

Glebes ^[1]

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Glebes

by [William S. Powell](#) ^[2], 2006

Glebes were plots of ground designated for the use of [clergymen](#) ^[3] assigned to a parish in England or the British colonies in America before 1776. The glebe was considered a part of the cleric's stipend, and he could farm, rent out, or otherwise use the land for his maintenance. At a meeting of the [vestry](#) ^[4] of St. Paul's Parish in [Chowan County](#) ^[5] on 5 May 1708, it was agreed that 500 acres that had been purchased was a glebe. In 1762, however, the North Carolina Assembly directed that [every parish should have a glebe](#) ^[6], and it specified the buildings that each should contain. This law directed that except for normal use, the property should be maintained at public expense.

After the [American Revolution](#) ^[7], unoccupied glebe land attracted squatters and speculators and in some cases resulted in legal action to settle claims. Some churches, including St. Thomas Church in [Bath](#) ^[8], still hold title to ancient glebe property.

Additional Resources:

Knight, Edgar W. "An Educational Practice in Colonial North Carolina." *The North Carolina Booklet* 15. No.1. July 1916. p. 49. <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/u/?p249901coll37,14078> ^[9] (accessed August 23, 2012).

"An Act for making Provision for an Orthodox Clergy." Acts of the North Carolina General Assembly, 1762. *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina* 23. Goldsboro, N.C.: Nash Brothers. 1905. p.584. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr23-0043#p23-584> ^[6]

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[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[16]

1 January 2006 | Powell, William S.

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