

The Lords Proprietors

BY DAVID WALBERT

The names and titles of the Lords Proprietors are listed here as they were in 1663, when they were granted Carolina.



Figure 1. Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon.

Edward, Earl of Clarendon

Edward Hyde (1609–1674), 1st Earl of Clarendon, began his career in Parliament in 1640 as a critic of King Charles I, but eventually became one of the king's close advisors and served as Chancellor of the Exchequer. After Charles I was executed, Hyde wrote a history of the Civil War, and eventually joined the future Charles II in exile.

After the Restoration, he became Lord Chancellor of England and was named Earl of Clarendon. His daughter Anne married the king's brother James, and two of their daughters later became queen (Mary II and Anne). Clarendon County, South Carolina, was named for him.

George, Duke of Albemarle



Figure 2. George Monck, 1st Duke of Albemarle.

George Monck (1608–1670) was a general during the English Civil War and gained fame for leading a campaign in Ireland and for defeating the Dutch at sea. Although Monck supported Parliament and Oliver Cromwell, after Cromwell's death he used the army to force Parliament to dissolve and call for new elections. The new Parliament invited Charles to take the throne, and the newly crowned Charles II named him Duke of Albemarle. Under Charles II, Albemarle served as “master of his majesty's horse and captain-general of all his forces.”

Albemarle County, North Carolina, and Albemarle Sound were both named for him, and the initial settlement in northeastern North Carolina was also called Albemarle.

William, Lord Craven

William Craven (1608–1697) was an English soldier who fought in Europe during the English Civil War. He supported Charles I financially, and for his service was named a lieutenant-general and the 1st Earl of Craven in 1664. Craven County, North Carolina, bears his name.

John, Lord Berkeley

John Berkeley (1607–1678) served in the royal army during the Civil Wars and joined the future Charles II in exile. He was a close friend and advisor of Charles II and his brother James, Duke of York (the future James II). In 1658 he was named Baron Berkeley of Stratton.

Berkeley was also a proprietor of New Jersey from 1664 to 1674.

Anthony, Lord Ashley

Anthony Ashley-Cooper (1621–1683) inherited his father's baronetcy and served in Parliament when the Civil Wars began. He first supported the king, then served in Cromwell's Council of State, and finally helped George Monck to restore Charles II to the throne. In 1661, he was named Baron Ashley and appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer, in charge of the royal treasury.

In the 1660s, he became friends with John Locke, who wrote the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina in 1669 (and, later, treatises on government whose ideas fueled the American Revolution). In 1672 Lord Ashley was named 1st Earl of Shaftesbury and became Lord Chancellor of England.

His grandson, Anthony, 3d Earl of Shaftesbury, became a noted philosopher and writer.

Sir George Carteret

George Carteret (c. 1610–1680) served in the Royal Navy as a young man and became Governor of the Isle of Jersey (off the coast of England) and, later, a baronet. When Charles I was executed in 1649, he proclaimed Charles II king, a gesture that the new king remembered when he was restored to the throne of England eleven years later. He held various offices under Charles II, including Vice-Chamberlain of the Household, and was also a proprietor of New Jersey (named for the island of his birth).

Carteret County, North Carolina, is named for him.

Sir William Berkeley

Sir William Berkeley (1605–1677), brother of John Berkeley, was Governor of Virginia from 1640–1652 and 1660–1675. During the Civil Wars he supported Charles I.

Berkeley was a successful and popular governor for most of his life, but may be best remembered for putting down Bacon's Rebellion¹ in 1676.

Sir John Colleton

John Colleton (1608–1666) supported Charles I during the Civil Wars. When Parliament seized his property, he retired to Barbados. He was later made a baronet by Charles II.

Colleton was also a member of the Company of Royal Adventurers Trading to Africa, later reorganized as the Royal African Company², which held a monopoly on the English slave trade and eventually transported 5,000 slaves a year to America.

Naming peers

A *peer of the realm* was a member of the hereditary nobility who had the right to sit in the House of Lords. Most members of the *peerage* inherited their titles, but kings and queens often created new titles to reward people for their service.

In England, the peerage includes the following titles:

- Duke (usually reserved for the royal family)
- Marquess
- Earl
- Viscount
- Baron

A peer is formally referred to by his first name and title — so, for example, “George, Duke of Albemarle,” or simply “Albemarle” for short. But Albemarle still retained his original surname — Monck — and so in a history of the English Civil War, which took place before his promotion, you’ll see him referred to as George Monck, while in a history of North Carolina you’ll see him referred to as Albemarle.

Less formally, all but dukes are referred to as Lord so-and-so — for example, Lord Craven rather than William, Earl of Craven. Dukes are addressed as “Your Grace.” And while dukes, earls, and marquesses are *of* something, viscounts and barons simply go by their own last names (so George Monck, Duke of Albemarle, but John Berkeley, Baron Berkeley).

In addition, *baronet* was a hereditary rank between baron and knight, which did not entitle its holder to sit in the House of Lords. (Knighthood was not hereditary.) A baronet, like a knight, was known by the title “sir.”

The king's advisors

The King of England had a number of high-ranking counsellors, chancellors, and advisors who served him and helped to govern the country. As the government of England changed and Parliament gradually gained more power, the names and duties of these officials changed many times. As a

group, they served the function of the president's cabinet in the U.S. government, advising the ruler and handling particular functions of the government.

The following offices are mentioned in this article:

Lord Chancellor or Lord High Chancellor

The King's highest minister and closest advisor. The Lord Chancellor presided over the House of Lords.

Lord Chamberlain of the Household

The Royal Household consisted of high-ranking officials who managed the king's affairs and therefore helped govern the country. The Lord Chamberlain was chief of these officials. The Vice Chamberlain was the assistant or deputy to the Lord Chamberlain.

Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, like the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, is responsible for all economic and financial matters.

Captain General

Head of the military.

On the web

More from LEARN NC

Visit us on the web at www.learnnc.org to learn more about topics related to this article, including Anthony Ashley-Cooper, Charles I, Charles II, Duke of Albemarle, Earl of Clarendon, Edward Hyde, George Carteret, George Monck, John Berkeley, John Colleton, Lord Ashley, Lords Proprietors, North Carolina, South Carolina, William Berkeley, and William Craven.

Notes

1. See <http://learnnc.org/lp/pages/2707>.
2. See <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part1/1p269.html>.

About the author

DAVID WALBERT

David Walbert is Editorial and Web Director for LEARN NC in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education. He is responsible for all of LEARN NC's educational publications, oversees development of various web applications including LEARN NC's website and content management systems, and is the organization's primary web, information, and visual designer. He has worked with LEARN NC since August 1997.

David holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of *Garden Spot: Lancaster County, the Old Order Amish, and the Selling of Rural America*, published in 2002 by Oxford University Press. With LEARN NC, he has written numerous articles for K–12 teachers on topics such as historical education, visual literacy, writing instruction, and technology integration.

Image credits

More information about these images and higher-resolution files are linked from the original web version of this document.

Figure 1 (page 1)

Painter unknown. This image is believed to be in the public domain. Users are advised to make their own copyright assessment.

Figure 2 (page 1)

Painted by Sir Peter Lely. This image is believed to be in the public domain. Users are advised to make their own copyright assessment.