Durant (Duren), John [1]

Durant (Duren), John

by Mattie Erma E. Parker, 1986
See also: Durant Bible [2]; Durant (Durand, Duren), George; [3]Durant (Durand, Duren), Ann Marwood [4]

26 Dec. 1662–January 1699/1700

John Durant (Duren), North Carolina Council member and General Court justice [5], was the son of George [3] and Ann Marwood Durant [4], early settlers and leaders of the colony. The younger Durant probably was born at his parents' plantation on the peninsula now called Durants Neck in Perquimans County [6]. He was the third of nine children and the second of three sons, of whom the eldest died in childhood.

By January 1693/94 Durant was a member of the North Carolina Council and ex officio justice of the General Court. He held those offices through October 1695. Most likely he was also a member of the Assembly [7] in that period, as he sat on the Council by vote of the Assembly. In November 1697, he again became a justice of the General Court, which was then composed of justices appointed by the Council instead of the Council members themselves. He held that appointment the remainder of his life.

Durant married Sarah Cooke (rendered *Jooke* by J. R. B. Hathaway [8]) on 9 Apr. 1684. The bride was the daughter of Thomas and Ann Cooke of the North Carolina colony. About the time of the marriage John's father gave him a plantation in Perquimans Precinct, on which no doubt the couple settled. The children born of the marriage were George, Ann, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Mary.

After Durant died, his widow married William Stephens on 1 Jan. 1703/4.

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