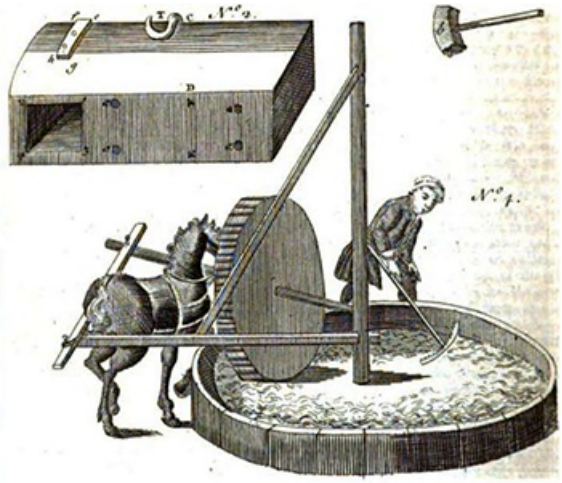
Bark [1]

Bark

by William S. Powell [2], 2006



Tanning engine and mill, 1764. Image from Google Books. [3]Bark, generally from oak trees, was an unusual export to Great Britain from the forests [4] of the Carolina-Virginia backcountry [5] in the eighteenth century. As new regions were inhabited, bark from numerous felled oak trees became valuable as a source of tannic acid used in tanning the large number of deerskins [6]and other pelts being shipped to England at that time.Edward Moseley's 1738 map [7] of North Carolina included bark as one of the colony's significant products.

Stripping bark from logs, however, appears to have been a lengthy process. The *Virginia Gazette* of 18 Dec. 1766 referred to bark mills and bark pits in Edenton [8], as well as to bark houses where the bark was stored prior to local use or shipment. Thomas Hart of Hillsborough advertised in 1779 that he had for sale "a Tan yard with three or four hundred hides now in tan bark-houses &c." In June 1781 George Hartmann of Salem [9] went to Salisbury to haul bark, presumably for use in the tannery operated by the Moravians [10].

Additional Resources:

Bishop, J. Leander. "Tanning in the Carolinas and Georgia."*A History of American Manufactures from 1608 to 1860*. Philadelphia: Edward Young & Co. 1861. p.449. http://books.google.com/books?id=ObI-AAAAcAAJ&pg=PA449#v=onepage&q&f=false [11] (accessed October 15, 2012).

"American Leather: An Industry Drawing on Various Parts of the Earth."*Bridgeport Morning News*. October 1, 1887. http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=uXgmAAAAIBAJ&sjid=GgEGAAAAIBAJ&pg=5059%2C3156857 [12] (accessed October 15, 2012).

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Society of Gentlemen, A. "Fig. 1-4: Tanning-Engine and Mill."*A New and complete dictionary of arts and sciences*. London: W. Owen, 1764. p. 3155. http://books.google.com/books?id=5Yw9AAAAYAAJ&pg=PA3154-IA2#v=onepage&q&f=false [3] (accessed October 15, 2012).

Subjects:
Economics and Economic Development [13]
Industry [14]
Authors:
Powell, William S. [15]
From:
Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.[16]

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