

Tryon, William, Papers of Governor

The Papers of Governor William Tryon

"William Tryon (1729-January 27, 1788), royal governor of both North Carolina and New York, served the two colonies during times of controversy and conflict. Tryon was related by marriage to Lord Hillsborough, Lord of Trade and Plantations. It is likely that Hillsborough was behind Tryon's appointment as lieutenant governor of North Carolina in 1764 when Arthur Dobbs requested retirement from the governorship. Tryon, his wife, and young daughter arrived in the colony in October 1764. He assumed the duties of governor on March 28, 1765, upon Dobbs' death, and received his commission within a few months. Tryon erroneously believed that the colonists would not object to a tax levied to erect a capitol and governor's residence. The assembly appropriated funds and authorized Tryon to oversee the project, which quickly exceeded the budget. Some North Carolinians felt that injustices in the colony, including the tax for Tryon's Palace, corrupt officials, and lack of representation for the backcountry, needed regulation. They therefore formed a resistance group known as the Regulators. After several defiant incidents, a special session of the assembly was called which caused only further agitation. Tryon organized and led militia into the backcountry in 1768 and 1771, defeating the Regulators on May 16, 1771, in the Battle of Alamance. While on the expedition in the backcountry in 1771, Tryon was notified of his transfer to the governorship of New York. Throughout the Revolution, Tryon maneuvered for military position, attaining Major General. Feeling underemployed in America, Tryon asked to be excused from the civil governorship and allowed to return to England, which he did in 1780" (State Archives of North Carolina).

Governor William Tryon: Proclamation of Tryon, May 17, 1771

Collection of "The Papers of Govern William Tryon"

North Carolina

17 May 1771

My His Excellency William Tryon Esquire
His Majesty's Captain General and Governor
in Chief in and over the said Province.

A Proclamation

Whereas I have been informed that several ignorant Persons have been
under false pretences induced to join in Arms to oppose Government and the
Laws of this Country. Therefore out of Humanity and in Tender Compassion
to the Distresses that must fall on them and their Families should they
through fear of Punishment persist in their Errors. I hereby give Notice
that every Person (except those who stand outlawed, and such as are now prisoners
in the Camps) who will come into Camps, lay down their Arms, take the Oath
of Allegiance and promise to pay all Taxes that are now due or may hereafter
become due by them respectively, and submit from this Day to the Laws of this
Country, shall have His Majesty's most Gracious and free Pardon for all Treasons
Insurrections and Rebellions done or committed before this Day provided
they make their Submission aforesaid on or before the 21. Instant.

Given under my Hand and the Great Seal of the
said Province this 17 Day of May Anno 1771.
Wm Tryon!

By His Excellency's Command
Robt Palmer Secy.

God save the King.

Citation (Chicago
Style):

Tryon, William. "Governor William Tryon: Proclamation of Tryon, May 17, 1771," Colonial Governors' Papers
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