

This name dates back to abt 1600, with Dr. John Woodson who m. Sarah Winston, and had two sons: John Woodson, b. ca 1632 at Fleur de Hundred, or sometimes called "Piersey's Hundred", a plantation on s.s. of James River, Prince Geo. Co., Va., his LWT dtd 8/20/1684, pvd 10/1/1684, naming his two sons, John and Robert; also Robert's two children, viz, Jane and Samuel; and bro., Robert's five children: John, Robert, Richard, Joseph, and Benjamin.

Another son of Dr. John Woodson – Robert Woodson, b. 1634 at Fleur de Hundred, m. Elizabeth Ferris, ca 1656, dau. of Richard Ferris of Curles. In American Ancestry, V. VIII: "She was descended from an ancient Norman family, Henri de Ferriers of Gascony...The Ferris family was originally from Leicestershire, England, descended from Henri de Ferriers, son of Gwalchelme de Ferriers, Master of Horse to the Duke of Normandy." See Americans of Gentle Birth, V. I, P. 358. From Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and Their Connections, P. 23: "Robert was born, according to his own deposition, in the year 1634, at Fleur de Hundred, on the south side of James River, in what is now Prince George County, Virginia.... It was here that the family lived at the time of the massacre by the Indians on the 18th of April 1644, when Robert and his elder brother were saved by being thrust into a pit made for the purpose of keeping potatoes; from which circumstance their descendants, for several generations, bore the sobriquet of "Potato Hole Woodsons"...."

In 1679 Robert and his bro., John, were enumerated among the tithables at Curles, a plantation on n.s. of James River in Henrico Co., a short distance above Fleur de Hundred, this place later becoming noted as the seat of the Randolph Family. William and Mary Quarterly, V. IX, P. 255: "There is a grant of 1785 acres of land October 21, 1687 to Mr. Robert Woodson, Mr. Richard Ferris, etc., at White Oak Swamp, on the north side of James River, in parish of Varina. Robert Woodson, in 1707, made a deed to his grandsons, William Lewis Jr. and Joseph Lewis.

John Woodson, b. ca 1658 m. Judith Tarleton (more later); Robert Woodson, b. ca 1660 at Curles, Henrico Co., Va., d. there in 1729, his LWT dtd 2/1729 Henrico Co., Va.; Richard Woodson, b. ca 1662 at Curles, Henrico Co., Va., m. Ann Smith, dau. of Obadiah Smith; Joseph Woodson, b. ca. 1664 at Curles, Henrico Co., Va., d. Oct. 1735, m. his second cou., Mary Jane Woodson, dau. of John Woodson and Mary Tucker; Benjamin Woodson, b. ca 1666 Curles, Henrico Co., Va., d. 1723, his LWT recorded Henrico Co. 8/1723, m. ca 1688 Sarah Porter; Sarah Woodson, b. ca 1668 Curles, Henrico Co., Va., m. ca 1688 to Edward Moseley; Elizabeth Woodson, b. ca 1670 at Curles, Henrico Co., Va. m. William Lewis, who may have been a bro. to Robert Woodson's first wife, Sarah Lewis; Judith Woodson, b. ca 1673 at Curles, Henrico Co., Va. m. William Cannon; and Mary Woodson, b. ca 1678 at Curles, Henrico Co., Va. m. 1704 to George Payne of Goochland Co. (the latter d. 1744, his LWT dtd 12/3/1743, pvd 1/15/1744 Goochland Co. Va.)

John Woodson, b. ca 1658 m. Judith Tarleton, b. at Curles, Henrico Co., Va. m. the dau. of Stephen Tarleton of New Kent Co., Va. This is the "cousin" (nephew) that John Woodson mentioned by his uncle, John Woodson, in his LWT dtd 8/20/1684. In 1712 Judith Tarleton Woodson relinquished her dower right in land deeded by her husband, John Woodson, Merchant of the parish and county of Henrico. John made his LWT 1815, pvd 1716 Henrico Co., Ga.

Americans of Gentle Birth, V. I, P. 360: "Burke gives but one family of Tarletons in England; to which belonged Sir Banister Tarleton, the British Ranger during the revolution. They were seated at Lintwardine, County Hereford, and bore for arms, gules, a chevron; ermines between crown; thereon a leopard's head...." Issue of John Woodson, follows:

I. Tarleton Woodson, b. ca 1681 Henrico Co., Va. m. 8/1709 Ursula Fleming, dau. of Charles Fleming of New Kent Co., Va., who was descended from Sir Tarleton Fleming, second son of Earl of Wigton, Scotland. Sir Thomas Fleming, Earl of Wigton, m. in England, Miss Tarleton; emigrated to Va. in 1616, landing at Jamestown, but settling afterwards in New Kent Co, where he died. He had three sons: Tarleton, George, and Charles. Tarleton Fleming m. Miss Bates of Williamsburg.

II. John Woodson, b. 1695 Henrico Co., Va., later removing to Goochland Co, where in 1724 he was asst. surveyor of Henrico Co. under Capt. Francis Eppes; and in 1728 one of first assoc. justices of Goochland Co.

III. Robert Woodson, b. ca 1697 Henrico Co., Ga., settled in Goochland Co., m. Sarah Womack, and d. 1729. His LWT dtd 4/12/1729, pvd 6/17/1729 , Goochland Co. Va.

IV. Jacob Woodson, b. ca 1699 Henrico Co., Va., d. there 1728. His LWT dtd 7/4/1726, pvd 8/5/1728. Never did marry, but named his bros., Josiah, and Stephen, land in Goochland Co., formerly devised by his father, John.

V. Josiah Woodson, b. ca 1702 Henrico Co., Va., removed to Goochland Co., taking possession of land bequeathed to him by his father, m. Mary Royall, dau. of Capt. Joseph Royall and Elizabeth Kennon. His LWT pvd Goochland Co., Va. 11/16/1736.

VI. Judith Woodson, b. ca 1706 Henrico Co., Va., m. Stephen Cox and

settled in Goochland Co., Va., south of James River, now Cumberland Co. Her husband's LWT pvd Cumberland Co. 1/4/1743, names wife, Judith and four children.

VII. Elizabeth Woodson, b. ca 1708 Henrico Co., Va., m. Joseph Pleasants of Pickanockie, s. of John Pleasants who emigrated from Norwich, England in 1665 to Va., and settled on James River in 1668. No issue.

VIII. Stephen Woodson, b. ca 1704 Henrico Co., Va., m. Elizabeth Branch, a descendant of Christopher Branch, Gentleman, Burgess for Henrico Co. Va. in 1639. His LWT dtd 2/1735, pvd 11/16/1735 Goochland Co., Va., naming his wife, Elizabeth Branch, and children, Matthew and Elizabeth, as well as bros., John and Josiah, making them exrs. along with Jos. Parson. Issue as follows:

1. Stephen Woodson m. Lucy Farrar.
2. Elizabeth Woodson, b. at Dover, Goochland Co., Va. 1733, m. 1/1/1753, Alexander Trent. Sec. to her marr. was John Woodson, with Cert. of Consent from Charles Bates, gdn for sd Elizabeth, dau. of Stephen Woodson, decd, wit: Matthew Woodson and Samuel Branch.
3. Rev. Matthew Woodson, b. 7/17/1731 Goochland Co., Va., d. 1794, m. 11/28/1753 Elizabeth LeVillian. He was minister of the gospel. During the Rev. War, he held no military office, but served as chaplain of a regt. He m. 11/28/1753 Elizabeth LeVillian, dau. of John Peter LeVillian and his wife, Phillippa Dupuy, Huguenots. She was prob. b. at Manikin Town in Goochland Co. 10/28/1737, and d. at Dover, 12/13/1803. LWT of Matthew Woodson dtd 2/1794, pvd 11/17/1794 Goochland Co., Va. Issue:
 - a. Matthew Woodson, b. 10/11/1754 Goochland Co., d. young.
 - b. John Stephen Woodson, b. 8/17/1757 Goochland Co., Va., m. 10/12/1777 his 3d cou., Nannie Woodson, dau. of Col. John Woodson and Dorothea Randolph; both parties under age, their fathers gave letters of consent to marriage.
 - c. Elizabeth Woodson, b. 5/12/1759 at Dover, Goochland Co., Va., m. 12/3/1778 her 3d cou. Maj. Josiah Woodson, s. of Col. John Woodson and Dorothea Randolph. She d. 1797 Goochland Co.
 - d. Mary Woodson, b. 5/27/1763 Goochland Co., Va., m. 11/21/1785 Jesse Redd.
 - e. Frances Woodson, b. 5/28/1763 Goochland Co., Va. m. 1782 Robert Farrar.
 - f. Jacob Woodson, b. 5/25/1766 Goochland Co., Va. m. ca 1793 Dorothea Peers, called "Dolly". In 1796 they removed to Fayette Co., Ky. And in Jan. 1797 he went to Mercer Co., Ky. where he leased from Jacob Forman for 5 years a tract of 700 acres. He d. ca 1805, and his wid., Dorothea, m. James Clark, 12/20/1808 Harrodsburg, Ky.
 - g. Philip Woodson, b. 8/7/1767 Goochland Co., Va. m. 1790 to his 3d cou. Sarah Woodson, dau. of Col. John Woodson and Dorothea Randolph. Philip d. 1/24/1845.
 - h. Daniel Woodson, b. 4/19/1769 Goochland Co., Va., m. Nancy Gathright.
 - i. Tarleton Woodson, b. 7/17/1771 Goochland Co., Va., d. young.
 - j. Thomas Woodson, b. 12/2/1772 Goochland Co., Va., m. 2/27/1796 Sarah Saunders, dau. of Jesse Saunders and Mary LeVillian. Sarah Saunders b. 5/1/1776 Lunenburg Co., Va.
 - k. Benjamin Woodson, b. 5/22/1774 Goochland Co., Ga., d. young.
 - l. Jane Woodson, b. 3/4/1776 Goochland Co., Va. m. William Gathright.
 - m. Tabitha Woodson, b. 10/6/1779 Goochland Co., Va. m. ca.

1801 John Brown, settled in Hanover Co., Va.

n. Samuel Woodson, b. Goochland Co., Va. 7/24/1761, m. Sarah Mills 6/5/1782. Sarah was dau. of William and Elizabeth Mills, and was b. 4/23/1764. After the American Revolution, Samuel Woodson moved his family to Kentucky, settling in Hopkins Co., where he died. Issue follows:

- i. John LeVillian Woodson, b. 1783 Goochland Co. Va.
- ii. William Fountain Woodson, b. 1785 Goochland Co., Va.
- iii. Samuel Woodson, b. 9/1/1787 Goochland Co., Va., m.

12/23/1807 Nancy Harris Allen.

- iv. Spotswood Woodson, b. 1789 Goochland Co., Va.
- v. Daniel Woodson, b. 1793.
- vi. Elizabeth Woodson, b. 1795.
- vii. Maria Woodson, b. 1797.
- viii. Sally Fountain Woodson, b. 1799.
- ix. Tabitha Woodson, b. 1801 Ky.

x. Matthew Woodson, b. 1790 Goochland Co., Va. Removed to Buncombe Co., N. C. ca 1820, listed 1820-1840 Buncombe Co. Census. He had a dau., Mary Woodson, b. 1825 Buncombe Co., N. C., who m. Capt. John Peek, who was b. in Buncombe Co. N. C. 2/14/1821, and d. in Hart Co., Ga. 3/10/1896.