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The Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution
**The Journal and Other Writings of Charles Woodmason, Anglican Itinerant
1766-1768**

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“Africk never more abounded with New Monsters, than Pennsylvania does with New Sects, who are continually sending out their Emissaries around.”

“Lately they took another extraordinary Step. For, after deluding a Rich Planter, wasting his Substance, and perverting his Understanding One of their Teachers pretended to work Miracles, and declared that He had Power equal with Christ, and that God had given Him Authority even to raise the Dead – And that to evince his Assertion, He would raise the first Dead Body they should meet with. The bigotted Planter had not such strong Faith, but that he called on Him to realise His Assertions. This Nonplus’d the Villain, and put Him on a Scheme, how to deceive his Votary and bring Himself off. So one of the Fraternity was procur’d, and properly tutored to counterfeit Himself Dead, and to revive on certain Prayers and Breathing being utter’d over Him. Accordingly this abominable Farce was play’d. The fellow lay as Dead – The Pretended Prophet, prays, anoints, exercises, and calls on the seemingly inanimate Wretch to Arise – But whether the fellow kept his Breath so long as to suffer Suffocation, or the Exorcist made his Conjurations too long, Certain it was, That the Wicked Wretch was really gone, and (by playing the Fool too well) was with Great difficulty recover’d. The Person thus impos’d on, was one Mr. Skinking Moore,¹ **of Little-River the Boundary between the two Carolina’s.** This Moore was alway reckon’d a sensible Man – Nor was his Senses so far darkened by these Fascinations, but for Him to perceive some Gross Delusions some Great Deceptions – These Children of Satan gave out that the Party was in a Trance – and they would have perswaded the unhappy Victim, to have utter’d Blasphemies and Prophecies, as Matters revealed to Him, while his Soul had left the Body, and till her reentering her House of Clay. But the Poor Sinner’s Pain had been so great and the Sense of his Guilt bore so heavy on his Mind, as to make Him confess the whole Cheat to Mr. Moore, and thereby recover Him from his Lethergy, but not to his Estate, which he had so foolishly lavish’d on them.”

¹ This probably refers to Schenking Moore, who is listed in the militia returns as captain of the New Hanover Foot Company for 1754. Col. Recs. Of N.C., XXII, 306,388.