

Eastern North Carolina Land Use History 101

Joe Hughes

- Tarheel Pine Tar Boom (1700-1900)
- Timber Boom (1880-1930)
- Tobacco Farm Heyday (1870-2000)
- Tree Farm Era (1937-Present)
- Super Farm: Dreams and Schemes (1766-Present)
- Military Bases: A BOON! (1941-Present)
- Chickens, Turkeys and Pigs Galore (1950's-Present)
- Phosphate and Marl Mines: (1965-Present)
- National Forest, Wildlife Refuges and National Seashores (1934-2008)
- Places to Hunt: NC WRC Gamelands; Private Lands (1970-present)
- Retiring Yankee Paradise (1975-Present)
- Conclusions

Tarheel Pine Tar Boom (1700-1900)

- Pine tar extracted from LONGLEAF PINE for Naval Stores.
- Naval Stores: Essential for wooden ships.
- Britain's main source of Naval Stores before **1776**.
- 1764: Port Beaufort: 40,000 barrels: pine tar, turpentine, pitch, spirits, rosin shipped.
- 1860: Craven County: turpentine products: 75% value of all manufactured goods.
- LONGLEAF PINE was decimated.
- Tarheel State. Tar River. Tar Landing. Tarboro. Pitch Kettle.





1774
TRYON PALACE
Historic Capitol and
Governor's residence of
N.C. 1770-1784. Burned
1781 and restored in
1942-1959. Open to the
public. One block south.





Timber Boom (1880-1930)

- Waves of immigrants into US after Civil War. Huge demand for houses.
- Steam power: Railroads, sawmills and logging: Brought timber boom to ENC.
- Vast stands of virgin old growth LOBOLLY PINE.
- 1920: Sixteen lumber mills in New Bern area.
- John L. Roper Lumber Company: 800,000 acres. “North Carolina Pine” kiln-dried lumber to all major Northeast cities. Roper’s largest mill complex was in New Bern.
- 1930: BOOM-to-BUST? Cut-Out-Get-Out?

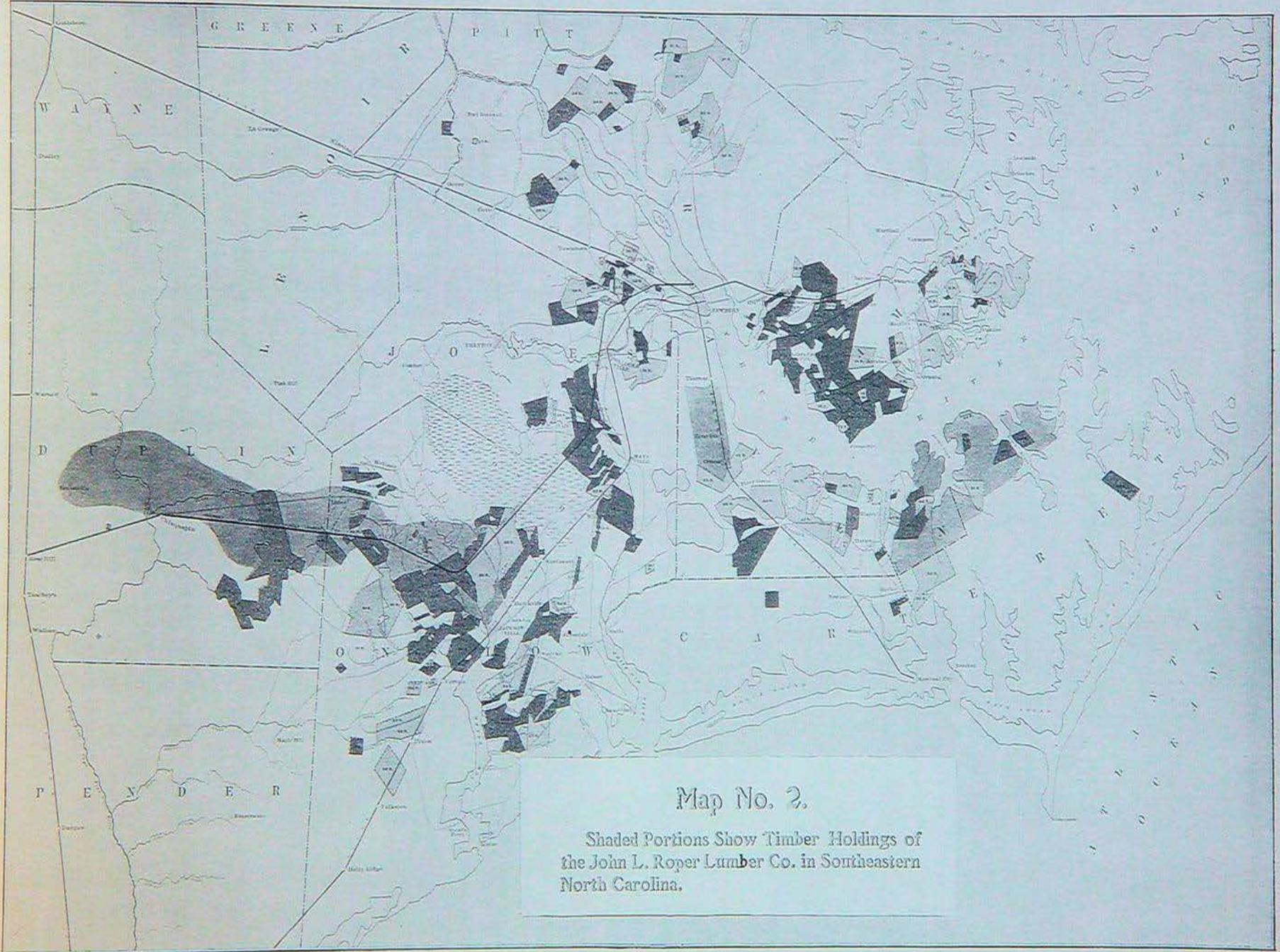


GREAT ROPER NORTH CAROLINA PINE INTERESTS

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Converting 1,250 Square Miles of Timber Into High Grade Lumber—Pioneer and Greatest Enterprise of the Kind in the World—Four Billion Feet of Timber, Annual Increase Four Percent, Operations Practically Perpetual—Strong Personnel of the Management—Water and Rail Transportation Unexcelled—Saw and Planing Mills With Perfect Equipment—Photographs and Story by the American Lumberman in Tribute to the Great Interests of the John L. Roper Lumber Company.

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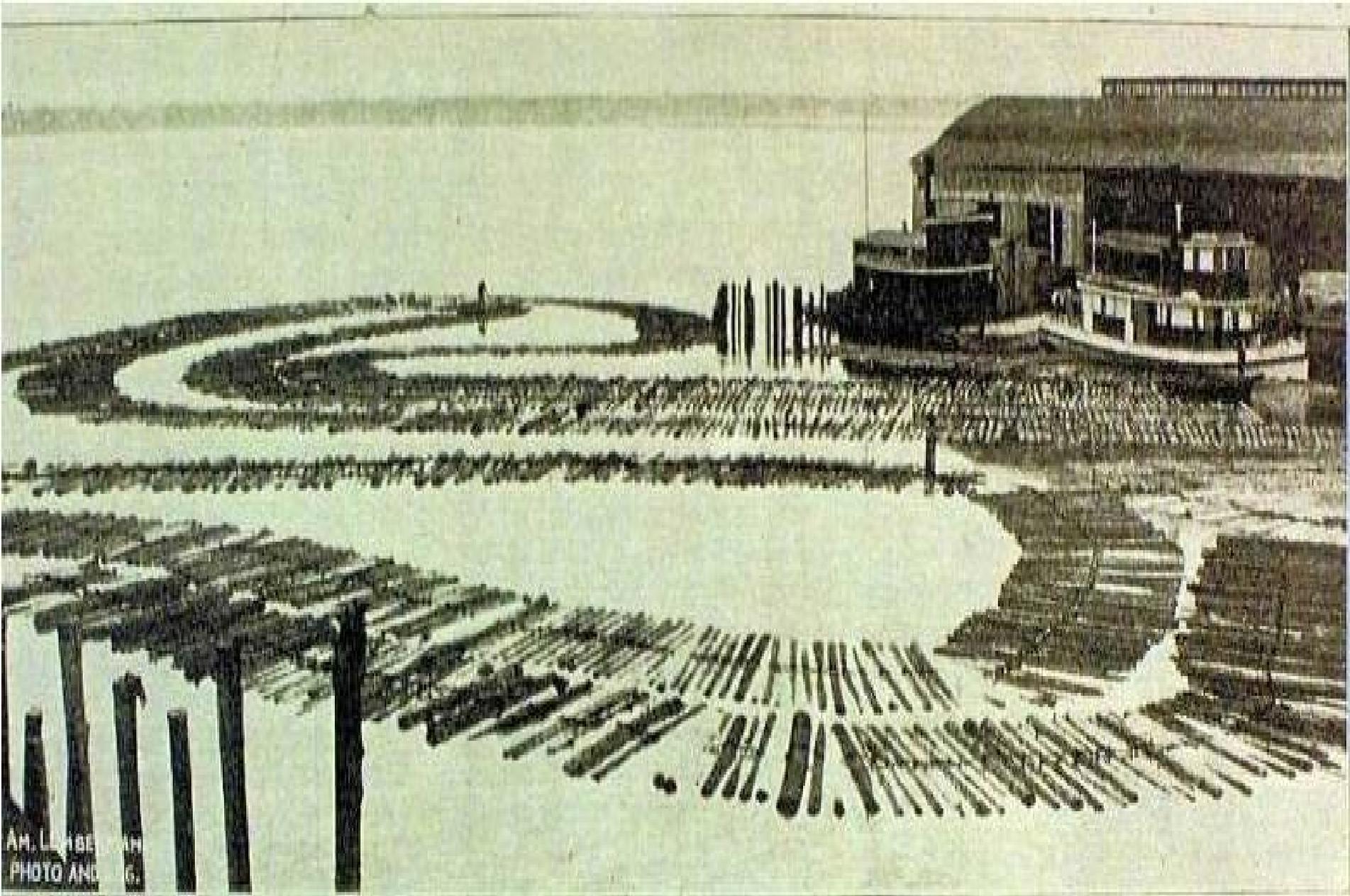
Map No. 2.
 Shaded Portions Show Timber Holdings of
 the John L. Roper Lumber Co. in Southeastern
 North Carolina.



AMERICAN LUMBERMAN.



One of the Many Log Trains Arriving Daily at the New Bern Mill of the John L. Roper Lumber Co.



AM. LUMBER CO.
PHOTO AND G.

Birdseye View of Log Rafts Arriving via Trent River at "Congdon" Mill, John L. Roper Lumber Co., New Bern, N. C.





Tobacco Farm Heyday (1870-2000)

- Cigarette demand grew after the Civil War, peaking in the 1960s.
- Small acreage. BIGGEST Money crop. ~1900~1990.
- Grown on well drained sandy soils, former longleaf pine sites.
- Tobacco harvesting: Social event, “Rite of Passage” for rural children.
- Allotment system (acreage/poundage) from 1938 until 2005.
- Dramatic decline: Number of farms and acres since 2005.
- 2012: NC ranks No. 1, producing 50% of US tobacco.
- Soybeans, corn, cotton, sweet potatoes, etc.









11/06/07 9:32 PM



Tree Farm Era (1937-Present)

- Pulp and paper industry moved South: second growth loblolly pine.
- Bought mostly lumber company lands.
- N C Pulp Co. / Weyerhaeuser Co. (1937-Present): 550,000 acres.
- High Yield Forestry: apply science and economics to maximize ROI.
- 1941: American Tree Farm System for private land owners.
- N C F S gives advice and administers financial incentive programs.
- International Paper, Westvaco, Union Camp, Champion International, Albemarle Paper, Riegel Paper, Halifax Paper, Horner Waldorf and Georgia-Pacific no longer forest landowners in ENC.
- TIMO's and REIT's are major tree farm owners since 1995.

POSTED

**TIMBER IS A
COMMUNITY ASSET**

Prevent Fires

NORTH CAROLINA PULP COMPANY

PLYMOUTH, N. C.

Telephone PLYMOUTH 3211



North Carolina Pulp Company Forestry Department 1947. Front row: Henry Wetherington, W.C. McCormick, Clyde Belangia, Dewitt Darden. Second row: K.S. Trowbridge, Paul Muller, Bill Keickhefer, E.K. Ach, Charlie Gardner, Rufus Crouch, Nick Denesuk. Third row: Jack Swain, J. Thomas, Ed Pitman, Don Ritter, M. Applefield, Howard Wright, Howard Duzan. Fourth row: Red Harris, Nelson White. Harold Nelson, the photographer, is not in the picture. The location is the front steps of the River Forest Manor in Belhaven.







Weyerhaeuser

Planted 1957

Harvested 1989

Planted 1990





2x4

2



Weyerhaeuser

PLYMOUTH N.C.

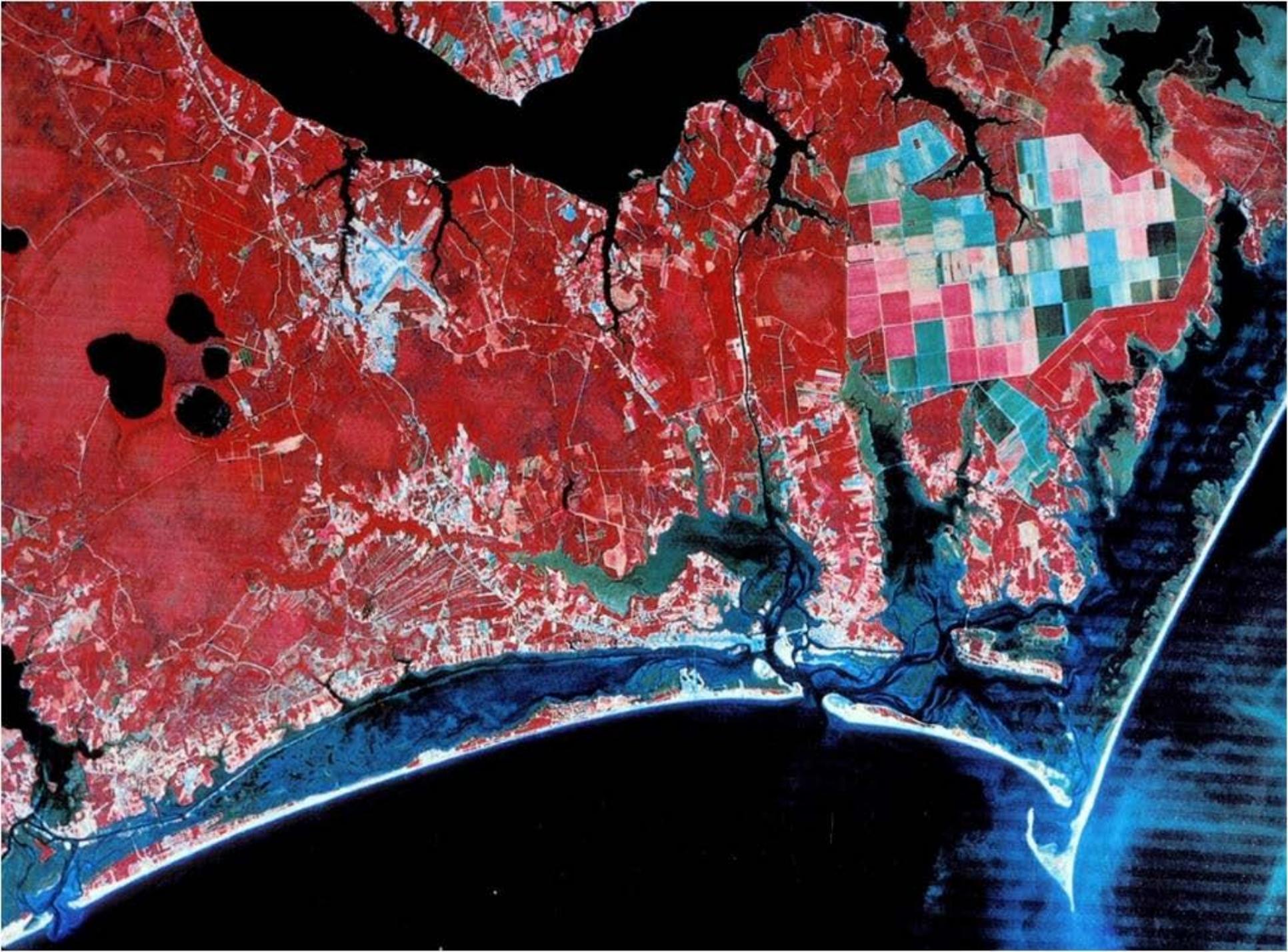
Super Farm: Dreams and Schemes (1766-Present)

- Vast tracts of forested wetlands in the lower Coastal Plain.
- Drainage canal systems required to convert to agriculture.
- 1766: George Washington: “Adventurers for Draining the Dismal Swamp.”
- 1909: N C Drainage District law: organize landowners to finance drainage work.
- 1912: Roper Lumber Co. : Albemarle Canal to log and to clear East Dismal Swamp. Create a super farm to sell to individual farmers. It worked!!

Super Farm: Dreams and Schemes cont.

- 1915-1932: Mattamuskeet Lake: New Holland Co. pump station/canals for super farm. It failed!
- 1919: Little Swift Creek Drainage District: Drain forest land in Beaufort and Craven Counties. Canals dug. Farms not cleared. A financial “heart ache” for many years.
- 1973: Open Grounds Farm --- largest farm in eastern US: 45,000 acres; 36,000 ac in crops.
- Et cetera: several more super farms 1960s to 1980s, curtailed by wetland regulations.





Wetland status for pocosins would tighten limits

FRIDAY

The Sun-Journal

APRIL 21, 1989

NEW BERN, N.C.

Determined few force wetlands review

Ed W. Hewitt
environmentally exempt, it said.
with Miller's eye routinely only coastal
The Corps applications it wins in 1988,
cted by the Act, so the as wetlands

could restrict companies from mining peat from such areas.
Inland coastal swamps dominated by evergreen shrubs are called pocosins. Such areas often contain peat soils, which are composed of partially decayed vegetation that can be used for fuel.
Peat covers 300 square miles of the Coastal Plain jutting into the Pamlico Sound. Several companies have applied for state and federal permits to mine the spongy earth and use it to fire power plants -- including one proposed for New Bern.

Wetlands rules affect farming

The Sun Journal, New Bern, NC 5/23/1989

Two-thirds of Pamlico County falls under SCS definition

Sun Journal New Bern NC Wednesday April 19, 1989

ing fox hunting that the board of com- rent law does not permit fair manage-

Industry, environmentalists say wetlands bill needs work

Sun Journal 5/11/89 New Bern, NC

By STEVE JONES
Staff Reporter

Industry and environmental representatives say

Roger Mays, vice president of the N.C. Coastal Federation, said he was not pleased with the exemption offered for farming.

Biologist urges wetlands protection

5/22/89 Sun Journal, New Bern, NC

ELIZABETH CITY (AP) — State laws regulating use of wetlands are not enough to protect those areas, a biologist with the U.S. Army Corps of

well as other exemptions that allow for the cutting of trees in wetland areas. Franklin also said that a federal permit allowed the discharging of fill material in other wetland

ing those areas added protection, he said.

Rich Shaw, coastal program analyst for the DCM, said last week that there had been little loss in

Group's letter prompts meet on wetlands

By STEVE JONES
Staff Reporter

never intended to go to the Coastal

A group about which few have any information has apparently forced a public meeting on Thursday night in the Crave Courthouse.

Barker drafting wetlands bill

By STEVE JONES

He could offer no details of what week that attracted approximately brought about the formation of the North Carolina Landowners Association be formed to look at the issue of wetlands protection prior to any bill

Conclusions

- Land uses have “life cycles”, including “peak years.”
- Essential land uses survive but evolve: food, fiber, building materials.
- Naval stores: 200 years, dominant industry for 100 years: 1760 and 1860.
- Timber boom: dominant industry: 50 years, 1880-1930.
- Tobacco, the Golden Weed: 130 years, dominant for 100 years, peaked in 1960's.
- Pulp and Paper: 80 years, peaked in 1990's, decline in demand for paper.

Conclusions cont.

- Dynamic changes in ownership of large forest and farmland holdings in last 50 years.
- Ownerships may change but maintain the same land use, but at different intensity.
- Weyerhaeuser: Integrated Forest Products: The Lone Survivor: Methuselah at 114 years, 57 (77) years in NC.
- Patterns: Fragmentation, consolidation, fragmentation, consolidation,
- Public ownership: State and Federal: Dramatic increase since 1934: Permanent; Game Over!!



**CONSERVATION
EASEMENT
BOUNDARY**

*North Carolina
Coastal Land Trust*

(910) 790-4524



COOL SPRINGS


Weyerhaeuser

Environmental
Education Center



COOL SPRINGS

Environmental
Education Center

LEGENDS OF SEAS

MID PINE

Mountain Heritage
Festival