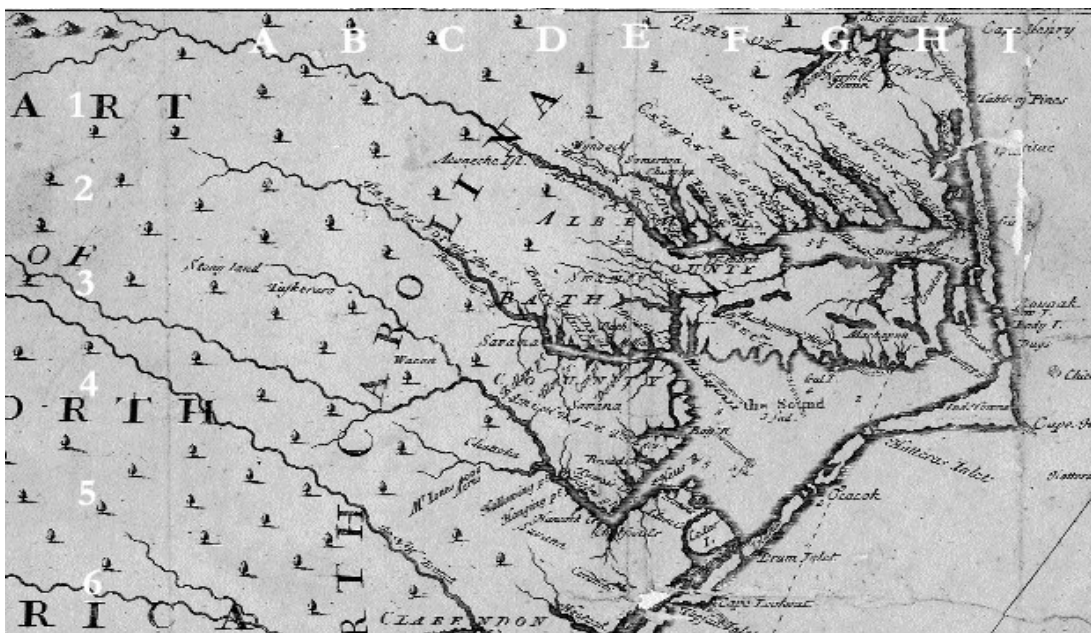


Activities

By Dr. Vincent Bellis*

From *Tar Heel Junior Historian* 47:1 (fall 2007). Images may differ from those in the original article.



Part of the map that appeared in John Lawson's 1709 book. Image courtesy of the State Archives, North Carolina Office of Archives and History.

Use the map above to help answer the questions.

1. Can you find some of the places where Lawson collected plants for Mr. Petiver? Identify each location according to the letter and number grid on the map: a, the Sand Banks; b, Col. Pollock; c, Broad Creek; d, Little River; e, Ronoak; f, Hancock Creek; g, Neus River; h, Norfolk; i, Croatan.
2. Which of the above names can you find on a modern map of North Carolina?
3. Can you find three colonist-occupied towns? Can you find the Indian towns? Why do you think there are more Indian town names than names of English towns?

Things to think about: What areas of Carolina were occupied by Europeans, and what areas were dominated by American Indians? Why?

Consider the differences in spelling between colonial times and now (Neus vs. Neuse, Aconeche vs. Occaneechi, and so forth). What other differences do you see from a modern map?

Take a look at a current road map of North Carolina. Let your eye follow the Chowan River until you cross the state line into Virginia. Had you ever noticed the slight “bump” in the boundary? Otherwise, the boundary is a straight line from near Virginia Beach to near Damascus, Virginia. Why is there a bump?

Things to look up on the Web: Colonel Thomas Pollock, Tuscarora War, North Carolina and Virginia boundary, Baron Christoph von Graffenried, James Petiver, the Royal Society (England), Bath (North Carolina), and John Lawson’s book *A New Voyage to Carolina*

**At the time of this article’s publication, Dr. Vincent Bellis was a retired professor of biology from East Carolina University. He has read Lawson’s A New Voyage to Carolina many times and continues to find new information about early plants, animals, and habitats in eastern North Carolina. In 2000 Bellis obtained high-resolution images of the plants collected in North Carolina by Lawson in 1710 and 1711. He has identified most of the specimens and is transcribing the notes written by Lawson.*

Answers

1. a, I2; b, E2; c, E5; d, G2; e, I3; f, D5; g, E5; h, G1; i, H3.
2. Probably all, except the Sand Banks and Col. Pollock.
3. Colonial—Norfolk Town, Virginia; Somerton, Virginia; and Bath, North Carolina.
American Indian—Aconeche (Hillsborough), Wynoke, Chickinnacomoc, Croatan, Machapun, and Wacon.

American Indians had been in the region for thousands of years before Europeans arrived and had built many more towns. The English became established first in the northeastern corner of the colony near Virginia. But the Indians probably were still larger in population at this point, occupying the entire colony. Their numbers had been much larger a few decades previously, before European diseases arrived.