

# A History of Mulberry Island, Warwick County, 1610 to 1784

Julie Richter

**Submitted to:**

The United States Army Transportation Center  
Fort Eustis, Virginia

**Submitted by:**

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
Department of Archaeological Research  
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**Principal Investigator**

Marley R. Brown III

September 2000



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by  
Julie Richter

Cooperative Agreement  
Between  
Fort Eustis, United States Army  
and the  
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# Chapter 1.

## Introduction

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**M**ulberry Island (Figure 1) is a peninsula that was part the James City Corporation in 1624/5 and, after 1634, Warwick River County (later Warwick County) (Jester and Hiden 1987:46-48). It borders the James and the Warwick rivers, and comprises approximately eight thousand acres. Virginia's colonists explored the peninsula by 1610, and it is possible that some settlers called Stanley Hundred (located on the southern portion of the peninsula) their home by 1617 or 1618. The Crown issued the first patent for land on Mulberry Island in 1619.

It is possible that the location of Mulberry Island—about ten miles down the James River from Jamestown—influenced several prominent colonists to acquire land in this settlement. William Peirce, John Rolfe, and Sir George Yeardley were among the first men to patent land on Mulberry Island. Peirce and several members of the House of Burgesses—Thomas Harwood, Thomas Flint, John Brewer, and Anthony Barham—were residents of Mulberry Island in the 1630s. Large planters held much of the land on this peninsula by the time the Crown divided the colony into eight counties in 1634.

The small size of Mulberry Island shaped the lives of its residents. The settlement's prominent residents had ties to their counterparts in other areas of the colony, especially Isle of Wight County, where Peirce, Barham, and Brewer owned land. By the third quarter of the seventeenth century, many of Mulberry Island's successful planters held land in other counties. These men added to their holdings so that they could leave plantations to each of their sons. Other Mulberry Island residents turned to the Governor and the General Court to settle land disputes and to secure their title to property. Planters in this

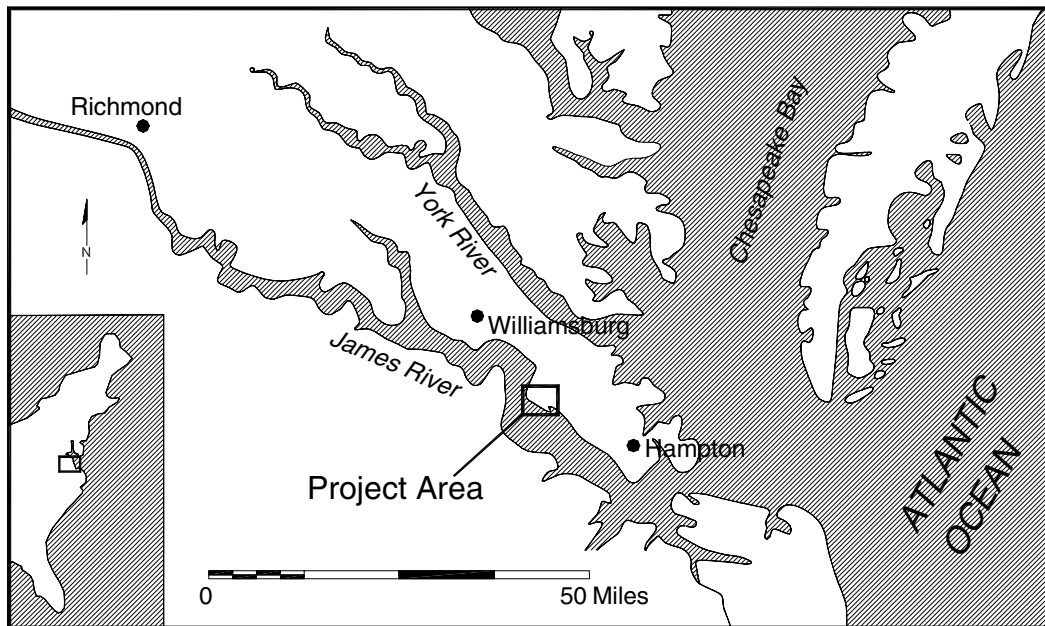


Figure 1. Project area.

portion of Warwick County and other areas in the Tidewater region relied on a labor force of enslaved men, women, and children to tend their tobacco fields by the end of the seventeenth century.

In the eighteenth century, residents of Mulberry Island and Warwick mentioned the small size of their parish and county on several occasions. Younger sons moved to new plantations on the Southside of the James River and in the Piedmont. Perhaps former residents of Warwick County proposed the name “Warwick” for a town in Henrico County in early 1740 (*Virginia Gazette*, 18 January 1739/40). Several of those who held Mulberry Island asked the General Assembly for permission to sell land that was not profitable.

Although Mulberry Island did not suffer much physical damage during the American Revolution, residents had their lives disrupted by the decision to declare independence from Great Britain. After the American victory at Yorktown, a number of Mulberry Island’s residents chose to move to other areas of Virginia where the land was more productive. Those who stayed on this peninsula had the opportunity to purchase the land of those who moved westward.

## Chapter 2.

# Early Settlement at Mulberry Island

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Virginia's settlers explored the area that they called Mulberry Island by 1610 (Figure 2). It is likely that the colonists named this part of the colony after the native Virginia mulberry trees that grew on the "island."

On June 7, 1610, the colony's Governor, Sir Thomas Gates, decided to abandon Jamestown and return to England. However, Gates and the majority of the colony's settlers met Lord De La Warr's long boat off Mulberry Island the next day and learned that 150 additional colonists and supplies would soon arrive. Gates ordered his boats to return to Jamestown. Captain John Smith described the 1610 meeting that saved the colony in his *The Generall History of Virginia, the Somer Iles, and New England, with the Names of the Adventurers, and Their Adventures...* (1623). The Fourth Book—"The Government resigned to Sir Thomas Gates, 1610" states:

When these two Noble Knights did see our miseries, being but strangers in that Countrie, and could understand no more of the cause, but by conjecture of our clamours and complaints, of accusing and excusing one another: They embarked us with themselves, with the best meanes they could, and abandoning James towne, set saile for England, whereby you may see the event of the government of the former Commanders left to themselves; although they had lived there many yeeres as formerly hath beene spoken (who hindered now their proceedings, Captaine Smith being gone.)

At noone they fell to the Ile of Hogs, and the next morning to Mulbery point at what time they descried the Long-boat of the Lord la Ware, for God would not have it so abandoned. For this honourable Lord, then Governour of the Countrie, met them with three ships exceedingly well furnished with all necessaries fitting, who againe returned them to the abandoned James towne (Barbour 1986:II:233-234).

Lord De La Warr reached James City on June 10, 1610 and became Governor of Virginia.

Extant documents indicate that Mulberry Island was not settled until 1617 or 1618. The inhabitants of Stanley Hundred, a 1,000 acre "particular plantation," might have been the first residents of this part of the colony. The settlement did not have a sufficient number of inhabitants to have its own representative at the initial session of the House of Burgesses in the summer of 1619.

Several prominent residents took an interest in Mulberry Island during the colony's second decade. William Peirce, John Rolfe, Thomas Peirce, and William Spencer received a patent for 1,700 acres on Mulberry Island before the end of 1619. William Peirce patented 650 acres on Mulberry Island in December 1619 (Figure 3). This tract was part of the large parcel that he owned with his son-in-law, Rolfe, Thomas Peirce, and Spencer. It is possible that Sir George Yeardley held the 1,000 acre parcel called Stanley Hundred as early as 1621 (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:9-10, 149, II:43). These patentees claimed land on Mulberry Island under the headright system established in 1618 as part of the Great Charter. A person could claim fifty acres of land if they paid for the transportation of an individual to the colony.



Figure 2. Mulberry Island.

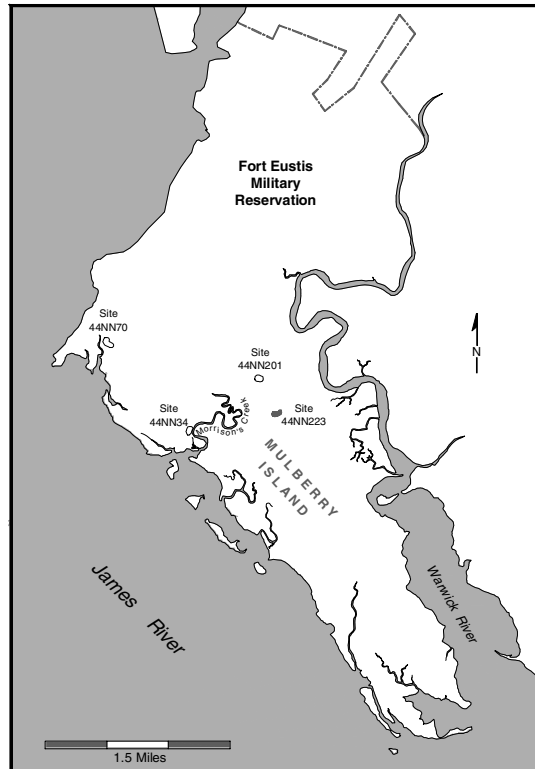


Figure 3. Location of sites on land patented by William Peirce, John Rolfe, Thomas Peirce, and William Spencer.

It is likely that William Peirce settled some of his servants on his Mulberry Island property because he continued to live at Jamestown. Sir George Yeardley might have done the same. The early growth of the Mulberry Island settlement ended with the 1622 Indian uprising. “The numbers that were slaine in those severall Plantations” included six persons at Mulberry Island: Master Thomas Peirce, his wife, his child, John Hopkins, John Samon, and a “French boy” (Kingsbury 1906-1935:II:570). The men, women, and children who survived the attack abandoned Mulberry Island.

## The Establishment of a Permanent Settlement at Mulberry Island

Settlers did not return to Mulberry Island until early 1625. The Muster of 1624/5 listed thirty persons who lived in thirteen households (Jester and Hiden 1987:46-48):

Captain William Peirce’s Servants  
 Richard Attkins aged 24 came in the *London Marchannt*  
 Abigail Attkins came in the *Abigall*  
 William Baker aged 20 came in the *Abigall*  
 Robert Aston 29 in the *Treasuror*  
 Hugh Wing 30  
 Robert Lathom 20  
 Richard Aldon 19  
 Thomas Wood 35 } came in the *George* 1620  
 Robert Ruce came in the *Charles*  
 Allexander Gill 20 in the *Bony bess*  
 Samuel Morris 20 in the *Abigall*  
 Thomas Rose 35 in the *Jonathan*  
 Robert Hedges aged 40 yeres in the [blank]  
 John Virgo came in the *Treasuror*  
 Susan Virgo in the same Shipp  
 John Gatter came in the *George* 1620  
 William Richardson came in the *Edwine*  
 Richard Fine came in the *Neptune*  
 John Nowell came in the *Margarett & John*  
 Richard Downes came in the *Jonathan*  
 John Cranich came in the *Marygold*  
 Percevall Wood came in the *George*  
 Ann Wood in the *George*  
 William Raymont came in the *Neptune*  
 William Bullock came in the *Jonathan*  
 Anthony Baram came in the *Abigall*  
 Elizabeth Baram in the *William & Thomas*  
 Thomas Harwood came in the *Margrett & John* 1622  
 Grace Harwood in the *George*  
 Thomas Read aged 65 years

Peirce moved six servants—Robert Hedges, Hugh Wing, Roger Ruce, Alexander Gill, Robert Aston, and Richard Aldon—who had been in his James City household in 1624 to Mulberry Island. He also relocated seven servants—Richard Attkins, Abigail Attkins, William Baker, Robert Lathom, Thomas Wood, Samuel Morris, and Thomas Rose—from “The Maine.” Perhaps Anthony Barham, John Virgo and his wife Susan, William Richardson, William Bullock, and Percevall Wood who lived “over the river” in 1624 decided to move to Mulberry Island as a group. John Gatter relocated to Mulberry Island from James City and Thomas Harwood lived at the Neck of Land near James City before he settled on Mulberry Island (Hotten 1980:173, 174, 176, 178, 179). Perhaps these men and women felt more secure when the Council decided that the plantation of Mulberry Island was to receive ½ barrel of powder (McIlwaine 1924:62).

It appears that Peirce’s decision to move his servants to Mulberry Island persuaded other colonists to settle in this area. Both Robert Poole and Gilbert Peppett had a house on Mulberry Island by January 1626[/7] when Sir George Yeardley confirmed his 1621 title to the 1,000 acres known as Stanley Hundred:

The Governo<sup>r</sup> at this Court intimated his intent to take vpp one thousand acres of land as his diident, lyeing vppon *Blunt point* river and bounded Easterly by a creek that deuideth it fro the land of *Robin Poole & L' Peppet*, next adioyning to their houses now built, and soe extending Westerly alonge the banke of y<sup>e</sup> river soe far as unto y<sup>e</sup> same quantity of land appertaineth, Northerly vppon the said *Blunt Point* river & Southerly vppon the Maine River: w<sup>ch</sup> thing the Court hath condiscended vnto.

And therefore at this Court Cap<sup>t</sup> *Rog<sup>r</sup> Smyth* & Cap<sup>t</sup> *Willm Peirce* signified their consent and allowance to giue leaue vnto y<sup>e</sup> Governo<sup>r</sup> to take vpp his diident as aforementioned And whereas there may be some doubt leaft that land now take[n] vpp by y<sup>e</sup> Governor should fall out to be a pt of their diident, they doe bind themselves to stand contented to haue soe much land giuen them by y<sup>e</sup> Governo<sup>r</sup> in some other place.

Yeardley held this land until the time of his death (McIlwaine 1924:130; Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:9-10). A settler named James Tooke received permission to move from “The Maine” to “plant at *Mulbury Iland*” in January 1626[/7]. The September 1627 patent to Robert Poole noted that his property was near the Stanley Hundred Church. Poole’s grant is the first mention of a church in the Stanley Hundred section of Mulberry Island. The Stanley Hundred Church stood in 1645 (McIlwaine 1924:133; Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:8, 159; Mason 1945:118).

Residents of Mulberry Island played a part in the attack on local Indians that the Council planned in July 1627. Members of the Council decided that

we should draw out ptyes fro all our plantations & goe vppon the Indians & cutt downe their corne, and further that we should sett vppon them all in one day *viz*, the first of *August* next: The plantations of the *Necke of land* & the *Colledge* to goe vppon the *Tanx Powhatans*, both the *Sherley-Hundred*, *Jordaines Journey*, *Chaplaines Choise* & *Perseys Hundred* vppon the Townes of ye *Weianoacks* & ye *Appamatucks*, The Corporation of *James City* vppon ye *Chicahominies* & the *Tappahannaes*, *Warwicke-River*, *Warosquoiacke* & *Newports-Newes*, vppon the plantation of the *Warosquoyacks*: *Elizabeth City* vppon ye *Nansamungs* & *Chesapeiacks*. Comaunders appointed for these seruices are these, *viz*, for *Tanx Powhatans* Left *Tho: Osborne* in Cheife, *Tho: Harris* second: ffor *Appamattucke* & ye *Weianokes* Ensigne *Epes* & Mr *Pawlet* & to make choise of their seconds: ffor the *Chicahominies* Capt *Peirce* in cheife Mr *Harwood* second: ffor the *Tappahannes* Capt *West* in cheife, Mr *Grindon*



second ffor the *Warosquoyacks* Capt *Mathewes*. ffor the *Nansamungs*, Lt. *Tho: Purfury*. ffor the *Chesapeiacks*, Ensigne *Willoby*.

And further it is thought expedient that Left *Peppet* doe goe in ye good shipp called the *Virgin* into *Pamunky*-Riuer & to ride there to put the Indians in expectation of our comeing thither, whilst the aforesaid business is in doeing.

It is alsoe thought fitt that about the beginning of *October* next there be a sufficient number of men drawne out fro all the plantations of the Colony to goe to *Pamunky* or any other ptes to take & spoile as much corne as they shall light on, & to doe what other hurt & damadge to the Indians that they may.

The fact that the Council appointed Captain William Peirce and Mr. Thomas Harwood as the leaders of the men from James City who were to attack the Chickahomines is an indication that neither Peirce or Harwood lived on Mulberry Island in summer 1627. Residents of Mulberry Island joined other men from Warwick River, Warraskoyack Newport News to fight at the Native Americans who lived at Warraskoyack (McIlwaine 1924:151).

It appears that Thomas Harwood had strong ties to the James City area until January 1627[/8] and possibly later. At the 14 January 1627[/8] court session “M<sup>r</sup> *Thomas Harwood* shewed that hee was much scanted for want of ground to plant at y<sup>e</sup> *Necke of land*, And the Ouerseers & Guardians refused to let him any more, Where vppon the Court gaue leaue vnto him to remoue from thence & to plant elsewhere” (McIlwaine 1924:159).

Sir George Yeardley died on 12 November 1627 and his widow sold his land in Stanley Hundred on 9 February 1627[/8]. Lady Temperance Yeardley appeared at a meeting of the General Court and “did, (according to ye will of her late husband Sr *George Yeardley* Knt viz he hauing willed that the Plantation of one thousand acres of land at *Stanley* in *Warwicke*-River, should be sold & made into Tobacco for the vse of her & her children) acknowledged the said Plantation of one thousand acres to be by herselfe by vertue of the said Will, for good considerations & a valewble some of seauen thousand waight of Tobacco, sold & wholly made ouer to Leftent *Thomas fflint* & to his heires & assignes for euer” (McIlwaine 1924:166). Lieutenant Thomas Flint relocated to Mulberry Island from his land in Elizabeth City County. He arrived in the colony in 1618 on the *Diana* (Jester and Hiden 1987:66).

Thomas Flint appeared before the General Court in November 1628 to answer the charge of ill behavior towards his step-daughter, Dorothy Beheathland. Governor Francis West told the Council that he went to Flint’s house to discuss the matter with Mary Flint. Thomas Flint denied the accusation and, according to the testimony of Robert Poole, the Governor ordered him to be held prisoner. Flint struck at the guard, Gilbert Whitfeild, and then William Baker held Flint. A minister named Richard James, Poole, and Gilbert and Lucy Peppett noted that Flint said he wanted a new Governor so he could have some justice. The Council decided “that the said *fflint* for his misdemeanour and Contempt shall bee degraded from his title of Leiftennte and shall paie 1000<sup>li</sup> weight of [Tobacco] for a fine and find suerties for his good behau[iour]from Quarter Co<sup>r</sup> to Quarter Co<sup>r</sup> vntill the Co<sup>r</sup> shall think fitt to release him” (McIlwaine 1924:176-177).

Thomas and Mary Flint conveyed their title to the 1,000 acres in Stanley Hundred to a merchant named John Brewer in January 1628[/9]. The Flints remained on Mulberry Island after this transfer. Mary Flint asked Brewer to provide evidence in her dispute with William Peirce in early 1628[/9]. Brewer “sworne and exaied sayth that Mary the wife of Thomas fflint did demaud of Captaine Pearce tenn barrells of Corne, but Captaine Peirce denyes hee owed soe much vnto her but was in the ende contented to giue her eight barrells and a halfe wch hee pmised should bee paid her, and that hee would giue order before his deprture for England for the paymt thereof vnto her” (McIlwaine 1924:180).

In 1629 the settlement at Mulberry Island had enough residents to send two men to represent the area at the meeting of the House of Burgesses. Thomas Harwood and Phettiplace Clause were Burgesses for Mulberry Island in October of that year. Christopher Stokes, Thomas Ceely, Thomas Flint, and Zachariah Cripps represented Warwick River in the same session of the General Assembly. Nutmeg Quarter sent William Cole and William Bentley to Jamestown in October 1629 (Hening 1969:1:139).

In late 1629 the minister and churchwardens of Stanley Hundred appeared before the General Court to answer several charges. The clerk made the following entries in the records of the General Court:

The psentm<sup>ts</sup> of the minister & Church wardens of *Stmaley [sic] Hundred* were delivered into the Co<sup>rt</sup> vnder their hands and also a register of marriages Burials & Christings.

fforasmuch as the Church Wardens of *Stanley hund* were psented by the mnster concerninge the Church affaryes, w<sup>ch</sup> appeareth to be the onlie neglect of M<sup>r</sup> *John Brewer* in not pforminge of fower dayes worke w<sup>ch</sup> was due from him vnto the Church buisness, *It is therefore ordered* that M<sup>r</sup> Brewer shall pay eight dayes worke for his said neglect to be paid to the vse of the Church w<sup>th</sup>in 4 dayes after his Cominge home from hence, & shall pay the Church wardens either of them 100<sup>li</sup> of Tobaco for their trouble & hinderance in Cominge to the Co<sup>rt</sup>.

Vppon the psentm<sup>t</sup> of the Church wardens of *Stanley hund* for suspition of incontinency betweene *Henry King* & the wife of *John Jackson*, they lyinge together in her husbands absence, It is thought fitt that the sayd *Kinge* shall remoue his habitation from her & not to vse or freequent her Company vntill her husbands retorne.

These charges indicate that the church wardens worked to maintain order and moral standards in the young community. The presentments also indicate that several families with young children lived in Stanley Hundred (McIlwaine 1924:200).

Residents of Mulberry Island and the rest of the colonists received orders to march against the Indians in October 1629. The legislators divided the colony into four divisions. The men who lived on “the plantations of Mulberry Island” were part of the second group and they, along with the third group from the Warraskoyack plantation, were to “cleare the grounds and lands between Hogg Island creeke and Nansamunge river” in November, March, and July. Men from Warwick River and Nutmeg Quarter were part of the fourth division. They were to attack the Indians who lived along the Pamunkey River before the Christmas frost and again in the summer. The fourth group also had orders to go against the Indians who lived between the Nansemond River and the Chesapeake (Hening 1969:1:141).

In February 1632/3, the Council and Burgesses decided to establish a system of tobacco stores or warehouses where planters would bring their tobacco by the first of December each year. The legislators hoped that centralization and inspection would improve the quality of the tobacco exported from the colony. They selected the following places for the warehouses:

At James City, at Shirley hund. Iland, Denbeigh, Southampton river in Elizabeth City, and Kiskyake, vizt. all the inhabitants in the upper parts, as lowe as Weyanoke shall bringe their tobacco to the store at Shirley hund. Iland, and the inhabitants from Weyanoake to Stanley hund. and Lawnes Creeke to the store at James City, and all the inhabitants from Stanley hund. and Laynes Creeke downe to Maries Mount to the store at Denbigh. And all the inhabitants of Elizabeth City, Accomacke and the Ile of Kent to the stores in Southampton River (Hening 1969:1:205).

The settlement at Stanley Hundred served as a landmark for the colony in 1632/3.

Mulberry Island and Stanley Hundred became part of Warwick River County in 1634 when the Crown established county government in Virginia. It was one of the eight original counties (Figure 4). There were 811 residents in the county in that year and Warwick ranked third in population behind James City and Elizabeth City counties (Morgan 1975:412-413) (Table 1). In March 1642/3 the members of the General Assembly changed the name of the county to Warwick County. The legislators defined the exact boundaries of this county as

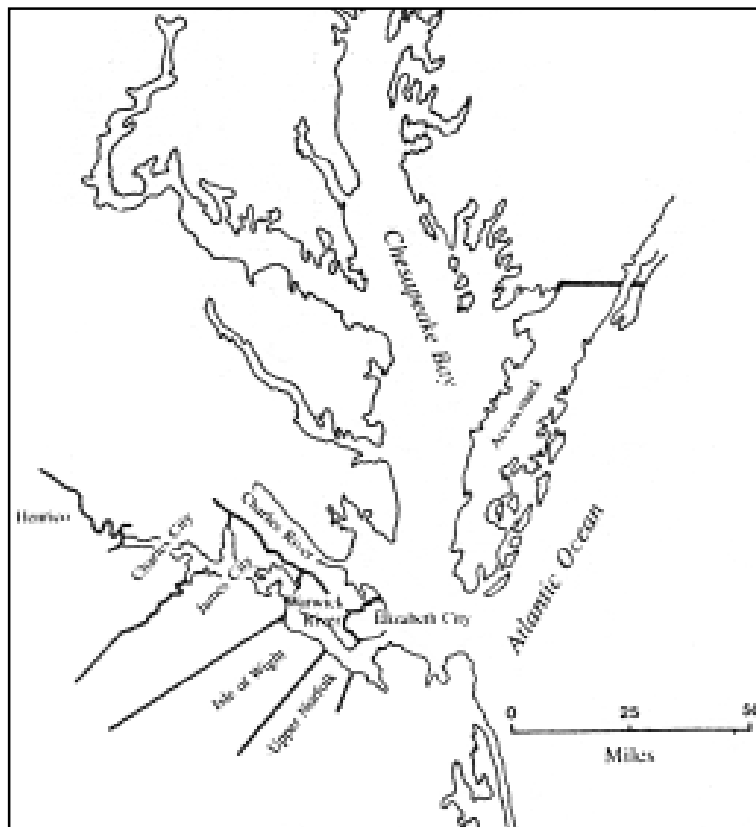


Figure 4. Virginia counties, 1634.

**Table 1  
Population Information for Warwick County, 1634 to 1850**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Tithes</b>	<b>White Tithes</b>	<b>Black Tithes</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Land- holders</b>	<b>Source</b>
1634				811			Morgan 1975:412-413
1645	328						Boddie 1938:98
1674	412						Morgan 1975:412-413
1682	306						Morgan 1975:412-413
1690	424						Warwick County Court Orders 21 January 1690/1
1699	474			1,362			Morgan 1975:412-413
1700	505						Warwick County Order Book 1699-1701
1701	490						Warwick County Order Book 1701
1702	505				38,606		<i>Virginia Magazine of History and Biography</i> 1893-1894:372
July 1702	204 (MI)						<i>Virginia Magazine of History and Biography</i> 1893-1894:377
July 1702	278 (D)						<i>Virginia Magazine of History and Biography</i> 1893-1894:377
1704	518					124	Public Records Office 1704a and 1704b
1705	536						Public Records Office 1705
1713					38,902	131	<i>Public Records Office 1713</i>
1714	604				39,213		<i>Virginia Magazine of History and Biography</i> 1894-1895:13
1726	701				39,108		<i>Virginia Magazine of History and Biography</i> 1940:151
1729	776						Warwick County Records 1728-1729
1748	838						Warwick Minute Book 1748-1762:12
1749	872						Warwick Minute Book 1748-1762:70
1750	840						Warwick Minute Book 1748-1762:113
1752	848						Warwick Minute Book 1748-1762:163
1755	879						Warwick Minute Book 1748-1762:313
1755	846	181	665				Greene and Harrington 1932:150-151
1756	888						Warwick Minute Book 1748-1762:376
1758	858						Warwick Minute Book 1748-1762:521

**Table 1 (cont'd)  
Population Information for Warwick County, 1634 to 1850**

Year	Total Tithes	White Tithes	Black Tithes	Total Population	Acres	Land- holders	Source
1759	890						Warwick Minute Book 1748-1762:576
1760	866						Warwick Minute Book 1748-1762:607
1761	823						Warwick Minute Book 1748-1762:633
1762	859						Warwick Minute Book 1748-1762:674-675
1782					44,482.49	113	Warwick County Land and Personal Property Tax Lists
1784				1,434			Warwick County List of Inhabitants and Structures
1795	757	174	583		42,796.16	153	Warwick County Land and Personal Property Tax Lists
1800	676	151	525		43,211.45	159	Warwick County Land and Personal Property Tax Lists
1810	713	160	553		42,486.98	168	Warwick County Land and Personal Property Tax Lists
1820	655	148	507		41,809.02	192	Warwick County Land and Personal Property Tax Lists
1830	623	153	470		42,862.73	194	Warwick County Land and Personal Property Tax Lists
1840	580	137	443		42,382.30	166	Warwick County Land and Personal Property Tax Lists
1850	687	182	505		45,171.01	160	Warwick County Land and Personal Property Tax Lists

**Note:** In 1850, the number of black tithes includes 7 free people of color.

from the mouth of Keth's creek vpp along the lower side of the head of it, including all the dividit of Mr. Thomas Harwood (providing it prejudice not the antient bounds of James Citty county) with Mulberry Island, Stanley Hundred, Warwick River, and all the land belonging to the Mills, and so down to Newports News with the families of Skowen's damms and Persimon Ponds (Hening 1969:1:250).

It is possible that the court met on twenty-first day of each month before the General Assembly set this date as the meeting date in March 1661/2 (Hening 1969:2:69-71).

## **Establishment of Mulberry Island Parish**

Extant documents indicate that the first use of the name Mulberry Island Parish was in two 1635 patents to Willis Heyley. The first grant, dated 17 August 1635, noted that Heyley was the pastor of Mulberry Island. He gained possession of 250 acres in the parish of Mulberry Island by order of the General Court "first in reward of his faithfull paines in the Ministrie exemplified by a Godly & quiet life thereby seconding his doctrine, next as a spurr & encouragement for others of his calling to pursue soe faire & bright an example." Heyley received another 250 acres for the personal adventures of his wife Eleanor, his brother Robert, and the transportation of three persons on 8 December 1635 (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:30, 36). Perhaps the residents of the Mulberry Island area asked for the establishment of Mulberry Island Parish soon after the creation of county government in the colony.

It is likely that Reverend Heyley ministered to the residents from a church in the parish in 1635. The December 1643 patent to William Peirce for 2100 acres mentioned that the church stood on land known as Baker's Neck. The grant noted that Peirce's land began "at the Mouth of a Creeke neare the now dwelling house of the said Capt William Peirce which Creeke deivdeth this Land from Bakers Necke where the Church now standeth" (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:149). Peirce, the most prominent resident of Mulberry Island, probably donated land for the parish church.

There was a controversy between the inhabitants of Mulberry Island and Denbigh Parishes in November 1647. The parishes disputed the dividing line between Mulberry Island and Denbigh. The members of each parish wanted to increase the district size so that their parish would have a greater number of tithes.

Upon a controversie betweene the parishioners of Denbigh parish and the parishioners of Mulberry Island parish for theire certaine bounds and Lymitts of their severall parishes: Bee it enacted and established for avoyding of all future uncertainty herein That the bounds of Mulberry Island parish shall bee and beginne on the North side of the land knowne by the name of Bremers [Brewer's ?] land, including the Mill land on both sides of the River. And that Denbigh parish shall beeginne from the Mill land on the South side of the River, and extend to Nuttmegg quarter parish Provided not withstanding that the Inhabitants of both sides of the river to the Mills upon just ground given to this Assembly shall pay all Tythes and dutyes to the Minister of Denbigh parish for this year; as allsoe all Arrears w<sup>ch</sup> [de futuro?] may be claymed due from any of them to the Minister of Denbigh as aforesaid.

Extant documents suggest that Denbigh Parish became larger in 1656. Captain Thomas Pritchard, a resident of Nutmeg Quarter in Warwick County submitted a petition during the March 1655-December 1656 session of the General Assembly. The legislators noted

Whereas a petition was presented to the honourable Grand Assembly by Capt. Thomas Pritchard in behalf of the inhabitants of Nuttmegg Quarters intimating their desire by reason of their small number not longer to continue a parish of themselves, but to be united to the parish of Denbigh. It is ordered that the commissioners the next county court make enquire of the desires of the inhabitants, and if the major part agree vnto it, then they to be accepted and be members of the parish of Denbigh aforesaid otherwise to remaine a parish of themselves as at present (*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 1915:247; McIlwaine 1905-1915:1:101).

Stanley Hundred existed as a separate area on the peninsula between the James and Warwick Rivers in 1656. In April of that year the Burgesses planned to hear a case that involved residents of Stanley Hundred:

The suit Between Lef<sup>t</sup> Coll<sup>o</sup> Miles Cary & Mr John Brewer in behalfe of the Inhabitants of Stanly hundred, plaintiffs & Mr John Harlowe, Defend<sup>t</sup>, in respect of the preterjudiciall bringing ye said suite before ye Assembly & the said Harlowe never sumoned, is dismissed (McIlwaine 1905-1915:1:113).

But Harlow renewed his suit. He probably did so because he hoped to gain possession of land in Stanley Hundred. In March 1659/60, the Governor and Council finally ruled on the suit that Cary and Brewer brought against Harlow:

*Whereas* a suite hath long depended between Mr. Miles Cary and Mr. John Brewer, proprietor of land in *Stanley* Hundred and Mr. John Harlowe about fffiftie acres of land given by order of the Governour and councell in the yeare one thousand six hundred thirty-one, for a com'on vnto the inhabitants of the said *Stanly* Hundred which grant of the Governour and Councell appearing valid by the Grand Charter exhibitted to the committee, *It is therefore ordered*, That the said fifty acres be confirmed to the said inhabitants of *Stanly* Hundred according to the grant, And that the pattent for the same granted to Mr. *Harlowe* be made void and null (McIlwaine 1905-1915:2:5).

It is unknown when Stanley Hundred became an official part of Mulberry Island Parish. Residents of Warwick County used the name “Stanley Hundred” to refer to the lower part of Mulberry Island in the eighteenth century.

Henry Filmer, a native of East Sutton, Kent, England, lived near the Mulberry Island Church on Baker’s Neck in 1667 when he received a patent for 360 acres (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:9). It is likely that he made his home on this parcel of land as early as 1658. Filmer wrote a letter to his nephew, Robert, on 21 April of that year. He began the letter with the following heading: “Laus Deo Mulberry Island April 21<sup>th</sup> (58)” (Filmer Papers). “Laus Deo” is Latin for “Praise to God.” Filmer might have settled near the parish church because religion was an important part of his life. Filmer decided to leave a legacy of forty pounds sterling to the Mulberry Island Church to purchase “such plate for the Communion table as the Minister and Vestry should thinke” appropriate when he wrote his will in February 1671. Filmer died in 1671 or 1672 and the value of his personal estate was smaller than he had anticipated. In April 1683, Robert Hubberd and Emanuel Wills—churchwardens of Mulberry Island Parish—released Filmer’s estate from the payment of the legacy (Filmer Papers; Walne 1960:426).

The Mulberry Island church on Baker’s Neck probably stood until the summer of 1667. On 27 August 1667, a violent hurricane hit the James River area. The winds knocked down many wooden structures (Morgan 1975:242). It is possible that the hurricane de-

stroyed the first Mulberry Island Church and the parish's communion plate. The 14 May 1669 patent to Thomas Iken contained a reference to "Bakers neck where the Church formly stood" (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:56). The residents of Mulberry Island built a new church soon after the destruction of their first one. A March 1661/2 statute required each parish to construct a decent church (Hening 1969:2:44). According to George Carrington Mason, the second Mulberry Island church stood one and one-half miles north-east of the marshy creek that divided the peninsula from the main land at high tide. The exterior of the brick structure measured fifty feet by twenty-five feet. The foundation walls were two feet thick (Mason 1945:118-119).

## **Seventeenth-Century Residents of Mulberry Island**

In 1624/5, Mulberry Island was home to men and women from the lower part of Virginia's social and economic ladder. Peirce moved thirteen of his servants to his land on the peninsula. It is likely that these servants lived in simple structures on Peirce's property. It is probable that Thomas and Grace Harwood did not live on Mulberry Island until the late 1620s. The other residents of Mulberry Island in 1624/5 were small planters who might have rented land from Peirce, Harwood, or Sir George Yeardley.

Men who were referred to as "gentlemen" became interested in Mulberry Island soon after Virginia became a royal colony in 1625. Robert Poole and Gilbert Peppett patented land and built houses on their Mulberry Island property by early 1626[/7]. Lieutenant Thomas Flint purchased the 1,000 acres known as Stanley Hundred from Temperance Yeardley, the widow of George Yeardley, in February 1627[/8]. Thomas Harwood probably lived on his land near Skiffe's Creek by 1629.

In 1635 Mulberry Island was home to men, women, and children who were from all levels of the social and economic ladder. The year 1635 also marked the first year that William Peirce is known to have lived on Mulberry Island. Peirce, a member of the Council, was the most prominent resident of this section of Warwick County. It is likely that Peirce built a house near Peirce's Creek and the James River that reflected his position in Mulberry Island, Warwick County, and the colony of Virginia. It is known that Peirce's house at James City had a dining hall and a chamber where George Sandys, the Treasurer of the colony, slept in 1623 and 1624 (McIlwaine 1924:61; Kingsbury 1906-1935:IV:108).

Other inhabitants of Mulberry Island—Thomas Flint, Anthony Barham, Thomas Harwood, Thomas Bernard, Phettiplace Clause, John Brewer, Thomas Bennett, Zachary Cripps, Roger Dilke, John Harlow, and Edward Griffith—served as Burgesses in the 1630s, 1640s, 1650s, and 1660s. Patents to Flint, Barham, Harwood, Bernard, Brewer, Cripps, Harlow, and Griffith survive. The prominent residents of Mulberry Island held most of the land in this section of Warwick County by the 1640s. The landholders rented out small parcels to tenants. Thomas Harwood leased land to Daniel Lane by 1636. John Brewer Senior probably rented tracts on Stanley Hundred to Henry King and John Jackson by 1629. The younger John Brewer continued to lease parcels in Stanley Hundred after he moved to Isle of Wight County in the 1630s.

Residents of Mulberry Island became involved in the problems with the Dutch in the 1660s. Virginia's residents depended on the Dutch as trading partners until the passage of



Navigation Acts in 1651 and 1660. The Crown decided to prevent all colonists from trading with the Dutch. As a result, Virginians had to pay a higher rate to ship tobacco on British vessels, sell their tobacco for a lower price in the English market, and pay higher prices for expensive English goods. Governor William Berkeley and many Virginians believed that the low tobacco prices and the colony's economic troubles stemmed from the Crown's decision to end trade with the Dutch (Morgan 1975:242).

Virginians and the Dutch battled between 1664 and 1667. In October 1665, the General Assembly ordered the sheriff of Warwick County to press "twenty five men with their provisions of victuals and tools for work" to help build a fort at Point Comfort for the security of the colony against the Dutch. In addition, one house that measured forty feet long and twenty feet wide was to be built for the accommodation of a total of 115 men who worked on the fort. Two men with connections to Mulberry Island—Thomas Cary and his father Miles Cary—supervised the work (McIlwaine 1924:487-488).<sup>1</sup>

The year 1667 was a difficult year for Virginians. In April a hailstorm destroyed almost all of the tobacco and corn crops and killed some livestock. Two months later, the Dutch surprised the colonists and sailed into the James River. The Dutch burned an English frigate *Elizabeth* and five other ships. Miles Cary Senior was among the Virginians at Old Point Comfort during the attack. Cary died on 10 June 1667 from wounds he received in the skirmish (Morgan 1975:242; Vollertsen and Vollertsen 1967:4). A forty-day rain ruined most of the remaining tobacco plants. Finally, on 27 August 1667, a violent hurricane hit the James River area. The winds knocked down many wooden structures, falling trees broke fences, and high tides flooded roads and lowlands. It is possible that the hurricane destroyed the first Mulberry Island Church. Cattle and pigs walked over what little tobacco remained (Morgan 1975:242). The Dutch remained a threat in the summer of 1667. In September of 1667 the members of the General Assembly required the residents of Warwick County to help pay for a fort at Nansemond (Hening 1969:2:255-259).

Residents of Mulberry Island relied on the labor of white indentured servants and enslaved men and women to grow tobacco. Indentured servants and slaves turned to the Warwick County Court when they needed protection or they wanted to secure a promise. In March 1672, the Churchwardens of Mulberry Island decided that the parish would maintain Richard Adams, late servant to Robert Hobart [*sic* Hubberd ?]. Perhaps Adams did not receive his freedom due from his former master (McIlwaine 1924:304). Three years later, in June 1675, Philip Gowen appeared before Warwick's justices of the peace to secure his freedom from John Lucas, a possible resident of Mulberry Island. Philip Gowen

negro Suing Mr *Jno Lucas* to this Court for his freedome *It is Orderd* that the Said *Phill Gowen* be free from ye Said Mr *Lucas* his Service and that the Indenture Acknowledg'd in *Warwick County* be Invallid and that ye said Mr *Lucas* pay vnto ye *Gowen* three Barrels of Corne att the Cropp According to ye Will of Mrs *Amye Boazlye* decd wth Costs (McIlwaine 1924: 411).

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<sup>1</sup> The total of 115 men included forty from Nansemond County, thirty from Lower Norfolk County, and twenty from Elizabeth City County in addition to those from Warwick.

The evidence suggests that Philip was a son of Mihell Gowen, a free man of color (York County Deeds, Orders, and Bonds 1657/8:16).<sup>2</sup>

Several of the early patentees of land on Mulberry Island died in the 1660s and the 1670s. Some of their heirs took out new patents on the land they inherited to secure their title to property in the Mulberry Island. Prospective landholders also requested re-surveys of patents in order to check for accuracy and in the hope of finding land that was not included in a patent. In July 1669, John Sanders took out a patent for 650 acres on Skiffe's Creek in Mulberry Island Parish. Five hundred acres of the 650-acre parcel had belonged to William Ravenett, who bequeathed the land to his daughter, Susanna, in his March 1656 will. Susanna Ravenett married John Sanders (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:71). In April 1671, Richard Whitaker received permission from the General Court to survey 150 acres of land near Harwood's old field and 100 acres that adjoined the property of Anthony Haynes. Sanders objected to Whitaker's actions and the two men appeared before the General Court. Their case concerned

a pcell of land conteyning Six hundred and fifty acres of Land in *Warwick* County neare *Skiffe* Creeke *It is ordred* that Capt *Jno Vnderhill* wth a Jury of the Neighbourhood to be Impannell by the Sherr of the aforesaid County Survey and lay out the land in Difference betweene the sd ptyes and make report of their Said verdict, to the third day of the next Genll Court and the Surveyr and Jury to meet at some tyme betweene this and the last of *July* next for the pformance thereof (McIlwaine 1924:246-247).

It appears that the General Court ruled in favor of Sanders because the June 1676 patent to Whitaker for 600 acres in Warwick County did not mention Sanders or his land. Whitaker gained possession of 150 acres that was overplus within the bounds of the 1642 patent to Thomas Bernard (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:176). Three years earlier, in May 1673, James Haley and Ambrose Loyd received permission to take up surplus land within the boundary of land held by Bernard's widow, Mary (McIlwaine 1924:341).

In November 1671 Mr. John Harlow hoped to find some unpatented land in the property known as Stanley Hundred. Harlow informed the General Court

that Mr *Anthony Holliday* who married the relict of Mr *Jno Brewer* doth hold more land wthin the bounds of his pattent then his pattent doth express in *Warwick* County and doth deny to Survey the Same as appears by a Certificate vnder the hands of Mr *Xpofer Musham* and *Saml Howard*, *It is now ordered*, that after two months notice given the said *Holliday*, if he doe not survey the same, then the said *Harloe* hath liberty hereby granted him to Survey the Same and if any Surplus be found wthin the bounds of his said patts the sd *Harloe* hath Liberty granted him to pattent the Same Entring rights according to Custome (McIlwaine 1924:283).

However, Anthony Holliday petitioned the General Court to protect the rights of his step-children. In March 1672, the General Court decided "Vpon ye peticon of Mr *Anthony Holliday* on behalf of ye Orphans of Mr *Brewer*, *It is ordered* that the order granted last

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<sup>2</sup> Christopher Stafford decided to free his black servant, Mihill Gowen, in his will. Stafford's sister, Amy Barnhouse, carried out his wishes in the fall of 1657. The widow Barnhouse also freed Mihill Gowen's son, William. However, she did not free Prosta, hher enslaved woman who was William's mother.

genll Court to Mr *John Harlow* to survey some Land belonging to ye said Orphans, be reversed” (McIlwaine 1924:300).

In March 1672, John Scarborough represented Robert Bullock in his case against Daniel Wyld for 470 acres of land in Mulberry Island Parish. Wyld held the land by right of his wife, Margaret, the widow of William Stephens. The members of the General Court referred the difference

to the 3d Day Next Genll Court & that in the meane time a Jury be Impanelld by the Sherriffe of *Warwick* County who are to goe on the Land in difference and Enquire whether the Land Claymed by *Bullocke* of the said *Wild* formerly by Capt *Walker* Sold to *Stephens*, be *Bullocks* Land or not, and if they find it to be soe, to Value the said *Stephens & Wilds* Building & Cleareing according to Act, on the said Land And to Returne the report thereof of the 3d Day of Next Genll Court for Judgmt. The Jury to be of the nearest Ancient Inhabitants to the said Land & to be Sworne (McIlwaine 1924:326).

The General Court ruled in favor of Wyld, and his step-daughter and her daughter held this parcel of land until 1702 (York County Deeds and Bonds 1702:86-90; *ibid.*, 1706:166-168; *William and Mary Quarterly* 1895-1896:4). The three decisions that involved disputes over land in Mulberry Island indicate that members of the General Court ruled in favor of the person who owned the property in question.

In addition to concerns about land, a number of residents of Mulberry Island and the rest of the colony became alarmed by Governor Berkeley’s poor leadership and weak response in handling the Indian threat in the 1670s. The governor proposed the construction of a series of forts along the frontier instead of dispatching troops to protect settlers. In the spring of 1676, Nathaniel Bacon, a member of England’s gentry who had recently arrived in Virginia, became the military leader of a band of Virginians who armed themselves against the Native Americans in defiance of the governor. Berkeley responded by unsuccessfully dispatching men to confront Bacon and declared him a rebel. The General Assembly empowered “coll. Pritchard, leut. coll. Cole, and major Thomas Cary, or either of them in Warwick county” to impress men and horses (Hening 1969:2:326-336).

Bacon and Governor Berkeley struggled to control Virginia militarily and politically and embroiled Virginians in a civil war. After the Assembly enacted many of Bacon’s demands, Bacon and five hundred followers captured the government and demanded the power to fight the Native Americans.<sup>3</sup> Berkeley granted this request on June 25, but later withdrew it. The governor, however, could not raise loyal troops to assert his authority and was forced to retreat to the Eastern Shore. Berkeley later returned to Jamestown to prepare for Bacon’s attack but was forced to return to the Eastern Shore while Bacon burned the capital. Virginians, hesitant to fight one another, continued to vacillate in their support of Berkeley and Bacon in the ever-increasing confusion.

A number of Bacon’s followers deserted him in early September 1676. He needed to increase the size of his army, and he proclaimed freedom for all servants and slaves who joined him. The rebel army that seized Jamestown in September of that year included

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<sup>3</sup> According one of “Bacon’s Laws” passed in June 1676, thirty-four men from Warwick were to be included in the rebel’s army of 1000 men (Hening 1969:2:341-350).

white indentured servants, recently freed servants, and slaves. Bacon's decision to include servants, freedmen, and slaves in his army transformed the conflict into a class struggle. Bacon's sudden death on October 26 left his men without a strong leader and the rebel movement lost strength. Two other factors helped to bring about an end to the conflict. First, the rebel's offer of freedom helped to unite Virginia's successful planters because they feared the loss of the colony's labor force. Second, the governor's followers used trickery to disband the remainder of Bacon's army.<sup>4</sup>

After the end of Bacon's Rebellion, the residents of Warwick County voiced their concerns about the lack of opportunity to become an officeholder. Edmund S. Morgan notes that "the people of Warwick County complained in 1677 that too many places of profit were held by the same men." They "were told that if properly qualified men were confined to one office, there would not be enough men of the right sort to fill the places" (Morgan 1975:210). Residents of Warwick asked the Burgesses to levy taxes on land instead of tithes. Perhaps Warwick's planters realized that their plantations were smaller than those held by many members of the colony's gentry. The Burgesses rejected this proposal in early 1677 (McIlwaine 1905-1915:2:89).

One resident of Mulberry Island might have taken an active role in Bacon's Rebellion as a follower of the rebel, Nathaniel Bacon, because he had not been able to become a landholder. In March 1676/7, Christopher Muschamp appeared before the General Court to ask for a pardon for his actions. Muschamp petitioned

this court for the benefit of his majesties most gracious pclamation of pdon for his treason and rebellion. *The court have though fitt and doe accordingly order* that (for that the said *Muschamp* hath been very active in the late rebellion) he with a rope about his neck upon his knees at the next court held in *Warwick* county, begg pdon for his rebellion and treason (McIlwaine 1924:533).

Muschamp remained on Mulberry Island and had a house on land owned first by John Harlow and then by his widow, Alice (McIlwaine 1924:283; Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:311).

Virginians remained concerned about protection after the wars with the Dutch (1664-1667, 1672, and 1674) and Bacon's Rebellion (Morgan 1975:242). In April 1679 a statute required Warwick County to send one soldier for every forty tithes to serve at the garrison at the head of the James River (Hening 1969:2:433-440). In June of the following year, the General Assembly reduced the number of soldiers at each garrison to twenty in addition to the commander in chief (Hening 1969:2:469-471). In March 1691, Richard Whitaker recorded a list of persons who received muskets by an order of the Warwick County Court (Virginia Historical Society 1642-1842).

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<sup>4</sup> Thomas Grantham, an English merchant adventurer, traveled to West Point (on the York River) and promised freedom to 300 members—black and white—of the rebel army if they surrendered. Then, Grantham moved to a second rebel stronghold that was three miles from West Point. There he found 400 black and white rebels who expressed their dissatisfaction with the surrender at West Point. Again, Grantham extended the offer of freedom that he did not intend to fulfill. He persuaded all but one hundred men, eighty blacks and twenty whites, to return home. Grantham captured the remaining rebels when he steered them into an ambush of an armed ship stationed in the York River. After disarming the rebels he returned them to their respective owners.

In 1691, Warwick and Elizabeth City counties petitioned the House of Burgesses. Residents of both counties felt that they needed to have more land included within their boundaries. The clerk of the House of Burgesses reported on the petition

of Mr Willson & Mr Allambey Burgesses for Elizab: City Countie & Mr Whitaker & Mr Cary Burgesses of Warwick County that the bounds of ye sd Counties might be enlarged according to the directions annexed to the petition, referred by ye Lt Governrs & Councell to this house was read & referred to the consideration of the Committee of propositions & Grievances (McIlwaine 1905-1915:2:342).

Perhaps Burgesses from the adjoining counties of York and James City spoke against this petition because they did not want to see their boundaries become smaller.

Planters in Warwick County owned a greater number of slaves in the 1690s than their counterparts in the 1670s had. As the count of enslaved men, women, and children increased, so did the fear of the white residents of Warwick and the whole colony. On 22 March 1693[4], five men from Warwick County—Dudley Digges, Richard Whitaker, Robert Hubberd, William Cary, and William Roscow—informed Governor Andros of a possible slave plot. One of the suspects, Frank, was the slave of Henry Gibbs of Mulberry Island. Digges, Whitaker, Hubberd, Cary, and Roscow wrote

Whereas there was a Rumer of an Evil and Desperate design Contived by the Negroes, and ffrank a Negro belonging to Henry Gibbs in this County being suspected to be Active therein was thereupon Imediately apprehended and Comitted to the County Goal for a further Examinacon in the matter where being Continued with a Guard for the better securing him and severall Evidences sumond to appear and Declare their knowledge whose Testimonialls herewith are sent your Excellency humbly praying Excellencies [illeg] and Direcccons for further proceedings therein (Virginia Historical Society 1642-1842).

On 14 April 1694, the members of the Council

having Under their Consideracon the Peticon from the Justices of Warwick County Presented to His Excell<sup>y</sup> by the Sheriff of the said County and their papers relating to a Comission of Oyer & Term<sup>t</sup> to try a Negro named Frank now in the said County Prison are of Opinion that no Sufficient Grounds appears to them wherby to Issue a Comission as aforesaid y<sup>e</sup> Crime not Appearing Capitall According to the Law in that Case made & provided, The Justices of the County Aforesaid are therefore required seriously to weight and Consider the premises and take Especiall Care, that the said Criminall be severaly Corected and punished as his Crime deserves (McIlwaine et al. 1927-1966:II:309).

The extant Warwick County records do not indicate the nature of Frank's punishment. The concern that Warwick's residents showed over the possibility of a slave plot reveals that they, like other Virginians, turned to the colony's slave laws to control enslaved laborers. During the last quarter of the seventeenth century, the colony's legislators strengthened Virginia's slave laws, made it more difficult for enslaved individuals to gain their freedom, enslaved the Native Americans who were captured during Bacon's Rebellion, and placed new restrictions on free people of color.

## **Warwick Town**

The center of activity for Warwick County was Denbigh Parish by the decade of the 1680s. In June 1680, the General Assembly laid out plans for the establishment of twenty

trade centers in “An act for cohabitation and encouragement of trade and manufacture.” This legislation, based on “the greate necessity, usefulness and advantages of cohabitation in this his majesties county of Virginia,” instructed the feofees or trustees appointed for each county to purchase a specified fifty acre tract of land from its owner for ten thousand pounds of tobacco and caske. Then the feofees were to sell to each interested individual “one halfe acre of the said land in ffee simple, he pay to the county one hundred pounds of tobacco and caske and building such dwelling house and ware house thereupon as by this is enjoyned.” The legislators decided that the town for Warwick County would be “att the mouth of Deep creek on Mr. Matthews land.” Although some Virginians, including residents of Warwick County, drew up plans for towns, the 1680 act did not generate any urbanization before the King suspended the bill on December 21, 1681 (Hening 1969:2:471-478, 508; McIlwaine 1905-1915:2:171, 179).

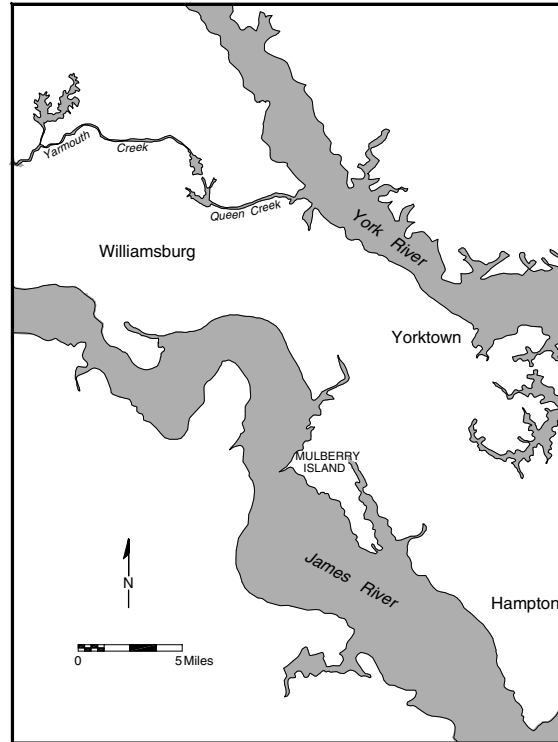
Virginia’s colonial legislators passed “An act for Ports, &c” in April 1691. This law proclaimed that after October 1, 1692, “all shippes, barques, and other vessells whatsoever, arriveing into, or sayling out from this country for trayd, shall unload and put on shoare, and take from shoar to load on board, all tobaccoes, goods and merchantdises, at some one or other of the poarts, Wharfes, Keyes, or places hereafter mentioned in this act.” The legislation instructed the justices of the peace in each county

to appoint and command the surveyor of each county to lay out and survey fifty acres of land, at such place and places as are hereafter in this act named, appointed, and set down for the ports, wharfes, keyes, and places for receiveing on shoar, and shipping, all goods, tobaccoes, wares, and merchantdises as aforesaid; and for the erecting ware houses, or any other houses, for the better secureing all such good, tobaccoes, wares and merchantdises to be imported or exported as aforesaid.

The purchaser of a lot, “his heires or assignes shall within the space of four months next ensueing such grant begin and without delay proceed to build and finish on each halfe acre granted to him one good house, to containe twenty foot square at the least.” If a lot owner failed to do this, “then such grant to be void in law, and the lands therein granted lyable to the choyce and purchase of any other person.”

The members of the General Assembly selected the same location for Warwick’s town in 1691 as they had in 1680: “ffor Warwick County at the mouth of Deep Creek as by a former law appointed and laid out by the name of Warwick Town, and paid for, by directions of the said law, and severall houses there built, together with a brick Court house and prison” (Hening 1969:3:54, 55, 56, 60). Warwick County sold some lots in Warwick Town, but the county’s town did not grow as did Yorktown and Williamsburg. The October 1705 and October 1748 lists of towns and dates for market days did not include Warwick Town (Hening 1969:3:415-417; 5:491).

Yorktown, the city for York County, did grow during the 1690s (Figure 5). Twelve men from Mulberry Island Parish owned a lot in Yorktown in the first three decades of the eighteenth century: Thomas Boucher, John Dowsing, Robert Dowsing, James Dowsing, George Burton, Christopher Haynes, Emanuel Wills, John Wills, William Harwood Senior, William Harwood Junior, Richard Cheshire, and Thomas Haynes. This group included merchants and bricklayers, individuals who benefited from a connection to a growing urban center. The Mulberry Island merchants and bricklayers helped Yorktown to



*Figure 5. Mulberry Island in relation to Yorktown and Williamsburg.*

grow during the first quarter of the eighteenth century. York County's town was the port of entry for ships that entered the York River and the main port in the colony until the mid-eighteenth century. The Dowsings probably made the bricks used to build houses, stores, and warehouses in Yorktown and on the waterfront. Merchants, including Cheshire, benefited from basing their business in the growing town.





## Chapter 3.

# Mulberry Island in the Eighteenth Century

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**O**n 1 November 1699 two residents of Hampton Parish in York County petitioned the Council for permission to add a portion of Mulberry Island to their parish. Major Lewis Burwell and Mr. Joseph Ring

appeared and Moved in the Committee for a further addition into Hampton Parish to make the Tythables four hundred by takeing Certain Tythables from Bruton Parish Certaine from Mulberry Island parish and Certaine from York parish which Motion the Committee took into Immediate Consideration and thereupon finding it very Inconuenient by Meanes of an Alteracon of the bounds of So many Seuerall Parishes adhered to their former Resolue of Joyning Hampton and Martins hundred parishes without further Addition or change.

Like Hampton Parish, Mulberry Island Parish and Warwick County experienced problems because of their small size in the eighteenth century (McIlwaine 1918-1919:3:1524). The Burgesses adjusted the boundaries of York, Warwick, and Elizabeth City counties in November 1710. They decided “That all That part of Warwick County Lying above Water’s Creek be Incorporated into York County and That a Line be Runn from The head of Water’s Creek to New Pocason River And from The oposite side of That River in a Direct Course to York River for The Bounds Between York County and Elizabeth City— And That The whole tract of Land Lying Below Waters’s Creek and The Aforementioned Line be Added to The County of Elizabeth City” (McIlwaine 1905-1915:4:263).

In July 1704 the churchwardens and vestrymen of Mulberry Island Parish responded to a series of questions from Sir Edward Northey. They noted that “M<sup>r</sup> James Sclater is entertained as Minister in this Parish and hath been so near fifteen years.” The vestry reported that there was “one Gleabe containing about ffifty Acres of land with two houses upon it, the one twenty-eight foot in length the other sixteen.” Major William Cary, Captain Robert Hubberd, Captain Miles Wills, Mr. Matthew Jones, Mr. Humphrey Harwood, and Mr. Francis Jones were the vestrymen for Mulberry Island Parish. Mr. Henry Gibbs and Mr. John Scasbrooke served as the churchwardens in 1704. The vestrymen in Denbigh Parish noted that they were without a minister and that it was difficult to find a minister because their parish was one of the smallest in the colony. The vestrymen for Denbigh Parish included Miles Cary, William Brown, Thomas Merry, John Tignall, George Jackson, Simon Morgan, John Lenton, and William Whitaker in 1704. Herbert Jones and John Green were Denbigh’s churchwardens (Public Records Office 1704c).

Warwick County was also one of the smallest of Virginia’s twenty-five counties in the early eighteenth century (Figure 6). In 1704, Warwick was home to 518 tithes; only Elizabeth City County with 478 tithes had fewer laborers (Public Records Office 1704a). There were 124 landholders who held a total of 41,426 acres (Public Records Office 1704b) (Table 2). The 1713 Rent Roll indicates that Warwick had 131 landholders in that year (Public Records Office 1713) (Table 3).

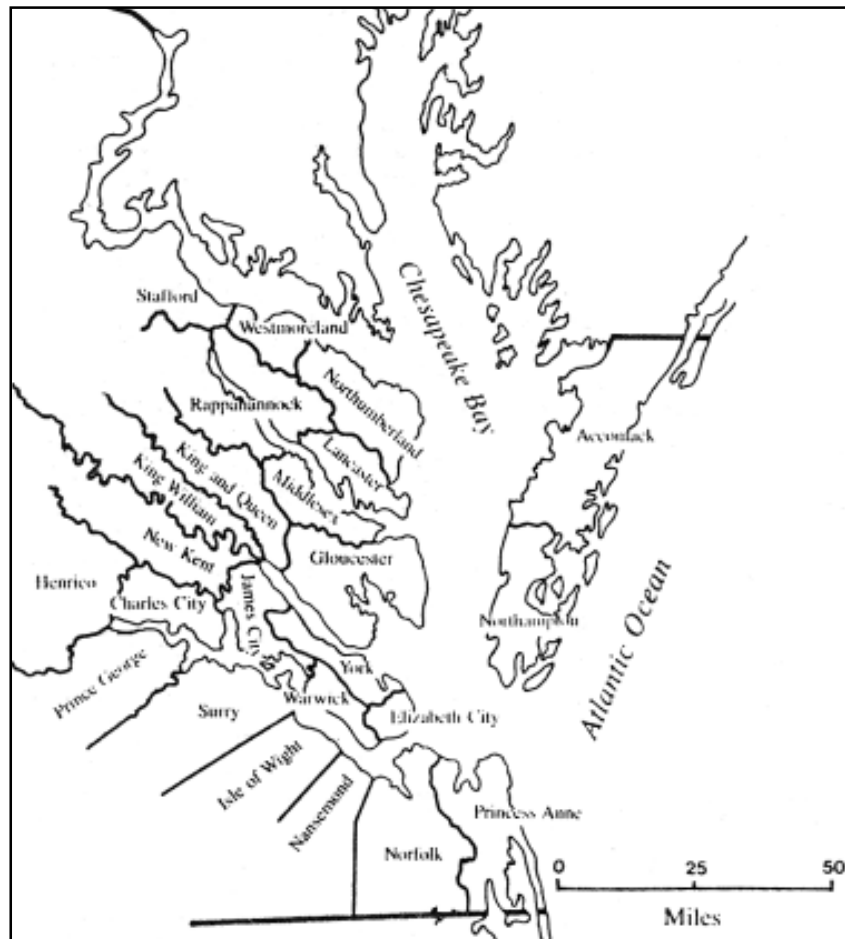


Figure 6. Virginia counties, 1704.

**Table 2**  
**Warwick County Landholders, 1704**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Allen Charles	295
Ascow Thomas	50
Blackstone Thomas	75
Bowyer John	100
bracey William	150
Brewer Land Mr	1350
Browne James	150
Burgess Stephen	128
Burton George	330
Cannon John	75
Cary Henry Mr	670
Cary Miles Captain	600

**Table 2 (cont'd)**  
**Warwick County Landholders, 1704**

Name	Acres	Note
Cary Miles Colonel	1960	
Cary William Major	300	
Chapell James	100	
Chapell Robert	150	
Chapell Widow	321	
Charles Thomas Captain	100	
Cole Colonel Orphans	1350	
Cook William	29	
Cooper Joseph	200	
Cotton James	70	
Cotton William	143	
Cowley Abraham	80	
Crew Samuel Orphans	150	
Croley John	100	
Croucher Orphans	50	
Daniell Roger Orphans	196	
Davis Edward	200	
Dawson Henry	200	
Dawson John	300	
Denbigh Parish Glebe	130	
Diggs Dudley Colonel	4626	
Doyley Cope	500	
Duberry Samuel	200	
Edwards Nathaniel	100	
Floyd James	100	
Gibbs Henry	315	
Glanvill Richard Orphans	165	
Golden John	50	
Goodwin Isaac	225	
Gough Richard	60	
Groves Samuel	490	
Hansell John	100	
Hansford Thomas	75	never before pd.
Harwood Hump	400	
Harwood John	705	
Harwood Thomas	575	
Harwood William	625	
Hatton John Orphans	93	
Hatton Samuel	225	
Haynes Thomas	850	
Hewitt William	150	
Hill James	135	
Hillard John	74	
Hoggard Nathaniel Mr	270	
Hoggard Samuel	120	
Holman Orphans	200	non-resident
Holmes John	200	
Holt Elizabeth	150	
Hubbert Robert	101	

**Table 2 (cont'd)**  
**Warwick County Landholders, 1704**

Name	Acres	Note
Hubbert William	200	
Jackson George	193	
Jones Francis	150	
Jones Matthew	750	
Jones Peter	150	
Jones William	70	
Joyner Edward	60	
Land Woodman	200	
Langhorne Orphans	602	
Lewelling Widow	100	
linton john	75	
Loftes Edward	60	
Lucas Elizabeth	800	
Mallicote John Mr	61	
Merey Thomas	3655	
Montfort Joseph	558	
Mountfort Thomas	890	
Mulberry Island Glebe	50	
Naylor Joseph	100	
Nedler Mr	80	plantacon
Newberry Mr	100	
Noble Mark	215	
Pierce Widow	155	
Powell Seymor	250	
Powers Edward	200	
Powers Edward	200	
Priest James	50	
Ranshaw Samuel	238	
Ranshaw Sarah	125	
Read John	875	
Reynolds James	75	
Rice Francis Orphans	200	
Ridley Garrett	300	
River Edward	375	
Roberts Robert	60	
Robinson George	70	
Roscoe Mr Orphans	1195	
Rowles William Orphans	150	
Royall Henry	246	
Russell Joseph	150	
Sawer Peter Orphans	95	
Scarsbrook John	850	
Smith William	150	
Strukey Charles	86	
Symons Samuel	173	
Tignall John	392	
Towland William	25	
Trevillian John	248	non-resident
Turner John	100	

**Table 2 (cont'd)**  
**Warwick County Landholders, 1704**

Name	Acres
Wade Orphans	100
Warwick County	150
Whitaker Elizabeth Mrs	600
Whitaker Henry	60
White James	40
Williams Rowland	170
Wills Elias	50
Wills Elizabeth Widow	155
Wills Emanuell	325
Wills Mills Captain	425
Wills William	615
Wood Matthew	300
Wootton Richard	243
Yorgen Widow	60

**Table 3**  
**Warwick County Landholders, 1713**

Name	Acres
Allen Charles	225
Bates George	100
Blackstone Thomas	75
Boucher John	100
Brassie William	150
Brown John	140
Browns Orph Hoggard	205
Cannon John	225
Cary Henry Senr	670
Cary Miles Collo: Orph	1960
Cary Thomas	600
Cary William Collo: Orph	300
Cathon James	263
Chappell James	70
Chappell Joan	321
Chappells Orph John Martin	100
Charles Thomas	100
Cheshire Richard	500
Cocke William	29
Cole William	1350
Coocke John	50
Corlews Orph: Enosh Makintosh	134
County Land free School	100
Craft Thomas	125
Crew Randolph Orph	150
Crew Samuel Orph	150
Daniel Roger	190

**Table 3 (cont'd)**  
**Warwick County Landholders, 1713**

Name	Acres
Davis Edward	200
Dawsons Orph Tho: Williams	200
Denbigh Gleab	130
Dewberry Samll	300
Digges Cole	4626
Dowsing John	300
Doyley Charles	1851
Edwards Nathll: Orph Butler	50
Floyds Orph: Willm: Holden	100
Gibbs Henry	315
Golding John Insolvent	50
Gouge Richd:	60
Granvilles Orph: Wm: Harwood	160
Groves Samuel	490
Haddon Samuel Orph	171
Hansford Thomas	78
Hansill John	100
Harwood Humfrey: Orph Wm: Harwood	450
Harwood John	654
Harwood Thomas	575
Harwood William	625
Hatton John	93
Haynes Thomas	850
Hayward Henry	50
Hewit William	153
Hill James Orph	135
Hoggard Nathll:	556
Hoggards Orph R: Floyd	200
Holmands Orph: Tho: Noblin	50
Holmes John	200
Hubbard Cutht	200
Hubbard Robt: Capt:	101
Jackson George	318
Jones Frances	150
Jones Mathew Senr:	400
Jornot John	78
Langhorns Orph: B: Harrison	709
Langley Ozwell	100
Langley Thomas	50
Linton Tempce	75
Loftis Edward	120
Loyd John	100
Lucas Charles	200
Lucas John	300
Makintosh Enos	288
Malicoate John	61
Mallicoat Thomas	280
Mallicoat William	50
Merry John	363

**Table 3 (cont'd)**  
**Warwick County Landholders, 1713**

Name	Acres
Morgan Thomas	60
Mulberry Island Gleab	50
Mumford Joseph	460
Mumford Thomas	500
Myen William	350
Naylor Joshua	170
Newberry William	100
Noble Mark	75
Noblin John	87
Noblin Thomas	77
Oneys Orph: John Woodland	74
Pasqua Peter	181
Peirce William	155
Phillipson Robert	200
Powell Seamour	250
Priest James Insolvent	50
Read John	1175
Reynolds Orph: Jno: Spyers	75
Rice Martha	75
Riddlehurst John Askes Orph	50
Ridly Gerrard	300
Roberson George	70
Roberson Thomas	70
Roberts Orph: Tho: Collison	60
Roscow William Orph	1195
Royal Henry: Wido: Brown	246
Russell James	200
Russell Joseph	150
Sandefur John	80
Savery Mary Insolvent	45
Scabroocke John	1127
Sear Nathaniel	95
Simonds Samuel	223
Smith William	150
Thurmer John	100
Tignal Judeth	392
Tompkins Wido: Ja: Chappell	248
Town Land	50
Townsend's Orph Oliver Batts	25
Wade Jeremiah	100
Walker Joseph	171
Webb Needler	80
Wheeler John	122
Whitaker Elizabeth	600
Whitaker Margaret	60
White Jas: Orph: Hugh Neal	40
Williams Orph: Rowland	490
Wills Elias Orph	50
Wills Elizab	160

**Table 3 (cont'd)**  
**Warwick County Landholders, 1713**

Name	Acres	Note
Wills Emanuel Capt:	282	
Wills John	100	
Wills Miles Maj	369	
Wills Wm: Orph: C: Hubbard	568	
Wood Mary Roger Steely	330	
Wootten Samuel	243	
	<b>1704</b>	<b>1713</b>
Landholders	124	131
Average	334.08	296.96
Maximum	4,626	4,626
Median	155	153
Minimum	25	25
Mode	150	100
Total Acres	41,426	38,902

Ninety-seven of the 124 landholders (78.2%) in 1704 either continued as landholders in 1713 or had transferred their holdings to a family member (Tables 4 and 5). Warwick was an established county in the early eighteenth century and there was not much available land. Men who wanted to gain possession of large plantations or land to leave to all of their sons turned to counties other than Warwick. Members of the Wills family relocated to Isle of Wight County in the first decade of the eighteenth century (Boddie 1938:263). Matthew Jones moved his family across the James River before his death early 1728 (Isle of Wight County Wills 1728:65-66).

The population of Denbigh and Mulberry Island parishes experienced a small amount of growth between 1 April 1712 and 1 October of the same year. In Denbigh, women gave birth to five males and two females. This parish lost two males during these six months. Mulberry Island gained seven males and three females; however, the parish lost four males and four females in the spring and summer of 1712 (*William and Mary Quarterly* 1910-1911:114).

Mulberry Island saw a greater growth in its residents in 1713 and 1714. George Blaney, clerk of the parish vestry, recorded a list of births and deaths in the parish between 1 April 1713 and 1 April 1714.

	Crist'd <u>Males</u>	Crist'd <u>Females</u>	Negro Slaves <u>Males &amp; Molatoes</u>	Negro Slaves <u>ffemales &amp; Molatoes</u>
Birthes	17	15	6	5
Burrialls	2	4	1	1



**Table 4**  
**1704 Warwick Landholders Still in County in 1713**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1704	Allen Charles	295	1713	Allen Charles	227	70 acres less
1704	Ascow Thomas	50	1713	Riddlehurst John Askews Orph	50	same
1704	Blackstone Thomas	75	1713	Blackstone Thomas	75	same
1704	Bowyer John	100	1713	Boucher John ?	100	same
1704	Bracey William	150	1713	Brassie William	150	same
1704	Brewer Land Mr	1350	1713	Doyley Charles ?	1851	1351 acres more
1704	Browne James	150	1713			
1704	Burgess Stephen	128	1713			
1704	Burton George	330	1713			
1704	Cannon John	75	1713	Cannon John	225	150 acres more
1704	Cary Henry Mr	670	1713	Cary Henry Senr	670	same
1704	Cary Miles Captain	600	1713	Cary Thomas	600	same
1704	Cary Miles Colonel	1960	1713	Cary Miles Collo: Orph	1960	same
1704	Cary William Major	300	1713	Cary William Collo: Orph	300	same
1704	Chapell James	100	1713	Chappells Orph John Martin	100	same
1704	Chapell Robert	150	1713			
1704	Chapell Widow	321	1713	Chappell Joan	321	same
1704	Charles Thomas Captain	100	1713	Charles Thomas	100	same
1704	Cole Colonel Orphans	1350	1713	Cole William	1350	same
1704	Cook William	29	1713	Cocke William	29	same
1704	Cooper Joseph	200	1713			
1704	Cotton James	70	1713			
1704	Cotton William	143	1713			
1704	Cowley Abraham	80	1713			
1704	Crew Samuel Orphans	150	1713	Crew Samuel Orph	150	same
1704	Croley John	100	1713			
1704	Croucher Orphans	50	1713			
1704	Daniell Roger Orphans	196	1713	Daniel Roger	190	6 acres less

**Table 4 (cont'd)**  
**1704 Warwick Landholders Still in County in 1713**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1704	Davis Edward	200	1713	Davis Edward	200	same
1704	Dawson Henry	200	1713	Dawsons Orph Tho: Williams	200	same
1704	Dawson John	300	1713	Dowsing John	300	same
1704	Denbigh Parish Glebe	130	1713	Denbigh Gleab	130	same
1704	Diggs Dudley Colonel	4626	1713	Digges Cole	4626	same
1704	Doyley Cope	500	1713	Doyley Charles	1851	1351 acres more
1704	Duberry Samuel	200	1713	Dewberry Samll	300	100 acres more
1704	Edwards Nathaniel	100	1713	Edwards Nathl: Orph Butler	50	50 acres less
1704	Floyd James	100	1713	Floyds Orph: Willm: Holden	100	same
1704	Gibbs Henry	315	1713	Gibbs Henry	315	same
1704	Glanvill Richard Orphans	165	1713	Granvilles Orph: Wm: Harwood	160	5 acres less
1704	Golden John	50	1713	Golding John Insolvent	50	same
1704	Goodwin Isaac	225	1713			
1704	Gough Richard	60	1713	Gouge Richd:	60	same
1704	Groves Samuel	490	1713	Groves Samuel	490	same
1704	Hansell John	100	1713	Hansill John	100	same
1704	Hansford Thomas never before pd.	75	1713	Hansford Thomas	78	3 acres more
1704	Harwood Hump	400	1713	Harwood Humfrey: Orph Wm: Harwood	450	50 acres more
1704	Harwood John	704	1713	Harwood John	654	50 acres less
1704	Harwood Thomas	575	1713	Harwood Thomas	575	same
1704	Harwood William	625	1713	Harwood William	625	same
1704	Hatton John Orphans	93	1713	Hatton John	93	same
1704	Hatton Samuel	225	1713	Haddon Samuel Orph	171	54 acres less
1704	Haynes Thomas	850	1713	Haynes Thomas	850	same
1704	Hewitt William	150	1713	Hewitt William	153	3 acres more
1704	Hill James	135	1713	Hill James Orph	135	same
1704	Hillard John	74	1713			
1704	Hoggard Nathaniel Mr	270	1713	Hoggard Nathl:	556	286 acres more

**Table 4 (cont'd)**  
**1704 Warwick Landholders Still in County in 1713**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1704	Hoggard Samuel	120	1713	Hoggards Orph R: Floyd	200	80 acres more
1704	Holman Orphans non-resident	200	1713	Holmands Orph: Tho: Noblin	50	150 acres less
1704	Holmes John	200	1713	Holmes John	200	same
1704	Holt Elizabeth	150	1713			
1704	Hubbert Robert	101	1713	Hubbard Robt: Capt:	101	same
1704	Hubbert William	200	1713	Hubbard Cutht	200	same
1704	Jackson George	193	1713	Jackson George	318	125 acres more
1704	Jones Francis	150	1713	Jones Frances	150	same
1704	Jones Matthew	750	1713	Jones Matthew Senr:	400	350 acres less
1704	Jones Peter	150	1713			
1704	Jones William	70	1713			
1704	Joyner Edward	60	1713			
1704	Land Woodman	200	1713			
1704	Langhorne Orphans	602	1713	Langhorns Orph: B: Harrison	709	107 acres more
1704	Lewelling Widow	100	1713			
1704	Linton John	75	1713	Linton Tempce	75	same
1704	Loftes Edward	60	1713	Loftis Edward	120	60 acres more
1704	Lucas Elizabeth	800	1713	Lucas John	300	500 acres less
1704	Mallicote John Mir	61	1713	Malicoate John	61	same
1704	Meray Thomas	363	1713	Mery John	363	same
1704	Montfort Joseph	558	1713	Mumford Joseph	460	98 acres less
1704	Mountfort Thomas	890	1713	Mumford Thomas	500	390 acres less
1704	Mulberry Island Glebe	50	1713	Mulberry Island Gleab	50	same
1704	Naylor Joseph	100	1713	Naylor Joshua	170	70 acres more
1704	Nedler Mr plantacon	80	1713	Webb Needler?	80	same
1704	Newberry Mr	100	1713	Newberry William	100	same
1704	Noble Mark	215	1713	Noble Mark	75	140 acres less
1704	Pierce Widow	155	1713	Peirce William	155	same

**Table 4 (cont'd)**  
**1704 Warwick Landholders Still in County in 1713**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1704	Powell Seymour	250	1713	Powell Seamour	250	same
1704	Powers Edward	200	1713			
1704	Powers Edward	200	1713			
1704	Priest James	50	1713	Priest James Insolvent	50	same
1704	Ranshaw Samuel	238	1713			
1704	Ranshaw Sarah	125	1713	see Jackson George		
1704	Read John	875	1713	Read John	1175	300 acres more
1704	Reynolds James	75	1713	Reynolds Orph: Jno: Spyers	75	same
1704	Rice Francis Orphans	200	1713			
1704	Ridley Garrett	300	1713	Ridly Gerrard	300	same
1704	River Edward	375	1713			
1704	Roberts Robert	60	1713	Roberts Orph: Tho: Collison	60	same
1704	Robinson George	70	1713	Roberson George	70	same
1704	Roscoe Mr Orphans	1195	1713	Roscow William Orph	1195	same
1704	Rowles William Orphans	150	1713			
1704	Royall Henry	246	1713	Royal Henry: Wido: Brown	246	same
1704	Russell Joseph	150	1713	Russell Joseph	150	same
1704	Sawer Peter Orphans	95	1713	Sear Nathaniel	95	same
1704	Scarsbrook John	850	1713	Scabroocke John	1127	277 acres more
1704	Smith William	150	1713	Smith William	150	same
1704	Strukey Charles	86	1713			
1704	Symons Samuel	173	1713	Simonds Samuel	223	50 acres more
1704	Tignall John	392	1713	Tignal Judeth	392	same
1704	Towland William	25	1713	Towndsend Orph Oliver Batts	25	same
Year	Name	Acres	Year	Name	Acres	Difference
1704	Trevillian John non-resident	248	1713	Tompkins Wido: Ja: Chappell??	248	same
1704	Turner John	100	1713	Thurmer John	100	same

**Table 4 (cont'd)**  
**1704 Warwick Landholders Still in County in 1713**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1704	Wade Orphans	100	1713	Wade Jeremiah	100	same
1704	Warwick County	150	1713	County Land & Town Land	150	same
1704	Whitaker Elizabeth Mrs	600	1713	Whitaker Elizabeth	600	same
1704	Whitaker Henry	60	1713	Whitaker Margaret	60	same
1704	White James	40	1713	White Jas: Orph: Hugh Neal	40	same
1704	Williams Rowland	170	1713	Williams Orph: Rowland	490	320 acres more
1704	Wills Elias	50	1713	Wills Elias Orph	50	same
1704	Wills Elizabeth Widow	155	1713	Wills Elizab	160	5 acres more
1704	Wills Emanuel	325	1713	Wills Emanuel Capt:	282	43 acres less
1704	Wills Mills Captain	425	1713	Wills Miles Maj	369	56 acres less
1704	Wills William	615	1713	Wills Wm: Orph: C: Hubbard	568	47 acres less
1704	Wood Matthew	300	1713	Wood Mary Roger Steely	330	30 acres more
1704	Wootton Richard	243	1713	Wootten Samuel	243	same
1704	Yorgen Widow	60	1713			

**Table 5**  
**1713 Warwick Landholders in County Since 1704**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1704	Allen Charles	295	1713	Allen Charles	225	70 acres less
1704			1713	Bates George	100	
1704	Blackstone Thomas	75	1713	Blackstone Thomas	75	same
1704	Bowyer John?	100	1713	Boucher John	100	same
1704	Bracey William	150	1713	Brassie William	150	same
1704			1713	Brown John	140	
1704			1713	Browns Orph Hoggard	205	
1704	Cannon John	75	1713	Cannon John	225	150 acres more
1704	Cary Henry Mr	670	1713	Cary Henry Senr	670	same
1704	Cary Miles Colonel	1960	1713	Cary Miles Collo: Orph	1960	same
1704	Cary Miles Captain	600	1713	Cary Thomas	600	same
1704	Cary William Major	300	1713	Cary William Collo: Orph	300	same
1704			1713	Cathon James	263	
1704			1713	Chappell James	70	
1704	Chapell Widow	321	1713	Chappell Joan	321	same
1704	Chapell James	100	1713	Chappells Orph John Martin	100	same
1704	Charles Thomas Captain	100	1713	Charles Thomas	100	same
1704			1713	Cheshire Richard	500	
1704	Cook William	29	1713	Cocke William	29	same
1704	Cole Colonel Orphans	1350	1713	Cole William	1350	same
1704			1713	Coocke John	50	
1704			1713	Corlews Orph: Enosh Makintosh	134	
1704	Warwick County [see Town Land 1713]		150	1713	County Land free School	100 same
1704			1713	Craft Thomas	125	
1704			1713	Crew Randolph Orph	150	
1704	Crew Samuel Orphans	150	1713	Crew Samuel Orph	150	same
1704	Daniell Roger Orphans	196	1713	Daniel Roger	190	6 acres less
1704	Davis Edward	200	1713	Davis Edward	200	same

**Table 5 (cont'd)**  
**1713 Warwick Landholders in County Since 1704**

Year	Name	Acres	Year	Name	Acres	Difference
1704	Dawson Henry	200	1713	Dawsons Orph Tho: Williams	200	same
1704	Denbigh Parish Glebe	130	1713	Denbigh Gleab	130	same
1704	Duberry Samuel	200	1713	Dewberry Samll	300	100 acres more
1704	Digges Dudley Colonel	4626	1713	Digges Cole	4626	same
1704	Dawson John	300	1713	Dowsing John	300	same
1704	Doyley Cope	500	1713	Doyley Charles	1851	1351 acres more
1704	Edwards Nathaniel	100	1713	Edwards Nathl: Orph Butler	50	50 acres less
1704	Floyd James	100	1713	Floyds Orph: Willm: Holden	100	same
Year	Name	Acres	Year	Name	Acres	Difference
1704	Gibbs Henry	315	1713	Gibbs Henry	315	same
1704	Golden John	50	1713	Golding John Insolvent	50	same
1704	Gough Richard	60	1713	Gouge Richd:	60	same
1704	Glanvill Richard Orphans	165	1713	Granvilles Orph: Wm: Harwood	160	5 acres less
1704	Groves Samuel	490	1713	Groves Samuel	490	same
1704	Hatton Samuel	225	1713	Haddon Samuel Orph	171	54 acres less
1704	Hansford Thomas	75	1713	Hansford Thomas	78	3 acres more
1704	Hansell John	100	1713	Hansill John	100	same
1704	Harwood Hump	400	1713	Harwood Humfrey: Orph Wm: Harwood	450	50 acres more
1704	Harwood John	704	1713	Harwood John	654	50 acres less
1704	Harwood Thomas	575	1713	Harwood Thomas	575	same
1704	Harwood William	625	1713	Harwood William	625	same
1704	Hatton John Orphans	93	1713	Hatton John	93	same
1704	Haynes Thomas	850	1713	Haynes Thomas	850	same
1704	Hewitt William	150	1713	Hayward Henry	50	3 acres more
1704	Hill James	135	1713	Hewit William	153	same
1704	Hoggard Nathaniel Mr	270	1713	Hill James Orph	135	286 acres more
1704	Hoggard Samuel	120	1713	Hoggard Nathl:	556	80 acres more
			1713	Hoggards Orph R: Floyd	200	

**Table 5 (cont'd)**  
**1713 Warwick Landholders in County Since 1704**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1704	Holman Orphans Non-Resident	200	1713	Holmands Orph: Tho: Noblin	50	150 acres less
1704	Holmes John	200	1713	Holmes John	200	same
1704	Hubbert William	200	1713	Hubbard Cutht	200	same
1704	Hubbert Robert	101	1713	Hubbard Robt: Capt:	101	same
1704	Jackson George	193	1713	Jackson George	318	125 acres more
1704	Jones Francis	150	1713	Jones Frances	150	same
1704	Jones Matthew	750	1713	Jones Mathew Senr:	400	350 acres less
1704			1713	Jornot John	78	
1704	Langhorne Orphans	602	1713	Langhorns Orph: B: Harrison	709	107 acres more
1704			1713	Langley Ozwell	100	
1704			1713	Langley Thomas	50	
1704	Linton John	75	1713	Linton Tempce	75	same
1704	Loftes Edward	60	1713	Lofis Edward	120	60 acres more
1704			1713	Loyd John	100	
1704			1713	Lucas Charles	200	
1704	Lucas Elizabeth	800	1713	Lucas John	300	500 acres less
1704			1713	Makintosh Enos	288	
Year	Name	Acres	Year	Name	Acres	Difference
1704	Mallicote John Mr	61	1713	Mallicoate John	61	same
1704			1713	Mallicoat Thomas	280	
1704			1713	Mallicoat William	50	
1704	Mery Thomas	363	1713	Mery John	363	same
1704			1713	Morgan Thomas	60	
1704	Mulberry Island Glebe	50	1713	Mulberry Island Gleab	50	same
1704	Monfort Joseph	558	1713	Mumford Joseph	460	98 acres less
1704	Mountfort Thomas	890	1713	Mumford Thomas	500	390 acres less
1704			1713	Myen William	350	
1704	Naylor Joseph	100	1713	Naylor Joshua	170	70 acres more



**Table 5 (cont'd)**  
**1713 Warwick Landholders in County Since 1704**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1704	Newberry Mr	100	1713	Newberry William	100	same
1704	Noble Mark	215	1713	Noble Mark	75	140 acres less
1704			1713	Noblin John	87	
1704			1713	Noblin Thomas	77	
1704			1713	Oneys Orph: John Woodland	74	
1704	Pierce Widow	155	1713	Pasqua Peter	181	same
1704			1713	Peirce William	155	
1704	Powell Seymour	250	1713	Phillipson Robert	200	same
1704	Priest James	50	1713	Powell Seamour	250	same
1704	Read John	875	1713	Priest James Insolvent	50	same
1704	Reynolds James	75	1713	Read John	1175	300 acres more
1704			1713	Reynolds Orph: Jno: Spyers	75	same
1704			1713	Rice Martha	75	
1704	Ascow Thomas	50	1713	Riddlehurst John Askews Orph	50	same
1704	Ridley Garrett	300	1713	Ridly Gerrard	300	same
1704	Robinson George	70	1713	Roberson George	70	same
1704			1713	Roberson Thomas	70	
1704	Roberts Robert	60	1713	Roberts Orph: Tho: Collison	60	same
1704	Roscoe Mr Orphans	1195	1713	Roscow William Orph	1195	same
1704	Royall Henry	246	1713	Royal Henry: Wido: Brown	246	same
1704			1713	Russell James	200	
1704	Russell Joseph	150	1713	Russell Joseph	150	same
1704			1713	Sandefur John	80	
1704			1713	Savery Mary Insolvent	45	
1704	Scarsbrook John	850	1713	Scabroocke John	1127	277 acres more
1704	Sawer Peter Orphans	95	1713	Sear Nathaniel	95	same
1704	Symons Samuel	173	1713	Simonds Samuel	223	50 acres more
1704	Smith William	150	1713	Smith William	150	same

**Table 5 (cont'd)**  
**1713 Warwick Landholders in County Since 1704**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1704	Turner John	100	1713	Thurmer John	100	same
1704	Tignall John	392	1713	Tignal Judeth	392	same
1704	Trevillian John non-resident?	248	1713	Tompkins Wido: Ja: Chappell	248	same
1704	Warwick County [see County Land 1713]		150	1713	Town Land	50 same
1704	Towland William	25	1713	Townsend Orph Oliver Batts	25	same
1704	Wade Orphans	100	1713	Wade Jeremiah	100	same
1704			1713	Walker Joseph	171	
1704	Nedler Mr?	80	1713	Webb Needler	80	same
1704			1713	Wheeler John	122	
1704	Whitaker Elizabeth Mrs	600	1713	Whitaker Elizabeth	600	same
1704	Whitaker Henry	60	1713	Whitaker Margaret	60	same
1704	White James	40	1713	White Jas: Orph: Hugh Neal	40	same
1704	Williams Rowland	170	1713	Williams Orph: Rowland	490	320 acres more
1704	Wills Elias	50	1713	Wills Elias Orph	50	same
1704	Wills Elizabeth Widow	155	1713	Wills Elizab	160	5 acres more
1704	Wills Emanuel	325	1713	Wills Emanuel Capt:	282	43 acres less
1704			1713	Wills John	100	
1704	Wills Mills Captain	425	1713	Wills Miles Maj	369	56 acres less
1704	Wills William	615	1713	Wills Wm: Orph: C: Hubbard	568	47 acres less
1704	Wood Matthew	300	1713	Wood Mary Roger Steely	330	30 acres more
1704	Wootton Richard	243	1713	Wootten Samuel	243	same

The total number of births—forty-three—outnumbered the eight burials. The fact that eleven slave children were born in this time period indicates that some of Warwick’s enslaved men and women had been able to form families (Palmer 1875-1893:1:176). The lack of slave baptisms suggests that either the slaves were not interested in having their children baptized in the Anglican Church or that the minister did not encourage enslaved couples to have their sons and daughters receive baptism.

In May 1723, some residents of Warwick County believed that their county was too small. The Burgesses received “A petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the County of Warwick complaining of the smallness of the said County & praying that the same may be dissolved, Also A petition of Sundry other Inhabitants of the said County praying that the said County may stand as it is. Also... Resolved That the said Petitions be rejected” (McIlwaine 1905-1915:5:377).

The small size of both Mulberry Island Parish and Denbigh Parish continued to make it difficult for the residents to secure the services of a minister. In 1724, Mulberry Island did not have its own minister. Inhabitants of the parish heard Reverend William LeNeve, the minister at Jamestown, preach every third Sunday. LeNeve reported that he had double the number of communicants and a larger congregation at Mulberry Island than he had at Jamestown (Meade 1966:I:94). It is likely that LeNeve preached at the second Mulberry Island church. Warwick County residents referred to this structure as the Upper Church of Warwick Parish in the 1750s and 1760s (Mason 1945:119).

Mulberry Island Parish and Denbigh Parish were joined into a single parish named Warwick between 1724 and 1726. Mr. Hewitt was the minister for Warwick Parish in 1726 (*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 1940:151). Ten years later, in August 1736, the minister of Warwick Parish and members of the vestry wanted to sell two of the three glebes in the county. They noted “That the Parish hath Three Glebes, distant from one another, Two of which are of small Value; praying, to be enabled to sell them, to purchase other Land adjoining to that whereon the Minister now lives” (McIlwaine 1905-1915:6:251). The General Assembly approved their petition and passed a law that give the Warwick Parish Vestry permission to sell two of the three glebes:

WHEREAS... and two other small parcels of land, situate, lying, and being, in the parish of Warwick, in the county of Warwick, the one at Water’s creek, and the other below the said creek, have, in like manner, been appropriated for a glebe for the said parish: Which said several parcels of glebe land, have lately been found to be inconvenient, and of little advantage to the respective parsons of the said parishes; and therefore, the vestries, with their assent, are desirous to sell the said several parcels of land, and to apply the purchase money towards purchasing better and more convenient glebes, for the said parishes... And that the said two parcels of land, in the said parish of Warwick, heretofore appropriated for a glebe for the said parish, with the appurtenances, be and are hereby vested in the present vestry of the said parish, and the vestry of the said parish, for the time being, in trust: Nevertheless, that the said vestries, respectively, or the greater part of them, shall, by deeds of bargain and sale, indented, and duly recorded, convey the premises in them, respectively, hereby vesterd, with the appurtenances, by such description as they shall think fit, for a valuable considerations of money, bona fide, received, to such person or persons as shall be willing to purchase the same, to hold, to such purchaser or purchasers, respectively, his and their heirs and assigns, for ever. And that when the same are so sold and conveyed, in trust, to purchase, with the money arising by such sales, better and more convenient glebes for the said

parishes of Saint John, & Warwick, respectively: And the said vestries, respectively, are further empowered to hold such glebes so to be purchased, for the use of the parsons of the said parishes of Saint John, and Warwick, respectively, for the time being, for ever (Hening 1969:4:537-539; McIlwaine 1918-1919:2:854, 855).

It appears that some residents of Warwick Parish did not want the vestry to be able to sell a portion of the parish's glebe land. On 4 September 1736 a group of freeholders and inhabitants of the parish and county petitioned the House of Burgesses to have the present vestry dissolved. They wanted to choose a new vestry. The Burgesses agreed to the resolution, but the Council rejected the bill on 15 September (McIlwaine 1905-1915:6:289, 292, 294; McIlwaine 1918-1919:2:849, 850).

Roscow Cole served as the minister of Warwick Parish in October 1754. However, the Reverend Cole died by June of the following year. Thomas Dawson, the Commissary, mentioned Cole's death in a letter to the Bishop of London (Perry 1969: I:413, 430, 433). Reverend Thomas Davis was the minister of Warwick Parish in 1758. William Hubberd served as the minister to residents of Warwick Parish and County in 1773, 1774, and 1776. The Reverend William Bland was the minister in 1785 (Meade 1966:I:238).

Although all residents of Warwick County were part of one parish after 1726, the justices of the peace continued to use the names "Mulberry Island" and "Stanley Hundred" when they appointed men to serve in various county offices up to 1761 and possibly later. The county's magistrates assigned the positions of tithe taker, constable, and surveyor of the highways to individuals who lived in specific precincts in Warwick:

### **Tithe Takers**

- ca. 1697—Robert Hubberd to take a list of tithes in the upper precincts of Mulberry Island Parish and William Cary to take a list of tithes in the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish and Stanley Hundred (Warwick County Order Book 1697-1698)
- 1700 June 21—Humphrey Harwood to take a list of tithes in the upper precincts of Mulberry Island Parish; William Cary to take a list of tithes in the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish; and Miles Wills to take a list of tithes in Stanley Hundred (Warwick County Order Book 1699-1701)
- 1701 May 21—Mr. Matthew Jones to take a list of tithes in the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish; Major Humphrey Harwood to take a list of tithes in the upper precincts of Mulberry Island Parish; and Mr. Thomas Haynes to take a list of tithes in Stanley Hundred (Warwick County Order Book 1699-1701)
- 1713 May 7—Mr. Francis Jones to take a list of tithes in the lower precinct of Mulberry Island and Stanley Hundred and Mr. William Harwood to take a list of tithes in the upper precinct of Mulberry Island Parish (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1714 May 6—Mr. William Harwood to take a list of tithes in the upper precincts of Mulberry Island Parish and Mr. Thomas Haynes Junior to take a list of tithes in the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish and Stanley Hundred (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1749 April 6—Matthew Wills Gent to take list of tithes in Mulberry Island (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:22)

- 1750 May 3—Matthew Wills Gent to take list of tithes for “Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:85)
- 1751 June 6—Matthew Wills Gent to take list of tithes for “Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:133)
- 1752 June 4—Henry Scasbrooke Gent to take list of tithes for “Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:178)
- 1753 March 1—Henry Scasbrooke Gent to take list of tithes for “Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:226)
- 1754 [month missing]—Henry Scasbrooke Gent to take list of tithes for “Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:278)
- 1755 May 1—Benjamin Wills Gent to take list of tithes for “Standly Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:325)
- 1756 June 3—Benjamin Wills Gent to take list of tithes “in Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:405)
- 1758 July 6—Benjamin Wills Gent to take list of tithes for “Stanley hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:543)
- 1759 June 7—Matthew Wills to take list of tithes in “Stanley Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:593)
- 1760 May 1—Harwood Jones to take list of tithes “for the Mulberry Ilse land Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:614)
- 1761 May 7—Henry Scasbrooke to take list of tithes in “Stanley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:648)

### **Constable**

- 1701 May 21—James Prest appointed constable for the upper precinct of Mulberry Island Parish in the room of John Cox (Warwick County Order Book 1699-1701)
- 1713 May 7—Jeremiah Peirce appointed constable for the lower precinct of Mulberry Island in the room of A[th] Jones (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1714 April 1—George Alleson appointed constable for upper precinct of Mulberry Island Parish in the room of Thomas Robinson (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1714 May 6—Walker Green appointed constable for the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish in the room of John Peirce (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1714 June 3—John Giles appointed constable for the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish on the petition of Walker Green (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1756—“Ditto [Higginson Wade] for the same service [viewing tobacco fields] in Standley Hundred 153 [pounds of tobacco]” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:375)
- 1760 August 7—Thomas Glanville appointed constable “of the Stanley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:624)
- 1760 September 4—Spencer Pierce is appointed constable “of the Stanley Hundred Precinct” in the room of Thomas Glanville (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:627)

## **Surveyor of the Highways**

- 1748 March 2—“Higginson Wade is appointed Surveyor of the Road from Warwick Mill to Mulberry Island Church and from thence to Colo. Harwood’s Mill & from thence to Hansford’s Ordinary in the room of John Jones who is discharged from that Office” (Warwick County Minutes 1748-1762:9)
- 1750 August 2—“John Scasbrooke is by the Court appointed Surveyor of the Road from the upper Church to Mulberry Island Ferry in the Room of Laurence Haynes who is discharged from that Office” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:102)
- 1754 August 1—“Samuel Wills is by the Court appointed Surveyor of the Main Road to Mulberry Island Ferry in the Room of Benjamin Wills who is discharged from that Office” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:297)
- 1759 February 1—“Henry Street is appointed Surveyor of the Main Road from the upper Church to Mulberry Island Ferry in this County in the Room of Thomas Wills junr who is discharged” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:579)
- 1759 [May]—presentment of Henry Street by the grand jury for not keeping the main road from the Upper Church to Mulberry Island Ferry cleared is dismissed (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:590)
- 1760 May 1—Thomas Glanville is appointed Surveyor of the Main Road “from the upper Church to Wills’s Ferry” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:613)
- 1760 September 4—John Howard is appointed Surveyor of the Main Road from Mulberry Island Church to Colo. Harwood’s Mill in the room of Robert Lucas (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:627)

In addition, Thomas Haynes received an appointment as the Captain of the Mulberry Island Company of Foot in April 1729. Henry Scasbrooke became the Lieutenant in the Mulberry Island Company of Foot in October of the same year (Warwick County Records 1728-1729).

Warwick’s seventeenth-century settlements and parish designations remained a part of life in the county in the eighteenth century. The Mulberry Island Church and the Mulberry Island Ferry continued to be important places in the Warwick County landscape. Men, women, and children knew the location of Stanley Hundred and Mulberry Island even though these areas were not separate parishes after 1726. Stanley Hundred and Mulberry Island were part of a smaller community within the larger Warwick County community.

## **A Ferry Between Mulberry Island and Isle of Wight County**

The connection between residents of Mulberry Island and Isle of Wight County became stronger in 1727 when Miles Wills became a ferry keeper (Figure 7). Seven years later, in September 1734, Miles Wills submitted a petition to the House of Burgesses for permission to “keep a Public Ferry over James River, from his own Landing, in Mulberry Island, in Warwick County, to Kee’s Plantation, in the County of Isle of Wight.” The burgesses “Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee to whom it is refer’d to prepare and bring in a Bill for appointing several Ferries, and altering several Court-Days, That they

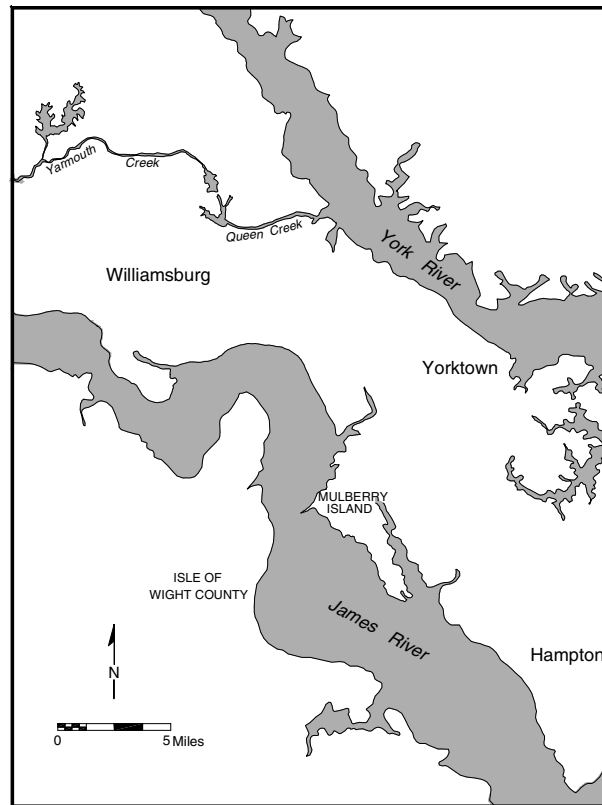


Figure 7. Location of Mulberry Island and Isle of Wight County.

have Power to receive a Clause, for erecting a Ferry, according to the Prayer of the said Petition” (McIlwaine 1905-1915:6:189).

Almost eight years later, in May 1742, Matthew Wills petitioned the House of Burgesses and requested “That a Ferry might be appointed from Mulberry-Island Point, in the said County, to Cocket’s, in Isle of Wight County.” William Hardy, of Isle of Wight, also asked “That a Public Ferry may be appointed from Cocket’s, in Isle of Wight County, over to Mulberry-Island Point, in Warwick County” (McIlwaine 1905-1915:7:17). Emanuel Wills submitted a petition in opposition to the request for a ferry from Mulberry Island Point to Cocket’s (McIlwaine 1905-1915:7:24). The Committee of Propositions and Grievances examined the petitions. Mr. Fitzhugh, “from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, reported, That the Committee had had under their Consideration, the Petition of Matthew Wills, and Richard Hardy, for appointing Ferries over James River, from Mulberry-Island Point, in Warwick County, to a Place called Cocket’s, in Isle of Wight County; and from Cocket’s to Mulberry-Island. Also the Petition of Emanuel Wills, against appointing the said Ferries, to them referred.” They decided that “the Ferries over James River, at the Places petitioned for, will be convenient for Travellers” and that “the Petition of the said Emanuel Wills, against the said Ferries, be Rejected” (McIlwaine 1905-1915:7:31-32).

The General Assembly established the operation of a public ferry between Mulberry Island Point and Cocket’s in May 1742. The statute noted that “public ferries be constantly kept, at the places herein after named. . . On James river, from Mulberry-Island

point, in the county of Warwick, across the river, to Cockett's, in the county of Isle of Wight; and from Cockett's to Mulberry-Island Point, aforesaid; the price for a man, one shilling and three pence, for a horse, one shilling and three pence" (Hening 1969:5:190). In October 1748 the cost of transporting a man and a horse "From Mulberry-Island point, in the county of Warwick, to Cocket's in Isle of Wight; and from Cocket's to Mulberry-Island" remained one shilling three pence for man and the same rate for a horse (Hening 1969:6:15).

Matthew Wills operated an ordinary "at his House at Mulberry Island Ferry" by January 1749[50] when he received a license for his business (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:69). Wills renewed his license in February 1750[1], January 1752 when Henry Scasbrooke served as his security, and January 1753. The members of the Warwick County Court appointed Wills as the keeper of the Mulberry Island Ferry in [March 1753]. Wills appeared before the court to renew his ordinary license in February 1755, February 1756, February 1758, February 1759, and May 1760. In November 1758 the justices of the peace "Ordered that Matthew Wills Gent rebuild the Bridge on the said Wills's Land on the Road to Mulberry Island Ferry or procure the same to be done on as reasonable Terms as he can" (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:564).

Matthew Wills died by 1 January 1761, the date that John George Wills of Surry County took his father's will to the Warwick County Court to be probated. The younger Wills received permission to keep an ordinary at the Mulberry Island Ferry and to operate the ferry "as formerly" on the same day (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:633, 634). John George Wills renewed his ordinary license in January 1762 and Benjamin Wills served as the security on his bond.

John George Wills continued to operate the public ferry and an ordinary during the 1760s and the early 1770s. In [1770] he filed a complaint in the Warwick County Court against Matthew Wills for selling liquor without a license (Virginia Historical Society 1642-1842). The 30 August 1776 issue of Purdie's *Virginia Gazette* contained a request to return a horse stolen "from the plantation of mr. John G. Wells, at Mulberry Island ferry." In November of the same year, John G. Wills announced the sale of his property. He announced that the "MULBERRY Island ferry in Warwick county, with a horse boat just finished, and 372 acres of land, is to be sold or rented immediately. It is a place well known, therefore needs no description" (*Virginia Gazette*, Purdie, ed., 30 August 1776; *ibid.*, 29 November 1776). Wills did not sell his land and he moved to Surry County. He owned the property until the time of his death in 1781. John George Wills left his "Plantation in Mulberry Island in the County of Warwick" and "the ferry Boats on the said Plantation" to his son Matthew Wills (Surry County Wills, Deeds &c. 1782:213-215).

Carter Crafford, the step-son of John George Wills, operated the Mulberry Island Ferry in the 1780s and early 1790s. However, in October 1792, Crafford petitioned the General Assembly for permission to discontinue the service. He stated that "since the Removal of the Seat of Government from Williamsburg Passengers have omitted to cross at the said Ferry in so much that the Profits of the said Ferry is not sufficient to defray the Charges of keeping up Boats That notwithstanding the said Ferry is of no Profit to your Petitioner or of little or no Convenience to the Public" (Warwick County Legislative Peti-



tions: 1792). On 27 October 1792 the General Assembly decided “That the ferry heretofore established from the land of Carter Crawford, at Mulberry island point, in the county of Warwick, across James river, to Hardy’s land in the county of Isle of Wight, shall be, and the same is hereby discontinued” (Hening 1969:13:567).

## **The Mid-Eighteenth Century Population of Mulberry Island and Warwick County**

In 1755, Benjamin Wills and the other tithe takers in Warwick turned in their lists of the tithable laborers in each of the households in their precinct (see Table 1). The list for Warwick indicated that there were 846 tithes in the county in 1755. A total of 181 tithes were white and 665 (78.6%) of the tithes were black. Warwick had the highest percentage of black tithes in Virginia’s fifty counties. By the middle of the eighteenth century, Warwick, like the other counties in the Tidewater region, had a labor force that was primarily enslaved. Planters in Warwick depended on enslaved men, women, and children to provide labor. In contrast, their counterparts at the turn of the eighteenth century relied on a greater number of indentured servants. Gentry residents of Mulberry Island, Warwick County, and the rest of the Tidewater grew sweet-scented tobacco. These planters received a higher price for their tobacco than did the planters who tended fields of oronoco tobacco in the Piedmont and on the Southside. There was a ready market for sweet-scented tobacco in Great Britain. The price for the sweet-scented leaf did not fluctuate to the degree that the price for oronoco did. Also, it is possible that the sweet-scented variety was lighter in weight, which allowed for tighter packing in hogsheads and lower shipping charges.

Planters on Mulberry Island and in Warwick County bought slaves to grow sweet-scented tobacco and other crops. It is likely that over 60% of the total population of Warwick County was black in 1775. Seven years later, in 1782, 84% of the households in Warwick included at least one slave. However, by the third quarter of the eighteenth century, Mulberry Island’s planters had little new land to use for the production of sweet-scented tobacco. They needed to let their fields lie fallow for twenty years to regain a portion of the land’s previous productivity. Land was not as dependable a source of wealth in Warwick County and Tidewater Virginia by the time of the American Revolution as it had been in the late seventeenth century and the early eighteenth century.

### **Availability of Land**

Several of Mulberry Island’s seventeenth-century landholders wanted to make sure that the land that they held stayed in the possession of their heirs. These men decided to “entail” their land when they wrote their wills. For example, the practice of entail enabled an individual to specify that his eldest son would inherit a certain tract of land, that his eldest son’s oldest son would gain possession of the same tract after his father’s death, and so on. A subsequent owner of the entailed land was prevented from selling the land that he inherited. By the middle of the eighteenth century, men who held entailed land turned to the General Assembly for permission to sell property that they did not want

because these tracts were not profitable. If the Burgesses and Councilors agreed, a petitioner received permission to “dock the entail” on the property and to sell the parcel.

In January 1764, William Cary petitioned the House of Burgesses to dock the entail on 360 acres of land in the northern part of Mulberry Island in Warwick County. He informed the Burgesses

That he has resided on the said Lands for many Years past without any Slaves to cultivate it, whereby he has been a great Sufferer, and therefore has been advised that it would be greatly to the Advantage of himself, and the Heir in Taille, if he was permitted to sell the said Lands, and lay out the Money arising from the Sale thereof partly in Lands, and the Rest in Slaves, to be settled thereon, and to descend with the same; and he has lately contracted with one Allen Jones to sell the said Lands to him for a very considerable Sum, if an Act of Assembly could be procured to enable him so to do; and praying that an Act may pass for that Purpose, was presented to the House and read.

Ordered, That a Bill or Bills be brought in pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition, and it is referred to Mr Edmund Pendleton to prepare and bring in the same.

Edmund Pendleton drew up a bill to allow Cary to sell the land that he had inherited and Burgesses from Warwick, York, James City, and Elizabeth City examined the document (McIlwaine 1905-1915:10:208; see also p. 210). The General Assembly gave Cary permission to sell the land that his grandfather owned. The law contained information about the previous owners of the property. At the time of his death, the petitioner’s grandfather, William Cary, owned 360 acres of high land and marshland at the mouth of Skiffe’s Creek in Warwick County. In his will dated 26 August 1711, Cary left this land to his son Harwood Cary after the death of his wife Martha. Harwood Cary entered the land after the death of his mother and died in possession of the parcel that he left to his oldest son and heir, William. William Cary

is now seized thereof as tenant in fee-taille, but the said William Cary having no slaves to work the said land the same is of little profit to him, and it hath been represented to this assembly that it will be for the benefit of the said William Cary, and his issue, to sell the entailed lands, and lay out the money in the purchase of other lands and slaves, to be settled to the same uses, the said William Cary having contracted for the sale of the said entailed lands to one Allen Jones for seven hundred and twenty pounds current money, the full value of the same.

Allen Jones agreed to pay the purchase money to four trustees—Archibald Cary, John Fleming, Robert Bolling, junior and Joseph Cabell gentlemen—who “shall fairly lay out the said money in the purchase of other lands and slaves, to be conveyed by deed or deeds duly proved and recorded, and from henceforth the said lands and slaves so purchased shall descend, pass, and go together, to the said William Cary and the heirs of his body, and to such other person or persons as the lands in the county of Warwick would have remained, gone, and descended, by virtue of the limitations of the will of the said William Cary the elder, if this act had never been made” (Hening 1969:8:34-35; see also pp. 61-63). The Burgesses examined the bill to dock Cary’s entail in the November 1764 session of the General Assembly and agreed to the bill a second time in December of that year (McIlwaine 1905-1915:10:278, 283, 293, 295, 309).

Six years later, in June 1770, James Roscow asked the General Assembly for permission to dock the entail on two parcels of land in Warwick County.<sup>5</sup> The clerk of the House of Burgesses noted that

A Petition of James Roscow, Gentleman, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the petitioner is seized in Fee Tail, under the Wills of his Ancestors, of about Two Thousand and Two Hundred Acres of Land, in two Tracts, called Blunt Point and Stanley Hundred, and is seized of the Reversion of the said Lands in Fee, expectant upon his dying without Issue; and that he is considerably indebted, and now under Confinement, from which he cannot discharge himself without disposing of his Interest in the said Lands (All the property he hath left) which must be sold for less than the Value, by Reason of the Possibility of his having Issue; and therefore praying that an Act may pass to dock the Intail of the said Lands.

The Burgesses rejected Roscow's request on 21 June 1770 (McIlwaine 1905-1915:11:59-60, 86).

Roscow returned to the House of Burgesses in May 1774. In this petition, he informed the Burgesses that he "is seised in fee tail of several valuable tracts of Land, lying in the County of Warwick, which are unprofitable to him, as he hath not a sufficient number of Slaves to cultivate them; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to empower him to dispose of one of the said Tracts, called Stanley Hundred, and lay out the Money raised by the Sale in purchasing Slaves to be annexed to his other lands" (McIlwaine 1905-1915:12:131). Roscow did not succeed in his second attempt to sell entailed land in Warwick.

On 5 June 1775, Roscow presented his third petition to the House of Burgesses. He stated that

he is seised in fee tail of several Tracts of Land, in the County of Warwick, and having no Slaves to work either, is desirous to exchange two of them for other Lands, and Slaves, by which he may be enabled to procure a competent subsistence; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to dock the intail of his tracts of Land, called Stanley Hundred and Blunt Point, and vest the same in Carter Braxton, Esquire, in fee simple, and, in lieu thereof and to the same Uses, to settle eight hundred Acres of Land in the County of Amherst, with ten Negro Slaves, which the Petitioner had agreed to purchase of the said Carter Braxton.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr Mercer do prepare, and bring in the same.

The Burgesses passed the bill to allow Roscow to dock the entail on the tracts known as Stanley Hundred and Blunt Point on 14 June 1775 (McIlwaine 1905-1915:12:189-190, 198, 203, 221, 229). Roscow was a resident of King William County when he placed an announcement about the sale of his Warwick County land in the 17 January 1777 edition of Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*. He noted that Stanley Hundred contained "1500 acres the fertility thereof equal to most land in the lower parts of the country; it is an excellent range for stock, convenient to fish and oysters, and to navigation." The following week Carter Braxton informed readers of the *Virginia Gazette* that "Mr. James Roscow, in advertising

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<sup>5</sup> The members of the General Assembly allowed James Roscow to dock the entail on another tract of land—700 acres on the east side of Water's Creek, known as Derby—in January 1768 (Hening 1969:8:301-303).

his lands for sale, having omitted to mention, that two of those tracts, called *Stanley Hundred* and *Blunt Point*, were sold to me for his life, it becomes necessary to inform those inclined to purchase of these tracts, with which they may be more fully informed upon application to CARTER BRAXTON” (*Virginia Gazette*, Purdie, ed., 17 January 1777 and 24 January 1777).<sup>6</sup>

On 7 June 1775, two days after James Roscow asked for permission to sell two tracts of entailed land in Warwick County, Thomas and Ann Wills presented a similar petition to the Burgesses. They noted that they “are seised in Fee Tail of three hundred and fifty Acres of land, or thereabouts, in the County of Warwick, and that it will be greatly for their advantage to sell the same, and settle other lands and Slaves in lieu thereof; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for that purpose” (McIlwaine 1905-1915:12:202). It appears that the Burgesses did not approve the petition of Thomas and Ann Wills. In November 1776, Willis Wilson placed the following announcement in the *Virginia Gazette*:

To be RENTED (by virtue of a lease) for one year, and to be entered upon next New Year’s day,

THE very valuable plantation belonging to mr. Thomas Wills lying in Mulberry Island, Warwick county. The plantation, which is in order for cropping, is exceeding good for corn, wheat, or tobacco, and has a very good apple orchard thereon. Also the crop of corn and fodder now on the said plantation will be sold. Whoever is inclinable either to rent the land, or purchase the crop, may know the terms by applying to capt. William Dudley near the premises, or to the subscriber in King & Queen (*Virginia Gazette*, Purdie, ed., 15 November 1776).

The practice of entailing land kept property in Mulberry Island in the possession of descendants of the seventeenth-century landholders for part of the following century. However, the decision of three men who owned land on Mulberry Island to dock the entail on their property indicated that they wanted to move to other areas of the colony where they could gain a greater profit from their crops. Much of the land on Mulberry Island needed to lie fallow in order to regain a portion of its previous fertility. Also, the fact that a portion of Mulberry Island land was entailed made it harder for the small planter to add to his holdings or for a landless resident to become a landholder.

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<sup>6</sup> In March 1774, Miles Wills announced the sale of 250 acres that adjoined Stanley Hundred. He noted

“For SALE, and maybe entered on at Christmas,

A VALUABLE Tract of LAND in Warwick County, lying on Warwick River, adjoining the Land of Colonel Carter Braxton, containing about 250 Acres; the Soil is well adapted for producing Corn, Wheat, or Tobacco, had Plenty of good Pine and Oak Timber, with a commodious Dwelling-House quite new, a good Kitchen, Dairy, Smokehouse, Barn, and Crib, and a beautiful young Apple orchard. I should be glad any Person that has a-mind to purchase would make Application as soon as possible. Part of the Purchase Money to be paid on the Day of Acknowledgment, and Credit will be allowed for the other Part until *January* next, or longer if required on giving Bond with approved Security to MILES WILLS” (*Virginia Gazette*, Purdie and Dixon, eds., 3 March 1774).

It is possible that there were apple orchards on Stanley Hundred and that the planters who lived on this land grew corn, wheat, and tobacco.

## The American Revolution in Warwick County

Residents of Warwick County formed a Committee of Safety on 23 November 1774. The members were Colonel William Harwood, Major William Langhorne, E. Harwood, Thomas Haynes, Richard Cary, Hinde Russell, Benjamin Wills, John Jones, William Digges, William Dudley, Francis Leigh, and Joseph Massenburgh. William Harwood served as the chairman and Robert Lucas was the clerk (Scribner et al. 1973-1983:V:70 n. 13; *Virginia Gazette*, Pinkney, ed., 9 March 1775). Records of the committee's actions and decisions do not survive. In August 1775, the Third Virginia Convention divided the colony into sixteen military districts. Warwick was part of the District of Elizabeth City with Charles City, Elizabeth City, James City, New Kent, and York counties and the city of Williamsburg. The next month, William Harwood, William Langhorne, Richard Cary, and Hinde Russell traveled to Williamsburg to serve as members of the Elizabeth City District Committee. On 12 September 1775, Mr. John King (Lieutenant), Mr. Joseph Selden Junior (Ensign), and Mr. Richard Cary (Captain) received appointments in the militia to be raised in Warwick County (Scribner et al. 1973-1983:IV:53 n. 4, 94-95, 100).

Warwick County experienced the disruption and confusion that followed Lord Dunmore's decision to issue his proclamation on 16 November 1775. Dunmore promised freedom to all indentured servants and slaves who would join his forces against the colonists. The 30 November 1775 issue of Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette* informed readers that

One of Dunmore's tenders lately went to a place called Mulberry Island, in Warwick county, and landed her men, who went to Mr. Benjamin Wells's house, with their faces blacked like negroes, whose *dear* companions they are, and robbed from thence all his household furniture, four negroes, a watch, and stock-buckle. The inhuman wretches even took the bed on which several sick infants were reposing (*Virginia Gazette*, Pinkney ed., 30 November 1775).

On 6 December 1775, the Warwick County Committee of Safety submitted a petition to the Fourth Virginia Convention. This petition reflected the fears of Warwick's residents in the days that followed the announcement of Dunmore's Proclamation:

The Committee for Warwick having seriously considered the Situation of the County together with the small Number of it's Inhabitants who can by an Ordinance of the late Convention be deemd as Militia, Humbly beg Leave at this present critical and dangerous Time to make the following Representation.

It is with the utmost Concern we behold the Depredations already committed in this & Neighbouring Counties by the cruel and inveterate Enemies to the Liberties of America and the Rights of Mankind in General.

Were we in Number sufficient to protect our Country we should condemn the Devastations already committed & with Vigor oppose the tyrannical and barbarous Measures of our Enemies. But when the Situation and Extent of our County comes to be consider'd and that our present Militia including Officers do not much exceed one hundred Men & those but badly armed, our Application will we presume merit your Attention.

Our County lies on James River near thirty Miles there are moreover Warwick River and several navigable Creeks which make out of these Rivers so that the greatest Part of this County is accessible to the Enemy; Our Slaves Stocks and every valuable Effect are hourly subjected from this our exposed and defenceless State to be taken away or otherways destroyed; but these Losses tho' great are trifling & insignificant when we come to consider, how Ourselves—our Wives and Children—to expatiate on this Tender Point is unnecessary.

From this calamitous State of our's what can we do? Experience declares it impracticable for us to guard our Shores & make any Provision for the ensuing Year; We are however desirous (now struggling in a glorious Cause) to risque our Lives & Fortunes in Support thereof

Nothing but dire Necessity shall compel us to quit our Habitations whilst the least Shadow of Hope remains: But should we be thus compelled surely our Stocks Grain &c. with the deserted Plantations must be thought as a great Acquisition to the Enemy & gives such a Footing as may prove dangerous to the common Cause.

Many have already left the County and more we are persuaded will follow their Example unless some Assistance be given us.

Under these Circumstances we apply to you for Relief and we doubt not but that with an Additional Force of one hundred & twenty five Men and our Militia we shall be enabled to prevent this Country from falling into the Enemy's Hands. We therefore pray you will tender us this or such other Aid as you in your Wisdom shall think fit &c.

Richard Cary signed the document in his role as chairman of the Warwick County Committee of Safety. Convention members referred Warwick's petition to the Committee of the State of the Colony on December 11th. Eight days later, on December 19, the Committee of the State of the Colony decided "that the Committee of Safety be directed to send such force, for the protection of the County of Warwick, as to them shall appear necessary, as soon as the same can be supplied from the forces in the City of Williamsburg" (Scribner et al. 1973-1983:V:67, 71 n. 14, 107, 189).

Perhaps there were extra forces in Warwick County in mid-December 1775 when several runaway slaves landed at Mulberry Island. An enslaved man named Joe stated that he was one of six slaves who tried to reach Lord Dunmore. Joe noted that "before they reached him, this Slaves as he declared repented of the expedition & found means to make his escape leaving the others at Mulberry Island" (Scribner et al. 1973-1983:V:239).

On 6 May 1776, the list of prisoners at the Public Gaol and at Mrs. Coke's in Williamsburg included a Loyalist named John Goodrich Junior and his three slaves, Mike, Aberdeen, and Harry. The younger Goodrich was the son-in-law of Mulberry Island's William Harwood. Two weeks later, the members of the Fifth Virginia Convention ordered

that John Goodrich Junr: be discharged from Custody on entering into bond with Security in the Penalty of one thousand Pounds to the Committee of Safety immediately to repair to the plantation of William Harwood gentleman in the County of Warwick and confine himself within three Miles thereof until the third Day of June next and then appear before the Committee of Safety in the City of Williamsburg in order to be examined touching his Conduct and abide by such Determination as shall be made thereon by the Convention (Scribner et al. 1973-1983:VII:38-39, 193, 195-196).

Unfortunately, extant documents do not contain the reactions of Warwick's residents to the decision to have a Loyalist stay on the Mulberry Island plantation of the county's leading patriots.

Members of the Warwick militia served throughout the Revolution. Major General Baron von Steuben was in Warwick County in January 1781 when he wrote Governor Thomas Jefferson about the movements of the enemy. He noted

I have the pleasures to acquaint your Excellency, that the Enemy left Richmond this afternoon about one-o'clock, and proceeded towards their vessells; in consequence of which I immediately ordered a Bat<sup>n</sup> of Continental Troops & a Bat<sup>n</sup> of Militia to march to this place, & came myself as well to oppose any attempts to land here as to be so far on the way to Petersburg, where it is supposed the Enemy intend to proceed—Col: Gibson informs me they have near 1000 militia together, tho' only 400 of them were then armed—it is said the Vessels have already got up as far as Broadway—should this prove true I shall proceed early to-morrow morn<sup>g</sup> with the troops here, to Petersburg & make every possible opposition— (Palmer 1875-1893:1:418).

The Governor ordered the Warwick militia to help defend the peninsula in July 1781: “His Excellency proposing that one fourth of the Militia of the Counties of James City, York, Warwick, Eliz City, and the City of Williamsburg should be called out & joined with a Detachment which the Marquis is about to send down for the protection of these Counties, the same was approved by the board” (McIlwaine et al. 1931-1967:II:360).

On 9 May 1782, residents of Mulberry Island joined men and women from all of Warwick to submit their claims for property impressed or taken to support both the state and continental troops during the American Revolution. The following individuals received payment for goods and services between May 1782 and February of the following year: James Southall, Samuel Gray, Matthew Wills, Thomas Wills, Mary Jones, Susanna Goodwin, Daniel Prentis, Everard Dowsing, Thomas Glanville, Thomas Wyld, Peter Houghton, William Lee, Behathd. Ridley, Richard Allen, Colonel William Digges, Rebecca [*sic*], Lucy Bassett Haynes, Edmund Curtis, Thomas Cary, Wilson Miles Cary, Hudson Allen, Richard McIntosh, James Crandol, Samuel Armistead, Samuel Thomas, Matthew Langston, William Drewry, John Lewelling, Edward Dudley, Witt. Lee, Higginson [*sic*], Edmund Wynne, Hinde Russell, Philip Tabb, Richard Harrison, Matthew Gouge, William Williams, William Wynne, Robert Lucas, John Dunn, Samuel Dunn's estate, William Marrow, Thomas Jones, Richard Crandol, Elizabeth Banks, Kemp Charles, Martha Harwood, Mary Harwood, William Harwood, Mrs. Elizabeth Nelson, Colonel William Harwood, John Wood, Robert Brown, Samuel Brown, William Smith, William Powell, William Jones, John George Gibbs, Miles Wills, Josiah Massenburg, William Gibbs, William Lively, Samuel Dewberry, Colonel Edward Harwood, Matthew Drewry, Francis Lee, Jaquelin Ambler, Martha Noblin, Francis Jones, Richard Cary, Allen Jones, Edward Dudley, William Langhorne, William Digges, Martha Noblin, William Houghton, Christopher Haynes, Henry Watkins, Peter Pierce, Elizabeth Smith, William Badget, John Manning, William Griffin, Samuel Bland, Rebecca Dudley, Christopher Haynes, Moses Waldron, Matthew Gibbs, Messrs. Meldry and Robt Johnston, Messrs. Davis and Elliott, John Manning's Estate, and Richard Young (Abercrombie 1991:1-9).

Men from Mulberry Island and the other areas of Warwick County continued to defend the Yorktown area after the end of the fighting. In June 1782 the Governor

having just received a Letter from Count Rochambeau (inclosing one from his Excellency General Washington) informing him that the French Troops are under orders immediately to March to the Northward—Whereupon it is thought adviseable that the whole of Colo. Dabney's Legion (except a Lieutenants Command) should be ordered to cross without delay from Portsmouth to Hampton: where it appears necessary to post a few Dragoons for the purpose of communicating the necessary intelligence, & that the rest of his Corps be ordered to York Town for the purpose of perserving the Stores and guarding the town: That for the

immediate Garrisoning the Town of York a body of four hundred Militia, in aid to Colo Dabneys Legion, be ordered in from the Counties most convenient (except Elizabeth City, Warwick, York, James City Gloster, Norfolk & Princess Anne) in proportion of one sixth, to continue in service for the term prescribed by law and then relieved as the law directs; and that the County Lieutenants of Elizabeth City, Warwick, York, James City and Gloster be directed to order their Militia to hold themselves in readiness, that a body of six hundred Men may be collected on the shortest Notice to be thrown into the said Garrison for the like purpose of defence. The Commissioner of War is directed to give the necessary orders for complying with the above determination (McIlwaine et al. 1931-1967:3:113).

Members of the Warwick militia assisted in the leveling of the earthworks around Yorktown in November 1782:

The Governor having suggested to the board the propriety of levelling the works around York from an apprehension that the enemy may be induced again to take possession of them if left standing.—It is advised that the Commissioner of War be desired to order five hundred men from the Counties of Elizabeth City, York, Warwick, Gloster James City and New Kent, to be proportioned according to the number of Militia in each of the said Counties to be put under the command of Colo Dabney and with his Legion to be employed in the said work. Permission to be granted to any Militia Man ordered our for the purpose aforesaid to send an able bodied Negro Man in his stead. The Commissioner of War is desired to communicate the above Orders, without delay, to Mr. Robinson, the contractor, & direct him in the most positive terms to make immediate preparation for subsisting them, to the end that the necessary provisions may be laid in before the Men are Ordered to march (McIlwaine et al. 1931-1967:3:171-172).

After helping to level the earthworks at Yorktown, members of Warwick’s militia and the other residents of the county settled down to adjust to life after the American Revolution.

### Mulberry Island After the American Revolution

One of the biggest changes that residents of Mulberry Island experienced after the conclusion of the American Revolution was the fact that Williamsburg was not Virginia’s capital. Richmond, a city in the Piedmont region, became the capital in 1780. Families from all of the Tidewater counties also moved westward in search of opportunity in urban areas and in rural areas. The outmigration from Mulberry Island and other areas of Warwick County is reflected in the Land Tax Lists, Personal Property Tax Lists, and United States Census Returns.

In 1782, there were 113 landholders in Warwick County (Table 6). These individuals held 44, 482.49 acres of land. The total acreage assessed in 1782 was 93.1% of the land taxed in 1704. Men, women, and children left Mulberry Island and Warwick County because there was a small amount of available land.

	1704	1713	1782
Landholders	124	131	113
Average	334.08	296.96	393.65
Maximum	4,626	4,626	4,626
Median	155	153	200
Minimum	25	25	28
Mode	150	100	200
Total Acres	41,426	38,902	44,482.49



**Table 6**  
**Warwick County Landholders, 1782**

Name	Acres	Year	Note
[torn]	200.00	1782	
Allen Hudson	1720.00	1782	
Allen Richard	61.00	1782	
Ambler Jacquelin	500.00	1782	
Amory Thomas C	882.00	1782	
Aylett William Estate	1366.00	1782	
Ballard William	100.00	1782	
Bland William Reverend	400.00	1782	
Blow Sameul	369.00	1782	
Brown Richard	351.00	1782	
Brown Robert	75.00	1782	
Brown Samuel	155.00	1782	
Cary Miles	1087.00	1782	
Cary Richard Colonel	350.00	1782	
Cary Thomas	250.00	1782	
Cary Wilson Miles	4047.00	1782	
Chapman Walter	153.00	1782	
Charles Kemp Estate	100.00	1782	
Chisman John Estate	110.00	1782	
Coffin John	32.00	1782	
Crandol James	118.00	1782	
Curtis Edmond	200.00	1782	
Dedman Philip	83.33	1782	
Digges William	1165.00	1782	of York County
Digges William Colonel	4626.00	1782	
Drewry John	40.00	1782	
Drewry Johnson	194.00	1782	
Drewry Matthew	55.00	1782	
Drewry William	102.00	1782	
Duberry John Estate	94.00	1782	
Duberry Samuel	300.00	1782	
Dudley Rebecca	296.00	1782	
Dunn John	290.00	1782	
Dunn Richard Estate	286.00	1782	
Dunn Samuel Estate	50.00	1782	
Dunn Thomas	150.00	1782	
Gibbs John George	105.00	1782	
Gibbs Matthew	110.00	1782	
Gibbs Thomas	37.50	1782	of York County
Gibbs William Junior	105.00	1782	
Glanville Thomas	105.00	1782	
Gouge John Estate	60.00	1782	
Green William	189.00	1782	of Mecklenburg County
Griffin William Estate	116.00	1782	
Hansford Elizabeth	125.00	1782	
Harwood Thomas	423.00	1782	
Harwood Thomas Colonel	652.00	1782	
Harwood William	450.00	1782	
Harwood William Col Est	1400.00	1782	

**Table 6 (cont'd)**  
**Warwick County Landholders, 1782**

Name	Acres	Year	Note
Haynes Christopher	200.00	1782	
Haynes Thomas Estate	650.00	1782	
Henderson William	40.00	1782	
Houghton Peter	100.00	1782	
Houghton William	262.00	1782	
Howard Henry Estate	200.00	1782	
Hubbard Matthew	50.00	1782	
Jones Allen	680.00	1782	
Jones Francis	702.00	1782	
Jones John	150.00	1782	of Hampton
Jones Thomas	50.00	1782	
Jones William	220.00	1782	
Langhorne William	804.00	1782	
Lee Francis	578.00	1782	
Lee William	206.00	1782	
Lewelling John	334.00	1782	
Lucas Thomas	725.00	1782	
Mallicote Mary	36.00	1782	
Mallicote Morey	36.00	1782	
Mallicote Philip	33.33	1782	
Mallicote Thomas	390.00	1782	
Mallicote William	125.00	1782	
Manning John	116.00	1782	
Marrow William	240.00	1782	
Massenburg Josiah	217.00	1782	
McClurg Walter	47.00	1782	
McIntosh Richard	540.00	1782	
Moore Elizabeth	45.00	1782	
Nelson Elizabeth	832.00	1782	
Nelson Thomas	100.00	1782	
Nelson Thomas General	353.00	1782	
Noblin Matthew	175.00	1782	
Parish William	47.00	1782	
Pescud Thomas Estate	200.00	1782	
Powell William	626.00	1782	
Prentis Daniel	503.00	1782	
Presson Mary	28.00	1782	
Puryear Samuel	125.00	1782	
Rice Judith	75.00	1782	
Ridley Francis	50.00	1782	
Ridley Gerrard Estate	200.00	1782	
Russell Hinde	445.33	1782	
Sandefur Peter Estate	163.33	1782	
Scasbrook Henry Col Est	714.00	1782	
Scott William	449.00	1782	
Smith Elizabeth	150.00	1782	
Southall James	1322.00	1782	
Thomas Samuel	200.00	1782	

**Table 6 (cont'd)**  
**Warwick County Landholders, 1782**

Name	Acres	Year	Note
Wade Higginson	100.00	1782	
Watkins Henry	207.00	1782	
West John	1000.00	1782	
Whitaker Simon Estate	100.00	1782	
Whitaker William	200.00	1782	
Wills John Estate	393.00	1782	
Wills Matthew Captain	2372.00	1782	20 years purchase on same
Wilson John	163.33	1782	
Wood Margaret	75.00	1782	
Wood Matthew	50.00	1782	
Wood Mead Estate	86.67	1782	
Wootton Samuel	40.00	1782	
Wyld Thomas	518.00	1782	
Wynne Edmond	200.00	1782	
Wynne Richard	125.00	1782	
Young Richard Estate	83.67	1782	

There were 129 persons who owned personal property in 1782. These men and women held a total of 762 enslaved laborers.

Two lists taken in 1784—the Warwick County Personal Property Tax List and the Warwick County List of Inhabitants and Structures—include precinct designations. Matthew Wills noted that nineteen persons lived in the Stanley Hundred Precinct in 1784: Matthew Wills, Daniel Prentis, Jno. Haynes, William Allen, Miles Wills, Edmund Curtis, Thomas Glanvil, Samuel Blow, Matthew Noblin, Samuel Bland, William Jones, John Jones, Allen Jones, Bourbon Jones’s Este., Sheldon Moss, Everard Dowsing, Elizabeth Coflin, John Fox, and Moses Walrond (Warwick County Personal Property Tax List 1784).

The person who recorded the 1784 List of Inhabitants and Structures recorded thirteen persons as inhabitants of the Stanley Hundred section of Warwick County: Miles, Wills, Allen Jones, Christopher Haynes, William Jones, Elizabeth Coflin, Samuel Bland, Thomas Glanville, Matthew Noblin, Miles Wills, Edmond Curtis, John Fox, Daniel Prentis, and Samuel Blow (Warwick County List of Inhabitants and Structures 1784). Both lists indicate that Stanley Hundred was second smallest precinct in the county (Tables 6 and 7).

Miles Wills recorded the following men and women as heads of households in Stanley Hundred on the 1785 Warwick County Personal Property Tax List: Mattw Wills, Daniel Printis, John Fox, Miles Wills, Thomas Glanvill, Henry Scasbrooke, John Haynes, Samuel Bland, Carter Crofford, Mattw Noblin, Elizabeth Coflin, William Jones, Lucy B. Haynes, Rebecca Dudley, Richd. Harrison, Christopher Haynes, Burbon Jones, Allen Jones, and Everard Dowsing (Warwick County Personal Property Tax List 1785). The differences in the list of inhabitants on these three lists suggests that the Stanley Hundred precinct was a distinct section of Warwick County and that the boundaries of this section were fluid.

**Table 7  
Warwick County, 1784**

Name	White Tithes	Whites	Dwelling Houses	Out Houses	Total Slaves	Horses	Cattle	Acres	District	Note
[torn] William	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	Upper	with Thos Wilkins 2 whites
Allen Hudson Estate	1	0	1	7	13	5	36	1500.00	Lower	Wm M Mcgregor prob on Ind tithe=Wm Allen
Allen Thomas	2	4	1	1	6	3	10	194.00	Lower	
Ambler Jaquelin	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	500.00	Upper	of Henrico County
Amory Thomas C	3	10	1	1	5	3	14	882.00	Lower	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List
Archer George	1	10	0	0	9	2	0	0.00	Lower	2 wheeled vehicle
Aylett William Estate	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1366.00	Middle	
Barnes Aaron	1	5	0	0	0	2	5	0.00	Lower	
Bland Samuel	1	9	1	2	2	4	18	0.00	Stanley	
Blow Samuel	1	1	1	1	3	7	28	369.00	Stanley	
Brown Richard	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	351.00	Lower	not on Per. Prop. Tax List
Brown Robert	1	3	1	3	0	0	3	115.00	Lower	land from Samuel Brown
Burgess William	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	Lower	not on Per. Prop. Tax List
Burk John	1	7	1	3	6	2	4	0.00	Lower	
Burnham John	1	6	1	5	4	2	5	0.00	Lower	
Cary Richard	3	10	2	11	32	11	41	350.00	Middle	2 wheeled vehicle
Cary Thomas	1	5	1	9	18	6	29	250.00	Middle	2 wheeled vehicle
Cary Wilson Miles	3	12	2	10	126	21	10	4047.00	Upper	2 & 4 wheeled vehicles
Chapman Walter	1	6	1	3	5	1	3	153.00	Upper	
Charles Martha	1	5	1	3	5	1	12	100.00	Upper	tithe=Thos Charles
Coflin Elizabeth	0	3	1	3	2	0	4	32.00	Stanley	land from John Coflin
Crandall James	1	5	1	3	1	3	5	118.00	Lower	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List
Crandall John	1	5	1	1	1	2	6	0.00	Lower	
Crandall Richard	1	2	1	3	2	3	16	0.00	Lower	
Curtis Edmond	1	4	1	5	7	4	21	200.00	Stanley	2 wheeled vehicle
Davis Hannah	0	4	1	4	0	0	0	0.00	Lower	not on Per. Prop. Tax List
Dewberry Samuel	1	7	1	4	6	1	13	300.00	Lower	

**Table 7 (cont'd)  
Warwick County, 1784**

Name	White Tithes	Whites	Dwelling Houses	Out Houses	Total Slaves	Horses	Cattle	Acres	District	Note
Diggs Cole	1	3	1	6	30	4	42	0.00	Middle	2 wheeled vehicle
Diggs William Senior	2	2	1	30	49	23	65	4626.00	Middle	Ralph & Fort Crutchfield
Dowsing Everard	1	5	1	7	12	6	20	250.00	Upper	2 wh/Stanley on Per. Prop. Tax List
Drewry Ann	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	Lower	not on Per. Prop. Tax List
Drewry Johnson	1	7	1	1	2	3	12	0.00	Lower	194a charged—Thos Allen
Drewry Matthew	2	5	1	4	7	3	15	55.00	Lower	tithe=Jas Drewry
Drewry William	1	5	1	2	7	2	17	102.00	Lower	
Dudley Rebecca	0	5	1	4	5	1	13	296.00	Upper	Edwd Dudley—1784 Per. Prop. Tax List
Dunn John	1	8	1	8	14	6	22	290.00	Lower	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List
Fox John	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	Stanley	
Garrow Sarah	0	5	1	1	2	1	4	0.00	Upper	
Gibbs John George	1	5	1	2	4	2	11	105.00	Upper	
Gibbs Matthew	1	9	1	3	3	3	15	110.00	Upper	white column is torn
Gibbs William	1	6	1	2	1	4	7	0.00	Upper	
Gibbs William Junior	1	1	1	5	0	1	12	105.00	Upper	
Glanville Thomas	1	5	1	5	6	3	36	105.00	Stanley	
Gouge Matthew	1	3	1	0	1	1	28	60.00	Upper	land from John Gouge
Gray Samuel	1	5	1	3	2	2	12	0.00	Upper	Lower on Per. Prop. Tax List
Hansford Elizabeth	0	4	1	7	18	3	20	125.00	Upper	2 wheeled vehicle
Harrison Richard	1	5	1	2	6	2	15	0.00	Upper	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List
Harwood Edward	1	13	2	17	31	3	20	825.00	Upper	4 wheeled vehicle
Harwood Harlow	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0.00	Upper	not on Per. Prop. Tax List
Harwood William	1	6	1	9	20	7	29	450.00	Upper	
Haughton Peter	2	6	1	6	12	6	26	100.00	Lower	tithe=Wm Haughton Jr

**Table 7 (cont'd)**  
**Warwick County, 1784**

Name	White		Dwelling		Out		Total		Acres	District	Note
	Tithes	Whites	Houses	Houses	Houses	Houses	Slaves	Horses			
Haughton William	1	9	1	8	16	7	20	262.00	Lower	Upper on Per. Prop. Tax List	
Haynes Christopher	1	5	1	2	6	2	18	200.00	Stanley		
Haynes Lucy B	0	7	1	5	5	1	11	0.00	Upper	Lower on Per. Prop. Tax List	
Henderson William	1	7	1	0	2	0	12	40.00	Middle		
Hubbard Matthew	1	8	1	5	0	0	0	50.00	Upper	overseer for Jas Southall	
Jackson Ambrose	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	Upper	2 wheeled vehicle	
Jones Allen	1	1	1	5	3	4	10	998.00	Stanley		
Jones David	1	7	1	2	2	3	7	0.00	Lower	Stanley on Per. Prop. Tax List	
Jones John	1	2	1	0	7	2	14	0.00	Upper	List	
Jones John	1	4	1	2	3	4	6	0.00	Middle	Lower on Per. Prop. Tax List	
Jones John R	1	10	1	0	1	2	9	0.00	Lower	outhouse column torn	
Jones Thomas	1	2	1	4	1	2	11	50.00	Lower		
Jones William	1	5	1	10	3	4	10	220.00	Stanley	2 wheeled vehicle	
Jordan Thomas	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0.00	Upper		
Langhorn John S	1	3	1	4	7	5	12	40.00	Lower		
Langhorn William	1	10	1	10	20	7	24	804.00	Lower		
Langston Matthew	1	5	1	4	5	2	13	134.00	Lower		
Lee Francis	1	11	1	10	19	5	46	578.00	Upper	rate not given	
Lee William	2	9	1	4	10	4	21	206.00	Upper	tithe=H W Lee	
Lewellin John	2	3	1	5	7	4	26	334.00	Lower	tithe=James Lewellin	
Lively William	1	5	2	15	4	3	18	173.00	Lower	on Francis Jones Estate	
Lucas Thomas	1	4	1	6	10	2	11	142.00	Upper		
Mackintosh Elizabeth	0	4	2	9	0	0	0	0.00	Lower	not on Per. Prop. Tax List	
Mahone William	0	8	0	0	0	2	5	0.00	Upper	overseer for Jas Southall	
Mallcote Moorey	1	7	1	1	0	2	4	36.00	Lower		

**Table 7 (cont'd)  
Warwick County, 1784**

Name	White		Dwelling		Out		Total		Acres	District	Note
	Tithes	Whites	Houses	Houses	Houses	Houses	Slaves	Horses			
Mallicote Philip	1	5	1	2	0	2	4	33.33	Upper	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List	
Mallicote Thomas	1	8	1	5	8	2	12	340.00	Lower	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List	
Mallicote William	1	4	1	2	1	1	5	125.00	Lower		
Marrow William	2	6	1	4	6	1	32	240.00	Lower	tithe=William Marrow Jr	
Massenburg Josiah	2	6	1	4	11	8	19	217.00	Lower	tithe=Jos Massenburg Jr	
Mcgregor William	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	Lower	tithe pd by H Allen Est	
Moore Elizabeth	0	4	1	1	8	3	12	45.00	Upper		
Morris John	1	3	1	4	4	2	15	0.00	Lower		
Nelson Hugh	0	0	0	6	14	0	21	87.50	Upper	of York County/land fr Phil Dedman	
Noblin Elizabeth	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0.00	Upper		
Noblin Matthew	1	7	1	1	2	2	9	175.00	Stanley		
Patrick Thomas	1	6	1	0	0	2	15	0.00	Lower	Thos Senr—1784 Per. Prop. Tax List	
Pierce Peter	1	7	1	0	0	1	4	0.00	Lower	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List	
Powell William Estate	1	5	1	4	10	2	15	626.00	Lower		
Prentis Daniel	2	6	1	8	13	7	55	503.00	Stanley	2 wheeled vehicle	
Pully Robert	1	3	1	3	1	3	6	0.00	Lower	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List/1 1/2 lots	
Rice Judith	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	75.00	Lower	not on Per. Prop. Tax List	
Ridley Dorothy	0	3	0	0	3	0	16	200.00	Lower	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List	
Ridley Frances	0	2	1	3	2	2	0	50.00	Lower		
Russell Hind	2	5	1	12	14	6	24	445.33	Lower	2 wh vehicle/John Russell	
Sandefur Elizabeth	0	7	1	4	0	0	0	163.33	Lower	not on Per. Prop. Tax List	
Scott Thomas	1	1	1	2	10	1	8	449.00	Lower		
Smith James	1	5	1	1	0	2	7	0.00	Upper		

**Table 7 (cont'd)**  
**Warwick County, 1784**

Name	White		Dwelling		Out		Total		Acres	District	Note
	Tithes	Whites	Houses	Houses	Houses	Horses	Slaves	Cattle			
Smith John	1	5	1	7	7	3	7	17	150.00	Lower	Per. Prop. Tax—Eliza Smith overseer for J Ambler
Smith Richard	1	2	0	0	7	2	7	15	0.00	Upper	
Smith William	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	9	0.00	Upper	
Southall James	1	0	2	5	6	2	6	44	1322.00	Upper	of York County/tithe=Wm Mahone
Tabb Philip	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0.00	Lower	of Gloucester County
Thomas Samuel	1	6	1	7	13	3	13	18	200.00	Lower	
Wade Higginson	1	1	1	5	4	1	4	13	100.00	Upper	
Webster Thomas	1	1	1	2	4	2	4	14	0.00	Lower	
West John	0	11	1	8	5	2	5	0	1000.00	Lower	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List
Whitaker William	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	200.00	Upper	of York County
Wilkins Thos	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.00	Upper	with Wm [torn] 5 whites
Wills Matthew	1	7	1	5	16	3	16	31	772.00	Stanley	2 wheeled vehicle
Wills Miles	1	3	1	3	9	3	9	17	200.00	Stanley	
Wood John	1	11	1	1	1	2	1	12	0.00	Upper	
Wood Margaret	0	6	1	3	3	2	3	6	75.00	Upper	
Wood Matthew	1	8	1	2	4	1	4	4	0.00	Lower	
Wood Matthew	1	4	1	0	0	1	0	6	0.00	Upper	tithe=Wm Harris
Wooton Martha	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	40.00	Lower	not on Per. Prop. Tax List
Wylde Thomas	1	3	1	6	8	4	8	22	518.00	Upper	
Wynne Edmond	1	7	1	6	11	2	11	27	200.00	Upper	
Wynne Richard	1	9	1	4	7	0	7	0	125.00	Upper	
Young Mary	0	3	1	2	2	1	2	5	0.00	Lower	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List/9 lots
Young Richard	1	4	1	2	2	0	2	3	83.67	Lower	Middle on Per. Prop. Tax List



## Appendix 1.

### Land Patented by William Peirce, John Rolfe, Thomas Peirce, and William Spencer on Mulberry Island

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William Peirce, John Rolfe, Thomas Peirce, and William Spencer received a patent for 1,700 acres on Mulberry Island sometime before 31 December 1619 (Figure 8). Extant documents indicate that neither John Rolfe nor William Spencer ever made their home in this part of the colony. It is possible that Thomas Peirce the co-patentee was the man by the same name who died during the 1622 uprising. The survivors abandoned Mulberry Island. However, William Peirce decided to move thirteen of his servants back to his holdings on Mulberry Island by early 1624/5. It is likely that Peirce's decision influenced others, both prominent settlers and men hoping to gain possession of property, to relocate to Mulberry Island. Peirce left James City for Mulberry Island by 1635 and he made his home on his land on the James River until the time of his death.

The following biographical profiles focus on the first four men—William Peirce, John Rolfe, Thomas Peirce, and William Spencer—who patented land on Mulberry Island and those who followed them as owners of part of this property in the seventeenth century.

\* \* \* \* \*

William Peirce, his wife Joan, and his daughter Jane were part of the Third Supply of Colonists that left England in June 1609. Peirce sailed on the *Seaventure*, the ship that wrecked on the Somers Islands during the voyage to Virginia. He arrived in the colony in

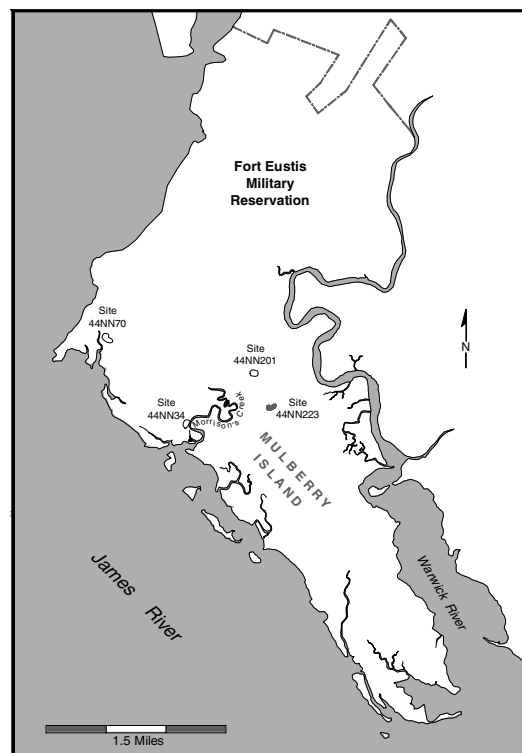


Figure 8. Site locations.

1610. Joan Peirce and Jane Peirce sailed on the *Blessing* and arrived in Virginia in the middle of August 1609 (Jester and Hiden 1987:475).

Peirce gained possession of land in several areas of the colony. It is possible that Peirce had twenty-five or twenty-seven acres of land at “The Maine” as early as 1616. He had land in the area that became Isle of Wight County in 1618. Peirce, John Rolfe (his son-in-law), Thomas Peirce, and William Spencer received a patent for 1,700 acres on Mulberry Island before 31 December 1619 (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:43). It is likely that Peirce patented 650 acres of this tract on 31 December 1619 in order to secure his title to his share of the parcel (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:149). In 1620, William Spencer supervised the work of six or seven of Peirce’s men who planted tobacco at “The Maine.” The laborers raised between 3,000 and 4,000 pounds of tobacco that year. In March of 1622 a total of thirty-one persons grew corn and tobacco at John Rolfe’s plantation “over the water.” They belonged to Rolfe, Peirce, Spencer and Mr. William Ewyns, the master of the ship *George* (McIlwaine 1924:99).

It is possible that Peirce had several servants at Mulberry Island before the March 22, 1622 uprising. Six inhabitants of Mulberry Island died during the attack: Thomas Peirce, his wife, a child, and three others. In addition, Edward Brewster, a servant of Peirce’s, was killed at Edward Bennett’s plantation on the south side of the James River. Peirce went to Martin’s Hundred after the 1622 uprising in order to assist those who were alive and to recover any remaining cattle and corn (McIlwaine 1924:131). In April 1625 he and Reverend Mr. Richard Buck appraised Thomas Peirce’s possessions (McIlwaine 1924:55).

Peirce’s political standing in the colony grew in 1623. George Sandys praised Peirce in an April 1623 letter to John Ferrar: “Neither is Leiftenant Peirce (now Gounour of James Towne) inferiour to anie, expert in the Countrie, who refuses no labour, nor sticks at anie expenses, that may advantage the publique, and of a Capacitie that is not be bee expected in a man of his breeding nor wilbe euer borne” (Kingsbury 1906-1935:IV:111). Peirce received a commission as Captain of the Governor’s Guard and Company on 29 May 1623. Governor Francis Wyatt also named him the Lieutenant Governor and Commander of James City, James Island, the Block Houses, all other places belonging to James City, and the residents of this part of the colony on the same day. In July 1623 Wyatt ordered Peirce to go up the Chickahominy River and attack the Indians in retaliation for the 1622 “Massacre” and to destroy their corn crop. Peirce represented James City in the House of Burgesses for the first time in March 1623/4 (Kingsbury 1906-1935:IV:209, 250-251, 585).

William and Joan Peirce lived at James City when the 1624 census was recorded (Hotten 1980:174). Their dwelling house was known as “the fairest in Virginia.” The house included a dining hall and a chamber where George Sandys, the Treasurer of the colony, slept in 1623 and 1624 (McIlwaine 1924:61; Kingsbury 1906-1935:IV:108). Peirce had eighteen servants in his household: Robert Hedges, Hugh Williams, Thomas Moulston, Henry Farmer, John Lightfoot, Thomas Smith, Roger Ruese, Allexander Gill, John Cartwright, Robert Austine, Edward Bricke, William Ravenett, Jocomb Andrews and his wife, Richard Alder, Ester Evere, and Angelo. In January 1624/5 he and his wife made their home at James City. Peirce had four servants in his household—Thomas Smith,

Henry Bradford, Ester Ederife, and Angelo. He had one house, twenty neat cattle, twenty goats, nine swine, and seven pigs in James City. Peirce moved the rest of his servants to Mulberry Island by early 1624/5 (Jester and Hiden 1987:31, 46-47). Peirce took the will of one of his servants, Robert Aston, to the General Court on 2 October 1626. Peirce served as the executor of Aston's estate and returned an inventory of his possessions on 2 January 1626[7] (McIlwaine 1924:115, 130).

In July 1627 the members of the General Court ordered Peirce to lead men from James City in an attack against the Chickahominy Indians. Thomas Harwood was the second in command (McIlwaine 1924:151). The fact that the Council appointed Captain William Peirce as the leader of the men from James City is an indication that Peirce did not live on Mulberry Island in the summer of 1627.

William and Joan Peirce sailed to England in 1629. Mary Flint, a resident of Mulberry Island, settled a case against Peirce before his departure. Mary Flint asked John Brewer to provide evidence in her dispute with William Peirce in early 1628[9]. Brewer "sworne and exaied sayth that Mary the wife of Thomas fflint did demaud of Captaine Pearce tenn barrells of Corne, but Captaine Peirce denyes hee owed soe much vnto her but was in the ende contented to giue her eight barrells and a halfe wch hee pmised should bee paid her, and that hee would giue order before his dep'ture for England for the paymt thereof vnto her" (McIlwaine 1924:180). Peirce probated the will of John Rolfe while he was in England (Carson 1950:58-65).

Peirce returned to Virginia and he became a member of the Council in 1632 (McIlwaine 1924:201). He moved to Mulberry Island by 1 March 1635 when he was described as Captain William Peirce of Mulberry Island (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:123). When Peirce patented 2,000 acres of land in Lawnes Creek on 22 June 1635, Thomas Rolfe was one of his headrights (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:29)

Peirce and other members of the Council revolted against Governor Harvey in 1635. He traveled to England the following year to answer the charges against him. Peirce was held in England for eighteen months. In September 1637 Peirce petitioned for and received permission "to repair to Virginia for the better management of his affairs" (Jester and Hiden 1987:476-477). Captain Peirce returned to his house on Mulberry Island and continued to serve on the Council. He also had a store on James Island in 1638 (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:98). This councilor gained the responsibility for viewing the tobacco raised along the upper part of the Warwick River as far as Denbigh Parish extended and down to the upper side of Batchelor's Hope Creek and Stanley Hundred in January 1639/40 (*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 1897-1898:120-121).

Councilor Peirce had servants who tended the fields on his Mulberry Island land. Six of his laborers tried to run away in July 1640. Peirce took his complaint against the servants to the General Court on 22 July 1640:

*Whereas* complaint has been made to the Board by Cap<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Pierce Esq<sup>r</sup> that six of his servants and a negro of M<sup>r</sup> Reginolds has plotted to run away unto the *Dutch* plantation from their said masters and did assay to put the same in Execution upon *Saturday* night being the 18<sup>th</sup> day *July* 1640 as appeared to the Board by Examinations of *Andrew Noxe*, *Rich<sup>d</sup> Hill*, *Rich<sup>d</sup> Cookeson* and *John Williams* and likewise by the confession of *Christo-*

*pher Miller, Peter Wilcocke, and Emanuel* the foresaid Negro who had at the fore said time, taken the skiff of the said Cap<sup>t</sup> *W<sup>m</sup> Pierce* their master, and corn powder shot and guns, to accomplish their said purposes, which said psons sailed down in the skiff to *Elizabeth* river where they were taken and brought back again, the Court taking the same into consideration, as a dangerous pccident for the future time (if unpunished) did order that *Christopher Miller a dutchman* (a prince agent in the business) should receive the punishment of whipping and to have thirty stripes, and to be burnt in the cheek with the letter R and to work with a shakle on his legg for one whole year, and longer if said master shall see cause and after his full time of service is Expired with his said master to serve the colony for seven whole years, and the said *Peter Wilcocke* to receive thirty stripes and to be Burnt in the cheek with the letter R and, after his term of service is Expired with his said master to serve the colony for three years and the said *Rich<sup>d</sup> Cookson* after his full time expired with his master to serve the colony for two years and a half, and the said *Rich<sup>d</sup> Hill* to remain upon his good behaviour until the next offence and the said *Andrew Noxe* to receive thirty stripes, and the said *John Williams* a *dutchman* and a Chirurgeon after his full time of service is Expired with his master to serve the colony for seven years, and *Emanuel* the Negro to receive thirty stripes and to be burnt in the cheek with the letter R. and to work in shakle one year or more as his master shall see cause, and all those who are condemned to serve the colony after their times are expired with their masters, then their said masters are required hereby to psent to this board their said servants so condemned to the colony (McIlwaine 1924:467).

It is probable that Peirce had more than six servants because he held 2,100 acres on Mulberry Island. Peirce decided to take out two patents for land on Mulberry Island—the first in July 1643 and the second in December of the same year. In July 1643 Peirce received a patent for 360 acres known as Baker’s Neck. This parcel adjoined the James River, a plantation called Queen Hive, Peirce’s Creek, and Harwood’s Creek (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:143). Baker’s Neck was probably part of the 650 acres that Peirce patented on 31 December 1619. However, Peirce did not own Baker’s Neck in 1643. He conveyed the land to Anthony Barham before the death of his neighbor in 1641. Perhaps Peirce patented Baker’s Neck in 1643 to clear his right to transfer the land to Barham.<sup>7</sup>

Peirce took out a patent for 2,100 acres in December 1643 (Figure 9). The patent noted that the parcel began at the mouth of a creek near Peirce’s dwelling house and that the creek divided the land from Baker’s Neck, where the church stood. The bounds of the property ran from the mouth of the said creek along the James River to the old point, from the old point to the water side into Scotese Quarter and the Great Marsh that divided this land from Mulberry Island and along the said Great Marsh to Meares Neck. From Meares Neck, the property line ran to an oak marked by Captain William Clayborne over against the eastward side of Cedar Island and by marked trees that ran near upon the point. The line ran over the otter dams and then down the gut to the bank of the Warwick River, along

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<sup>7</sup> Anthony and Elizabeth Barham traveled to England before September 1641. Barham wrote a will (dated 7 April 1641) before his departure and then a second will once he settled in England. Barham died in September 1641. He described himself as being “of Mulberry Island in Virginia, gent. and at present resiant in England.” Barham bequeathed his 360 acre plantation to his son, Thomas. Elizabeth Barham returned to Virginia and married Richard Jackson of Isle of Wight County. Thomas Barham died at a young age and Anthony Barham’s land escheated to the Crown. Henry Filmer received a patent for 360 acres that had been granted to Barham on 20 March 1666/7. Filmer renewed the patent on 27 October 1673 (Jester and Hiden 1987:489-490; Waters 1901:290-291; Hopkins 1995:249; Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:9, 134).

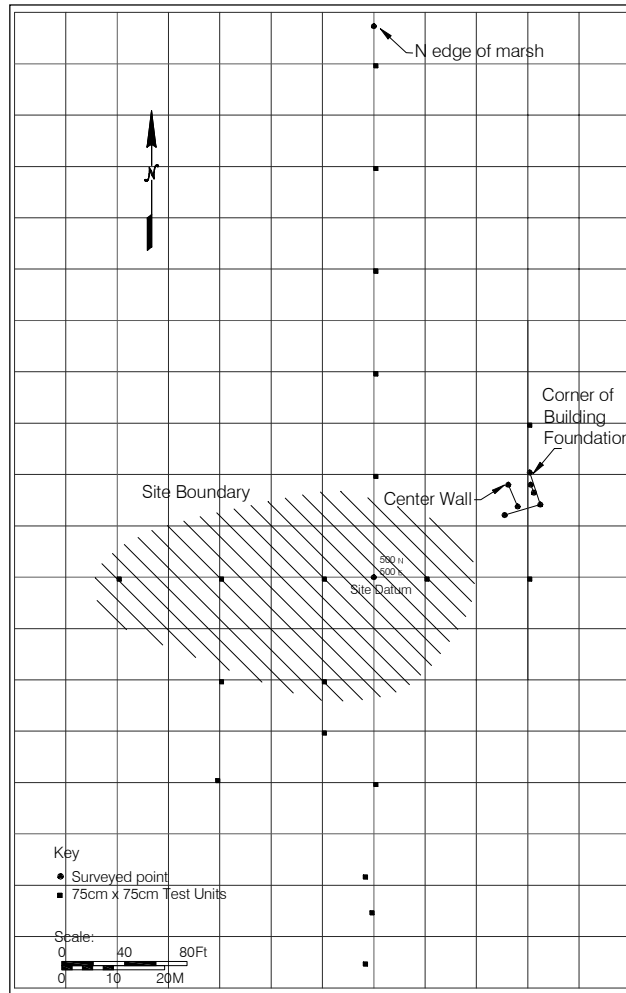


Figure 9. Site 44NN34 on land owned by William Peirce, John Rolfe, Thomas Peirce, and William Spencer.

the Warwick River to the mouth of a great creek, up the north branch of the creek which divided this parcel from the land of Captain Thomas Harwood, to a great oak marked by Mr. Hawley, and then to Peirce's dwelling house. The property included 650 acres that Peirce patented on 31 December 1619 and 1,450 acres (950 acres that had been deserted and 500 acres due by order of the order dated 24 November 1643) for the transportation of twenty-nine persons (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:149). This land adjoined the 1,000 acres known as Stanley Hundred. Peirce gained title to 1,170 acres of land in James City County on 19 March [1644]. He decided to assign his right to 2,000 acres in Lawnes Creek to Edward Bland before 2 June 1646 (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:225, 160). Peirce lived on Mulberry Island until his death. Captain William Peirce died by 22 June 1647 (Warwick County Court Records 1646-1647).

It is possible that Peirce had other family members who lived on Mulberry Island and inherited his land after his death. In June 1621, a Mr. Francks requested Peirce to pay for the charge of four men and "the goods sent vnto his sonns vppon the last supply wch m<sup>r</sup>

Rolfe tooke into his possession to m<sup>r</sup> Peirces vse” (Kingsbury 1906-1935:I:485-486). This reference suggests that Peirce had sons in Virginia in addition to his wife and his daughter. In January 1655/6, a Thomas Peirce of Mulberry Island asked Peirce and William Spencer to choose a cow for his eldest son who was named William Peirce (Davis 1980:26). William Peirce (April 1668) and Thomas Peirce (March 1673/4) each patented a portion of the original 1,700 patent to Captain William Peirce, John Rolfe, Thomas Peirce, and William Spencer after the death of Captain Peirce. It is likely that Doctor Thomas Iken, another owner of land that had belonged to Peirce, had a family connection. Iken’s first wife Grace (daughter of Thomas Harwood) was a legatee in the will of Captain Thomas Peirce. Perhaps Grace Harwood Iken’s mother was a relative of Captain Thomas Peirce.

\* \* \* \* \*

John Rolfe and his wife departed for Virginia on the *Seaventure* in June 1609 (Figure 11—picture of John Rolfe). The Rolfes were among the colonists who were shipwrecked on the Somers Islands. It is possible that Rolfe’s wife died during the nine month stay on the Somers Islands (as did their infant daughter, Bermuda) or that she died soon after their arrival in Virginia in 1610.

Rolfe worked to try to strengthen the struggling colony when he arrived in Virginia. The fortunes and direction of Virginia changed in 1614 when Rolfe (after two years of work) raised a strain of tobacco that sold in the English market. Colonists who hoped to emulate Rolfe’s success began to grow tobacco on every available acre, even the streets in Jamestown. The year 1614 was also important for Rolfe for two reasons. First, he became Secretary of the colony in place of Ralph Hamor. Second, Rolfe and Pocahontas were married in April of that year by Reverend Richard Buck at Jamestown. Rolfe, Pocahontas, and their son Thomas traveled to England in 1616. Pocahontas died in March 1617, just before their return to Virginia. Rolfe left his young son in England with his brother and returned to Virginia.

He received an appointment as Recorder General soon after his return to the colony and he was a member of the Council by 1619 (Jester and Hiden 1987:508). Rolfe, William Peirce, Thomas Peirce, and William Spencer received a patent for 1,700 acres on Mulberry Island before December 1619 (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:43). Extant documents indicate that Rolfe did not live on Mulberry Island; however, it is possible that he moved several servants to this land. Rolfe also held 400 acres on the south side of the James River (Hotten 1980:27).

John Rolfe married Jane, the daughter of William and Joan Peirce, in 1619. Rolfe and his third wife made their home in James City. It is possible that he had several servants tend fields on Mulberry Island. In March 1622 a total of thirty-one persons grew corn and tobacco at John Rolfe’s 400 acre plantation “over the water.” They belonged to Rolfe, Peirce, Spencer and Mr. William Ewyns, the master of the ship *George*. Two men—Robert Davis and William Ravenett—belonged to Rolfe (McIlwaine 1924:99; Hotten 1980:270; Kingsbury 1906:1935:I:497, 506).

Rolfe died by 7 October 1622. It appears that Rolfe did not die during the 1622 uprising. He bequeathed his land across the James River to his son Thomas. Rolfe left his

interest in the 1,700 acres on Mulberry Island to his wife Jane during her lifetime and with reversion to their daughter Elizabeth. Peirce served as the executor of his son-in-law's estate (Carson 1950:58-65; Kingsbury 1906-1935:II:105-106). Jane Peirce Rolfe married Captain Roger Smith in 1623. The Smiths and Elizabeth Rolfe lived in James City in 1624 and in 1624/5.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is possible that the Thomas Peirce who died (along with his wife, a child, and three others) on Mulberry Island during the 1622 uprising was one of the four men who gained possession of 1,700 acres in this part of the colony before 31 December 1619 (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:43). A Thomas Peirce served as the Sergeant of the First Virginia Assembly at Jamestown in 1619. On 7 October 1622, Edward Peirce, citizen and merchant tailor of London, petitioned the Company for permission to administer the estate of "one Thomas Peirs his Brother, late inhabitinge neare Mulberry Ilands in Virginia (who was there slaine with his wife and child in the late Massacre)" (Kingsbury 1906-1935:II:106).

\* \* \* \* \*

William Spencer arrived in Virginia in 1607 as part of the First Supply of colonists. He sailed on the *Susan Constant*. According to John Smith, Spencer was among the first men whom Sir Thomas Dale allotted farms. Smith noted that Spencer was "an honest, valiant, and industrious man (and hath continued from 1607 to this present)" (Jester and Hiden 1987:580-581).

Spencer, John Rolfe, William Peirce, and Thomas Peirce received a patent for 1,700 acres on Mulberry Island before December 1619 (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:43). It is unlikely that Spencer ever lived at Mulberry Island. In 1620 Spencer supervised the work of six or seven of William Peirce's men who planted tobacco at "The Maine." The laborers raised between 3,000 and 4,000 pounds of tobacco that year. In March of 1622 a total of thirty-one persons grew corn and tobacco at John Rolfe's plantation "over the water." They belonged to Rolfe, Peirce, Spencer and Mr. William Ewyns, the master of the *George* (McIlwaine 1924:99; Kingsbury 1906-1935:I:497, 506).

In 1624 Spencer, his wife, and their child lived on James Island (Hotten 1980:178). He received a patent for twelve acres in James City on 14 August 1624. The patent noted that Spencer was a yeoman and ancient planter (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:3). In January 1624/5, Spencer, his wife Alice, and their four-year old daughter Alice continued to make their home on James Island. Their son, William, died during 1624. Spencer had two houses, ten barrels of corn, 200 fish, twelve swine, three goats and two kids, one boat, three pieces, four pounds of powder, and eight pounds of shot (Jester and Hiden 1987:35-36).

Five years later, in 1629, the General Court granted Spencer's petition for a twenty-one year lease on 400 acres of land for the annual rent of ten barrels of corn (McIlwaine 1924:200). It is possible that he decided to rent and then to patent land on the south side of the James River where there were not as many settlers. Spencer took out four patents for land in what became Surry County in the 1630s. He gained a patent for 250 acres on the west side of Lawnes Creek on 9 September 1632 and 1,100 acres on Hog Island Creek in June 1635. Next, Spencer added 550 acres to his holdings near Lawnes Creek

and Hog Island Creek in August 1637. His final patent of 10 February 1637[/8] included 1,350 acres in Lawnes Creek (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:16, 28, 70, 81).

\* \* \* \* \*

William Peirce received a patent for 100 acres on Mulberry Island on 22 April 1668. The grant noted that the parcel adjoined the mouth of Scott's Creek and Mr. Harwood's line. The land was part of the patent granted to John Rolfe, William Peirce, Thomas Peirce, and William Spencer. The Governor and Council determined that this 100-acre parcel was due to Peirce at meeting of the General Court on 24 April 1667 (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:43).

\* \* \* \* \*

Thomas Iken was in Virginia by February 1658/9 when his name appeared on a list of headrights of George Read (York County Deeds, Orders, and Wills 3:47). Iken was probably a resident of York County in August 1661 when he received a request to be present at Colonel Read's house for a meeting of the Governor and Council. He stated that he was about twenty-eight years old when he gave a deposition against Thomas Bushrod (York County Deeds, Orders, and Wills 3:126, 131).

Doctor Thomas Iken married Grace, daughter of Thomas Harwood, by 21 October 1665. The fact that Grace was a legatee in the will of Captain Thomas Peirce suggests that her mother might have been related to Peirce. Grace Iken died by 14 May 1669 and her husband remarried. Iken's second wife was Elizabeth (nee unknown), the widow of [unknown] Wills, Captain Henry Jackson, and Major Edward Griffith (York County Deeds, Orders, and Wills 4:173, 253; Jester and Hiden 1987:364, 477, 604).

Iken took out a patent for 1,350 acres in Mulberry Island Parish on 14 May 1669. The land began at the mouth of a creek near his now dwelling house and the house where William Peirce lived. The creek divided Iken's property from Baker's Neck (where the Mulberry Island Parish Church formerly stood). This parcel of land adjoined the James River, the Great Marsh, George Harwood, John Basse, an old field near the cart path, Brewer's land, Pawle's land on the side of Bedlam Marsh, Warwick River, Thomas Flint's land, Butler's Creek Swamp, Mr. Henry Filmer. It was near the mouth of Butler's Bridge Creek. Iken's 1,350 acres was part of the 2,100 patent granted to William Peirce on 16 December 1643. The patent noted that there was a 400 acre overplus due in right of his wife Elizabeth, widow of Mr. Edward Griffith, for the transportation of eight persons: Wm. Wharton, Theo. Potter, Rich. Foxhall, Wm. Whitaker, Henry Morgan, Mary Lord, Tho. Needles, and Thomas a Negro (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:56).

Doctor Iken received an appointment as sheriff of Warwick County on 22 April 1670 (McIlwaine 1924:213). He died intestate between 11 January 1670/1 and 24 July 1674 (York County Deeds, Orders, and Wills 4:310; York County Deeds, Orders, and Wills 5:76). In June 1676 two men—John and Emanuel Wills—patented 400 acres that had been Iken's. Emanuel Wills was the son of Elizabeth Iken and it is possible that John Wills was his brother. Both men patented additional land previously owned by Iken. John Wills received a patent for 255 acres in November 1682. Emanuel Wills gained title to 159 acres in December 1682 and 100 acres by [21 April 1690] (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:177, 251, 348).



\* \* \* \* \*

Thomas Peirce patented 155 acres in Mulberry Island Parish on 2 March 1673/4. His land began on a point near the Warwick River and it was near George Harwood's house. Peirce adjoined land granted to Emanuel Wills in ca. 1690 (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:144-145, 348). The Widow Peirce held 155 acres on the 1704 Rent Roll. This property was in the hands of William Peirce in 1713.

\* \* \* \* \*

John Wills (Wells) was oldest son of [unknown] and Elizabeth Wills. His mother later married Captain Henry Jackson, Major Edward Griffith, and Doctor Thomas Iken (York County Deeds, Orders, and Wills 4:173, 253; Jester and Hiden 1987:364, 477, 604).

John Wills and Emanuel Wills, his brother, took out a patent for 400 acres in Mulberry Island Parish on 6 June 1676. The land had belonged to Thomas Iken, their step-father, who died without a will. John Wills also received a grant for 255 acres on the west side of Warwick River on 22 November 1682. This parcel began at the head of Queen Hive Creek and adjoined the land of Emanuel Wills (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:177, 251).

\* \* \* \* \*

Emanuel Wills (Wells) was the son of [unknown] and Elizabeth Wills. His mother later married Captain Henry Jackson, Major Edward Griffith, and Doctor Thomas Iken. Wills married Elizabeth (born ca. 1653), daughter of Miles and Ann Cary, before 11 April 1670 (York County Deeds, Orders, and Wills 4:173, 253; Jester and Hiden 1987:364, 477, 604).

Emanuel Wills and his brother, John Wills, took out a patent for 400 acres in Mulberry Island Parish on 6 June 1676. The land had belonged to their step-father, Thomas Iken, who died without a will (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:177). Emanuel Wills patented two more pieces of the land that had been Iken's. He received a grant for 159 acres on the west side of Warwick River on 22 December 1682. This parcel adjoined John Wills and ran along to road to Mulberry Island to a creek that parted the land from the property of Mr. Anthony Haynes. It is likely that Wills added 153 acres to his landholding in the spring of 1690. This land began at an oak on the west side of the Warwick River and it bordered on the land of Thomas Peirce, George Harwood, Brewer's land, and Mr. James Pawley. The patent noted that Iken patented 100 acres of the parcel and that Wills received the remaining fifty-three acres for the importation of two people (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:II:251, 348).

The elder Wills died by 21 August 1697 and his widow and sons continued to hold land in Mulberry Island Parish. His sons Miles and Emanuel owned Mulberry Island land in 1704—Miles had 425 acres and Emanuel held 325 acres. Elizabeth Wills had 155 acres in that year.

\* \* \* \* \*

Miles Wills was the son of Emanuel and Elizabeth Wills. He married Hannah (born 10 April 1673), daughter of Lieutenant Colonel John and Elizabeth Scasbrook Wills served as a justice of the peace, sheriff, tobacco agent, corner, captain in the Warwick County militia (January 1699/1700), major in the Warwick County militia (1713), and Burgess for Warwick County.

Wills held 425 acres in Warwick County on the 1704 Rent Roll. He owned 369 acres in the county in 1713. Wills and his brother Emanuel purchased Lot 77 in Yorktown from the town's trustees in June 1706 (York County Deeds and Bonds 2:178). They owned Lot 77 until July 1721 when they sold the half-acre lot to William Stark, a merchant of Yorkhampton Parish in York County (York County Deeds and Bonds 3:368-370). Wills continued to live in Warwick County and he was alive in January 1734/5.

\* \* \* \* \*

Emanuel Wills was the son of Emanuel and Elizabeth Wills. He held 325 acres in Warwick County when the 1704 Rent Roll was taken. Wills was a Captain in the Warwick County militia in 1713 when he owned 282 acres in the county. Wills and his brother Miles purchased Lot 77 in Yorktown from the town's trustees in June 1706 (York County Deeds and Bonds 2:178). They owned Lot 77 until July 1721 when they sold the half-acre lot to William Stark, a merchant of Yorkhampton Parish in York County (York County Deeds and Bonds 3:368-370).

The younger Emanuel Wills was married to a woman named Margaret by 21 December 1719. He continued to live in Mulberry Island Parish until the time of his death in 1747. On 13 August 1747 the justices of Warwick County summoned Angelica Wills to appear at the next court as administrator of the estate of Emanuel Wills.

## Appendix 2. Stanley Hundred

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It is possible that the inhabitants of Stanley Hundred (in the middle of the peninsula) were the first residents of Mulberry Island in 1617 or 1618 (Figure 10). The settlement did not have a sufficient number of residents to have its own representative at the first session of the House of Burgesses in summer 1619. Sir George Yeardley gained possession of this 1,000-acre tract in 1621. It is possible that he had some of his servants at Stanley Hundred. Mulberry Island's settlers abandoned their homes after the 1622 uprising. It is possible that some of the men who lived in Mulberry Island by early 1624/5 tended fields in Stanley Hundred.

In January 1626[7] Sir George Yeardley confirmed his 1621 title to the 1,000-acre tract known as Stanley Hundred:

The Gouverno<sup>r</sup> at this Court intimated his intent to take vpp one thousand acres of land as his diuident, lyeing vppon *Blunt point* river and bounded Easterly by a creek that deuideth it fro the land of *Robin Poole & L' Peppet*, next adioyning to their houses now built, and soe extending Westerly alonge the banke of y<sup>c</sup> river soe far as unto y<sup>c</sup> same quantity of land appertaineth, Northerly vppon the said *Blunt Point* river & Southerly vppon the *Maine River*: w<sup>ch</sup> thing the Court hath condiscended vnto.

And therefore at this Court Cap' *Rog<sup>r</sup> Smyth* & Cap' *Willm Peirce* signifyed their consent and allowance to giue leaue vnto y<sup>c</sup> Gouverno<sup>r</sup> to take vpp his diuident as aforementioned And whereas there may be some doubt leaft that land now take[n] vpp by y<sup>c</sup> Gouvernor should fall out to be a pt of their diuident, they doe bind themselves to stand contented to haue soe much land giuen them by y<sup>c</sup> Gouverno<sup>r</sup> in some other place (McIlwaine 1924:130; Nugent et al. 1934-1998:1:9-10).

Yeardley probably leased portions of Stanley Hundred to men who did not own property. There was a church in Stanley Hundred by 1627. The September 1627 patent to

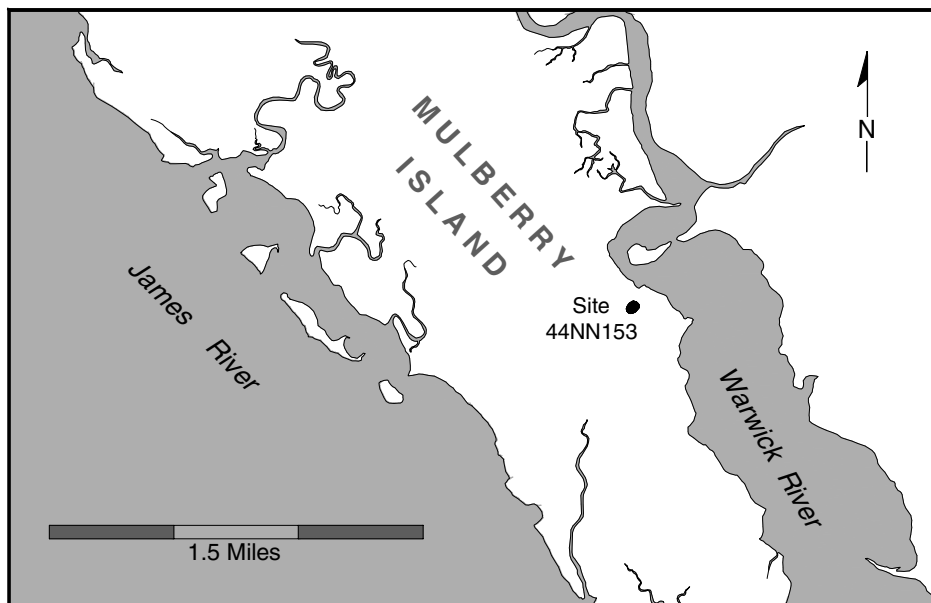


Figure 10. Location of site in Stanley Hundred.

Robert Poole noted that his property was near the Stanley Hundred Church. Poole's grant is the first mention of a church in the Stanley Hundred section of Mulberry Island. It is known that the Stanley Hundred Church stood in 1645 (McIlwaine 1924:133; Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:8, 159; Mason 1945:118).

Sir George Yeardley died on 12 November 1627 and his widow sold his land in Stanley Hundred on 9 February 1627[/8]. Lady Temporance Yeardley appeared at a meeting of the General Court and "did, (according to ye will of her late husband Sr *George Yeardley* Knt *viz* he hauing willed that the Plantation of one thousand acres of land at *Stanley* in *Warwicke*-River, should be sold & made into Tobacco for the vse of her & her children) acknowledged the said Plantation of one thousand acres to be by herself by vertue of the said Will, for good considerations & a valewble some of seauen thousand waight of Tobacco, sold & wholly made ouer to Leftent *Thomas fflint* & to his heires & assignes for euer" (McIlwaine 1924:166). Lieutenant Thomas Flint relocated to Mulberry Island from his land in Elizabeth City County.

Thomas Flint purchased 1,000 acres on Mulberry Island from the estate of Sir George Yeardley on 9 February 1627[/8]. Lady Temporance Yeardley appeared at a meeting of the General Court and "did, (according to ye will of her late husband Sr *George Yeardley* Knt *viz* he hauing willed that the Plantation of one thousand acres of land at *Stanley* in *Warwicke*-River, should be sold & made into Tobacco for the vse of her & her children) acknowledged the said Plantation of one thousand acres to be by herself by vertue of the said Will, for good considerations & a valewble some of seauen thousand waight of Tobacco, sold & wholly made ouer to Leftent *Thomas fflint* & to his heires & assignes for euer." He took out a patent on this land on 20 September 1628 (McIlwaine 1924:166; Nugent I:9-10). Flint, his wife Mary, and his step-daughter relocated to Mulberry Island from his land in Elizabeth City County.<sup>8</sup>

Flint appeared before the General Court in November 1628 to answer the charge of ill behavior towards his step-daughter, Dorothy Beheathland. Governor Francis West told the Council that he went to Flint's house to discuss the matter with Mary Flint. Thomas Flint denied the accusation and, according to the testimony of Robert Poole, the Governor ordered him to be held prisoner. Flint struck at the guard, Gilbert Whitefield, and then William Baker held Flint. A minister named Richard James, Poole, and Gilbert and Lucy Peppett noted that Flint said he wanted a new Governor so he could have some justice. The Council decided "that the said *fflint* for his misdemeanour and Contempt shall bee degraded from his title of Leiftennte and shall paie 1000<sup>li</sup> weight of [Tobacco] for a fine and find suerties for his good behau[iour]from Quarter Co<sup>t</sup> to Quarter Co<sup>t</sup> vntill the Co<sup>t</sup> shall think fitt to release him" (McIlwaine 1924:176-177; Jester and Hiden 1987:106-107).

Thomas and Mary Flint conveyed their title to the 1,000 acres in Stanley Hundred to a merchant named John Brewer in January 1628[/9]. Mary Flint asked Brewer to provide evidence in her dispute with William Peirce in early 1628[/9]. Brewer "sworne and exaied sayth that Mary the wife of Thomas fflint did demaud of Captaine Pearce tenn barrells of

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<sup>8</sup> On 14 March 1628[/9], Mary Flint, "Ancient Planter, now wife of Thomas Flint, Gent.," of Warwick River received a patent for 100 acres in Elizabeth City known as Foxhill (Nugent I:13).

Corne, but Captaine Peirce denyes hee owed soe much vnto her but was in the ende contented to giue her eight barrells and a halfe wch hee pmised should bee paid her, and that hee would giue order before his deprture for England for the paymt thereof vnto her” (McIlwaine 1924:180).

In late 1629 the minister and churchwardens of Stanley Hundred appeared before the General Court to answer several charges. The clerk made the following entries in the records of the General Court:

The psentm<sup>ts</sup> of the minister & Church wardens of *Stmaley* [*sic*] *Hundred* were delivered into the Co<sup>rt</sup> vnder their hands and also a register of marriages Burials & Christings.

fforasmuch as the Church Wardens of *Stanley hund* were psented by the mnster concerning the Church affaryes, w<sup>ch</sup> appeareth to be the onlie neglect of M<sup>r</sup> *John Brewer* in not pforminge of fower dayes worke w<sup>ch</sup> was due from him vnto the Church buisness, *It is therefore ordered* that M<sup>r</sup> Brewer shall pay eight dayes worke for his said neglect to be payd to the vse of the Church w<sup>th</sup>in 4 dayes after his Cominge home from hence, & shall pay the Church wardens either of them 100<sup>li</sup> of Tobaco for their trouble & hinderance in Cominge to the Co<sup>rt</sup>.

Vppon the psentm<sup>t</sup> of the Church wardens of *Stanley hund* for suspition of incontinency betweene *Henry King* & the wife of *John Jackson*, they lyinge together in her husbands absence, It is thought fitt that the sayd *Kinge* shall remoue his habitation from her & not to vse or freequent her Company vntill her husbands retorne.

These charges indicate that the church wardens worked to maintain order and moral standards in the young community. The presentments also indicate that several families with young children lived in Stanley Hundred (McIlwaine 1924:200). It is likely that Henry King and John Jackson were tenants on Brewer’s land.

John Brewer’s neglect to perform four days of work for the benefit of Stanley Hundred Parish in late 1629 did not keep him from holding political offices (McIlwaine 1924:200). He represented Warwick River as a Burgess in March 1629/30 (McIlwaine 1905-1915:1:xi; Hening 1969:1:148). Brewer became a member of the Council in 1632 (Hening 1:202) and he served until his death in 1635. Brewer’s September 1631 will was recorded in London on 13 May 1636. He left his son “John Brewer my planation in Virginia called Stawley Hundred als Bruers Borough, only the third part of the profits thereof arising during the life of Mary my wife I do give unto her.” The plantation was to go to his son Roger if the younger John Brewer died before the age of twenty-one. If both sons died before they reached their majority, half of the plantation was to become the property of his daughter Margaret, and the other half was to become the property of his wife. The elder Brewer also held 1,000 acres in Isle of Wight County at the time of his death (Waters 1901:715; Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:26).

John Brewer, son of John and Mary Brewer, inherited the “plantation in Virginia called Stawley Hundred als Bruers Borough” after the death of his father in 1635 (Waters 1901:715). The younger Brewer lived on his father’s land in Isle of Wight County (Nugent et al. 1934-1998: I:26).

The younger John Brewer continued to lease parcels in Stanley Hundred after he moved to Isle of Wight County in the 1630s (Figure 11). Mr. Thomas Hill held land in

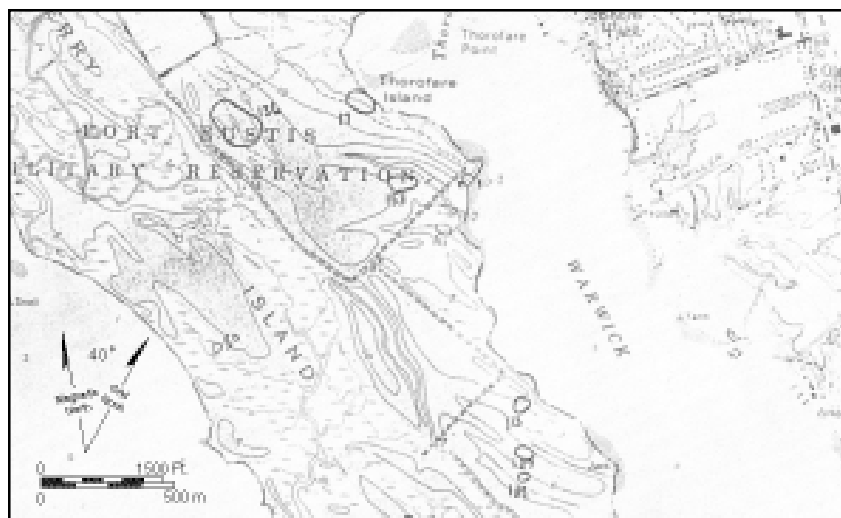


Figure 11. Stanley Hundred.

Stanley Hundred in ca. 1650. A deed from James Rogers to William Gritton for livestock included “cattle now remaynds at Mr Tho: Hills at Standley hundred” (Warwick County Records:1648-1651). Brewer decided to add to his holding in Warwick County. In December 1656 Brewer paid 300 pounds of tobacco to George Lobb Gentleman for 300 acres of land in Stanley Hundred (Hopkins 1993:3). Brewer took out a patent for this land in March 1663. The patent noted that 180 acres was between the miles end of Brewer’s own land and the James River. The remaining 120 acres was marsh land that was between Brewer and the Warwick River (Nugent et al. 1934-1998:I:507).

Brewer kept informed about events in Mulberry Island. In 1658 Brewer and Cary represented Stanley Hundred in a dispute against John Harlowe:

The suit Between Lef<sup>o</sup> Coll<sup>o</sup> Miles Cary & Mr John Brewer in behalfe of the Inhabitants of Stanly hundred, plaintiffs & Mr John Harlowe, Defend<sup>r</sup>, in respect of the preterjudiciall bringing ye said suite before ye Assembly & the said Harlowe never sumoned, is dismissed (McIlwaine 1905-1915:1:113).

Harlow renewed his suit. He probably did so because he hoped to gain possession of land in Stanley Hundred. In March 1659/60, the Governor and Council finally ruled on the suit that Cary and Brewer brought against Harlow:

*Whereas* a suite hath long depended between Mr. Miles Cary and Mr. John Brewer, proprietor of land in *Stanley* Hundred and Mr. John Harlowe about fffiftie acres of land given by order of the Governour and councell in the yeare one thousand six hundred thirty-one, for a com’ on vnto the inhabitants of the said *Stanly* Hundred which grant of the Governour and Councell appearing valid by the Grand Charter exhibitted to the committee, *It is therefore ordered*, That the said fifty acres be confirmed to the said inhabitants of *Stanly* Hundred according to the grant, And that the pattent for the same granted to Mr. Harlowe be made void and null (McIlwaine 1905-1915:2:5).

The Governor and the Council recognized that the residents of “Bruers Borough” had a legal title to the common land in Stanley Hundred.

The second John Brewer served as a Burgess for Isle of Wight County in 1657/8 (Boddie 1938:102). He was a resident of Isle of Wight County when he died intestate in

1669. His sister, Margaret Skinner, deposed that her brother's son and namesake was to gain possession of his land in Stanley Hundred. Ann Brewer served as the executrix of her deceased husband's estate (Chapman 1938:8, 65).

Ann Brewer married Mr. Anthony Holliday by late 1671. In November of that year, Mr. John Harlow informed the General Court that "*Holliday* who married the relict of M<sup>r</sup> *Jn<sup>o</sup> Brewer* doth hold more land w<sup>th</sup>in the bounds of his pattent then his pattent doe express in *Warwick* County and doth deny to Survey the Same as appears by a Certificate vnder the hands of M<sup>r</sup> *Xpofer Musham* and *Sam<sup>l</sup> Howard*, *It is now ordered*, that after two months notice given the said *Holliday*, if he doe not survey the same, then the said *Harloe* hath liberty granted him to Survey the Same and if any Surplus be found w<sup>th</sup>in the bounds of his said pattes the s<sup>d</sup> *Harloe* hath Liberty granted him to pattent the Same Enttring rights according to Custome." However, Anthony Holliday petitioned the General Court to protect the rights of his step-children. In March 1672, the General Court decided "Vpon ye peticon of Mr *Anthony Holliday* on behalf of ye Orphans of Mr *Brewer*, *It is ordered* that the order granted last genll Court to Mr *John Harlow* to survey some Land belonging to ye said Orphans, be reversed" (McIlwaine 1924:283, 300).

John Brewer, son of John and Ann Brewer of Isle of Wight County, was next owner of Stanley Hundred. He inherited 1,300 acres of land in Stanley Hundred after the death of his father in 1669 (Chapman 1938:8). Brewer's step-father, Anthony Holliday, appeared before the Governor and Council in November 1671 and March 1672 to protect the property from John Harlow who hoped to find surplus land within the boundaries (McIlwaine 1924:283, 300).

Like his father, the third John Brewer did not live on his Stanley Hundred property. It is likely that he rented out tracts of land. Brewer appeared as the owner of 1,350 acres of land on the 1704 Warwick Count Rent Roll. He decided to sell the land known as Stanley Hundred by the time of the 1713 Warwick County Rent Roll. It is likely that Brewer conveyed his 1,350 acres known as Stanley Hundred to Charles Doyley. In 1704, the Reverend Cope Doyley, father of Charles Doyley, held 500 acres in Warwick. Nine years later, in 1713, Charles Doyley was the owner of 1,851 acres in the county. If the Doyleys did own Stanley Hundred, they probably did not live on the land. The Reverend Doyley left Denbigh Parish and became the minister of Bruton Parish in 1697. He served this parish until his death in 1702 (Goodwin 1997:20, 22). Extant documents indicate that Charles Doyley remained in Bruton Parish after the death of his father.

Although all residents of Warwick County were part of one parish after 1726, the justices of the peace continued to use the names "Mulberry Island" and "Stanley Hundred" when they appointed men to serve in various county offices up to 1761 and possibly later. The county's magistrates assigned the positions of tithe taker, constable, and surveyor of the highways to individuals who lived in specific precincts in Warwick:

### **Tithe Takers**

- ca. 1697—Robert Hubberd to take a list of tithes in the upper precincts of Mulberry Island Parish and William Cary to take a list of tithes in the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish and Stanley Hundred (Warwick County Order Book 1697-1698)

- 1700 June 21—Humphrey Harwood to take a list of tithes in the upper precincts of Mulberry Island Parish; William Cary to take a list of tithes in the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish; and Miles Wills to take a list of tithes in Stanley Hundred (Warwick County Order Book 1699-1701)
- 1701 May 21—Mr. Matthew Jones to take a list of tithes in the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish; Major Humphrey Harwood to take a list of tithes in the upper precincts of Mulberry Island Parish; and Mr. Thomas Haynes to take a list of tithes in Stanley Hundred (Warwick County Order Book 1699-1701)
- 1713 May 7—Mr. Francis Jones to take a list of tithes in the lower precinct of Mulberry Island and Stanley Hundred and Mr. William Harwood to take a list of tithes in the upper precinct of Mulberry Island Parish (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1714 May 6—Mr. William Harwood to take a list of tithes in the upper precincts of Mulberry Island Parish and Mr. Thomas Haynes Junior to take a list of tithes in the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish and Stanley Hundred (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1749 April 6—Matthew Wills Gent to take list of tithes in Mulberry Island (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:22)
- 1750 May 3—Matthew Wills Gent to take list of tithes for “Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:85)
- 1751 June 6—Matthew Wills Gent to take list of tithes for “Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:133)
- 1752 June 4—Henry Scasbrooke Gent to take list of tithes for “Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:178)
- 1753 March 1—Henry Scasbrooke Gent to take list of tithes for “Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:226)
- 1754 [month missing]—Henry Scasbrooke Gent to take list of tithes for “Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:278)
- 1755 May 1—Benjamin Wills Gent to take list of tithes for “Standly Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:325)
- 1756 June 3—Benjamin Wills Gent to take list of tithes “in Standley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:405)
- 1758 July 6—Benjamin Wills Gent to take list of tithes for “Stanley hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:543)
- 1759 June 7—Matthew Wills to take list of tithes in “Stanley Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:593)
- 1760 May 1—Harwood Jones to take list of tithes “for the Mulberry Ilse land Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:614)
- 1761 May 7—Henry Scasbrooke to take list of tithes in “Stanley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:648)



## **Constable**

- 1701 May 21—James Prest appointed constable for the upper precinct of Mulberry Island Parish in the room of John Cox (Warwick County Order Book 1699-1701)
- 1713 May 7—Jeremiah Peirce appointed constable for the lower precinct of Mulberry Island in the room of A[th] Jones (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1714 April 1—George Alleson appointed constable for upper precinct of Mulberry Island Parish in the room of Thomas Robinson (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1714 May 6—Walker Green appointed constable for the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish in the room of John Peirce (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1714 June 3—John Giles appointed constable for the lower precincts of Mulberry Island Parish on the petition of Walker Green (Warwick County Order Book 1713-1714)
- 1756—“Ditto [Higginson Wade] for the same service [viewing tobacco fields] in Standley Hundred 153 [pounds of tobacco]” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:375)
- 1760 August 7—Thomas Glanville appointed constable “of the Stanley Hundred Precinct” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:624)
- 1760 September 4—Spencer Pierce is appointed constable “of the Stanley Hundred Precinct” in the room of Thomas Glanville (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:627)

## **Surveyor of the Highways**

- 1748 March 2—“Higginson Wade is appointed Surveyor of the Road from Warwick Mill to Mulberry Island Church and from thence to Colo. Harwood’s Mill & from thence to Hansford’s Ordinary in the room of John Jones who is discharged from that Office” (Warwick County Minutes 1748-1762:9)
- 1750 August 2—“John Scasbrooke is by the Court appointed Surveyor of the Road from the upper Church to Mulberry Island Ferry in the Room of Laurence Haynes who is discharged from that Office” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:102)
- 1754 August 1—“Samuel Wills is by the Court appointed Surveyor of the Main Road to Mulberry Island Ferry in the Room of Benjamin Wills who is discharged from that Office” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:297)
- 1759 February 1—“Henry Street is appointed Surveyor of the Main Road from the upper Church to Mulberry Island Ferry in this County in the Room of Thomas Wills junr who is discharged” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:579)
- 1759 [May]—presentment of Henry Street by the grand jury for not keeping the main road from the Upper Church to Mulberry Island Ferry cleared is dismissed (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:590)
- 1760 May 1—Thomas Glanville is appointed Surveyor of the Main Road “from the upper Church to Wills’s Ferry” (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:613)
- 1760 September 4—John Howard is appointed Surveyor of the Main Road from Mulberry Island Church to Colo. Harwood’s Mill in the room of Robert Lucas (Warwick County Minute Book 1748-1762:627)

In addition, Thomas Haynes received an appointment as the Captain of the Mulberry Island Company of Foot in April 1729. Henry Scasbrooke became the Lieutenant in the Mulberry Island Company of Foot in October of the same year (Warwick County Records 1728-1729).

Warwick's seventeenth-century settlements and parish designations remained a part of life in the county in the eighteenth century. The Mulberry Island Church and the Mulberry Island Ferry continued to be important places in the Warwick County landscape. Men, women, and children knew the location of Stanley Hundred and Mulberry Island even though these areas were not separate parishes after 1726. Stanley Hundred and Mulberry Island were part of a smaller community within the larger Warwick County community.

The Roscow family gained possession of Stanley Hundred sometime between 1713 and 1770. In June of 1770, James Roscow asked the General Assembly for permission to dock the entail on two parcels of land in Warwick County.<sup>9</sup> The clerk of the House of Burgesses noted that

A Petition of James Roscow, Gentleman, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the petitioner is seized in Fee Tail, under the Wills of his Ancestors, of about Two Thousand and Two Hundred Acres of Land, in two Tracts, called Blunt Point and Stanley Hundred, and is seized of the Reversion of the said Lands in Fee, expectant upon his dying without Issue; and that he is considerably indebted, and now under Confinement, from which he cannot discharge himself without disposing of his Interest in the said Lands (All the property he hath left) which must be sold for less than the Value, by Reason of the Possibility of his having Issue; and therefore praying that an Act may pass to dock the Intail of the said Lands.

The Burgesses rejected Roscow's request on 21 June 1770 (McIlwaine 1905-1915:11:59-60, 86).

Roscow returned to the House of Burgesses in May 1774. In this petition, he informed the Burgesses that he "is seised in fee tail of several valuable tracts of Land, lying in the County of Warwick, which are unprofitable to him, as he hath not a sufficient number of Slaves to cultivate them; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to empower him to dispose of one of the said Tracts, called Stanley Hundred, and lay out the Money raised by the Sale in purchasing Slaves to be annexed to his other lands" (McIlwaine 1905-1915:12:131). Roscow did not succeed in his second attempt to sell entailed land in Warwick.

On 5 June 1775, Roscow presented his third petition to the House of Burgesses. He stated that

he is seised in fee tail of several Tracts of Land, in the County of Warwick, and having no Slaves to work either, is desirous to exchange two of them for other Lands, and Slaves, by which he may be enabled to procure a competent subsistence; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to dock the intail of his tracts of Land, called Stanley

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<sup>9</sup> The members of the General Assembly allowed James Roscow to dock the entail on another tract of land—700 acres on the east side of Water's Creek, known as Derby—in January 1768 (Hening 1969:8:301-303).

Hundred and Blunt Point, and vest the same in Carter Braxton, Esquire, in fee simple, and, in lieu thereof and to the same Uses, to settle eight hundred Acres of Land in the County of Amherst, with ten Negro Slaves, which the Petitioner had agreed to purchase of the said Carter Braxton.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr Mercer do prepare, and bring in the same.

The Burgesses passed the bill to allow Roscow to dock the entail on the tracts known as Stanley Hundred and Blunt Point on 14 June 1775 (McIlwaine 1905-1915:12:189-190, 198, 203, 221, 229). Roscow was a resident of King William County when he placed an announcement about the sale of his Warwick County land in the 17 January 1777 edition of Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*. He noted that Stanley Hundred contained "1500 acres the fertility thereof equal to most land in the lower parts of the country; it is an excellent range for stock, convenient to fish and oysters, and to navigation." The following week Carter Braxton informed readers of the *Virginia Gazette* that "Mr. *James Roscow*, in advertising his lands for sale, having omitted to mention, that two of those tracts, called *Stanley Hundred* and *Blunt Point*, were sold to me for his life, it becomes necessary to inform those inclined to purchase of these tracts, with which they may be more fully informed upon application to CARTER BRAXTON" (*Virginia Gazette*, Purdie, ed., 17 January 1777 and 24 January 1777).<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> In March 1774, Miles Wills announced the sale of 250 acres that adjoined Stanley Hundred. He noted

*"For SALE, and maybe entered on at Christmas,*

A VALUABLE Tract of LAND in *Warwick* County, lying on *Warwick* River, adjoining the Land of Colonel *Carter Braxton*, containing about 250 Acres; the Soil is well adapted for producing Corn, Wheat, or Tobacco, had Plenty of good Pine and Oak Timber, with a commodious Dwelling-House quite new, a good Kitchen, Dairy, Smokehouse, Barn, and Crib, and a beautiful young Apple orchard. I should be glad any Person that has a-mind to purchase would make Application as soon as possible. Part of the Purchase Money to be paid on the Day of Acknowledgment, and Credit will be allowed for the other Part until *January* next, or longer if required on giving Bond with approved Security to MILES WILLS" (*Virginia Gazette*, Purdie and Dixon, eds., 3 March 1774).

It is possible that there were apple orchards on Stanley Hundred and that the planters who lived on this land grew corn, wheat, and tobacco.



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