

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Early Beginnings (Part 4)

Two land surveys dated 1745 and circa 1757 in the Clellan Sutton Collection provide unequivocal evidence that Bucklesberry was colonized in the mid-eighteenth century, well before the Revolutionary War. The 1745 survey, attributed to John Sutton (1720/30-by1773), is one of the oldest known documents that identifies Bucklesberry.

The 1757 survey, which also identifies Bucklesberry and explicitly names John Sutton, is written with quill pen and ink on cream/tan-colored rag paper (cotton or linen paper). At the top of the survey is an elongated octagonal-shaped diagram inscribed with "275 ac" (i.e., 275 acres). Measuring about the size of a standard piece of copy paper, the ink is generally dark throughout, with only a few faded spots.

Although sizeable sections of the edges of the document have deteriorated over time, the text is largely readable. The literal transcription of the narrative of the survey clearly identifies "Bucklesbury," a spelling variation of Bucklesberry (blanks represent words that could not be translated because of fading or holes):

"North Carolina Surveyed for John Sutton a Plantation Containing two hundred and Seventy five Acres of land lying in the County of Johnston _ Bucklesbury [i.e., Bucklesberry] Beginning at a White Oak Tho. Uzzells corner land No. 68. W. 31. Po. to a Red Oak John Rows corner then along his line W. 90. Po. to a Water Oak Then N. 50. W. 100 P. to a Hickory Then N. 80. W. 138 P. to a Maple Then So. 45. W. 66 P. to a Pine Then So. 7. E. 120 P. to the Land said Sutton lives on (taken up by John Giles) Then along the lines of said land to Uzzell's line & then with the same No. 20. E. 80 P. to the begining. _ _ Surv."

Several other pre-Revolutionary, colonial era documents confirm Bucklesberry's colonization in the eighteenth century. For example, in his 1987 monograph, *Dobbs County, North Carolina, entries and warrants, 1741-1757*, William L. Murphy documented a 1748 patent to Abra[ham] Boyd. The large tract of land named Bucklesberry:

"3d Octr 1748 Abra Boyd 1000 [acres] Johnston on the No Side of Neuse & No Side of Bucklesberry Pecason begg at Rouse Point & run out for Complement" (p. 18)

A detailed search at nclandgrants.com identified other documents contemporary with the 1757 John Sutton survey that named Bucklesberry (or a variant spelling, such as Bucklesbury). Included were the following (all in then Johnston County): 1754 survey of 250 acres to Simon

Herring; 1754 survey of 50 acres to John Rouse; 1756 patent of 200 acres to Caleb Hughes; 1756 patent of 138 acres to Thomas Uzzell, Jr.; and 1757 patent of 100 acres to John Herring, Jr.

Most significant, the earliest known document that named Bucklesberry is a 1738 patent to John Williams for 150 acres in old Craven County before the split-off of Johnston County in 1746:

"[King] George the Second Know ye that we have Given & Granted to John Williams One hundred and fifty Acres of Land lying in Craven County on the North side of Neuse River and on Bucklerberry [i.e., Bucklesberry] Branch...1 March 1738 Gab. Johnston"

More on the early beginnings of Bucklesberry will be shared in an upcoming article, including some of the earliest settlers who shared adjoining properties.