

# The Pamunkey Hendrick Family

A narrative genealogy of the family and  
descendants of Hance Hendrick of Pamunkey Neck

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## Introduction

Hance Hendrick, who perhaps immigrated into Virginia as early as 1680, 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 carrying the Hendrick surname in the first five 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 fifth 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 sixth generation. A few lines are dead ends and could not be traced beyond the fourth 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, many 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 careful readers point out errors of typography or logic.) 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.

## Some Comments on the Surname “Hendrick”

The surname is nearly always spelled “Hendrick” in Virginia records, and it seems to be a distinctly different surname than “Hendricks” or “Hendrix”. Although some members of the family eventually adopted the Hendricks and Hendrix spellings, that is not how the name began in Virginia. 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 originally pronounced without an “s”. Occasionally we find it rendered as “Kendrick” in abstracted records, where the scribe’s “H” and “K” are nearly indistinguishable.

## The Origins of Hance Hendrick

Many genealogists have concluded that the surname originated in the Low Countries of Europe, apparently due to the similarity to the Hendricks and Hendrix versions of the name and the resemblance to Hendrick as a given name. However, some branches of the family have variously claimed that the original Hendrick immigrant was English, Irish, and even Scottish. Those who believe the name is Dutch or German have theorized that Hance Hendrick emigrated from one of the Low Countries or its colonies, based mainly on the 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 that 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.

DNA testing of descendants (see below) suggests an ultimate origin thousands of years ago in Scandinavia rather than on the European mainland. Although his ancestors are virtually certain to have originated elsewhere, it is not at all clear where Hance Hendrick himself lived before Virginia. We can, in fact, make a persuasive argument that he may have been English.

Some have proposed that Richard Yarborough could have promoted his Pamunkey lands on a 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 actually 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 Richard 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 of them were clearly English.

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

I note that the Hendrick surname is found in English records long before Hance Hendrick's emergence in Virginia. Hendrick as a surname 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 New World, 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 using the Hendrick surname appear throughout the colonies, though no others in Virginia. A century later, there were a half-dozen Palatines named Hendrick appearing in Pennsylvania ship's lists, but 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 (if not firm) to the possibility that Hance Hendrick was himself 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 non-English 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 their names 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.

### An Ultimate Origin in Scandinavia?

Y-DNA test results published by the Hendrix/Hendrick/Hendricks DNA Project have shown that Pamunkey Hendrick descendants are unrelated, or very distantly related, to other groups with a similar surname. More than twenty participants who identify themselves as definite or probable descendants of Pamunkey Hendrick ancestors have been tested to date. Their test results indicate a Norse origin for the family in the distant past -- that is, a set of distinctive DNA results that indicate an origin perhaps two to three thousand years ago in or near what is now Denmark. (This origin would, of course, predate the use of familial surnames by many centuries.) While we cannot say for sure where the Pamunkey family's Hendrick surname originated, we can observe that persons with the same DNA markers are in modern times heavily concentrated in Sweden and Norway, with somewhat lesser concentrations in surrounding countries.

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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.

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

An impressive number of internet genealogies identify this fictitious person as the father of Hance Hendrick. This is a classic genealogical red herring. 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 that the book’s author surely did not intend.

It suffices to point out that the man’s given name was “Henrick”, not his surname. In 1916 when the book was written, patent indices were not widely available, and the author apparently misread the name. The relevant records clearly show us that this person is imaginary.

On 14 November 1666 one *Henrick Forsan Van Deavorack, Senr.* received a patent for 214 acres in York County, Virginia.<sup>4</sup> As *Henerick Forsan Vandevorakt* he renewed that patent in 1692, and added another 270 acres adjoining.<sup>5</sup> A 1673 patent to a neighbor named Morris Price mentions the adjoining land as belonging to *Henrick Van Doverack*.<sup>6</sup> A 1693 patent to Owin Davis also calls the adjoining landowner *Henderick Vandevorick*.<sup>7</sup> York County records spell his name in a variety of ways, including *Henrick Vandoverick* and *Henrick Van Doveracke*.<sup>8</sup> Hening’s Statutes at Large also record the naturalization of this person, as *Henry ffayson Vandoverage*, as one of ten Huguenots who took the oath of allegiance at the Virginia General Assembly on the same day.<sup>9</sup> He is, in fact, recognized as one of the early Huguenot immigrants to the south by the National Huguenot Society.

In short, the evidence is overwhelming that the man’s surname was not Henrick or Hendrick or anything similar.

The genealogy of this person is actually reasonably well known. Henrick or Henry Fayson Von Doverage Sr. and his wife, said to be Rebecca Plover, had a son Henry Fayson Von Doverage Jr. (1656-1697) who married Ann Hickle and produced a son named James Fayson Von Doverage. Descendants eventually moved to North Carolina and adopted the surname “Faison” or “Fayson”. The genealogy of this family is covered in Our Family History, published by 1956 by Minnie Speer Boone.

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<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.

<sup>8</sup> York County Deed Book 8, p16 for example.

<sup>9</sup> The Statutes at Large of Virginia, William Waller Hening, Vol. 2, p302.