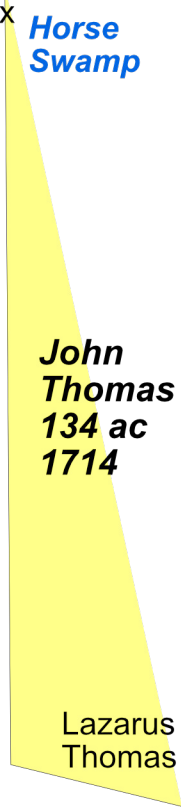
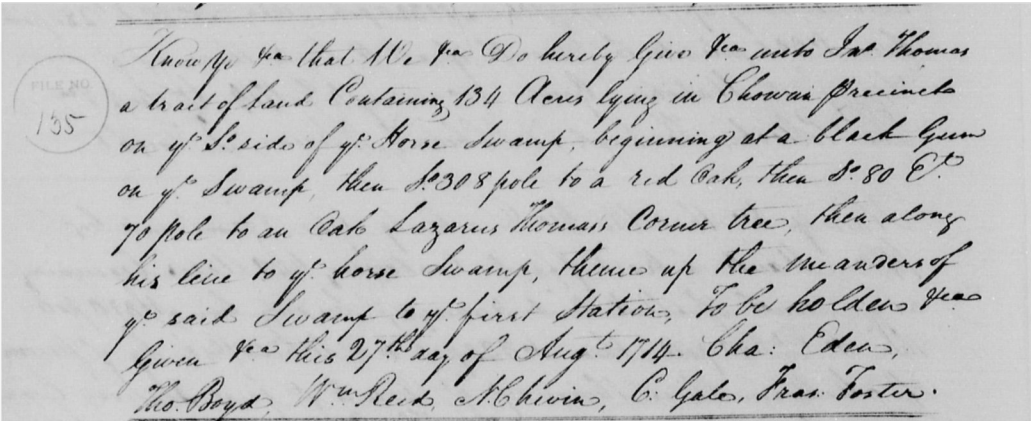


John Thomas was issued 134 acres of land on 27 Aug 1714 in Chowan County, located "S. side of Horse swamp". This was recorded in Land Patent Book 1 page 224 as Chowan County Grant # .



The "metes and bounds" of the patent work out thusly as shown by the graphic. This is not specific enough to be of much value to identify where this land actually was located.

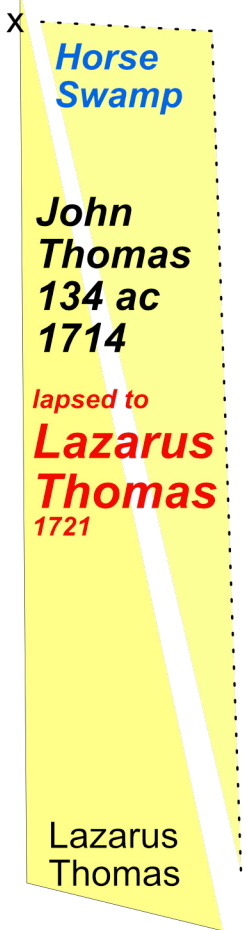
begin x SS Horse Swamp
S 308
S 80 E 70 to Lazarus Thomas
then to Horse Swamp
swamp to 1st

With a little more searching, a second patent for this land turned up for Lazarus Thomas... but it showed an acreage of 640 acres and was equally devoid of any logical metes and bounds. It became apparent that there simply was not another patent for 640 acres. But then I found this reference:

Read the petition of **Lazarus Thomas** Shewing that **John Thomas** in the year 1713 obtained a patent for 134 acres of Land lying in Chowan which is become Lapsable for want of seating and planting praying a Lapse patent may be granted him for the same

Ordered that the same be granted

Minutes of the North Carolina Governor's Council
North Carolina, Council
March 30, 1721
Volume 02, Pages 425-429



In an attempt to visualize this patent I guessed at what the land "might" look like.

So... the land "seems to" have been vacant for half a dozen years... or not.

Meanwhile, in 1715, Lazarus Thomas sold 100 acres to Lawrence Martin.

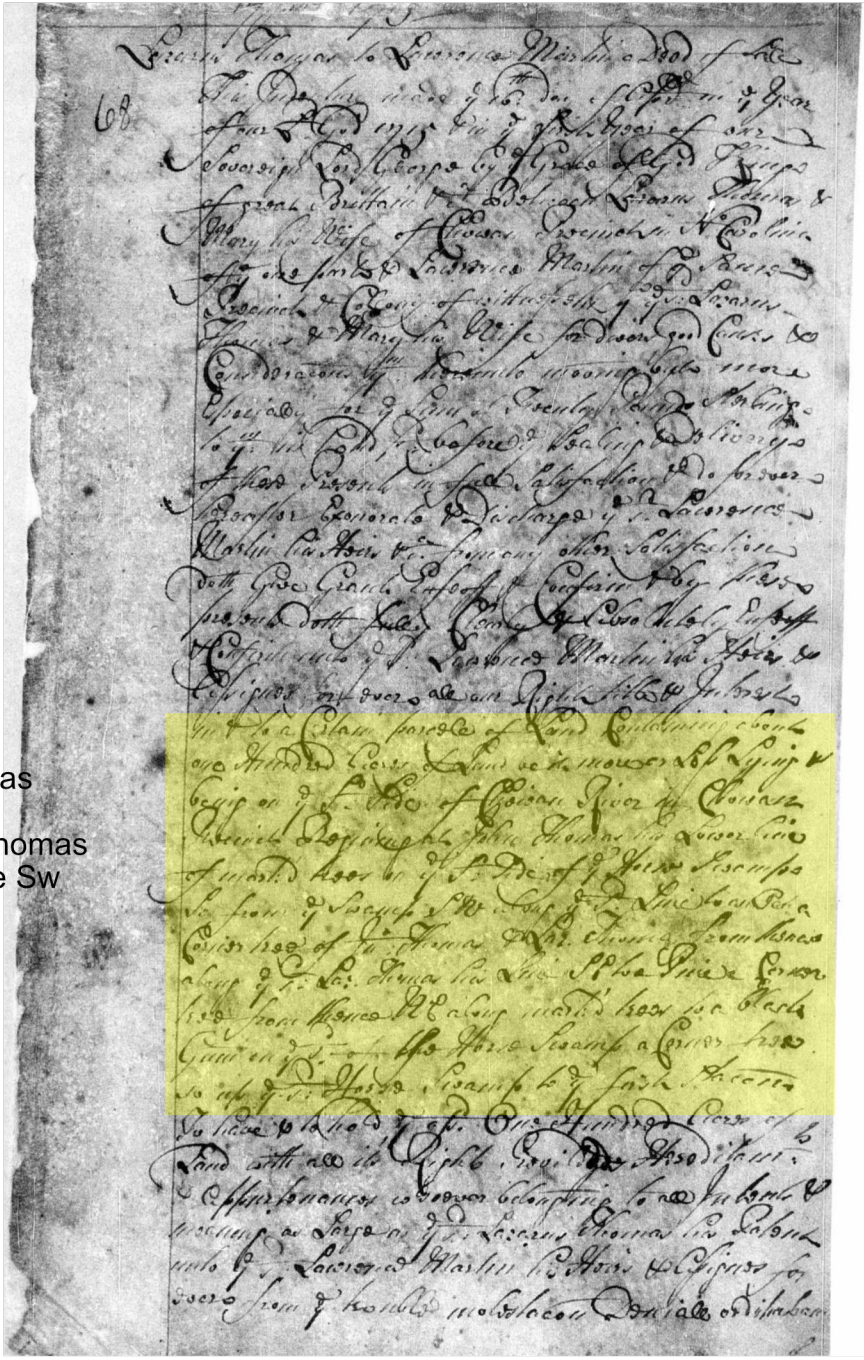
It is my experience that these early patents show a kind of laissez faire attitude of ownership. Some patents seemed almost as if they were squatters.

Lazarus Thomas
to
Lawrence Martin
100 ac
1715

Chowan Deed Book
B-1, page 68

100 acres

begin x corner John Thomas
SS Horse Swamp
SW along swamp to Laz Thomas
then SE to corner on Horse Sw
up swamp to 1st



For reasons which will show up later... this patent "shrunk" from 134 acres to 100 acres. And the overall shape simply does not work out "in my mind" (and I have done a lot of these).

In frustration, I will simply apply my "best guess" as to what the patent may have looked like:



#1154 pg. 618 LAURENCE MARTIN of Chowan Prect, and PATIENCE his wife to JAMES NORVILL 26 Mar. 1718 5 ± sterling 100 acres, Joining JOHN THOMAS, LAZARUS THOMAS and Horse swamp all Houses, Orchards etc. Wit.: JOHN WILLIAMS, HENRY COATS Reg. 11 Nov. 1718

A 242 JAMES NORVILL TO JOHN BROWN, JUN. May 12, 1724. 8 pds. for 100 A. adj. JOHN THOMAS on Horse Swamp adj. LAZARUS THOMAS. Wit: HENRY BAKER, JOSEPH MAINOR. May Court 1724.

And as this plot thickens...

John Brown, Jun seems to just disappear and is replaced by Susanna Brown & Sylvester Brown (who seem obviously related).

C 171 SUSANNA BROWN & SILVESTER BROWN TO WILLIAM EVANS Nov. 22, 1729. 5 pds. for 100 A. On Horse Swamp. Adj. JOHN THOMAS, LAZARUS THOMAS. Wit: RICHARD WILLIFORD, MARY LUDEN (LADEN?). February Court 1729. THOMAS CREW D.C/C.

