

Brogden's Boundaries

I have used Neuse River, Bawdy Swamp, and Bare (or Bear) Swamp as the boundaries and include a map delineating those. The swamps were significant impediments to travel at times and a challenge in better times. The River, on the other hand, in the 18th Century was a highway. Plantation manors were located on it and there are references in deeds to docks and ferries. The land road through Brogden is now called "Brogden Road." In the 18th Century it was called the "main road" and later the "river road" after the "stage road", which later was US 70, was established.

Neuse River may not have been a barrier, large landowners typically owned tracts on both side of the River; but it was also an obvious boundary. The most common locational reference in a patent is whether it was north or south of the River.

Growing up in Brogden, I knew Bare Swamp as "Polecat." Polecat is much more extensive than Bare Swamp, of which the latter is a tributary. Both Polecat and Bawdy drain into the Neuse; so, clearly Bare and Bawdy swamps do not meet. Bare Swamp also has two prongs. I have used the eastern prong (sometimes called Biase Branch) as the Brogden boundary, partly because that was the boundary of the Brogden school district. I have then drawn a line between the eastern prong's origin and where Woods Road crosses Long Branch, a tributary of Bawdy Swamp. Bawdy heads due north at the mouth of Long Branch, which extends to the west.