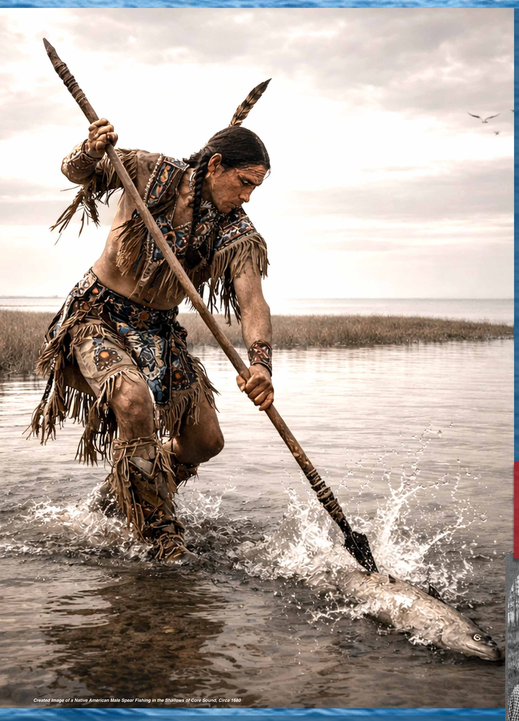
18TH CENTURY: WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL?





Created image of a Native American Male Spear Fishing in the Shallows of Core Sound, Circa 1680

Throughout the 1700s, ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were denied to many, including the poor, Jews, people of color, indigenous peoples, and women. British rule and laws imposed systemic oppression that impacted the evolution of the "American Dream" and the foundations of this community.

NATIVE AMERICANS

The region's indigenous peoples, initially generous and hospitable toward European explorers and settlers, had learned to be wary of them by the early 1700s. The Coree were somewhat nomadic who hunted, gathered and fished in the areas near present-day Cape Lookout, Harkers Island and the Town of Beaufort. Disputes over land and resources forcibly taken from the Coree and the nearby Tuscarora caused them to unite in effort to rid their native lands of the intruders. The bloody conflict known as the Tuscarora Wars (1711-1715), resulted in the defeat and displacement of the Coree and Tuscarora who were forced to points far to the west and north.

**The cultural impacts of indigenous peoples, alongside demographic and social changes, have played a pivotal role in shaping both regional and national development and identity. Today, there are eight federally-recognized Native American tribes in North Carolina, including the Coharie (descendants of the Coree), the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, the Meherrin, the Saponi, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation and the Waccamaw Siouan.*



Created Image of Tobacco Harvesting, Circa 1770



Created Image of Enslaved Black Tarring Pine Forest, Circa 1770

ENSLAVED AND FREE BLACKS

Black individuals faced assumptions of enslavement due to ingrained prejudices conveyed to the colonies under British rule. While some blacks were free or indentured, many were forcibly enslaved, sold, and held as laborers. Though Beaufort lacked large plantations and was therefore spared from the atrocities of major slave trade ports such as Savannah and Charleston, slavery persisted for work-intensive trades here and throughout the coastal region. Slave labor was critical to the profitability of logging, harvesting pine sap for turpentine and tar, and modest scaled farming and tobacco production. The maritime trades of fishing and whaling offered some blacks a path to respectful treatment and positions of leadership. This led to fostering an interracial cooperation within the community that lasted into the height of 20th century's Menhaden Fishing Days or "Waterman" Era of the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s.



Created Image of Coastal Fishermen, Circa 1750



Created Image of Enslaved or Indentured Black Woman, Circa 1770



Created Image of Women and Children Tending Home Garden, Circa 1770

WOMEN

In rural towns like Beaufort, women were tasked with managing the "homestead," that included consuming chores such as tending livestock and home gardens, preserving food, making soap and candles, laundering clothing, and spinning thread—all while overseeing the care of children in a time when high mortality rates were common. Early 1700s colonial lives were governed by a patriarchal system that subjugated women into economic, legal, and social subordination. While white women faced significant restrictions, enslaved African and Native American women endured the most severe forms of oppression at the bottom of the colonial hierarchy. Significant legal and social change for women would not take place until the 1800s.

REFLECTION

Consider how these oppressions would have been happening around you in Beaufort during the 1700s. Now, try putting yourself in the shoes of one of the three groupings noted above. What does pondering that alternate existence make you feel or realize?