

Craven, James ^[1]

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by William S. Price, Jr., 1979

d. Oct. 1755

James Craven, member of the royal council, was a native of Doughton in Yorkshire, England. Although the date of his immigration to North Carolina is unknown, he was serving as clerk of the court in Pasquotank Precinct in 1734. He was sworn in as clerk of the [Chowan County](#) ^[2] court in January 1740, and the following month he was elected to the lower house of assembly from [Edenton](#) ^[3]; he continued in that office for six years. In an effort to create a balance in the upper house between the northern and southern counties, Governor [Gabriel Johnston](#) ^[4] in September 1751 nominated Craven, then serving as secretary of North Carolina, to the royal council. On 28 Mar. 1753, Craven presented his commission as a councilor and took the prescribed oaths. His attendance at council meetings was erratic, since he frequented only those sessions meeting in Edenton. By October 1755 he was dead.

A merchant, Craven married [Penelope Hodgson](#) ^[5] of [Chowan County](#) ^[2]; they had no children. He owned a farm called Pagett's Plantation in the county, and his handsome house in Edenton still stands.

References:

J. Bryan Grimes, ed., *North Carolina Wills and Inventories* (1912).

William S. Price, Jr., "'Men of Good Estates': Wealth among North Carolina's Royal Councillors," *North Carolina Historical Review* 49 (1972).

William L. Saunders, ed., *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, vols. 4–5 (1886–87).

Additional Resources:

CSR Documents by Craven, James, d. 1755, Documenting the American South, UNC Libraries:
<https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/creators/csr10276> ^[6]

Edenton (N.C.) Papers, 1717-1937 (collection no. 01910). The Southern Historical Collection. Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/e/Edenton\(N.C.\)Papers.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/e/Edenton(N.C.)Papers.html) ^[7] (accessed March 1, 2013).

Subjects:

[Biographies](#) ^[8]

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Authors:

[Price, William S., Jr.](#) ^[10]

Origin - location:

[Chowan County](#) ^[11]

From:

[Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press](#),^[12]

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