

Virginia for North Carolina, he was an appraiser for the estate of David Adams in Isle of Wight County.⁽⁹⁾

Harmon's second wife was Mary Pendry. At this time, her parents' identity is unknown. Possible clues to her identity are two land transactions: an indenture dated 22 October 1744, Isle of Wight County, Virginia, between Henry Adams and Aaron Pendry of Isle of Wight planter, for one hundred acres on the north side of Meherin River.⁽¹⁰⁾ In 1717 Henry Pendry received 100 acres in Isle of Wight County on the north side of the Meherin River, adjacent to Hugh Lee's land." Both parcels of land were located near Harmon Read's land. What, if any, relationship existed between Mary Pendry Read and Henry Pendry, or his son, Aaron Pendry?

Harmon sold his land in Southampton County, Virginia to Henry Person, for £200 current Virginia moneys,⁽¹²⁾ and moved his family some miles to the southwest to settle in Edgecombe County, North Carolina. We can only surmise the reason for the move. His land in Virginia was probably worn out from years of cultivation. During this period, planters were unaware of the need to rotate crops, to rest and refresh the land. From former neighbors who had already made the move, he probably heard of this rich new land. With a sense of adventure, and high hopes for the future, he packed up his family and set out for North Carolina.

In May 1749 he purchased land on the south side of Beaver Dam Swamp in Edgecombe County, North Carolina for £45 current Virginia moneys.⁽¹³⁾ In 1758 Halifax County was formed from Edgecombe County. Harmon and his family found themselves living in the newly formed county of Halifax, where he lived until his death in 1767.

Harmon's will, written in 1760, was proved in Halifax County in the October Court of 1767.⁽¹⁴⁾ He named his wife Mary and his son Jesse. The will, witnessed by Moses Pendry, Betty Pendry and Richard Freear, was signed with Harmon's familiar "HR" mark.

Mary Read's will was recorded in the Halifax County August Court, 1781. In it she names: Son-in-law James Read; John Windom; Amy Harrison; my well beloved son Aaron Read Pendry; my two sons' Moses Read Pendry and Jesse Read Pendry; my well beloved daughter Dorcas Mobley; my well beloved daughter Lydia Barker. Moses Read Pendry and Jesse Read Pendry were named executors. The will, written 13 March 1778, was witnessed by Thomas Harvey, Sarah Nevill, Sarahann Harvey and Thomas Nevill.⁽¹⁵⁾

There are several reasons why Mary may have referred to her sons as "Read Pendry." Knowing that Harmon had children from a previous marriage, she may have wanted to distinguish her children from the others. It most likely meant that the three males were born before Mary Pendry and Harmon Read had an opportunity to marry. The daughters' Dorcas and Lydia were born after the marriage. It should be borne in mind that there was less stigma attached to such occurrences then, than there is today. In North Carolina there was a particular problem. For a long period only Justices and Anglican