

2 RAGUSANS, CROATS AND TURKS

We didn't answer to our description.
—John Trudell, Lakota Songwriter

In addition to an Armenian element among the Cherokee, the previous chapter mentions Sub-Saharan African, Jewish, Lumbee, Mennonite, Pennsylvania Dutch, Central Asian, Scottish, Middle Eastern, Apalache, Irish, Dutch, French, Spanish, Mexican, English, German, Polynesian, Greek, Ottoman, Templar/Hospitaller, Turkish, Welsh, Maya, South American, Romani/Gypsy, Mestizo, Kichwa, Amazonian, Norse, Muskogean/Creek, Caribbean, Cuban, Huichol, and Spanish/Portuguese or Iberian. Are we to believe that Cherokees are admixed with all these groups? Probably, and with others as well.

One not yet singled out is Croatian DNA. It is a mystery, together with the role of Venice in the New World, that we want to put on the table at the outset. In Elizabeth Hirschman's and my *Appalachian Journal* article, "Toward a Genetic Profile of Melungeons," it merited the following note:

Several scholars have suggested that Croatian settlers were present on the Eastern Seaboard since as early as 1449 and later formed part of the ethnic mixture that became known as Melungeons (Eterovich 2003; Prazak 1993). Slovenian-American author Louis Adamic wrote extensively on the subject, but almost entirely in the Yugoslavian language, so little of his work passed into the mainstream. We thank Nancy Morrison and Evelyn Orr for this information.⁴¹

⁴¹ Yates and Hirschman (2010), p. 103. Adam S. Eterovich, *Croatia and Croats and the Lost Colony 1585-1590* (San Carlos: Ragusan, 2003). Charles L. Prazak, "Were Croats in the Carolinas before Columbus?" *Carologue, A Publication of the South*

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Croatian ancestry is covered in the following reference populations in DNA Consultants' method: Croatia, Southern (Split, n=105),⁴² Croatia (n=200),⁴³ Montenegro (n=200),⁴⁴ Bosnia (n=210),⁴⁵ Bosnia and Herzegovina (n=171),⁴⁶ Albanian - Kosovo (n=136),⁴⁷ Albanian - Italy (n=100),⁴⁸ Serbian - Serbia / Vojvodina / Montenegro (n = 100),⁴⁹ South Slavic and Mediterranean European. Significant matches to these are found in the following Phase III participants: Tonya Battin (25), Peter Atkins (28), Ava Fink (8), Gary James (42), Robin Kelly (44), Robert McFarlin (32), Ann Mikell (37, where it is only surpassed by Scots-Irish), Marilyn Rae (43), James Sens (13), Marcy Barrington (56) and Christine C. Day (Albanian - Kosovo=no. 2, Croatia=no.4 and Montenegro=no.5). In addition to having important Armenian and Jewish matches, luck of the draw dealt Marcia Dietrich, whom the reader may recall had Enrolled Cherokee at no. 1, the following Balkan matches: 1. Albanian - Kosovo (n=136), 5. Bosnia and Herzegovina (n=171) and 9. Montenegro (n=200).

Carolina Historical Society (Summer 1993), pp.18-19. On Croats in early America, see also George J. Prpic, "Early Croatian Contacts with American and the Mystery of the Croats," *Journal of Croatian Studies, Annual Review of the Croatian Society of America* 1 (1960); electronic version by Studia Croatica: <http://www.studiacroatica.org/jcs/01/0103.htm>. The subject will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 8. A good general history of Ragusa is F. W. Carter, *Dubrovnik (Ragusa): A Classic City-State* (London: Seminar, 1972).

⁴² M. Schanfield et al, "Allele Frequencies for the 13 CODIS STR Loci in a Sample of Southern Croats," *Journal of Forensic Science* 47/3 (May 2002), pp. 669-70.

⁴³ N. Halić et al, "Evaluation of Population Variation at 17 Autosomal STR and 16 Y-STR Haplotype Loci in Croats," *Forensic Science International Genetics* 3/4 (Sept. 2009), pp. 137-38.

⁴⁴ ENFSI DNA WG STR Population Database v. 2. (str-base.org). M. Bodner et al, "Recommendations of the DNA Commission of the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG) on Quality Control of Autosomal Short Tandem Repeat Allele Frequency Databasing (STRidER)," *Forensic Sci. Int. Genet.* 24 (2016), pp. 97-102.

⁴⁵ R. Konjodžić et al, "Bosnian Population Data for the 15 STR Loci in the PowerPlex 16 kit," *International Journal of Legal Medicine* 118/2 (April 2004), pp. 119-21.

⁴⁶ Bosnia and Herzegovina (population 425): ENFSI DNA WG STR Population Database v. 2. (strbase.org).

⁴⁷ Milovan Kubat et al, "Population Genetics of the 15AmpF/STR Identifier Loci in Kosovo Albanians," *International Journal of Legal Medicine* 118/2 (2004), pp. 115-18.

⁴⁸ C. Robino et al, "Allele Frequencies for the PowerPlex 16 STR Loci in an Albanian Population Sample from Northern Italy," *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 46/4 (2001), pp. 998-99.

⁴⁹ I. Veselinović et al, "Allele Frequencies of the 15 AmpFI STR Identifier Loci in the Population of Vojvodina Province, Serbia and Montenegro," *International Journal of Legal Medicine* 118 (2004), pp. 184-86.

All told, there is hardly a single participant without high to medium Croatian matches. Are Cherokees, then, a very mixed group of Southeastern Indians that took in remnants of many extinguished tribes such as the Catawba and Cheraw, and were all these tribes admixed with Melungeons, Jews, Croatians, Iberians, Scots-Irish, Turks and Armenians? How deep historically is the Balkan element in the Cherokee? Does it go back to antiquity or does it correlate with recent European intrusion into North America?

Modal and Submodal Lumbee DNA Profiles

Can Croatian roots be substantiated by Y chromosomal and mitochondrial DNA analysis? A public Family Tree DNA project is available whose member stories and DNA data could conceivably provide some answers, but it is curated by administrators who believe that only ABCD lineages can be American Indian—as we shall see, a fallacy. The project title is Robeson North Carolina Native American; it used to carry the words “tribal” and “Lumbee” in its name.

We point out in Chapter 3 the similarity of the Lumbee pattern of mitochondrial haplogroup distribution with our Cherokee DNA Project. Both populations are surprisingly admixed and very diversified. Some researchers have attempted to pick out specific clues and even genetic signatures from the summary Robeson County Native American data. They’ve made claims about Croatian, Jewish, African and other ancestries among the Lumbees. But this sort of exercise is problematical. For instance, it is jumping to conclusions to think that T2 is the same as the “Sephardic Signature.”⁵⁰ The latter is in reality a very minor T2e1 haplotype which has been traced back to a probable Jewish founder female, and which has only a small number of carriers today.⁵¹ T2 embraces many other ethnicities. Our approach focuses rather on precise haplotype analysis and detailed genealogy instead of broad haplogroup matches.

As in other mysteries, autosomal DNA is the key to understanding the big picture. Maybe some of the ethnic roots were handed down unequally in

⁵⁰ Elizabeth C. Hirschman et al, “DNA Evidence of a Croatian and Sephardic Jewish Settlement on the North Carolina Coast Dating from the Mid to Late 1500s,” *International Social Science Review* 95/2 (2019), p. 13.

⁵¹ F. L. Bedford, “Sephardic Signature in Haplogroup T mitochondrial DNA,” *European Journal of Human Genetics*, 20,4 (2012), pp. 441-48 and F. L. Bedford et al, “Clarifying Mitochondrial DNA Subclades of T2e from Mideast to Mexico,” *Journal of Phylogenetics and Evolutionary Biology*, 2, 4 (2013), pp. 1-8. Actually, there are two Jewish signatures, neither at all common, distinctive as they each are. Bedford labels one Converso/Sephardic and the other Sephardic/Ashkenazi. Both are defined by mutations within T2e1. See her “Jewish motifs”: <http://www.u.arizona.edu/~bedford/summary%20of%20motifs%20etc%20f.pdf>.

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male or female lines, such as the DNA of shipwrecked sailors. Such a genetic signature might be detectable in Y chromosome lines or surnames, but it would be invisible in female lineage analyses, since males do not pass mitochondrial DNA. We have therefore constructed an artificial STR profile called "Modal Lumbee" and put this into our autosomal database of 550 world populations. It represents an average Lumbee's ancestry, mother's side, father's side, all lines, with leading matches.

Rank	World Population Matches
1	U.S. Chippewa Indians (n = 22)
2	Native American - Lumbee (n = 106)
3	Iberian Peninsula - Catalans (n = 50)
4	Turkish (n = 198)
5	Melungeon (n = 40)
6	Colombian-Andean-Amazonian-Orinoquian (n = 846)
7	Jewish (n = 124)
8	Spanish - Minorcan (n = 100)
9	Native American - Saskatchewan (n=105)
10	Colombian - Northeastern - Santander (n = 99)
11	Portuguese - Madeira (n = 100)
12	Chamorro - Guam (n = 97)
13	Argentinian - Corrientes (n = 43)
14	Colombian - Bogota (n = 150)
15	Yemeni - Sanana (n = 100)
16	Azerbaijan (n = 285)
17	Colombian - Antioquia (n = 400)
18	Polish - Northern (n = 145)
19	White - California (n = 75)
20	Argentinian - Buenos Aires (n = 143)
21	Bavarian (n = 155)
22	White - Florida (n = 117)
23	Native American - Saskatchewan (n = 40)
24	Hispanic - North Carolina (n = 157)
25	White - Minnesota (n = 160)
26	White - New York (n = 71)
27	Native American - Minnesota (n = 203)
28	Colombian - Boyaca (n = 120)

29	Russia - Vody (n = 60)
30	Native American - Minnesota (n = 100)
31	U.S. Cherokee Admixed (n = 92)
32	Polish (n = 125)
33	Polish (n = 136)
34	Native American - Minnesota (n = 191)
35	Polish (n = 870)
36	Brazilian - Bahia (n = 150)
37	Russia - Altai Turkic (n = 68)
38	Paraguayan (n = 168)
39	White - Florida (n = 123)
40	Eastern Turkey (n = 802)
41	Spanish - Cantabria (n = 158)
42	Ukrainian (n = 900)
43	Dubai (n = 224)
44	Hispanic - U.S. (n = 497)
45	White - Michigan (n = 80)
46	Spanish - Balearic Islands (n = 113)
47	Venezuelan - Maracaibo (n = 203)
48	Mexican - Northeastern - Mestizo (n = 143)
49	Mexican - Nuevo Leon (n = 143)
50	Spanish - Northeast (n = 204)

Top population matches reported among Lumbee Indians according to autosomal STR frequencies (N=550).

This chart of autosomal ancestry contains some expected results but others are rather surprising. Self-identifying Lumbees will be pleased to see that the top two matches and eight others are Native American. Of course, it is hardly a mystery that Lumbees match Lumbees (no. 2), but it is perhaps counter-intuitive that Chippewa Indians sampled on the U.S.-Canada border⁵² should be the No. 1 match. The reason for this may be that the Chippewa (also called Ojibway and Anishnabe) are one of the largest and oldest American Indian groups in North America. Perhaps the Chippewa match simply denotes "bedrock" indigenous DNA? In the top echelon, Lumbee DNA also matches South American Indians (6), Saskatchewan First

⁵² J. Ng et al, "Native American Population Data based on the Globalfiler® Autosomal STR Loci," *Forensic Science International*, 12-13 (2016); doi: 10.1016/j.fsigen.2016.06.014.

Peoples (9, 23), three Cherokee (31) and North American Indian is the Jewish and preceding European. These results to a Senate they are Indians just as n

In what is undeniably Lumbee history and genealogy, they deserve a chapter roundup.

Jews. Jewish is no. 7 on an extended loci basis. American, and below megapopulations. Israel. Yet contemporary Lumbee despite the fact that many have a crypto-Jewish origin. A from Majorca in Catalonia on the 1790 census in Clerle, a Venetian Jew. *Colonial America*, Bray Brébois ("from Brabant needs to be done alone 10, "The Jewish Strain

Morocco. Moroccan refugees from the Spanish Spain and Portugal increased dramatically in Columbia. This even

⁵³ Hirschman and Yata Valadares and Anna R. *Sephardic Surnames*, 2nd

⁵⁴ Hirschman and Yata. The Clerle family were Mussolini; see Liliana *Italia 1943-1945* (Milan, Florence: Israel, 1925)

⁵⁵ Hirschman et al, "DNA found in the Lumbee Goolsby, Koss, Gregory Tolar, Ickler and Wainwright names/croatian-family names.

Peoples (9, 23), three other Chippewa/Ojibway samples (27, 30, 34), Cherokee (31) and Northeast Mexican Mestizos (48). In megapopulations, American Indian is the third strongest match, following Melungeon and Jewish and preceding European. If our hypothetical Lumbee were to show these results to a Senate committee, the jury would have a hard time denying they are Indians just as much as Chippewas and others are.

In what is undeniably a mixed bag, we note some of the usual suspects in Lumbee history and genealogies, along with a few new entries. Any one of them deserves a chapter—or better, a book—to itself. But here is a quick roundup.

Jews. Jewish is no. 7 in the world matches, Hungarian Ashkenazim no. 7 on an extended loci basis, no. 5 in the metapopulations (just ahead of Native American, and below Catalan and Caucasus) and no. 2 in the megapopulations. Israeli Jews (n=163) is no. 5 in the European-only lineup. Yet contemporary Lumbees seem to have no knowledge of Jewish ancestry, despite the fact that many of their oldest surnames are clearly of Jewish or crypto-Jewish origin. As an example, Revel/Revil is a Sephardic surname from Majorca in Catalonia and Marseille (Ravel).⁵³ Cloerly, which appears on the 1790 census in Sampson County with many other Lumbee names, is Clerle, a Venetian Jewish family.⁵⁴ As suggested in *Jews and Muslims in British Colonial America*, Brayboy and Braveboy may come from the Jewish surname Brébois (“from Brabant”), a Parisian Jewish family. Much more research needs to be done along these lines.⁵⁵ We will revisit the subject in chapter 10, “The Jewish Strain.”

Morocco. Moroccan ancestry has been shown to be characteristic in refugees from the Spanish Inquisition after 1492, and again after 1580, when Spain and Portugal united, and yet again in 1610 after persecutions were increased dramatically by the new branch of the Holy Office in Cartagena, Columbia. This event brought thousands of wealthy, but fearful conversos

⁵³ Hirschman and Yates, *Jews and Muslims*, p. 50; cf. Guilherme Faiguenboim, Paulo Valadares and Anna Rosa Campagnano, *Dicionário Sefaradi de Sobrenomes. Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames*, 2nd ed. (Rio de Janeiro: Fraiha, 2004), p. 370.

⁵⁴ Hirschman and Yates, *Jews and Muslims*, p. 255, n. 20; cf. Faiguenboim et al, p. 227. The Clerle family were among the last Jews to be deported to the death camps under Mussolini; see Liliana Picciotto Fargion, *Il Libro della memoria: Gli ebrei deportati dall'Italia 1943-1945* (Milan: Mursia, 1991); Samuel Schaerf, *I Cognomi degli ebrei d'Italia* (Florence: Israel, 1925).

⁵⁵ Hirschman et al, “DNA Evidence,” p. 11, gives the following as Croatian surnames found in the Lumbee: Cannon, Kober, Craddock, Kamper, Fiveash, Kemerer, Goolsby, Koss, Gregerson, Scoggins, Groms, Shumate, Haga, Suchochos, Hagan/in, Tolar, Ickler and Warriax. The article cites www.croatian-genealogy.com/croatian-names/croatian-family-names-surnames, but that link does not have any of these names.

to the Carolinas and Georgia. They came by the shipload. Their addition to the gene pool seems to explain the matches we see with: Venezuelan – Maracaibo (n=203), Colombian – Northeaster – Santander (n=99), Colombian-Andean-Amazonian-Orinoquian (n=846), Colombian – Antioquia (n=400), Colombian – Boyaca (n=120) and Brazilian – Bahia (n=150).

Tunisian (n=196). A good example of how autosomal DNA can pinpoint the exotic is this Tunisian match that pops up. The Barbary Pirates were long headquartered in Tunis. The clear and present danger these Ottoman corsairs posed to the United States as soon as it received its independence from Great Britain led to the new country's first war with another power in 1801. These pirates preyed upon the Spanish treasure fleet and other shipping that sailed past the treacherous waters of Cape Hatteras. Often they had settlements or hideouts on shore. Note supportive matches in Muslim countries like Turkey, Greece, Morocco, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Malaysia, Dubai, Arabia, Iraq, Cyprus and Morocco. An alternative "ancient thesis" explanation would be that Tunisian points to Phoenicians and Carthaginians.

Catalans. While just about every Spanish or Portuguese population in the database scores a high rank in our Lumbee "skeletons in the closet," it is Catalan that heads the list. Why? Columbus had many Catalan connections and may have been Catalan himself by origin. Catalan sailors and navigators were widely considered the best of the best. Catalonia was part of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, which also included the Balearic Islands. One must bear in mind that the first white inhabitants of North Carolina were overwhelmingly Spaniards. The region was long part of the province of Spanish Florida. Notes one Creek author, Richard Thornton:

One of the towns in northeast Tennessee in the 1684 map by Jean Baptiste Franquelin was *Catalou*. Cataloochee in Haywood County, North Carolina is not a Cherokee word, but a Creek word meaning "Descendants of Catalou."⁵⁶

Croatian (n=200). There are several populations so named, as well as a host of related ones. Croatia comes out at position #24 in one lineup, followed in the next position by Slovenian. Croatia and Slovenia are countries that border on each other.

Italian matches are also medium high, including Sicily and Western Sicily. The latter two seem to reflect the increasing role of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (1442-1713) in the military, mining and trade of Spain, and perhaps relocation and emigration of Sicilians. There was a considerable flight of Jews

and Conversos to Sicily and reflection of Phoenician DNA were in Western Sicily. And the Sea Peoples. From 831 Emirate of Sicily, with its capital after that to be Muslim. I painted it white, if Jewish, I

Armenian. We started in the Cherokee. In a search Armenia – Gardman (n=9) Armenia's traditional borders and Azerbaijan. A large in both male and female line of these to a plausible relocated during the Ottoman Isfahan called New Julfa Ukraine (no. 10 metapopulation)

Poland, Ukraine and Crimea in 1475, Armenia, Moldavia, Transylvania and

Forgotten Ancestors

Another way to study matches to the sub-modes represent an optimal approximation of origins. Many of them even "Indian," as though one that admixture is deeper "founders" in this mix. Croatian is at the bullseye megapopulation. Minuteman businessman took a Creek American Indian fades primary non-American

Rank in Europe	Count Number
1	Albanian
2	Croatian
3	Italy (Sicily)
4	Turkish
5	Bosnian

⁵⁶ Richard L. Thornton, personal communication, 15 February 2020.

and Conversos to Sicily and Italy in the sixteenth century. It could also be a reflection of Phoenician DNA: Some of Carthage's most populous colonies were in Western Sicily. Another "ancient thesis" possibility are Sikels, one of the Sea Peoples. From 831 to 1091, the western half of Sicily constituted the Emirate of Sicily, with its capital at Palermo. Large parts of Sicily continued after that to be Muslim. It was said that if your house was Christian you painted it white, if Jewish, blue and if Muslim, green.

Armenian. We started this book with questions about Armenian matches in the Cherokee. In a search for matches to average Lumbee Indians, Armenia – Gardman (n=95) occupies a high rank. Neighboring countries on Armenia's traditional borders also crop up: Eastern Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Kurds and Azerbaijan. A large incidence of Caucasus DNA has been reported in both male and female lines as well as in autosomal results. To link just one of these to a plausible historical cause, a half-million Armenians were relocated during the Ottoman-Safavid War of 1603-1618 to an area of Isfahan called New Julfa. We know of similar large-scale relocations to Ukraine (no. 10 metapopulation).

Poland, Ukraine and Romania. With the Turkish expansion into Crimea in 1475, Armenians were forced to move west as refugees into Moldavia, Transylvania and mainly to Galicia, now southern Poland.

Forgotten Ancestors

Another way to study a population's hidden ethnicity is to search for matches to the sub-modal or next most common readings. The Lumbees represent an optimal application of this strategy since they are of mixed origins. Many of them even proclaim that a tribe member is "half-white, half-Indian," as though one parent were white and the other Indian. We know that admixture is deeper and more fragmented than that. Matches for "minor founders" in this mix are shown in the adjacent chart. As one can see, Croatian is at the bullseye of the European hits, while Armenian is the leading megapopulation. Minus the Indian side, it's as though an Armenian businessman took a Croatian bride and this was their child's DNA test. The American Indian fades into the background and we get a clear picture of the primary non-American Indian strain that "amalgamated" with it.

Rank in Europe	Country/ Population and Number in Study	Strength of Match
1	Albanian - Kosovo (n = 136)	49
2	Croatia (n = 200)	26
3	Italy (n = 103)	25
4	Turkish (n = 500)	20
5	Bosnia and Herzegovina (n = 171)	20

6	Macedonian (n = 100)	14
7	Montenegro (n = 200)	14
8	Serbia/Vojvodina/Montenegro (n = 100)	12
9	Western Sicily (n = 120)	11
10	Spain (n = 449)	10

"Minority report" for Lumbee ethnic origins.

Six of the top 10 European populations are Balkan. Italy and Turkey could be counted if we recall that until modern times they held possession of Croatia, Serbia and others, or at least parts of them. The only match that does not seem to fit is Spain at the bottom—perhaps this is just a sign that Spanish settlement of the Carolinas came on the heels of Croatian. Albanians in Kosovo, the most Turkish part of the former Yugoslavia, with over 95% registering Sunni Muslim as their religion, is no. 1. Albania was the jewel in the crown of the Venetian Republic's *Stato da Mar* (Domain of the Sea, Overseas Possessions), which lasted from 1463 to 1797 and included the coasts of Dalmatia and Istria in the north and islands of Corfu and Kefalonia in the south, as well as Cyprus, Greece and some of the other countries familiar in Lumbee results. Albanians in Kosovo (likely Christian, not Muslim) constitute twice as strong a match for Lumbee ancestry as the next tier of matches, Croatia, Italy, Turkey and Bosnia/Herzegovina.

Why are Italian matches so high? It may go back to secret colonies many historians say Venice planted on the East Coast as part of their "strategy of undermining Nordic supremacy in the Northwest Isles." Ever since the days of Haakon I, the Norwegian king claimed all lands to the north and beyond from his realm, in exclusion of other Christian rulers. This included Iceland, Greenland and the adjacent coasts of North America. Eventually, the Venetian gamble paid off. The Norwegian embargo on trade from the New World was worn down. The Venetians kept claiming they *could* plant colonies in the New World just like the Spanish, and they held a virtual monopoly on maps, but what if they actually did leave a substantial number of Italians and others on the East Coast of North America? DNA seems to indicate this was so.

Gunnar Thompson, who was called "The Sherlock Holmes of World Discovery," put together clues that may be relevant to bringing this chapter of pre-Columbian history to life:

We do know that the Venetians implemented their scheme to undermine the Norwegians, because they managed to map the Carolinas, Florida and the Gulf of Mexico in the early 14th century. In about the year 1310, the Venetian cartographer Marino Sanudo completed a map showing a region called "Tartary." This "Tartary" was a name that Marco Polo used

for Mongolia directly west of the southeast point of the Gulf (the Gulf of Mexico).

The world map depicted Norway according to the New Land, Greenland, and other forgotten devastating changes of the collapse of 1340.

Christian settlements in villages that were carracks, commonly small keels and vessels they carried steering-oars brought round hauled back copper, tar

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If we look at the modal profile match, following the lands in the European (e.g. composed of Arab and even male bias, such as invisible to the Armenians).

⁵⁷ Gunnar Thompson

⁵⁸ Thompson's discoveries at Ramusio and science, *Imagination and*

for Mongolia. On Sanudo's map, however, this "Tartary" was situated directly west of Europe. The configuration of the coastline includes a southeast peninsula (Florida), adjacent isles (the Antilles), and a western gulf (the Gulf of Mexico).⁵⁷

The world map of Albertin di Virga published between 1410 and 1420 depicted Norwegian, Irish and unclaimed territories.

According to Thompson, the lands called Norbega/Norveca, Albania, New Land, Greater Ireland, Estotiland, Drogeo, Ibernica and by a multitude of other forgotten names were well populated with new emigrants after the devastating changes brought about by the world plague and population collapse of 1340-1360:

Christian settlements along the East Coast consisted mostly of small villages that were built up around trading posts and hillforts. Numerous carracks, cogs, and knorrs sailed into the nearby harbors. These were usually small vessels under a hundred feet in length; they were built with keels and wooden hulls with oak planks arranged in a clinker fashion; they carried a single mast with a cotton or flax sail; and they had a steering-oar mounted on the starboard side near the stern. Merchants brought rum, beer, cordage, cloth, and iron tools to the provinces; they hauled back to European ports cargoes of dried fish, whale oil, furs, copper, tar, and wine.⁵⁸

And the Runners Up Are

If we look at another measure of ethnic origins and analyze the sub-modal profile's megapopulations, Armenian is far and away the strongest match, followed by Middle Eastern (e.g. Turkey and North Africa, Ottoman lands in the past), Mediterranean European (e.g. Italy) and Northern European (e.g. England). The list suggests that the Lumbee melting pot was composed of English, American Indian, Spanish, Balkan, Turkish, Armenian and other exotic ingredients. Among the latter was a pinch of Berber, Jewish, Arab and even Malay. Some of these populations seem to have a marked male bias, such as the presumed pirate-originating Tunisians. They are thus invisible to detection in mitochondrial studies, which show only female lines. The Armenian and Jewish contributions, on the other hand, seem to have

⁵⁷ Gunnar Thompson, *Secret Voyages* (Raleigh: Lulu, 2010), p. 90.

⁵⁸ Thompson, p. 113. Most academic scholars today dismiss such pre-Columbian discoveries and regard the Venetian maps and treatises like those of Nicolo Zen, Ramusio and Marcian Rossi as armchair travel and myth rather than true geography and science, e.g. Elizabeth Horodowich, *The Venetian Discovery of America: Geographic Imagination and Print Culture in the Age of Encounters* (Cambridge UP, 2018), pp. 153-55.

included forefathers and foremothers of the same ethnic origin. In other words, some early emigrants came as single men, some as family groups. Not all colonists came over two by two like the animals on Noah's ark.

A striking consequence of these analyses is the fact that only English heritage remained in the minds of Robeson County old-timers. Lumbees seem to have forgotten they had Middle Eastern, Jewish, Balkan, Spanish and Italian roots until they purposely (and perversely according to some) researched these strains in their heritage. Many Lumbees today are not quite prepared to acknowledge such findings, even when hard science weighs in.

Could Armenians and Croatians have settled in large numbers *together* in early North Carolina? The shadow of both ancestries looms large in both Lumbee and Cherokee autosomal matches. We have already noted movement of large numbers of peoples through Dubrovnik. Were Armenians and Croatians ever fellow travelers in history? An answer is suggested by an article titled "Armenia-Croatia Relations."⁵⁹ In it we learn that Dubrovnik was the nerve center of Croatian-Armenian connections, particularly at the time of the Italian Renaissance (1400s and 1500s). Among inhabitants of the Adriatic city-state during that period are a number of Armenians. Saint Blaise, the patron saint of Ragusa, is a fourth-century Armenian saint. There is considerable cross-pollination between Croatians and Armenians in matters of religion, philosophy and business. The Ragusans take a special interest in fellow Catholics in the Ottoman Empire, leading to the establishment of the Mekhitarist Order in Vienna. The latter institution has published over 200 books in the fields of humanistic studies and the natural sciences in the Croatian language. A Croatian, the Jesuit Father Josip Marinović (1802-1884), published the first modern history of Armenia in the West, plus an entire library of works on Armenian geography, language, national biography, customs and politico-religious subjects.

Where There's Smoke There's POOF

Maybe the Cherokee were only a minor force in a great pullulating welter of peoples in the Southern Highlands. That is the thesis of Richard Thornton, who has discovered even more unusual additional ethnicities. A respected voice for Creek Indian traditions and diversity, Thornton lives in a house on the eastern end of the Nacoochee Valley near a sacred site called the Alec Mountain Stone Circle. As a young man, he traveled to Sweden, studied at Georgia Tech and went on a fellowship to Mexico. He lectured around the Southeast on Mesoamerican architecture without knowing very much at all about his own Creek heritage. Then, History Channel's H2 network

⁵⁹ World Heritage Encyclopedia, "Armenia-Croatia Relations," available at http://www.worldjournal.org/articles/eng/Armenia%E2%80%93Croatia_relations.

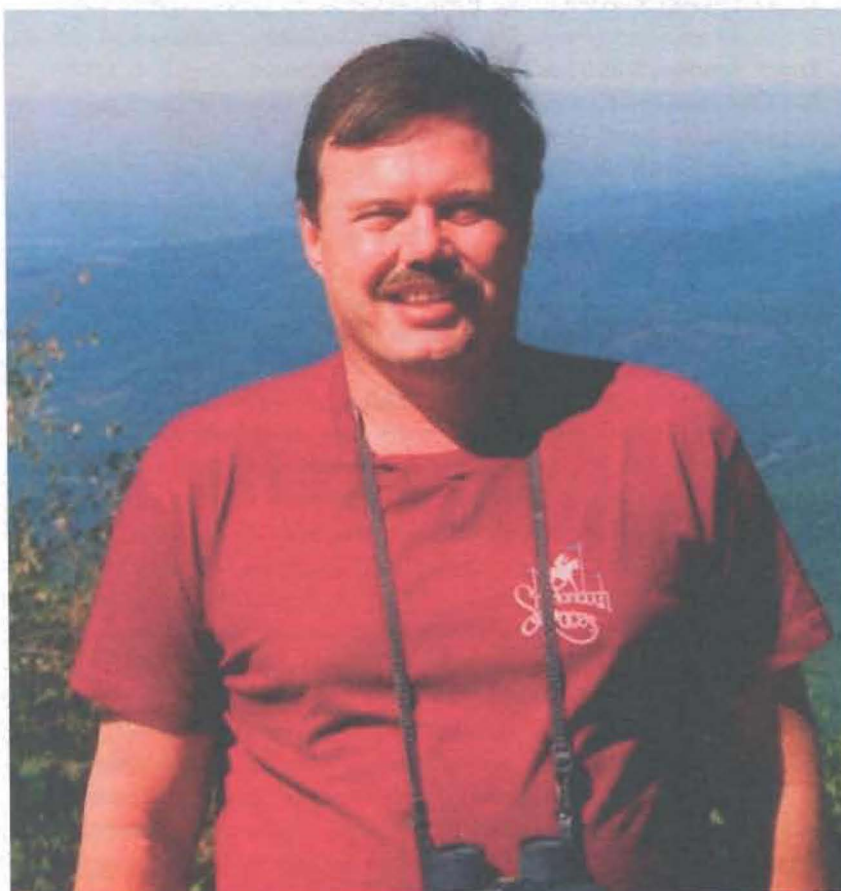
premiered a new opening episode about stone ruins one of the high



Richard Thornton
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premiered a new series titled *America Unearthed* and tapped him for the opening episode called "American Mayan Secrets." Thornton's bold findings about stone ruins and Inca-style terraces in Georgia helped the show become one of the highest rated ever.



Richard Thornton at the ancient site of Coosa visited by Hernando de Soto (Creek name Kaushe, modern-day Rome, Ga.).

Nowadays after collecting several feathers in his cap as well as his share of brickbats and academic putdowns, Thornton is Principal Chief for the Coweta Creek Confederacy and produces several closely followed websites on historical preservation and Creek archeology. In the past he published much of his work in a newsletter titled *People of One Fire (POOF)*, also writing a series of articles on *Access Genealogy*; now his main information site is the blog *The Americas Revealed*, and he is working on a new book

with the title *The Native Americans of Georgia and their Words*⁶⁰ Among the tribes or nations he has written about in *The Forgotten History of North Georgia*, his best-known book, are:⁶¹

1. Uchee (also called Euchee and Yuchi), whose origins he traces to the Sami of South Sweden in the Bronze Age.
2. Paracus, Satipo, Conibo, Shipibo, Cashibo, Ashinanka, Chiska, Tupi, Panoan, Southern Arawak (South America).
3. Choctaw and Chickasaw.
4. Maya, Totonac, Huastec, Tamaule, Tamale, Zoque, Pima, Chontales de Oaxaca, Tolteca (Mesoamerica).
5. Taino, Arawak . . . All indigenous peoples of Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands.

Although Thornton is interested in the original People of One Fire or Creek Confederacy, that is, the Alabama (Alibamu), Chickasaw, Kaushite (Upper Creeks), and Apike/Abeika (Upper Creeks), he reserves his greatest admiration for the Kingdom of the Apalachites, a confederacy that flourished until the early eighteenth century before the ascendancy of the Creeks. Tribes in alliance with the kings of Apalache include the Apalachicola, Palachicola, Florida Apalachee, Coweta, Cusseta, Ogeechee, Cusabo, Itsate (Itza, Hitchiti), Koasate, Oconee, Okate, Tamatli, Tamahiti (Tamahitans?), Tamali, Toasi, Toasee, Chiaha, Taskeke (Tuskegee), Tuskete and Talasee.

Thornton likes to remind those who think Georgia was home only to Cherokees and Creeks that the Creek Confederacy in 1717 included the following disparate and distinct groups: Tocasee, Tuckabatchee, Culasee, Cullawhee, Oakfuskee, Eufaula, Ilape, Pee Dee, Hillabee, Talwaposa, Tallapoosa, Etalwa, Shawnee, Savano, Xuale, Suwanee, Sawakee, Sawate (Sautee), Sawakli, Atasee, Chattahoochee, Pakanahuere (Peachtree), Echete, Yamacraw, Okamule-ke, Okmulgee, Westo, Bohuron, Thamacoggin (Tamakoa), Keowee, Thloplocco, Conchakee, Hontaoasee, Hontawekee, Anawakee,⁶² Kataapa (Catawba), Satipo and Santee.

⁶⁰ See The Americas Revealed (blog), <https://apalacheresearch.com/>.

⁶¹ Richard L. Thornton, *The Forgotten History of North Georgia* (N.p.: Americas Revealed, 2016).

⁶² These otherwise unknown Indians lent their name to Anawaika, or Deerhead Cove in DeKalb Co., Ala., a white settlement founded by a small group of interrelated Longhunter families from Tennessee. Prominent names included Adkins, Austin, Blevins, Cagle, Buffington and Steele. Cagle Cemetery lies at the foot of Sand Mountain and is overlooked by Fox Mountain. It is difficult to reach and has preserved a sense of being left behind by time. Few visitors notice, but the original cemetery undoubtedly made use of a sizable pre-existing Indian mound. Since the Cherokee did not build mounds Deerhead Cove could not have been part of their

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Like the Creek, indigenous tribe according to Cherokee People").⁶⁴

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⁶³ Richard Thorn www.accessgenealog

⁶⁴ On the Creek cor 1670-1763 (Lincoln

⁶⁵ Richard L. Thor People of One Fire

As for the place of the Cherokee among these tribes, Thornton writes:

In 1794 the federal government gave the Cherokees most of northwest and north central Georgia. In the mountainous sections of this new Cherokee Nation were other ethnic groups. Their names survive as the names of mountains, creeks and rivers. *There are relatively few true Cherokee place names in the entire Southern Highlands.* From that day forward, the federal government labeled these minorities as "Cherokees. . . ." Because of their relatively small numbers, these minorities were far more likely to have concealed their locations from Federal and state troops assigned to round up the Cherokees. However, virtually all their descendants in Georgia today call themselves Cherokees. Physically, they bear little resemblance to Qualla Cherokees.⁶³

Like the Creek, the Cherokee are not the descendants of a single indigenous tribe according to Thornton (see Chap. 11, "The Invention of the Cherokee People").⁶⁴

From Armenia with Love

As early as 2013, after a series of articles amounting to a virtual declaration of war on history and anthropology departments, Thornton turned to Arabs, Armenians and Ottoman Turks in the Southern Highlands. Drawing attention to a 1693 English map and a French one from 1701, he claimed that "western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee and northern Georgia [were] occupied by a mixture of Muskogean, Shawnee and Uchee," and that the Cherokee were nowhere to be seen. "In 1693," he writes, "the Creek towns of Apalache and Itsate occupied the Nacoochee Valley of Georgia."

The evidence we have accumulated strongly suggests that many of the ancestors of the Cherokees were Christians or Jews from eastern Anatolia and Iberia, but there were definitely some Muslims The Georgia Cherokees had an Arabic name for their band and spoke a language that mixed Turkish, Spanish, Hebrew, Arabic, Creek, Dutch and Algonquin words.⁶⁵

homeland. The founding families did claim small amounts of Cherokee blood at the time, though. See <http://files.usgwarchives.net/al/dekalb/cemeteries/cagle.txt>.

⁶³ Richard Thornton, "Cherokee DNA," on Access Genealogy: <https://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/cherokee-dna.htm>.

⁶⁴ On the Creek confederation, see Steven C. Hahn, *The Invention of the Creek Nation, 1670-1763* (Lincoln: U of Nebraska P, 2014).

⁶⁵ Richard L. Thornton, "From Armenia with Love, the Cherokee Connection," People of One Fire: https://peopleofonefire.com/from_armenia_with_love.html.



Earliest depicted Southern Indians resemble Mustees (half black). The English in Virginia portrayed the first native peoples they encountered in the American Southeast as dark-skinned, muscular and statuesque with European and African features and curly hair. They were dressed in a poncho and wore a pointed hat, like Peruvians. This was the same as the Phrygian cap, characteristic of all inhabitants of Anatolia and nations farther east according to ancient Greeks. It was later adopted by Creek leaders. John Ogilby and Arnoldus Montanus, Virginiae partis australis et Floridae partis orientalis... (London, 1673).

What about Armenians? "The atrocities committed by Islamic armies from Turkey and northern Africa during the 1500s and 1600s," Thornton writes, "dwarf the sins of the Spanish Inquisition." He points out that in 1600, "a third of the Ottoman Empire's population was composed of

Christians," and during the Turkish another 2½ million Turkish general occupying their Persian Islamic because Mount A

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⁶⁶ See Appendix text.

Christians,” and “at least 3 million Christian and Zoroastrian civilians died during the Turkish invasions in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, while at least another 2½ million were made slaves . . . In just one Armenian province, a Turkish general killed over 250,000 Christian civilians several weeks after occupying their undefended lands. In the province around Mount Ararat, a Persian Islamic army evicted over 300,000 Christians from their lands because Mount Ararat was mentioned in the Quran.”

Some of the refugees came to North America, Thornton argues. Most of the galley slaves in the Turkish navy were Christians from conquered lands such as Austria, Hungary, Bosnia and Croatia. During almost continual warfare along religious lines, a mixture of Protestant Christians, Eastern Christians, Jews and Muslim prisoners were taken on as captive labor by Spanish ships whenever the Catholic Hapsburgs won a battle against the Ottomans, Dutch or English.

Brick Church, Giant Bell, Whites and Blacks

A key text for sorting out these conflicting claims is the report of a journey taken into the interior by Virginians James Needham and Gabriel Arthur in 1673. The two Englishmen's travels are described in a letter from Abraham Wood to John Richards, dated August 22, 1674 (App. A).⁶⁶ This document is essential to following the turmoil and clash of cultures on the Southern Frontier in this early period. A mysterious brick church with a giant bell is mentioned, along with white men with long beards and a town of black people. Thornton thought the description “seemed to be a Georgian or Armenian Orthodox Church.” We've seen in this chapter some of the possible reasons for a large influx of Armenians. But where exactly did James Needham see such sights? What geography underlies their reports? The brick church and bell have traditionally been located in Tennessee. These details have been cited as proof that the Cherokee were situated upstream from these “white folk.” But careful sifting of clues places their location in a surprisingly different location.

The background of these early reports on the Eastern North American interior revolves around Abraham Wood.

In the interests of developing the deer and beaver fur trade, he sent James Needham and Gabriel Arthur, an indentured servant, with eight Indians and four horses westward from Ft. Henry (present-day Petersburg, Virginia) to explore uncharted lands. Wood was responsible for three of the most important explorations of the Appalachian Mountains in the seventeenth century. He went on his own trip with Edward Bland in 1650, he mounted

⁶⁶ See Appendix A: “Letter from Abraham Wood to John Richards” for the original text.

the Batts and Fallam expedition of 1671, and he dispatched Needham and Arthur in 1673. For many years, the New River was known as Wood's River.

According to the report Wood sends back to London, Needham and Arthur were provisioned with supplies for three months. After a false start, they left Ft. Henry on the 17th of May in the year 1673. On the Occaneechi Trading Path they meet "with the Tomahitans as they were journeying from ye mountains to ye Occhonechees." The Occaneechi Trading Path linked the English settlements with the interior, starting from across the river from Jamestown. For long stretches, it followed at first the Eno River. The Tomahitans offered to accompany Wood's English party to their home territory and its capital. "Ye Tomahitans went away, and my two men with them . . . they jornied nine days from Occhonechee to Sitterree: west by south, past nine rivers and creeks which all end in this side ye mountains and emty them selves in ye east sea."

This route would have taken the party in a southwesterly direction across the Piedmont. They would have passed the Yadkin and other rivers that flow east into the Atlantic. Sitterree, the midpoint of their journey and "last town of inhabitance" presumably lay somewhere in Catawba country, perhaps between present-day Charlotte, N.C. and Spartanburg, S.C.⁶⁷ Up to now, the adventurers had nine days of rather easy travel. But after Sitterree, Wood says, there was "not any path further until they came within two days journey of ye Tomahitans."

They go due west toward the mountains and in four days reach a divide which takes them abruptly from the Atlantic watershed to the Gulf watershed. "Ye ridge upon ye top is not above two hundred paces over; ye decent better then on this side." This was probably a spot on the Eastern Continental Divide similar to (or the very same as) the famous gap near Highlands on the way to Keowee in South Carolina, on the present boundary between Georgia and North Carolina. It could have been Cowee Gap itself (elevation 4,199 ft.), a mountain pass between Highlands and Cashiers in the far southern part of western North Carolina. Cowee Gap forms the watershed between the Cullasaja River and Chattooga River valleys, which belong to the much larger Tennessee and Savannah basins to the west and east, respectively.

A pass like this is later described by James Adair, who says a traveler can pour out water from a jug and half will flow west to the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico and half escape via the Savannah River into the Atlantic:

⁶⁷ David G. Moore, *Catawba Valley Mississippian: Ceramics, Chronology, and Catawba Indians* (U of Alabama P, 2002), pp. 31-34.

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⁶⁸ James Adair,
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From the head of the southern branch of Savannah-river it does not exceed half a mile to a head spring of the Mississippi-water, that runs through the middle and upper parts of the Cheerake nation, about a north-west course,—and joining other rivers, they empty themselves into the great Mississippi. The above fountain, is called “Herbert's spring:” and it was natural for strangers to drink thereof, to quench thirst, gratify their curiosity, and have it to say they had drank of the French waters.⁶⁸

The Cullasaja River tumbles down the mountains from a spring near Highlands and joins the Little Tennessee near Franklin. Now at any rate the voyagers are in French territory, not English. The French Broad River, rather far to the north of them, bears witness to this fact. At the time of the report, however, neither French nor Cherokees seem to be in evidence. The travelers describe the region as wild and trackless.

In half a day, they come to level ground after continuing west. “The water runs to the northwest.” They are now on the other side of the divide. They continue west several days with “straggly” hills to the north and cross five fordable, shallow, “pebbly” rivers flowing to the northwest. This lay of the land perfectly describes North Georgia topography. The rivers are probably the Hiwasee, Nottely, Ocoee and their branches.

It was rugged terrain. “By this time they have lost all their horses but one; not so much by the badness of the way but by hard travel, not having time to feed.” The most important aspect of this stretch of their journey is absence of inhabitants. There is no path until they come within two days of the Tomahitans. Is it justified to conclude that this part of North Georgia, later the heart of the Gold Belt, was depopulated at that time? It certainly did not belong to the Cherokees.

After entering an area with great game, the Tomahitans lead the Virginians on a continued westward course:

[A]t ye end of fifteen dayes from Sitteree they arive at ye Tomahitans river, being ye 6th river from ye mountains. this river att ye Tomahitans town seemes to run more westerly than ye other five. This river they past in cannoos ye town being seated in ye other side about foure hundred paces broad above ye town, within sight, ye horse they had left waded only a small channell swam, as they were very kindly entertained by them, even to addoration in their cerrimonies of courtesies and a stake was sett up in ye middle of ye towne to fasten ye horse to, and abundance of

⁶⁸ James Adair, *History of the American Indians*, ed. Samuel Cole Williams (Johnson City: Watauga, 1930), pp. 242-43. This place was named for Maj. John Herbert who made a map of “Cherokee Country” in 1715 after accompanying Col. George Chicken on an expedition into the Tennessee country.

corne and all manner of pulse with fish, flesh and beares oyle for ye horse to feed upon and a scaffold sett up before day for my two men and Appomattocke Indian that theire people might stand and gaze at them and not offend them by theire throng. This towne is seated on ye river side, haveing ye clefts of ye river on ye one side being very high for its defence, the other three sides trees of two foot over, pitched on end, twelve foot high, and on ye topps scaffolds placed with parrapits to defend the walls and offend theire enemies which men stand on to fight, many nations of Indians inhabitt downe this river, which runes west upon ye salts which they are att warre withe and to that end keepe one hundred and fifty cannoes under ye command of theire forte.

Our travelers are now within the pale of civilized society. Their hosts could have been, in fact, the highly civilized Apalachites, whose king at this time was Christian (chapter 9). "According to archeologists, the most thorough investigation . . . places the Tomahitans around the vicinity of present-day Rome, Georgia." This was the heart of the Coosa chiefdom, which had been abandoned after Soto. Archaeologist Gregory Waselkov suggests that they were a Hitchiti-speaking group, probably a splinter from the Ocute paramount chiefdom on the Oconee River who moved to this vicinity in the late seventeenth century after the fall of Ocute.⁶⁹ In contradiction to this identification of Tomahitan Town as originally Creek, however, we must point out two facts. First, in many of their migration stories the Cherokee say they crossed four rivers going inland from their entry point on the sea before reaching the Promised Land, which they called Tah-mi-tu. Second, Tahmitu is the Egyptian word for the Sea Peoples.⁷⁰

We'll revisit this subject in a later chapter, where we'll propose that the Tamahitans may have been Cherokee after all. For now, let us simply quote Thomas Smith, a prime source for Cherokee history about 1820, who describes this wilderness in the following terms:

The way was so dreadful that if God had not led them, they could never have got through. After crossing the fourth river in the manner

⁶⁹ Robbie Franklyn Ethridge, *From Chicasa to Chickasaw: The European Invasion* (Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 2010), p. 86. Cf. Gregory A. Waselkov and Bonnie L. Gums, *Plantation Archaeology at Rivière aux Chiens, ca. 1725-1848*, Archaeological Monographs 7 (Mobile: University of South Alabama, 2000).

⁷⁰ Richard Thornton has a different interpretation. See "The Secret History of Northeast Alabama": <https://peopleofonefire.com/the-secret-history-of-northeast-alabama.html>.

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mentioned above [fording] they came to the country which God had given them; and called the town where they first rested Tah-mi-tu.⁷¹

Georgia on My Mind

The site of Rome is where the Coosa, Oostanaula and Etowah rivers meet. The Eljay River joins the Coosawatee and then the Conasauga to form the Oostanaula, which must have been the sixth river from the mountains, for the Coosawatee and Coosa river systems are the first to be oriented in a westward direction rather than a northwesterly one. The travelers would have encountered it and thus entered the Tomahitans' home country two days distance from their ultimate destination. The capital was a major commercial center with a strong fort on a cliff and "one hundred and fifty canoes."



River of the Tomahitans and route of Gabriel Arthur and James Needham to their capital (now Rome, Ga.). Green shading shows Coosa drainage.

⁷¹ William L. Anderson et al, *The Payne-Butrick Papers Volumes 1, 2, 3* (Lincoln: U of Nebraska P, 2010), p. 213.

At any rate, the lands downriver were dominated, then and later, by the Alibamu, one of the four original Peoples of One Fire. Alibamu appears to be a name derived from the Arabic language, meaning approximately Uninhabited Land Where Paths Are Hard to Find, an etymology consistent with the travel reports. Oostanaula or Ustanali, which Cherokee and Creek folk etymologies gloss as “River of Small Stones, or Gravel,” can also be interpreted literally as pure Greek: ou-stan-aura “where there is gold,” the Overhill or Upper Town Cherokee transposing *r* for *l* (as in Tchalakee for Tcharakee, the Lower Town pronunciation). Thus we have two clues from place-names that point to one-time Ottoman or Moroccan control.⁷² The presence of Armenians is not out of the question. These clues may, however, point to deeper history.

The Alabama River unites with the Tombigbee to form the Mobile and Tensaw rivers which discharge into Mobile Bay. This is a land of long-standing mixed cultural influences that gave birth to Mobilian trade jargon. Mobile and Mobilian can both be derived from Arabic roots. It was a corridor traversed south to north by Tihanama Indians, who ranged from Fort Walton, Florida to the Great Lakes, making Tennessee a favorite stopping place.⁷³ From the perspective of the Apalachites it was thinly occupied by unsettled, lawless tribes, some of them cannibals (chapter 9). Here we hear accounts of the bearded folk. According to Wood’s report:

Eight dayes jorny down this river lives a white people which have long beades and whiskers and weares clothing, and on some of ye other rivers lives a hairy people....

This is the first mention of a white people, who speak a strange language and have many blacks among them. A returning Tomahitan tells Wood later on:

... that ye white people have a bell which is six foot over which they ring morning and evening and att that time a great number of people congregate together and talkes he knowes not what. they have many blacks among them. oysters and many other shell-fish, many swine and

⁷² The Greek is: *Ἄου-ἑσταν-αῦρα*, phonetically Oo-estan-aura, Oostanaula (with allowance made for the Upper Cherokee dialect). We believe this derivation is similar to the Turkish corruption Eis-tan-pol “Istanboul” for “The City,” in Greek, the capital of the Byzantine Empire conquered by the Ottomans. We know that the high officials and administrators of the Ottomans all spoke Greek. This included the mariners, bureaucrats, governors and mining engineers, who were almost always Christian.

⁷³ On the Tihanama, see Donald N. Yates, *The Eighth Arrow: Wisdom and Storytelling from Tennessee’s Tihanama People* (Longmont: Panther’s Lodge, 2018).

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cattle. Their building is brick, the Tomahittans have a mongest them many brass potts and kettles from three gallons to thirty. they have two mullato women all ye white and black people they take they put to death.

Who were these whiskered white people with brick buildings and a large bell and black people among them? How far down the Alabama River were they? Oysters cannot survive in freshwater, and if the reference is correct, not a mistake for a freshwater cousin of oysters, the bearded white men must have been close to Mobile Bay. This was the entry point for French colonization efforts concentrating on the middle Gulf Coast a quarter of a century later. But on the other hand, is Mobile Bay only eight days downriver from Rome, Georgia by canoe?

The whiskered people on the Alabama River are unlikely to have been French—unless from an undocumented, pre-1699 intrusion into the region (see chapter 9). Nor are they likely to have been Spanish. Thornton, who is an architect, points out the Spanish did not build frontier settlements out of brick, only of clay and wattle, except forts. And they had set their missions around Tallahassee as the farthest west they would settle on the Gulf Coast and farthest north into the hinterland. The whiskered people were obviously not Jews or Muslims, as they seem to follow Christian customs and eat shellfish and consume pork. Perhaps they really were Armenians?

Rollcall of Tribes

There is more to digest. Wood's letter was filed a year after the expedition set forth, and "my people returned affecting little." The rest of the letter relates Gabriel Arthur's treacherous murder and describes the captivity of James Needham, who was forced to participate in the Tomahittans' wide-ranging rampages. It becomes clear that these "traders" were also robbers, slavers and murderers who ranged up and down a lawless swathe in the interior. This zone extended from the middle Gulf Coast to Port Royal in the Carolinas and northward into the Kanawa River valley and what is now West Virginia. It was not an ideal country for establishing trade relations, as Wood confessed to his sponsors up front.

The Southern Highlands and the river basins that lead down to the Gulf and Atlantic coasts were inhabited by a mix of peaceable tribes, warlike kingdoms and bands of lawless renegades. Their names, as recorded by the French, include, according to Richard Thornton: Tamahitan, Weesock, Moneton, Koasati, Kaskinampo ("Many Warriors" in Koasati), Shipikessippi (now known as the Holsten River, Panoan for Shipi People), Chiska (Panoan for Bird Clan, a South American group, coincidentally the name of the Cherokee Bird Clan), Talikoa, Cataloochee, Mosopeleacipi *alias* Olighin (Allegan), Chaskepe, Agoa, Ossachil, Coweta, Kaushite (Coushatta),

Chickasaw, Apike/Abikas, Apalache/Apalachee (Itsa Maya), Apalachicola, Chawowanous (Shawnee), Caouitas, Couih, Taogana, Tionontatecaga, Esaw, Wateree, Conchatez, Katapas (Catawbas), Taskogan, Talabouchi (Tallapoosa), Têtes Plates (Flatheads, Choctaw), Mobilians, Tapa, Natchez, Paducahs, Pani or Paniases, Natchitoches, Washas, Yamasee, Altamaha, Chitimachas, Taensas, Uchees, Biloxi, Chatos, Naniabas, Towasas, Tomes, Pensacolas, Pascagoulas, Alabama, Cheraqui and Chalaka.

Of the long list only the last two names designate tribes who could possibly be Cherokee people. Tchalaka is a Shawnee word meaning the "people over there, though perhaps not literally."⁷⁴ Apparently it is an adaptation of the Cherokee tribal name Tsalagi, as is also Cheraqui. The Cherokee themselves say the original name was Eshelokee, a name reconstructed from Greek, Etheloikoi, "Volunteer Settlers."⁷⁵ Tchalaka is noted on the 1684 Jean Baptist de Franquelin map of North America and placed in a location on the Little Tennessee River, upstream from the later site of the English Ft. Loudon near Knoxville, Tennessee. Cheraqui appears as a town on the headwaters of the Savannah River on the 1717 De L'Isle map. It is perhaps a later settlement.

Such are the contentious traces of Cherokees in a vast sea of other Indians—Apalache, Algonquian, Creek, Uchee, roving bands of Caribbean Indians and other surprising groups. Somewhere in this same mix are Arabs, Moors, Armenians, Jews and Croats—forgotten populations which do not survive in the same places today except submerged in the genetic record. After 1800, there was room in the white man's sketchy version of frontier history only for Cherokee, Creek and a few other tribes.

"Don't you wish we had a time machine?" asks Thornton.

The answer is: We do. It's called DNA.

The next chapter puts us firmly in the driver's seat.

⁷⁴ Information of Paul Russell; on whom, see Donald Panther-Yates, *A Memoir of Chief Two White Feathers*, Cherokee Chapbooks 2 (Phoenix: Panther's Lodge, 2010).

⁷⁵ Donald N. Yates, *The Cherokee Origin Narrative: Authentic Text of William Eubanks' "The Red Man's Origin" with Notes and Illustrations* (Cherokee Chapbooks: 2017). The Greek-Egyptian-Phoenician genesis of the Cherokee in the third century BCE is the thesis of Donald N. Yates, *Old World Roots of the Cherokee* (Jefferson: McFarland, 2012).

When I moved to
tell new acquaintances
frequently, "Fun
like?" I would ask
Indian mitochondria



Dorene Soire Consultants'
Her haplogro
and Paulina
Adkins (1823
Grandmothe
Oklahoma.