

On the west of the island is a great stretch of waste, comprising sea-meadows, shoals, sand dunes, swamps, shallows, and mud-bars extending some four miles to the banks of the Great Machipongo Inlet. On this waste land there are patches of swamp-grass and fields of sea-meadow grass, which, coarse and short as it is, yet gives sustenance to herds of small wiry cattle.

Hog Island has several hundred acres sliced off its north-west borders by a stream called Hodges Narrows whose depths vary from five to twenty feet.

The earliest history of the place is in the musty, worn and tattered records of Virginia, in the State capitol. There is a document bearing date of 1672, which consists of a "letter patent" to Sir Henry Chinchley, of the island known as Machipongo, and his grant of the same to certain Colonists, whose names are Henry Patrick, Thomas Hewes, William Mainey, Henry Meadow, William Taylor, John Harbush, Thomas Cooke, Edward Young, George Griffin, John Parson, William Colton, Elias Porter, John Cooper, David Walton, Richard Bagley, Thomas Shermingham, John Baker, William Bannister, Grace Winter, Abraham Hill, Matt Morgan, John Corry, Richard Hyde, Upham Holt and Ann Emmerson.

These settlers presumably had families and they resided there no one knows how long—certainly they must have had a different life and one in marked contrast with the Colony at Jamestown, who were many times on the brink of actual starvation—for on the fruitful Machipongo Isle no man need work and no man need starve.