

Government Structure

Royal Colony

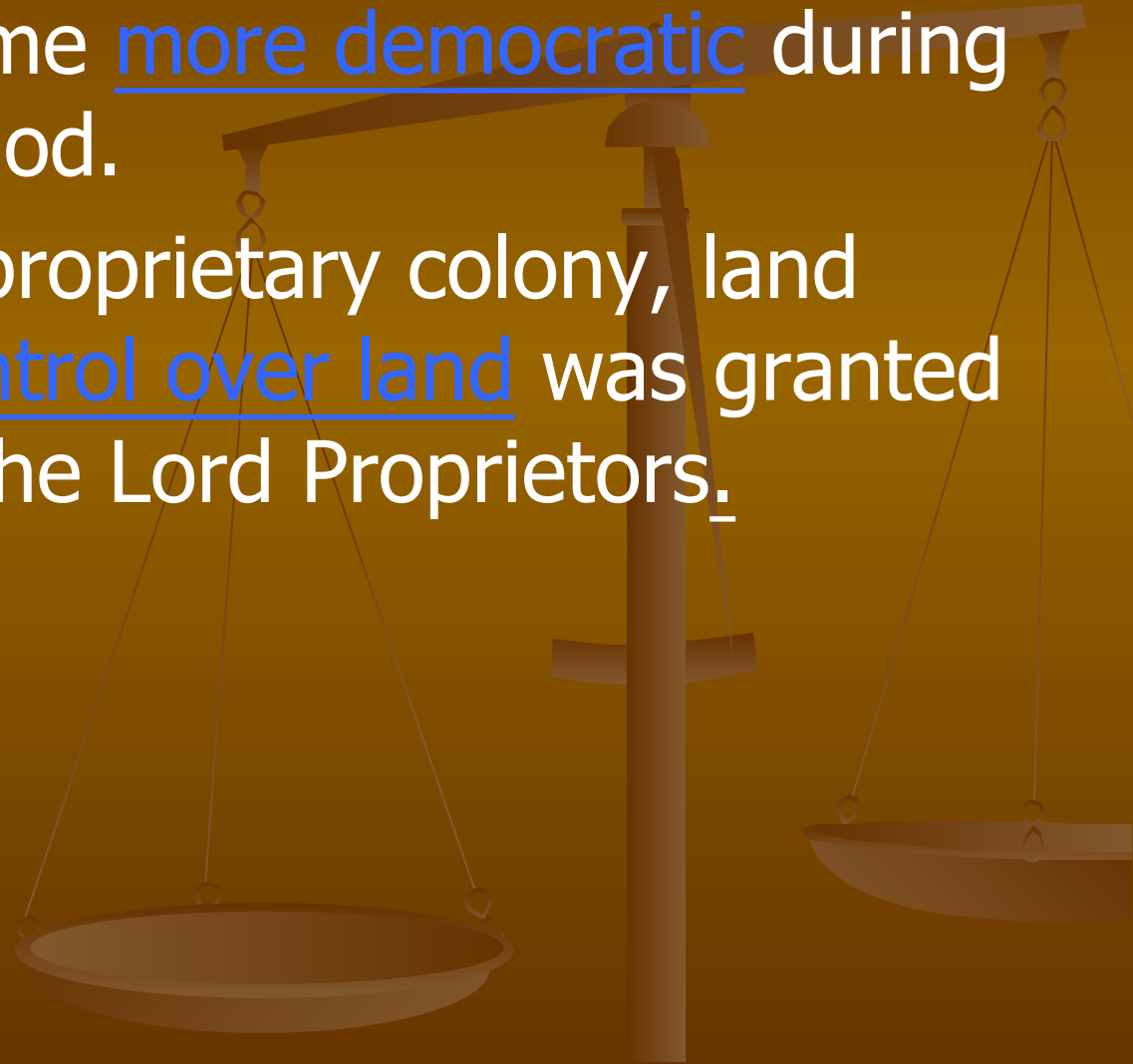
“The Regulators”

8-1.6



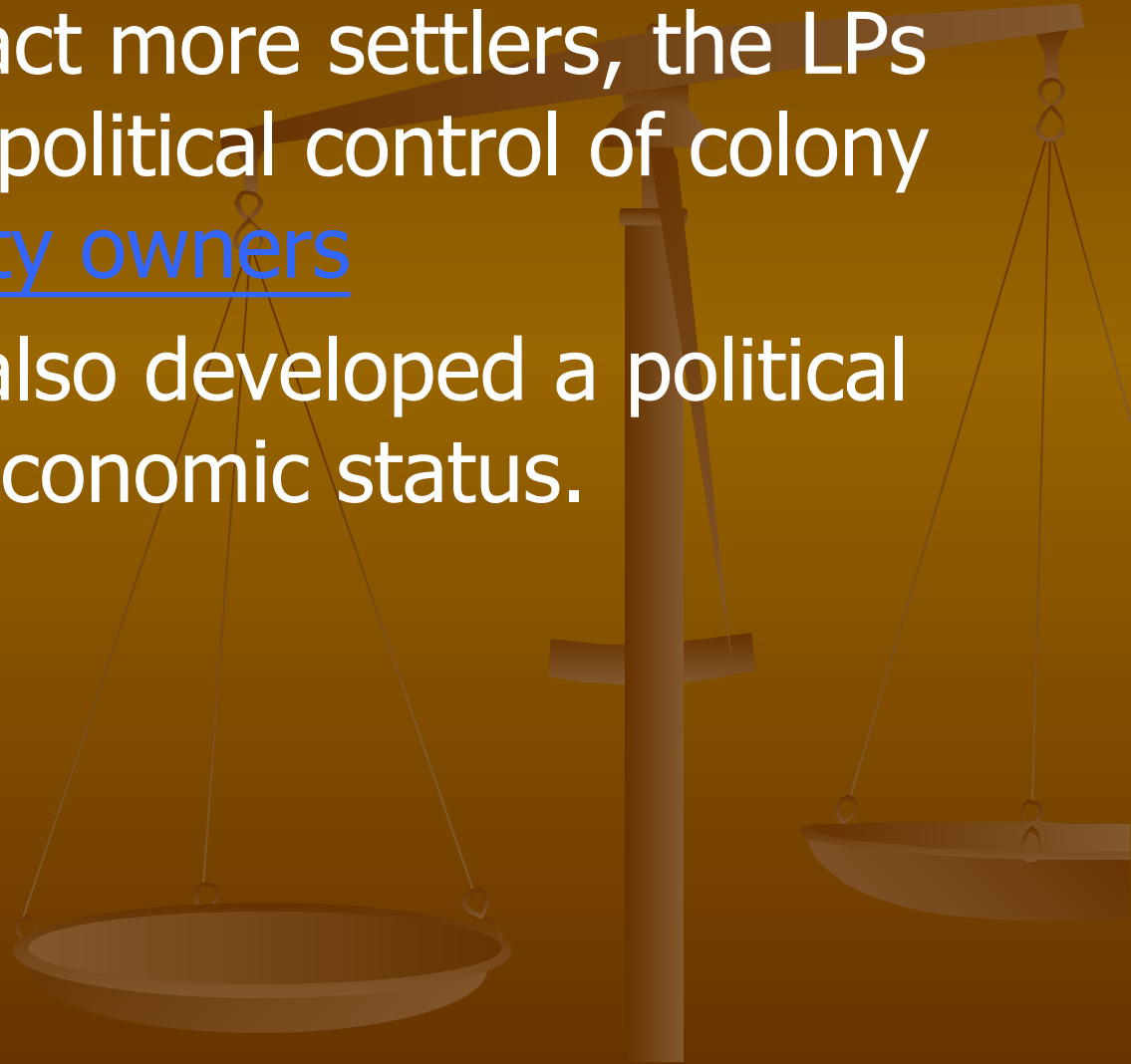
Government

- SC's gov't became more democratic during the colonial period.
- SC began as a proprietary colony, land and political control over land was granted by the King to the Lord Proprietors.

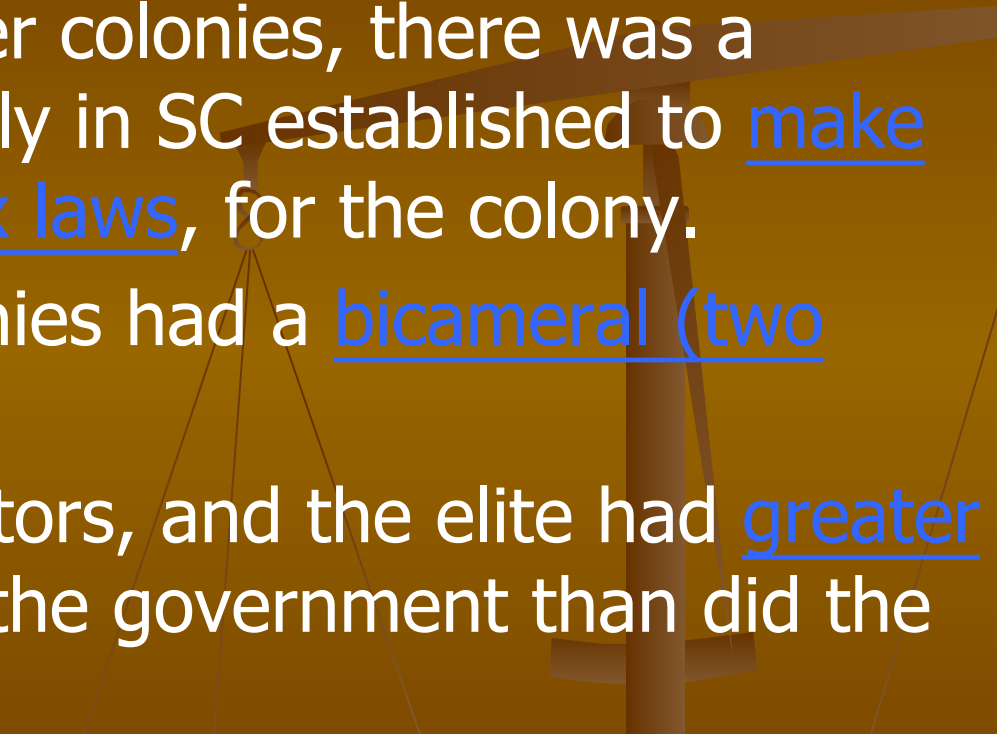


Government

- In order to attract more settlers, the LPs began to share political control of colony with the property owners
- Other colonies also developed a political elite based on economic status.



The Assembly

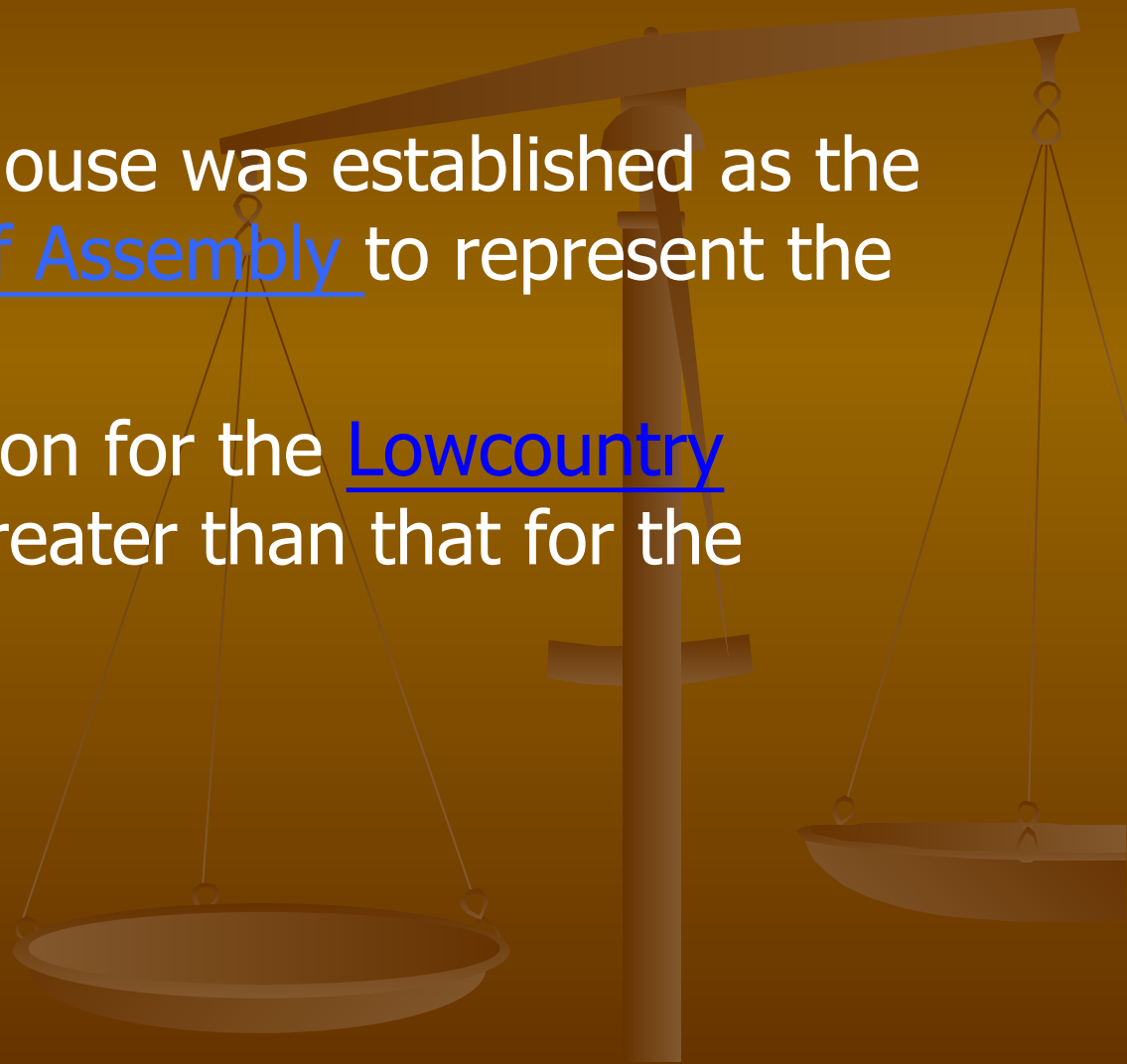
- Just as in the other colonies, there was a legislative assembly in SC established to make laws, including tax laws, for the colony.
 - Most English colonies had a bicameral (two house) assembly.
 - In SC, the Proprietors, and the elite had greater representation in the government than did the common people.
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The Grand Council

- The Grand Council decided that a majority of each group in the colonies- the representatives for the Proprietors, the colonial elite and the common people should have "equal" voice in the government even though this representation would not be proportional to their numbers in the population.
- Later a separate house was established as the Common House of Assembly to represent the people.

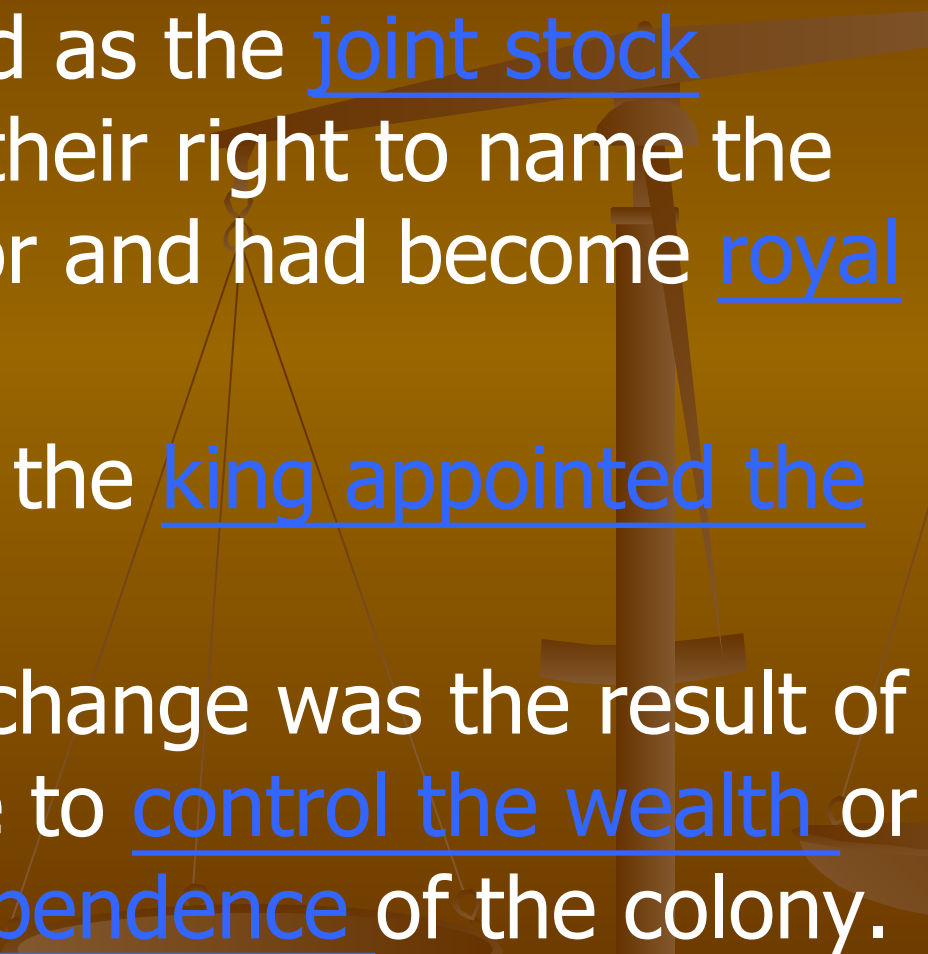
The Grand Council

- In SC representation for the Lowcountry continued to be greater than that for the backcountry.
- Later a separate house was established as the Common House of Assembly to represent the people.
- In SC representation for the Lowcountry continued to be greater than that for the backcountry.





Governor

- By the end of the 1600s, most English colonies founded as the joint stock companies lost their right to name the colonial governor and had become royal colonies.
 - This meant that the king appointed the governor.
 - Most often this change was the result of the king's desire to control the wealth or to limit the independence of the colony.
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Royal Colony

- SC became a royal colony at the invitation of the colonists.

Why do you think?

Tension between LPs and colonists grew



Royal Colony

Colonists

- Colonists felt neglected by their absentee landlord (LPs).
- LPs collected rent but provided little protection.
- LPs never even came to Carolina



Lords Proprietors

- The colonists were being "disobedient"
- The LPs set up the colony and invested their own \$
- They gave away free land
- The LPs were making little profit



Royal Colony

- The Council protested to the King about the neglect of the Lord Proprietors AND
- Appealed to the King to make SC a Royal Colony.



Royal Colony

- The King reached a financial agreement with the LPs by paying them for Carolina.
- So Carolina became a Royal Colony.

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Royal Colony

- Later the colony split into North and South Carolina



Royal Colony

- SC continued to have self-government through their representative assembly.





- But now had a Royal Governor who appointed by the **king** rather than the LPs.
- Royal Governor had limited power.
- Why?
- -Colonial Assemblies controlled the taxes that paid the Royal Governor's salary.
- Most often the King and Parliament left colonies alone to control their own local government

Royal Colony Economic Benefits

- SC enjoyed some economic advantages of becoming a royal colony.
- The English government increased subsidies for naval stores and allowed merchants to sell rice directly to foreign countries.
- The English government through the royal governor established townships in the backcountry to encourage migration.

Royal Colony Economic Benefits

- Settlers move there to establish subsistence farms.
- This intensified the animosity between the Lowcountry and the backcountry.
- The first white settlers to move to the backcountry were traders and woodsmen, so they were viewed by the Lowcountry elite as “uncivilized.”
- As the first area settled in the state, the Lowcountry along the Atlantic coast surrounding the city of Charleston, was the home of plantation owners who grew rich from the export of rice and indigo.

Settler Tension

- Later, as more coastal settlers moved inland.
- Many Scotch Irish & Germans immigrants traveled down back country valleys from Pennsylvania to settle.
- **Result?**
- Back Country's white population grew to outnumbered that of the Low Country.
- BUT, the Back Country still had less representation in the Assembly.

The Regulators

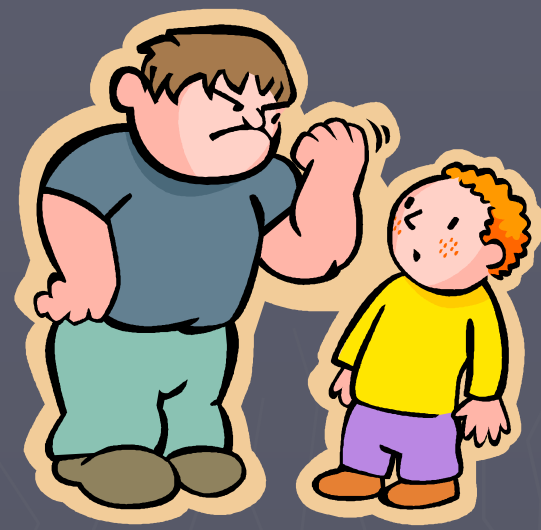
- ▶ Although the Back Country people paid taxes, they got little in return from their colonial government



The Regulators

- ▶ There was no law enforcement so settlers took the “regulation of society” into the backcountry into their own hands called the Regulator Movement.

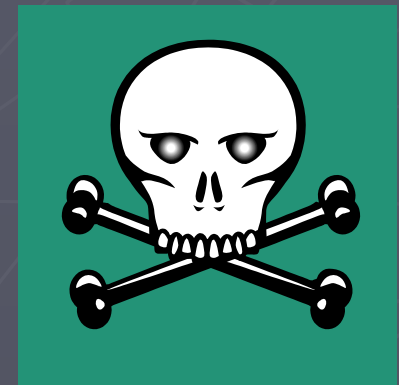
The Regulators



- ▶ Because there was no courts, the Regulators operated as Vigilantes.
- ▶ This movement to provide law & order through "self-regulation" turned lawless.
- ▶ This gang abused their power and stole from their own people.
- ▶ The guilty were hanged OR beaten to death

The Regulators

- ▶ The guilty were hanged OR beaten to death without a jury trial, violating their rights as Englishmen.



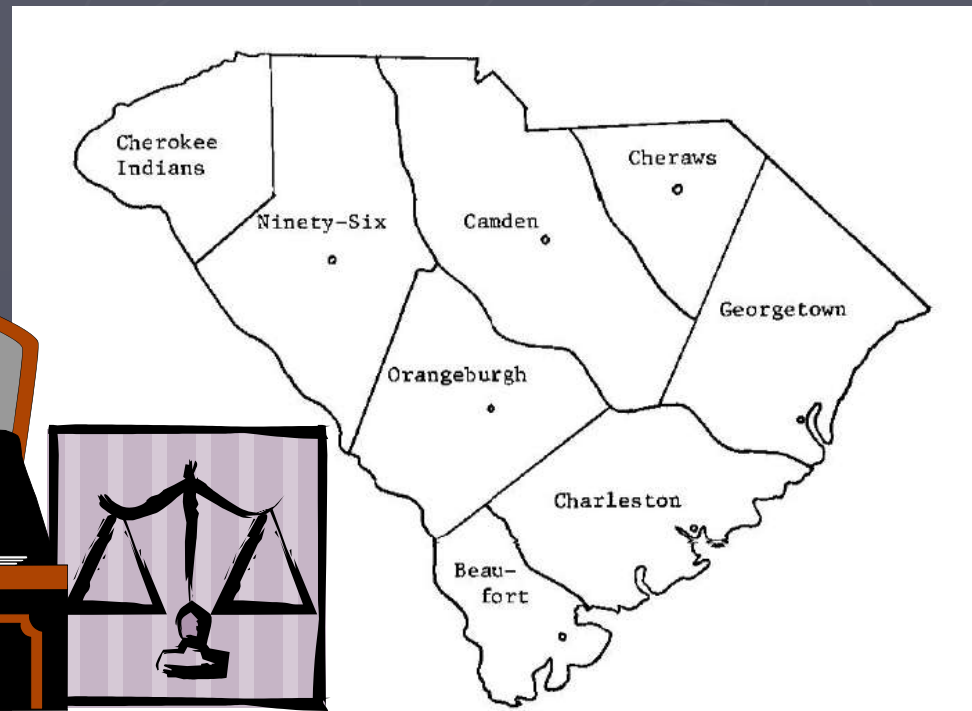


Vigilante Ways

Olaf C. Seltzer (1877-1957)

The Regulators

- ▶ Eventually the government of South Carolina came and helped the Back Country settlers by setting up 7 circuit courthouses to provide justice, Law, and Order in the region.



The Regulators



- ▶ However, representation in the General Assembly was still disproportional
- ▶ Result: Tension continued between the Lowcountry and backcountry continued.

