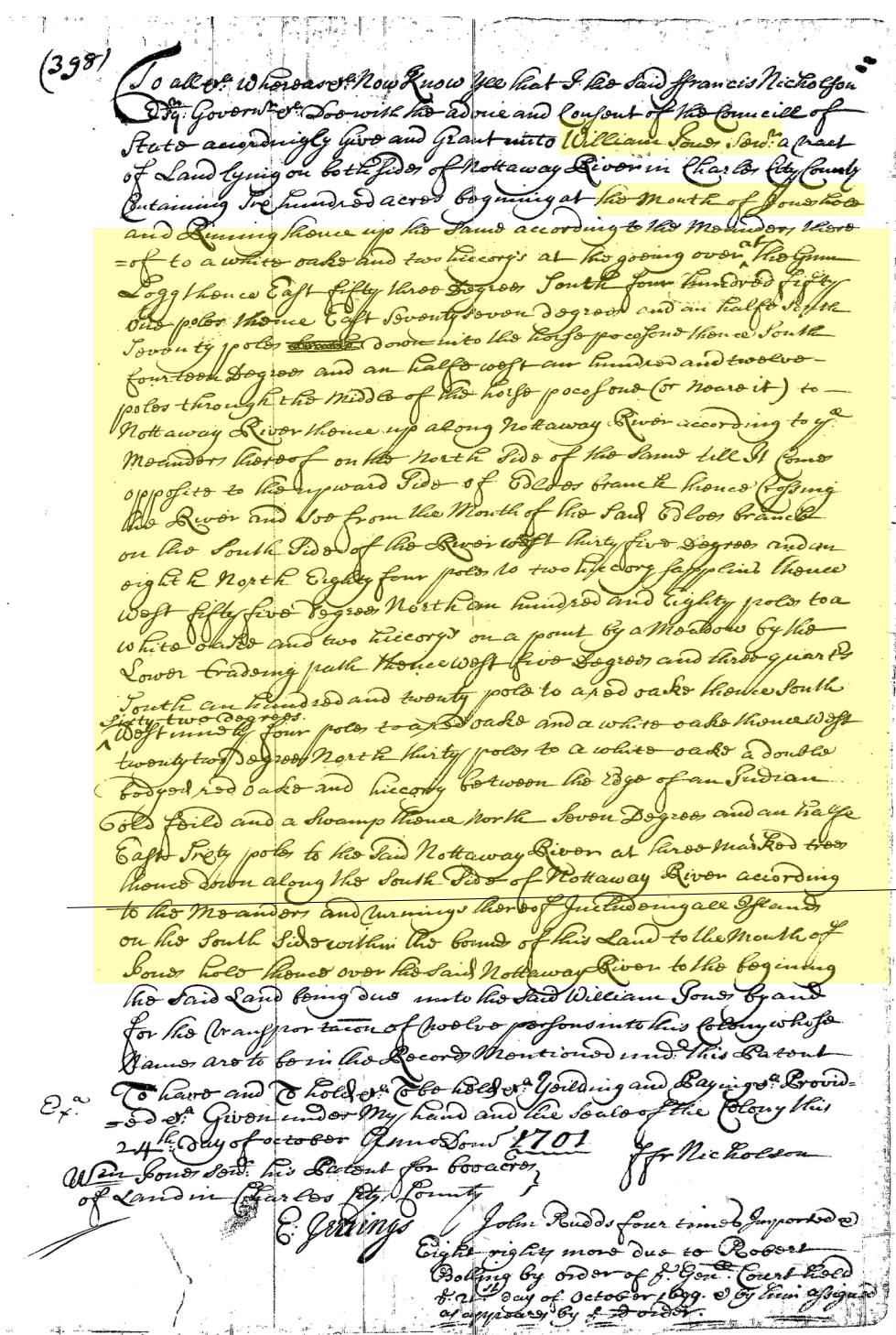


grant and October 1701
Jones, Robert, grantees.
1701-1024
Available on microfilm. Virginia State Land Office Patents 1-42, reels 1-41.
Location: Charles City County.
Description: 600 acres at the mouth of Jones Hole.
Source: Land Office Patent No. 3, 1697-1708 (v. 8 & p.1-742), p. 398 (Reel 1)

William
Jones
600 ac
1701



Overview

William Jones Sr. (c. 1647-1721) was an early colonial settler in Surry County, Virginia (formed in 1652 from James City County), where he owned approximately 600 acres primarily along the Nottoway River and adjacent swamps, including land encompassing what became known as Jones Hole Swamp. He died in late 1712 at his residence in Jones Hole Swamp, Surry County. His will, dated February 3, 1712 (Old Style calendar, equivalent to 1713 New Style), was probated on March 6, 1714, at the Surry County Court held at Southwark. The will was presented for probate by his son Robert Jones as executor, and it was proved by witnesses Thomas Wynne and Robert Wynne. The document was sealed with red wax and recorded in the Surry County Will Books (likely Will Book 5 or 6, though exact volume details are fragmentary due to early record losses).

The will reflects typical colonial Virginia estate dispositions, focusing on land division among sons, personal property (livestock, tools, household goods), and provisions for his wife and daughters. Jones's holdings were tied to Indian trading activities, as his sons (notably Henry and Robert) were involved in frontier commerce with Native American tribes. His wife, Elizabeth (possibly née Lebether, c. 1652-1724), survived him and executed her own will in Surry County in 1723/24. The family's lands later extended into the newly formed Prince George County (1702) and influenced naming conventions, such as Jones Hole Swamp (patented in 1701 as part of his 600-acre grant).

Full Transcription of the Will

The following is a verbatim transcription based on the original Surry County court record (sourced from colonial abstracts and genealogical compilations). Archaic spelling and punctuation have been preserved for accuracy.

In the name of God, Amen, I, William Jones, Senr., being very sick and weak but of sound mind and perfect memory praised be God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament making void and ... any other wills heretofore made or nominated. Imprints, I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son Robert Jones my plantation where I now live and the land thereto belonging being by estimation one hundred and fifty acres be the same more or less to him and his heirs hereof. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Henry Jones all that tract of land lying on the north east side of Nottoway River being by estimation one hundred acres be the same more or less to him and his heirs hereof. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Henry Jones all that tract of land lying on the south east side of Jones Hole Swamp being by estimation one hundred and fifty acres be the same more or less to him and his heirs hereof. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son John Jones all that tract of land lying on the south west side of Jones Hole Swamp being by estimation one hundred acres be the same more or less to him and his heirs hereof. Item, I give unto my loving wife Elizabeth Jones the use of my land during her natural life or widowhood and after her marriage or death to return to my sons as above mentioned. Item, I give unto my daughter Sarah Jones one young mare and one cow and calf to her and her heirs forever. Item, I give unto my daughter Elizabeth Jones one young mare and one cow and calf to her and her heirs forever. Item, I give unto my loving wife Elizabeth Jones all my household goods and furniture and my stock of horses and cattle hogs and sheep except what is before given to my daughters. Item, I give unto my son Robert Jones my gun and sword. Item, I give unto my son Henry Jones my best suit of clothes. Item, All the rest of my estate both real and personal I give unto my loving wife Elizabeth Jones whom I make and ordain the sole executors of this my last will and testament. In witness, my hand and seal this 17th day of Feb 1712.

Key Provisions and Analysis

The will prioritizes primogeniture-like land distribution among the four sons, with the plantation (homestead) going to the eldest. Robert, the last bequeathed approximately 450 acres (part of the larger 600-acre patent), with the remainder implied for Elizabeth's use. Personal property includes modest items typical of a middling planter: livestock (mares, cows, calves), weapons (gun, sword), clothing, and household goods. No slaves are mentioned, which aligns with the family's early Indian trading focus rather than large-scale plantation agriculture.

Beneficiary	Bequests
Son Robert Jones (eldest, executor)	150-acre plantation (homestead) on Nottoway River; gun and sword.
Son Henry Jones (c. 1680-1739)	100 acres on NE side of Nottoway River; best suit of clothes. Henry later moved to Northampton Co., NC, and continued trading.
Son William Jones Jr.	150 acres on SE side of Jones Hole Swamp.
Son John Jones	100 acres on SW side of Jones Hole Swamp.
Wife Elizabeth Jones (executrix)	Lifetime use of all lands (reverting to sons upon remarriage/death); all remaining household goods, furniture, and livestock (horses, cattle, hogs, sheep).
Daughter Sarah Jones	One young mare; one cow and calf. (Possibly married into the Parker family.)
Daughter Mary Jones	One young mare; one cow and calf.
Daughter Elizabeth Jones	One young mare; one cow and calf.
Residue	To wife Elizabeth; any unmentionable estate items.

Henry sold this property to Arthur Jones... 1713

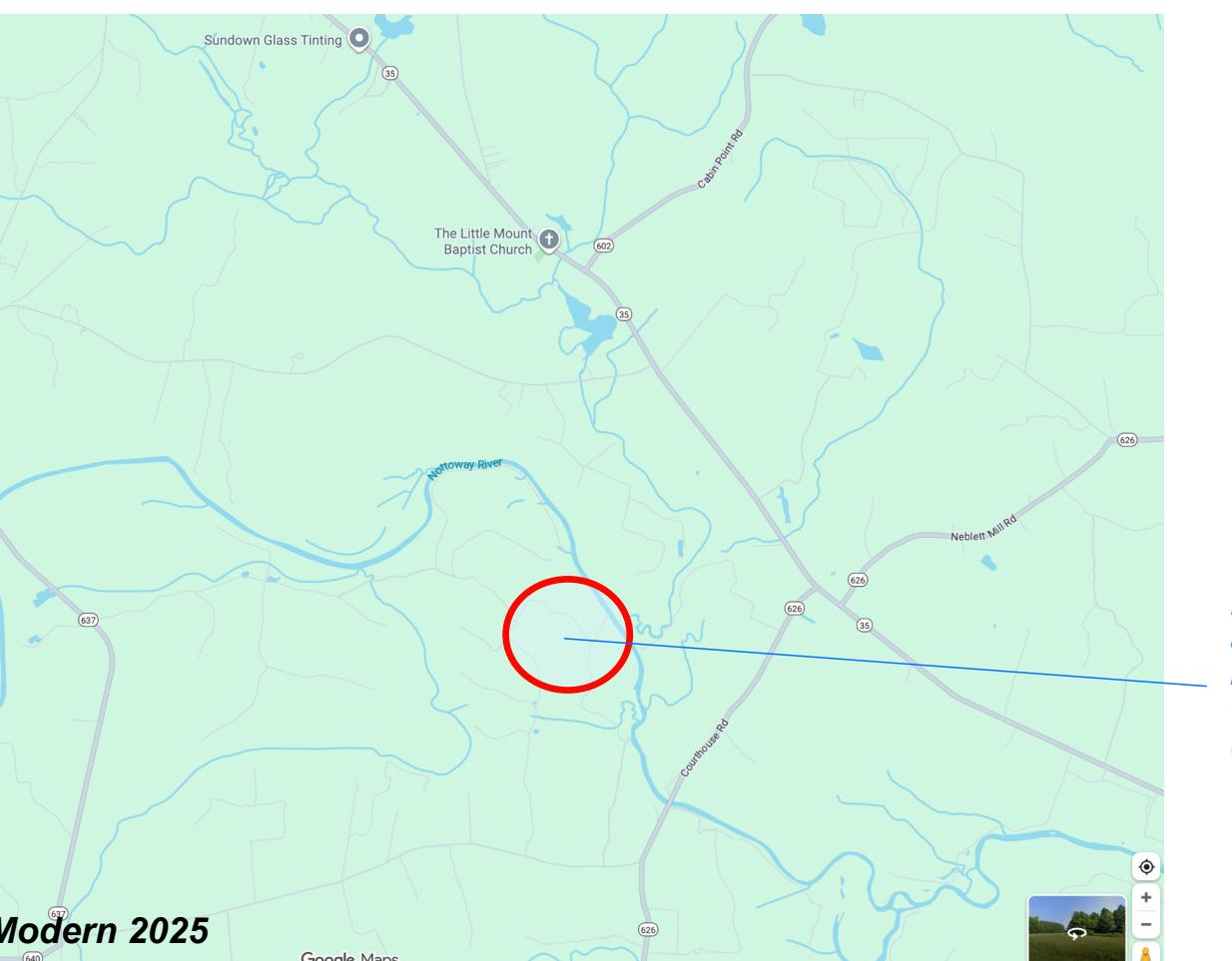
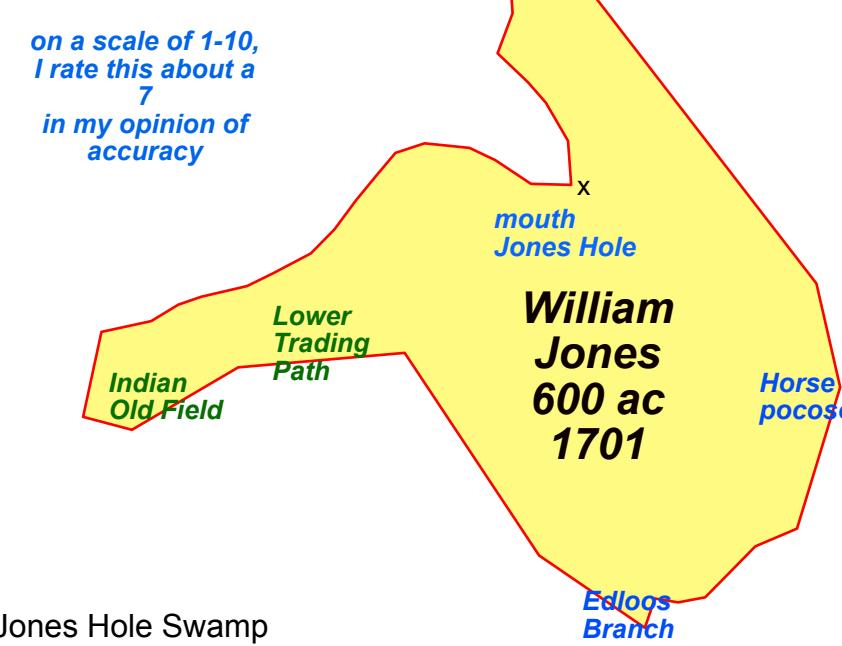
Citation for the 1713 Deed of Sale: Henry Jones to Arthur Jones

Primary Source (Original Deed):
Henry Jones of Surry County, Virginia, to Arthur Jones of Surry County: Sale of ~200-300 acres on Joseph's Swamp (now Nottoway River, Southwark Parish), for £20. Wife Catherine Jones acknowledged before. Recorded October 1, 1713, Surry County Deeds, Book 6 (1709-1713), p. Unpaginated; October 1713 entry (FamilySearch item 007645827; image 300/573; original manuscript at Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA).

Abstracted Source:
John Bennett Boddie, *Southside Virginia Families*, Vol. 2 (Richmond: Virginia Genealogical Society, 1955), p. 169 (abstract): "Henry Jones to Arthur Jones, 200+ on Joseph's Swamp, 1 Oct 1713." Cross-referenced in William Lindsay Hopkins, *Surry County, Virginia, Deeds, 1684-1733* (Richmond: self-published, 1989), abstract section for 1713 (notes boundaries and dower acknowledgment).

Arthur Jones (d. 1716) = first cousin of William Jones Sr. (d. 1712)
Their fathers were brothers (i.e. Arthur IV and William), sons of Richard Jones I.

This cousin relationship explains the family-to-family land transfer in 1714: William Jr.'s sons (Henry & Robert) sold 200 acres to their father's first cousin, Arthur, who passed it to his own son in 1716.



Note the historic streams are no longer extant on modern maps... such as this Google Map image (including satellite)

what size boat would be appropriate to navigate the Nottoway River near Stony Creek area

Q Thought for life: v Recommended Boat Size for Nottoway River Near Stony Creek, VA

The Nottoway River near Stony Creek in Surry County, VA is a shallow, meandering tidal river (average depth 3-6 feet, with some sections as low as 1-2 feet at low tide), popular for paddling, fishing, and small boat recreation. It is classified as Class 1 for whitewater (easy rapids), with braided channels, fallen trees, and submerged logs. It is a narrow, shallow, shallow-draft boat up to 15 feet long. Larger vessels risk grounding or damage, especially during low water or in narrow bends.

Recommended Boat Types & Sizes

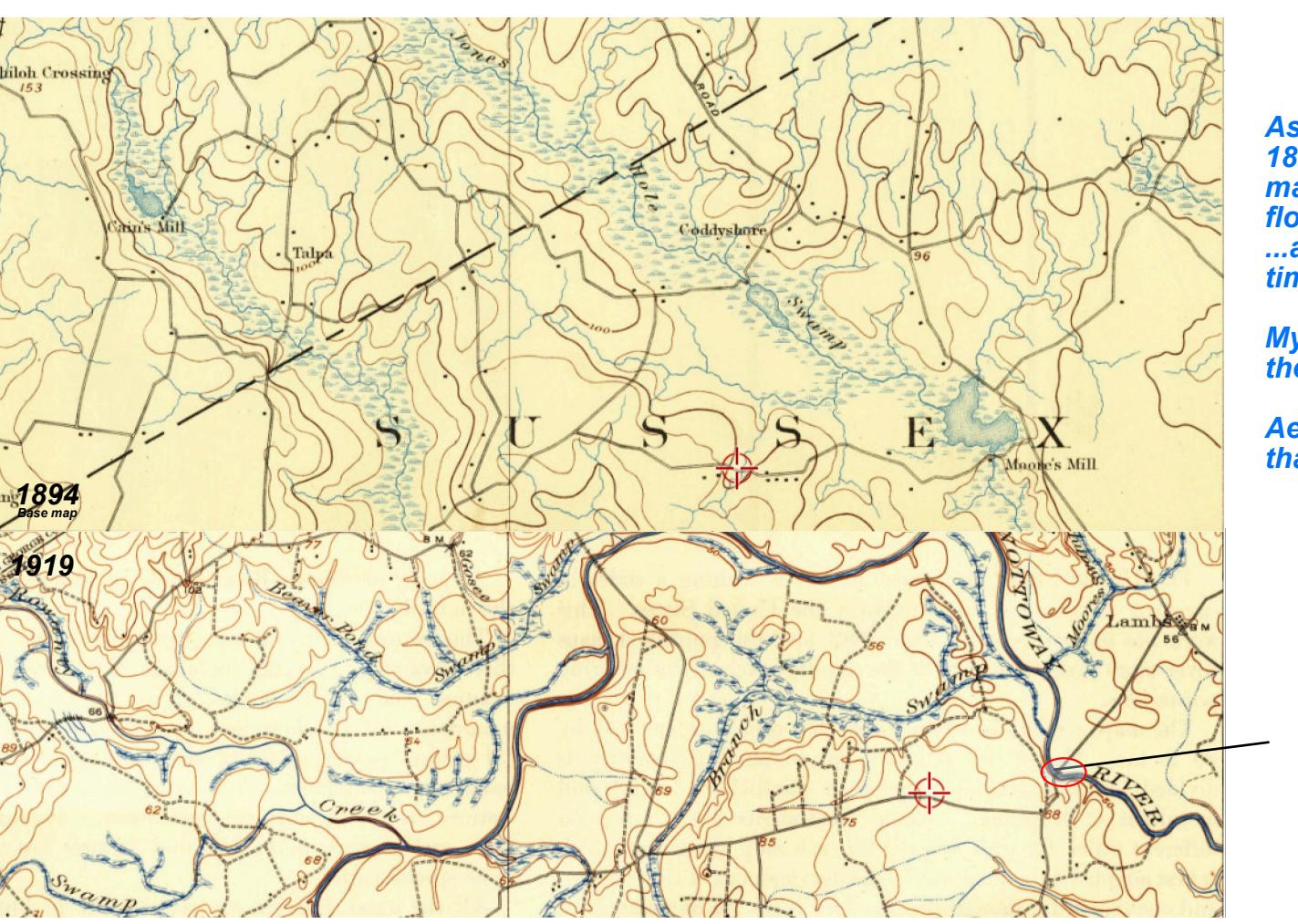
A Ideal: Canoe or kayak up to 14 feet for easy navigation and access to ramps. These handle the river's twists and shallow spots well.

B Suitable Powerboats: Small aluminum or fiberglass boats (12-16 feet) with outboard motors under 10 horsepower.

C Avoid boats over 10 feet in overall length, as access to the Stony Creek VNR boat ramp (Rt. 650) are designed for small craft, and high water (e.g., 17 ft at the peak) can submerge launches.

Worth the Stroll?

A River width: ~10-100 feet, depth varies with tide (mean low tide ~2 ft). USGS gauge at Stony Creek (RTV) shows frequent low water limiting larger boats. Paddlers report easy whitewater with minor riffles, but obstructions require maneuverability.



Aside from the sloppiness of the mappers from 1894 to 1919... it appears that the Nottoway itself may have changed (I do not say that lightly, consider floods and hurricanes, etc) ...and various streams may have diverted from farming, timbering or nature itself...

My opinion is that the mouth of Jones Hole Swamp was at the 1894 designation shown. (at the "N" of the word Nottoway)

Aerial photography was probably rudimentary at this time, so that should be factored in.



the 1903 Flood

were there any newspaper accounts of this flood near this area at that time

Q Thought for 25s v

Newspaper Accounts of the February 1903 Flood Near Petersburg, VA

Yes, the February 1903 flood (caused by heavy rains from February 7-9, leading to record crest on the Appomattox River) was extensively covered in contemporary Virginia newspapers. Coverage focused on the flooding in Petersburg and surrounding areas, including impacts on the Appomattox River basin (which receives contributions from the Nottoway River upstream). The event was one of the most severe in the region's history at the time, with articles describing inundated streets, damaged bridges, and economic losses. Below are key examples from digitized archives like Chronicling America (Library of Congress) and Virginia Chronicle.

Key Metrics Comparison

Asper	1903 Flood (February 7-9)	1928 Floods (March 28 & August)
Cause	Extratropical winter storms, 10+ inches rain in 48 hours, saturated soils.	March: Spring rains (4-6 inches); August: Summer thunderstorms (6-8 inches over 24 hours).
Peak Crest (Petersburg Gauge)	33.2 ft (record for era; 10 ft above flood stage).	No flooding data; upstream Farmville: 18.5 ft (March, moderate); August flood higher at Appomattox (~20 ft estimated).
Peak Discharge (Farmville Gauge)	>10,000 cfs (estimated; basin-wide record).	18,500 cfs (March) ->25,000 cfs (August at Appomattox).
Duration	3 days of heavy rain; 1 week of high water.	March 2: August: 1 day of intense rain, 3-4 days high water.
Affected Area	Appomattox basin (Petersburg, Hopewell, Sussen, Nottoway); Localized to upstream Farmville, Appomattox; minimal localized impact.	Appomattox basin (Petersburg, Hopewell, Sussen); Nottoway; bridges caused backflow flooding in lowlands.
Damage	\$500,000-1M+ lost; destroyed bridges, roads, houses, tobacco fields.	March: Minor crop damage (~\$50,000); August: Local road washouts, ~\$100,000 in livestock losses; downstream Petersburg inundated (10 ft deep).
Casualties	No deaths in area; 8 statewide from flash floods.	No deaths; minor injuries from debris.
Historical Note	Set records until 1936; prompted USGS flood studies.	First in modern gage era (1932); August noted as "highest in recent memory" at Appomattox but not basin-wide.

Comparative

• Severity and Scope: The 1903 flood was far more destructive, with the Appomattox cresting 33.2 ft at Petersburg—nearly double the 1928 stage—and the Nottoway River's upstream flow exceeding basin width with 10+ inches of rain, leading to record crests and widespread inundation near Petersburg and the Nottoway River (a major tributary). In the 1920s, the Appomattox experienced two notable floods in 1928—the March 28 event (moderate) and the August 1928 event (more significant localized upstream). These were triggered by heavy spring/summer rains, but neither matched the 1903 flood's magnitude or regional impact. Below is a side-by-side comparison based on USGS data and historical records.

• Peak Crests

• Peak Discharge

• Duration

• Affected Area

• Damage

• Casualties

• Historical Note

• Comparison

• Scope: Articles emphasized the flood's scale (Appomattox discharge ~147,000 cfs, record for the era), with Petersburg as a focal point due to its position at the river's fall line. Nottoway River mention highlights its role in "backing up" waters, causing secondary flooding in Sussex County.

• Themes: Damage to infrastructure (e.g., bridges on VA-460 precursor), agriculture (tobacco losses ~\$50,000), and calls for federal aid. No deaths reported locally, but the event prompted USGS flood studies.

• Access: View full scans at Chronicling America or Virginia Chronicle.

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