

29 July 1982

Hon. Peter W. Hairston  
Route 2, Box 391  
Advance, NC 27006

Dear Judge Hairston:

I have followed the instructions in your letter of July 10th and have turned up the following information for you on Peter Hairston and family.

Donegal Land

The enclosed map (Enclosure I) is an extract from a larger warrantee map produced by the state land record office covering East Donegal Township, Lancaster Co. I have number four tracts of land (I-IV) the titles for which I will briefly trace for you. They will show where Peter Hairston's land was located and give you a few relevant dates.

I. 391 acres

Surveyed for William Allison April 1736. Conveyed by sheriff's sale of John Lowry's estate to Daniel Lowry in a deed dtd 21 Sep 1750, recorded 31 Aug 1751. Property located in Donegal Twp. on the Susquehanna River, adjoined by property of James Anderson, property formerly seated by Peter Hairston, and property seated by John Kelly. Writ of fi. fa. directed Andrew Work, sheriff, to levy... lands of John Lowry, intestate, in hands of James Lowry, administrator, for debt of 1600 which Daniel Lowry, assignee of John Allison...etc.

This property or its mortgage changed hands twice in 1753 and again in 1759. Each time Peter Hairston or Hourston is listed as the former adjoiner on the northeast, or tracts II or IV.

III. 333 acres

This tract was warranted to Lazarus Lowry by the Penns in July 1738 after it had been surveyed in April 1736. It was patented and paid for by Lazarus Lowry in July 1738.

In a sheriff sale Lazarus lost title to this property to Alexander Lowry. Adjoining property owners listed at this time were David Byers, Peter Herston, James Harris, Mary Motherill and Richard Allison. Deed dtd 3 Sep 1757, recorded 4 Dec 1757.

II 288 acres (The Hairston "seat")

Surveyed April 1736. Warranted to Lazarus & John Lowry May 1744 and patented to them in Aug 1744. Lazarus conveyed his 1/2 share of this property to his son, John, on a deed dtd 16 Sep 1747 and recorded 3 Oct 1747. Adjoining property owners were James Harris, James Mitchel, David Byer, and Lazarus Lowry. In the recitation of the history of this title there is no mention of Peter Hairston as a previous owner. Titles only go back to the patent by the proprietors;

There were no valid titles or ownership before the proprietary patent.

John Lowry & wife, Elizabeth, conveyed the property to Joseph Simons, Lancaster boro, shopkeeper, in a deed dtd. 11 Jun 1749 and recorded 8 Sep 1749. Again, no mention of Peter Hairston.

IV 342½ acres

Warrented and patented to John Wilson in Sept 1762. Property conveyed by Wilson & wf, Martha, to George Clingan in deed dtd 6 Oct 1762 and recorded 29 Mar 1765. No mention of Hairston as previous holder.

#### Donegal Tax Lists

Only a few property tax lists are known to exist for Lancaster County prior to 1750. In the Lancaster Co. Hist. Society Journal a few were published for Conestoga and Donegal settlements for the following years: 1718/19, 1721/22, 1724/25, and 1726/27. No Peter Hairston was listed as being assessed as a property owner in those years. Of course the critical years would be 1730-1736.

What is to be concluded from the above facts. Peter Hairston "held" property (Tract II or more) in Donegal for some period of time prior to 1736 when the land in that area was surveyed by the Penn's land agents. He didn't own it despite the reference in the early history of the Donegal Presbyterian Church which appeared in the Columbia Herald on January 16 1878. (See enclosed) He was a "squatter". The whole county was full of squatters because the earliest couldn't or wouldn't get clear title to their land from Penn's land agents. The personal favoritism and the political games these guys played with people and land would, I dare say, bring a blush to the cheeks of even a 20th century Tide-water North Carolina politician. The Lowry's were Indian traders and obviously favourites of James Logan, Penn's land agent. They were given the patent to this land.

Or the Lowries picked up the warrent after the land had been surveyed, because Peter Hairston and family had already chosen to move West. The Scotch-Irish were notoriously "itchy-footed" and were constantly moving on to greener fields. Very few of the Donegal families remained in Lancaster Co. after the Revolutionary War and their fine lands were gradually bought up by the families of German background. By June 1737 the Hairstons had received license to settle and take up land west of the Susquehanna River (See enclosed extract from Blunston's Licenses). The land they chose to take up was in Cumberland Valley along the Conococheague Creek and that is in what is now either Franklin or Adams Counties, Pa. This is just north of the Maryland line and was probably in the disputed territory only resolved when the Mason-Dixon Line

was run in 1763-1767. The whole area west of the Susquehanna River was jurisdictionally part of Lancaster County until 1749, when York County was created. Cumberland Co. was organized in 1750 and took in the area now included in Franklin County. Adams County was created from York Co. in 1800.

Needless-to-say very few of the early people who went with license to settle and take up land sought to have their land warranted or patented or had deeds recorded. Especially when the county seats were far away and the land office was in Philadelphia. Besides by 1743 your folks had moved south into Piedmont Virginia.

You mention the need to establish a tie of Peter to the four sons, Robert, Andrew, Peter, and Samuel. The best I could do was the two Blunston licenses to Peter and Andrew Hairston. Father and son? or two brothers? I checked the carefully indexed 18th century will abstracts for Lancaster, Chester, and Philadelphia Counties. No Hairstons. The existing records of the Donegal Presbyterian Church don't go back that far and besides Presbyterian records are verry, very spotty during this period and are not at all helpful in family history research.

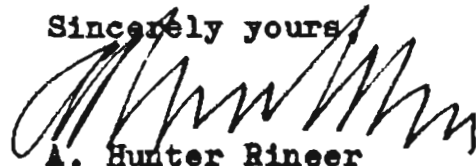
I had to go near West Chester, county seat for Chester County, on my way to a weekend at the beach last weekend and I stopped by the court house and rechecked both the early deeds and probate records. But no Hairstons or any variants thereof.

Is there anything more to look into? Well, the wills, probate records, and deeds in York and Carlisle (County seats of York and Cumberland Counties) probably could be checked for possible estate settlements and late-filed deeds. Unfortunately there are no indexed will abstracts or Mayhill-type index to deeds for those counties. The chance of finding anything is remote. The proprietary land records (now housed in the state archives in Harrisburg) could be checked for possible mention of Hairstons---but relationships are not likely to be revealed even if the land was ever warranted or patented to the Hairstons prior to their moving to Virginia. If you want me to pursue these areas I make a 15¢ per mile mileage charge, plus parking costs. This, of course, is over and beyond my regular \$15 per hour research fee.

Concerning the European origins of the Hairstons I would wager they were Ulster Scots, and did not come directly from Scotland. Almost all of the people in the Donegal settlement were Scotch Irish and came from the Donegal part of Ireland. I enclose a copy of a brief history of these people.

If I can be of further assistance please feel free to let me know.

Sincerely yours,



A. Hunter Rineer

PS When convenient would you please send \$1.65 in reimbursement for the photocopies. Postage stamps will be fine.

FROM THE PAPERS  
OF A HUNTER RINEER

PROPERTY OF  
LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
230 N. PRESIDENT AVE.  
LANCASTER, PA 17603-3125

JAMES SANDERSON  
222 A & Allow.  
War June 2, 1740  
Sur. Nov. 20, 1720  
Pat. June 4, 1738  
To Doragal Cong. Presby. Church  
A 9-193.  
+42 150M  
EAST 274  
C 121-128

ANDREW GALBREATH  
212 1/2 A & Allow.  
War. Apr. 20, 1734  
Sur. Apr. 20, 1736  
Pat. May 2, 1734  
To Andrew Galbreath  
A 9-192

MARY MOTHERIL  
292 A & Allow.  
War May 14, 1740  
Sur. Apr. 27, 1736  
Pat. May 17, 1740.  
To Mary Motheril  
A 9-188.

RICHARD ALLISON  
316 1/2 A & Allow.  
War July 19, 1738  
Sur. Apr. 10, 1736  
Pat. July 5, 1738  
To Richard Allison.  
A 9-172

JOSEPH HORNER  
War. Oct. 0, 1771  
Pat. Nov. 6, 1771  
A 11-595

LAZARUS LOWRY  
333 Acres & Allow  
War July 14, 1738.  
Sur. Apr. 1, 1736  
Pat. July 18, 1738  
To Lazarus Lowry  
A B-416.  
+62 150M  
EAST 294

JOHN WILSON.  
342 1/2 A & Allow.  
War Sep 15, 1742.  
Sur. - - -  
Pat. Sep 17, 1762  
To John Wilson.  
A B-4-20

LAZARUS & JOHN LOWRY  
222 A Acres & Allow.  
War May 30, 1744  
Sur. Apr. 8, 1736  
Pat. Aug. 6, 1744.  
To Lazarus & John Lowry  
A 11-514.  
+82 152M  
EAST 152

JOHN GALBREATH  
War. July 19, 1738  
Sur. July 19, 1738  
Pat. July 19, 1738  
To John Galbreath  
A 9-172

JAMES STEEL  
100 A & Allow.  
War. Mar. 26, 1735  
Sur. Apr. 8, 1736  
Pat. Mar. 14, 1742  
To James Steel  
A 11-262

WILLIAM ALLISON  
391 Acres & Allow.  
Sur. Apr. 7, 1736  
Pat. May 20, 1736  
Francis Evans  
July 18, 1738  
H 7-185

JAMES ANDERSON  
War. Sep. 15, 1742  
Sur. - - -  
Pat. Sep 17, 1762  
To James Anderson.  
A B-570

JOHN STUART  
217 1/2 A & Allow.  
War. July 14, 1738  
Sur. Apr. 7, 1736  
Pat. July 21, 1738.  
To John Stuart  
A 9-36

NATHANIEL  
War. Apr. 10, 1736  
Sur. Apr. 10, 1736  
Pat. Apr. 10, 1736  
To Nathaniel  
A 9-172

JOHN BURTON  
War. - - -  
Sur. - - -  
Pat. - - -  
To John Burton  
A 9-172

# THE SUSSEX