

Godfrey Spruill

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No Picture Available

Born: 1650 Scotland

Married: Joanna Unknown

Died: 15 Aug 1718 Tyrrell, North Carolina,

Parents: Unknown

BIOGRAPHY: Godfrey Spruill was born about 1650 in Scotland? and died about 1719 in North Carolina. He migrated to the United States sometime before 1684. Godfrey received a patent of land (No. 399) of 340 acres October 31, 1684 in James City County, Virginia (William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 12, series 1, p. 106). On August 1, 1689 Godfrey Spruill, aged about 39, William Lewis and Joshua Wynne testified as to the winners of a horserace at Malvern Hills (Henrico Records, Virginia Historical Magazine Vol. 2, p. 296). Godfrey purchased 100 acres of land from Robert G. Sharp on August 15, 1689 (Henrico Co., VA Record Book 5, p. 564). On page 567 of the same book, Joanna Spruill relinquishes her dower right to this land which Godfrey sold to John Lowry (State Archives, Richmond, Mar 10. 1693/94). The Henrico minute book orphans court 1677, page 332, shows that on June 2, 1690 Doctor Spruill, along with John Cannon, Philemon Childers, and Robert Sharp are appointed to appraise the estate of Herbert Powell. He moved to North Carolina about 1704. The Land Grant Office in Raleigh, North Carolina, has record of Godfrey Spruill receiving a grant of 640 acres along the Scuppernon River. Memories and Record's of Eastern North Carolina by Mary Weeks Lambeth notes the following: "At a Vestry meeting of St. Paul's Parish, on the 9th day of March, 1703-4, it was ordered that "Dr. Spruill be paid 5 pounds for the cure of Eleanor Adams, and on the 2nd day of March 1713-14, 12 pounds for the cure of Ebenezer Aldridge, as soon as money can be raised," by the present Church Wardens (Col. Recs.)" Godfrey's will is dated August 5, 1718 and states that he lives in North Carolina in the Province of Albemarle. It was proved in Chowan Court July 29, 1719.

Dr. Godfrey Spruill was a west Scot surgeon who made his way after the Restoration first to Tidewater Virginia, then in the 1690s to Bull Bay and the Scuppernon jungle where the black river met the Sea of Roanoke, the broad Albemarle Sound. Heart's Delight, he called this country, and he set his family up on a plantation named the Round About (see next page). Whether or not he was the colony's first physician, Godfrey Spruill was certainly on constant call over a wide waterine route. He made it through the vicious Tuscarora Wars of the 1710s and lived to commiserate with the survivors at Fort Landing who lamented the twenty Alligator River colonists killed or carried off by the Mattamuskeets and the Coree Indians. Doctor Spruill left progeny to build the bridge over the Scuppernon (Nehemiah Spruill) that still bears the family's name, to sheriff the county (in the 1770s, 1830s, and 1960's), and to raise the regiment for Tyrrell County in the Revolution (Colonel Hezekiah Spruill). [Excerpt taken from Into the Sound Country. by Bland Simpson]



Spruill's Roundabout Plantation House built circa 1705 Was located at Backlanding and was the seat of the Spruill's for the next century. The original Spruill grant included over a thousand acres of the south shore of Albemarle Sound and west side of Scuppernong River between Back Creek and Bunting Bay (now Bull's Bay). In this beautiful, wild setting, called Heart's Delight, the Spruills set down their roots.
(As far as I know,this house no longer exists.)

Information from online research at: Ancestry.com

SPRUILL FAMILY COLONIAL CHRONOLOGY

[Dr. Godfrey] Spruill built a home on Round About Branch and named his plantation for the waterway. He began acquiring adjoining land until he owned approximately 1,500 acres stretching from the mouth of Back Creek on the Scuppernong River to Bunton Creek on the west (now a part of the dividing line between Washington and Tyrrell counties). . . .

The home tract, bequeathed to Joseph Spruill, contained the land surrounding and included present Colonial Beach. . . . Joseph built his home (1720-1730) north of his father's home on the Round About, but at the time it stood a considerable distance south of the sound's shoreline. Comparisons of maps dating from the 1700s to the present agree with recent coastal studies showing that erosion has claimed considerable footage along Tyrrell County's Albemarle Sound shoreline. The house site, now at Colonial Beach, once stood on an elevated ridge between Round About Creek to the south and the flat beach area to the north now covered by the sound's waters. . . . [The report then traced ownership of the Roundabout plantation.]

The absence of Spruill graves in a cemetery [1814-1895 Davenport's] several hundred feet from known Spruill homesites raises a question as to where members of the family were buried. There could have been a family cemetery elsewhere on the once vast holdings, including an area north of [Colonial Beach] site 31Ty9 (which would now be underwater); however, the most logical Spruill cemetery would probably have been in the vicinity of Spruill's Chapel [St. Paul's Church] which Godfrey and Joseph Spruill had helped to build. Early members of the family were closely associated with the chapel, and it seems likely they were buried there. . . . [See My Note 2) of *1732 Jan 22 for a later burying ground.]

7) Reference 80. [companion report to Reference 79.] identified historical artifacts uncovered at the Colonial Beach site [which "it is assumed...is the same as that indicated on the 1738 James Wimble map (Reference 97.0), as well as the house shown on a 1860 U.S. Corps of Engineers map (Chart No. 41)."] Among these were:

- a) An undisturbed subsurface feature ("V" shaped), possibly a builder's trench, which contained a kaolin pipe fragment (including the bowl heel). Based on the stem bore diameter, the pipe dated to a period ca. 1720 and 1750.
- b) Sixty-four test pits (45 x 45 cm x 25 cm deep at 25 meter intervals) were excavated in a pattern across the proposed subdivision area. Excavated cultural material revealed many artifacts from the 18th century to modern times. Fragments of artifacts uncovered dating to the 1700's included the following:

<u>ARTIFACT</u>	<u>MEDIAN</u> <u>DATE</u>	<u>QNTY</u>
Kaolin pipe stem	1735	4
salt glazed stoneware	1738	2
delft ware	1750	5
creamware	1758	1
Coarse earthenware	1766	3
porcelain	1770	2
bottle glass	18th cent.	2
roof tile	18th cent.	2

Will of Godfrey Spruill

In the name of God amen I GODFREY SPRUILL living in North Carolina in the Province of Albermarle being in health of body and sound of memory but considering of family of mankind do make and ordain this my last will and testament in a form following. I give and bequeath my soul unto the hand of god that gave it me and my body to the earth from whence it was taken to be buried in a Christian decent manner at the discretion of my executors hereafter named not doubting (but ??? of our Savior Jesus Christ). I shall enjoy a joyful resurrection and as to my temporal estate it hath pleased you to bless me with my funeral expenses and all my just debts being paid I give and bequeath in manner and form following that is to say first, I give and bequeath to my son SAMUEL SPRUILL a parcel of property estimation three hundred and fifty acres more or less bounded as followeth lying at a Cypress near the eastern end of the ? Branch and running thence to a tiny thicket and forming the end of the aforesaid Branch to the first outlet and along the outer Branch southerly to Great Swamp and along the Branch westerly to the end of the Buntings? along the said ?? mouth thereof and along the bay easterly to the first station to him and his heirs for ever; aforesaid land being that whereon he now lives. I give and bequeath to my son GODFREY SPRUILL three hundred fifty acres of more or less bounded as followeth being at a marked Cypress at the east end of the south banks his brother Samuel's corner free and so running eastwardly to the Clay point to a corner tree in ?? and so running from there thence southerly to a line of marked trees to the round about branch and at round about branch to a White Ashe next to the Great Swamp and along the Great Swamp to his brother Samuel's line to the first station to him and his heirs for ever and also one Negro woman named Jenny. I give to my son JOSEPH SPRUILL that plantation whereon I now live with all the rest of the land in the neck and also a parcel of land estimation fifty acres more or less bounding on a Cypress branch westerly of the ??? ??? land a line of marked trees westwardly of the aforesaid branch to a ??? ??? from thence various courses to the first station and one Negro man named L? and one Negro man named Dolphin with all my ??? and hogs to him and his heirs for ever. I give and bequeath to my son-in-law CUTHBERT PHELPS and my daughter SUSANNAH his wife a certain tract of land of estimation three hundred acres more or less and is boundeth as followeth beginning at marked White ??? at the Back Creek's mounth and running up the Swamp to a branch eastward to Rich Level Land and along the branch to a line of marked trees ??? ??? ??? and along that line of marked trees to River ??? and from there to the first station to him and his heirs for ever. I give to my daughter SUSANNAH a gold ring of twenty shills price. I give to my **daughter ANNA MARGARITTA** a gold ring of twenty shills price. I give to my daughter MARY a gold ring of twenty shills price. I give to **my grandson BUTTONHEAD BOUTWELL** six hundred acres of land purchased by me as appearing upon record lying in the fork of Pamlico River to be to him and his heirs for ever but in default of his I give to SAMUEL and his heirs and in default to ELIZABETH BOUTWELL and her heirs and on default of her I give to my grandson GODFREY SPRUILL son of SAMUEL and ELIZABETH SPRUILL to him and his heirs for ever. I nominate and appoint my son JOSEPH SPRUILL my sole and only executor of this will and testament hereby revoking all other wills of me heretofore made ratifying and confirming this as my last will and testament. Witness whereof I have here to set my hand and seal.....

this sealed in the presence of

Godfrey Spruill

James Singleton

Henry Norman

Ann Davenport

Proved in Chowan County July 29, 1719 Letter granted January 25, 1720