

Granville Grant and District ^[1]

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by Thornton W. Mitchell, 2006

See also: [Enfield Riots](#) ^[2]; [Land Grants](#) ^[3]

When [Charles II](#) ^[4] granted "Carolina" to the eight [Lords Proprietors](#) ^[5] in 1663 and 1665, he gave them an area that extended, in modern terms, from south of Daytona Beach, Fla., to the Virginia-North Carolina border and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. Although the Proprietors provided for an elaborate system of government in the [Fundamental Constitutions](#) ^[6], many problems arose as shares in Carolina were sold or were the subject of bequests. In 1728 all of the Proprietors except [John Lord Carteret](#) ^[7], second Earl Granville, who had inherited the share of Carolina originally granted to Sir George Carteret, agreed to sell their interests in the province back to the Crown. In 1729 Parliament approved the purchase of seven undivided parts of Carolina, with Earl Granville's share specifically excluded.

On 15 Sept. 1742 [King George II](#) ^[8] and the Privy Council finally approved the setting off of Granville's one-eighth of Carolina. The Granville District was a wide stretch of land encompassing the area between the present Virginia-North Carolina border and a line about 65 miles south (35°34' north latitude). With the acceptance of the grant, Granville surrendered any claim on the remainder of Carolina; he also gave up any participation in the government of North Carolina. Governor [Gabriel Johnston](#) ^[9] later complained that Granville not only had more than half the province but that he had the better half.

Earl Granville administered the district from across the Atlantic through agents, the most noteworthy of whom were [Edward Moseley](#) ^[10], [Francis Corbin](#) ^[11], and [Thomas Child](#) ^[12]. Further grants of unclaimed land were made in the period beginning in 1748 and ending in 1763, following the death of [John Earl Granville](#) ^[13]. The district was then tied up in chancery litigation. Although his heir, Robert Earl Granville, planned to reactivate the district with [Josiah Martin](#) ^[14] as agent, the [Revolutionary War](#) ^[15] prevented him. Other Granville heirs, to whom the district was bequeathed by Robert Earl, filed unsuccessfully for recovery of the district in 1801.

References:

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W. N. Watt, *The Granville District* (1992).

Additional Resources:

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Subjects:

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Authors:

[Mitchell, Thornton W.](#) ^[19]

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[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[20]

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