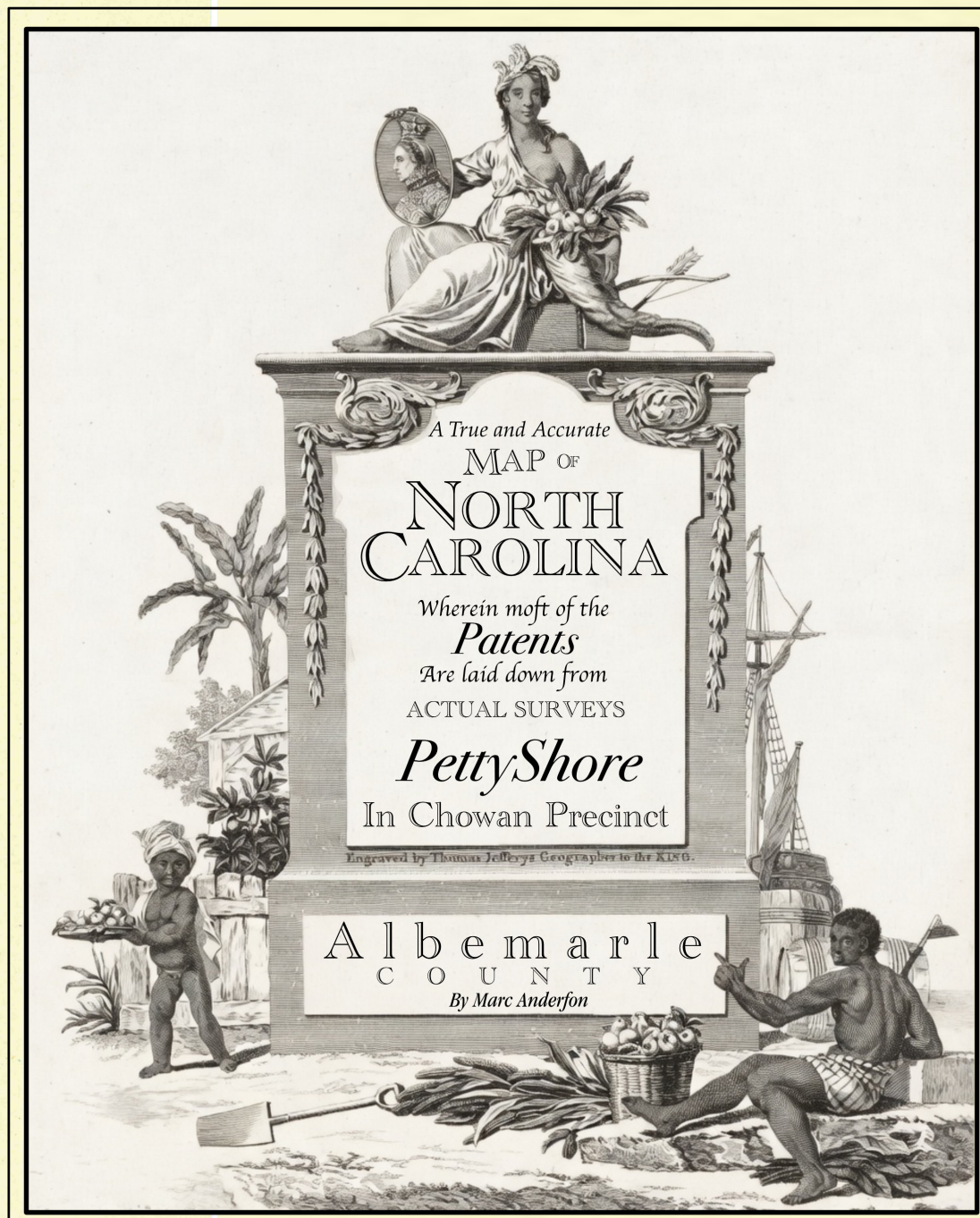
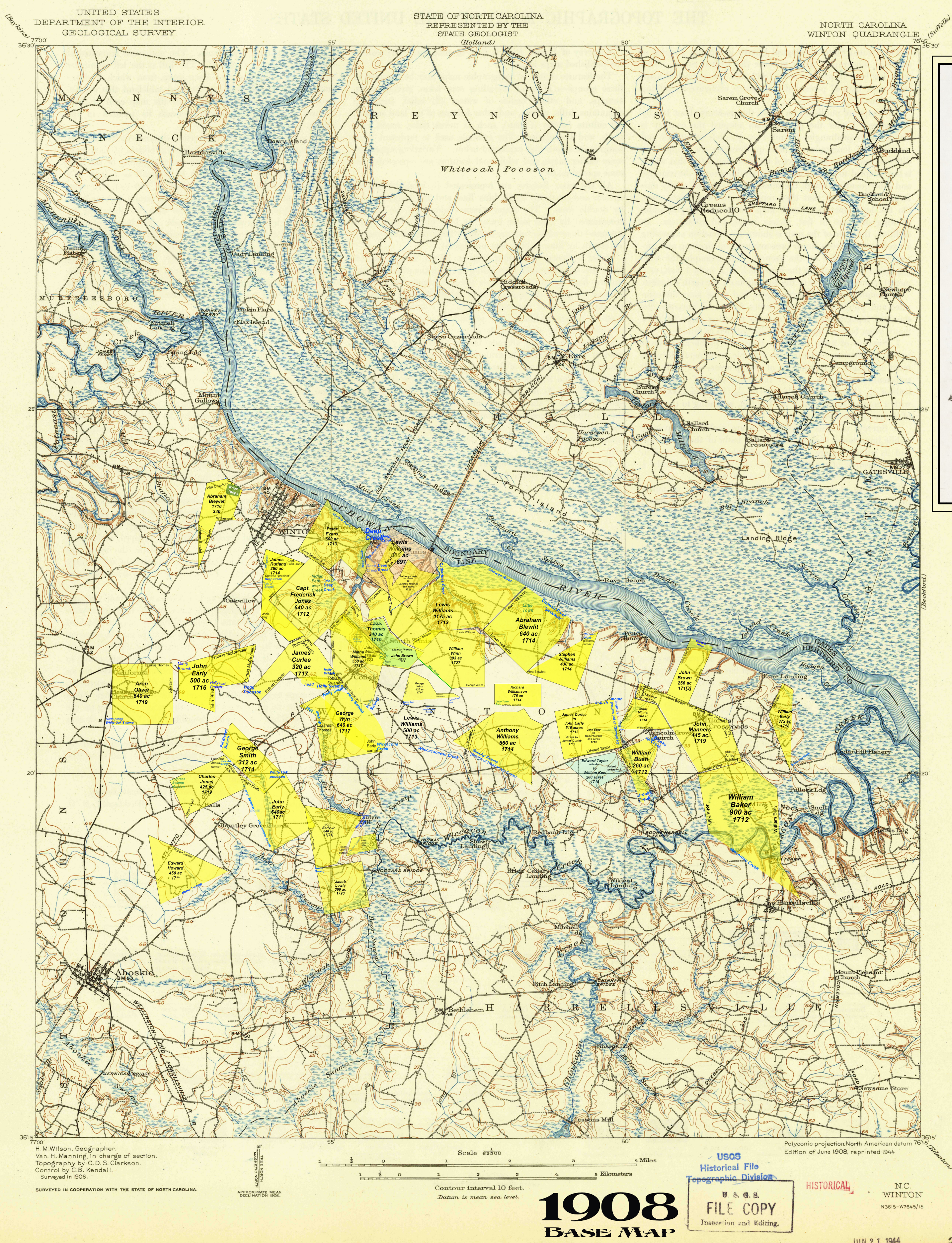
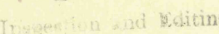




PETTY SHORE

A STUDY

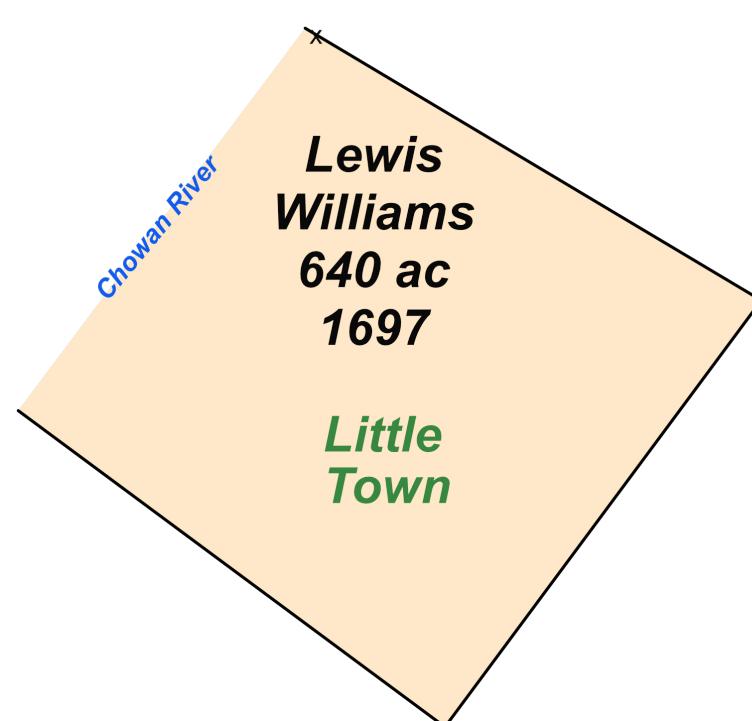
"Petty Shore" (also spelled Petty's Shore or Pettys Shore in some records) was a notable historical landing, shoreline area, and small settlement/plantation site along the Chowan River in northeastern North Carolina during the colonial period (late 1600s through the 1700s).

Plantations and economy: The area supported small-to-medium plantations focused on tobacco, mixed farming, and especially fishing (seine operations for shad, herring, etc.). By the later 1700s and into the 1800s, families like the Jordans of Winton ran large seine fisheries at Petty Shore (on the east side) and nearby Barfields, with hauls of up to 100,000 fish reported twice daily during peak seasons.

Court and social records: It shows up in Chowan/ Bertie court minutes (e.g., 1715 references to residents and property disputes) and wills/ abstracts, indicating it was a populated enough spot for legal notations. No grand plantation house like Eden House or Salmon Creek is directly tied to it, but it was part of the broader riverfront gentry landscape with enslaved labor supporting agriculture and fisheries.

Later mentions: During the Civil War (1860s), Confederate encampments were noted near Petty Shore, south of the Virginia border, showing its continued strategic river importance.

The disagreement between Lewis Williams and the Indegenes of Little Town...



Resistance was futile...

Letter from the North Carolina Governor's Council to the Virginia Governor's Council, including depositions concerning the North Carolina/Virginia boundary

North Carolina. Council

June 17, 1707

Volume 01, Pages 657-663

[B. P. R. O. B. T. Va. 58.]

LETTER TO THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL

North Carolina June 17th 1707

North Carolina—ss.

At a Council held at the Council Chamber in Edenton the 27th day of October Anno Dom 1726

Honble Gent:

We received your containing the complaints of the **Maherine Indians** pretending encroachments made on them by the said subjects of this Government upon consideration of which we thought we could not better answer yours than by sending you the true state of that matter but always as willing to give all reasonable satisfaction concerning our proceedings as Zealous to uphold the undoubted Right of the Lords Proprietors and her Majestys Subjects of this Governments Of a long time before the memory of man the Lands on the Southside of that River which is now called Maherine were in the Rightfull possession of the Chowanoke Indians by Virtue of a Grant from the Yawpin Indians and no other Indians (as plainly appears by successive accounts of that Nation by Original Writings and undoubted evidences) has had any Right to any Land there to this day and when first the Lords Proprietors of Carolina by Virtue of their Charter from his late Majesty King Charles the 2d took possession of this province that nation submitted themselves to the Crown of England under the Dominion of the Lords proprietors and continued peaceably till about the year 1675 about which time by incitements of the Rebelious Indians of Virginia who fled to them they committed hostility upon the Inhabitants of this Government in Violation of their Treaty Whereupon by virtue of the Authority for making peace and Warr granted to the Lords proprietors by their Charter, open war was made upon the said Indians in prosecution whereof (by Gods assistance though not without the loss of many men) they were wholly subdued and had Land for their habitation assigned them where they remained till about the year 1680 when the tract of land on the Northside of the said River was assigned them by the said immediate possessors of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina as the province of Carolina has been peaceably by them held without any Claime now thirty years during which Time the Maherine Indians removing themselves from their ancient place of habitation (where by Virtue of a Treaty with Commissioners appointed by his late Majty King Charles 2nd they were settled) placed themselves at the mouth of the Maherine River on the North side and a great part of the Tract of Land on the southside lying waste some of their straglers planted corne and built Cabbins on the Chowanake old fields and continued more and more to make their Incroachments till they became an Intolerable annoyance to her Majestys subjects Committing Repeated Injuriys upon their stocks and making frequent affrays upon their persons as far as Moratuck River for the necessary Redressing of which growing Incroachments and preventing worse mischiefs which is daily threatened and Reasonably feared, the Government here (and which was the least that they in discharge of their duty could do) held a treaty with the Chiefs of the said Indians and instead of insisting upon satisfaction for the wrongs already done were content to make only necessary provision for the security of her Majesty's subjects for the future. In order to which it was concluded that the stragling and vagrant Indians of that Nation should remove to their town on the North side of the said River and there should peaceably enjoy for a certain tribute which we believe the first time that ever they had it for their treaty with the Commissioners before mentioned gives them no more right to the Land where they now dwell than it would do to Land on the Northside of Pamlico or the southside of Cape Fears if they should remove themselves to either of those places; and it seems to us yet more advisable and would tend more to her Majestys service and present settlement as well of Virga as of this Province that they in force of their said treaty and for preserving of their Right to their Majesty's protection by virtue of it should be compelled to return to the place of their former habitation, than that they should be suffered to possess the mouth of a navigable River considering how they have hitherto behaved themselves which we seriously Recommend to your Consideration noe need to Relate to you our Reasons for making the Maherine River the bounds who are all very well acquainted with ye Indians planting Corne without fence so that no English can seate near them without danger of trespassing by their Cattle and Horses and which ye Indians and especially that Nation are very ready to Revenge without measure, so that the Question is not between the Right of **Lewis Williams** and ye Maherine Nation but whether near a hundred families of her Majty's subjects of Carolina should be diseased of their freedom to lett a few vagrant and Insolent Indians rove where they please without any Right, and Contrary to their Agreement with the said owners of the said lands; or whether it is necessary that the Indians who are together with the said young men may be under the immediate inspection of their own Governrs to prevent their private mischiefs that may be more easily done and concealed in single and separate families Your proposition concerning further settlement We in all friendship recd. but because of the uncertainty we could not proceed to make any order or proposition in answer to it till by the Copys of the Depositions to be taken on your behalf which we hoped to receive we might have certain Information how far the Contraverted Grounds was extended to us ward we knowing no bounds to Carolina but Weyanoke River till further informed intending no further to enter into that Controversie but only to Represent the Case to the Lords Proprietors in order to their laying it before her sacred Majesty Seeing no cause to doubt of the success in so clear a Case. To this we add that **Lewis Williams** can't be called any new settlement for he had Right to that Land some yeares agoe And he has been hindered settling by those Indians who have dallyed with this Government from time to time by promise to Depart and at last being called to shew reason of their Delay they only could alledge that they had cleared some ground for which they desired satisfaction and **Williams** being willing to be in peaceable possession of his Land at any Rate Condensed to pay them a horse and fifteen bushells of corne which was all they at that time desired & the Greatest part they have received and ye Remainder they intended to return upon the first return of the said Indians. The said **Williams** was a good man and made a barbarous assault upon him in his house so that his Life is doubted of and his family is in danger of further trouble from which we believe it our Duty to rescue him for we can't interpret your Propositions to mean that in the mean time any of her Majestys subjects should be left to the merciless insults of savage people but that every one in the Respective Governments as they are now deemed should quietly enjoy their propertys till the matter be determined to which we readily assent and as soon as we know how far you do claime shall take all necessary order in it

We have sent you inclosed Copys of such Depositions as we have taken relateing to the bounds and desire you will send us those that have been taken by you according to your promise. We are

Your humble servants

EDWARD MOSELY

W GLOVER

FRAN: FOSTER

SAMUEL SWANN

This day was read at the Board the Petition of the **Meherinn Indians** shewing that they have lived and Peaceably Enjoyed the said Towne where they now live for such a space of time as they humbly conceive. Entitles them to an Equitable Right in the same that they have not only lived there for many years but long before there were any English Settlements near that place or any notion of Disputes known to them concerning the dividing bounds between this Country and Virginia and have there made large improvements after their manner for the better support and maintenance of themselves and Families by their Lawfull and Peaceable Industry Notwithstanding which Coll Wm Maule and Mr William Gray have lately intruded upon them and have Surveyed their sd Towne and made a new Division of the same by which they have lost their Right and the said Towne is now divided into three Tributaries to Virginia which is not so praying this Board to take them into their Protection as their faithful and Loyal Tributaries and to secure to them a Right & Property in the said Towne with such a convenient Quantity of Land adjoining to it to be laid off by meets and Bounds as to them shall seem meet

Then also was Read the Petitions of Sundry Inhabitants living near the said Indians Shewing That Sundry Families of the Indians called Maherrin Indians have lately Enroached and settled on their Land which they begg leave to Represent with the true account those Indians who are not original Inhabitants of any Lands within this Governmt. but were formerly called Susquahannahs and Lived between Mary Land and Pensilvania and committing several Barbarous Massacres and Outrages there Killing, as its reported all the English there settled excepting Two Families, they then drew off and fled up to the head of Potomack and there built them a fort being pursued by the Mary Land and Virginia Forces under the Command of One Major Trueman who besieged the fort Eight months but at last in the night broke out thro the main Guard and drew off round the heads of several Rivers and passing them high up came into this country and settled at old Sapponie Town upon Maherrin River near where Arthurs Cavenah now lives but being disturbed by the saponnie Indians they drew down to Tarrora Creek on the same River where Mr Arthur Allen's Quarters is; afterwards they were drove thence by the Jennetto Indians down to Bennets Creek and settled on a Neck of Land afterwards Called Maherrin Neck because these Indians came down Maherrin River and after that they began to take the name of Maherrin Indians; but being known the English on that side would not suffer them to live there, then they removed over Chowan River and Settled at Mount Pleasant where Capt Duffer then lived, being driven thence by one Lewis Williams drew them higher up and got a Order from the Governmt that they should never come on the So. side of Wickacoone Creek and they settled at **Catherines Creek a place since called Little Towne** but they being still Mischievous by order of the Government Col Pollock brought in the Chief of them before the Govr & Council and they were then ordered by the Governmt **never to appear on the south side of Maherrin** They then pitched at the mouth of Maherrin River or the North side called old Maherrin Town where they afterwards remained tho they were never recieved or became Tributaries of this Governmt nor ever assisted the English in their wars against the Indians but were on the contrary very much suspected to have assisted the Tuskaroroos at the massacre The Baron De Graffen Reed offering his Oath that one Nick Major in Particular being one of the present Maherrin Indians Satt with the Tuscaroroos at his Tryall and was among them when Mr Lawson the Survey Genl was killed by them So that these Maherrins were not originally of this Country but Enemies to the English every where behaving themselves Turbulently and never lookt on as true men or friends to the English nor ever paid due acknowledgement to this Government Some years agoe Col Maulsby the Survey Genl obtained an Order to Survey the Lands at old Maherrin Towne which was accordingly done and attended afterwards since they have paid Tribute to this Government and have been allowed by the Governmt to live there but since that time the South side of the said River has been off the west of them and those that remained moved off those Lands at Maherrin Towne and Sundry of them have lately settled & Enroached on your Petitioners Lands some miles higher up the River, destroyed their Timber & Stocks and hindring them from Improving their Lands they being unwilling themselves forcibly to remove the sd Indians least some disorders might arise thereon; praying an order to the Provost Marshall That if the sd Indians do not remove off in some convenient time they may be compelled thereto &c

Whereupon by the consent of both parties It is ordered in Council That the Surveyr Genl or his Deputy do lay out unto the said Indians a certain parcel of Land lying between Maherrin River and Blackwater River Running three miles to the Blackwater River and then a straight line such a part of Maherrin River as shall be Two miles from the mouth thereof and if the same line shall lead out the settlement of Capt Roger a Maherrin Indian that then the Surveyr Genl do lay out a Tract of 150 acres the most convenient to his Dwelling Which Land when Surveyed the surveyr is to make return thereof into the Sectys Office that Grants may pass for the same to the said Indians It is further Ordered by this Board that the sd Indians shall Quietly hold the sd Lands without any molestation or disturbance of any Persons claiming the same so as the same Persons Right or pretensions to the sd Lands be Reserved into them whereby they or those claiming under them shall have the preference of taking up the same when the said Indians shall desert or remove therefrom