

English Colonization, Part 3: Southern and Middle Colonies

The Restoration

- During the mid 1600's England would experience a religious and political revolution
 - For a time the English monarchy was overthrown and a republic was formed by a Puritan leader (Oliver Cromwell)
 - In 1661 Charles II regained control of England the monarchy was reestablished
 - It was at this time the England once again turned to settling its New World territories

The Carolinas

- In 1663 Charles II granted to eight English nobles, who had aided him in recapturing the throne of England, the territory of the Carolinas
- It was not until 1729 that the colony would be split into North Carolina and South Carolina

North Carolina

- The colony would never give way to the large plantation estates of Virginia and South Carolina
- Its settlers were mostly freedmen of Virginia, with also some settlers from New England
- Small, self-sufficient farms made up the colony
- The colony was known for its democratic government and its autonomous rule from England and its neighboring colonies

South Carolina

- The settlement of Charleston would grow into the most important city of the Southern colonies
- The colony was originally intended to be a supply hub for the West Indies
 - It was meant to grow the necessary supplies (food, timber, etc.) for the cash colonies of the Caribbean

The New Cash Crops of the Colonies

- After rice and indigo were introduced to South Carolina the colony quickly became a source of profit for the English Empire
- A factor economy developed
 - The SC farmers would grow rice and indigo which would be traded with English factors, merchants who supplied the plantation owners with the goods they needed for survival and leisure
 - This style of economy would cripple industrial development in the South as the plantation owners and farmers would come to rely on cash crops and would never fully develop their economic potential

New York

- New York was originally established and settled by the Dutch as the colony of New Amsterdam
 - New Amsterdam never grew into a major settlement and was very culturally diverse
- In 1664 Charles II granted to the Duke of York (James II) all the lands between Maryland and Connecticut

New Amsterdam to New York

- James II immediately sent a naval force to take the lands from the Dutch, which they did with little resistance
 - Peter Stuyvesant was the infamous governor of New Amsterdam at the time, and attempted to resist
- James granted the colony's inhabitants a broad range of freedoms, including freedom of worship and language (there were a number of languages already spoken in the colony)

Governing New York

- At first James acted as an absolute ruler over the colony, but after attempting to tax the colonists there were immediate cries of “no taxation without representation”
- In 1683 the colony was granted broad civil rights and a representative assembly

Another “New” Colony...

- Feeling that the colony of New York was too large to govern, James II granted a large area of land to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret
- This was divided into West and East New Jersey

A Unified New Jersey

- The two proprietors, in efforts to attract settlers to their territories, offered generous land grants and broad religious freedoms
- Large groups of Quakers were attracted to the colonies, and these Quakers bought the proprietary rights from Berkeley and Carteret
- The two colonies were combined in 1702 into the single colony of New Jersey

Forming the Middle Colonies

- England's desire to unify its Chesapeake, Southern, and New England colonies also led to the formation of Pennsylvania and Delaware
- The interest groups involved in the formation of these colonies were commonly groups persecuted by the dominant culture of the established colonies
 - i.e. Quakers, the Scots and Irish

The Quakers and William Penn

- The Quakers were also known as the Religious Society of Friends
 - Believed in equality for all men and women
 - Nonviolence, this meant a policy of avoiding service in the military
 - The true religious authority of a person was the inner soul, not a church or official
 - Because of these beliefs the Quakers were widely persecuted throughout England and Europe

The Quakers and William Penn

- William Penn
 - His father was an English military hero who the king owed many favors to
 - Though his father did not agree with Penn being a Quaker, he did support his son's right to worship freely
 - In 1681, as a reward for his father's service, Penn was granted a large proprietary colony in the New World
 - Pennsylvania – "Penn's Woods"

Developing Pennsylvania

- Penn had 3 goals for PN
 - 1) religious freedom for persecuted peoples
 - 2) liberal government policies
 - 3) generate income for Penn and his associates
- Penn used modern marketing ideas to generate new settlers
 - He had associates spread the word throughout Europe that there was a new colony that offered religious freedoms and political opportunities

Structures of Government in Pennsylvania

- Frame of Government
 - Passed in 1682 by Penn
 - Created a representative assembly in PN elected by the landowners
- Charter of Liberties
 - Passed in 1701 by the PN assembly
 - Guaranteed freedom of worship in PN and allowed unlimited immigration

Settling Pennsylvania

- Penn tried to lure a diverse population into his colony
 - The Delaware colonies were part of his land grant and they already had a rather large Dutch and Swiss population
 - Generous terms were offered to all peoples, including the Scots and Irish who settled in the colony

Other Unique Facts About Pennsylvania

- Penn tried to deal with the natives fairly, and always attempted to compensate them with fair value for the lands that the settlers took
- Penn was unique in his role as proprietor in that he journeyed to his colony personally to oversee its development

What to do with Delaware?

- Since Delaware was already established in terms of location and culture, the Pennsylvania assembly granted the three lower counties of Delaware their own assembly and it in essence became its own colony in 1702
 - It would continue to share governors with Pennsylvania until the Revolution

The Last Colony...

- By the early 1700's England was suffering overcrowding of its jails and prisons because of debtors (people arrested for not paying their loans to the creditor)
- An idea was generated that a colony could be created to rid the jails of these debtors (they would be sent to the colony)
 - For this purpose, and others, Georgia was chartered in 1732

Georgia

- England very much wanted Georgia to succeed for these reasons
 - It was a ‘buffer’ colony
 - It protected the valuable South Carolina plantations from Spanish Florida
 - It was to be used to get rid of the debtors and criminals of England’s jails and prisons
- For these reasons Georgia was the only colony to ever receive financial assistance from the English government

Who would lead this motley colony of criminals?...

- James Oglethorpe was the head of the philanthropists who acted as proprietors and were granted the Georgia charter
 - 1st governor
 - Dedicated his life to the cause of reforming debt laws
 - Also a military hero and leader

Georgia Facts

- Some of the first issues addressed by Oglethorpe were the banning of...

- Debt imprisonment (of course)
- Drinking rum
- Slavery

** These bans would remain in place until England took over and made Georgia a royal colony in 1752