

Chapter 3

The Proprietors and their Problems

Chapter Preview

Terms: neck, speculate, customs duty, charter, Lord Proprietor, quit-rent, General Assembly, Navigation Acts, Culpeper's Rebellion, governor, treason, county, refugee, cede, naval stores, bounty, royal colony

People: George Durant, Quakers, Thomas Miller, Thomas Eastchurch, Seth Sothel, John Harvey, John Gibbs, Huguenots, John Archdale, Anglicans, Thomas Cary, Edward Hyde, Maurice Moore, George Burrington

Places: the Albemarle, Carolina, Great Dismal Swamp, Pamlico, Bath, New Bern, the Cape Fear

George and Ann Marwood Durant were the most notable first settlers of what became North Carolina. The Durant house was more than a family farm. It was also a tavern and a store, and host to some of the first important political events in our early history. So important were the Durants to the founding of North Carolina that each new governor is given the chance to take the oath of office on the Durant family Bible.

George was a man of many talents. He often referred to himself as a “mariner.” He was often at sea, carrying to market the very goods that he and his neighbors grew to make a living. He farmed as well and held a variety of public offices—including speaker of the Assembly and attorney general.

Ann too lived a remarkable life. Ann was a partner in the family’s business, which was essential when her husband was away at sea or preoccupied with the concerns of the new colony. She was a clothes maker, at one time a funeral director, and once was a jail keeper. Ann even hosted the meeting of the Assembly. Several times she appeared in an official capacity before the General Court, representing her absent husband. This makes her the first practicing female attorney in state history.

Together the Durants managed a farmstead of more than 2,000 acres. They had nine children, eight of whom lived to adulthood, and six of whom had families of their own. This occurred at a time and in a place where it was typical for less than half of the children born to live to old age.

George and Ann Durant demonstrated a tendency to want to govern their own affairs and run their own lives. That was a trait that many North Carolinians after them shared.

Opposite page: The Newbold-White House is the oldest remaining structure on the Albemarle Sound. Its style was popular in Tidewater Virginia in the late 1600s. Its likely construction date, 1730, indicates how early settlers were slow to change their habits. **Above:** These fragments of gold were recovered from the wreck of Blackbeard’s ship, *The Queen Anne’s Revenge*.





SIGNS OF THE TIMES

TECHNOLOGY

Sir Isaac Newton developed the reflecting telescope about 1668, soon after the Lords Proprietors received the Carolina charter. North Carolinians did not have such a large telescope until the twentieth century.

THEATER

In 1661, about the time Ann and George Durant came to the Albemarle Sound, women were allowed to appear on the stage in London, in female roles that men had previously played.

BOOKS

Soon after John Lawson became the first North Carolinian to publish a book, England in 1709 adopted the first copyright law. Lawson never got the benefit. Indians executed him in 1711 because his book had encouraged whites to settle on their land.

EVERYDAY LIFE

English-speaking people gained new household items during the Proprietary period: minute hands on clocks and watches (1670), checks for holders of bank accounts (1681), toilet commodes (1700), and mercury thermometers (1714).

MUSIC

During the Proprietary period of Carolina, Europeans enjoyed music from new instruments like the bassoon, oboe, clarinet, slide trombone, and piano.

ARCHITECTURE

The first Carolinians were still living in plank huts in 1653 when the Taj Mahal—believed by many to be the most beautiful building in the world—was started in India.

Figure 5 Timeline: 1660–1730



1663 Carolina Charter	1705 Bath established	1729 North Carolina became royal colony
1669 Fundamental Constitutions	1701 Law passed establishing Anglican Church	1711 Tuscarora War
1673 Culpeper's Rebellion		1712 Carolina split into two colonies

1660 1670 1680 1690 1700 1710 1720 1730

1673
Marquette and Joliet explored the Mississippi River

1681
City of Philadelphia founded

1699
Yellow fever epidemic in Charles Town, South Carolina

1707
United Kingdom of Great Britain formed (England, Wales, Scotland)

1718
New Orleans founded by French

TARGET READING SKILL

Finding the Main Idea

Defining the Skill

You should always read to find main ideas. The *main idea*, which is often the first sentence in a paragraph, is usually a single sentence that describes specific ideas or details. The main idea is followed by *supporting details* that explain, describe, prove, or clarify. Supporting details may tell who, what, where, when, or why. Supporting details may also provide examples, facts, or statistics.

The main idea is easy to locate if it is the first or last sentence in a paragraph. It is more difficult to identify the main idea, however, when it is located in the middle of the paragraph or is inferred instead of actually being stated.

Practicing the Skill

Read the following paragraph and identify the main idea and the supporting details. You can use a graphic organizer like the one to the right to organize your ideas.

On March 24, 1663, eight **Lords Proprietors** received the Carolina Charter. The recipients of the charter were called “Lords” because they were to be the “true and absolute” rulers of the colony and called “Proprietors” since they were the owners of the property. In 1665, the king expanded their charter to include all the territory that is North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia and part of Florida today. And, the Proprietors were given claim to all

territory west to “the South Seas,” another name for the Pacific Ocean. Although no one at the time knew just how much land was involved, the Carolina colony claimed most of what became the southern half of the United States, extending all the way to California. (So, in a way, Los Angeles was once part of Carolina, although the Spanish owned it then and would not have given it up without a fight.)

