

\*1. JOHN<sup>1</sup> WOODSON and his wife \*Sarah came to Virginia, 1619, in the *George* and settled at Flowerdew Hundred,<sup>2</sup> known by Feb. 1624/5, when the muster was taken, as Peirse's Hundred. They had been fellow passengers on the ship with Governor Sir George Yeardley and his wife Temperance Flowerdew, Lady Yeardley. No further documentary evidence has been found relating to them until 1660. A family account written about 1785 by 93. Charles<sup>5</sup> Woodson (about 1712-1796), however, survives<sup>3</sup> and supplies details which link the first generations of Woodsons and "Robert Woodson, John Woodson, Senr., and John Woodson, Junr." who were among the tithables at Curles, 1679.<sup>4</sup>

Tradition states that John<sup>1</sup> Woodson was killed in the Indian attack of 18 April 1644.<sup>5</sup> His children were very young and Mrs. Sarah Woodson soon remarried (2) \_\_\_ Dunwell,<sup>6</sup> who died leaving her with a daughter Elizabeth<sup>2</sup>, and (3) \_\_\_ Johnson. As a widow again she left a combination inventory and nuncupative will which was recorded 17 Jan. 1660/1. This made bequests to John Woodson, Robert Woodson, Deborah Woodson (apparently under age) and

Elizabeth Dunwell (under age). John Woodson was the implied executor.<sup>7</sup>

The family record of 1785, with no evidence to the contrary presented during two centuries, has posited this descent.<sup>8</sup>

Issue: 2. JOHN<sup>2</sup>; 3. ROBERT<sup>2</sup>; 4. Deborah<sup>2</sup>, left a cow and a feather bed by her mother, not mentioned in the 1785 account.

2. JOHN<sup>2</sup> WOODSON (John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1632, served as an appraiser of the estate of Capt. James Crewes, 24 March 1680/1.<sup>9</sup> His will, 26 Aug. 1684-1 Oct. 1684,<sup>10</sup> mentioned (but did not name) his wife, and named two sons, two grandchildren, "cozen" [nephew] John Woodson, and "my brother Robert's four youngest children named Robert, Richard, Joseph and Benjamin."

He married (1) \_\_\_ and (2), by 1 Oct. 1677,<sup>11</sup> Sarah (\_\_\_) Brown, who gave bond as his relict, 2 Feb. 1684/5,<sup>12</sup> kept the county ferry until 1693,<sup>13</sup> and left will 4 Feb. 1701/2-1 Oct. 1704.<sup>14</sup> As the "Widdo Woodson" she was listed with 650 acres on the 1704 quit rent roll for Henrico County.

Issue: (by 1) 5. JOHN<sup>3</sup>; 6. Robert<sup>3</sup>, mentioned in his father's will as having "laboured three years for himself," deposed, 1 April 1687, that he was aged about 23,<sup>15</sup> given 106 acres by his brother John Woodson, "wheelwright," 2 June 1690,<sup>16</sup> not mentioned in the 1785 account and probably died young and without issue.

3. ROBERT<sup>2</sup> WOODSON (John<sup>1</sup>) deposed, June 1680, that he was "46

<sup>1</sup> Henry Morton Woodson, *Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and Their Connections* (Memphis, 1915); W(1) IX, pp. 254-56; W(1) X, pp. 44-48; W(1) XI, pp. 50-58; W(1) XXIV, pp. 282-84; *Va. Papers*, III, pp. 1814-2069; Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis, *Tidewater Virginia Families, A Social History* (Urbanna, Va., 1989), pp. 455-74. Twenty of the twenty-five charter members of the Order of First Families of Virginia were descendants of John<sup>1</sup> Woodson.

<sup>2</sup> Hotten, p. 172.

<sup>3</sup> Woodson Pedigree, original paper, Archives Division, Library of Virginia, Acc. 29437-39. It was edited by Robert Alonzo Brock and published in the *Richmond Standard*, 17 Jan. 1880, with Brock's additions unindicated; a more nearly accurate version appears in W(1) XI, pp. 54-58, with notes. This paper says that John Woodson came from Dorsetshire and his wife from Devonshire, that he was a surgeon and that they had sons Robert and John born in Virginia.

<sup>4</sup> Henrico Co. Wills & Deeds 1677-92, p. 102. Curles was on the north side of James River near Flowerdew Hundred.

<sup>5</sup> Woodson, *op. cit.*, pp. 21-22. The tradition states he was killed within sight of his own house and that those within the house fought off the attackers and Mrs. Woodson hid one son in a tub and the other in a potato hole. The gun said to have been used in 1644 is at the Virginia Historical Society, although its dating that early is questioned.

<sup>6</sup> Perhaps Francis Dunwell, mentioned as deceased when, 29 July 1669, his son [by a previous marriage?], John Dunwell, sold land as his heir (Byrd Title Book, in V XLVIII, pp. 35-37).

<sup>7</sup> Henrico Co. Miscellaneous Court Records I, pp. 13-14; see Catherine E. Whitten and Joida Whitten, "Is This Sarah Woodson, Widow of Dr. John Woodson?," *The Virginia Genealogist*, XX, pp. 3-7.

<sup>8</sup> Charles<sup>5</sup> Woodson was born about 1711; his father, Tarleton<sup>4</sup> Woodson, born in the 1680s, died in 1763; his father, John<sup>3</sup> Woodson, died in 1715, but a short period after the death of his father, Robert<sup>2</sup> Woodson, so that Charles<sup>5</sup> Woodson had an excellent opportunity to learn from his ancestors.

<sup>9</sup> Henrico Co. Wills & Deeds 1677-92, p. 155.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 279.

<sup>11</sup> Henrico Co. Orphans Court Bk. 1677-1739, p. 1.

<sup>12</sup> Henrico Co. Wills & Deeds 1677-92, p. 295-b.

<sup>13</sup> Henrico Co. Order Bk. 1678-93, p. 445.

<sup>14</sup> Henrico Co. Wills & Deeds 1697-1704, p. 427. For her children by John Brown see BAILEY-COCKE, note 15).

<sup>15</sup> Henrico Co. Wills & Deeds 1677-92, p. 424.

<sup>16</sup> Henrico Co. Deeds & Wills 1688-97, p. 131.