

Yeopim Indians Sold the Chowan River to the English



Chowan River In 1653

Roger Green led a company across the wilderness from Nansemond, in Virginia to the Chowan River and settled near Edenton. Others followed.

In 1662, George Durant purchased the neck of land on the Northside of Albemarle Sound from the Yeopim Indians.

This land was settled by persons driven off from Virginia through religious persecutions. The following year, King Charles II granted to the Earl of Clarendon and seven other associates all that land from the thirty-sixth degree of north latitude to the river San Matheo (now the St. Johns River) in Florida; and extending westwardly to the Pacific Ocean.

At the date of this charter, Sir William Berkeley, Governor of Virginia, visited the infant settlement on the Chowan, and being pleased with its evident signs of prosperity and increasing importance, appointed William Drummond as the first Governor of the Colony of Carolina. Drummond was a Scotch Presbyterian for which a beautiful lake in the middle of Dismal Swamp was named.

In 1665, the settlement on the Chowan River was called the "County of Albemarle" while in Virginia, King Charles, upon a petition, granted an enlargement of that instrument so as to make it extend from twenty-nine

degrees to thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes, north latitude.

These charters permitted the proprietors to exercise toleration towards the non conformists, if expedient, and encouraged immigration from abroad. Upon the death of Governor Drummond in 1667, the colony of Carolina contained about four thousand inhabitants.