

## Express Riders <sup>[1]</sup>

Share it now!



## Express Riders

by [William S. Powell](#) <sup>[2]</sup>, 2006

Express riders on horseback delivered oral messages, letters, or documents before [postal service](#) <sup>[3]</sup> and other means of communication were available. The term "express messenger" was used in England as early as 1619. [Col. John Barnwell](#) <sup>[4]</sup> on 30 Apr. 1712, during the [Tuscarora Indian War](#) <sup>[5]</sup> in North Carolina, "sent express" to New Bern to have boats and tools brought to him for the campaign against the Indians. On [22 May 1760](#) <sup>[6]</sup> the provincial Assembly was directed to "pay the Expences of the Messenger (whilst in Town) which is sent to His Excellency with Express from the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia to this Province and to South Carolina, out of the Tax for Contingencies."

### Additional Resources:

Fort Barnwell, NC Highway Historical Marker C-32: <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?ct=ddl&sp=search&k=Markers&sv=C-32%20-%20FORT%20BARNWELL> <sup>[4]</sup>

Minutes of the Lower House of the North Carolina General Assembly North Carolina. General Assembly April 24, 1760 - May 23, 1760 Volume 06, Pages 362-420, DocSouth, UNC: <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr06-0120> <sup>[6]</sup>

### Subjects:

[Precolonial period \(pre-1600\)](#) <sup>[7]</sup>

[Colonial period \(1600-1763\)](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

[Transportation](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

[UNC Press](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

### Authors:

[Powell, William S.](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

1 January 2006 | Powell, William S.

---

**Source URL:** <https://ncpedia.org/express-riders>

### Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/express-riders>

[2] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/powell-william>

[3] <https://ncpedia.org/postal-service>

[4] <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?ct=ddl&sp=search&k=Markers&sv=C-32%20-%20FORT%20BARNWELL>

[5] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/tuscarora-indian>

[6] <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr06-0120>

[7] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/prehistory>

[8] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/colonial-period>

[9] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/transportation>

[10] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/unc-press>

[11] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/powell-william-s-0>

[12] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->