

CHAPTER 3

THE COLONY OF A COLONY

- A. Introduction. During the first half of the 17th century English adventurers established four separate areas of settlement: Chesapeake (Virginia), Bermuda, New England, and Barbados. With the exception of Bermuda, these areas of settlement became cultural hearths: sites of powerful local cultures that could be recreated and, with modifications, transferred to other areas of England's empire.
- B. Barbados as a cultural hearth
 - 1. Barbados influenced settlement patterns and cultures of the entire English-speaking Caribbean.
 - 2. South Carolina is as much an extension of Barbados as are Jamaica and St. Kitts.
 - 3. Colonial South Carolina's social, cultural, economic development was patterned after that of Barbados.
 - 4. In order to understand colonial South Carolina, we first must look at Barbados.
- C. The Barbados Background
 - 1. Englishmen settled Barbados in search of land and wealth.
 - 2. During the first 50 years of settlement, a staple crop economy (sugar) developed.
 - 3. African slavery was introduced on large scale for the first time in any English colony.
 - 4. Within a few years, there was a high ratio of blacks to whites.
 - 5. Because of the precarious nature of life in the tropics, Barbadians lived a hedonistic lifestyle.
 - 6. By 1670, it was England's wealthiest colony.
- D. Origin, Exploration, and Settlement of Carolina
 - 1. King Charles II granted a charter to eight Lords Proprietors, several of whom had Barbados connections.
 - 2. William Hilton explored the Carolina coast in 1663-1664.
 - 3. In 1664, some Barbadians attempted a first settlement at Cape Fear, but the colony failed.

4. In 1670 a successful settlement was established at Albemarle Point.

E. South Carolina and Barbados

1. Originally, the Proprietors settled Carolina to supply food and building materials for Barbados.
2. For the first 20 years of settlement, nearly 50% of white settlers and almost all blacks were from Barbados.
3. The Barbadians brought to Carolina their West Indian experiences and the cultural and political institutions they had developed on the island.
 - a. The Barbadians had had experience in subduing a wilderness.
 - b. They had had experience in governing a colony.
 - c. They were “seasoned” against many tropical diseases.
 - d. They brought with them the plantation system and African slavery.

F. Summary. South Carolina was one of the most successful heirs of the Barbadian cultural experience. By the middle of the 18th century, South Carolina had become one of the 3 wealthiest and economically important colonies in the British Empire.

G. Readings

1. Edgar, South Carolina: A History, Chapter 3.
2. Horne, South Carolina, 79-105
3. Bridenbaugh, No Peace Beyond the Line
4. Dunn, Sugar and Slaves
5. Jones, South Carolina, pp. 88-114, 118-133