

Concerning THOMAS BROWN, the trader living at The Congarees who "became acquainted with the .. Waterree .. Indians" because he had to "frequently .. pass and repass from the said Congrees to the Cattawba Nation" in order to carry on a trade with the Catawbas¹

At Charleston in the Council meeting on the 28th of November 1733, the first business of the day:² "Read the petition of Thomas Brown, Indian Trader. Wherein he says, that he was informed by the Indians of the Cattawba Nation, that they were coming down with about 200 gunmen to trade with Captain Butler and Mr. Saint Julien." The latter sounds like Wantoot Plantation in the parish of St. Johns Berkeley and north of the present Moncks Corner, S.C.; we have already described the house at Wantoot as a massive structure of cypress with a Dutch roof and huge chimneys. "And showing that if the same is not prevented, it will be of great detriment to the province" (the province of South Carolina), "and likewise to the petitioner," Thomas Brown himself.

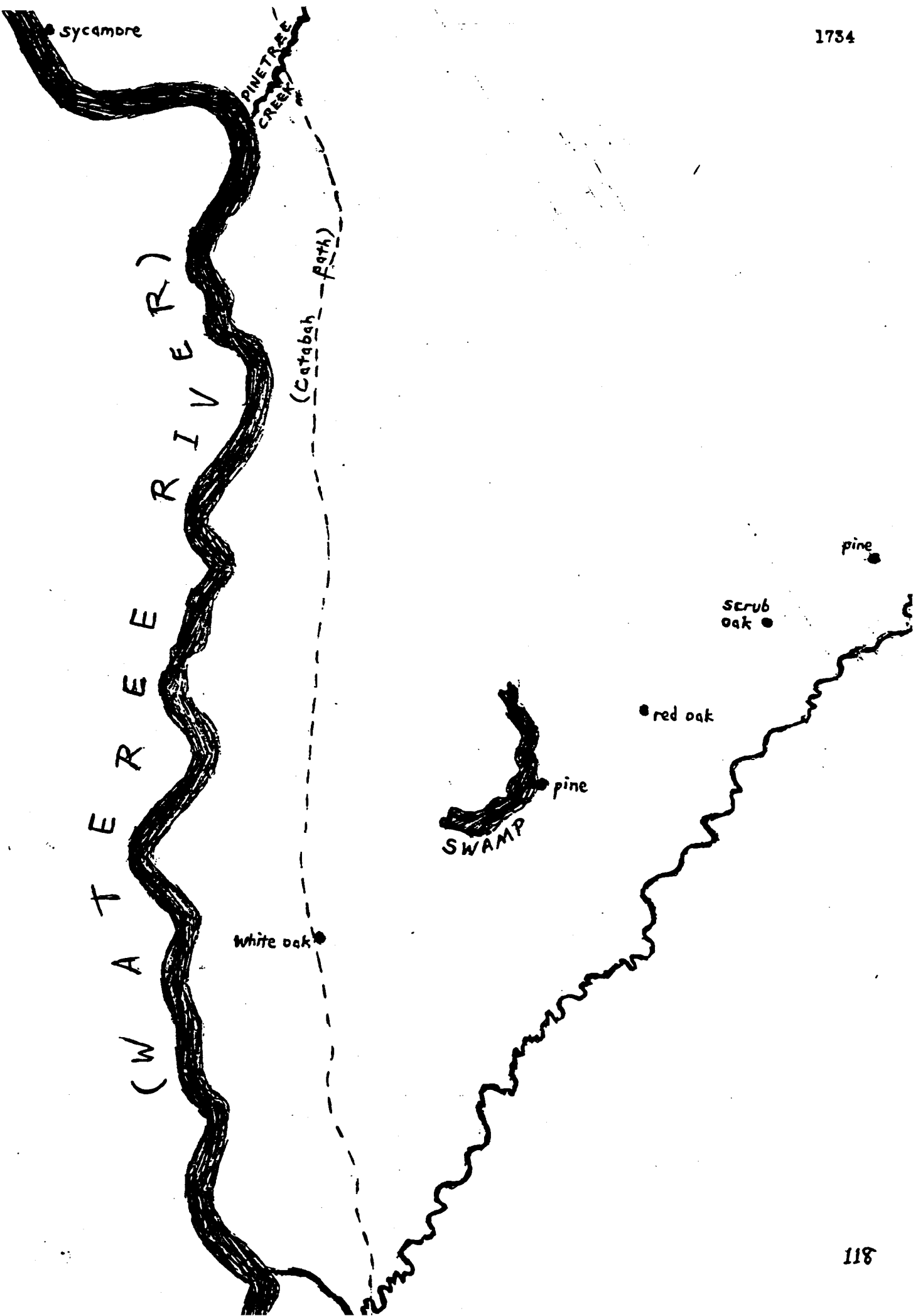
In response, "The following order was sent to Captain Charles Russell under the broad Seal of this province:

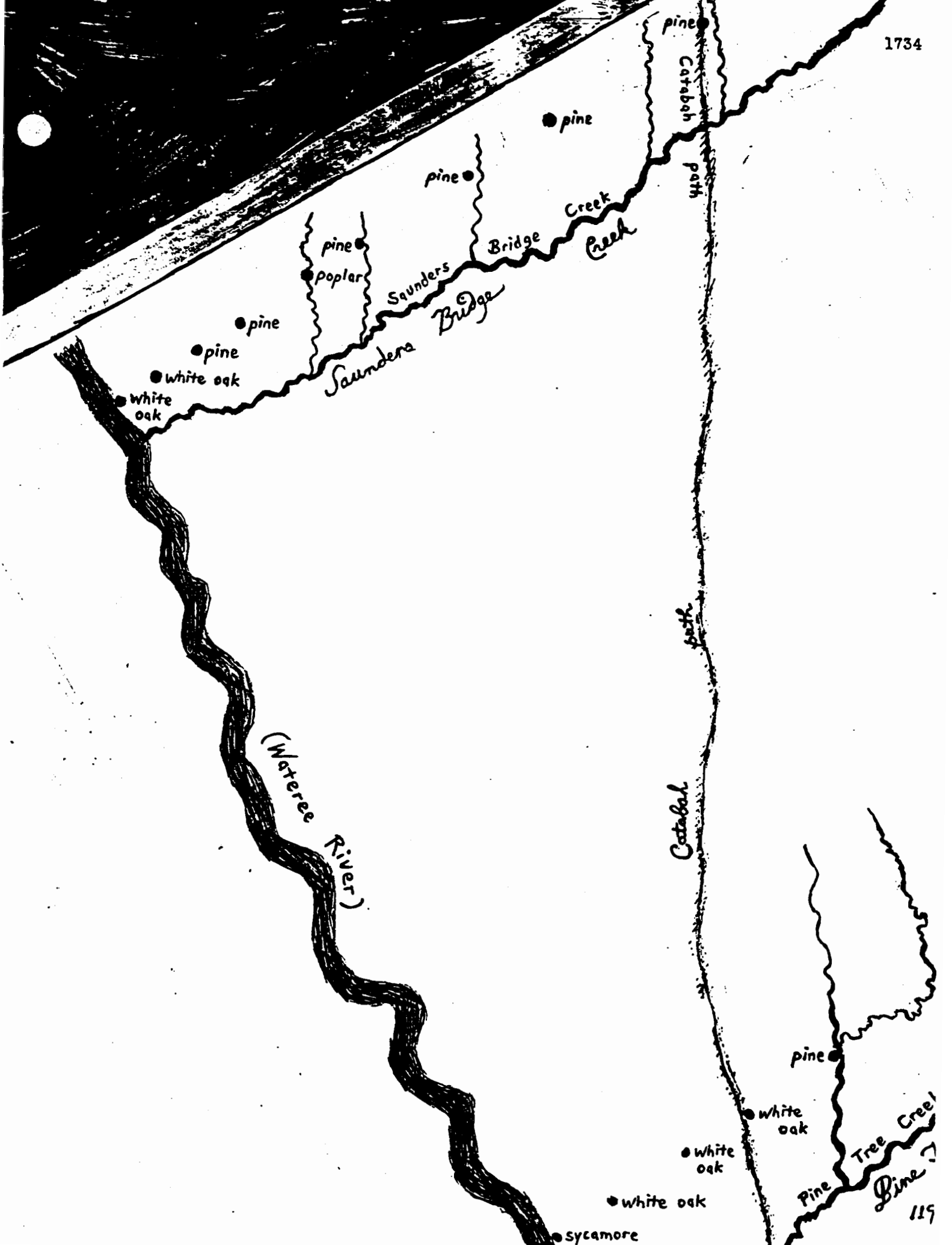
"To Charles Russell, Esquire

Being informed that the Catawbas have a design to come down with a number of — about 200 — men in order to trade in the" (English colonists') "settlements contrary to our agreement with them, I do therefore desire that you, as soon as you hear of their coming, meet them at The Congrees or elsewhere; and order them to go back again. For that they shall not be per-

mitted to come down and trade. And if you cannot persuade them to desist, that you will send me the earliest notice you can of it.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of
this province this 28th day of November 1733,
Robert Johnson"¹ (the Governor
of South Carolina)





In Charleston at the Commons House of Assembly on the 23rd of May 1734, the men attending that session "Read the petition of Thomas Brown and Alexander Kilpatrick, praying that none of the Cherokee traders may be licensed to trade to the Catawbas. And the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to inquire of the petitioners what quantity of goods they carried last year to the Catawbas. That is, Captain Beale, Mr. Manigault, and Captain Dry."¹

Shortly, "Mr. Manigault" (pronounced mānīgō) "from the committee to examine Thomas Brown and Alexander Kilpatrick, made the following report:

"That the whole quantity of goods sufficient to support their whole trade for six months, will amount to two thousand pounds" (£2,000) "currency. Besides which, there is two traders from Virginia trading there"² — coming down the path from the city of Petersburg, Virginia to the Catawba Nation to trade.

The following day, May 24th, 1734, in the afternoon, "Captain Beale from the Committee on Indian Affairs", or "The committee appointed to inquire of Mr. Brown and others lately traders to the Catawbas", reported to the Commons House of Assembly as follows:³

"The committee .. when they first sent for Thomas Brown, acquainted

him that the Public were determined to supply the Catawbaws with goods during the suspension of trade with the Cherokees. And at the same time, having a regard to .. Brown and" (to) "others who were engaged in the Catawbaw Trade, had ordered a committee to confer with him in order to know what price would be satisfactory to the said Brown, from the Public, to purchase his goods.

"Who informed the committee that 'When (I) bought Marr & Thomson's goods, (I) gave 25% advance on the prime cost.' And then desired half an hour's time to consider and give an answer to the committee.

"When he returned, he acquainted the committee that he was willing to sell all the goods he has in The Congarees and at the Catawbaws at 25% advance on the prime cost (six months' credit). A invoice of prices he'll produce tomorrow.

"The committee further asked Brown whether he was willing to be employed in the Public Service on proper encouragement.

"To which he answered he would give an answer tomorrow morning; and also, give an account what number of packhorses he could sell the Public."¹

Kilpatrick, though — the other South Carolina colonist trading with the Catawbaws — would not cooperate, and the deal never came off.

Ten years later this same Thomas Brown would testify to the Upper House of Assembly that " .. (I), in the year ... 1735^o and for several years before — having been a licensed trader to the Cattawbaw Indians — did nego-

^o meaning (New Style) the 12 months from March 25th, 1735 to March 24th, 1736

tiate and carry on a considerable trade with the said Indians from the place of (my) usual residence near the Congree Old Fort upon Santee' river."¹ (He's calling the entire length of both Santee and Congaree rivers "Santee river." The fort in question, began or existed as early as September 1718, or perhaps not until 1720, when it housed 20 soldiers:² The fort represents the first human occupation of the Congaree river valley since sometime late in 1716,³ when the Congaree Indians fled from war and into deep hiding.⁴) Brown continues:

"And used frequently to pass and repass from the said Congrees to the Cattawba Nation. By which means, (I) became acquainted with the goodness of the lands upon the Santee and Waterree rivers. And particularly, with the Waterree lands and the Indians living and residing on the same ¹ ..

"(I), living in so distant a part of the country, considered how useful and beneficial a thing it would be as well to the public as to (myself), to become a means of introducing a greater number of white inhabitants in that remote part of the country — where there were then very few, besides (my own) family." His 2 children? "To effect which, no means seemed so obvious as securing a tract

* Thomas Brown had a six year-old son in 1736, whom Brown later called "William Brown, my natural son, born of a free Indian woman of the Catawba Nation" and " .. brought up to the Christian religion."⁵ Decades later, another trader wrote of him, in connection with "the Katahba Indians", as "an half-(blood) Indian of that Nation, the favorite son of Mr. T.B. a famous old trader."⁶ The English colonists found William Brown, or "Billy Brown", very close-mouthed under interrogation.⁷ He had a sister, Elizabeth Brown (born by 1736?).⁸ We know of no-one else living on Congaree river from 1722 to 1732 or even 1735.⁹

of good land that would answer by its produce the labor of such persons as should be minded to become settlers there, free from the interruption and inquietude arising from the dormant claims or pretended titles of others.

" .. The land on the point between Santee^o and Waterree['] river possessed and inhabited by the Waterree['] Indians and not settled, inhabited or claimed by any white person, to (my own) knowledge or belief [being excellent lands in their kind for the production of wheat and other grains, hemp, flax and other kinds of husbandry]^A, seemed most suitable to (me) for this purpose.

"(I) did therefore treat with the Waterree['] Indians living and residing on the said lands for the purchase of the same. As (I) then conceived it was lawful for (me) so to do, in order to sell it out to newcomers into this province at such easy rates, as should be an inducement to them to become settlers thereon.

"(I) did accordingly, by deed of feofment[#] and for a valuable consideration, bona fide pay" for "and purchase from the said Waterree['] Indians, the said point or neck of land as far up the same as the Catawba Fording Place. And had quiet and peaceable protection, livery^{*} and seizin[†] given by them on the 13th day of March 1735;^A as by the original deed .. may more fully appear." [!]

^o or rather, Congaree

^A agriculture

[#] in English law (though here rather outlandish), the sale, by one English lord to another, of land on which an established community of vassals still lived

^{*} formal delivery of legal title

[†] unrestricted possession for life, and backed up legally by good, unclouded title

^A identified plainly once as 1736 New Style

"ACCOUNT OF GOODS

paid and delivered to the Waterree Indians the 13th March 1736
by Thomas Brown (Indian Trader) for the lands between Waterree
and Santee" (or more properly, Congaree) "rivers; caculated
at the then prices

Imprimi

"38½ yards Strouds @ £4 weight of leather per yard £154"

(strouds: "The English introduced Stroud cloth, manufactured
in Stroud, Gloucestershire," England, "to the Indians.
A length of the rich scarlet or blue woolen was wrap-
ped around the waist several times and allowed to
hang to the knees; it was secured with a leather
belt." In the Creek Confederacy in the present-day
state of Alabama, at least; and surely in one varia-
tion or another, among Indians all over the South.)

"16 yards plains" (again, cloth) .. @ £1½ weight £24

3 guns @ £16 weight £48

50 weight gunpowder @ £2 per pound £100

100 pounds weight bullets £½ £50

15 white blankets £6 £90

1 bushel salt £3 £3

40 doeskins-worth in ammunition: for war £40

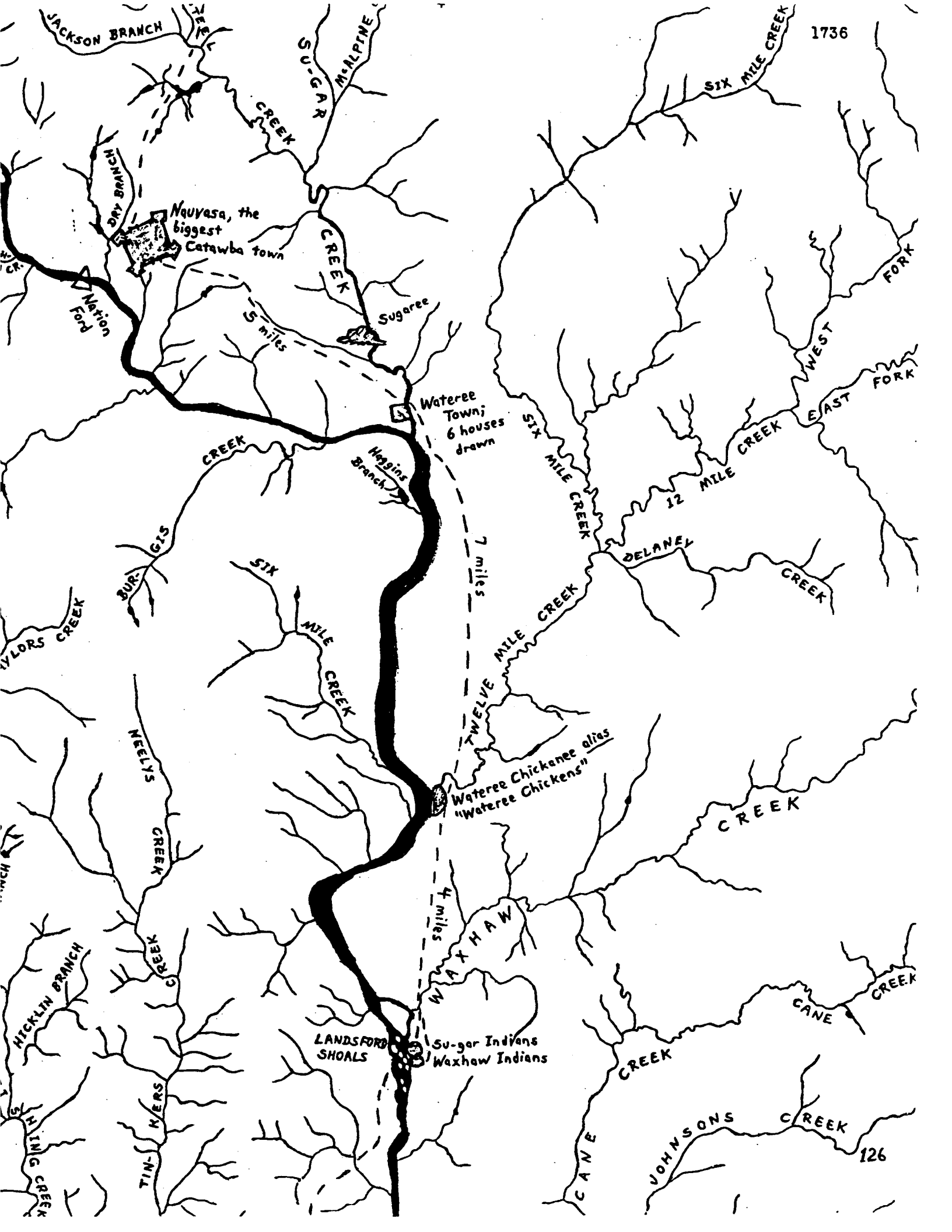
beef and corn £12

£581"

One last word from Thomas Brown: " .. at the same time of such purchase (I)
humbly conceive .. and was advised" that "the said Waterree' Indians were the ori-
ginal, natural and rightful owners and possessors of the said lands — that they
had not forfeited or parted with such right before the sale thereof to (me)." ¹

Others later spoke of the deed as "a certain Instrument of Writing .. signed and sealed on the 13th day of March 1735,^x by seven of the Wateree Indians, setting forth that for the consideration of several goods and money therein mentioned; the said seven Wateree Indians did grant, bargain, sell and alien unto Thomas Brown all that parcel or neck of land situate between the Wateree and Santee rivers, from the Point of the said Neck at the confluence of the two rivers, up to the Catawba Fording Place." ¹

x 1736 New Style



1736

Nauyasa, the biggest
Catawba town

Waterree
Town;
6 houses
drawn

Waterree Chickanee alias
"Waterree Chickens"

LANDSFORD
SHOALS
Sugar Indians
Waxhaw Indians

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In London today an untitled, unsigned map measuring a foot and 9 inches high by 11 inches wide, has, "At upper left, '36' in large numbers .. twice written across the face of the map." Which, with internal evidence, dates the map as drawn in the year 1736. American Indian villages on the map, from north to south:

"Sugar Town" (Catawbas, on Sugar creek, called "the fishing creek")

"Cattauboes or Nassau Town", showing "The gate to Virginia Road"

"Waterree Town", on Sugar creek very near its mouth

"Waterree Chickens", on Catawba river at the south side of the mouth of Twelve Mile creek; the name Anglicized from the earlier Waterree Chickannee

"Sugar [Town]" and "Waxau Town", on Catawba river at Landsford Shoals and the south side of the mouth of Waxhaw creek; paired together just as when the armies marched through them two dozen years earlier.

That's half a dozen Indian villages in actual use by the Indians. The other Catawba towns would have stood further upriver or further up Sugar creek, off the edge of the map. The map shows a single case only of an abandoned Indian village site:

"Waterree Old town", on the north side of the lower reaches of Spears creek, then called Pidgeon creek; and opposite or across Waterree river from the mouth of Pinetree creek and evidently also, "the Catawba Fording Place" ()

On the page following, "Waterree Old town" lies just barely within the lower half of the original map.

As I suppose; though that may not be true — the mapmaker may have been interested only in showing the Indian towns along the main path.



In 1736 the Wateree Indian village called Waterree Chickens stood at the mouth of Twelve Mile creek all of six miles northwest^{of} the Wateree Indian town called Waterree Chickanee and standing, thirty-five years earlier, on Cane creek at the crossing of the path to the Catawba Nation. The only creek inbetween: Waxhaw creek, three miles down from Twelve Mile creek and three Miles up from Waxhaw creek.¹

But in terms of how well the Wateree Indian people found themselves able to live, those six miles must have made a tremendous difference. A passage above at the top of page 44 describes the limited availability of arable bottomlands to the Indians at Waterree Chickanee in 1700 and 1701. Contrast that to the following passage in reference to Waxhaw creek and Cane creek, by the same author:

"In the distance between these two creeks one passes" (travelling northwards, upstream) "out of the Fall Zone and into the Piedmont proper.

"As observed by this writer, the Fall Zone begins just south of the present Waxhaw creek, and is caused by the river's crossing of the interface between the Charlotte Belt" (upstream, to the north) "and the Carolina Slate Belt" (downstream, to the south). "The interface between these two belts is well marked in the start of the Landsford Shoals, where the channel of the Catawba river suddenly encounters highly resistant rock.

"At this point, its channel abruptly doubles its width to about 1,300 feet, while its flood plain dramatically shrinks from its previous range (of 4,000 feet), to 1,600 feet; and becomes only about one hundred feet wide along each side of the channel."²

Referring to the situation as it stood in January of 1701, "As compared to the Fall Zone territory of the Wateree Chickanees just a few miles south, the Waxhaw territory contained the most extensive bottomlands just above the Fall Zone and extended northward to the vicinity of Sugar creek .."¹

For the Wateree Indians, the difference lies between "restricted bottomlands" in 1701, and "extensive bottomlands" in 1736 — despite the distance between successive village sites of only six miles.

The map partially reproduced above on page 128, must predate the 17th of December 1736. Seeing that by that time a family of white people living, until recently, on Pinetree creek (where "some Indians", later identified as Saraw tribesmen, had murdered all of them), still had "neighbors round about."² The map appears to represent the upper Santee, Congaree, Saluda, Broad and Catawba-Wateree river valleys at the very close of the time during which no white people lived there other than for the very few at or immediately next to the Congaree Old Fort (a corner of which shows up at the lower-left corner of page 128).

In Charleston at 3 P.M. 6th October 1737, the Commons House of Assembly received a message written that same day by "his Honor the Lieutenant Governor", Thomas Broughton; the first two-thirds of which reads as follows:¹

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen

Some little Time ago a Party of the Catawba Indians were down with me and complained that they were not able longer to support themselves against the continual Incursions of the Senecas who had killed and destroyed great Numbers of their People and were desirous to remove from their present Settlement to the Waxaw Old Towns which I thought not advisable as it would leave an open Inroad, without Interruption to the Senecas and Tuskeroras to come into the Heart of the Settlements. I dissuaded them from removing and informed them I would endeavour to procure them a Peace with the Senecas by writing to the Governour of New York in their Favour, who informs me if I send any of that Nation there he will use his Influence to conclude a Peace between them. I hope therefore, Gentlemen, you will enable me to effect the same and thereby continue that Nation of Indians on their old Settlements, the Consequence of suffering them to be oppressed or obliged to remove may be very prejudicial to this Province.

The Indians of the village called "Waterree Chickens" (Anglicized from Waterree Chickanee) had lived on Catawba river at its junction with the south bank of the mouth of Twelve Mile creek — and thus, within "the Waxaw" (Waxhaw) "Old Towns" — as late as 1736.² The Waxhaw nation of Indians had lived there for more than fifteen years by the spring, approximately, of 1716, when horrible war had caused them to flee into exile, the ones of them that remained alive.³

Just seven years after 1736, a trader, during his "residence with .. the Katahba", would find that "Their country had an old waste field of seven miles extent, and several others of smaller dimensions. Which shows that they were formerly a numerous people, to cultivate so much land with their dull stone-axes .."⁴ These fields correspond, in part, to "the Waxaw Old Towns."⁵

In Charleston on the 23rd of February 1738 (New Style), the Upper House "read the Petition of the Frontier inhabitants of Craven county, with the case and representation of the behavior of the Watere Indians .."¹ Within the next four days we hear² "of the late Insults committed by the Waterrees at Santee, and that as they are sheltered by the Catawbas this Government expects that they" (the Catawbas) "will take care that ample satisfaction be given for such their" (the Waterrees') "insolent behavior."³

And another time in those few days, after talking about the Charraw (Saraw) Indians,⁴ that "The late insults committed by the Waterrees also require satisfaction, and .. as those people are also sheltered by the Catawbas, this Government expects that they shall take care that ample satisfaction be given."⁴

We hear of "the insults which have lately been committed on the frontiers of Craven county." The Commons House of Assembly "read the .. Petition of the Frontier Inhabitants of Craven county setting forth many instances of the late flagrant and insolent behavior of the Wateree Indians; signed by a great number of petitioners who live and reside thereabouts; and praying the relief of the General Assembly on that occasion."

And once they call it, "the Petition of the Frontier inhabitants of Craven county concerning the late insolent behavior of the Wateree Indians."⁵

The Commons House, on the morning of the 25th, proposed "that 6 men be in the meantime appointed to range and patrol over Santee river on the frontiers, who shall be under the direction of the person appointed to go to the Catawbas ... with a guard of 5 men .. to .. address himself to the Chiefs of those people .."⁶

⁴ concerning a crime the Saraws had committed "at Pinetree Creek" 14 months earlier