

LESSON 3

CHARLESTOWN

I. Objectives

1. To identify the Lords Proprietors.
2. To identify present South Carolina locations named for the Lords Proprietors.
3. To show Henry Woodward's contribution to the establishment of South Carolina.
4. To show why this settlement had succeeded despite hardships, where previous ones had ended in failure.
5. To explore some of the geography of South Carolina.

II. Background for the Lesson

King Charles I of England gave a grant of land in the New World between 31 and 36 degrees North latitude, extending west to the Pacific Ocean to Sir Robert Heath in 1629. Heath did virtually nothing with the grant. In 1663, King Charles II of England, seeking to repay some political debts, gave the land to eight members of the British nobility who had helped him regain the crown. These men, known hence as Lords Proprietors, wished to make a profit from their "reward." They sought to establish a colony there to settle the land and ship raw materials to England. In 1670, they outfitted three ships for that purpose. The destination of the expedition was the much noted Port Royal. After a harried voyage, the ships reached Port Royal only to be convinced by the Indians there to go North to the area where the Ashley and Cooper Rivers converged. There they established a settlement on the west bank of the Ashley which they named Albermarle Point. A later move across the river to the "healthier" Oyster Point saw the settlement expand and prosper. It was soon named Charles Town in honor of the King. Charles Town was the first permanent settlement in Carolina.

There was an omnipresent threat to the settlers of trouble from the Spanish to the south (St. Augustine) who still considered Carolina their land. In addition, certain unfriendly Indian tribes, especially the Westoes, were purported to have cannibal tendencies. None of the original eight Lords Proprietors ever came to South Carolina.

III. The Lesson

Wraparound

A dramatic sequence is included in this wraparound. It is an analogy to the eight Lords Proprietors receiving the grant of Carolina from King Charles II. Five people gather for lunch to discuss a mutual parcel of land that they have received in a will. They explore various possibilities of turning a profit from the inheritance.

"The Palmetto Special" is then seen traveling along Highway 261 in Sumter County—destination Charleston. The grant of land to the Lords Proprietors is discussed and students identify the Proprietors at locations named for them. The students are located in:

1. Berkeley County (John Lord Berkeley) (Sir William Berkeley)
2. Clarendon County (The Earl of Clarendon)
3. Colleton County (Sir John Colleton)
4. The Ashley and Cooper Rivers (Sir Anthony Ashley Cooper)
5. Albemarle Point (George Monck, Duke of Albemarle)

6. In a Charleston suburb, Carteret Street, (Sir George Carteret); Craven Street (William, Lord Craven)

"The Palmetto Special" then enters Charles Town Landing in Charleston--the actual site of the early settlement.

The Reenactment

Dr. Henry Woodward returns to Albemarle Point after an excursion to the "hinterlands" to determine the mood of the Indians and glean any information that he can concerning the movements of the Spanish, headquartered at St. Augustine. He reports his findings to Governor Sayle. They determine it necessary to construct a pallisade (sturdy fence) for protection. John Dawson volunteers to take charge of the project. He returns home and discusses the situation with his wife Elizabeth. The following day, aided by his son, Stephen and other settlers, John gets construction of all the pallisade underway. A distraught Elizabeth rushes to the site to tell John that their daughter, Martha, is missing. A search party locates her. Dr. Woodward comes to the Dawson's to give medical aid to Martha. In an exchange he and Martha talk about being in Carolina. Major location for the reenactment: Charles Town Landing, Charleston, South Carolina.

The situation in today's lesson is one that might have occurred. Dr. Woodward and Governor Sayle were actual people, the other characters are fictitious.

IV. Pre-Telecast Activities

1. Locate the following on a map of North and South Carolina:
 - A. Charleston
 - B. Ashley River
 - C. Cooper River
 - D. Albemarle Point (west of the Ashley River across from Charleston)
 - E. Albemarle Sound (North Carolina)
 - F. Berkeley County
 - G. Clarendon County
 - H. Colleton County
 - I. Craven County (North Carolina)

V. Post-Telecast Activities

1. Compare the settlement at Charles Town with the Huguenot settlement at Parris Island, Charlesfort. Discuss reasons why Charles Town succeeded--they planted crops, brought families, had better financial support, etc.
2. Talk about Charleston today and the emphasis that has been placed on preservation there.
3. Talk about the origin of the names of your city, county, community, and surrounding areas.

References:

1. *The History of South Carolina in the Building of the Nation*; Archie Vernon Huff, Jr. and Alester G. Furman, III, 1991, pp. 51-60.
2. *South Carolina-One of the Fifty States*; Lewis P. Jones, pp. 88-128.
3. *South Carolina: A Short History*; David Duncan Wallace, 1966 ed. pp. 22-31.