

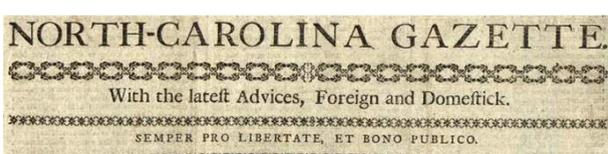
When Are We US?

Visions of Freedom Basic Rights



AS AMERICAN COLONISTS

prepared to fight for independence, they defined freedom as a “natural,” or basic, right. North Carolinians later pushed for a Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution, with the First Amendment guaranteeing individual freedoms to practice religion, express opinions, and assemble peacefully. Some groups have experienced limitations on the freedom that founding documents promise, even as most Americans continue to uphold and strive toward these ideals.



Resolved, That it is the Natural Right of Mankind to enjoy and possess the Property acquired by their Labour and Industry.

Resolution of Chowan County inhabitants
North-Carolina Gazette
September 2, 1774

Declaration of Rights.

That the great, general and essential principles of liberty and free government, may be recognized and established, and that the relations of this State to the Union and government of the United States, and those of the people of this State to the rest of the American people, may be defined and affirmed, we do declare;



Campaign to Free Kwame Cannon

Some said, 'Equality,' some said, 'Liberation,' some said, 'Freedom.' But hell, a man is just like any other man and he's expressing the same sort of [idea as] Voltaire, Rousseau and anybody else... 'GET YOUR FOOT OFF OF MY BACK.'

Floyd McKissick, 1973
Congress of Racial Equality leader and Soul City Founder
Among the first African American students to integrate UNC's law school in 1951



When you look at migrants, you'll see almost every guarantee of the Constitution denied them... They don't have free speech, free movement, free assembly, equal protection of the law, due process and they don't go to court because they can't afford a lawyer... things that we take for granted... if you're ignorant and poor, you don't have civil rights.

Reverend W.W. Finlator, 1985
Leader of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church and Civil Rights Activist

"They say... 'America is a free country.' But I don't think it is free... [when] you are foreign people. Everywhere you go, they treat you bad... People don't talk with you. People turn their face [away]. And then, [the] law give you [a] hard time... Police give my husband [a] hard time."

Chandrika Dalal, 1999
Indian immigrant, Pittsboro

Source Notes

- Civil Rights march on Fayetteville Street, 1963, News & Observer collection, folder 42, 4.15.1963, State Archives
- North-Carolina Gazette, Sept. 2, 1775, p. 2, National Archives, London.
- North Carolina Constitution, 1868, State Archives
- Campaign to free Kwame Cannon, 1999 a project of the Greensboro Citywide Poor People's Association, Marnie Thompson papers, UNC Greensboro special collections and Gateway Digital collections.
- Floyd McKissick, Southern Oral History Program interview, 1973
- Migratory worker at Belcross, North Carolina, grading station, 1940, Farm Security Administration photo, Library of Congress
- W.W. Finlator, Southern Oral History Program interview, 1985, UNC
- Chandrika Dalal, Southern Oral History Program interview, 1999, UNC