

Other Ellis Families in Colonial Maryland in the 17th and Early 18th Centuries

By Robert L. Ellis

(Haplogroup R1b Group 9, Kit # 30669)

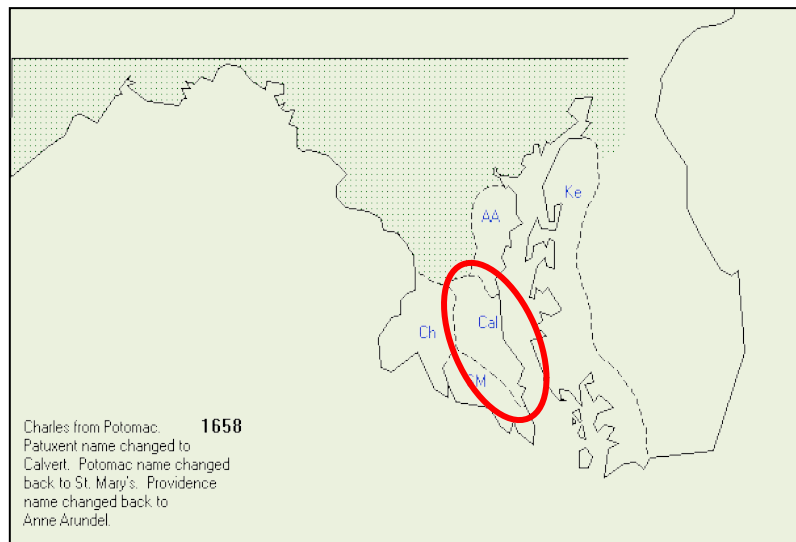
Purpose: This is a follow up to my paper entitled **Ellis Surname DNA Project: Follow Up of Results in Haplogroup R1b, Groups 2 and 9: Old Questions Answered, New Ones Arise**, which left the identity of the ancestor in common of Christopher Ellis and Samuel Ellis unresolved. Group 9 colleague Ron Benson suggested it might be helpful to identify other Ellis families in Maryland to see if a possible connection to Christopher and Samuel could be made.

Background: The immigrant Christopher Elis came to Maryland in 1661.ⁱ There are two versions about his immigration:

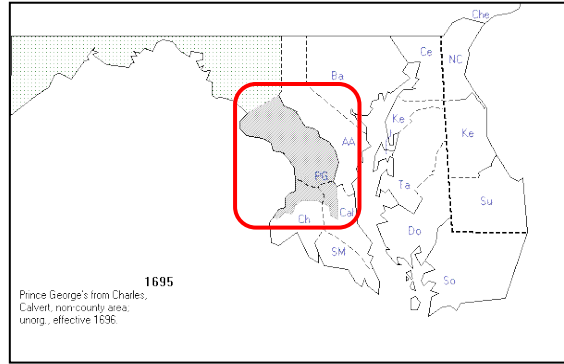
- 1) Christopher Ellis was born before 1630 in England and died in Prince George's County, MD, date unknown. The name of his wife is unknown. The couple had one child, a son named Christopher, who was born c. 1650. The son Christopher married Mary Brashears;ⁱⁱ and
- 2) Christopher Ellis was born between 1646 and 1658 in England. He survived his indenture and prospered enough that he was listed as a creditor in a 1688 estate filing. He married Mary Brashears c. 1688 in Calvert County, MD. He died in 1732 in Queen Anne's Parish, Prince George's County.ⁱⁱⁱ

Just where Christopher Ellis lived when he arrived in 1661 is not stated, but it appears he settled initially in Calvert County. I conclude this because he married Mary Brashear in that county c.1688. The Brashear family had originally settled in Nansemond County, VA, and came north to Calvert County in 1658.

Mary was born in 1660 in Calvert County, MD. The births of three children born to Christopher and Mary Ellis were recorded in St. Barnabas Church, Queen Anne's Parish, Prince George's County. Those records reflect the birth of Christopher Ellis on 29 June 1698 in that Parish. He was the youngest -his sister Elizabeth was born in 1689, and his sister Agniss (Agnes) was born in 1697.^{iv}



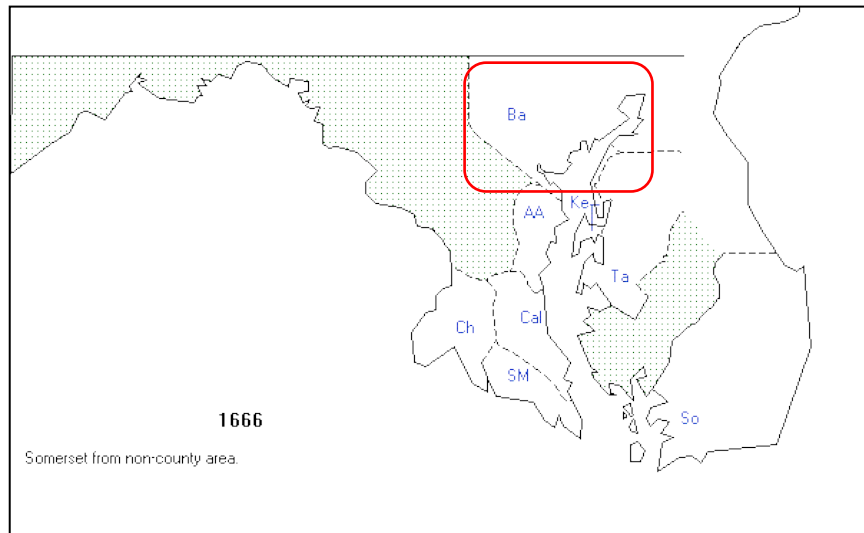
Ellises in Prince George’s County: Note: In 1692, the Maryland General Assembly decreed that the Church of England was the established church for Maryland. There were then ten counties in the colony, and they were divided into 30 parishes. One of those was St. Paul’s Parish, located in that part of Calvert County that became Prince George’s County in 1696. (Prince George’s County, officially established in 1696, was tentatively formed in 1695, and included some portions of Charles and Calvert counties.) In 1704, St. Paul’s Parish was divided, and the northern part became Queen Anne’s Parish, the southern part remaining St. Paul’s Parish. St. Barnabas’ Church was built in 1704 at Leeland on the site of a small log chapel. Leeland no longer exists, but was located just north of present day Upper Marlboro, Prince George’s County.



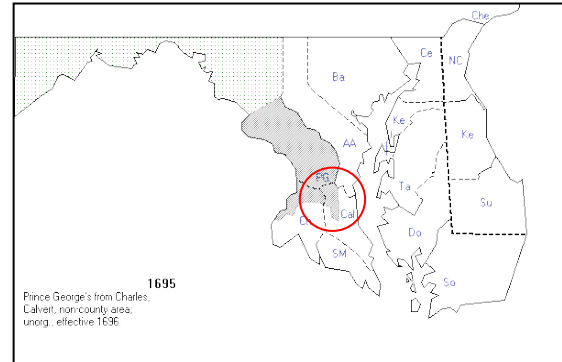
Earlier Arrivals: Christopher Ellis was not the first Ellis to settle in Maryland. In 1642, two Puritan men named **John Ellis** were transported to Virginia by Thomas Emerson. They appear to have been father and son, and came to Maryland in 1649 with a large number of Virginia Puritans from Nansemond County.^v The original settlement area was around present day Annapolis in Anne Arundel County. It appears the father remained in Anne Arundel County while his son migrated to the Eastern Shore county of Kent. There are Ellis Surname DNA Project participants who trace their ancestry to these two men, and they are classified in Haplogroup G and Haplogroup I1, Group 1. While this conflict is not resolved, it is clear the two men and their descendants are not in Haplogroup R1b, so I will not report further on them, except to mention one point – the great-grandson of John Ellis of Kent County migrated to Rowan County, NC by 1757, some 20 years before Haplogroup R1b Group 9’s Samuel Ellis and most of his family migrated there.

Arrivals between 1661 and 1688: **William Ellis** arrived in Maryland in 1663, but again, just where he settled is not reported.^{vi} I found no additional information about this William Ellis.

In 1664, a **Peter Ellis** was transported to Maryland and appears to have settled in Baltimore County by 1676. Peter lived out his life in Baltimore County. His wife was named Elizabeth, and they had one son, named **John Ellis**, who was still in Baltimore County as of 1702.^{vii}



In 1666, a **Thomas Ellis** immigrated to MD.^{viii} He was born before 1649, location not stated in sources available to me. He appears to be to have settled in a part of Calvert County that later became a part of Prince George's County. He may have married twice. He died in 1689 in Calvert County, and he left his wife Dorothy "all personalty in Calvert County." He also left 150 acres of property along the Potomac River in Charles County to his grandson, William Shepard, with the proviso that if Shepard died without issue, then that property went to Thomas Evans, identified as the son of Walter Evans of Charles County.^{ix}



Thomas Ellis had friends in high place in colonial Maryland: the executors of his will included Thomas Greenfield and Ninian Beall, both of whom were owners of a great deal of land and had roles in the colonial government. Beall and Ellis were the appraisers of the estate of Major Thomas Truman in 1686, and Truman was another large scale land owner and a government official. (Additional information about Ninian Beall is in my initial paper mentioned in the Purpose section above.)

The Ninian Beall – Thomas Ellis connection is worth noting: while there is no record of a personal relationship between Beall and the immigrant Christopher Ellis, who arrived in MD five years before Thomas, Christopher's son and Samuel Ellis were living in Beall's New Scotland Hundred in Prince George's County in 1733.

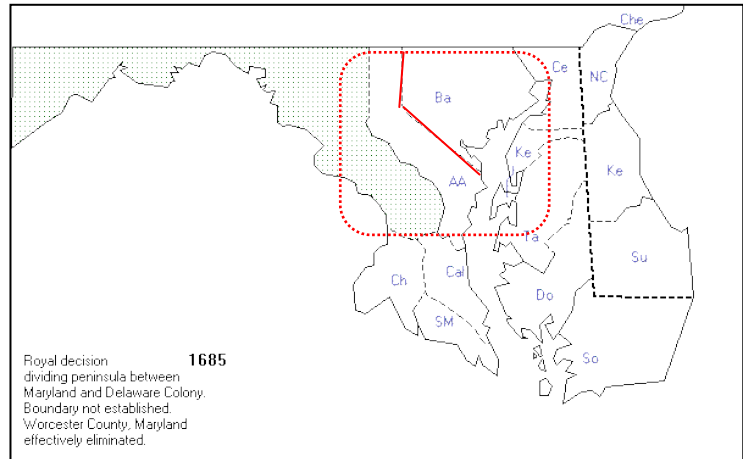
The reference to his grandson William Shepard in his will indicates that Thomas Ellis had a daughter but not a son. In pursuing the names mentioned in his will, I found:

- William Shepard was born c.1679 to Thomas Shepard and Anne Ellis. (The source listed the place of birth as Prince George's County, which did not yet exist. As stated above, when Prince George's County was established in 1696, it gained some land from Calvert County.)^x
- William Shepard died in 1741 in Prince George's County. He was a carpenter as of 1717, when he bought a tract of 150 acres called Sheppard's Purchase in Prince George's County.^{xi} In 1703, he witnessed the sale of 490 acres by Ninian Beall to Thomas Beall, identified as a carpenter.^{xii} Note that Christopher Ellis's son Christopher was also a carpenter as of 1732.
- Thomas Evans, who was to inherit the 150 acres if William Shepard died without issue, was the son of Walter Evans and Anne Ellis, according to one source, who also cautioned that Anne was "unproven." Another source does not identify Anne Ellis as the mother of Thomas Evans, but both sources state that Thomas married Mary Beall, daughter of Ninian Beall.^{xiii}

Others who first appear in records between 1661 and 1688: In 1673, a **James Ellis** surveyed a 210 acre tract he called Chance or Ellis' Chance in Baltimore County. When and where this James Ellis was born or when he arrived in Maryland is not reported. About ten years later, he surveyed a 500 acre tract he called James' Park in Baltimore County, and he secured a patent on James' Park in 1685.^{xiv} About that

same year, he married the widow Mary Wyatt Welsh, who served as the executrix of the will of her deceased husband

James Ellis wrote his will in 1688, and one of the witnesses was a Quaker, raising the possibility that James also was a Quaker. He died in 1693 in Anne Arundel County. (Baltimore County came into existence as an unorganized county in 1666, with no defined western boundary. By 1685, Anne Arundel County extended north to Pennsylvania, and thus gave a western boundary to the county. That James Ellis died in Anne Arundel County in 1693 suggests that he lived in that area of Baltimore County that became Anne Arundel County in 1685.)

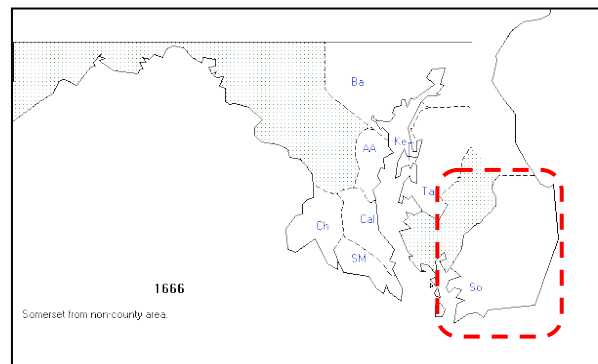


In addition to his wife Mary, James' will mentioned his step son Robert Welsh and his daughter Mary who was not yet 16. James left the James' Park property to May and the Chance property to step son Robert Welsh, with the proviso that if Robert died without heir, Chance went to Mary. (Daughter Mary was born in 1689.) James had no sons.

Robert Ellys shows up in land records of St. Mary's County and Calvert County from 1676 to 1680. While the records refer to him and his heirs, there is no specific mention of a wife or children by name. He died sometime after 1680 in Calvert County.^{xv}

Hugh Ellis first appears in records of Calvert County in 1687 as one of those to whom the deceased Mordecay Hunton owed a debt. His estimated date of birth is before 1661, but his place of birth and possible immigration year is not reported. Hugh married Elizabeth Hunton, a daughter of Mordecay Hunton before 1687, and she died in 1695. Hugh then married the widow Ruth Manning in about 1696. The only child listed for Hugh was a daughter named Anne Ellis who was born about 1697/98 in Calvert County.

The Maryland Eastern Shore county of Somerset was established in 1666. Somerset County records reflect the births of several children to **John and Elizabeth Ellis** from 1666 through 1683, and the marriage of some of their children as well..



I found but one report of an Ellis immigrant to Maryland between 1688 and 1700, and that was a **Thomas Ellis** who arrived in 1698, county of settlement not provided.^{xvi}

1688 to 1700: Christopher Ellis married Mary Brashears in Calvert County in about 1688. At the time of the marriage, the other Ellises known to be living in Calvert County were: the aforementioned Thomas Ellis and Hugh Ellis, and **Owen Ellis**. Thomas and Hugh had no sons, and Owen's son, also named Owen, born "before 1694," was either very young or not yet born.

Owen Ellis and family: Sometime before 1694, **Owen Ellis** was born in Calvert County.^{xvii} Harold W. and David B. Boles in their 1994 book *Ellis Ancestors Some Immigrants, Colonists, and Pioneers*, state on page 191 that they believe Owen "may have been another son of Christopher and Mary" Ellis. They place his year of birth as c.1700. However, there was an elder **Owen Ellis** who is the more likely candidate as the father. Prince George's County records reflect that in his 1714 will, one "Jno. Brown" mentioned **Anne**, identified as the daughter of **Owen Ellis**. The younger Owen Ellis was too young to have a daughter in 1714. The known children of the younger Owen do not include an Anne.^{xviii} Owen Ellis was known by 1720 as "Owen Ellis, planter of Prince George's County" when he bought 100 acres of Craycroft's Purchase, which was located in Prince George's County on the Patuxent River.

The younger **Owen Ellis** married Mary Samways in Prince George's County, and the couple had six children born, according to one source, between about 1723 to about 1733^{xix}, and according to another, between 1713 and 1720.^{xx}

1. John Ellis was born in either 1713 or after 1725. I have found no record of marriage, children or his death year. His father listed him first in his list of heirs in his 1743 will'
2. Jonathan Ellis was born before 1723, perhaps as early as 1714, in Prince George's County and died in that county in 1766. His will listed his wife Elizabeth and children John, Benjamin, Owen, William, and Leonard. This family remained in Prince George's County during the time period under inquiry.
3. Owen Ellis, Jr. was born in either 1715 or after 1727 in Prince George's County and died there in 1764.
4. Jane Ellis was born in either 1717 or after 1733 in Prince George's County. I have found no record of marriage, children or her death year.
5. Elizabeth Ellis was born in 1718 or after 1729 in Prince George's County. I have found no record of marriage, children or her death year.
6. Mary Ellis was born in either 1720 or after 1731 in Prince George's County. I have found no record of marriage, children or her death year.

Mary Ellis: About ten years after Christopher Ellis was born in Prince George's County, a **Mary Ellis** born there c.1708. Her parents are not listed. I include her in this effort because there a connection between her and Samuel Ellis born 1721, and between one of her descendants and the James Ellis family who removed to Washington County, PA.

Mary Ellis married James Riggs, also born in Prince George's County c.1708. His parents were James Riggs and Elizabeth Ranger. James and Mary had a son, Edmund Riggs, who was born c.1728 in Prince George's County, and who died after 1793 in Fallowfield Township, Washington County, PA.

Edmund Riggs married Anne Rimmer c.1748 in Prince George's County. Anne Rimmer was born c. 1732 in Prince George's County to James Rimmer, who was born c.1697, perhaps in Charles County (where in 1717 he registered his cattle mark) and who died in 1775 in Frederick County, MD.

This is the James Rimmer who purchased 145 acres of the Chance tract in Frederick County from Samuel Ellis in 1752.^{xxi} Samuel sold 211 acres of Chance on the same day in 1752, one parcel to James Ellis, another acre to the rectors of the church in Frederick, and the major portion to Rimmer. This raises the idea in my mind that Rimmer was "family" through Mary. Was Mary Samuel's sister, or aunt, or cousin? If so, who might have been her parents? Also, it appears Edmund Riggs and his wife Anne Rimmer Riggs migrated with or soon after James and Mary Veatch Ellis and their sons to Fallowfield Township, Washington County, PA.

ⁱ SKORDAS, GUST, editor. The Early Settlers of Maryland: an Index to Names of Immigrants, Compiled from Records of Land Patents, 1633-1680, in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968. 525p. Repr. 1986. Source Annotation: Index from manuscript by Arthur Trader, Chief Clerk in the Maryland Land Commission, 1917. And see nos. 4507-4511, Land Notes. Source Page #: 149. Found in Family Tree Maker CD #354: Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1538-1940.

ⁱⁱ Weir/Wier/Wear. **Updated:** 2012-04-24, found at <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=dasinger50&id=I20553>

ⁱⁱⁱ Martin-Ellis Families Sep 2005, <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=:3127039&id=I1682>, and

Ellis in 1658-1758 Charles County MD Families "The first 100 years", Updated: 2012-10-03, <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=SHOW&db=mrmarsha&recno=25679>

^{iv} Marriages and Births – Queen Anne's Parish (1700s), Prince George's County, Maryland.

Salt Lake FHC Film No. 0014304, Item 3 . Contributed for use in USGenWeb Archives by Martha Salberg MartSal@aol.com

<http://files.usgwarchives.org/md/princegeorge/vitals/marriages/marrbir01.txt>. and James and Mary Veatch Ellis, Their Sons and Other Descendants, by Ann-Jannette Emerson, R. C. Emerson Co, Santa Monica, CA, 1985, p.372.

^v James E. Moss "Antiquities of Lower Norfolk County" found at <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=dredellis&id=I36>

^{vi} SKORDAS, GUST, editor. The Early Settlers of Maryland: an Index to Names of Immigrants, Compiled from Records of Land Patents, 1633-1680, in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968. 525p. Repr. 1986. Source Annotation: Index from manuscript by Arthur Trader, Chief Clerk in the Maryland Land Commission, 1917. And see nos. 4507-4511, Land Notes. Source Page #: 149. Found in Family Tree Maker CD #354: Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1538-1940.

^{vii} Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759, by Robert W. Barnes, Copyright 1989, p.201

^{viii} SKORDAS, GUST, editor. The Early Settlers of Maryland: an Index to Names of Immigrants, Compiled from Records of Land Patents, 1633-1680, in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968. 525p. Repr. 1986. Source Annotation: Index from manuscript by Arthur Trader, Chief Clerk in

the Maryland Land Commission, 1917. And see nos. 4507-4511, Land Notes. Source Page #: 149. Found in Family Tree Maker CD #354: Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1538-1940.

^{ix} Ellis in 1658-1758 Charles County MD Families "The first 100 years", Updated: 2012-10-03 and 2013-04-14

^x 1001 Knights: Adventures in the Garden of Cox/Dustin Genes, Updated: 2013-05-20, found at <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=jerrr744&id=I81167>, and Ancestors Gray etc, Updated: 2013-05-08, found at <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=ancestorsgray&id=I121114>

^{xi} Ibid.

^{xii} http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbpretz/PS05/PS05_055.HTM

^{xiii} Ellis in 1658-1758 Charles County MD Families "The first 100 years", Updated: 2012-10-03 and 2013-04-14, and Ham/m, Updated: 2013-05-15, found at <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=thamm&id=I37693>

^{xiv} Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759, by Robert W. Barnes, Copyright 1989, p.202, and Colonial Families of Anne Arundel County, Maryland by Robert Barnes, published by Family Line Publication, Westminster, Maryland, 21157, found on Family Tree Maker CD #184, Family History: Colonial Families of Maryland.

^{xv} Ellis in 1658-1758 Charles County MD Families "The first 100 years", Updated: 2012-10-03 and 2013-04-14

^{xvi} COLDHAM, PETER WILSON. The Complete Book of Emigrants: A Comprehensive Listing Compiled from English Public Records of Those Who Took Ship to the Americas for Political, Religious, and Economic Reasons; of Those Who Were Deported for Vagrancy, Roguery, or Non-Conformity; and of Those Who Were Sold to Labour in the New Colonies. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1661-1699. 1990. 894p. Source Annotation: For the majority of entries, date and port reflect date of the transportation or apprenticeship orders and the intended destination. Information was extracted from English records of apprenticeship bindings or criminal transportation orders and from port books. Source Page #:695, found in Family Tree Maker CD #354: Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1538-1940.

^{xvii} Ellis in 1658-1758 Charles County MD Families "The first 100 years", Updated: 2012-10-03 and 2013-04-14

^{xviii} Ellis in 1658-1758 Charles County MD Families "The first 100 years", Updated: 2012-10-03 and 2013-04-14

^{xix} Ellis in 1658-1758 Charles County MD Families "The first 100 years", Updated: 2012-10-03 and 2013-04-14

^{xx} Bailey Family File 6/17/2013, **Updated:** 2013-06-17, <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=fredbailey9233&id=I93210>

^{xxi} Ellis in 1658-1758 Charles County MD Families "The first 100 years", Updated: 2012-10-03 and 2013-04-14