

**THE MORAVIANS IN  
NORTH CAROLINA: AN  
AUTHENTIC HISTORY**

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The Moravians in North Carolina: An Authentic History by Levin T. Reichel

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IN

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AN AUTHENTIC HISTORY.

BY

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OF SALEM, N. C.

SALEM, N. C.

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THE  
MORAVIANS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

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I.

NORTH CAROLINA IN 1752.

IN 1749 the British Parliament passed an act by which the *Unitas Fratrum*, or Unity of the Brethren, was acknowledged as a Protestant Episcopal Church. By this act the free exercise of all their rights as a *church* was secured to the Moravian Brethren throughout Great Britain and all her colonies, a privilege which they did not then fully enjoy in any other European kingdom, and which is still denied to the church in certain other countries, even to the present day.

During the protracted deliberations of the Parliament, which lasted from February 20th to

June 6th, and by means of many public documents collected in a folio volume as *Acta Unitatis Fratrum in Anglia*, the attention of members of the Parliament, and other men of high standing, was repeatedly drawn to the Moravians, both as a church organization and as a social body. The testimony which Thomas Penn, proprietor of Pennsylvania, had given them in 1747, when the first act of Parliament was granted in their behalf, was abundantly confirmed, that they had conducted themselves as a sober, quiet, and religious people, and had made many improvements in their settlements which eventually would prove beneficial to the whole colony of Pennsylvania. Hence it seemed desirable to induce them to make settlements in other countries also, and invitations and offers of various kinds soon came in greater numbers than could be complied with, for want of means and men. Some of these, referring to Nova Scotia and Maryland, were not entertained at all. Another one of the Duke of Argyle, who wished a settlement of the Brethren in Scotland, led to no results; another of Lord O'Neil led, in 1764, to the settlement of Grace-

hill, in Ireland. But, for the present, the most acceptable offer seemed that of Lord Granville, President of the Privy Council, who was the owner of a very large tract of land in North Carolina, of which he offered Count Zinzendorf 100,000 acres on very reasonable terms.

At a conference of the Brethren, held in Lindsay-house, London, November 29th, 1751, it was resolved to accept this offer. The leading idea of Count Zinzendorf was the following: He desired that his Brethren might not only have an opportunity to be of spiritual benefit to such persons as in process of time might settle in their neighborhood, as well as to gain access to various tribes of Indians, such as the Cherokees, the Catawbas, the Creeks, and the Chickasaws, but his main object was to acquire the possession of a larger tract of land where the Moravians might live undisturbed, having the liberty of excluding all strangers from their settlements. For this purpose it was resolved not to make the good quality of the land the principal object, nor to buy detached parcels of the best land, but rather to select an undivided tract of about