

A DESCRIPTION
OF THE
PROVINCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
DRAWN UP AT CHARLES-TOWN,
IN SEPTEMBER, 1731.

We whose Names are hereunto subscribed, do Attest, that all which is contain'd in this Account of *South Carolina*, is the real Truth, having been Eye-Witnesses of the most part of the Particulars therein mentioned. Done at *Charles-Town*, the 23d of *September*, 1731.

JOHN PETER PURRY, of *Neufchatel*.
JAMES RICHARD, of *Geneva*.
**ABRAHAM MEURON, of *St. Sulpy*, in
the County of *Neufchatel*.**
HENRY RAYMOND, of *St. Sulpy*.

In 1731, Jean Pierre Purry of Neufchatel, Switzerland petitioned South Carolina's first Royal Governor, Robert Johnson, to be allowed to establish a settlement of German and Swiss speaking immigrants. Purry's proposal fit well with Johnson's "Township Plan" and permission was granted. Purry and his backers chose a location about 2 miles west-northwest of present-day Hardeeville. The township was named Purrysburg. By 1736 when Purry died, there were 100 houses and as many as 450 settlers in the town. Regrettably, the town began to wither away and the settlers dispersed to other locations.

The following is an excerpt from a pamphlet which Purry prepared as advertisement for recruits to his settlement:

"There are People in Europe, especially in England, that tremble only at the name of a Rattle-Snake, imagining, that the Country of Carolina is so full of them, that there is no going into the Woods without Danger of Life: But this is an Error as ill-grounded as the most part of the other Reports spread abroad to the disadvantage of this New World. At least, 't is certain, that this Serpent is very seldom seen, and if they are met, do very little Hurt, except they are provoked to defend themselves: Besides, they never fail of giving you Notice of their Approach by their Rattles, which may be heard at a considerable Distance. 'T is also said, that the Venom of this Serpent is mortal, and kills in a very short time, if not prevented by some Antidotes: But those Remedies are well known by everybody in the Country. When Mr. Purry went with his small Company to chuse out a Spot of Land on the River Savanna, the People told them before their Departure from Charles Town, that they had great Reason to fear 'these Rattle-Snakes, the Country being full of them; and that they ought to keep a good Guard against them; however they did not so much as see one of those Serpents, nor of any other sort for 15 Days that they travelled about in the Woods, though it was in the Middle of Summer at a time when all Serpents are out of their Holes. It is very seldom that any Person is bitten by these Snakes, or by those of other Kinds, which are much more common, that it would be very difficult to find so much as one Person in all Carolina that has ever had this Misfortune. There are also some Crocodiles in the Rivers, but the People fear them no more, than if they were so many Fishes, since it was never known that they have hurt any Person whatsoever."

Purry's pamphlet is a part of B. R. Carroll's "Historical Collections of South Carolina; Embracing Many Rare and Valuable Pamphlets, and Other Documents Relating to the History of that State, From Its First Discovery to Its Independence in the Year 1776, In Two Volumes", Volume II, Harper & Brothers.

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