

THE HUNNICUTTS OF PRINCE GEORGE

(Continued from Volume XXVII., page 44)

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WYKE³ HUNNICUTT (*Robert*,² *John*¹), born circa 1701, died in 1768. He signed as witness to the marriage of his sister Huldah, 7 February 1722-3. Wyke Hunnicutt was granted, on 3 January 1728-9, a certificate of clearness in regard to his proposed marriage with a member of "the meeting at Pequamons in North Carolina." The following month he married Sarah, daughter of the gifted Quaker preacher, Joseph Glaister of Pasquotank, North Carolina, (for some account of whom compare QUARTERLY, Vol. XXV., page 248, *et seq.*)

In 1731, as previously recorded, Robert² Hunnicutt deeded to his son Wyke³ Hunnicutt some 350 acres between Warwick Swamp and Blackwater, in the present Sussex, then comprised in Surry. In the Gravelly Run register Wyke Hunnicutt is listed as "of Surry County" until 1746; but he had purchased lands in Prince George, and during the latter part of his life made his home in that county.

Wyke Hunnicutt was among the signers of a "Petition of the People Called Quakers," presented to the Virginia House of Burgesses 15 November 1738: for the text of which compare the *Virginia Gazette* for 10-17 November 1738.

At a Court held for Prince George County, July 1738— "A Deed for Land from William Heath of the County of Surry and Elizabeth his Wife, to Wyke Hunnicutt, was proved in Court by the Oaths of Thomas Eldridge, Gent, James Gee and Henry Gee, Witnesses thereto, to be the Act and Deed of the said William Heath to the said Wyke Hunnicutt; and then also the said Elizabeth Heath came into Court, and being privately Examined and found Voluntary, Acknowledged the said Deed to the said Hunnicutt; on whose motion it is Ordered the said Deed (being Indented & Sealed) be recorded." William Heath, on 5 March 1663-4, patented 250 acres "on the swamp which parts Surry and Charles City counties," &c; and on 3 October 1669, a tract of 378 acres, in Surry and Charles City counties, "Beginning at a marked beech on the south side the head of Upper Chipoakes Creek," &c. Evidently it was a portion of this land which was purchased by Wyke³ Hunnicutt.

At the Yearly Meetings of the Virginia Quakers Wyke³ Hunnicutt from 1737 onward was delegate for the Henrico Quarterly Meeting. At the Yearly meeting, held in Nansemond 18 September 1747, Wyke Hunnicutt was named on the committee to draw up the usual Epistles, &c. At the Yearly Meeting at Curles, 21 September 1750, he was named among those to draw up the Epistle to London: and at the Yearly Meeting in Isle of Wight, 9 August 1753, to draw up an Epistle to Maryland. Wyke Hunnicutt signed the petition drawn up 25 June 1757, at the Yearly Meeting, "in behalf of Friends, to the Governor, Council and Burgesses, requesting relief from Military service, on account of the religious views of their society on the subject of war," &c, &c.

The Blackwater and Burleigh records, dating from 1752, show many mentions of Wyke³ Hunnicutt. The testimony against Martha, daughter of John Simmons of Prince George County, 20 March 1762, is signed by Wyke Hunnicutt and Robert Hunnicutt. Testimony against Sarah, daughter of Nathan Briggs of Sussex, 15 January 1763, by Sarah Hunnicutt, Sarah Hunnicutt, Jr., Wyke Hunnicutt, and Glaister Hunnicutt. Testimony against Agnes, daughter of James Kitchen of Southampton, 16 April 1763, by Wyke Hunnicutt and Robert Hunnicutt. Wyke Hunnicutt, Glaister Hunnicutt and Robert Hunnicutt were appointed, on 18 January 1766, to investigate the complaint of James Storrs, &c, &c.

Wyke³ Hunnicutt was "recently deceased" 19 March 1768, when his son Glaister Hunnicutt was named to succeed Wyke Hunnicutt as overseer of the Burleigh Meeting. The testimony of Sarah Hunnicutt and her children concerning her husband Wyke Hunnicutt, was read 18 March 1769, and referred to the Quarterly Meeting set for 15 April 1769.

Wyke³ Hunnicutt, as previously recorded, married in February 1728-9, Sarah, daughter of Joseph Glaister (by his second wife, Mary, daughter of Henry Palin, of Pasquotank, North Carolina). Sarah Hunnicutt survived her husband, and died in 1770. She was "recently deceased" 19 January 1771, when Huldah Peebles was named to succeed her as overseer of the Burleigh Meeting.

Wyke³ Hunnicutt and Sarah Glaister had issue:

- I. SARAH⁴ HUNNICUTT, born 30 May 1730, who in January 1753 married Samuel Bailey.
- II. GLAISTER⁴ HUNNICUTT, born 27 April 1732, of whom hereafter.
- III. MARY⁴ HUNNICUTT, born 3 November 1735, died September 1739.
- IV. ROBERT⁴ HUNNICUTT, born 11 June 1737, died in September 1739.
- V. RUTH⁴ HUNNICUTT, born 11 August 1740, who in November 1761 married Anselm Bailey.

VI. ROBERT⁴ HUNNICUTT, born 19 February 1742-3. Bristol Parish accounts for 1769 name among the "17 Tithes, Listed, that are Inhabitants of Brandom Parish, Viz. Sarah Hunnicut 9, Robert Hunnicut 3, Edward Walker 4, William Lee 1 * * * 425." In July 1769 Robert Hunnicutt married Priscilla Hunnicutt, the widow of his cousin Robert Wyke⁴ Hunnicutt and daughter of ——— Binford. Robert⁴ Hunnicutt seems to have had no issue.

VII. WYKE⁴ HUNNICUTT, born 11 February 1745-6, living in 1800, who in June 1769 married Anne, daughter of Anselm Bailey and had issue:

- (1) Lemuel⁵ Hunnicutt, born 12 May 1770, died 12 December 1775.
- (2) Mary⁵ Hunnicutt, born 7 December 1772.
- (3) Wyke⁵ Hunnicutt, born 18 September 1775.
- (4) Anne⁵ Hunnicutt, born 26 November, 1777.
- (5) Lemuel⁵ Hunnicutt, born 14 December 1779, who was living in Prince George in 1812, according to a survey.
- (6) Anselm⁵ Hunnicutt, born 3 January 1787, died 2 May 1788.
- (7) John⁵ Pearson Hunnicutt, born 16 May 1791.

GLAISTER⁴ HUNNICUTT, born 27 April 1732, died 13 April 1781, in or about 1756 married Jane, daughter of Thomas Pleasants of Henrico: compare Note 3.

Glaister Hunnicutt, on 17 June 1764, patented 429 acres in Prince George County. The patent recites that this tract was formerly granted to John Eaton, by a patent dated 23 December 1714; and that "whereas Abraham Green, Adam Sheffield and Wyke Hunnicutt, in whom the Right and Title of which said land is since become vested," have failed to pay the quit-rents, the tract is now granted to Glaister Hunnicutt, upon his petition. The bounds are given as "Beginning at a White Oak on the Southern Run, in the line of Captain George Blayton, Deceased; thence along Blayton's line and into the Woods West twenty-one and a half degrees South two hundred and forty-one poles, to a Shrub Oak; thence South one hundred and twenty-eight Poles, to two Oaks and a Pine, near the head of a Branch; East twenty-three Degrees South two hundred & ninety Poles, to a red oak, on the East side of a Branch; North forty-one Degrees East one hundred twenty-six and a half Poles, to a Red Oak; North thirty-two Degrees West Sixty Poles; West twenty-five Degrees South eight poles, to a Pine, Ralph Hill's Corner; West thirty-seven Degrees North sixty-eight Poles, to the head of the Southern Run, or Meadow; thence down the same as it Meanders, to the Beginning."

It is apparent, as hereinafter shown, that Glaister⁴ Hunnicutt inherited from his father, Wyke³ Hunnicutt, the 350 acres deeded to the latter by Robert Hunnicutt in 1731. At the time of his death Glaister⁴ Hunnicutt appears to have owned only one plantation, of some 800 acres, between Warwick Swamp and Blackwater, partly in Sussex and partly in Prince George. His house, as shown by his will, stood toward the southern part of this tract, so that he was legally a resident of Sussex.

Records of the Blackwater and Burleigh Meeting name Glaister⁴ Hunnicutt frequently. Thus, in addition to mentions previously cited, Glaister Hunnicutt and others were appointed, 21 February 1767, "to collect Friends' sentiments respecting the buying, selling or keeping Negro slaves, agreeable to the Epistle from last Yearly Meeting." On 16 May 1767, the Quakers having been excused from military service by an Act of the last Assembly, a committee was named to secure the approval of members of the Meeting: for Sussex, Glaister Hunnicutt was appointed; and for Prince George, "Robert Hunnicutt, Robert Hunnicutt, Jr., John Hunnicutt, William (son of Peter) Hunnicutt, William (son of Robert) Hunnicutt, Robert (son of Wyke) Hunnicutt, Wyke Hunnicutt, Jr., Thomas Hunnicutt, and Jesse Hunnicutt." At the Yearly Meeting, held at Curles, 17 August 1767, Glaister Hunnicutt was appointed "to correspond with the Friends of Fairfax and Hopewell Monthly Meeting to petition the next General Assembly for relief from military fines." As previously recorded, Wyke³ Hunnicutt being "recently deceased" 19 March 1768, Glaister⁴ Hunnicutt was named in his father's place as overseer of Burleigh Meeting, and "to keep a Record of the Births and Deaths of Friends, and that he provide a Book." On 21 January 1769 Glaister Hunnicutt was named to examine guardians' accounts among the Friends before these were handed to the courts. In 1772 he was appointed to take charge of the books recently received from Philadelphia,—“Vizt, 5 of Richard Davis' Journals & 8 Treatises on Discipline.” To the books in his keeping was added, 19 December 1772, "Anthony Benezet's Treatise on Slavery," &c, &c.

Glaister⁴ Hunnicutt, as has been said, died 13 April 1781: his will, signed on the day of his death, was recorded in Sussex 10 October 1781.

"I, GLAISTER HUNNICUTT of the County of Sussex and Colony of Virginia, do make and publish this my last will and testament, in manner and form as follows, to-wit:

"My will and desire is that the following Negroes should be Manumitted on or before the first day of the first month next 1782, Viz:—Tom, Joe, Charles, Ben, Jenny, and her child Charlott. I give the above-named negroes to the Monthly Meeting of which I am a member, to be

manumitted by such members of the said Meeting as the Meeting shall direct.

"Item, My Will and desire is that my land and plantation may be equally divided, beginning at Thompson's line, and run a straight line between my Blacksmith Shop and stable, leaving to the South side my new house, kitchen, Smoke-house and Barn. Then I give the South side to my son Pleasants Hunnicutt, to him and his heirs forever. And the North side I give to my son Glaister Hunnicutt, to him and his heirs forever.

"Item, I give to my son Pleasants Hunnicutt one bay colt called Sprightly.

"Item, my will and desire is that all the rest of my estate which is not above mentioned (except the negroes which came by my wife, which I leave at her disposal) may be equally divided between my wife and Children, after my just debts are paid.

"I do appoint my loving wife Executrix, and my son Pleasants Hunnicutt and my brother Wyke Hunnicutt Executors, to this my last will and testament, made this thirteenth day of the 4th Mo., in the year of the Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty One.

GLAISTER HUNNICUTT (*Seal*)

"Signed, Sealed and Acknowledged in presence of: (*Signed*) Mary Peebles, Alexander Harrison, Shadrach Harrison.

"*At Court held for Sussex County the 10th day of October 1781 —* The last will and testament of Glaister Hunnicutt, deceased, was exhibited in court by Jane Hunnicutt and Wyke Hunnicutt, two of the executors therein named; proved by the oaths of Mary Peebles, Alexander Harrison and Shadrach Harrison, the witnesses thereto; and ordered to be recorded: and on the motion of the said executors, who made affirmation thereto (they being Quakers) according to law, and with John Massenburg, Peter Williams and William Harrison, their securities, entered into and acknowledged their Bond in the Penalty of Five Millions of Pounds, conditioned as the law directs, Certificate is granted them for obtaining a probate thereof in due form. *Teste John Cocke, C. C.*"

Glaister⁴ Hunnicutt, as previously recorded, married Jane, daughter of Thomas Pleasants of Henrico (and Mary, daughter of Robert Jordan of Nansemond: compare Note 4.) Jane Hunnicutt survived her husband, and was living in 1797, according to the will of her mother. Glaister⁴ Hunnicutt and Jane Pleasants had issue:

I. THOMAS PLEASANTS⁵ HUNNICUTT, born 24 August 1757, died 10 March 1758.

II. MARY⁵ HUNNICUTT, born 5 January 1760.

III. SARAH⁵ HUNNICUTT, born 14 July 1761.

IV. PLEASANTS⁵ HUNNICUTT, born 24 July 1763. He and his brother Glaister have a deed recorded in Sussex, in 1793, as hereinafter given. To him, as has been seen, his father willed the southern, or Sussex, side of the plantation. The will of Pleasants Hunnicutt, dated 13 January 1819, was recorded in Sussex 4 February 1819: names the testator's wife, Ann E. Hunnicutt; the testator's son, Thomas Pleasants⁶ Hunnicutt, then under age; the testator's son, John William⁶ Hunnicutt, to whom is bequeathed land on Warwick Swamp, "being three hundred and forty-two acres in Sussex and Prince George counties, purchased of my brother Glaister Hunnicutt's estate"; the testator's son Albert Littleton⁶ Hunnicutt; and the testator's daughter Mary Ann⁶ Hunnicutt. The executors named are the testator's friends James Pennington and Howell Myrick, who were evidently not Quakers, as they took the customary oaths. It thus seems probable that Pleasants⁵ Hunnicutt had left the Quakers.

V. GLAISTER⁵ HUNNICUTT, born 11 March 1766, of whom hereafter.

VI. JANE⁵ HUNNICUTT, born 31 December 1769.

The ambiguous wording of the will of Glaister⁴ Hunnicutt, it will be noted, renders it uncertain whether or no any of his daughters were living in 1781. No record has been discovered as to their marriages.

GLAISTER⁵ HUNNICUTT, born 11 March 1766, was living in January 1815, and died before January 1819. To him, as has been seen, his father willed the northern half of the plantation, which lay partly in Sussex and partly in Prince George. Tradition has it that his home was in Prince George, but as late as 1793 he describes himself as "of Sussex." It is, at all events, evident that he died in Prince George, as the Sussex records contain no mention of any settlement of his estate.

In Sussex is recorded a deed by Glaister Hunnicutt and Pleasants Hunnicutt "of the County of Sussex," to Peyton Mason of Sussex, dated 7 January 1793, acknowledged 6 June 1793: in consideration of £40, conveys 66 acres on the north side of Warwick Swamp in Sussex, the tract having as one of its bounds the line dividing Sussex from Prince George, and bordering lands owned severally by the three parties to the deed. This deed was acknowledged in the Sussex court by Pleasants

Hunnicut, and proved as to Glaister Hunnicutt's signature by John Peebles, one of the witnesses. This plainly is a sale by Glaister⁵ Hunnicutt of part of his half of his father's plantation.

It will be noted that this land was evidently a portion of the tract deeded, 21 July 1731, by Robert² Hunnicutt to Wyke³ Hunnicutt (which comprised the land patented by Robert² Hunnicutt on 23 March 1715-6): so that Wyke³ Hunnicutt must have deeded or bequeathed this land to his son, Glaister⁴ Hunnicutt, who, as has been seen, willed it to his two sons.

In Sussex is likewise recorded a deed, dated 2 January 1813, by Glaister Hunnicutt, to James Myrick: it recites that, whereas Glaister Hunnicutt is indebted to Pleasants Hunnicutt to the amount of £572, 10s, 6d, he conveys to James Myrick 334 acres in Sussex and Prince George counties (bounded by lands belonging to Thomas G. Peebles, Ludwell Williams, Peyton Mason, and Nicholas Hatch) and three negroes: the land and negroes to be sold on the demand of Pleasants Hunnicutt, and the debt due him to be discharged with monies accruing from such sales. This was acknowledged in court 2 September 1813 by Ishmael Harrison, a witness to Glaister Hunnicutt's signature: and was again acknowledged by Ishmael Harrison 5 January 1815, without any record suggestive of Glaister Hunnicutt's being dead at this date. Plainly this is the land referred to in Pleasants⁵ Hunnicutt's will, though the discrepancy in the figures is a little odd: and in connection with the preceding deed, suggests that Glaister⁵ Hunnicutt had inherited from his father, in all, 400 acres.

This is the latest mention thus far discovered of Glaister⁵ Hunnicutt. As has been shown, by the terms of the will of Pleasants⁵ Hunnicutt, Glaister⁵ Hunnicutt was dead by 1818.

Glaister⁵ Hunnicutt, circa 1787, married "his cousin, Rebecca Hunnicutt" — evidently the daughter of Robert Wyke⁴ Hunnicutt and Priscilla Binford. They "left the Quakers, and were staunch Methodists." They had issue:

I. SARAH GLAISTER⁶ HUNNICUTT, who in 1804 married Edward Major of "Burlington," in Charles City County, and had issue:

(1) Martha Ann Catherine⁷ Major, born 18 October 1805, who died unmarried in 1867.

(2) Edward Glaister⁷ Major, born 13 December 1807, died in 1849, who married Eliza Ann Eppes, and had issue.

(3) Rebecca Priscilla⁷ Major, born 20 September 1814, died in 1881, who married George Christian Waddill, and had issue.

II. "Another daughter,⁶ who married ——— Burt, and left descendants on the south side of the river."

The other children of Glaister Hunnicutt and Rebecca Hunnicutt are said "to have died young," and their names have not been preserved.

NOTE 3

"THOMAS PLEASANTS, of Henrico, son of John and Dorothy Pleasants, was born the 3d day of the 9th month 1695: and being the eldest son and a youth of good natural parts, his father procured him a good share of learning: but notwithstanding, he was young at the time of his father's decease; and was in that manner deprived of the additional advantage — of admonition and restraint by so worthy a parent, — which was so necessary to the forming of the mind of youth. Yet he had an eye to the recompense of an eternal reward, and was called to the work of the ministry, about the 29th year of his age; in which he Laboured, both amongst Friends and other people where no meetings had been before, much to the satisfaction of all. He travell'd formerly on the Western shore of Maryland, and at the yearly meeting at Choptank, in Company with his brother (*-in-law*) Robt. Jordan: and though his services seemed much confined to his county, where indeed there was much need of faithful labourers, yet he was not discouraged by the smallness of the membership from endeavoring to discharge his duty, as well amongst Friends belonging to the adjacent meetings as those at a distance; and was instrumental in the commencement of several Meetings in the upper part of the colony, as well as the settlement of Two or three Meetings. He wrote an Epistle a few years before his death (directed to Friends in every station, but more particularly to the Ministers), which tends to confirm that his Diligence and Labour proceeded from an Earnest Concern for the promotion of truth and a zealous Gospel Ministry. Indeed, he was a man much devoted to the service of truth, and was a considerable sufferer for bearing his testimony against Priests' wages, and was once imprisoned on that account. He married Mary, the daughter of Robt. Jordan, of Nansemond County, and left a pretty numerous offspring, some of them young. For whose eternal welfare we have great reason to believe that he was particularly solicitous; inasmuch as having fallen very ill while on a visit to Friends at some distance from home, he seemed most ardently of all things to desire that he might finish his course among his Dear Children, in order that he might have an opportunity at that awful period to enforce his experienced advices and promote the cause of God, to which he was so much devoted to the last. Accordingly, he was carried home in a dying condition, and departed this life at his own house the 24th of the 11th Month 1744; and was buried in the Family Burying Ground at Curles, the 28th of the same, attended by a numerous Company of Friends and neighbors." — *Smith Manuscript, Ridgway Library, Philadelphia.*

He was grandson to John¹ Pleasants, baptised at St. Savior's, Norwich, England, 27 February 1644-5; who came to Virginia circa 1668, settled at Curles in Henrico, became a Quaker, amassed considerable wealth, was elected to represent Henrico in the Virginia House of Burgesses for the session of 2 March 1692-3, (but declined to take the oath), and died 12 May 1698. John¹ Pleasants has numerous deeds in Henrico: his will was proved 1 June 1698. He married, circa 1670, Jane Larcome (then the widow of Captain Samuel Tucker), who survived him: her will, dated 2 January 1708-9, was recorded in Henrico in June 1709.

John² Pleasants, son of the preceding, born circa 1671, likewise lived in Henrico, where his will, dated 5 March 1713-4, was recorded 7 June 1714. He married Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Cary (who survived him, and in February 1719-20 married Robert Jordan), and had, with other issue, Thomas Pleasants³ of Henrico, as above.

The wife of John² Pleasants was granddaughter of Miles¹ Cary of Magpie Swamp, in Warwick County, baptized at All Saints, Bristol, England, 30 January 1622-3, died 10 June 1667; who came to Virginia circa 1640, was justice for Warwick 1652, major 1654, lieutenant-colonel 1657, colonel and county-lieutenant 1659-67, burgess for Warwick for session of 13 March 1659-60, Escheator General of Virginia 1665, Collector of the Lower James River and member of the Council 1663-7; was wounded 5 June 1667 by the Dutch in their attack on Old Point Comfort, which he commanded as Colonel-Lieutenant of Warwick and Elizabeth City, and died five days later. He married circa 1645 Anne, daughter of Captain Thomas Taylor (a burgess for Warwick at the session of 5 October 1646), and had, with other issue: Thomas² Cary of Magpie Swamp, eldest son, born 1646, died ante 1682, a major under Nathaniel Bacon in 1676, who married Anne, daughter of Francis Milner of Nansemond, and had, with other issue: Dorothy³ Cary, who, as above, married, first, John² Pleasants, and, second, Robert Jordan.

NOTE 4

MARY JORDAN, the wife of Thomas Pleasants of Henrico, was born 24 December 1699, and survived her husband by more than fifty years. Her will undated, was proved in Goochland 17 July 1797, so that at the time of her death she must have been upward of ninety-seven.

She was a descendant of Thomas¹ Jordan, born in England in 1600, who is said to have been a son of the Samuel Jordan, who in 1619 patented land, and founded a plantation called Jordan's Journey, in the present Prince George; was burgess for Charles City at the session of 30 July 1619; fortified his house, Beggar's Bush, during the Indian massacre of March 1622 "and lived in despite of the enemy," but died in March 1623. Samuel Jordan is said to have had by his first wife: Thomas

Samuel and Robert, born in England, each of whom came to Virginia. He married, second, Cicely ———, who survived him, and married, second, Captain William Farrar.

Thomas¹ Jordan, born in 1600 in England, is named in the census of 1623 as a soldier under Sir George Yeardley. He settled in the present Isle of Wight, and was burgess for Warrasquoacke at the sessions of 16 October 1629, of 21 February 1631-2, and of 4 September 1632. On 2 July 1635, he patented 900 acres in the County of Warrasquioake, "neare the head of Warrasquioake river, beginning on the Westerly side of an old Indian Towne, at an oake mark'd w'th three notches, being upon the North west side of the river runing West North west into the woods a mile; and soe runing downe the river, to a Crosse Creek, a small oake being there, marked with twoe notches."

Thomas² Jordan, son of the preceding, born 1634, died 8 October 1699, lived at Chuckatuck in Nansemond. He became a Quaker in 1660, and from 1664 onward was several times imprisoned and fined. In 1659 he married Margaret, daughter of Robert Brasseur (who was a French Huguenot, settled in Nansemond, where he patented 1,200 acres, 12 April 1653, and was also a Quaker.) Margaret Brasseur was born July 1642, and died 7 October 1708.

Robert³ Jordan, son of the preceding, born 11 July 1668, died in 1728, likewise lived in Nansemond, where he was a prominent Quaker minister. He married, first, on 9 December 1687, Christian Outland, (who died 26 June 1689), and married, second, on 7 July 1690, Mary, daughter of Edmund Belson of Nansemond (who patented 100 acres in that county, 26 April 1670, and, with Robert Montgomery, 850 adjoining acres, 30 April 1679), by whom he had, with other issue: Mary⁴ Jordan, born 24 December 1699, died in 1797, who, as previously recorded, married Thomas Pleasants of Henrico.