New Colonists Arrive

England set up its first successful North American colony in 1607. It was in Jamestown, Virginia. In 1663, Charles II was king of England. He gave the land south of Virginia to eight proprietors. These men founded the Carolina colony. They named it after the king’s father, Charles I. This new colony included what is now both North and South Carolina.

By 1660, about 1,000 English colonists lived in Carolina. The proprietors collected taxes from them. They used this money to start a government. A governor was appointed to lead the colony.

Settlers moved to Carolina from Virginia and other colonies. A group called the Quakers came from Pennsylvania. Carolina landowners also brought enslaved Africans to work on their farms. Baron Christoph von Graffenried brought settlers from England, Switzerland, and Germany. They founded New Bern near Pamlico Sound. Others settled along the lower Cape Fear River. People moved farther south, too. Charles Town became popular because it had a good harbor. By 1712, the population of Carolina was large enough to create two colonies – North Carolina and South Carolina.

The Tuscarora War

The Tuscarora were an American Indian nation from eastern Carolina. The colonists traded with them. But settlers started cheating the Tuscarora and taking their land. The Tuscarora became angry. In 1711, they attacked the coastal settlements. North Carolinians fought back with the help of South Carolinians. Other American Indian nations helped the colonists, too. They were enemies of the Tuscarora.

The Tuscarora were defeated in 1713. More than 1,000 Tuscarora were killed. Several hundred colonists died as well. The surviving Tuscarora left North Carolina after the war and moved to New York.

Trouble was not over for the colonists, however. Many pirates sailed in the waters off the Carolina coast. They attacked ships and stole cargo. The most famous pirates were Blackbeard and Stede Bonnet. In 1718, sailors from the Royal Navy captured Bonnet and killed Blackbeard.