

## 1. Hance Hendrick

(c1660? – c1726-32)

Hance Hendrick seems likely to have arrived in Virginia in the early or mid 1680s. As “Hance Hendrick” he was issued a patent on 25 April 1701 for 594 acres on the south bank of the Mattapony River in Pamunkey Neck.<sup>1</sup> The patent was for transportation of himself, “his wife Jane”, and ten other persons (whose names, incidentally, do not appear in later records).<sup>2</sup> Though the tract was in King and Queen County at the time, the area south of the Mattapony became King William County a year later. The land description implies that he had occupied and surveyed the land quite a few years earlier, as the grant refers to the “old corner between Hance Hendrick and John Oakes”, to “an old line of marked trees”, and even to a corner whose location was adjusted due to “*the old persimmon corner tree being dead.*”

A second patent, of 175 acres, for the transportation of four persons, was issued eighteen months later on 28 October 1702.<sup>3</sup> This second tract was on the south bank of the Mattapony River about a quarter-mile upriver from the first patent, which by this time was in newly formed King William County. Like the earlier patent, this one was also for land obviously several years old. It refers to “*a pine stump formerly the old corner tree but now down and rotten*”, and to “*a corner white oake in sight of Hance’s old plantation.*” Interestingly, when the patents are plotted, his “old plantation” could not have been on the 1701 patent. The corner oak “*in sight of Hance’s old plantation*” is nowhere near the 1701 patent, and clearly refers to a spot within the eastern portion of the 1702 patent.<sup>4</sup>

The wording of the two patents tells us that Hance Hendrick had been in the area for several years before patenting these lands in 1701 and 1702. As we will see, it was necessary even for longtime residents of Pamunkey Neck to wait until about 1700 to apply for patents on their land. That fact, combined with the observation that Hance Hendrick claimed none of his children as headrights, suggests that he could have been settled in Pamunkey Neck as early as 1680. Why is there no mention of him prior to 1701? A plausible explanation exists, but requires a brief digression.

### **The Settlement of Pamunkey Neck**

Pamunkey Neck, most of which later became King William County, had been set aside in 1625 as an Indian reserve.<sup>5</sup> White settlement in the area was strictly forbidden. Fifty years later, as

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<sup>1</sup> Virginia Patent Book 9, p362

<sup>2</sup> How many of these persons he actually imported is unknown. Certificates of importation were routinely bought and sold for this purpose, so we can’t be certain that Hendrick was actually the importer of all ten persons. In addition, the headright system was significantly corrupted by this time, with clerks routinely selling names for a fee. We can reasonably conclude, though, that he and his wife Jane had arrived in Virginia at some prior time.

<sup>3</sup> Virginia Patent Book 9, p482

<sup>4</sup> The plantation referred to was probably a few acres of cleared land, and perhaps a house. Planters could work only 4-5 acres per field worker, so relatively few acres were planted at any given time. Tobacco depleted the soil in about three years, so the tobacco crop was moved to new ground every few years.

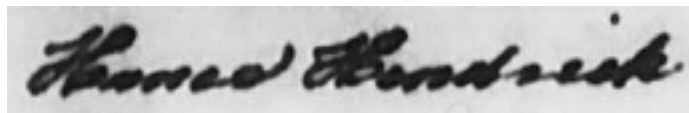
<sup>5</sup> The Pamunkey Neck encompassed the area between the Pamunkey and Mattaponi rivers, what is nowadays King William County, the southern part of Caroline County, and southern Spotsylvania County. It was administratively

part of a 1677 peace treaty with the Pamunkey Indians, the King agreed to grant the Indians a formal patent to their land. The Pamunkeys, expecting to acquire formal title to their lands, then sold large chunks of their lands, in the form of 99-year leases, to a number of white speculators who subdivided and sold the land to new settlers. These settlers could not obtain royal patents for their tracts because the Pamunkeys, not the King, owned the land. By 1694, additional white settlers began surveying land in the Neck for patents, sometimes infringing on the rights of the settlers already there, who claimed title to their land from the Indians. Unfortunately, the King had neglected to issue a formal patent to the Pamunkeys or even to survey their lands. Thus the titles to the Indian lands were imperfect and their boundaries uncertain. In 1699 the House of Burgesses appointed a committee to resolve the issues of land titles in the Neck. The committee's report, issued on 2 June 1699, recommended that the persons holding land by title from the Indian leases be permitted to patent their lands.<sup>6</sup> It was this recommendation that resulted in the Hance Hendrick patents mentioned above.

The committee heard from eight particular settlers who claimed land rights by virtue of purchases from one Richard Yarborough. Although the deed records are long lost, we know from the committee report that Richard Yarborough had obtained a 99-year lease from the Indians sometime after the 1677 peace treaty. He probably did so by 1679, when he was employed by the Burgesses as an Indian intermediary and interpreter. Although Yarborough himself was dead by 1699, these eight persons together with Yarborough's son John all claimed rights to specific tracts by virtue of purchases from him. The eight persons were William Morris, John Oakes, William Rawlins, George Douglas (as orphan and heir of Robert Douglas), Peter White, Andrew Mackallaster, and two tracts claimed by "Thomas (?) Hendrick."<sup>7</sup>

### "Thomas Hendrick" was Hance Hendrick

It seems clear that "Thomas Hendrick" was actually a mis-transcription of "Hance Hendrick". The abstracter, des Cognets, wasn't sure of the name for he inserted a question mark and wrote it as "*Thomas (?) Hendrick*." All the other given names in the committee's report were common in England, so des Cognets was surely expecting to find a common English name and not one as unusual as Hance. To illustrate how easily someone could substitute "Thomas" for "Hance", consider this entry for Hance Hendrick Jr. (the son of the immigrant) taken from the 1751 Amelia County tax list. Most people would probably read this as "Thomas (?) Hendrick".

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Hance Hendrick". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

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part of New Kent County until 1691 when it included in the new county of King & Queen. When the Pamunkeys subjugated themselves to the King in 1701, it became King William County.

<sup>6</sup> *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records*, Lewis des Cognets, Jr., (Genealogical Publishing Company, 1981), p57-66. This includes an abstract of this committee report.

<sup>7</sup> des Cognets, p58. There were also three other persons claiming a single tract by purchase from Yarborough that was not adjacent to the other eight.

We might also note that des Cognets was not faultless; one of the other eight names on the same list was also transcribed incorrectly.<sup>8</sup>

We can compare the committee's report to the resulting patents by the eight complainants, which are contiguous and quite clearly show that "Thomas" Hendrick was actually Hance Hendrick.

## The Yarborough Tract

The resulting patents to these persons, issued between 1701 and 1706, are contiguous and clearly comprise the tract Yarborough leased from the Indians.<sup>9</sup> In fact, these patents and those which adjoined the outside edges of this larger parcel identify such landmarks as the "*corner tree of old Richard Yarbrough's whole tract leased of the Pamunkey Indians.*"<sup>10</sup> A patent adjoining Yarborough's tract to the north by John Hurt refers to "*Hance Hendrick's corner tree by a pine stump being formerly the old corner tree of Richd. Yarbrough's grant.*"<sup>11</sup> This refers to Hance Hendrick's 1702 patent, which was the uppermost piece of the Yarborough tract, Andrew MacCallister's patent being the lowermost part, with the remaining claimants lying between the two. Furthermore, it is clear that Yarborough must have advertised and promoted his land outside Virginia and sold his tracts to immigrants, for every one of these eight persons later claimed his own personal headright for their patents.<sup>12</sup>

The combination of the committee's report and the subsequent patents quite clearly shows that Hance Hendrick had been living on the Yarborough tract for a number of years before obtaining his patents. As noted above, both patents to Hance Hendrick refer to old lines and corners from earlier surveys of "Hance Hendrick" and four of the other patents to Yarborough's grantees also refer to Hance Hendrick's old lines and corners.

We may never know precisely when Hance Hendrick settled on this land. Of the other seven patentees who had bought Yarborough's land, only one can be traced with confidence; William Hurt and his son John had been in the area for more than thirty years. Owing to the complete loss of county records, we cannot identify when any of the others may have bought their land. It is perhaps significant, though, that both Richard Yarborough and Robert Douglas, one of his grantees, were dead by June 1699.

What evidence we have suggests Hance Hendrick arrived in Virginia sometime in the early 1680s. Since Hance Hendrick appears to have owned the uppermost edge of Yarborough's tract, closest to Yarborough's own home, we can plausibly surmise that he may have been one of the first of Yarborough's grantees, perhaps as early as 1679 or 1680. There is every reason to

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<sup>8</sup> des Cognets writes "George & Douglass orphan [singular] of Robert Douglass decd". Orphan is singular and George Douglass patented the land.

<sup>9</sup> See the Chronology for the details of each patent. There was a ninth patent to Morris Floyd, which appears to have been a sale by John Oakes. Oakes had claimed a right to 550 acres, but only patented about 360 acres. When plotted, it is fairly certain that the missing acreage must have been a sale to Floyd of the 100 acres he patented plus the additional acreage in Hance Hendrick's second patent.

<sup>10</sup> This from Maccallester's patent, which was on the lowermost edge of the Yarborough tract, at Patent Book 9, p386.

<sup>11</sup> Virginia Patents 9, p482.

<sup>12</sup> Most claimed headrights for their wives, and a few claimed children, as well.

believe that Yarborough was subdividing his lands by about that time. The numerous references in the devisees' later patents to old lines and corners, and to dead and rotting and missing corner trees, strongly suggest that the patents were for plots surveyed many years earlier. Likewise, Hance Hendrick must have surveyed his lands many years before claiming them in 1699. And the fact that he claimed himself and his wife as headrights, but none of his children, suggests that the children were born in Virginia and therefore not eligible as headrights. We have reasonable evidence that at least one child was born by 1685, thus an arrival before that date would conveniently fit all the facts we have. Finally, I note that the portions of the Yarborough tract which he claimed were not only the largest, but the most fertile and the most accessible to the river, still another reason to think he was an early grantee of Yarborough's.

It should also be mentioned that he was a British citizen, for only a citizen could own land in Virginia. He may well have been born in England, where other persons named Hendrick were living in the seventeenth century. While his name and that of one of his children suggests an ultimate origin outside England, that does not necessarily mean he was himself a non-English immigrant. If he was a naturalized citizen, the naturalization must have occurred after 1680 if in Virginia. Prior to 1680 naturalization required an act of the Assembly, which are preserved in the records. After June 1680, the Governor could bestow citizenship and those records are lost. More than likely, he was either British-born or had been naturalized in another colony. His place of origin will remain mysterious.

### Further Records of Hance Hendrick

Returning to Hance Hendrick, we have only a few additional records of him after the patents on the Pamunkey. The 1704 quit rents of Virginia, preserved in England's archives, list "Hans Hendrick" with 700 acres subject to quit rent in King William County.<sup>13</sup> He is the only Hendrick landowner listed in Virginia.

Unfortunately, Hance Hendrick lived in an area of Virginia for which few colonial records exist. Until 1691, the Pamunkey Neck was a part of New Kent County, whose colonial records were destroyed by the malicious burning of the courthouse in 1787. It was subsequently part of King and Queen County, whose records are also entirely lost. In 1702 it became King William County, nearly all of whose early records were subsequently destroyed in its own courthouse fire. Nor are its parish records preserved.

Among the few records saved from that last fire is a deed of gift dated 20 February 1705/6 from Hance Hendrick of St. John's Parish of King William County to his "loving son Adolphus Hendrick" for the 175 acres patented in 1702.<sup>14</sup> Adolphus Hendrick surely had reached majority by this time, for deeds to minors were vanishingly rare.<sup>15</sup> A deed of gift of this type suggests the possibility that had just married, as the deed specified that the land would revert to Hance

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<sup>13</sup> The Quit Rents of Virginia, 1704, Annie Laurie Wright Smith (1975), p43

<sup>14</sup> King William County, Virginia Deed Book 1, part 2, p302 [All dates are in this paper are corrected for the present-day calendar. This date is recorded as 1705, which was 1706 in the present calendar.]

<sup>15</sup> See the separate document on "Legal Age" elsewhere on this website for an explanation. Deeds of land to minors not only served little practical purpose, but were fraught with legal problems.

Hendrick if Adolphus died without male heirs. As an interesting side note, the language of this deed employed the words “and his male heirs lawfully begotten”, which was a legal catchphrase for passing title in tail. That is, the deed entailed the land, meaning that Adolphus did not actually hold title to it and could not sell it or devise it in his will. Rather, he had what amounted to lifetime possession after which it would pass automatically in a line of succession through his eldest male heirs generation after generation, ad infinitum.<sup>16</sup> The inability to sell his land perhaps explains why Adolphus Hendrick remained longer in King William County than his brothers.

Hance Hendrick, or perhaps his son of the same name, also acquired land in New Kent County, about ten miles southwest of his patents, sometime before 1711 when it was processioned.<sup>17</sup> The loss of New Kent records prevents us from identifying how or when the land was obtained, but we can identify the location as eastern present-day Hanover County from an adjacent patent to Richard Allen Jr. for land on Stony Run that mentions “Hans Hendrick’s upper corner”.<sup>18</sup> From examination of nearby patents, it appears that Hendrick’s land was all or part of a 1705 patent to Stephen Sunter.<sup>19</sup> Perhaps significantly, Hance Hendrick did not personally appear for the 1711 processioning. Four years later in 1715 when it was again processioned the land had been sold, as it was identified as “the lands of Hance Hendrick, now belonging to Mr. Anthony Winston”.<sup>20</sup> The only colonial records, other than patents, that exist for New Kent are the vestry books of three of its six parishes, for which these processioning records are the only references to anyone named Hendrick. Whether the landowner in New Kent was Hance Hendrick or his son is uncertain. It is not clear why the father might have bought land so far away, but neither is it clear that the son was old enough to have bought land between 1705 and 1711.

Both “Hanse Hendrick Sr.” and “Hanse Hendrick Jun.” were issued patents on the same day, 24 March 1726, for land in King William County.<sup>21 22</sup> These tracts, 200 and 100 acres respectively, are easily platted and located. Together with the surrounding patents, they can be precisely placed as being west of Boot Swamp in what became Caroline County two years later in 1728. The two patents are roughly a mile and a half apart, and were not on opposite sides of the county line as some have suggested. In fact, while Hance Jr.’s patent was close to the Caroline-King William line, the patent to Hance Sr. is more than a mile further west into Caroline. Oddly, that 200-acre patent issued to Hance Hendrick Sr. is the same land referred to as belonging to “Hance Hendrick Junr.” in an adjoining patent of 1718 to Edmund Jennings.<sup>23</sup>

It seems likely that Hance had sold his patent of 1701 in King William, for by this time three of

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<sup>16</sup> See the paper on entail elsewhere on this website for an explanation.

<sup>17</sup> The Vestry Book of St. Paul’s Parish, Hanover County, Virginia 1706-1786, C. G. Chamberlayne (1940), p227-8 and p239.

<sup>18</sup> Virginia Patent Book 10, p438.

<sup>19</sup> Sunter’s 1705 patent, one of several contiguous parcels patented by him, appears to be the one referred to in Allen’s patent as “Hans Hendrick’s”. A later patent to John Wheeler referring to this same land as “Winston’s” seems to confirm it.

<sup>20</sup> The Vestry Book of St. Paul’s Parish, Hanover County, Virginia 1706-1786, C. G. Chamberlayne (1940), p252. Note that the processioning record for 1720 calls this the land of Haunce (sic) Hendrick “which now belongs to the orphans of Anth. Winston lately decd.” (p261).

<sup>21</sup> Virginia Patent Book 12, p362

<sup>22</sup> Virginia Patent Book 12, p361

<sup>23</sup> Virginia Patent Book 10, p393.

his four sons were situated on their own lands and an aging Hance surely needed no more than the 200 acres he had patented in Caroline. Whether Hance Hendrick Sr. actually occupied this land or not is uncertain, for there are no further records that we can definitely attribute to him. The surviving records of Caroline County are mainly limited to court orders, which begin in 1732. Although Hance Hendrick, the son, is mentioned frequently, there is no indication that there were two men of that name in the county. Nor is there any indication among the court records of any estate-related activity for the elder Hance. This suggests that Hance Hendrick Sr. was dead by 1732.

On 28 September 1728 Hance Hendrick, Adolphus Hendrick, and William Hendrick each received patents for land in what was then neighboring Spotsylvania County. “Hance Hendrick of King William County” claimed 400 acres of new land.<sup>24</sup> “William Hendrick of King William County” claimed 400 acres in the same vicinity<sup>25</sup> and Adolphus Hendrick claimed 1,000 acres. None seem to have lived on their lands there, for none appear further in Spotsylvania records. Whether the above patentee was Hance Hendrick Sr. or Jr. is uncertain, since both (if living) would have been residents of King William at the time. However, the lack of a modifier suggests the possibility that Hance Hendrick Sr. was dead and the patentee was his son. In fact, the adjectives “Jr.” and “Sr.” were not seen again until 1740, despite numerous intervening references to Hance Hendrick.

When Hance Hendrick Sr. died is impossible to determine, though it seems probable he died prior to 1732 and perhaps several years earlier. He could have been dead as early as 1726, for posthumous patents are not unusual.<sup>26</sup> The destruction of the early records of King William County prevent us from finding records of his will or estate or of the disposition of his two remaining patents. The absence of a second Hance Hendrick in Caroline County records, despite the fact that he once owned land there, suggests he was probably dead by 1732 when the Caroline court records begin.

### An observation on the spelling of Hance Hendrick’s name

Turning briefly to his name, it is interesting – and persuasive – that it was so consistently rendered as “Hance Hendrick”. Between 1701 and 1730 we find his name recorded in 19 separate documents.<sup>27</sup> The surname is recorded as “Hendrick” 18 times and once as “Hendrake”. Not once was it written with the trailing “s” of Hendricks. Indeed, for the next hundred years it would consistently appear as “Hendrick”, only very rarely rendered with a trailing “s”.

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<sup>24</sup> Virginia Patent Book 14, p112

<sup>25</sup> Virginia Patent Book 14, p105

<sup>26</sup> Patents were issued in the name on the warrant (for the survey) and there was a natural delay between survey and patent. At least a few months were required by the patent process itself. However, there could have been a delay of several years introduced by the claimant himself - once the land was surveyed, he had a prior right and was protected if he needed time to raise the cash necessary to pay the surveyor and the Governor’s clerks, or for some other reason. For example, we know Hance Hendrick Jr. had already claimed the land for the 1726 patent in 1718. There are many examples of patents issued posthumously.

<sup>27</sup> Five patents, seven patents to others, the headright certificate copied into one patent, the deed of gift, three New Kent processioning records, the survey report, and the quit rent roll.

His given name is rendered as “Hance” in 13 of the 19 documents, including his own signature to the 1706 deed of gift, and “Hanse” or “Haunce” in three others. On only three occasions was it rendered as “Hans”. The son and grandsons who also carried the name were also consistently rendered as Hance, occasionally Hanse and very rarely as “Hans”, suggesting a pronunciation more akin to the English surname Hance than to the Germanic given name Hans.

## The Next Generation

The children of Hance Hendrick, and presumably of his wife Jane, include at least the following four sons. There were surely daughters, but seemingly no way to identify them. One possible daughter is treated in an excursus below. The son Adolphus can be proven by the fortuitously preserved deed of 1706. A 1742 record for Benjamin Hendrick seems to identify him as a brother to Adolphus. The circumstantial evidence is sufficient by genealogical standards to prove two additional sons. That Hance Hendrick Jr. was a son seems patently obvious. William Hendrick, the fourth son, first appears within a few miles of Hance Hendrick Sr., and the name “Hance” appears among his grandchildren. These four men and their descendants account for every occurrence of the name Hendrick for the next several decades in Virginia, with the exception of a “wido Hendrick” thirty years earlier and more than fifty miles away and an early passing reference to a ship’s captain.<sup>28</sup> Further, these four Hendrick men and their children appear in an impressively large number of records in conjunction with one another.

Each of the following sons is treated in a separate chapter:

- 1.1. Adolphus Hendrick (by1685 - 1763)
- 1.2. William Hendrick (c1680s – aft1756)
- 1.3. Hance Hendrick II (c1690s? - 1773)
- 1.4. Benjamin Hendrick (c1690s? - 1777)

### Excursus: Who Was Jane Hendrick?

The identity of Hance Hendrick’s wife Jane is unknown. Her use as a headright tells us that she immigrated into Virginia, probably at the same time as her husband. But this is the sole record in which her name appears. Thus we cannot even conclude that she was alive at the time Hance Hendrick applied for his patents, for headrights need not have been living persons.<sup>29</sup> The fact that we have no record of a dower release in the 1706 deed (see below) forces us to consider this

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<sup>28</sup> A Thomas Harvie married the “widow Hendrick” in Elizabeth City County in 1696 – she may have been the “Catharine Harvie” who died in Charles City (York) County in 1701. See Chronology.

<sup>29</sup> A headright certificate, in theory at least, could only be issued for a person who survived the passage into Virginia. But once issued, the certificate could survive the persons named within it.

possibility.

However, a Jane Hendrick was sued in Caroline County in 1738 for debt.<sup>30</sup> Whether that was Jane herself or a daughter or daughter-in-law is unknowable. Only a single woman or widow could be sued, and the last appearance of Hance Hendrick was his patent of land in Caroline County in 1726. While that Jane Hendrick may have been an unmarried daughter, it is certainly plausible that this is our second record of his wife, by then a widow. Indeed, her survival as late as 1738 might help explain why three sons remained in the area so long.

### Excursus: The Legend of Jannetze Van Meter

It is widely reported in some compiled genealogies that Jane Hendrick was Jannetze Van Meter, daughter of Jon Josten Van Meteren (or Van Meter) and his wife Macyken Hendrickson, who immigrated to New Amsterdam in 1663. The original source of this claim is unknown, but there is not a shred of documentation to support it. There is no evidence that Jon Josten Van Meteren had a daughter named Jannetze, much less that such a daughter married Hance Hendrick. No daughter of that name is implied by any of the several records for him. Jan Joosten Van Meteren's 1706 will names only four children: sons Jooste Janse and Gysbert, daughter Geertje Crom, and the children of his deceased daughter Lysbeth. No records exist suggesting that there was another daughter left out of the will. Nor is there any record of any Hendrick, Hance or otherwise, living in the vicinity of Van Meteren.

### Excursus: Mary Fox -- A Possible Daughter?

It is possible Hance Hendrick had a daughter Mary who was the wife of Henry Fox. Unfortunately, though, the evidence is both weak and quite indirect. A widely read Fox family genealogy identifies the wife of one Henry Fox as Mary "Kendrick" based on "tradition in the Kendrick family".<sup>31</sup> While there were Fox-Kendrick marriages a couple of generations later, the only supplementary evidence that Fox's wife was a Kendrick seems to have come from a misreading of a Hanover County record of a 1730 sale of land from Henry Fox to William Hendrick, both of King William County.<sup>32</sup>

There is no direct evidence that Henry Fox's wife was either a Hendrick or a Kendrick. She could as easily have been a Smith or a Jones. What we can say for certain is that she was far more likely to have been a Hendrick than a Kendrick. For one thing, there is no mention at all of anyone named Kendrick in the admittedly sparse King William records. But we can reasonably conclude that Henry Fox was well acquainted with Hance Hendrick. Hance Hendrick and Henry Fox were among the 89 residents of King & Queen who petitioned for the formation

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<sup>30</sup> Caroline County Court Orders 2, p499 and p514.

<sup>31</sup> Ancestry of the Fox Family of Richland and Lexington Counties, South Carolina, Joseph E. Steadman, Sr. (1972)

<sup>32</sup> Hanover County Small Book, p57.



of King William County in 1700.<sup>33</sup> Henry Fox, in fact, had a patent located less than two miles from Hance Hendrick's land.



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<sup>33</sup> Preface to the Journal of The House of Burgesses, Vol. II.  
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