

How Shoreline Changes Since 1709 May Have Impacted Eight Sites In Northeastern North Carolina Suggested As Possible Locations Of Blackbeard's Lost Treasure

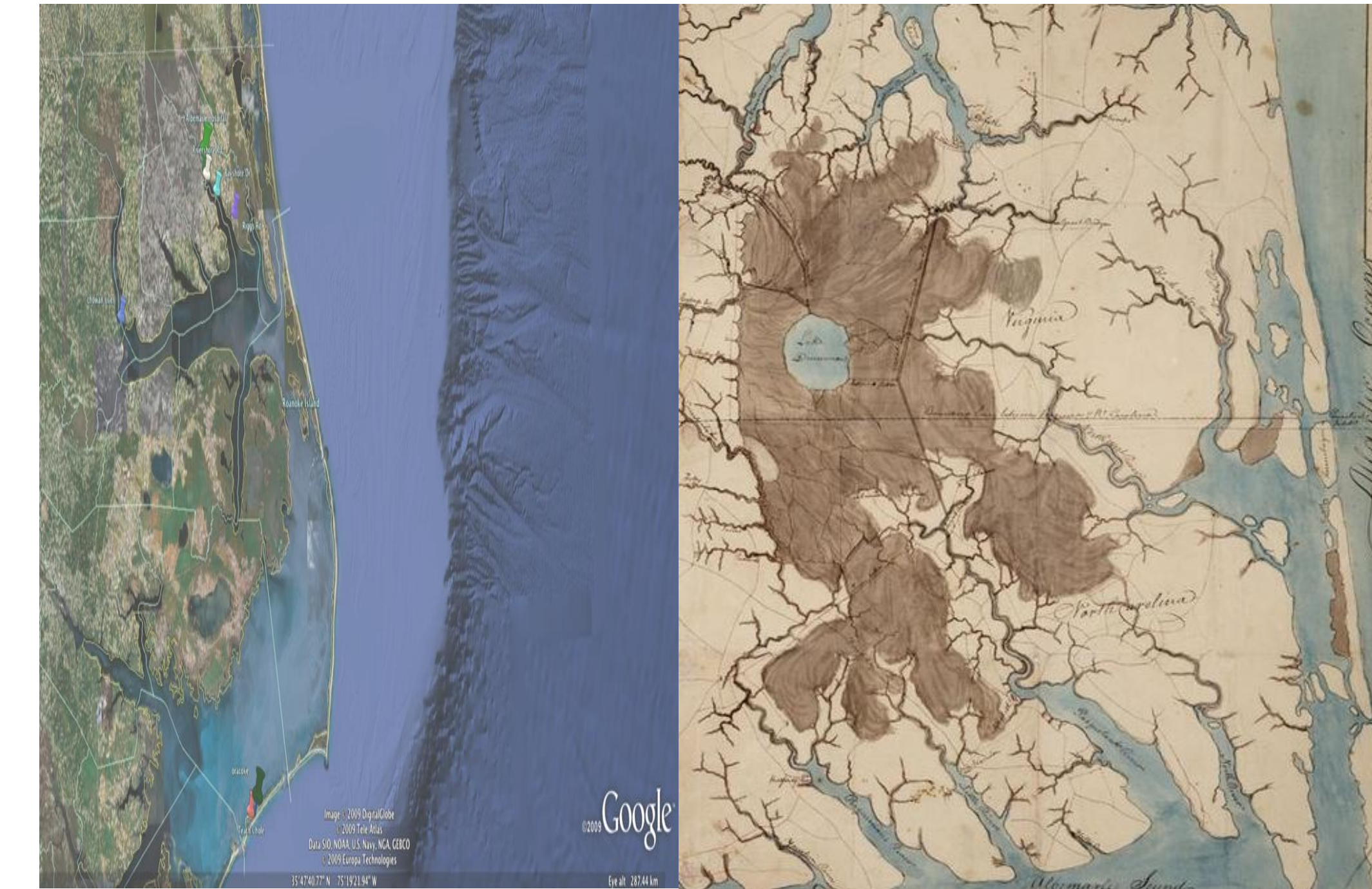
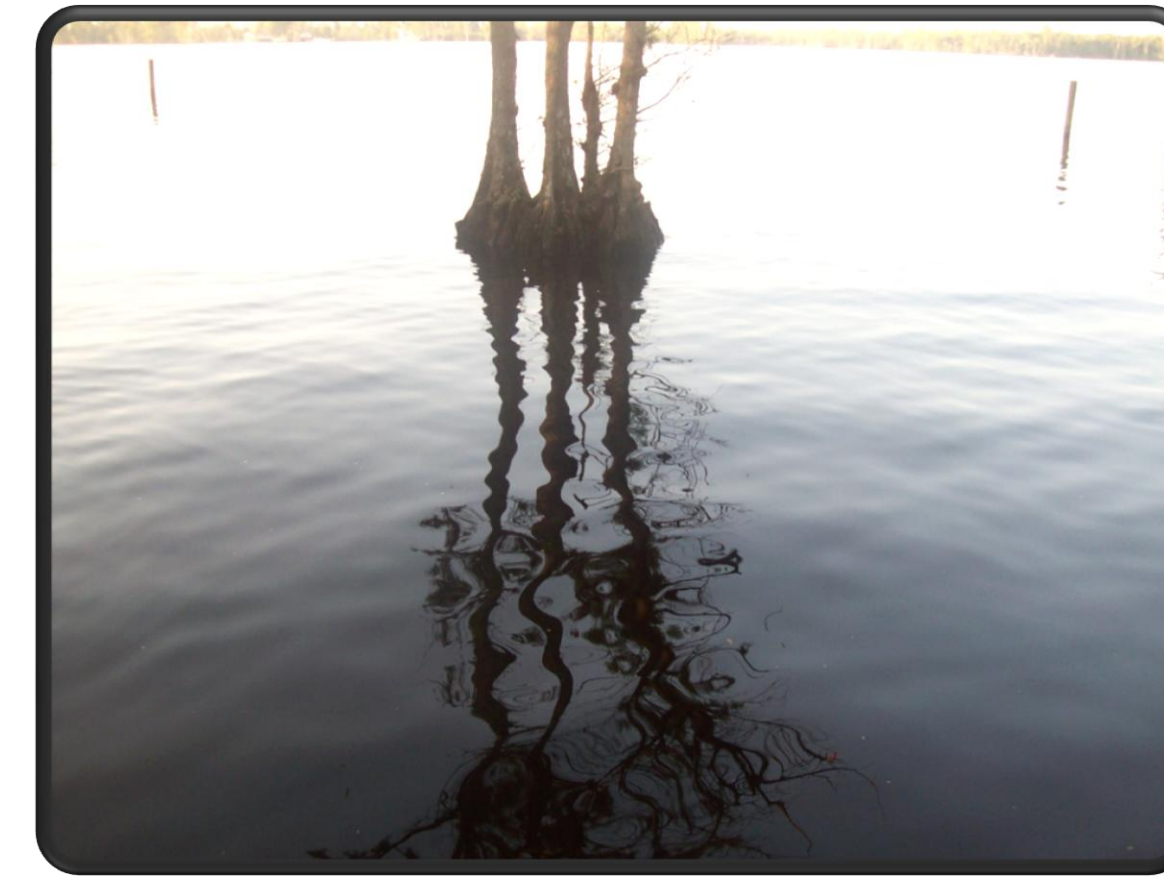
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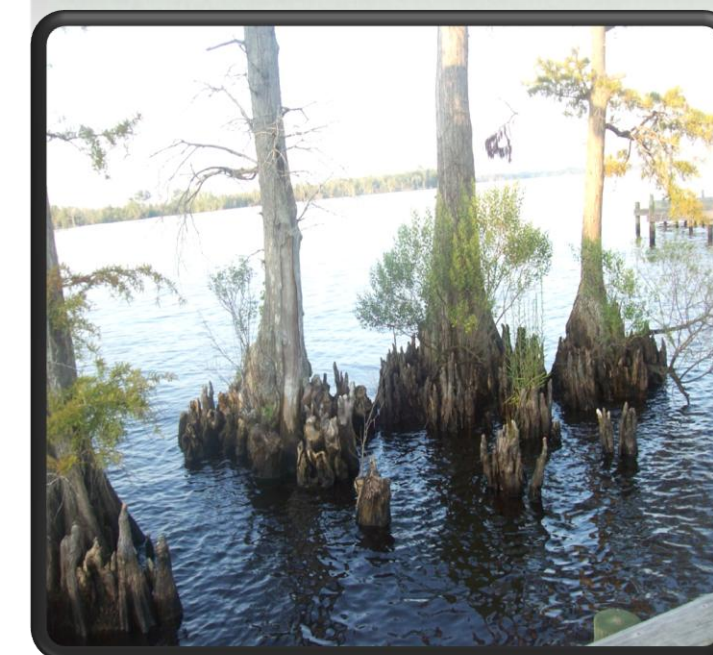
Hypothesis

Based on our initial research we hypothesize that Chowan River, Orocoke Island, Riggs Roads will be more conducive to finding Blackbeard's treasure.



Abstract

Shorelines in North Carolina, including the Albemarle Sound, which is the predominate inland sound located in Northeastern North Carolina, have changed due to a variety of natural and human influences over the past 300 years (1709 to 2009). Examples of these factors have included, but may not have been limited to hurricanes, canal dredging, silt runoff, vegetation burning, timber harvesting, and urban and rural development. Historical data searches were conducted using internet and library hard copy sources. Historical documents, including texts, drawings, diaries, marine logs, and maps spanning approximately 300 years from 1709 to 2009 were reviewed. More recent and current data was collected using existing remote sensed imagery and ground penetrating radar data, marine charts, geological maps, video graphic histories, and other data, including that obtained from informal discussions with local citizens. Data collected was compiled and collectively analyzed using qualitative tables uniquely designed for this project in an effort to gain a better understanding of how shoreline changes during the past 300 years may have affected the eight sites identified as possible locations where Blackbeard's treasure, if it does exist, may be hidden. This information can be useful for a variety of other studies that promote cultural, historical and geographical literacy as well as the arts and sciences. An example of such is determining possible locations of Blackbeard's treasure, which, according to popular literacy and local lore, is believed to have been buried somewhere in Northeastern North Carolina.



Method

Historical data review to determine quantitative components such as number and strength or natural elements and levels or density development the team used a simple additive formula to rank current developed ranking system based upon 1 being the most likely to place to find the treasure and 7 being least likely place having commutative impact on the original location of the treasure.

References

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Results	#	Site Name	Hurricanes 1851-P Any cat. 1-5	Tropical Storms 1851-P	Floods 1708-P (doesn't say for sure where all)	Tsunamis	Earthquake	EPA Superfund	Canal Construction	Development
97	5	1 Chowan River	34	44	0	0	18	0	GDS-Beauford	1
71	1	2 Old Albemarle Hospital(River Shore Rd)	11	38	1-1999	0	18	0	GDS	3
88	2	3 Orocoke Island	16	46	0	0	20	0	GDS	6
93	3	4 Teach's Hole	29	44	0	0	17	0	GDS-Beauford	3
91	4	5 Holiday's Island	7	55	0	0	23	0	GDS	6
97	5	6 Springer's Point	29	4	0	0	18	0	GDS	6
99	6	7 Riggs Road	27	55	0	0	16	0	GDS	1
100	7	8 Old Brickhouse	22	56	0	0	19	0	GDS	3

Introduction

Black Beard's treasure is said to have been buried in the Pasquotank River and lost for centuries. There are many rumors regarding the location of the hidden treasure and where it might be hidden but nobody knows for sure where it is exactly. This project will help discover the natural history and changes of the shoreline areas surrounding Elizabeth City. Numerous people over the years have searched for the treasure but have not had any luck with finding it. Books will help us get into the mind of Blackbeard to figure out the exact spot he has buried his treasure. The books may also have historical map references so we can see how the shoreline used to look and see how much it has changed. Based upon an initial informal review of internet based data, research has indicated that Blackbeard's treasure may be buried at Orocoke Island, Teach's Hole, White Island, Star Island, Smuttynose Island, Smuttynose Breakwater, Narrow Neck, Springer's Point, Holiday's Island, in the Chowan River, near Elizabeth City, southern end of Orocoke Island, or inside the "Old Brick House". We concur with the researchers that the treasure is most likely buried at one of these locations. Based upon shoreline and geological structures in place during the early 1700's, some areas were more likely than others to be conducive to the best location for Blackbeard burying his treasure.

Topic Statement

Our focus is to find out if the coastal inlet areas surrounding Elizabeth City were conducive for Blackbeard to bury his treasure in the early 1700's and how shoreline changes impact the search for Blackbeard's treasure. Finding Blackbeard's treasure is important because it will further educate people about Blackbeard, and about how the shorelines changed from the early 1700's until the present (2009). Our topic is also important because Blackbeard's treasure is believed to have been buried somewhere in Northeastern North Carolina. We will use historical documents such as books, historical maps circa 1700, and interviews with local historians to help us look back at historical shoreline changes in an effort to determine possible locations of Blackbeard's treasure.

Conclusion

Based on our research we conclude that one out of our three guess are in the top four places that have the least amount of human and natural impact. The one that we got right was the one that ended up being the place with the least amount of impact. The top four areas with the least amount of human natural impact were Chowan River, Old Albemarle hospital, Teaches hold, and Holiday island.

Suggestions for the future research: More comprehensive study for a longer amount of time

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