

Concerning Landgrave Smith

State - May 14, 1933

Some Old Records Compiled by Leize F. B. Lockwood (Mrs. J. Palmer Lockwood) of Florence—Medway, the Landgrave's House on Back River, Which Still Stands.

Thomas Smith, the father of Landgrave and Governor Thomas Smith (like several other influential men of that time) was commander of a merchant vessel.

Joan Smith must have gone with her husband, Thomas Smith, on a voyage, as we see by a page in an old Bible, that their son, "Thomas Smith was born in Madagascar, and came to Carolina in 1684."

The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine (volume 13, page 13) says that Thomas Smith and Barbara his wife, arrived with Thomas and George Smith and others, June, 1684.

McCrady (1670-1719) says that Charles II of England granted to eight of his supporters, the province of Carolina March 24, 1663.

One of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina was Anthony Ashley Cooper, Lord Ashley; after whom the Cooper and Ashley rivers have been named. He was a constant friend and patron of the philosopher John Locke, to whom was committed, the framing of the fundamental laws, for government of the province.

Another of the Lords Proprietors was William, Earle of Craven. He had been elevated to the peerage by Charles I. As he was the eldest of the Lords Proprietors, he was made palatine.

McCrady (p. 97) 1670-1790: Besides the Lords Proprietors, the nobility was to consist of Landgraves and cassiques, the Proprietors having stipulated that the titles of nobility that were to be granted, should be unlike the existing British titles. The title landgrave was borrowed from the old German courts, and that of cassique from the Indians. There were to be as many landgraves, as there were counties, and twice as many cassiques. These were to constitute the hereditary nobility of the province, and by their dignity to be members of the provincial parliament. Each landgrave was to have four baronies, each barony to consist of 12,000 acres of land, or 48,000 acres for a landgrave. Each cassique was to have two baronies or 24,000 acres of land.

Thomas Smith was created landgrave, which entitled him to four baronies, or 48,000 acres of land. His patent of landgrave was dated May 13, 1691.

The family tradition is that Landgrave Thomas Smith chose some of his land on Back river and built the first brick house outside of Charles Town, which is still standing.

His eldest son, Thomas Smith, was married in 1690, and took his wife to live with his father. We have since found out that she was Dutch from Holland, Anna Cornelia Van Myddagh.

The family tradition is that Governor Thomas Smith originated the method of drawing juries by ballot. This tradition has been acknowledged by McCrady (volume 1670-1719, page 250; also in index).

Governor Thomas Smith did not introduce rice into Carolina, but introduced a better grade of rice, larger and longer. All experts realize that there are several grades of rice in South Carolina. The rice industry has declined in South Carolina.

In 1930 Louisiana led in rice production. Arkansas was second, Texas, third. California grew its first commercial crop in 1912, in its fertile Sacramento valley; and already has a larger average production per acre than any other state.

Landgrave Thomas Smith was made

governor of Carolina, by the Grand Council in May, 1693. The Lords Proprietors sent him a commission bearing date of November 9, 1693. He worked hard trying to relieve the distress of his people over quit-rents, etc.

He wrote to the Proprietors requesting that they send over one of their number, who would have power to act.

John Archdale was appointed to come to the rescue. But he stopped on the way and visited in Virginia for nearly a year. Governor Smith was taken ill, and fearing that no one could qualify as his successor, because of not being a landgrave, and knowing that Joseph Blake, his friend, was an honorable man, but not a landgrave. Smith made a codicil to his will, leaving his patent of landgrave to Joseph Blake, so that he would be able to take the office of governor. But Landgrave Smith could not will his title as landgrave to another. It had to go to his eldest son.

Landgrave and Governor Thomas Smith died November 16, 1694, and is buried on his Back River plantation. He is the only person buried there.

Joseph Blake was elected by the Grand Council to succeed Smith, and he himself was succeeded by Archdale in 1695. On August 30, 1696, after Blake had been appointed deputy governor by his successor Archdale, Blake deeded the landgraveship back to the eldest son, Thomas Smith, who then became the second Landgrave Thomas

Smith. He was married in 1690 to Anna Cornelia Van Myddagh, who had come from Holland.

He built his Goose Creek mansion, and moved into it in 1695. His brother, George Smith, became a captain of militia early in life.

George Smith married Dorothy Archar from Jamaica. They bought land on the Cooper river from James Risbee (about one mile from the Goose Creek mansion) and built their brick home near the river, and called it Palmetto plantation. Later George Smith went to the old country and studied medicine in Edinburgh.

The United States government purchased Palmetto, during the World war, filled in the marsh land, and built on this property the tremendous Port Terminals. They had railroad tracks run down to the Cooper river. Many transports landed there, bringing our boys home from France, after the Armistice was signed, November 11, 1918.

Some of Our History.

Submarine like airplane has long been the dream of man. The first vessel of this type is said to have been constructed by a Dutchman, Cornelius Van Dribbel, in 1624.

The first submarine to be used successfully in war was when the little David succeeded in wrecking the Housatonic, in Charleston harbor, during the Confederate war.

"Defence of Charleston Harbor" by John Johnson, pp. 30-31; also appendix. The New International Encyclopedia, vol. 22, page 352).

Although the little David sent several crews to the bottom, there were always brave men there to volunteer their service. There is a monument on the Battery in Charleston to tell of their deeds.

North and South Carolina, which long had separate governors, officially became distinct provinces, when the transfer of Carolina, to the Royal government was completed. The colony was divided officially in 1710. (The New International Encyclopedia vol-

ume 21). While Gen. William Moultrie was governor, 1785-1787, the general assembly voted to establish a town on the Congaree river, and call it Columbia, and make it the state's capital, instead of Charleston (which name had been changed from Charles Town), as Columbia was in the center of the state, easy of access to the Up-country and Low-country.

In 1800 John Drayton became governor, on the death of Edward Rutledge; was re-elected the following year. Upon his recommendation, the general assembly established the South Carolina college at Columbia, in 1801.

The first steam railroad to run in the United States was that of the South Carolina Canal and Railroad company, which extended between Charleston and Hamburg, a town on the Savannah river, opposite Augusta, Ga. The money was raised entirely in South Carolina.

Josiah Smith.

Josiah Smith, great-grandson of Dr. George Smith, was for years deacon of the Congregational church; he was a merchant of Charles Town: of the firm of Smith, De Saussure and Darrell.

D. E. Huger Smith in the "Dwelling Houses of Charleston," page 177, says, "it must not be forgotten, that the marsh land, which extended up between the west side of Meeting street and King street, nearly to Smith's Lane (now east Lamboll) had been filled up before 1770, by the enterprise of Josiah Smith (out of his own pocket) at an expense of 1,200 pounds sterling."

He built his home there. (Pages 195-196, "Dwelling Houses of Charleston.") In 1916 this house belonged to the Charleston club. It was purchased from Josiah Smith in 1800 by Wilson Glover.

As Mr. Huger Smith had supposed that Mr. Glover had built the house, I went to see him, and showed him a copy of a paper in which Josiah Smith had ordered flooring boards, for his own use, from New Bern, N. C.

I then had a letter from Mr. D. E. Huger Smith stating that after my visit, he went again and looked up the record, and was convinced that what Mr. Glover had paid for the property in 1800, was very much more than he would have paid, for just the land; and that he would ask for space to correct this, in the South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine. (Which he did in volume 19, page 85).

Mrs. Charles Tennent Brown (Sarah Eliza Smith) was born March 1, 1793, in her grandfather, Josiah Smith's, home on Meeting street.

Josiah Smith was appointed cashier of the Branch Bank of the United States in Charles Town. Money had been missing from time to time; at last the culprit was found; as Josiah Smith was cashier he sold his home on Meeting street, and paid up all indebtedness and let the culprit go—"scott free." This bank was at the northeast corner of Broad and State streets.

Josiah Smith and others were taken up early in the morning out of their beds, taken to the Exchange by armed parties, whence, collected together, were removed on board the guardship Sandwich, and in a few days were transported to St. Augustine by the British (Ramsay's History of the Revolution, volume 1, page 371).

Olden Times of Carolina.

Mrs. Poyas in "Olden Times of Carolina," says on page 15 that the city square was originally the graveyard for the first St. Philip's church, which was built on the spot where St. Michael's now stands, in Charleston. A burial ground for all denominations was commenced, west of Archdale street, in the woods, extending up to Beaufain street, where was the pasture of the first parsonage, then down to Queen street, then as far west as should be required. The accidental blowing up of the

Magazine, in the street of that name, May, 1780.

A Journal.

A scrap of the diary kept by James Elerton, an English gentleman:

He was tutor, and man of all works, who helped in every way Madam Mary Hyrne Smith:

January 25, 1740, Madam rented Back river place to Peter Huskin.

January 26 went to Back river and dined with Mr. Sanders.

Gave Peter possession of the house by order of Madam.

February 9 went to Back River plantation and measured out 30 bushels of corn for Mr. Tom Sanders, and the same for Peter Huskins.

March 11, 1740, had hail and very severe weather, now comes snow at last to make it worse.

May 14 Burrel Hyrne, Madam's nephew, came from town.

June 9 Mr. Henry Hyrne came from town with his family; and we all dined with Mr. Archar Smith.

July 28, 1740. This morning John went from his father's, Mr. Archar Smith, in order to go with his grandfather, Dr. George Smith, to Philadelphia.

September 16, 1745. George Smith came to his father's, Mr. A. Smith,

from St. Augustine, being twice taken by the enemy, the Spaniards.

A water color sketch of Medway was painted by Miss Janie Trenholm, while the house was owned by Peter Gaillard Stoney. This property has changed hands many times. Peter Gaillard Stoney bought this plantation in 1835, and he built the west wing.

His heirs sold this property in 1905. This old house is said to be the first brick house built outside of Charles Town, and is still standing in 1933. The house is built, close to the ground, the rooms are spacious, the ceilings are low, and the fire places are very large.

The windows are narrow, with small panes of glass. It has been added to, from time to time and now has 13 rooms. There is a brick in one of the chimneys bearing date 1682. It was probably made, at that date, in a brick kiln, before either Thomas Smith or John d'Arsens, came to this Province.

Back to First Generation.

The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine (volume 12, page 14): On March 22, 1687-88, Thomas Smith, in the presence of Bernard Schencking, Esq., high sheriff of Berkeley County, William Smith, Thomas Smith, Junior, James Barbott, gentilsman, and divers others, including Anna Vornelia Van Myddagh, was married by the Rev. William Dunlop to Sabina de Vignon Dowager Van Wernhaut.

John d'Arsens, a Dutch or Flemish gentleman of some means, arrived in this Province some time in 1686.

In "Warrants for Lands in South Carolina, 1692-1711." (Salley), we read on page 80 that John van Arsen Van Wernhaut for the arrival of 14 persons, and two slaves, Andrew and Tony, was granted 660 acres of land. John d'Arsens must have used this land, as we see Governor Colleton issued letters of administration to Sabina Devignon, relict of John Van Arsen, for proper disposition of the estate of John Van Arsen, late of this province, Dec'd. On 25th of October following Governor Colleton directed James Barbott, Abraham Barbott and Thomas Smith to make an inventory of the said estate, in "goods and chattels." It consists of household goods, cows, oxen, Negroes, and a boat (evidences of country life). (Court of Ordinary, 1672-1692, pages 290-292).

In "Records in the British Public Records Office Relating to South Carolina 1685-1690," is an order from the Lords Proprietors, to the trustees in South Carolina for 12,000 acres of land for Mr. D'Arpens (page 168). He could not have claimed the land, as we see Thomas Smith had married his widow

and requested that this land be given to him (page 280). But Thomas Smith did not have this land surveyed until July 12, 1693, by Stephen Bull.

("Warrants for Land in South Carolina 1692-1711," page 4). Land given to Thomas Smith.

The new wife, Sabina de Vignon, did not long survive their marriage, she died in December, 1689, and was buried from the house of her first husband, John d'Arsens.

Judge H. A. M. Smith in the South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine (vol. 13, page 16) asks, where was that house? Judge Smith did not know, neither does any one else!

Where did Thomas Smith live in Charles Town with Barbara, his first wife, and their two sons? No one knows.

I went to the historical commission several times when I visited in Columbia, and Mr. A. S. Salley courteously showed me the old records of the Court of Ordinary, and records relating to John d'Arsens and also records of Thomas Smith. There was no record to show that land was surveyed for John d'Arsens! Mr. Salley has just sent me a copy from Register of the Province, No. 2, page 210, which I shall copy later on. Sabina de Vignon Smith died in December, 1689. So Thomas Smith did not have the land, that had been granted to him surveyed for him, until years after. The patent for landgrave given to him May 13, 1691, entitled Thomas Smith to 48,000 acres of land. Landgrave Smith chose as a part of this land, land on Back river, where he built his brick home, which still stands in 1933.

I copied the following from a copy sent to me by Mr. Alex S. Salley, March 25, 1933, that he had mare from Register of the Province No. 2, page 210:

"By virtue of a warrant under ye hand and seale of ye Honble Philip Ludwell Esq. Governor to me directed, bearing date of ye 12th day of December anno Dom 1692. I have according to the Tennoe of the 1d warrant, laid out unto ye honble Thomas Smith Esq. Governor and Landgrave Two Thousand and one hundred acres of land scituated lying and being upon and at the head of Meadway River wch said Thousand acres of land due the said Thomas Smith as by the Lords Proprietors order dated the 9th of September, 1689 appears wch sd tract of land is butting to the Eastward part upon Meadway River and part upon Coat baw and the Land belonging to Mebshew and to the Westward upon Land not Laid out and to the Northward upon Lands of Mr. Powys, and to the southward upon the Land of the said Thomas Smith."

Note. This statement, that the southern boundary of the land, was on

the land owned already by Landgrave and Governor Thomas Smith upon which Thomas Smith had built his brick home.

Copied from the original deed, which was given to the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., in 1928:

William Earle of Craven Lord Viscount, Baron of Hampstead Marshall Palatine.

To Thomas Smith Esq. Governor of the Province of Carolina.

Whereas it is agreed by ye Lords Proprietors of the said Province that the Palatine should name the Governor I out of the trust and confidence I have of the Wisdome Prudence Integrity and Loyalty of you Thomas Smith doe hereby nominate constitute and appoint you the said Thomas Smith to be Governor and commander in Chiefe in Carolina with such power and such privilege to Doe and exercise in such Jurisdiction and powers, as by virtue of Rules of Government and Instruction given by My-

self and ye rest of the Lords Proprietors of ye said Province. A Governor is to Doo and exercise, and are to follow such Instruction as are herewith sent you or that you shall hereafter from time to time receive from Myself or the Rest of the Lords Proprietors of ye said Province. And thus

continue Dureing my Pleasure.

Given under my hand and Seal the twenty ninth day of November in ye year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and ninety and three.

CRAVEN PALATINE.

Read in councill ye 13th day of March 1693.

The above is a true copy of ye honorable Thomas Smith's Commission Examined and attested with the publique Seale of this Province this 6th day of April 1694.

PAUL GRIMBALL, Secretary.