

**The Unveiling and Dedication
of a
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
Memorial Marker**

THOMAS SMITH

*Governor of Carolina,
1693-1694,
Planter, Merchant, Surgeon,
arrived in Charles Town
in 1684 with his first
wife, Barbara Atkins, and
sons, Thomas and George.
A Cacique by 1690, he was
created Landgrave by the
Lords Proprietors on
May 13, 1691.*

*He died in his 46th year
on November 16, 1694.
His brick town house with
a wharf on Cooper River
was here on the corner of
East Bay & Longitude Lane.*

*Erected by his descendants and
South Carolina Colonial Dames XVII Century
1967*

**at
Charleston, South Carolina
Sunday,
27 August 1967
Three O'clock in the afternoon.**

THE RIGHT HON. THOMAS SMITH, ESQ.

By June 1684 Thomas Smith, born 1648 in Exeter, Devonshire, England, son of Thomas Smith of Chard and Joan, daughter of John Atkins, arrived in Charles Town with his mother, Joan Atkins; his wife, Barbara Atkins who was a daughter of Aaron Atkins and also his step-sister; their sons, Thomas, Jr., born 1670 and George, born Sept. 1674, a party of thirteen relatives and servants for whose arrival he was granted 650 acres. His mother bought an additional 1600 acres for 100 pounds sterling 24 June 1684. Thomas Smith was a cousin of the Duke of Albermarle and the Earl of Bath, both Lords Proprietors, all descendants of a long line of Smiths who had been Sheriffs of Devonshire and Mayors of Exeter, maternally descended from King Edward I's daughter, Joan of Acre. His extant official Seal displays the Arms granted his forbear, Sir Robert Smith, Mayor of Exeter 1459-1469.

On Lot # 5 of the Grand Model he built a handsome four story brick mansion which was a landmark on East Bay until 1875. Early maps pictured it with its own "drawbridge", now thought to have been a wharf which facilitated his success as a merchant plying an active trade with Barbados and England. He was an early promoter of the planting of rice and indigo which were to be Carolina's staple products for decades. He further served the colony as doctor and surgeon, specifically bequeathing his instruments of this vocation in his will.

His wife Barbara died in 1686 and on 22 March 1687 he married Sabina de Vignon, Dowager Van Wernhaut, widow of Jan Van Arsen, the Dutch nobleman who built Medway, oldest brick residence in Carolina, on a 12,000 acre grant. The family moved to Medway where Sabina died in 1689. The same year Thomas Smith, Jr. married his step-mother's friend, Anna Cornelia Van Myddagh, and they made Medway their home until 1695 when their growing family induced them to build and move to their commodious Goose Creek residence called Westocken, later Craven Hall by its second mistress, Elizabeth Hyrne, and from 1850 Yeamans Hall.

By 1690 Thomas Smith was a Cacique with 48,000 acres and on 13 March 1691 a patent (original in Latin still in the S. C. Dept. of Archives) of the Lords Proprietors created him Landgrave "together with four (additional) baronies of 12,000 acres each" which title and land should "forever descend to his heirs". He was an honored member of the Grand Council until commissioned Governor and Commander-in-Chief of (North and South) Carolina 29 Nov. 1693. Since he was a Dissenter it is not strange that the colony's first act to regulate public houses and the sale of alcoholic beverages was reputedly passed during his administration, a meddling in private matters which has plagued every administration since. An act covering the selection of jurors by indiscriminate drawing of names from a ballot box is also credited to him.

But despite his "being held in high esteem for his wisdom and probity" (Ramsey) and his allowing the settlers "struggling under many hardships, every indulgence consistent with the duties of his trust", neither he nor any other Proprietary governor was able to grant them the relief they wanted. He notified the Lords Proprietors that he and many others had resolved to quit the colony unless one of the proprietors was sent with full powers to redress grievances and settle the differences among the people. He was doubtlessly ill when he resigned the governorship in October 1694, for he died less than a month later.

His epitaph at Medway Plantation reads:
"Here lieth ye Body of the Right Hon. Thomas Smith, Esq., One of ye Landgraves of Carolina, who departed this life ye 16 of Nov. 1694, Governor of the Province of Carolina, in ye 46th year of his age."

PROGRAM

America ----- sung by all present
Salute to The Flags ----- Led by Dr. David W. Baxley, Jr.
Invocation ----- Rev. Robert E. H. Peeples
Welcome ----- Mrs. R. Eugene Smith, President
S. C. Colonial Dames XVII Century
Recognition & Appreciation ----- Mrs. Daniel A. McCormick
Sketch of Governor Thomas Smith ----- Hon. C. B. Berry, Mayor
Crescent Beach, S. C.

PRESENTATION OF THE MARKER:

To the City of Charleston ----- Mrs. W. V. Moreck
Received by the Hon. J. Palmer Gaillard, Jr. Mayor of the City of Charleston
To The State of South Carolina ----- Mr. C. Norwood Hastie, Jr.
Received by the Hon. Robert E. McNair, Governor of South Carolina

UNVEILING OF THE MARKER:

Miles Montgomery,
Grandson of Dr. Louis Smith Miles
Tammy Turbeville,
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Turbeville, Jr.
Sara Leigh Hinson,
Great-granddaughter of Mrs. D. A. McCormick

Prayer of Dedication ----- Rev. Dr. Iverson Graham, Jr.
Blest Be The Tie That Binds ----- sung by all present

The Mizpah:

May the Lord watch between thee and me
When we are absent one from the other

Salute to the Flags:

To the Flag of the United States:
"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."
To the Flag of South Carolina:
"I salute the Flag of South Carolina and pledge to the Palmetto State love, loyalty, and faith."

Song Leader: ----- Mrs. Brown M. Hamer,
National Vice President, Colonial Dames XVII Century.

The Governor Thomas Smith Memorial Committee:

The. Rev. Robert E. H. Peebles, Chairman

Mrs. Daniel A. McCormick, Co-Chairman

Mr. C. Norwood Hastie, Jr., Vice Chairman

Mrs. W. V. Moreck, Treasurer

Mr. W. Walter Tison

Mr. Wilson Tison

Mrs. John L. Lobingier, daughter of "Cousin Annie Miller" who first proposed this memorial marker in her book, "Our Family Circle".

Major Betty Frank Coy, (USMC Ret'd)

Mrs. Benjamin Edgar Hendricks

Mrs. Gustave Adam Kalber

Mrs. Robert E. McNair, Jr., wife of the Governor of South Carolina

The Hon. C. B. Berry, Mayor, Crescent Beach, S. C.

America

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of Liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride,
From every mountain side
Let Freedom ring.

Our father's God, to Thee,
Author of Liberty,
To Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright
With Freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.