

# 1.3 The Regulators organize

Regulators Advertisement No. 4, January 1768, from the *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina*, Volume 7, pp. 671–672.

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We the under written subscribers do voluntarily agree to form ourselves into an Association to assemble ourselves for conferences for [regulating](#) publick [Grievances](#) & abuses of Power in the following particulars with others of like nature that may occur

1. [That we will pay no Taxes until we are satisfied they are agreeable to Law and Applied to the purposes therein mentioned](#) unless we cannot help and are forced.
2. That we will pay no Officer any more fees than the Law allows [unless we are obliged to it and then to shew a dislike to it & bear open testimony against it.](#)
3. That we will attend our Meetings of Conference as often as we conveniently can or is necessary [in order to consult our representatives on the amendment of such Laws as may be found grievous or unnecessary](#) and to choose more suitable men than we have heretofore done for [Burgesses](#) and [Vestry men](#) and to Petition His Excellency our Governor the [Honble](#) the Council and the Worshipful House of representatives His Majesty in Parliament &c. for [redress](#) of such Grievances as in the course of this undertaking may occur and to inform one another & [to learn, know and enjoy all the Priviledges & Liberties that are allowed us and were settled on us by our worthy Ancestors the founders of the present Constitution in order to preserve it in its ancient Foundation that it may stand firm & unshaken.](#)
4. That we will contribute to Collections for [defraying necessary expences](#) attending the work according to our abilities.
5. That in Cases of differences in Judgment we will submit to the Majority of our Body.

To all which We do solemnly swear [or being a Quaker or otherwise scrupulous in Conscience of the common Oath do solemnly affirm](#) that We will stand true and faithful to this cause until We bring them to a true regulation according to the true intent & meaning of it in the judgment of the Majority.

- **Next:** ["Some grievous oppressions"](#)

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**As you read**

## Civil disobedience

This document, dated January 1768, is a “subscription” to a political organization — a list of men signing on to membership in the organization. It is one of the earliest documents that survives from the “Regulation.” The subscribers agreed to resist paying taxes and fees they considered unlawful and to petition their representatives to change laws they considered unfair.

Backcountry residents in various counties formed associations and wrote petitions in 1768. Compare this document with the [address from inhabitants near Haw River](#) (Orange County) and the [report of the regulation in Anson County](#). What similarities do you see? What differences? Are the charges made against colonial officials the same in each case? Do the authors of the documents cite similar political principles? Do any of them seem violent, or willing to use violence?

## Meanwhile, in the Revolution

Remember that this was happening in 1768, three years after the [protests against the Stamp Act](#). You might compare the language and ideas in this document and those linked above to the language and ideas of the Stamp Act protests. Interestingly, the people who protested the Stamp Act in North Carolina were mostly eastern elites — the same people the Regulators were protesting *against*!

## Learn more

- [The Regulation in Anson County](#) Rules and Resolves entered into by the Anson Mob. Vizt Whereas the Tax for the present year is very high part of which, unseen seem to many unlawful and unnecessary, that together with the great scarcity...
- [Address from inhabitants near Haw River](#) The request of the Inhabitants of the West side of Haw river to the Assembly men and Vestry men of Orange County Whereas the Taxes in the County are larger according to the number of Taxables than adjacent...

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