



A map of Virginia discovered to y^e Falls, and in it's latt: From 35 deg: & 1/2 n^{er} Florida to 41 deg: bounds of new England. [top right] I John Farrer EsCh Collegit. Ar^e sold by I. Stephenson at y^e Surin below Ludgate. 1651. [bottom center] I John Goddard sculp: [bottom left]

Cartographer: John Farrer/John Overton (Publisher)

Date: 1651

Size: 13.8 x 10.6 inches

Location: John Carter Brown Library, Providence, R.I.

Description: This remarkable and fascinating map is apparently the result of Farrer's suggestion of a map to go with Williams' *Virgo Triumphans* and of Farrer's manuscript drawing in his copy of Williams' work. The printed map shows much elaboration over Farrer's rough manuscript draft, though it remains fundamentally the same. The South Sea is ten days' march over the hills and "rich adjacent Valleys" from the head of the James River, and the Hudson River is connected by a lake with the Sea of China; this is a combination of the error of Verrazano's Sea with that of the Northwest Passage (#347). The Muratuk [Roanoke] River flows from the southwest instead of correctly from the northwest, an error which may have misled Lederer and those who were influenced by his map. The manuscript map prepared in 1650 by John Farrer of the Virginia Company which still survives today in the New York Public Library. This could be considered a continental map because the west coast is shown just beyond the Appalachian Mountains with Sir Francis Drake's landing illustrated. However, it is clearly derived from John Smith's map (#445) and shows the coastal region from Hudfons to Ca. Feare.

Lord Delawars Bay and River are named with the note: *This Riuer the Lord Ployden hath a Patten of and calls it new Albion but the Sweeds are planted in it and haue a great trade of Furrers. The Safquehanakes Riuers is shown emptying into the Checepiacke. Cape May is called Cape James. The Hudson is shown connecting to the St. Lawrence River leading to A Mighty great Lake.*

The map not only gives shires and county divisions and other details in Virginia and Maryland for the first time on any map but also adds details to the north concerning Dutch, Swedish, and other settlements. Long Island extends north and south instead of east and west. One of the few correct delineations on the map is the unbroken ridge of the Appalachians, extending to the Hudson instead of stopping in the south; but the direction is in error, as it runs directly north and south. Information on the map was apparently derived from various sources available to John Farrer (Ferrar), long an important officer in the Virginia Company; many details show that he drew upon reports and first-hand information not found in the printed maps of the period. Cartographically this map is of interest because it gives numerous place names for the first time and shows what strange misconceptions of the region a well-informed Englishman of the period could hold; it did not, however, influence later map makers. *Carolana*, the name given on the map to that part of *Ould Virginia* between the *Muratuk* [Roanoke] and the *Chawanoke* [Chowan] rivers, is the only reference to Heath's grant of 1629 found on an extant contemporary printed map.

The most striking feature of the map, the narrowness of the North American continent, reflects a widely held belief of the time. Farrer had already supported this theory in his *A Perfect Description of Virginia*, London, 1649 (reprinted in Force's *Tracts*, Vol. II): "*from the head of James River above the falls ... will be found like rivers issuing into a south sea or a west sea, on the other side of those hills, as there is on this side, where they run from west down to the east sea after a course of one hundred and fifty miles; but of this certainty Mr. Hen. Briggs, that most judicious and learned mathematician, wrote a small tractate and presented it to the noble Earl of Southampton, then Governor of the Virginia Company in England anno 1623, to which I refer for full information.*" Winsor (*America*, II, 466, note 4) quotes from Hakluyt's *Purchase his Pilgrimes*, London, 1625, III, 852, where Master Briggs speaks of the South Sea "*on the other side of the mountains, beyond our falls, which openeth a free and fair passage to China.*"

In 1651 and after the eastern seaboard had been thoroughly explored and charted, the *Mapp of Virginia* by John Farrer showed Verrazzano's (#347) channel to the Orient as though it was a known and charted geographical feature. The geographical shoreline in Farrer's map is reasonably accurate from Raleigh's Roanoke Island to Delaware Bay, but then it departs from reality to legend and shows a broad channel with several islands that extends to the *Sea of China* on which floats the vessel of Sir Francis Drake. Farrer's and Verrazzano's maps are prime examples of how cartographers intentionally inserted these non-existent legendary features into their maps as a propaganda tool to attract more exploration and settlement of the area.

The map was first engraved for Stephenson's third edition, 1651, of Edward Williams' *Virgo Triumphans: or, Virginia richly and truly valued*, London, 1650. The second edition of *Virgo Triumphans* has a changed title: *Virginia: more especially the South part thereof, richly and truly valued ... the Second Edition, with the Addition of the Discovery of Silkworms, with their benefit ... By E. W. gent. London, Printed for T. H. for John Stephenson, at the Sign of the Sun below Ludgate, 1650.* The third edition is known only through the Huth copy of the second edition, which has an inserted page with a different title and an

announcement of the map: *Virginia in America, Richly Valued ... Together with A Compleat Map of the Country from 35. to 41. degrees of Latitude discovered, and the West Sea. London, Printed for John Stephenson ... 1651.* Stephenson also published in 1651 Edward Bland's *Discovery of New Brittain*, which described Bland's expedition into "the fertile Carolana" some copies of which have Farrer's map. Two copies of Bland's work, in the British Museum and in Huntington, have the map in an early state without Drake's head, and the British Library has another Bland with the accompanying map in a later state with Drake's head.

Mr. Coolie Verner (see reference below, p. 282), who has made an excellent study of the different states of the map, assumes from available sources that:

1. Copies of the first and second editions of Williams which contain the map are either late garnered copies or sophisticated ones.
2. Any of the first four states of the map might properly be found with the third edition of Williams, and the third edition would be incomplete without one of them.
3. The copies of the Bland with the Farrer map are accidental or special copies, or sophisticated ones.
4. The plate was obtained by Overton from Stephenson or his successors, and was used by him under his own imprint for separately issued (or atlas-bound) copies of the map. The assignment of the year 1667? to the final state of the plate is based on indirect evidence in Plomer, *Dictionary of Booksellers and Printers*, 1641 to 1667, London, 1907, pp. 89-90, 142, 172, and on the fact that after 1668 the Term Catalogues carry notices of Overton's publications with a different imprint address.

P. L. Phillips, in his *Maps of America*, p. 978, mentions a copy of the map having Virginia Farrer's name with the date 1671, an error repeated in Stokes, *Iconography*, II, 154; this is the result of a misreading of 1651 on a copy of the map in the New York Public Library. Four states of the map, with their chief differences, were noted by Colonel Lawrence Martin, Chief of Division of Maps in the Library of Congress (Sabin, XXVIII, 404, No. 104191). Coolie Verner has identified an earlier state than those listed by Martin in Sabin (cf. Huntington and John Carter Brown copies). These five states as listed by Verner, with further identifying differences added with the volumes in which they are found.



Another edition attributed to John Farrer from an engraving by Edward Williams in his 1651 *Virgo Triumphant*. Note to lack of Sir Francis Drake' image at the top center

References:

- Cumming, W.P., *The Southeast in Early Maps*, Plate 29, pp.141-142.
 Harrison, Fairfax, *Landmarks of Old Prince William*, Old Dominion Press, Richmond, v«, 1924, II, 604-5.
 Phillips, P. L., *Virginia Cartography*, pp. 30-33.
 Sabin, J. *Bibliotheca Americana*, XXVIII, No. 104191.
 Stokes, N. P., *Iconography of Manhattan*, II, 153-4.
 Verner, Coolie. "The Several States of the Farrer Map of Virginia," *Studies in Bibliography*, Papers of the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia (1950), pp. 281-4.