

Bulletins of the Historical Commission of  
South Carolina.—No. 4

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George Hunter's  
Map of the Cherokee Country  
and the Path thereto in 1730

With Comments by A. S. Salley, Jr.  
Secretary of the Commission



Printed for the Commission  
by The State Company  
Columbia, S. C.  
1917

This represents the Cherokee Nation by Col. Herberts Major & my own Observations, with the path to Charles town, its course & distance measured by my watch, the Names of the Branches Rivers & Creeks, as given them by the Traders who that Nation certify by the George Hunter. May 21. 1730.

[The distance from Congaree to Keowee measures 2° 50' by a scale of Lat. which are equivalent to 198 or 9 miles. whereas by the Journal makes it only 150 miles. hence if production must be very erroneous. To Laiffe which here falls in Lat 36° 20' ...]

Map Division  
Library of Congress

At Wmear Bar I founded a Channel and at Low water deep sides found 10 foot water. At High water spring Tides there rise 16 1/2 feet. and of same water, lies at Georges town on Sampit Creek 4 fathom. Georges town was laid out in lots & sold last year [1729] to people who are obliged to build a House in 15 Months. They expect there a port of Entry to ease them of their Freight to Charles town. They have one foot of water or thereabouts their Charles town.

About 18 years ago [1712] there were not above 5 families on Northward of Sante River. Now they muster 14. their Militia Company 170 Men.

The Land on Wmear generally firm, not so fertile for Rice as the Southern? but better water & more healthy.

J. John Yeumans Gov. settled Cape Fear with people from Barbadoes whose Journals mention a fine Lake to the west of Cape Fear River. They were driven off by Indians. Where this Lake is was unknown to us till last year [1730] Two of my acquaintances went on horse up Wacoma River about 150 miles (not navigable all of way by reason of fallen Trees) where they found it 7 10 miles distant from Cape Fear of fallen Trees) where they found it 7 10 miles distant from Cape Fear River about 80 miles up of S. River. The Lake is 20 miles long and 10 wide. One side Corn ground the other Rice ground extremely rich.

Journal of the Road

- From Charles town [in 1730]
- March 11 - 15 miles Col. Herberts Major
  - 12 12 Ja: Kinlock Esq
  - 13 13 Alex. Kinlock
  - 14 22 Mat. Nilson
  - 15 35 Cox's
  - 16 10 Capt. Ruffell
  - 17 18 Bever Creek
  - 18 19 Congaree or Sixagath
  - 19 19 18 m. fr. S. Alex. Esq
  - 20 18 Saluda R. North side
  - 21 22 Buffalo Swamp
  - 22 24 P. Coronado
  - 23 27 Barkers Cr.
  - 24 25 23 m. Creek
  - 26 - 23 Keowee
  - 26 - 23 miles from Ph. town
  - 26 - 12 Oconee
  - 27 .....
  - 28 .....
  - 29 .....
  - 30 .....
  - 31 25 Teoreche
  - 31 24 Nuoffey
  - 32 5 Shovee met's Alex
  - 33 5 N. Quoffey J. Alex. Cummin told J. G. in Feb 1737 that Hunter proceeded no farther and he met him there on his return from Tellico
  - 34 30 Chattuga
  - 35 25 Keowee
  - 36 23 23 mile Cr. S. Alex left me
  - 37 25 Barkers Cr. of dividing Path
  - 38 25 Congaree Swamp
  - 39 24 Buffalo Swamp
  - 40 22 Saluda River W. side
  - 41 18 13 mile Cr.
  - 42 19 Congre
  - 43 20 to Springs
  - 44 23 to Duncans buyer
  - 45 31 yew fa Springs
  - 46 27 Grays Tavern
  - 47 13 Ja: Kinlock Esq
  - 48 13 Orange Quarter w. S. Alex
  - 49 13 Ja: Kinlock Esq
  - 50 13 726 miles

Keowee is returned only half way from Charles town to Sunapee, altho distance from Keowee to Sunapee, is not 200 miles, by reason of difficulty in passing mountains



65 from Land. 64 63 62 61 60 59 58 W from Land

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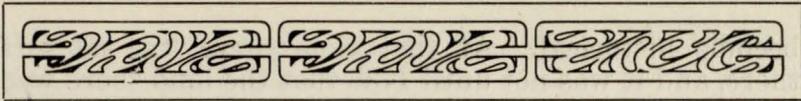
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George Hunter, who prepared this map from Col. John Herbert's map of the Cherokee country and his "own Observations", was a surveyor and subsequently became Surveyor General of the province of South Carolina. The several notes which he has made on the map are most valuable historically. In 1757, or later, the map came into the hands of Governor James Glen who made some additional notes thereto. The original manuscript map is in the Library of Congress and has been photographed for reproduction in this *Bulletin*. In "touching up" the photograph, preparatory to making a zinc etching thereof, the mechanic who did the work has brought so much similarity into the handwritings of Hunter and Glen that it is difficult to distinguish one from the other.

One of the significant historical values of this map is its refutation of the myth about a Cherokee Indian maiden bearing the mythical name of Catechee (which is not even a Cherokee name), who rode to a mythical fort to warn a lover that the Indians were coming to massacre the garrison and the settlers, and who named the streams, as she reached them, on the basis of the number of miles she had traveled, Ninety Six being one of the names she applied.

Hunter states that his map contained the path to Charles Town, its course and "the names of y<sup>e</sup> Branches Rivers & Creeks, as given them by y<sup>e</sup> Traders using that Nation"—the only common sense view to be taken of the origin of the nomenclature. The map shows that Ninety Six ("96") was the name applied so early as 1730<sup>1</sup> to the point which has subsequently

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<sup>1</sup>In another record Hunter tells why Ninety Six was so named by the traders. It was ninety-six miles from Keowee, the principal town of the Cherokee Nation.

On May 4, 1738, George Haig, Deputy Surveyor, certified that he had "admeasd and laid out unto Mr. Thomas Brown a tract of land containing two hundred acres, situate lying and being in \_\_\_\_\_ County, in the province

become historical. At that time there was no fort there, and it was not until 1738 that the land there was taken up, Thomas Brown being the grantee for whom a survey was made in that year. There had previously to 1730 been no quarrel between whites and Cherokees and no massacres, attempts at, or threats of, massacres, and not for many years (until 1759) thereafter were there any. In fact, there were no settlers in that country until long after 1730. No fort, or garrison, existed at Ninety Six until the Revolution. Therefore, disregarding Hunter's statement as to the names having been given by the traders from Charles Town to the Cherokee Nation, it is evident that a Cherokee maiden could not have given the name to Ninety Six and the landmarks between that point and Keowee while riding to inform a lover at a fort that the Cherokees were going to murder him and his companions and neighbors.

It will be observed that the streams were numbered in ascending numbers from the Congarees to Ninety Six and in the same manner from Keowee to Ninety Six.

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aforesaid, at a place commonly called and known by the name of Ninety Six (on the Cherokee Path)". The map accompanying the certificate shows a stream through the land and it is marked "one of the creeks, commonly calld. 96." It also has running through it "Cherokee path" to "Savanna town alias New Windsor" and "to the Congarees, alias Saxegotha". (Plat book 2, 361, office of Secretary of State.)

On December 8, 1744, a grant for this tract of land was issued to Thomas Brown by Governor Glen, the description being "all that parcel or Tract of Land Containing Two Hundred Acres Situate lying and being in . . . . . County at a place commonly Called and known by the name of Ninety Six, on the Cherokee path". (Grant book 4, 7, office of Secretary of State.)

On February 8, 1745, George Haig, Deputy Surveyor, issued a certificate of survey for Thomas Brown of another tract of two hundred acres of land "situate lying & being on one of the Creeks or Branches called 96 on the Cherokee Path". The plat accompanying also shows "One of the Branches called 96" passing through this tract. (Plat book 4, 268, office of Secretary of State.)

On May 1, 1745, George Hunter, Surveyor General and Inspector and Comptroller of His Majesty's Quit Rents in South Carolina, transmitted to the Board of Trade and American Plantations "A List of Grants pass'd since October 29th, 1744 to April 30th, 1745." When the grant to Thomas Brown was reached instead of simply entering the township or county in its proper column, as in all other cases, he entered after the "Do." for Berkeley County this significant statement: "96 Miles from the Cherokee Nation". (Public Records of South Carolina, 22, 62, office of Historical Commission of South Carolina.)

Hunter's comments on Georgetown, Waccamaw Lake, the rapid settlement of the country eastward of the Santee and the Saluda Indians and his references to Sir Alexander Cumming, the explorer, are likewise very interesting and valuable items which either confirm records previously printed on some phases of our history or shed new light on others.