

CHAPTER 4

PEOPLING THE PROVINCE

- A. Introduction. Frequently, historians make the error of saying that colonial South Carolina had an homogeneous white population. Nothing could be farther from the truth. With the possible exception of New York, colonial South Carolina probably had the most heterogeneous white population of any of the 13 original colonies.
- B. There were at least 7 major European ethnic groups represented in colonial South Carolina's white population: English, French, Scots, Germans, Irish, Jews, and Welsh.
- C. The English
 - 1. The Barbadians (a loose term covering all white from the English West Indian colonies) were the most important English settlers.
 - a. Settlers came from the West Indian colonies of Barbados, Jamaica, Antigua, St. Kitts, Leeward Islands, and the Bahamas.
 - b. During first 25 years of settlement, probably 50% of the white settlers were "Barbadians."
 - c. The motives for the Barbadians' coming to Carolina were a desire for land and wealth.
 - d. Many of the leading colonial families were "Barbadians," including: Colleton, Daniell, Drayton, Elliott, Fenwicke, Gibbes, Johnson, Ladson, Lowndes, Lucas, Middleton, Moore, Parris, Pinckney, Rawlins, Sayle, Trott, Woodward, Yeamans.
 - e. All were Englishmen, but had been seasoned politically and culturally in the West Indies.
 - i. They formed one of the most powerful colonial political factions, the Good Creek Men (a later story).
 - ii. They brought slavery and harsh slave codes with them.
 - 2. The Puritans, while not necessarily important in themselves, were indicative of the colony's heterogeneity.
 - a. A Dorchester, Massachusetts congregation settled in South Carolina in 1695.
 - b. They built the town of Dorchester on the Ashley River.

3. The English were the most important European ethnic group in South Carolina.
- D. The French
1. Huguenots (French protestants) arrived in 1680.
 2. They came to Carolina seeking religious freedom and land.
 3. They settled in Charleston and along the Santee River.
 4. They were discriminated against at first because they were “aliens.”
 5. After 1690, they quickly assimilated themselves into the English majority.
 - a. They intermarried with English settlers.
 - b. They joined Church of England, made English their language, and adopted English customs.
 6. There were later Huguenot settlements at New Bordeaux (1764) along the upper Savannah River.
 7. Some prominent colonial Huguenots included: Cordes, deBeaufain, Gaillard, Gendron, Godin, Horry, Huger, Laurens, LeJau, Manigault, Marion, Mazyck, Motte, Prioleau, Ravenel, and St. Julien.
 8. After the English, the French were the most influential European ethnic group.
- E. Under Royal Government, the Township System (1730) encouraged European immigration.
- F. The Germans
1. Germans from the various German states and from Switzerland came to South Carolina in response to the township system that promised them free land.
 2. They settled primarily in Orangeburg, Purrysburgh, and Saxe-Gotha township.
 3. Some colonial German were Amaker, Boozer, Geiger, Harmon, Hutto, Lever, Lorick, Inabinet, Sheely, Shuler, Theus, Wingard, and Ziegler.
 4. Although more numerous than the Huguenots, the Germans kept to themselves and were not active in colonial affairs.

G. The Scots

1. The Scots, while not particularly numerous, were economically powerful.
 - a. They came to South Carolina in search of wealth and settled primarily in Charleston.
 - b. Some colonial Scots families were Abercromby, Allen, Buchanan, Bulloch, Deas, Kinloch, Logan, and Pringle.
2. The Scots-Irish came in large numbers from Pennsylvania and settled primarily in South Carolina piedmont and also Queensboro and Williamsburg townships.
 - a. They came seeking land and safety from Indians.
 - b. They operated small, self-sufficient farms.
 - c. Some colonial Scot-s Irish names were Adams, Bratton, Caldwell, Calhoun, Chalmers, Jackson, Logan, Montgomery, Ross, Wardlaw, and Wright.
 - d. Although there were literally tens of thousands of Scots-Irish in colonial South Carolina, they had little influence.

H. The Jews

1. Sephardic Jews (originally from Spain and Portugal) came to South Carolina seeking religious freedom and wealth.
2. Some colonial Jewish families were Cohen, DaCosta, Lindo, Salvadore, and Tobias.
3. The numbers of Jews who emigrated to South Carolina were never large, but in 1800 Charleston had the largest Jewish population of any American city.

I. The Irish

1. Only a few Irish came to South Carolina before the American Revolution.
2. Those who came sought land and most settled in Williamsburg Township.

3. Some colonial Irish families were Lemon, McRae, Plowden, Pressley, and Wilson.

J. The Welsh

1. The Welsh moved to South Carolina from Delaware seeking land.
2. They settled in the Welsh Tract and Queensboro Township.
3. Some colonial Welsh families were Amyand, James, Fickling, Pawley, Pegues, and Vaughan.

K. Ethnic groups formed social and philanthropic organizations to “look after their own,” such as the St. Andrew’s Society (Scots), St. George’s Society (English), South Carolina Society (Huguenots), and the German Friendly Society.

L. Summary. The white population was composed of a number of different ethnic groups. Although the English were the largest, single group, they made up only about 37% of the white population. In terms of location, however, colonists of English stock comprised some 80% of the lowcountry’s whites. Despite the heterogeneous nature of the colony’s population, it was very English. English was the language of business. The Church of England was the official church. English social, political, and cultural institutions, moderated by the West Indies, were the accepted models. For a variety of reasons, immigrants tried to become good Englishmen. Even the proud Huguenot, Henry Laurens, referred to England as home.

M. General Readings

1. Edgar, South Carolina: A History, Chapter 4
2. Bridenbaugh, Myths and Realities, pp. 119-196
3. Jones, South Carolina, pp 76, 78-80, 104-114, 143-145, 204-210, 241, 254-256
4. Kovacic & Winberry, South Carolina, pp. 76-81
5. Meriwether, Expansion of South Carolina
6. Neuffer, Correct Mispronunciations
7. Tindall, America, pp. 111-116

N. Specialized Readings

1. Elzas, Jews of South Carolina, pp. 17-118
2. A History of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina, pp. 11-72
3. Hirsch, Huguenots

4. Salley, History of Orangeburg, pp. 18-90