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In Search of Uauenee (or the Great Bluff)

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In Search of Uauenee (or the Great Bluff)

On the following pages, excerpts from the *Indian Trade Commissioners Journal, 1716-1718* discuss the location of the Indian Trading House which was being established for the purpose of cultivating trade with the Indians living in areas north of Georgetown, South Carolina.

William Waties, Sr., who owned much land in what is now Horry County, S.C., was appointed Factor for that Trading House. The following entries deal with Waties' suggestion to the Commissioners that Saukey was the best place for the Trading House and his subsequent decision that Uauenee would be a better place. Over time, the spelling of the name Uauenee has been corrupted to Yauhannah. Originally, the name applied to a large area in the vicinity of the Great Pee Dee, Bull Creek and Waccamaw River that was situated in what we know today as Georgetown and Horry Counties. Early colonial land grants confirm that the name Uauenee or Yauhannah referred to an area in both present day Horry and Georgetown Counties and not just to one particular bluff.

In recent years it was assumed that the location that the commissioners were referring to for the Trading House was the Yauhannah Bluff in Georgetown County, adjacent to Highway 701, that particular bluff having retained that name most successfully. That idea is now being challenged. The *Commissioners Journal* refers to, "Uauenee (or the Great Bluff)", "Uauenee (otherwise called the Great Bluff)" and "YourEnee."

There is a very substantial sand bluff in Horry County that runs for approximately one mile along Bull Creek. While the Yauhannah Bluff in Georgetown County is definitely a large bluff and was a place of activity in the early 1700s, if one compares the two bluffs there is no doubt that the one in Horry County would be described as the greater of the two. Also, it is interesting that the land that the bluff in present-day Horry County remained a government holding longer than the surrounding lands. The Trading House was a government run facility and this could account for it remaining in government hands. Waties' son, William Waties, Jr., later gained title to some of the adjoining land and it seems probable that he would have applied for the higher bluff if it was available at that time.

For these reasons, as well as for others stated by William Waties, Sr. and recorded in the *Commissioners Journal*, it is a good possibility that the Great Bluff mentioned in the *Commissioners Journal* as the location of the Indian Trading House was the Great Bluff on Bull Creek in present-day Horry County.

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The Great Bluff on Bull Creek in Horry County, SC.

**South Carolina
Indian Trade Commissioners Journal, 1716-1718
Edited by W.L. McDowell**

Monday, July 16, 1716

Met according to Adjournment.

Present: Ralph Izard, Esq., Col. Jon. Barnwell, Charles Hill, Esq., and Capt. Jonathan Drake.

Mr. Watis, Sr., appearing at the Board, according to a former Order, informed us that Saukey is a more proper and convenient Place for settling a Factory and Trading House at, then the old Caseka's on Black River, for a Commerce with the Pedeas and Wackamaw Indians.

Ordered therefore, that Saukey be the appointed Place, for settling the Factory at, instead of the old Casekey's.

Agreed with William Watis, Sr., to officiate as Factor there, for one hundred Pounds Salary for one Year, and to allow him fifty Pounds for building of a logg House, at the said Saukey, of twenty-five Feet Length and fourteen Feet wide.

The said Watis likewise informed us that Henry Farwell is a fit Person, to be his Assistant, in managing the Trade.

Resolved that the said Watis be empowered to agree with Hen. Farwell for his Assistant for that Purpose, on Condition that the said Farwell will accept of fifty Pounds Salary per Annum, and accordingly the said Watis was ordered to make him that Offer.

Mr. Barthm. Gaillard informed the Board, that some of the Wineau Indians were seated at Santee, and have been found beneficial to that Part of this Province, for their

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Safety, by keeping the Negroes there in Awe, and desired us to take that Matter into Consideration, and proposed the Settling a small Factory there, to ingage those Indians to continue among them, and further offered to manage that Trade, gratis.

The Board taking that Matter into Consideration, resolved to lay it before the Assembly at their next Meeting.

Adjourned till tomorrow Morning, eight of the Clock.

Friday, September 21, 1716

The Board met according to Adjournment.

Present: Col. John Barnwell, Charles Hill, Esq., and Capt. Jonatn. Drake.

William Watis, Factor, having further represented Uauenee (or the Great Bluff) to be the most safe and convenient Settlement, for a trading House, with the Indians, and having offered his Reasons for the same; desired our Determination of that Place for a Factory.

The Board taking the same into their Consideration; for the following Reasons, do esteem the said Uauenee (otherwise called the Great Bluff) to be the most commodious Place for a Factory and trade with the Northward Indians; viz.: 1st, its Vicinity to our English Plantations, will afford us News from thence, at all Times, by Land, within three or four Days, at most; whereas Saukey (the appointed Place) is much more remote; 2^{ndly}, that Saukey being only covered by the Pedeas, is exposed to the Insults of the Charraws; 3^{rdly}, that (besides the Interest it will be to us, in obliging the Wackamaws, a People of greater Consequence then the Pedeas, by such a Settlement), Uauenee being contiguous to the Wackamaws lies doubly fortified against any forreign Attempt; 4^{thly}, that this place, as on the one Hand, it is preferable for a ready Commerce with the Wackamaws, the most populous of those two Nations; so on the other Hand, 'tis the best seated for a general Concourse and frequent.

Resolved therefore that the said Uauenee, be the Place for settling the Northward Factory at, instead of Saukey.

Ordered that William Waties, Factor, do now build the trading House (formerly designed on Saukey) at Uauenee, as aforesaid.

The Goods and Necessaries for the Northward Factory, being provided and delivered to William Waties, Factor, according to Order, with an Invoice thereof, amounting to, eighty six Pounds, fifteen Shillings and three Pence, Charges included (as appears per Invoice Book, in Folio 5) the present Instructions, given by us to the said Waties, are as follows, viz., ...

Monday, November 26, 1716

The Board met according to Adjournment.

Present: Col. John Barnwell, Charles Hill, Esq., and Capt. Jonath. Drake.

Received by Saml. Teed, a Letter from Mr. William Waties, Factor at Wineau, as per e (No. 5) Bundle.

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Samuel Teed (the Carpenter, hired of Capt. Porter) being examined at the Board, relates; "That he left Mr. Waties on Sunday, the 18th Instant, at the Factory, at Euauenee, and that he hath built a log House of twelve Feet by ten, at that Place, to secure the Trade there, and that Mr. Waties sent him down by land, with the before mentioned Letter; that he paid for Provision and ferrying over, at several Places he came through, the Sum of twenty Shillings, and that coming to Seawe, at one Mr. Collins', a Cooper, he discerned Signs of the Dressing of Deer Skins there, by a Parcel of Hair newly shaved from the Hides, and believes that the Inhabitants thereabouts have Dealings with the Indians, but he did not see any such Action the Time he was there; and the said Teed likewise confirmed several Passages in the Letter from Mr. Waties, aforesaid."

Ordered, that Ralph Izard, Esq., Cashier, repay out of the Stock of the Indian Trade, unto Samuel Teed, or Order, the Sum of twenty Shillings, current Money, for his Charges and Expenses at several Places, in his Journey from the Factory at Wineau to Charles Town.

Resolved, that Samuel Teed be and he is hereby discharged from the Service of this Board...

Saturday, August 10, 1717

The Board met according to Adjournment.

Present: Col. George Logan, Col. Jno. Barnwell, and Capt. Jona. Drake.

Wrote to Meredith Hughes, Factor for Wineau, the following Letter; and sent the same per the Periaugoe belonging to that Factory, viz.;

"We are now to answer your several Letters, viz.; one from Watchetsan without Date, received the 3d Instant per John Evans; one dated July the 28th past, from Wineau, received per Ditto, and one dated the 3d Instant, this Day received. The Skins in the Periaugoe, came to Hand; but not without Loss and Damage (as usual) for besides the Want of thirty-odd Skins, (according to Evans' Receipt) we find many wet and some rotten and spoiled by means of bad Stowage, and your unadvisedly detaining the Tarpawling (as he informes us) which was provided for no other Use, then to preserve the Goods and Skins, in the Periaugoe, because the Publick had heretofore suffered so much (in the Skins we have received) for want of it.

The Periaugoe being much out of Repair, when she came down, and having lost the Rudder, Oars and some other Implements belonging to her, occasions so tedious a Stay at this Time, in order to refit her.

We have considered the Subject of your several Letters, and find the Dread you have of the Charraws hath occasioned your Removal from our Trading House, at YourEnee, and interrupted the Commerce you had with the Indians there. We have represented the Matter to the Deputy Governour, together with the Circumstances of that Part of the Province, which seems so exposed to the Incursions of the Charraws, and hope speedy Care will be taken for the Security of the Inhabitants there, and to ease them of their present Troubles and Apprehensions; in the Meantime we thought fit to dispatch the Periaugoe back to you, under the Care of these Indians; it being our Will and Order that you come to Charles Town, with our whole Trade and Effects under your

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Management, together with your Accounts, as soon as you shall find most convenient, where we shall consider of such Measures as you have to offer concerning the Establishment of the Trade with the Indians of Wineau &c. for the Good of the Publick, with more Safety. If you find it expedient for the Publick Service, bring down with you two or three of the Chief Men of the Wackamaws, not forgetting such of them as have been most zealous for our Interest. We send you only six Blankets, not knowing but they may be ingaged by you. As for Provision, you now being among the Inhabitants, we suppose you cannot be in great Want, however we send you three Pounds inclosed, as well to pay what Mr. Waties took up of that Kind (though he never gave us any Account of it) as to supply yourself, until we see you, which we look for shortly, &c.”...

