

Graves and Shackleford

No one knows for sure when the first Europeans looked upon Carteret's barrier islands. However, an Italian explorer named Giovanni da Verrazzano left what most consider to be the first written description of Core Banks. Sailing northeast from Cape Fear his party of explorers reached the area of Carteret County in 1524. He tried to send a party ashore but the wave action along the beach made this impossible. However, a single sailor did reach the shore where he was greeted by natives who carried him a distance from the surf. The frightened man is reported to have screamed in dismay at this turn of events. He became even more upset when he saw them prepare a large fire. But as soon as he recovered his strength these natives let him return to Verrazzano's ships.

Over the years, from Verrazzano's report until English settlement in the late 1600s, the Indians reported that there were several shipwrecks along the coast and that some Europeans (probably Spanish) did make it to safety where they lived with the Indians.

In 1713 an estimated seven thousand acres, all of Core and Shackleford Banks, was given by the English to a man named John Porter. He held the land only a few years and in 1723 sold it to Enoch Ward and John Shackleford. Known as the Sea Banks, this narrow piece of land stretching from Beaufort Inlet northeastward to Ocracoke Inlet was divided between Shackleford and Ward. Ward got the area north of Cape Lookout, known today as Core Banks while Shackleford gave his name to the area southwest of Lookout to Beaufort Inlet, Shackleford Banks.

The will of Enoch Ward and other papers give almost definite proof that Enoch Ward was married to May, the daughter of John Shackleford. According to Mrs. Earl C. Davis, the first Shackleford came to Essex County, Virginia from Essex County in England. As early as 1675, Roger Shackleford was granted land in Essex County, Virginia and in 1705 Francis Shackleford was granted land in the same area.

Francis then moved to Carteret County and was granted land there in 1708. It would be logical to believe that John Shackleford came to this country with Francis or shortly thereafter.

After John Shackleford's death in 1734 the land on the Outer Banks owned by his family was further divided. There is no proof of people living on Core and Shackleford Banks at this time. Although, it is known that early in the county's history, the Outer Banks areas from Ocracoke Inlet to Cape Lookout were used by fishermen and whalers. Also, stock raising was important on these islands.

As early as 1715 an attempt was made to get New England whalers to settle in the area. In 1726 a New England whaler by the name of Samuel Chadwick was granted permission to fish the seas in the area for "whales or other royal fish ..." Ephraim Chadwick and Ebenezer Chadwick, obviously relatives, soon joined Samuel Chadwick and so began a whaling industry which would continue in the Cape Lookout area for the next one hundred and fifty years.¹

The above brief history of Shackleford Banks is of interest because of the following from *Adventurers of Purse and Person (Virginia 1607-1625)*, Annie Lash Jester (1956) at 193:

29. RICHARD GRAVES (Francis, Thomas) had left Essex County by 1714 at which time he probably was engaged in coastwise trade for he had purchased a sloop in partnership with Francis Shackleford. Presumably, he is identical with the "Richard Graves" of Craven Precinct, North Carolina, who, in his will dated 11 April 1730, mentions his nephews, "Richard and Francis, sons of brother Thomas Graves in Virginia." He represented Craven Precinct in the North Carolina Assembly, 1726. His will proved September 1730, names his wife Hannah _____ and

Issue: 68. Thomas, living, 1760; 69 Mary married after 1730, Richard Nixon.

Richard Graves was a grandson of Captain Thomas Graves, an original stockholder in the Virginia Company. The author of this memorandum is a direct descendant of Captain Thomas Graves.

For Shackleford land transactions see: <http://members.tripod.com/~wvgal/deeds.htm>.

The following is found in an article on Colonial Beaufort, North Carolina from The Colonial Records Project² (emphasis added; footnotes omitted):

Though the first attempt to plant an English colony in America took place in North Carolina as early as 1585, it was three-quarters of a century before the first permanent white settlers came into the colony. When they did come, they came from Virginia rather than directly from England or the European continent. Just when the first permanent settlers entered what is now North Carolina has not been definitely established. By 1660, however, there were settlers on the Chowan River. After the first settlers arrived, there was, according to R. D. W. Connor, "no cessation in the slow but steady flow of settlers into the Albemarle region. On March 24, 1663, Charles II of England granted a charter for a part of the new world which ultimately included the new settlement on the Chowan River to eight prominent Englishmen who had supported his restoration. By October of the next year, the eight Lords Proprietors had established the settlement as the County of Albemarle.

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¹ Reprinted from Carteret County Heritage, Volume I (<http://www.downeasttour.com/diamond/ghost.htm>).

² (<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hp/colonial/Nchr/Subjects/paul.htm>)

The southward expansion of the settlement continued, and within two or three years after the Neuse had been crossed, settlers were making their homes on North and Newport rivers, which form the eastern and western boundaries of the peninsula on which Beaufort is located. Since these two rivers flow into what was then considered a part of Core Sound, settlers in this area were described as being “in Core Sound.” The town of Beaufort eventually became the center for the Core Sound settlement.

Farnifold Green obtained the first patent for land in the Core Sound area. The patent was granted December 20, 1707, and although Green did not live in the Core Sound area, other settlers were soon making their homes there. In 1708 John Nelson was granted a patent for 260 acres “in Core Sound on the north side of North River,” and, from that time on, was closely connected with that immediate area. **Francis and John Shackelford** moved into the area from Essex County, Virginia, sometime after 1705. Francis became active in the affairs of the Core Sound area by 1708, as did John by 1709. Both of these men received numerous patents before 1713 but settled on the west side of North River about four miles northeast of the present site of Beaufort. Other names connected with the Core Sound settlement prior to 1713 were John Fulford, Robert Turner, James Keith, William Bartram, Peter Worden (also spelled Wordin), Thomas Blanton, Thomas Lepper, Thomas Sparrow, Lewis Johnson, **Richard Graves**, Christopher Dawson, Enoch Ward, Thomas Cary, and Thomas Kailoe. Some of these, notably Cary and Lepper, lived elsewhere and were only speculating in land Fulford, Ward, and Turner, though, were definitely Core Sound residents during that period.

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Possibly the Tuscarora War of 1711-1713 delayed the establishment of a town within Topsail Inlet. Within seven months after the power of the Tuscarora Indians had been broken in March, 1713, a town was laid out on the southwest corner of the tract of land which Farnifold Green had obtained in 1707. In the meantime, Green had sold the land to Robert Turner, a merchant of Craven Precinct. Sometime prior to the fall of 1713, permission had been obtained from the Lords Proprietors to lay out a town by the name of Beaufort at this site, and on October 2, 1713, Robert Turner had **Richard Graves**, Deputy Surveyor, lay out the town. A plat was made of the town by **Graves** and recorded in the office of the secretary of the colony. Streets were named; allotments were provided for a church, a town-house, and a market place; and lots were offered for sale. On that date, October 2, 1713, **Beaufort came into existence**. Though minor alterations were made throughout the Colonial period, the main characteristics of the plan of the town never changed. The name Beaufort came from Henry Duke of Beaufort, one of the Lords Proprietors, who in 1713 was Palatine of Carolina, the chief position among the Proprietors. Turner Street obtained its name from Robert Turner, the father of the town. Moore Street was probably named for Colonel James Moore, who seven months before had brought an end to the Indian war. Pollock Street was named for Thomas Pollock, Acting Governor of the colony from 1712 to 1714. Both Queen and Ann Streets were named in honor of the then reigning monarch of England, while Orange Street honored the memory of William III of Orange who had preceded Queen Anne on the English throne. Craven Street was named in honor of William Lord Craven, another of the Lords

Proprietors. When all of these names are considered together, the year 1713 is clearly indicated.

Farnifold Green was the first to obtain the patent for the land now known as Beaufort

Richard Rustull, John Shackelford, John Nelson, Joseph Bell, Christopher Gale were a group of town fathers who were the first Commissioners and among the vestrymen of St. John's Parish in 1723.

Shackelford Banks named after the Shackelford Family, John and Francis who were actively obtaining land patents in the early 1700's in the area.

Surveyor named Richard Graves laid out the town in 1713. Robert Turner ordered the survey. He had bought the land from Green.

Marriages (**Virginia Shakelford /Shackelford Marriages**)³

Susan E. Shackelford to John G. Graves Feb. 8, 1872

Of great interest is the fact that the following people signed the 1771 petition to establish Caswell County:

James Graves
John Graves, Jr.
Francis Shackelford

When the Past Refused to Doe—A History of Caswell County North Carolina 1777-1977, William S. Powell (1977) at 54-57.

Will of Francis Shackelford = Book B page 86.....Oct. Court 1785 Yanceyville, North Carolina

Source: <http://members.tripod.com/~wvgal/wills.htm>

Shackelford Banks, one of the **Outer Banks**, se Carteret County, approx. 8 ½ mi. long. Named for John Shackelford, who, with Col. Enoch Ward, purchased the "Sea Banks" in 1713. *See also* Cape Lookout National Seashore Recreational Area. *The North Carolina Gazeeter—A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places*, William S. Powell (1968) at 446.
Here is the will of John Shackelford:

John Shackelford made his will 29 Mar 1734 - proven September Court 1734, Carteret Precinct. John lived five months after the will was made. He named his wife as "my present wife, **Ann**" which tends to lead one to think perhaps he had been married before

³ <http://members.tripod.com/~wvgal/mar-va.htm>

he married **Ann**. (Note: one article in Carteret County History refers to his wife being **Mary**. Perhaps **Mary** was a previous wife.)

John Shackleford was born in Essex County, VA, circa 1670, and was the son of **Roger** born 23 April 1629, and **Mary Palmer Shackleford** from Essex, England.

"To daughters, **Mary, Elizabeth and Ann**, a gold ring each at the price of ten shillings. Daughter, **Sarah**, wife of **Joseph Moss (Morse)** four cows and calves, and liberty to my son-in-law to build a house and shop in the Island Land whereon I now live."

"I give liberty to the aforesaid **Joseph Moss** to whaile off the Banks he paying yearly to My Beloved wife **Ann Shackleford** during her life and no longer the rent of two barrells of oyle for his share of one half of one single boat and to have the liberty of no more boats or part of my boats."

To Grandson, **John Roberts**, two Cows and Calves at the decease of my wife **Ann**. To grandson **William Roberts** two Cows and Calves. Daughter **Hannah** three Cows and Calves. The large Cedar Cubbard and round table in the outer room. Two pewter dishes, three pewter plates, one feather bead blanket and rugg. One pair of cotton sheets, one small iron pot and iron skillet."

"After the death of my beloved wife **Ann** I give to my son **John** all the remainder of goods and Chattle both reale and personal provided my son **John** does not die without issue, in such case I bequest my estate to my son **James** and his heirs forever also Island called Carrot." He named his land lying on the Banks "Eastward of Old Topsail Inlet."

Ann was appointed Executrix and Executor the 29th day of March One Thousand and Seven hundred and Thirty four. In the presence of **Samuel** and **Ephriam Chadwick**.

Signed *John Shackleford*.

Source: <http://members.tripod.com/~wvgal/wills.htm>

1850 Caswell County Census

SHACKLEFORD 179A

GRAVES 174A-175B-176B-177A-189A-193A-205A-214A-214B-217B-226B-228A-252B

- **Richard Rustull, John Shackleford, John Nelson, Joseph Bell, Christopher Gale** were a group of town fathers who were the first Commissioners and among the first vestrymen of St. John's Parish in 1723.
- **Shackleford Banks** named after the Shackleford Family, John and Francis who were actively obtaining land patents in the early 1700's in the area.

- Surveyor named Richard Graves laid out the town in 1713. Robert Turner ordered the survey. He had bought the land from Farnifold Green.
- Beaufort could be reached by boat only for hundreds of years, until the very early 20th century.

Source: <http://www.tourbeaufort.com/message1.htm>

2 March 1775	Letter. Walter Hopkins to John Major. Mr. Graves sloop is docked at Mr. Barrams landing and is now receiving corn. Can't stay later than tomorrow night.
3 March 1775	Receipt for corn on board Sloop Betsy. Isaac Plant for Bartho Dandridge and Walter Hopkins to John Major.
13 February 1839	Letter. R.W. Graves to George B. Major. "On my arrival I found Betsy so unhappy at the idea of selling off every thing & not having a place to go to , that I determined to address this note to you & offer you the following bonds..." "The 3 public days will certainly be worth to you 60 or 70 dollars...."

Note: There are many more references to Graves. However, the only Shackleford reference is to Banister Shackleford.

Source: Major-Marable Family Papers (1703-1929) Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Library:

<http://www.history.org/History/jdrlweb/guides/aids/MAJOR-MARABLE.pdf>