THE

GREAT SEAL

OF THE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

1666-1909

BY

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THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL COMMISSION.

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THE GREAT SEAL

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The numerous inquiries received at the Secretary of State's office concerning "The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina" suggest the preparation of a sketch giving descriptions of the various seals which have been used in the Colony and State of North Carolina.

In the colonial period there were four different seals. Since North Carolina became a State there have been five distinct seals used. The second charter granted by King Charles the Second to the Proprietors of Carolina, dated the 30th day of June in the seventeenth year of his reign, A. D. 1665, recited the fact that he had been "graciously pleased to grant unto our right trusty and right well-beloved cousin and counsellor Edward Earl of Clarendon, our high chancellor of England; our right trusty and entirely beloved cousin and counsellor George Duke of Albemarle, master of our horse; our right trusty and well-beloved William now Earl of Craven; our right trusty and well-beloved counsellor John Lord Berkeley; our right trusty and well-beloved counsellor Anthony Lord Ashley, chancellor of our exchequer; our right trusty and well-beloved counsellor Sir George Carteret, knight and baronet, vice-chancellor of our household; our right trusty and well-beloved Sir John Colleton, knight and baronet; and Sir William Berkeley, knight; all that province, territory, or tract of ground, called Carolina, situate, lying and being within our dominions of America; extending from the north end of the island called Luke Island, which lieth in the southern Virginia seas, and within thirty-six degrees of north latitude; and to the west, as far as the south seas; and so respectively as far as the river of Matthias, which bordereth upon the coast of Florida, and within thirty-one degrees of northern latitude; and so west, in a direct line, as far as the south seas aforesaid."

NOTE.—All the illustrations used herein are the actual sizes of the seals they represent.

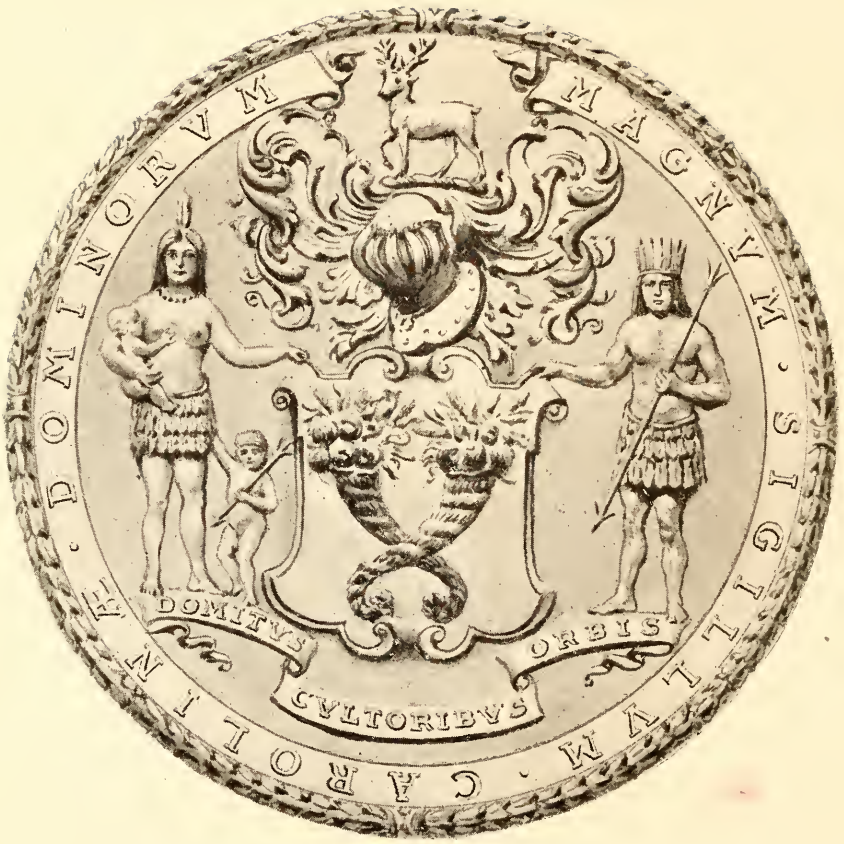
The cut of the Albemarle seal is taken from an impression in the courthouse at Edenton; those of George II. and George III. from seals loaned by Mr. John G. Wood, of Edenton, and by the Hall of History at Raleigh.

These high functionaries thought proper to adopt for this imperial domain a seal, of which no official description has been found, but is to be seen in the Public Record Office in London. The obverse side has a shield bearing on its face two cornucopias crossed, filled with products and having for supporters, on the sinister side, an Indian chief holding an arrow. On the dexter is an Indian squaw with a pappoose by her side and one in her arms. These natives, I imagine, are supposed to be bringing tribute. The crest is a stag upon a wreath above a helmet from which there is a mantling. On the scroll below the shield is the motto, DOMITUS CULTORIBUS ORBIS. Around the shield are the words MAGNUM SIGILLUM CAROLINAE DOMINORUM. On the reverse is a disc bearing a cross, around which are arranged the coats-of-arms of the Lords Proprietors in the following order: Clarendon, Albemarle, Craven, John Berkeley, Cooper, Carteret, William Berkeley and Colleton. The size of this seal is 3⅜ inches in diameter, and was made by placing together two wax cakes with tape between before being impressed, and was about ¼ inch thick. This seal was used on all the official papers of the Lords Proprietors for Carolina, embracing North and South Carolina.

About 1665 the Government of Albemarle was organized, and they adopted for a seal the reverse side of the seal of the Lords Proprietors. Between the coats the word A-L-BE-M-A-R-L-E was fixed in capitals, beginning with the letter A between the arms of Clarendon and Albemarle, L between Albemarle and Craven, BE between the Craven arms and those of Lord John Berkeley, etc.

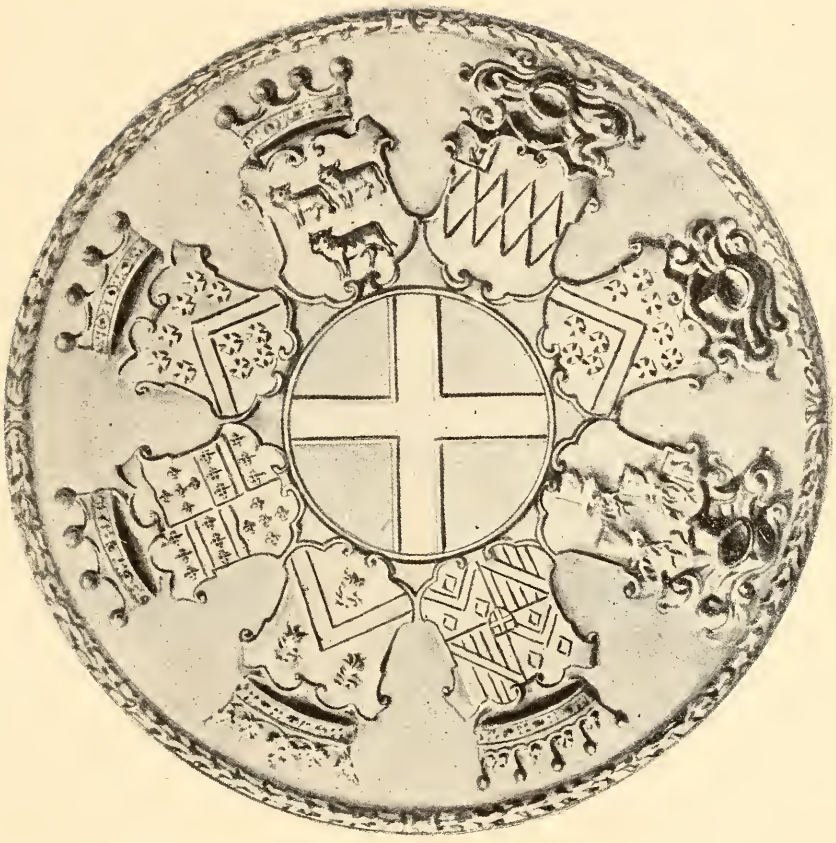
This was a small seal $1\frac{7}{16}$ inches in diameter, with one face only, and is now frequently to be found attached to colonial papers. It is generally impressed on red wax, but is occasionally seen impressed on a paper wafer which is stuck to the instrument with soft wax. It was first used for the government of the County of Albemarle, and then became the seal of the Province of North Carolina, being used until just after the purchase by the Crown.[1] During the troublous times of the Cary rebellion the Albemarle seal was not used. In 1708 Cary used his family arms on a large seal to his official papers. A fine

[1]Colonial Records, Vol. IV, p. 1200. See Appendix.



Seal of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina.
(Obverse.)

ACTUAL SIZE OF SEAL.



SEAL OF THE LORDS PROPRIETORS OF CAROLINA.
(*Reverse.*)

SEAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBEMARLE AND PROVINCE OF NORTH CAROLINA 166— TO 1730.

ACTUAL SIZE OF SEAL.

specimen of this seal showing the Cary arms is preserved in the Secretary of State's office. During Glover's presidency (1710) he used his private seal, and on one occasion he writes: "These papers ought to have come under the public seal, but that being forcibly detained in the hands of those who are professed enemies of the Church as well as to all good order, it could not be procured on this occasion."[2]

In 1720 Westmoreland and others composing the Lords of Trade proposed to the Lords Justices "that two great seals should forthwith be prepared to be used in the two Provinces of South and North Carolina,"[3] but I find no record of any action being taken upon this recommendation. On February 3, 1729/30, the Lords of Trade recommended to the King that he order a public seal for the Province of North Carolina.[4]

On February 21, 1729/30, his Majesty in council was pleased to approve and order "that a Publick Seal be prepared and given to the Governor of the said Province of North Carolina. And that the said Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations do cause a Draft of such seal to be prepared and laid before His Majesty at the Board for his Royal Approbation."[5]

On March 25, 1730, the Lords of Trade laid before his Majesty for his royal approbation a draft of a proposed seal for the Province of North Carolina "whereon Liberty is represented introducing Plenty to your Majesty with this Motto Quae sera tamen respexit and this inscription round the circumference Sigillum Provinciae Nostrae Carolinae, Septentrionalis." The background on which the King and these figures stand is an outline map of the coastal region of North Carolina, and in the offing is to be seen a ship. "On the reverse of this seal we would humbly propose Your Majesty's Arms, Crown, Garter, Supporters and Motto with this Inscription round the circumference, Geo: II: Dei Gratia Magnae Britaniae Franciae, et Hiberniae, Rex, Fidei Defensor, Brunsvici et Lunenbergi Dux, Sacri Romani Imperii Archi Thesaurarius, et Elector."[6] On the 10th day of April, 1730, the King approved the above recommendations, except that it appears Georgius Secundus was to be substituted for Geo. II., and his chief engraver of seals was ordered to "engrave a silver seal according to said draught."[7] Mr. Rollos,

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[2]C. R., Vol. I, p. 733.
[3]C. R., Vol. II, p. 594.
[4]C. R., Vol. III, p. 75.
[5]C. R., Vol. III, p. 76.
[6]C. R., Vol. III, pp. 79-80.
[7]C. R., Vol. III, p. 80.

his Majesty's engraver, was ordered to prepare a draft of the seal.[8] About this same time Mr. Rollos was preparing seals for New Jersey,[9] the Barbadoes, Jamaica and Virginia.

In 1730 the new seal for North Carolina was sent to Governor Burrington and the old seal ordered returned "to our Commissioners of Trade and Plantations to be laid before us as usual in order to its being defaced in like manner with other seals by us in our Privy Council."[10]

There seems to have been some delay in receiving the new seal, for at a council held at Edenton, March 30, 1731, it was "ordered that the old seal of the Colony be used till the new seal arrives."[11] The latter part of April the seal came, and "the messenger that went to Cape Fear to fetch the Publick Seal of this Province" was paid the sum of ten pounds for his journey.[12]

This seal was made by placing two cakes or layers of wax together, between which was the ribbon or tape with which the instrument was interlaced and by which the seal was appended. It was customary to put a piece of paper on the outside of these cakes before they were impressed. The seal complete was 4⅜ inches in diameter and from ½ to ⅝ inch thick and weighed about 5½ ounces.

In 1736 Governor Johnston imagined that the seal of the late Lords Proprietors "might yet remain in the Province and be privately affixed to blank patents which had been left subscribed with the names of the Proprietors' Council, but not sealed," so an inquiry was made of Governor Burrington and Mr. Skelton, Secretary of the late Lords Proprietors, to know what had been done with the old seal; whereupon Governor Burrington reported that he had transmitted the Proprietors' seal to the Duke of Newcastle, one of the King's Secretaries of State.[13]

In January, 1739/40, Governor Johnston was reproved for his failure to annex the Great Seal of the Province to Acts transmitted to Whitehall.[14]

At a council held at New Bern, December 14, 1767, Governor Tryon produced to the Board a new Great Seal for the Province

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[8]C. R., Vol. III, p. 125.
[9]Zieber, Heraldry in America, p. 157.
[10]C. R., Vol. III, pp. 119, 120, 125, 133.
[11]C. R., Vol. III, p. 215.
[12]C. R., Vol. III, p. 303.
[13]C R., Vol. IV, pp. 201, 202, 213, 214.
[14]C. R., Vol. IV, pp. 420, 424.

Seal of the Province of North Carolina 1730-1767.
(*Obverse.*)

ACTUAL SIZE OF SEAL.

Seal of the Province of North Carolina 1730-1767.
(*Reverse.*)

Seal of the Province of North Carolina used after 1767.
(*Obverse.*)

ACTUAL SIZE OF SEAL.

Seal of the Province of North Carolina used after 1767.
(*Reverse.*)

with his Majesty's Royal Warrant bearing date at the Court of St. James the 9th day of July, 1767. The old seal was sent to New York by Captain Collet, commander of Fort Johnston, to be returned to his Majesty's Council Office of Whitehall. Accompanying his Majesty's warrant was a description of the new seal, which was engraved on the one side with the royal "Arms, Garter, Crown, Supporters and Motto, and this inscription round the circumference Georgius III D: G: Mag. Bri. Fr. et Hib. Rex, F. D. Brun, et Lun. Dux. S. R. I. ar Thes. et El. on the other side our Royal Effigies; and Liberty represented introducing Plenty to us, with this Motto—Quae Sera Tamen Respexit—and this legend round the circumference Sigillum, Provinciae Nostrae Carolinae, Septentrionalis." This seal was to be used in sealing all patents and grants of lands and all public instruments passed in the King's name and service within the province.[15] It was 4 inches in diameter, ½ to ⅝ inches thick, and weighed 4½ ounces. In 1767 "His Majesty in Council approved fourteen new seals for the following Islands and Provinces in America viz: Jamaica, Barbadoes, Leward Islands, Bahama Islands, Nova Scotia, Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia."[16] It is probable that the reverse of all these was the same and in some of them the obverse sides had points of similarity.

It appears that sometimes a smaller seal than the Great Seal was used, as I have seen commissions and grants with a small heart-shaped seal about one inch wide and a quarter of an inch thick which was impressed with a crown. Also a seal was occasionally used about three inches long and two inches wide and half an inch thick, in the shape of an ellipse. These impressions were evidently made by putting the wax far enough under the edge of the Great Seal to take the impression of the crown. The royal governors also sometimes used their private seals on commissions, etc.

Lord Granville on the grants issued by him used his private seal. The last reference I find to the Colonial Seal is in a letter from Governor Martin to the Earl of Hillsboro in November,

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[15]C. R., Vol. VII, pp. 532-533. [16]C. R., Vol. XI, p. 211.

1771, in which he said "that the Province Seal was broke," but that he had had it repaired and that it had been "awkardly mended but in such manner as to answer all purposes."[17]

When the government of the State of North Carolina was organized, the Constitution adopted at Halifax, December 18, 1776, provided, Section XVII, "That there shall be a seal of this State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him as occasion may require; and shall be called the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina and be affixed to all grants and commissions." The Constitutional Convention of 1835 brought this section forward unchanged.

The Convention of 1868 changed the Constitution somewhat and the Convention of 1875 brought the section referring to the seal forward as adopted in 1868, which now reads:

"Sec. 16. There shall be a seal of the State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him as occasion may require, and shall be called 'The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina.' All grants and commissions shall be issued in the name and by the authority of the State of North Carolina, sealed with 'The Great Seal of the State,' signed by the Governor and countersigned by the Secretary of State."

On December 22, 1776, an ordinance was passed by the Congress at Halifax appointing William Hooper, Joseph Hewes and Thomas Burke commissioners to procure a Great Seal for the State of North Carolina, but I find no record of a report being made by this commission. The ordinance provided that the Governor should use his "private seal at arms" until the Great Seal was secured. On April 29, 1778, a bill which became a law on May 2d was introduced in the House of Commons of

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NOTE.—In the Constitution adopted by the free men of the State of Franklin in convention assembled at Jonesborough the 17th of December, 1784, a seal was provided for in the following section:

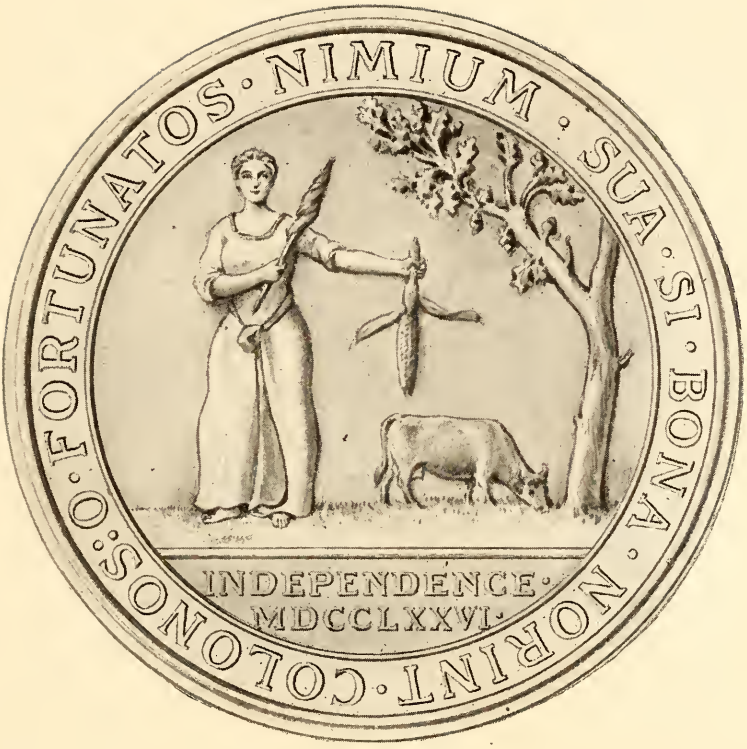
"Sect. 17—That there Shall be a Seal of this State, which shall be kept by the Governor and used by him as Occasion may Require and shall be called the Great Seal of the State of Franklin, & be affixed to all Grants and Commissions." (C. R., Vol. 22, p. 666.)

I do not recall ever having seen a seal of the State of Franklin on the Franklin papers in this office.

[17]C. R., Vol. IX, p. 50.

1779-1794.
(*Obverse.*)

ACTUAL SIZE OF SEAL.



1779-1794.
(*Reverse.*)

the General Assembly held in New Berne for procuring a Great Seal for the State.[18] It provided "that William Tisdale, Esq., be and he is hereby appointed to cut and engrave a seal, under the direction of his Excellency the Governor, for the use of the State." On Sunday, November 7, 1779, the Senate concurred in a resolution passed by the House of Commons allowing William Tisdale, Esq., the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds for making the Great Seal of the State.[19] Under this act a seal was secured which was used until 1794. The actual size of this seal was three inches in diameter and ¼ inch thick. It was made by putting two cakes of wax together with paper wafers on the outside and pressed between the dies forming the obverse and reverse sides of this seal. The seal press must have been very large and unwieldy, for Governor Spaight in writing to Colonel Thomas in February, 1793, said: "Let the screws by which the impression is to be made be as portable as possible so as it may be adapted to our present Itinerant Government. The one now in use by which the Great Seal is at present made is so large and unwieldy as to be carried only in a cart or wagon and of course has become stationary at the Secretary's office which makes it very inconvenient." Governor Spaight in January, 1793, in writing of the Tisdale seal then in use says: "The old Seal is not only nearly worn out but in my opinion has been always a reproach to the genius of the State." An official de-

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Note.—In the library at Grimesland, among the papers of the late General Bryan Grimes, are nine of the Tisdale seals in good condition pendant to grants dated from 1779 to 1784.

There is also a seal of North Carolina, to a grant dated 1745, which is bulkier than the George II seals usually seen, and is ⅝ of an inch thick and without the usual paper covering.

There are also two imperfect impressions of the Albemarle seal to two grants dated in 1715. These two grants, containing 1228 acres, then called Mt. Calvert and Mt. Pleasant and now a part of Grimesland Plantation, are among the first entries made in Tuscarora territory after the Treaty of Peace, and were the first lands granted on Tar River.

Among these papers is a grant from the Earl of Granville for 700 acres, bearing his seal, and this is the only grant I recall ever having seen with his seal attached.

[18] C. R., Vol. XII, pp. 612, 613, 620, 642, 646, 654, 730, 737, 759, 751.
[19] C. R., Vol. XIII, pp. 891, 956, 983.

scription of this seal cannot be found, but many of the seals are still in existence in an almost perfect state of preservation. Of this seal Col. W. L. Saunders writes: "It had two faces or sides and made its impression upon a cake of beeswax covered with paper, three inches in diameter and near a quarter inch thick, and was the last State seal so made, the succeeding ones having one face only and being applied directly to the paper-writing to be sealed. This indeed had come to be the practice on ordinary occasions years before. Governor Tryon states in one of his dispatches that since 1750, at the request of the inhabitants living remote from the Secretary's office, paper had been substituted for parchment for grants of land and impressions on the faces of the grants for the heavy pendant wax seals. The bulk and weight of the grants to be sent out, if of parchment with pendant wax seals, caused great 'inconveniency and expense' in delivery to remote settlers. Whereas if of paper with seals impressed thereon 'one or two horsemen could take up to them all the grants issued at a court of claims.' It had been found from experience too, he said, in this climate, that parchment was more liable to destruction by insects and little vermin than paper."

The seal of 1778 may be described as follows:

On one side is the figure of Minerva or Liberty holding in the right hand the pole with cap and in the left hand with arm extended is held a large scroll on which appears in large capital letters the word "Constitution." Under the figure appear the words, IN LEGIBUS SALUS. Around the circumference are the words, THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA. On the other side of the shield is the figure of a woman, probably Plenty. The right arm is folded across her breast and in her right hand inclining towards her left shoulder is held a distaff. In the left hand with arm extended is held an ear of corn. In the distance beyond a tree browses a cow. Under these figures appear the word and letters INDEPENDENCE—MDCCLXXVI. Around the circumference appear the words O. FORTUNATOS, NIMIUM. SUA. SI. BONA. NORINT. COLONOS., which may be translated, How fortunate are the colonists who know their own good.

In December, 1791, the General Assembly in session at New Berne again passed an act authorizing and requiring the Governor to procure for the State a seal, and provided that it should

1794-1836.

ACTUAL SIZE OF SEAL.

"be prepared with one side only, and calculated to make the impression on the face of such grant, commission, record or other public act," etc. Governor Martin commissioned Col. Abisha Thomas, the agent of North Carolina in Philadelphia for the settlement of the State's Revolutionary claims against the Federal Government, to have one made, at the same time sending him a design therefor.[20] After correspondence between Governor Martin and Colonel Thomas concerning the seal, in which suggestions were made by Dr. Hugh Williamson and Senator Samuel Johnston, both attending Congress in Philadelphia at that time, they concluded that the design offered by Governor Martin would not do, and Colonel Thomas submitted a sketch by an artist. The sketch submitted by the artist to Governor Martin is as follows: "The figures are Minerva in the act of introducing Ceres with her horn of plenty to Liberty, who is seated on a pedestal holding in her right hand a book on which is inscribed the word 'Constitution.' In the background are introduced a pyramid, denoting strength and durability and a pine tree which relates immediately to the produce of the State."

This sketch, omitting Minerva and with other changes, was finally accepted by Governor Spaight, and Colonel Thomas had the seal made accordingly. The seal was cut some time in the summer of 1793, and Colonel Thomas brought it home with him in time for the meeting of the Legislature in November, 1793, at which session it was "approbated." The screw to the seal would not work, so in 1794 the General Assembly passed an act authorizing the use of the old seal of 1778 until the new one could be put in order.[21] No official description of this seal has been found, but it was very much like the present one. It has two figures, Liberty and Plenty. Liberty is seated on a pedestal with her pole in her right hand, and her cap on the pole; in her left hand is a scroll with the word "Constitution" upon it. Plenty is standing to the left and front of Liberty; around her head is a circlet of flowers; in her right hand, leaning against her shoulder, is her cornucopia, mouth upwards, overflowing with fruits and produce. In her left is an ear of corn. Around the circumference are the words THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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[20]See Appendix. [21]See Appendix, Act of 1794.

This seal was 2½ inches in diameter, slightly larger than the present one, and was used until about 1835.

In the winter of 1834-'35 the Legislature passed an act authorizing the Governor to procure a new seal. The preamble to the act states that the old seal had been in use since the first day of March, 1793.[22] The seal adopted in 1835, which was used until 1883, was very similar to its predecessor. On it Liberty and Plenty faced each other. Liberty standing, her pole with cap on it in her left hand, and a scroll with the word "Constitution" inscribed thereon in her right hand. Plenty, sitting down, her right arm half extended towards Liberty, three heads of wheat in her right hand, and in her left the small end of her horn, the mouth of which is resting at her feet, and the contents of her horn rolling out. Around the circumference were the words The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina. This seal was 2¼ inches in diameter. In 1868 the Legislature authorized the Governor to procure a Great Seal, and required him to provide a new seal whenever the old one was lost or so worn or defaced as to render it unfit for use.[23]

In 1883 Col. S. McD. Tate introduced a bill, which became an act (Chapter 392, Public Laws of 1883), and was incorporated in The Code as section 3329. The seal therein provided for is described as follows:

"The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina shall be two and one-quarter inches in diameter, and its design shall be a representation of the figures of Liberty and Plenty, looking toward each other, but not more than half fronting each other, and otherwise disposed as follows: Liberty, the first figure, standing, her pole with cap on it in her left hand and a scroll with the word 'Constitution' inscribed thereon in her right hand. Plenty, the second figure, sitting down, her right arm half extended towards Liberty, three heads of wheat in her right hand, and in her left the small end of her horn, the mouth of which is resting at her feet, and the contents of the horn rolling out."

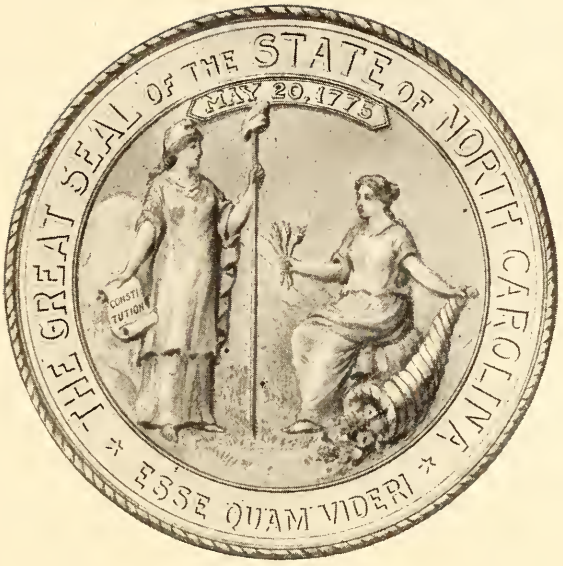
NOTE.—I can find no record of a new seal having been procured in 1868.

[22] Should have been 1794.

[23] See Appendix.

1836-1883.

ACTUAL SIZE OF SEAL.



1893-1907.

ACTUAL SIZE OF SEAL.

At this time the ship that appeared in the offing in the seals of George II and George III and in our seals from 1835 to 1883 seems to have disappeared, and the designer of the seal shows mountains in the background instead of both the mountains and the sea as formerly.

In 1893 Hon. Jacob Battle introduced a bill which became chapter 145. This made no change in the seal of 1883 except to add at the foot of the coat-of-arms of the State as a part thereof the motto "Esse Quam Videri," and that the words "May 20, 1775," is inscribed at the top of the coat-of-arms.[24]

The present Great Seal of the State of North Carolina is described as follows:

The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina is two and one-quarter inches in diameter, and its design is a representation of the figures of Liberty and Plenty, looking toward each other, but not more than half fronting each other, and otherwise disposed as follows: Liberty, the first figure, standing, her pole with cap on it in her left hand and a scroll with the word "Constitution" inscribed thereon in her right hand. Plenty, the second figure, sitting down, her right arm half extended towards Liberty, three heads of wheat in her right hand, and in her left the small end of her horn, the mouth of which is resting at her feet, and the contents of horn rolling out. In the exergon is inserted the words May 20, 1775, above the coat-of-arms. Around the circumference is the legend "The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina" and the motto "Esse Quam Videri."

NOTE.—The North Carolina Historical Commission will appreciate the gift or loan of North Carolina seals in order to make a complete collection of the same. They will also be glad to get the private seals and coats-of-arms of the early Governors of North Carolina and of families identified with the history of the State.

[24]See Appendix. Secs. 5320, 5339, 5340, Vol. II, Revisal of 1905 of N. C.

APPENDIX.

NOTE A.—Just after the Revolution several of the States adopted seals, bearing the figures of Minerva and Ceres or Liberty and Plenty. Liberty and Plenty appeared in the North Carolina colonial seal and are now in our Great Seal.

On the reverse of the Virginia seal of 1776 are the figures of Liberty with her pole and cap, Plenty with the three heads of wheat in her right hand and the cornucopia held in her left hand with the mouth leaning against her shoulder and Aeternitas with the globe and phoenix. One of the first shields prepared for the United States by the committee of the Continental Congress in 1776 composed of Franklin, Adams and Jefferson, had as one of the "supporters Dexter the Goddess of Liberty in a corselet of armour, alluding to the present times, holding in her right hand the spear and cap and with her left supporting the shield of the States."[25]

In 1780 another committee reported another seal to Congress on the reverse side of which was "The figure of Liberty seated in a chair holding the staff and cap. The motto SEMPER and underneath MDCCLXXVI.[26]

The Goddess of Liberty appears in the present seals of Arkansas, Idaho and other States. The figure of Liberty also appears in an early Pennsylvania seal. The design of the seal of New Jersey has the figures of Liberty with pole and cap, and Plenty with cornucopia in left hand, leaning against her shoulder, etc. This was designed by Pierre Eugene Du Simitiere of Philadelphia in October, 1776. He had just furnished the seal of Virginia in August, 1776, and was then preparing the Georgia and Delaware seals. The figure of Liberty with her pole and cap appears in the New York seal. The reverse side of the Colonial Seal of New York in the reigns of George II. and George III., as far as I can judge from illustrations and descriptions I have seen, was identical with the North Carolina seals of that period; in fact, I take it that the royal arms constituted the reverse side of the seals of all the royal colonies.

[C. R., Vol. III, page 79.]

(B. P. R. O., North Carolina, B. T., Vol. 21, p. 26, now Colonial Office, Class 5, Vol. 323.)

LORDS OF TRADE TO THE KING, 25 MARCH, 1730.

To the King's most Excelt. Majesty

May it please Yor Majesty.

In Obedience to Yor. Majtys commands signified to Us by Your Order in Council of ye 21th of last Month, directing us, to cause the

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NOTE.—There is some difference in the extracts from Colonial Records as appear here and in the printed volumes. The proof of the copy here was verified from the original papers now in the Colonial Office in London by Messrs. B. F. Stevens & Brown.

[25]Zieber, p. 96. [26]Zieber, p. 97.

Draught of a Seal to be prepared for Yor Majesty's Province of North Carolina, & to lay the Same before Your Majesty for Yor Royal Approbation, We humbly take leave to Annex hereto a draught accordingly whereon Liberty is represented, introducing Plenty to Your Majesty with this Motto, Quae sera tamen respexit, and this Inscription round the Circumference: Sigillum Provinciae Nostrae Carolinae Septentrionalis

On the Reverse of this Seal, We would humbly propose Your Majesty's Arms, Crown, Garter, Supporters & Motto, with this Inscription round the circumference, Geo: II: Dei Gratia Magnae Britaniae Franciae, et Hiberniae, Rex, Fidei Defensor, Brunsvici et Lunenbergi Dux, Sacri Romani Imperii Archi Thesaurarius, et Elector.

All which is most humbly submitted.

WESTMORELAND
P. DOCMINIQUE
T. PELHAM
M. BLADEN
ED. ASHE

Whitehall March 25th 1730.

[C. R., Vol. III, page 79.]

(B. P. R. O., North Carolina, B. T., Vol. 8, A. 7, now Colonial Office, Class 5, Vol. 293.)

At the Court at St. James's the 10th day of April 1730.
Present
The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Councill

Upon reading this day at the Board a Report from the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations dated the 25th of March last with the Draught of a Seal for the Province of North Carolina, whereon Liberty is represented introducing Plenty to His Majesty with this Motto Quae sera tamen respexit; and this inscription round the Circumference, Sigillum Provinciae Nostrae Carolinae Septentrionalis. And the said Lords Commissioners humbly propose that on the Reverse may be His Majesty's Arms, Crown, Garter Supporters, and Motto with this inscription round the Circumference, Georgius Secundus, Dei Gratia, Magnae Britanniae, Franciae, et Hiberniae, Rex Fidei Defensor; Brunsvici et Lunebergi Dux; Sacri Romani Imperii Archi-Thesaurarius, et Elector:—His Majesty in Councill this day took the same into Consideration and was pleased to approve thereof, and to Order as it is hereby Ordered that His Chief Engraver of Seals Do forthwith Engrave a Silver Seal according to the said Draught which is hereunto annexed and to what is above proposed by the said Lords Commisrs. for the Reverse of the said Seal;

And His Grace the Duke of Newcastle one of His Majesty's Principall Secretarys of State is to Cause a Warrant to be prepared for His Majesty's Royall Signature to the said Engraver as usual upon the like Occasions.

A true Copy ——— JA: VERNON.

[C. R., Vol. III, page 119.]

(B. P. R. O., Am. and W. Ind., No. 592, now Colonial Office, Class 5, Vol. 306.)

WARRANT TRANSMITTING NEW SEAL FOR NORTH CAROLINA, 1730.

To Our Trusty and Welbeloved George Burrington Esqre Our Captain General and Governor in Chief of Our Province of North Carolina in America; Or to the Commander in Chief of Our said Province for the time being, Greeting. With this you will receive a Seal prepared by Our Order for the Use of Our said Province the same being Engraven on the one side with our Arms, Garter, Crown, Supporters and Motto, and this Inscription round the Circumference, Georgius II. D. G. Mag. Bri: Fr et Hib. Rex. F. D. Brun. et Lun. Dux. S. R. I. Arc. Th. et Pr. El. on the other Side Our Royal Effigies, and Liberty represented introducing Plenty to Us with this Motto. Quae Sera Tamen Respexit. And this Inscription round the Circumference, Sigillum Provinciae Nostrae Carolinae Septentrionalis. Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby Authorize and direct, that the said Seal be used in the Sealing all Patents and Grants of Lands, and all Publick Instruments which shall be made and passed in Our Name and for Our Service within Our said Province; And that the same be to all Intents and Purposes, of the same Force and Validity as any other Seal heretofore used within the said Province. And we do further Command and require you upon the receipt of the said Seal, to return the former Seal to Our Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, to be laid before Us as usual, in order to it's being defaced in like manner with other Seals by Us in our Privy Council. Given at Our Court at St. James's the ... Day of..... 1730, in the fourth Year of Our Reign.

[C. R., Vol. III, page 120.]

(B. P. R. O. North Carolina, B. T., Vol. 8, A. 10, now Colonial Office, Class 5, Vol. 306.)

At the Court at St. James's the 14th day of December 1730

Present

The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Councill

A New Seale for His Majestys Province of North Carolina having been this day laid before His Majesty in Councill for His Royall Approbation His Majesty was pleased to approve thereof and to Order

as it is hereby Ordered that the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations Do prepare a Draught of a Warrant for transmitting the said Seale to the Governor of the said Province and Empowering him to make use thereof—And the said Lords Commissioners are to lay the said Draught before his Grace the Duke of Newcastle One of His Majestys Principall Secretarys of State in Order to Obtain His Majestys Sign Manuall thereto—And afterwards to transmitt the said Warrant with the said Seale to the Governor of the said Province accordingly. JAS VERNON.

[C. R., Vol. III, page 120.]

(B. P. R. O., Am. and W. Ind., No. 592, now Colonial Office, Class 5, Vol. 306.)

LORDS OF TRADE TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, DECEMBER 31th, 1730.

My Lord,

Having in obedience to his Majesty's Order in Council of the 14th Instant, prepared the Draught of a Warrant for transmitting a new Seal for His Majesty's Province of North Carolina, to the Governor of the said Province, impowering him to make use thereof, and requiring him to transmit the old Seal in Order to its being defaced in like manner with other Seals by his Majesty in Council; We here inclose the said Draught of a Warrant which we desire your Grace will please to lay before His Majesty for his Royal Signature.

We are

My Lord, Your Grace's
most obedient and
most humble Servants

P. DOCMINIQUE
T. PELHAM
JA: BRUDENELL
CH. CROFT

Whitehall December 31st 1730.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

[C. R., Vol. VII, p. 532.]

(*From MS. Records in Office of the Secretary of State.*)

COUNCIL JOURNALS.

At a Council held at Newbern Monday 14th December 1767

His Excellency produced to this Board a new Great Seal of this province, with his Majesty's Royal warrant bearing date at the Court of St. James the 9th day of July 1767—Authorizing the use of the same, and requiring the old seal to be returned to his Majestys Council office of Whitehall

And his Excellency informed this Board, that he yesterday sent the old seal to New York by Capt. Collet Commander of Fort Johnston in order to be forwarded Home—Ordered—That a Proclamation issue inserting His Majestys warrant for the use of the new seal in the following words, Viz—

NORTH CAROLINA—SS.

By His Excellency William Tryon Esq' &c.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas I have received from the Earl of Shelburne one of his Majestys principal Secretarys of State a new Great Seal for this Province with a warrant under his Majestys sign Manual to use the same in the following words, Viz

George R. To our trusty and well beloved William Tryon Esq' our Captain General and Governor in Chief of our province of North Carolina In America or to the Commander in Chief of our said province for the time—GREETING:

With this you will receive a Seal prepared by our order for the use of our said province; the seal being engraved on the one side with our Arms, Garter, Crown Supporters and Motto, and this inscription round the circumference Georgius III. D: G: Mag, Bri, Fr, et Hib, Rex, F. D. Brun, et Lun, Dux. S. R. I. ar Thes, et El. on the other side our Royal Effigies; and Liberty represented introducing Plenty to us, with this Motto—Quae Sera Tamen Respexit—and this inscription round the circumference Sigillum, Provinciae, Nostrae, Carolinae, Septentrionalis—Our will and Pleasure, is and we do hereby authorize and direct that the said seal be used in sealing all Patents and Grants of Lands, and all Public Instruments which shall be made and passed in our name, and for our Service within the said Province; and that it be to all Intents and Purposes of the same force and validity, as any other seal heretofore used within the said Province, And we do further will and require you upon Receipt of the said seal, to return the old seal to our Council Office at Whitehall in order to its being defaced by us in our privy Council. Given at our Court at St. James's the 9th day of July 1767

In the seventh year of our Reign

By his Majestys Command SHELBURNE.

I have therefore thought proper by and with the advice and consent of his Majestys Council to issue this proclamation to notify that the New Great Seal will from the date hereof be made use of in this Province, and that the late Great Seal agreeable to the Royal Commands is transmitted to England

Given under my hand and the Great seal of this province at Newbern WM TRYON.

[C. R., Vol. IV, page 1198.]

NEW-BERN the 5th of April 1749.?

NORTH CAROLINA.

To his Excellency Gabriel Johnston Esqre Captain General and Commander in Chief of his Majesties Province of North Carolina

The Memorial of the Members of His Majesty's Council of the said Province.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

. . . . . .

After the Charter granted by King Charles to the Lords Proprietors of Carolina they formed several Constitutions or Rules of Government wherein (inter alias) It was provided that the lands should be laid off into Counties each county to be a seperate Government and a Proprietor or his Deputy to have the Government of it But still the whole eight Counties to be under the Government of the Eight Proprietors accordingly the first Government or County was that of Clarendon County on Cape Fear River so called from the Earl of that Title first mentioned in the Charter the second was that of Albemarle from the duke of that name next in the Charter and it is to be remarked that the Deed of Grant to this County so highly valued by the Inhabitants of it and upon which so great a stress is laid with regard to his Majesty rents was directed to Samuel Stephens Governour of our above County of Albemarle and the seal of that County Government (used as the seal of North Carolina untill the King's purchase) had together with the arms of the eight Proprietors the word Albemarle in capitals fixed between the Coats.

. . . . . .

NATH: RICE
ROBERT HALTON
ROGER MOORE
ELEAZAR ALLEN
MATHEW ROWAN

CORRESPONDENCE.

ABISHA THOMAS TO GOVERNOR ALEXANDER MARTIN.[27]

PHILAD[E]L[PHIA], 16th June 1792

SIR

. . . . . .

Doctor Williamson happened to be here when your letters arrived, which I was certainly much pleased with. He took possession of the great Seal business, kept it two days, then threw it on my hands and went off without doing any thing in it. This is truly alarming, for really I know nothing about the business and I am afraid of having it spoiled. besides the Doctor advised me not to have it done, he found fault with the Latin of the Motto; however I consider your Excellency's instructions superior to his advice. I will hold council with some of the Commissieurs and endeavor to have it elegantly executed.

. . . . . .

I am with much respect and attachment

Sir

Your Excellencys

Most obt. Servt.

ABISHA THOMAS TO GOVERNOR ALEXANDER MARTIN.[28]

PHILAD[E]L[PHIA]. 22 July 1792

SIR

. . . . . .

Since my last to you I have consulted Mr. Johnston[29] respecting the great Seal, he told me that Doct[o]r Williamson has shewed him the device, and suggested some additions or alterations, which he said the Doctor would propose to your Excellency when he met you at Hillsborough in August, in consequence of which I have postponed having it executed until I again hear from you on the subject.

GOV. RICH[AR]D D[OBBS] SPAIGHT TO ABISHA THOMAS.[30]

NEWBERN 9th January 1793.

SIR;

. . . . . .

I have understood from Gov: Martin that he had wrote to you, to procure a great seal for the State agreeable[31] to an act of the General Assembly at their sessions in 1791 and that you had undertaken to

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[27]A. L. North Carolina Historical Commission. Executive Files. Alexander Martin. Draft in handwriting of Abisha Thomas.

[28]A. L. North Carolina Historical Commission. Executive Files. Governor Martin. Draft in handwriting of Abisha Thomas.

[29]Samuel Johnston [?], then in United States Senate.

[30]From Executive Letter Book, p. 9. [31]In the original: agreable.

have a proper one executed and sent forward. if it is executed I will thank you to forward it to me as soon as possible if it is not finished I will be obliged to you to have it done immediately and sent to me. as the old Seal is not only nearly worn out but in my Opinion has been always a reproach to the genius of the State.

I am Sir

Yr. most Obt Servant

RICHD. D. SPAIGHT.

Abisha Thomas Esquire Agent for the State of No Carolina.

ABISHA THOMAS TO RICH[AR]D D[OBBS] SPAIGHT.[32]

PHILADELPHIA 24th January 1793.

SIR

. . . . . .

P. S. January 30th.

. . . . . .

With regard to the Great Seal I am at a loss how to act. It is agreed on all hands that the Sketch transmitted by Governor Martin will not do. He authorized me to procure an artist to sketch something from it and to transmit the same to him for approbation. I did so, he disapproved and directed me to proceed no farther in the business untill farther orders—thus the matter rests. I send you a copy of the Governors sketch with his explanation. I wish I could send you the other but did not copy it perhaps Governor Martin has furnished you with it. hower I can nearly (perhaps precisely) explain it, the figures are Minerva in the act of introducing Ceres with her horn of plenty to Liberty who is seated on a pedestal holding in her right hand a book on which is inscribed the word "Constitution" in the back ground are introduced a pyramid denoting Strength and durability; and a pine tree which relates immediately to the produce of the State &c. the first is too complex to be executed on so small a Scale, besides say the men of science it is not conformable to the rules of Heraldry to quarter the Arms or the Seal of a single sovereign State. The Governor wished to have something expressive of Commerce and Agriculture introduced; this I think might be done in addition to the figures above named. He also authorized me to change the Motto from "*His Cresco*" to "*Hacc nuncra nostro.*"

. . . . . .

With the utmost respect and attachment

I remain Sir

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Sert.

ABISHA THOMAS.

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[32]From Letter Book of Governor Spaight. North Carolina Historical Commission collection.

His Excellencys Richd. Dobbs Spaight Esqr. Govr. &c.

(ENCLOSURE.)

The great seal is laid off into quarters. the first Sinister is intended for a Sheaf of Wheat and I wish that Ceres with her torch could be inserted to represent the farming interest in the Western part of this State. The first dexter is intended for *Amalthea* with her cornucopiae heaped with Indian corn, that the Corn is falling out representing the great planting interest of Roanoke and the Northern part. the second Dexter is filled with Hhds. barrels and bales of Goods representing the Commerce of the State. the fourth Sinister contains a pine tree representing the lumber pitch tar and turpentine productions of the Southern part with liberty standing under the shade with her cap on a staff by her right hand and the Constitution held by her left. The Artist must correct the disposition of the figures and give them such ornaments and ease necessary. for the classic drapery of the two Goddesses or rather ladies he must consult the cuts of the Pantheon.—I think however their robes are lose and open before to the Knee some part of which are tied with a knot. The motto "His cresco" to be done in the shape of a ribband or label at the bottom. the whole to be engraved deep that a fair and plain impression may be perceived. The diameter of the Seal comprehends three inches. I am doubtfull this size is rather too large. the size of the great seal of the United States would be about proper if the figures can be inserted as well as in the size herewith.

(signed) ALEX MARTIN.

GOV. RICH[AR]D D[OBBS] SPAIGHT TO ABISHA THOMAS.[33]

North Carolina Newbern 18th February 1793.

Sir

. . . . . .

Being perfectly ignorant of the Science of Heraldry I would not presume to give any particular directions respecting the great Seal of the State the copy you sent Governor Martin I saw when it was in the Commons but cannot find it among the papers returned to me by Mr. Hunt I prefer it by far to Governor Martin's Sketch I think his too large and the Objects too crowded and diminutive. the fault which you found with the copy you sent the Governor might be easily amended by adding a Ship in the most proper part which is in my opinion the most sublime emblem of Commerce, and will stand for boxes, bails, tobacco, Hhds. pitch, tar, and turpentine barrels, and a thousand other minute articles the basis of Commerce.

I shall leave the business wholly to you, you are in a City where the arts and Sciences are understood and where you can get the

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[33]From Executive Letter Book, pp. 20-21.

necessary information and assistance. I shall be glad to have it done soon and forwarded to me. let the screw by which the impression is to be made be as portable as possible so as it may be adapted to our present Itinerant Government. the one now in use by which the great seal is at present made is so large and unwieldy as to be carried only in a Cart or Waggon and of course has become stationary at the Secretary's Office which makes it very inconvenient.

I have the honor to be with respect

Sir

Your most Obedt. Servant

RICH. D. SPAIGHT.

Abisha Thomas esqr. Philadelphia.

GOV. RICH[AR]D D[OBBS] SPAIGHT TO ABISHA THOMAS.[34]

New Bern 24th. June 1793.

Dear Sir

. . . . . .

I have not yet been informed by you whether any or what progress has been made in getting a Great Seal for the State. I wish it could be done as soon as possible, consistant with having it well done. I want it likewise complete with a steel screw to make the impression, and portable enough to be carried about without much difficulty.

. . . . . .

I am Dear Sir

Your most Obt. Servt.

RICHD. D. SPAIGHT.

Abisha Thomas esquire Philadelphia.

ABISHA THOMAS TO GOV. RICH[AR]D D[OBBS] SPAIGHT.[35]

Dear Sir

. . . . . .

I have now in hand the Great Seal, Dr. Williamson is so obliging as to aid me, and from his extensive knowledge and assiduity, I feel sanguine that something will be produced, which will merit the approbation of your Excellency and the legislature.

. . . . . .

I am with much respect

Yr. Excellencys

Mo Obed. Servant

ABISHA THOMAS.

His Excellency Richd. D. Spaight.

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[34]From Executive Letter Book, pp. 64-65.

[35]From Executive Letter Book, pp. 70-71.

ABISHA THOMAS TO RICH[AR]D D[OBBS] SPAIGHT.[36]

PHILADELPHIA 8th Augt. 1794 [3].

DR SIR

. . . . . .

Before I was taken[37] I endeavoured to have a screw seal press made but the makers were all so engaged that none of them could undertake it within any reasonable time. I shall however not cease my endeavours untill I get one which shall be forwarded with the wafers which are ready.

. . . . . .

I am &c.

ABISHA THOMAS.

His Excellency Richard D. Spaight.

GOV. RICH[AR]D D[OBBS] SPAIGHT TO ABISHA THOMAS.[38]

NEW BERN 19th. Augt. 1793.

DEAR SIR

. . . . . .

I hope you will not fail to bring with you when you return, the new great seal, and that it may meet with the approbation of the Legislature. I am Dear Sir

yrs. &c.

RICHARD D. SPAIGHT.

Abisha Thomas esqr.

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[36]From Executive Letter Book.

[37]He had just written: "I received in due time your Excellency's letter of 22nd June for a fortnight past I was indisposed so as to be incapacitated for business thank God I am much recovered and yesterday turned out, this morning I feel still better."

[38]From Executive Letter Book, p. 74.

LAWS IN REFERENCE TO SEAL, 1776-1893.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED AT HALIFAX, DECEMBER, 1776.

AN ORDINANCE FOR APPOINTING CERTAIN COMMISSIONS THEREIN NAMED, TO PROCURE A GREAT SEAL FOR THIS STATE, AND OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

Whereas it is necessary that a great seal should immediately be procured for this state for the use of the Governor for the time being, to be affixed to all grants, proclamations and other public acts; and that certain commissioners be appointed for that purpose:

II. Be it therefore ordained, and it is hereby ordained, by the representatives of the freemen of the state of North-Carolina, in Congress assembled, and by the authority of the same, That William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, and Thomas Burke, Esquires, be appointed commissioners to procure for this state, for the use of the Governor for the time being thereof, a great seal, to be affixed to all grants, proclamations and other public acts.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Governor for the time shall, until the great seal can be procured, make use of his own private seal at arms, and affix the same to all grants, proclamations, and other public acts of this state.

Ratified the 22d of December, 1776.

ACT PASSED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT NEWBERN, APRIL, 1778.

AN ACT FOR PROCURING A GREAT SEAL FOR THIS STATE.

Whereas it is necessary that a great seal be procured, to be used by the governor for the time being as the seal of this state:

II. Be it therefore enacted the General Assembly of the state of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of same, That William Tisdale, Esq. be and he is hereby appointed to cut and engrave a seal, under the direction of his excellency the governor, for the use of the state; and the said seal, when engraved, shall be called the great seal of the state of North-Carolina, and shall be used and affixed by the governor for the time being to all grants, proclamations and other public acts of the executive authority of this state.

ACT PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT NEWBERN, DECEMBER, 1791.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A PROPER SEAL FOR THE STATE, AND THE SEVERAL COURTS OF RECORD.

I. BE it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the Governor be and he is hereby authorized and required to procure

for the state a seal, which shall be called the Great Seal of North-Carolina, to be used for attesting and authenticating grants, proclamations, commissions and other public acts, in such manner as may be directed by law, and the usage established in the public offices; also a seal for each of the courts of record within this state, for the purpose of authenticating the papers and records of such courts when required.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the seals provided by the direction of this act, shall be prepared with one side only, and calculated to make the impression on the face of such grant, commission, record or other public act; and the present Great Seal shall not be used in any case whatever after the seals prescribed by this act are procured.

IV. And whereas the seals annexed to grants and other public papers are in many cases lost and destroyed: Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all such cases where any person or persons may find it necessary to have the seal of the state put again to such grant or other public papers that he, she or they may prefer his, her or their petition to the Governor and Council who shall, if they shall deem the same proper, after examining such grant or other paper, order and direct the Secretary to put the seal of the state thereto, for which he shall be allowed the usual fees.

ACT PASSED AT FAYETTEVILLE, DECEMBER, 1793.

AN ACT APPROBATING THE NEW GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE.

Whereas in pursuance of an act passed at Newbern in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, entitled, "An act to provide a proper seal for the state and the several Courts of record, the Governor hath procured a new great seal for the state, calculated to make an impression on the face of the grant, commission or other public act with one side only:

L. Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of the state of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That after the first day of March next, the said new great seal shall be used for attesting and authenticating all grants, commissions, proclamations, and other public acts; and the said new great seal shall be good and valid, to all intents and purposes, as the former great seal hath heretofore been, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding. Provided nevertheless, That the former great seal of the state shall and may be used for attesting and authenticating grants, commissions, proclamations and other public acts, until the said first day of March next, and until the said new seal shall be deposited in the Secretary's-office, and after that day shall be kept for the purposes mentioned in the fourth and last section of the above recited act.

ACT PASSED AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD AT RALEIGH, DECEMBER, 1794.

(First General Assembly held at Raleigh.)

[Chapter 19.]

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACT APPOINTING THE NEW GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE PASSED AT FAYETTEVILLE THE LAST ANNUAL SESSION.

Whereas a proper screw has not yet been procured to make impressions with the new Great Seal:

I. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted be the authority of the same, That all grants, commissions, proclamations and other public acts which have been attested and authenticated with the old Seal, since the time prescribed in the said act for the use of the new Great Seal, or which may so attested and authenticated, shall be good and valid in law to all intents and purposes. And the Governor is hereby authorised to continue the use of the old Seal until he shall be able to procure a screw to make impressions with the new one.

And whereas the said act directs that the new great Seal of the state shall be deposited in the Secretary's office, which is contrary to a provision in the constitution.

II. Be it enacted, That so much of the said act as directs the said Seal to be deposited in the Secretary's office, be and the same is hereby repealed and made void.

ACT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SESSION OF 1834-'35.

[Chapter 24.]

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCURE A NEW GREAT SEAL FOR THE USE OF THE STATE.

Whereas, the great seal of this State, which has been used since the first day of March one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, has become so much worn as to render it necessary to obtain a new one.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the Governor shall be, and he is hereby authorised to procure a great seal for this State, which shall bear suitable devices; and that such new great seal, when so procured, shall be used to attest and authenticate all grants, commissions, proclamations, and other public acts, to which such attestation and authentication may be necessary.

ACT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SESSION OF 1868-'69.

(Chapter 270.)

* * * * * * * *

Sec. 35. The Governor shall procure for the State a seal, which shall be called the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina, to be used for attesting and authenticating grants, proclamations, commissions and other public acts, in such manner as may be directed by law, and the usage established in the public offices; also a seal for every court of record of the State, for the purpose of authenticating the papers and records of such court.

Sec. 36. Whenever the Great Seal of the State, or any seal of a court of record shall be lost, or so worn or defaced as to render it unfit for use, the Governor shall provide a new one, and when new seals are provided, the former ones shall not be used.

* * * * * * * *

CONSTITUTION OF 1868.

Sec. 16. There shall be a seal of the State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him, as occasion may require, and shall be called "the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina." All grants and commissions shall be issued in the name and by the authority of the State of North Carolina, sealed with "the Great Seal of the State," signed by the Governor and countersigned by the Secretary of State.

BATTLE'S REVISAL 1873.

(Chapter 78.)

31. The Governor shall procure for the State a seal, which shall be called the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina, to be used for attesting and authenticating grants, proclamations, commissions and other public acts, in such manner as may be directed by law, and the usage established in the public offices; also a seal for every court of record of the State, for the purpose of authenticating the papers and records of such court.

ACT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1883.

(Chapter 392.)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina shall be two and one-quarter inches in diameter, and its design shall be a representation of the figures of Liberty and Plenty, looking toward

each other but not more than half fronting each other, and otherwise disposed as follows: Liberty, the first figure, standing, her pole with cap on it in her left hand, and a scroll with the word "Constitution" inscribed thereon in her right hand. Plenty, the second figure, sitting down, her right arm half extended toward Liberty, three heads of wheat in her right hand, and in her left the small end of her horn, the mouth of which is resting at her feet and the contents of the horn rolling out.

Sec. 2. That it shall be the duty of the Governor to file in the office of Secretary of State an impression of the Great Seal, certified to under his hand and attested by the Secretary of State, which impression so certified the Secretary of State shall cause to be bound up with this statute among the manuscript statutes of this General Assembly.

Sec. 3. That this act shall take effect from and after its ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times, and ratified this the 12th day of March, A. D. 1883.

THE CODE OF NORTH CAROLINA, VOL. II.

(Chapter 41.)

Sec. 3329. *Design of Great Seal; Governor to file impression with Secretary of State.* 1883, c. 392.

The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina shall be two and one-quarter inches in diameter, and its design shall be a representation of the figures of Liberty and Plenty, looking toward each other but not more than half fronting each other, and otherwise disposed as follows: Liberty, the first figure, standing, her pole with cap on it in her left hand, a scroll with the word "Constitution" inscribed thereon in her right hand. Plenty, the second figure, sitting down, her right arm half extended towards Liberty, three heads of wheat in her right hand, and in her left the small end of her horn, the mouth of which is resting at her feet, and the contents of the horn rolling out.

It shall be the duty of the Governor to file in the office of Secretary of State an impression of the Great Seal, certified to under his hand and attested by the Secretary of State, which impression so certified the Secretary of State shall cause to be bound up with the manuscript statutes of the General Assembly of the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three.

ACT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1893.

(Chapter 145.)

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STATE MOTTO.

Whereas, contrary to the usage of nearly all the States of the American Union the coat-of-arms and the Great Seal of this State bear no motto; and whereas a suitable motto, expressive of some noble sentiment and indicative of some leading trait of our people, will be instructive as well as ornamental, and the State should also keep in perpetual remembrance the immortal declaration of independence made at Charlotte: now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the words "esse quam videri" are hereby adopted as the motto of this State, and as such shall be engraved on the Great Seal of North Carolina and likewise at the foot of the coat-of-arms of the State as a part thereof.

Sec. 2. That on the coat-of-arms, in addition to the motto, at the bottom, there shall be inscribed at the top the words, "May the 20th, 1775."

REVISAL OF 1905 OF NORTH CAROLINA, VOL. II.

(Chapter 114.)

Section 5320. *Motto.*—The words "esse quam videri" are hereby adopted as the motto of this State, and as such shall be engraved on the Great Seal of North Carolina and likewise at the foot of the coat-of-arms of the State as a part thereof. On the coat-of-arms, in addition to the motto, at the bottom, there shall be inscribed at the top the words, "May 20th, 1775."

1893, c. 145.

(Chapter 115.)

Sec. 5339. *Keeper of Great Seal of State; design.*—The Governor shall procure for the State a seal, which shall be called the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina, and shall be two and one-quarter inches in diameter, and its design shall be a representation of the figures of Liberty and Plenty, looking toward each other, but not more than half fronting each other, and otherwise disposed as follows: Liberty, the first figure, standing, her pole with cap on it in her left hand and a scroll with the word "Constitution" inscribed thereon in her right hand. Plenty, the second figure, sitting down, her right arm half extended towards Liberty, three heads of wheat in her right hand, and in her left the small end of her horn, the mouth of which is resting at her feet, and the contents of the horn rolling out;

there shall also be inserted thereon the words "esse quam videri." It shall be the duty of the Governor to file in the office of Secretary of State an impression of the Great Seal, certified to under his hand and attested by the Secretary of State, which impression so certified the Secretary of State shall carefully preserve among the records of his office. Code, ss. 3328, 3329; 1868-9, c. 270, s. 35; 1883, c. 392; 1893, c. 145.

Sec. 5340. *Procures seals for each department and courts of record.* —The Governor shall also procure a seal for each department of the State government to be used for attesting and authenticating grants, proclamations, commissions and other public acts, in such manner as may be directed by law and the usage established in the public offices; also a seal for every court of record in the State, for the purpose of authenticating the papers and records of such court. All such seals shall be delivered to the proper officers, who shall give a receipt therefor and be accountable for their safe-keeping. Code, ss. 3328, 3332; 1868-9, c. 270, ss. 35, 37; 1883, c. 71.