

Native American Places

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Introduction

Our group's project was to add content to the North Carolina Gazetteer regarding Native American places and place names. We consulted a variety of resources to find information about Native American communities and towns, geographical features and bodies of water with Native American names, and archeological and historical sites related to Native American cultures and history. This report describes the resources our group used, our approaches for adding new gazetteer entries and enhancing existing ones, and our ideas for future directions this research could take.

The report begins with information about the CSV file included with this document and which contains our entries for the gazetteer. Our group's file contains five fields that are not in the current gazetteer, and we provide the names of those fields as well as brief descriptions of the values they contain. Additionally, our group used four feature types not currently in use in the gazetteer. Our report names those types along with descriptions of each.

The next four sections of our report provide descriptions of our research approaches. Each member of our group focused on a particular area of interest, researching places related to specific tribes (historic Cherokee towns, Lumbee places, Meherrin places), places found by delving into a specific type of resource (maps, texts, and other historical data), or archeological sites. Because each group member took a different research approach depending on their area of interest, these sections of our report are organized by those areas of interest. (For a detailed report of the approach used to research Cherokee towns, please refer to "Historical Cherokee Towns for the *North Carolina Gazetteer*" by Corinne S. Foster.)

Finally, our report acknowledges the contributions made by each member of our group.

CSV Documentation

Additional Fields

The table below shows the fields in our CSV file that are not in the current North Carolina Gazetteer. Included are the field labels along with brief descriptions on the values in each field.

| Field Label | Description |
|-----------------|---|
| alternate_label | Alternate name (or former name) of a place. |
| coordinates | Latitude and longitude of the place. |
| creator | Name of person who created a place item. |
| contributor | Name of person who added to or changed an already created place item. |
| source | Source(s) used. |

Additional Feature Types

Additionally, our “feature_type” field contains some types that are not currently used in the gazetteer. Types that are not in the current gazetteer are adapted from Wikidata identifiers. The table below shows the new types used in our CSV. We suggest that these types be incorporated into the North Carolina Gazetteer type system.

| Type | Description |
|----------------------------|---|
| nct:CulturalCenter | An organization that promotes activities related to culture or art and/or the building where these activities take place. |
| nct:EducationalInstitution | An institution that provides education, including but not limited to colleges and universities and K-12 schools. |
| nct:Organization | A group created to meet needs or pursue goals, including but not limited to non-profit organizations and international organizations. |
| nct:PlaceOfWorship | A place used for worship, including but not limited to churches, mosques, and temples. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| nct:BurialMound | A historical burial site (of indigenous peoples when concerning North America), in which an artificial hill is built over remains of the dead |
| nct:HuntingGround | A place once used or suitable for hunting historically. (Usually abundant in archaeological projectiles such as spear and arrowheads but lacking an archaeological village site) |

Lumbee Places

Contributors: Harvey Maynor & Kaylin Blount

Sources

Kaylin Blount

1. *The Lumbee Indians: An American Struggle*, by Malinda Maynor Lowery

Lowery, Malinda Maynor. *The Lumbee Indians : An American Struggle*, University of North Carolina Press, 2018. ProQuest Ebook Central,
<https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/lib/unc/detail.action?docID=5484318>.

The author of this book, Malinda Maynor Lowery, is a history professor at UNC, the director of the Center for the Study of the American South, and a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. This is a book about Lumbee history, not specifically about places or place names, but it proved incredibly useful for providing names of communities, townships, and even schools and churches. One of the maps included in the book, "Selected 'Scuffletown' settlements and neighboring towns, nineteenth and twentieth centuries," was also useful for gathering place names.

2. *Lumbee Indians in the Jim Crow South: Race, Identity, and the Making of a Nation*, by Malinda Maynor Lowery

Lowery, M. Maynor. (2010). *Lumbee Indians in the Jim Crow South: race, identity, and the making of a nation*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

*Like Professor Lowery's previous book, this one discusses Lumbee history. This book was used primarily to cross-reference with *The Lumbee Indians: An American Struggle*, use any additional information, and to reference the map, "A Selection of Nineteenth Century Indian Settlements."*

3. Livermore Library Special Collections (The University of North Carolina at Pembroke), Lumbee History and Culture Collection, Robeson County Compensatory Indian Education Project

<https://dlib.uncp.edu/digital/collection/lumbee/id/56/rec/1>

This project was a very basic overview of some aspects of Lumbee history and culture. Although not incredibly detailed, it did prove useful in some respects. The map included by the project, "Indian Communities of Robeson County 1979," which provided additional Lumbee towns, townships, and communities. The project also provided brief descriptions

of businesses owned by members of the Lumbee Tribe, a cultural center, a historical site, and the school that would eventually become The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

4. The University of North Carolina at Pembroke: "History"

<https://www.uncp.edu/about/history>

The "History" section of UNC Pembroke's website provided the information used to track the name and location changes of the school since its establishment in 1887.

5. "Sacred Grounds: Robeson County, NC Indian Cemeteries," by Jane Blanks Barnhill

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~ncrobccem/>

This website provides a list of Native American cemeteries which are (mostly) located in Robeson County. The list is derived from a book by Jane Blanks Barnhill, Sacred Grounds: "Gone but Not Forgotten" (Barnhill, Jane Blanks. Sacred Grounds: "Gone but Not Forgotten". St. Pauls, NC: Jane Blanks Barnhill, 2007. 374 p.).

Harvey Maynor

6. North Carolina Archaeology (formerly Southern Indian Studies) Vol. 18

<http://rla.unc.edu/Publications/NCArch.html>

"The Southern Indian Studies was established in April, 1949, as a medium of publication and discussion of information pertaining to the life and customs of the Indians in the Southern states, both prehistoric and historic."

7. North Carolina Archaeology (formerly Southern Indian Studies) Vol. 22

<http://rla.unc.edu/Publications/NCArch.html>

"The Southern Indian Studies was established in April, 1949, as a medium of publication and discussion of information pertaining to the life and customs of the Indians in the Southern states, both prehistoric and historic."

8. North Carolina Archaeological Council Publication 24

North Carolina Archaeological Council Publication 24 "SKELETAL ANALYSIS IN SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY"

<http://rla.unc.edu/ncac/Publications/index.html>

A publication by the North Carolina Archaeological Council which lists notable archaeological excavations and their Skeletal finding and further Analysing

9. The Exploration of Mounds in North Carolina

The Exploration of Mounds in North Carolina Author(s): Charles Peabody Source: American Anthropologist, New Series, Vol. 12, No. 3 (Jul. - Sep., 1910), pp. 425-433 Published by: Wiley on behalf of the American Anthropological Association Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/659899>

This work covers the Exploration of Mounds by Charles Peabody in the Fayetteville, North Carolina area

10. Notes on the Indian burial mounds of Eastern North Carolina

HOLMES, J. A. "NOTES ON THE INDIAN BURIAL MOUNDS OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA." Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society, vol. 1, 1883, pp. 73-79. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/24330058.

This work covers and analyses various burial mounds in eastern north carolina in a consolidated form and is also cited in various volumes of North Carolina Archaeology (formerly Southern Indian Studies)

11. Lumbee oral traditions and story tellings obtained from local tribal members, along with arrowhead collections citing the location

This references myself having first hand knowledge of Lumbee oral traditions and storytellings of the area as a Lumbee tribal member and also myself having seen collections of pointed projectiles from other tribal members gathered in the area. Also myself having collected pointed projectiles from the area also

12. Documentary Research of the Lumber River Basin

McLean, D. and M. R. Sellon. "Documentary Research of the Lumber River Basin."
(1978)

This work contains documentary research of the lumber river basin by Saint Andrews Presbyterian College of Laurinburg NC (with support and aid from various other universities). Research that was Conducted for U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Charleston District). This project encompasses archaeological excavations all over Robeson County.

Approach

Kaylin Blount

Lumbee Communities & Related Places

The first step towards finding Lumbee place data was to text mine Malinda Maynor Lowery's *The Lumbee Indians: An American Struggle*. Professor Ryan Shaw's Jupyter Notebook, Mining for Placenames (mining-for-placenames.ipynb), was used to text mine Lowery's 329 page book. This resulted in a CSV file containing 1167 entries with five different entity types: LOC (geographical locations), GPE (counties, cities, etc.), ORG (organizations), FAC (buildings), and EVENT (events).

An OpenRefine project was created from this CSV file, but it quickly became clear that the "sentences" column of the CSV would be difficult to work with. Instead of attempting to clean up all of the values in the "sentences" column, the CSV was scanned for potentially relevant entries, the names of which were then cross-referenced in *The Lumbee Indians: An American Struggle* by using Find/Replace to determine if the places were indeed relevant to the scope and to gather information for descriptions. All relevant places were entered into a Google Sheets document in the team's shared Google Drive. Places found and/or cross-referenced in *Lumbee Indians in the Jim Crow South: Race, Identity, and the Making of a Nation*, the Robeson County Compensatory Indian Education Project, and The University of North Carolina at Pembroke's "History" section were also added to this Google Sheets document.

After going through the four resources mentioned above, the Google Sheets document was imported into OpenRefine. Some general bulk clean-up was performed to ensure that all entries matched the format of the current gazetteer. OpenRefine was also used to cross-reference the entries with those in the current gazetteer, to see which the places were already included. Most of the entries with matches made no mention of their connection to the Lumbee Tribe and/or were missing identifiers and coordinate information. These entries were enhanced to include some or all of this information. Some of the matches, however, were entries that had more detailed information in the current gazetteer. These entries were deleted from the OpenRefine

project and are not included in the team's final CSV file. Finally, OpenRefine was used to reconcile the entries with Wikidata to add Wikidata IDs, Library of Congress authority IDs, WorldCat identities IDs, VIAF IDs, and geographical coordinates, where possible. This reconciliation process did not gain much additional data, as only 12 out of the 58 entries had Wikidata records.

Final Outcome: 58 entries of places significant to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. These entries include: 17 communities, 6 townships, 5 educational institutions, 4 businesses, 3 historical sites, 3 places of worship, 1 burial ground, 1 cultural center, 1 organization, 1 park, 1 river, and 1 town. 14 entries are either former or alternate names for other places and act as references to other entries. 47 of these entries are new to the gazetteer; 11 are currently in the gazetteer but are enhanced.

Robeson County Cemeteries

The list of Native American cemeteries provided in "Sacred Grounds: Robeson County, NC Indian Cemeteries" was used to provide entries of Native American cemeteries in Robeson County. The list was copied and pasted directly from the website into a Google Sheets document, which resulted in the data being very strangely formatted. Because of this, the Google Sheets document was then imported into an OpenRefine project so that the data could be cleaned and reformatted.

This work was fairly straightforward, but decisions did have to be made about what location information would be included for each entry. The current gazetteer description includes basic information about where a place is located within a particular county, but not much else. By contrast, the descriptions in Barnhill's list included location information such as: "Located North of New Prospect Church on West side of Hwy 710" and "Located Take HWY 301 North of Lumberton. Turn to the left of the highway, in front of the Magnolia School. The cemetery is located on the Sandy Hammonds farm." To adhere to the format of the current gazetteer, this information was not included in the entries' descriptions. However, this information could be very useful for eventually gaining geographical coordinates (see "Future Directions" below). All of the location information, although not in our final CSV file, is on the website referenced above.

Final Outcome: 160 entries of Native American cemeteries. All of these entries are new to the gazetteer.

Harvey Maynor

Burial Mounds and Villages

To gather information about burial mounds pertaining to the Lumbee I began to contact tribal authorities and historians who I personally knew and that led me to articles and information of which I began to cipher through and track down extra sources from. This resulted in my burial mound section going from specifically Lumbee to encompassing NC in general.

Final Outcome: 21 burial mounds and 1 Village

Hunting Grounds

To gather information about hunting grounds I went back and studied the Lumbee oral traditions. Remembering locations from stories my family has told about finding arrowhead and spear tips when farming over the years, in conjunction with backing it with scholarly research articles or book publication on the Lumbee people when possible that cross referenced finding with the current gazetteer. I was also able to find a few arrowhead collections to reference though notably small unless at a local museum.

Final Outcome: 2 hunting grounds

Historical Place Names

While conducting research on the other categories I was able to find several historical place names for towns in Robeson County from reading over various Historical documents

Final Outcome: 4 updated place names and references

Future Directions

Harvey Maynor & Kaylin Blount

There are many opportunities for future research into the places of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, both for creating new entries to the North Carolina Gazetteer and to enhance entries our team has already added. Below are a few suggestions for future directions.

- Reach out to members of the Lumbee community. Some places to start include:
 - Reach out to UNC Professor Malinda Maynor Lowery
 - Reach out to Nancy Fields, director of the Museum of the Southeast American Indian in Pembroke (<https://www.uncp.edu/profile/nancy-strickland-fields>)

- Reach out to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina directly via their website (<https://www.lumbeetribe.com/>)
- Reach out to St. Andrews College as they have done archaeological studies of the Lumbee
- Reach out to Prof. Glenn Ellen Starr Stilling of App State if still living
- Text mine Glenn Ellen Starr Stilling Annotated Bibliography “The Lumbee Indians”
- Look for more information in print (and other) resources our team was not able to or did not have the time to access, including:
 - Resources mentioned in this UNC LibGuide: “Indigenous Peoples of North Carolina: Lumbee and Meherrin” (<https://guides.lib.unc.edu/nc-indigenous/lumbee>)
 - Malinda Maynor Lowery’s Oxford Research Encyclopedia article, “The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina” (<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.013.493>)
 - Resources mentioned in Glenn Ellen Starr Stilling’s *The Lumbee Indians: An Annotated Bibliography* (<https://lumbee.library.appstate.edu/>)
 - Text mine or review other Lumbee authored or Local authored books that can be find in Robeson County on the lumbee
 - The Swamp Outlaws or the North Carolina Bandits (1872) by George Alfred Townsend
 - To Die Game: The Story of the Lowry Band, Indian Guerillas of Reconstruction (The Iroquois and Their Neighbors) by William Evans
 - And other local books located in the bookstore of UNCP, the The Museum of the Southeast American Indian gift shop or at Eagle Feathers Arts
- Enhance entries of Native American cemeteries in Robeson County. On Barnhill’s website, there are detailed directions for locating each cemetery. A potential future project could be finding these cemeteries on foot and using the Google Maps “My Location” icon to find geographic coordinates for each cemetery. Information can also be gathered about when the cemeteries were started and by whom, and which families have members buried there.

Maps & Historical Data

Contributors: Griffin Powell

Sources

1. 1671 Lords Proprietors' Map - map of the colony of Carolina
(<https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/ncmaps/id/498/rec/1>)

The 1671 Lords Proprietors' Map was created for the Kingdom of England for the expressed purpose of mapping out the colony of Carolina for the nation. This map was used to start the process of collecting historical data. It had the unique value of being one of the earliest complete maps ever created of North Carolina. Native American place names such as Manteo and Tynecoka were found with this map. This map provided a unique perspective on the early history of North Carolina as many tribal nations such as the Meherrin, Cherokee and more existed at this time within the modern borders of North Carolina.

2. 1770 Collet Map - survey map of the colony of North Carolina
(<https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/ncmaps/id/467/rec/1>)

The 1770 Collet Map was created for Great Britain for the expressed purpose of mapping out the colony of North Carolina within the Thirteen Colonies. This map was used to continue the process of collecting historical data and Native American place names. Unlike the 1671 map, the Collet map had a greater amount of detail available to it and provided multiple sources of information. The Collet map also provided a unique perspective on the language drift of some Native American place names, as well as physical drift in the case of water features like rivers or creeks.

3. Rand McNally and Company. (2021). Rand McNally road atlas, United States, Canada, Mexico [Map].
4. Google Maps. Google. (n.d.). [Google Map of the State of North Carolina. Retrieved April 10, 2021, from <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&mid=1Dm0FszilStiXCKVvnmS5BNyNH9M&ll=35.22621755234133%2C-80.27543699999998&z=6>

The Rand McNally Road Atlas and Google Maps were both used as modern examples of maps to assist in the task of finding Native American place names. These maps proved to be invaluable when the issue of physically migrating bodies of water came into

play. The maps were also used to assist other groups members in identifying what counties an area appeared in.

Approach

Compilation of historical data and data from modern maps: Over the weeks during the project, I spent my time compiling historical data from the older maps, from these maps myself and the group were able to gather a variety of sources and extra knowledge that was previously unknown to our project. I approached these maps from a visual scanning-like strategy, starting on one side of the map and scanning through the various place names on the map until I found one that I suspected to be of Native American origin. Once the suspected place names were collected, I would then work to confirm the validity of its origin through research – often through existing historical or Native American based documentation. Once it is fully confirmed the place name will be added into the master list.

Compare and contrast modern data with historical data: Contrasting the modern maps with the historical ones provided a unique perspective on the ever shifting and adapting nature of place name data within North Carolina. This proved to be especially important when bodies of water came into play. A little known fact of moving water features is their tendency to meander within a region, this means a creek which is said to be in one location 300 years ago may have moved 30 miles when looked at in the modern day. Using the modern maps I was able to compare and contrast with the older historical data sources to confirm whether a creek or river was the suspected Native American place name source.

Data improvement: Many of the sources from the original CSV gazetteer list lacked wikidata_ids, alternative labels, and more often than not focused on one individual county when a place named object could exist in many counties – an example being the Haw river which stretched 7 counties across North Carolina. I added wikidata_ids to 80+ individual Native American place names – unfortunately this was not a perfect process as some place names lacked an available wikidata_id entirely, but these sources were relatively rare. Alternative labels were added for the sources that had them – these typically came in the form of alternative spelling as a result of language drift over a period of 300+ years, like the Pungo River being derived from the Machapunga River or Pongo River.

Future Directions

As it stands there are few major directions that could be taken with the map based research approach. All of which could provide a unique set of data that may prove to be helpful for others in the future of this state:

1. Look for more Native American place name information in other alternative historical data sources - such as maps, journals, surveys, and other older documentation. This could be done through the UNC North Carolina collection.
2. Continued data improvement is a future direction with great potential. Much of William Powell's gazetteer lacks additional data such as wikidata_ids, alternative labels, etc. Others in the future may choose to take on the task of improving the quality of data within the NC CSV file.
3. Consider looking into the possibility of mapping a timeline of the placement of water features within North Carolina, this could be done through establishing a geographic system to track the following changes:
 - Mapping the placement of a water feature over a period of time
 - The shape of the body of water over a period of time
 - The creation of new sources of water or their dissolution over a period of time. Like the creation of the reservoir Jordan Lake.

Archeological Sites & Meherrin Places

Contributors: Jonah Lewis

Sources

1. Dawdy, Shannon Lee. 1994. The secret history of the meherrin. Ph.D. diss., The College of William and Mary,
<http://libproxy.lib.unc.edu/login?url=https://www-proquest-com.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/dissertations-theses/secret-history-meherrin/docview/1957372080/se-2?accountid=14244>
(accessed May 14, 2021).

This is the main source for the bulk of my research, a book called, “The Secret History of the Meherrin” which forms the basis of a timeline for the overarching history of the tribes and their activities between both Virginia as well as North Carolina. This means it was rich in Place Names for that tribe, but it became difficult to make sure those names were limited to North Carolina. However, the wealth of names did inform insightful descriptions of places previously undocumented by the gazeteer.

2. North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program, NC Department of Cultural Resources: A-77. <http://www.ncmarkers.com/Markers.aspx?MarkerId=A-77>

This website served to inform one of my entries on “Old Meherrin town” as well as provide context for the many Ferry locations I found pertaining to the Meherrin. This is one sign of a much larger initiative within North Carolina to educate people on local history. It gives a concise blurb on a specific location.

3. RLA Site Catalog, UNC Archeology Department.
http://rla.unc.edu/Collections/RLA_Site_Catalog.pdf

The site catalog is something I referenced but did not make specific use of, though I am sure other members of my group did. It features tables of different archaeological sites in NC explored by the university. I found this as I was pivoting away from the shared topic of Archeology in favor of a focus on the Meherrin and did not end up needing it in the long run, but included it as an influence.

4. Wikidata Query Service: <https://w.wiki/3FeT>

This is the very first thing I did pertaining to this project, using the resource Wikidata to query for archeological sites. It returned a list of all things listed as dig sites that were in any way geographically bound to NC. However, this query was unable to distinguish native sites from others so using wikipedia, I did that by hand.

5. Digital North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Wilson Special Collections Library.
https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/archivalhome/collection/dig_nccpa

The digital photo collection at Wilson Library is a resource that consumed a lot of my time at the start of the project that I did not find particularly useful. I included it in an effort to document fruitless pursuits for future groups. The Catalog contains little information the Meherrin and any related info is too modern to be of serious use in the hunt for native place names.

6. N.d. Meherrin Indian Nation. Meherrin Indian Nation of NC, n.d..
<http://www.meherrinnation.org/index2.html>.

This is a website created by the modern Meherrin Nation Which serves as a good jumping-off point for the start of my foray into researching the tribe. Contains not only a modern history newsletter but a brief Summation and timeline of the tribe's history which I used to contextualize any findings from the book where are the scholarly sources. It was not amazingly helpful in a scholarly sense but provided a background that I lacked at the beginning of the Endeavor.

7. Adams, Lars C. "'The Battle of Weyanoke Creek': A Story of the Third Anglo-Powhatan War in Early Carolina." *Native South* 6 (2013): 170-195. doi:10.1353/nso.2013.0006.

This scholarly resource was given to me by Griffin Powell, a fellow group member, because I was having difficulty contextualizing a few of the places I found after text-mining the book on the Meherrin. Weyanoke Creek stands in modern-day Virginia but there was a lot of intermingling and it was at one point claimed by the Carolina colony. So, I decided to include it in the gazetteer as it was relevant during the time period I was working with. This resource allowed me to write a description that mirrored that situation and sort of explained what was going on with the confusion.

8. ND. "White-Debry Map of 1590." National Parks Service. U.S. Department of the Interior, August 2, 2016. <https://www.nps.gov/fora/learn/education/white-debry-map-of-1590.htm>.

This last source allowed me to place the town of Waratan within North Carolina. There's not much to say other than it provides a brief summary of where the town may have been as a speculation and that it was indeed within North Carolina.

9. nd. "Cowee Mound ~ Mainspring Conservation Trust." Cowee Mound. Mainspring Conservation Trust, December 31, 2015.
<https://www.mainspringconserves.org/projects/cowee-mound/>.

For the most part when checking the sources I obtained from Wikidata, I simply used Wikipedia or whatever I found within my existing scholarly articles to contextualize that.

However, the cowee came up and using the site I was able to establish within the description the date of when the town was founded as well as the mound the rest near it.

Approach

Archeological Sites Query

My approach to this began much like anyone else's, I looked over the current gazetteer and NCpedia sites that were given to us during that class resource dump. Then, the first thing I did was try to establish a query for wikidata that would net me archaeological sites within the bounds of North Carolina. This was my original interest and soon it piqued the interest of my group mates as well. Many people in my group took up different variations of this topic as I've noted before. I had a little bit of trouble understanding Wikidata at first; so, I met up with Shaw during office hours and we worked out a query, which returned every instance labeled as an archaeological site with in any sort of bounds geographically related to North Carolina, be it: a state, county, or town associated with North Carolina at large. This produced a list of several archaeological sites, within the state, I could work with. I believe it was around 35 originally. However, the limitations of wikidata made it so that there is no way to filter these based on them being explicitly Native American in origin. All in all though, this is a great place to start as it gave me a list of things to work with and contextualize what my interest would be moving forward.

Stumbling Blocks

At the beginning of my research, I ran into many different problems and spent a lot of time on useless research. One of the first problems I was faced with was the inability to finitely limit what type of archaeological sites I was getting from Wikidata. This meant a lot of my results had absolutely nothing to do with Native Americans. Many of them ended up being religious sites like churches, which were not of my interest. I set my alarm options to go through the data by hand and just from a cursory Google search I could figure out which sites were inherently native and which ones were not. Additionally, I spent a lot of time coming through Wilson Library's historic photo catalog, looking for place names related to native tribes. By this point, I had begun to focus on the Sappony, Haliwa-Saponi, and the Meherrin tribes. I went through the catalog using keywords like the name of the tribes or different places that I had found but, but was unable to find any historical photographs. A lot of mention of Native Americans in the catalog was from newspaper photos, surrounding mostly Pembroke, and also they were mostly modern. So, ultimately I decided to move on, there may be some merit in going back and looking at it, but for what I was doing it was mostly a fruitless endeavor and I didn't pull anything out of it.

Meherrin Place Names

The bulk of my work on this project comes from a study of the Meherrin tribe, which historically resided near the border of North Carolina and Virginia. Originally, I was working on three tribes, but after meeting with Shaw I realized that devoting my energies to one tribe and making sure that those entries were fully fleshed out was the direction to go. I began with finding a scholarly Source on the Meherrin and ended up focusing on “The Secret History of the Meherrin” by Shannon Dawdy. Using the text-mining program we learned in class, I broke the book down by instances of Factions, organizations, and locations. Using OpenRefine, I Faceted to show only locations and then cross-referenced that list with the existing NC Gazetteer by William Powell. Next, I was able to reconcile the list of terms with Wikidata and grab their IDs to reference them within the database. Afterwards, I set to work matching any that did not reconcile with something in Wikidata and correcting errors of spelling made by the text-mining program.

Following this, I used another GREL expression to cross reference the shorter list with our existing body of work to avoid duplicates. This failed and I was forced to check for repeated place names by hand. The most time consuming part of this project was determining where placenames landed geographically. Since the Meherrin resided so close to the modern border the focus of the book often spilled into useless territory, I used multiple sources cited above as well as passages from the book itself to determine state and county for these place names. I went through my OpenRefine CSV and flagged all repeats or “out of bounds” names so that I could facet them out and have a pure list of NC place names. It is worth mentioning that a couple places, such as Weyanoke Creek or the settlement of Tawarra resided in what is now Virginia. These are included in the NC gazetteer because the borders were often nebulous or they were an area claimed by the original Carolina colony, which was later redefined. I collaborated with my group member, Griffin Powell, who specialized in maps this semester to gain wider knowledge. He provided me with feedback and scholarly research to make an informed choice. It is with these resources that I created descriptions for place names where I attempt to explain not only their geographical location, but also their wider historical context. In the end, an in-depth look into Meherrin places was educational and I think it created a superior final product that captures the history of the Meherrin tribe.

Future Directions

1. **Look into the Sappony and Haliwa-Saponi:** Originally, I had intended to research multiple tribes, but due to time constraints I decided to focus on only one. While my index research on the Meherrin Nation was extremely interesting and I think overall I created a better final product for my work; it did mean I neglected the other two tribes I'd meant to focus on. Both the Sappony and Haliwa-Saponi Have a rich history that deserves to be documented. I think in future semesters it would be extremely interesting for a team to do that. Specializing in one thing allowed me to learn quite a lot and I have a better appreciation for how we defined the North Carolina-Virginia border and everything that went into the history of that region. So, it would be extremely interesting

to see how a full group would tackle the history of just one or two groups of people in a very detailed way.

2. **Establish a clear Border for NC throughout multiple time periods:** one of the biggest hurdles for me during this project was having to continuously determine whether or not a place name fell in North Carolina or Virginia. The Meherrin As well as other Algonquin nations obviously did not adhere to the settlers vision of state lines. Often, we relied on rivers or modern landmarks to determine whether or not the place was in particular State's County. It would be interesting to see how a group defines the limit of what is allowed in the North Carolina Gazetteer as state borders have changed over time.
3. **Enhancing existing entries:** Many members of my group focused on enhancing existing entries of Powell's gazetteer. This is not something I particularly focused on, I prioritized new entries from the book that I found over enhancing old ones. This is because so many people are doing that. However, Any entry can be improved with further research and that's always something that we should be prioritizing, doing that as a group would be extremely helpful.

Texts

Contributors: Madeline Miller

Sources

1) Reynolds, Kevin. *Native North Carolina: The What, Why and Where of Native American Place Names*. Boone, N.C.: Parkway Publishers, 2010. Print.

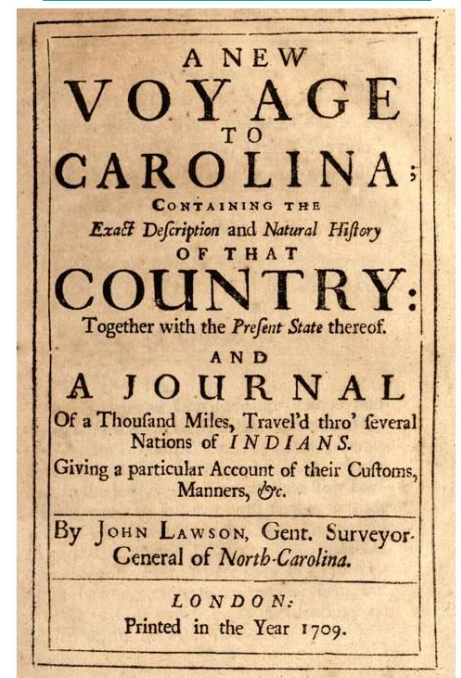
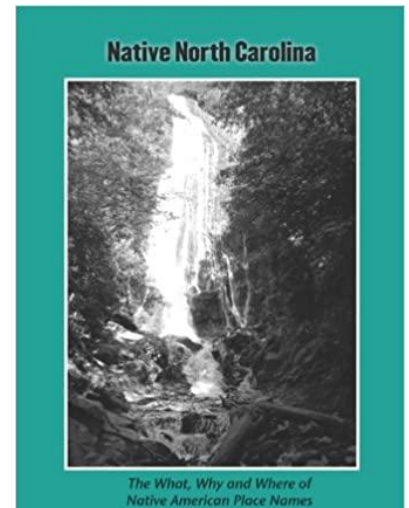
2) Lawson, John. *A New Voyage to Carolina; Containing the Exact Description and Natural History of That Country: Together with the Present State Thereof. And A Journal of a Thousand Miles, Travel'd Thro' Several Nations of Indians. Giving a Particular Account of Their Customs, Manners, &c.*: London: 1709. Electronic Edition. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/lawson/lawson.html>.

Approach

In this approach, we looked at two highly subjective documents (“books”), via human-reading and computational text-mining, to make entries to the NC Gazetteer.

Reynolds describes his document as a “dictionary” and it takes the format of an alphabetical list of places with Native American names or attributes, followed by a description. This format is easy to utilize for the purposes of extracting information for the Gazetteer. For this reasons, as well as due to the fact that a digital version was not already available, Reynolds was processed with regular human-reading, without computation. It includes a lot of overlap with Powell’s Gazetteer, with Native information not included in Powell’s work. This work is especially good for harvesting alternate spellings and names for entities that already exist in the current Gazetteer. This document provided both significant edits to existing entities as well as new entities. I did not finish processing the entire document and is a great opportunity for further work on the Gazetteer.

Lawson’s text is in narrative format and is digitized and was processed with computation text-mining, utilizing [this notebook](#). Completely novel entities that arose from Lawson and not in the existing Gazetteer were difficult to turn into contributions to the Gazetteer due to lack of information and the scope of research for this project. Many of the entities that appear in Lawson but not in Powell are alternate spellings for entities in Powell, which requires research into additional citations/sources to make that connection.



On Subjectivity:

Both documents are subjective in that they do not include attributions/citations in reference to specific claims and pieces of information.

Reynolds (2010) includes a bibliography of 25 items, but these are not attributed to specific places in the overall text. As an author, it is not documented that Reynolds has scholarly (academic and nonacademic) credentials or training regarding the material, nor is he a member of the communities that he writes about. Reynolds indirectly writes about the importance of acute attribution in his preface where he says that “in some cases there is little evidence for the information presented and often many different opinions.” Despite the contest over certain information, Reynolds has not enriched this document with attributions of provenance, such that the reader of the document may critically interpret the information rather than assume a perspective. Reynolds cites both Powell’s Gazetteer as well as John Lawson’s survey of colonial North Carolina, published in London in 1709. Finding sources that cite Powell’s Gazetteer is a good strategy for further enhancement of the Gazetteer, as you can assume some relevance.

Lawson’s (1709) work is a highly cited primary source for early colonial history, utilized often by William Powell in the original North Carolina Gazetteer. It is a piece of geographic documentation in the form of natural-language, narrative and does not provide citations (although it was also created at a time that predates much of library and information methodology for citations). Institutionally, academics have conferred credibility on the document’s contents, which should be contextualized as colonial propaganda.

Future Directions

Further work could continue to process these two documents with the above methods, with room to expand on the methodological approach to the Lawson document and how to connect alternate spellings that appear in Lawson to existing entities in the Powell Gazetteer.

Checking existing entities to make sure all available ID’s are reflected. While enhancing existing entries of the current Gazetteer, I discovered that wiki-ID’s (as well as other ID’s) are available for current entities but not yet captured/reflected in the current Gazetteer. We also made a new, separate field for alternate names/spellings, some of which exist in the current Gazetteer but need to be moved from the description field to the alternate label field.

Develop an approach to the description that is able to more acutely track citation, provenance, and authorship such that the subjectivity/perspective and context of information there is more acute, thorough, and navigable.

Include more entities, such as groups of people, that relate to place but are not geographic entities. Develop the feature-type schema to include these entities.

Acknowledgements

| Group Member | Contribution |
|----------------|--|
| Griffin Powell | <p>Worked with historical map data such as the Lords' Proprietor Map and the Collet map to find Native American place name sources. Used modern maps like Google Maps or Road Atlas to find Native American place names - also used modern maps to compare to the existing historical data. Generally aimed towards all Native American tribes rather than focused on an individual one. Added wikidata_ids to all Native American place name sources to ensure every source had a wikidata_id, if possible. Added feature types like nct:Valley to sources whenever possible. Examined the current gazetteer to manually confirm whether a place name existed already within the gazetteer.</p> |
| Jonah Lewis | <p>Worked largely with Wikidata, finding both archeological sites and focusing specifically on place names for the Meherrin Tribes. Archeological sites are a topic shared, through many separate disciplines, by multiple people in our group. My wikidata query was unable to be limited to a specific topic or tribe so I had to go through and remove non-native sites. Additionally, not all the native sites are dedicated to the Meherrin, but were still worth including. Then, I text mined, The Secret History of the Meherrin, a book dedicated to the history of that tribe. I used open refine to cull that list down to just places, then to those not already included in our research, and finally I removed those that resided outside of NC. The Meherrin existed on the border of NC and VA, which complicated my research. Finally, I consulted wikipedia and a few scholarly sources outside the book to synthesize a description for each entry when I included them in the larger research.</p> |
| Harvey Maynor | <p>Worked with Lumbee Scholars and Tribal members in conjunction with scholarly articles from UNC and various journals to pinpoint</p> |

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| | more obscure information to be represented in the gazetteer, such as Indigenous burial mounds and hunting grounds. Also used firsthand knowledge of the Lumbee to help edit Lumbee Place entries for group members as needed. |
| Kaylin Blount | Worked with resources from Professor Malinda Maynor Lowery, either through text mining or manually, to find places related to the Lumbee Tribe. Also worked with resources from UNC Pembroke and UNC Pembroke's special collections to find Lumbee place data. Additionally, added entries from Jane Blanks Barnhill's list of Native American Cemeteries in Robeson County. |
| Corinne Foster | Added entries of Cherokee Towns. (For a more detailed account of Corinne's contribution, see "Historical Cherokee Towns for the <i>North Carolina Gazetteer</i> " by Corinne S. Foster.) |
| Madeline Miller | Added new entries and enhanced existing entries based on texts- Reynolds (2010), Lawson (1709). |