

CHAPTER 4  
THE TIDWELLS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

At the conclusion of the French and Indian War, with the Indian threat under better control, people again began moving to new frontiers. The first area to attract large numbers of settlers was the Up country of South Carolina with its fertile soil, generous land grants and some access to markets via rivers and a few wagon roads. In just a few years' time the Shenandoah Valley became the "Great Wagon Road" as people from the Piedmont and the Shenandoah areas of Virginia streamed southward through the gaps in the Blue Ridge Mountains and on into the Carolinas.

These people were mostly those who had suffered Indian depredations or had fallen heavily into debt to the merchants. They were seeking a safer place for their families and a chance at a new start. Many of them came