Debunking the Published Griffin Family Myths
Edward Griffin of Virginia, Maryland, and Kentucky

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Summary

The following with details the results of eleven years of research on the life and times of Edward Griffin (1740-1814), who died intestate in Boston, who arrived in Virginia late in 1765 or early in 1766 around the revised chronology, who died after 1850, in Pulaski, New York.

Based on the results of this research, I offer the following four assertions, the remainder of this account revisits the circumstances which lead to my conclusions, as well as a list of my supporting references. The sources are the Bibliography, which follows the account, in Chicago Style.

1. Neither Edward Griffin nor Sgt. John Griffin of Simsbury, Connecticut, was related to the Prosperity/Prosperity/Shady Valley of Western Virginia, Pendleton, Madison, Ohio. The man who was born Edward Fitzpatrick Griffin in Ireland, was the son of Edward Griffin and Mary Ann Lanigan-Griffin.

2. Edward Griffin, who died in Boston, was the son of Edward Griffin and Mary Ann Lanigan-Griffin, who arrived in Boston in late 1740 or early 1741, and died before 1765. Edward Griffin, who arrived in Virginia in late 1765 or early 1766 around the revised chronology, was not the same person as the Edward Griffin who died in Boston in late 1740 or early 1741.

3. Sgt. John Griffin, Sgt. Edward Griffin, and Sgt. Thomas Griffin, who served in the Revolutionary War, were not related to the Prosperity/Prosperity/Shady Valley of Western Virginia, Pendleton, Madison, Ohio. The men who were Edward Fitzpatrick Griffin's relationship, but clearly show they had different backgrounds. [1]

4. Sgt. Thomas Griffin, who died in Ohio and who was a common Irish relative with Edward Griffin within the past 10,000 years, there is still DNA evidence to prove this assertion, though I have not thoroughly investigated the potential relationship with Sgt. John Griffin of Simsbury, Connecticut.

Sgt. Edward Griffin, Sgt. John Griffin, and Sgt. Thomas Griffin, were actually arrested in Halifax, Lagrange, and Lenoir Counties, North Carolina, by Colonel Griffith Rutherford of Catawba, who died in 1803, having an under-lady, the mother or grandmother of Sgt. Thomas Griffin, who was a common Irish relative of Sgt. Edward Griffin.

Further evidence was furnished by Brent's examination of the parish registers of Bedmond and Redbourn. Unfortunately the parish registers of Bedmond do not survive before 1735, but those of Redbourn do, and it is from the registers of Redbourn that Brent has drawn his conclusions. Brent has found that there was no contemporary Griffin family in Redbourn, and that the Griffins who had been there had left the parish by the time the first Griffin baptism was recorded in the parish register. The significance of this could be clear on the geographic recording of the will of Elizabeth Griffin, below.

Brent's Griffin research has shown that there was no Griffin family in Redbourn, Hertfordshire, England, at the time of the birth of Edward Griffin, of Boston, of the Company of Parishioners, Wales, in 1687 and 1688, respectively. Moreover, Brent has found that there was no Griffin family in Redbourn, Hertfordshire, England, at the time of the birth of Edward Griffin, of Boston, of the Company of Parishioners, Wales, in 1740.

Brent's Griffin research has shown that the "Lineman to Ely Bernard the Sons" Tree of Robert's 1874 Genealogy of the Original Devonshire Griffin's which was available in the Hertfordshire Library in Chicago, when Zeno was researching, the Griffin family in Redbourn, Hertfordshire, England, at the time of the birth of Edward Griffin, of Boston, of the Company of Parishioners, Wales, in 1740. Brent has found that there was no

57. Jones, Francis, *Lewys Dwnn and the Parsons*. Journal of the Historical Society of the Church in Wales, 1990. **29**:59.

58. Burke, John and Bernard Burke, *Encyclopaedia of Heraldry, or General Armory of England, Scotland, and Ireland, Comprising a Registry of All Armorial Bearings from the Earliest to the Present Time, Including the Late Grants by the College of Arms*. 3rd ed. 1844, London,: H. G. Bohn, GRI.

59. In light of the fact that the descendants of Sgt. John have not located a homeland or parents for him, and I have not worked on Sgt. John's ancestry, I cannot state unequivocally that there is not a Parry connection there, but the likelihood is very, very slim.

60. Griffithes, John, *Will of John Griffithes of Bedstone, Shropshire, 1616*, in *Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury*. 1616, The National Archives: Kew, PROB 11/127.

61. Griffen, Zeno T., Personal Letter to Justus A. Griffin, Andrew W. Griffen, Morganza Griffen, June 6, 1912.

62. Griffen, Zeno T., Personal Letter to Mr Charles Griffen, Mr Justus A. Griffin, Mr Charles Field Griffen, September 15, 1912.

63. Fleet, Beverly, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*. 1988, Genealogical Publishing Company: Baltimore, 44-50.

64. Coldham, Peter Wilson, *English Adventurers and Emigrants, 1609-1660:Abstracts of Examinations in the High Court of Admiralty with Reference to Colonial America*. 1984, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 56-59.

65. TNA, *Registers of Licenses to Pass Beyond the Seas*, in *Exchequer:Records of the King's Remembrancer*. 1635, The National Archives: Kew, England, Class E/157/120.

66. Coldham, Peter Wilson *English Convicts in Colonial America*. 1974, New Orleans: Polyanthos.

67. Coldham, Peter Wilson *Emigrants in Chains: A Social History of Forced Emigration to the Americas of Felons, Destitute Children, Political and Religious Non-Conformists, Vagabonds, Beggars and Other Undesirables, 1607-1776*. 1992, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company.

68. Games, Alison, *Migration and the Origins of the English Atlantic World*. 1999, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

69. Creighton, Charles, M.A. M.D., *A History of Epidemics in Britain from Ad 664 to the Extinction of Plague*. 1891: Cambridge University Press, 508-511.

70. Finlay, Roger, *Population and Metropolis: The Demography of London 1580-1650*. 1981, Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press.

71. Horn, James, *Adapting to a New World: English Society in the Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake*. 1994, Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

72. Horn, James, *Tobacco Colonies: The Shaping of English Society in the Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake*, in *The Origins of Empire*, Canny, Nicholas, Editor. 1998, Oxford University Press: Oxford, 170-192.

73. Greer, George Cabell, *1623-1660 Early Virginia Immigrants*. Early Virginia Immigrants. 1982, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.

74. According to Bernard Steiner at page 85, "By grant from the King of the Susquehannoughs, Claiborne claimed title to Palmer's Island, and in the spring of 1637 sent William Jeanes, one of his servants, to establish a settlement there, believing it to be above the 40 degrees parallel." This Jeanes may be the same William Joanes who was captured along with Edward Griffin. It is probable that Edward was with Joanes on Palmer's Island in the spring of 1637.

75. This is from Thomas Sturman's deposition, taken on May 1640, "And this deponent knoweth that the said Governor (Calvert) tooke diverse servants and imploied [employed] them, and disposed of theire [their] times of service, who did belong to the said Claborne, [Claiborne] the names of which servants this deponent well remembereth not, saveing [saving] that he remembereth that Thomas Youall, Robert Cooper, Robert Lake, John Glantam, John Russell, William Tawbott, [Talbott] Willoam [Wiliam] Jaxson, [Jackson] Thomas Kidds, Nicholas Pawthampton, Edward Hall, Mathew Preist, Richard Raymond, Richard Smith, William Freeman, William Jones and Edward Griffin being the said Capt: Claiborne's servants were all taken and disposed by the said Governor to the use of the said Lord Baltimore." [70]

76. Browne, William Hand, Clayton Colman Hall, et al., *Claiborne's Petition and Accompanying Papers 1676-7*, in *Archives of Maryland*. 1887, Maryland Historical Society, 172, 188-189, 210.

77. Fernow, Berthold, *Early Colonial Settlements*, in *Documents Relating to the History of the Early Colonial Settlements Principally on Long Island with a Map of Its Western Part, Made in 1666. Translate, Compiled and Edited from the Original Records in the Office of the Secretary of State and the State Library, under the Direction of the Honble [Sic] Joseph B. Carr, Secretary of State*, Fernow, B., Editor. 1883, Weed, Parsons and Company: Albany, New York, 32-33, 402-409, 598, 750

78. Archives of Maryland, *Proceedings of the Council of Maryland 1636-1647*. 1636-1647, State of Maryland, 68, 90-91.

79. Hoadley, Charles Jeremy, in *Records of the Colony and Plantation of New Haven, from 1638 to 1649; Transcribed and Edited in Accordance with a Resolution of the General Assembly of Connecticut*. 1857, Case, Tiffany and Company: Hartford, 39.

80. Holland Society of New York, *New York Historic Manuscripts, Dutch*. 1974, Genealogical Pub. Co.: Baltimore, 219.

81. This is most likely Accomac, Virginia, the county in which Palmer's and Kent Islands were located. Pennington was living there at one point.

82. Van Laer, Arnold, J.F., *New York Historical Manuscripts, Dutch*, Scott, Kenneth and Kenn Stryker-Rodda, Editors. 1974, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.: Baltimore, 293.

83. Morgan, Kenneth, *Slavery and Servitude in Colonial North America : A Short History*. 2001, New York University Press: Washington Square, N.Y., 8.

84. Van Laer, Arnold, J.F., *New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch*, Scott, Kenneth and Kenn Stryker-Rodda, Editors. 1974, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.: Baltimore, 198.

85. Thompson, Benjamin F., *History of Long Island; Containing an Account of the Discovery and Settlement; with Other Important and Interesting Matters to the Present Time.* 1839, New York: E. French, 442.

86. Ross, Peter, *Chapter XXVIL Flatbush*, in *A History of Long Island : From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*. 1902, Lewis Pub. Co.: New York, 317.

87. Trebor, Haynes, *The Flushing Remonstrance; the Origin of Religious Freedom in America*. 1957, Flushing, New York Bowne House.

88. *Ecclesiastical Records of the State of New York*. Vol. 1. 1901, Albany: James B. Lyon, State Printer.

89. Garman, Tabetha, *Designed for the Good of All: The Flushing Remonstance and Religious Freedom in America*, in *Department of History*. 2006, 110.

90. In his deposition, Hart claimed that he wrote the names of Townsend and Milner.

91. O'Callaghan, E. B., *History of New Netherland*, in *History of New Netherland*. 1855, Appleton & Company: New York, 351.

92. Scharf, J. Thomas, *History of Westchester County, New York Including Morrisania, Kings Bridge, and West Farms*. Vol. 1. 1992, Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 849-50.

93. Christoph, Peter R. and Florence A. Christoph, *New York Historical Manuscripts: English; Books of General Entries of the Colony of New York, 1664-1673 Orders, Warrants, Letters, Commissions, Passes and Licenses Issued by Governors Richard Nicolls and Francis Lovelace*. 1982, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.: Baltimore, 152.

94. Christoph, Peter R. and Florence A. Christoph, *New York Historical Manuscripts: English Records of the Court of Assizes for the Colony of New York, 1665-1682*. 1983, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.: Baltimore, 221-222; 283.

95. Frost, Josephine C., *Records of the Town of Jamaica Long Island, New York*. 1914, Long Island Historical Society: Brooklyn, 206-207.

96. Case, J. Wickham, *Southold Town Records*. 1882-84, S.W. Green's son, printer, etc.: New York, 401.

97. Cristoph, Peter R. [ed.], in *The Dongan Papers; 1683-1688, Part 2: Files of the Provincial Secretary of New York During the Administration of Governor Thomas Dongan*. 1993, Syracuse University Press: Syracuse, New York, 155-156, 295.

98. New York (State) Council, Berthold Fernow, and A.J.F. VanLaer [preface], *Calendar of Council Minutes 1668-1783*, Bulletin (New York State Library); 58, March 1902, Editor. 1902, University of the State of New York: Albany, 89.

99. Ancestry.com. *Dutchess County, New York, Quaker Records*. [Online transcribed records] [cited 2004.

100. Cox, John, *New York Friends Records, 1671-1703*, Salt Lake: Genealogical Society.

101. Cox, John Jr. *Dutchess County, New York Quaker Records: Nine-Partners Monthly Meeting, Dutchess Co., N.Y.* [Database online] 2000 [cited 2004 June 10].

102. Frost, Jerry William, *The Quaker Family in Colonial America; a Portrait of the Society of Friends*. 1973, New York: St. Martin's Press.

103. Holder, Frederick, *The Quaker in Great Britain and America*.

104. Jones, Rufus Matthew, *The Quakers in the American Colonies*. 1962, New York: Russell & Russell.

105. Society of Friends, *Flushing Monthly Meetings*. 1640-4796, Salt Lake: Genealogical Society, 57, 149, 156.

106. Society of Friends, *[First Register]: Marriages 1658 [1663]-1761; Births 1640-1796 (Includes Deaths of Children); Marriages, 1762, 1766; Deaths 1669-1796; Births 1725-1731. This Record Was Copied from Original by Isaac Horner to 1685. And Epistles, Instructions, George Fox's Advice, Memorials to the Governor, Minutes of the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings Down to 1685 [Copied from the Original by Isaac Horner]; Acknowledgements 1697-1730; Certificates of Removal [to 1722; None Recorded Again until 1778], of Clearness of Marriage Engagements, of Unity with Ministering Friends from 1676; Epistles Issued by Yearly Meeting Mainly to London Y.M. 1708-1731 and 1759-1760.* 1658-1761: Salt Lake City [Utah] : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1950, 59.

107. Society of Friends, *Men's Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings 1671-1703 [Summary of Contents and Index Made in 1871by William Wood]; Original Record [Found in 1868 in the Garret of a Friends House in Flushing; and Bound] and Men's Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings 1671-1703 ("First, the Minutes of What Is Now Called Westbury Quarterly Meeting from Third Month 23d, 1671 ... To Twelfth Month 27th 1702. Second, the Minutes Down to Third Month 6th 1703 of What Became Flushing Monthly Meeting, and Later New York Monthly Meeting, Held Regularly from About 1685. Third, the Minutes of Flushing Yearly Meeting, Later Called New York Yearly Meeting, from Its First Session in 1696 to 1702 Inclusive; Copied from the Original Record by John Cox Jr. And George Cocks and Engrossed by James Close 1895-1898"). Includes Detailed Index.* 1671-1703.

108. Society of Friends, *Minutes of Monthly, Quarterly and Yearly Meetings Held on Long Island 1671-1703 AKA Flushing Monthly Meeting Vol. 214 1671-1703*. 1671-1703, LDS.

109. Bergen, Teunis G., *Register in Alphabetic Order, of the Early Settlers of King's County, Long Island, N. Y., from Its First Settlement by Europeans to 1700; with Contributions to Their Biographies and Genealogies, Compiled from Various Records*. 1973, Polyanthos: Cottonport, 125.

110. Ritchie, Robert C., *The Duke's Province: A Study of New York Politics and Society 1664-1691*. 1977, University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 115-117

111. Because the children were listed after the parents, it is possible that Deborah could have been Edward's spinster daughter, perhaps named for Lady Deborah Moody. The other consideration is that she may have been a sister of Mary's; this is more conjecture, but we must consider all options as we have no ages listed for the residents.

112. Waller, Henry D., *History of the Town of Flushing Long Island, New York*. 1899, J. H. Ridenour: New York, 237.

113. Hinks, Peter P., John R. McKivigan, and R. Owen Williams, *Encyclopedia of Antislavery and Abolition*, Hinks, Peter P., Editor. 2007, Greenwood Publishing Group.

114. Singer, Alan J., *New York and Slavery: Time to Teach the Truth*. 2008, New York: SUNY.

115. Wills, Gary, *Head and Heart: American Christianities*. 2007: Penguin Group.

116. Bristol, Theresa Hall, *Westchester County Miscellanea.* New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, 1922. **53**(3) 272.

117. My search for information on Mary spans eight years. I have checked all families of the original Gravesend patentees, the Flushing Remonstrance signers, and those with whom Edward had land transcations for someone with a daughter or widow named Mary. The family histories state she was from New York. I found a marriage between an Edward Grifin and Mary Diston in the Oxford Register of Marriages, Edward Grifin & Mari Diston, lic. 17 Sep 1635, which would have been one month before Edward sailed to Virginia. There were also many Mary Griffins who crossed the Atlantic prior to 1653 when Edward settled in Gravesend, however, my reading on indentured servants makes it very clear that they were not allowed to be married before their time of service expired. I could not locate Mary Diston in the Oxford records available to me.

118. I have spent seven years looking for this document. None of the other Griffin family histories make this assertion.