

WHO ARE THE PAMUNKEY DAVENPORTS?

The descriptor “**Pamunkey Davenports**” (a term coined in January, 1998) is used to identify all those **Davenports** who trace back to **Pamunkey Neck**, Old King William County, Virginia, which in 1704 included present-day King William County, the south-western fourth of Caroline County, and the most southern portion of Spotsylvania County. Old King William when created in 1701 was sixty miles long with an average width of nine miles. After Spotsylvania County (1722) and Caroline County (1728) took portions of Upper Pamunkey Neck into their jurisdictions, King William was reduced to its present dimensions--thirty-two miles long with an average width of eight miles.

Pamunkey Davenports include all those descendants, by surname or corollary (daughter) lines, who trace back to **Davis Davenport**, who first appeared as a plantation and landing owner in a survey done for Major John Waller in 1696, and then again in the King William Quit Rents of 1704, either by proof (son **Martin**) or by circumstantial evidence (daughter **Ann**, son **Richard**, son **Thomas**, son **Elias**, and son **John**). In essence, **Pamunkey Davenports** can all prove that they trace back to Pamunkey Neck, but in most part cannot yet prove--and possibly never may be able to do so--that they trace back to **Davis**, although circumstantial evidence heavily supports the conclusion that they do. Hence, they can identify themselves collectively as “**Pamunkey Davenports**” comfortably--without pretense or need for qualification.

DNA evidence gathered since 2003 proves conclusively a common ancestral base for descendants of **Martin, Richard, Thomas, and Elias**, sons of **Davis**. The proofs for son **John** are in abeyance solely by an inability to find a male **Davenport**-surnamed descendant of that alleged son willing to be DNA tested. Descendants of **Ann**, daughter of **Davis**, cannot be tested for the **Pamunkey Davenport DNA** because current scientific parameters of the Genealogical DNA analysis exclude Female lines. Circumstantial evidence included and analyzed in *The Further Chronicles of the Pamunkey Davenports*, by **Dr. John Scott Davenport**, ties **John** and **Ann**, who married **Thomas Graves**, and their descendants conclusively into the **Pamunkey Davenport Family**.

Moreover, included among the Pamunkey Davenports are those who became members of the family by marriage -- the sons- and daughters-in-law, or by affinity -- those who became Davenports because they were raised as Davenports. Some of the latter came as “ready-made family” when a parent married a Davenport; many took the Davenport name. Others may have been raised as Davenports even though, strictly

speaking, their bloodline may show what genealogists call a “paternity event.” All are part of and greatly enriched the family history, and it is the history of the Davenport family that is told here and in the Chronicles.

For those unfamiliar with Virginia geography, **Pamunkey Neck** is that long finger of land running northwest to southeast between the Pamunkey-North Anna River and the Mattaponi River, ending at their confluence to form the York River. Prior to 1701, Pamunkey Neck was the reservation of the Pamunkey, Chickahominy, and Mattaponi Indians as well as a few even smaller tribes. (Both the Pamunkeys and Mattaponis still have small reservations in King William County today.)