

When Cotton was King



growing cotton in North Carolina

The Port of Wilmington was once one of the largest cotton exporters throughout the 19th century. But even before that the port was a primary influence since 1739 and bore the scars of the Revolutionary War and the smallpox breakout, Civil War, and World War II. It was the cotton which elevated its reputation both at home and abroad and which put the South on the map.

Wilmington supported the manufacturing industries of the New England States and abroad. Cotton also helped with the economic recovery of the

South after the destruction caused by General Sherman and its effects which lasted well into the 20th century.