

Atkins, died in 1687, and a few months later he married Sabina, who died in 1689.) Five years after the death of his second wife, 1st Landgrave Smith died at his Medway plantation on Back River, twenty miles from Charleston, S. C., and was buried there in the family lot. The old house is standing at the present date, and is owned by Mrs. Samuel Stoney, of Charleston, S. C. (See page 179.)

For many decades the town house of 1st Landgrave Smith stood as a landmark on East Bay and Longitude Lane, in Charleston, S. C., and not even a tablet has been placed on the spot to show where once stood the home of this early governor!

Mr. R. R. Heyward, in the Sunday News of Charleston, S. C., July 10, 1898, states that Thomas Smith, the first Landgrave of that name, was a cousin of the two Lords Proprietors, the Duke of Albemarle and the Earl of Bath, all three being descendants of Sir George Smith, the sheriff of County Devon, 1516. "He was not a mere adventurer, but came out to take possession of large estates which he had purchased, and he brought with him ample means to improve them after he arrived."

Mr. Arthur M. Smith, an Englishman, living in England, and himself a descendant of the Smiths who were the ancestors of Landgrave Smith, the emigrant, spent years investigating documentary evidence, and in his book, *The Smiths of Exeter*, names are given in the straight line of descent from Edward I to Thomas Smith, Landgrave of South Carolina. Also, he gives the Smith line from Sir Robert Smith, Mayor of Exeter, (1459-'69), to Thomas Smith, the emigrant. However, many authorities doubt the accuracy of this book.

Then, a reliable historian, a Virginia lady, Miss Du Bellet, makes statement that Sir Robert Smith, of Exeter, and Sir George Smith, of "Madworthy", were the ancestors of Thomas Smith who came to South Carolina as a colonist. She says, also, "The first member of the Smith family that we can place definitely is Sir Robert Smith, (knighted by Edward IV), Mayor of Exeter, 1459-'69 . . . The coat of arms given above was brought to America about 1640 by Thomas Smith of Charleston, Mass. It is the same that was used and owned by Thomas Smith, Landgrave, Cacique, and Governor of Carolina, of Charleston, S. C. It is also the same as that used by the Smiths of Exeter, England, except

Marker unveiled
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times Dissenters. Thomas Smith and Joseph Blake were Presbyterians, John Archdale was a Quaker . . . When the Proprietors in England issued orders to Governor Ludwell, the predecessor of Smith, to allow six members of the Provincial Parliament from Craven County, which was settled by Huguenots, there had arisen a great clamor, 'Shall the Frenchmen,' said the British colonists, 'who cannot speak our language, make our laws?'. The old hostility of the English to the French seemed to be revived. They (the French Huguenots) were told that the marriages solemnized by their ministers were not episcopally ordained, that their children were therefore illegitimate, that their estates would be escheated, and not descend to them. They were not allowed to sit on juries and other privileges belonging to citizenship were pertinaciously denied them."

(Note—About the time of Governor Smith's death in 1694, peace was gradually being restored by the efforts of Governor Archdale, who had been sent from England to calm the religious turmoil in the colony.)

From "Ancestral Records and Portraits":

"Thomas Smith, Jr. (son of 1st Landgrave Smith) 'made his mark' in the Carolina Assembly, was Speaker in 1700, Judge of Berkeley Court, Member of the Governor's Council, 1693, and held many other offices between 1693 and 1730. He received a grant of five thousand acres of land, Nov. 17, 1730. He married twice; died May 1738, being buried on his plantation at Goose Creek, S. C." This was the Yeamans Hall place, about ten miles from Charleston, bought (or built?) by 2nd Landgrave Smith and occupied by his descendants for two hundred years. The house was practically destroyed by the earthquake of 1886.

OLD CLAIMS DISPROVED

Contrary to the family's cherished belief, the first Landgrave Thomas Smith did not marry first, Barbara Schencking. He married Barbara Atkins, his step-sister! Joan and Thomas Smith of Chard, Eng., were the parents of 1st Landgrave Smith; and Joan, born Atkins, after the death of her husband, Thomas Smith, married second, Mr. Atkins, a widower with a daughter named Barbara, according to Mr. Salley. This Barbara Atkins became the

first wife of her step-brother, Thomas Smith, and in 1684 came to Carolina with him and their two sons, Thomas and George. The proof of these claims is in the three Atkins wills published in the S. C. H. G. Quarterly by Mr. A. S. Salley, Jr., and also, in a will discovered lately in London, Eng., by Mrs. Wade Hampton Perry, of Charleston, S. C.

Sabina de Vignon's first husband, D'Arsens, had been issued a warrant in 1686 for land "not to exceed 12,000 acres," but he died soon afterwards without having claimed the land. The widow then married 1st Landgrave Smith and the latter made application that the 12,000 acres be transferred to him. Thus it would appear that 1st Landgrave Smith obtained the land on Back River, and built the house afterward called Medway, but Mr. A. S. Salley, Jr., an authority on S. C. history, believes that D'Arsens built the house, and 1st Landgrave Smith, "after marrying the widow, just walked in."

In 1694, five years after the death of his second wife, Sabina de Vignon, 1st Landgrave Smith died at the Medway home and was buried there in the family lot.

Also, Mr. Salley claims that it is not known who was the builder of Yeamans Hall, on Goose Creek. It is believed by some of the descendants that the land was owned first by Margaret Yeamans, widow of the governor, and was later transferred to 2nd Landgrave Smith, but, according to Mr. Salley, the Yeamans Hall plantation was not the tract of land granted to Lady Yeamans. It is well established, however, that 2nd Landgrave Smith owned Yeamans Hall, lived there, and willed it to his son, Henry; from Henry it passed to Thomas, to George Henry, then to Thomas Henry, who sold the land "for a mere song"—the house had been destroyed by the earthquake of 1886. This line of Smiths occupied the house for two hundred years. Mrs. J. Palmer Lockwood, a descendant of both of 1st Landgrave Smith's sons, in her childhood visited her grandmother in the Yeamans Hall home, and can tell many interesting tales of the plantation and its early grandeur. She is the best present day authority on Yeamans Hall and the Smiths who owned and occupied it for two hundred years. Mrs. Lockwood, when a child, visited her grandmother, Eliza F. Lockwood (Smith) who was then the owner of Yeamans Hall, and "who gave the place the Yeamans name because she liked the