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norfolk virginia

Willoughby takes its name from Captain Thomas Willoughby, who arrived in Virginia in 1610 at the age of nine as a passenger on the ship Prosperous.

Once he got a foothold in the New World, Willoughby's rise was rapid. And he was, successively, a justice of the peace, a member of the Assembly at Jamestown, and a member of the Governor's Council. He died in 1658 during a visit to England.

It is a matter of record that he owned a large tract of land embracing the present Willoughby area before 1626, and by 1635 he had built his family "manor house" there. This stood somewhere to the north of the present Ocean View Elementary School near the spot then known as "Willoughby's Point."

What is now known as Willoughby Spit, however, dates from the middle years of the Eighteenth Century. Even during the lifetime of Captain Thomas Willoughby, a series of underwater shoals formed over the years by the action of the waters of Hampton Roads and Chesapeake Bay existed west of the Willoughby manor plantation. Then, quite suddenly, in October of 1749, the Norfolk area was visited by a terrific tropical hurricane that did considerable crop and property damage and destroyed Fort George, which stood on the present site of Fort Monroe.

The accumulated sand churned up by this storm caused the shoals adjacent to the Willoughby plantation to surface. And from then on the long curved finger of sand continued to build up until it became known by its present name, Willoughby Spit.

Additional information about this story

Description	
Date	
Location	
Attached to	Thomas I Willoughby (1601 - 1657) Sanders Family Tree Walker/Britton/Saunders Family Tree
Other trees this object is saved to	Breedlove Family Tree

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