

John Cissell & John Baptist Cissell

What was their connection?

prepared by Julie Kelts, July 2018
updated April 2021

Overview

As the following pages show, Y-DNA testing through the Cecil-Cissell surname project has suggested that John Baptist Cissell (c. 1741-1799) is descended from John Cissell (d. 1698), but not through his grandson James (son of James). Because John's son James had only one known son, that leaves John Cissell's six other sons as candidates for JBC's direct ancestor:

- John Cissell Jr. (d. 1722) – no wife or children in settlement of estate
- William Cissell (d. 1744) – eight or nine known children
- Thomas Cissell (d. 1724) – two known children
- Richard Cissell – no known wife or children
- Robert Cissell – no known wife or children
- Edward Cissell – no known wife or children

Information on John's sons from Elise Greenup Jourdan, *Early Families of Southern Maryland Volume 1*

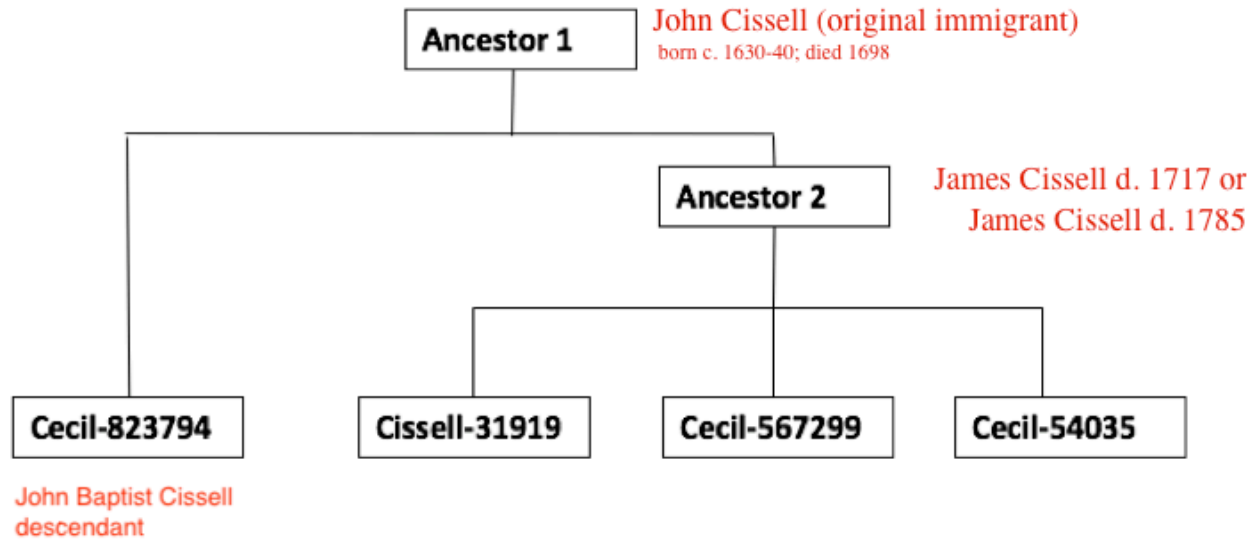
The John Baptist Cissell descendant whose Y-DNA established the John Cissell connection is C. Cecil. His brother P. Cecil's autosomal DNA results are on Ancestry and GEDmatch. Other JBC descendants with DNA on Ancestry and GEDmatch include M.M. and the L--- family. The James Cissell descendants in the surname project are D. Cissell, J. Cecil, and J.G. Cecil, all on GEDmatch.

If a triangulated match between a JBC descendant, a descendant of one of the above sons of John Cissell, and a third person from either group could be found, that would suggest (but not prove) a father for JBC.

Questions and issues

- What more can be learned about John Cissell's other sons? Richard, Robert, and Edward were named in John's will, but Jourdan has no further information about them.
- Could John Cissell have had a brother who also immigrated to Maryland, and was actually JBC's father? That possibility would not be contradicted by the Y-DNA results.
- I have access to Ancestry matches for three sisters descended from Wilford Cecil (second great grandson of John), and their nephew J., as well as matches for P. Cecil, a fifth great grandson of John Baptist Cissell. I also have access to Ancestry matches of the Bell family, who are also Wilford descendants, including M. who shares many matches with others just mentioned.

Proposed St. Mary's County Cissell Y-DNA Descendant Tree



Per Dave Cissell 7/3/18 e-mail(s) including attachments (except annotations in red). Only one SNP separates Ancestor 2 from Ancestor 1; 2-3 SNPs separate the three living descendants from Ancestor 2. If each SNP represents 100 years, the above looks reasonable. See next pages for estimates of the two James Cissells' birth dates.

SNP Tree July 2018 (annotated)

Y20900 Y21416 6099785 about 1277							12005575 6513695 1315			
FGC51313 FGC51315 12348810** 20350243&& 11554136 15610453				FGC51954 1345 BY20670 about BY20671 1771 BY20672 21480709***			GG315 13653331		16290208 19533886 22736357 8484652	
FGC51311 about 1695				13539201 7233295 20301419 10150483		3845522 7233295 11721377 11744535		DC213 6825993 20762946 56822741		
7277853	20984546 20994961	FGC51314 11942919 15610453	3847825 12528156 20310197&&	16861142 13965583 14827862 15069083 16861142 17389289 CTS11840%%						
Cecil 823794	Cecil 567299	Cissell 31919	Cecil 54035	Cecil 200148	Cicle 641231	Cecil (Burghley) 57787	Gilbert 425871	Harris B164080	Howells 540885	
-----St Mary's County MD Origin ----->				<-----Prince George's County MD Origin----->		Lord Burghley				

Estimating the two James Cissells' birth dates

Dave's estimate:

I normally assume that John was probably about 18 or 20 when he came to Maryland. This would give his birth date as about 1639. We know he died in 1698.

Based on John's Will, we know that all of his male children had been born prior to 1694. I could assume that John had married within a year or two of arriving in Maryland, say 1660. If so, his first son could have been born about 1661 or so. If I also assume a child every year and a half or so and assume no daughters (which is probably not totally correct) and add in those death dates that I do know we would get a list like this for John's children:

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1. John | (1661 - ca 1722, age 61) | 2. William | (1663 - ca 1744, age 81) |
| 3. Thomas | (1664 - 1724, age 60) | 4. Richard | (1666 -) |
| 5. Robert | (1667 -) | 6. Edward | (1669 -) |
| 7. James | (1670 - 1717, age 47) | | |

Another approach for these dates is to work from the other direction. James who died in 1717 had a Will that mentioned two daughters (Mary and Ruth) and a son (James - I'll call him James Jr.). James Jr. was not the executor of the Will. I assume this means that James Jr. was not yet 21 in 1717. Further, from the way the Will refers to Mary, I believe that she was probably the oldest of the three children. In the Will, Mary's last name is not mentioned and so I assume that she had not yet married. This suggests that she was younger than 18. If I take her age as say 17, her birth date could have been about 1700. In this case James Jr. might have been born about 1702. If I take James Sr. to have been age 21 at the birth of Mary, his birth date would have been about 1679. While this might be possible, I usually take a generation to be about 30 years. If I take James Sr. to have been 30 when Mary was born, he would have been born about 1670. Since neither of these dates is supported by any records, I'll just average them for this exercise and assign a possible birth date of 1674 for James Sr. With this train of assumptions, and using two years between each child, we have the following:

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1. John | (1662 - ca 1722, age 60) | 2. William | (1664 - ca 1744, age 80) |
| 3. Thomas | (1666 - 1724, age 58) | 4. Richard | (1668 -) |
| 5. Robert | (1670 -) | 6. Edward | (1672 -) |
| 7. James Sr. | (1674 - 1717, age 43) | | |

And we would have James Jr. as (1702 - 1785, age 83).

Estimating the two James Cissells' birth dates, continued

Julie's estimate (from the Cecil-Sloan project, early 2018, updated July 2018):

The second James Cissell died in 1785. His birth date is not known, nor is the birth date of his father. James's father died in 1717, so James must have been born by then. Not all the birth dates are known for James's children, but his oldest grandchild, as far as is known, was born in 1760 which means James probably had children by 1740, consistent with a birth date of around 1717.

James Cissell's grandfather John Cissell was born around 1630 to 1640 and died in 1698. James Cissell's father, also named James, may have been John Cissell's seventh and youngest son. John Cissell's will states that James's older brother Edward was not yet 21 in 1698, so he could not have been born before 1677. Thus James could have been born anywhere from 1678 to 1690. Thus James Jr., his father's only known son, could have been born as early as 1698 (and had children as early as 1718 and grandchildren as early as 1738), but the lack of documented grandchildren before 1760 suggests it was closer to the 1717 date.

Summary:

	John	James d. 1717	James d. 1785
Dave's estimated birth dates:	1639	1670-1674	1702
Julie's estimated birth dates:	1630-1640	1678-1690	probably about 1717 (possibly by 1698)

The estimates don't seem radically different, and all seem to fit with the proposed tree above. It should be noted that there is little evidence of the actual birth order of John Cissell's children, except that John Cissell's will identified James as the youngest son.