

**BARFIELD**

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ELIZABETH RUTLAND at "Katherine Creek" which RUTLAND had bought from LEWIS WILLIAMS, "late of this precinct," in 1708.

NICHOLAS MOORE owned land on Ahotsky Marsh in 1715, had purchased the land from THOMAS DYALLS. HENRY BARFIELD bought the land from MOORE'S son and executor, then living in Nansemond County in 1725. It is doubtful that Moore ever settled his land, nor did DYALLS.

JOHN SPIERS and wife, PATIENCE, owned land on the south side of Ahotsky March which they sold to GEORGE POWELL in 1725. Their patent was dated 1723.

ALEXANDER STEEL, "laborer," bought land from COLONEL WILLIAM MAUL in 1725. The tract was located on the "west side of Chinkapin Creek."

Both JOHN SPIERS and RICHARD BARFIELD lived near each other on the "north west side of Hotsky Meadow," in 1725.

JOHN BEVERLY had been living in the section that is now Hertford for some years in 1711. He owned land on Wiccacon Creek.

LEWIS WILLIAMS lived in this same area during the period. He owned land at what is now Tunis, died sometime before 1727. He was in the area by 1708.

JAMES HOWARD lived on "Ahotsky Ridge" in 1723 and a court was convened at his house then in a law dispute. This probably indicates that no public building had yet been built near Saint John's Chapel for the new county of Bertie.

JAMES RUTLAND lived "near the head of Ahotsky Swamp" in 1723 and the Rutland plantation later became boundary corner marker for the new county of Hertford.

JOHN GARDNER lived on the south side of Buckhorn Swamp in 1723. His plantation was later located on a road which ran from a ferry on the upper Roanoke to Hill's Ferry on the Meherrin.

ROBERT BRASWELL lived on the south side of the Meherrin River in 1719. He also owned land on Buckhorn Swamp.

WILLIAM WORRELL lived on the north side of Meherrin River before 1718.

JAMES TURNER lived on the south side of Meherrin River in 1719.

THOMAS BONNER owned land on Hotsky Swamp in 1722. BONNER had purchased land from THOMAS BROWN in 1717, sold it to MARGARET MOORE in 1723.

JACOB LEWIS and DEBORAH KEEL owned land at Petty's Shore on Chowan River in 1723.

JONATHAN SANDERSON owned land near what was to become Buckhorn Swamp in Maney's Neck Township in this period.

PETER PARKER had a patent (royal grant) in "Hotsky Woods" in 1720.

JOHN MOLTON, SR., had a patent (dated 1719) to land on the "south side of Ahotsky Swamp" in 1722, transferred the grant to JOHN JERNIGAN, MOLTON had patents dated 1719.

GEORGE WYNNE was an important landholder on the Chowan River in what is now Hertford County by 1719. He received a patent for land "along Peter West's line" in 1720, and in 1723 deeded this land to his son, JOHN WINN. (Spellings of the name vary as do all names listed in early records.)

MAJOR ROBERT WEST had patents for land on the west side of the Chowan River, probably in what was to be Hertford County, in 1717.

CHARLES JONES and wife, SARAH, owned land on Hotsky Swamp and on the "north side of Wiccacon Creek" in 1722.

ARTHUR GOSS bought land near Catawhiskey Swamp from COLONEL WILLIAM MAULE in 1725.

ARTHUR DAVIS sold land on the Meherrin River to WILLIAM KINGHEN in 1722. DAVIS had received patent for the land in 1720.

WILLIAM BOONE owned land on the south side of Meherrin River in 1721. He sold the land to SAMUEL CANADY in that year, and CANADY sold the land to ELIAS FORT.

ANTHONY LEWIS, JUNIOR and SENIOR, owned land on the south side of Meherrin River in 1721.

ROBERT PATTERSON owned land in the same area at that time.

TIMOTHY HINDS owned land on south side of Meherrin River in 1719.

JOHN HOLLEY owned land on Wiccacon Creek in 1723 which he sold to CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

STEPHEN HOWARD owned a plantation on Chowan River and land on the "south side of Ahotsky Swamp" in 1722.

JAMES BOON owned a plantation along the Chowan River in

**LANE**

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error of Roan-oak." The title is Fox's.

Historians now believe that Batts perhaps received some sort of appointment from the Virginia governor in order that the state might have an official among settlers along the Chowan. At any rate, Batts disappears from history after the report in George Fox's journal.

This then is the story of the obscure and clouded beginning of settlement in North Carolina. From the date of the Durant Deed and the Cumberland Map, the history moves in well-documented fashion. Before these, the story is still covered with the mystery of centuries.

Yet, all the evidence points to the Chowan River and the Roanoke-Chowan as the scene of this long ago drama of settlement. Hertford County can claim part of that tradition.

(A detailed account of the explorations of the Roanoke-Chowan section by Ralph Lane's Expedition is included in an article in the final section of this edition.)

**EXPLORATIONS**

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from yet another Indian tribe which had migrated into the area sometime after the Lane Expedition of 1586.

Written evidence of these Indians says they lived on the headwaters of the Wiccacon in what is now Hertford County, at a site called "Ahautsky." Artifacts indicating their presence have been found within the corporate limits of the town of Ahoskie. They migrated again by the time of the formation of the Proprietary Colony of Carolina in 1663.

**Cumberland Map**

Then, in 1657, London map-maker Nicolas Cumberland pro-

duced a detailed map of the Roanoke-Chowan region, based on information about the area known in Virginia, which showed the "Batts House" in what is now Bertie County.

Nathaniel Batts was still living in the area in 1672, when he was described as having been the "Governor of Roan-oak" by an early traveler through the region.

The Cumberland Map is the first to document the earliest certain settler in the region that is North Carolina.

**First Settlers**

Soon after the Proprietary Colony of Carolina was established in 1633, a few settlers probably seated permanently on the west bank of the Chowan River.

Several Governors of the early "Albemarle" colony lived in what was to become Bertie. By 1675, there were several dozen families living in the area west of the Chowan.

In that year, a fierce Indian War in southeastern Virginia seriously depleted the Meherrin and Chowan Indian tribes and inaugurated a new period in the history of the area that was to become Hertford County.

(The map accompanying this article, based on historical documentation, was prepared by artist Mary Ellen Albares.)

**SETTLEMENT**

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and Edward Howard were all on the council. They all lived along Wiccacon, Ahotsky Ridge or the Chowan River on what was to become the Hertford shore.

Wynns (as the name later came to be spelled) was a leader in Bertie Precinct for several decades and was the first of a family that was to dominate politics in the new county of Hertford during its early years and into the 19th century.

what is now Hertford County in 1723. He sold the land that year to COLONEL WILLIAM MAULE. The land was bounded by property of RICHARD BARFIELD, JOHN GRAY, JOHN BEVERLY and JOHN HOLMES.

ELINOR MERRITT seems to have owned land in Hertford County in 1715. CHARLES MERRITT and PETER EVANS sold land which had belonged to her to RICHARD BARFIELD in 1724. A power of attorney by ELINOR MERRITT, dated 1715, had been witnessed by BARFIELD and EVANS.

THOMAS BROWNE owned land on the north side of "Potocasi Branch of Meherrin Creek" (now Potocasi Creek) by patent dated 1714. He sold land there to JAMES DENTON in 1723.

JOHN CARLAND bought land on the north side of Meherrin River in 1723.

JOHN HICKS bought land in "Horse Swamp" in 1723 from CHARLES SOWELL.

**1939-1959**

**We look to the future**



As we pass another milestone in the history of our county we can proudly look back at the progress made in years past. However, let us not dwell too long in the past but think of the future.

Set our goals and go to work to achieve them.

Insurance is the future... economic protection for you and your family. Protect what you have and be sure to plan for your family's future. See us before you need protection... that's the wise time to investigate what insurance can do for you.

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**1935-1959**

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