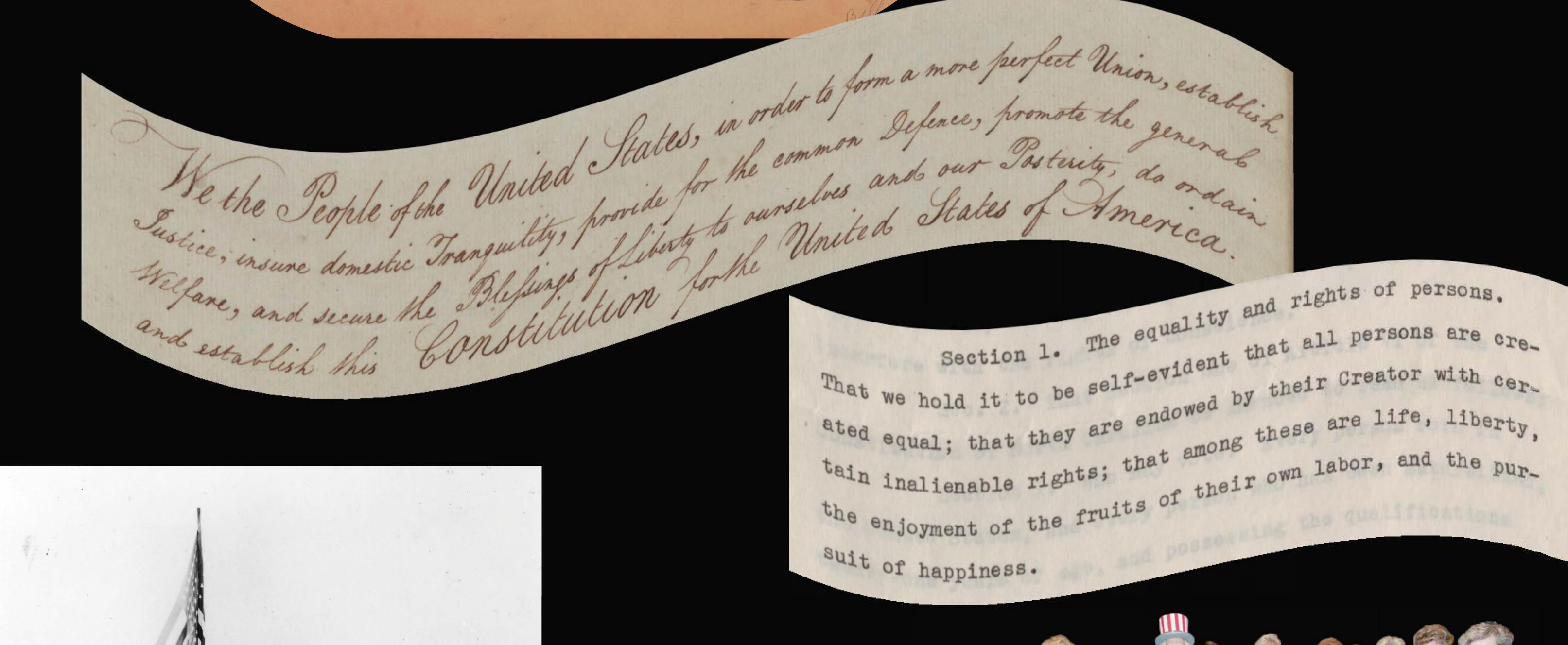
When Are We US? Becoming American



OUR NATION'S AND STATE'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

promote values of equality, justice, general welfare, and liberty. Guaranteed freedoms motivate some to take courageous stands and encourage citizens to embrace opportunities. These ideals shape American identity and instill pride.







Our blood and our sweat and our tears and our memories are built into the country.

> Pauli Murray, 1976 Writer, Activist, Attorney, Episcopal priest



Lumbee people have great pride in our homeland...one of the greatest forces for the survival of our people.

Ben Jacobs, 1983

staff member, Lumbee Regional Development Association



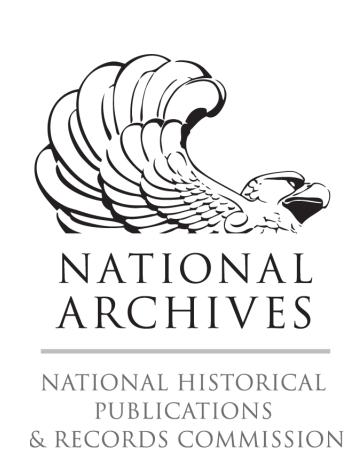
l am just as American as anyone else who was born and raised here...The American Dream, to me, is to be able to come from a country where there is corruption to be able to have a future.

Alma Islas, 2015

UNC student and Mexican immigrant

- Billy Austin, an eighth-grade student at the Waughton School in Winston-Salem, created this poster during World War II, WWII 12.P29, State Archives • Constitution of the United States as approved by North Carolina, 1789; Revision of the North Carolina State Constitution, 1945, vault collection 47.5 &
- 48.15, State Archives • The Cardinal Singers posed with an Uncle Sam character at a naturalization ceremony in Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh, 1992, News & Observer negative collection NO.94457.1, State Archives
- Visitors salute the flag at Chimney Rock, c. 1920; N.C. State Parks Collection, State Archives
- Elmer H. Gibson, son of military chaplain Elmer P. Gibson, poses with a flag c. 1943, Military Collection, MMP 9, State Archives
- Pauli Murray, Southern Oral History Program interview, 1976, UNC
- Ben Jacobs, Carolina Indian Voice, June 23, 2003, newspaper collection, UNC
- Alma Islas, Southern Oral History Program interview, 2015, UNC









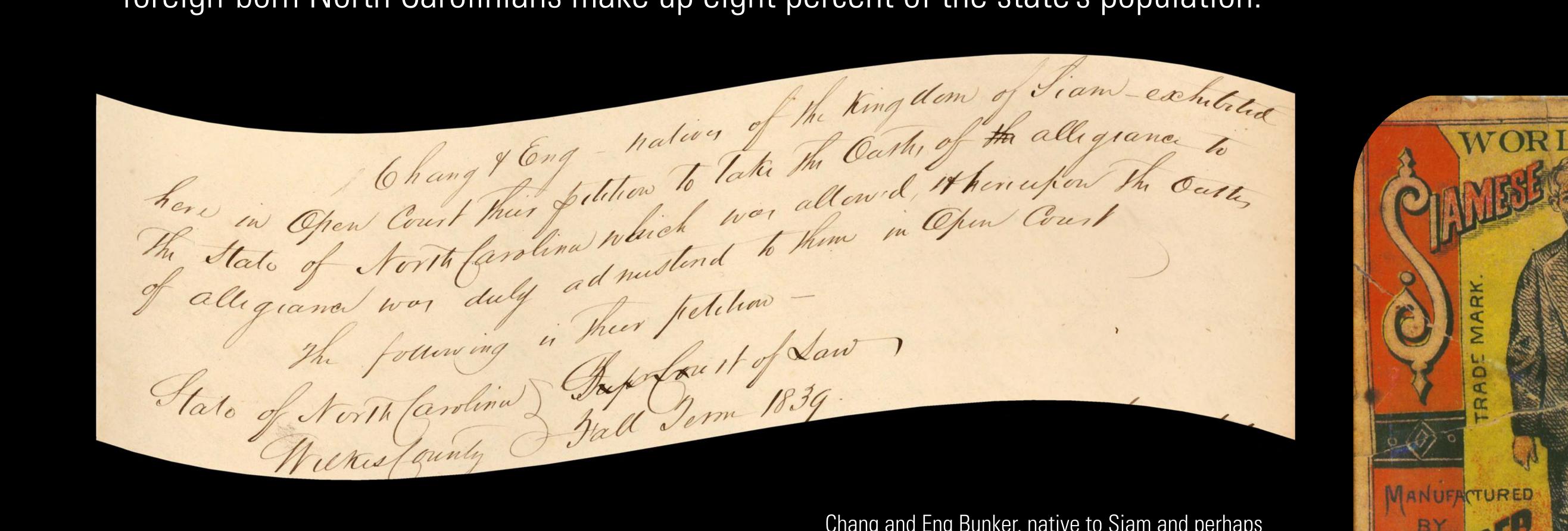
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Finding Common Ground Immigration



BRITISH AND AFRICAN PEOPLES WERE AMONG THE EARLIEST

immigrants to settle North Carolina, with many other European, Asian, and Latin American groups to follow. After American independence, Africans continued to be forced immigrants as enslaved labor, and the expansion of individual land ownership damaged many American Indian communities. Yet the state's opportunities steadily beckoned newcomers from overseas. Today, foreign-born North Carolinians make up eight percent of the state's population.



Chang and Eng Bunker, native to Siam and perhaps the most famous North Carolina immigrants, settled in Wilkes County in 1839. After seeing much of the world, they established a farm and married local sisters. Today some of their many descendants continue to live in Wilkes and Surry Counties.





It is the opinion of this General Assembly, that the people of the State of North Carolina, greatly desire and will hail with delight the coming among us of all persons from...other countries, to assist in utilizing, developing, and building up of the vast mineral, agricultural and manufacturing resources of the State; that kindness, sympathy and protection will be extended to all.

Act to Establish a Bureau of Immigration, 1874

Statistics and Agriculture





When one emigrates...your whole life has to be set anew. It takes a lot of work, courage, faith, and strength to go on and not become too despondent.

Tina Boerema, 1998

Dutch immigrant and farmer, Pantego, Beaufort County



We do love our community. We do love this country...We do speak a different language, but our heart is here. Our families are here. And we are not so different.

Alba Sanchez, 2019 Costa Rican immigrant, Charlotte



Dr. William Coleman, a physician, immigrated to the United States from Barbados when he was about 30 years old. He settled in Salisbury in 1927.



Born in Brazil, Victoria Drab moved to N.C. as a teenager. She married a Syrian immigrant in the 1920s, and lived for a time in Chapel Hill, and registered as an "alien" in Burlington in 1940.

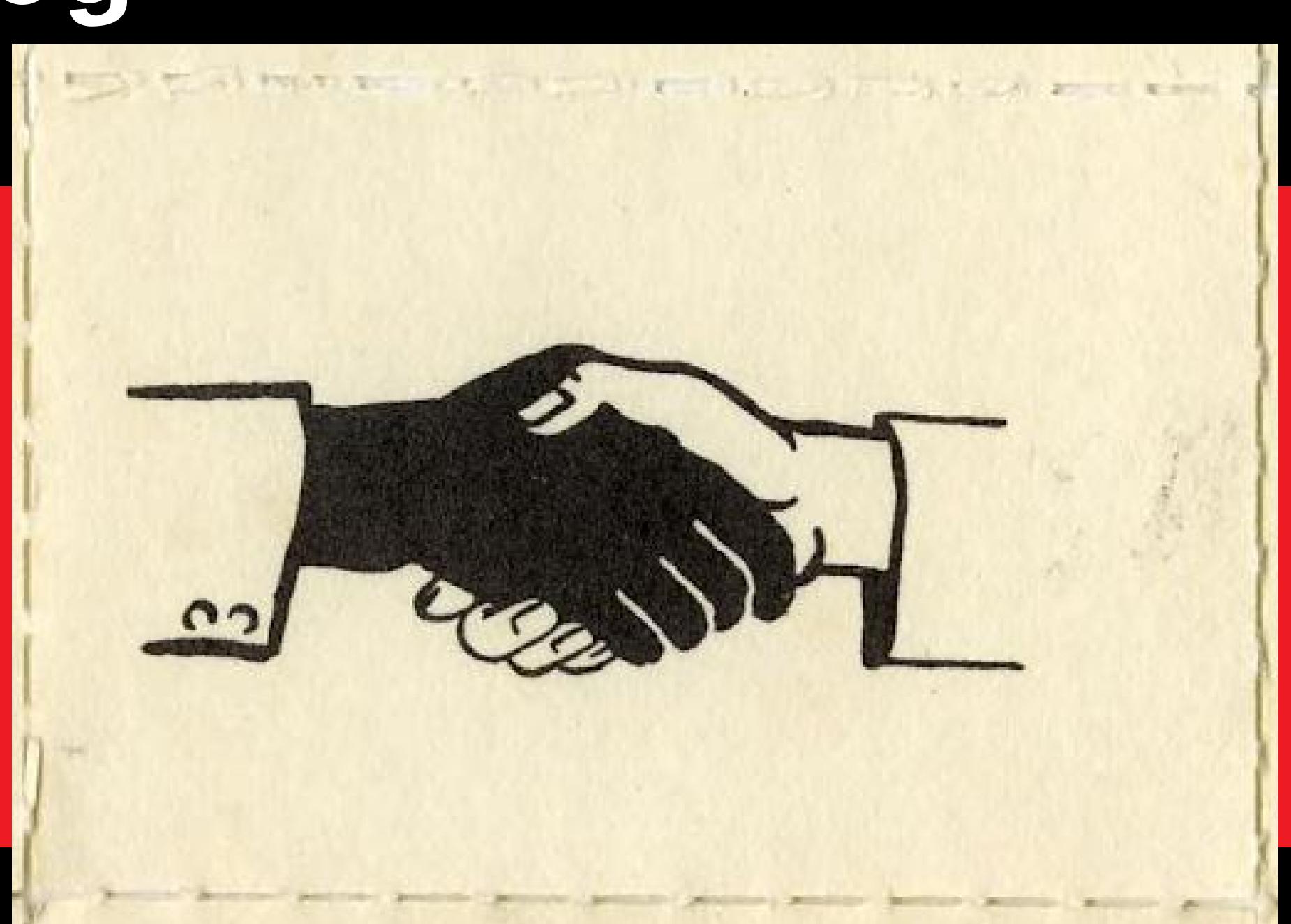
- Detail of North Carolina on a 1940 immigration map, "America—A Nation of One People from Many Countries." Artist Emma Bourne created this art for the Council Against Intolerance in America, acknowledging the nation's diverse ethnicities. Military collection, WWII posters 11.6, State Archives
- State of North Carolina Superior Court of Law, Wilkes County Fall Term 1839, October 12, 1839, CR.104.311.3, State Archives
- •tobacco label c. 1890, Melvin Miles collection, Surry Digital Heritage
- Some of the first Italian settlers at the St. Helena farming colony, Pender County, c. 1909. Hugh MacRae collection Ph.C. 150, State Archives
- Broadside, "An Act to Establish a Bureau of Immigration, Statistics and Agriculture," ratified Feb. 16, 1874 in Raleigh, Duke University collection
- Tina Boerema, Southern Oral History Program interview, 1998, UNC
- Alba Sanchez, New Roots project, Southern Oral History Program interview, 2019, UNC
- Alamance County records CR.1.902.1 & Rowan County records, CR.85.902.1.039, Alien, Naturalization and Citizenship Records, State Archives

Men AreWe

Finding Common Ground Integration

That's one thing that integration has done, to remove barriers where people can come together.

> James Slade, 1997 Doctor at Chowan Hospital, 1965-2003



THE GOAL OF DIFFERENT RACES WORKING

and learning in cooperation took years of struggle to accomplish, and efforts toward a more inclusive society continue. Beyond the famous 1960 Greensboro sit-in, Black and American Indian activists in North Carolina have pushed for and altered the integration process to keep communities strong, and some local demonstrations hold national significance.



Black students integrating White schools lost beloved traditions, while Black administrators and teachers often lost their jobs. Hundreds of African Americans in Hyde County protested the way the local government planned to integrate schools in 1968. Teachers and students went on strike and left county schools for one year. Groups marched from Swan Quarter to Raleigh in February 1969 to raise awareness. Through their efforts, African American schools remained open and admitted students of all races.

[By the 1960s] All of these things were following a trend, the wind was blowing in a certain direction to get public accommodations desegregated, to get the hospital desegregated, and of course, the schools were in the evolutionary process of desegregation themselves.

> Andrew Best, April 19, 1997 Greenville doctor and integration leader, whose career spanned 1950s-2000s









1968-69, Hyde County

1969-70, Chapel Hill

1971-72, Troy

In 1965 Lincoln High merged with Chapel Hill High in the first southern school district to desegregate voluntarily. After a student vote, Chapel Hill High School adopted Lincoln High's mascot for the 1969-1970 school year and Tigers became the school's team name. By 1971, schools across the state, like Troy Elementary in Montgomery County, officially achieved integration.



You've got to look back and say, 'Well, now, what did we accomplish in the name of integration?...Have we really in fact, completed the battle of integration?

Floyd McKissick, 1973

Congress of Racial Equality leader and Soul City Founder Among the first African American students to integrate UNC's law school in 1951

> Soul City represented the first time a Black development firm planned and built a new town. McKissick's vision was to develop Black economic power and a "model of democracy." Though the site began with early support at the county, state, and federal levels, it struggled to attract industry necessary to grow and sustain the community.



- Handshake tag, 1963, MS91.0959, Huldah (Beth) Taylor Collection, Civil Rights Greensboro, Quaker Archive, Guilford College.
- James Slade, Southern Oral History Program interview, 1997, UNC
- Lunch counter sit-in, Raleigh, February 1960, News & Observer collection, 2-1960, folder 2, State Archives
- Andrew Best receives his certificate of membership to the UNC Board of Governors from Governor Robert Scott, 1972, Laupus Library history collections, East Carolina University digital collection
- Andrew Best Southern Oral History Program interview, 1997, UNC
- Hyde County School Integration Protest march, February 11, 1969, News &z Observer collection, State Archives
- Chapel Hill High School basketball team, 1969-1970, Hillife, yearbook 1970, p. 93 Chapel Hill Historical Society collection, Digital NC
- Helen Poole's sixth grade class making marionettes, 1972, Troy Elementary School, Montgomery County, School Puppets Photograph Album collection, Montgomery County Public Library collection, Digital NC
- Soul City Foundation records, org. 206, State Archives
- Floyd McKissick Southern Oral History Program interview, 1973, UNC

AreWe

Visions of Freedom Basic Rights



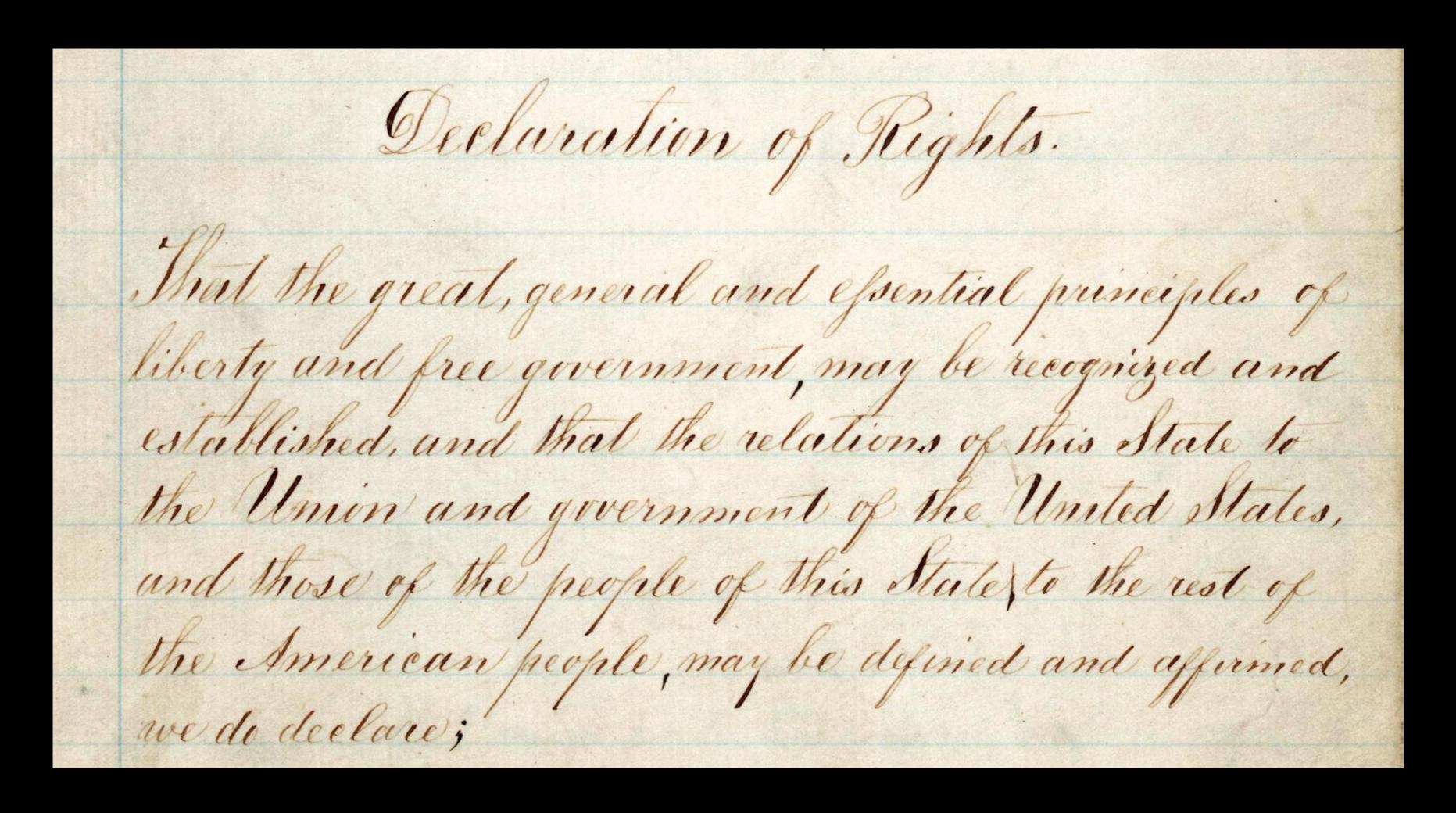
AS AMERICAN COLONISTS

prepared to fight for independence, they defined freedom as a "natural," or basic, right. North Carolinians later pushed for a Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution, with the First Amendment guaranteeing individual freedoms to practice religion, express opinions, and assemble peacefully. Some groups have experienced limitations on the freedom that founding documents promise, even as most Americans continue to uphold and strive toward these ideals.

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE. With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick. SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO

Resolved, That it is the Natural Right of Mankind to enjoy and possess the Property acquired by their Labour and Industry.

> **Resolution of Chowan County inhabitants** North-Carolina Gazette September 2, 1774





Campaign to Free Kwame Cannon

Some said, 'Equality,' some said, 'Liberation,' some said, 'Freedom.' But hell, a man is just like any other man and he's expressing the same sort of [idea as] Voltaire, Rousseau and anybody else... 'GET YOUR FOOT OFF OF MY BACK.'

> Floyd McKissick, 1973 Congress of Racial Equality leader and Soul City Founder

Among the first African American students to integrate UNC's law school in 1951



When you look at migrants, you'll see almost every guarantee of the Constitution denied them...They don't have free speech, free movement, free assembly, equal protection of the law, due process and they don't go to court because they can't afford a lawyer...things that we take for granted...if you're ignorant and poor, you don't have civil rights.

Reverend W.W. Finlator, 1985 Leader of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church and Civil Rights Activist



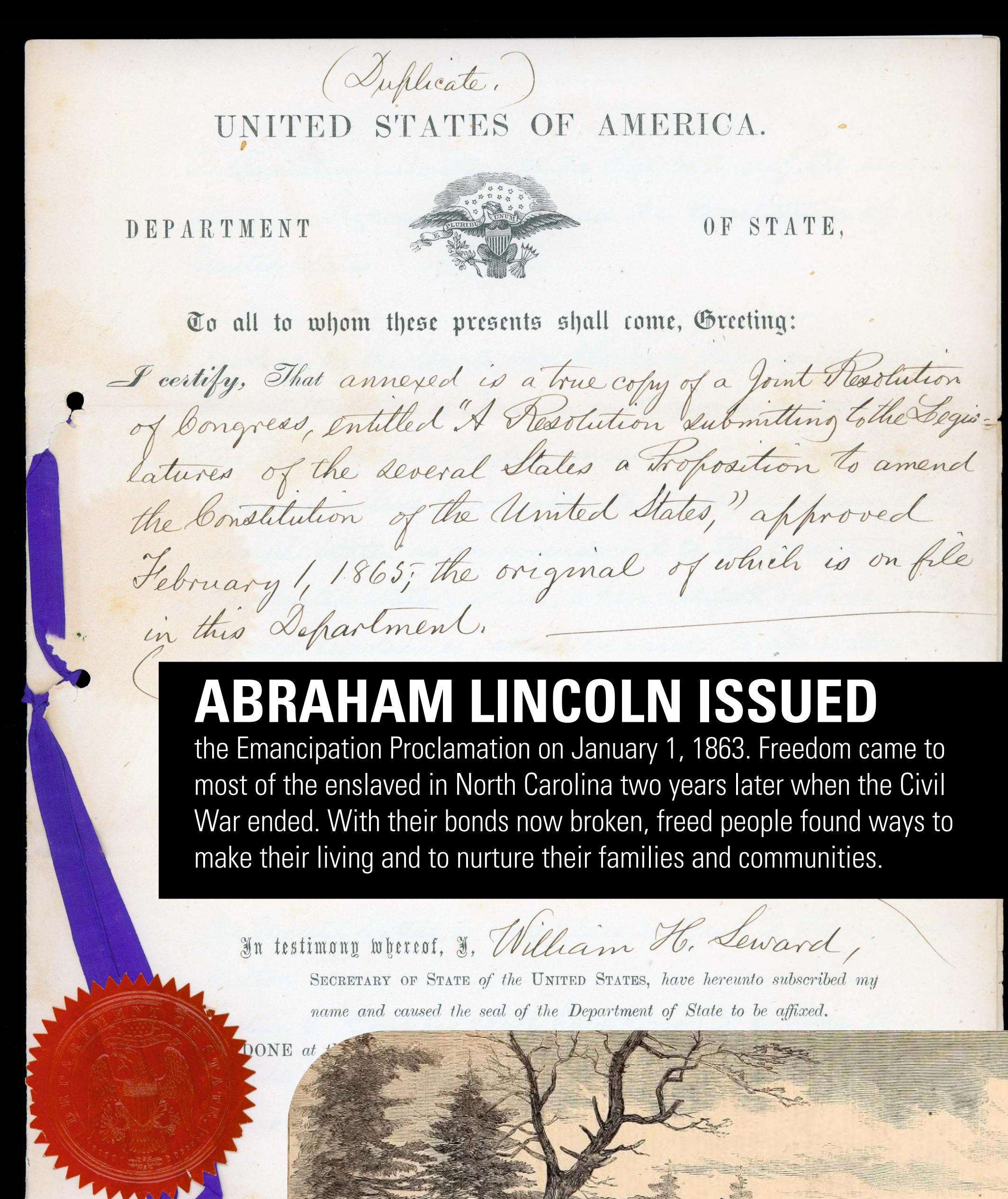
"They say...'America is a free country.' But I don't think it is free...[when] you are foreign people. Everywhere you go, they treat you bad... People don't talk with you. People turn their face [away]. And then, [the] law give you [a] hard time...Police give my husband [a] hard time."

> Chandrika Dalal, 1999 Indian immigrant, Pittsboro

- Civil Rights march on Fayetteville Street, 1963, News & Observer collection, folder 42, 4.15.1963, State Archives
- North-Carolina Gazette, Sept. 2, 1775, p. 2, National Archives, London.
- North Carolina Constitution, 1868, State Archives
- Campaign to free Kwame Cannon, 1999 a project of the Greensboro Citywide Poor People's Association, Marnie Thompson papers, UNC Greensboro special collections and Gateway Digital collections.
- Floyd McKissick, Southern Oral History Program interview, 1973
- Migratory worker at Belcross, North Carolina, grading station, 1940, Farm Security Administration photo, Library of Congress
- W.W. Finlator, Southern Oral History Program interview, 1985, UNC
- Chandrika Dalal, Southern Oral History Program interview, 1999, UNC

IVACATE STATES

Visions of Freedom Beyond Bondage



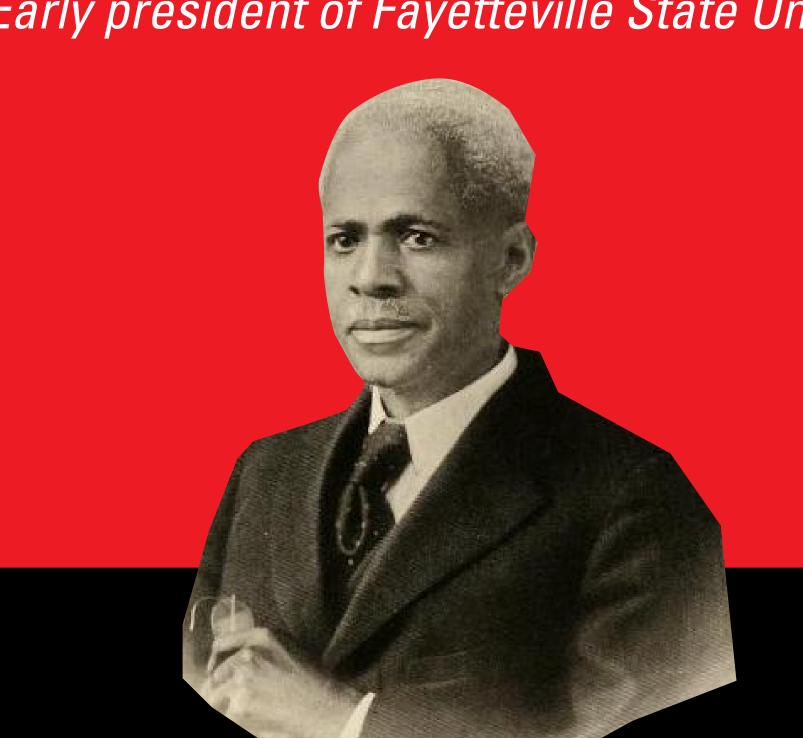
The freer a people are, the greater their responsibilities.
The more liberties of a people, the greater the exactions.

Dr. Ezekiel Ezra Smith, 1898

born in Duplin County,

Consul General to Liberia, 1888-1892

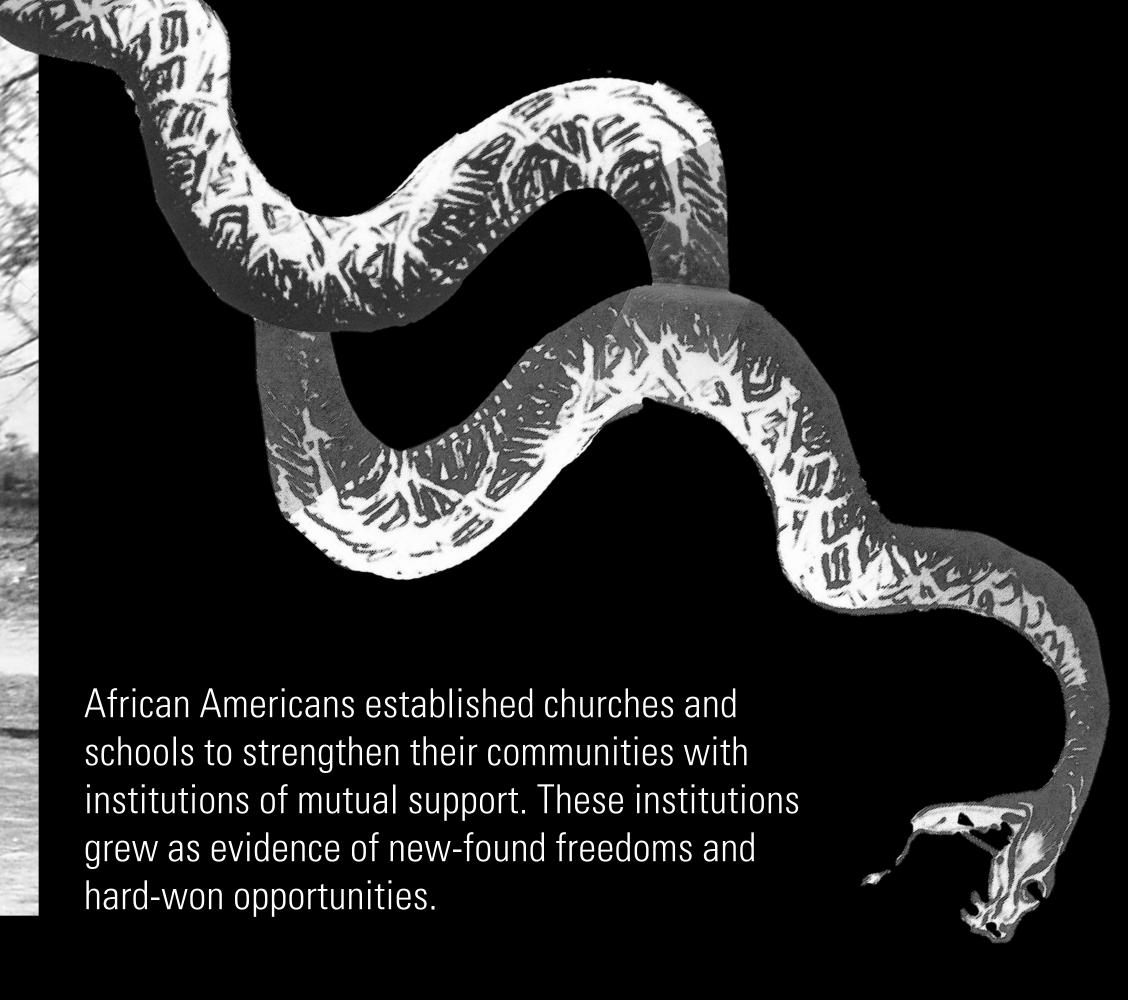
Early president of Fayetteville State University



Slaves prayed for freedom...Slavery was a bad thing and freedom, of the kind we got with nothing to live on, was bad. Two snakes full of poison...Their names was "slavery" and "freedom." The snake called slavery lay with his head pointed south and the snake called freedom lay with his head pointed north. Both bit the [Blacks], and they were both bad.

Patsy Mitchner, 1937 formerly enslaved in Raleigh

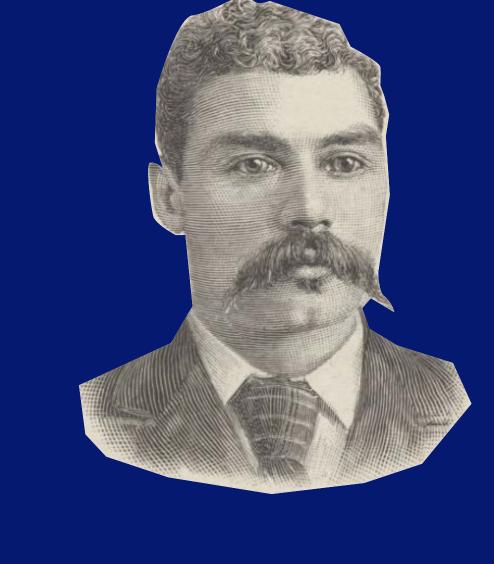






Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. It took great suffering to get liberty, it requires great watchfulness to keep it...Be on your guard.

Henry P. Cheatham, 1898
African American congressman, 1889-1892



- North Carolina's copy of the 13th Amendment, vault collection 42, State Archives
- "The Effects of the Proclamation...at New Bern" Harpers Weekly, February 21, 1863,, p. 165, Internet Archive
- Ezekiel Ezra Smith, Arthur Bunyan Caldwell, History of the American Negro and His Institutions, 258, New York Public Library
- Dr. E.E. Smith quoted in "Emancipation Day," Goldsboro Weekly Argus, January 6, 1898, UNC newspaper collection, Digital NC
 Patsy Michner interview, Federal Writers' Project: Slave Narratives, Vol. 11, North Carolina, Part 2, Library of Congress
- Snake from illustration in the Zebulon Record, January 15, 1937, 21, Little River Historical Society collection, Digital NC
 Students and school with church in the background, Randolph County, c. 1923-1924, Department of Public Instruction, School Planning Section, school photographs file, box 6, 104.310.6.8.13.1, State Archives
- Henry P. Cheatham, Harper's Weekly, March 2, 1889, Unites States House of Representatives Digital Collection
- "Speech of Hon. Henry P. Cheatham, At Raleigh, N.C., January 1, 1898," 2, UNC newspaper collection, Digital NC

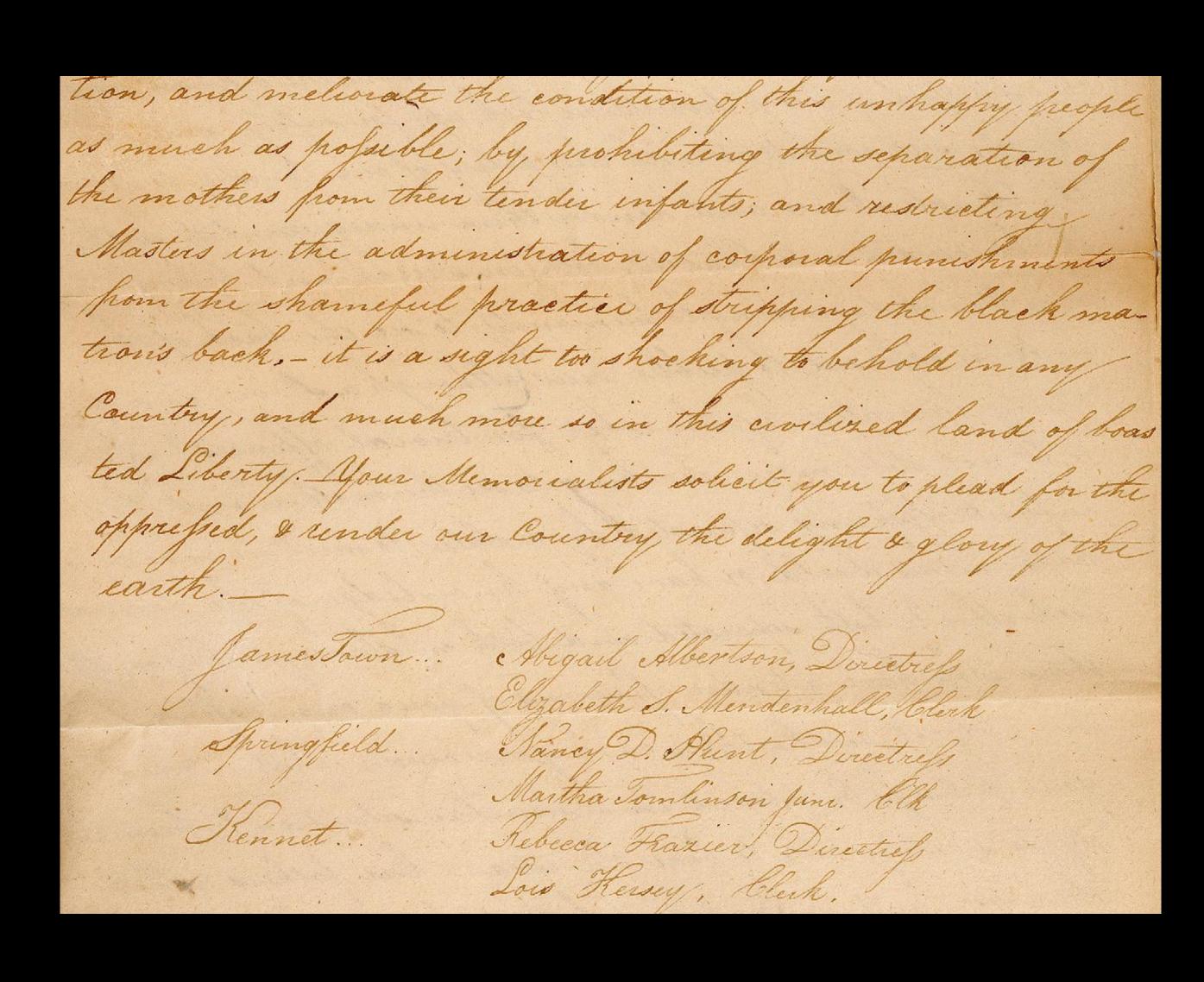
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A Gathering of Voices Protest

NORTH CAROLINIANS HAVE GATHERED

over time to express their opinions and voice demands for reform through petitions and demonstrations. By exercising this constitutional right, guaranteed by the First Amendment, they have motivated change. Most marches, sit-ins, and boycotts raised awareness of issues peacefully.

> Despite the humorous illustration, the 51 women of the "Edenton Tea Party" began a serious protest of new taxes by sending a petition in 1774 to the British monarchy. The petition announced the women's boycott of British-made goods, such as tea and cloth.



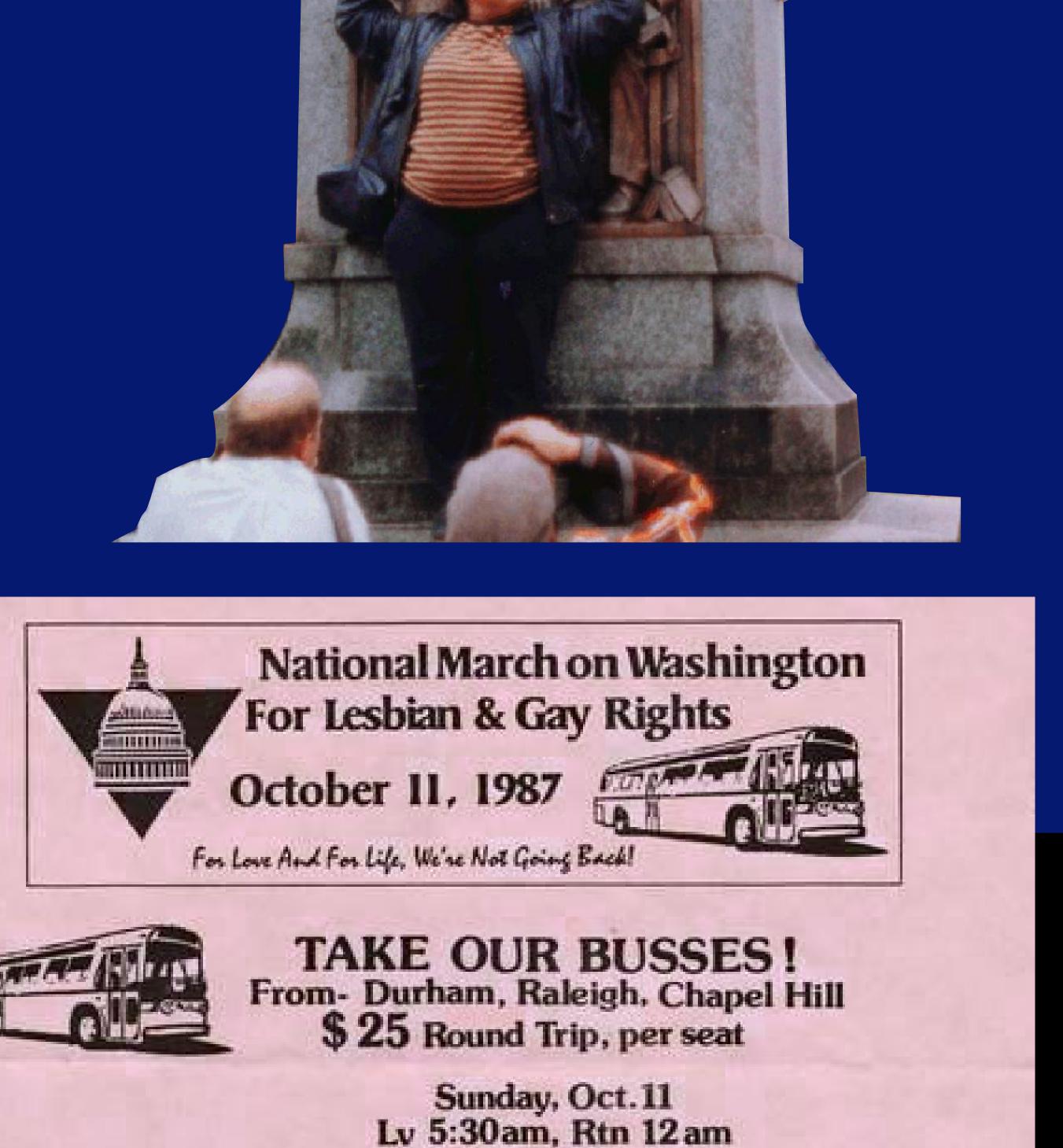
Our fathers rolled their garments in blood and bathed their connexions in tears to obtain moral and religious rights; and must a considerable portion of our population be excluded from those benefits which their Glory achieved? And will our State continue to debase the African race?

> Female Benevolent Societies of Jamestown, **Springfield, and Kennet Petition, 1827**



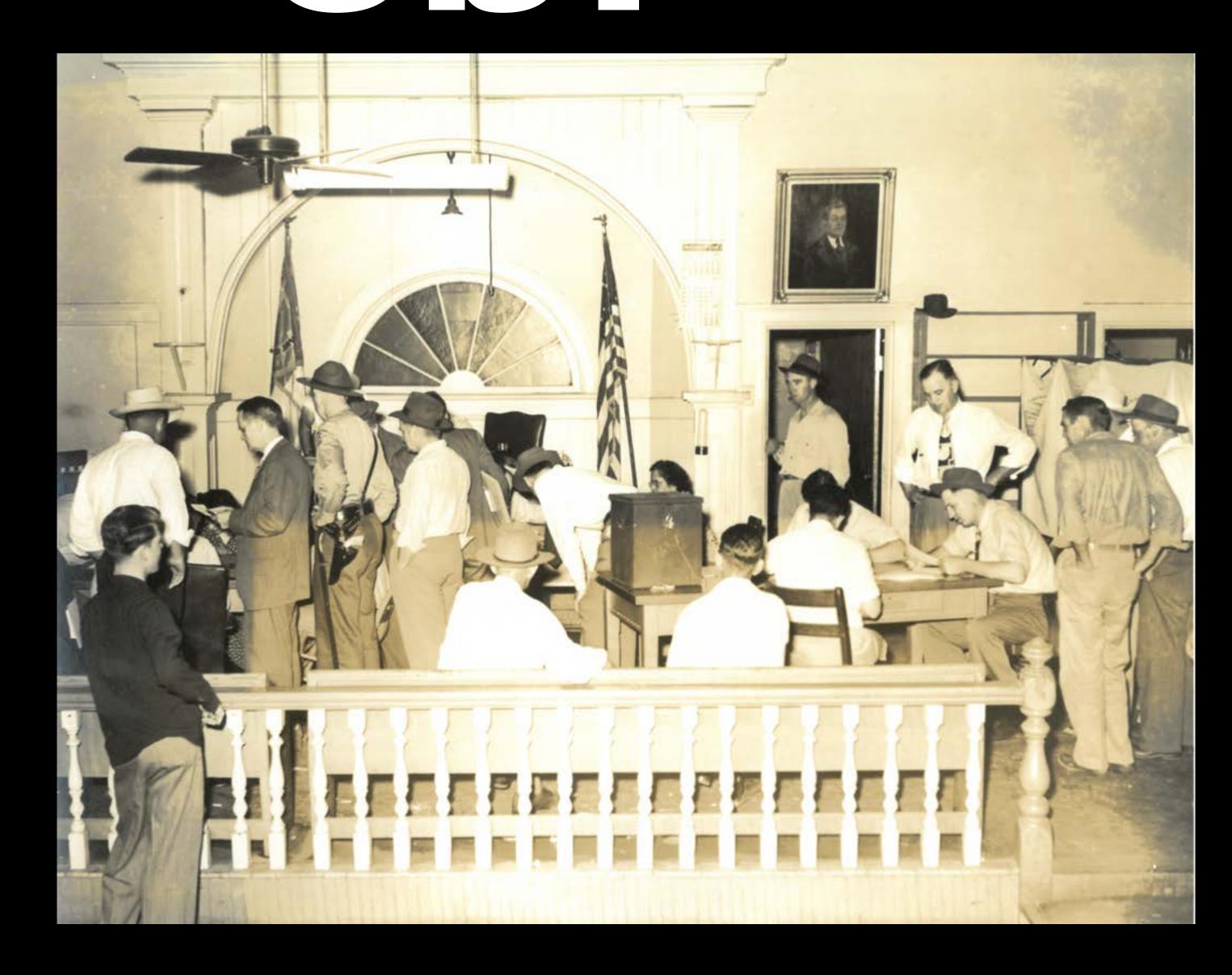






- "A Society of Patriotic Ladies at Edenton, North Carolina," R. Sayer & J. Bennett, March 25, 1775, British cartoon collection, Library of Congress, UK • Female Benevolent Societies of Jamestown, Springfield, and Kennet petition, General Assembly Session Records, December 1826- February 1827, State Archives
- March in Gastonia, 1929, Lucy R. Penegar Collection, Gaston Museum of Art & History collection, Digital NC. Labor strikes of 1929 erupted in violence in Marion and Gastonia.
- "Marion Massacre" lyrics, Margaret Tufts Neal, Folk Songs from Appalachia, 1930, Lees-McRae College special collections, Digital Library of Appalachia; Welling and McGhee "The North Carolina Textile Strike"/ "Marion Massacre," Paramount recording, 1929, 78-16684 Southern Folklife Collection, UNC.
- Three buses carried 140 protesters from points in the Triangle to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national march. The roundtrip excursion lasted from 5 a.m. until midnight. "National March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights" flyer, 1987, Marnie Thompson papers, UNC Greensboro, Gateway Digital Collections.
- UNC housekeeper Elaine Massey protested the Confederate soldier statue in the center of campus on Martin Luther King Day 1999. Nearly 20 years later, another protest toppled the statue. John Kenyon Chapman photo collection, 05441, UNC special collections.

A Gathering of Voices Voting Rights

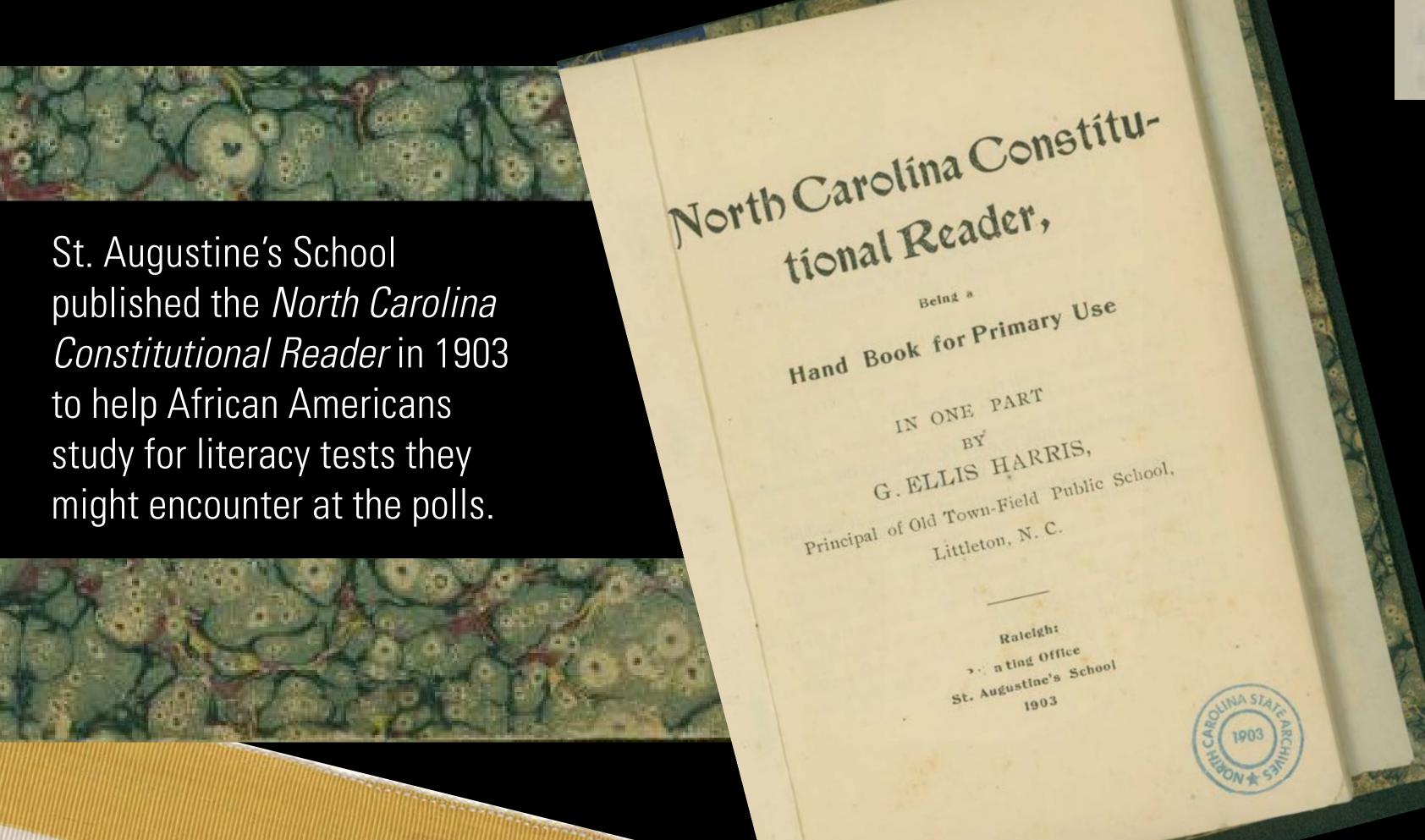


EARLY VOTERS IN NORTH CAROLINA WERE LAND-OWNING MEN.

A new state constitution in 1868 granted all men suffrage, or the right to vote. Despite setbacks, voting rights continued to expand. Women joined the ranks of voters in 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment. The Voting Rights Act of 1964 guaranteed suffrage for all adult citizens, regardless of race or sex, and the 26th Amendment extended the vote to citizens 18 years of age and older.

In 1901 the Suffrage Amendment to the North Carolina Constitution established literacy tests, poll taxes, and registration rules to limit the men who could vote, while the "grandfather clause" protected voting rights for many White men.

(Sec. 4.) Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language; and before he shall be entitled to vote, he shall have paid on or before the first day of May, of the year in which he proposes to vote, his pell tax for the previous year, as prescribed by Article V, Section I, of the Constitution. But no make person, who was, on January 1, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under the laws of any State in the United States wherein he then resided, and no lineal descendant of any such person shall be denied the right to register and vote at any election in this State by reason of his failure to possess the educational qualifications herein prescribed: Provided, he shall have registered in accordance with the terms of this section prior to December 1, 1908.



North Carolina Women DO Want The Vote

These Women Have Said So:

NORTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS.

NORTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS.

NORTH CAROLINA BRANCH OF WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH CAROLINA.

These organizations comprise THOUSANDS of thinking, intelligent North Carolina women in all parts of the State.

VOTES FOR WOMEN Suide:

A Quick Guide: How to Preregister/ Register to Vote



Guía De Cómo Preinscribirse/ Inscribirse para Votar



Pride and dignity comes with the right to vote; it gives you a voice in this society.

Ann Young, 2023
Oberlin Village resident, voter registration volunteer
and labor organizer in Raleigh



North Carolina's first African American Chief Justice of the state supreme court, Henry Frye, attempted to register to vote in 1956 in his hometown of Ellerbe, after returning from Air Force service during the Korean War. Poll workers used a literacy test to deny his right to vote. That injustice inspired him to become a lawyer, and he became one of the first students to integrate the law school at the University of North Carolina.

- Counting votes in Harnett County courthouse, 1950s, by Talbott McNeill Stewart, Harnett County Public Library collection, Digital NC
- Suffrage Amendment, 1901, General Statute 132, vault collection 48.7, State Archives
- North Carolina Constitutional Reader, vault collection 25, State Archives.
 Equal Suffrage Association of North Carolina broadside, 1915, Minnie Stowe Puett papers, Murrey Atkins Library, UNC Charlotte
- Sash, private collections 1618, State Archives
- Sash, private collections 1618, State Archives
 Henry Frye interview, 2016, Duke University. Frye quoted the title of a campaign the fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha began as a national program to promote African American voting in the 1930s.
- Portrait of the Hon. Henry E. Frye, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of N.C., by John Siebels Walker, 2014, UNC School of Law collection
- Ann Young, Historic Turner House Foundation newsletter, vol. 3, June 2023
- A bilingual voting guide reflects new populations in North Carolina's ever-changing demographics, 2010, State Library of North Carolina.

When Are We US? Acknowledgments

NORTH CAROLINA MARKS THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY

of the American Revolution with wide-ranging activities during a multi-year commemoration, beginning in 2024. The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is the state agency charged with overseeing this important commemoration. Together with partner organizations statewide, we seek to lift the voices of North Carolinians to provide a more complete narrative of our state's role in our country, past and present.

This exhibit, funded by the National Historical Publications & Records Commission, features North Carolina stories through select documents, images, and recordings found in repositories across the state and beyond.

Content warning: the primary sources on display reflect the perspectives of their creators and some contain antiquated and offensive terms.







