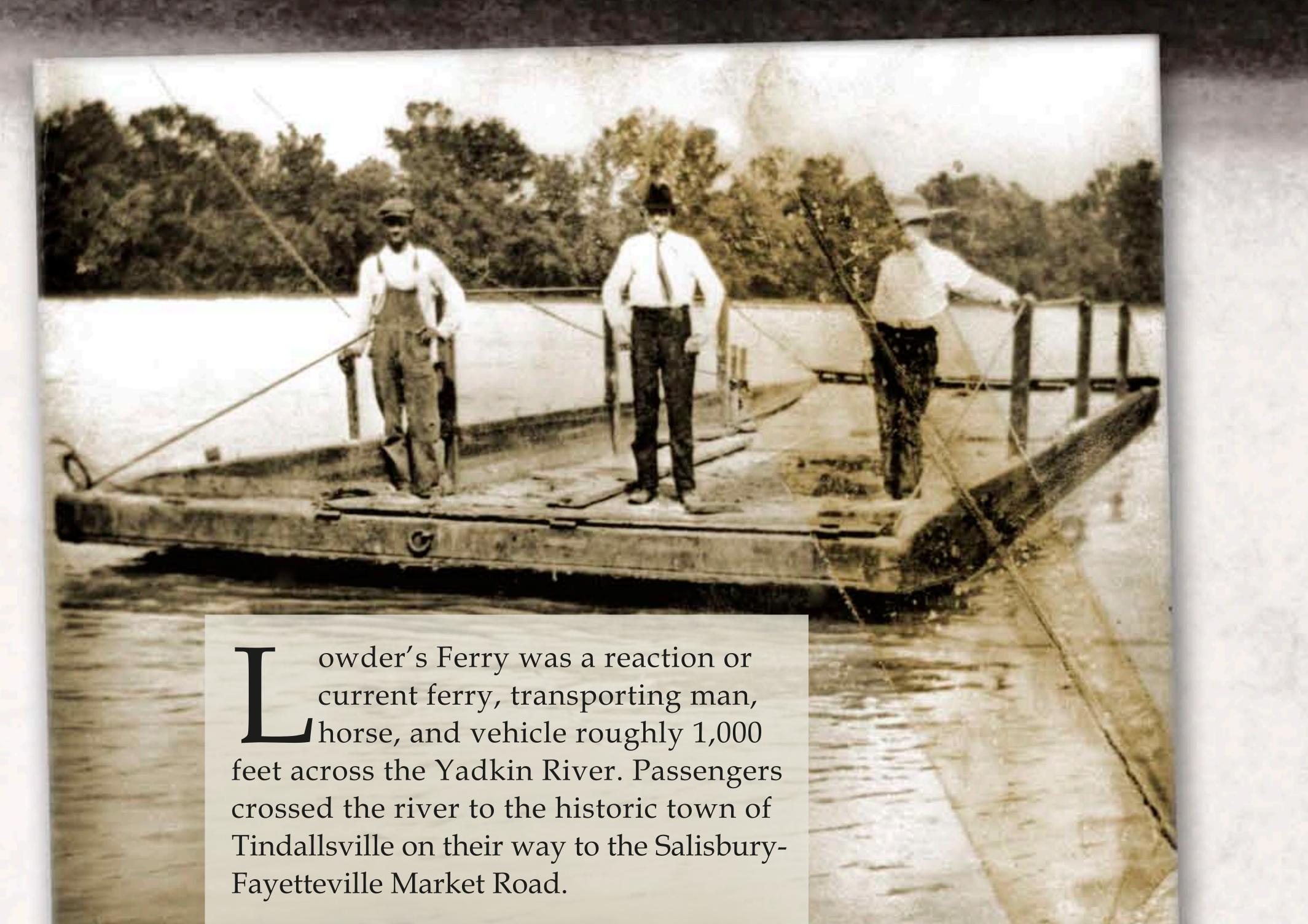
## Europeans Settle Here

Many of the first colonists to the area were Scottish and Irish immigrants who began settling here in the 1760's. Like the Native Americans before them, early colonists enjoyed the abundant resources of the Yadkin and Pee Dee Rivers.





The Salisbury-Fayetteville Market Road, a major trade route, cut through the park and was important for the transport of products to Fayetteville and beyond. The town of Tindallsville (or Tinsdale) was established along the river in what is now park property and served as the Montgomery County seat for a short time. With the local discovery of gold, settlers had high hopes this would become a booming river town.

In the early 1800's, plans to improve navigation of the Pee Dee River failed; a typhoid epidemic broke out; and a major tornado hit the area. Hopes were dashed and the town of Tindallsville was largely wiped out and abandoned.

