



Quick Facts on Edenton's Founding

- An act of the North Carolina Assembly adopted in 1712 called for the surveying of what is now Edenton
- Charles Eden was appointed Governor of North Carolina on July 13, 1713, and arrived later to create the first seat of North Carolina government at Edenton where the legislature began to meet in 1722
- Building lots were sold and construction was begun on private and public facilities as early as 1714
- Edenton prospered to such an extent that the plotted lots had to be doubled in size by 1722
- Continuing growth led to the 1767 construction of the Chowan County Courthouse, situated where first platted in 1712, and which now stands as the oldest continuously used courthouse in the nation and is recognized as a National Historic Landmark
- The "Edenton Tea Party" of October 25, 1774 became one of the first instances of colonial American women acting in an overt political manner
- Edentonian Joseph Hewes signed the Declaration of Independence
- Citizens of Edenton selected Hugh Williamson to attend the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia where he signed the proposed U S Constitution
- Samuel Johnston, also of Edenton and a governor of North Carolina presided over both State conventions called to ratify the United States Constitution
- James Iredell, a lawyer from Edenton, served on the first United States Supreme Court
- Edenton was the home of the Badham family of African-American architects, builders, and carpenters
- Edenton was home to Harriet Jacobs, whose memoirs *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself*, self published in 1861, received acclaim and helped call attention to the plight of the enslaved
- During the Civil War, Edentonians created their own defensive unit by melting their church and courthouse bells to make the cannons for Edenton Bell Battery, which saw service in the war
- Edenton's long history as a colonial port and its more modern protection of the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse contribute to the history of the Albemarle Sound and waterways of North Carolina

