

PEEBLES

Charters and documents relating to the Burgh of Peebles, variously spelled Peblis, Pebyl, Peblys, Pabell, Pebillis, etc., and the Shire of Peebles in Scotland date back to the year 1165 AD. But it has been established that before 1100 AD a group of highly civilized refugees from then current civil and religious difficulties in Flanders settled on the alluvial plain at the confluence of the Tweed and the Eddlestone Rivers, the latter for centuries called "Peebles Water", with the permission of the widow of William the Conqueror, Queen Matilda, daughter of Baldwin, Earl of Flanders. Their settlements were so frequently burned, first by the Scots and then by the English from across the border, that they became known as "Peebles" - the name means "dwellers in tents". Their perseverance in rebuilding, however, finally resulted in their town of Peebles being made a Royal Burgh during the reign of King William the Lion (1165-1214), Edinburgh being the only other place so designated at that early date.

Arms of the Royal Burgh of Peebles are: Gules, three salmon naiant in pale, the center towards the dexter, the others towards the sinister.

Motto: Contra nando incrementum.
(Increase by swimming against the flood.)

Arms granted to individual Peebles, including those of Peebles, Earl of Wemyss, and Peebles, Marquis of Queensbury, both titles being extinct, are: Argent, a chevron engrailed sable between three papingoes (popinjays, i.e., parrots) vert, membered gules. The family of Peebles of Chapelhill used a cinque-foil on the chevron.

The following verse can be found in the Clerk's Office in the Town of Peebles:

"Peebles, the metropolis of the Shire
Six times three praises doth of me require.
Three streets, three ports, three bridges it adorn
And three old steeples by three churches borne.
Three mills to serve the town in time of need
On Peebles Water and the River Tweed.
Their arms are proper and point forth their meaning:
Three salmon fishes nimbly counter swimming."

The remaining early original records of Scotland have been gathered and are presently in the New Register House in Edinburgh. Among the more interesting ones which refer to the name of Peebles are the following:

- 1291 Warrinus de Peebles, Burgess of Berwick.
- 1296 Sir John of Peebles, Vicar of Peebles, on the Ragman Roll, possibly the John Peebles who was a Member of Parliament in 1328.

- 1321 Sir Robert of Peebles, Canon of Glasgow, Lord Great Chamberlain to King Robert the Bruce (1321 - 1325).
- 1322 Lord William de Peebles, Prior of Melrose Abbey, killed by the English while defending his Abbey.
- 1346 William Peebles was granted lands in Forfairshire by King David II.
- 1362 John of Peblys, "master of the hospital thereof".
- 1366 John, son of David Peebles, rendered an account as Baillie.
- 1377 John Peebles, LL.D., Treasurer of Glasgow, Canon of St. Andrew's, Bishop of Dunkeld, Lord Chancellor to King Robert II.
- 1441 Sir Thomas of Peblis witnessed a charter made by King James II.
- 1450 Requiem was offered for Sir Thomas of Peebles "and all Christian souls" in St. Andrew's Church, Peebles.
- 1448 William of Peblis witnessed a Charter to the Burgh of Peebles; he was Burgess of Peebles, on the Council several times, a Baillie and Member of Parliament until 1468.
- 1492 Adam Peebles witnessed a deed in the new Town of Peebles.
- 1502 William Peebles and his wife Christian Dickson sold 1/3 of Smithfield to John Hay.
- 1533 William Peebles was Member of Parliament for Peebles.
- 1549 Town of Peebles was burned by the English.
- 1555 Thomas Peebles was "of the Council" and Baillie of Peebles.
- 1562 The Gledstone brothers slew Adam Bell and Thomas Peebles and seized their lands in Caedmore and Doids, leaving Helen Thriepland, relict of Thomas Peebles, destitute.
- 1567 King James VI of Scotland became King James I of England; he took a great interest in his Royal Burgh of Peebles, occupying the Royal Castle there and sponsoring various sports and amusements, including games, races and tilts. He is credited with the saying: "Paris for grandeur; Peebles for pleasure."
- 1568 William Peebles was Member of Parliament for Peebles; his residence, Cruikstone, lies southeast of the town near Caedmore.
- 1572 The Charter of William Peebles was confirmed by King James VI.
- 1575 William Peebles sold lands of Cruikstoun to Adam Bell on 16 Dec. 1575 "at the door of the tower of Smithfield"; said lands had been held by the Peebles family under Charter to Adam Peebles in 1496.
- John Peebles, Burgess of Peebles, later confirmed the sale by Adam Bell of the lands of Cruikstoun to Robert Scott.
- 1579 David Peebles, Canon of St. Andrew's, died; he was author of "St. Andrew's Harmonized Psalter" which he versified and set to music.
- 1601 John Peebles owned a tenement in the Burgh of Peebles.

- I -

THE PROGENITOR OF THE PEBBLES FAMILY IN AMERICA.

CAPTAIN DAVID PEBBLES

Bon Accord Plantation, Prince George County, Virginia.

Captain David Peebles of the Virginia Militia, in charge of the area between Powells and Wards Creeks on the south side of the James River in what is now Prince George County, arrived in Virginia in 1649 when more than 300 royalists, adherents to Charles I, King and Martyr, condemned to the block by Cromwell, escaped from England.

He is said to have been 56 years old when he reached Virginia, which would indicate that he was born in Scotland c. 1593. On 5 August 1650 David Peebles was granted a plantation of 833 acres for payment of importation of himself and sixteen other persons. As was the custom, he paid the ship owners or masters the cost of passage, and was assigned the head rights. To his plantation he gave the name of "Bon Accord", possibly because he or his wife (who did not accompany him to Virginia since she apparently died before 1650) came from Aberdeen, the "City of Bon Accord", famed in Britain and on the Continent for its culture and learning. And before 1800 Bon Accord was divided into two plantations, Bon Accord retaining 631 original acres and the new plantation of Aberdeen getting 200 of its acres plus a purchase of 175 acres to fill out its total of 378 acres.

According to the Court Order Book of Charles City County 1655-1665, David Peebles was a Justice of the County Court and a Vestryman of Westover Parish, taking an active part in the community life of the colony. He leased portions of his large plantation for the planting of tobacco, bought, sold and exported tobacco as various transactions recorded in the Court Records show.

Research of Parish Records in Scotland indicate that Captain David Peebles came from Fifeshire and gives the names of his first wife, the mother of his children born in Scotland:

1634 St. Andrew's Parish: David Peebles and Elspet Mackie had a daughter, Criston, baptized.

1641 Kilbalclavie Parish: Alison, daughter of David Peebles and Elspet Mackie, was baptized 7 July 1641.

1635 Kilconquhar Parish; WILLIAM PEEBLES, lawful son of David Peebles and Elspet Mackie, was baptized 7 July 1635.

1642 St. Monance Parish: David Peebles of the Parish of Carnbie had a daughter, Margaret, baptized on 18 Sept. 1642.

1644 Balclavie Parish: John, son to David Peebles and Elspet Mackie, was baptized on 9 April 1644.

By 1655 Captain David Peebles had married Elizabeth Bishopp, daughter of John Bishopp who arrived in Virginia in 1638. John Bishopp was a Burgess in 1644, 1652 and 1653, dying before April 1656 when his estate was settled. His wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Bishopp, died in August 1656 for on 1 Sept. 1656 probate of the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Bishopp was granted to Captain Henry Perry and Captain David Peebles. On 3 Aug. 1657 guardianship of Edmond Bishop was given to his older sister, Mrs. Elizabeth (Bishop) Peebles, until he was "17 years old".

In the summer of 1656 there was some trouble with the Indians which Captain David Peebles' militia helped subdue and it is said that he was seriously injured. From then on he failed to attend the County Court in which he served as Judge. In August 1657 Merchants Hope Church in present Prince George County, which was cut from Charles City County in 1704, was completed and many courts were held therein. Although his plantation was but a few miles away, Captain David Peebles did not attend. On 4 Feb. 1657 his name was one of four submitted to the Governor of Virginia for appointment as Sheriff; this was done apparently before the extent of his physical debilitation was realized.

Captain David Peebles died shortly before 1 Sept. 1659 when the Court appointed Mr. Anthony Wyatt and Captain Robert Wynn to appraise "the perishable estates of the orphans of Captain David Peebles ... and the estate of Edmond Bishop", the latter having been the ward of his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Bishop Peebles. By June 1665 Mrs. Elizabeth Bishop Peebles had married John Drayton, Jr. The two children of Capt. David Peebles and Elizabeth Bishop were:

1. Sarah Peebles who married Rice Hoe who on 3 Feb. 1663 sued for her estate "pretended to be in the hands of John Drayton".
2. Christian Peebles who married John Poythress who on 18 Dec. 1688 "as marrying Christian, the daughter of Elizabeth Peebles", sued Thomas Busby for infringement on his land. Captain William Peebles' Bon Accord Plantation passed ultimately to the Poythress family through this marriage, possibly partly through purchase from Captain David Peebles' eldest son, William Peebles, who inherited it.

- II -

WILLIAM PEEBLES OF BON ACCORD AND BURLLIGH PLANTATIONS.

WILLIAM PEEBLES, son of Captain David Peebles and his wife, Elspet Mackie, was born in Fifeshire, Scotland in 1635, was baptized on 7 July 1635 in Kilconquhar Parish Church. He came to Virginia shortly after the death of his father there in order to take charge of his father's business affairs. The first official record confirming his arrival is dated 3 Dec. 1661 when John Compton was order by the Court to pay William Peebles a bill then due him. William Peebles married JUDETH, a ward of John Drayton, his receipt for her estate being recorded at Court 3 Feb. 1663.

William Peebles inherited 833-acre Bon Accord Plantation which had been granted in 1650 to Captain David Peebles; Bon Accord was later known locally as "Bonniecord" after it passed to the Poythress family through the marriage of Christian Peebles to John Poythress. In 1670 and 1673 William Peebles received grants of 388 acres mostly east of Birchen Swamp, some five miles south of Bon Accord, and of 473 acres mostly west of Birchen Swamp; the latter grant was known as Burleigh Plantation and it was there that William Peebles died in Wynoke Parish in August 1695.

William Peebles and his first wife, Judeth, ward of John Drayton, were the parents of two sons:

1. William Peebles of Burleigh Plantation, born c. 1670.
2. David Peebles of Prince George County, Virginia, who married Ann, daughter of Francis Maybury, and died in Bristol Parish in 1726, leaving three sons: Jehu, David and Joseph Peebles.

William Peebles and his second wife, Elizabeth, left an only son, Henry Peebles who married and had an only son, Henry Peebles who died without issue, and six daughters.

- III -

WILLIAM PEEBLES OF BURLLEIGH PLANTATION

WILLIAM PEEBLES, born c. 1670, son of William and Judeth Peebles, inherited Burleigh Plantation where he was born from his father. He was a Quaker, his plantation giving site and name to the first Quaker Meeting south of the James River; there are various references to him in these Church records. William Peebles was a planter; as early as 7 May 1706 the will of Edward Green bequeathed him various "hogs and yews" (ewes) although the relationship between them is not known. On 12 Oct. 1727 William Peebles patented 200 acres on Black Swamp in Surry (later Sussex) County, giving one-half of it to his son Thomas in 1738 and selling the remainder to William Adams in 1740.

William Peebles married Elizabeth Hamlin, granddaughter of Stephen Hamlin; they were the parents of eight children:

- * 1. Abraham Peebles who married Keziah, daughter of Richard Carlisle, and was the progenitor of many of the Peebles/Peebles families in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia today.
2. William Peebles (c.1700-c.1769), a Quaker, married (1) Mary, daughter of Richard Carlisle and Mary Tatum; married (2) Agnes, daughter of Richard Shock (widow of George Barker).
3. Thomas Peebles, born c. 1704, married c. 1725 Sarah Tatum.
4. John Peebles, born c. 1706 at Burleigh Plantation.
5. Hannah Peebles, born 1708 at Burleigh Plantation, married (1) 1730 William Patison of Prince George County, son of Joseph Pattyson; married (2) Dec. 1736 John Merrymoon.
6. Sarah Peebles, born c. 1710, married c. 1730 Amos Horton, leaving several sons: Amos, Daniel and David who moved to North Carolina.
7. Peter Peebles, born 28 Sept. 1714 at Burleigh, married in March 1738 Huldah Ladd (1712-1784), daughter of William Ladd and Huldah Binford, all staunch Quakers.
8. Joseph Peebles, born c. 1716 at Burleigh, married in 1748 Mary Barker, daughter of George and Agnes (Shock) Barker; they had only two daughters: Elizabeth who in 1795 married Thomas Hunicutt and Mourning Peebles who never married but became a Silversmith, at which craft she reputedly made a great deal of money which enabled her to travel to Scotland to visit her Peebles relatives there and to Ohio and Indiana whence various Peebleses had moved from Virginia; she was said to have been a striking figure in her long gray Quaker cape - for all of this family were Quakers.

- IV -

JOHN PEEBLES OF ALBEMARLE PARISH, SURRY COUNTY AND ST. ANDREW'S PARISH, BRUNSWICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

JOHN PEEBLES, fourth son of William and Elizabeth (Hamlin) Peebles of Burleigh Plantation, was born at Burleigh c. 1706; first public record of him is 3 Nov. 1725 as witness to the will of Charles Sledge in Surry County. On 10 June 1734 John Peebles bought from Samuel Clark 200 acres in Surry County on Pidgeon Swamp, adjoining Col. William Randolph. The 12 June 1736 will of Samuel Clark of Surry (later Sussex) County left a slave to his daughter Elizabeth who had married John Peebles c. 1726. On 6 Oct. 1748 John Peebles was appointed Surveyor of Roads in Brunswick County, having served on the Grand Jury there in Nov. 1747. On 20 Sept. 1745 John Peebles patented 143 acres in the fork of Cane Branch in Brunswick County, the same day patenting 286 acres on both sides of Fountains Creek. On 16 Aug. 1755 John Peebles patented 538 acres on the south side of Fountains Creek; in 1758 he was appointed Collector for Meherrin Parish, a new parish cut from St. Andrew's Parish.

The eight children of John and Elizabeth (Clark) Peebles were:

1. Jean Peebles, born c. 1728, married (1) a Tooke, (2) an Ezell and (3) Amos Horton; John Peebles was Guardian for several minors named Tooke in 1755 - apparently his grandchildren.
2. John Peebles, born c. 1730, a Revolutionary War soldier.
3. Sarah Peebles, born c. 1732, named in her father's will of 24 May 1770; married a Jordan.

* Abraham Peebles was the ancestor of the Peebles family of present Hampton County, South Carolina.