

A LARGE POSTERITY OF PIONEERS

As to the **Pamunkey Davenports** collectively, we are most likely dealing with the largest group of Twenty-First Century Davenports in the United States with Colonial Virginia antecedents. By 1790, for example, more than 95% of all Davenports taxed in Southside Virginia (South of the James River) and slightly more than 50% of the Davenports taxed North of the James River were of **Pamunkey** stock. By 1820, because of out-migration (primarily to Georgia and Kentucky, but also to the Carolinas), only 15% of the **Davenports** enumerated North of the James in the Federal Census were **Pamunkeys**. Ninety-five percent (95%) of all Davenport households listed in Southside Virginia continued to be of **Pamunkey** origin.

Of all the **Davenports** in Virginia, it was a **Pamunkey Davenport**, namely **Elias**, likely the second youngest son of **Davis**, and his sons **Dorrel** and **John** who initiated movement out of Virginia. They settled in Bertie County, North Carolina (at the west end of Albemarle Sound) in the early to mid-1750s. **Elias** and his sons were followed less than two decades later by **Augustine Davenport** (son of **William Davenport** of Spotsylvania County) who settled in Rowan County in the North Carolina Piedmont. He was joined during the Revolution by his brother **John** who settled nearby in Randolph County. **Thomas Davenport** (eldest son of **Martin Davenport, Sr.**, of Hanover) and his son **Martin**, from Hanover-Louisa by way of Culpeper, emigrated, in concert with **Thomas'** sisters **Mary Davenport Gambill** and **Dorothy Davenport Baker** and portions of their respective families, to the North Carolina mountain backcountry at the same time as **John**, if not before.

During the Revolution, there was a large **Pamunkey** presence in Virginia Continental, State, and Militia troops. In North Carolina their service was with the Militia. At least one **Pamunkey** was recognized among the South Carolina patriots, and two of the Family, recruited in Cumberland County, Virginia, served in the Georgia Continental Line. If there were any Tories among the **Pamunkeys**, they have been well hidden.

In the decade after the Revolution, **Pamunkeys** began to populate Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky as well as North Carolina. They were prolific in number, generally had large families predominantly of more sons than daughters, and in the decades that followed they pursued the Frontier south and west--and a few moved north of the Ohio River, starting in 1801.