

## **Glebes** <sup>[1]</sup>

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

Glebes were plots of ground designated for the use of [clergymen](#) <sup>[3]</sup> assigned to a parish in England or the British colonies in America before 1776. The glebe was considered a part of the cleric's stipend, and he could farm, rent out, or otherwise use the land for his maintenance. At a meeting of the [vestry](#) <sup>[4]</sup> of St. Paul's Parish in [Chowan County](#) <sup>[5]</sup> on 5 May 1708, it was agreed that 500 acres that had been purchased was a glebe. In 1762, however, the North Carolina Assembly directed that [every parish should have a glebe](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, and it specified the buildings that each should contain. This law directed that except for normal use, the property should be maintained at public expense.

After the [American Revolution](#) <sup>[7]</sup>, unoccupied glebe land attracted squatters and speculators and in some cases resulted in legal action to settle claims. Some churches, including St. Thomas Church in [Bath](#) <sup>[8]</sup>, still hold title to ancient glebe property.

### **Additional Resources:**

Knight, Edgar W. "An Educational Practice in Colonial North Carolina." *The North Carolina Booklet* 15. No.1. July 1916. p. 49. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/north-carolina-booklet-great-events-in-north-carolina-history-1916-july-v.16-no.1/413918> <sup>[9]</sup> (accessed August 23, 2012).

"An Act for making Provision for an Orthodox Clergy." Acts of the North Carolina General Assembly, 1762. *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina* 23. Goldsboro, N.C.: Nash Brothers. 1905. p.584. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr23-0043#p23-584> <sup>[6]</sup>

### **Subjects:**

[Colonial period \(1600-1763\)](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

[American Revolution \(1763-1789\)](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

[Places](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

[Religion](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

### **Authors:**

[Powell, William S.](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

### **From:**

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

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