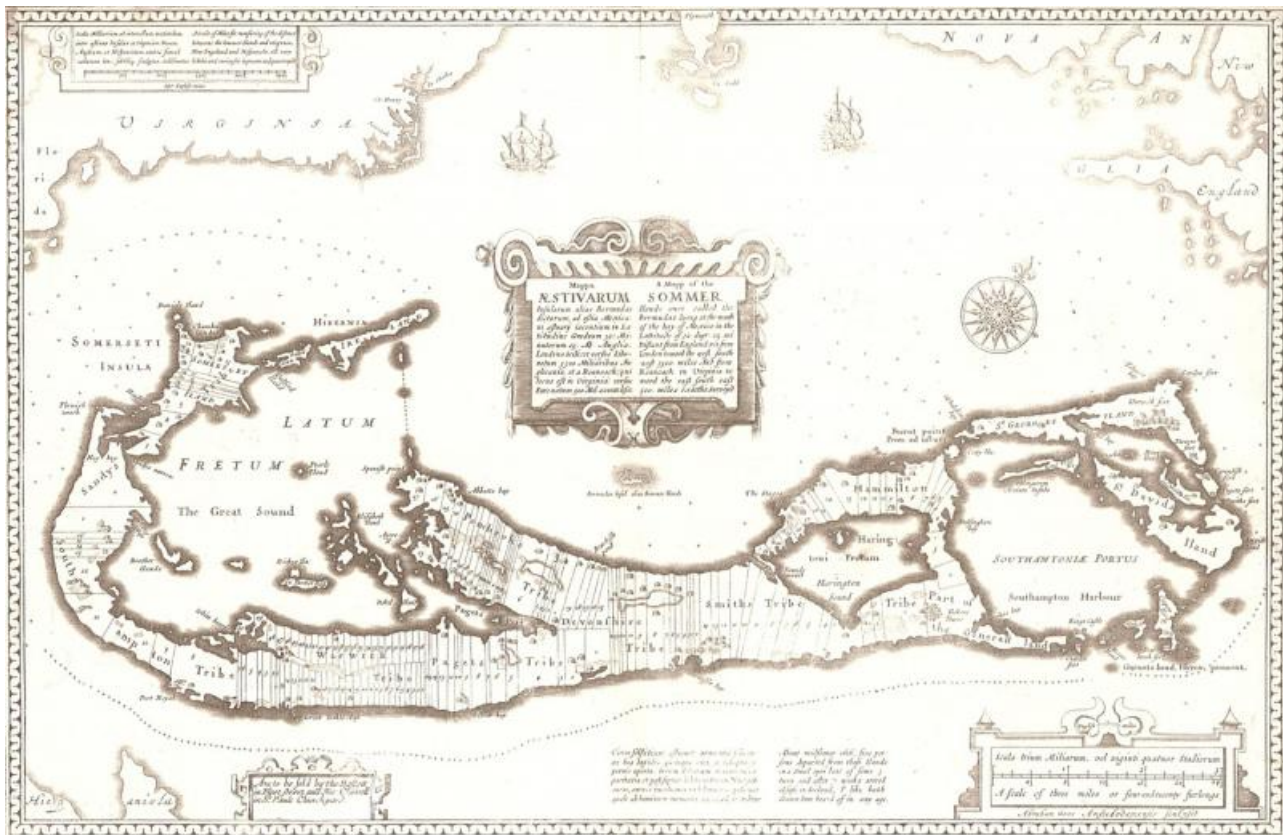


John Speed's 1676 map of Bermuda

John Speed's 1676 map of Bermuda

John Speed's 1676 map of Bermuda, then called the Somers Isles. Speed's explanation at the center of the map reads: A Mapp of the Sommer Ilands once called the Bermudas Lying at the mouth of the bay of Mexico in the Latitude of 32 degr: 25 mi: Distant from England viz from London toward the west south- west 3300 miles And from Roanoack in Virginia toward the east south east 500 miles exactlie surveyed. The map uses a different scale for the landmass of Bermuda and the Atlantic Ocean surrounding it; as a result, Virginia, New England, and Hispaniola appear much closer to the island than they are. A close view reveals that the land was divided into eight areas called "tribes." According to Virginia Bernhard's article "Bermuda and Virginia in the Seventeenth Century: A Comparative View" in the *Journal of Social History*, the land was divided by the Somers Islands Company in 1615, and each tribe contained about 1250 acres. "Land ownership was restricted by law to 250 acres, or ten shards, as the 25-acre allotments were called, for each individual in a given tribe."



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