

Gold Rush

In 1799, twelve year-old Conrad Reed of Cabarrus County found a seventeen-pound gold nugget in a streambed. It was the first discovery of gold in the United States, and within a few years, his father owned a mine that made him a wealthy man. Throughout the region, mines were dug, and men came from across the country — and from Europe — to work them. The nation's first gold rush was on. In this chapter, you'll learn about the Reed family, the lives of the men who came to work in the mines, and the impact gold had on North Carolina's society and economy.

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It doesn't look like much, but a nugget of raw gold reshaped the economy of North Carolina's southern Piedmont.

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