

Indications and perceptions of our area in the  
1700's:

From eyewitness accounts and more

For: Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery

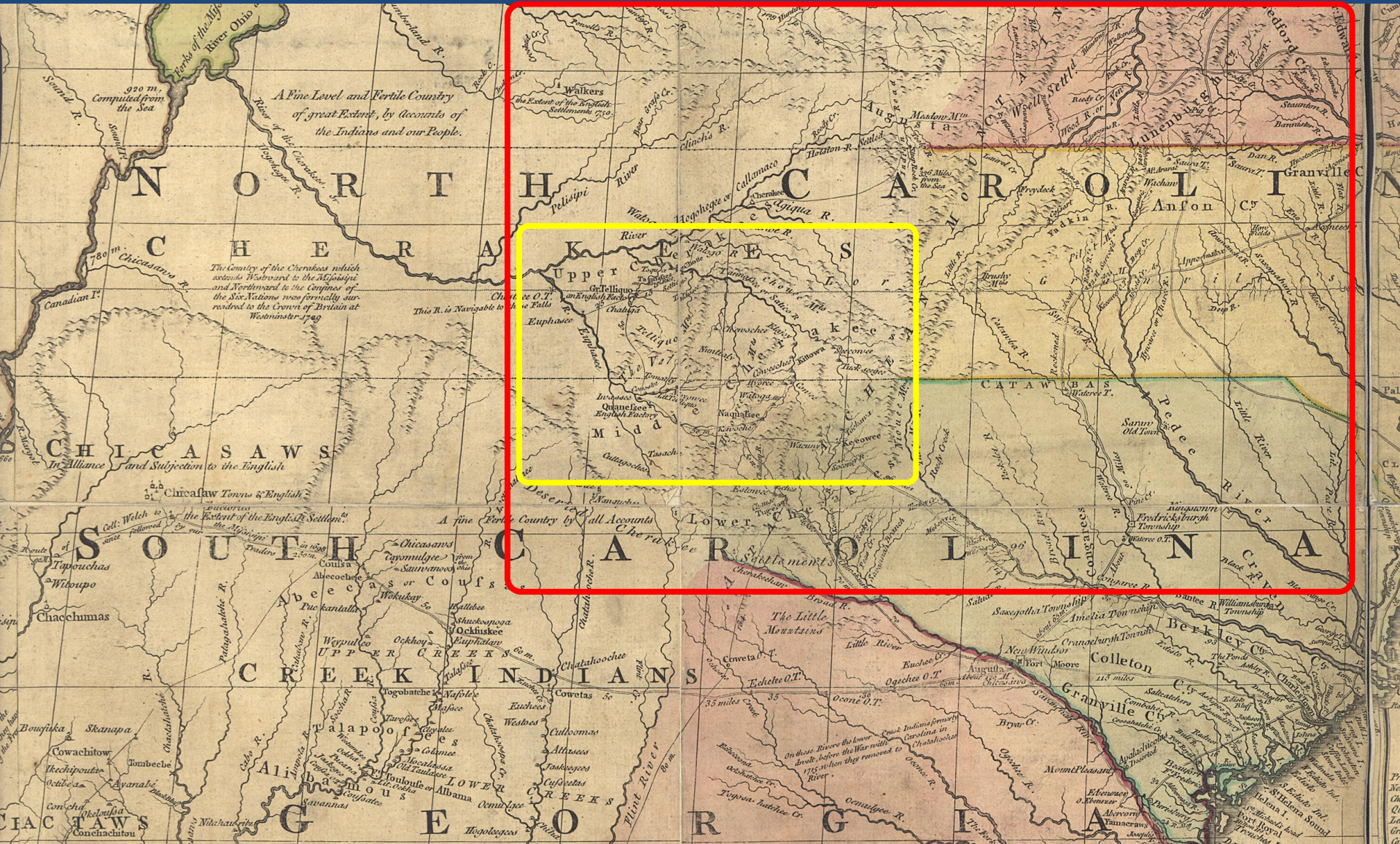
Don Casada, December 2021

# Sources

- Early maps
- Journals of Captain Christopher French and Colonel James Grant (1761)
- *The Natural History of North Carolina*, John Brickell, M.D. (1737)
- Memoirs of Henry Timberlake (1762)
- Travels of William Bartram (1775)
- Journal of R.J. Meigs (1802)
- Journal of Bishop Francis Asbury (1810)
- William Davenport Survey log (1821)
- Love Survey and Robert Armstrong's surveys of Cherokee Reservations (1820)
- Later descriptions and photos of undisturbed lands

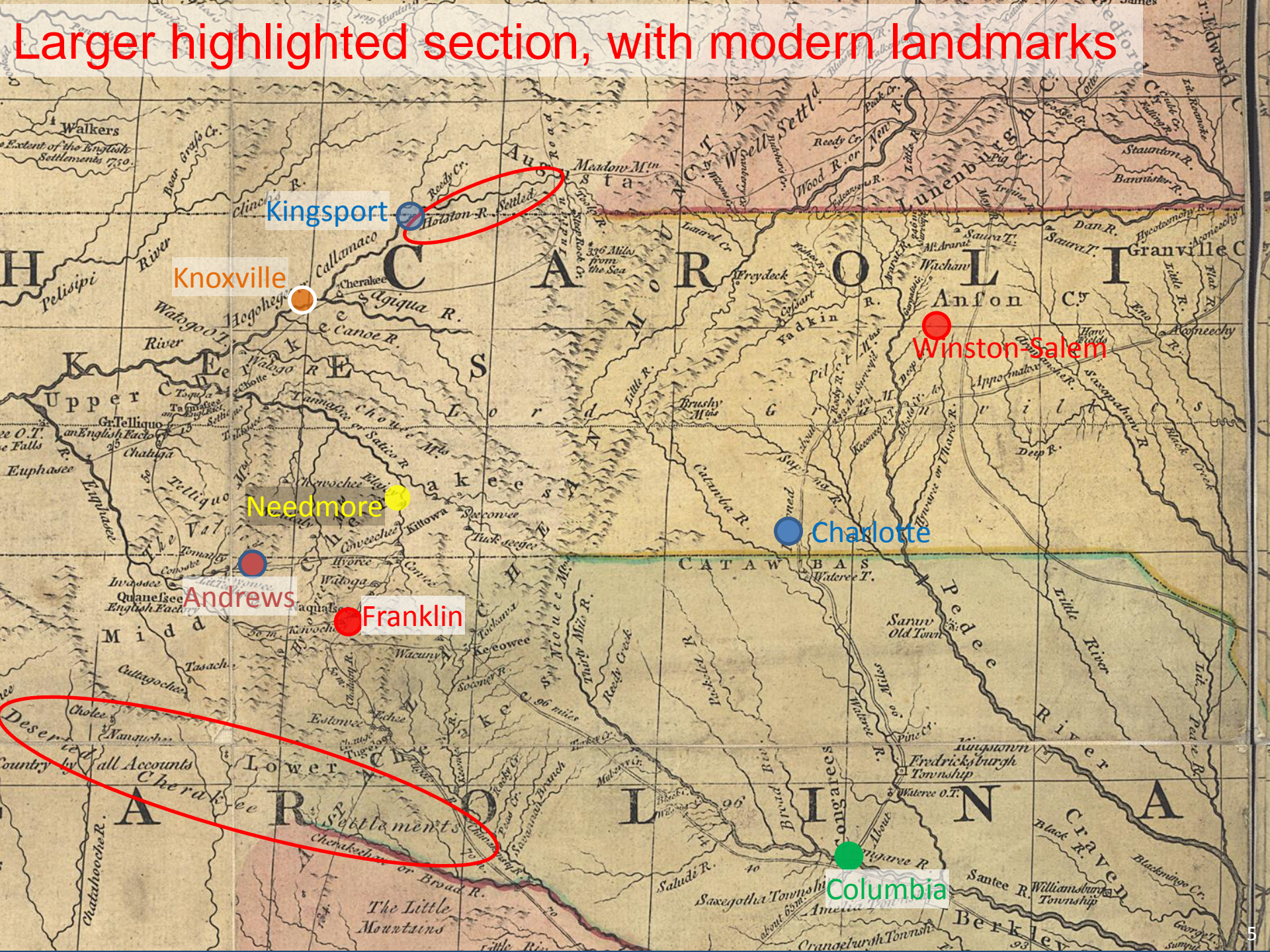
# Part 1. Early Maps

# John Mitchell map (1755)



Note that the marked colony boundaries extended to the Mississippi

# Larger highlighted section, with modern landmarks



Kingsport

Knoxville

Needmore

Andrews

Franklin

Columbia

Charlotte

Winston-Salem

Desert Country by all Accounts

Lower Cherokee Settlements

Saxepotha Townshp

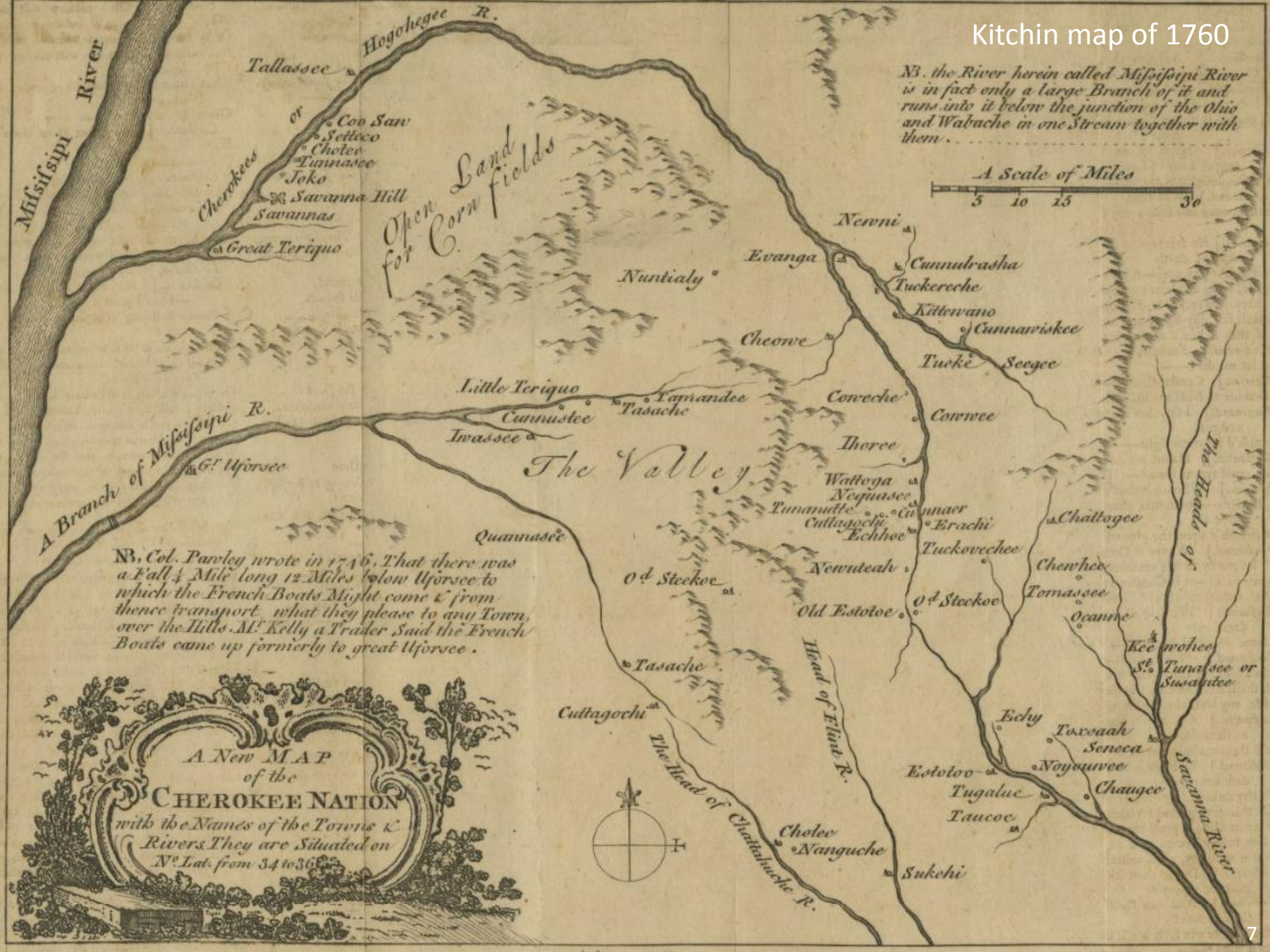
Kingstonn

Black River

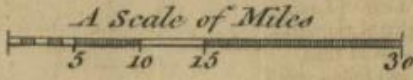
Berkley

# Smaller highlighted section





NB. the River herein called Mississipi River is in fact only a large Branch of it and runs into it below the junction of the Ohio and Wabache in one Stream together with them.



Open Land for Corn fields

The Valley

NB. Col. Pawley wrote in 1746, That there was a Fall 1/4 Mile long 12 Miles below Ufsee to which the French Boats might come & from thence transport what they please to any Town, over the Hills. M<sup>r</sup> Kelly a Trader said the French Boats came up formerly to great Ufsee.

A decorative cartouche containing the title: A New MAP of the CHEROKEE NATION with the Names of the Towns & Rivers They are Situated on N<sup>o</sup> Lat. from 34 to 36.



## Part 2. Grant Expedition of 1761



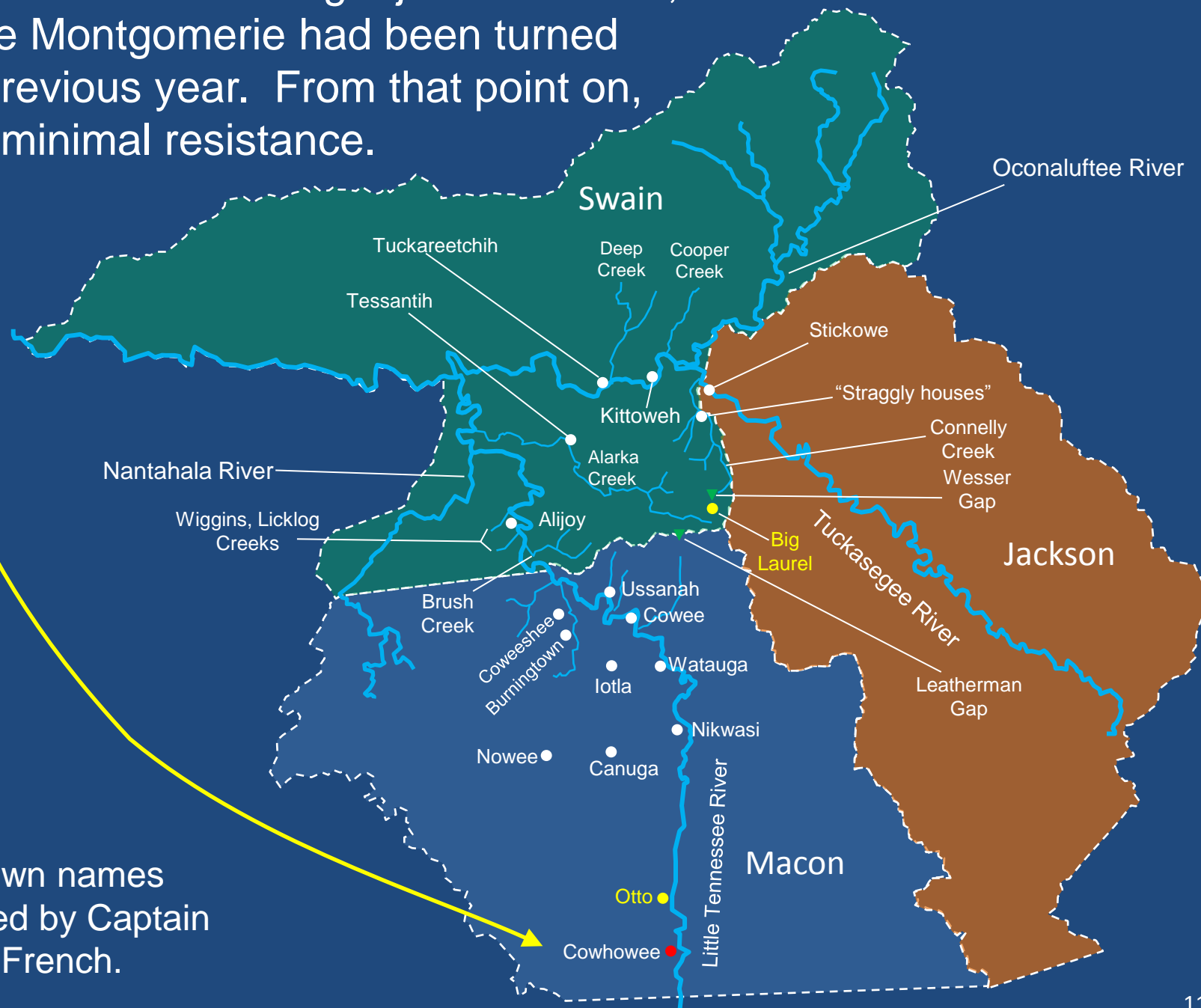
# Grant Punitive Expedition of 1761

- A punitive expedition of 1760, led by British Lt. Col. Archibald Montgomerie, destroyed several Lower Cherokee towns in the Georgia/SC area, but was turned back by the Cherokees several miles south of Franklin
- In 1761, British Lt. Col. James Grant (who had been with Montgomerie) led another expedition, burning 15 towns, destroying early summer crops and orchards.
- Grant was joined by a South Carolina Provincial regiment led by William Moultrie. Others in Moultrie's command included Henry Laurens, Andrew Pickens and Francis Marion – all of whom would play vital roles in the Revolutionary War and founding of the country.

# Expedition route with modern towns, counties



A three-hour battle was fought just inside NC, near where Montgomerie had been turned back the previous year. From that point on, there was minimal resistance.

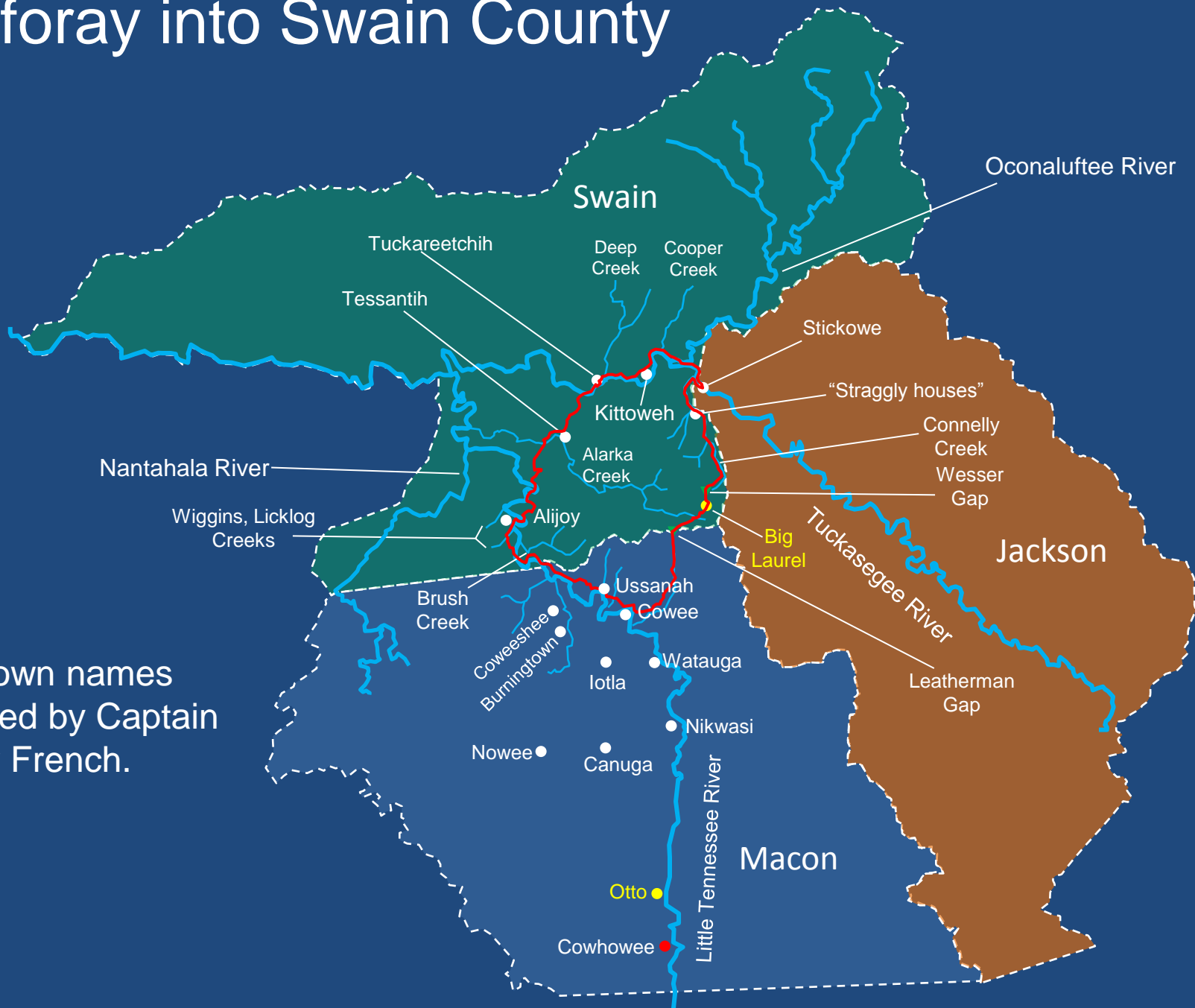


Cherokee town names are as spelled by Captain Christopher French.

## Early reports following the battle

- Watauga: Burned about 50 houses, pulled up all the corn, cut down the fruit trees
- Cowee: “Pleasantly situated upon the River. We halted & destroy’d a great quantity of Corn & cut down fruit Trees”
- Encamped at Usannah, about 12 in the Mohawk Party, Col. Ayres & son reported running into between 300 & 400 Indians near Stickowee (in the Thomas Valley above Whittier)
- This report led to a foray into Swain County

# The foray into Swain County



Cherokee town names are as spelled by Captain Christopher French.

Comments from Christopher French regarding  
the climb from Cowee Creek up to Leatherman  
Gap and then down Connelly Creek

## Thursday, June 25

- “We march’d about nine at night & pass’d through a most difficult Road the whole night, with a Creek on our right hand & great hills on our left & a very narrow Path to march on, in many Places a slip was almost fatal, as you must fall down great precipices, sometimes on Rocks and sometimes into the Creek.”

## Friday, June 26

- “We began to ascent Stickowe Mountain which is upwards of two miles to the top and extremely steep which made it a fatigue beyond description to get up it.

- “After our halt we march’d again through the strongest country ever I saw, anything we had yet pass’d being nothing to comparison with this.
- “...descending Stickowe Mountain which was so very steep & made so slippery by some Rain which fell, that it was nearly as difficult to get down as up.”
- “In short, it was the most fatigueing march that ever was made.”
- “Colonel Grant declar’d our march was much worse than the passage of the Alps, which he had seen.”



# Destruction resumed

- “We reach’d some straggly Houses at one o’Clock, here we halted ‘till about ½ past three in which Time we destroy’d some Fields of Corn & burn’d the Houses, we then proceeded & reach’d Stickowee about five.”
- “This Town stands pleasantly situated upon the north branch of the Tanasse.”

## Saturday, June 27

- “I cross’d the River with a party of 80 light Infantry & destroy’d about 100 acres of Indian Corn & burn’d five Houses.”
- “We return’d by the lower Ford which was extremely rapid & reach’d to the breast in some places, which oblig’d us to support one the other.”

## On down the “north branch of the Tanasse”

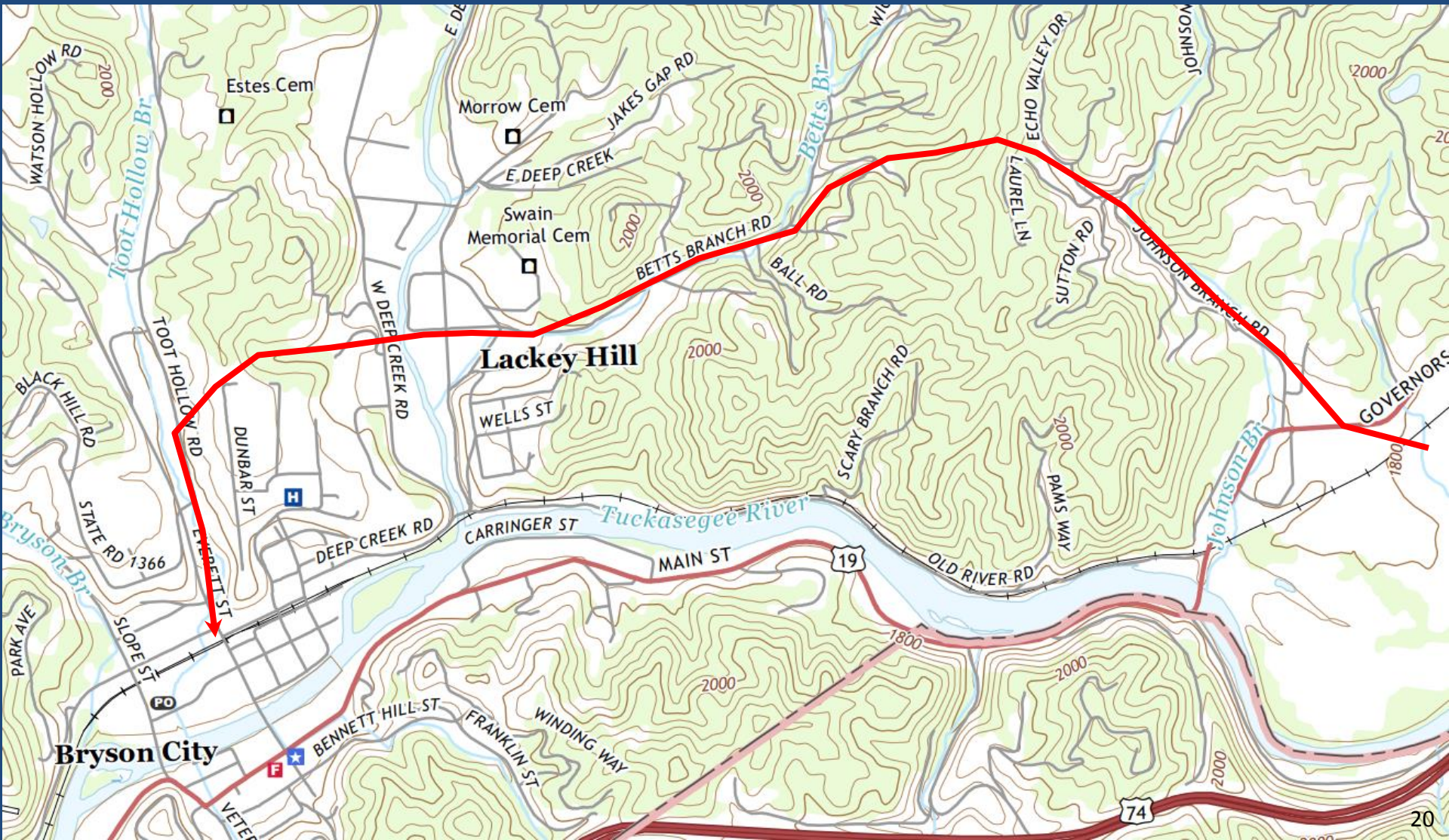
- “We march’d for Kittoweh the Road to which is pretty good & about three Miles, the River here is very broad & divides into three branches by two Islands, the first is very rapid & the last full of round smooth stones.”
- “Kittoweh stands in a large plain surrounded by Hills but not so high as usual in this Country.”
- “Here we destroy’d a great deal of Corn & having set fire to the Town march’d for Tuckareetchih.”

## Continuing to Tuckareetchih

- “Having gone through a narrow pass for about 2 miles we cross’d a small plain that led us to a Creek which has a good Ford.” *(More on next slide)*
- “We arriv’d at Tuckareetchih in about 1½ Hour. It is very pleasantly situated in the largest Plain we had found inhabited & the River running past it, the Houses scatter’d.”
- “The River is very broad, I dare say 200 yards between Kettowhi & Tuckareetchih.”

French’s judgment re: river width is very exaggerated. It is less than 150 yards at it widest, and is under 100 yards wide over most of its length.

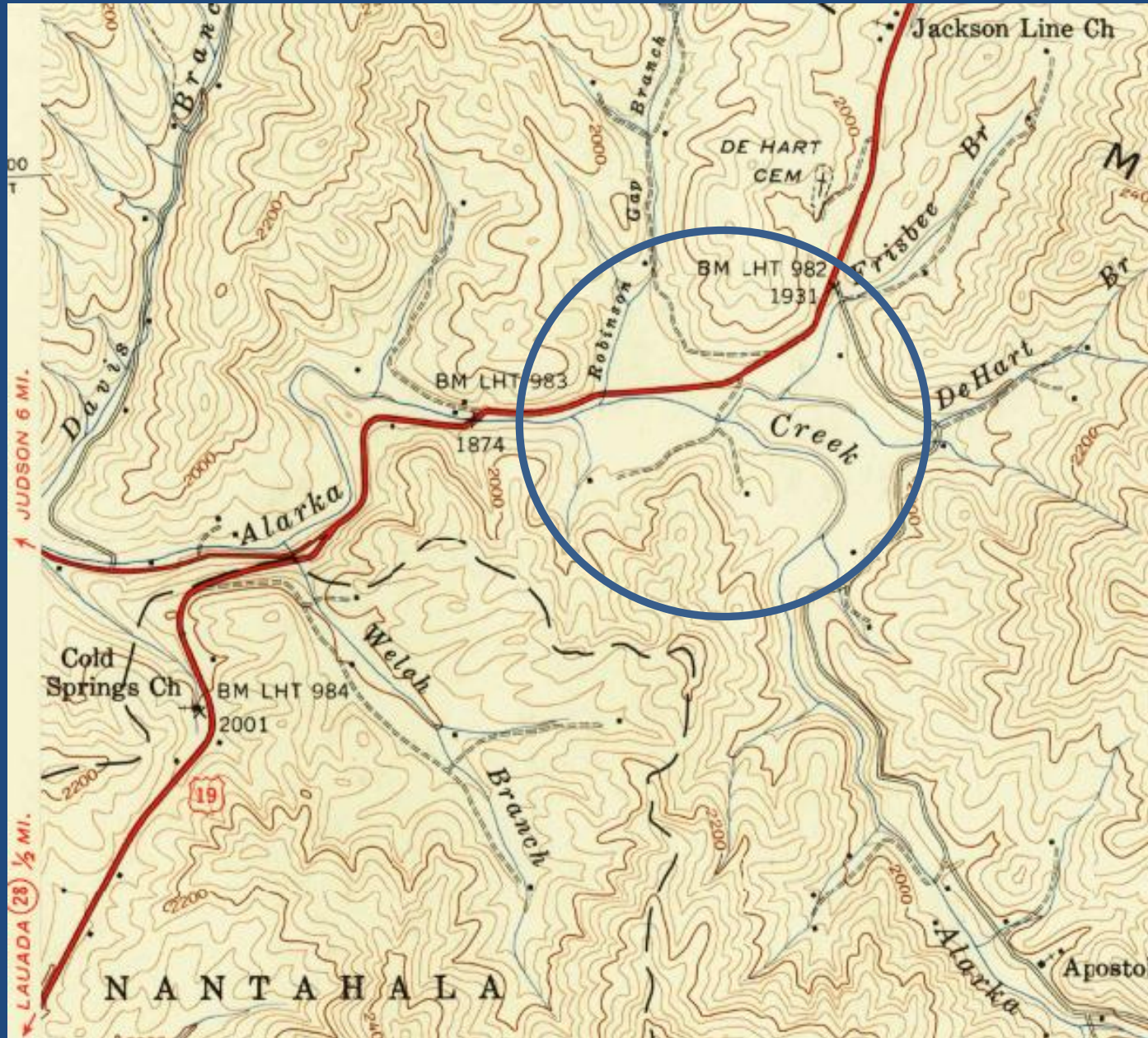
My conjecture: they went from Kituwha up Johnson Branch, across the low gap to Betts Branch; the “good ford” was on Deep Creek



## On to Alarka and Needmore

- (Leaving Tuckareetchih) – “We pass’d the River close to the Town after having destroy’d a large quantity of Corn, & set the Town on Fire. The Ford is good ‘though broad.”
- We arriv’d at Tessantih, 3 miles, which stands upon uneven ground, some of the Houses being built upon the sides of the Hills, Others in the Valley, which has a creek running through it.”
- “Some of the Houses here were the neatest we had yet seen.”

# Location of Tessantih



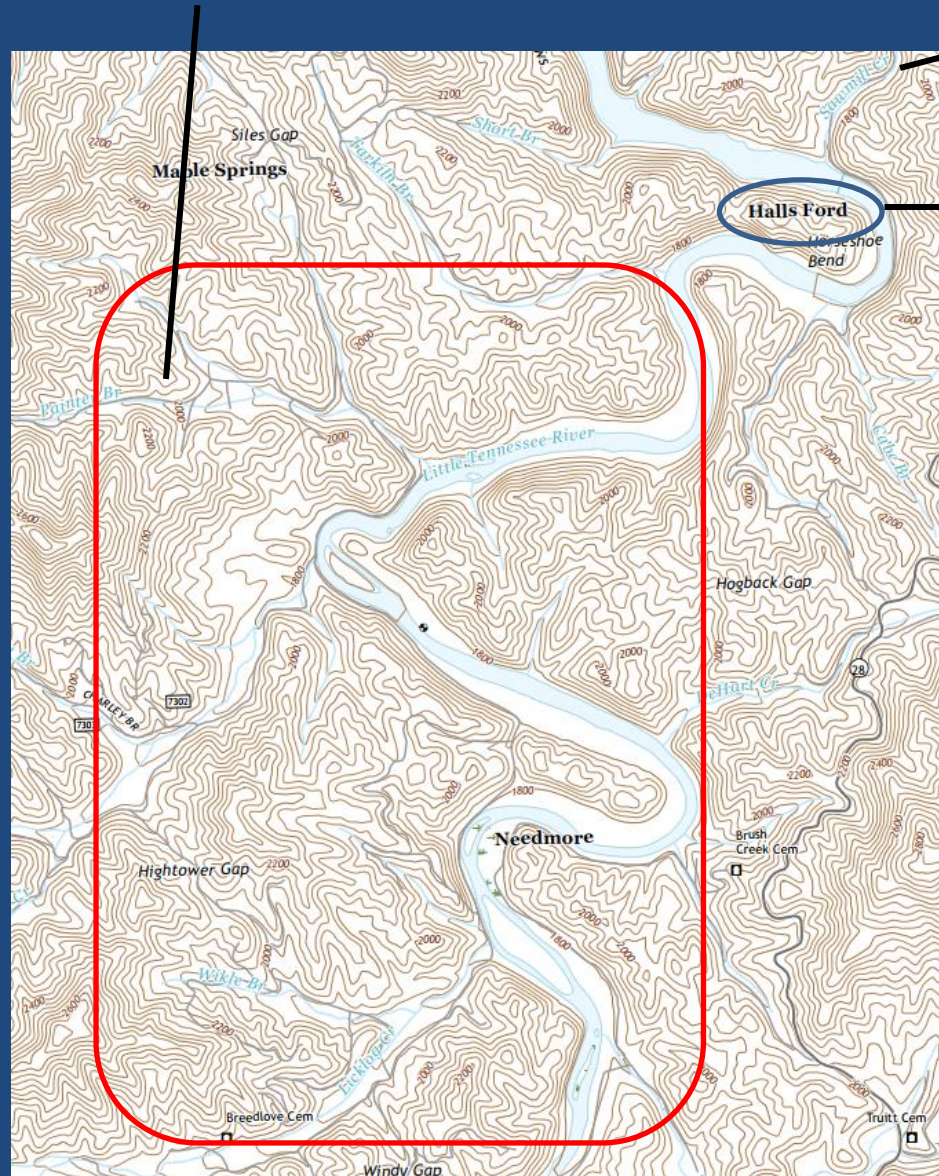
# Depredations at Tessantih

- “Here our Indians kill’d another old Cherokee, run a large stick down his Throat, stuck an Arrow into each of his sides, one into his Neck & left a Tomahak sticking in his head.”
- “At Ten all the Corn being destroy’d & the Town set on Fire, we march’d for Allijoy, to do which you must go Down the Creek a little way, then crossing it. You can’t miss the Path.”

# Allijoy in the red highlighted section

Note Painter (Panther) Branch

Sawmill Creek



An 1837 map made in preparation for Cherokee removal showed a road up Sawmill Creek “to the Deep Creek Settlement on Tuckasegee.”

That road was almost certainly the one which the Grant expedition took, and would’ve closely followed old NC 10 – i.e., leaving Alarka Creek, going past Cold Springs Church, on to Lauada, and then following current NC 28 across the gap at Sawmill Hill Church. Then down Sawmill Creek to Halls Ford, as highlighted here.



## French on Allijoy

- “This (Alejoy) last is but a poor place standing upon a narrow strip of Land under high Hills & contains but few Houses, it is seven short Miles from Tessantih.”
- “We halted at this Place ‘till we had destroy’d the Corn & burn’d the Town.”
- “Here our Indians shott & scalp’d a young Warrior known afterwards to be Clunlusy, son of the Long Dog of Nathali. He was a well looking young fellow, & had been very active against us.”

# Andrew Pickens and Francis Marion both recalled the expedition with regrets

- The taciturn Pickens: “I learned something of British cruelty which I always abhorred.” However, Pickens participated in a similarly destructive campaign during the Revolutionary War (1776; see Ring Fight discussion later).
- Marion: “The next morning we proceeded by order of colonel Grant to burn down the Indian cabins. Some of our men seemed to enjoy this cruel work, laughing very heartily at the curling flames, as the mounted loud crackling over the tops of the huts. But to me it appeared a shocking sight. Poor creatures! Thought I, we surely need not grudge you such miserable habitations. But when we came, according to orders, to cut down the fields of corn, I could scarcely refrain from tears.....I saw everywhere around the footsteps of the little Indian children, where they had lately played under the shade of their rustling corn. When we are gone, thought I, they will return and peeping through the weeds with tearful eyes, will mark the ghastly ruin where they had so often played. ‘Who did this?’ they will ask their mothers, and the reply will be, ‘The white people did it – the Christians did it.’”

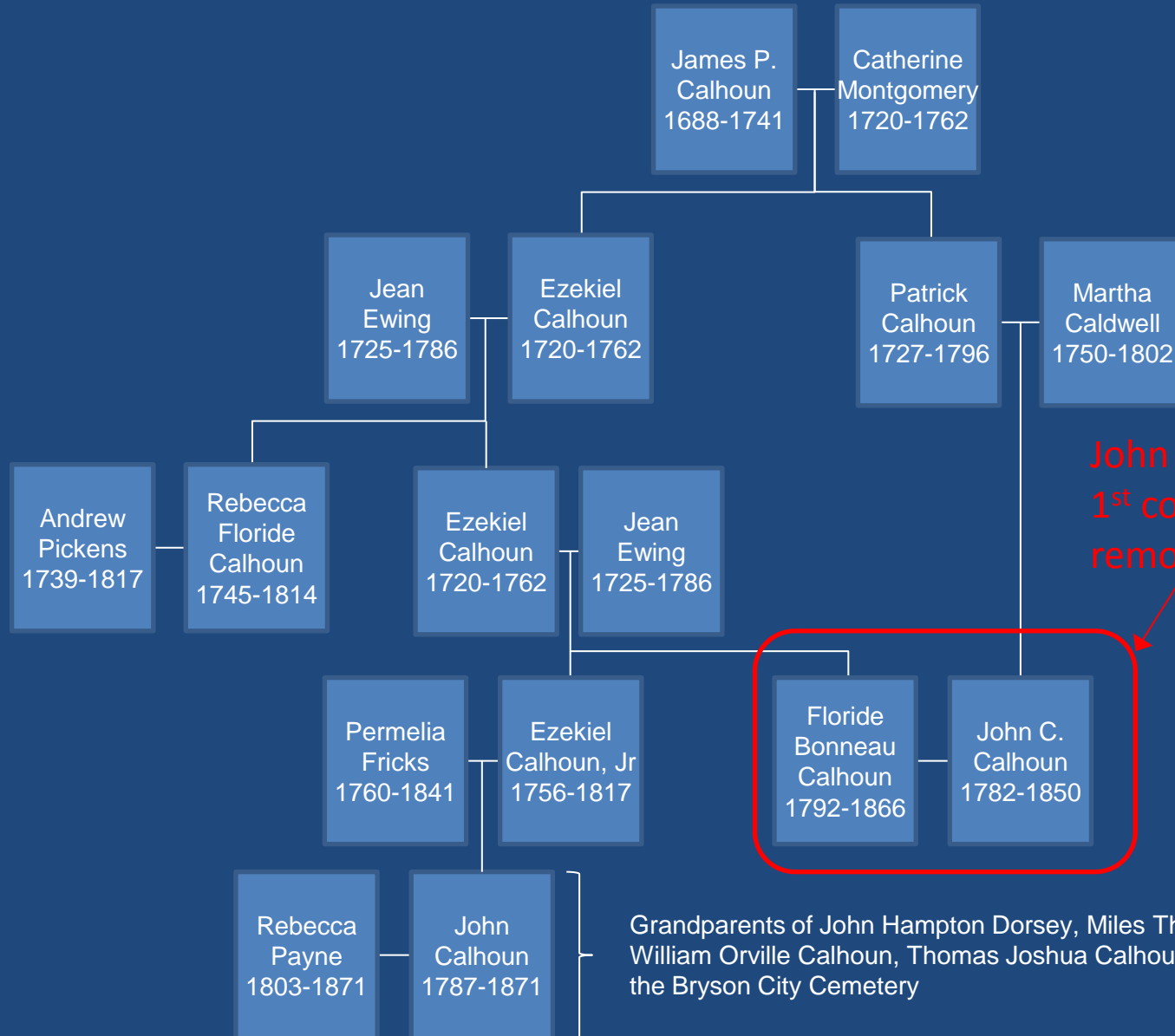
# WNC Connection to Andrew Pickens

One of several precipitating factors in the 1760 expedition was the Long Cane Massacre. The settlers, which included members of the Calhoun family, apparently settled across the established Cherokee – South Carolina colony boundary line, which was Long Cane Creek, and had lived there peaceably for several years.

On the heels of an outbreak of attacks by Cherokees, a caravan of wagons fled toward Augusta on February 1, 1760. They were overtaken by Cherokees as they attempted to cross a streambed which is deeply recessed from the surrounding land. Fourteen year old Rebecca Calhoun hid in a canebrake and watched her grandmother, family matriarch Catherine Calhoun was killed and scalped.

Five years later, Rebecca married Andrew Pickens. She was the first cousin of Secretary of War and Vice-President of the United States, John C. Calhoun. Rebecca was also aunt of the wife of John C. Calhoun (his wife was the daughter of his first cousin). See part of the Calhoun/Pickens family tree on the next page.

# Calhoun/Pickens Family connection to Swain County



John C & wife were  
1<sup>st</sup> cousins, once  
removed

Grandparents of John Hampton Dorsey, Miles Thomas Calhoun,  
William Orville Calhoun, Thomas Joshua Calhoun, all buried in  
the Bryson City Cemetery

# View of the mountains of Southern Jackson County from the location where the Hopewell Treaty was signed



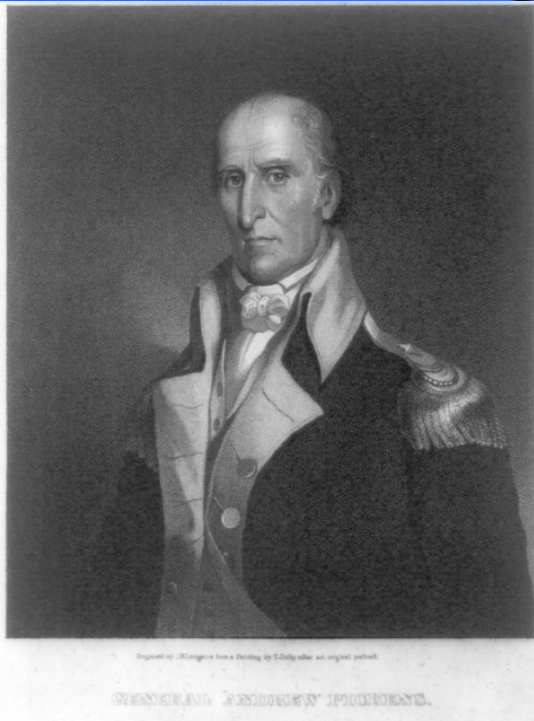
The Hopewell Treaty was negotiated in 1785, with Andrew Pickens being one of three U.S. Commissioners. The treaty was signed at his home, Hopewell, located near Clemson, SC. This treaty first opened parts of east Buncombe County to white settlers. Cherokees signing the cession treaty would've likely recognized individual peaks. Although the land which embraces those peaks was not ceded in the 1785 treaty, it would be 34 years later, in the treaty of 1819. The U.S. representative in that treaty was John C. Calhoun, 1<sup>st</sup> cousin of Rebecca Calhoun Pickens, wife of Andrew Pickens.

The three noted peaks are all within four miles of Highlands, NC.

# Andrew Pickens had a heated battle with Cherokees in the “Ring Fight” on August 12, 1776

- Pickens’ 25-man scouting party (under Major Andrew Williamson) was ambushed by 185 Cherokees.
- Pickens quickly gathered his men into concentric rings, alternating firing and reloading. The Cherokees encircled and closed in; hand-to-hand combat ensued. Help arrived from Williamson’s main body in short order.
- Pickens losses were less than the Cherokees
- Lore has it that the Cherokees respected his quick thinking under fire and bravery, and named him Skyagunsta, or the Wizard Owl.
- The encounter was part of a somewhat coordinated three-state attack against the Cherokees, along with the Rutherford Campaign from North Carolina and troops led by William Christian of Virginia

# There may have been a bit of beak humor in the Cherokee selection of the name Wizard Owl



View to the Southeast from Pickens Nose in southern Macon County. Pickens would have marched through the Dillard area, seen in the valley beyond.



# The succeeding sections are based primarily on writings of John Brickell, Henry Timberlake, and William Bartram

- Except where otherwise noted, Brickell's discussion on people primarily relates to early European settlers in the eastern part of NC.
- Timberlake's observations, a full generation after Brickell, relate to the Tennessee valley, from Kingsport to the lower Little Tennessee Valley.
- Bartram's observations relate primarily to what is now the Macon County section of the Little Tennessee.



The soil, farming practices, crops

# John Brickell

- “There has been sixty increase for (wheat) sown in Piney Land, which is accounted the worst soil in the Country, and I have been credibly inform’d, that the Wheat which was Planted in the Savannas, and such like rich Soil, has produced a Hundred for one Measure Sown.”
- “I never saw one Acre of Land managed as it ought to be, and were they as Negligent in their Husbandry in Europe, as they are in North Carolina, their Land would produce nothing but Weeds.”

# Timberlake

- “The country....is temperate, inclining to heat during the summer-season, and so remarkably fertile that the women alone do all the laborious tasks of agriculture, the soil requiring only a little stirring with a hoe, to produce whatever is required of it....”
- “Yielding vast quantities of pease, beans, potatoes, cabbages, Indian corn, pumpions, melons, and tobacco, not to mention a number of other vegetables imported from Europe....which flourish as much, or more here, than in their native climate.”
- “Before the arrival of the Europeans, the natives were not so well provided, maize, melons, and tobacco, being the only things\* they bestow culture upon.”

\* Timberlake is mistaken here; varieties of beans unknown in Europe were being grown well before contact with Europeans, practicing three sisters cultivation: corn, beans, squash.

# Bartram

About the three-mile section between Nucassee (Nikwasi) and Whatoga (Watauga), Bartram noted:

- “All before me and on every side, appeared little plantations of young Corn, Beans, etc. divided from each other by narrow strips or borders of grass, which marked the bounds of each one’s property, their habitation standing in the midst.”

# Brickell, concerning beans and purslane ...

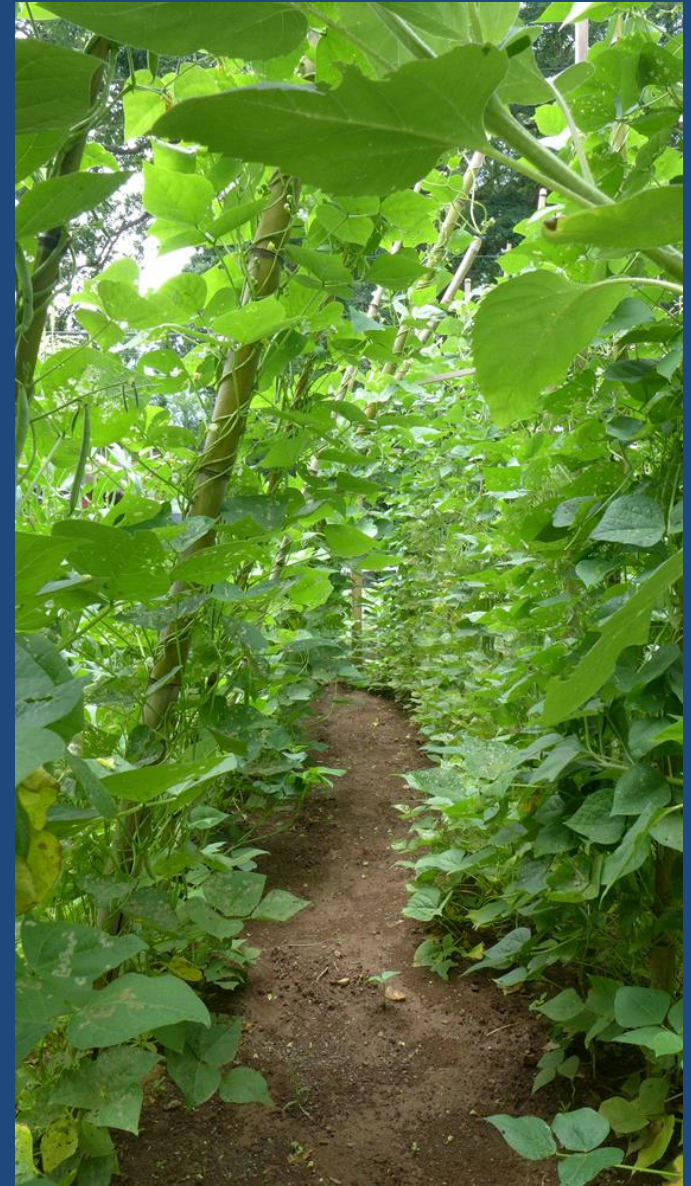
- “The Indians had these four Sorts of Pulse (beans), viz. the Bonavis, Calivances, Nanticoacks, and Kidney-Beans, and several other sorts, long before the Arrival of the Europeans amongst them.”
- “Purslain – two sorts, viz. the Tame and the Wild which are so plenty, that they are common Weeds in the Gardens...the Planters boil it with their Salt Meat for Greens, this is never to be met with in the Indian Plantations; and is supposed to be produced from the Cow-Dung, which Beast the Indians keep not amongst them.”

# More on beans and bean growing practices

- “There are several sorts of Pulse in this Province; and first the Bushel Bean, so called from producing a Bushel of Beans or more from one that is Planted”



- “They are a Spontaneous product in Carolina, and are Set in the Spring round Arbours, or near long Poles set in the Ground for that purpose, where they make a good Shade to sit under in the extreimity of hot Weather.



# Purslane's nutritional value

Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*), raw, fresh,  
Nutritive value per 100 g.  
(Source: USDA National Nutrient data base)

Principle	Nutrient Value	Percentage of RDA
Energy	16 Kcal	1.5%
Carbohydrates	3.4 g	3%
Protein	1.30 g	2%
Total Fat	0.1 g	0.5%
Cholesterol	0 mg	0%
<b>Vitamins</b>		
Folates	12 mcg	3%
Niacin	0.480 mg	3%
Pantothenic acid	0.036 mg	1%
Pyridoxine	0.073 mg	5.5%
Riboflavin	0.112 mg	8.5%
Thiamin	0.047 mg	4%
Vitamin A	1320 IU	44%
Vitamin C	21 mg	35%
<b>Electrolytes</b>		
Sodium	45 mg	3%
Potassium	494 mg	10.5%
<b>Minerals</b>		
Calcium	65 mg	6.5%
Copper	0.113 mg	12.5%
Iron	1.99 mg	25%
Magnesium	68 mg	17%
Manganese	0.303 mg	13%
Phosphorus	44 mg	6%
Selenium	0.9 mcg	2%
Zinc	0.17 mg	1.5%



# Brickell on Indian-Corn or Maize

- “The Indian-Corn or Maize is most commonly Planted with the Hoe, and proves the most useful Grain in these Parts, being in great Plenty all over this Province; it is very nourishing in Bread Sodden or otherwise, as appears by those that continually feed upon it, making them strong, able, and fit for hard Labour.”
- “When Planted in good Ground, produces for one Measure, Seven or eight Hundred, at the lowest Computation that can be made.”
- “Pigs and poultry fed with this Grain, eat the sweetest of all others.”

# Poke aplenty: Brickell

- “Poke....grows in every Field, the tender Tops whereof may be boiled and made use of as other Greens with all the safety immaginable, and are very good and nourishing, but the Roots (which are thick as a Man’s Leg) are not to be medled with, being in their Nature violent Purgers, and occasion those that eat of them to be frantick for some time.”

# Part 4. The land

# Brickell: Thoughts on the country

- “The Country in general is adorned with large and Beautiful Rivers and Creeks, and the Woods with lofty Timber.”
- “...plenty of Fish, Wild-fowl, Venison, and other necessaries that this Country naturally produces, has induced a great many Families to leave the more Northerly Plantations, and come and settle in one of the mildest Governments in the World, in a Country that with moderate Industry may be acquir'd all Necessaries convenient for life.”
- “The Mountains that are the most considerable are the Cherokee or Appelapean Mountains, they take their rise from the Northwest part of South Carolina, and so continue in one ridge to the Northward for several hundred Miles; they are vastly high, and abound with Trees, various kind of Plants and Stones of several different Natures.

# Bartram waxes poetic: the Upper Little TN Valley

- “My road leading at times close to the banks of the river, the Azalea, Kalmia, Rhododendron, Philadelphus, etc. beautifying his now elevated shores and painting the coves with a rich and cheerful scenery, continually unfolding new prospects as I traverse the shores.”
- “The towering mountains seem continually in motion as I pass along, pompously raising their superb crests toward the lofty skies, traversing the far distant horizons.”
- “But now behold, high upon the side of a distant mountain overlooking the vale, the fountain of this brisk-flowing creek; the unparalleled waterfall appears as a vast edifice with crystal front.”

# Part 5. Physical attributes of the People

# Brickell on physical attributes of children and men

- “The Europeans, or Christians of North-Carolina, are a straight, tall, well-limb’d and active People; their Children being seldom or never troubled with Rickets, and many other Distempers that the Europeans are afflicted with.”
- “The Men who frequent the Woods, and labour out of Doors....the vicinity of the Sun makes Impressions on them.”

# Brickell observations: women

- “But as for the Women that do not expose themselves to Weather, they are often very fair, and well featur’d, as you shall meet with anywhere, and have very Brisk and Charming Eyes; and as finely shaped, as any Women in the World. And I have seldom observ’d any Red-hair’d Women or Men, born in this Country.”
- “They marry generally very young, some at Thirteen or Fourteen; and she that continues unmarried, until Twenty is reckoned a stale Maid.”



# Brickell: The Indians (presumably Cherokee, maybe Catawba)

- “The most Sweet and healthful Part of this Country is inhabited only by the Savage Indians at present; and a great deal thereof has no other Inhabitants but the wild Beasts.”
- “A farther confirmation of the healthfulness of the Hilly parts of this Country, is very apparent, in the large Stature and gray Heads so common to be met with amongst the Savages that dwell near the Mountains.”

# Timberlake

- “The Cherokees are of a middle stature, of an olive color, tho’ generally painted, and their skins stained with gunpowder, pricked into it in very pretty figures.
- “Their hair of their head is shaved, tho’ many of the old people have plucked it out by the roots, except a patch on the hinder part of the head.
- “The women wear the hair of their head, which is so long that it generally reaches to the middle of their legs, and sometimes to the ground, club’d, and ornamented with ribbons of various colors.”

# Bartram

Speaking of the chief of Watauga with whom he ate:

“He was tall and perfectly formed; his countenance cheerful and lofty, and at the same time truly characteristic of the red men, that is, the brow ferocious, and the eye active, piercing or fiery, as an eagle. He appeared to be about sixty years of age, yet upright and muscular, and his limbs as active as youth.”

# Part 6. Towns and houses

# Bartram

- Houses are log structures, using stacked and notched logs stripped of their bark, chinked inside and out with clay tempered with dry grass
- Covered with chestnut bark or long, broad shingles
- Partitioned into three rooms
- Each home has a separate hot house – conical and covered with dirt.
- About 100 houses at Cowee, on both sides of the river.

# Smaller cabin at the Bumgarner place was reportedly built by Cherokees



Source: Open Parks Network

# The Bryson Place cabin was actually two cabins built at different times



Source: Open Parks Network

# The Town House – per Timberlake and Bartram

- The town house was a large circular structure which could seat several hundred people; it had but a single door.
- Laid out as an amphitheater, with stepped seating, described by Bartram as sofas, covered with mats made of woven splints of ash or oak.
- Fire in the center – principally for light
- Timberlake indicated the head warriors sat closest to the fire
- Bartram said that musicians seated themselves near the fire, with performers dancing and providing other shows “almost every night throughout the year.”



Here's what my mind immediately went to



# Performances at the assembly

- Bartram witnessed an assembly in preparation for a (stick) ball game the following day
- First, an aged chief offered a “long harangue” recounting what great ball players he and his fellow old men had been when they were young, and encouraged the young men to emulate them.
- After this, there was an elaborate show put on by the players and young maidens, which Bartram described in some detail.
- Bartram noted there were a variety of performances, ranging from farcical comedy to martial to R-rated.

# Part 7. Dress, disposition, assimilation

# Timberlake: Cherokee dress, disposition, and stamina

- “The rest of their (women’s) dress is now become very much like the European; and indeed, that of the men is greatly altered.
- “They are of a very gentle and amicable disposition to those they think their friends, but as implacable in their enmity.”
- “They are very hardy, bearing heat, cold, hunger and thirst, in a surprizing manner; and yet no people are given to more excess in eating and drinking, when it is conveniently in their power.”
- “The notion of the Indians uncommon activity was contradicted by three officers of the Virginia regiment, the slowest of which could outrun the swiftest of about 700 Indians....but had the race exceeded two or three hundred yards, the Indians would have acquired the advantage, by being able to keep the same pace a long time together.

# Bartram: Cherokee disposition and hospitality; writing of an experience at Watauga town

- “I was cheerfully welcomed at the door, and led in by the chief, giving the care of my horse to two handsome youths, his sons. During my continuance here, about half an hour, I experienced the most perfect and agreeable hospitality conferred on me by these happy people; I mean happy in their dispositions, in their apprehension of rectitude with regard to our social or moral conduct...”
- “O divine simplicity and truth, friendship without fallacy or guile, hospitality disinterested, native, undefiled, unmodified by artificial refinements!”

# Brickell: European, Indian Assimilation

- “The Language principally made use of in this Province is the English; notwithstanding there are Planters settled here from France, Germany, Holland and many other parts of Europe, who have all learn’d and speak the English Tongue; many of the Indians also use it.”
- “There are also many of the Planters that understand and speak the Indian Language well.”

# Part 8. Food

# Cherokee Food: Timberlake

- At Tellico: “Our entertainment from these people was as good as the country could afford, consisting of roast, boiled, and fried meats of several kinds, and very good Indian bread, baked in a very curious manner. After making a fire on the hearthstone, about the size of a large dish, they sweep the embers off, laying a loaf smooth on it; this they cover with a sort of deep dish, and renew the fire upon the whole, under which the bread bakes to as great perfection as in any European oven
- At Chote (“the metropolis of the country”): “After smoaking, the eatables were produced, consisting chiefly of wild meat; such as venison, bear, and buffalo; tho’ I cannot much commend their cookery, every thing being greatly overdone; there were likewise potatoes, pumpkins, homminy, boiled corn, beans and pease, and water, which except the spirituous liquor brought by the Europeans, is their only drink, was handed about in small gourds.”
- “What contributed greatly to render this feast disgusting, was eating without knives and forks, and being obliged to grope from dish to dish in the dark.”



# Cherokee Food: Bartram

“His women brought in a refreshing repast, consisting of sodden venison, hot corn cakes, etc., with a pleasant cooling liquor made of hommony well boiled, mixed afterward with milk; this is served up either before or after eating in a large bowl, with a very large spoon or ladle to serve it with.”

Bartram made one mention of gatherings from the wild (strawberries); Timberlake's visit was in late fall and winter

- Nuts were clearly a major part of the diet – e.g., chestnuts, hickory nuts, walnuts and acorns
- In addition to cultivated fruit trees, wild strawberries and huckleberries were eaten both fresh and dried
- Bartram did relate a fun tale about an encounter with “innocent Cherokee virgins” busily gathering strawberries. If time permits, I'll read that later.

# Brickell on Bear meat

- After eating what he believed to be a pork loin “which seem’d to me to be the most delicious Meat of that kind I ever tasted, I could not forebear all that Day to extol the goodness of it.”
- “The next Day we were invited to another Planter’s House, who told us he had the finest piece of Bear that could be, just roasted and ready for the Table. The Company very readily accepted of his Invitation, but as for my part, I could not be prevail’d upon for some time to eat; the Company said they wee much surpriz’d because I prais’d it so much the Day before. I never knew ‘till then but that it had been Pork. I only mention this to shew what power Prejudice has over us.”

# More on bear vittles - Brickell

- “If any person drinks a Quart of it (bear grease) melted, it never rises in the Stomach.”
- It “is preferr’d above all things for frying fish, etc.”
- “The Bacon made thereof is extraordinarily good, but must be well saved (salted).”
- Noted that bears are not fit to eat after their having consumed herring in the months of March and April or after eating black gum berries in the summer.

# Springs and water

- Timberlake: “Water, which, except the spirituous liquor brought by the Europeans, is their (Cherokees) only drink.”
- Brickell: “There are abundance of excellent good Springs to be met with in several parts of this Province, abounding with as sweet and fresh Waters as any in Europe, and especially near the Mountains, in which there can be none better.”
- Brickell: “Here (mountains) are divers kinds of Spaws (spas), and chalibeat Springs, the Water whereof being drank, make the Excrements as black as Ink by its chalibeat Quality.

# Part 9. Trees

# A major difference from today: a clean understory

- According to “History of Fire in the Southern Appalachians” (U.S. Forest Service), fire was used by Indians for multiple reasons:
  - Fire to surround and drive game
  - Reduce threats of dangerous forest fires
  - Cleared the underbrush to keep the forests open
  - Provide improved habitat for deer and buffalo
  - Made gathering of chestnuts and acorns easier

# Sam Hunnicutt, with only a common school education (7 grades) recommended burning decades before PhD professionals recognized the value

- “It used to be that you could see a thousand birds in one area, hundreds of fish playing in the streams, hear 50 owls in one night in different places, see 15 to 20 eagles in a day, many squirrels playing in the trees.....Now they’re gone because they’ve no food. The park has grown over with so much underbrush that it’s forced the berries and edible herbs out of existence.”
- Asked what could be done to improve conditions, Hunnicutt succinctly replied: “Fire. A good, controlled fire to burn out this underbrush and give game food a chance to grow. And fields of grain sown with the specific purpose of feeding game.”

Source: January 19, 1958 article by Bob Terrell in the Asheville Citizen.

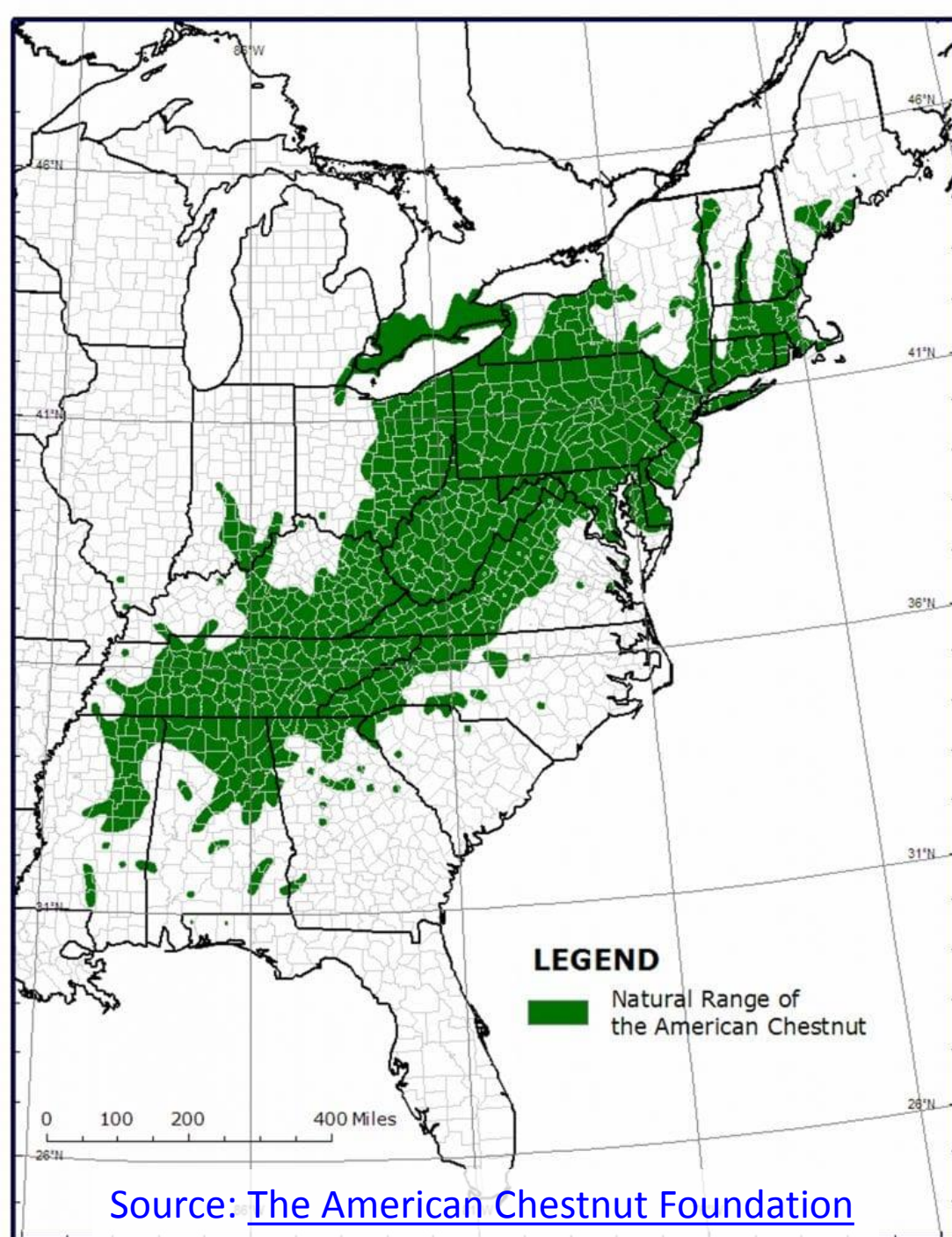


# Brickell

- “The Tulip Trees, which are called by the Planters Poplars, as being nearest in grain to that Wood. These Trees grow exceeding large and tall, some being found Twenty one Foot and more in circumference as I have frequently seen in many places in this Province. And I have been informed that some are found ten Feet Diameter.”
- “The Ches-nut Tree in this Province grows mostly toward the Heads of the Rivers, and hilly parts of the Country; it is large and durable Wood, and is useful in the building of Houses. The nut of the Ches-nut Tree is smaller than the European, but much sweeter and better relish’d.”

# In North Carolina, the American Chestnut was, in fact, mostly limited to the Appalachians

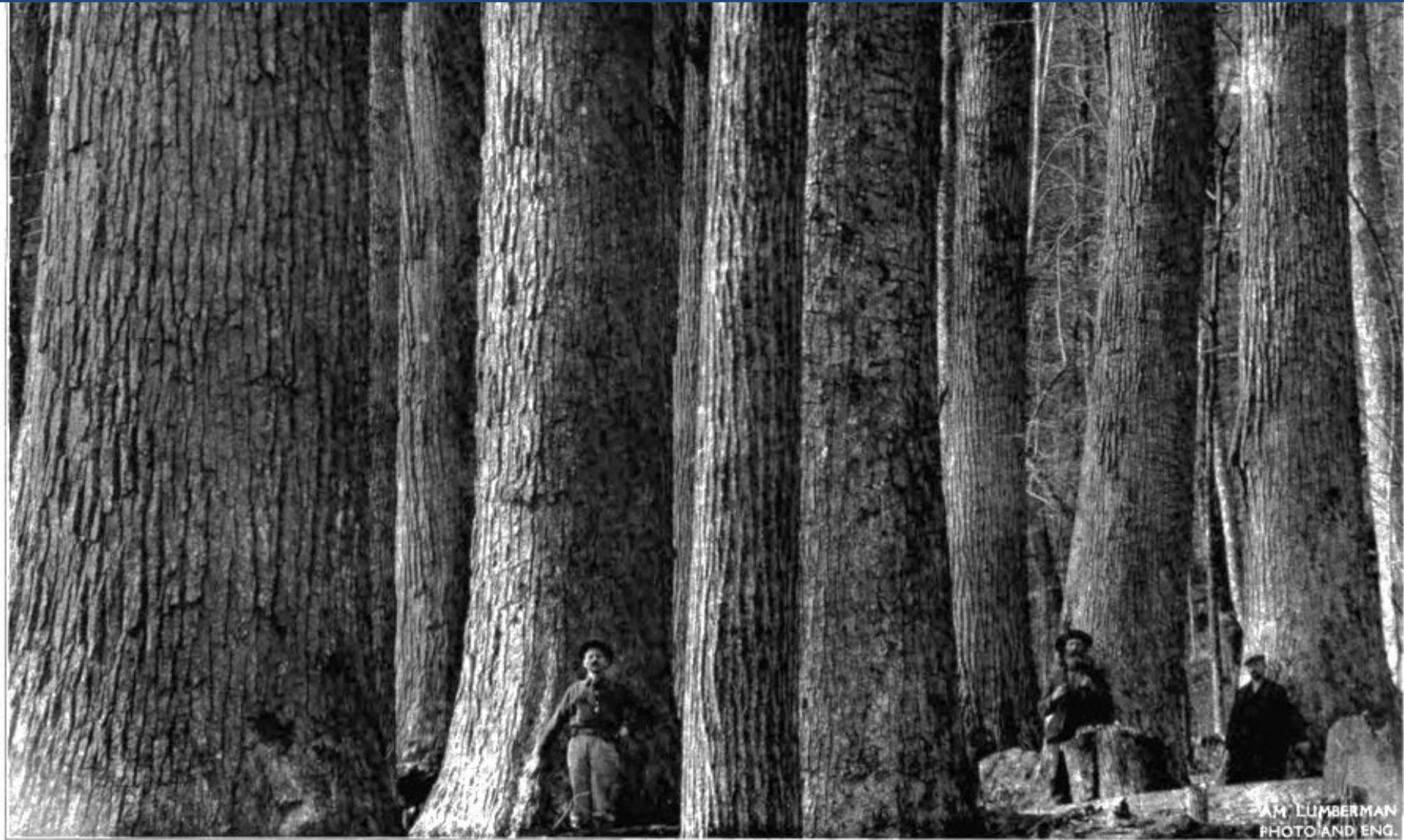
Personal observation: Chestnut sprouts are still regularly seen from 4,000 to 5,500 feet elevation, and occasionally will reach sufficient size to produce fruit. A couple of chestnuts near Lickstone Ridge Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway are producing fruit. There were numerous fruit producing chestnuts near Mile High Overlook until crews cut them several years ago.



# More on trees from Brickell

- “The Dog-wood Tree, grows plentifully in this Province, on light and rich grounds....It flowers the first in the Woods, of any Tree in this Province, making the Forest very beautiful at that Season; it bears a white Blossom in the Months of February and March.”
- “The Sugar Tree grows very beautiful and high, with a smooth Bark and large spreading Branches. It is of a very tedious growth, and is commonly to be met with at the heads of Rivers and near the Mountains, but no where else. The Indians tap it at certain Seasons of the Year and place Gourds to it to receive the Liquor, and when they have got sufficient quantity of Juice, they boil it to the consistence of Sugar, which is as sweet.”

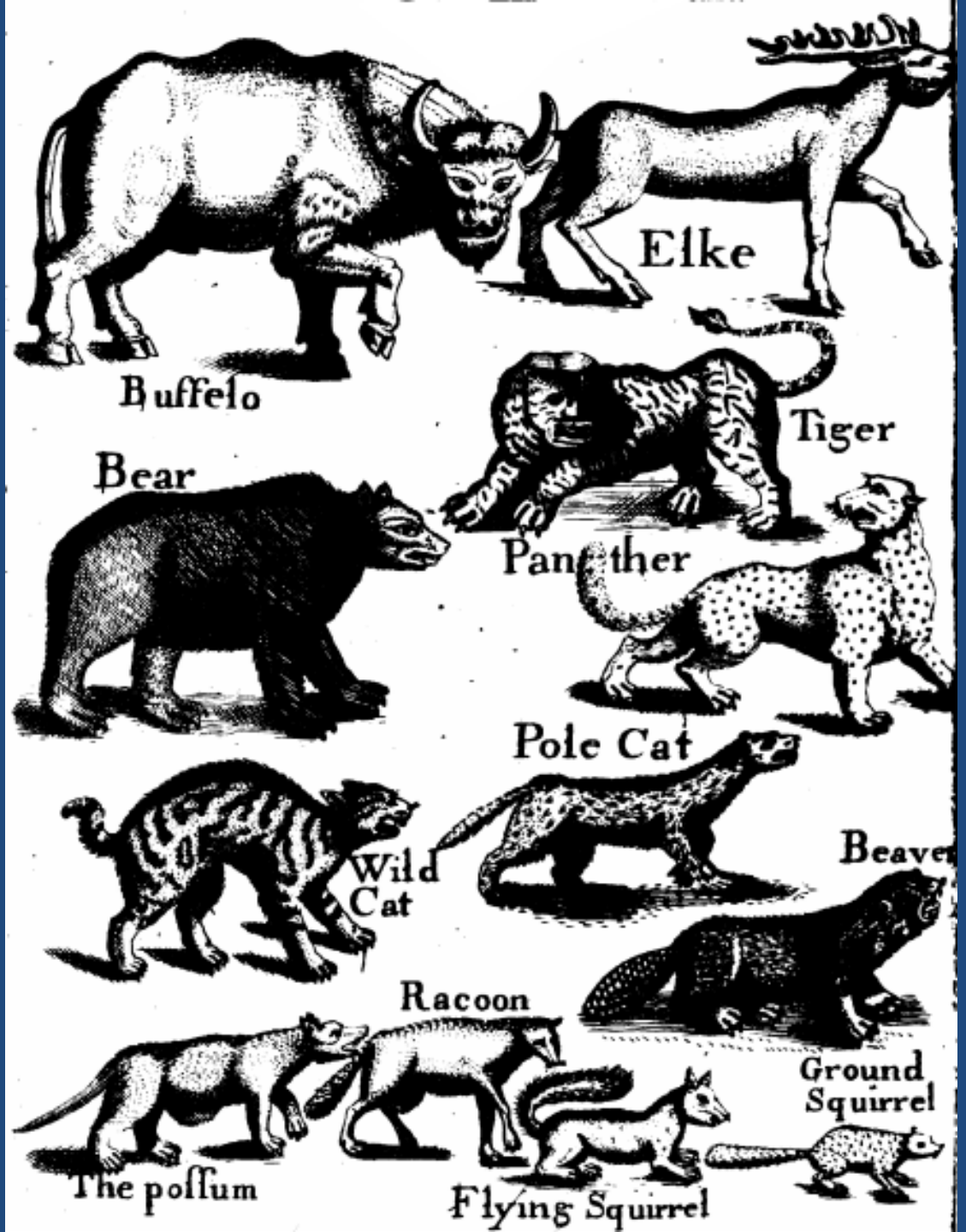
# Photo of Eagle Creek poplars – American Lumberman article on R.E. Wood, courtesy of Jason Brady, WCU



CHOICE YELLOW POPLAR TIMBER ON THE EAGLE CREEK PROPERTY OF THE MONTVALE LUMBER COMPANY IN NORTH CAROLINA. GREAT HEIGHT, SLIGHT TAPER AND GOOD SIZE ARE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH SHOULD APPEAL TO LUMBERMEN. 76

# Part 10. “The Beasts”

Sketch from  
*Natural History of  
North Carolina,*  
Brickell



# Timberlake

- While floating on the Holston: “amazing quantity of buffaloes, bears, deer, beavers, geese, swans, ducks, turkeys and other game.”
- “There are likewise an incredible number of buffaloes, bears, deer, panthers, wolves, foxes, racoons and opossums.”
- “There are a vast number of lesser sort of game, such as rabbits, squirrels of several kinds, partridges, pheasants and an infinity of other birds, pursued only by the children, who at 8 or 10 years old, are very expert at killing with a hollow cane, through which they blow a small dart, whose weakness obliges them to shoot at the eye of the larger sort of prey, which they seldom miss.”

# Brickell on Buffalo

- “The Buffalo is one of the largest wild Beasts that is yet known in these parts of America.”
- “This Monster of the Woods seldom appears amongst the European Inhabitants, its chiefest haunts being in the Savannas near the Mountains, or Heads of the Great Rivers.”
- “The Indians cut their Skins into Quarters, for the ease of Transportation or Carriage, and frequently make Beds of them to lie on; they likewise spin their Hair into Garters, Girdles, Sashes, and the like, being long and curled.”



# Brickell on polecats

- “The Pol-cats (by some called Scunks) ....smell like the European Fox, but if possible, ten times stronger and more offensive: When a Dog encounters them, they piss on their Tails and sprinkle it on him, by which means he shall smell a Month or more...”
- “The Indians love to eat their flesh, which has no manner of ill smell when the Bladder is out.”

# Brickell's Ode to opossums

- “The Possum is to be met with no where but in America, that I could ever learn, and is the wonder of all Land Animals...They are a very stupid Creature, being altogether negligent of their own Safety, and never strive to flie from their Enemies..”
- “They are hard to kill....and it is a common saying in Carolina that if a Cat has nine lives, a Possum has nineteen.”
- “The testicles given with Honey stir up Lust, and cause Conception.”

# Part 11. Trails and towns

# Abundance of trails

- Bartram: “....keeping the trading path which coursed through the low lands between the hills and the river, now spacious and well beaten by travellers, but somewhat intricate to a stranger, from the frequent collateral roads falling into it from villages or towns over the hills. “
- Davenport (1821) noted “Indian path at the head of Deep Creek” – this is Indian Gap, through which the Oconaluftee Turnpike was later run.
- Davenport also noted at the 60<sup>th</sup> mile (Ekaneetlee Gap) a “path from Equinotty to Tellessee (Ekaneetlee to Tallassee)”

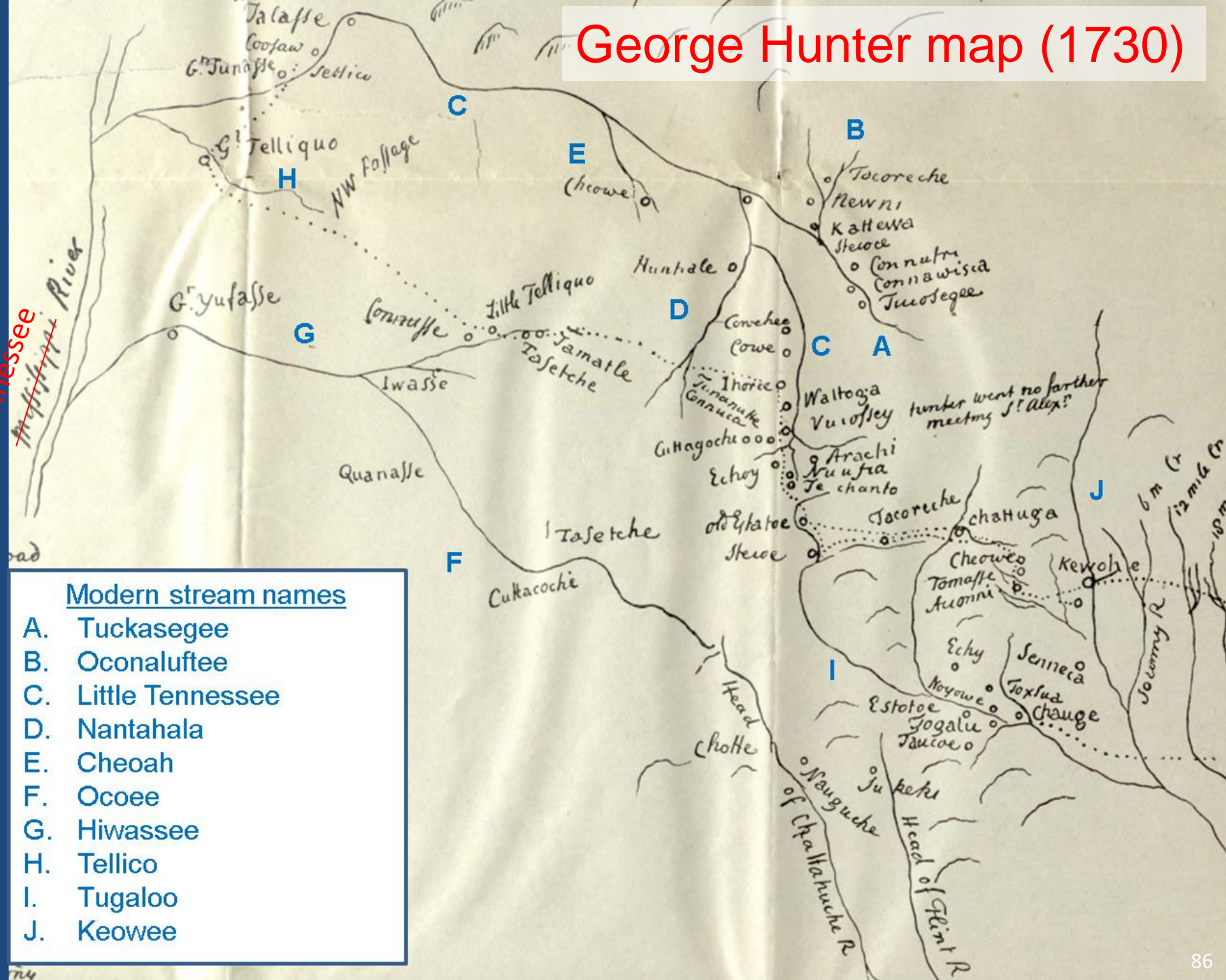
# Grant's expedition, Bartram and others clearly followed roads and trails throughout their travels in the mountains

- Grant: “The road from Cowhee to Sticoe was represented by the guides to be very practicable – they said pack horses were frequently drove that way.”
- Grant and French's view of what was a good road didn't match that of the guides: “The roads were excessively bad.”
- Grant: “No troops ever were in so dangerous a position and they continued to be for so many hours till we got to the top of Catouchee\* Mountain, one of the highest and one of the steepest in America.

\* Grant inexplicably used this name for the Cowee/Alarka range which they passed through. Much of what he wrote was to amplify and exaggerate the difficulties that he had faced.

# George Hunter map (1730)

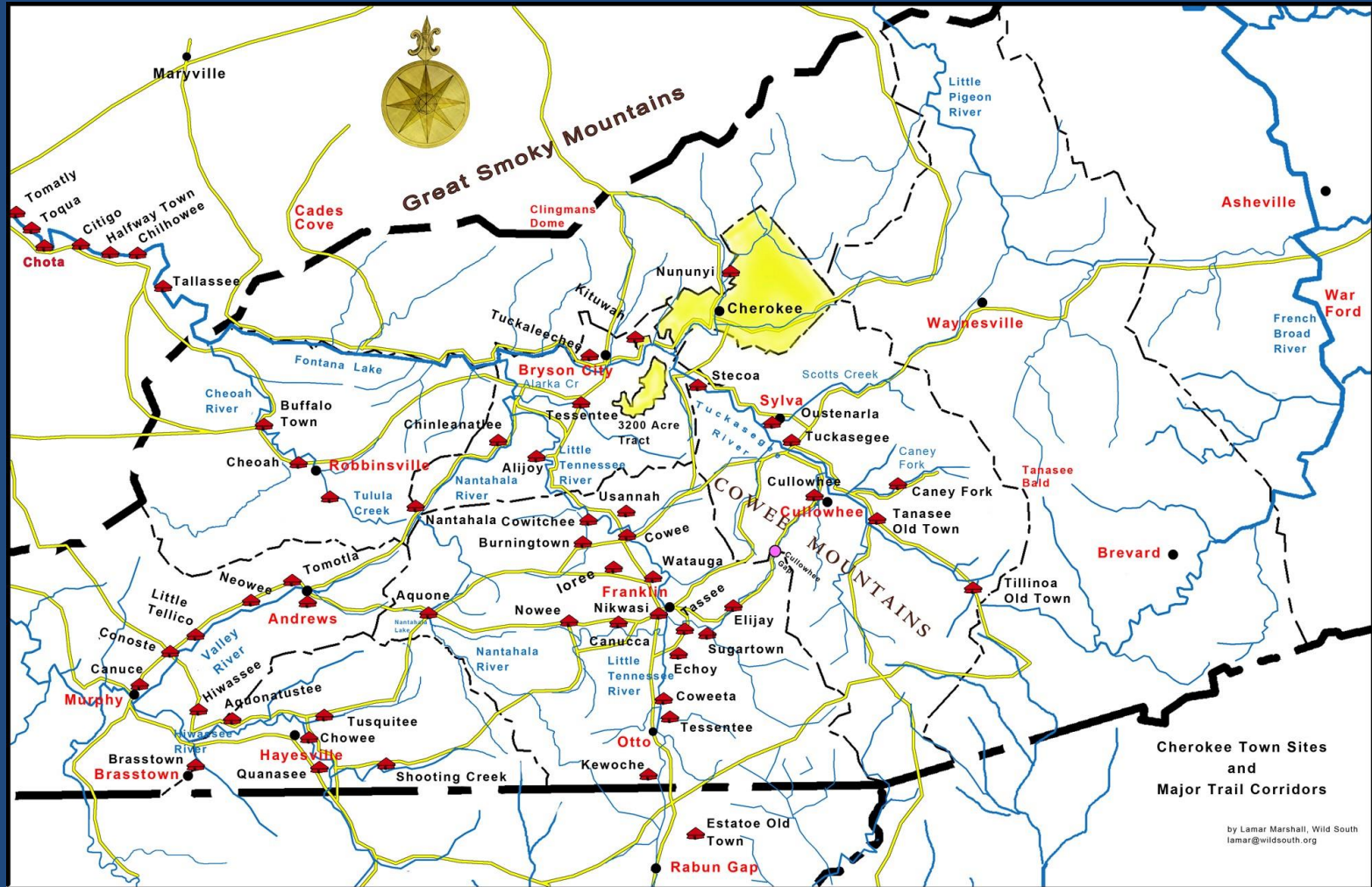
Tennessee



## Modern stream names

- A. Tuckasegee
- B. Oconaluftee
- C. Little Tennessee
- D. Nantahala
- E. Cheoah
- F. Ocoee
- G. Hiwassee
- H. Tellico
- I. Tugaloo
- J. Keowee

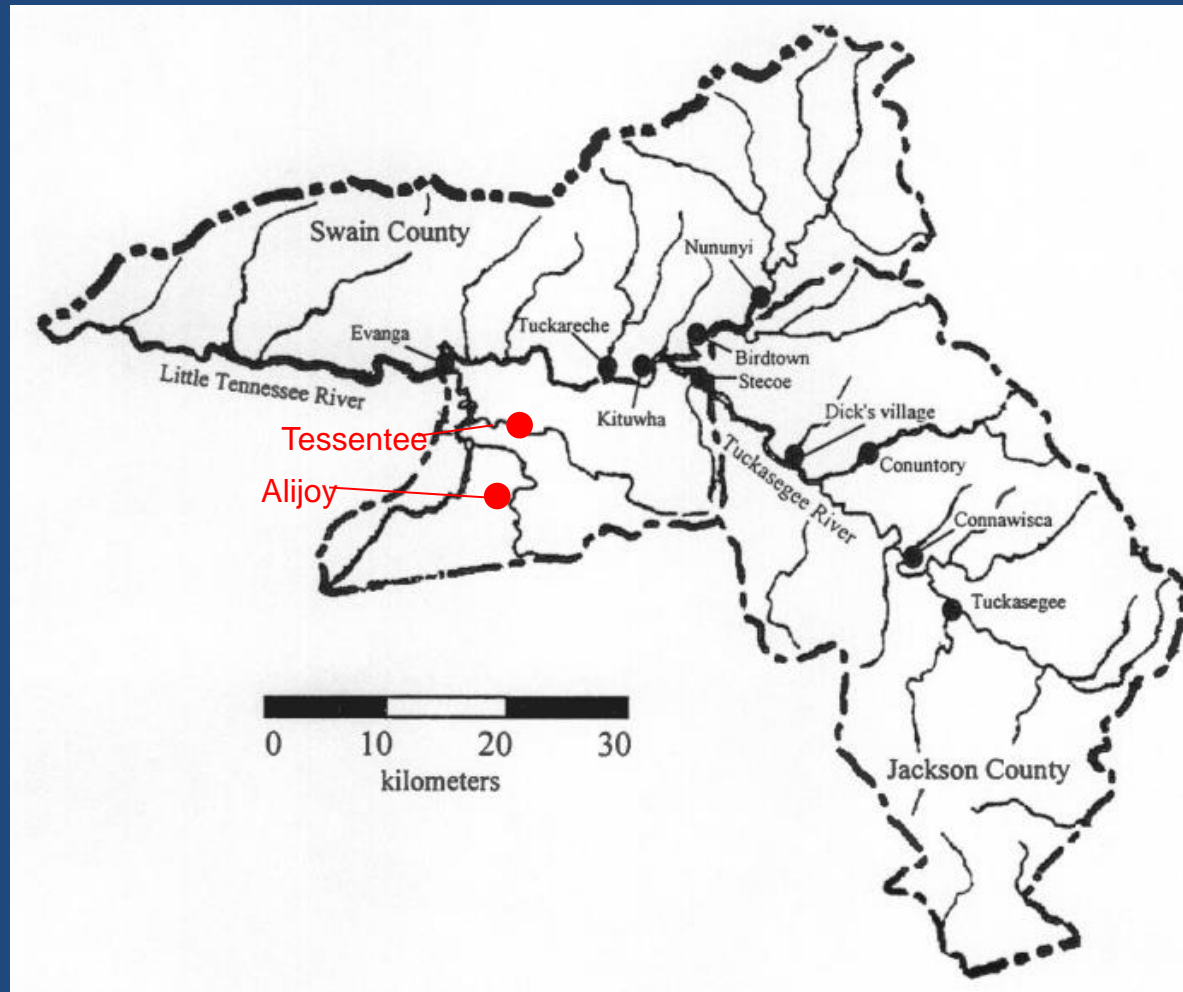
# Towns were connected by a network of trails: Map by Lamar Marshall



Note the complete absence of Cherokee towns in the area that is now the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

# Cherokee Out Towns – Swain and Jackson

Notice the absence of towns in the GSMNP



Greene, Lance K., "The Archaeology and History of the Cherokee Out Towns." Master's Thesis, University of Tennessee, 1996. [http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk\\_gradthes/3304](http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_gradthes/3304)  
(Items in red are my additions)