

Regulator Movement (1766-1771) – Guided Notes

Part I



- North Carolina Backcountry residents, already struggling to pay their bills, dealt with corruption and extremely high taxes
- They struggled to convince Gov. William Tryon and the General Assembly to stop the corruption
- Edmund Fanning was Public Enemy No. 1; He'd “unfairly” tax the people, be the judge/jury, and keep the money for himself while fudging records
- Several residents formed the Regulators or people who wanted to stop the corruption and kick the bad guys out of office
- Despite petitions, protests, and successful attempts at public office, the Regulators’ pleas were ignored
- Regulator leaders: Herman Husband and James Hunter

Part II

- Another major issue was the building of Tryon Palace, for which the taxpayers also paid
- Therefore, they punished officials like Edmund Fanning in riots in Hillsborough and threatened to march toward New Bern (North Carolina’s capital at the time)

- In 1771 the Regulators fought Tryon's royal militia in the **Battle of Alamance**, but were crushed
- Tryon **ordered six leaders hanged** within days of the battle; allowed hundreds of others to swear never to fight the British again
- The Regulators lost, but helped inspire the **American Revolution**