

## Settling the Coastal Plain

After the chaos of the early years, northern Carolina began to grow in the early eighteenth century. Immigrants from England, Switzerland, and Germany settled on the coast and along the rivers of the coastal plain. Lured by promises of fertile soil, easy riches, and religious freedom, they established farms, towns, churches, and governments. But they also led difficult lives, enduring poor transportation, a lack of manufactured goods, and even attacks by pirates.

In this chapter, we'll explore the experiences of these early colonists. We'll read about their reasons for coming to North Carolina and what they thought of their new land — often in their own words. We'll also consider why the North Carolina coast was so dangerous, and why it was nicknamed the “Graveyard of the Atlantic.”

---

### Section Contents

- The Present State of Carolina [People and Climate]
- Primary Source: An Act to Encourage the Settlement of America (1707)
- The Arrival of Swiss Immigrants
- Primary Source: A German Immigrant Writes to Home
- Quakers
- Graveyard of the Atlantic
- Primary Source: Of the Inlets and Havens of This Country
- The Life and Death of Blackbeard the Pirate

#### User Tags:

Chapter Cover

coastal plain

history

North Carolina

North Carolina History

Students

Teachers

Creative Commons BY-NC-SA

#### From:

ANCHOR: A North Carolina History Online Resource

#### Copyright Date:

2008

#### Places:



[1]

Built by Quaker farmer Abraham Sanders in 1730, the Newbold White House in Hertford is the oldest brick home in North Carolina.

3 January 2018

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/settling-coastal-plain>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/media/newbold-white-house>