



Who Chooses How History is Told?

This museum exhibit is 25 years old. To supplement your experience, the park produced new signs.

Additional Context Required

We encourage you to think critically about the sources and evidence presented in the museum. If you have questions about this exhibit, please see a ranger.



Slavery: Planned at the Founding

“Every freeman of Carolina shall have absolute power and authority over his negro slaves...”

-The Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina
(March 1, 1669)

Slavery stood at the center of politics, the economy, and society in the Carolina colony.



Revolutionary Women

“We the Ladyes of Edenton, do hereby solemnly engage not to conform to ye pernicious Custom of Drinking Tea, or that we, the aforesaid Ladyes, will not promote ye wear of any manufacture from England, until such time that all Acts which tend to enslave this our Native Country shall be repealed.” - Edenton Tea Party, 1774

Fifty-one women from Edenton signed the resolution to boycott English goods. Their efforts were praised throughout the colonies.

North Carolina women submitted at least 138 petitions to the state from 1776 to 1800. Most petitions concerned economic aid. Women asked to divorce husbands. Enslaved women appealed for their freedom.