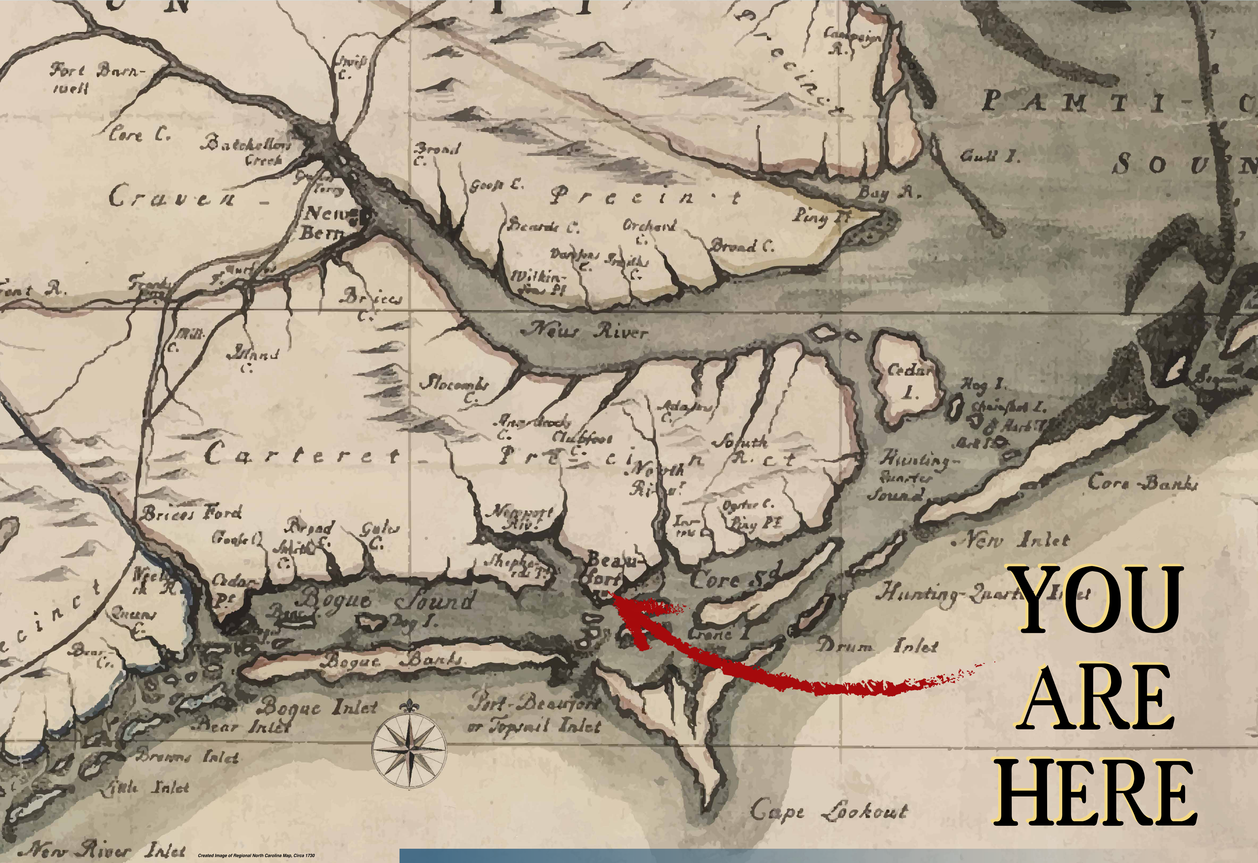


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Created image of Regional North Carolina Map, Circa 1720



Created image of Beaufort Waterfront, Circa 1722

Imagine for a moment it is 1700. Little evidence of European colonization is seen amid a vast expanse of maritime wilderness. Though Spanish, French and English explorers discovered this stretch of New World coastline over 100 years earlier, what is now Carteret County had only a few, scattered colonial settlements. Among them was Beaufort, particularly isolated due to its narrow inlet, shallow creeks, sounds and rivers combined with shifting shoals and difficult access to interior travel routes. In addition to geographical challenges, by the 18th century the region's indigenous *Coree* or *Core* Native Americans had become hostile to invasive white emigrants who, for decades, brought upon them deception, displacement, violence, enslavement, and disease.

Despite trying circumstances, Beaufort's port location at 34° 43' N, 76° 39' W had desirable qualities and remained attractive to Great Britain and others. Its geographical obstacles were likewise its advantages as world-wide shipping trade and military ship traffic increased along the Atlantic seaboard. Thick forests of pine that thrive in the region's sandy soil yielded lumber, turpentine, pitch, and tar (often called *naval stores*) essential to shipbuilding and repairs. And, while the coastal soil is not ideal for large plantation crop farming, conditions were favorable for some small-scale farming, salt works, fishing, and whaling that together caused slow but steady growth throughout the 1700s.





Created image of Indentured Fishermen on Core Sound, Circa 1722



Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom

While envisioning the natural beauty as far as the eye can see, recall that Great Britain at this time was fiercely determined to remain the world's superpower. The British Crown had paid a high price to lay claim to the North Carolina colony through military force, charters, and proprietary agreements. To reap profitable return on investment, exploiting the young colony's resources demanded human labor. A number of emigrants were lured by opportunity who came by choice with dreams for a new and better life. Yet, roughly 50% of emigrants arrived in the colonies as indentured servants. Some indentured servants were voluntary who traded 4 to 7 years hard labor to a master for food, lodging and passage. Others were here without option of opportunity or choice, such as exiled criminals deported from Europe sent as slave laborers and the most unfortunate here being those captured and shipped from Africa sold as enslaved property. Never before in the world's history had so diverse a population been assembled.



Representative Illustration of Chained Unwilling Forced to Relocate from England to The Colonies

REFLECTION

- Why do you think colonists were accepting of indentured servant labor and enslaved peoples?
- Would you have chosen to risk survival in a remote wilderness settlement like Beaufort or would you have preferred to settle in an established town of a few thousand such as Charleston, Richmond, or New York?