

Early History of Salisbury and Rowan County**1753 – 1774****“A Brief Chronological History of Black Salisbury Rowan”****Setting prior to 1750's:**

Considerable amounts of Negroes, mulattoes, and other mixed-blood came into NC, though intermarrying was against the law in the 1720's. Since the 30's, NC slaves had “class distinctions” determined by birth. They were either born in the colony or from Guinea, Africa. In the 40's, slaves were given trials and other slaves could offer evidence. They could own no hogs, cattle, or land as they once could.

1753—Salisbury Rowan Established – The Old Assembly, which had now dwindled away to about sixteen members continued to meet, one session held in the spring of '53, when among other acts, it passed one recognizing the immigration to the Western Section establishing the county of Rowan, composed of that part of Anson which lay North of Granville line.

1754—Estimated population of North Carolina 70,000; estimated population of blacks, 20,000. Court of Law established for Salisbury for Rowan County. (Last Black census: 1715 – Negro population totaled 3, 700)

1762—Apprentice Act of 1762 – Master or Mistress required to teach colored apprentice to read and write.

1774—Aug. 8...Rowan resolves “That African trade is injurious to this colony, obstructs the population of it by free men, prevents manufacturers and other useful immigrants from Europe from settling among us and occasions an annual increase of law balance of trade against the colonist; and that to be clothed in manufacture's fabrication, the colonies ought to be considered as a badge and distinction of respect and true patriotism.

1774—Aug. 15...The Rowan County Committee of Safety recommended to the Continental Congress that slavery be abolished.

1774—A law was enacted that a person who willfully killed a slave should be imprisoned a year after the first offense and suffer death for the second.

Subsequent Years:

Rowan County sees an increase in slaves through the early 1800's. Slaves no longer are granted any provision for rights to read or write. All former acts are repealed. Protestant churches begin in 1821 to include free colored members. Upon emancipation, the colored people of Rowan formed themselves into churches in all parts of the County” all of which met in “shanties, barns, blacksmith shops, private homes, etc.” Not until 1867 did the Salisbury Colored Presbyterian Parochial School have its beginning. Missionaries from the North built schools for the Negroes. Business for Blacks inched into grocery or shoe industry only in late 1800's or more so in the early 20th century.

Assignment: A Brief History pg. 14-47 Rowan Story pg. 91-181



Rowan Museum 202 North Main Street Salisbury, NC

In 1854, construction was begun on the third courthouse to be built in Rowan County. Unlike the first two buildings which were located at what is now known as the square, the third courthouse was built one block north for an estimated cost of \$15,000. The building was completed in 1857 and served its original purpose until 1914.

The building has seen many historic events in the County. In 1865, General Stoneman brought the Civil War to Salisbury's front door. While the rampage left virtually all of the significant buildings in the County in ruins, the Courthouse miraculously survived. As the County grew, the Courthouse could no longer adequately meet the needs of the Court. When abandoned in 1914, the old Courthouse became the first Community Building in North Carolina. The Public Library, Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, and Adult Night School have all been housed in the building. During the flu epidemic of 1918, the Community Building was used as an emergency hospital and kitchen.

By 1948, the building had greatly deteriorated due to age and neglect. A Grand Jury recommended the building be condemned and torn down. Public reaction was so intense that the Grand Jury of 1949 reversed its recommendation to condemn, and recommended renovation instead. After renovation, the building continued to be used for community events until 1971. That year, the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to allocate \$160,000 for renovations of the building, transforming it into offices and an official meeting room for the Board, who had until that time, met in the District Court Room of the Courthouse. The Board's first meeting in the new room was held on February 2, 1972 with an open house following on April 30, 1972. The Board of Commissioners continued to use the "Red Room" as the grand hall came to be known, until the Americans with Disabilities Act forced the Board to relocate in 1993.

The Community Building officially closed on March 31, 1996 after serving the citizens of Rowan for many years. The County Administration moved into the newly renovated Old Post Office on West Innes Street. In the Summer of 1997, with the Community Building having remained vacant for fifteen months, the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to lease the building for \$1.00 a year to the Rowan Museum, Inc.

In November of 1997, the Rowan Museum (est. in 1953 and formerly located on South Jackson Street) moved into the building. By 1998, the Museum's administration was firmly established in its new home and making plans to convert the old Courthouse into the new home of the Rowan Museum, Inc. In October of 2001, the Rowan Museum officially opened in its new home with exhibits and displays on local history. In May of 2006, the Museum completed a \$700,000 expansion which included an elevator, additional exhibit space and archival storage, a catering kitchen and a lovely exterior garden. In October of 2009, Rowan Museum, Inc. became the proud owners of the building after acquiring it from the County of Rowan.

Early Cathey Family Migration To What Became Rowan County, North Carolina

This time line was compiled by Jim Epperson, descendent of George and John Cathey. February, 2013.

George Cathey, his son John Cathey, his half-brother Alexander Cathey and James Cathey (cousin of George) were leaders in the Cathey migration and at the Cathey Settlement (also known as the Irish Settlement). Historian Robert W. Ramsey, in *Carolina Cradle*, has noted that the Cathey Settlement was "the first English speaking settlement to be established in North Carolina (or, indeed, the entire South, exclusive of Virginia) so far from a navigable river."

1. c. 1679 – Catheys emigrated to Ulster, Ireland from Galloway, Scotland.
2. 1720-1750- Approximately 10 related Cathey families, composed of more than 40 individuals, emigrated from Ireland to America.
3. 1720 – James Cathey (born 1685 in Ulster, Ireland) and family arrived first, landing in Philadelphia. They lived, first, in Cecil County, Maryland and then in Chester County, Pennsylvania.
4. 1734 - Records have other Cathey arrivals to include George Cathey (birth date unknown in Ulster, Ireland) and family. They are believed to have landed in New Castle and to have first lived in Chester County, Pennsylvania.
5. 1720-1738 – Records of financial and social activities exist in Maryland and Pennsylvania of either James or George.
6. 1739 – The families of James and George, as well as other Catheys and related families, traveled via the Great Wagon Road to the Shenandoah Valley to settle in Augusta County, VA where they make claim to land by "squatters rights."
7. 1745/46 – John Cathey (born 1725 in Ulster, Ireland) settles in the Jersey Settlement, near the Yadkin River on Swearing Creek.
8. 1747-48 – Catheys, with allied families, form the Cathey Settlement. This settlement covered many miles in the western section of what was at that time Anson County, NC. The Cathey Settlement reached west from the Great Wagon Road near China Grove. Brandon, Kilpatrick, Barkley, Lock, Waddell families, as well as others, settled from the area nearest the wagon road, westward to the area now known as Mill Bridge. George, James, John, Andrew, and Alexander Cathey lived in this area, as well as Lock, Graham, and Brandon families (Cathey women had married into these families). James Cathey's land included what is now Sloan Park and Kerr Mill. The creek that runs through that land was known as Catheys Creek (as well as Catheys Mill Creek). George Cathey was a millwright, building the first mill located there (c.1749). The Cathey Meeting House, the center of activity for the settlement, was on George Cathey's land. One recent map also includes *John Cathey's land on the Catawba River as part of the Cathey Settlement.
9. 1749 - There are 23 families total in the Cathey Settlement.

10. 1749 – James Cathey is appointed as one of the first “justices of the peace” for Anson County.
11. prior to 1750 – The Cathey Meeting House (also known as the Lower Meeting House) is constructed on George Cathey’s land. It has been recognized as “the earliest known religious edifice west of the Yadkin River.”
12. 1752 – John Carteret, Earl of Granville, issues land grants. James Cathey, for one, received a grant of 640 acres. All grants were of a comparable size. The Cathey family heads of households received 3,752 acres of land in the Cathey Settlement area (7 grants).
13. 1753 – The Cathey Meeting House is deeded to the congregation (origin of current day Thyatira Presbyterian Church).
14. 1753 – Rowan County is formed out of Anson County.
15. 1753 - County Court is thought to have been held at the Cathey Meeting House. Alexander Cathey (half brother to George and born 1707 in Ulster, Ireland) is one of the first Justices of Rowan County. Remains a Justice until his death.
16. 1755 – Salisbury becomes a town and is designated the county seat of Rowan County.
17. 1757 – James Cathey dies (buried at Thyatira).
18. 1765 – George Cathey dies (buried at Thyatira).
19. 1766 – Alexander Cathey dies (buried at Thyatira).
20. 1766 – Catheys begin to migrate from Rowan County to Mecklenburg County and other locations upon the deaths of the Cathey leaders.

*John Cathey and family, in November of 1747, became the first settlers on the Catawba River in what shortly after became known as the Davidson Creek Settlement. When settling on the Catawba River in 1747 John’s 700 acre plantation was in Anson County, then in 1753 that area became Rowan County, and finally, in 1762, Mecklenburg County. John lived there until his death in 1788.

Primary Sources For Time Line

Cathey, Boyt Henderson. Cathey Family History And Genealogy, Volume I. Genealogy Publishing Service, Franklin, NC, 1993.

Cathey, E.H. Henry. Typical Scots-Irish Pioneers. Self Published, 2008.

Cheeseman, Bruce S. Kerr Mill and the Mill Bridge Community. Rowan County Historical Properties Commission, May 15, 1979.

Ramey, Robert W. Carolina Cradle, Settlement of the Northwest Carolina Frontier, 1747-1762. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1965

ROWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA SLAVERY

1753 – 1865

TIMELINE

Reginald W. Brown

2011

Perhaps one of the best descriptions of Rowan County slavery from the perspective of the slaveholding class is that of Reverend Jethro Rumble, minister of First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury from 1860 to 1905 who held two slaves of his own.¹² He expressed the rationale for slavery used by early Rowan County settlers upon hearing questions about the morality of holding men and women in perpetual bondage. He said,

... but when they opened their Bibles and read how Abraham bought slaves and had slaves born in his house; and how Moses, by divine direction. Provided for the release and redemption of Hebrew slaves, but left no provision for the release of the slave of foreign birth, but allowed him to be bought and sold at the will of their masters; and when they read how slavery as recognized by Christ and his apostles, their doubts as to the rightfulness of the institution in the sight of God vanished. ³

According to Rumble, there was no feeling of responsibility or guilt by some of the early settlers for slavery's introduction to Rowan because of its establishment in the northern colonies over one hundred years prior to its settlement in the early to mid 1700s. Precedents established by other slave colonies were used to justify their participation in the institution. The sale of slaves by the Dutch to the Virginians at Jamestown, in 1619 and the building of the slave ship, "Desire" in Marblehead, Massachusetts in 1636 that brought back slaves from Africa in 1638 were two examples that supported the argument for Rowan slavery.⁴ The disposition to buy 'Negroes', hold them as hereditary chattel, and justify the institution with Biblical scriptures rationalized and enforced human bondage. Slavery viewed as a dying institution in the northern colonies during Rowan's settlement was overlooked.

Rev. Rumble's explanation of early Rowan sentiments towards slavery was probably not his own. If he sympathized with institutionalized slavery, it was during his early years as a minister. Some historians suggest he owned slaves for the purpose of keeping them from the "negro trader" who carried his sable inventory to Alabama, Memphis, Mississippi, and other points South and West. In 1881 he expresses his sentiments by writing,

*Generally, however, arrangements were made to purchase, and keep in the neighborhood, all deserving Negroes. As sales would come on it was the habit of the Negroes to go to some man able to buy them and secure their transfer to a desirable home. Sometimes, however, all this failed, and the "negro trader" having the longest purse would buy and carry off to the West husbands or wives or children against their will.*⁵

After months had rolled away the "trader's" wagons come back from Montgomery, Memphis, Mobile, or New Orleans, loaded with luxuries for his family. In boxes and bundles, in kegs and caskets, there were silks and laces, watches and jewelry, ...for family use and luxurious indulgence, all the profits of an accursed traffic in human tears and helpless anguish and oppression. ⁶

Rumple later recognized slavery's horror and expressed joy that the specter of *African slavery in the Southern States has vanished from our fair land.*⁷ However, early movements against slavery in Rowan County were based on economics more so than morality. (See Rowan Resolves & "The Impending Crisis of the South: How to Meet It" by Hinton Rowan Helper)

Week 2 WAGON ROAD 1753 – 1774

1753 ROWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA IS ESTABLISHED



1754 The estimated population of North Carolina was 70,000. The 'Negroe' population estimate was 20,000 that represented 28.6% of the population.

Benjamin Banneker, a descendent of West African Dogon astronomers constructs the first clock made entirely of American Parts.⁸

1762 Apprentice Act of 1762 required slaveholders to teach colored apprentices to read and write.⁹

Week 3 REVOLUTIONARY WAR 1773 - 1791

1774 August 8, ROWAN RESOLVES "... that African trade is injurious to this colony, obstructs the population of it by free men, prevents manufacturers and other useful immigrants from Europe from settling among us and occasions an increase of law balance of trade against the colonist; and that to be clothed in manufacture's fabrication, the colonies ought to be considered as a badge and distinction of respect and true patriotism."¹⁰

August 15, The Rowan County Committee of Safety recommended to the First Continental Congress that slavery be abolished.

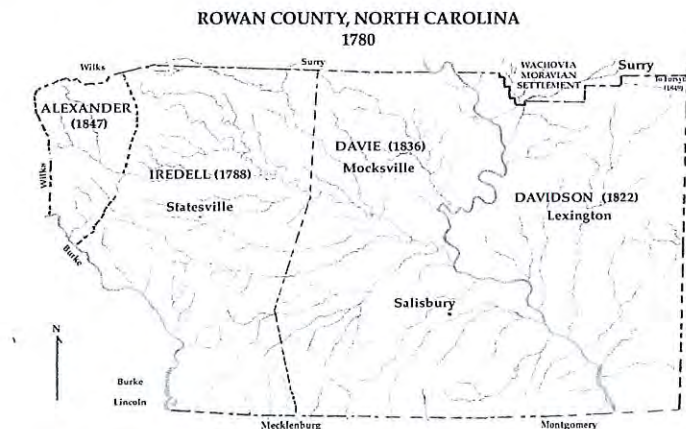
"An Act to Prevent the willful and malicious killing of slaves" was a law that stated that a person who willfully killed a slave should be imprisoned a year for the first offense and suffer death for the second.¹¹

1776 July 4, The Second Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence, cutting ties with the American colonies and England; a passage condemning slavery written by Thomas Jefferson was dropped from the document at the insistence of Georgia and South Carolina delegates

1777 Vermont abolishes slavery after becoming a republic. 1517 – 1777

1778 A list of African Americans in the Continental army shows that 58 blacks served in the North Carolina Brigade. According to some historians, at times as much as one-tenth of George Washington's Continental army consisted of African American men. However, most served in the British army because of an initial reluctance to enlist slaves in the revolutionary army¹²

February 14 The Rhode Island Assembly voted to allow the enlistment of "negroes, mulatto, or Indian man slave" that chose to do so. They were promised their freedom upon passing muster. The owners of enlisted slaves were compensated.¹³ The First Rhode Island Regiment was formed with segregated companies of black soldiers.



1781 Black soldiers participate in the defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Some African Americans regarded the Revolution as an opportunity to fight for their freedom from slavery. More than 20,000 responded to Dunmore's Proclamation and served as laborers, skilled workers, foragers, and spies until there was a manpower shortage. The proclamation had a catch. It applied only to those who were the property of the rebels not to slaves held by the Loyalists. In the final months of the war they fought for their freedom as Black Loyalists in the British Army. An estimated 5,000 black troops served in the Continental Army.

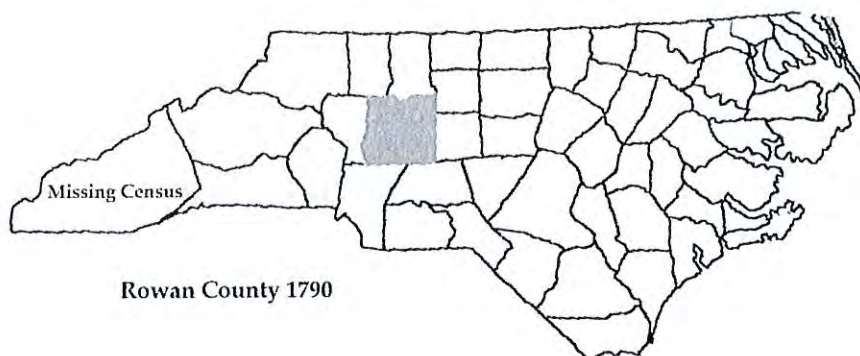
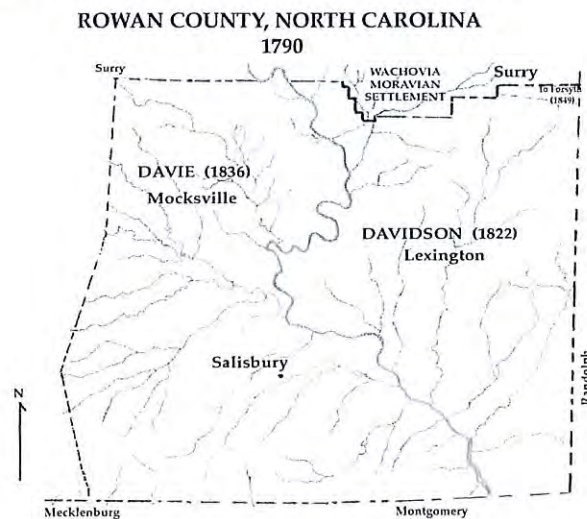
Many slaves who fought in the Continental Army did receive their freedom. Unfortunately, others did not after their owners reneged on their promise to free them after their military service. Many of those who fought for the British were evacuated to Jamaica, St Augustine, Nova Scotia, East Florida, and England. A few in 1792 relocated to Sierra Leon.

1787 The delegates in Philadelphia approve the U. S. Constitution that contained three clauses protecting the institution of slavery. One of those clauses was the "Three-Fifths Compromise" supported by North Carolina. Five slaves would count as three free males giving the South greater representation

1790 THE FIRST FEDERAL CENSUS IS TAKEN.

The total population of North Carolina is 395,005 with 14,973 families holding 100,783 slaves that represented 25.5% of the state's inhabitants.

The total population of Rowan County is 15,972 with 432 families holding 1,741 slaves who account for 11% of the population. Rowan County consists of present day Davie, Davidson, and Rowan Counties.



1791 The Bill of Rights is adopted

1794 *January: Superior Court Judge Spruce Macay acquired the Frohock Mill Plantation that was part of 2601 acres for the sum of 2,500 £. The acquisition included 38 slaves for 1000 £. Judge Macay was executor of the Frohock estate.¹⁴*

Week 5

1798 – 1839

1798 The North Carolina Assembly passed “An act to compel owners of infirmed slaves to support them.” The lawmakers were concerned about some slaves being driven off by their holders when they became unproductive.¹⁵

1800 THE SECOND FEDERAL CENSUS

The total population of North Carolina is 478,103 with 133,296 slaves representing 28% of the inhabitants .

The total population of Rowan County is 20,060 of which 2,839 are slaves who account for 14% of the inhabitants. There were 35 free blacks.¹⁶

1802 The Insurrection Act of 1802 is passed to modify a 1794 legislative act that created a slave patrol system giving power to the county courts to appoint patrolmen to monitor roads for runaways or slaves without a pass.¹⁷

THE NORTH AMERICAN ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE ENDS OFFICIALY

1808 Congress prohibits the American importation of slaves from Africa. African slaves are brought into the United States illegally from the date of prohibition.

1810 THE THIRD FEDERAL CENSUS

The population of N.C. was 555,500 with 168,824 slaves representing 30.3% of the state's inhabitants.

The population of Rowan County was 21,543 with 3, 757 slaves who were 17% of the county's inhabitants.¹⁸

Harry Cowan the slave of Thomas Lincoln Cowan was born. Harry was granted permission to preach, marry, baptize, and use the four Cowan plantations as a field for his ministry. He established 49 Baptist churches in North Carolina after the Civil War.

1812 *Tony the property of Ephraim Hampton and Jacob the property of Jane Phelps were charged and found guilty of confederating and conspiring with others to kill the “good citizens of Rowan County”.*¹⁹

1816 *Thomas Innes A free person of color, aged eight, was apprenticed as a cabinetmaker to Lewis Utzman of Rowan County.*²⁰

1818 North Carolina makes it illegal to teach slaves to read and write. Teaching slaves to use figures was allowed.²¹

1819 Congress authorizes the president to send armed vessels to Africa to suppress the African slave trade to the United States

William Kent, a free person of color, was apprenticed as a house carpenter to Samuel Lemly of Rowan County.²²

1820 THE FOURTH UNITED STATES CENSUS IS TAKEN.

The population of North Carolina is 638,829 of which 205,017 are slaves representing 32% of the states inhabitants

The population of Rowan County is 26,009 of which 5,381 are slaves representing 21% of the county's inhabitants.

The demographic breakdown of Salisbury was: 743 Whites, 477 slaves, and 14 free colored.²³ Slaves represented 38.7% of the town's inhabitants.

The Missouri Compromise goes into effect, banning slavery in the territories north of latitude 36°30'. It was an agreement between pro and anti-slavery factions in the United States Congress, involving the regulation of slavery in the western territories that prohibited slavery in the former Louisiana Territory except within the boundaries of the proposed state of Missouri that entered the union as a slave state as a compromise in 1821.

1824 *Samuel Kent, a free person of color, was apprenticed as a carpenter to Samuel Lenny of Rowan County.²⁴*

1825 Power is granted to The Rowan County Court to establish regulations for the governance of patrols to control the conduct and movement of slaves. Patrollers received power to issue corporal punishment or hold any 'negro' slave until presented to a magistrate.²⁵

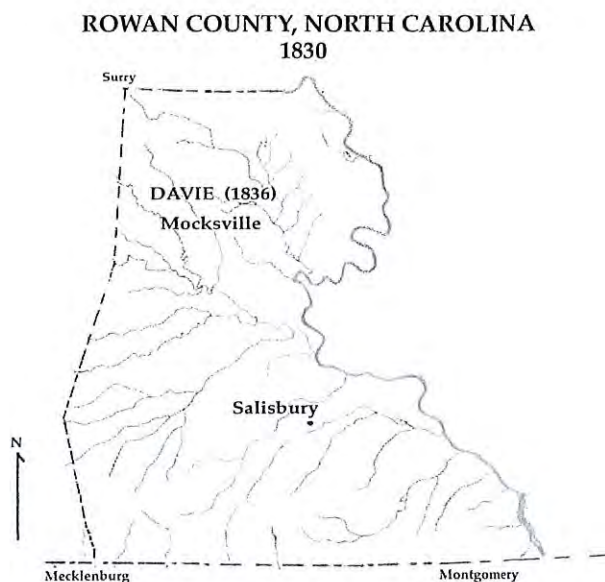
1826 The North Carolina General Assembly passes a law forbidding the migration of free blacks into the state.

1827 Britain declares slave-trading piracy, thus punishable by death.

A North Carolina state bill to repeal much of an act passed in 1762 that required slave holders to teach or encourage the teaching of colored apprentices to read and write was postponed indefinitely by a motion.

1829 A free black from North Carolina, David Walker writes, "Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World"; as a result free blacks and slaves were attacked through legal means. North Carolina implemented stiff penalties for dismantling anti-slavery materials, and created quarantine laws for any ships carrying free blacks.

- 1830** THE FIFTH FEDERAL CENSUS IS TAKEN AFTER DAVIDSON COUNTY IS FORMED FROM ROWAN IN 1822.



The population of North Carolina is 737, 987 with 245, 601 slaves representing 33% of the inhabitants.

The population of Rowan County is 20,786 with 6,189 slaves representing 30% of the inhabitants.

Emancipated North Carolina slaves must leave the state in ninety days

Rev. Harry Cowan, Father of NC Colored Baptist was converted in 1825. His owner Thomas Cowan, Elder of the Salisbury Presbyterian Church, licensed him to preach in 1828. He preached on the four Cowan plantations as his field of ministry.

- 1831** *Nat Turner leads a revolt in Southampton County, Va. killing Some 57 whites. He was captured and hanged in Jerusalem, VA.*

The North Carolina General Assembly passes a law forbidding African American preachers to speak at worship services where slaves from different owners are in attendance, and forbidding anyone to teach African Americans to read and write.

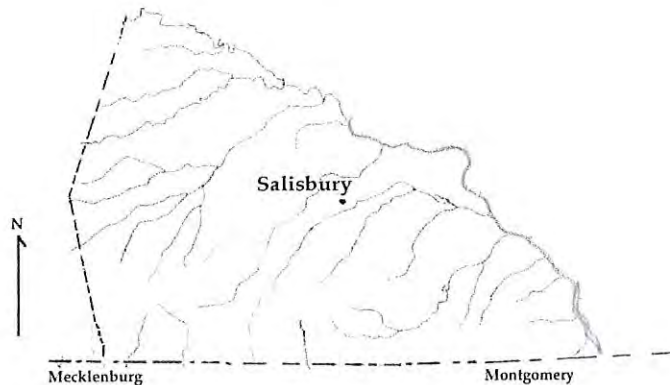
- 1832** A bill fails to pass that would give power to County Courts to grant preachers licenses to slaves and free blacks.

Week 6

SOCIAL CUSTOM AND GOLD MINING 1839 - 1860

- 1840** THE SIXTH FEDERAL CENSUS IS TAKEN AFTER DAVIE SEPARATES FROM ROWAN COUNTY.

ROWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA 1840



The population of North Carolina is 753, 419 with 245, 817 slaves representing 33% of the inhabitants.

The population of Rowan County is 12,109 with 3,365 slaves representing 28% of the inhabitants. There were 135 free persons of color.²⁶

The General Assembly passes a law prohibiting people of color from owning or carrying weapons without obtaining a license.

- 1841** Supreme Court decision in the Armistead case affirms the freedom of escaped Africans.

Slaves revolted on the slave trader 'Creole' which was en route from Hampton, Va., to New Orleans, La., Slaves overpowered crew and sailed vessel to Bahamas where they were granted asylum and freedom.

- 1842** Prigg v. Pennsylvania

The Supreme Court struck down a Pennsylvania anti kidnapping statue, voiding the conviction of a slave catcher who had captured a fugitive slave residing in the state. This was the decision that established the right of slaveholders to retrieve escaped slaves regardless of state law. ²⁷

- 1844** Free African Americans are denied citizenship in North Carolina.

1850 THE SEVENTH FEDERAL CENSUS IS TAKEN.

The U. S. African American population is 3,636,508 (15.7% of the total U.S. population)

The population of North Carolina is 869,039 with 288,548 slaves representing 33% of the inhabitants.

The population of Rowan County is 13,870 with 3,854 slaves representing 28% of the inhabitants. There are 115 free people of color.²⁸

The federal Fugitive Slave Law goes into effect, giving slave catchers broad powers and imposing harsh penalties on anyone aiding escapees.

Governor William A Graham recommends a road consisting of wooden planks so that farmers could find a way out of the mud.

*The North Carolina State Baptist Convention urges the churches of the state to establish schools for the oral instruction of the 'colored' people. There were instances when colored people conducted services under their own leadership. But such meetings were usually under the control of a white man, and at his discretion brought to a close.*²⁹

1852 *Construction begins on the Salisbury and Taylorsville Plank Road at the present day corner of Ellis and West Horah Streets. It ran through present day Livingstone College and out to what is now Old Wilksboro Road. The plank road was never completed.*

1854 The provisions of the Missouri Compromise forbidding slavery in the former Louisiana Territory north of the parallel 36°30' north were repealed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854.

Maxwell Chambers, a prominent landowner, freed 18 of his slaves and provided funds for their relocation in Oberlin, Ohio after his death.

1855 Wilson Smithers, a free boy of color, was apprenticed to learn the blacksmith trade.

1857 The United States Supreme Court rules in Dred Scott v. Sanford that escaped slaves cannot sue for freedom and that Congress has no authority to prohibit slavery in the territories.

Hinton Rowan Helper of Rowan County writes, "The Impending Crisis of the South: How to Meet It". The book indicted slavery as an economic disaster and maintained that the South was bankrupt from supporting an obsolete system that could not compete with free white labor.³⁰

1858 William Valentine, a barber and a free man of color, purchases the house at 224 East Bank Street at the estate sale of Horace Beard. The entrance gate to

the Confederate States Military Prison was located across the tracks from this dwelling.

Week 7

THE CIVIL WAR YEARS 1861 - 1865

1860 EIGHTH FEDERAL CENSUS IS TAKEN.

The population of North Carolina is 992,622 with 231,050 slaves representing 23% of the inhabitants bonded to 34,668 slaveholders representing 3.5% of the state's populace. There were 30,463 free people of color.

The population of Rowan County is 14,589 with 4,000 slaves representing 28% of the population bonded to 520 slaveholders representing 3.5% of the county's populace.

Salisbury's population is 2,400 half of which is black.³¹

October: Plymouth, North Carolina was the last slave revolt before the war.

Abraham Lincoln is elected the 16th president of the United States in November. He opposed the expansion of slavery in the territories and supported taxes on imported goods. He received no votes from North Carolina or any other state seceding from the Union.

Rowan County supported the Constitutional Unionist Party that allied itself with the state peace party that opposed the Confederate party who favored secession and war. Rowan County had no interest in States' rights, slavery, tariff, sovereignty, Southern nationalism, or Black Republicanism³² but joined the Confederacy with North Carolina in 1861.

1861 Kansas becomes a state.

North Carolina lawmakers bar any black person from owning or controlling a slave, making it impossible for a free person of color to buy freedom for a family member or friend.

1862 March 13, The United States Army is prohibited from Returning Fugitive slaves³³

July 17, Lincoln signs the Militia Act authorizing enrollment of blacks in the war effort

July 22, The Dix Hill Cartel of July 22 1862 was agreed upon by the Union and the Confederacy. It was a provision that prisoners be paroled within 10 days of their capture, which lessened the need of prisons.³⁴

October 23, Prisoner exchanges stipulated by the Dix Hill Cartel between the Union and Confederacy were suspended. The Confederate Congress resolved that all *Negroes*, free and slave should be delivered to their respective states *"to be dealt with according to the present and future laws of such State or States."* A letter to General Beauregard from James Seddon, Jefferson Davis's Secretary of War, stated that *"Slaves in flagrant rebellion are subject to death by the laws of every slave-holding State"* but that *"to guard, however, against possible abuse...the order of execution should be reposed in the general commanding the special locality of the capture."*³⁵ The return of former slaves to their holders and the surrender of freedmen for confinement and hard labor was requested.

Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy issues a proclamation to execute both *Negroes* taken in arms and their white officers that was never implemented. It returned captured black union soldiers to slavery instead.³⁶

1863 January 1, The Emancipation Proclamation takes effect, freeing all slaves in Confederate-held territories. President Lincoln authorizes the use of African Americans in combat.³⁷

June, Francis Shober, a Salisbury attorney and later a congressman, wrote Gov. Zebulon Vance concerning state authorities not allowing Rowan County slaves to return from two months of impressed wartime work duty in Wilmington. Harvest time was rapidly approaching

The 35th, 36th, and 37th NC US Colored Infantries and the 14th NC US Colored Heavy Artillery are organized.

1864 Congress repeals Fugitive Slave Laws and grants black Union troops equal pay with whites in a segregated army.

April 12, Confederate forces under Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest massacred black Union soldiers at Fort Pillow, TN. In response, President Abraham Lincoln demanded that black prisoners of war be treated the same as their white comrades. Confederate President Jefferson Davis refused this.

August 14, Tom Hawkins and Littleton Disbron who were Maryland slaves³⁸ become the first Black Union soldiers confined in the Salisbury Prison. Hawkins was the slave of Charles Hodges, Anne Arundel County, and Disbron was the slave of John Gunby, Somerset County. They were brought from Danville, Virginia³⁹, treated as regular war prisoners, and not returned to their owners because Maryland was not a Confederate state.

April 17, Union General Ulysses S. Grant orders to halt prison exchanges until the Confederates recognize the validity of the paroles of the prisoners captured at Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and stop discrimination against colored soldiers.⁴⁰

November 1, Maryland abolishes slavery by ordinance

Late November, Three hundred African American Union prisoners were reported as being held at the Salisbury Prison. The majority were fugitive slaves with 34 Black prisoners listed as being captured in arms.⁴¹

December 17, Benjamin F. Booth, a captured news reporter and escapee from the Salisbury Prison, wrote, *"The colored prisoners are fast disappearing, death cutting them down every day. They are a pitiful lot to behold. Their sufferings are even more intense than the suffering of the white soldiers. All ambition to live seems to have died out in them. They become so despondent that they tumble down almost anywhere, give up the struggle, and die."*⁴²

1865 January 31, the number of 'Negro' POWs in the Salisbury Prison dwindled to 120. Sixty-nine were sent to Camp Maxcy Gregg, near Columbia, South Carolina. In the list of deaths occurring in the prison a total of 45 Negroes are listed and 19 were sent out with the exchange group. There were 34 captured in arms with no report of their leaving.⁴³

February, The Confederate Congress, after months of stalling, passed an act allowing black enlistments. Virginia immediately started enlisting slaves to fight for the Confederacy.

February 22, Prisoners, except those too weak or lame for transfer, are evacuated from the Salisbury prison.⁴⁴ The evacuation resumed with the reinstatement of the Prison exchange agreement between the Union and the Confederacy.

March 3, The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau was established in the War Department

March 13, the Confederate Congress passed an act allowing the enlistment of slaves into the Army. Each state was to enroll 300,000 slaves.⁴⁵

March 23, With General Robert E. Lee's manpower reserves quickly diminishing, General Orders #14 was issued allowing the enlistment of blacks into the Confederate service.

April 9, General Robert E. Lee Surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court house, Virginia.

April 12, Major General George Stoneman captures Salisbury.

APRIL 14, ABRAHAM LINCOLN IS ASSASSINATED, and is succeeded by Andrew Johnson.

April 26, General Joseph Johnston surrenders to General William Sherman near Durham.

October, A North Carolina convention votes to repeal the Ordinance of Secession and end slavery.

August 9 The Freedmen's Bureau's educational activities in North Carolina begins with the appointment of F. A. Fiske as superintendent of schools (Special Orders Number 21). He acts as an intermediary between freedmen and the benevolent societies that provided teachers and aid for schools.

Captain Charles Emery serves as the Assistant superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau for the Western North Carolina District headquartered in Salisbury.

NOTES

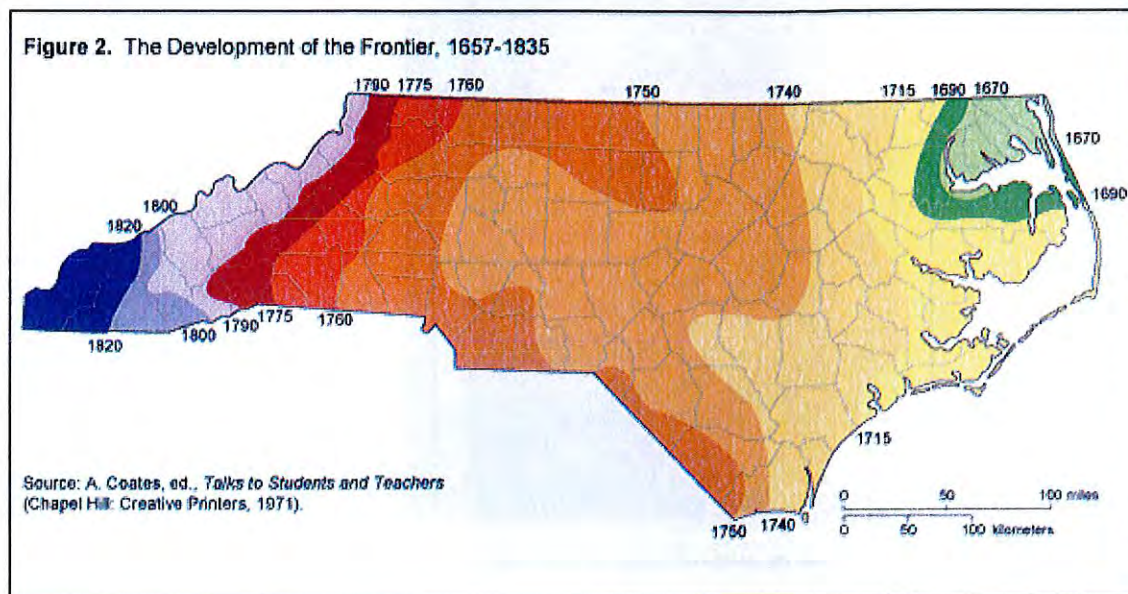
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- 22 Gale Farlow. *North Carolina Black Craftsmen 1793 – 1840*. 7/1/11

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North Carolina History

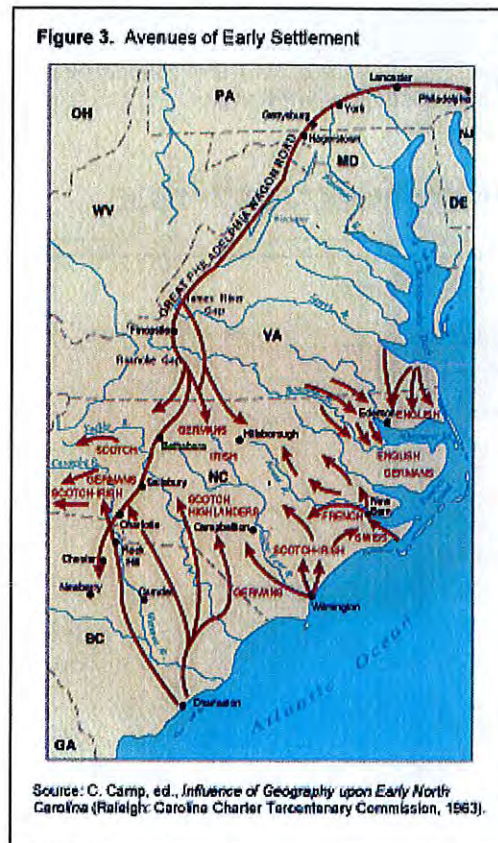
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The Development of the Frontier, 1657-1835



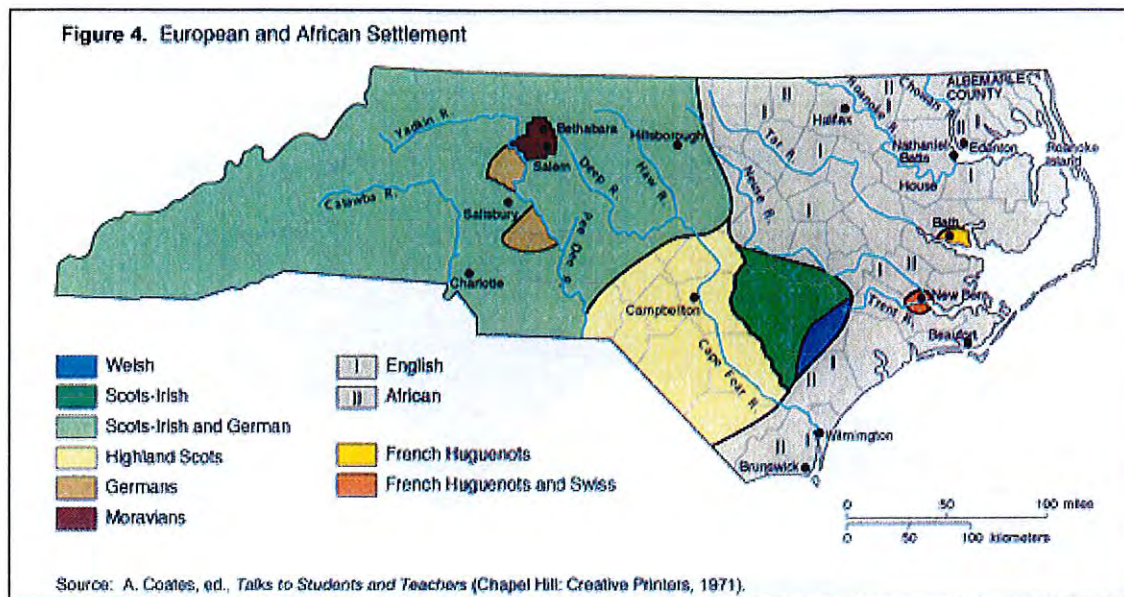
During the late 17th century, settlement in North Carolina proceeded from Virginia migration, first into the Albemarle region, then into the Pamlico district. By 1710, the new sparsely settled province had a capital at Edenton. But the migration caused growing alarm among the Indian populations resulting in a conflict that raged on and off for four years concluding in 1715 with the decimation of the Indians and the opening up of additional land to white settlement. The key event that affected the colony's development until the time of the Revolution was King George II's takeover of North Carolina from the heirs of the Lords Proprietors in 1729. The change generated a land bonanza in the colony as the Crown eased land purchase requirements and sent out the equivalent of real estate agents to drum up business. Their work, and the encouragement of royal governors, touched off a boom in North Carolina that lasted from 1730 to the American Revolution. Forests along the Coastal Plain were leveled for farms, settlers poured into the backcountry, and the line of settlement extended to the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Avenues of Early Settlement



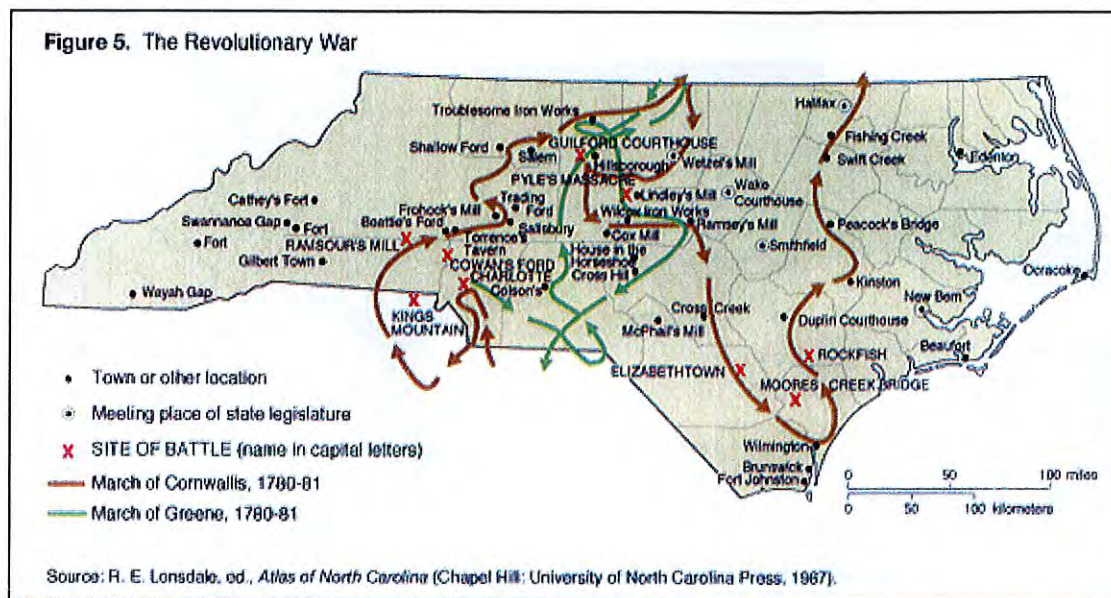
The origins of North Carolina's 18th-century newcomers varied widely. South Carolinians moved north into the Lower Cape Fear region to establish pine plantations with African slave labor. As land grew scarce in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia after 1730, migrants trekked down the Great Wagon road which began near Philadelphia and extended southwestward to the Shenandoah Valley before veering east into the North and South Carolina Piedmont. These newcomers included a variety of ethnic and religious groups, including Quakers, German Lutherans, German Moravians, and Scotch-Irish Presbyterians and Baptists. Settling primarily in the Piedmont, they contrasted with the mostly English and African coastal areas and, in fact, had little contact with those areas. The rivers of the Piedmont flowed into the South Carolina colony and that is the route commerce and communication followed as well. By the mid-eighteenth century residents of Piedmont North Carolina had more contacts with Pennsylvania than they did with the coastal district of their own colony.

European and African Settlement In 1730



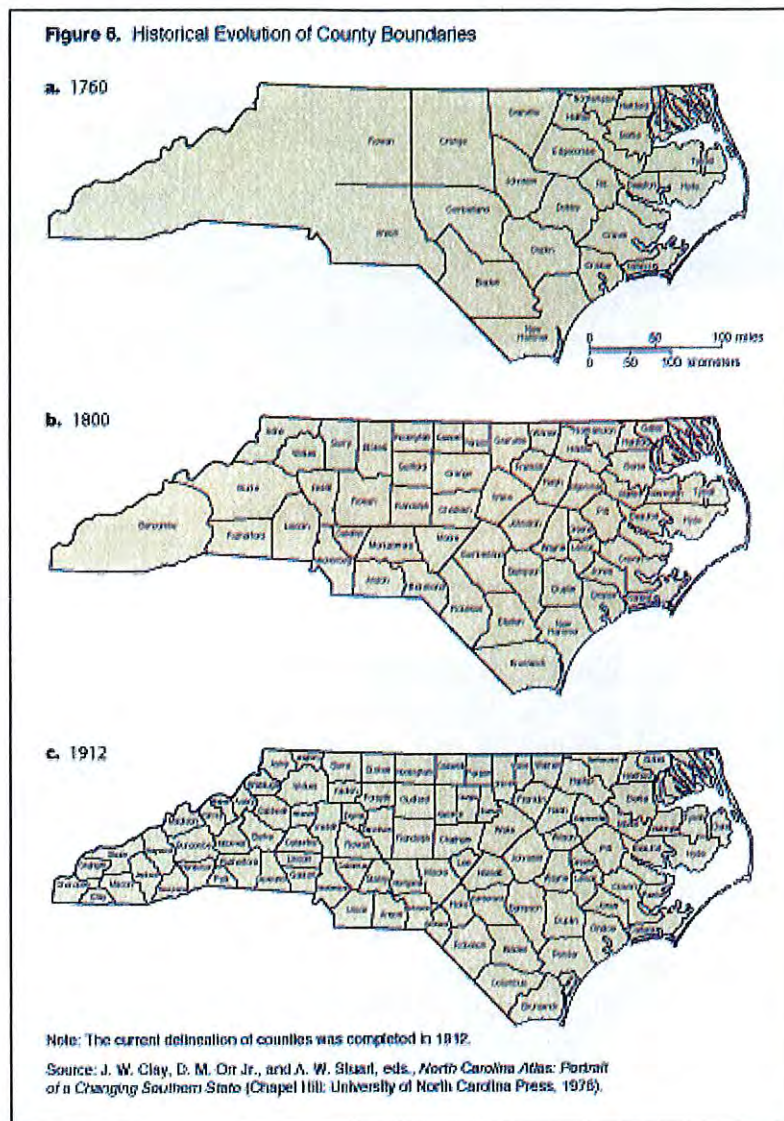
In 1730, the colony's population included 30,000 whites and 6,000 blacks, almost all of whom lived along the Coastal Plain; by 1775, the population had grown to 265,000 inhabitants, including 10,000 blacks, and settlement was scattered from the coast to the mountains. By that latter date, North Carolina was the fourth most populous of the thirteen colonies. The population was also among the most diverse with some estimates placing the German population as high as 30 percent.

The Revolutionary War



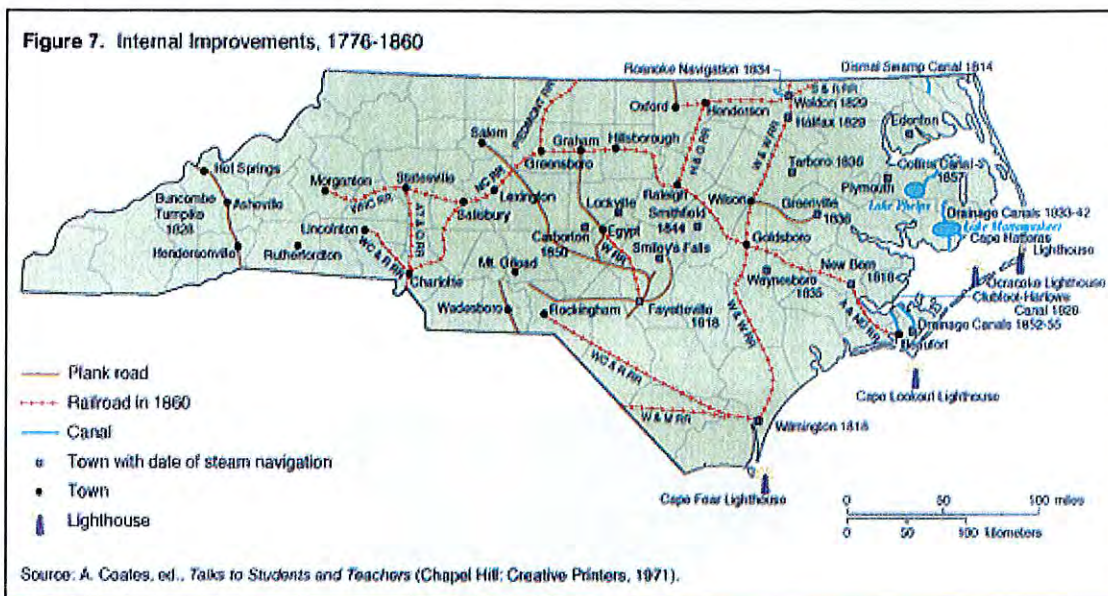
The Revolution in North Carolina took on the character of a civil war. The patriot cause was most prominent in the eastern part of the colony where leaders were most involved in the Atlantic economy and hence most affected by British trade and tax policies. The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in February 1776 was a critical patriot victory against a Scottish Highlander force loyal to the Crown. The battle neutralized highlander efforts in the region and delayed British occupation of the South until 1780. When the British finally turned their attention southward that year, their lightning success in subjugating coastal South Carolina and much of Georgia alarmed North Carolinians. Troops led by General Charles Cornwallis hoped to conquer the colony by rallying local forces in the back country. Setting up headquarters at Charlotte in the midst of a "Hornet's Nest" of hostile Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, Cornwallis mapped out his campaign. But a smashing victory by patriot forces at King's Mountain and later at Cowpens in South Carolina caused Cornwallis to retreat.

Historical Evolution of County Boundaries



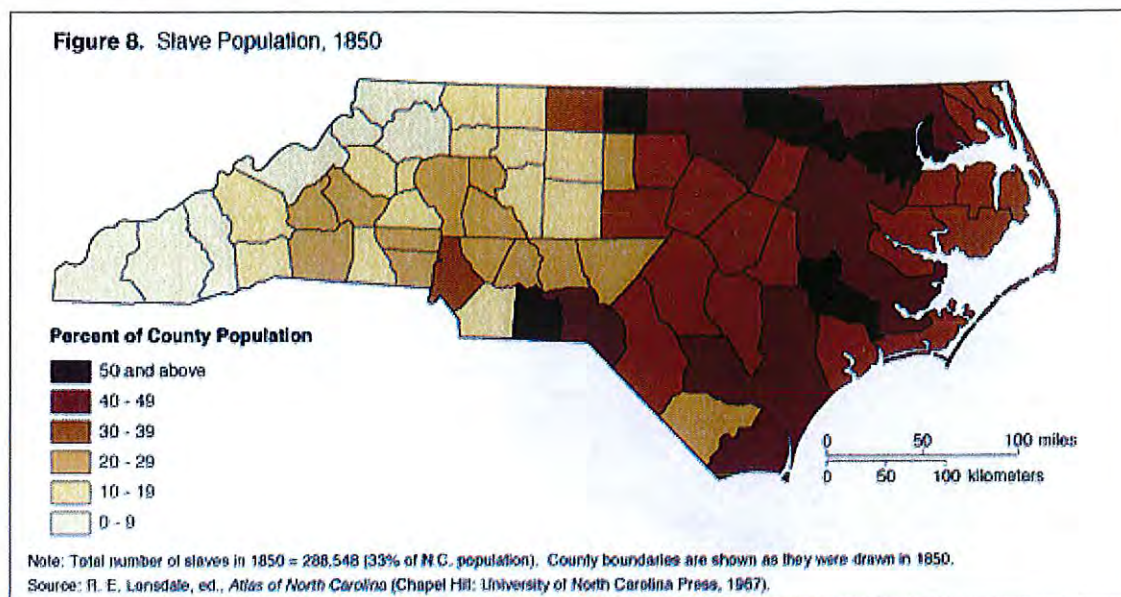
Through the first third of the nineteenth century, each county in the state had the same number of representatives to the legislature, regardless of population, and officeholding remained the privilege of property holders. Between 1790 and 1840 the counties east of Wake County experienced a 53 percent increase in population, compared with a 156 percent increase in the west. But the east controlled the legislature and only grudgingly created new counties (and hence representatives). As new counties were formed in the west, the legislature also increased the number of eastern counties by continually subdividing the existing ones. This ensured that the new western counties did not outnumber their eastern counterparts. This figure, which shows county outlines in 1780, 1800, and 1912, indicates that phenomenon. By the latter year the pattern was established. Western legislators eventually convinced enough easterners that the best interests of the state required a revised political system. In 1835 the lawmakers framed a new constitution that based representation in the lower house of the General Assembly on population.

Internal Improvements, 1776-1860



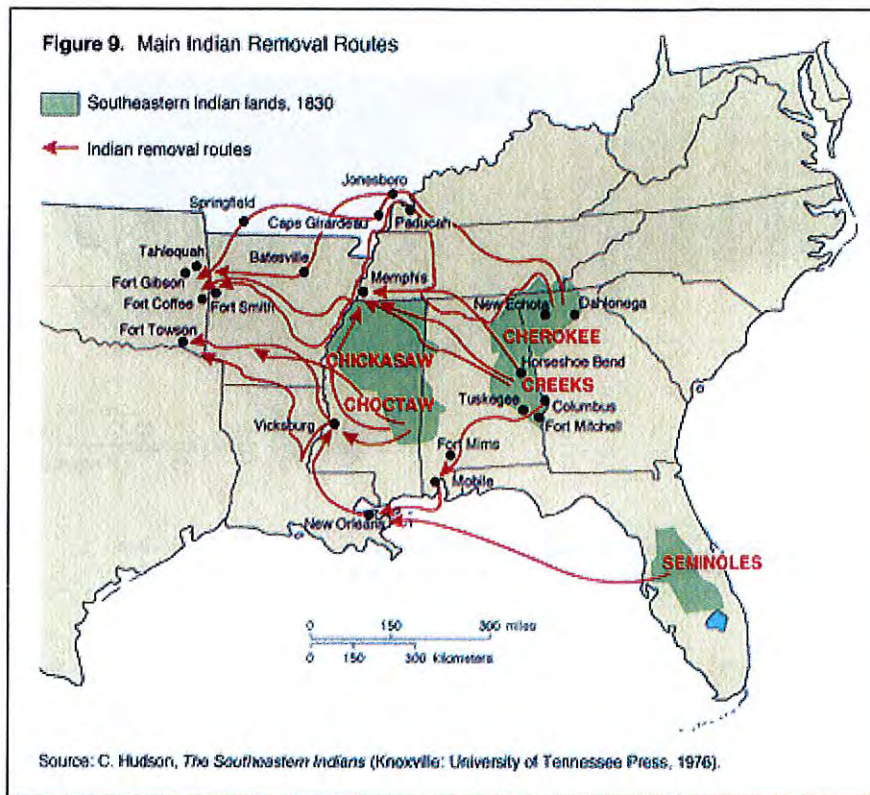
The state plunged heavily into railroad construction in the 1840s and 1850s to overcome geographic isolation. State and private subscriptions constructed nine hundred miles of railroad by the time of the Civil War and the treasury incurred a debt of nine million dollars. The North Carolina Railroad was the key facility as it connected the eastern portion of the state with the Piedmont, extending from Goldsboro to Raleigh to Charlotte in 1856. The railroad served as an early architect of the urban Piedmont Crescent that transformed the state's economy in the twentieth century. The Crescent extended from Raleigh (and later Durham and Chapel Hill) to what would become the Triad (Winston-Salem, High Point, and Greensboro), and to Charlotte. More immediately, the North Carolina Railroad cut the farmers' transportation costs in half, although only those with substantial surpluses could use the railroad profitably. Most Tar Heel farmers did not send their produce to market via railroads, but they bore the heaviest tax burden to pay for the system.

Slave Population



While blacks and whites shared the eastern part of the state, white yeomen farmers dominated the Piedmont and constantly pushed back the western frontier where the Cherokee resided. The typical antebellum North Carolina farm held less than 100 acres. The typical farmer lived in a three-room log or frame house, owned no slaves, and had corn as his leading crop. The farmer's wife and children worked alongside him in the fields. He also cultivated squash, turnips, cucumbers, onions, and sweet potatoes, sometimes in sufficient abundance to market the surplus in the nearby town. Livestock provided an important food source for the farmer as well as some extra income. Leisure activity revolved around family and church, and farm cycles such as corn shucking time, often dictated entertainment. On the plantations in the eastern part of the state, such as Somerset Place, a different pattern emerged. There, white women rarely worked outside the house; the white master was the patriarchal leader for both his family and his slaves. Although the plantations of antebellum North Carolina were not as grand as in neighboring South Carolina, the life of the slave did not differ significantly from slaves in other parts of the South. Slave quarters were rudimentary; the surviving two-story structures at Horton Grove near Durham were unusual for their spaciousness. Slaves, organized into gangs, performed the backbreaking work of worming tobacco or chopping (weeding) cotton. Some slaves managed to perfect artisan skills, learn to read and write (although this was illegal), and grow garden crops which they sold with or without their masters' knowledge in town. After the Second Great Awakening during the early 1800s, some masters converted their slaves to Christianity. Slaves embraced Christianity, often blending African and American customs and manipulating Biblical parables for their own purposes.

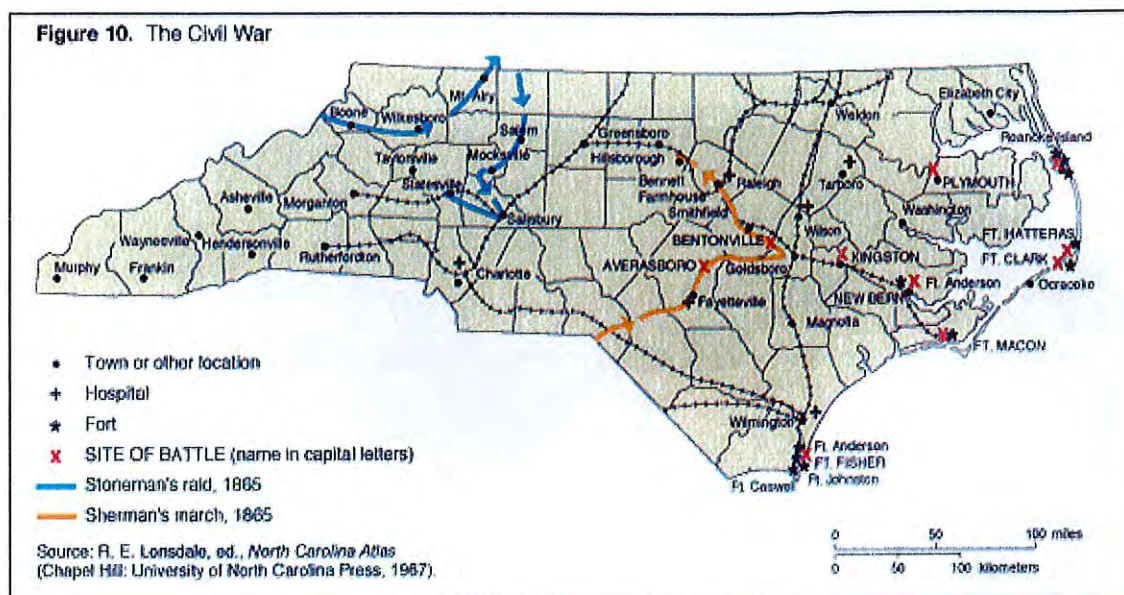
Main Indian Removal Routes



The Cherokees had undergone a remarkable transformation by the early 1800s. They had, essentially, adopted the white man's agriculture, religion, and the English language. Much of this adaptation occurred among Cherokees in Georgia. But the success of the Americanized Cherokees aroused the hostility of covetous white neighbors and, beginning in 1835, the federal government ordered the removal of the Cherokee from the Southeast to present-day Oklahoma, the infamous Trail of Tears. A small band of Cherokee evaded federal authorities and hid deep in the North Carolina mountains where they remain today.

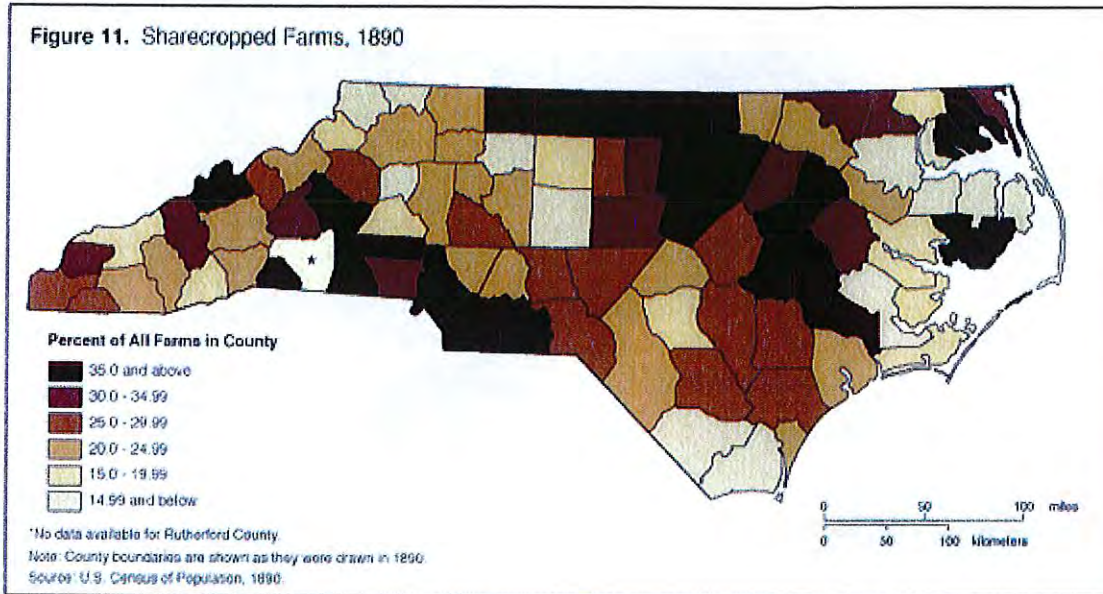
The Civil War

Figure 10. The Civil War



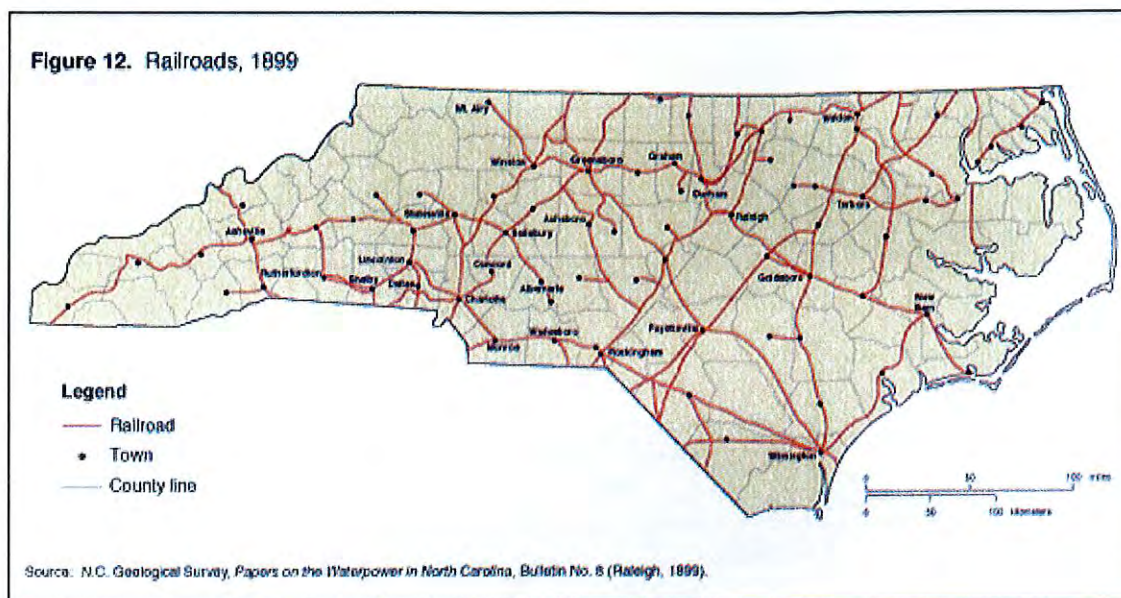
Eastern North Carolina fell under Union control early in the war as Federal forces took the Outer Banks in August 1861, and by March 1862 they had established headquarters at New Bern. In January 1865 Federal forces took Fort Fisher and closed the Confederacy's last major port at Wilmington. In March, General William T. Sherman crossed the Cape Fear River and established headquarters at Goldsboro to plan for a confrontation with Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston. The two armies clashed at Bentonville in the bloodiest conflict ever on North Carolina soil. Although Johnston's army gave a good account of itself, Sherman prevailed. Once Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia on April 9, 1865, Johnston saw the futility of further struggle and advised President Davis in a meeting at Greensboro to fight no more. At the farmhouse of James Bennett near Durham Station on April 18, 1865, Johnston surrendered his army to Sherman. Except for a few bloody but meaningless raids in the western part of the state by Union General George Stoneman, the war in North Carolina was over.

Sharecropped Farms, 1890



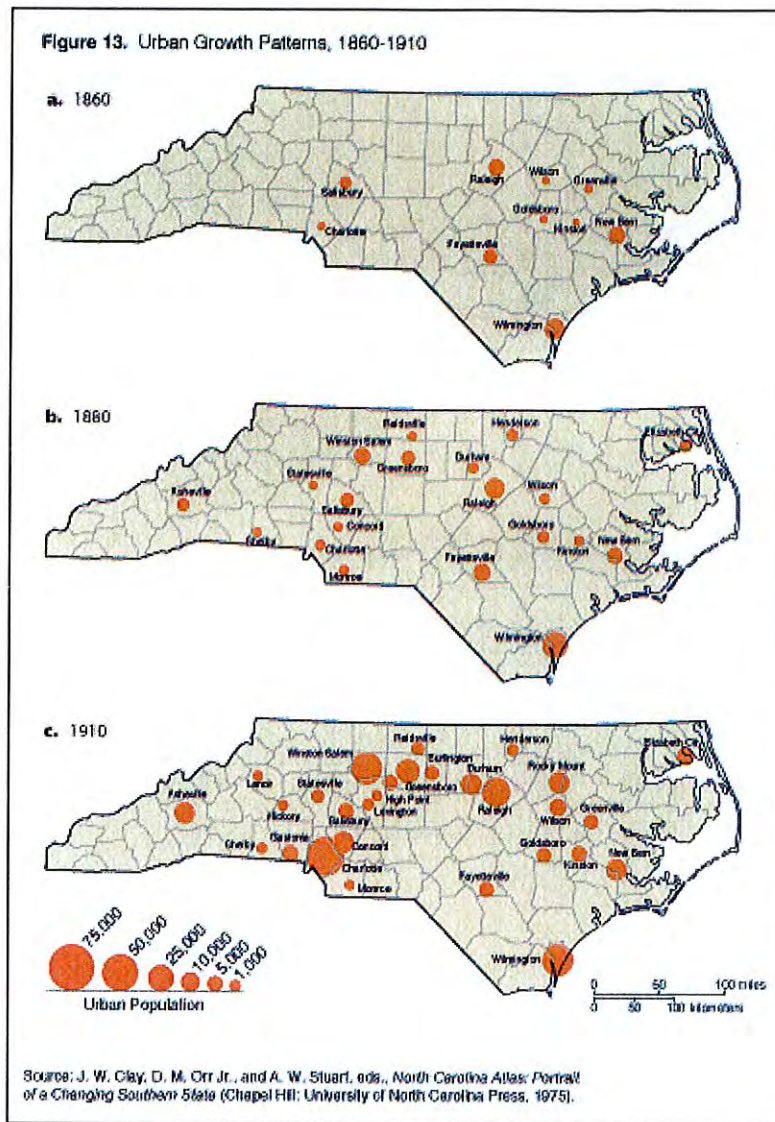
As before the Civil War, agriculture remained at the center of the state's economy. The pattern of small farms and small towns persisted as well. But the lives of many Tar Heel farmers changed for the worse in the decades after 1865. Between 1865 and 1890 independent farming receded before sharecropping and tenantry. Black freedmen and white landowners achieved a labor accommodation of sorts in the decades after the Civil War in the form of sharecropping. In exchange for one-half or one-third of the crop, black farm workers usually received a house, farm implements, and the freedom to work the land as they saw fit. As cotton and tobacco became the major cash crops in a cash-poor region, more land was given over to those crops resulting in overproduction, falling prices, and increasing debt. The economic situation ruined not only the fond hopes of blacks, but forced numerous white landowners into dependence as well. By 1890, one of three white farmers and three of four black farmers were either tenants or sharecroppers.

Railroads, 1899



By 1900, more than 3,800 miles of track served the state. The ruling Democratic Party had kindly provided railroad companies with relief from taxes and corporate regulations so that at the turn of the century, three major lines connected North Carolina with the rest of the nation: the Seaboard Airline Railway, the Southern Railway, and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. All of these railroads ran, roughly, in a North-South direction. The dream of uniting eastern and western North Carolina via a road or railroad, remained elusive.

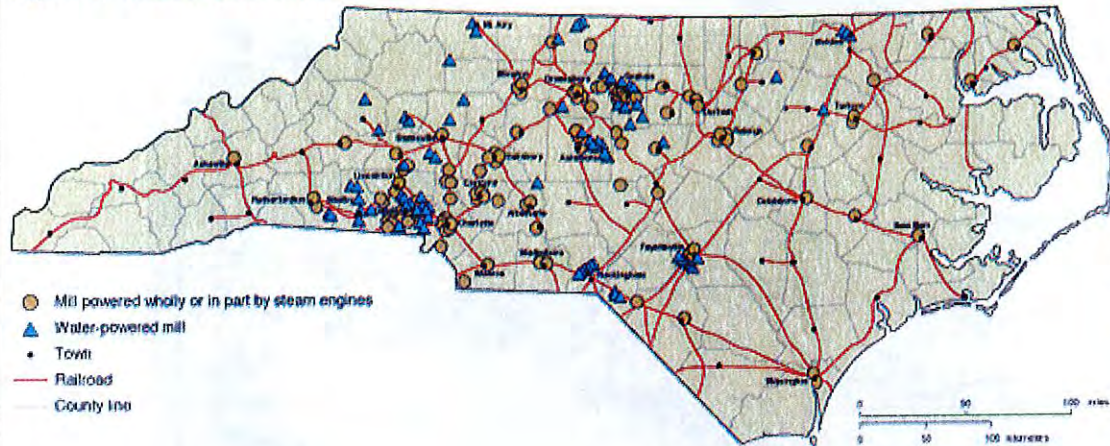
Urban Growth Patterns, 1860-1910



The result of a business-oriented state government and the enterprise of industrialists was urban growth, especially in the Piedmont region. In 1870, only one town in North Carolina – Wilmington – possessed more than 10,000 inhabitants. By 1900, five additional towns had crossed that population threshold, four in the Piedmont (Charlotte, Winston, Raleigh, and Greensboro), and one in the mountain region (Asheville). The urban growth reflected a shift in the state's economy to the towns and cities of the Piedmont, though North Carolina remained an overwhelmingly rural state.

Location of Cotton Mills, 1899

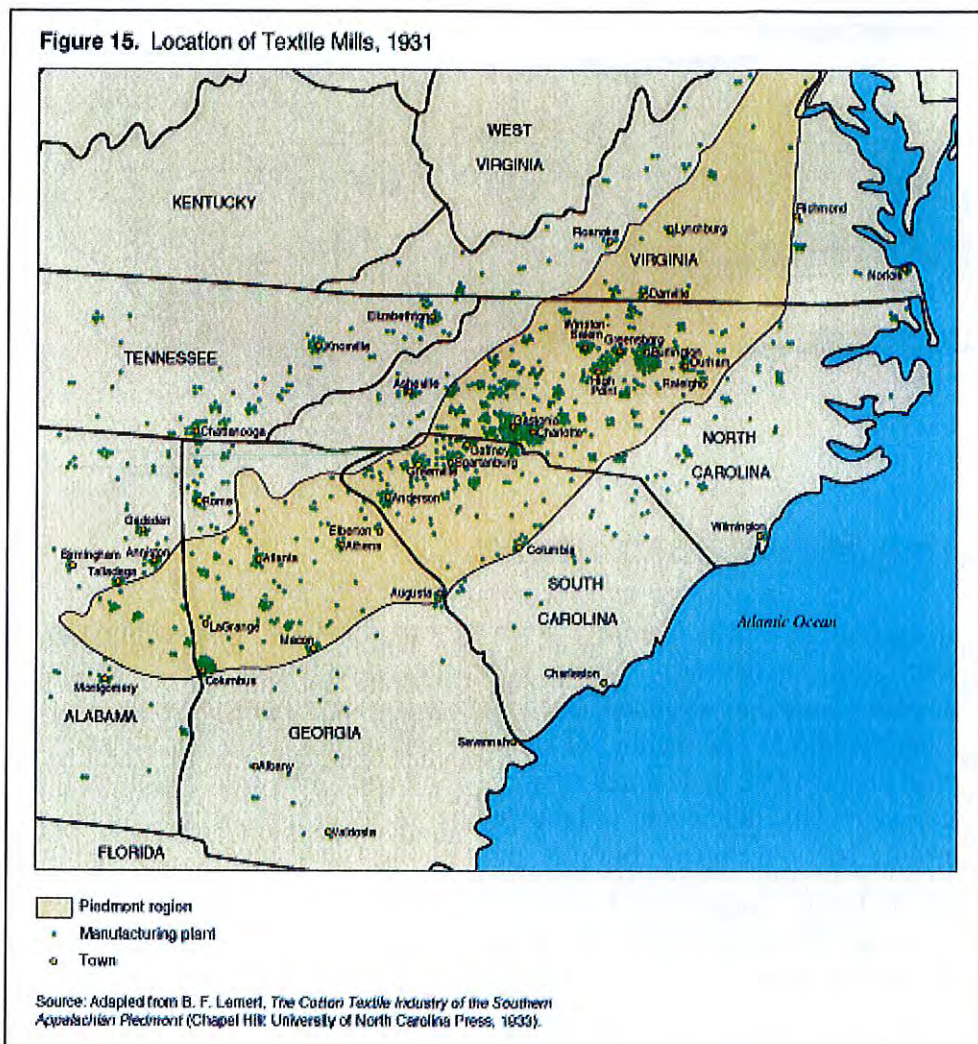
Figure 14. Location of Cotton Mills, 1899



Source: N.C. Geological Survey, *Papers on the Waterpower in North Carolina*, Bulletin No. 8 (Raleigh, 1899).

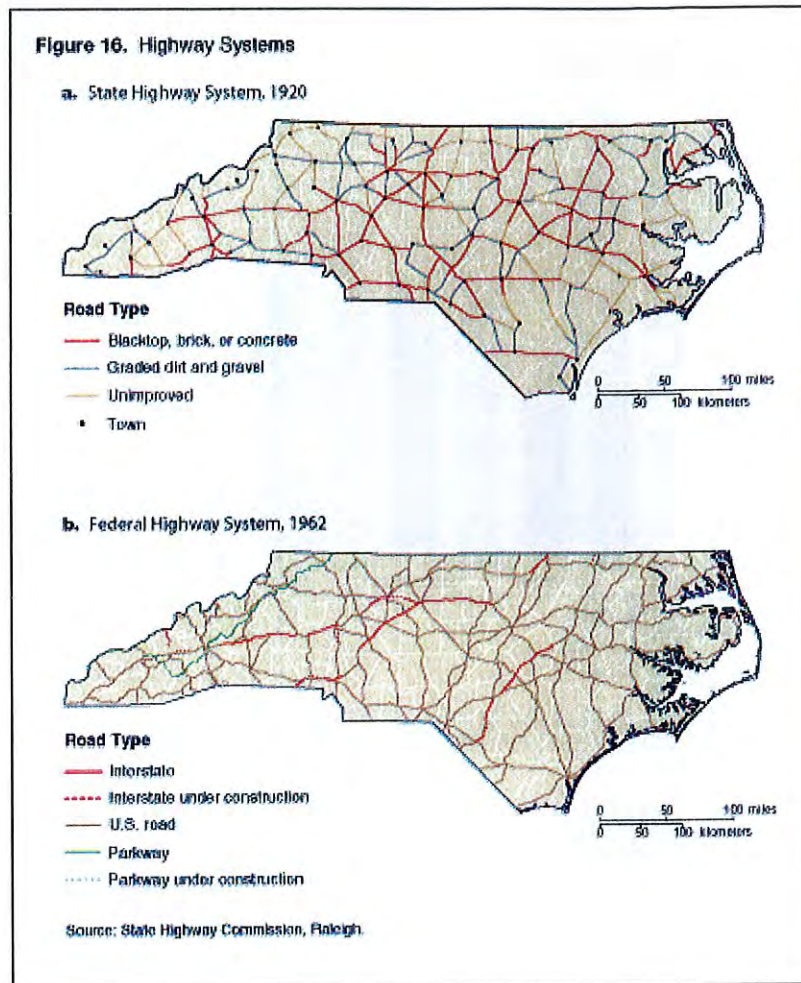
Textile milling had existed in North Carolina since before the Civil War supplying a primarily local market. But, in the early 1880s, Charlotte entrepreneur D.A. Tompkins launched the Cotton Mill Campaign designed to encourage the development of the textile industry in the Carolina Piedmont. The number of spindles operated in North Carolina nearly quadrupled between 1870 and 1889, and tripled between 1889 and 1899, reaching more than 1.1 million in the latter year. That total surpassed the number in either Connecticut, Maine, or Vermont. North Carolina mill developers followed the “Rhode Island model,” by building isolated villages to house workers employed in one small water-powered mill. The fast flowing streams of the Piedmont offered the greatest array of such energy sites within the state. Of the 91 mills in North Carolina in 1890, at least 70 wholly or partially used water power. But nine years later, only 41 percent of the mills used water power and many of those supplemented their energy supply with more reliable and consistent steam engines.

Location of Textile Mills, 1931



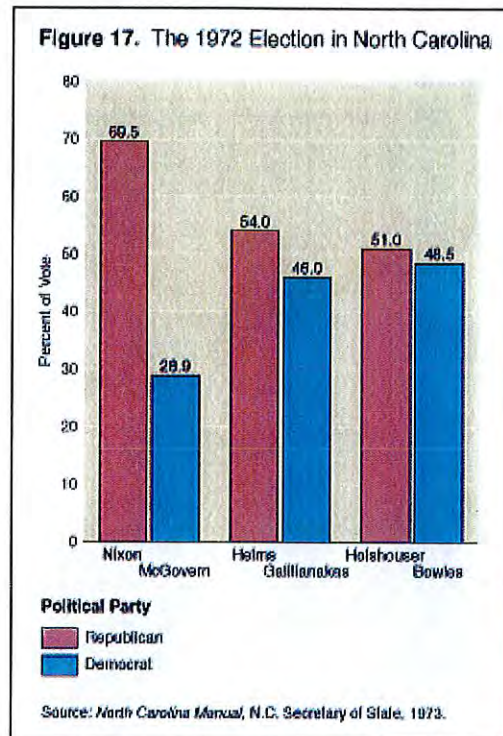
Improved technology for generating and transmitting electricity after 1900 gave mill owners locational freedom. By 1929 southern textiles had surpassed New England in the number of spindles operating and the amount of cotton consumed. North Carolina led the South, accounting for over one-third of the number of spindles among the six leading southern states. More efficient southern mills, no longer satisfied with producing only cheap cloth, began taking markets away from the increasingly obsolete New England factories. The textile industry reinforced the dispersed settlement pattern of North Carolina. In the north, industrialization reinforced urbanization. In the Carolinas, manufacturing enterprises, especially textiles, were located in mill villages and not in the cities of the Piedmont.

Highway Systems



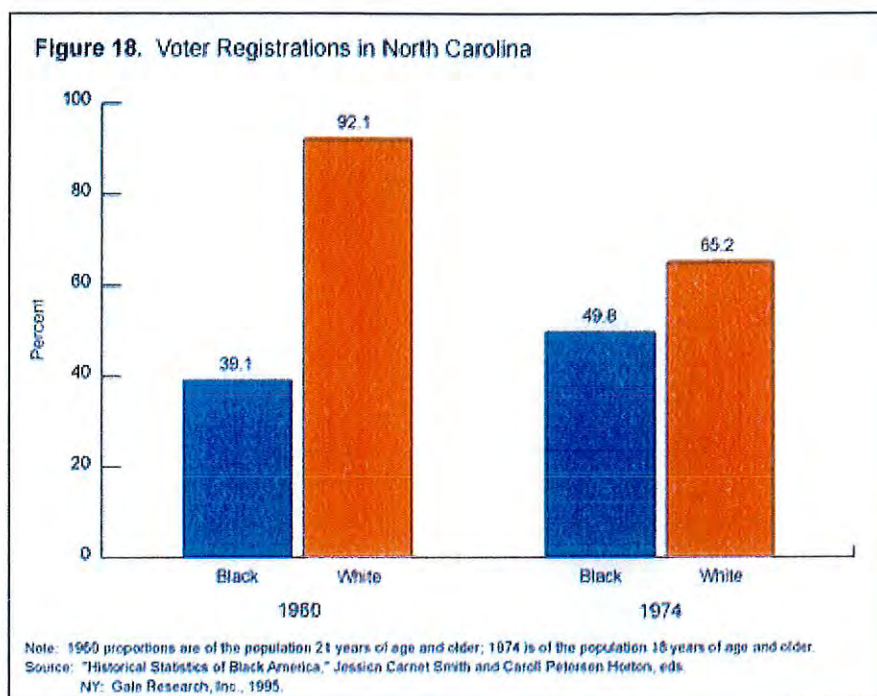
During the 1920s, North Carolina made significant strides toward modernization. Governor Cameron Morrison (1921-1925) became known as the “Good Roads Governor.” Morrison’s vision was to break the isolation of the rural parts of the state and begin to connect the disparate geographical divisions. He created a state highway commission and promoted bond issues totaling \$65 million for the construction of state highways. This figure shows the state highway system in 1920 and its expansion under the federal highway system by 1962.

The 1972 Election in North Carolina



The civil rights movement of the 1960s, led by Democrats in Congress and two Democratic presidential administrations, triggered party realignment throughout the South. In what is termed the “Great White Switch,” many white voters left the party of their ancestors and voted Republican. Large numbers of newly-enfranchised African American voters flocked to the Democratic standard. The 1972 election of Jesse Helms (a former Democrat) to the U.S. Senate and James E. Holshouser Jr. (1973-77) as governor, as well as the persistent vote of the state for Republican presidential candidates for every election except that of 1976, reflected the growth of two-party politics in North Carolina as well as the persistence of racial issues.

Voter Registrations in North Carolina



This comparison of black and white voter registration between 1960 and 1974 reflects the impact of lowering the voting age to 18 (which accounts, in part, for the decline in voter registration among the eligible white population) and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which applied to forty of North Carolina's one hundred counties, guaranteeing a color-blind voting registration and electoral process. Together with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which outlawed racial segregation in public places, and the series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions culminating with *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* (1971), which ordered busing to achieve racial balance in the public schools, the voting rights legislation destroyed the last legal vestiges of Jim Crow in North Carolina. The state's African American population played a major role in these landmark events, beginning with the student sit-ins in Greensboro in 1960 and concluding with the lawsuit filed by Darius Swann in Charlotte.



Early settlers' log house shows the fruits of hard labor. *North Carolina Collection, UNC Library, Chapel Hill.*