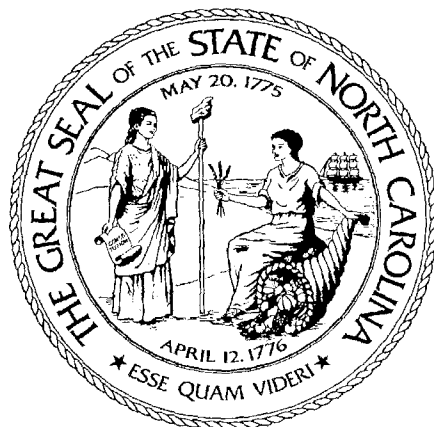


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TAPESTRIES IN HOUSE CHAMBER

COATS OF ARMS  
OF EIGHT LORDS PROPRIETORS



NORTH CAROLINA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**TAPESTRIES IN HOUSE CHAMBER**

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May 10, 2004

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## Preface

Upon entering the State Legislative Building from Lane Street, one first crosses over the terrazzo mosaic of the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina. For forty-one years the General Assembly of North Carolina has met in this building, striving to uphold what this seal symbolizes -- freedom and productiveness.

With much pride of accomplishment, the General Assembly convened for the first time in this facility on February 6, 1963. Prior to that, committee meetings and other functions were held in various State buildings spread throughout the Capital Area.

On May 10, 2004, the House of Representatives meets in the newly refurbished House Chamber to begin its 2004 Session of the General Assembly. The original color scheme throughout the building was white, gold, and red, with green foliage. The wood was walnut, the metal was brass or other gold-colored material, the carpets were red, and the upholstery was black. During the renovation process, the goal was to maintain the furnishings as closely as possible to those placed here in 1963.

With the advent of technology, changes over the years have increased productivity. Representatives now have their own microphones and their own buttons to cast votes. Other technologies in the Chamber include cabling for laptop computers and computerized electronic voting equipment.

The tapestries, the coats of arms of the eight Lords Proprietors, have been displayed behind the Speaker's podium in the House Chamber for thirty-six years. The State bird, the cardinal, and the State flower, the dogwood, were used in the border, making them distinctive to North Carolina. This type of single-eye needle fashion of hand embroidery is no longer done. Any tapestry of this nature today can only be found in museums. In order to preserve the tapestries for future generations, they have been enclosed in four glass-front cabinets, created especially for them.

## TAPESTRIES IN HOUSE CHAMBER

On Sunday, April 21, 1968, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, four exquisitely designed hand-embroidered tapestries were unveiled and presented to the people of the State by Tom White, Chairman of the Building Commission. They were accepted on behalf of the people and the General Assembly by House Speaker Earl Vaughn of Rockingham. Each panel depicts the coats of arms of two of the Lords Proprietors of the Carolina Colony, which was chartered by King Charles II in 1663. Robert F. Morgan of Shelby, vice-chairman, presided at the ceremony. The coat of arms motif was chosen because the Carolina Colony initiated by the charter was the first official government of North Carolina. After doing individual research of the Lords Proprietors among the records on file at the centuries old College of Arms in London, Sir Anthony Wagner, Principal Garter King of Arms, created the specific designs of each coat of arms.

They were done in the single-eye needle fashion of hand embroidery by Arthur H. Lee and Sons Tapestry Works at Birkenhead, England, the world's only shop that did this type of embroidery. It is of color-fast wool thread worked into grosgrain-weave wool tapestry cloth. It took six months and over one million stitches to complete them. Chairman White told the audience, "The display of the arms of these forceful men is an act singular to North Carolina and appropriate to no other State or government." In creating these designs using North Carolina's State flower, the dogwood and State bird, the cardinal, to border these panels, they became distinctive only to North Carolina.

Members of the State Legislative Building Commission were responsible for obtaining the panels. It is not known at this time if the tapestries were a gift or purchased. However, it is the general consensus of the remaining Members of the General Assembly of that time that they were purchased with State funds. (No record can be found of this so it cannot be stated as fact.) The members of the Commission charged with obtaining the panels were Thomas J. White of Kinston, Chairman; Robert F. Morgan of Shelby, Vice Chairman; Archie K. Davis of Winston-Salem; Edwin Gill of Raleigh, State Treasurer; and B. I. Satterfield of Timberlake.

On March 24, 1663, Charles II granted the Lords Proprietors, his favorites, a slice of North America running from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The exact location of this property is difficult to determine as maps were so crude at this time and there are discrepancies among the historians. The Charter of Carolina of 1663 states the following: "the territory or tract of ground, scituate, lying and being within our dominions of America, extending from the north end of the island called Lucke Island, which lieth in the southern Virginia seas, and within six and thirty degrees of the northern latitude, and to the west as far as the South Seas, and so southerly as far as the river St. Matthias, which bordereth upon the coast of Florida, and within one and thirty degrees of northern latitude, and so west in a direct line as far as the south seas aforesaid ... ". This huge segment of land was granted absolutely to the eight Proprietors, to be financed by them, and for them to profit by, and to rule, with the help of such a government as they wanted. Above them was only the King. Charles' charter named the following as the Lords Proprietors: George Monck, Duke of Albemarle; John Lord Berkeley of Stratton; Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon; Sir George Carteret, Baronet; Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftsbury; Sir John Colleton, Baronet; William, Earl of Craven; and Sir William Berkeley, Knight. John Locke, working closely with Lord Ashley wrote the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina.

Each panel is vertical in shape and each bears two coats of arms, bordered by a gold band with an overlay of intertwined dogwood, cardinals, and heraldic ribbons. The design of a coat of arms (often referred to as an achievement of arms) consists of several parts, which includes the following: the escutcheon, or shield; the helm, or helmet; the crest; the motto, the mantle or mantling; the supporters; and the torse, or wreath. The mantling is the scroll-work proceeding from the top of the helmet and flowing around the sides of the crest, helmet, and shield becoming a great ornament to the coat of arms. The crest, frequently an animal, is the highest ornament of a coat of arms and usually is displayed upon a wreath above the helmet. The wreath (sometimes called a torse) is made of two strands of twisted silk of two different colors and is used to anchor the mantling to the helmet. Each element in the coat of arms has a special meaning. Animals (heraldic charges), plants, symbols, and the design of the shield all tell something relating to the individual's life or personality. The supporters on either side of the shield can be men, beasts, birds or

mythical figures. Geometrical figures called ordinaries are used signifying various aspects of the person's life. Various crosses are important honorable ordinaries. Even the tinctures (colors) used in the coat of arms have special significance as does the insignia on the shield. Following is a list of the heraldic colors often used in a coat of arms and the name of that color as well as the meaning:

- Or (gold) – Generosity
- Argent (silver or white) – Sincerity, Peace
- Purpure (purple) – Justice, Sovereignty, Regal
- Gules (red) – Warrior, Martyr, Military strength
- Azure (blue) – Strength, Loyalty
- Vert (green) – Hope, Loyalty in love
- Sable (black) – Constancy, Grief
- Tenne or Tawny (orange) – Worthwhile ambition
- Sanguine or Murray (maroon) – Victorious, Patient in battle
- Ermine (silver or white field with black spots) generally used for the fur of animals
- Or and argent generally refer to metal, as in the shield or helmet

The shield was commonly used in warfare to distinguish one fighting side from another as well as to protect the body from a deadly thrust of the long spear. The coat of arms, with the shield, was worn in the form of a badge for distinguished deeds such as bravery, heroism, or merit. These badges of distinction were the reward for personal merit and anyone could have one. Their only use or value today is that they are kept as cherished souvenirs of bravery, heroism, and meritorious deeds of one's ancestors.

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Arthur H. Lee and Sons Tapestry Works in Birkenhead, England, acquired Johnson and Faulkner (later shortened to JOFA) in New York in 1963. Johnson and Faulkner had been in business in the United States for over a hundred years. When the companies merged, the company in England remained open for several years continuing to do the hand embroidery. At the time these tapestries were made, Derek A. Lee, a grandson of Arthur, was chairman of the company. It became famous for a series of superlative and highly specialized products, whose like can only be seen today in museums and historic documents. Eventually, he retired and his son left the company and the family tenure in the textile industry ended. Birkenhead, with its concentration on costly hand-labor, was no longer viable in an increasingly large and sophisticated marketplace. Lee Jofa realized this and closed the plant in 1970. Lee Jofa continued the same standards of quality, design and workmanship, but single-eye needle embroidery was not continued. Christopher Adlington, Vice-President Design and Product Development of Lee Jofa (now Kravet) in the New York studio estimates that each panel would have cost approximately \$1,000 at that time.

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## George Monck, Duke of Albemarle



If one is facing the tapestries from the Chamber, the first one on the left at the top is the coat of arms of George Monck, Duke of Albemarle. He had served with distinction in the Parliamentary army under the Commonwealth with Cromwell. Cromwell made him commander-in-chief in Scotland, which he soon conquered. As general of the British fleet, he practically annihilated the Dutch fleets, proving his ability in sea fighting as well as land fighting. At Cromwell's death, he supported Charles and was instrumental in restoring the Parliament. Eventually, the Council of State made him commander-in-chief of all the forces in England and Scotland. He was thanked by both Houses by being given the titles of Order of the Garter, Master of the Horse, and later the Duke of Albemarle. At his death in 1670, his son, 2nd Duke of Albemarle, became the shareholder of the property of Carolina.



Monck's coat of arms consists of the escutcheon with a red background featuring an argent chevron design (roof-shaped - meaning protection, faithful person) charged with three argent lion heads erased (torn from the body; jagged edges shown). The use of the lion head is used to symbolize a great warrior or chief. Just above the shield, is a Duke's crown, which is composed of a circle of gold, having on the rim three gold strawberry leaves and pearls. A Duke's helmet stands affronté, made of steel, guarded with five gold bars, as depicted here in Monck's coat of arms. It also features the ermine (white field with black spots) chapeau or cap above the helmet (where most coats of arms have a wreath) supporting the crest. The crest is a pale sable cat-a-mountain (wild cat drawn standing guardant) between two branches of green olive. The heraldic supporters are an argent dragon (an imaginary monster with scaled body, wings, claws, a long barbed tongue and tail) on the right side of the shield; (said to be dexter; to the observer it is on the left) and an argent lion salient (both feet on ground) on the left side (said to be sinister; to the observer it is on the right), both supporting a green olive branch. They are facing each other in combatant mode. A blue (azure) scroll surrounds the shield with a motto (partially hidden by the shield) of "*Honi soit qui mal y Pense*" (shamed be he who thinks evil of it). This is the motto of the Order of the Garter, which is the most honorable order of knighthood in Europe. The tinctures in the mantling around the top of the helm and crest are gold (generosity), silver (sincerity, peace), and red (warrior, martyr, military strength). This sums up the personality of Monck, Duke of Albemarle.

## John Lord Berkeley of Stratton



At the bottom of the first panel is the coat of arms of John Lord Berkeley of Stratton. During his early life he held high positions in Sweden, Berwick, and Wiltshire. However, at one point he was expelled from the House of Commons for taking part in the conspiracy to corrupt the army in the interests of the King. The Earl of Dorset and the Earl of Stamford bailed him out and with the rank of commissary-general, he won great distinction when the royalists forces defeated the Earl of Stamford. He played a conspicuous part in the civil wars, supporting the royal cause, thus becoming the commander-in-chief of all royalist forces in Devonshire. However, eventually he suffered defeat while trying to halt a westward advance of the enemy. He tried to use his influence to mediate between Cromwell and the King. Being unsuccessful, he participated in the exile of the royal family. When the King was taken into custody, Berkeley went to London to plead for his safety. After again being unable to help the King, and being out of favor with Parliament, he fled to Paris. At the restoration of Charles II, he returned to England. Being a skillful politician, he continued to hold other distinguished offices, but was often accused of corrupt practices. Some historians referred to him as "a hot, fiery man in discourse, without any cause". As president of the Council for Foreign Plantations, he made many decisions affecting British possessions in America. He was granted an interest in New Jersey as well as Carolina. At the time of his death in 1678, his stock in Carolina was in arrears, and as provided by the Fundamental Constitutions, the other proprietors sold his share.



Berkeley's coat of arms is similar to Monck's in that the shield of both depicts the chevron design on a gules background. Six crosses pattée of argent tincture are above the chevron and four below. (Crosses usually stand for representation of the Christian Church). The chevron has seven black geometrical figures, known as ordinaries. (This design will be repeated in Sir William Berkeley's coat of arms, as it is the well-known coat of the Berkeley family.) The coronet is the gold band above the shield topped with large pearls. The helmet is steel garnished with silver with gold bars; it is topped with a red and silver wreath. The mantling encircling the crest repeats these colors. A red unicorn, a fabled animal pictured as a graceful creature with a horse's head, a goat's beard, an antelope's legs and a lion's tail, with a spiral horn rising in the center of his forehead, forms the crest. (Perhaps the meaning of each of these animals, explains why the unicorn is featured here trying to symbolize Berkeley's personality.) Two savages with clubs over their shoulders, wreathed about the temples and loins with ivy, stand on either side of the shield as its supporters.

## Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon



The top of the second panel features the coat of arms of Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon. Originally, Hyde was a supporter of parliamentary rights against Charles I. But when the Parliament Party attacked the established Church of England, Hyde joined Charles I and became one of his most distinguished and wise councilors. Under Charles II he became Lord High Chancellor and chief minister. Eventually he fell out of favor with Charles, who dismissed him from office, using him as a scapegoat for military failures and financial breakdown in the Dutch War. Being charged with high treason, though never convicted, impeachment proceedings started and he fled England to live the remainder of his life in exile in Calais. The Lords accepted this as an admission of guilt, thus making a pardon impossible and he was never able to return to England. He died in 1674 and his proprietary share was given to his son, 2nd Earl of Clarendon. His daughter, Anne Hyde, married the future King of England, James II. He eventually became the grandfather of two queens, Mary II and Anne.



Hyde's coat of arms also uses the gold chevron in the azure shield; however, this one has three gold lozenges (a diamond-shaped figure with four equal sides). An eagle, wings endorsed, of sable tincture, is depicted on each side of the shield positioned to face each other (said to be in combatant mode), each wearing a ducal crown on its head and an argent cross charged on its breast. An Earl's helmet (silver - garnished with gold bars represented in profile) is featured in this achievement of arms. The wreath is gold and sable matching the tinctures in the eagles. A sable eagle (person of action, noble nature, powerful, strong) with wings expanded, forms the crest. Depicted here is an Earl's coronet with five pearls showing (actually there are eight) set on lofty spikes, alternating with strawberry leaves. (Some references call these pearls silver balls.) Tinctures featured here are the sable eagles and the red, gold, and silver in the mantling of the fleur-de-lis design encircling the crest and showing around the shield and supporters.



## Sir George Carteret, Baronet



The bottom of the second panel features the coat of arms of Sir George Carteret, Baronet. Being born on the channel island of Jersey and his father being Deputy Governor there, Sir George joined the Navy at a very early age and was held in high esteem as a naval officer. He was highly respected by all parties and was appointed Comptroller of the Navy. Edward Hyde referred to him as "the best seaman of England". While serving as Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, he conducted a vigorous privateering war against ships supplying the forces of Parliament. Jersey became the refuge of royalist fugitives in 1646. Prince Charles rewarded him by creating him knight and baronet and praised him for his genuine unselfishness. Carteret had taken an early interest in the colonization of America and in 1650 sailed for Virginia with many passengers, a variety of goods and tools for farming in order to plant an island. Because of the civil war, the project was never fully carried out. But, in 1665 he and John Lord Berkeley were assigned the land between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers, to be called New Jersey after his home island. He had many other titles bestowed upon him, but was most active as Treasurer of the Navy. Being accused of embezzlement in 1669, he was expelled from the House of Commons. At his death in 1680, his proprietary share was succeeded to his son, George, who also became a baronet.



Carteret's red, gold, silver, and tawny coat of arms has four silver lozenges on the shield denoting the allocation of the organization of New Jersey. These tinctures symbolize honesty, constancy, and noble birth. A sinister hand stands erect on the right of the shield, said to be a flag design, signifying the mark of a Baronet. His helmet is of steel, garnished with silver, placed affronté and furnished with a visor, which is raised, showing a crimson lining within. The wreath is of silver and crimson, matching the shield and mantling. A tawny squirrel, (symbolizing worthwhile ambition), cracking a chestnut forms the crest. Beautiful crimson and silver mantling with gold tassels embodies the design.

## Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftsbury



On the other side of the dais of the Chamber are two more panels of coats of arms. The top of the first is that of Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftsbury, known as the most versatile and brilliant of the Lords Proprietors. He is probably most remembered for being the author of the *Habeas Corpus* Act, whereby an accused man cannot be held in prison indefinitely without a trial. He was a pronounced liberal and very much opposed to religious intolerance and persecution. For this reason, he was constantly switching his allegiance from Cromwell and Parliament to the King and back again. After the grant of Carolina in 1663, he played a leading role in the management of the Carolina colony and it was his friend, John Locke, who drew up the laws for the new providence, known as the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina. These laws produced the greatest measure of political and religious freedom in British North America (in fact, much of the world). When Protestantism faced extinction in England under James II, Shaftsbury opposed the growing religious absolutism he saw happening. He fell out of favor with Charles and was exiled to Holland and died there in 1683. He had been married three times and had a son by the second marriage. This son, second Earl of Shaftsbury, succeeded to his father's share in the proprietorship of Carolina.



Cooper's coat of arms consists of an escutcheon divided into quarters. The upper left and bottom right (to the observer) feature three black bulls statant (standing position) in observant mode. The upper right and bottom left (to the observer) has a partition of a gold bend featuring the invecked line. On each side of the bend, both top and bottom, are three lions passant (walking position), making a total of twelve. A bull stands dexter (observer's left) beside the shield in combatant mode and an azure talbot sinister (observer's right). A talbot is a heraldic dog composed of a mastiff's body, a hound's head, and a bloodhound's long drooping ears and in heraldry symbolizes courage, fidelity, and loyalty. Both are unguled (hoof different tincture than body) and adorned with a ducal coronet around the neck and in a self-defense pose, in defiance against anything hurtful, undesirable and unwanted. Bulls represent courage, an assumed inheritance of the Coopers and their offspring. This coat of arms also features the coronet of an Earl - pearls set on spikes alternating with the strawberry leaves. This achievement of arms uses the crimson caplet trimmed in ermine above the helm instead of a wreath and features another sable bull, ducally gorged and unguled, forming the crest. An attractive and sprawling scroll in black and silver tinctures surrounds all of this.

## Sir John Colleton, Baronet

The bottom half of the tapestry features the coat of arms of Sir John Colleton, Baronet. He was a member of the King's army during the Civil Wars, spending £40,000 of his own money. Being described as a man of "considerable wealth and influence", he went to the island of Barbados, where he held a high post in the government of the island. About the time of the restoration of Charles II, he returned to England and never went back to Barbados. Being an early promoter of the Carolina grant, he played a large part in the development of the Province. He was granted "Carlyle Island", today known as Collington Island, in Kitty Hawk Bay back of the Wright Memorial. He married in 1634 and had five children. His share in Carolina and his title was passed to his eldest son, Peter. He died in 1666 and was the first proprietor to die.



The shield in Colleton's coat of arms has a gold background with three tawny stag heads depicted on it. (Stag means skillful, politic, lover of harmony.) Each stag has twelve points on its antlers – said to be a twelve-point-buck. There is a fourth stag head above the helmet forming the crest, surrounded by two red and silver fleurs-de-lis with gold tassels. The helmet is that of a baronet, made of steel and garnished with silver, and placed affronté with the visor raised. This coat of arms does not depict the Baronet's coronet, instead it features a red and silver wreath and beautiful silver mantling on either side between the red and silver fleurs-de-lis.

## William, Earl of Craven



On the top of the fourth panel is the coat of arms of William, Earl of Craven. At the early age of sixteen, he entered military service and quickly distinguished himself as a military officer. Having been made a commander of English forces in Germany, he helped restore the King and Queen of Bohemia. He apparently fell under the spell of Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, and she became his main purpose in life. At one point he was wounded and taken prisoner in Germany and offered himself up for ransom. He continued an intimate relationship with Elizabeth, giving huge sums of money to her cause. He took no part in the civil war but because he supported Charles with vast amounts of money, Parliament confiscated many of his estates, but he was able to keep his beautiful home in Coventry, Combe Abbey. Even after this, he continued loyal to Elizabeth and since Charles II did not provide for her, he offered her his London house. She came to England and remained his guest until her death in 1661. Rumors were numerous that they were secretly married; however, there is no proof. As far as is known, he died a bachelor in 1697, the longest living proprietor. His proprietary share of the Carolinas was passed to his grandnephew, William, Lord Craven. North Carolina's Craven County was named to Honor Lord Proprietor Craven.



Craven's coat of arms features a red fess design on the shield signifying the military belt and represents honor. It is of argent color and is charged with six red cross-crosslets fitchée, three above and three below the fess. Two ermine (black spots on white fur) griffins, in combat mode with wings elevated, face each other on either side of the shield. Griffins are mythical monsters with the forepart of an eagle and hindquarters of a lion and are used as symbols for valiant soldiers who fight til death when necessary. As in all coats of arms of an Earl, the coronet of pearls on spikes and strawberry leaves is featured. It also has the Earl's helmet - steel garnished with silver with the gold bars on the front. The chapeau formed of crimson velvet and trimmed in ermine, is again used rather than the wreath. Mounted on the chapeau is a third beaked ermine griffin, standing observant, wings erect (termed sergeant; about to fly). Colors in the mantling here are silver, red, and gold - all denoting a powerful, generous, and honorable person.

## Sir William Berkeley, Knight



The bottom of the last panel is that of Sir William Berkeley, Knight, perhaps the most "quick-tempered and self-willed Proprietor". Having been well educated at Oxford, he early on became a gentleman in the privy chamber to Charles I. About the same time, he gained recognition for being a playwright, publishing a couple of plays. In 1641, he became Governor of Virginia, which he basically held for thirty-five years. During that time, he encouraged a diversification of crops by growing flax, cotton, and rice. He was particularly interested in producing silk and one year sent 300 pounds as a gift to the King. He set up his own looms to weave material for his own family and slaves. At the beginning of the civil war in England, Berkeley was violently opposed to Parliament and exerted his influence on the Cavaliers to get them to come to Virginia. The persecuted clergy of England used his colony as asylum. Because he expressed so much fury over the execution of Charles I, Parliament forced him to resign his governorship. When Charles II was restored to power, he went to England for a brief period of time, but returned as Governor. Although he had previously been a good Governor, he was quite different upon his return. He could be brutal in putting down any opposition to his orders. His iron rule in Virginia produced the insurrection known as Bacon's Rebellion, which he suppressed without mercy and hanged many of the rebels. Upon being informed of his brutality, King Charles removed him from governorship and recalled him to England. Virginia celebrated with bonfires and merry making. He tried desperately to get an interview with the King, but was never successful. His contemporaries said he died of chagrin in 1677. He bequeathed his share in Carolina to Lady Berkeley.



Sir William's coat of arms features the red shield with the ermine chevron design (protection, faithful service). Six argent Crosses Paté are above the Chevron and four below. Inside the chevron are five black ordinaries of a geometrical design. The helmet is that of a knight – steel garnished with silver positioned affronté with the raised visor, exhibiting the crimson lining inside. As in John Lord Berkeley's coat of arms, the red unicorn, standing guardant, is used as the crest, standing above the red and silver wreath. Crimson, silver, and gold mantling embodies the design continuing the tinctures in the shield, helm, and crest.

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