

Chronology of Early Coastal NC Hendersons

The Albemarle Sound Hendersons

**Includes Hendersons of all counties comprising original Albemarle Precinct
who cannot be conclusively connected to known Henderson ancestors in Virginia or Maryland**

I am calling this collection of unidentified and/or ungrouped Hendersons the **Albemarle Sound Hendersons** since they appear at various times and in various places within the boundaries of [old Albemarle Precinct](#) (an original Carolina precinct which encompassed a [shifting mass of counties](#) surrounding the sound, southwards to the Cape Fear). This does not include records of Hendersons known to belong to the Onslow County NC group ([see chronology](#)) who originated from the Hendersons of the early Delmarva Peninsula ([see chronology](#)), however some of the records currently on this document may later be proven to connect to those groups, or to the Hendersons of Virginia's Tidewater, and the records in question may be moved accordingly. The general location of the men mentioned in the records below have, for the most part, been plotted on [this map](#) with corresponding details.

1701 Nov 7

Albemarle Pct NC

JOHN HENDERSON was appointed Collector of ye Quit Rents, Nov. 7th, 1701. [*The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, p 151*](#)

Note: Albemarle was formed in 1664 and "although growth was slow, settlers trickled in from Virginia." Early Chowan/Bertie records contain a number of names from neighboring Nansemond County VA (just to the north). Albemarle County ceased to function as a governmental until in 1689 so it is difficult to tell which modern-day county this record would fall into.

1704 Nov 22

Chowan Pct NC

DAVID HENDERSON

Jon Thomas of Nansemond Co VA to Col. Thomas Pollock. 208.33 acres on west side of Chowan River; right to said land by Mary, my now wife, daughter of Jon. Lawrence, deceased; November 22, 1704. Test, Frances Parrott, Nath'l Chevin, **DAVID HENDERSON**.

Note: There was a [Francis Parrott](#) in Maryland in 1655 and 1658, and another transported himself to Maryland in 1662. There were also prominent Parrotts in Middlesex Co VA. [Nathaniel Chevin](#) was a friend of Thomas Pollock and a justice and council member in Chowan Pct. He had a falling-out with Governor Eden that put him out of favor and he died in 1720.

1706 Jul 23

Chowan Pct NC

DAVID HENDERSON

Thomas West, to **CAPT. DAVID HENDERSON**. Tract of land on [M]orattuck River, adjoining Wm. Duckinfield, 220a; 25 Jul 1706. Test James Garrett, James Coslar.

Note: The Morattuck River is probably the Roanoke River (it was called Morattico on a 1657 map and Noratke on a 1671 map).

1706 Jul 23/25

Chowan Pct NC

DAVID HENDERSON

Col Thomas Pollock, and **DAVID HENDERSON**, by prior will of Jabez Olfen, to Thomas West. Tract of land on Morattuck Bay, 220a; Jul 23 1706. Test, Francis Perrot, James Cailor, John Stewart.

1711

Bertie Pct

DAVID HENDERSON issued a land grant of 580a on Morrattuck Bay [View original document](#) *North Carolina Land Grants File No. 86, David Henderson*

1712 Nov 18

No County

DAVID HENDERSON - will of William Coulson

William Coulson. November 18, 1712; my wife Elizabeth Robinson, **DAVID HENDERSON** and John Boyd executors. [View Source](#)

1713 Historical Context: First settlers in present-day Onslow County arrive on the White Oak River.

1713 May 8

Bertie Pct NC

David Henderson proves will of Thomas Jones

The last will & Testamt of Thos Jones decd was produced before this Board and proved by ye Oath of **DAVID HENDERSON** one of ye witnesses thereto. *Minutes of the North Carolina Governor's Council May 08, 1713 Vol 02, Pgs 41-44* (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr02-0027>)

1713 May 8

Bertie Pct NC

David Henderson appt appraiser of estate of John Jones

It is Ordered by this Board that **CAPT DAVID HENDERSON** Capt Robert West, Jno Hawkeings and Richd Pickering or any three of them (being first sworne thereto) doe appraise ye Estate of John Jones Decd and make returne thereof accordingly. *Minutes of the North Carolina Governor's Council May 08, 1713 Vol 02, Pgs 41-44* (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr02-0027>)

1713 May 8

Bertie Pct NC

David Henderson appt appraiser of estate of Peter Avelin and Wm Rawleson

Ordered that **CAPT DAVID HENDERSON** Capt Robert West Thos West and Richard Pickering or any three of them doe appraise ye said Estates [of Peter Avelin and William Rawleson] being first Sworne thereto before Some magistrate and make returne thereof accordingly *Minutes of the North Carolina Governor's Council May 08, 1713 Vol 02, Pgs 41-44* (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr02-0027>)

1714 Jul 27

Beaufort Co NC

THOMAS HENDERSON - will of Christopher Hudde

Hudde, Christopher. July 27, 1714. Daughter Priscilla (Prusily); daughter Elizabeth Green, Executrix; all my children. Test, **THOMAS HENDERSON**, John Snead. Clerk of Court: Jno. Drinkwater. Probated 5 Jan 171(5).

Note: This Thomas shows up again as a juryman in 1723 in "Beaufort & Hyde Pct." The interesting thing about this record is the association with the name Green. Gilbert Henderson (of Northampton Co VA) had descendents who married into the Green family, and a James Henderson witnessed the 1765 Bladen Co will of William Hall along with "A. Green" and "Mary Green."

1714 Sep 29

No County (Probably Bertie or Chowan)

DAVID HENDERSON - written mention in deed from Lawrence Sarson to Thomas Pollock

"My plantation called Black Walnut Neck; tract of land in Bear Swamp called Bucklesbury; another tract in Bear Swamp; another tract on ye head of Casayah River; another tract near land of **CAPT. DAVID HENDERSON**; September 29, 1714. Mortgage to secure 35 pounds. Test, Thos. Daniel, Thos. Hill, Thomas Stuart" *[The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, Volume 1](#)*

1715/16

4th Corn Tax List of northeastern NC

From 4th Corn Tax List (ca 1715/1716, undated), probably for Bath or Beaufort Prcts: "**THOS. HENDERSON...1**" *[Source: Corn Tax Lists from USGenWeb Archives by Martha Marble, Transcribed by Kay Gunn](#)*

1715/16

5th Corn Tax List of northeastern NC

From 5th Corn Tax List (ca 1715/1716, undated): "~~**GEORGE HENDERSON**~~ bederden?" (editor's not says "marked through" on original list); **HENRY NHDERSON...1x**; "**JAMES HENDERSON...1x**" *[Source: Corn Tax Lists from USGenWeb Archives by Martha Marble, Transcribed by Kay Gunn](#)*

Note: The George Henderson is probably the Scottish nephew of Captain David Henderson. He may not have technically been a resident of NC so that may account for his name being struck through on the list, although the notation after was illegible. I know of no other contemporaneous George Hendersons, so this is my best guess, but it does place George in North Carolina earlier/longer than I had assumed he'd been there. The James Henderson is likely the same one mentioned in Eden's 1721 will and also the land sale in 1737 in Bertie to Nicholas Hunter. I can't account for the Henry Henderson. The only other early mid-Atlantic Henry Henderson I'm aware of owned land on the York River and died in 1673, writing a will while in England that named wife Susanna, but no Henderson heirs.

1717

Chowan Pct

DAVID HENDERSON issued a land grant of 640a in Chowan Pct at Robert Evan's line hence to Major Robert Wests to the Widow Barrow's line, back to Evans's line. Witnessed by Charles Eden, Thomas Pollock, Nathaniel Chevin, Frederick Jones and T. Knight. *[View original document](#) North Carolina Land Grants File No. 733, David Henderson*

1718 June

Bath, NC

Contextual History: Edward Teach (Blackbeard) and crew arrive in Bath to receive a pardon from Governor Eden. Teach settles on the eastern side of Bath Creek at Plum Point near Eden's home. (No proof of the rumored marriage to a local planter's daughter has been found.) By the end of August, however, Teach was back to his old ways and had violated his pardon. *[From Wikipedia](#)*

1718 July 10

Virginia

Contextual History: Concerned that some of Blackbeard's former crew had appeared in Virginia seaports, Governor Alexander Spotswood [issues a proclamation](#) "requiring all former pirates to make themselves known to authorities, to give up their arms, and to not travel in groups larger than three." Overstepping the bounds of his authority, he arrests William Howard, Blackbeard's former quartermaster, prompting a defense (on the grounds of wrongful arrest) by prominent Williamsburg attorney John Holloway -- a close friend of Governor Eden who will be named along with a James Henderson and three other "friends" in Eden's 1721 will. Spotswood was disgruntled by Holloway's actions and fell out with him over the William Howard affair.

1718 Nov 22

Delaware Bay

Contextual History: "By the end of August [Edward Teach] had returned to piracy, and in the same month the Governor of Pennsylvania issued a warrant for his arrest, but by then Teach was probably operating in Delaware Bay, some distance away." [From Wikipedia](#)

1718 Aug 23

Bertie/Chowan Co NC

DAVID HENDERSON - written mention in deed from Frederick Martin to Thomas Pollock

Abstract: Martin, Frederick Razor, and wife Frances, to Thomas Pollock. 182a on W side of Chowan River; 23 Aug 1718. Test, **DAVID HENDERSON**, Thomas West, John Hardy. [The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, Volume 1 Pg 627](#)

1718 Nov 22

Ocracoke Inlet

Contextual History: Lt. Robert Maynard, under orders of Governor Spotswood of Virginia, captures and kills the pirate Blackbeard near Ocracoke Inlet. A letter from Tobias Knight, secretary of the colony, was found on the pirate's body, which supported rumors of collusion between Blackbeard and Governor Eden's administration. Contraband goods from the pirate's ship were also found stored in Knight's barn. Some members of Blackbeard's crew testified that Knight had been aboard Blackbeard's ship and that the secretary had accepted gifts from them at his home. The entire affair proved highly embarrassing to Governor Eden, who was "heavily criticised" for his involvement with Teach. [From Wikipedia](#)

1719 Jan 9

Bertie Pct NC (from Misc Court Records of Chowan Pct, Edenton)

DAVID HENDERSON living near Salmon Creek

A list of Freeholders living between Salmon Creek and Cashy (Cashai) River in Bertie, Jan'y 9, 1719...**DAVID HENDERSON**... Taken by Philip Walston, Constable. [The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, Volume 1 Pg 444](#)

1720

Chowan Pct

DAVID HENDERSON issued a land grant of 640a on S. side of Morratuck River. Wit Charles Eden, Thomas Pollock, William Reed, Richard Sanderson, Francis Porter. [View original document](#) [North Carolina Land Grants File No. 315, David Henderson](#)

1722 Aug 14

Bertie Pct NC (At a speciall Court of Oyer & Terminer held at Edenton on Queen Annes Creek)

David Henderson on jury of John Cope trial

...Then the following persons were Impannelled and Sworne upon the Grand Jury Viz; Majr Thomas Luton, fforeman, Collo Robert West, **MR DAVID HENDERSON**, David Hicks, John Herring, John Williams, James Castellaw, John Holbrook, Martin ffred. Razor, Isaac Hill, Rob Hicks, Henry Bonner, ffrancis Branch, Thomas Hopkins, Jeremiah Vaile, James ffarloe, John Jorden, Samuel Patchett, Thomas Yates & John Jones Senr... *Minutes of a Special Court of Oyer and Terminer of North Carolina North Carolina. General Court August 14, 1722 Volume 02, Pages 476-478*
(<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr02-0228>)

1723 Nov 23

Beaufort & Hyde Pct

THOMAS HENDERSON is listed among a list of approved jurymen in the precinct.

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr25-0015>

1724

Bertie Pct

DAVID HENDERSON issued a land grant of 1110a on south side of Morrattick River [View original document](#) *North Carolina Land Grants File No. 137, David Henderson*

1724

Bertie Pct

DAVID HENDERSON issued a land grant of 640a on south side of Morrattick River [View original document](#) *North Carolina Land Grants File No. 138, David Henderson*

1726 Mar 31

Edenton NC

David Henderson submits petition on behalf of heirs of John Powell

Read the Petition of **DAVID HENDERSON** praying a Lapse Patent on the Land belonging to John Powell decd lying on the Devils Gutt and Exers of the sd Powell and Guardians to ye sd Powells Children petitioning for the same in behalf of the said Orphans the same is referd till next Council that Enquiry be made whither they had notice agreeable to the Law of this Province *Minutes of the North Carolina Governor's Council*

North Carolina. Council March 31, 1726 - April 01, 1726 Volume 02, Pages 606-607
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr02-0284>

1727 Sep 11

Bertie Pct NC

Goods stolen from the canoe of John Bentley while lying at the landing of Mr. David Henderson

The Jurors for our Sovereign Lord the King on their Oath do present that William Hughes of the province aforesaid Labourer not having the fear of God before his Eyes but being moved by the instigation of the Devil at Moratuck River in Bertie precinct within the province of North Carolina aforesayd on or about the eleventh day of September One thousand Seven hundred & twenty Seven by force and armes did fraudulently and feloniously Steale take & carry away from a Canoe then lying at the Landing of **MR DAVID HENDERSON** on the South Side of Moratuck River aforesayd & belonging to John Bentley of Bertie precinct planter three Jackeets one payr of Shoes two payr of yarn Stockings One Garlix Shirt one Course Shirt two payr of Breeches of Linnen one payr of Buckles One Ivory Comb & Comb Case and one old Silk Handkercheif of the value of ten shillings against the peace of our Sovereign Lord the King that now is his Crown and dignity &c, Signd Wm Little Attorney Gen'l. *Minutes of the General Court of North*

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Carolina North Carolina. General Court October 31, 1727 - November 04, 1727 Volume 02, Pages 712-720 (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr02-0309>)

1730 Jul 26

Onslow Co NC

650a on north side of NE branch of New River in Onslow Co NC granted to **GEORGE HENDERSON**, July 26 1730; land was inherited by Jeremiah Dunn and Rebeckah, his wife, who were heirs of **Hugh Scott** and the (this is heirs of Hugh Scott) heirs of **GEORGE HENDERSON**, deceased, of Bertie Co., NC. Land was sold by the Dunns in 1786. *Source: Abstracts of the records of Onslow County, North Carolina, 1734-1850. By Zae Hargett Gwynn, p360*

1735 Feb 13

Bertie Co NC

Will of CAPT DAVID HENDERSON

Abstract: **HENDERSON, DAVID** of Bertie. Sister Gennet Henderson (Thompson) and her children; George Henderson (nephew). Robert West, Cullen Pollock, **George Henderson** and Captain John Calden, Executors. Wit: Thos Davis and Simon Dart, James Keeter and Elizabeth Dart. Proven before W. Smith, C.J.. Probated 9 Mar 1735.

From what I can tell, Captain David died without direct heirs and left his estate to his nieces and nephews. He must have had at least one brother at some point (father of nephew George Henderson), but possibly no other siblings (or at least those with children) since he only names those of his sister in addition to George. George Henderson would reportedly attempt to "get the whole of the estate" from his cousins, for which they brought suit against him, however, he would die only about a year after his uncle, leaving his portion of Captain David's estate to members of the Nelson, Moore and Scott families (relationships, if any, unidentified).

1736 Oct 15

Bertie Co NC

The 15th October 1736 Present as before...Read the Petition of Cullen Pollock and Robert West Esq setting forth that **DAVID HENDERSON** deceased bequeathed his Estate to George Henderson of this Province and six other Persons in share and share alike. That the said **GEORGE HENDERSON** hath got the whole Estate into his hands the said Petitioners praying that the said George Henderson may be compelled to deliver the six shares aforesaid to them. Ordered that the said George Henderson deliver such part of the Testator's Estate as belongs to the six Absent Legatees with the Papers relating thereto to the petitioners. [View Source](#) *The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume 4 edited by William Laurence Saunders P225*

1736

Bertie Co NC

Will of GEORGE HENDERSON

Abstract: **HENDERSON, GEORGE** of Bertie. Will made 15 Oct 1736, proved 27 Nov 1736. **Thomas Moor**, John Ray, Rachel Nelson, Mary Gregory, Andrew Moor, Hugh Scott (*land on Cashai River*), Andrew Scott and George Scott (sons of Andrew Scott, merchant in Glasgow), all due me from estate of **Capt. David Henderson**; Hugh Scott (merchant) of Boston and **Andrew Moore** Executors. Witnessed by: John Ray, George Strachan, Samuel Cook. Proven before W. Smith, C.J. [View Abstract](#) *Abstracts of North Carolina Wills, By: J. Bryan Grimes, Secretary of State, 1910, Page 160*

1737 Jan 19

Bertie Co NC Deed Book 3 p363

JOHN HENDERSON - deed from William Moore to Benjamin Hill

19 January 1737 100 acres on N side Meheron Creek. Wit: **J Bonde**, John Laman, **JOHN HENDERSON**. "Know...that I Judith **Moore**...have for five pounds...by Col Benjamin Hill relinquished all my Right Title and Interest to within land. 19 January 1737. Wit J Bonde, John Laman, **JOHN HENDERSON**. November Court 1738. [Book 3 p 363]

Note the occurrence of the names Moore and Bond, both names were witnesses to James "Isaac" Henderson's 1770 Onslow County will. Benjamin Hill (b 1637 m Miss Latham? Laman?) was of Lazy Hill in Bertie Co NC. There is a paragraph of footnotes in The NC Historical and Genealogical register that [outlines Hill's family members](#), but there is no connection with any Henderson apparent in this information. If Benj Hill's dob is correct, this is likely a son or grandson).

1738

Craven County NC

WILLIAM HENDERSON issued a land grant of 288a N. side of Neuse river below the mouth of Beaver Dam Branch and running up the Pocason Branch. Wit Gab. Johnston. [View original document](#) North Carolina Land Grants File No. 63, David Henderson

This may be a duplicate grant, but the two 1738 documents are different.

1738

Craven County NC

WILLIAM HENDERSON issued a land grant of 288a N. side of Neuse river below the mouth of Beaver Dam Branch and running up the Pocason Branch. Wit Gab. Johnston. [View original document](#) North Carolina Land Grants File No. 871, David Henderson

1739 May 19

Bertie Co NC Deed Book F p 484

RICHARD HENDERSON - deed, Lords Proprietors to John Bently

4 August 1723 grant. 480 acres "...according to Our great Deed of Grant bearing date the first day of May Anno Dom 1668...for importation of persons, 50 acres per person, land on [M]orrattock River adj. John Harlow, Martin Griffin, **Thomas Pollock**. Witness: William Reed, president of our council in Sectr Office **J Lovick** Secy. **C. Gale**, **RICH HENDERSON**, Thos Pollock. In clerk's office 19 May 1739, Jno Wynns Clk.

At first glance I thought this was Judge Richard Henderson of Hanover Co VA and Granville Co NC, but a double-check of that gentleman's birth and death dates (1734-1785) reveals that it must be another. The early Hanover Henderson line of VA is currently supposed to have consisted of Samuel, Nathaniel, Richard, and Edward, (but that has not yet been proven, according to a Hanover researcher with whom I communicate). Samuel and Nathaniel moved to Granville Co NC in the 1740-50 time period (Samuel was father of Judge Richard Henderson of Transylvania project). Notice that this Richard is found in conjunction with the same names of prominent NC colonial officials as are James Henderson and Captain David Henderson. This implies to me that this group of Bertie & Chowan Hendersons may have been men of means and status, although I have not found very many specific references to them in old records, so they do not appear to have been as consistently active in the community or government to any degree approaching the other gentlemen named. Perhaps they were property owners elsewhere and were in Carolina on business.

1741 May 21

Craven Co NC

At a Council (probably around Edenton or New Bern)

"Read Sundry Petitions for Land Viz...**WILLIAM HENDERSON** 3 Craven..." [Source: The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume 4 edited by William Laurence Saunders pg 594](#)

1741 May 22

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Craven Co NC

"Read Sundry Petitions for Land Vizt: **WILLIAM HENDERSON** for 155 Craven..." *Source: The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume 4 edited by William Laurence Saunders pg 595*

1744 Nov 24

Edgecombe Co NC

Samuel Henderson Petitions for land in Edgecombe

At a Council held at Newbern 24 day November 1744...Read the following Petitions for Warrants --

SAMUEL HENDERSON 100a Edgecombe. *Source: The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume 4 edited by William Laurence Saunders pg 708*

1745 Apr 6

Craven Co NC

At a council held at Newbern William Henderson petitions for 150a in Craven

At a Council held at Newbern 6 April 1745...Read the following Petitions for Warrants Vizt -- **WILLIAM HENDERSON** 150a Craven. *Source: The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume 4 edited by William Laurence Saunders pg 708*

1746 Jun 5

Craven Co NC

PETER HENDERSON - Will of Paul Phillips

Phillips, Paul of Craven. June 5th 1746. June Court 1751. Grandson Paul Flood, son Paul, daus Rachel Gomshaw and Ruth Sanders, son-in-law William Flood, wife Rebecca and William Flood, Executors. Test, Luke Green, Leonard Loftin, **PETER HENDERSON**.

Note the occurrence of the name Green associated with Henderson; see also the James of Bladen Co 1765, below.

1748 Oct 3

Johnston Co NC

At a council helad at New Bern, Craven Co NC

WILLIAM HENDERSON petitions for 640a of land in Johnston Co NC *Source: The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume 4 edited by William Laurence Saunders pg 892*

1748 Nov 24

At a Council held at New Bern, Craven Co NC

SAMUEL HENDERSON petitions for 100a of land in Edgecombe Co NC *Source: The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume 4 edited by William Laurence Saunders pg 892*

1749 Jan 10

Edgecombe Co NC

JOSEPH HENDERSON - Will of Joseph Howell

Abstract: Howell, Maj. Joseph of Edgecombe. Jany. 10, 1749; May Court, 1750. Wife Margaret, sons Jospeh and Thomas, daughters Mary Murphey and Martha; wife, son Joseph, Col Dawson, Samuel Ruffin, Thomas Howell and **JAMES HENDERSON** Exrs. Test, Jas Williamson, Jas Barron, Thomas Barron.

Note: The will, when transcribed online, is sometimes transcribed as Joseph and other times as James.

1749 Apr 5

Johnston Co NC

At a council helad at New Bern, Craven Co NC

WILLIAM HENDERSON petitions for 640a of land in Johnston Co NC *Source: The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume 4 edited by William Laurence Saunders pg 946*

1749 Sep 29

At a Council held at New Bern

Read the Petition of Thomas Farmer shewing that one **WILLIAM HENDERSON** had obtained a Warrant and surreptitiously a Grant and Patent for the Land he lives on for which the Petitioner has likewise a patent of an equal Date and praying in regard his being the prior Warrant, and the said **Hendersons** not having been regularly executed, and that he had made large improvements on the Premises, the said **Henderson's** Grant may be set aside. Postponed till Wednesday next being the 4th of October, and Ordered that the Parties with their Evidences and also Joseph Caruthers Deputy Surveyor do then severally appear before this Board in Order to a hearing in the premises and that they have Notice thereof Accordingly. [View Source](#) *The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume 4 edited by William Laurence Saunders p 960*

1759 Jul 10

Carteret Co NC

ANDREW HENDERSON - Will of James Shackelford

Abstract: Shackelford, James of Carteret, Jul 10 1759. Sept. Court 1759. Sons James, Joseph and Peleg, wife Kesiah and son James Exrs. Test, Ananias Cavanagh, Thomas Addyson, **ANDREW HENDERSON**, and Robert Finney.

1764 Feb 6

Bladen Co NC

JAMES HENDERSON - Will of William Hall

Abstract: Hall, William of Bladen. Feby. 6 1764; Apl 24, 1765. Wife Elizabeth, whom with Thomas Hall I appoint my Exrs. Test, A. Green, **JAMES HENDERSON**, Mary Green. *The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, Volume 1 Pg 223*

1773 Nov 2

Edenton, Chowan Co NC

RICHARD HENDERSON, ESQ. of Granville Co - mentioned in will of Thomas Eccleston

Eccleston, Thomas, Edenton, Nov. 2nd 1773. Wife Agnes, eldest son John, son Thomas, child in ease, daughter Mary Eccleston, **RICHARD HENDERSON, ESQ. of Granville Co.**, wife and Peter Adams Exrs. Test, S. Dickinson **Alex Gallatly**.

Notice that Alexander Gallatly carried certificates for James Henderson and others to "leave the country" in 1777 (see below) when Henderson, a Loyalist, refused to swear an oath to the new government during the revolution.

1776-1782

Edenton, Chowan Co NC

James, John and William Henderson

JAMES HENDERSON (during 1776), **JOHN HENDERSON** (during 1782) and **WILLIAM HENDERSON** (during 1778) are all found in the records of Edenton Masonic Lodge #7. [Post on NCCHOWAN Archives](#).

1777 Jul 31

Edenton, Chowan Co NC

[**Mr. Alexander Gelatly**] "carries certificates from the Clerk of this County for John Weir, Alexander Clarke, William Knight (former Comptroller of the Customs at Port Roanoke), James McClain and John Baggs, and **JAMES HENDERSON**, who were all cited last Court to take the oath. They chose rather to leave the Country than to do so. They, some of them did not come under the Act of Assembly I believe, and considered themselves pointed at. They are all men who have supported very fair characters, have ever been peaceful citizens, and borne their share of all public duties assigned them, but refused the oath of Government, and therefore entered into a recognizance to leave the Country agreeable to Act of Assembly -- the time's near out, and they wait on your Excellency for your permission that they may depart the country...Any thing your Excellency can do consistent with the line of your duty to facilitate the departure of him and the others on whose behalf he appears would be conferring a favor on your Excellency's most obed. & very Hble serv't., Robert Smith" [Letter to Governor Caswell from Robert Smith](#)

It is difficult to know if the James Henderson in Edenton (with John and William) was the same James Henderson mentioned in Governor Charles Eden's 1721 will. It seems unlikely as I would have expected the James Henderson of 1721 to have been roughly of an age with 41-yo Charles Eden and his contemporaries mentioned in the will. I would place the Bertie County James Henderson's birth date no later than 1700 at the outside, which would have made him 77 years old in 1777 (when the James Henderson above was fleeing the Carolinas), and unlikely to be taking flight with loyalists.

On the other hand, an older man who had been close to officers of colonial government may have had strong loyalties to the crown, so it is not out of the question that they could be the same. My guess, however, is that the Hendersons we find in and around Bertie County late 1700's are brothers or cousins, sons or grandsons of the earlier Albemarle, Chowan & Bertie Hendersons above.

Our James "Isaac" Henderson of Onslow County made his will there on October 20, 1770. Although we do not know when the will was proved, it seems likely that our James had passed away before 1777, more circumstantial evidence that he is not the same James awaiting a certificate of departure to be the same who was fleeing the state in 1777.

In Robert O. DeMond's "[The Loyalists in North Carolina During the Revolution](#)" (Chapter 9, pp181-184) we find an account of the exodus of Tories from North Carolina as the revolution got underway: "The first act of banishment against the Loyalists was passed in April, 1777... Those who decided to leave were for the most part prominent in the economic and political life of the state... In January, 1778 Governor Josiah Martin, who was in New York City, reported that in the last six months not less than one hundred and fifty refugees had arrived from North Carolina... New York City, being in the hands of the British, appears to have been the destination of a large number of North Carolinians at this time. In July, 1777 the North Carolina Gazette announced that a large vessel had sailed from New Bern with a great number of Tories, their wives and families, mostly Scotch. They were described as men of property, which for the most part they removed with them.... Josiah Martin, the former governor of North Carolina, who was in New York at this time, described the arrival of the vessel... He reported that two vessels had arrived from North Carolina within six weeks which contained besides women, children and Negroes, twenty-two refugee Loyalist subjects from North Carolina, all but three of whom were natives from Scotland... Another prominent North Carolina refugee in New York at this time was William Knight, former Comptroller of the Customs at Port Roanoke... The rest of the recent arrivals were described as merchants or mechanics, all of whom had been loyal from the beginning except George Miller and [?] Maxwell, who after bearing arms in rebellion, repented and refused to abjure their sovereign. Only one of the group was a native of North Carolina, and he was Brice... Regardless of character and conduct, all were required to leave who did not take the oath. Robert Smith interceded with Governor Caswell to

*facilitate the departure of Alexander Gelately, former register at Edenton, whom he described as a gentleman of high ideals. John Weir, Alexander Clarke, William Knight, James McClain, John Baggs and **James Henderson**, who were also included in the request, were described as men of the finest character..."*

DeMond states that *"The eastern counties of [North Carolina] were well represented in the migrations at this time. One of the most common methods of departure from these counties was for a group of men to purchase a ship, load it with such goods as they might be permitted to take, and set out for the West Indies."*

1781 Dec 14

Edenton, Chowan Co NC

Attorney General James Iredell writes to Judge John Williams in Edenton. He ends his letter with "You will be so good as to mention me to Mrs. Williams with all possible respect...And pray do me the favor to present my particular respects to my obliging friends, Mr. & Mrs. Burton, **MR. & MRS. & MISS HENDERSON** and your other agreeable connexions..." *The State Records of North Carolina, Volume 15 pg 672; edited by Walter Clark. William Laurence Saunders. Stephen Beauregard Weeks*

1787

Bertie Co NC

An Isaac Henderson is living in Freemans District of Bertie County, NC. *Source: Page 002 of NC Early Census Index*

1788 Feb 19

Onslow Co NC

George Burt, Jr. of Taunton of Massachusetts Bay of the county of Bristol, mariner, to John Sutton of Bertie Co NC for 200 pounds 650a on north side of NE branch of New River in Onslow Co NC which was granted to **GEORGE HENDERSON**, July 26 1730 and by virtue of Power of Attorney from Jeremiah Dunn and Rebeckah, his wife, who are heirs of **Hugh Scott** and the (this is heirs of Hugh Scott) heirs of **GEORGE HENDERSON**, deceased, of Bertie Co., NC now sell this land. Tests: William Sutton, Joab Champion, Edmund Burt. *Source: Abstracts of the records of Onslow County, North Carolina, 1734-1850. By Zae Hargett Gwynn, p360*