

Attachment Clause

The Attachment Clause in North Carolina [colonial](#) law allowed for the garnishment of the property of nonresidents in certain cases of debt. The controversy surrounding British attempts to delete this clause from the court laws—often referred to as the “Court Quarrel”—provoked severe anti-British sentiment in the colony immediately preceding the outbreak of the [American Revolution](#) ^[3].

North Carolina lawmakers were determined that the Attachment Clause would be retained regardless of the governor's opposition, and the issue became a crucial factor around which anti-British sentiment developed in the colony. Without the clause, North Carolina creditors would be forced to sue in English courts to gain satisfaction for debts owed by non-North Carolinians; the impracticality of such a procedure was more than they were willing to accept. The Attachment controversy, in the minds of North Carolinians, had become a symbol of the British government's conscious effort to destroy the colony's constitution.

References:

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<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/documents?search=%22%22north%20Carolina%20booklet%20%3A%20great%20events%20in%20North%20Carolina%20history%22%22&searchtypes=Metadata&Full%20text&applyState=true> (1/2)

Colonial period (1600-1763) ^[13]

Law and legal history [14]

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