

CHAPTER 1

THE LAND CALLED CHICORA

I. The Landscape

A. Introduction. Over the course of the more than 300 years of South Carolina's history, geography has had a tremendous impact on the state's social, political, and economic development.

B. The Landscape can be examined in several ways.

1. Included in the natural landscape are natural features, climate, soil, and terrain.
2. The landscape can also be examined from the perspective of what Europeans perceived it to be.

C. Early Descriptions

1. Early explorers compared Carolina to the Garden of Eden with glowing accounts of fertile soils, healthful climate, and plentiful wild fish and game.
2. The first explorers and settlers were amazed at the lush, vegetation – especially trees.
 - a. In all of Europe, there are only 12 species of trees.
 - b. There are literally dozens of species of trees in Carolina.
3. The wealth extracted from the land and forest in first 100 years of settlement underscored perception that Carolina was a land of milk and honey – and opportunity.

D. Carolina the geographical reality

1. The original boundaries of the 1663 charter were 36' 30" to 29; and extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific.
 - a. The original boundaries contained more than one million square miles of territory.
 - b. All of the states of the Confederacy, except Virginia, were contained within Carolina's original boundaries.

2. Over the span of 100 years, South Carolina lost huge chunks of this territory.
 - a. By 1719 North and South Carolina were separate colonies.
 - b. In 1732 Georgia was chartered.
 - c. In 1787 South Carolina ceded Georgia the disputed territory south and west of Savannah River.
 - d. The original one million square miles was reduced to 31,000.

E. The landscape of present-day South Carolina

1. The chief physical feature of the state is the fall line.
2. The state has seven regions
 - a. Alpine
 - b. Piedmont
 - c. Sand Hills
 - d. Red Hills
 - e. Upper Pine Belt
 - f. Lower Pine Belt
 - g. Coastal
3. The three major river systems are the Pee Dee, Santee, and the Savannah.
4. Although the state was heavily forested in the 17th and 18th centuries, there is very little of that original forest left today.
5. Fish and wild game were plentiful.

II. The First South Carolinians

- A. Introduction. The nearly 600 Indian tribes in what is now the United States usually are divided into six major groups. South Carolina's 46 tribes and others east of the Mississippi River are classified as Indians of the Eastern Woodlands.
- B. Humans have inhabited South Carolina for nearly 14,500 years. The first arrived around 13,000 B.C., roaming the state in search of game to hunt.
- C. Early peoples of South Carolina.

1. Archaic Horizon (8000-1000 B.C.)
 - a. semi-permanent settlements in hardwood forests
 - b. migrated with seasons in search of small game, plants, shellfish
 - c. late Archaic peoples made the earliest known pottery in North America, domesticated wild plants

2. Woodland Horizon (1000 B.C.- A.D.1500)
 - a. agriculture, tools, pottery more advanced
 - b. Mississippian culture entered South Carolina around A.D. 1150. They built settlements in river valleys, and their towns included temple mounds and had a complex social and religious order. The most powerful and best known chiefdom was Cofitachequi on the Wateree River at Mulberry Mound.
 - c. Other Woodland peoples co-existed (unhappily) with the Mississippians and with each other. They are often categorized by language group: Algonkian, Iroquoian, Siouan, Muskogean.
 - d. The number of different native tribes in South Carolina before the arrival of Europeans is unknown. Their population was likely from 17,000 to 30,000.

3. Native life
 - a. loose political confederacies
 - b. tribes maintained distinct languages and customs
 - c. believed in an orderly world governed by nature
 - d. fire was an important part of everyday life
 - e. towns built in different sizes and styles, depending on tribe
 - f. women generally provided most of the food through farming, while men hunted. In many tribes, women played important

roles in governance.

g. Indian nations in pre-European South Carolina were fairly stable and co-existed

4. There were three tribes that had a major impact on the development of colonial South Carolina: the Catawba, Cherokee, and Yamasee.
5. The remainder of South Carolina's tribes were small, seldom larger than extended families.

C. Relations with Europeans

1. De Ayllon and De Soto both betrayed Indians' kindnesses.
2. The English adopted a policy of alliances with the three major tribes.
3. Lands were "set aside forever" for the Yamasee.
4. The deerskin trade with all tribes was important economically to the early settlers.
5. Friction developed when traders cheated the Indians and settlers moved into Indian lands.

D. Indian Wars

1. The Yamasee War (1715-1717) was nearly fatal to the young colony and also one of the causes of the Revolution of 1719.
- *2. The Cherokee War (1759-1761) was part of a larger world conflict that Americans often refer to as the French and Indian War.**
 - a. It was a result of French intrigues and friction with settlers.
 - *b. It was part of larger world conflict (Seven Years' War), called French and Indian War in the colonies.**

F. Impact of Europeans on Red Carolinians

1. Indians lost their ancestral lands.
2. Disease decimated the Indian population.

***3. The Trail of Tears (1838) forced the Cherokee to resettle in Oklahoma.**

G. Red Carolinians and South Carolina today

1. Many Indian tribes are remembered only as names on map.
2. The Catawba have filed a law suit to reclaim their lands.

***a. In 1790 the United States Congress passed the Non-Intercourse Act requiring congressional approval of the sale of any Indian lands.**

b. The State of South Carolina purchased the Catawba reservation in 1844, but did not obtain Congressional approval.

c. In 1989 the Fourth District Appellate Court has ruled that the Catawba have the right to sue for their lands.

H. Summary. Although there were no major wars of extermination as there were in Massachusetts, Virginia, and the American West, the story of red Carolinians has been far from a happy one. A point to ponder: What would have been the story of settlement in South Carolina if the Cherokee had been on the coast instead of the small, weak tribes the settlers encountered?

F. Readings

1. Edgar, South Carolina: A History, xix-xx, Chapter 1
2. Barck & Lefler, Colonial America, pp. 7-13
3. Blum, Catton, The National Experience, pp. 72-76, 231-232
4. Horne, South Carolina, pp. 20-71
6. Jones, South Carolina, pp. 30-59, 157-160, 184-191, 198-204, 264-274
7. Kovacic & Winberry, South Carolina, pp. 1-48, 51-64
8. Milling, Red Carolinians
9. Waddell, Indians of the Carolina Lowcountry