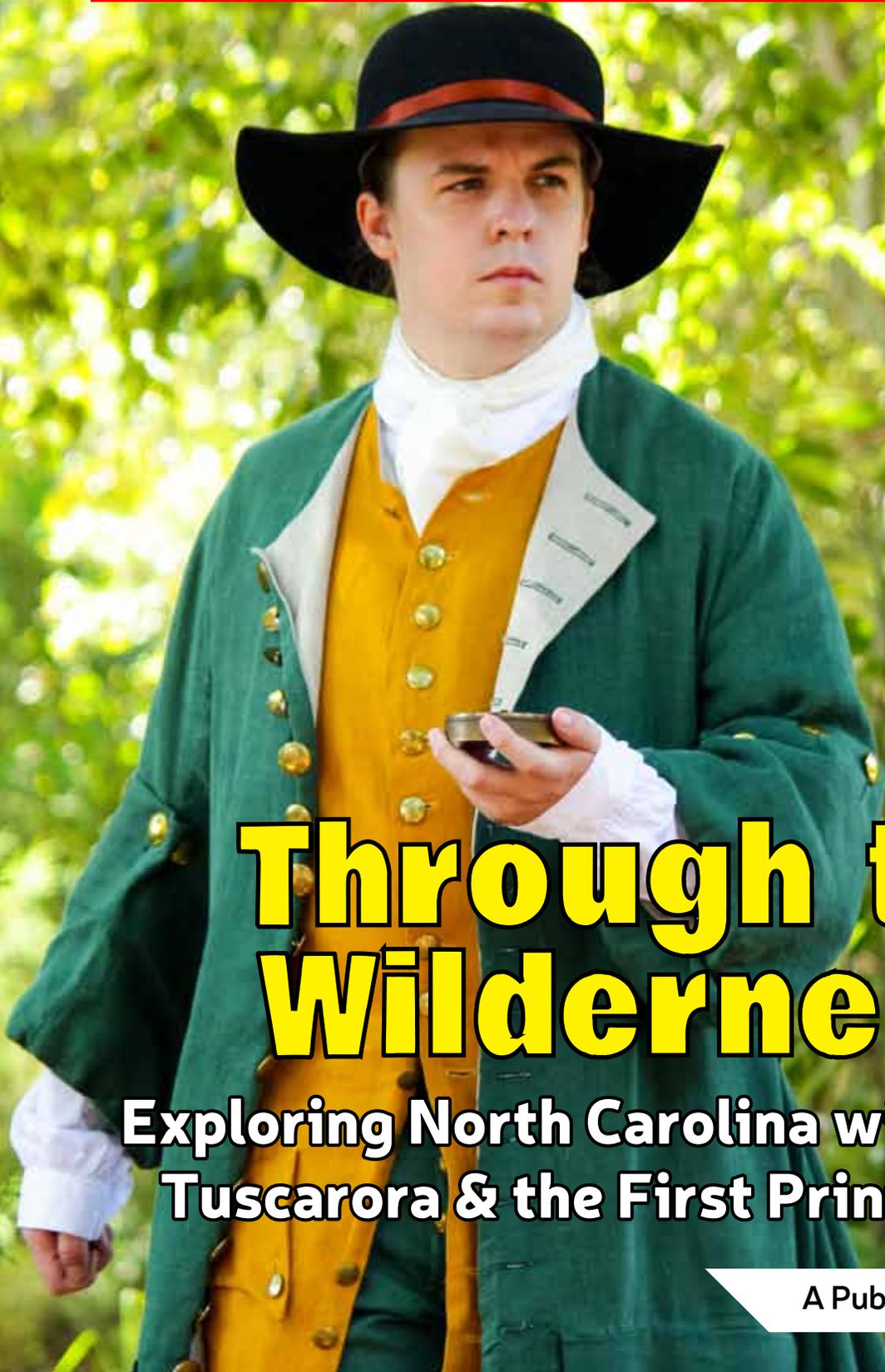


FALL 2015

Living History

CLASSROOM



Through the Wilderness

Exploring North Carolina with Lawson,
Tuscarora & the First Printing Press

A Publication of Tryon Palace



“The State of North Carolina from the best Authorities &c.” is a map drawn by Samuel Lewis in 1795. Does it look different from the North Carolina we see today?

Mapping Our State

When traveling today, many of us chart our course by using **GPS**, which relies on information from satellites and maps to make sure we arrive at our intended destination. People living in the 17th and 18th centuries could not use a computer system. To find their way, they relied on paper maps.

Cartography is a skill that combines mathematics, geography, and art to produce a physical map of the earth. Accurate maps define boundaries and settle arguments over land. They also show dangerous waters and coastlines to help save the lives of sailors.

Cartographers in the 1600s and 1700s often used surveying skills. **Land surveyors** used chains to measure the distance between two points. Surveyor’s chains were 66 feet long with 100 links. Each link was about 8 inches long. After every 10 links, a brass tag was attached. The tags let the surveyor track how many links had been used. Today surveyors no longer use an actual chain to measure the land, but the lengths of the chain and link are still used as units of measure.

Words to Know

GPS: short for Global Positioning System, which uses satellites and maps to determine location

Cartography: the science of making maps for defined transportation routes used to trade goods on land and waterways

Cartographer: a person who combines observation, math, and drawing to make maps

Land surveyor: a person whose job is to measure and examine an area of land

Theodolite: a surveying tool made from a telescope, it sits on a tripod and measures angles

Total station: a surveying tool that combines the angle measurements of a theodolite with distance measurements

So if a surveyor could use chains to measure in a straight line, what happened when the line turned? That turning point was usually marked by a building, road or even a large rock or tree. Through the mid-1700s the angle of the turn was measured with a square rule and a series of circles drawn on the map, but by the late 1700s an invention called the **theodolite** made this process easier.

John Lawson, who was the surveyor general of North Carolina in the early 1700s, would have used these tools to make maps and draw the boundary between the colonies of North Carolina and Virginia. Modern surveyors now use an instrument that looks like a **theodolite** called a **total station** that can measure distance and determine angles at the same time.

After taking their measurements, cartographers have to draw the map. The first step is deciding the direction of the map. Most maps are oriented with north at the top of the map but some mapmakers chose other orientations. For example, John Ogilby's 1676 map of the Carolina Coast is oriented so west was at the top. Rotating the map this way presented the coastline the way it would appear to a ship arriving in colonial America from England. Interestingly, Ogilby never travelled to America, instead trusting the work of explorers who had traveled to the New World.

The interior of the North Carolina colony was produced by a map from John Lederer, a German explorer who journeyed into the mountains of North Carolina for the governor of Virginia. Lederer's map was in many ways the first real depiction Europeans had of North Carolina's mountains. While Lederer's map was found by later explorers to be wrong in some places, he also recorded the names and descriptions of several Native American tribes that called North Carolina home.

By the time Samuel Lewis drew his famous map "The State of North Carolina from the best Authorities" in 1795, he had advantages that previous cartographers lacked. Lewis had the benefit of living in the Americas at a time when the area he was mapping had been largely explored. He also had access to instruments like the **theodolite**, which allowed him to correct the mistakes other cartographers had made. These advantages gave Lewis the opportunity to include greater detail on his maps than previous versions. His maps were so advanced that they look very similar to maps made today, which use total stations and satellite images.

Compass



Octant



Survey Compass



Correlations

3.H.1.1-3; 3.G.1.1, 1.4-5; 3.E. 1.1-2
4.H.1.3; 4.G.1.4
5.H.1.1; 5.G.1-3;
5.C&G.1.3; 5.C.1.1-3

A Time for the Tuscarora:

When Native Americans ruled North Carolina

Legend says it was *Tarenhiawagen*, known as “Ruler of Skyland,” who led the Tuscarora from the Great Lakes to Eastern North Carolina. There he taught them the secrets of the bow and arrow, how to rule themselves, use the land, and subdue their **Algonquian** and **Siouan** neighbors. Archaeological evidence shows that by C.E. 600, the Tuscarora were firmly established in east-central North Carolina, and by the time of European contact, they were the dominant Native American tribe in Eastern North Carolina.

The Tuscarora were hunter-gatherers and farmers. Men lead hunting trips in the fall and early winter. They mostly hunted white-tailed deer but other game included bears, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, ducks, and geese. Women prepared the meat by cutting it into strips and smoking it on racks, while the skins were made into clothing and other items. The Tuscarora were also enthusiastic fishermen. Using nets, spears, and arrows, the Tuscarora were able to capture huge quantities of fish and shellfish. While hunting and fishing contributed to the Tuscarora’s diet, it was farming that truly fed the Tuscarora.

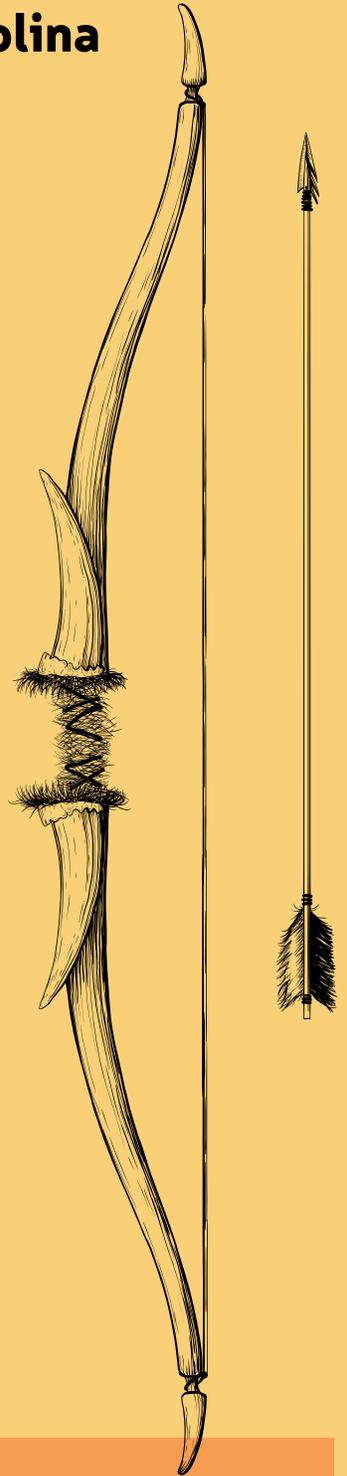
The Tuscarora used **slash-and-burn** farming practices. Farming was the domain of women in Tuscarora society, much to the confusion of Europeans. It was the women who planted and harvested large fields of crops like corn, beans, and squash. This control over the main source of food gave Tuscarora women a tremendous amount of social power. Like so many other Native American peoples who farmed for food, the Tuscarora were a **matrilineal** people. This meant that Tuscarora households were controlled by women. For example, rather than create their own household or stay in the household of the husband’s family, a newlywed Tuscarora man moved into the home of his wife.

The English called the Tuscarora a “nation,” but they were nothing like the nation-states

of Europe. Their language, culture, religion, and history identified them as Tuscarora, but they were not united politically. The village, or town, was the main political unit within Tuscarora society. Village councils composed of elderly men and sometimes women who, determined military, trade, and social policies for the village. A leader called a *teethha*—referred to by Europeans as kings—governed each village.

The independence of individual villages made it difficult for Europeans to fit the Tuscarora into their colonial plans. Relationships between North Carolina colonists and the Tuscarora swayed between the extremes of outright hostility and limited tolerance. The demand for deerskins and slave labor in European markets led North Carolina to establish trading partnerships with the Tuscarora. The exchange was, at first, desirable to the Tuscarora. However, the need to travel further in search of deer brought the Tuscarora into conflict with colonists who complained about native hunters trespassing on their farms. Coupled with the unfair treatment of the Tuscarora by European traders, the situation was bound to explode into serious conflict.

That conflict became a reality with the Tuscarora War, which included two years (1711-1713) of fighting that left hundreds of Tuscarora dead and countless others enslaved. Those who remained either migrated back north to join the **Iroquois League** in New York, or stayed in North Carolina.



Words to Know

Algonquian: a group of languages spoken by many Native American tribes; in North Carolina, Algonquian-speaking peoples lived along the coast

Siouan: a group of languages spoken by some Native American tribes; in North Carolina, Siouan-speaking peoples lived in the Piedmont region

Slash-and-burn: a type of farming where the trees are cut down and burned in order to clear space for fields; these cleared fields are farmed for a few years then allowed to re-grow

Matrilineal: inheriting or determining ancestry through the female line

Iroquois League: an alliance of Native American tribes in upper New York

Correlations

3.H.1.1, 1.3; 3.H.2.2; 3.G.1.3-4; 3.C&G.1-2; 3.C.1
4.H.1.4; 4.G.1.2-4; 4.C.1.1
5.H.1.3, 2.3; 5.G.1-2; 5.C&G.1.1, 5.C.1

A Splintered Past



The International Adventures of a Tea Chest

While this tea chest was made in England circa 1785, the different materials that went into making it came from all over the world.

The main wood used was mahogany. The 18th century craftsman who made this chest would have acquired the mahogany from the West Indies, probably from the then British colonies of Jamaica or the Bahamas. Africans forced into slavery and brought across the Atlantic would have harvested the wood for plantation owners, who sold it to English merchants.

The dark—nearly black—wood is ebony. The most prized ebony came from the African island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. The first Europeans to visit Mauritius were the Portuguese, followed by the Dutch, who tried and failed to establish a successful colony. The French also tried to colonize the island and eventually succeeded, controlling the island in 1785. The 18th century craftsman may have acquired his ebony from a French merchant or from a British merchant who traded with the French colony. Since the wood was so prized, it was harvested to the point that

the trees are now endangered and the Dodo birds, which called the trees home, are extinct.

The lighter wood is colored boxwood. This actually grows in several places around the world, including parts of Europe, Asia, and the Americas. By 1785 the American Revolution had ended and trade had resumed between Great Britain and the United States, so the boxwood may have come from one of the former colonies of the now independent nation.

So the wood came from Africa and the Americas, but where did the tea come from? The tea stored in the chest may have come from China or India. The East India Company, founded in 1600, began bringing tea to England from China and later from India. By 1785 they had trade colonies in India and were shipping a wide range of goods back to England.

Correlations

3.G.1.2, 1.3; 3.E.1.1-2
4.G.1.3-4; 4.L.1.1
5.C.1; 5.L.2.3

Lay of the L

John Lawson and *A New Voyage to*

Historians have described Lawson as an explorer, land surveyor, natural historian, author, and town founder. This long list of accomplishments describes the last 10 years of Lawson's life. That decade he spent mainly in colonial North Carolina is of great importance to the region's history.

Lawson was born in London around 1665, and around the age of 10 he was **apprenticed** to John Chandler, an **apothecary**, who provided Lawson an education in and appreciation for the **natural sciences**. Following his education, Lawson's life is a mystery until May 1700, when Lawson boarded a ship for the Carolinas. Lawson was persuaded to leave England after meeting an unknown gentleman who assured him "that Carolina was the best Country I could go to...."

By August 1700, Lawson had arrived in Charles Town (now Charleston), South Carolina. On December 28, 1700 Lawson left Charles Town and embarked on a 59-day journey that covered over 500 miles and ended on the Pamlico River in North Carolina.

While on this expedition, Lawson collected and recorded a wide variety of plants and animals found in colonial North and South Carolina. More importantly, Lawson's travels brought him into contact with numerous Native American peoples. Throughout his journey Lawson kept a journal and recorded everything he witnessed. This journal became the basis for his 1709 book entitled, *A New Voyage to Carolina*. The book is both a **memoir** written by a man fascinated by what he saw and a **promotional tract** meant to bring colonists into the Carolina backcountry. Travel narratives of this sort were typical of the time period. A revival in colonial development in North America coincided with a renewed interest in the natural world of plants, animals, and native

peoples. Authors, like Lawson, satisfied such public interest, while government officials saw an opportunity to promote transatlantic settlement.

After his journey through the Carolina backcountry, Lawson remained in North Carolina where he built a home near present-day New Bern. There he continued writing about the colony's plants, animals, Native American tribes and natural history. However, more and more of Lawson's time was spent in land surveying—so much, that in 1708 he became **surveyor general** of North Carolina. As surveyor general Lawson was responsible for finalizing the boundary between Virginia and North Carolina, measuring out the plots for North Carolina's first town, Bath, and for acquiring the land for North Carolina's

second town, New Bern. All of these activities were meant to encourage European settlement in North Carolina. Whatever Lawson believed his relationship with North Carolina's local tribes to be (by all accounts he felt that he was a friend to the Native Americans) Lawson gained a bad reputation as a land taker. For example, when Lawson sold land to the German and Swiss settlers

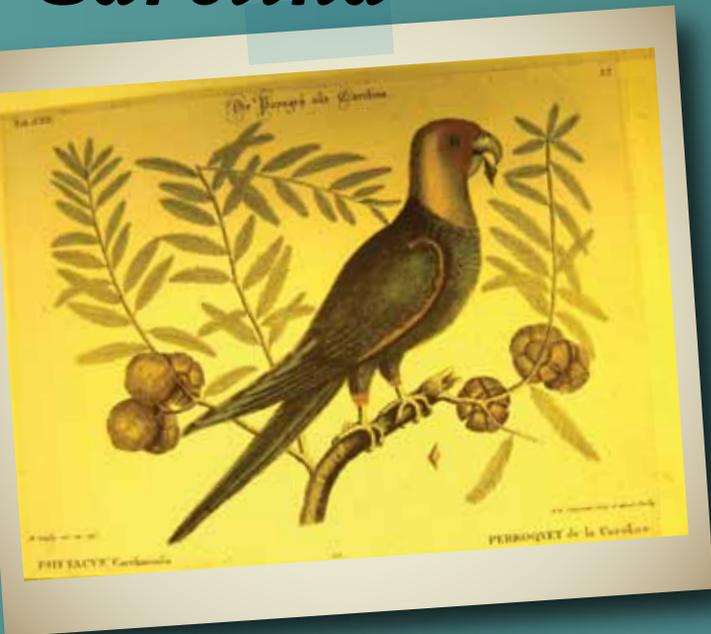
who founded New Bern, the land included the location of a large Tuscarora village. These events did not improve Lawson's relationship with Native Americans in North Carolina.

These land sales eventually played a part in Lawson's death in September 1711. While traveling up the Neuse River with New Bern's founder, Christopher de Graffenried, the two men were captured by the Tuscarora. Imprisoned in a Tuscarora village, they were put on trial for their actions against the Tuscarora people. De Graffenried was released, but Lawson was executed, making him the first casualty of the Tuscarora War.



Land

Carolina



Apprenticed: a legal contract for an individual to learn a skill or trade from a professional

Apothecary: a trade that made and sold medicines made from plants, animals, and minerals; similar to a modern-day pharmacist

Natural Sciences: an area of study focusing on plants and animals, similar to the field of biology

Memoir: a written account of one's personal life and experiences

Promotional tract: a piece of writing intended to persuade the reader

Surveyor General: a government position in many colonies that was responsible for the surveying of lands for future sale and settlement

A NEW
VOYAGE
TO
CAROLINA;
CONTAINING THE
Exact Description and Natural History
OF THAT
COUNTRY:
Together with the Present State thereof.

AND
A JOURNAL
Of a Thousand Miles, Travel'd thro' several
Nations of INDIANS.
Giving a particular Account of their Customs,
Manners, &c.

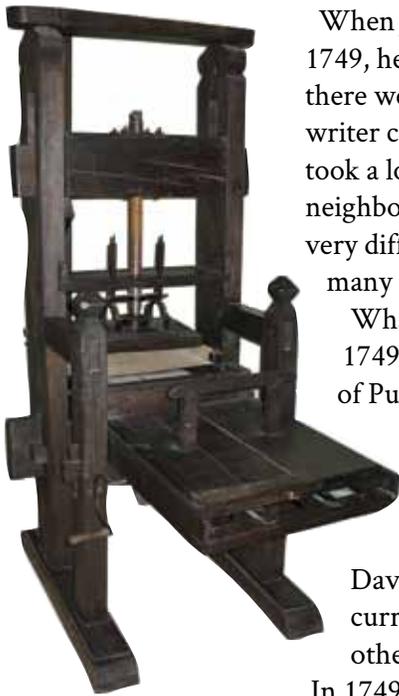
By JOHN LAWSON, Gent. Surveyor-
General of North-Carolina.

LONDON:
Printed in the Year 1709.

Correlations

3.H.1-3; 3.H.2.2; 3.G.1.4; 3.E.1-2; 3.C.1.3
4.H.1-4; 4.G.1-4; 4.C.1.1
5.H.1; 5.G.1; 5.C.1

Start the Presses



When James Davis arrived in New Bern with a printing press in 1749, he revolutionized printing in the colony. Prior to Davis' arrival there were only two ways to make multiple copies of a document—a writer could either have a clerk hand write multiple copies, which took a lot of time, or he could send the document to a printer in a neighboring colony like Virginia or South Carolina. This proved to be very difficult for doing business because it took time and there were many delays in the publication of public documents.

What brought Davis and his printing press to North Carolina? In 1749, the North Carolina colonial assembly created the position of Public Printer to help with the distribution of public documents. James Davis, a printer in Virginia at the time, was hired as the first Public Printer. He opened his print shop in New Bern because it was the capital of North Carolina in 1749.

Davis' first job for the colony was to print **currency**. The currency had to be very detailed with images, text and other designs to make it difficult to counterfeit or copy.

In 1749 Davis printed his first publication, *The Journal of the House of Burgesses of the Province of North Carolina* and in 1751 he issued the first collection of public laws titled *All the Public Acts of Assembly, of the Province of North Carolina: now in Force and Use, etc.*

Davis established North Carolina's first newspaper, the *North-Carolina Gazette* in 1751. He continued to publish a newspaper irregularly under different names until 1778. As a strong believer in American independence, Davis used his paper to publicize opposition to taxes and **parliamentary acts**. His paper helped to persuade North Carolina colonists to support the American cause and connected them to supporters in other colonies.

Davis remained active as a printer in North Carolina until his death in 1785.



Words to Know

Currency: paper or coin money

Parliamentary acts: laws passed by British politicians

Correlations

3.H.1-2;
3.G.1.4-5;
3.C&G.2.1-2
4.H.1.3; 4.G.1.4;
4.C&G.1.3
5.H.1.2; 5.G.1.3

In celebration of National History Day 2016 and its theme of "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History," the education staff at Tryon Palace wanted to show you just a few ways North Carolina's history and our collections can help you explore this important theme.

In this issue we studied the exploration of North Carolina, encounters between European colonists and Native American tribes, and the exchange of goods and ideas across the Atlantic. For those who would like more information on National History Day please visit www.nhd.org or nchistoryday.org.

Living History CLASSROOM

The Living History Classroom, made possible through a generous grant from the Tryon Palace Foundation, Incorporated, is published twice each school year by Tryon Palace, and is available free of charge to schools and teachers. Our articles, crafts, and games celebrate the resources of Tryon Palace and its North Carolina History Center, as well as New Bern and Eastern North Carolina.

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