

Introduction:

My paper entitled **Ellis Surname DNA Project: Follow Up of Results in Haplogroup R1b, Groups 2 and 9: Old Questions Answered, New Ones Arise** left the identity of the ancestor in common of Christopher Ellis and Samuel Ellis unresolved. My Group 9 colleague and distant cousin Ron Benson suggested that I attempt to identify other Ellis families in Maryland in their time period to see if a possible connection to Christopher and Samuel could be made. Consequently, I wrote the two follow on papers, **Other Ellis Families in Colonial Maryland in the 17th and Early 18th Centuries** and **Ellises in Maryland in 17th – Mid-18th Centuries**.

This is the third and final follow on paper on this issue – unless new data appears. It is based on the information gathered as I put together the previous three papers.

The bottom line is that the ancestor in common for Christopher and Samuel Ellis remains unidentified.

Some Speculations

Christopher Ellis and Samuel Ellis appear to be descendants of a family three members of which migrated to Maryland in the 1660s. The first was Christopher Ellis, who arrived in 1661. Second was William Ellis, who arrived in 1663, and third was Thomas Ellis, who arrived in 1666. Christopher and Thomas appear to have settled first in Calvert County, and just where William lived is not stated, and I found no more information that can be affixed to him. However, I think it is quite possible they were related – brothers, uncle and nephews, or cousins.

I speculate that:

- The William Ellis who was living in Beallsville, MD in 1742 was the son or grandson of the immigrant William Ellis;
- The William Ellis of Beallsville was born around 1700 in Prince George's County, i.e., about the same time as Christopher Ellis, who was born in 1698 to Christopher Ellis and his wife Mary Brashears;
- This William Ellis had a brother named Samuel Ellis, who was born around 1700 in Prince George's County, and a sister named Mary, who was born about 1708 in Prince George's County; and
- The Samuel Ellis whose name appears on the 1733 New Scotland Hundred tax list is not a brother of Christopher Ellis who was born in 1698.

Rationale: The records show that Christopher and Thomas settled in Calvert County initially, but just where William settled is not shown. Thomas' will indicates he had no sons and one daughter. Christopher Ellis married Mary Brasseur, aka: Brashears, in Calvert Co., MD in about 1688. Whether this Christopher was the same as the Christopher who arrived in 1661 or was his son is not clear, but there are no other Christophers known to have been in Calvert County at the time. The couple had three to four children, source dependent, but all sources agree they had only one son, also named Christopher, born in 1698 in Prince George's County, MD. Mary's husband died in 1732.

The following year, son Christopher (born 1698) and Samuel Ellis appeared on the tax list for New Scotland Hundred. The age requirements to appear on the tax list places Samuel's birth as no later than 1712, and based on the birth of his son Samuel in 1721, more likely around 1700. This is the first time a Samuel Ellis appears in the records. He is not a son of Christopher Ellis and Mary Brashears-the births of their children were recorded at St. Barnabas Church, Queen Anne's Parish, Prince George's County. Samuel was not a son of Thomas Ellis- Thomas' will indicates he had a daughter. That leaves a son of the 1663 immigrant William as the probable ancestor of William, Samuel, and Mary.

In 1742, William and Samuel Ellis were among the signers of a petition requesting a new All Saints Parish in western Prince George's County. This Samuel was born in 1721, most likely to the Samuel Ellis of New Scotland Hundred. His birth year is based on his age as stated in a 1776 petition. The only William Ellis in the 1776 petition was 17 years old (born in 1759). He was living with an Ellis family that included a Prisila Ellis, age 52, old enough to have been the younger William's mother and widow of the 1742 William Ellis.

As stated in the previous papers, by the mid 1740s, three Ellis families were living in what was then western Prince George's County, headed by James, Samuel, and William Ellis. James was the son of Christopher Ellis (born 1698). In 1755, another petition calling for a new All Saints Parish was signed by James, Samuel and Zachariah Ellis. William did not sign and is presumed dead by that time.

In about 1708, a Mary Ellis was born in Prince George's County. She married James Riggs in Prince George's County and they had a son named Edmund Riggs. Edmund later married Anne Rimmer, daughter of James Rimmer. The 1755 All Saints Parish Petition was actually three petitions- the wording of the petition was the same or similar, but there were three "sign in sheets," suggesting that people living near each other signed whichever version was available. Petitions 1 and 2 bear the names of various members of the Beall and Veatch families. Petition 3 includes the names of James, Samuel and Zachariah Ellis along with James Rimmer and James Riggs Senior and Junior. This suggests that Mary was a member of the family, and that when Samuel Ellis sold a parcel of the land tract called "Chance" in 1752 to James Rimmer, he was keeping the land in the family- Rimmer was the father-in-law of Mary's son, Edmund Riggs.

Wrapping Up

Thanks to the good folks who joined the Ellis Surname DNA Project over the past few years, we have learned much. We started with Sandra and me working to find an ancestor in common when I thought I was a descendant of Hezekiah Ellis and she had a brick wall at Lindsey Ellis. It took some time, but eventually enough participants help uncover the truth of the three groups within Haplogroup R1b; Group 9 for five of us; Group 15 for descendants of Hezekiah; and Group 2 for those descended from Owen Ellis, once believed to be the nephew of my James. Ron was able to publish a paper showing how DNA results can provide answers when documents no longer exist or have not been uncovered.

Some Speculations and Wrapping Up

Thank you Dawn for your patience with us and your assistance. We would not have achieved the results we did without your help as Project Administrator.