

Lawrence, Etc.

The official newsletter of "The First Peelle Family in America"



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Those who don't remember their ancestors don't deserve to be remembered!

From The Editor

Happy Independence Day! Thank our forefathers for such a day. I hope that everyone honored their Mothers and Fathers on their day. Family wise, the health is good, my heart is in rhythm. Trish and I, celebrated the college graduation of our first grandchild Kayla Blucher, Susie's daughter. She graduated from High school in 2008 and breezed through a four year Bachelor's in Education in three years. She graduated from both high school and college **summa cum laude**. Are we proud?

This copy of *Lawrence, Etc.*, was graciously paid for and is the courtesy of Cousin Harriett Peelle Terrell. She also sent us a short story on her life. It is very interesting to read the differences that she has seen in her life. Harriett and my brother Marvin are celebrating their 87th birthday soon, see the next page. Send a card, they would love it!

In May, I sent a 110 page book on my wife's Swiss family titled "*Kasper Scheuber Descendants of Saint Niklaus von Flüe*" to a publisher to be printed. It was quite a challenge to get everything together and organized.

That made me feel bad about not yet publishing my "*History*" part of our book "*The First Peelle Family in America, History 1601-2000.*" This book was started over ten years ago but continued to grow due to new discoveries and items that I felt were relevant in making a **research book** to be used by others. I finalized my copy, indexed, and printed all 526 pages of it. It is ready to go to the publisher. I will send it in September. Publication lead time is four-six months. This is the history book, what about Genealogy?

The "*Genealogy*" volume is supposed to contain the typical genealogical descendent tree but it is currently 2089 pages including the index. I have not tried to print it, that is over 1000 sheets of paper printed front and back! In my opinion it is too big for a hard-back or soft-back book. Someone, please tell me how to publish it, I am seriously open to suggestions.

Now for the rest of the story.....

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HB Peelle

Senior Citizen Birthdays



The following Seniors will have their birthday next quarter. Please send them cards. If you know any Peele-related senior above 80 years regardless of the surname spelling, please send their name, picture, date of birth, address, and how they are related to our Peele family. Senior pictures will be published quarterly and they will be given FREE copies of *Lawrence, Etc.*



Harriett Pearl Peele Terrell
87 on July 12, born 1924

(Daughter of Walter Isaiah Peele and Mahalia Caroline "May" Thompson; Wife of James Terrell.)

Harriett Peele Terrell
290 Prairie Ave # 407
Wilmington, OH 45177



Marvin Buford Peele, Jr.
87 on August 9, born 1924

(Son of Marvin B. Peele, Sr. and Annie Elizabeth Bullard, (Horace's brother) and Husband of Mattie Isabelle Smith.)

Marvin B. Peele, Jr.
183 Rothwood Road
Monroe, VA 24574-3211

Have you sent a card to our seniors lately?

Notes From Cousins

Dear Horace

You mentioned my writing up my life. I thought nothing amazing or interesting had happened. However it seems to have.

I was born in the old Friends Academy in Martinsville, Ohio, a white two story building with three windows across upstairs and a window, door, window downstairs with eighteen rooms. It had moved to the newer building in Martinsville. Girls from across Ohio came for further education.

Newberry Monthly Meeting was held at Martinsville Friends Church, my great grandfather MacPherson being the minister at one time. Maternal line was MacPherson, West, Martin, Hadley. Some from Pittsylvania County, Virginia and I think some from the Danville area.

Schooling was kindergarten at Sioux City, Iowa, grades 1-3 at Martinsville, Ohio, 4 thru 12 at Adelphia, Ohio, RN from Miami Valley School for Nursing, Dayton, Ohio.

I worked at Patterson Fields, Fairfield, Ohio about two years, sending home \$20 every paycheck to save for schooling and later at Clinton Hospital, Wilmington, Ohio.

Married a farmer and we lived over 60 years on a fine farm, house built from wood on that farm. Many kinds. High ceilings, transoms.

We had four fine children, 3 graduated from college, the fourth farming the home place and more. Eight grandchildren, all college grads, 2 with masters' degrees, 2 more working on them.

To me, child of depression, an education is the only protection that cannot be taken from you.

My father died at 38 from appendicitis while on a business trip for the Sioux City Seed Company. He was at Billings, Montana at the time. So mother, my brother, and I moved back to Ohio and were with her parents for three years. She got a teaching position and kept the wolf from the door for many years.

She taught German, French, and Latin but after WWI no one wanted to learn German. Then after our father's death, gradually taught English, Latin, and Home Economics for 27 years. She had graduated from Wilmington College and too graduate work at Wilmington, Ohio University and Ohio State University. Ohio Univ is at Athens, Ohio.

Both parents from farm families. My father living on one that seems to be one given to ancestors of the 1st Peelle who gave each of his children a farm and could walk to see each of them daily – or at least during the week.

Father attended Sunnyside School, Friends Academy at Wilmington and Wilmington College. He contracted to buy up fields of good seeds through the Midwest from South Dakota south to Brownsville, Texas in the 1920's driving a Whippet. This was for the Sioux City Seed Company, a fine company with very kind associates. I was six years older and still remember the Owners, Mr. and Mrs. Michael.

Mother's father from a strong Methodist family. They and two other couples established the Tadpole church – obviously in marsh land, later Center Methodist.

I am Quaker on 3 lines and from the Starbuck-Dillon Nantucket line. Starbucks came here in 1820 during one of the depressions. A Peelle was on the building committee of the Wilmington Friends Church and Peelles gave land and labor for Grassy Run Friends and attended the Grassy Run Academy.

Unending gratitude to my mother who worked so long and hard and to my Thompson grandparents.

And to my father's 1st cousin, Willis Crites who with brother Jesse went west a year or so before we did. He offered each of his widowed sister's four sons and my brother and me come out to Moscow, Idaho, get each of us a job, housing and first tuition to University of Idaho. Five of us graduated, four from Idaho or Wilmington College from Miami Valley Hospital School of Nursing. How generous and far sighted.

We always started family dinners with the Doxology which we had at the Methodist Church. I attended it 10 years and summers in Martinsville the Friends Church. Methodists had peppery songs and Quakers had more inspiration of the moment. Ideal combination.

It has been quite a trip from hitching up horses double and single, riding the 1936 Essex, going from gas mantles and kerosene lamps to electricity, feeding, watering and moving hogs, horses, cattle, cutting up chickens, driving tractors, cars, and pickups.

I have cherished the later years, finding a lot of kin I didn't know. All descent, industrious, nice and even better, I like them!!!

Horace, I know this is too long, skims the surface. Please edit away. It is so wonderful, you are so skilled with the computer. I have one, just starting to take lessons.

My brother, Hubert and wife had three sons. One you may remember was on that TV court show a few years ago for about a week I think as prosecutor of a Baker murder case without a body. He was named "Prosecutor of the Year" for the state of Ohio. His mother was Clinton County Treasurer for 24 years. Another brother was a lawyer and Bill's wife and daughter are also lawyers.

The Peelles up here are like the Peeles in the south. Taking part in things and making something of themselves as my mother would say. [End.]

Harriett is a twelfth generation descendent of Lawrence: Harriett Pearl¹² Peelle (Walter Isaiah¹¹, Charles Edward "Ed"¹⁰, Isaiah P.⁹, William⁸, John⁷, Reuben⁶, Josiah⁵, Robert⁴, Robert³, Robert², Lawrence¹.) She married James Terrell on June 01, 1947. The children of Harriett and James are:

- Jonathan Peelle Terrell, born 13 Dec 1948.
- Brian James Terrell, born 14 Apr 1950.
- Susan Terrell, born 01 Dec 1953.
- Samuel Gurney Terrell, born 15 Nov 1957.

[Harriett is my 7th Cousin, she was born a "Peelle" with a double "ll" and so was my great-grandfather William Peelle who had 16 children, of whom twelve dropped the second "l" from the name, only 4 retained the original name.]

Feature Article

In the last quarterly, we started discussing Robert Peelle of Virginia and his association to Richard Bennett. You recall that I left you with some thoughts about our family. In particular:

- Is it possible that Robert Peelle's (1635) wife was a Bennett?
- Where was all this taking place, where in Virginia?
- How close to each other did this rich man and our Robert Peelle live?
- What is the relationship of Robert Peelle to Richard Bennett?
- Robert Peelle, born 1635, is generally listed as dying in 1694. When did he really die?

Is it possible that Robert's Peelle's (1635) wife was a Bennett? My Brother Marvin and I traveling to North Carolina many years back and while there we visited a man (we have forgotten his name) who was convinced that Robert Peelle's wife was a Bennett. Why did he believe that? He did primarily because of the closeness of families and their living together on adjacent pieces of land etc. If you study family heritage, there are many cases where two or three children from one neighbor family will marry siblings of neighboring families. Unfortunately, I cannot find any information that tells me who Robert's wife was or any reference a family name. Did you notice that in Richard Bennett's will that he really did not identify himself or his wife? Presumably his wife had already died since he does name his children..

The Quaker records for that time which normally documented births, marriages, deaths, and other do not exist. But I do believe that there is a possibility of a family relationship. If you have any information on this please let me know.

Where was all this taking place, where in Virginia? But we do know of another relationship, that of being one of Bennett's band of "unreasonable and turbulent" followers since, as Paul Clancy stated in his article, "Quakers refused to obey [the king's] religious law." The King, as head of the church at that time, demanded an oath of allegiance. Quakers would not swear.

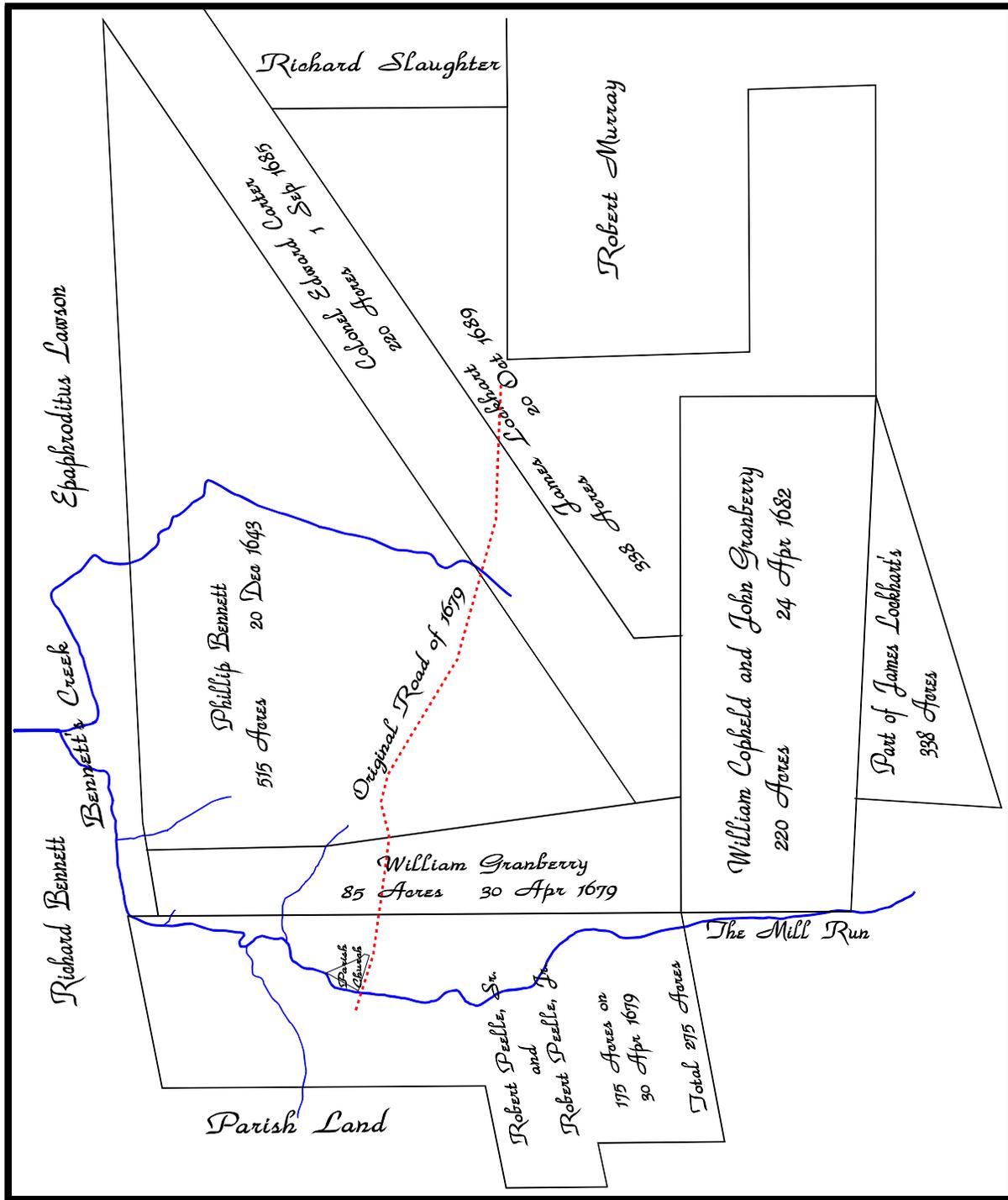
Richard Bennett was acting governor of Virginia during the Commonwealth of Cromwell Administration from 30 April 1652 until March of 1655. He owned the plantations of "Weyanoak" and "Kicotan" on the Nansemond River. Bennett was a Puritan who changed to the Quaker faith and probably attended meetings with our Robert-1635 at the Chuckatuck Meeting House.

The Church of England had two parishes in Nansemond County referred to as the Upper Parish and Lower Parish. By name, these indicated the location of the church on the Nansemond River, a river that flows from south to north. The Upper Parish was located upstream in the southern part of the county towards the Virginia-North Carolina State line. The Lower Parish was located downstream in the northern part of the county. This part of the Nansemond River was once called the James River.

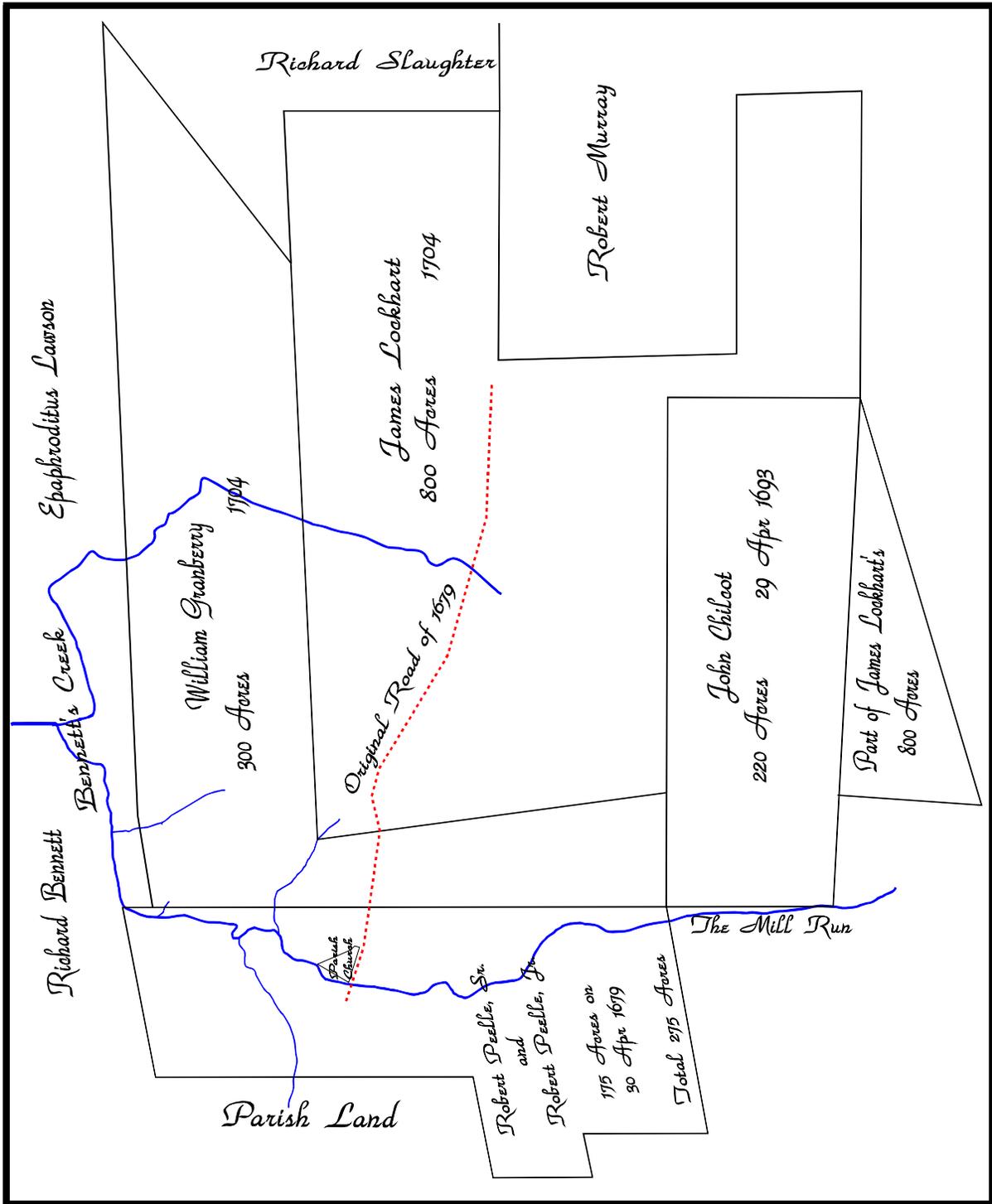
In the Lower Parish, one Sheriff Hill had begun open and severe persecution of the Quakers in 1663, with the Sheriff himself getting half of all fines. This moneymaking persecution continued for some time. Robert-1635 had settled on 350 acres on the Western Branch of the Elizabeth River, right under Sherriff Hill's domain. This was the land he bought from Richard Jones in 1656. Robert's property on the Western Branch was some of the most beautiful land in the area. I have been there.

But with the Sherriff on the rampage against the Quakers, Robert sold his Western Branch property and moved due west to a 100-acre tract adjoining Bennett's Creek in the Lower Parish area just east of the Nansemond River. The move west to Bennett's Creek was only about 7 to 8 miles. Robert moved for freedom of religion and to escape the immediate persecution of the sheriff. But where did Robert get this initial 100 acres?

How close to each other did this rich man and our Robert Peelle live? The *Granberry Maps* below show the location of Robert's land purchased in 1679. The first map is dated about 1690 and the last map is based on 1704 Nansmond County Tax records.



Land Owners on Bennett's Creek ca 1690



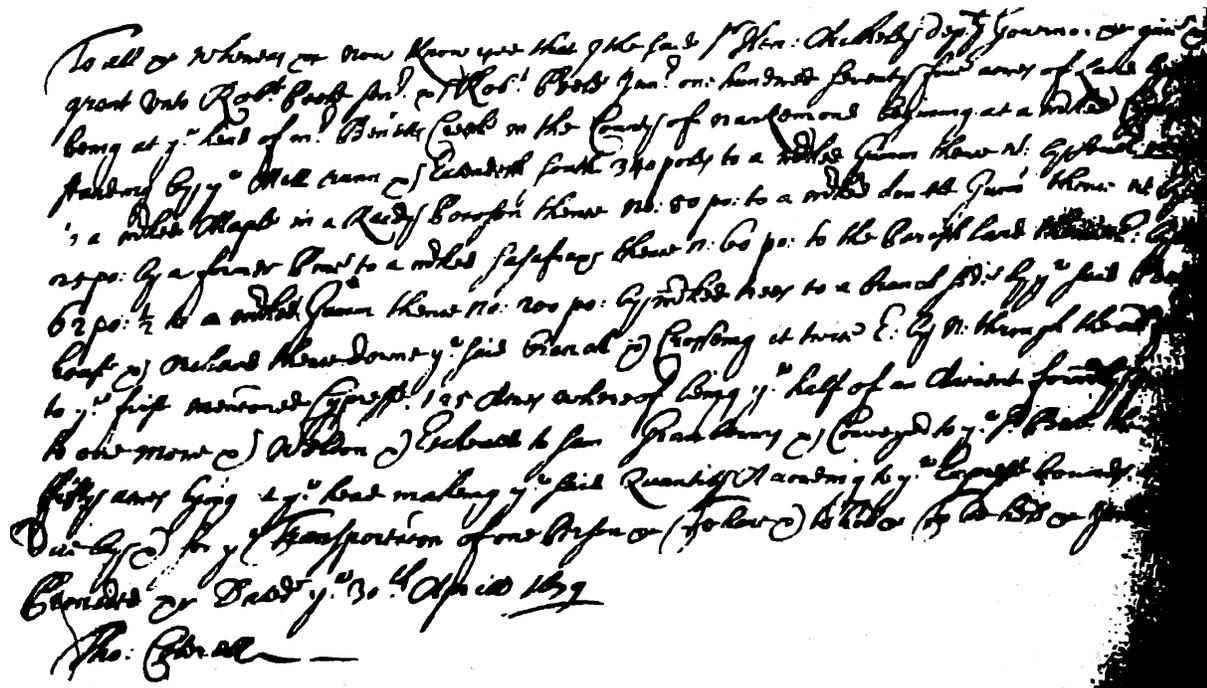
Land Owners on Bennett's Creek ca 1704

The main difference in the two maps shows that by 1704 William Granberry and James Lockhart had jointly purchased the land belonging to Phillip Bennett and Colonel Edward Carter. Lockhart increased his holdings from 338 acres to 800 acres while William Granberry increased his from 85 acres to 300 acres. The 220 acres previously owned by William Coffield and John Granberry had been vacated and re-patented by its new owner, John Chilcot, in 1693. William Coffield moved to the Nansemond River and is known to have been operating a ferry with Robert-1681 prior to 1702.

What was the relationship of Robert Peelle to Richard Bennett? The will of Richard Bennett proves that Robert was established in the Lower Parish of Nansemond County on Bennett's Creek and The Mill Run. In his 1674 will, he appointed Robert Peelle [as spelled in the will] along with two others, either James Jossey, Thomas Hodges, or his neighbor Edmond Belson, to be the "overseers" of his last will and testament and the settlement of his estate.

Richard Bennett's will was proved in the Nansemond County Court on 12 April 1675 and probated in England on 3 August 1676. Robert-1635 had to be a man of sufficient standing to be named an overseer of the settlement of such an estate. Appointments of such nature attest to the standing that an individual has among his peers, being well known, honest, and trusted. But this appointment sparks the idea that Robert was somehow related to Bennett. We will learn later that Robert was a **Justice of the Peace**, and other than being a neighbor, maybe that was the only connection.

No record has been found of Robert's land purchase on Bennett's Creek prior to the 1674 inference in Bennett's will, was it a gift from Bennett? On 30 April 1679 Robert patented 175 acres adjoining his home place at the head of Bennett's Creek. Robert-1635 included his son Robert-1657 on the patent, listed as "**Senr. and Junr.**" This patent is the first proof linking Robert-1657 to his father Robert-1635.



To all whomever you now know and that of the said John: Acknowledged by Governor: or given
great unto Robert Peelle Junr. of the County of Nansemond 175 acres of land
being at y^e head of m^r. Bennett's Creek in the County of Nansemond beginning at a white
standing by y^e Mill Run on the Eastern side 340 poles to a white Gum tree n^r. 60 poles
to a white Maple in a Reddy Branch thence n^r. 80 poles to a white Gum tree n^r. 40
poles by a fence to a white sapling thence n^r. 60 poles to the Branch land thence
62 poles to a white Gum tree n^r. 200 poles by a white tree to a Branch of y^e Mill Run
containing the downward y^e said Branch in crossing it twice E. by N. through the
to y^e first mentioned by y^e 125 acres whereof being y^e half of an Acre of front
to our more of which I beleave to be granted by y^e said John: Peelle Junr.
fifty acres being y^e head making y^e said Quantity of 175 acres by y^e said
Quincy I for y^e transportation of one by y^e (follow) to the head of y^e said
Branch or Dead y^e 30. 4 April 1679
The Govern^r

This is an extract of the deed:

30 Apr 1679 - Robert Peelle and his son Robert Peelle, listed as "Senr. and Junr.", patented 175 acres in Nansemond County, VA at the head of Bennett's Creek beginning by the Mill Run to the Parish Land by said Peele's house and orchard; &c 125 acres being halfe of an ancient (patent) granted to one More & Welton which was escheated to Samuel Granberry & conveyed to said Peele with 50 acres due for transporting Thomas Coterell. (Virginia Department of Archives, Patent Book 6, Page 678.)

Fortunately for the Peelle family, Robert Peelle, Sr. and Robert Peelle, Jr. were neighbors of William and John Granberry or else the maps would not exist, since courthouse fires in the Revolutionary War and in the Civil War, twice destroyed the county records. One of Robert's neighbors was Mary Crew, wife of Edmond Belson, who Bennett named in the will. Mary was one of the seven people that Robert-1635 brought to Virginia in 1663. Dr. Thomas Rolfe, Pocahontus' son, brought Edmond to Virginia.

There is more information available on Robert-1635 that proves Robert-1657 is his son. On 10 May 1690, Robert Peelle "younger" and Robert Peelle "elder" witnessed the Quaker wedding of Robert Jordan and the widow Mary Belson, [Mary Crew, widow of Edmond Belson] of Nansemond County at the Chuckatuck Monthly Meeting.

It is important to know Robert-1635's neighbors in the Lower Parish. Several patents from 1679 to 1703 listed his neighbors, most all of them on Bennett's Creek or adjoining the lands of Robert-1635 and his son Robert-1657. Among those neighbors were; Richard Bennett, Edmond Belson, Colonel Edward Carter, John Chilcot, William Copheld [Coffield], John Granberry, Jonathan Granberry, William Granberry, James Lockhart, Robert Mountgumery, Robert Murrh, John Peters, Richard Watridge and others.

According to the maps, Governor Richard Bennett lived directly north of Robert-1635. Richard Bennett's grandson Richard inherited the plantation when the Governor died in 1674. It is the grandson's name that is shown on both maps. The grandson Richard never married and supposedly was the richest man in Maryland where he lived and died. Today the land that Robert owned in 1679 adjoins the land in the Bennett Trust, formed as a result of Governor Richard Bennett's 1674 will.

I give and bequeath unto the Parish where I now live and have so long lived all that pcell of land being three hundred acres more or less which Thomas Bolton holdeth by lease and on which he now lives. The rents & profits thereof to be received yearly by the Church-wardens of this parish and by them dissposed of towards the releife of fouer poore aged or impotent persons whom they Judge to stand in most need of help and this to continues and be done for ever as long as ye land contineues.

Bennett left 300 acres to the local parish to be rented out by the vestry, and the churchwardens were to use the rent money to assist four aged or indigent persons each year. There were apparent abuses in which the land was rented for nominal amounts and his grandson, Richard Bennett of Maryland, wrote to the vestry to have his grandfather's bequest, inventory, other parts of will, and the letter itself titled "Improper Administration of The Bequest" copied into the Lower Parish Vestry Book of the Church of England.

Robert Peelle, born 1635, is generally listed as dying in 1694. When did he really die?

We do not know Robert-1635's wife's name, nor does it appear that he had more than one child to survive him in Lower Parish. Robert-1635 is listed as dying "about 1694" in all the personal books and published documents that I have seen written by earlier researchers. They obviously established that date on the following record that proves Robert-1635 was also a Justice of the Peace. Using this document, Robert-1635's death date was entered as "about or after 1694" and is most commonly carried as 1694 in most documents.

13 Oct 1694 - Robert Peale was a Justice of Peace for Nansemond County, VA as such he witnessed a power of attorney given by James Alexander to Major Alexander Lillington of North Carolina. (North Carolina Higher Court Records 1670-1696, Mattie E. Parker, Page 103.)

In 1694, this had to be Robert living in the Lower Parish since no one in the family moved to the Upper Parish until about 1700. The date of "1694" cannot be used as Robert-1635's death date. He was in fact alive "after 1704" as proven by this entry in the Virginia Tax Records:

1704 - Robert Peale [Peelle] paid "Quit Rent" on 275 acres in Nansemond County, Virginia.

We know the 275 acres was registered in the names of Robert-1635 and Robert-1657, but Robert-1657 was living at Sleepy Hole and operating his ferry across the Nansemond River. If Robert-1635 had died in 1694 then it would have been his son Robert-1657 who paid the tax. The following record extends the death date of Robert-1635.

1714 - Robert Peale is listed in the Quorum [longest term of appointment] as a Justice of the Peace in Nansemond County, VA. (Photostat filed at the Library of Virginia - "The Present State of Virginia for the Year with respect to the Countys in particular" Acc. 21587; the original is in the Public Record Office, Colonial Office 5, volume 1317 #365 according to the Sainsbury Transcripts - Library of Congress, Page 152.)

Robert-1635 was the Justice of the Peace and this record establishes a new death date, "after 1714." We have no other records that would extend this new death date further. Oddly enough, the common date 1703 used for the death for Robert-1657 is also wrong.

Robert Peelle (1657-1749), the son of Robert-1635, married **Sarah [Jarrat] (1657-1703)**, the widow of Thomas Jarrat about 1678. Sarah's maiden name is unknown. They had at least four male children; it is not known if there were any females. Robert-1657 is listed by many researchers as dying in 1703, but there are records of his living until at least 1749, making him about 92 years of age.

Robert and Sarah's four sons were William-1679, Robert-1681, Ephraim-1685, and Joseph-1687. All were born in the Lower Parish, but all moved upstream to the Upper Parish in the area south of Suffolk, where they raised their families and died.

On 24 April 1703, Robert-1657 and his wife Sarah renewed the patent to the 134 acres of land that had been left to Sarah by her first husband, Thomas Jarrat. The records do not explain why the deed was recorded in 1703 and not earlier when she and Thomas got married. It was not

unusual in those days not to register property until there was some reason. For example, in many wills there is a phrase similar to "I leave my son the land on which he now lives," telling us that the son had already gotten married and settled on some part of his father's land which was not yet been registered in the son's name prior to the death of the father, and in most cases the son may have already raised a large family while living on his father's land.

Sarah's inherited land was located in the Lower Parish of Nansemond County near Sleepy Hole on the eastern bank of the Nansemond River just west of Bennett's Creek. An extract of the patent to re-register the land reads:

On 24 April 1703, Robert Peelle was granted a patent to 134 acres in the Lower Parish of Nansemond County, VA on the East side of Nansemond River; beginning at a Catwood tree by the river side near Sleepy Hole; adjoining John Peters, in Belson's line; which was granted to Richard Russell on 27 August 1653 who sold it to Edward Dence from whom it was escheated & was granted to Thomas Jarrat on 6 April 1671, who bequeathed it to his wife Sarah, who intermarried with said Peale. (Virginia Department of Archives, Patent Book 9, Page 512.)

The land was two miles west from his father's plantation on The Mill Run. A road by the name of Sleepy Hole Road is still there today, and the Kings Highway Bridge crosses the river in the vicinity of this land.

I have probably stirred up more questions than can be answered. But these facts and suppositions are fascinating to me and I believe well worth documenting.

History Moments

History Moments. Robert Peelle (1635) witnessed the Quaker wedding of Edmond Belson and Mary Crew of Nansemond County at the Chuckatuck Monthly Meeting. The Belson's were Robert's neighbors.

13 Oct 1684

Edmund Belson the sonn of Elizabeth Belson of Nanzemun and Mary Crew the daughter of Mary Tooke of the Isleawight County propounded their marriage before a meeting of frends men & women at the house of William Clarkes in Pagan Creeke on the 13th day of the 9 moth Last and coming before the meeting the second time at RICHARD RATLIFE's howse one the Eleventh day of this Instant month they did publish their marriage again and were married in the house of his mother on the 13th day of the 10th month 1684. Edmond Belson, Mary Crew. Wit: Mother Elizabeth Belson, Mother Mary Tooke, Tho. Hodges, John Copland, Samuel Newton, James Tooke, Rodger Newham, Tho. Hollowell, Willm. Newby, John Scott, Richard Ratliff, **Robert Peelle**, William Outeland, William Granbery, Tho. Jordan, Tho. Jordan, Junior, Levin Bufkin, Robert Rowse, Will Sanders, John More, John Jordan, Allis Hollowell, Margaret Jordan, Elizabeth Scott, Elizabeth Ratliff, Elizabeth Jordan, Mary Sanders, Elizabeth Hollowell, Elizabeth Ratliff, Yongr, Christian Outeland, Alice Hollowell, Elizabeth Copeland. (Early Quaker Records in Virginia, Compiled by Miles White, Jr., Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD, 1977, Pages 5-6. Publications of Southern History Association, Volume VI, Page 225.)

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TO:

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Editor: Horace Peele

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