



Regulator Movement-Battle of Alamance

Mr. Groves

Where did this happen?



- ❑ Colonial residents in Eastern North Carolina enjoyed wealth with shipping and excellent farming
- ❑ Piedmont, or **“Backcountry”** residents, could only farm in certain spots
- ❑ Piedmont farmers were not as wealthy as Eastern North Carolinians; they still paid the same high taxes
- ❑ Problems took off in Granville, Orange, and Anson counties (near present-day Chapel Hill and Hillsborough) as there was also plenty of **corruption**

Who caused such anger and frustration?



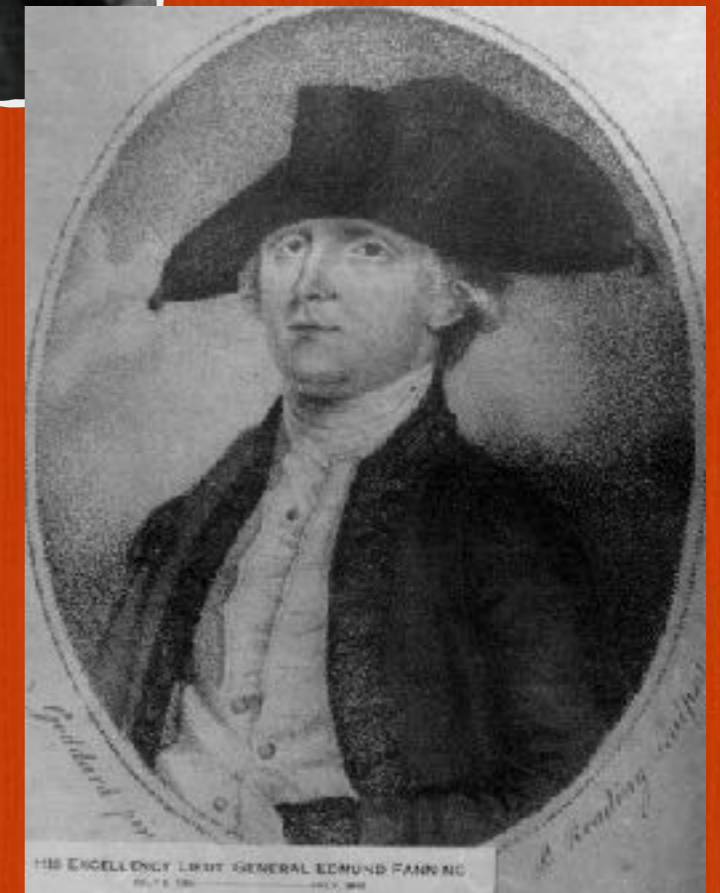
Gov. William Tryon

Colonial **Gov. William Tryon** took over the colony in 1765 with the **General Assembly**; corruption was already in place

Higher taxes continued

Tryon's go-to guy, **Edmund Fanning**, "Public Enemy #1" allegedly stole from the Piedmont farmers and falsified records

Edmund Fanning



Regulators...Assemble!



- Regulators**—Piedmont ('Backcountry') farmers, independent-minded that wanted to regulate their own taxes, rules, etc. due to corruption
- This likely had to do with their Christian faith (Moravian, Quaker, Baptist, etc.)
- In the late 1760s-1770, they formed the 'Regulator Movement'

Fighting was not an option! Not at first, anyway...

The Regulators hosted **protests**, filed petitions,
complained to Gov. Tryon without any success

Some even ran for **public office** (NC General
Assembly), including **Herman Husband**
(the 'leader' of the Regulators)

They could not push through any new laws they
wanted

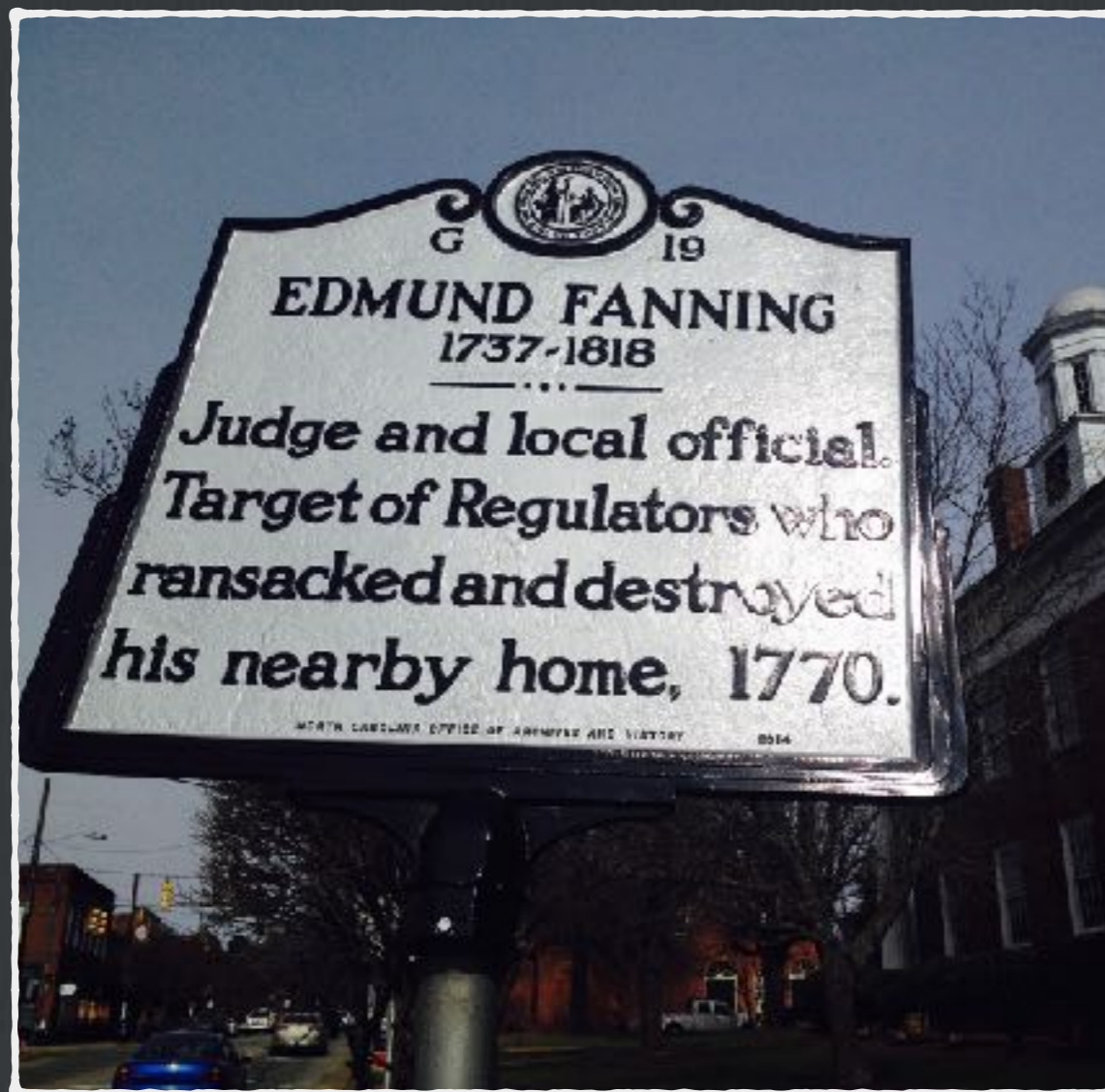




Tryon Palace was also a cause

Gov. Tryon and his council used taxpayer dollars to build "Tryon's Palace" in New Bern, then the colonial capital. This made Piedmont farmers more angry!

Then what?



- Regulators captured **Edmund Fanning** while storming the courthouse in **Hillsborough** and dragged him down the steps (1770)
- They also damaged the courthouse and Fanning's home and threatened to march to **New Bern**

Gov. Tryon's march to Hillsborough

Gov. Tryon tried once during the Regulator Movement to shut down rebellion; they called for punishment of Fanning and he gave the official a slap on wrist

After several other protests and the violence in Hillsborough, Tryon marched his colonial militia through Alamance

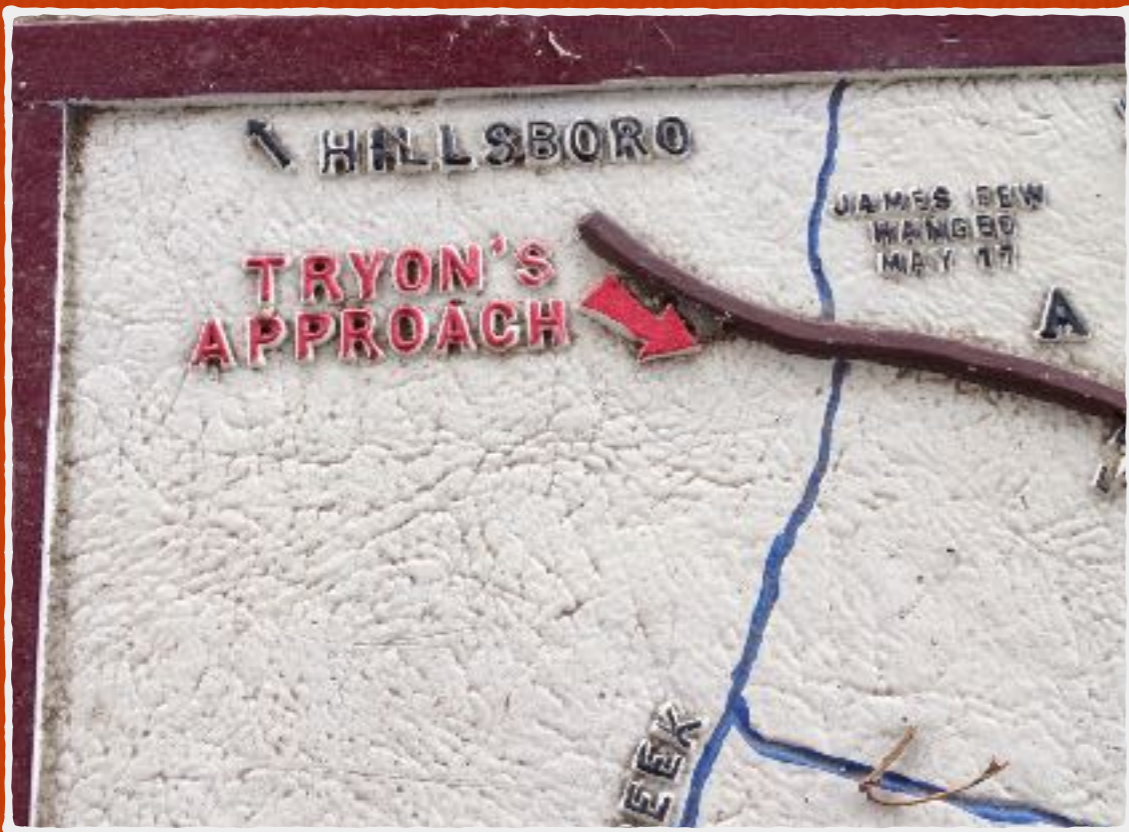




**Regulators Camped out
before battle**



Gov. Tryon's militia marched toward Alamance; met with the Regulators for battle (May 1771)



Battle of Alamance (May 1771)



- Gov. Tryon gave the Regulators an hour to reach an agreement and avoid battle:
- In answer to your petition, I am to acquaint you that I have been attentive to the true Interest of this Country, and to that of every Individual residing within it. I lament the fatal Necessity to to which you have now reduced me, by withdrawing yourselves from the Mercy of the Crown, and the Laws of your Country, to require you who are Assembled as Regulators, to lay down your Arms, Surrender up the outlawed Ringleaders, and Submit yourselves to the Laws of your Country, and then on the lenity and Mercy of Government. By accepting these Terms in one Hour from the delivery of this Dispatch you will prevent an effusion of Blood, as you are at this time in a State of War and Rebellion against your King, your Country, and your Laws.
- The Regulators said, “Fire and be (Darned)”



**Tryon's colonial militia
crushed an ill-prepared
Regulator army**



Blue-Regulators



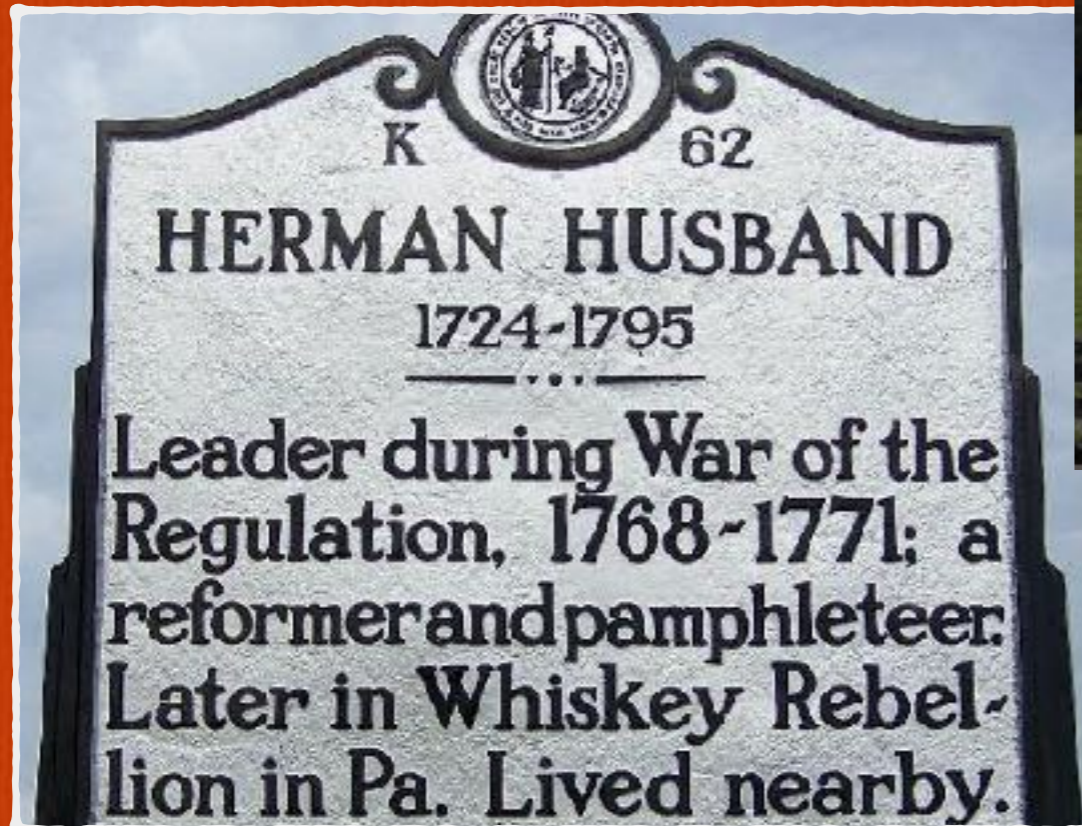
Red-Tryon's militia

Regulator Runaways



- Ill-equipped, Regulators ran away from the battlefield
- Dozens of Regulators swore their allegiance to Crown
- Gov. Tryon **ordered six leaders hanged** for their efforts in this movement

This battle helped inspire
the American Revolution in
the colonies



Plus, some Regulator ideas even
spilled
into the state's first constitution

Tryon's exit...



- Interestingly enough, months after Tryon Palace opened and the Battle of Alamance, Gov. Tryon left North Carolina to become New York's colonial governor

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- raleighpublicrecord.org
- therevealer.org
- gov.pe.ca
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