

## Introduction

The research presented in this document is offered as evidence that Siouan Indians lived in the geographic area of Virginia between the headwaters of the South Fork of the Roanoke River on Poor Mountain in Roanoke County and the Blackwater River in the Piedmont area of Franklin County. For purposes of this research, we will call the geographic area defined above as “Appalachian/Piedmont Virginia”.

The foundational reference work establishing the historic presence of Sioux tribes in Appalachian/Piedmont Virginia is James Mooney, whose 1894 work titled “The Siouan Tribes of the East” makes the claim that Sioux Indians inhabited an area in Virginia including all the land “west of a line drawn through Richmond and Fredericksburg, up to the Blue ridge”. Mooney’s 1894 map, “Siouan Tribes of Virginia and the Carolinas” demarcates the area between the headwaters of the Roanoke River in Roanoke County and the Blackwater River in Franklin County as having been inhabited by Siouan tribes.

John R. Swanton’s two works quoted herein are “Siouan Tribes and the Ohio Valley” (1945) and “The Indians of the Southeastern United States” (1946). The 1945 work states that Siouan language speakers lived in “the Piedmont country of Virginia and the Carolinas, extending to the . . . Appalachian Mountains.” He states that the origin of the Sioux tribes may have been the Appalachian Mountains, and that “remnants of Siouan tribes survived near the mountains in the regions of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina until after the coming of the white race.” The 1946 work states, “The northern Siouan people – the Tutelo, Saponi, Monacan and their allies – were probably late comers into the Piedmont region of Virginia, which they had apparently reached from the upper Ohio.”

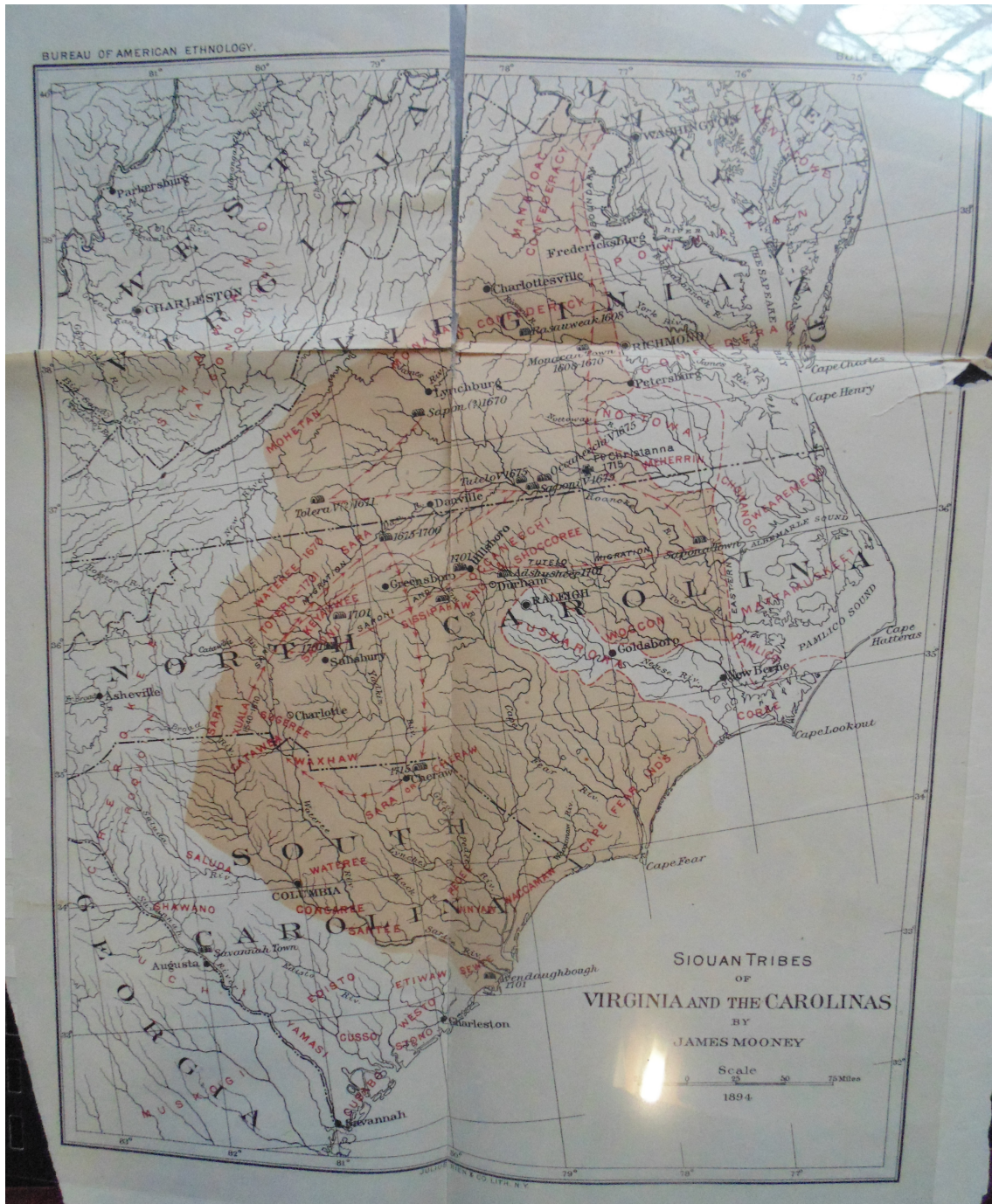
Swanton’s 1946 work continues, “These Siouan Indians were rather sharply divided on linguistic grounds into a northern branch which anciently occupied the Piedmont and mountain areas of Virginia and extended over much, and probably all, of West Virginia, and a southern branch in central North Carolina and the northern part of South Carolina.”

Swanton’s 1946 work contains a map titled “Tribal movements according to the traditions and the earliest records”. This map bears the inscription, “Virginia Siouans” in the region of Appalachian/Piedmont Virginia.

These and the other works quoted below, as well as the two maps reproduced below, establish incontrovertibly that authoritative 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century American scholarship recognizes as historic fact the habitation by Siouan Indian tribes of the geographic area which we have named Appalachian/Piedmont Virginia.

**1. Mooney, James. The Siouan Tribes of the East. Smithsonian Institution. Bureau of Ethnology. Government Printing Office, Washington DC, 1894.**

- ✓ page 8 - "Turning now from the tribes whose affinities are thus well known, it will be found, by referring to the map [see photos of Mooney's map, below], that we have still to account for a large central area. In Virginia this territory includes all west of a line drawn through Richmond and Fredericksburg, up to the Blue ridge, or about one-half the area of the state."
- ✓ page 9 -- "Who were the Indians of this central area? For a long time the question was ignored by ethnologists, and it was implicitly assumed that they were like their neighbors, Iroquoian or Algonquian in the north and "Catawban" in the south. It was never hinted that they might be anything different, and still less was it supposed that they would prove to be part of the great Siouan or Dakotan family, whose nearest known representatives were beyond the Mississippi or about the upper lakes, nearly a thousand miles away. Yet the fact is now established that some at least of those tribes, and these the most important, were of that race of hunters . . . and the concurrent testimony of the Siouan tribes themselves to the effect that they had come from the east, all now render it extremely probable that the original home of the Siouan race was not on the prairies of the west but amidst the eastern foothills of the southern Alleghanies."
- ✓ A photo of Mooney's 1894 map, "Siouan Tribes of Virginia and the Carolinas" appears below. Additionally, we provide a close-up photo of a portion of Mooney's map showing the area representing Roanoke and Franklin Counties, Virginia as part of the Siouan tribal area.
- ✓ page 9 - "Horatio Hale, to whom belongs the credit of first discovering a Siouan language on the Atlantic coast, noted the evidences that the Tutelo language was older in its forms than the cognate dialects of the west, and predicted that if this should prove true it would argue against the supposition, which at first seemed natural, that the eastern Siouan tribes were merely offshoots from a western parent stock. Investigation might result in showing that the western Siouan, like the western Algonquian tribes, had their original home in the east."
- ✓ page 10 - "More than sixty years ago Major Sibley, one of the best authorities of that period in regard to the western tribes, obtained from an aged chief of the Osage - a well known Siouan tribe, speaking the same language as the Kwapa - a statement which confirms that of Gravier. The chief said that the tradition had been steadily handed down from their ancestors that the Osage had originally emigrated from the east, because the population had become too numerous for their hunting grounds."
- ✓ page 11 - "The most probable cause of this great exodus was the pressure from the north and from the south of hostile tribes of alien lineage, leaving to the weaker Siouan tribes no alternative but to flee or to remain and be crushed between the millstones. They chose to abandon the country and retreated across the mountains, the only direction in which a retreat was open to them."



Map 1: Mooney's "Siouan Tribes of Virginia and the Carolinas" 1894





Map 2: close-up of Mooney's 1894 map, "Siouan Tribes of Virginia and the Carolinas". The tan coloration on the map indicates areas inhabited by Siouan tribes. The red arrow points to Appalachian/Piedmont Virginia, shown on the map as the area between the headwaters of the Roanoke River in Roanoke County and the Blackwater River in Franklin County, VA

**2. Brown, Douglas (Summers). The Catawba Indians: The People of the River. The University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, 1966.**

- ✓ page 14 – "The same author, as if to confirm an ancient legend designating a prehistoric mountain habitat, says, of the Virginia Indians of the eastern Siouan group, 'The Apalataean mountains were called in Indian, Poemotinck (or the origin of the Indians)'".

**3. Swanton, John R. Siouan Tribes and the Ohio Valley. *American Anthropologist*, N.S. 45, 1945.**

- ✓ page 49 – "When tribes speaking Siouan languages first came to the knowledge of Europeans, they were living in two main divisions with two or three detached tribes. The largest single area occupied by them lay mainly west of the Mississippi River between Lake Winnipeg and the

mouth of the Arkansas and covered the greater part of the eastern plains and the valley of Missouri River. The area second in size was in the Piedmont country of Virginia and the Carolinas, extending to the coast in one section and into the Appalachian Mountains in another.”

- ✓ page 49 – “Contact between eastern and western Siouans can have occurred in only one of four ways: (1) the eastern Siouans may have moved into Virginia and the Carolinas from a point or points near the western Siouans, (2) the eastern Siouans may have remained stationary and the western Siouans may have done the moving, (3) both may have emigrated from some intermediate area of contact, or (4) contact between them may have been through other Siouan tribes which subsequently dropped out.”
- ✓ page 49 – “The language of the Virginia Siouans is, or rather was, much closer to the western dialects.”
- ✓ page 49 – “According to the traditions of western Siouan tribes, they, or at least some of them, formerly lived toward the east.”
- ✓ page 50 – “Speaking of the western Siouan tribes in general, Fletcher and La Flesche say: All of the traditions [of these tribes] speak of a movement from the east to the west covering a long period of time. The primordial habitat of this stock lies hidden in the mystery that still enshrouds the beginnings of the ancient American race; it seems to have been situated, however, among the Appalachian mountains. . . . Remnants of Siouan tribes survived near the mountains in the regions of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina until after the coming of the white race.”
- ✓ page 53 – “Lederer's account of the Indians is based on his experiences during three expeditions in the years 1669-1670 into the Western parts of Virginia and the Carolinas. With the exception of brief visits upon the Tuscarora and Nottoway Lederer's contacts were mainly with Siouan tribes.”
- ✓ page 54 – “Traditions among the western Siouans indicated a former home in the east toward the country of the eastern Siouans . . . while traditions among the eastern Siouans pointed to a home toward the west in the direction of the western Siouans.”

**4. Gibbon, Guy E. *The Sioux: the Dakota and Lakota Nations*. Blackwell Publishers, Ltd., 2003.**

- ✓ page 17 – “While oral traditions and written accounts by historians generally agree that Minnesota was the core late prehistoric homeland of the Sioux, they disagree about where the Sioux originally came from. For the sake of brevity, these contending views can be divided into three groups, each of which shares a common geographical theme. According to the most popular geographical theme, the ancestors of the Sioux came from the east . . . Treuer (1994:17) captures the tone of these claims: it 'is fairly certain that the Dakota had lived for many years east and south of the Minnesota-Wisconsin lake area' and did not fully occupy the Upper Mississippi watershed until the seventeenth century. In general, the Dakota's original homeland was thought to be the Appalachian Mountains or somewhere further to the north and east.”

**5. Robinson, Doane. Dakota or Sioux Indians. State of South Dakota, 1904. Reprinted by Ross & Haines, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, 1956.**

- ✓ page 18 – “The American ethnology assumes that the Siouan people originated on the American continent east of the Appalachian mountains, in the present states of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, where the Catawbass, and Tutelos, small tribes, were of the Siouan family.”

**6. Greer, T. Keister. Genesis of a Virginia Frontier: The Origins of Franklin County, Virginia, 1740-1785. History House Press, Rocky Mount, VA, 2004.**

- ✓ page 1 – “The Indian once made his home in Franklin; this is not to be doubted. It has already been established that one principal Indian thoroughfare led through the county. The influence of the Iroquois' Great Warrior Trace upon the redman of the milder Sioux strain who are generally considered to have lived in this country, must have been severe. From earliest times Virginia and Carolina Indians had lived in fear of the Five Nations, but the Indians of Franklin County lived right on these fierce northern tribes' main warpath.”
- ✓ page 2 – “The tribe or tribes most frequently identified with Franklin, and the Southside in general, are the Saponies. The Staunton River was once known as the Saponny. These Indians seem also to have been known as Nahyssas. They were of the same basic Siouian strain as the more easterly Occaneechees and the nearby Tutelos, or Toteros.”
- ✓ page 3 – “No other references to Indian towns in Franklin have been found, but there are several to their fields, cleared for farming by the squaws. Possibly among these was one on 'Potters Creek,' 'above the great fork.' If this be the Potters Creek known in Pittsylvania today (near the mouth of Pigg), the latter field was not in Franklin. But if the conflux of Pigg and Staunton rivers was not implied, then the 'great fork' is almost certainly the conjunction of Pigg and Chestnut Creek, the most sizable of the former's tributaries. Other fields cleared by the aborigines are mentioned along the south side of the Blackwater. This latter stream, as has been noted, derives its name from the original Indian appellation.”

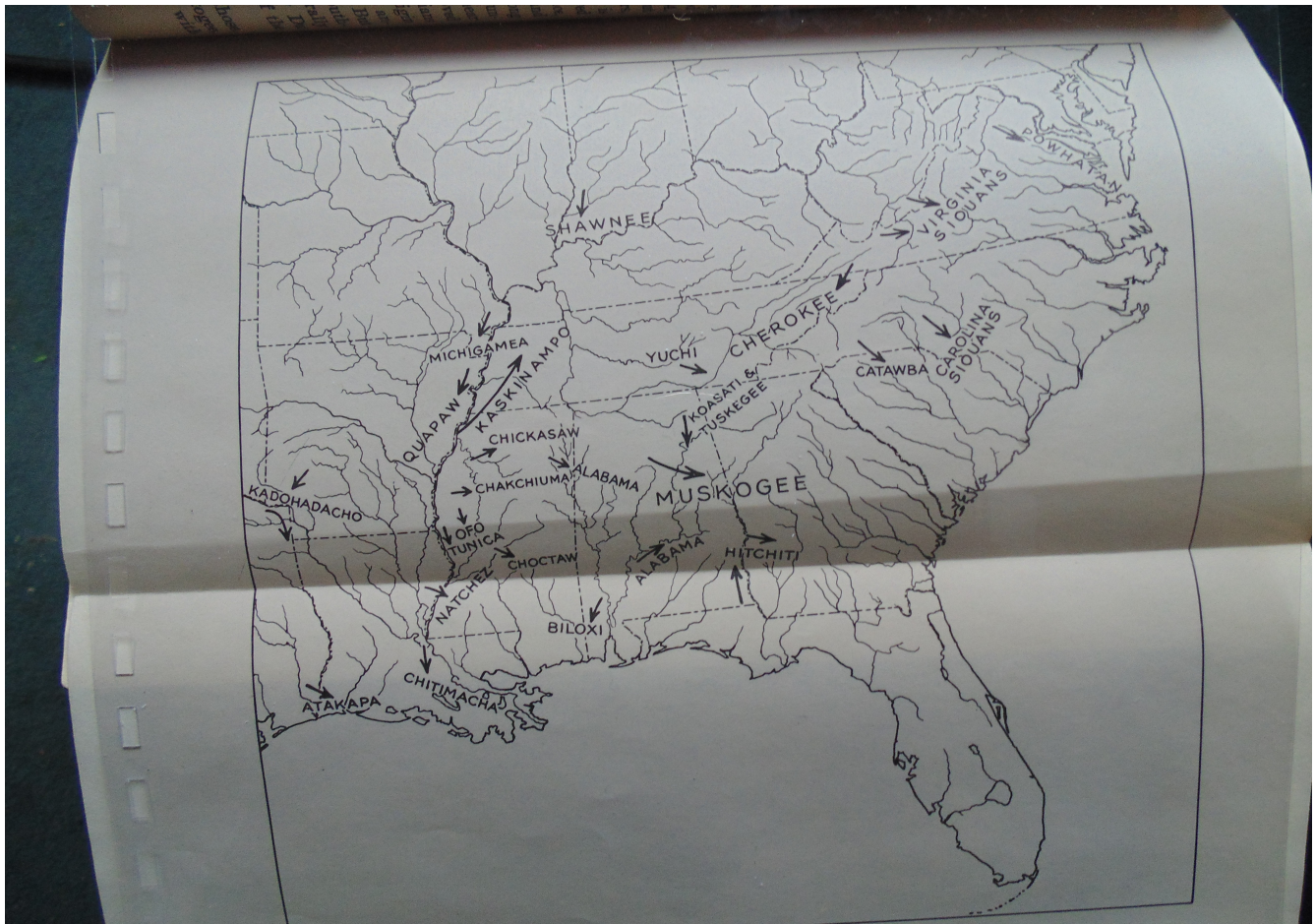
**7. Swanton, John R. The Indians of the Southeastern United States. Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 137, Washington DC, 1946.**

- ✓ page 30 – “The northern Siouan people – the Tutelo, Saponi, Monacan and their allies – were probably late comers into the Piedmont region of Virginia, which they had apparently reached from the upper Ohio.”
- ✓ page 800 – “The Siouan peoples were represented in four different areas. Two of these were occupied by single tribes, and a third by 20 tribes or more which covered most of the Piedmont region of Virginia and North and South Carolina besides the Coastal Plain of South Carolina between Cape Fear River and Bull Bay. It also extended over most of West Virginia and an indefinite distance westward. These tribes formed two distinct dialectic groups: a northern, in Virginia and to the westward; and a southern, in the Carolinas.”
- ✓ page 813 – “These Siouan Indians were rather sharply divided on linguistic grounds into a



northern branch which anciently occupied the Piedmont and mountain areas of Virginia and extended over much, and probably all, of West Virginia, and a southern branch in central North Carolina and the northern part of South Carolina. It is believed that the culture of these two branches differed considerably, but our information regarding them, particularly regarding the Virginia Siouans, is so meager that it is possible to enumerate few cultural differences except speech on which this opinion is based. Lawson implies, although not certainly, that the Virginia Siouans lacked community ceremonial buildings such as the southern tribes had, and Lederer's description of four exogamous divisions may perhaps have applied merely to the northern group, but both points are very uncertain. So many of the industries and customs of these Siouans are like those found either north or south of their territories that we get the impression of groups which had borrowed rather than originated."

- ✓ between pages 22 and 23 appears a map titled, "Tribal movements according to the traditions and the earliest records". This map bears the inscription "Virginia Siouans" in the region of Appalachian/Piedmont Virginia which is the focus of the present research. Please see below.



Map 3: Swanton's "Tribal movements according to the traditions and the earliest records", 1946