

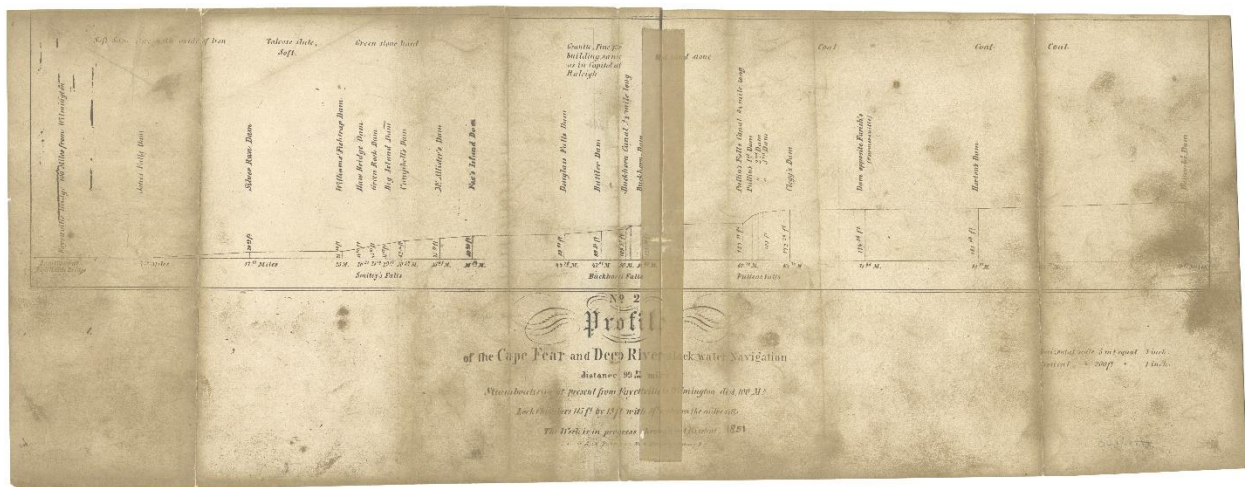
Wade Hadley's Story of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company Now Online

Wade Hadley described his 1980 [Story of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company](#) as the story of "...an heroic attempt to render almost one hundred miles of the upper Cape Fear and lower Deep rivers continuously and reliably navigable for steamboats." The 90-page booklet, which includes a bibliography and map, is now online thanks to CCHA's partnership with the NC Digital Heritage Center.

Also available online at DigitalNC from the Chatham County Historical Association collection is a [profile of the Cape Fear and Deep River Slack Water Navigation from 1851](#).

The Cape Fear and Deep River profile and its story provide insight into North Carolina's inland navigation system. The Cape Fear River is formed by the confluence of the Deep River and the Haw River, which meet in Chatham County, near Moncure and Haywood. The Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company was organized in 1849 in Pittsboro, NC, to enable steamboats to traverse the rivers. The company worked to make the rivers navigable by building dams and locks as a slack water system of navigation.

Throughout its history, the company suffered from labor shortages, improperly designed and decaying locks and dams, internal dissension, and mismanaged funds. There were also those who argued that the state should invest in railroads, which would have greater utility than river navigation.



This [profile of the Cape Fear and Deep River Slack Water Navigation from 1851](#), also from CCHA's collection, can be viewed on DigitalNC.