

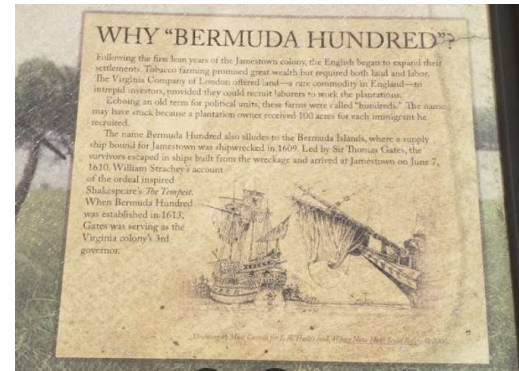
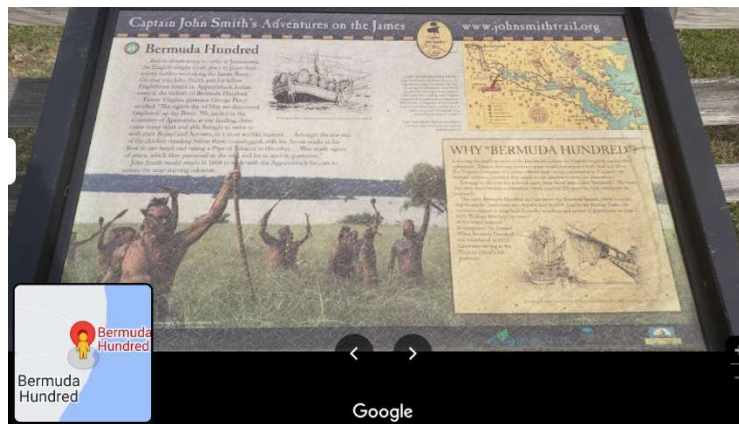
## Captain Thomas Harris by Michelle Vardiman Fansler 30 July 2023



*The Jamestown Brides* by Jennifer Potter published in 2018 page 272 says, “You need perseverance today to find Neck of Land in Charles City, Virginia, more commonly known as Bermuda Hundred, where Audry Hoare settled after her marriage to ancient planter Thomas Harris. Take Highway 10 heading north from Hopewell, come off at North Enon Church Road then turn east along Bermuda Hundred Road, past the rather desolate Bermuda Memorial Park and several sprawling industrial complexes interspersed with trees and occasional swamps. When you feel you have lost your way, continue along the narrow “no-issue” road that dog-legs past the First Baptist Church (DEFEAT IS NOT AN OPTION) down to the James River and a view across to Shirley Plantation on the other side, which is closer than you might expect.

Here a rough hewn stone tablet erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution (in 1938) tells you that Sir Thomas Dale established Bermuda Hundred in 1613, the year before it became Virginia’s first incorporated town. Pocahontas’s husband John Wolfe lived her for a time, and the Reverend Alexander Whitaker ministered here, but the Daughters then leapfrog three centuries to 1938 and the construction of Richmond’s early port.”





Before determining to settle at Jamestown, the English sought a safe place to plant their colony farther west along the James River. On that trip, John Smith and his fellow Englishmen found an Appamattuck Indian town in the vicinity of Bermuda Hundred.

Future Virginia governor George Percy recalled: "The eighth day of May we discovered (explored) up the River. We landed in the Countrey of Apamatica, at our landing, there came many stout and able Savages to resist us with their Bowes and Arrowes, in a most warlike manner. Amongst the rest one of the chieftest standing before them crosselegged, with his Arrow readie in his Bow in one hand, and taking a Pipe of Tobacco in the other. Wee made signes of peace, which they perceived in the end, and let us land in quietnesse."

John Smith would return in 1608 to trade with the Appamattuck for corn to sustain the near-starving colonists.

Following the first lean years of the Jamestown colony, the English began to expand their settlements. Tobacco farming promised great wealth but required both land and labor. The Virginia Company of London offered land – a rare commodity in England – to intrepid investors, provided they could recruit laborers to work the plantations. Echoing an old term for political units, these farms were called "hundreds." The name may have stuck because a plantation owner received 100 acres for each immigrant he recruited.

The name Bermuda Hundred also alludes to the Bermuda Islands, where a supply ship bound for Jamestown was shipwrecked in 1609. Led by Sir Thomas Gates (Dale?), the survivors escaped in ships built from the wreckage and arrived at Jamestown on June 7, 1610. William Strachey's account of the ordeal inspired Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. When Bermuda Hundred was established in 1613, Gates (Dale?) was serving as the Virginia colony's 3<sup>rd</sup> governor.





BERMUDA HUNDRED  
 ESTABLISHED 1613 BY SIR THOMAS  
 DALE. FIRST INCORPORATED  
 VIRGINIA TOWN 1614  
 HOME OF JOHN ROLFE, COLONY  
 RECORDER WHO MARRIED  
 POCAHONTAS  
 REV. ALEXANDER WHITAKER  
 MINISTERED HERE.  
 EARLY PORT OF RICHMOND  
 ERECTED 1938  
 BY  
 BERMUDA HUNDRED CHAPTER  
 D.A.R.

Captain Thomas Harris was in the shipwreck on board the "Prosperous" in the Bermuda Islands with Thomas Dale in 1609. They finally arrived in Jamestown in 1610/11.

Thomas Harris and his 1<sup>st</sup> wife, Audry Hoare lived in Bermuda Hundred, Virginia in 1621 upriver from Jamestown (when Audry arrived from England as one of the first 13 Jamestown Brides on the ship *Marmaduke*). Thomas and Audry survived an Indian attack in 1622. Audry died around 1625-26 when she died when her infant, Mary Harris was less than a year old.

Captain Thomas Harris remarried to a woman named Joane but there is uncertainty on her last name. It may have been Gurgany (or Osborne). They had a child named William Harris born about 1629 at Curles Neck Plantation, Henrico County, Virginia.

Interestingly, a descendant Of Audry's daughter Mary named Elizabeth "Betty" Watkins married a descendant of Joane's son William named Obediah Harris Sr.

Elizabeth "Betty" Watkins and Obediah Harris Sr. would have been fourth half cousins one time removed.