

TAYLOR INTERIM REPORT 1

By William Thorndale, 29 October 2004

After checking some initial items, such as looking at the Norfolk county, Virginia, colonial tax lists published since my Taylor research in the 1970s, and receiving a great amount of material from Gayle Hix of Idaho Falls, three major projects were accomplished this October 2004:

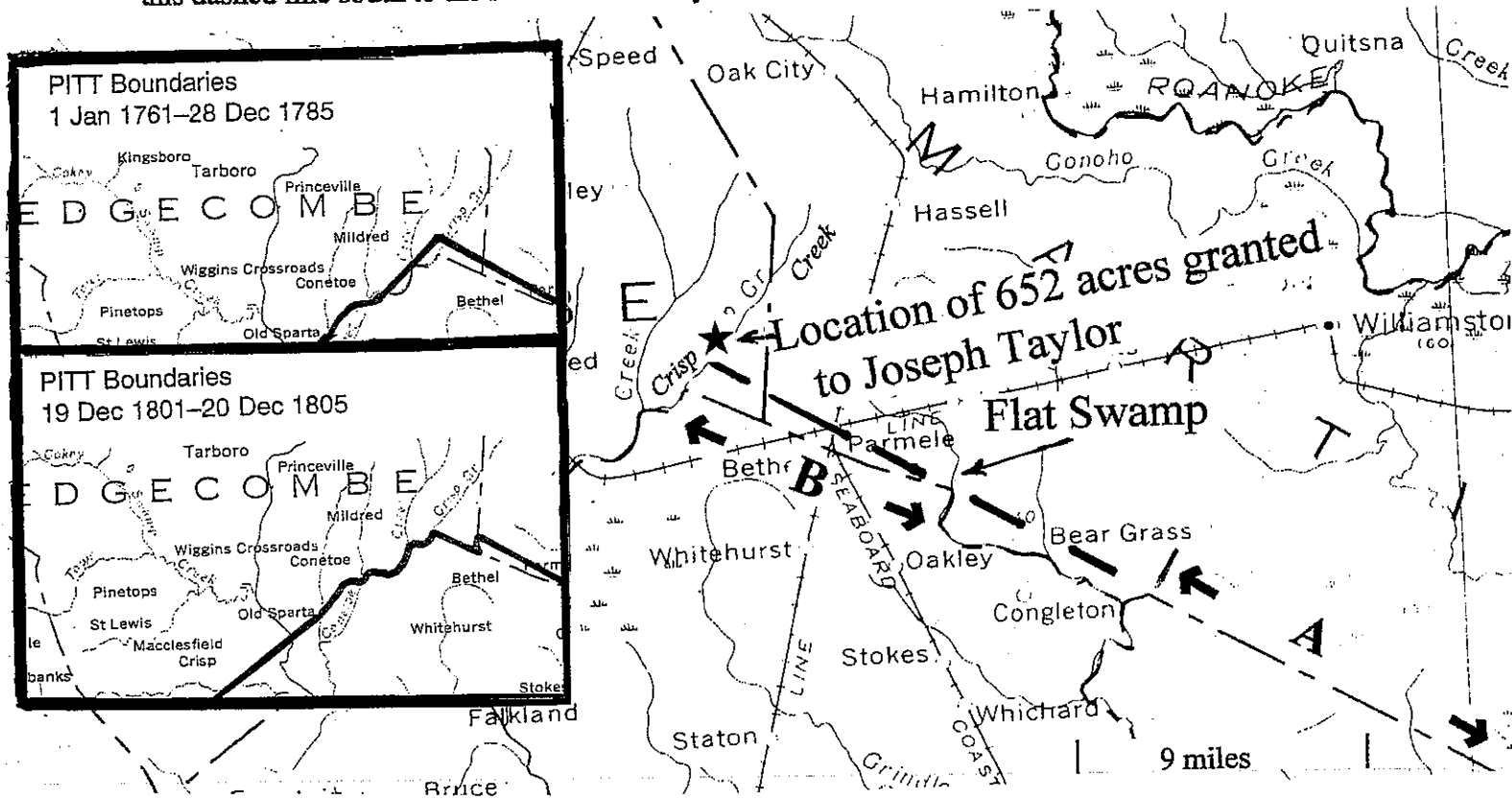
1. Working through Shari Franke's *Family History of the Joseph Taylor, Jr. (ca. 1751-1819) and Sarah Best (ca. 1764-1836) Family*, vol. 1 (Ogden, UT: 2003), to compile a crib of the pages where the early generations are found. While Franke has done an admirable and prodigious job of collecting so much material, the format presenting the lineages makes it difficult to locate siblings. For instance, Richard Taylor, Sr., appears on pages 138, 185, and 190, while his nine known children are found as John (pp. 138, 193), Thomas (142), Richard (158), Maxwell (162), Abby (162), Mary (163), Nancy (176), Blaney (176), and Tabitha (185). Assembling six pages of longhand notes on where the early generations appear in Franke's volume revealed no mention of the Revolutionary War veteran Richard Taylor. He applied for a veteran's pension in 1832 while living in Edgecombe county, where the 652 acres of Joseph Taylor, Sr., lay and still lies since 1794, saying he had been at the battle of Guilford Courthouse. Gayle Hix believes this Richard Taylor could be the older brother of Joseph Jr., and several facts make this plausible: (1) family tradition also puts Joseph Jr. at the Guilford Courthouse battle; (2) Richard in his 1832 pension claim gave his age as 85, born in Virginia, which equals 1747, a good fit with Joseph Jr. born about 1751; and (3) Richard's name and county suggest he was one of the Coneto Taylors. This theory needs confirmation from the censuses 1785 to 1830, which will be checked.
2. Compiling a set of county boundary maps to provide a quick reference to the adjoining counties around the Joseph Taylor family. These eight maps are attached.
3. Platting the early land patents on Crisp creek to provide a sense of who were the earliest neighbors of Joseph Taylor, Sr. (What is now Crisp creek was first called Coneto Swamp, then Coneto creek, then the south or east prong of Coneto, then Little Coneto, and now Crisp.) The attached large-scale assemblage of tracts, as plotted on the 1:24,000 topographical scale, shows that the 652 acres Joseph Sr. patented on 24 November 1760 had its south boundary across from the mouth of Horse Pen branch, and its northeast boundary along Coneto=Crisp's Cabin branch. It seems William Barden on the east bank of Coneto=Crisp settled between these two branches, with his adjoining neighbors were John Holland on the north bank of Cabin by 1752 and William Crisp on the south bank of Horse Pen. All three men appear in the 1755 tax list* for Tyrrell county, which then included Coneto=Crisp creek, but this 1755 list has no Joseph or Richard Taylor. Since Joseph Taylor, Sr., entered his land in 1756 (surveyed and patented in 1760), these dates seem to pinpoint very closely when the Taylors came to Coneto.

Research in November will compile the Taylors (and three men mentioned in #3) in the Tyrrell and the adjoining county records for the 1750s and 1760s, and then collect the Taylors up to the 1790 census to catch the Revolutionary veteran Richard Taylor (b.c1747). Then research will turn to Norfolk county, Virginia, where surely the Taylors originated.

FINIS

*There are no other extant tax lists for Tyrrell until 1782.

The most detailed authorities on North Carolina county boundaries are Gordon DenBoer, *North Carolina: Atlas of Historical Boundaries*, John H. Long, gen. ed. (New York, 1998), and David Leroy Corbitt, *The Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943* (1969; reprinted with additions, Raleigh, NC, 1975). As shown by the two reproduced details from his book, DenBoer draws the 18th-century line in the vicinity of Coneto and Crisp creeks a little north of the modern line, his line a projection west beyond Flat Swamp of what I have labeled segment A on the large map that comprises this page. DenBoer's projection west gives a boundary, indicated on the large map by a dashed line, north of the modern line. But I cannot find any legislation moving this dashed line south to the modern boundary.



Therefore I believe the line from Flat Swamp to Crisp Creek was surveyed where it still lies. The 1801 transfer from Pitt to Edgecombe in the vicinity of Coneto-Crisp only makes sense if the modern line B existed in that year. Notice also that line A extended to Flat Swamp crosses that waterway where the modern line starts west from Flat Swamp. It seems that the surveyors west from Flat Swamp drifted a little south. So I diverge from DenBoer's reconstruction and extend the *modern* line B west as the 18th-century boundary.

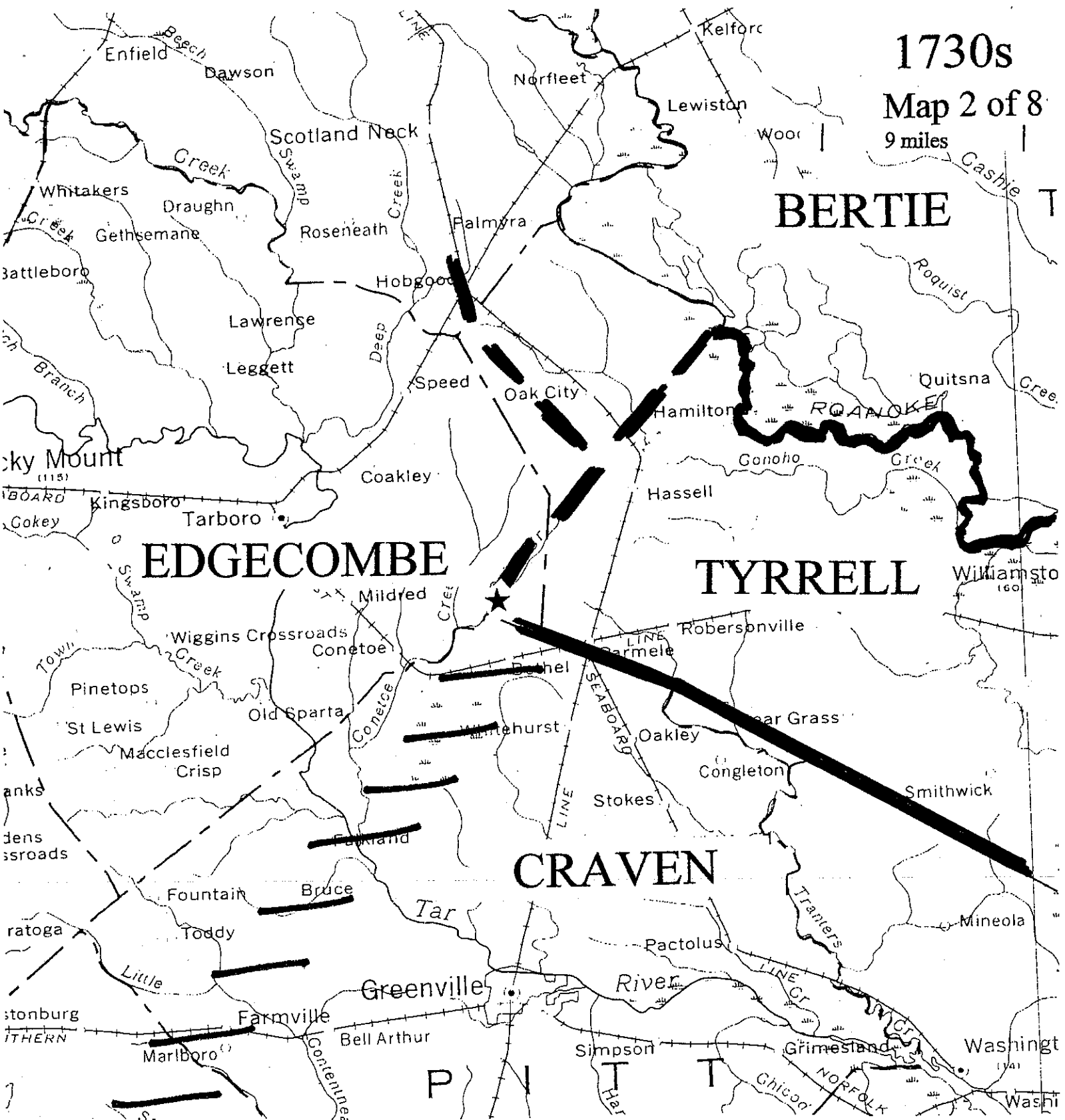
Whether I or DenBoer is correct can only be determined by working out the land-grant plats and deeds in the Crisp Creek area to see if any boundary points touch the county line, hence showing where the county line stood in the 18th century. It ought not be a surprise to note that we around the year 2000 can draw perfect straight lines, but colonial surveyors had to cope with primitive equipment, erratic compass readings, and detours around swamps.

All this matters because DenBoer's 18th-century line in the vicinity of Crisp Creek puts his line perhaps half a mile farther north than the modern boundary. His line might possibly throw the south end of the Joseph Taylor tract into the wrong county.

1730s

Map 2 of 8

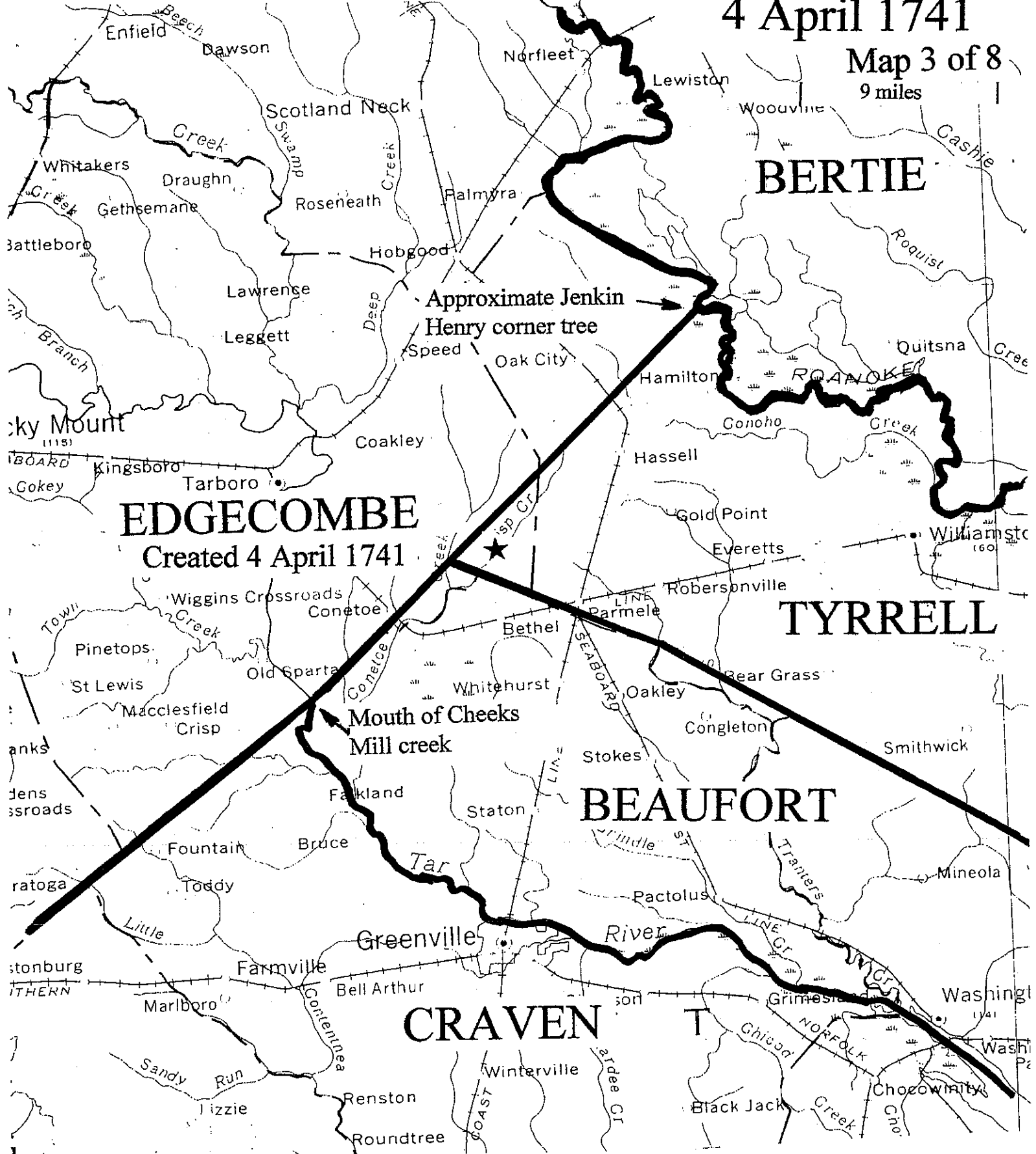
9 miles



Archdale precinct created in 1705, renamed Craven precinct in 1712, and became Craven county in 1739. Tyrrell precinct created 27 November 1729 from Bertie, Chowan, Pasquotank, and Perquiman precincts. Edgewcombe county created effective 4 April 1741, but it had been functioning in some fashion for a decade, its deeds beginning in 1732 and a will extant from 1733. The confusion arose because the governor and Council on 16 May 1732 granted a petition for the formation of a new precinct south of Roanoke river, but the unconsulted legislature refused to confirm the new Edgewcombe precinct or to seat its elected representatives, the dispute continuing to 1741. In the 1730s the county boundaries in the area of Crisp creek were very indefinite.

4 April 1741

Map 3 of 8
9 miles

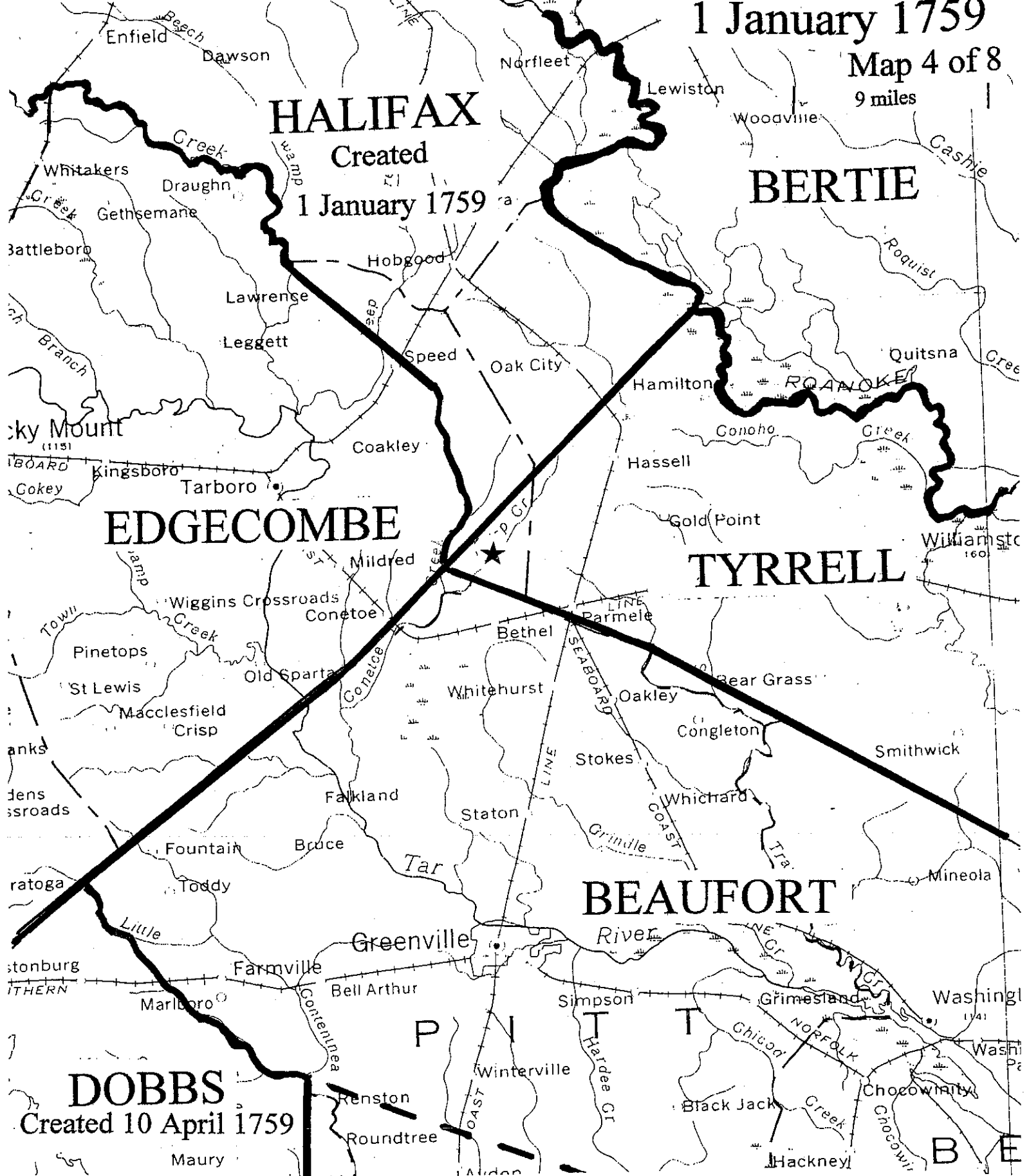


In the 4 April 1741 formal creation of Edgewcombe county, the pertinent line for Crisp creek was to run from Jenkin Henry's corner tree on Roanoke river a direct line to the mouth of Cheeks Mill creek on Tar River. Note that in 1746 the southwestern part of Craven county on this map (now Greene county) was included in the new county of Johnston.

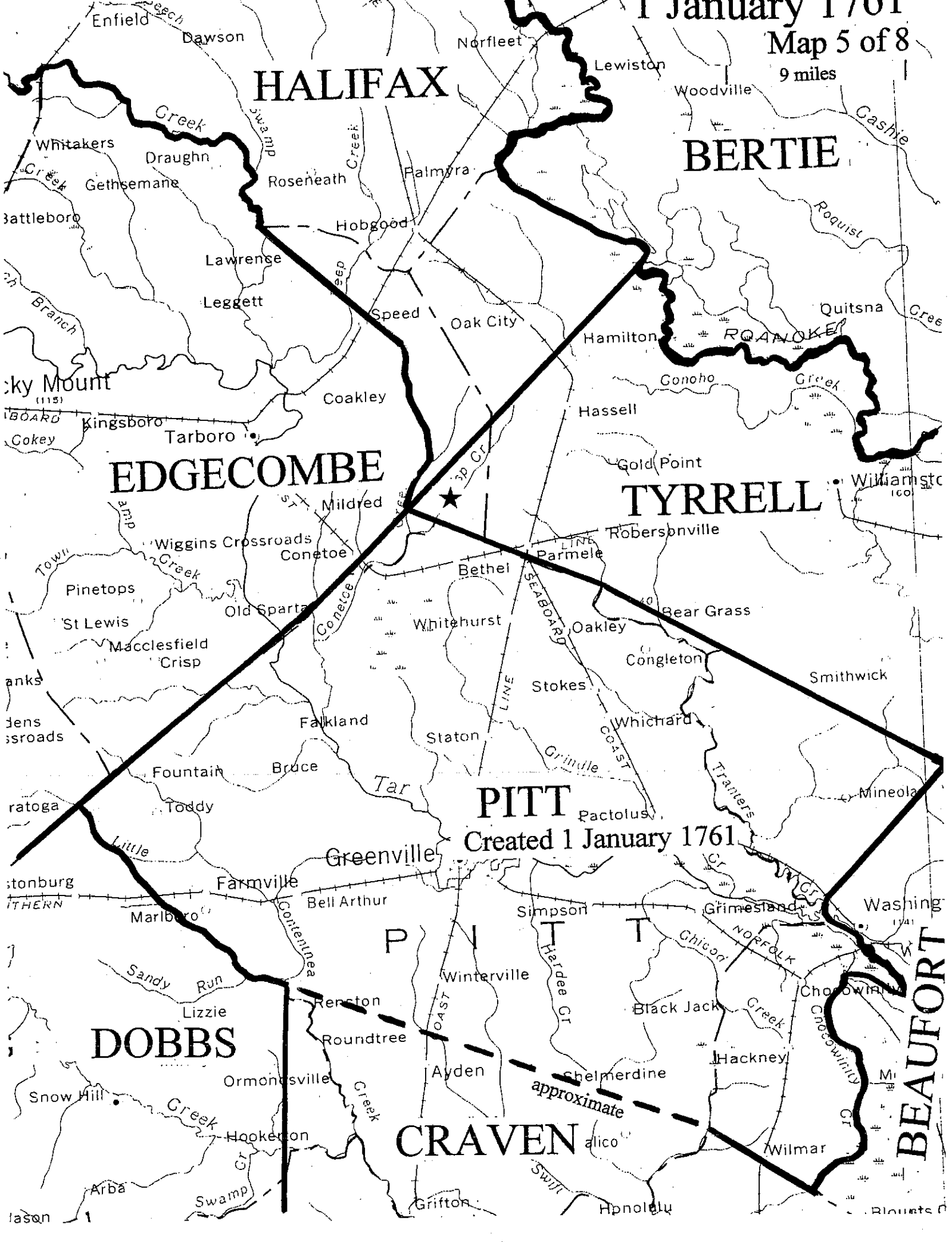
1 January 1759

Map 4 of 8

9 miles



Halifax county created effective 1 January 1759 from Edgecombe. The creation act gives no boundaries, saying only the Edgecombe's St. Mary parish will remain Edgecombe county, and its Edgecombe parish will become the new county of Halifax. Dobbs county was created effective 10 April 1759. Note that in November 1755 the area south of Tar river was taken from Craven and added to Beaufort.



HALIFAX

BERTIE

EDGECOMBE

TYRRELL

PITT
Created 1 January 1761

DOBBS

CRAVEN

BEAUFORT

HALIFAX

BERTIE

MARTIN

Created 19 March 1774

EDGECOMBE

PITT

DOBBS

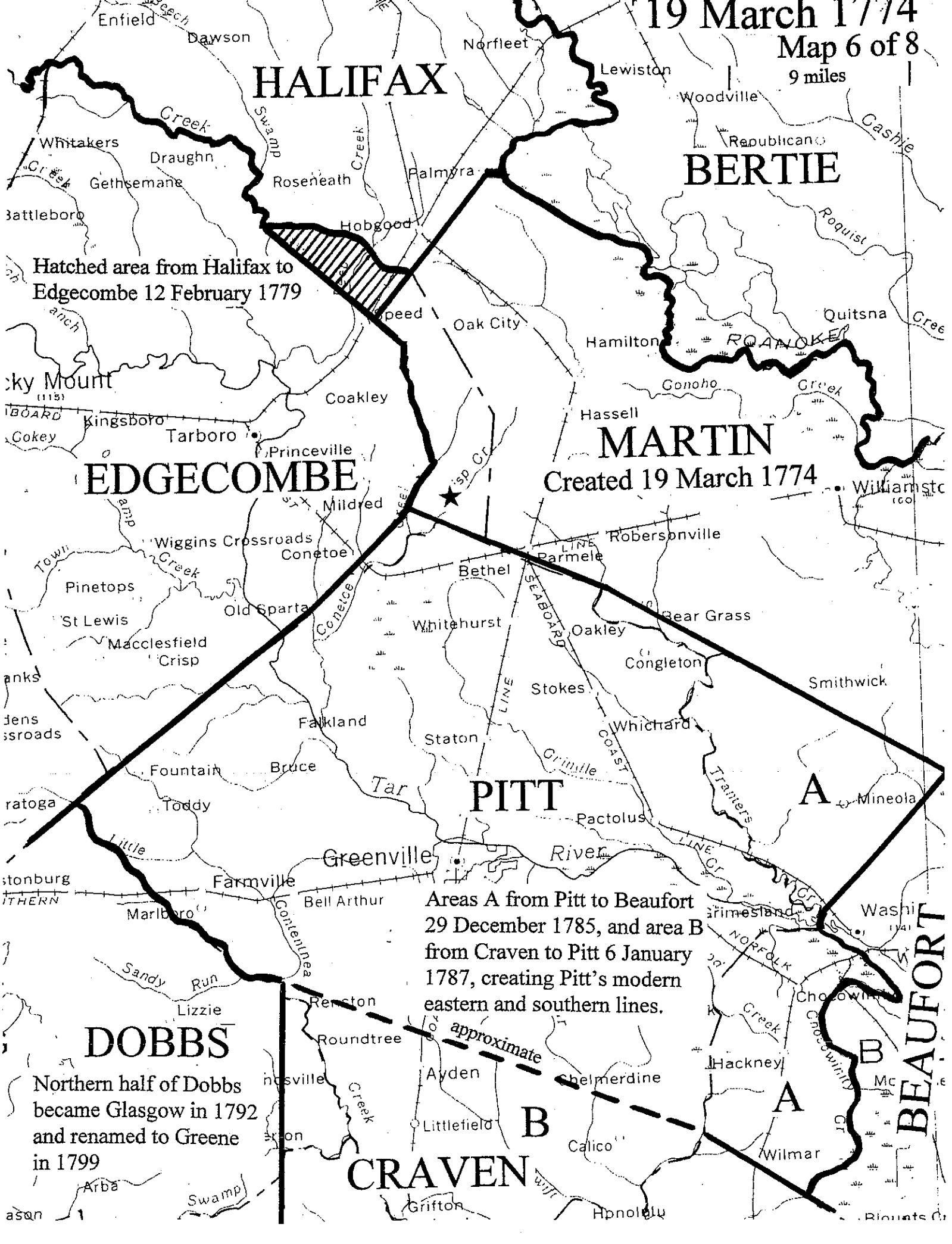
CRAVEN

BEAUFORT

Hatched area from Halifax to Edgecombe 12 February 1779

Areas A from Pitt to Beaufort 29 December 1785, and area B from Craven to Pitt 6 January 1787, creating Pitt's modern eastern and southern lines.

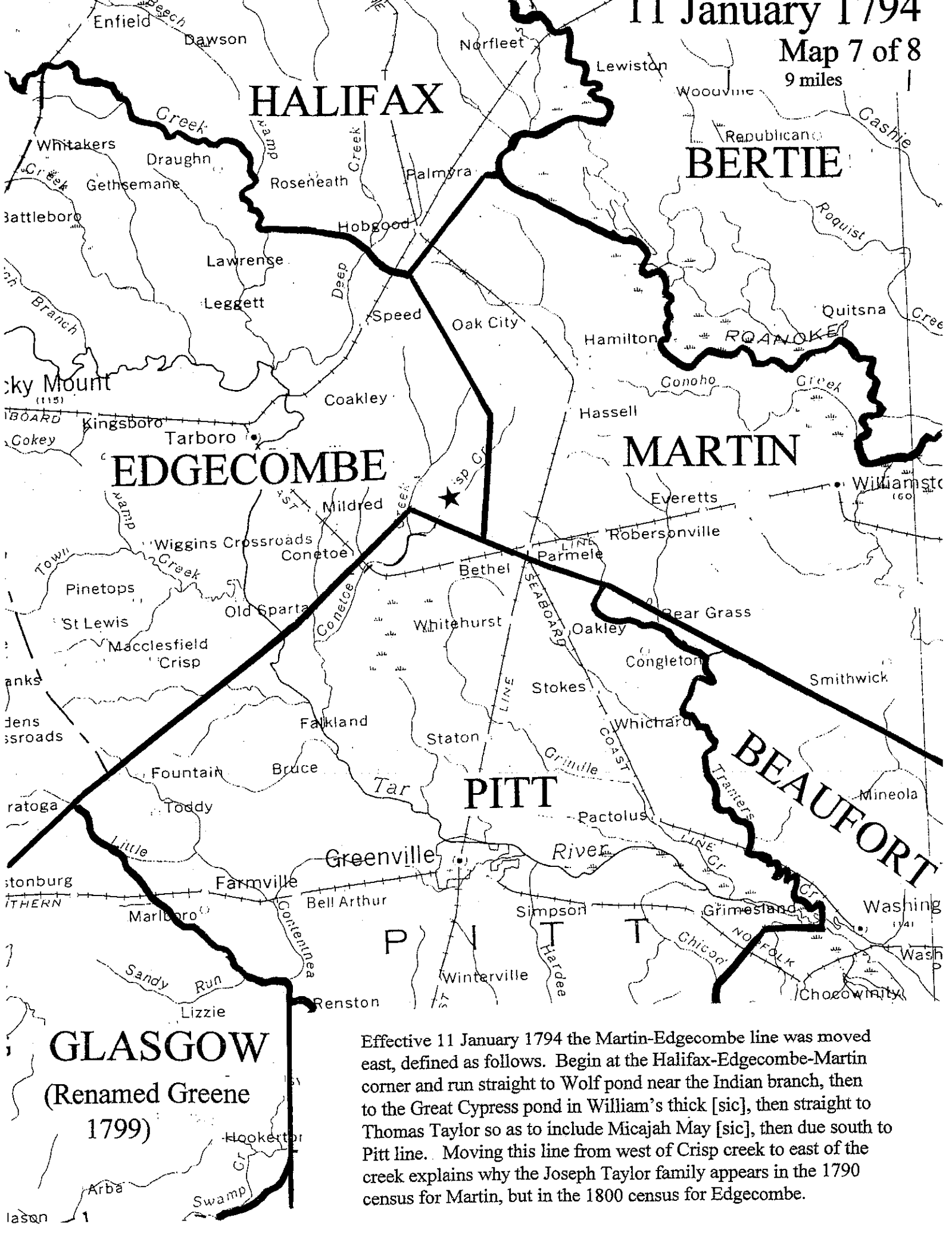
Northern half of Dobbs became Glasgow in 1792 and renamed to Greene in 1799



11 January 1794

Map 7 of 8

9 miles



EDGECOMBE

HALIFAX

BERTIE

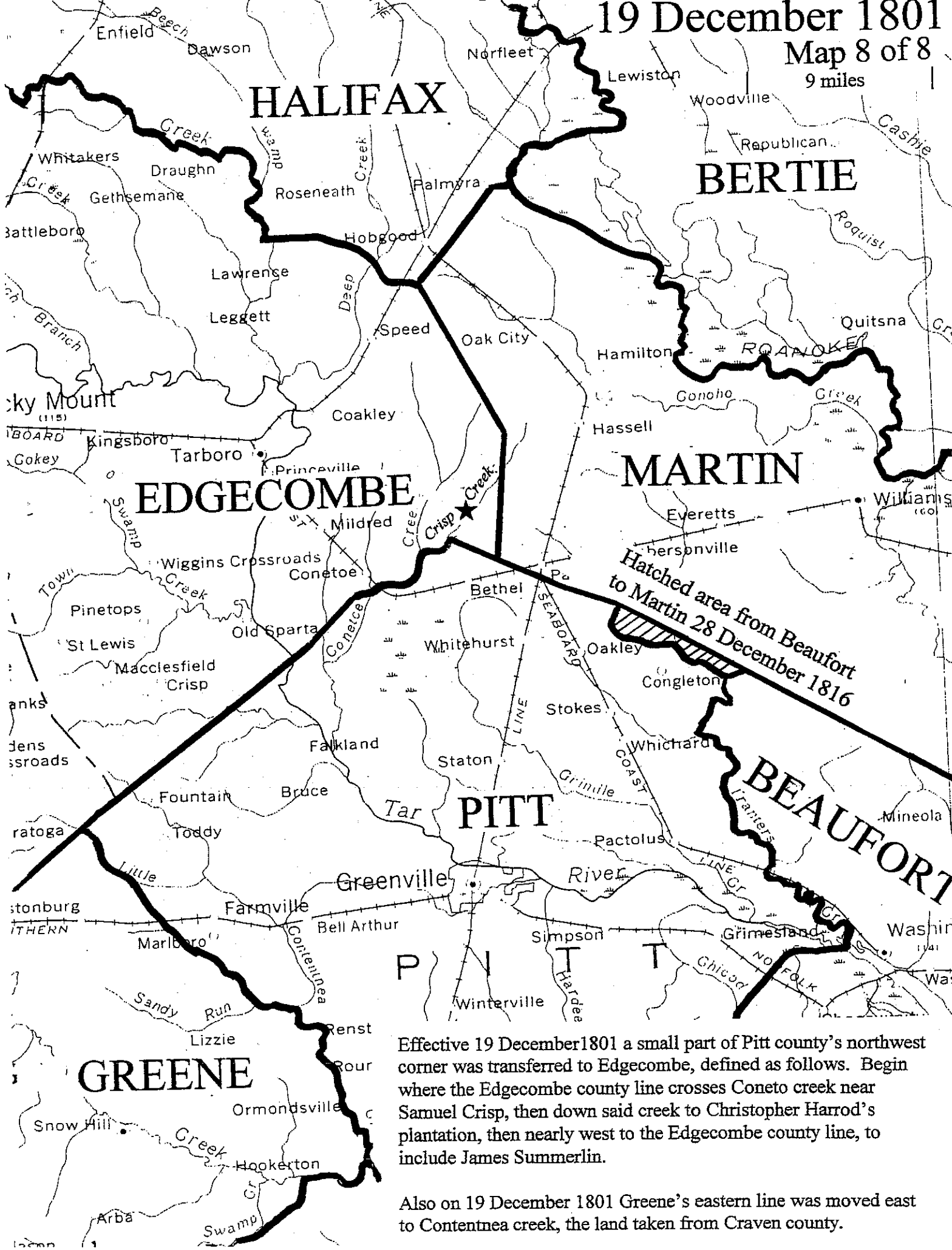
MARTIN

PITT

BEAUFORT

GLASGOW
(Renamed Greene
1799)

Effective 11 January 1794 the Martin-Edgecombe line was moved east, defined as follows. Begin at the Halifax-Edgecombe-Martin corner and run straight to Wolf pond near the Indian branch, then to the Great Cypress pond in William's thick [sic], then straight to Thomas Taylor so as to include Micajah May [sic], then due south to Pitt line. Moving this line from west of Crisp creek to east of the creek explains why the Joseph Taylor family appears in the 1790 census for Martin, but in the 1800 census for Edgecombe.



Effective 19 December 1801 a small part of Pitt county's northwest corner was transferred to Edgecombe, defined as follows. Begin where the Edgecombe county line crosses Coneto creek near Samuel Crisp, then down said creek to Christopher Harrod's plantation, then nearly west to the Edgecombe county line, to include James Summerlin.

Also on 19 December 1801 Greene's eastern line was moved east to Contentnea creek, the land taken from Craven county.