

# The Pamunkey Hendrick Family

A narrative genealogy of the family and  
descendants of Hance Hendrick of  
Pamunkey Neck to four generations.

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## Introduction

Hance Hendrick, who perhaps immigrated into Virginia as early as the 1680s, was the progenitor of a vast and confusing set of descendants. Virtually every person named Hendrick in colonial Virginia was a descendant of this man.

This paper is an attempt to identify the individuals in the first four generations of this family, place them into lines of descent, and provide a narrative summary what we know about them from the available records. This effort ends with the fourth generation, which had spread into so many geographies that any attempt to thoroughly research all of them is beyond the capability of a single person. However, where known, I have included the names of proven or supposed members of the fifth generation..

This genealogy is based on an extensive set of Hendrick records, mainly for the period 1699-1800, which are separately published as the “Pamunkey Hendrick Chronicles”. The Chronicles are built on the substantial foundation provided by Dr. John Scott Davenport, who compiled its first few versions. After Dr. Davenport left the project, additional records were incorporated and typographical and other errors corrected. There are a number of gaps in these records, some the result of lost or missing records, others due to incomplete research.

Genealogies are only as complete as the underlying records on which they are based. The Chronicles, while extensive, is by no means a completed effort. Records of many locations, types, and time periods have yet to be researched and added. I hope to produce additional “editions” of both this paper and the Chronicles as new records are uncovered. (And of course, as errors of typography or logic are pointed out to me by careful readers.) As additional records are located and added, some of the genealogical narratives herein may be altered or amended. I hope that other researchers will help to build on this foundation by contributing additional source material.

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In drawing my conclusions, I avoided being influenced by published genealogies by the simple means of not reading them. Subsequent to the first draft of this work, I read an outstanding paper by Alberta Marjorie Dennstedt published in several parts in *The Virginia Genealogist* (Volumes 37-39). Her paper, which focuses on the line of Adolphus Hendrick, provided me with much additional information. At the same time, the independent approach permitted me to add a number of details to her work (and to correct what I believe to be one significant error.) To the best of my knowledge, no such published account exists for the other three Hendrick lines of decent.

Two observations about this family are worth making. First, its members tended to be particularly long-lived, with an unusually high proportion living into their 80s or beyond. Also worth noting is the very frequent interaction among second or third degree relatives. Uncles, nephews, and cousins often lived near one another, witnessed one another’s transactions, and married into the same families. This is not an advantage in genealogy, for it means we cannot draw conclusions about familial relationships solely from interactions between individuals or from geographic proximity.

### Excursus: Observations on the Surname “Hendrick”

The surname is nearly always spelled “Hendrick” in Virginia records, and it seems to be a different surname than “Hendricks” or “Hendrix”. It is worth noting that, where signatures exist for the first three or four generations of this family, they universally signed as “Hendrick”. The trailing “s” in records written by clerks is also fairly rare. It appears more often in abstracted records than in the originals, for many early scribes added a fillip to their “k” which abstractors occasionally rendered as “ks”. Inspection of the original records nearly always shows that the original was simply a “k” with a fillip, not an “s”. The name also appears occasionally as “Hendrake”, another indication that it was pronounced without an “s”. Occasionally we find it rendered as “Kendrick” in abstracted records, where the scribe’s “H” and “K” are nearly indistinguishable.

Nearly all genealogists have concluded that the surname is Germanic. Likewise, nearly all have theorized that Hance Hendrick emigrated from one of the Low Countries or its colonies, based mainly the Germanic-sounding surname and on the early occurrence of the apparently Germanic given names Hance and Adolphus (and much later, of Gustavus). We seemingly have no means of confirming this, for there are no records which suggest that Hance Hendrick and his sons were anything other than British citizens who spoke and wrote English and belonged to the Church of England. While an ultimate Germanic origin is virtually certain, it is not at all clear where Hance Hendrick himself originated. We can, in fact, make a persuasive argument that he may have been English.

There is reason to think that Ralph Yarborough could have promoted his Pamunkey land on his trip to New York. If so, he may have attracted Hance Hendrick to immigrate into Virginia from that colony. While that seems plausible, we do not know how or where Yarborough advertised his land. None of the other Yarborough grantees carried Germanic names, and at least one was long established in Virginia. Indeed, not a single other Germanic-sounding surname appears anywhere among the grantees of Indian lands in Pamunkey Neck, nor even among the hundreds of patentees of lands in King William County. An intriguing fact we cannot ignore is that all but one of the men who acquired land from Ralph Yarbrough later filed patents using their own personal headrights.<sup>1</sup> That strongly implies that all immigrated into Virginia to take up that land, and all but Hendrick were clearly English.

Is “Hendrick” really a Germanic name? There is reason to think it was not. While probably of Dutch origin in the distant past, the Hendrick surname is found in English records long before Hance Hendrick’s emergence in Virginia. Hendrick is found as early as 1273 in Cambridge, and 1473 in Norfolk. In the century before Hance Hendrick’s appearance in Virginia, at least seven men named “Hendrick” left wills in England, none of them with Dutch given names. Further, persons named Hendrick had preceded Hance Hendrick into the American colonies, none of whom were seemingly Dutch. A Daniel Hendrick was in New England by the mid-1600s, the names of Anthony Hendrick, Francis Hendrick, and John Hendrick appear in 17<sup>th</sup> century Maryland land patents, and Francis Hendrick in pre-1700 North Carolina records. Over first few years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a surprisingly large number of persons consistently using the Hendrick name appear throughout the colonies, though no other in Virginia. While a half-dozen Palatines named Hendrick appear in Pennsylvania ship’s lists, at least an equal number immigrating into the colonies during the same period are identified as English, Irish, and Scottish. Thus we must remain open to the possibility that Hance Hendrick was himself

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<sup>1</sup> See Chronology for the details.

English. In support of this hypothesis, I note that he was an English citizen when he first emerges in the records; we have no evidence that he was naturalized, or even that he spoke or wrote anything other than English. In addition, two of his four sons carried the names William and Benjamin – decidedly non-Germanic names. “Adolphus”, while not necessarily German, probably indicates a Germanic connection of some sort, though it could have come from his wife’s family rather than his own.

Further, the Germanic immigrants nearly always used the name “Hendricks”. Only a half-dozen persons named Hendrick appear among 18<sup>th</sup> century Palatine passengers to Philadelphia, only two of whom signed his name that way to the oaths of allegiance or abjuration. Among 17<sup>th</sup> century Germanic immigrants to New Amsterdam and New York, not a single instance is recorded of the surname Hendrick. It is interesting to note that, of more than 200 people named Hendrick emigrating into New York between 1820 and 1891, 80% gave their nationality as English, Irish or Scots but only 16% were from Holland, Germany, or Scandinavia.<sup>2</sup> A similar statistic applies to 19<sup>th</sup> century immigrants to Canada.

### **Excursus: “Forsan Van Deavorack Henrick Sr.”**

An impressive number of internet genealogies identify this fictitious person as the father of Hance Hendrick. The original source of the claim seems to have been a 1916 book, which merely mentioned the man and did not propose any relationship to Hance Hendrick.<sup>3</sup> Readers of the book, oblivious that no such person existed, evidently inferred a relationship the author probably didn’t intend.

It suffices to point out that the man’s given name was “Hendrick”, not his surname. In 1916, patent indices were not widely available, and the author apparently misread the name. On 14 November 1666 “Henrick Forsan Van Deavorack, Senr.” received a patent for 214 acres in York County.<sup>4</sup> As “Henerick Forsan Vandevorakt” he renewed that patent in 1692, adding another 270 acres bought by the “said Henryck Forson”.<sup>5</sup> A 1673 patent to Morris Price mentions the adjoining land as belonging to “Henrick Van Doverack”.<sup>6</sup> A 1693 patent to Owin Davis mentions the land as belonging to “Henderick Vandevorick”.<sup>7</sup> Hening’s Statutes at Large also record the naturalization of this person under a similar name. In short, Forsan Hendrick is a fictitious person.

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<sup>2</sup> Registers of Vessels Arriving at the Port of New York from Foreign Ports, 1789-1919, NARA Microfilm Publication M1066 Of 202 immigrants whose country of origin is given, 131 were from the British Isles, 13 from Holland, 18 from Germany, 4 from Sweden, three from Norway, 2 from France, and one each from Russia, Poland, and Bohemia.

<sup>3</sup> Lineage and Tradition of the Herring, Conyers, Hendrick, Boddie, Perry, Crudup, Denson, and Hilliard Families, Ree Herring Hendrick (unknown publisher, 1916), p67.

<sup>4</sup> Virginia Patent Book 6, p43.

<sup>5</sup> Virginia Patent Book 8, p230.

<sup>6</sup> Virginia Patent Book 6, p443.

<sup>7</sup> Virginia Patent Book 8, p301.