

SERIES PREFACE

The manuscript "Indian Books," and the "Journal of the Directors of the Cherokee Trade" in the South Carolina Archives,¹ a group of volumes relating to colonial-Indian affairs are being published as part of *The Colonial Records of South Carolina*. The first "Indian Book," was issued in 1955 with the title *Journals of the Commissioners of the Indian Trade, September 20, 1710-August 29, 1718*.²

The manuscript volumes consist of two types: those which deal with the Indian trade, and those which contain documents of Indian affairs in general. Two of the volumes are concerned with the trade; one of these contains the journals of the Commissioners of the Indian Trade already published, and the other is the "Journal of the Directors of the Cherokee Trade," which is the record of the public trade with the Cherokee Indians from 1762 to 1765 at Fort Prince George on the Keeowee River, in what is now Pickens County, South Carolina, after the Cherokee War. The remaining volumes, five in number, are broader in character and contain copies of different kinds of documents, including letters, affidavits, memorandums, journals, messages, trade regulations, muster rolls, and "talks." Recorded by the Clerk of the Council during the decade, 1750 to 1760, they appear to have been part of a larger group of volumes of a similar type. In the Council Journal for 1738 there is a reference to a conference between the Governor and some Chickesaw and Choctaw Indians, which it is said "is entered in a Book for the future to be kept for that purpose."³ In 1746 the Clerk of the Council is specifically said to be keeping "an Account of the Transactions of the Government with the Indians . . . that all those Matters may be seen at one View."⁴ Unfortunately, these earlier volumes are not now to be found.

The surviving volumes containing the records of Indian affairs in general have documents made during the latter half of the administration of Governor James Glen (1743-1756) and most of the period while William Henry Lyttleton, his successor, was in office (1756-1760). The former are the more numerous, including correspondence with other governors such as George Clinton of New York and Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia. The letters written to Glen

¹The titles of the manuscript volumes are given here as they appear on the bindings they now have, which they received in the 1850's. The title "Indian Book" is on the back of six volumes which are distinguished from each other by their respective numbers and inclusive dates. The "Journal of the Directors of the Cherokee Trade" is the last of the group in chronological order, and bears no volume number.

²A limited edition of the shorter of the two journals contained in the volume was issued by the Historical Commission of South Carolina (now the Archives Department) in 1926 as the *Journal of the Commissioners of the Indian Trade of South Carolina, September 20, 1710-April 12, 1715*.

³MS Journal of the Council (photostatic copy of the original in the British Public Record Office in the South Carolina Archives), December 30, 1738, p. 1.

⁴MS Journal of the Commons House of Assembly, June 10, 1746, No. 21, pp. 537-38.

by William Bull, Jr., while the latter was on his mission to the peace conference between the Six Nations and the Catawba Indians at Albany in 1751 are outstanding. During Lyttleton's administration, the construction and garrisoning of Fort Loudon in what is now Monroe County, Tennessee, is the subject of much of the correspondence preserved in the volumes for that period. The last "Indian Book" ends abruptly in March, 1760, soon after the beginning of the Cherokee War.

In commenting on the South Carolina documents Verner W. Crane has compared them in importance with "the New York Indian records."⁵ Such other scholars as John R. Alden, Robert L. Meriwether, Chapman J. Milling, and Wilbur R. Jacobs have made extensive use of the manuscripts.⁶ It is believed, therefore, that publication of them will make more accessible materials that have been recognized as essential to an understanding of the early development of the lower South.

The seven manuscript books vary in size. The first has a unity which requires presentation as a single volume, but the contents of the other six are of such a nature that it seems feasible to combine them for the printed series. The editorial procedure will follow, in general, the rules of style which have been adopted for the *Journals of the Commons House of Assembly of The Colonial Records of South Carolina* by the editor, Dr. J. H. Easterby. Individual differences between the two types of records will account for deviations from those rules.

No alterations have been made in the spelling of the original text, and only minor changes have been made in the punctuation, for example the substitution of a period for a colon at the close of a sentence and the addition of a comma where the writer clearly intended one to be. Paragraph indention, however, has been made uniform throughout the printed version, and in certain long and involved passages the editor has taken the liberty of making paragraph divisions. Superscript letters have been lowered to the normal line, the thorn (y) translated as th, a capital substituted for any lower case letter found at the beginning of a sentence, initial letters of all nouns capitalized that were so treated in contemporary printing, and the customary endings added to the numerals used in dates. All abbreviations are spelled out except those sanctioned by present-day usage (including the symbol &c.) and those standing for proper names. Brackets are used to indicate editorial interpolations, and parentheses enclose marginal notes in the original, but occasionally the text will show they have been carried over from the manuscript. In order to facilitate reference to the original, the manuscript page numbers have been enclosed in vertical rules and placed in the printed text at the beginning of each page.

In all phases of the planning of the printed version, and in the interpreting of the original text, the editor has had the generous help and advice of Dr. J. H.

⁵Verner W. Crane, *The Southern Frontier, 1670-1732*, (Durham, 1928), p. 337.

⁶The works of the authors referred to are respectively *John Stuart and the Southern Colonial Frontier, 1754-1775* (Ann Arbor, 1944); *The Expansion of South Carolina, 1729-1765* (Kingsport, 1940); and *Red Carolinians* (Chapel Hill, 1940). Jacobs used them in connection with his edition of *Indians of the Southern Colonial Frontier, The Edmond Atkin Report and Plan of 1755* (Columbia, 1954).

Easterby, the director of the South Carolina Archives, who provided the opportunity to produce this edition. Mr. Willis A. Shell of the William Byrd Press, Richmond, Va., and Mr. Cornell H. Reynolds of the State Commercial Printing Company gave valuable suggestions on the design of the format. The errors of omission and commission rest with the editor who made the final decisions.

The original estimate of four volumes for this series has been reduced to three, in order that volumes more nearly the same size may be printed.

VOLUME PREFACE

This volume presents the contents of three books, 2, 3, and 4, of the series in the South Carolina Archives known as the "Indian Books." These books contain documents written during the years 1750 to 1754 which concern the activities of South Carolina in connection with the Indian tribes of the surrounding region. The documents include mainly letters, affidavits, depositions, memorials, petitions, "talks," treaties, and agents' journals. Three-fourths of the documents were received by the colonial government directly or as relayed information. More than half of those received came to Governor James Glen, but the remainder were sent to others such as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Surveyor General, militia officers, traders, settlers, and Indians. About one-fourth of the documents originated in the Charles Town government where copies were made of letters sent or of papers concerning Indian affairs. The majority of these were letters of the governor, mainly to other governors and the Indians. In general, the documents are concerned with the tribes who lived in the region extending westward from the frontier of the colony to the Mississippi River; their endless fighting; the relations between these native people and the settlers and traders; the threat of the French to the dominant position of the English among the southern tribes; and South Carolina's relations with her sister colonies whose location and enterprise made them her competitors in the southern Indian trade.

Outstanding as a group of documents which throw light on the conflicts among the Indians are those concerning the negotiation of peace between the Catawbas of the Carolina piedmont and the Six Nations of New York. These include the invitation from Governor George Clinton to Glen for the latter to send representatives from the Catawba and other southern tribes to Albany in June 1751,¹ Commissioner William Bull's letters reporting his mission to New York,² the proceedings of the conference,³ and the correspondence concerning the ratification of the abortive treaty.⁴

The Creek-Cherokee war is another subject of the documents. The Creeks having killed four Cherokees near Charles Town in the spring of 1752,⁵ Glen dispatched an agent to demand satisfaction for this alleged violation of a treaty with the colony, and instructed him to endeavour to make peace between the two warring tribes.⁶ This mission is reported in the agent's journals.⁷ Other documents, including the proceedings of the conferences with a group of Creek chiefs in the Council in 1753,⁸ furnish much information on the events leading to the confirmation of the proposed peace.⁹

Many of the problems arising from the close contact of Indian and white in the wild country of the frontier are reflected here. Such episodes as the general alarm in 1751 caused by the attacks of Cherokees and their Northern

¹Below, p. 9. ²Below, pp. 31-32, 33-35, 35, 92-99, 110-12. ³Below, pp. 138-46.

⁴Below, pp. 167-68, 205-206, 212-13, 213-14, 221, 354-55, 355-56.

⁵Below, pp. 233-34.

⁶Below, pp. 343-47.

⁷Below, pp. 268-310, 310-42.

⁸Below, pp. 388-414.

⁹Below, pp. 504-506, 507-508.

allies on traders and settlers are presented in detail, and enable one to trace the events from the reported boast of a hundred Northern Indians that they would "spare neither white nor red,"¹⁰ when they came to the settlements, to the signing of the treaty with the Cherokees in November, 1751 at Charles Town, which ended the threat of war with that tribe and restored the trade withdrawn from them the previous June.¹¹

If a comparison is made, by means of the records printed here, between the regulations adopted for the Cherokee trade in the summer and fall of 1751, and those provided the next year for trading with all the tribes, it will be evident that several provisions of the new trade act were the result of changes made to meet the threat of a Cherokee war.¹² The temporary regulations that all licensed traders must execute the warrants of the Commissioner and confine their business activities to the towns assigned them, that all deer skins must be trimmed of superfluous matter, and no rum be transported to the mountain tribe, were continued in the comprehensive Trade Act of 1752.

Of more general interest are the letters of Governor Glen and Governor Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia, beginning with the latter's report of May 23, 1753, informing Glen that the French were moving into the Ohio Valley to block English expansion there.¹³ Glen sent to Dinwiddie's aid an independent company from South Carolina which fought at the battle of Great Meadows,¹⁴ but he was inclined to discount the seriousness of the French threat to the Virginia frontier. Glen was occupied with his own problems of defense and, when Dinwiddie tried to enlist the support of the Catawbas and Cherokees, it caused him to suspect the Virginia governor had designs on the Carolina trade.¹⁵

Documents containing a record of the complicated relations existing between the colony and its neighbors outlined above would undoubtedly be best arranged if placed in chronological order, but unfortunately the Clerk of the Council did not do so and, the originals having disappeared long ago, it was decided that no rearrangement could be made. The books have been closely followed in printing this volume; the only parts of the manuscripts omitted are the indexes which appear in each of the three books. For these the consolidated index at the back of this volume is offered as a substitute. Each of the main divisions here reproduces the text of one of the three manuscript books in the following order: part one, Book 2; part two, Book 3; and part three, Book 4. The running head of the verso pages is one of several similar headings used in the manuscript books; that on the recto pages gives the inclusive dates of the documents in each book.

The headings of the documents printed here are based on the marginal notes accompanying them in the original, except in the case of Book 4 where it has been necessary in a number of cases when the marginal note was not used to repeat the clerk's heading in the text. If there are no marginal notes or titles for the documents, the headings have been added silently. In cases where the marginal titles contain information not in the body of the text, it has been

¹⁰Below, p. 10.

¹¹Below, pp. 66-67, 188-96.

¹²Below, pp. 134, 198-200. Thomas Cooper and David J. McCord, *The Statutes at Large of South Carolina* (Columbia: 1838-41), III, 754-55, 763-71.

¹³Below, pp. 414-16.

¹⁴Below, pp. 528-32.

¹⁵Below, pp. 430-31, 466, 467-68, 472-74, 477-79, 482-84, 484-85, 507, 514-15, 524-28.

included in the heading. The main documents have headings in capitals, and the enclosures in small capitals when the latter immediately follow the covering documents.

All dates and places have been placed one line above and to the right side of the documents, regardless of their position in the manuscript, except where they are an integral part of the text; for example, in an affidavit or deposition they have not been moved, but for the sake of uniformity and convenience, they have been repeated at the beginning of such documents. Marginal notes like "Duplicate" or "No. 1" are placed above the body of the entry to the left hand side opposite the dateline.

Since no change has been made in the original arrangement of the books for printing, a calendar has been included. This consists of the headings of the entries, the dates of the entries if they are given or if it is possible to determine them, and the beginning page of each. Dates have been added silently in the calendar for those entries lacking them in the original, either from other copies, or references to them in the manuscript Journals of the Council or Commons House of Assembly. Entries lacking the date of the month are entered at the end of the month, and those without any reference to date here or elsewhere, at the end of the year when they most likely would have been written.

No documents in the "Indian Books" are known to have been published except those noted below.

The "talks" or speeches at the meetings with the Creek Indians of May 30-June 4, 1753, on pages 388-414 below were printed in part in the *South Carolina Gazette* of July 11-August 6, 1753.

Documents with the following headings: Governor Clinton to Governor Glen, Dec. 18, 1750, p. 9, Governor Glen to Governor Clinton, May 24, 1751, pp. 84-86, Meeting of Governor Clinton and Commissioner Bull with the Six Nations and Catawba Indians, July 6-10, 1751, pp. 138-46, and Colonel Johnson to Governor Clinton [April 20, 1753], pp. 416-17, are in the *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York . . .*, edited by E. B. O'Callaghan, (Albany: 1856-61), Volume VI. The following correspondence: Governor Dinwiddie to Governor Glen, May 23, 1753, pp. 414-16, Governor Hamilton to Governor Dinwiddie, May 6, 1753, pp. 419-20, Governor Glen to Governor Dinwiddie, June 21, 1753, pp. 430-31, is in John Drayton, *Memoirs of the American Revolution, from its commencement to the year 1776, inclusive, as relating to the state of South Carolina, . . .* (Charleston: 1821), Volume 1. The letter from Henry Parker to Governor Glen, April 16, 1751, pp. 21-22, is printed in *The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia*, compiled by Allen D. Candler, (Atlanta: 1909-16), Volume 6. The correspondence of Lieutenant Governor Dinwiddie to Governor Glen, April 15, 1754, pp. 522-24, and August 5, 1754, pp. 528-32, is in *The Official Records of Robert Dinwiddie, Lieutenant Governor of the Colony of Virginia, 1751-1758 . . .*, edited by R. A. Brock (Richmond: 1893-94), Volume 1, and the letter from Legardeur de St. Pierre to Lieutenant Governor Dinwiddie, Dec. 15, 1753, p. 472, is printed in D. S. Freeman, *George Washington* (New York: 1948-52), Volume 1.

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