

Isle of Wight County Records – 1622-1699

1618-1622 Members of the Virginia Company (that is, stockholders in London) in this period included **Henry Reynolds, Richard Reynolds, Humphrey Reynolds, John Reynolds**, and “Mr. Reynolds”, none of whom actually traveled to Virginia. [The Records of the Virginia Company of London, (US Govt. Printing Office, 1933), Volumes II and III]

I mention this only to illustrate that Reynolds was a reasonably common name.

22 March 1621/2 Good Friday massacre: The resulting muster lists 46 dead at “Edward Bennett’s plantation” and 7 elsewhere in Warrascoyack. [The Records of the Virginia Company of London, (US Govt. Printing Office, 1933), Volume III, p570]

16 Feb 1623/4 A List of Names of the Living in Virginia ...at “Warwick Scurake” shows the following 33 persons:
John Batt, Henry Pinffe, Wassell Weblin, Anthony Read, Frances Woodson, Henry Phillips, Peter Collins. **Chr. Reinold**, Edward Mabin, John Maldman, Thomas Collins, George Rushmore, Thomas Spencer, George Clarke, Rich. Bartlett, Francis Banks, John Jenkins. Thomas Jones, William Denham, Peter, Anthony, Francis and Margaret (the last four negroes), John Bennett, Nicholas Skinner. John Atkins, John Pollentin, Rachell Pollenttin, Margaret Pollentin, Mary “a Maid”, Henry Woodward
Thomas Sawyer, Thomas “a Boye”.
[The Original Lists of Persons of Quality..., John Camden Hotten, ed. (Reprint by G.A. Baker & Co., 1931) pp181-2]

Of these 33 people, only 11 would be alive a year later. Note that although one person is listed as “a boye”, Christopher Reynolds is not so identified, implying he was an adult or close to it. The ages of most people were given in this muster, other than those in Warrascoyack. The only other person identified as “a boye” in other plantations was age 14.

”At the Plantation over against James Cittie” [later Surry County]: **Paule Reinolds**

”At James Cittie”: **Mr. Reignolds**

”A list of the names of the dead in Virginia, since April last...

At the Plantation over against James Cittie” [later Surry County]: **Robert Reynolds**

At James Cittie: _____ **Reignolds**

These five names are surely only a fraction of the people named Reynolds who actually arrived at Jamestown. These lists total fewer than 1300 names (not all of the residents were named). The great majority of those who died between 1620 and 1625 are not recorded, and certainly some of those were also named Reynolds. For example, between 1619 and 1622 alone more than 3500 people were added to the 700 or so already there, but more than 70% were dead by the time of the 1622 massacre. Another 1,000 people were added in 1622, half of whom were dead by the end of that year. The names of these 3,500 dead are not recorded. If the percentages were constant, about fifteen of these would have been named Reynolds!

It is possible that one of the two living or two dead persons named Reynolds, or perhaps one of the unidentified dead prior to April 1623, was related to Christopher Reynolds. It's perfectly plausible that a father and son, or two brothers (or an entire family) immigrated, with Christopher the only survivor. Given the roughly 75-80% mortality rate of colonists within three years, we can't ignore the possibility that Christopher did not arrive alone.

7 Feb 1624/5

The muster at Wariscoyack shows a total of 19 persons in four settlements, one of which was Edward Bennett's plantation:

Mr. Edward Bennett's servants:

Henery Pinke in the *London Marchant*, 1619

John Bate, Peeter Collins in the *Addam*, 1621

Wassell Webling, Antonio a negro in the *James*, 1619

Christopher Reynolds, Luke Chapman, Edward Maybank in the *John & Francis*, 1622

John Atkins, William Denum, Francis Banks in the *Guifte[of God]*, 1623

Mary a negro woman in the *Margrett & John*, 1622

[Adventurers of Purse and Person Virginia 1607-1625, Annie Lash Jester (Princeton University Press, 1956), which has the most complete version of this muster.]

In June 1624, after King James I dissolved the Virginia Company, he ordered a census of the colony's inhabitants and their provisions. The resulting "muster" listed the colony's inhabitants, where they lived, particulars of their arrival, their supplies, and their servants. In most cases their ages were also listed, though not in this particular household.

The names of some persons who had died during the prior nine months were also included. Five servants of Edward Bennett "slayne by the Indians" were listed as "dead since April last" in this muster, along with seven others at Wariscoyack. All 12 of Bennett's living servants were housed in two "dwelling houses in severall pallisadoes." They had among them 13 guns and 9 sets of armor, but no livestock and only ten barrels of corn for food.

Note that none of these people were among the first shipment of 120 colonists to Bennett's plantation, all of whom were evidently dead three years later (with the possible exception of six people living elsewhere). At least five of these twelve people could not have been original servants of Bennett, as their arrivals predate Bennett's association with the Virginia Company. Arrivals in 1619 were almost certainly servants of the Company, whose contracts must have been transferred to Bennett. They may have been among the Company colonists who were drafted to Bennett in 1623.

No other arrivals for the ship "John & Francis" in 1622 are listed in the 1624/5 muster. Nor do the records of the Company show an arrival of that ship in 1622. This was evidently one of Edward Bennett's ships, as Bennett requested and received a commission in November 1622 to transport people and supplies to Virginia in it. The Company records show that the John & Francis arrived on 27 May 1623 with 10 passengers. That is the only voyage recorded in the London Company records.

Living at Mr. Crowder's plantation": **Paule Renalles** (no age) on the *Tryall*, 1619

Hugh Crowder's plantation was located in what became Surry County. It consisted of himself and five male servants.

13 Mar 1625/6 At the General Court at Jamestown: "**Christopher Reighnalls**, sworne and examined sayeth that he did see and read Peter Collins indenture and that by [the said] indentures he was bound to serve Mr. Bennett four years." [Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, H. R. McIlwaine, ed. (1924), p97]

This has been interpreted to mean that Christopher Reynolds was the secretary of one of the Bennetts, presumably Edward of London (his brother Robert was dead). But there is nothing in this record suggesting that he was anything more than someone who knew his fellow servant Peter Collins. In fact, he was clearly testifying against Bennett's interests. All it tells us is that Christopher Reynolds was literate. Bennett had by this time abandoned his original plantation, and had no relatives or representatives in Virginia. Note that the muster gives Peter Collins' arrival in 1621 so, under a four-year contract, he was presumably free by this court date.

1634 Virginia created its first eight counties. "Warrosquyoake" encompassed essentially the area that became Isle of Wight. To the east (downriver), Elizabeth City County included what was later Nansemond County. To the west (upriver) James City County included what was later Surry County.

21 Dec 1634 Deed: Robert Sabine [Savin] to **Christopher Reynolds** of Warwickqueak (sic), 100 acres. Witness: Robert Cramporne and Thomas Coarkman. [Isle of

Wight Deeds & Wills Book A, p103 abstracted by Hopkins]

This sale is also mentioned in a patent to John Mungoe, which describes the land as being on the west side of the Pagan River near its mouth: “the said Sabin (sic) conveyed to **Christopher Reinolds** the 21 December 1634 and by the sd **Reinolds** conveyed to Peter Hull the 1 May 1639.” [See entry below for 21 Oct 1684]

This is the first record of Christopher Reynolds acquiring land. The land appears (from Mungoe's patent) to be on the opposite side of the Pagan river from Reynolds' later patent. If he was imported in 1622 on a four-year contract (which is suggested by the Peter Collins contract), he would have been free by 1626. Most freed servants worked as paid laborers until they acquired the means to rent or buy their own land. A lag of about eight years or so is typical. “Warwickqueak” is one of many spellings of “Warrosquyoake”, and is not related to Warwick County on the north side of the James River. This identification of him as a resident of the county, and the purchase of land in the same place as Bennett's earlier plantation, is a strong argument in favor of Christopher Reynolds being the same person as the one listed in the 1624 and 1625 musters of Wariscoyack.

The land was located (from later patents) near the mouth of the Pagan River, and was part of the 150 acres granted in 1619 to Giles Jones in Wariscoyack. This original patent does not exist in the records, but is mentioned several times in late patents.

28 May 1635

“Theis under-written names are to be transported to Virginia imbarqued in the Speedwell of London Jo: Chappell Mr: [Master] being examined by the Minister of Gravesend of their conformitie to the orders & discipline of the Church of England & have taken the oath of Allegiance...”

Kathryn Richards	19
Marie Sedgwick	20
Elizabeth Biggs	10
Dorothie Wyncott	40
Ann Wyncott	16
Phillipp Biggs	6 mo.
Elizabeth Pew	20
Francis Langworth	25
Chri. Reinholds	24
Abram Poore	20
Elizabeth Tuttell	25

[The Original Lists of Persons of Quality..., John Camden Hotten, ed. (G.A. Baker & Co.,1931) pp84]

59 passengers are listed, of whom the above 11 appear in Hotten in sequence, which may or may not be significant. I note that four of the passengers were

claimed as headrights by John Upton in his 1638 patent for land in Isle of Wight, and another four passengers were claimed in 1638 by Arthur Bayly for land in Henrico County, so there is reason to believe that at least some of the passengers on this ship arrived in the Isle of Wight area. That is evidence that this could be the same Christopher Reynolds, who presumably would be returning from a trip to England.

However, there is also reason to believe that this might be a different person. For one thing, this departure date is only five months after his land purchase above, when we know Christopher Reynolds was in Virginia. Since it took nearly two months to make the one-way journey, this implies that he bought the land, then went to England almost immediately in order to be ready to return by late May. As it happens, a complete list exists [in the Port of London records, and in Hotten] of all 20 ships leaving London for Virginia between late 1634 and late 1635 – and no ship left London in time to deliver a passenger back to England who would have been ready to leave again by 28 May. Of course, he could have traveled on a ship which arrived from somewhere other than London, or on one already in transit by late 1634. We should also consider that, having just bought land, Christopher Reynolds would have been absent during the crop-sowing season, and would have left his wife and at least one infant child to fend for themselves for several months in a still-dangerous environment.

In addition, this Christopher Reynolds, if he was 24 at embarkation, must have been born in late 1610 or early 1611. If he is the same person who arrived in 1622 in the “John & Francis”, he would have been only 11 or 12 at arrival and only 14 or 15 when he testified on behalf of Peter Collins. Although that is possible, the odds are against it. For example, the ages of 378 servants are given in the Virginia muster of 1624/5, only 29 of whom (5%) were aged 15 or less. Only 4 were aged 14 or 15. The great majority were in their 20s and 30s. Although Christopher Reynolds could have been 14 at the time, the odds strongly favor his being older. Apart from the coincidence of the name of the passenger, there is not enough evidence to draw the conclusion that he was the same person.

Was he born in Gravesend? *A published Reynolds genealogy made the assumption from this ship’s list that this Christopher Reynolds was probably born in Gravesend, Kent. But this is based on inadequate research. For one thing, the Port of London was actually located at the mouth of the Thames, at the town of Gravesend. So ships leaving the Port of London actually left from Gravesend. It makes sense that the local minister would administer the oath for ships leaving London, regardless of where the passengers were from. In fact, according to Hotten’s lists, the same minister performed this duty for every one of the 20 ships leaving London in the year 1635. (Not to mention other years.) It seems ridiculous to me to conclude that every person leaving England was therefore a resident of Gravesend. His connection with*

Gravesend was merely that his trip originated in London. I would also note that there was no reason for a person who was already a Virginia resident to take this oath a second time.

15 Sep 1636

Land Patent: **Christopher Reynolds**, 450 acres “in the County of Warrasquinoke (sic) bounded with a back creek running eastwards behinde the Pagan shore some three miles upwards, the land lying on the south side of the creeke and old Indian field belonging to the land the said land also running into the woods southwest and lying on the maine creeke northeast...” for transportation of 9 persons (unnamed). [Virginia Patent Book 1, p382]

The only patent which exists is a copy which was entered into the patent books in 1683. The original may have listed the headright names, but the 1683 copy does not. “Warrosquyoake County” had been formed in 1634; the name was changed to Isle of Wight in 1637. “Behinde the Pagan shore” is surveyor-speak meaning “the far side of”, or the southern side of, the Pagan River. From later descriptions, this land is on the west bank of Cypress Creek in the fork formed by Cypress Creek and the Pagan River, and a few miles south of the land he purchased two years earlier.

Some researchers have speculated that the nine persons used as headrights may have been members of the group transported in the “Speedwell” the preceding year. While that could be, it is highly speculative. One argument against it is that (technically) at this time a headright could not be claimed until he or she had been in the colony for three years. Thus the passengers aboard the “Speedwell” were not legally usable as headrights until 1638 – the same year Upton and Bayly used eight of the passengers as headrights. I also note that recent research has shown that about three-fourths of all headrights were sold or assigned to others before being used for patents – that is, the patentee was not the importer in most cases. So the odds are that Christopher Reynolds was not the person who paid their passage anyway. [See also the “Understanding Headrights” page elsewhere in this website.]

In his will, Christopher Reynolds identified this patent as the land he was not living on. He gave 241 acres of it to his son Christopher Reynolds and 209 acres of it to his son John Reynolds. The land he was living on is a mystery, there being no record of its purchase.

Comment: The date on a patent is the date it was signed by the Governor. The process of claiming the patent could have begun months, even years, earlier. One first obtained a headright certificate (either from the court or by purchase from someone else), then staked out the land, then used the headright certificate to commission the county surveyor to produce a survey. After surveying and marking the boundaries, the headright certificate and a copy of the survey were delivered to the Governor’s office for preparation of the patent. Once the land had been staked out, there was some degree of

protection against subsequent claims to the same land, and therefore some degree of leeway in completing the process – during which one could actually occupy the land. Thus, Christopher Reynolds could have begun this process much earlier than the date on the patent.

1637 Warrosquyoake was renamed as Isle of Wight County. At about the same time, Elizabeth City was renamed New Norfolk County, then almost immediately split into Upper Norfolk and Lower Norfolk. Upper Norfolk would be renamed Nansemond in 1642.

10 Feb 1637/8 Land Patent: Charles Barcroft, 350a in Isle of Wight County “...being a parcel of land lying behind the Pagan shore and bordering upon **Christopher Reynolds** his land running southerly into the woods and soe up along the creeke toward the Cypress Swamp...” [Virginia Patent Book 1, p517]

These early Isle of Wight patents are very poorly surveyed, but this clearly appears to border the 1636 patent to Christopher Reynolds.

8 May 1638 Land Patent: Ambrose Bennett, 300 acres “bounded between two Creekes the one called **Reynolds** his Creeke the other being a branch of the said Creeke.” [Virginia Patent Book 1, p529]

This land described is in the vicinity of the 1636 Christopher Reynolds patent. This is the only reference to “Reynolds his Creek”. It may be the same creek referred to as the “freshet” or “frechat” in other patents.

These early surveys are quite vague, and not reliable enough to accurately plot and place the lands on modern topographical maps. After staking out the land, the next step in obtaining a patent was to have the land surveyed. The survey was then later copied into the patent itself. Surveyors were appointed officers in each county, and often had no training or aptitude – they received fees (20 lbs of tobacco per 100 acres plus 12 lbs per day), so the appointment was often a means of directing income to prominent citizens. In fact, these imprecise boundaries led the General Assembly in 1662 to institute the practice of processioning as a means of resolving disputes over poorly identified boundary lines.

1 May 1639 Deed: **Christopher Reynolds** to Peter Hull, the 100 acres purchased in 1634. Witness: John Spackman, John Oliver. [Isle of Wight Wills & Deeds Book A, p103 abstracted by Hopkins]

Also mentioned in a patent to John Mungoe, which describes the land as being on the west side of the Pagan River near its mouth: “the said Sabin (sic) conveyed to **Christopher Reinolds** the 21 December 1634 and by the sd **Reinolds** conveyed to Peter Hull the 1 May 1639.” [See entry below for 21 Oct 1684]

- c1640/1 Inferred Deed: John Roe to **Christopher Reynolds**. [see 21 Mar 1643/4]
- 18 Feb 1642/3 Inferred deed: **Christopher Reynolds** to Henry Snayle [see 23 Feb 1652/3 and 10 May 1653]
- 21 Mar 1643/4 Inferred Deed: “Gov. Wm. Berkeley confirms to Arthur Smith 350 acres on main branch of Bay Creek called Cypress Swamp, first granted to James (sic) Roe by Pat. 10 Dec 1640 and by him assigned to **Christopher Reynolds** who assigned to Arthur Smith provided said Smith do not plant or seat for a term of three years. Dated 21 March 1643. (Endorsed on back) George Smith does assign this pat. To Chris. Hollyman except 100 acres that was given to Arthur Long by my father Arthur Smith in his will and 100 acres that was sold Wm. Oldis. Assignment dated 11 Jan. 1661. Teste, John Jackson ?, Richard Jordan, Jr. Arthur Smith disclaims all right to this land which my brother George assigned to Chris. Holliman and may have by the death of my brother George assignment forever. 11 Jan 1611. Recorded 9 Aug. 1665. Anne Smith wife of George Smith also assigns.” [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 1, no page given, abstracted by Boddie on p541]

The patent recorded in the patent books is dated 10 December 1640 to John Roe [VPB 1, p745] with the notation that it was renewed in the name of Arthur Smith on 6 March 1643/4 (sic) [likewise in VPB 1, p745]. The three-year delay in planting and seating is odd, since planting and seating within that timeframe was a requirement to perfect the title. This implies that Christopher Reynolds had already planted and seated, and was perhaps delaying Smith's occupation for three years.

A nearly identical entry in Boddie, p554, (with John Roe substituted for James Roe) adds the assignment of this land by Christopher Hollyman and wife Anne to Thomas Pitt on 9 December 1668.

- 1 Oct 1645 Will of Arthur Smith devises to daughter Jane the “land adjoining **Christopher Reynolds**”. Proved 9 February 1692/3 (sic). [Isle of Wight Will Book 1, p330, abstracted by Chapman]

This appears to be the 450-acre patent to Christopher Reynolds.

- 15 Apr 1648 Land Patent: John Seward, 1200 acres in Isle of Wight for transportation of 24 persons... **Wm. Reynolds** [Virginia Patent Book 2, p116]

This is one of only two Reynolds headrights used for land in Isle of Wight. There is no further record of this person in Isle of Wight records.

- 7 Apr 1649 Deed: Ambrose Bennett to Ambrose Meador, 300 acres, part of patent of 1100 acres to Ambrose Bennett dated 23 June 1641, bounded by **Christopher**

Reynolds and Ralph Warriner. [Isle of Wight Wills & Deeds Book A, p111 abstracted by Hopkins]

Boddie gives this date as 9 April, Hopkins as 7 April. A portion of this patent may have been the home plantation of Christopher Reynolds, which from later records appears to have been purchased from Ambrose Bennett.

25 Nov 1652 “The names of the Burgesses for the several plantations, November 25, 1652... Isle of Wight County - **Mr. Charles Reynolds**” [Statues at Large..., William Waller Hening, ed. (1819-23) Volume I, p373]

This is the only mention of a “Charles Reynolds” in Isle of Wight. Hening, who copied this from the Thomas Jefferson papers more than 150 years later, perhaps erred in transcribing an entry like “Chr. Reynolds.” (Note several abbreviations below of “Chr.” for “Christopher”.) This is probably our Christopher Reynolds. In any event, he was probably a substitute rather than an elected Burgess. He was not among the Burgesses in the April session earlier that year, nor among the Burgesses in the following year or thereafter. H. R. McIlwaine’s Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia 1619-1658/59 does not mention this person. Nor does Boddie’s Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight, derived from these sources, include him among the elected Burgesses.

23 Feb 1652/3 Will of Robert Fowler devises to his son Robert Fowler 200 acres part of the land bought of Mr. **Christopher Reynolds**. Recorded 16 May 1653. [Lower Norfolk County Minute Book 1637-1646, p47 abstracted in Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Beverley Fleet, Vol. 31, p60]

See next entry.

10 May 1653 At a court in Lower Norfolk County “In dif between Mary Fowler, widow, extrx of Robert Fowler decd, and Henry Snayle, concerning 350 acres a the head of the southern branch of the Little Creek, and assigned over by **X’pofor Reynolds** to the sd Fowler in his lifetime. The court orders that Henry Westgate, Giles Collins, Thomas Workeman and Henery Brakes lay out the 350 acres according to agreement betw Snayle and **Reynolds** dated 18 Feb 1642 (? - this date blotted and impossible to read). [Lower Norfolk County Minute Book 1637-1646, p46 abstracted in Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Beverley Fleet, Vol. 31, p58]

Is this the same or a different Christopher Reynolds? Probably the same person, as Henry Snayle had patented land in 1637 in Isle of Wight on Pagan Creek near Christopher Reynolds. The location of the land referred to above is in the modern City of Norfolk. There is no patent to either Reynolds nor Snayle of that size, although Snayle had a 97acre patent “bounded by his own land” on Little Creek in 1652, nor is there a patent to anyone on Little Creek

of 350 acres. The case between Mrs. Fowler and Henry Snayle was settled a year later. It is not clear if the 200 acres given by the will was part of the 350 acre tract.

Henry Snayle, at the same court, sold 110 acres on Little Creek described as a part of a patent assigned to him by Robert Hayes, but the referenced patent was issued in 1648, after the date of the agreement above.

1 May 1654

Will of **Christopher Reynolds**: "...unto my son **Christopher Reynolds** all my land on the southerly side of the freshet swamp that Richard Jordan now liveth upon... unto my son **John**, all my land on the northerly side of the freshet swamp, and one cow, and he to enjoy the said land at twenty one years of age. And unto my son **Richard**, I give all my land I now live upon and one cow, and he to enjoy the land at twenty one years of age. And my daughter **Abbasha**, I have given unto her a portion already, which was two cows and two calves. And I give unto my daughter **Elizabeth**, one heifer of two years old, besides the stock I gave her formerly. And unto my daughter **Jane**, I give one cow and one yearling heifer. And I give unto **George Rivers** one yearling heifer. And I give unto the child my wife now goeth with if it lives two cows to enjoy them at three years old." "...unto **Elizabeth**, my loving wife, I give all the rest of my estate... and my two servants... my wife Elizabeth shall have the ordering and bringing up John and Richard, my sons, until they be sixteen years of age, and Elizabeth & Jane until they be fifteen years of age." Wife Elizabeth named executor. Witness: Sylvester Bullen, Anthony Matthews. Date proven is not noted, but clearly was before 1657. [Isle of Wight County Deed Book A, p46]

Christopher Reynolds Jr. was the eldest son, according to a later patent [see entry below for 10 May 1679] and was evidently already of age when this will was written. Note that sons John and Richard were to receive their land at age 21, but Christopher received his immediately. The will also tells us that John and Richard Reynolds were under 16, and Elizabeth and Jane were under 15. Abbasha was apparently over 15 but not yet married. The "child my wife now goeth with" almost certainly refers to an unborn child. George Rivers, later called "brother" in the will of John Reynolds, was apparently a stepson.

It seems likely that Elizabeth Reynolds was not the mother of all these children. For one thing, a childbearing span of more than 20 years was unusual this early in Virginia's history. For another, she is apparently the mother of George Rivers, who (judging from later records) seems to have been younger than Christopher Reynolds Jr. Thus it appears that Christopher Reynolds had one or more (perhaps all) of his children by an unknown first wife, and perhaps the others by the widow of a Rivers. It may be significant in this regard that the will refers to "my sons".

One interesting item in this will is that he devises the 450-acre patent to sons Christopher and John and the "land I now live upon" to his son Richard. The interesting question is how he acquired the land he was living on. We have no record of his owning any land in 1654 other than the 450-acre patent. However, Isle of Wight deeds immediately after 1649 are lost, so he may have bought the land just prior to making the will. But deeds prior to 1649 may be incomplete, so he may have owned the land for several years. Either way, the land left to his son Richard appears from later records to have been a parcel of 200 acres acquired from Ambrose Bennett..

The phrase "that Richard Jordan now liveth upon" is terminology usually used to denote a lease. (See several examples of the use of this phrase in later records below.) It is probably included in the will to clarify which portion of the patent is left to Christopher Jr. Christopher Reynolds owned far more land than he could possibly have used, so it makes sense that he would have leased some of it.

25 Nov 1657 Land Patent: **Christopher Reynolds** [Jr.] , 350 acres, assigned to Richard Jordan sometime before 17 May 1658, which was "renewed in Richard Jordan's name the 18 March 1662 to whom it is assigned by the said Reynolds." [See the entry below for 18 March 1662/3 and the entry below for 10 May 1679]

This is Christopher Reynolds Jr. His father's will implies he was of age by 1654, and this is clear indication that he is 21 or older by this date, as only persons over 21 could obtain patents. (Persons under 21 could obtain patents only via their guardians.)

It is possible that the assignment to Richard Jordan was in some way designed to substitute for the land Richard Jordan may have been leasing. Note from the later entries that this land was adjacent to the land Richard Jordan occupied at the time of Christopher Reynolds 1654 will.

12 Mar 1657/8 Land Patent: Giles Driver, 100 acres, "beginning at a marked oake standing in the [Cypress] swamp which parteth **Christopher Reynolds** land and **John Reynolds** land at the miles end of the said Johns land..." [Virginia Patent Book 4, p252]

The survey which described this land refers to the dividing line between Christopher Reynolds (Jr.) and John Reynolds, clearly the two pieces of the 450 acre patent left to them by the 1654 will of Christopher Reynolds.

"Miles end" was a surveyor's term which meant the end point of a 320-pole boundary line (320 poles being exactly one mile in length). Christopher Reynolds' patent had two 320 pole boundaries.

12 Mar 1657/8 Land Patent: Giles Driver, 200 acres adjacent to above, “beginning at a red oake on the Cypress Swamp being the corner of a patent of 750 acres belonging to Ambrose Bennett’s heir”, for transportation of four persons: Elizabeth Williams, **Elizabeth Reynolds**, Jno. Goodale, James Crow. [Virginia Patent Book 4, p169]

The identity of this Elizabeth Reynolds is unknown. She could have been the wife of Christopher Reynolds Sr., imported perhaps as a Rivers but claimed as a Reynolds by the time the headright certificate was obtained. Presumably (for the reason given above) the importation had occurred at least three years earlier. Whether her name was Reynolds at the time of arriva, is unknowable, but it was Reynolds at the time the headright certificate was granted. Whoever she is, the probability is that Giles Driver was not the importing party but rather had purchased the rights to use the names. [See analysis of headrights elsewhere for an explanation.]

17 May 1658 Inferred Deed: Richard Jordan Sr. to **Christopher Reynolds** [Jr.], 100 acres, part of a patent to Reynolds which was assigned to Jordan. [See entry below for 18 March 1662/3 and also the entry for 10 May 1679]

18 Mar 1662/3 Land Patent: Richard Jordan, 350 acres in Isle of Wight County. A patent dated 25 November 1657 to **Christopher Reynolds** [Jr.] contains the marginal note: “This patent renewed in Richard Jordan’s name the 18 March 1662 to whom it is assigned by the said Reynolds.” The land description states: “...Beginning at a marked red oak on a hill by the west freshet by the miles end of 450 acres patented by **Christopher Reynolds** deceased and running along the said freshet for length 32 poles and for breadth west southwest 50 poles [totaling 100 acres]... then beginning at the upper side of the forementioned patent on the Cypress Creek for the other 250 acres and running along the said Cypress to the marked trees of the land lately in the possession of Mr. Neall and the forementioned patent of Christopher Reynolds deceased to the miles end...” being due to Christopher Reynolds for transportation of seven persons. [Virginia Patent Book 4, p243-4]. The persons are not named in the recorded patent, but seven names are given in Nugent’s abstract, apparently from the original patent.

The date of assignment is not noted, only the date of the later renewal. Title would have passed to Richard Jordan when the assignment was made. The assignment must have been made before 17 May 1658, for a later record gives that as the date Richard Jordan sold part of this patent back to Reynolds [see entry for 10 May 1679].

1 Feb 1664/5 Land Patent: Anthony Mathews, 640 acres in Isle of Wight for transportation of 13 persons, one of whom was a “**Tho. Reighnolds**”. [Virginia Patent Book 5, p153]

This, and the fact that Mathews witnessed the 1654 will, is evidently the source of the theory that Christopher Reynolds' wife was a Mathews. There is no evidence whatsoever that this Thomas Reynolds was in any way related to Christopher Reynolds, or that Anthony Mathews was in any way related to either. I would also note that recent research comparing importation certificates from court records in several Virginia counties to the patents in which they were used has suggested that nearly 80% of the headrights claimed in patents were actually imported by someone other than the patentee.

Further, there is no evidence that Matthews had children. The will of Anthony Mathews, dated 6 May 1681 recorded 9 January 1681/2, names no children or grandchildren as legatees. Rather, he left his land and property to two stepsons, children of his wife by her prior marriages. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p224]

30 Nov 1668

Deed: **John Reynolds**, planter, to William Boddie, planter, land in lower parish where **John Reynolds** liveth... to pine on Pagan Creek side... house Arthur Shoomach lately lived in ... to swamp where Roger Waters did live... and other side of Henry King... to red oak standing by a great swamp... to land Andrew Shields lived and land where **John Reynolds** now liveth. Witness: Wm. Mayo, Mathew Waikley. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 1, no page given, abstracted by Boddie on p554]

John Reynolds had retained all of his inherited land, so this must have been land purchased via one of the missing deeds of Isle of Wight. It appears that a number of deeds before 1688 (the first actual deed book) may have been lost.

11 Mar 1668/9

Will of **John Reynolds**: Proved 3 May 1669. Devises his land to "my brother **Richard Reynolds**". Legacies to "my brother George Rivers", brother Richard Reynolds, sisters **Elizabeth Rivers** and **Jane Reynolds**, "sister Rivers' daughter Mary", and "to sister **Eliza. Jordan** a bill of Robert Collier's for 800 lbs. tbo... after her decease to her son Richard Jordan." Witness: Anselm Baylie, William Bradshaw. Richard Reynolds executor, with securities Ambrose Bennett and Benjamin Beale. [Isle of Wight County Deed Book 2, p62]

We can safely infer that John Reynolds died unmarried and childless. This will seems to clarify that George Rivers was a stepbrother. The use of "brother" together with the fact that he leaves him a legacy suggests the possibility (but doesn't prove) that he and George Rivers may have had the same mother. Note also that he mentions four of his siblings but not Christopher or Abbasha, who were perhaps already dead.

The identity of "sister Elizabeth Rivers" is mysterious, as Christopher Reynolds' will doesn't mention her – his daughter Elizabeth was married to

Richard Jordan who is still alive at this time. Elizabeth Rivers could be a stepsister, but she had a child, thus Rivers was presumably her married name. Although the language in this will does not indicate she was the wife of George Rivers, that seems to be the most plausible possibility.

See the Jordan pages on this website for more detail and a chronology for the Jordan family and Elizabeth Jordan.

As a minor point, a minor could make a valid will but only an adult could devise land by will. Thus John Reynolds must have been at least 21 by this date, thus born before early 1648.

Jane Reynolds is presumably his sister, not yet married. Men outnumbered women more than four-to-one at this time, creating a great pressure on women to marry relatively young. Since that resulted in most females marrying in their late teens, this implies she was young enough to have been a daughter of his father's second wife. If John were a son of Christopher Reynolds by the widow Elizabeth Rivers, that would help to explain the apparent age gap between Christopher Reynolds Jr. and the rest of the children.

13 Nov 1672 A typo in Boddie's book for a deed by Richard Jordan. See entry for 13 Nov 1679.

21 Nov 1672 **Richard Reynolds**, James Bagnall, Arthur Smith, Richard Jordan, Anthony Fulgham, Nicholas Fulgham, William Rufinn, Giles Driver, Tristram Knowles, William Body, Robert King, and William Oldis (foreman), served on an escheat jury to determine whether "Capt. John Upton at the time of his death was seized of 800 acres of land or thereabouts lying at a place called the White Marsh in this county and by him held by patten which had been formerly in the possession of Mr. James Bagnall, Mr. Francis Slaughter, and one Morris, and since a parte of the land hath beene purchased by Coll. Joseph Bridger, and whether Capt. John Upton disposed of the land by will, legall conveyance or otherwise." Jury found that the land escheated. [*The Virginia Genealogist*, Vol. 20, p174-5]

Escheat means that the land reverted to the Crown due to a lack of heirs. See the record in 1698 in which Richard Reynolds refers to having served on this jury 26 years earlier.

8 Sep 1673 **Richard Reynolds** a witness to a guardianship record of John Nelson to Robert Coleman. [Boddie, p567]

13 May 1674 Two Escheat Juries: Michaell Fulgham, Nich. Fulgham, John Garner, Tho: Poole, Daniell Long, Thomas Gross, Arthur Smith, Rich. Jordan, Ambrose Bennett, Anthony Fulgham, John Viccars, and **Richard Reynolds** served on

an escheat jury regarding 100 acres belonging to John Upton, deceased, and sold by his relict Mrs. Margaret Lucas to Thomas Wright. The same jury (with Cornelius Skolly replacing Thomas Gross) then dealt with 300 acres sold by John Upton to Robert Breesewell [Brasswell] and now in the hands of James Bagnall. Both parcels were found to escheat. [*The Virginia Genealogist*, Vol. 20, p174-5]

- 7 Oct 1675 **Richard Rennalds** and Will Jenkins witnesses to will of John Hardy, recorded 9 June 1677. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p146, abstracted by Chapman]
- 20 Nov 1675 **Richard Reynolds** a witness to a deed from Hodges Council to Joseph Vicke. Recorded 9 August 1692. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p45]
- 12 Dec 1676 **Richard Reynolds** and Will Bradshaw witnesses to will of Giles Driver [son-in-law of John Hardy], proved 28 December 1676. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p147, abstracted by Chapman] **Richard Reynolds** and Robert Burnett were securities for Olive Driver, executrix. [Isle of Wight Administrations and Probates, p41, abstracted by Chapman]
- 5 Sep 1677 **Richard Reynolds** a witness to a deed from Robert Dryver [Driver] to Jno. Bromfield . [Boddie, p577]
- 9 Apr 1678 **Richard Reynolds** a witness to deed from Ambrose Bennett to James Tullaugh. [Boddie, p579]
- 30 Mar 1678/9 Phillip Thomas and **Richard Reynolds** witnesses to will of John Daniel, recorded 17 July 1679. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p203, abstracted by Chapman]

There is apparently no need in the above records to identify which Richard Reynolds this is, suggesting that Richard Reynolds the younger (son of Christopher Reynolds Jr.) is not yet of age – and (by inference) that all of the above refer to Richard Reynolds the elder, his uncle. However, we can't be certain, for the later references don't always distinguish between the two men either.

- 6 Apr 1679 Will of **Henry Reynolds** [spelled Rennells in one record and Reynolds in another]: Leg – wife Joyce, children Henry and Sarah. Debts to Robert Kae to be paid. Recorded 9 June 1681. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p218, abstracted by Chapman] Appraisal dated 9 June 1681 by George Hardy, Roger Archer, Robert Kae Sr., presented by Joyce Page alias Rennells. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p219, abstracted by Chapman] By will appointed his relict Joyce executrix, her securities Thomas Ward and Henry Clark, 18 June 1681 (apparently the bond date). [Isle of Wight Administrations and Probates, p51, abstracted by Chapman]

This person appears to be unrelated to the Christopher Reynolds family. It does not seem likely that Henry Reynolds is the child whom Elizabeth Reynolds was pregnant with in 1654. That child would have been born in the summer or fall of 1654, thus would have been only 24 by now, barely old enough to have a wife and two young children given the demographics of the time. Further, the will of Henry Clay [Book 2, p137] undated but recorded 10 January 1675/6 mentions "Mary the youngest daughter of Henry Reynolds". That implies that Henry Reynolds would have had more than one child by the age of 20, a very rare circumstance in mid-17th century Virginia, where few men married before their late 20s. On the whole, Henry Reynolds seems to have been much older than the last child of Christopher Reynolds would have been. Nor is there any connection in the records with the rest of the Reynolds family or their neighbors – although note that another Henry Reynolds, possibly the son, appears 38 years later in a record with a third-generation Christopher Reynolds.

10 May 1679

Land Patent: **Richard Reynolds** the younger, 566 acres in the lower parish of Isle of Wight, on northwest side of the head of the Lower Bay Creek... "beginning at a hickory marked three ways standing in an island surrounded with marsh near the head of the lower Bay Creek... tree in Chr. Blys line thence along the sd Blys line... Hen. King's line thence along the sd Kings line... corner tree of Col. Smith thence by the lines of Col. Smith and Mr. Driver... to a small sycamore at the head of West freshet... thence by various courses down the sd freshett or swamp to lower Bay Creeke & so up the sd Creeke to the first station... due to the sd Reynolds as follows: 241 acres part thereof being part of a pattent of 450 acres granted to Mr. **Chr. Reynolds** late of the aforesaid County the 15 September 1636 & by the last will & testament of the sd **Chr. Reynolds** given to his eldest sonn Chr. & his heirs forever & by him the said Chr. by his last will & testament likewise bequeathed to the sd Richard the only sonn & heire of the said Chr.; & 100 acres part of the residue being part of a pattent for 350 acs. granted to Mr. Richard Jordan Sen. the 18 March 1662 & by the said Jordan sold & conveyed to Chr. Reynolds the 17 May 1658 & by the last will & testament of the sd Chrstr. together with the former land bequeathed to the said Richard; the remaining 225 acres being wast[e] land which together with the aforementioned 341 acres is likewise due to the sd. Reynolds by & for the transp. of twelve persons in to this Colony..." Of the 12 persons only four are named: Danl. Hinnon(?), Jno. Champion, Lewis Davis, Edwd. Goodson. [Virginia Patent Book 6, p684-5]

This is obviously the son of Christopher Reynolds Jr. This patent clarifies that (a) Christopher Reynolds Jr. was the eldest son of his father and (b) that he died before 1679 leaving only one son. There doesn't seem to be any record of his death in the Isle of Wight records, though this patent clearly says that he left a will. This record identifies Richard Reynolds the younger as his only son, and a later record suggests that there may have been a daughter named

Elizabeth.

Note that from this point onward, the two Richard Reynolds – uncle and nephew – are frequently differentiated as “Senior” and Junior.” Where they are not so identified, it is difficult to determine which is meant, since they lived adjacent to one another.

10 May 1679 Land Patent: Arthur Smith [Jr.], 2275 acres, being 1500 acres patented by his father Arthur Smith on 10 September 1643 plus an additional 775 acres of new land... to a stake in **Richard Reynolds Senior** his line thence along the sd Reynolds his line... [Virginia Patent Book 6, p683]

This is the same parcel of Smith’s mentioned in the above patent, but Richard Reynolds the younger and Richard Reynolds Senior (the elder) are on different sides of it. This implies that the mysterious parcel which Christopher Reynolds’ will left to his son Richard was close (if not adjacent) to his patent of 1636.

10 May 1679 A patent to Richard Jordane Senr.: “on northwest side of the head of Lower Bay Creek & mouth of the maine Cyprus Swamp... beginning at a small island surrounded by marsh... a hickory a corner tree of **Richd. Reynolds Junr**... [Virginia Patent Book 6, p684]

This corners on the land Christopher Reynolds left to his son Christopher, which was repatented by Richard Reynolds the younger this same day.

13 Nov 1679 Deed: Richard Jordan, Sr. to Joseph Woory, 360 acres formerly granted by Gov. Chicheley at head of Lower Bay Creek and mouth of Cypress Creek, to corner tree of **Richard Reynolds Jr.** Witness: Wm. Crawford, Jno. Combe. [Isle of Wight County Deed Book 1, abstracted by Boddie, p583]

Boddie gives the year as 1672, which is surely incorrect. For one thing, this land is the same 363 acres patented by Richard Jordan on 10 May 1679. For another, the “Gov. Chicheley” referred to is Deputy Governor Sir Henry Chicheley, who filled that office only from 1678-1680 and who was the grantor of the 10 May 1679 patent to Richard Jordan. And finally, there was no patent issued to Richard Jordan that fits this description other than the one in 1679. This is important, because it obviously bears on when Christopher Reynolds Jr. died. The land identifies this Richard as Richard Reynolds Jr. (the younger), son of Christopher Reynolds Jr.

ca1680 Robert Coleman, Thomas Giles, Ambrose Bennett, and **Richard Reynolds** appraisers of the estate of John Bromfield. No date on appraisal or recording, but recorded circa December 1681 or January 1681/2. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p225, abstracted by Chapman]

30 Aug 1680 Will of Ambrose Bennett: Legatees - Wife Elizabeth and the child she now goes with, reversion to Mary Beale, daughter of Benjamin Beale, Alice Blackit, Martha Rutter, daughter of Walter Rutter, Isacke Williams. Wife Extx. Overseers, Col. Arthur Smith and **Richard Reynolds Sr.** Wit: Walter Rutter, Christopher Wade. Recorded 9 December 1680. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p214, abstracted by Chapman]

Mary Beale was evidently later the wife of John Luther [see 6 August 1695] who sold 20 acres given to her by the will of Ambrose Bennett.

14 Jan 1680/1 **Richard Reynolds** a security for Anne Macone's executrixship of Neal Macone. [Isle of Wight Administrations and Probates, p51, abstracted by Chapman]

23 Apr 1681 Land Patent: **Richard Reynolds Senr.**, 380 acres "on the north west side of the lower Bay Creeke in the Isle of Wight County in the lower parish... 209 acres part thereof being part of a patent for 450 acres granted to **Chr. Reynolds** late of the county aforesaid by patent dated the 15 September 1638 & by the sd Chr. by his last will & testament given to his sonn **John Reynolds** & by the sd John by his last will & testament given & bequeathed to the sd Richard & the remaining 171 acres being wast land within his ancient bounds & due to the sd Richard by & for the transportation of foure persons... beginning at a marked hickory on the Lower Bay Creeke side being Col. Arthr. Smiths uppermost corner tree... to an ash standing on the northwest side of west freshet thence down the run of the said freshet to the Lower Bay Creeke & so down the sd Creeke to the first station." The four persons are: Jno. Dale, Tho. Leese[?], Tho. Otly, Mary Howly. [Virginia Patent Book 7, p71]

This is Richard Reynolds the elder, son of Christopher Reynolds the immigrant. The succession of this land can be traced to show that this Richard Reynolds is the same Richard Reynolds who died intestate in 1707.

20 Apr 1682 Land Patent: **Richd. Reynolds**, 450 acres "of land according to the most ancient and lawfull bounds thereof... wch Ambrose Bennett died seized of and was found to escheat [by a jury on] 16 June 1681." [Virginia Patent Book 7, p174]

The language used here, and the absence of metes and bounds, means that no new survey was done. We can identify which Richard Reynolds this was, because his son Christopher Reynolds sold part of this 450 acres to Robert Brock in 1708, describing it as a patent of his deceased father granted on this date. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p102- see below]. That means this is Richard Reynolds Senior, the son of Christopher Reynolds the immigrant, who died in 1707. The original patent to Ambrose Bennett was apparently a patent for 1,450 acres. It would appear that this land was adjacent to the home

plantation which Christopher Reynolds left to Richard Reynolds in his 1654 will.

- 12 Sep 1684 **Richard Reynolds** and Robert Coleman securities for James Tullaugh's administration of John Lockhart. [Isle of Wight Administrations and Probates, p57, abstracted by Chapman]
- 21 Oct 1684 Land Patent: John Mungoe, 100 acres in Isle of Wight "on the southeast side of Hutchinsons Creeke in the lower part of Warrosquoick Bay beginning at a corner tree twixt Mr. James Bay and the said Mungoe... the head of Palentines Swamp... corner tree of Thomas Taberer and Mr. [James] Day... "being formerly granted to Gyles Jones by patent dated the 14 December 1619 and by the said Jones sold and conveyed to Justinian Cooper the 19 October anno do caroli primus [meaning 1625], and by the said Cooper conveyed to Wassel Weblin and George Fadding the 29 September 1629 who held the same in joint tenancy, and by the sd Fadding the survivor sold and conveyed to Robert Sabine the 19 February 1630 and by the said Sabin (sic) conveyed to **Christopher Reinolds** the 21 December 1634 and by the sd **Reinolds** conveyed to Peter Hull the 1 May 1639 and by Peter Hull sold and conveyed to John Mungoe the 9 February 1663 who by his last will and testament bequeathed the same to his son John Mungoe..." due for the transportation of two unnamed persons. [Virginia Patent Book 7, p417]

Although the original patent to Giles Jones is lost, the adjoining patents allow us to fairly precisely locate it. This land adjoined a 1675 patent by Thomas Taberer [VPB 7:71] renewing 400 acres "near the mouth of Pagan Creek" and "beginning at the mouth of Palentine Swamp". A patent to John Davis [VPB 5:224] describes Taberer's Creek as "formerly called Hutchinson's Creek." Several other patents place this land on the northwest side of the mouth of the Pagan River. The original patent was apparently part of the 150 acres listed as planted by Gyles Jones in the May 1625 inventory for "Warrasquoake plantation".

- ca Apr 1685 **Richard Reynolds Jr.** and wife **Elizabeth** and brother-in-law George Williams, orphan of George Williams, receive the estate of William Williams, decd. Pharaoh Cobb to produce the will. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p243, according to <http://members.aol.com/vafdking/iowadd.htm>]

I did not check this item, but the referenced website lists it among the missing items from Chapman's abstracts. The page number (if accurate) should put the recording date about April or May 1685. "Estate" meant personal property, most likely livestock and household goods in this case. We know most of this information from later records, the main significance of this one being that it tells us Richard Reynolds the younger was married to Elizabeth Williams by 1685, thus explaining the following record for February 1686.

George Williams, a tailor, had left a will in 1672 naming minor children William, George, and Elizabeth, with Pharoah Cobb, Arthur Smith and Henry Applewhaite overseers. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p114]. The will assigned all three children to guardians (implying that all three children were under the age of 14 when the will was written on 12 February 1671/2), with Elizabeth Williams assigned to William Bressie. The estate was divided among the same three children on 9 Jan 1673/4 by Richard Sharpe and Thomas Harris. [Ibid., p119] William Williams, the son, later died and his share of the personal estate was distributed to his brother and sister.

9 Feb 1685/6

Deed: **Richard Reynolds** to William Murfrey, both of Isle of Wight, no compensation noted, 100 acres in the lower parish (being land conveyed by Richard Webb to Richard Gadsbey and now in the occupation of said William Murfrey)...”wherefor was required thereunto as for **Eliza**. my wife”.
Witness: John Nevill and Robert Driver. Signed: **Richard Reynolds, Eliza. (x) Reynolds**. Recorded 9 Feb 1685/6 on oath of Richard and Eliza his wife. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p216]

This is clearly Richard Reynolds the younger. The land is evidently his wife’s from her father’s estate. Ten years later when Murphrey sold the land, he described it as half of a 200-acre parcel adjoining Thomas Bombridge deceased, John Askew and the Meadow Swamp. Meadow Swamp seems to be what is now called Cohoon Swamp, several miles south of Cypress Creek.

An interesting connection: I can find no patent to Richard Webb, but there is a later deed by John Askew’s heir, and witnessed by Murfrey’s grantee, which refers to “Richard Webb’s land originally taken up by Richard Staples” bordering the Meadow Swamp. The land Richard Reynolds is selling to William Murfrey is evidently quite near this land, or perhaps part of it. That raises the question of whether there was some relationship between Richard Staples and George Williams.

20 Dec 1685

Ann Tullaugh, **Richard Reynolds**, Ann Williams witnesses to will of John Burnell, proved 9 December 1680. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p247, abstracted by Chapman]

20 Oct 1689

Land Patent: Richard and John Sanders, 350 acres in Nansemond County, lying in the Western Branch... “to the intersecting of the line of **Jno. Reynolds** als [alias] Mulfords patt...” [Virginia Patent Book 8, p10]

Who is this? The implication is that a John Reynolds owns or rents land patented by Mulford (sic). Thomas Mullford’s patent was dated 24 October 1650 [VPB 2, p259] for 700 acres “lying near the head of the southward branch of the said [Nansemond] River...” But the only John Reynolds we know about died in 1669. The land descriptions in these patents come from

the surveys – could the survey be that old? All the neighboring landowners in the patent were in place at least 20 years earlier, so it could be. However, none of the adjacent patents mention a Reynolds. So this is a mystery that perhaps the missing records of Nansemond would have solved.

Note: Deed records resume in 1688 after nearly 40 years of missing deeds

3 Apr 1690 Division of a tract of land between **Richard Reynolds** and John Nevill and his wife Elizabeth Nevill. Witness: Joseph Woory and Samuel Swann. Signed by twelve persons, apparently a jury resolving a dispute over the land. Recorded 9 Apr 1690 [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p25, abstracted by both Hopkins & Boddie]

It would be very helpful to see the original of this record. Chapman, in her marriage abstract book, uses the same source to give Elizabeth Neville as the sister of Richard Reynolds but neither Hopkins nor Boddie adds that information to their abstracts. If Chapman is correct, then Richard Reynolds would have to be the younger, son of Christopher Reynolds Jr., since the other Richard Reynolds had a sister Elizabeth who had long since married Richard Jordan. However, John Neville was married to an Elizabeth as early as 1665, seemingly too early for that wife to have been a sister of Richard Reynolds the younger – unless Christopher Reynolds II was older than we surmise him to be. Furthermore, a sister would have had no rights to the land of her father unless provided for in a will. We know from the earlier patent that Christopher Reynolds Jr. did leave a will, but Richard Reynolds had declared himself to be the only son and heir in 1672. And why there would be a dispute twenty years later is unclear.

One plausible explanation is that the land in question was not Christopher Reynolds' but rather Richard Sharpe's. The dispute may have been over a deed three months earlier, in which John and Elizabeth Neville had given 100 acres of the Richard Sharpe patent to Benjamin Beale and his wife Martha (apparently the Neville's daughter). If Chapman's abstract is wrong, Elizabeth Neville could have been either the widow of Christopher Reynolds II or of Richard Sharpe, wither of which would explain a dispute over her dower rights to the lands of either man.

I should also note the possibility that Elizabeth was a half-sister of Richard Reynolds. If Christopher Reynolds II had married a widow with a daughter, it would explain why Elizabeth was apparently so much older than Richard Reynolds the younger.

4 Sep 1691 Hugh Campbell, **Richard Reynolds** witnesses to a marriage contract between John Portis and Jane --- regarding her rights over her prior property. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p312, according to <http://members.aol.com/vafdking/iowadd.htm>]

- 2 Dec 1691 **Richard Reynolds**, Giles Driver, and **Richard Reynolds Jr.** witness deed from Robert Driver and wife Elizabeth. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p47 abstracted by Hopkins] Boddie's abstract substitutes the name of Theophilus Hearne for **Richard Reynolds Jr.** and gives the year as 1692 rather than 1691. [Boddie, p607]
- 13 Dec 1691 Will of Richard Lewis: Legatees: wife, Sarah; to son Richard the plantation on which William Duck lives, said Duck to take in tuition my son Richard; to son Thomas the land I have rented James Cullie, Mr. Thomas Giles to take my said son, if Mr. Giles should die then he may be free, daughter Ann to be placed in the care of Mr. Bressie, daughter Elizabeth in the care of **Richard Reynolds** and his wife **Elizabeth**, unborn child. Overseers: Thomas Joyner Jr. and **Richard Reynolds Jr.** Recorded 26 March 1691/2. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p314, abstracted by Chapman]
- Both references are to Richard Reynolds the younger, son of Christopher Reynolds Jr. Clearly this is the same Richard Reynolds who left the will in 1711, which mentions "what is due to Elizabeth Lewis" of her orphan's estate. From that will, he is the same Richard Reynolds named as a cousin in the 1700 will of Richard Sharpe. Note also that Mr. Bressie may have been the same William Bressie who had early been guardian of Elizabeth Williams Reynolds.*
- 9 Jun 1692 **Richard Reynolds**, William Kerle, Bridgeman Joyner witness assignment from Thomas Harris to William Carver. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p45 abstracted by Hopkins]
- 19 Aug 1692 Will of John Frizell: ...to son William land adjoining Col. Smith and **Richard Reynolds**... [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p326, abstracted by Chapman]
- Note: Court Orders survive for 1693-1695, very briefly abstracted by Boddie and Hopkins.
- 9 Oct 1693 **Richard Reynolds** mentioned (no context). [Isle of Wight County Court Orders 1693-1695, p1 and p14 abstracted by Hopkins]
- 16 Oct 1693 **Richard Reynolds** and Will Arrington witnesses to will of James Peddon, recorded 9 August 1694. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p347, abstracted by Chapman]
- 1 Dec 1693 John Butler, **Richard Reynolds** and **Joyce (x) Reynolds** witness deed from John Luther and wife Mary Luther and Robert Mercer for land given to Mary Luther by the will of Ambrose Bennett. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p80 abstracted by Hopkins]

9 Dec 1693 **Richard Reynolds Sr.** mentioned (no context). Similar mention on 9 January 1693/4 [Isle of Wight County Court Orders 1693-1695, p14 abstracted by Hopkins]

6 Jan 1693/4 Dorothy Butler, **Richard Reynolds** and **Joyce (x) Reynolds** witness deed from Robert Mercer and wife Elizabeth Mercer to John Luther for the same land as in the prior month's deed. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p88 abstracted by Hopkins] Boddie has Richard Reynolds signing this deed by mark, which seems unlikely. [Boddie, p612]

These two deeds are the first mention of Joyce Reynolds, wife of Richard Reynolds the elder. I note that there are enough missing records for Isle of Wight that this may not be significant. However, we do need to keep in mind that this could be a second marriage for him.

7 Feb 1693/4 Deed: Richard and Elizabeth Hutchins to **Richard Reynolds Jr.** "Whereas Pharaoh Cobbs and Ann his wife by their deed, dated 10 April 1671, confirmed to George Williams a tract of land... which land was sold by Pharaoh Cobbs and Elizabeth, his mother, to Saml. Haswell and is now in the possession of **Richard Reynolds Jr.**, and **Eliz.** his wife the dau. of the said George Williams and lawful inheritrix. Now, we Richard Hutchins and Eliz. his wife, the dau. of Joseph Cobbs, Jr., decd. the eldest son of Joseph Cobbs, Sr., decd. for 1000 lbs. tbc. sell to Richard Reynolds, Jr., and confirmed by Richard Hutchins and wife Eliz. of Western Branch Nansemond." [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, no page given, abstracted by Boddie p613] Hopkins' abstract gives the land as 100 acres [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p90 abstracted by Hopkins]

This is Richard Reynolds the younger, married to Elizabeth Williams, daughter of George Williams Sr. These prior deeds are among the missing records of the county. Richard and Elizabeth Hutchins had also sold 130 acres to Arthur Smith adjoining Smith and Pharaoh Cobb.

9 Apr 1694 **Richard Reynolds** vs. William Jolley (no details) [Isle of Wight County Court Orders 1693-1695, p31 abstracted by Hopkins]

This is Richard Reynolds Sr. [see below]

20 Apr 1694 Land Patent: **Richard Reynolds** of Isle of Wight County, 720 acres "on a branch called the Cabbin Branch in Nansemond County" The patent contains no mention of adjacent lands, nor of other watercourses. Due for "transportation of fifteen persons in to this Colony": Mary Lawrence, Richard Ansly, Robert Brewer, Thomas Hill, Geo. Brooks, Tho. Hinson, Wm. Farmer, Tho. Loyd, Joyce Wilson, Mary Biss, Dorothy Sexton, Tho. Giles and his wife, Patrick Wall, William Parker. [Virginia Patent Book 8, p347]

This was Richard Reynolds Sr., son of Christopher Reynolds the immigrant. We know this because he and his wife Joyce later sold part of this patent [see entry of 9 June 1697]. There were probably other deeds disposing of this land filed in Nansemond County which were lost with the other records of that county. Note that the 1704 quit rents do not show any land owned in Nansemond County by anyone named Reynolds. This implies that he had sold the rest of the patent before 1704.

Cabbin Branch was the name of “a branch of the Chowan River” according to a 1704 patent [VPB 9, p639]. The Suffolk Parish records show a mid-1700s map identifying a “Cabin Swamp” as a branch of Summertown Creek of the Chowan River, located in the southwestern part of Nansemond. If this is the same waterway, then this land is only a few miles from the later patents to his son Christopher Reynolds in the fork of the Nottoway and Blackwater Rivers.

1 May 1694 Mr. Henry Baker as [High] Sheriff and **Richard Reynolds** as subsheriff. [Isle of Wight County Court Orders 1693-1695, p34 abstracted by Hopkins]

The office of High Sheriff was arguably the most important in the county, and certainly the most lucrative. Sheriffs were typically members of the very highest level of society and were usually rich men padding their estates with the substantial fees sheriffs earned. They seldom dirtied their own hands by doing the actual work, and appointed subsheriffs [also called under-sheriffs] to handle the day-to-day duties like executing court orders and collecting taxes. Perhaps their most significant duty was the collection of the annual tithes, for which Virginia sheriffs were paid a percentage of the tax collected.

9 Jun 1694 **Richard Reynolds Sr.** vs. William Jolley (no details). [Isle of Wight County Court Orders 1693-1695, p37 abstracted by Hopkins]

Same court: **Mr. Richard Reynolds Sr.** to shingle the courthouse. [Isle of Wight County Court Orders 1693-1695, p49 abstracted by Hopkins] Boddie adds that he was “to shingle the court house with good durable cypress shingles and to put the porch belonging to the said courthouse in good and sufficient repair... all of which work he doth promise to perform and finish by Christmas next, in consideration whereof the court doth promise to pay him 5,500 lbs of good tobacco and to furnish nails for the said work...” [Boddie p173]

9 Aug 1694 Deposition of Charles Durham and Nathaniel Permento states that June last there was a dispute between **Richard Reynolds** and John Davis. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p176 abstracted by Hopkins] Boddie’s version says **Reynolds** and Davis were defendants in suit of Durham and Permento, who demanded possession of Davis’ place. [Boddie, p623]

If this means June 1694, there is only a mention of the suit versus William Jolley in Hopkins. There are no court records in existence covering June 1693, where the dispute between Reynolds and Davis might have been explained.

10 Oct 1694 Mr. **Richard Reynolds** mentioned (no context). [Isle of Wight County Court Orders 1693-1695, p58 abstracted by Hopkins]

10 Dec 1694 **Richard Reynolds Jr.**, John Nevill, jurors in the case of Robert Coleman and Malurk [Malachi?] Hawley. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p144 abstracted by Hopkins]

We know from later records that Richard Reynolds Jr.'s son Christopher was married to Ann Coleman, daughter of Richard Coleman. It is extremely unlikely that Richard Reynolds would have been selected to this jury if that marriage had already taken place. That would have made him a near enough relation to Robert Coleman to force reclusion.

9 Feb 1694/5 **Richard Reynolds Jr.**, John Nevill, jurors in the case of Captain Robert Godwin vs.. Jacob Durden. [Isle of Wight County Court Orders 1693-1695, p76 abstracted by Hopkins]

11 Feb 1694/5 Mr. **Richard Reynolds Sr.** vs. William Jolley for the year 1688. Jury members named. [Isle of Wight County Court Orders 1693-1695, p80 abstracted by Hopkins]

Deposition of Giles Driver, age 25, that Wm. Jolly removed from the plantation of **Richard Reynolds** about the middle of Jan. and James Jolly remained there at his trade. [Boddie p618] Deposition of John Luther, aged 39, states he was at the house of William Jolley when the Sheriff seized some of his goods. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p138 abstracted by Hopkins] Deposition of James Tullaugh, age 46 years, speaks for Mr. **Richard Renald** [Reynolds] and William Jolley. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p139 abstracted by Hopkins]

This sounds like the Jollys were either tenants or were employed to build something, and that William Jolly had failed in the obligation. Both William Jolly and James Jolly are identified as smiths in later records.

c1695 **Richard Reynolds**, Thomas (x) Joyner witness to deed of Henry Martin and wife Mary Martin to Henry Applewait, 40 acres. No date given. Recorded circa Jan-Feb 1695 from context. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p190 abstracted by Hopkins] Boddie's abstract gives it as 80 acres.

6 Aug 1695 Deed: John Luther and wife Mary Luther to Richard Beale, 20 acres (being part of the land Ambrose Bennett willed to said Luther's wife) bounded by

Luther, Giles Driver, Ambrose Bennett, and **Richard Reynolds** old plantation where Robert Driver now lives. Witness: William Bradshaw, Elizabeth (x) Bradshaw, Theop (x) Joyner. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p172 abstracted by Hopkins] Deposition of Benj. Beale Sr., age 62, and his wife Mary Beale, age about 60, that the land on the other side of branch between John Luther and Giles Driver was rented. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p174 abstracted by Hopkins] Boddie's abstract says that the land on the other side of branch between John Luther and **Richard Reynolds** (sic) ...no one ever paid rent or was possessed of same by Ambrose Bennett. [Boddie p622]

This refers to Richard Reynolds Sr. Richard Reynolds "old plantation" appears to be the 200 acres which "Ambrose Bennett gave to Christopher Reynolds" [see 23 April 1711] and which was evidently the land Christopher Reynolds was living on at his death in 1654. We know from later records [see 1706 entries] that Richard Reynolds Sr. was not living on this land. Apparently, he had leased it out to Robert Driver.

- 9 Aug 1695 [Malachi] Hawley appoints Charles Chapman as his attorney in the suit with Mr. Robert Coleman. Witness: John Williams and **Richard Reynolds**. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p167 abstracted by Hopkins]
- 6 Apr 1696 Valuation of goods by **Richard Reynolds**. [no explanation given] [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p203 abstracted by Hopkins]
- 24 Sep 1696 **Richard Reynolds** (signature), a juror for land laid out between William Greene and James Bagnal. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p210 abstracted by Hopkins]
- 9 Nov 1696 John Giles, George Smith, **Richard Reynolds** witness a deed from Evi Bellonge, weaver, to George Norsworthy. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p211 and p213 abstracted by Hopkins]
- 9 Feb 1696/7 George Norsworthy, Richard Wilkinson Jr., James Tullaugh, and **Richard Reynolds** witness deed from Jane Rigane [Regan], daughter of Richard Gross, to Nicholas Casey, an assignment of a patent to Richard Gross. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p225 abstracted by Hopkins] Similar entry on p230 carrying the same date, omitting James Tullaugh as witness..
- 9 Jun 1697 Deed: **Richard Reynolds** of Isle of Wight to William Butler of Nansemond County, 220 acres in Nansemond County, part of a patent of 720 acres on Cabin Branch. Signed: **Richard Reynolds, Joyce (x) Reynolds**. Witness: John Council, William Brown, Robert [Driver]. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p309 abstracted by Hopkins]

This is part of his own patent [see 20 April 1694]. It is not clear at all why this deed would have been recorded in Isle of Wight if the land were in

Nansemond. There are no records of the disposal of the remaining 500 acres They were probably recorded in Nansemond County, whose records are lost. The 1704 quit rents show no Reynolds land in that county.

9 Feb 1697/8 **Richard Reynolds, Joyce (x) Reynolds** witness deed of Thomas Mann to William Butler, assignment of a patent to Thomas Mann for 300 acres on Chewan (sic) River. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p234 abstracted by Hopkins]

The patent to Mann is for land in Isle of Wight, but appears to be actually in Nansemond. Either way, it was close to what is now the North Carolina line (the boundary was uncertain in those days). It appears to be quite close to what was evidently the land of Richard Staples.

5 Mar 1697/8 William Randolph of Henrico County, executor of Hugh Davis deceased, appoints **Richard Reynolds** his attorney. Witness: Henry Baker, Charles Chapman. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p243 abstracted by Hopkins]

2 May 1698 John Giles, **Richard Reynolds**, Thomas Evan witness to deed from John Smith to George Norsworthy of Nansemond County. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p236 abstracted by Hopkins]

26 Mar 1698 **Richard Reynolds**, John Street, Ann Street witnesses to will of James Tullaugh, proved 2 May 1698. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p390, abstracted by Chapman]

9 Apr 1698 **Richard Reynolds** (signed) deposes that about 25 years ago he was summoned by the sheriff to be on a jury of escheat to meet at the house of Col. Joseph Bridger, lately deceased, to determine if a parcel of land belonged (sic) to Capt. John Upton, lately deceased (being 850 acres) should Escheat to his majesty or not. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p252 abstracted by Hopkins]

This refers to the escheat jury of 1672 [see above], meaning that this is Richard Reynolds Sr. the son of Christopher Reynolds the immigrant.

8 Jun 1698 Deed: **Richard Reynolds Sr.**, to **Richard Reynolds Jr.**, both of the lower parish, 380 acres (a patent granted on 23 Apr 1681) now in the tenure of Edward Goodson, William West, and John Tyler and bounded by Col. Arthur Smith and the Lower Bay Creek. Witness: Francis (x) Floyd, John (x) Butler and Richard (x) Wooton. Signed **Richard Reynolds**. Consent given by unnamed wife. Recorded 9 Aug 1698 [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p254 abstracted by Hopkins] Boddie's abstract says "part of" 380 acres, gives the price as 13,000 lbs. of tobacco, and says the land is "now in the occupation of Edward Goodson, Wm. West, John Tyler, and Richd. Reynolds Sr. [Boddie, p634]

"In the tenure of" means "leased to". This is the 1681 patent by Richard Reynolds the elder, which consisted of the 209 acres originally inherited by his brother John Reynolds plus another 171 acres of new land. The very high price implies that there were buildings of value on the site. Note that Richard Reynolds Sr. is of the lower parish of Isle of Wight, clarifying that he is not living on his land in Nansemond.

9 Jun 1698

Deed: **Richard Reynolds Jr.**, of the Lower Parish to **Richard Reynolds Sr.**, of the same, 100 acres (being part of 380 acres granted 3 April 1681 to said Reynolds, Sr., and "lately purchased by me") bounded by Col. Arthur Smith and Charles Driver. Signed: **Richard Reynolds Jr.** Witness: Francis (x) Floyd, John (x) Butler and Richard (x) Wooten. Recorded 9 Aug 1698 [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p254 abstracted by Hopkins]

It is not at all clear why two deeds were necessary, but they are helpful in sorting out the Richard Reynolds. Both of the above deeds refer to the 380-acre patent of Richard Reynolds the elder [see entry for 9 August 1681] which clearly identifies him as the son of Christopher Reynolds the immigrant. The Richard Reynolds Jr. in these deeds is obviously his nephew, the son of Christopher Reynolds Jr.

Christopher Reynolds, son of Richard Reynolds Sr., later sold the 100 acres [see 28 July 1707] identifying it as the land his deceased father bought from Richard Reynolds Jr.

1698

Nuncupative will of Martha Wilson proven by **Nicholas Renalls**, age 18, and William Deloach, age 20. Undated - but since nuncupative wills were valid only for a few weeks, this is probably dated close to the filing date sometime in 1698. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p386, abstracted by Chapman]

This person is an unrelated Reynolds, the son of Robert Reynolds Jr. Both William Deloach and Nicholas Reynolds are actually residents of neighboring Surry County, but are proving the will in Isle of Wight. Martha Wilson was also a resident of Surry and her estate was administered there in 1699, but she apparently died in Isle of Wight, making an oral will on her deathbed. Nicholas Reynolds can easily be proven to be the son of Robert Reynolds Jr. and grandson of Robert Reynolds Sr. of Surry County, both descendants of the immigrant Nicholas Reynolds. (See separate document for more on this Reynolds family.)

7 Sep 1698

Appraisal of Walter Rutter estate by William West, Charles Durham, **Richard Reynolds**. [Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p400, abstracted by Chapman]

9 Sep 1698

Henry Applewhaite Jr. and **Richard Reynolds** witnesses to deed of Arthur Smith to Robert Brock. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p255 abstracted by

Hopkins]

Robert Brock is later identified as the father-in-law of Christopher Reynolds, son of Richard Reynolds Sr.

- 17 Jul 1699 Charles Chapman and **Richard Reynolds** witnesses to several bonds for goods bought at the estate sale of Capt. John Goodrich. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, pp292-5 abstracted by Hopkins]
- 9 Dec 1699 **Richard Reynolds**, William Mayo, and Henry Woodly witness to deed of Edward Cobb to Andrew Woodly. [Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p296 abstracted by Hopkins]