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# THE PENDARVIS FAMILY

## ORANGEBURGH GATEWAY TO THE BACKCOUNTRY

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OGSGS was founded to study the history of the German-Swiss settlers for whom Orangeburgh Township was founded. However, important as they were, the Swiss were only one part of the earliest Orangeburg community.

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There were also individuals and families from the coast, people who were largely cattle raisers and traders with inland Indians. Some petitioned for land even before the Swiss arrived. Others arrived soon after. In many cases, they were linked together as friends or family before arriving in Orangeburgh. They all became one community.



## ORANGEBURGH: THE PENDARVIS CHILDREN AND THE HASFORTS

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As Orangeburgh began to be settled in the mid-1730's, six Pendarvis children arrived as wards of Joseph Hasfort and his wife, Hannah Goring [Keys] [Pendarvis] Hasfort.

Joseph petitioned for 800 acres of land in Orangeburgh on 8 June 1738, acreage reflecting a large, but blended, family. Who were these people and why were they moving to the “Gateway to the Backcountry?”

We'll begin with the arrival of the Pendarvis and West families as founders of Charles Town and among the earliest settlers of the colony. The history of their descendants tells us a great deal about the complicated history of South Carolina.

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## PENDARVIS ORIGINS

Joseph Pendarvis I was born in about 1645. He arrived in Charles Town on 14 Aug 1671 on the *Blessing*.

Elizabeth, who was to become his wife, had already arrived in the First Fleet from Barbados in 1670 with her daughter Priscilla. John and Elizabeth married before 26 July 1672.

The Pendarvis family was from Cornwall, England. Joseph's most likely origin is as a son or nephew of Anabaptist minister John Pendarvis and his well-educated wife Thomasine Newcomen, who in 1652 inherited a ship named the *Blessing*.

Joseph Pendarvis I was identified in records as a tanner. John and Thomasine's son Thomas was similarly identified as a tanner-merchant.

## JOSEPH PENDARVIS I

Joseph Pendarvis apparently went to Barbados in about 1669 but never established a home there. He was identified as a servant (possibly an apprentice) when he arrived in Charles Town, but that designation ended within a year.

He first received 250 acres of land at Oyster Point. By 1694 he owned all of the west-facing lots on Church St. north of Queen Street as well as other properties in and around the Charleston Peninsula.

Joseph was one of the receivers of funds raised for an expedition from Carolina against the Spaniards at St. Augustine in October of 1686.

He was elected to the Colonial Assembly in January 1693. He had prospered in this new colony.

## JOSEPH PENDARVIS I ESTATE

Joseph Pendarvis' will is dated 19 Nov 1694 and was proved 10 Jan 1694/5.

He bequeathed to his children three plantations on the Charleston Peninsula and on the Wando River, four town lots, and three houses in Charles Town, ten enslaved persons, livestock, and valuable personal goods including silver.

Administrators of Joseph's estate were James Moore, Esq. and John Ladson, both very prominent individuals in the young colony. James Moore, Sr., became President of the Council and Acting Governor of Carolina Province 1700-1703. John Ladson became a leading member of the Royal Assembly in the 1690s.

## WEST ORIGINS

The other founding ancestors of the Pendarvis line in South Carolina were Samuel West and his wife, Sarah. Their daughter, Mary West married John Pendarvis, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Pendarvis.

Samuel West's parents were John West and his wife Sarah Hatley of Croxton, Cambridge. His ancestors have been traced in Croxton to Thomas West the Elder, born 1490-1500.

John West was baptized 29 Sep 1596 and received a Master of Arts degree at Trinity College, Cambridge University, in 1621.

He married Sarah Hatley on 14 Feb 1619/20. He was ordained a priest of the Church of England on 26 Sep 1622 and served parishes in Cambridgeshire. At least one of Samuel West's brothers, Benjamin, also later graduated from Trinity.

## SAMUEL WEST

Samuel West and his wife Sarah [Nichols] arrived in Carolina on the *Carolina*, accompanied by two servants, in 1670.

In that year Samuel was elected by his fellow settlers as one of the five commoner members of the Grand Council of the Carolinas under South Carolina's first constitution, *The Fundamental Constitutions*. He was reelected in 1672 served in that role through 1677.

West ultimately was granted or owned multiple properties in Charles Town and on the Charleston Peninsula including a grant on the peninsula near the similar Pendarvis property.

He died by 1706.





SECOND  
GENERATION:  
JOHN AND MARY  
PENDARVIS

- John Pendarvis, son of Joseph Pendarvis and Elizabeth Pendarvis, was born in about 1673 and died 14 Feb 1723/3.
- John married Mary West in about 1695 and they had four children together.
- They were dissenters who participated in the Quaker meeting in Charleston.
- John served in the 9th Assembly of the Commons House in 1707.
- He added to the Pendarvis properties on the Charleston Peninsula. John's will refers to living on his property on "the Broad Path." That is now King Street on the Charleston Peninsula.



# 1ST AND 2<sup>ND</sup> GENERATION PENDARVIS AND WEST PROPERTIES ON THE CHARLESTON PENINSULA

## Town Grants

Joseph Pendarvis  
 Lot 45 (?)  
 Lot 66 (1682) (NE  
 corner Queen and Church)  
 Lot 67 (1694)  
 (N of 66)  
 Lot 217 (1694) (N  
 of 67)  
 Lot 218 (1694) (N  
 of 217)

## Samuel West

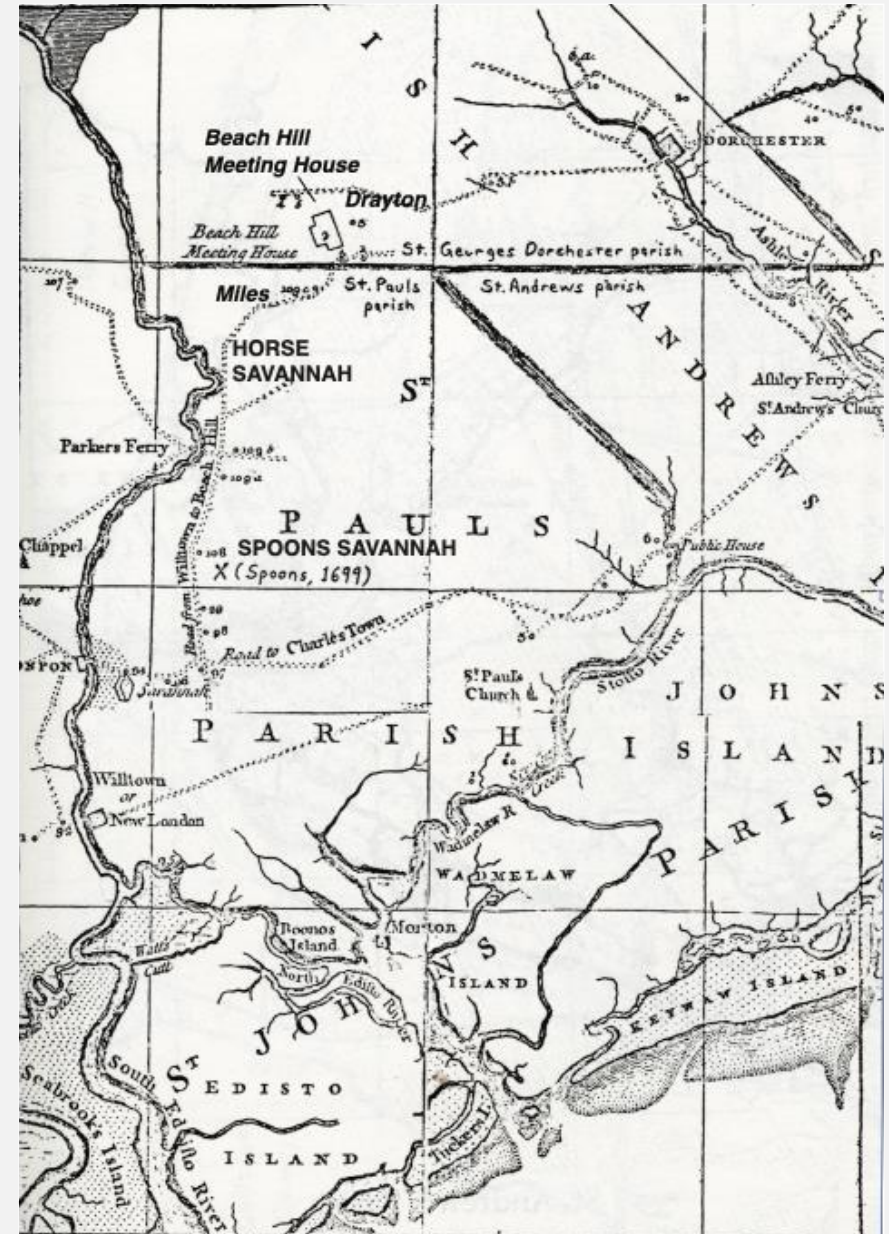
Samuel West II  
 Lot 92 (1701)  
 (NE corner Meeting  
 and Tradd)



PENDARVIS  
PROPERTIES  
OUTSIDE THE  
CHARLESTON  
PENINSULA

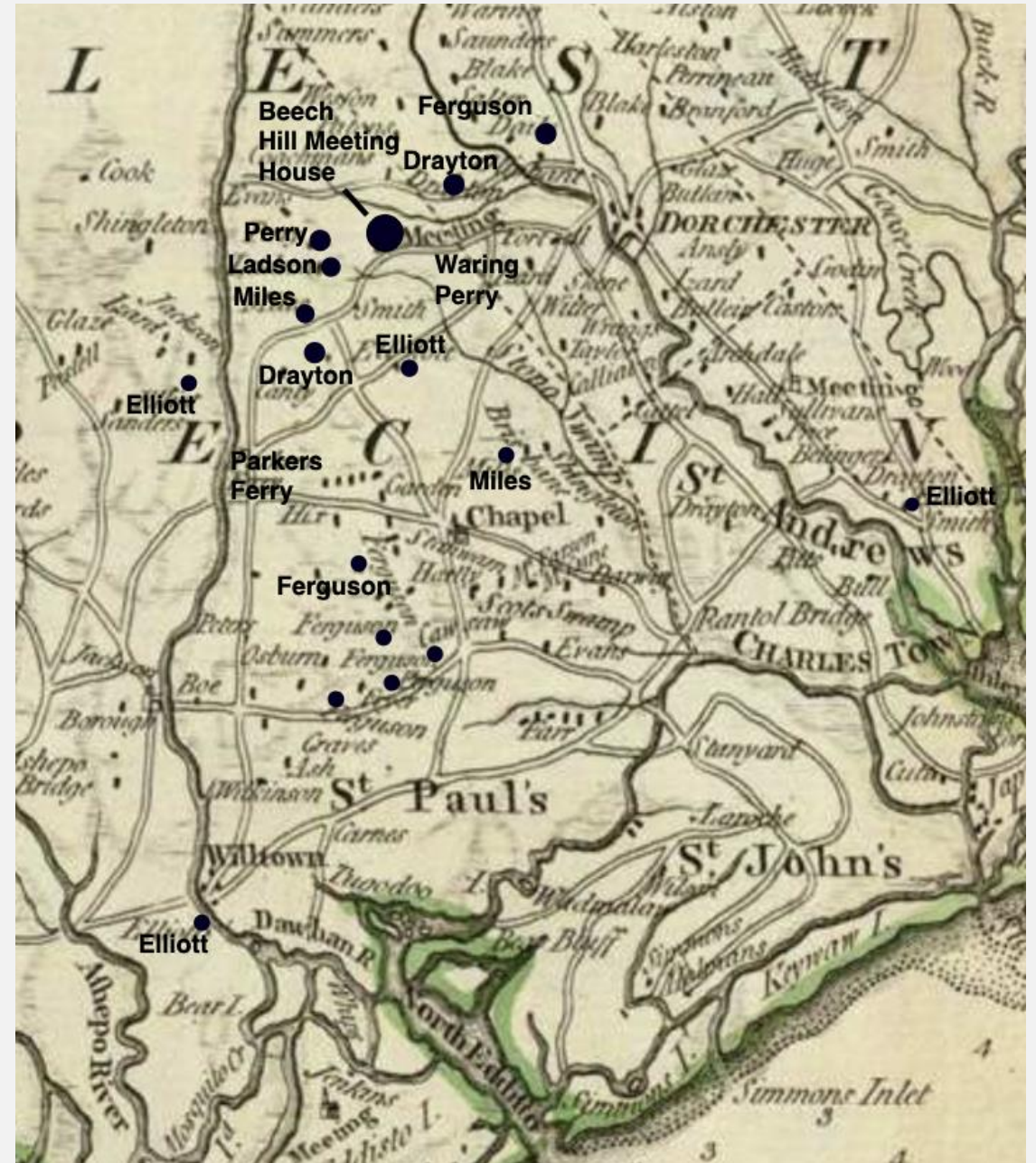
- John also acquired several thousand acres of land in Charleston, Berkeley, and Colleton (now Dorchester) counties through a series of grants, adding to his inherited inventory.
- These properties included 1000 acres of land fronting south on Spoons Savannah and west on Greens Savannah in St. Paul's Parish, Colleton County. This was later bequeathed to his son Joseph.
- A 1718 plat map shows John Pendarvis' property adjacent William Elliott, Susanna Carns, John Miles, John Drayton, and Henry Nichols in St. Paul's Parish, Colleton County.
- A 1784 deed mentions James Pendarvis (John's grandson) and also references John Drayton and John Miles on "the Horse Savannah in St. Pauls Parish on the Public Road Leading to Parker's Ferry." So, in that generation there was also land on Horse Savannah.

SPOONS AND HORSE  
SAVANNAHS,  
BEACH HILL  
MEETING HOUSE





# PENDARVIS NEIGHBORS



## JOHN AND 2<sup>ND</sup> WIFE HANNAH PENDARVIS

- Mary West Pendarvis died by 1719. John then married on 13 May 1721 Hannah Goring, widow of John Keys, with whom he had one child, Josiah.
- In 1722 John was removed from the Quaker Meeting in Charles Town, probably because of a discrepancy regarding money.
- John's will was dated 15 Sep 1719. He died on 14 Feb 1723/24.
- He left to his "loving son Joseph the house, out-houses, & plantation I now dwell in, with all my lands on this side of the broad-path fronting upon Ashley River." [The Broad Path became King Street in Charleston; it ran the length of the peninsula.] He also bequeathed to Joseph "one thousand Acres of Land purchased by me of the pprters of this Province and is fronting Weswd upon a Savanna commonly called Green's Savanah, to the Southwd upon Spoon's Savannah."
- After John's death Hannah Goring [Keys] [Pendarvis] remarried on 26 Sep 1725 to her third husband, Joseph Hasfort. This was to prove a crucial turning point in the Pendarvis family path to Orangeburgh.

## ENDURING EARLY MYSTERIES: TWO PUZZLES, ONE FAMILY NETWORK

- Connections with the Butler family are both puzzling and very interesting evidence of early Pendarvis kinship networks. We do not have unambiguous documentation of the maiden name of the wives of Richard and Shem Butler and are uncertain of the surname of Samuel West II's wife. However, we know that the Butlers had multiple connections with the Pendarvis and West families.
- In his will John Pendarvis referred to Richard Butler as a brother-in-law. The most likely explanation is that John's sister Mary remarried to Richard following the death of her first husband, Giles Tidmarsh, in 1699. However, this is not proven.
- Also, Shem Butler referred to Samuel West II as his brother-in-law in his 1718 will, mentioning him along with his brother Richard Butler and his son-in-law Edmund Bellinger. It is possible that West's wife Sarah was a Butler, or that Shem's wife was a West, but neither identity is documented independently of the wills. (Bellinger was the Landgrave Edmund Bellinger. "Landgrave" was a title of nobility under the Proprietors' *Fundamental Constitutions*.)



THIRD GENERATION:  
THE CHILDREN OF  
JOHN PENDARVIS  
WITH MARY WEST  
(1-4) AND HANNAH  
GORING (5)

- **1. Joseph Pendarvis, ca 1699-1735, never married**
- 2. Benjamin Pendarvis, ca 1701-1734/35, no issue
- 3. Mary Pendarvis, ca 1705-bef 1732 m. 30 Jul 1723 Thomas John Elliott (d. 1732)
  - John Pendarvis Elliott, died young
  - Edmund Elliott, died young
  - Mary Elliott, died young
  - Amarenthia Elliott, m. Rawlins Lowndes, died young adult without issue
- 4. John Pendarvis, ca 1703-1723/24, no issue
- 5. Josiah Pendarvis, b. 16 Oct 1722, d. ca 1785, chose Joseph Hasfort as his guardian in 1737, 1) m. ca 1743 Elizabeth Baker, 2) m. ca 1750 Mary Bedon, moved to Beaufort County, 3) m. Elizabeth Harris Stover
  - Richard Pendarvis (24 Jan 1744-13 Apr 1781, no issue, "Tory Dick")
  - Mary Pendarvis, 1747, died young
  - Josiah Pendarvis, 1754-ca 1820, m 1778 Elizabeth Louisa Stobo, in 1802 assumed his mother's maiden name, Bedon
  - Elizabeth Pendarvis (23 Mar 1755-5 Apr 1804, m. 1770 Josiah Bryan, m. 1776 John Screven

## JOSEPH PENDARVIS II

- Joseph Pendarvis II, oldest son of John and Mary West Pendarvis, was born in about 1699.
- Joseph inherited from his father 1009 acres in Colleton County near Green's Savannah, 117 acres in Berkeley County, and a 200-acre plantation on Charleston Neck.
- Joseph never married, but his will, dated 11 Feb 1735/6, proved 17 Mar 1735/6, named his seven "children of a Negro woman named **Parthena**, deceased, that lived with me."
- The inventory of his father John's estate, 1724, lists "Negro woman Pothenia and child." Joseph manumitted (freed) Parthena and her children 8 Mar 1734/5, apparently less than a year before her death.

## WHO WAS PARTHENA

- Parthena was listed in John Pendarvis' will as Pothenia, with a young boy who was almost certainly her oldest with Joseph Pendarvis II, James Pendarvis.
- Parthena became the mother of Joseph's seven children.
- Parthena was manumitted along with her children on 8 Mar 1734/35.
- She was deceased by 1735, as indicated in the will of Joseph Pendarvis II. Her last child, Elizabeth, was born in about 1734 and apparently died in infancy.
- It has been reported that a mitochondrial DNA (mt DNA) test of a direct female line descendant of Parthena matched that found among the Kanuri people. The Kanuri claim descent from the Kanem-Bornu Empire in the Sahel region, a 16<sup>th</sup> century state at the terminus of a major trans-Saharan trade route. They later moved to Lake Chad in northeastern Nigeria. However, analyses of autosomal DNA (at DNA) of Parthena's descendants' point to her possibly having had both North African and West African ancestry.

## JOSEPH'S WILL

- The will of Joseph Pendarvis II left his possessions to Childermas Croft of Charles Town and to John “Hyne” [Hearn] in trust for his children with the “Negro Woman named Parthena that lived with me:” James, Brand, William, John, Thomas, Mary, and Elizabeth.
- These included:
  - 1009 acres in St. Paul’s Parish, apparently the same property left to Joseph by his father. The description is as follows: “Plantation or Tract of Land Containing One Thousand and Nine Acres situate, lying and being in Colleton County near Green’s Savannah Butting and bounding to the Northward on Land of Elisha Carlisle. To the Westward pm Greens Savannah aforesaid, to the southward on Land of Wm. Miles and to the Eastward on Land of x x x [Thomas – Anne] Drayton Together with all Houses out Houses appurtenances and Heriditaments Whatsoever thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining “This appears to be the Beach Hill property.
  - 11 enslaved persons: Peter, Sampson, Tony, Cesar, Hercules, Cain, Floro, Hannah, Caty, Swarry, and Horry
  - 175 acres on Charles Town Neck “on the Eastermost side of the Broad Path Butting and Bounding to the Northward and Westward on Land Lately Belonging to Thomas Elliott deceased to the South Eastward side on James Mclothin, to the Southward on Nathaniel Partridges Land to the Eastward on Town Creek,” with its houses and other appurtenances
  - 4 head of horses and 20 head of cattle and all equipment and utensils at Greens Savannah plantation
  - All “the rest and Residue of my Slaves and Cattle and Other my Personal Estate”

## WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JOSEPH AND PARTHENIA?

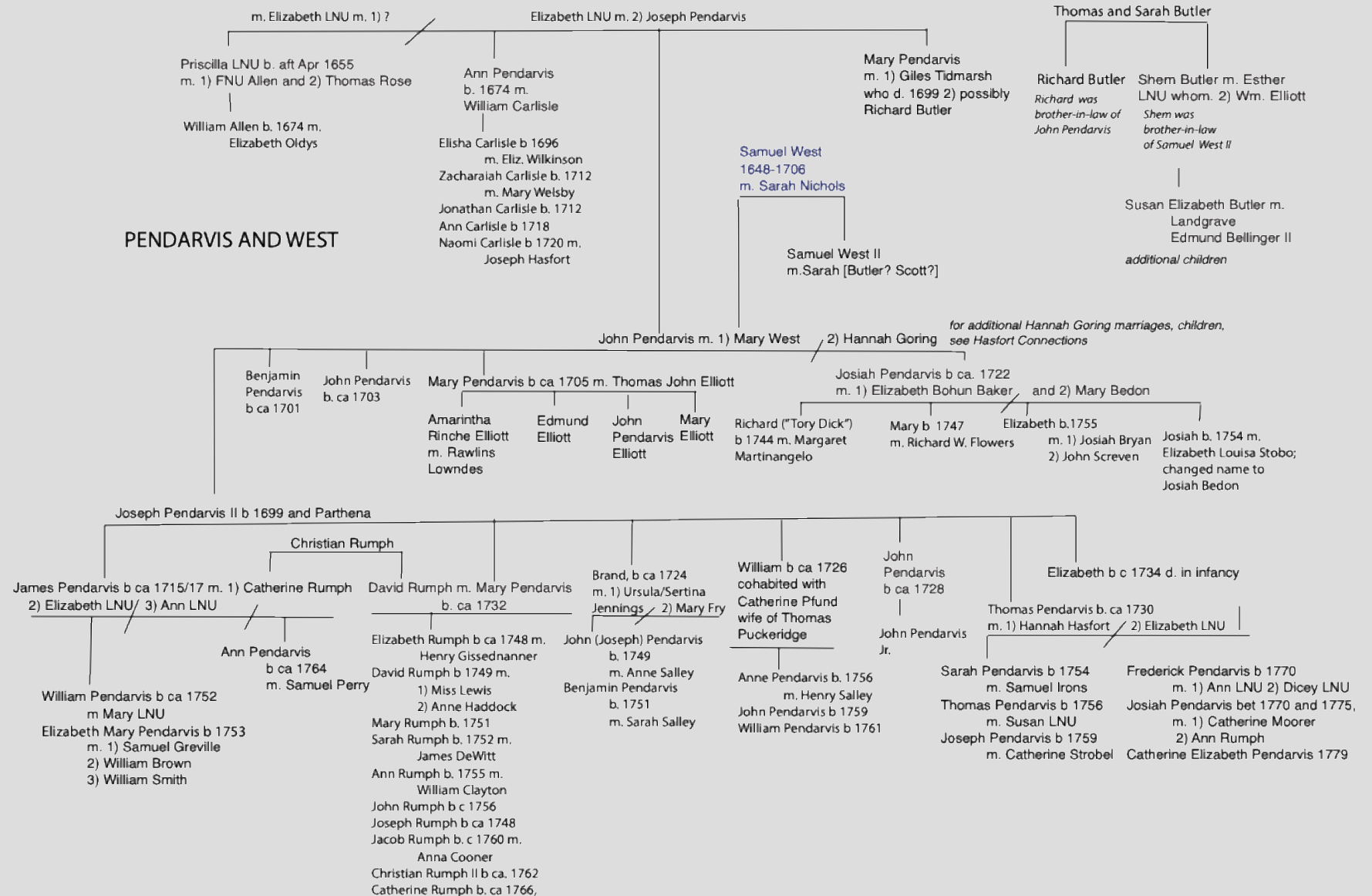
- The evidence points toward Joseph genuinely caring for Parthena and his children with her.
- There is a personal provision in his will:
  - “It is my Will that Sambo, my old Negro Man and Phillis, my old Negro Woman Shall have their Freedom upon Condition that they do always live on my said plantation at Green's Savanna with the aforesaid Children and do also pay my Executors five Shillings per annum apiece during their Lives.”
- Joseph's not acknowledging the children as his own in his will can be attributed to a provision of colonial law in South Carolina that prohibited leaving more than 25% of one's estate to illegitimate children. However, one could leave everything to people with whom one claimed no kinship at all. So, Joseph did precisely that.
- Parthena's feelings are forever unknown. There was a vast power differential in relationships under slavery. She left no written record and we have no grounds to speculate on her feelings.
- However, it was probably comforting to her to know that her children would suffer neither enslavement or poverty.

## FOURTH GENERATION: THE CHILDREN

The couple had 7 children, of whom 6 survived to adulthood.

- James Pendarvis b. bet 1715-1717, d bet 22 Aug 1796 – 5 Jul 1797 St. Paul's Parish, Colleton Co, SC.
- Brand Pendarvis b. bet 1716-1718, Charleston Co, d. bet 28 Apr – 1 Dec 1788, Fork of Edisto
- William Pendarvis b. bet 1717-1719 Charleston, SC, d. 1880-1810, probably Fork of the Edisto, Orangeburg,
- John Pendarvis b. bet 1718-1720, Charleston County, SC., d. aft. 19 Mar 1795, probably Fork of the Edisto,
- Thomas Pendarvis b. bet 1720-1734 Charleston, SC, d. bet 25 Oct 1781-16 Mar 1783, St. George Parish, SC
- Mary Pendarvis b. 1722-1733 Charleston, SC, d. bet 1793-19 Mar 1795, St. George Parish
- Elizabeth b. bet 8 Mar 1735-11 Feb 1736 Charleston, SC, d. bet 15 Apr 1736-1754 [probably in infancy]

# THE PENDARVIS AND WEST FAMILIES



## THE TRUSTEES: A NETWORK OF FAMILY GUARDIANS

Joseph died young but planned carefully for his family. There is history behind Joseph's choice of John Hearn and Childermas Croft as trustees for his estate to ensure that the children inherited as intended,

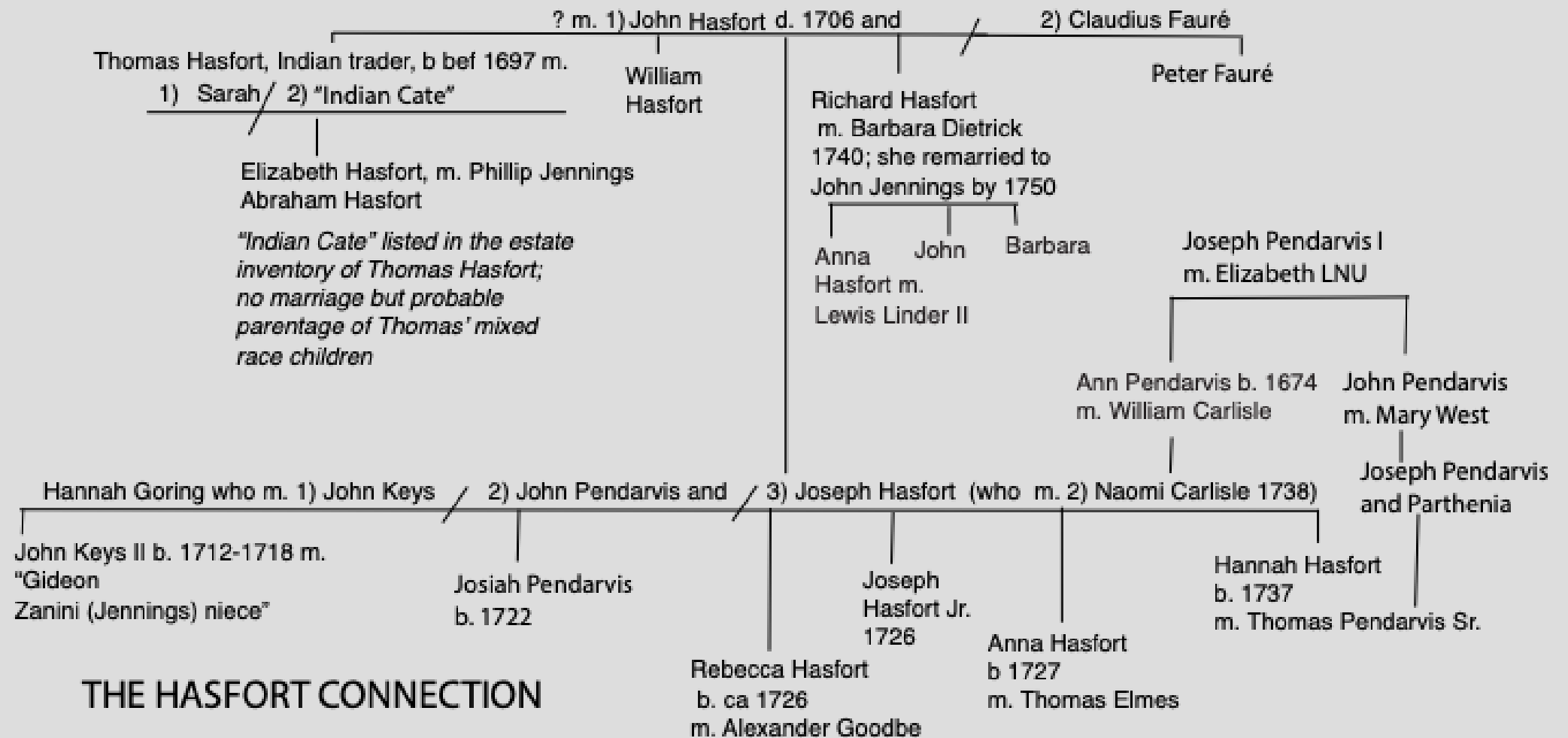
The story begins with John Hearn, Sr., killed by Indians in 1715 at his fort and trading post between the modern towns of Holly Hill and Eutawville. Fellow trader Thomas Hasfort then became the guardian of Hearn's son, John.

John Hearn, Jr. then in turn in 1735 became a trustee of Joseph Pendarvis' children. They were being cared for in the household of Joseph Hasfort, brother of Hearn's own earlier trustee, Thomas Hasfort.

Childermas Croft was an attorney who served as Secretary of Indian Affairs 1732-34 and Clerk of the Commons House of Assembly 1739-1742. He was probably selected for his legal expertise.

Joseph's cautious choice of trustees was well-advised. Rawlins Lowndes, husband of Joseph's niece Amarintha Elliott, attempted to challenge Joseph's will. He lost.





# HASFORT CONNECTIONS

## MOVING TO ORANGEBURGH

- Following the deaths of Parthena and Joseph in 1734/35, the six surviving Pendarvis children were taken to Orangeburgh Township by their step-grandmother Hannah Goring [Keys] [Pendarvis] Hasfort and her husband Joseph Hasfort.
- Josiah Pendarvis, Hannah's son with John Pendarvis who was younger than the other Pendarvis children, was doubtless also in the Orangeburgh household.
- John Keys, Hannah's son with her first husband, was old enough to live independently. However, the Giessendanner records show that he married "the niece of Gideon Zanini [Jennings]," reflecting a continuing Orangeburgh presence.
- The available evidence indicates that Joseph's children and grandchildren had amicable relations with most of Josiah's family and other family relatives and friends.

## THE SWISS AND THE PENDARVIS FAMILY

- The Swiss experience of people of African descent is revealed in a 1738 letter by Jakob Gallmann of Saxe Gotha to his godparents in Switzerland. Gallmann said:
  - “Annabeli ... Has 20 head of cattle and many horses, also many pigs. She has 3 ... black people or Moors that one buys. They bring whole shiploads from Affrica, and one of them costs 100 to 200 pounds [depending on] how they are, this year there are a great many.”

Gallmann's letter tells us that slavery came as something of a surprise to the Swiss and required some explanation, but at the same time shows that they rapidly accepted and adopted slavery for their own benefit.

On the other hand, prominent members of the Swiss community married the Pendarvis children. Their cultural understanding could encompass people of different descent in a variety of social rolls. They did not see African ancestry as inextricably linked to chattel slavery.

## THE PENDAVIS CHILDREN'S MARRIAGES

Swiss families (Rumph, Jennings, Pfund, and probably more among the LNU spouses) are well represented in the marriages of the Pendarvis children, although the Swiss were not unique in marrying into the family.

- James Pendarvis m. 1) Catherine Rumph, 2) Elizabeth LNU, 3) Mary LNU.
- Brand Pendarvis m 1) Ursula/Ursetta Jennings [Zanini] 2) Mary Fry
- William Pendarvis m. 1) ? 2) ? 3) Catherine Pfund
- John Pendarvis m. 1) FNU Hughes
- Thomas Pendarvis m. 1) Hannah Hasfort (dau. of Joseph and Hannah Goring Hasfort) 2) Elizabeth LNU
- Mary Pendarvis m. 1) David Rumph
- Elizabeth probably d. infancy, no marriage

## JAMES PENDARVIS

- James Pendarvis (1715-1796) of St. Paul's Parish, Colleton County, is the best documented of the children. He cultivated rice and was a prominent member of the white community.
- James married first Catherine Rumph, daughter of Christian Rumph and sister of David Rumph who married James' sister Mary. He second married Elizabeth LNU and third Ann LNU.
- He was a member of the Stono District, St. Paul's Parish, militia in 1746.
- James was described simply as "Negro" in a 1794 reference by French nobleman, Duke de la Rouchefoucault Liancourt. The Duke observed that an emancipated "Negro" man named "Pindiam" [James Pendarvis] was so successful that he was able to break racial barriers.
- The federal censuses of 1790 and 1800 list James not as a free Negro, but as a white man.
- James had children:
  - .Ann Pendarvis married Samuel Perry
  - Mary Pendarvis married a planter named Thomas Smith, Jr.
  - William, Sr. married Mary LNU

## JAMES PENDARVIS AND THE COMMUNITY

- The *South Carolina Gazette* has multiple advertisements by “Pendarvis” for runaway slaves between 1736 and 1749.
- The 1786 tax list for St. Paul’s Parish, Charleston District, shows that James paid taxes on 113 enslaved persons and a plantation that contained 3,250 acres of land.
- Elizabeth Poyas, in her book *Our Forefathers: Their Homes and Churches* notes that James Pendarvis was among those in 1794 providing original funding of the Congregational Church at Dorchester along with the prominent Waring, Smith, and Ball families.
- At his death in 1796 James Pendarvis left an estate valued at 5,987 pounds sterling and 15 shillings. This consisted of two plantations, Leggs and Beech Hill, land on or near the Horse Savannah and Spoon Savanna in Colleton County that contained more than 3,000 acres of land. His livestock included 2 horses, 99 head of cattle, and 107 oxen. He enslaved 155 persons.
- James was the wealthiest Black planter in South Carolina, possibly in the nation.

A FALSE FAMILY TREE:  
ALEXANDER SALLEY  
AND "TORY DICK"  
PENDARVIS

- Alexander Salley attempted to trace the Pendarvis family of Orangeburg – of which he was a descendant – to Josiah Pendarvis' son Richard ("Tory Dick"). Not true.
- A document dated 1783 shows that Richard Pendarvis in fact had NO children to inherit his properties. His estate was confiscated by the State but later claimed by Richard Bohum Baker who stated that: "Immediately on the death of the said Richard the Lands descended to Mary Flowers an infant, niece to the said Richard, and as she is now dead without Issue and Unmarried, and as there are no heirs left of the whole Blood on the part of the said Richard's Father, and as the said Richard's mother was own Aunt to your Petitioner, he is advised and believed that he is Heir at Law ..."

## THE PENDARVIS FAMILY STORY CONTINUES

- The Pendarvis children were rapidly assimilated into the community of planters. One of the six, John Pendarvis, was listed as a mulatto after he was said to have helped foment a slave rebellion. However, members of the family were usually simply identified as white.
- South Carolina was never subject to a “one drop” rule. A Barnwell County legal dispute in 1837 involving Paul Johnson, a witness to the will of John Tucker, shows that there was explicit legal recognition that race is what people in the community say it is, a social construct.
- Descendants of the Pendarvis family became farmers, politicians, soldiers, teachers, businesspeople, and at least one archaeologist.
- It is only recently that there has been more appreciation for stories like that of the Pendarvis family, which provides a very revealing look at the people and formative communities of early South Carolina. We shortchange ourselves if we fail to appreciate it in all its complexity.