

The Machapungo Indians and the Barbados Connection 1663 to 1840

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Image ID: 1505041

Novissima et Acuratissima Barbados. Descriptio per Johannem Ogiluium  
Cosmographum Regium (1671)

Ogilby, John. "America: Being the Latest and Most Accurate Description of the New World". London: Map Engraving. The Lawrence H. Slaughter Collection. The Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division. The New York Public Library. Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations, 1671.

<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/dgkeysearchdetail.cfm?trg=1&strucID=769469&imageID=1505041&total=2380&num=160&word=col%5Fid%3A149&s=1&notword=&d=&c=&f=&k=0&lWord=&lField=&sScope=&sLevel=&sLabel=&imgs=20&pos=174&e=w>

### ***I-Abstract***

An intriguing story is emerging from new research that suggests a faraway Caribbean community may have infiltrated, married, and created a creolized mix race of Indians that were responsible for the bloodiest Indian war in North Carolina's history. All of the historic references about these coastal Indians are that they all perished and are now extinct. At the contact period, these Indians were named Croatan (1584), later they were renamed the Hatteras Indians (1690), and when they moved inland (1700) they merged with and became the Machapungo Indians (Hereafter the more modern name of the Mattamuskeet will be used). These natives are being researched with a multi-discipline research using the latest technologies available that may prove many of the descendants are alive and have never left their original homelands [1].

### ***II-Introductions***

The hypothesis is that from 1668 until about 1840 a Mercantile compact proliferated between coastal North Carolina Indians (then called the Mattamuskeet Indians) and Barbados in the export production of naval stores, cedar shakes and barrel staves, and were importing cattle, sugar, sheep, pigs and horses, in a place called "Beech-Land" (the mainland of Dare County called East Lake today [see corresponding map on p. 13, between Roanoke Island and the Alligator River]).

### ***III-The Beginnings of Barbados Mercantilism and the Exploration for Trading Partners in the Carolinas***

#### ***Background***

Barbados was first discovered by the Portuguese in 1536. It was settled by John and Henry Powell and finally claimed by England in 1640. Winds and currents made the island difficult to sail to, leaving the British to occupy and plant it. This island became the most British of all the Caribbean Islands and was under constant British control until independence in 1965 [2].

Barbados, like all of the European colonies, was strictly controlled by a ridged mercantile system. All of the Caribbean colonists dabbled in illegal trading when they could. Mercantilism and the exploration for trading partners in the Carolinas were directly affected by changes in trade dictates from England, starting in 1676. Between November 2 and 7, 1676, the Lords of Trade and Plantations, a royal committee formed to manage England's expanding colonial empire, invited two officials into their council chamber at Whitehall to "offer their views of the effectiveness of the Navigation Acts and the wisdom of relaxing the rules for colonial trade".

Governor Jonathan Atkins, of Barbados, was directly involved in the attempts to slacken the tight British controls with a petition entitled the "Grievances of Barbados". The colonists needed to be able to trade their sugar supplies to North America, and needed naval stores and wood supplies that were used in the massive deforestation projects to produced sugar plantations. Barbadians and Leeward Islanders were not unique in pushing for free trade; colo-

nists in other colonies, such as Virginia, New York Massachusetts, and Jamaica also made similar arguments [3].

To progress with the main theme of this essay, the question must be asked: how can we link a settlement from Barbados, with the Mattamuskeet Indian population from North Carolina, during this early period (1640-1840) [4]? This discourse will attempt to identify the underlying reasons for this migration and also, more importantly, how this human transplantation affected the local populations of Indians, and what was the driving economic accommodation and its effect on coastal North Carolina history.

In 1665, English emigrants came from Barbados and purchased a tract of land thirty-two square miles on the Cape Fear River from the Coree Indians. Finding themselves in the middle of a vast pine and hard-wood forest, the colonists manufactured boards, shingles, staves, gathered turpentine, all of which they sold in the West Indies [5]. The Barbados Colony was led by a resourceful and colorful leader by the name of John Yeaman [6].

Yeaman's colony did well for a while exporting naval stores and shingles back to Barbados. Relations with the Native population started out well and the Indians reported that other English colonists were also living close by. Although seventy-nine years had elapsed since Sir Walter Raleigh's colony had been abandoned on Roanoke Island, the Coree Indians from Cape Fear reported that, for four generations, the "Lost Colony" had lived with and co-habited with the Croatan/Hatteras Indians [7].

Although relations with the Natives at Cape Fear started out on a solid footing events started going badly for the Barbados colony. Some of the colonists were greedy and started abducting the Indian women and children. The women were used for sexual pleasures and the children were traded into slavery and sent back to Barbados. These first acts were just the start of many events that led to the colony's failure.

John Yeaman went back to Barbados, the Indians became hostile and retaliated, and a devastating hurricane destroyed all the crops and buildings. The spirit of the short-lived colony of eight hundred people was broken and they abandoned their Cape Fear settlement. The colonists marched overland to the Albemarle Sound area; however, some continued on to Virginia [8].

The influence of settlers in the Albemarle region from Barbados, as documented above, denotes that connections to the Caribbean were in place almost fifty years before the Tuscarora uprising of 1711. The abandonment of the settlement at Cape Fear, and the colonist movement just to the north of the Mattamuskeet's territory, places a large group of predominantly European males in close proximity to thousands of Native American female Indians. What happened next has been repeated throughout the Americas since Columbus arrived in 1492 [9].

When the "Great Indian War of 1711" started there were many Indian groups involved, and not all of them joined the Tuscarora. John Lawson first identified the Machapungo Indians in 1701 and located them in the area of the

Pungo River. The Indian Ethnologist Frank Spect also placed the descendents of the Croatan in the same area [10].

The Hatteras/Croatan and Machapungo at the time of the 1711 Indian war merged with the Tuscarora and remnants of the Coree, Yawpim, and Potteskeet Indians and fought a bloody conflict, against the European settlers, with heavy losses on both sides. All of these Indians split their alliances; some fighting with the English, some with the Indians. It is claimed by Baron Degraferrend, while he was held captive of the Indians at the outbreak of the Tuscarora war, that it was the Mattamuskeet Indians who led the rest of the Indians to war [11].

A very large contingent of these Indians stayed after the reservation was sold, in a very remote area called Beechland located on the Dare County mainland, just west of Roanoke Island. There were hundreds of them discovered there in 1700 and exhibited a mixed cultural background of Native American, African-American, and European. As time moved forward they all used English surnames [12].

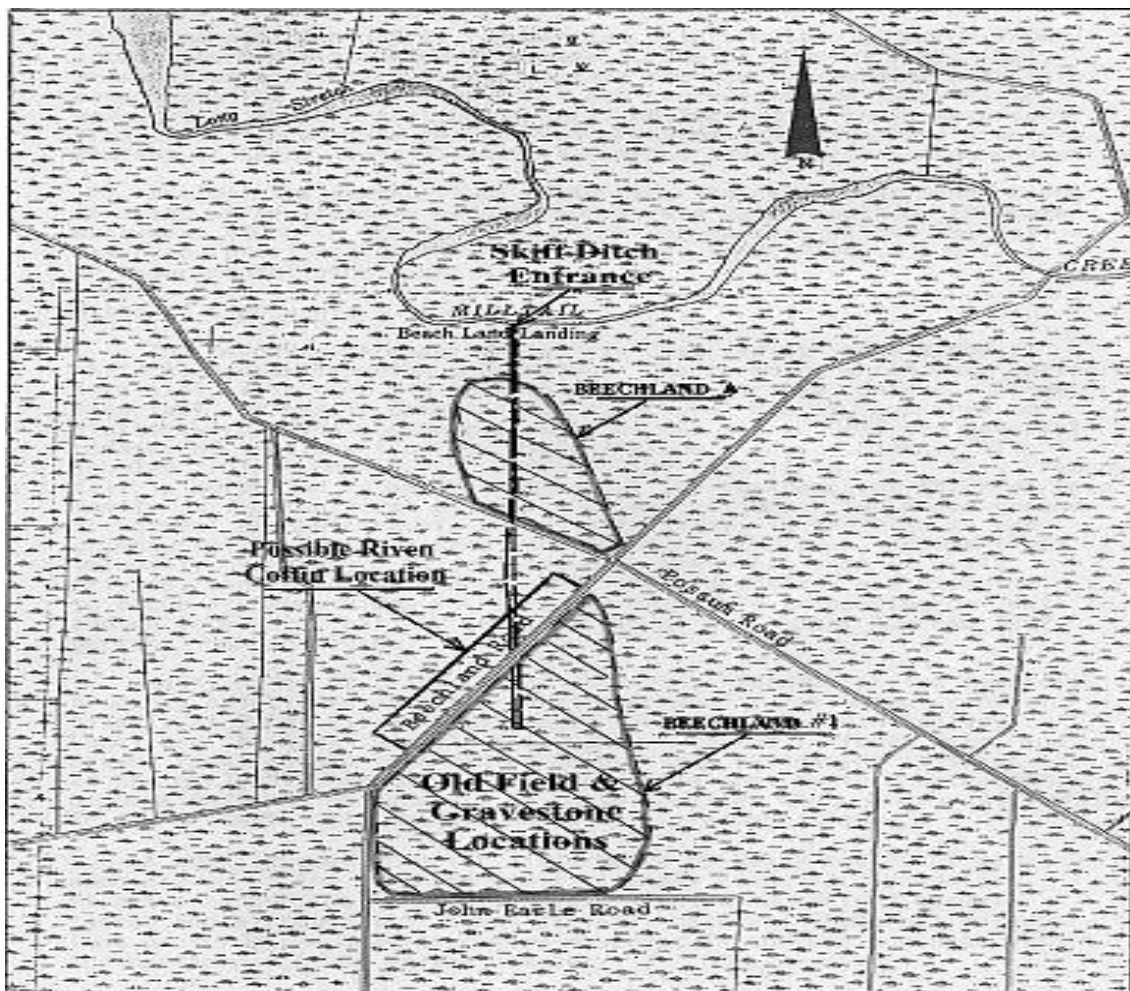
#### ***IV-Beech-Land: Indians, Snakes, Bears, Alligators, Shingle Shakes and Staves***

The Mattamuskeet Indian settlement, in 1690, was expanded into a large wilderness area that comprised the entire peninsula between the Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds. The proof of their existence in this area is well documented, and is tied to the original Croatan/Hatteras Indians. This has been amply confirmed by many maps, court records, deeds, genealogy, and archaeology



from the area. They are still identified as Croatan, on all of the maps, as late as 1775 (see maps in the Addena, p. 19-22) [13].

Years ago when the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company was doing some excavating for timbering purposes, they had to dig into a rather large mound near Beechland. In this mound, in the heart of the wilderness, they found numerous Indian artifacts, arrowheads, works of pottery, and potsherds. They also found several riven coffins that were made from solid cypress wood.



The discovered coffins were made in a form that can be best described as two canoes---one canoe being the top half of the coffin, and the other the bottom. “On top of each of these coffins was plainly and deeply chiseled a Roman or Latin cross, they type that has come to be

universally and traditionally accepted as the cross of Christianity. Beneath each cross were the unmistakable letters, I N R I. These are thought to represent the traditional 'Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Juaeorum' or, translated, 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews,' the inscription which adorned the cross of Christ at the time of the crucifixion. It was common practice in Elizabethan times to write the letter 'I' for the letter 'J'. It was simpler and was accepted by the literate people of that day. A riven coffin with English carvings buried in the midst of a wilderness in an Indian burial ground---is that coincidence?" [14]

First-hand accounts of people who grew up at Beech-Land were recorded and came from Sheriff Frank Calhoun, 67, at Manteo on Roanoke Island: "My grandfather, born in 1830, told me that in his Indian village he had lived in one of several very old two-story houses of hand-hewn timbers and boards on the mainland across from Roanoke. His blond, blue-eyed mother, Malockie Paine, we believe, was descended from colonist Henry Paine." [15]

See map above in the location designated "Old Field". Research has provided that this was where the original Malockie Paine's plantation Old Field. The shingle ditch terminates at this old plantation and hand-dug wells and Full Cup Oak trees were planted in a long row, producing very large acorns that the Indians made flour and bread from [16]. There are reported old graves also at this site but they have not been located. It is reported that the shingles were traded for pigs, cows, mules, and sheep [17].

### ***V-Conclusion***

The relationship between the Yeaman Colony from Barbados and the Hatteras Indians who descended from the Croatan Indians is a newly-discovered research theory. The Cape Fear Barbados Colony is documented as moving within ten miles of where the Hatteras Indians moved in about 1690. This was just a few years after the Cape Fear Colony gave up their holdings to the South.

The missing connection, documenting that sexual unions between this transplanted Barbados colony and the Natives so many years ago occurred, has at last been found. The area of the Albemarle that the colony settled was

on the Pasquetank River. One of the earliest historic accounts relating to these Indians is John Lawson's "*A New Voyage to Carolina*".

In the margin where Lawson is relating information about these apparently English-resembling Indians, he inserted the word Hatteras Indians. Lawson's accounts of the native populations are more detailed and are the best early records yet found to-date. He reports that the Paspitank (sic) Indians did formally keep cattle and make butter. He also made a profound statement relating specifically to the culture, manners and dress of these Indians, and furthermore, that they are different from all other natives he has encountered:

"The dresses of these people are so different, according to the Nation that they belong to. . ." ". . .which wear Hats, Shooes, Stockings, and Breeches, with very tolerable Linnen Shirts, which is not common amongst these. . ." [18] Native Americans.

It is obvious, with all of the above documentation leading from Barbados in 1664 to the Cape Fear River of North Carolina, that they were led---upon making a certain discovery---to the region of where English colonists had settled. They discovered that English colonists were a short distance away, living with the Hatteras Indians. Knowing this, they made their settlement in the same area [19]. The documentation of the deeds [20] and court records place them at Beechland following this period (see maps on p. 8, 12, and 17-22).

It is well documented that the Hatteras Indians were producing a large amount of naval stores, shingles and barrel staves in the Beechland area [21]. The recent discovery and documentation of the shingle ditch (see photograph on p. 23) is exciting and helps further confirm the activities of the Indians at this location. The shingle ditch has recently been surveyed and a photograph

can be seen in the addenda. It is also the location of where the riven coffins were discovered (see map on p. 8).

Beechland today is completely deserted as the inhabitants---a mixture of English and Native Americans---encountered a devastating plague in about 1840 where many deaths occurred. The survivors moved and never came back. The plague has been documented as the “Black-Tongue Plague” but more recent research indicates that it was anthrax, and was most likely imported from Barbados, from cattle and pigs that were traded for the naval stores, staves and shingles [22].

### ***VI-Post Script***

A proper post script to the question of if, how and when a colony from Barbados may have interspersed, made sexual unions and produced offspring that were instrumental in starting North Carolina’s Great Indian War of 1711, could be definitely answered by a new study being done on the coastal Indian population. A large study is underway to match DNA with human remains of Indians from the coastal area.

In addition, matches are being attempted with English residents who have never been to North America, but have ancestors who were on the rosters of the Roanoke Voyages. When this study is complete and if it attains positive results, it would be a simple feat to also test living subjects back in Barbados with the same surnames, to conclusively prove or disprove that the remote island of Barbados made a genetic contribution to the Mattamuskeet Indians.

The Alligator River depicted below is the area where the Croatan/Hatteras/Mattamuskeet Indians moved to after 1690. The large landmass to the right is Beechland, called East Lake today.



## Footnotes

- [1] “Five Lost Colonies” and “Migrating Indians” ([www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com)).
- [2] <http://portal.unifreiburg.de/angl/englischesSeminar/lehrstuehle/1sMair/teaching/materials/spread>; and <http://Carolina.com/Carolina/external-influences/barbadians-in-carolina.htm>.
- [3] Christian J. Koot, Colgate University ([http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/early\\_American\\_studies\\_an\\_interdisciplinary\\_journal/v0005/5.1koot.ht11ml#fig01](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/early_American_studies_an_interdisciplinary_journal/v0005/5.1koot.ht11ml#fig01)).
- [4] The Mattamuskeet Indians are somewhat of a mystery. They were not recorded in the area until around 1680, and many have been transplanted from Indians of the same name (Machapungo) from Maryland. The Croatan/Hatteras Indians certainly occupied the territory before the Mattamuskeet got there, and four or five other displaced Indian groups joined them as problems that resulted from the Great Indian War were heating up (see maps below for territories controlled by the Croatan Indians).
- [5] Set Jet Star Re Shingles in Barbados (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/14933-99?seq=1>); and Sprunt.
- [6] John Yeaman was a very interesting man. He was an explorer and adventurer, and he even fought a duel over his lover. The husband forced a fight to save his honor, and Yeaman was forced to kill him in a duel, which he did shortly before marrying the dead man’s wife.
- [7] This period all of the research indicates that the coastal Indians had moved to the southwest to the Pungo/Mattamuskeet/Alligator River area, not a far distance from Cape Fear. (Also see Sawdust Trail, Annals of Sawmilling and the Lumber Trade from Virginia to Hawaii via Maine, Barbados, Sault Ste. Marie, Manchac and Seattle to the Year 1860). Charles E. Peterseon, *Bulletin of the Association for Preservation Technology, Vol. 5, No. 2 (1973)*, p. 84-153. Published by: Association for Preservation Technology International (APT).
- [8] James Sprunt. *Chronicles of the Cape Fear River: 1660-1919* (Raleigh, North Carolina: Edward Broughton Printing Co., 1919).
- [9] J.D. Lewis. Little River, South Carolina 2007. <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/permanence/text1read.htm>. Last reviewed in July 2008.
- [10] Frank Spect. *Remnants of the Machapungo (sic) Indians of North Carolina*. *The American Anthropologist*, 1916.

- [11] Baron Degreferend. "The Mattamuskeet Indians and the Great Indian War". *The Tar Heel State: A History of North Carolina*. (Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2005): 33; and Thomas C. Parra-more. *The Tuscarora Ascendancy* (Raleigh: The North Carolina Review, Vol. LIX, Number 4, October 4, 1984) and ([www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com)), [Re-search papers "Migration of Indians" and "Beech-Land"].
- [12] RE a few Indian names that have survived and have attempted to blend in-to regular society when they could. Many of the English surnames found at the Indian site at Beechland are also found in Barbados, such as Gibbs, Squires, Blount and Brooks. ([www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com)).
- [13] [www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com); and the associated citation as follows, and Thomas Garrow, *The Mattamuskeet Documents: A Study in Social History*. A copy of this manuscript is in the Hyde County Library, and on the webpage ([www.rootsweb.com/~nchyde/MATTA7.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nchyde/MATTA7.htm)). It can also be linked from [[www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com)]; and Spect, and Quinn.
- [14] [www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com) and Mary Wood Long and Frank Calhoun article.
- [15] Melungeon People Article in story from "Concerning the Melugeon People." By Vern Jordan, copyright 1996. [vjordan@bmi.net](mailto:vjordan@bmi.net) and ([www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com)) for surname list for rest of Lost Colony, <http://www.thepeoples-paths.net/lit/molung.htm>.
- [16] Re Sheriff Calhoun was a lifelong resident of East Lake and spent his entire life hunting and trapping in the huge wilderness area of the Alligator River (see p. 12). Re "honey bear trees" are well-known to the local hunters and are an attraction as a food source for bears and deer. These large trees were planted at the location of the old field and are "full cup oak trees that were planted in a straight line and were used to make an Indian bread." Old Field is Sheriff Calhoun's grandparents' abandoned farm in Beechland.
- [17] [www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com) and Mary Wood Long.
- [18] John Lawson, *A New Voyage to Carolina*, p. 200-201.
- [19] See map citation, p. 12.
- [20] Research of deeds at [www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com) and Beechland paper.
- [21] [www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com) and Mary Wood Long, and personal and written communi-qués by the eminent southeast Indian archaeologist Dr. David Phelps.

- [22] Ralph Pool. "Lost Colony Wasn't, Old Tradition Says", *Virginia Pilot*, July 3, 1960. Mary Wood Long, Katherine Cozak, and Fred Willard @ [www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com).

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## Addenda

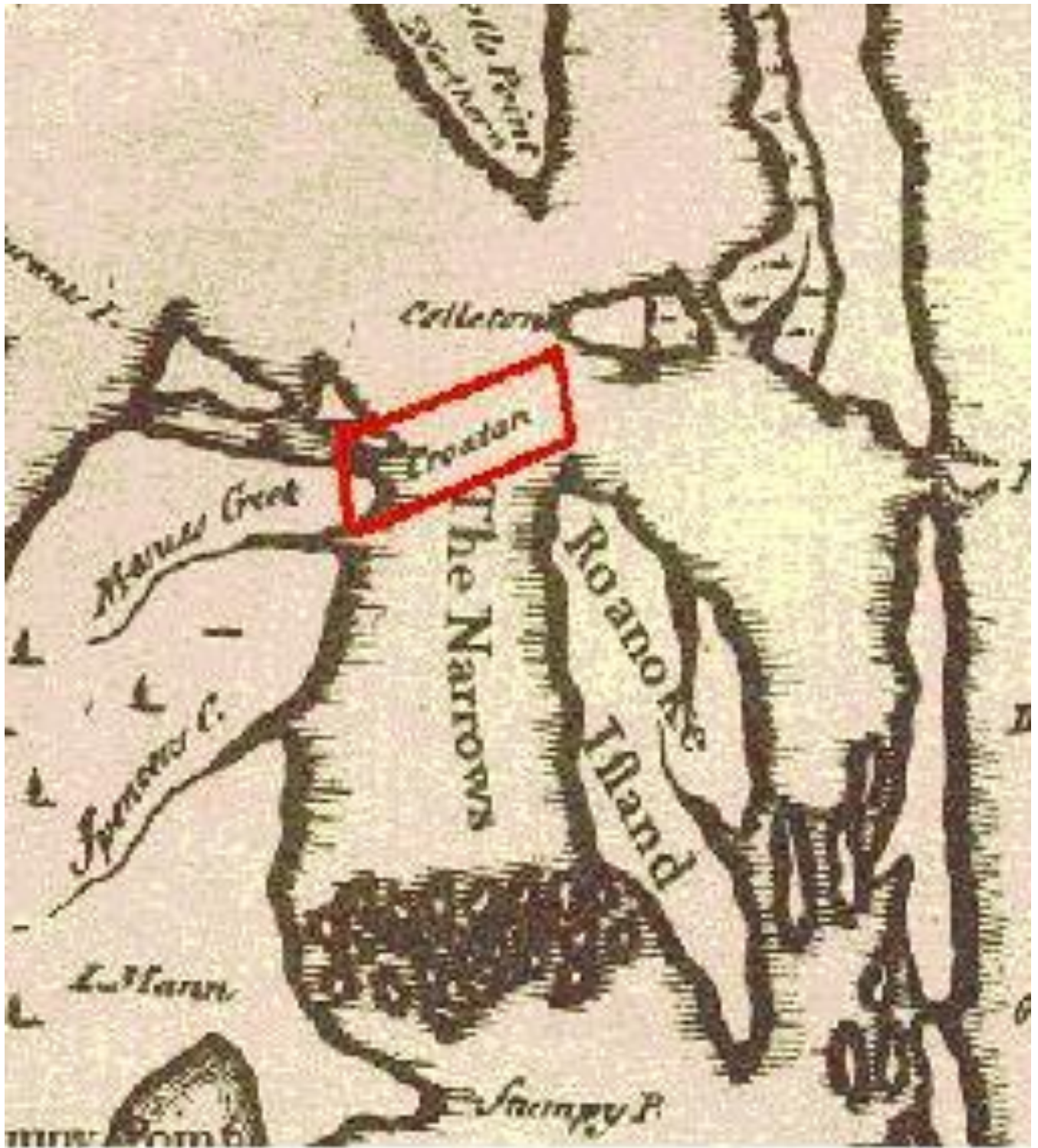
MAP CAPTION: The topmost circle is the Jamestown Virginia colony, 1607. The small circle near Cape Hatteras is the Roanoke, or “Lost Colony” of 1587. The next-lower circle is the area of the Cape Fear River, where elements of the Plymouth Colony, and Carolina settlers each tried to place a colony. The circle at the bottom is the Carolina colony that became Charleston, S.C.



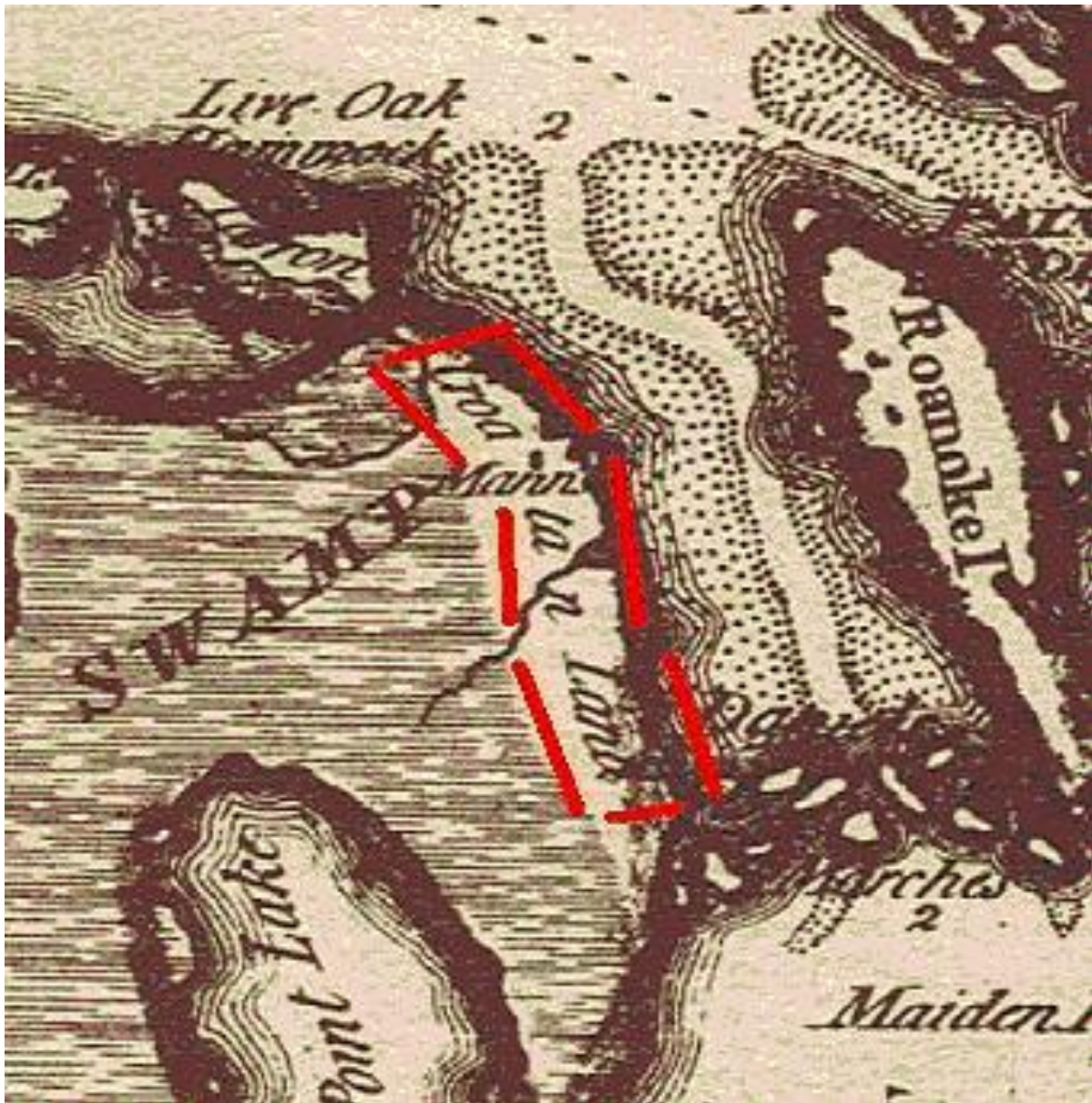


Satellite Photo of Machapungo Indians' Area of Control, 1710, in northeastern North Carolina. The entire peninsula between the Pamlico and Albemarle Sound was designated in a ceremony on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August to grant Manteo, by the command of Sir Walter Raleigh, the exalted position as the Lord of Dasmannonquepank [meaning literally "Where there is an extended land area separated by water" (Quinn 1955, Vol. 2: 531). Beechland is the large green area just west of Roanoke island and east of the Alligator River. ([www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com))

Mosely's Map 1733: Indicates that the Croatan Indians have moved to the Dare County mainland.

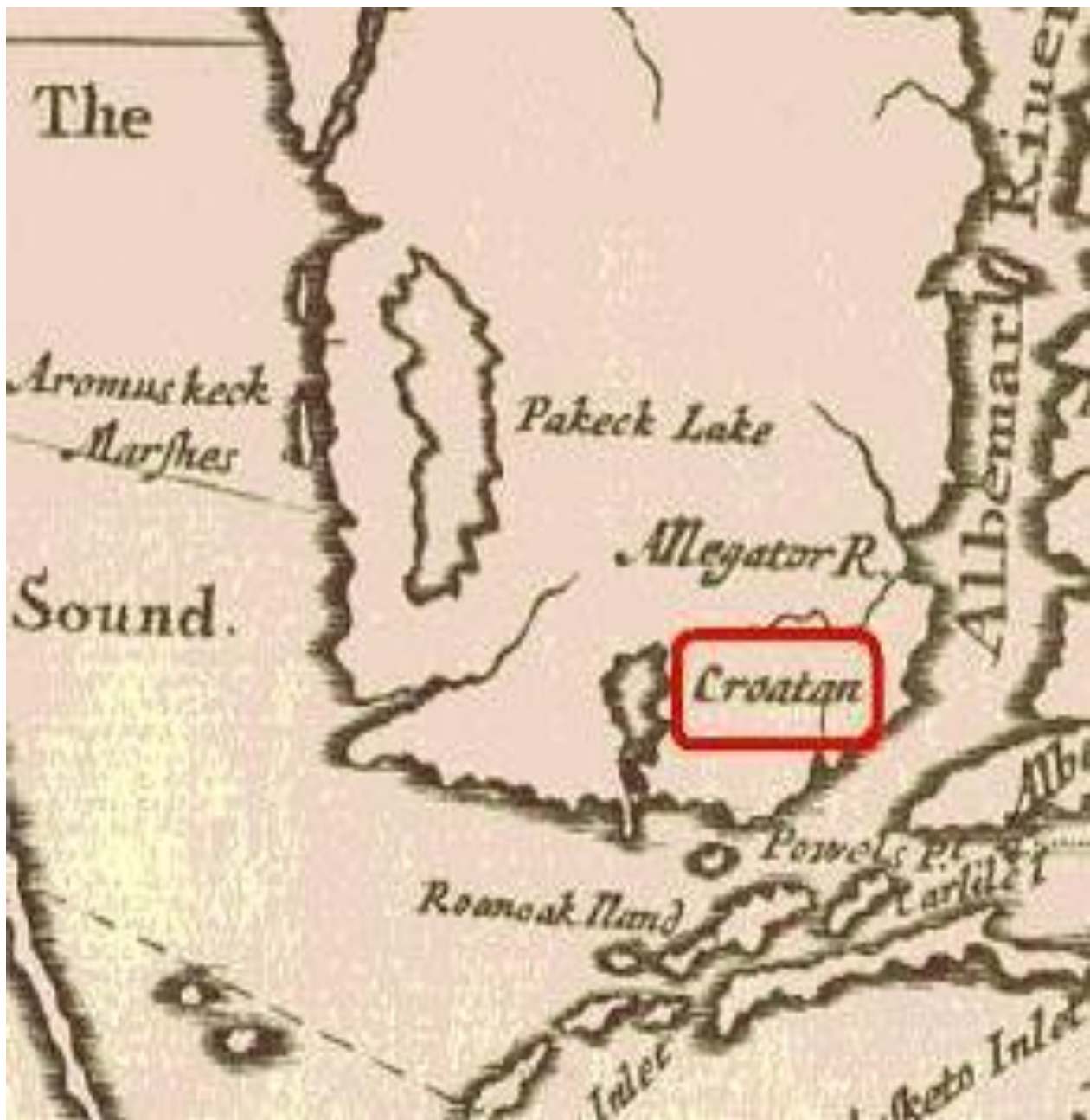


John Lawson's Map of 1709  
Lost Colony Center for Science and Research  
(<http://www.lost-colony.com/currentresearch.html>)



Mouzon 1755 Map Showing "Croatan Land"  
Lost Colony Center for Science and Research

([www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com) and <http://www.lost-colony.com/currentresearch.html>)



Ogilby Map of 1672 The Lord's Proprietor's Map  
Lost Colony Center for Science and Research  
(<http://www.lost-colony.com/currentresearch.html>)



Hand-dug Shingle Ditch from Mill Tail Creek  
Lost Colony Center for Science and Research ([www.lost-colony.com](http://www.lost-colony.com))

