



The Chickahominy Tribe



The “Coarse-pounded Corn People”

- Introduction to the Chickahominy Tribe
- Historical Chickahominy Tribe
- Modern Chickahominy Tribe
- Conservation of Chickahominy River Sites



Introduction



- Chickahominy is one of 11 State-recognized tribes in Virginia
- Chickahominy is one of 7 Federally-recognized Tribes in Virginia
- Located in Charles City County, about 10 miles from traditional village site
- Centered around the Tribal Center and Samaria Baptist Church



Introduction



- The Chickahominy Tribe has an enrolled population of 975 citizens
- 54% are located with 5 miles of the Tribal Center
- 84% are located within one hour of the Tribal Center



Historical Tribe



- Europeans have been visiting this continent since Columbus landed in 1492
- There were at least 40 tribes in this area in 1600, most of who were part of the Powhatan Chiefdom
- Each Tribe had its own local government but were probably not completely independent of Powhatan



Historical Tribe



- The Chickahominy Tribe was never part of the Powhatan Chiefdom
- The Tribe was governed by a Council of Elders called the Mungai
- The estimated population of the Tribe was 1000 people
- We shared a common culture and similar language with the Powhatan tribes



Historical Tribe



- Virginia tribes lived in established villages and towns along various rivers
- The rivers were eventually named after the tribes who lived there



Historical Tribe



- Rivers were used as a water source for cooking and bathing
- They also served as a source of food in the form of fish, shellfish, plants
- Land generally good for tribal farms of corn, beans, squash, other plants
- Used as transportation route for trade and other interaction between tribes



Historical Tribe



- The Chickahominy Tribe lived along the Chickahominy River
- Chickahominy were known as great producers of corn
- The Tribe lived 10-12 villages/towns of structures called yehakins (longhouses)
- Longhouses were used primarily for sleeping and storage



Powhatan yehakin (longhouse) at Jamestown Settlement (1995)

CHICKAHOMINY TRIBE



Chickahominy Villages





Chickahominy Villages

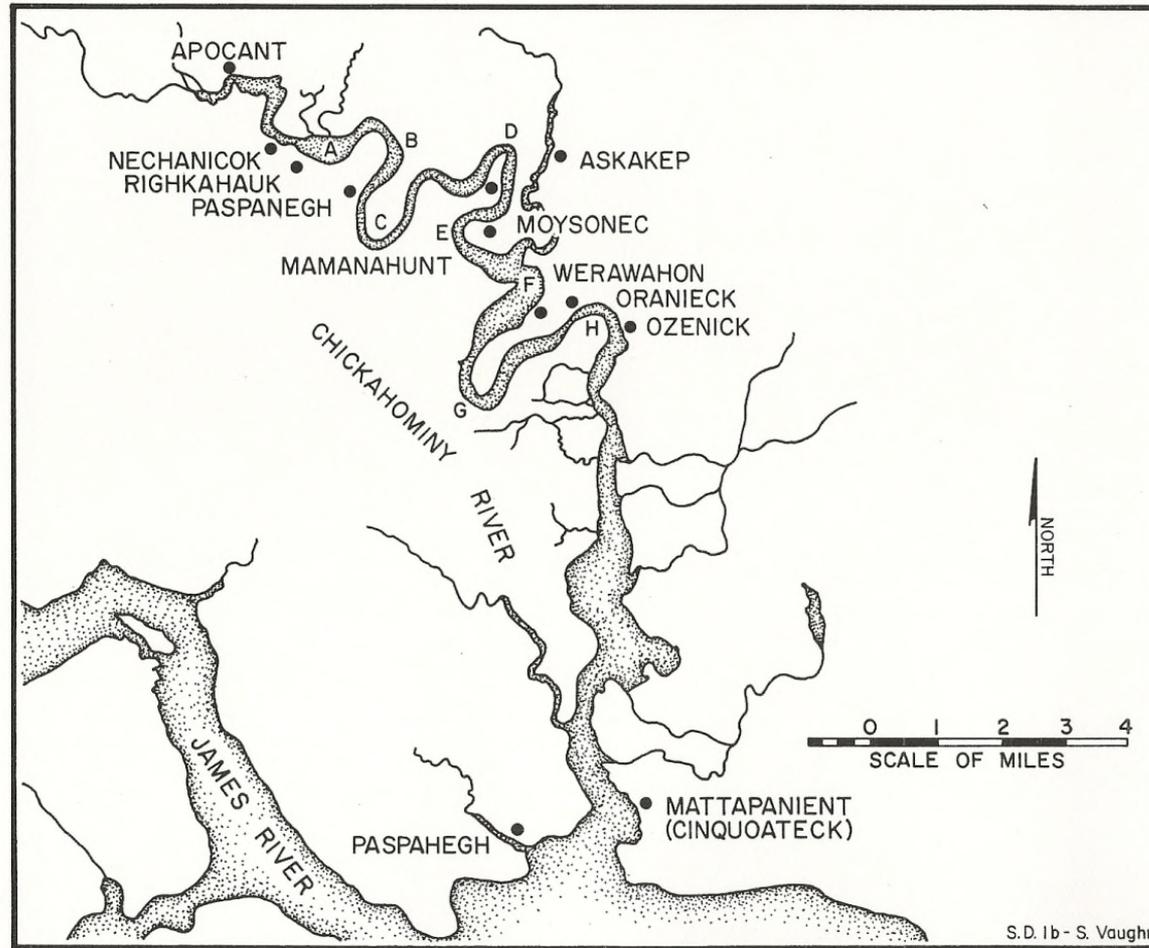


FIGURE 4. Modern Map showing Major Archaeological Sites in Chickahominy and Paspahogh Indian Territory.



Colonial Interactions



- John Smith traded with the Chickahominy for corn in November 1607
- The Chickahominy entered into a treaty with England in 1614, possibly because of a perceived alliance between the English and Paramount Chief Powhatan
- The treaty required the Chickahominy to provide corn and warriors to the colonists, in return for being allowed to maintain their traditional form of government



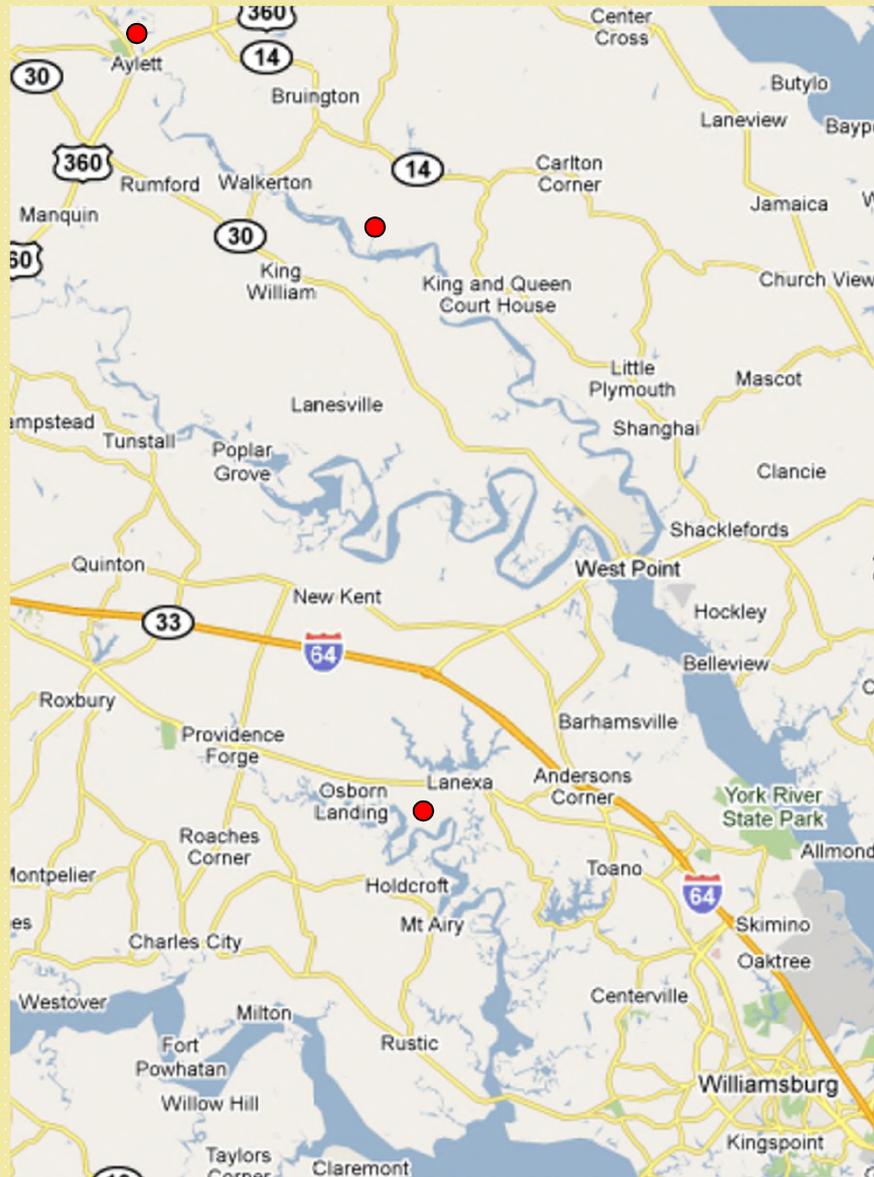
Colonial Interaction



- Treaty of 1646 established areas where Indians and English could live
- Relocated the Chickahominy north of the York River
- Chickahominy continued to move to various tracts on the Mattaponi River for the remainder of the seventeenth century
- Probably lost last tract of land around 1718



Colonial Interaction





Chickahominy Relocation



- Chickahominy ancestors moved to Charles City County around 1850 and began to buy land
- Other Chickahominy ancestors settled in New Kent County around Windsor Shades around 1870



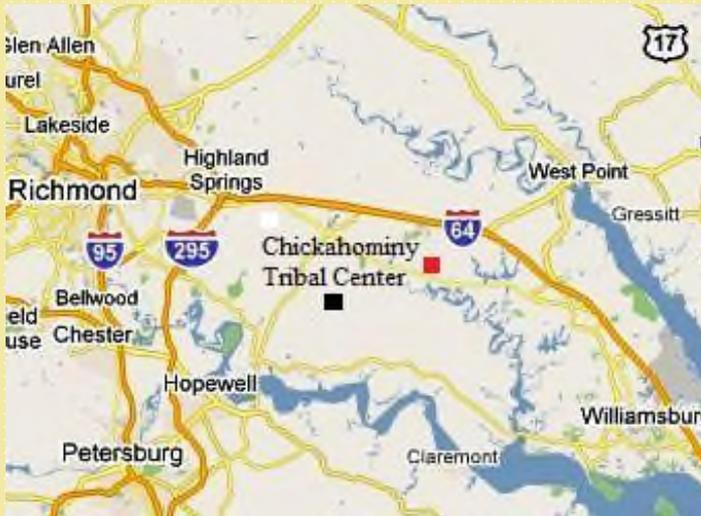
Chickahominy Tribe Today



- Tribe split into Chickahominy (Charles City) and Chickahominy – Eastern Division (New Kent) in 1926
- Each tribe has it's own leadership and functions separately from the other tribe
- The two tribes have a good relationship with one another



Chickahominy Tribe Today



- Community located on Chickahominy Ridge
- Centered around the Chickahominy Tribal Center and Samaria Baptist Church
- Lead by Tribal Council of 12 men and women, including a Chief and two Assistant Chiefs



Chickahominy River Conservation



- Interested in conserving sites on the Chickahominy River for:
 - Preservation of the River
 - Student engagement
 - Cultural preservation
 - Economic development



Chickahominy River Conservation



- Preservation of the River
 - Pristine quality of the River
 - Wise use for recreational purposes by tribal members and the general public
- Student Engagement
 - Water quality studies
 - Marine biology
 - Marine botany



Chickahominy River Conservation



- Cultural preservation
 - Currently has no presence on the River
 - Reburial of ancestral remains
 - Space for ceremonies and other group activities





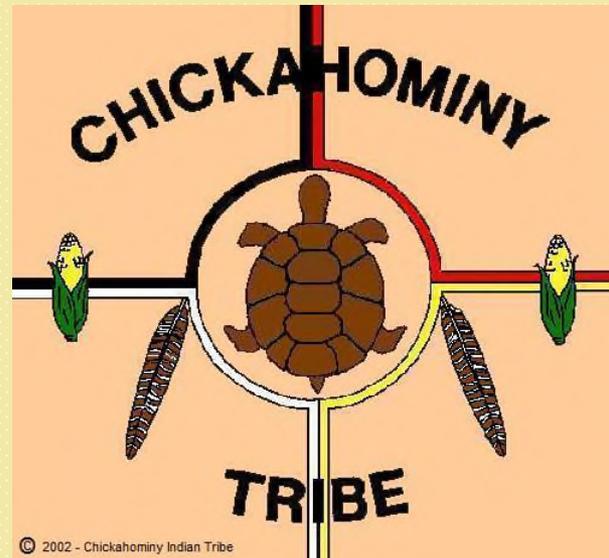
Chickahominy River Conservation



- Economic development
 - Eco\heritage tourism
 - Rare plants
 - Healthy cypress growth
 - History and culture
 - Canoe\kayak launches\trips



THANK YOU!



QUESTIONS?