of the State Department of Archives and History started at once a search to establish its authenticity, its origin, and whether the seller could offer a clear title. It is interesting to see that great assistance was given by numerous persons in England and by interested scholars in this country. Information and suggestions for research in regard to the charter came from professors, librarians, in this country, all over the U. S., and the Embassy Staff in London. It was finally requested that the charter be sent here on approval. After securing the necessary clearance with British authorities, thru aid of our ambassador Lewis W. Douglas—the charter was sent. Except for brief periods when it was removed for special purposes it was kept in vaults in Wachovia Bank & Trust company in Raleigh. Photostats were taken of the charter and these were used in much of the study—a copy was sent to London to be verified against the copy on the rolls of Public Record Office. Several scholars after looking at the photostats gave the opinion that it showed every sign of being genuine.

being a copy were very high. The portrait of Charles II and other decorations by hand make the notion of a copy almost fantastic. The portrait of Charles II is an extremely fine one and an expert there felt that it was the work of a miniaturist.

The seal though damaged, he felt was part of the great seal for the gold and silver threads used would have cost high fees and would not have been used in a copy. This and previous evidence in its favor left no reasonable doubt that the charter was authentic—now the question needing an answer was—where did it come from?

Here the assistance of a member of the English Department of University college, London, was obtained.

The researcher on a part-time basis spent the better part of 1949 and his report is a fine example of document sleuthing at its best. All the investigations he made are interesting to read but too long for

this — finally it was how and why it came down to the hands of the Baker family. All clues were run to earth—even the most illusive were examined—such as the fact that a Baker did serve in the Royal Navy off the American Coast and may have picked up the document which was highly improbable—but it was found in the study of Colonial papers that the document was at one time at Lincoln's Inn. It was also found that a Wm. Baker was at Lincoln's Inn, and it was conjectured that with the loose filing of such documents then this Baker might have taken it.

All we do know is the interesting series of events—the arrival of the Charter at Lincoln's Inn, the arrival of William Baker at the same place, and the discovery of the Charter at the seat of the Baker family. We are much in the realm of conjecture here—but this Baker is probably a vital link in the chain.

— The average cow last year gave 5,500 pounds of milk. But the record for milk production is 42,805 pounds—nearly eight times the national average.

—North Carolina has 156 milk processing plants.

—Processors usually will not pay top prices for poorly-feathered chickens.



### Joyce Foulis Becomes Bride

and Mrs. Walter M. Rainwater were married June 3 at the Redwood Memorial Chapel of the Episcopal church. The bride is the former Miss Joyce Foulis of Liverpool, England, and Asheville.

Miss Joyce Edith Foulis of Liverpool, England and Asheville, became the bride of Walter M. Rainwater of Swannanoa Friday, June 3, in the Redwood Memorial chapel of Trinity Episcopal church.

The bride's mother Mrs. D. M. Foulis traveled to the United States from her home in Liverpool expressly for the purpose of attending her daughter's wedding. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Rainwater of Swannanoa.

The bride was educated at Aigburth Vale High School for Girls in Liverpool, and the bridegroom was graduated last year from Swannanoa High school.

Mr. and Mrs. Rainwater will reside at Prettyview apartments in Biltmore.

At this time at Chapel Hill he had from the University College London, a visiting professor. He and other faculty members at our university expressed the opinion that the document was genuine. It was sent to an authority at the Huntington Library in California. He said that the odds against this

### Anticipating Scholarships Available

FRESBORO, N. C.—One and four \$100 scholarships available to high school graduates who desire to attend the Parker School of Printing at college, according to Robert Grogan, dean of instruction. He said the scholarships made possible through cash donations of newspaper publishers of North Carolina. Students who are interested are referred to Dean Grogan at college.

Personal interviews and competitions will be held at the college Thursday, July 14, beginning at 11:00 a. m.

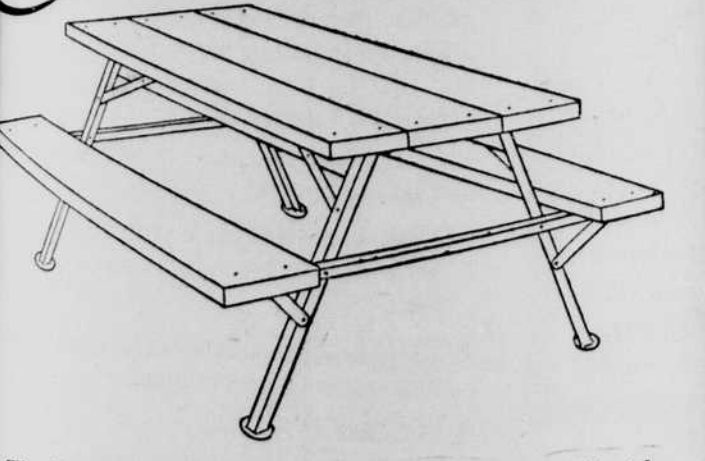
There is also available a \$200 grant to a young man or woman with typing experience who has had school or other news-writing experience. John H. Henny, director of the school, announced. The student receiving this grant could major in printing or Teletype operator courses.

Mr. Grogan said application for scholarship tests will be held through July 7.

North Carolinians should get full of watermelons this year. According to reports from growing 34,000 acres of watermelons been planted in the state conditions indicate an average of 215 melons per acre. This is the largest production since 1944.

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