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IDENTIFICATION OF THE MITOCHONDRIAL DNA HAPLOGROUP OF ELIZABETH MARTIAU

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Identification of the Mitochondrial DNA Haplogroup of Elizabeth Martiau

Including her maternal line descendants:

*Mildred Reade, Mildred Warner, Mildred Washington, &
Mildred Lewis*

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Abstract

This is the first documentation of the mitochondrial DNA line of Elizabeth Martiau. This project verifies several lines of her descendants including some where documentation has been lacking. Her maternal line descendants included many noteworthy women in colonial Virginia. These findings can assist others researching their heritage.

Key words: mitochondrial DNA, Elizabeth Martiau, Mildred Reade, Mildred Washington, Mildred Warner, Mildred Lewis, Nicholas Martiau, George Reade, Lawrence Washington, Augustine Warner, John Lewis, Henry Willis

Introduction / Overview

This work traces some of Elizabeth Martiau's matrilineal descendants and confirms the shared mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) haplogroup of those lines.

This project was started as part of my effort to document my ancestral family tree. Like most people who work on their genealogy, there are branches that lead into "brick walls" when information seems to end without resolution. Among other brick walls, I have persistently tried to resolve two key links in one branch that I found puzzling. This branch included noteworthy people in American history, and I felt that surely the truth should be within reach.

Despite years of searching, I was unable to resolve these problematic links. This was due to a lack of documentation that is needed to verify the connection to their ancestors. I have seen numerous family pedigrees posted online and in books that contradict one another. Some state the relationship was uncertain or unproven while others state the relationship as fact, but without sources provided. Both become widely distributed as people copy other trees without pursuing primary sources. This can amplify errors that are very difficult to correct once perpetuated. The number of errors in published pedigrees is amazing. Very recently I looked at an individual using Ancestry.com and found over 11,000 family trees posted with incorrect parents attached.

In my pedigree, I specifically wanted to know if Elizabeth Wills who married John Clayton was the daughter of Henry Willis and his second wife, Mildred. And further, who was Mildred? Mildred has been an enigma being listed as either Mildred Howell or Mildred Lewis. My second goal was to verify her correct identity.

The research questions are:

1. Can Elizabeth Willis be verified as the daughter of Henry Willis and Mildred (Lewis) (Howell) (Brown) Willis?
2. Can Mildred (Lewis) (Howell) (Brown) Willis be verified as the daughter of John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner?

I have found good documentation showing that Elizabeth Willis was my 5th great grandmother and that she married John Clayton in 1753. But, in Virginia there were several people named Elizabeth Willis living at that time. She is usually stated to be the daughter of Henry Willis, but no source for that was found. Was she born to Mildred; the second wife of Henry Willis as often claimed? And, to find my ancestors further back I needed to identify the maiden name of Elizabeth's mother. Was Mildred who was variably reported to have married John Howell as her first husband, or was she the daughter of John Howell and married Dr. John Brown as her first husband?

Records show that Mildred Brown married Henry Willis as his second wife. If she was born a Lewis and then married Howell and then Brown, then Willis, she would be formally Mildred (Lewis) (Howell) (Brown) Willis. Because Henry's second and third wives were both named Mildred, some get confused and attach Elizabeth as a daughter of the third wife. Her birth date is not consistent with that attachment. Henry's third wife was Mildred (Washington) (Lewis) (Gregory) Willis.

The problematic links in my line were Elizabeth Willis and Mildred Lewis. Since documentation was unsatisfactory, inconsistent, confusing, or missing their identification rested on circumstantial evidence. To confirm their parentage (Elizabeth Willis as a daughter of Henry Willis and Mildred Lewis and Mildred Lewis as a daughter of Elizabeth Warner and John Lewis) would be possible with genetic testing of their ancestors and descendants.

Material and Methods / Methods and Data

Traditional genealogical research was done to identify living women who potentially descend from matrilineal ancestors of the “top level” women in the pedigree of Elizabeth Martiau. The quality of documentation varied among lines and there were several where data conflicted among genealogists studying those lines. Over a 6-year period I was able to create a list of all female descendants and located several who are living. Several kindly agreed to participate with mtDNA testing to determine if they shared the same haplogroup.

Testing was done by identifying and recruiting living female or last generation male descendants to provide a buccal swab sample to FamilyTreeDNA¹ (FTDNA), a company well-established in genetic testing. FTDNA compares the sampled DNA to two reference sequences, the Reconstructed Sapiens Reference Sequence (RSRS) and the Revised Cambridge Reference Sequence (rCRS).

For interested readers, a nice example of the use of mtDNA is illustrated by the identification of the remains of King Richard III. In September 2012, a set of bones was discovered beneath a parking lot in Leicester, England². That location was thought to be at the former site of the Grey Friars Priory. A study was done at the University of Leicester to extract mtDNA from those bones and compare them to known matrilineal descendants of King match.

¹ *FamilyTreeDNA.com* (Gene-by-Gene, Ltd.) Houston, TX

² Wikipedia Link: Exhumation and reburial of Richard III of England

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exhumation_and_reburial_of_Richard_III_of_England

Top Level Individuals

Nicholas Martiau and wife (wives)

Nicholas Martiau is said to have been born in 1591 in France. Documentation of his birth has not been found, and his parents are unknown³. The year of birth appears to be calculated from his age in the 22 Jan 1624/5 Jamestown, Virginia muster in which he is listed as 33.

He was trained as a Military Engineer, probably in France. He was a protestant and therefore at risk of persecution at that time in France, so he emigrated to England. There he was granted citizenship by royal decree. He then became associated with the Earl of Huntington who was a member of the Virginia Company that provided funding for the settlements in Virginia.

Nicholas is often identified as a French Huguenot. He was the godfather of Richard Toche and attended his baptism on 11 May 1615 at the French Huguenot congregation on Threadneedle Street, London. It seems unlikely that he was a Catholic; they were not allowed to emigrate to the colony of Virginia in early years. In England, he took the Oath of Supremacy, as all office holders were expected to do. In Virginia he was a member of the House of Burgesses and a justice. There was controversy in Virginia caused by those doubting his commitment to England, so he was asked to take another oath of loyalty, which he did. Nicholas and his family were members of the established Church of England while in Virginia.

According to research by John Frederick Dorman⁴, Nicholas Martiau, was an agent of the Earl of Huntington and arrived in Virginia in the spring of 1620 on the ship Francis Bonaventure. He was 33 years of age

³ Wikipedia Link: Nicholas Martiau https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_Martiau

⁴ John Frederick Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5: Families G-P*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Fourth Edition, 2005, p. 503-5.

in the 1624/5 muster so he would have been 29 years old when he arrived. John Frederick Dorman analyzed available dates and concluded that his daughter Elizabeth was born in or before 1625 to the first wife of Nicholas Martiau in England. A marriage location and name of his first wife have not been found. A baptismal record for Elizabeth in England has also not been found.

Most researchers list Elizabeth as a daughter of Jane and born in



Virginia. Elizabeth's birthdate is somewhat uncertain due to the date on her tombstone.⁵ The tombstones of George Reade and Elizabeth Martiau Reade were unearthed when Buckner Street in Yorktown was being graded in 1923. A descendant, Letitia Page Evans, apparently was responsible for the restoration of these stones. She had the surfaces "re-polished and re-cut" according to a 1941 newspaper article describing the re-interment of skeletons found and identified as the

⁵ Photo Added by: *Kenneth Williams* on 9 Jan 2004
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11591903/elizabeth-reade>

Reades (see abstract in appendix). Several lines of the tombstone epitaph were unreadable including Elizabeth's year of birth, year of death, and age at death.

The re-cut dates appear to be inconsistent with several known facts. Chiefly, her will was dated 1686 which means she died at 61 years of age, or her birthdate was wrong. If she was 71 then she was born about 1615.

The original date may have been 1605 or 1615, but it was re-cut as 1625, which implied Elizabeth was born in America and that Jane was her mother. However, if she was born in 1605 her father would have been 14 years old then, which is highly unlikely. Louise Pecquet du Bellet⁶ says the will of Nicholas Martiau describes Elizabeth as his eldest daughter "who had crossed the ocean with him". There are 2 images of his will in Virginia court records that were transcribed by different clerks. Neither of those copies shows that phrase—perhaps it appears in the original. If there, it supports that Elizabeth was born in England and came to America with her father. But it could also be a phrase added by the author as no other published reference to his will was found that includes it.

Jane was the second wife of Nicholas Martiau. She was the widow of Edward Berkeley. She and her daughter arrived in Virginia on the Seaflower in Feb 1621/2. Her maiden name remains unknown. She might have been either Jane Scarsbrooke, Jane Eggleston, Jane Boykin, or Elizabeth Jane Page.⁷ Jane is listed in the census of 1624/5 enumeration living on Hog Island along with her husband Edward Berkeley and her daughter, also named Jane. At that time, Nichols Martiau was listed in the Elizabeth City muster. Edward died and Jane

⁶ Louise Pecquet du Bellet, *Some Prominent Virginia Families*, Clearfield Company, Baltimore Maryland, 1994, Vol 4 page 4

⁷ John Frederick Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5: Families G-P*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Fourth Edition, 2005, p. 503.

then married Nicholas Martiau. Jane Martiau presented an inventory of Edward's estate on 5 July 1627. This gives an estimated marriage date between 22 Jan 1624/5 to 1627 for Nicholas and Jane.

Nicholas and Jane had two daughters, Mary, and Sarah. They also had 2 sons: Nicholas who died at age 9 and Richard who died at age 3.

Dorman lists Nicholas as born to his father's first wife, but that isn't consistent with the headrights claim. Since both boys died young, there are no patrilineal descendants which would enable Y-DNA {patrilineal DNA} testing to define a male line haplogroup of the Martiau line.

If all 4 girls (Elizabeth, Jane, Mary, and Sarah) were daughters of Jane, then they would share the same mtDNA haplogroup. Attempts to trace the lines of Mary Reade, Sarah Reade, and Jane Berkeley to living descendants have not been successful to date. No known mtDNA tests on those lines have been performed, so currently no comparison to Elizabeth can be done. All of Elizabeth's maternal line ancestors would share the same haplogroup back to its time of formation which was sometime between 600 and 3800 years ago (see discussion in a following chapter).

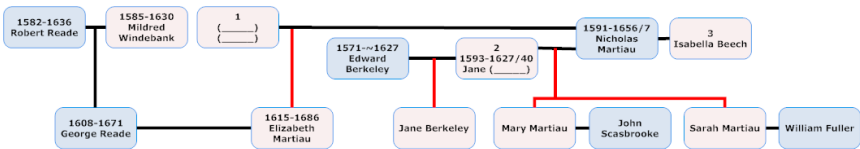
In a letter from Nicholas Martiau to the Earl of Huntington dated 12 Dec 1625 he wrote, "It was more my desire to have visited yr Ldp longe ere this, but I am now both a husband & a father, & so constrayned to stave a while longer by it, untill my little ones can rise & followe mee". The child referred to is probably Mary, but also "my little ones" implies that there was more than one child in 1625. Jane's daughter Jane Barkeley was also in the home then. Probably Elizabeth Martiau was there too. Since Nicholas and Jane married about 1625 and a daughter Mary was born about 1625 that conflicts with the assumption of Elizabeth also being born about 1625. Therefore, it seems most likely that Elizabeth was born about 1615 and in England.

However, the Will of Elizabeth (Martiau) Reade bears the date 10 Feb 1685 and probate date of 24 Jan 1686/7 and states her two young sons, Francis, and Thomas, were not yet 21 years of age, which means they were born after 1664. If Elizabeth was born in 1615 then she was at least 49 years old at the birth of one of those sons, and that is very unlikely in those times.

Nicholas married Isabella Beech after the death of his second wife, Jane. There are no known children born to that third marriage, and she was not mentioned in his will, so she probably predeceased him.

Since it is unclear whether Elizabeth was born to Nicholas' first or second wife, Elizabeth Martiau is emplaced as the most distant ancestor for this project—the trunk of the tree. All her daughters, grand-daughters, and their daughters, etc., share the same mtDNA haplogroup.

Here is a diagram showing the most likely relationship of Nicholas Martiau with his daughters. The red line in this and subsequent diagrams indicate the matrilineal descent and shared mtDNA.



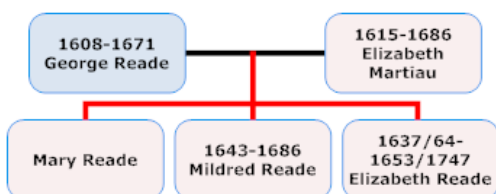
Elizabeth Martiau

As mentioned above, no baptismal record for Elizabeth or marriage record for Nicholas are identified in records in England. She was most likely born in 1615, but there is uncertainty about that.

George Reade married Elizabeth Martiau in 1641. He applied for control of land that had been awarded to Nicholas as “head-rights” for settling on the York River but was not seated. Court documents listed those transported including: Capt. Nich. Marteaw, Mrs. Jane Marteaw, Elizabeth Marteaw, Jane Bartlett...” and are cited in various court records from 1631 to 1651. The awarding of headrights to Nicholas is somewhat confusing. His initial passage to Virginia was paid by the Earl of Huntington. Nicholas was provided additional land grants for building fortifications after the 1622 Powhatan-Anglo War, or perhaps as an award for his settling the land that became York County.

George Reade was born in 1608 at the Linkenholt Manor, Hampshire, England to Robert Reade and his second wife, Mildred Windebanke. George and Elizabeth had 3 daughters and the second was named Mildred. The name Mildred is recurrent in the descendants and John Stoudt’s book on Nicholas Martiau states Mildred Reade was named after her grandmother, Mildred Windebanke who may have been the origin of that family naming tradition.

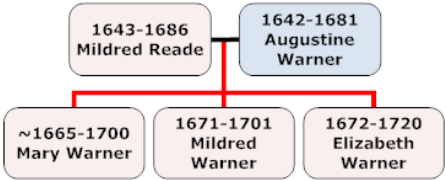
Here is a diagram showing the trunk of this family tree:



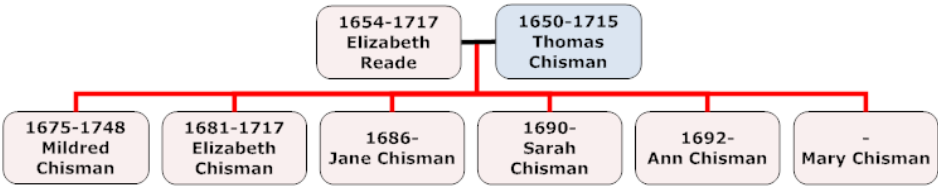
Elizabeth Martiau married George Reade and had three daughters:

Mary Reade — No records have yet been located. It is likely that she died young.

Mildred Reade married Augustine Warner and had three daughters. These are discussed further below.

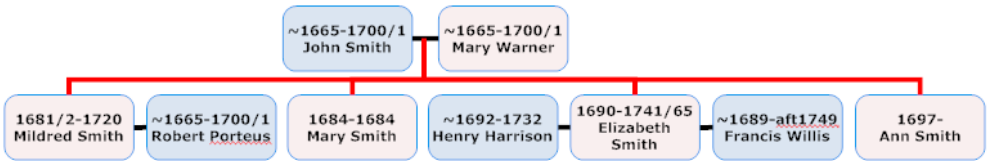


Elizabeth Reade and Thomas Chisman had six daughters:



1. Mildred Chisman married Lawrence Smith and had 4 daughters.
2. Elizabeth Chisman married a (____) Lucas and no children were found.
3. Jane Chisman married John Lily and had no daughters.
4. Sarah Chisman married:
Thomas Barber and had 1 daughter, Elizabeth—no further information was found
Robert Shields and had 3 daughters.
5. Ann Chisman—no further information was found.
6. Mary Chisman—no further information was found.

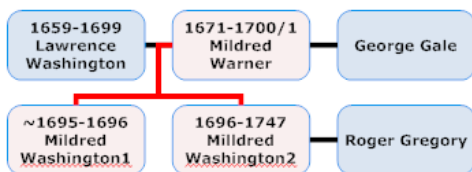
Mary Warner married John Smith and had 4 daughters:



1. Mildred Smith married Robert Porteus and had 3 daughters—no further information on descendants of those 3 daughters was found. Of note, Robert and Mildred Porteus are ancestors of King Charles III of England (and his mother Queen Elizabeth II, and her mother Queen Elizabeth I) through their son Robert Porteus who married Judith Cockayne. As both Robert Porteus Sr. and Mildred Smith were born in Virginia, they are known as the “American ancestors” of the current royal family in England.
2. Mary Smith—died in infancy.
3. Elizabeth Smith married:
 - a) Henry Harrison and had 4 daughters—no further information on descendants of those 4 daughters was found.
 - b) Francis Willis and had no daughters.
4. Anne Smith—no further information was found; probably died young.

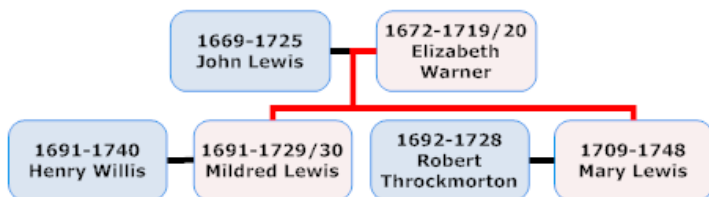
Note: Some family trees include Martha Jacqueline Smith as another daughter, but she was a not mentioned in her father’s will. Other trees list her as a daughter of Augustine Warner Smith and Sarah Carver. No records list her husband or any children for her.

Mildred Warner married twice:



1. Lawrence Washington and had 2 daughters
 - a) Mildred Washington1—died in infancy
 - b) Mildred Washington2 married:
 - 1) John Lewis and had no children
 - 2) Roger Gregory and had 3 daughters
 - i) Mildred Gregory m John Thornton and had 4 daughters
 - ii) Frances Gregory m Francis Thornton and had 2 daughters
 - iii) Elizabeth Gregory m x 4 and had 1 daughter with Reuben Thornton
 - 3) Henry Willis and possibly had 2 daughters—if so, both died in childhood
2. George Gale and had no children.

Elizabeth Warner married John Lewis. Her tombstone epitaph states she was the mother of 14 children. She may have had at least 6 daughters.



These are the ones most listed:

1. Mildred Lewis - no documentation lists her as a daughter—see below.

2. Catherine Lewis - twin died young.
3. Elizabeth Lewis - twin died young.
4. Elizabeth Lewis - m John Bolling but died shortly after leaving no children.
5. Isabella Lewis - m Thomas Clayton, had only 1 daughter Juliana who died at 4 years.
6. Mary Lewis - no documentation found; listed as a daughter by researchers—see below.
7. Anne Lewis - no documentation found—see below.
8. Others: names unknown - no documentation found—see below.

Mildred Lewis was not documented as a daughter in records of Elizabeth (Warner) Lewis or John Lewis and no baptismal record has been found in St Peter's Parish or Abingdon Parish. The year of her birth, 1691, was the year John Lewis was relocating from New Kent County to Gloucester County and from St. Peter's Parish to Abingdon Parish. He may also have attending various other churches during that time. They lived in Warner Hall by 1704.

Mary Lewis no records have been found to document her as a daughter, but many think she was. According to Merrow Edgerton Sorley⁸ "...none of their daughters left any surviving issue (with the exception of Mary Lewis, who may not have been their daughter, as documentary proof of her parentage does not exist)."

Anne Lewis is also not named in records. Some attach her to this family, while others do not.

It is thought that some additional daughters may have died young.

⁸ Merrow Edgerton Sorley, *Lewis of Warner Hall: The History of A Family*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1935, page 59

The known sons are John, Charles, and Robert Lewis. Since Elizabeth had 14 children odds suggest there were other unnamed sons and daughters.

The Problematic Links

Mildred Howell or Mildred Lewis?

A small book was published by Richard Henry Willis, MA PhD that was not dated but reported as either 1898 or 1901 called *A Sketch of the Willis Family of Virginia and of their Kindred in other States*. It is a book that combines a manuscript previously written (1834) by Byrd Charles Willis with material added by Richard Henry Willis⁹. This book has been used as a source of information by many genealogists, so it deserves some scrutiny.

Byrd was the son of Lewis Willis who was the son of Henry Willis and Mildred (Washington) (Lewis) (Gregory) Willis. Byrd Charles Willis was born in 1781 and died in 1846. His grandfather, Henry Willis died in 1740, so Byrd did not know his grandfather personally. The manuscript he wrote was based on family stories and records from a Willis family bible. That bible was reportedly owned by another descendant at the time the manuscript was published. The genealogist Lyon G. Tyler¹⁰ reports in the history of the “Willis Family” that a copy of the bible was provided to the author by Prof. R. H. Willis and contained the following entries:

Marriages: Henry Willis and Ann Smith were married 2nd of November 1714. Henry Willis and Mildred Brown were married the 30th of October 1726. Henry Willis and Mildred Gregory were married the 5th of January 1733.

⁹ Byrd Charles Willis and Richard Henry Willis, MA PhD, *A sketch of the Willis family of Virginia : and of their kindred in other states : with brief biographies of the Reades, Warners, Lewises, Byrds, Carters, Champes, Bassetts, Madisons, Daingerfields, Thorntons, Burrells, Taliaferros, Tayloes, Smiths, and Amblers. Richmond, Va.: Whittet & Shepperson, 1898.*

¹⁰ Lyon G. Tyler, “Willis Family”, *William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol 6 no 4, pages 212-3

Births: John Smith, son of John Smith,' was born 17th of December, 1712. Ann Smith miscarried of a girl and boy in May 1715. Mary Willis was born 5th of August 1716. Francis Willis was born 12th of October 1718. David Willis was born the 17th of December 1720. Henry Willis was born the 22nd of September 1722. John Willis was born the 17th of August 1724. Robert Willis was born the 12th of March 1725. John Willis was born the 16th of July 1728. Elizabeth Willis was born the 12th of January 1729. Ann Willis was born the 14th of September 1731. Isabel Willis was born the 10th of June 1733. Lewis Willis was born the 11th of November 1734.

Deaths: Henry Willis departed this life the 14th of September 1740. Mildred Willis, the wife of Henry Willis, departed this life the 5th of September 1747. John Willis Elder departed this life the 5th of March 1750.

It was reported that the contents were copied in part from older bibles, and it is possible that some dates may have been changed. It would be helpful to carefully examine this bible to verify its contents.

Byrd states that Lewis Willis was named for the first husband of Mildred Washington, John Lewis. John died not long after marriage leaving no children. Byrd Willis reports several stories about Henry Willis which may be apocryphal: "It is said he courted his three wives as maids and married them as widows; he had children by them all" and "That upon hearing about the death of (Mildred Howell), Col. Henry Willis' second wife, Mildred Gregory wept immoderately; upon someone's remarking that it was so strange she should grieve so much for her cousin, she replied that the death of her relation was not the sole cause of her grief, though she loved her dearly as they were cousins and bore the same name, but that she knew that old Henry Willis would be down there to see her and she did not know what to do with him. The sequel proved that she knew the man for in a little month the old cock sat himself down before her door and commenced as regular siege; she held out for

some time, but finally capitulated, so in less than two months after the death of his second wife (Mildred Brown) he married (Mildred Gregory), formerly Washington, and sister to John and Augustine Washington. In due time my father, Lewis Willis, was the first of this union.”

It is not clear where these stories originated, but they were clearly not directly told by Henry or Mildred to their grandson. Perhaps Lewis Willis or another relative or acquaintance had shared them with Byrd. The tenor and wording of these stories is consistent with other parts of Byrd’s manuscript, so it’s possible he created them. They do provide some potential clues. If the Mildreds were 1st cousins that would limit the possibilities. However, the term “cousin” was variably applied at that time and may not be specific to a first cousin as is most used today. It was often used to describe any relative who was not a sibling. There are also clues about the timeline of events. But there is also introduced additional confusion because this book reports the following children born to the 3 marriages of Henry Willis:

Ann (Alexander) Smith married Henry Willis Nov 1714; died Mar 1725/26

Children:	John	(Smith) Dec 1712
	Henry	no date in book; other sources cite b Sep 1722 and
	Robert	b Mar 1725/26
	Francis	Oct 1718
	Mary	Aug 1716
	David	Dec 1720
	Robert	Sep 1722
	John	Jul 1728; other sources cite b Aug 1724

Mildred (Howell) Brown married Henry Willis 1726; died Jun 1733

Children:	John	Jul 1728
	Elizabeth	Jan 1729
	Ann	Sep 1731

Mildred (Washington) Gregory married Henry Willis Jan 1733

Children:	Isabell	Jun 1733
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Ann Jan 1734
Lewis Nov 1734

There are several things to point out. It is recorded that Henry's second wife Mildred died about June 1733. During these years, a double-date system was used for months between January and March 25th. There are several events within those double-date rules: Mildred Washington's marriage to Henry was in January, so if that was 1732/3 then the second wife was still living, so it must be January 1733/34. This was 6 months after the death of the second wife (assuming June 1733 is correct), not 2 months as reported by the family story. Some report her death as Nov 1733, but that was probably a date calculated from the Byrd story that Henry and this third wife married 2 months after the death of his second wife. Isabell was born in Jun 1733 which would have been prior to the marriage of Henry and his third wife, so she was probably born to the second wife, and the timing suggests that Mildred died nearly the same time; this likely represents complications from childbirth, unfortunately a common event at that time. Ann Willis was recorded as born January 1734 which would more likely be 1734/5 as Byrd reports that his father Lewis was the first born to that couple. John Frederick Dorman¹¹ states that Lewis was the only child born to that couple. Lyon G. Tyler¹² wrote some corrections to his history of the Lewis Family and states that the copy of the Byrd Charles Lewis manuscript sent to him had the original wording "his father Lewis was the fruit born to that couple". Apparently, the word changed during the process of transcribing it for printing.

Byrd Willis lived in Fredericksburg in the house built by his grandmother. His father developed a horse-racing track there too. Byrd describes himself as more interested in horse racing than in business. Here is an excerpt describing himself: "I was an idle fellow, fond of fox

¹¹John Frederick Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5: Families G-P*, Genalogical Publishing Co., Inc., Fourth Edition, 2005, p. 552

¹²Lyon G. Tyler, "The William and Mary Quarterly", Jul 1902, Vol. 11, No. 1, p. 40

hunting, racing, and convivial parties; paid no attention to plantation business, and but for the profits of my race-course and the sale of fire wood, would have run through the girths long before I did. In 1825, finding that things were getting worse and worse, I sold off, paid off, and came off to this Territory) 'Florida)."

From the tone of his descriptions, it seems that Byrd did not hold much respect for his father or grandfather. He also was self-critical. "As the only child of my mother, who had long despaired of such a blessing, I was much petted indeed. The poor lady did not know where to stop, for she persisted in treating me as a child, when I began to think myself nearly a man, and I fear in repelling these infantile caresses, I was not always mindful of the respect due to her. I had no cause to tax my father with being overfond of me; indeed, it was his disposition to conceal rather than display partiality, if he ever indulged in such a feeling, and I had never any reason to believe that I was ever its object, from having to launch out much money for the education of my eldest brother, to little purpose ; my father was slow to expend much upon his other sons, so that the cheapness, not the excellence of schools, was the best recommendation."

Besides the internal inconsistency in the book, there are other factual errors in later portions, so its value as a resource must be considered carefully.

Returning to Henry Willis, for those interested, a good description of the business and nature of Henry Willis can be found in the book *Forgotten Companions*, by Paula S. Felder¹³. She provides a description of his efforts to develop the town of Fredericksburg.

One interesting fact is that during his second marriage Henry Willis' household included 3 children named John; his wife's son John Smith, and 2 sons named John Willis. It is unknown why he named a son John

¹³ Paula S. Felder, *Forgotten Companions*, American History Company ,1982, pages 71-100

with each of his first two marriages, but it was not unusual to repeat names within a family. It's said that to keep them straight he called them "Jack," "John," and "Johnny". John was referred to as "John Willis the Elder" in some later court documents and a family bible.

The second, and only other clue found about Mildred's maiden name involves a land transaction between Henry Willis and John & Charles Lewis. In summary it appears that the Lewis brothers purchased land that was then sold back to Henry designated as a sort of trust to benefit Henry during his lifetime, then to Mildred and her heirs. This transaction is shown in the Spotsylvania County, Virginia records¹⁴. This was during the time of Henry's marriage to his second wife. In Deed Book D, page 181 John Willis sold the same land 5 Sep 1749 (about 2 years after Henry died). He states that he inherited this land from Henry and Mildred Willis. At that time, he also sold several small lots in Fredericksburg that he also inherited. According to Robert N. Grant (personal communication), this sort of trust is usually set up between relatives and implies that John & Charles Lewis were related to Mildred. John & Charles were brothers and sons of John Lewis and his wife Elizabeth Warner. No other document has been found to show a link of Mildred to the Lewis family.

The lack of information on Mildred was summarized by this exchange on the Lewis Genforum message board in 2006:

Mildred, d/o of John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner

Posted by: Aleta Pope Hudson (ID *****1813) Date: January 31, 2006, at 12:47:46
17019 of 18823

I am searching desperately for a valid source of information to document the "fact" that Mildred Lewis is a daughter of John

¹⁴ *Spotsylvania County Deed Book B, pages 133-4 dated 3 Mar 1730 & page 181 dated 5 Sept 1749*

Lewis and Elizabeth Warner. I have looked through the St. Peter's Parish, New Kent Co., VA records, and they do not show a child named Mildred being born to John Lewis. The minutes of a Vestry meeting for that Parish, dated 4 Mar 1702, show "Mr. John Lewis lately Departed of this County". Most birth dates given for Mildred place her birth date before 1702, so St. Peter's Parish seemed a likely place to look since that's where Chemokins (home of the Lewis's before they moved to Warner Hall) was located. We know that she's not shown in the Abingdon Parish Records. The website for The National Society of the Washington Family Descendants has a small article posted entitled "More about Mildred Washington and the three wives of Henry Willis." The article mentions Mildred Lewis, the daughter of John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner, who married first John Howell, secondly Dr. John Brown, and thirdly, Henry Willis. I'm assuming this "society" wouldn't publish an article like this without having factual resources to back up the information, and a query to that effect (which I sent to this organization) remains unanswered as of today. I have just purchased Sorley's book about the Lewis Family, and there is no mention of Mildred, a daughter of John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner, but he does mention Henry Willis's "second wife, who was born Mildred Howell and may have been related to the wife of Col. Charles Lewis of 'The Byrd'." Of course, I know that Henry Willis married the widow Howell, supposedly nee Lewis. Help, help, help, help, help!! I'd appreciate any and all comments, help, suggestions, etc.

Re: Mildred, d/o of John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner
Posted by: Lucy Grisham (ID *****2065) Date: February 24, 2006, at 04:46:11
In Reply to: Mildred, d/o of John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner by Aleta Pope Hudson 17059 of 18823

I don't know of any Mildred that was daughter of John Lewis- there was one who was daughter of Edward, brother to John Lewis, but according to her tombstone, she died as a little girl. I think that Zachary Lewis had a Mildred, but that would not be her either. There are many errors in the established history of these Lewis families, as there was two John Lewis's whose families were recorded in New Kent records, John, son of David Lewis of York, Vestryman of St. Peters, and John Lewis III who married to Elizabeth Warner, he being son of John Lewis and Isabella Miller, d/o James Miller. They are related, probably thru their grandfathers. Their children are distinctly different, and I find no Mildred listed anywhere for them. I do find a Mildred Washington, daughter of Augustine Warner and wife Mildred, for whom she must have been named and Elizabeth Warner would have been her aunt. She was born 1697- and died 1747. She married first to John Lewis, (son of Edward Lewis and Susannah)- who died according to tombstone, in 1718. He apparently didn't live long because they had no children, then she re-married to Col. Roger Gregory and had three daughters who married Thornton brothers. Roger died 1731. Her third husband was Col. Henry Willis (1691-1740). their son was Col. Lewis Willis, who grew up with Geo. Washington. She was his third wife too.

I know that Maj. John Lewis 1692-4, son of John and Elizabeth, who married Frances Fielding had a daughter named Mildred. She would have been born probably about 1727-8? tho. I do not know who she married?

Col. Charles Lewis of "The Byrd" was married to Mary Howell, daughter of John Howell- but I can't tell you who his wife was. If you can find a copy of the "Wright-Lewis-Moore" book by Boyd Wright, there is documentation of tombstone records found after much of the established history was written, that refutes a good deal of it. It also brings to light things that help clarify some of the jumble of this Lewis History.

Hope this helps some.

Lucy Vickers Grisham, Lewisville, Texas.

John Frederick Dorman states as fact that Mildred was Mildred Lewis, daughter of John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner and that she married John Howell, then John Brown, then Henry Willis¹⁵. His references for this are: Pioneer Lewis Families, Vol 4 Cook Publications, 1978 [sic], p. 78-9, and the Byrd Charles Willis manuscript described above. The publication by Michael Cook did not contain references to sources¹⁶.

I also wrote to John Augustine Washington asking about sources for his paper "More about Mildred"¹⁷ and did not get a response. In that paper he states:

"The National Society of the Washington Family Descendants"

More about Mildred Washington and the three wives of Henry Willis.

John A. Washington, January 1998

"The second wife of Henry Willis was born Mildred Lewis, the daughter of John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner. She married first John Howell, by whom she had one child, a daughter Mildred Howell, who married a Lightfoot. John Howell died, and she married, second, Dr. John Brown, as probably his second wife. It is thought that she did not have any children by Dr. Brown. Her third husband was Henry Willis, and she was his second wife. By

¹⁵ John Frederick Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5: Families G-P*, Genalogical Publishing Co., Inc., Fourth Edition, 2005, p. 556.

¹⁶ Michael L. Cook, *Pioneer Lewis Families*, Cook Publications, Evansville Indiana, 1984, Vol 4 pages 78-79

¹⁷ This note is no longer visible on the website of the National Society of Washington Family Descendants since the website was updated in 2023 but it can be accessed via WayBackMachine at <http://washingtonfamilydescendants.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/More-about-Mildred.pdf>

Henry Willis she had four children. After her death Henry Willis married Mildred Washington, daughter of Lawrence Washington and Mildred Warner, and they had one child, Lewis Willis. Notice that the two Mildreds are first cousins, since their mothers were the two Warner sisters.”

“It is true that forty or fifty years ago there was considerable misunderstanding and confusion about these three wives of Henry Willis and their children, but it was all cleared up more than forty years ago, and any confusion can be traced to early, incorrect data.”

While the author sounds very certain of his conclusion, no sources for the information were ever provided so I was unable to verify. John Augustine Washington died in 2020.

Elizabeth Willis

Elizabeth Willis is stated to be the wife of John Clayton. John was the fourth with that name being son of John Clayton (referred to as one of America's first botanists), and his father John Clayton who was a landowner in Hanover and Gloucester Counties, Virginia. Both father and grandfather were active in their church and politically. Both served as clerks in Gloucester County, Virginia. A biography of the botanist and his family is detailed in *John Clayton Pioneer of American Botany*¹⁸. The book mentions that Elizabeth Willis was the wife of John Clayton but provides no details on her identity.

The book "Our Kin"¹⁹ similarly states that John Clayton married Elizabeth Willis and names their children, but nothing about her parents.

According to Louise Pacquet de Bellet²⁰ she was provided with a copy of the manuscript written by Byrd Charles Willis which contained a marginal note written on the original that a daughter of Henry Willis married a Clayton. This reference was quoted by Peggy Frances Rush²¹ in her book *The Willis Family of the Northern Neck in Virginia 1669-1737*, states that "Elizabeth Willis born 12 Jan 1729/30 (given only in bible records with an undocumented source claiming that she married John Clayton)" in reference to Elizabeth Willis as a daughter of Henry and Mildred Willis. And further that, "No appointment of a guardian was found for Elizabeth in Spotsylvania County after Henry's death." She

¹⁸ Edmund Berkeley and Dorothy Smith Berkeley, *John Clayton Pioneer of American Botany*, University of North Carolina press, 1963, page 151

¹⁹ Mary Denham Ackerly & Lula Eastman Jeter Parker, *Our Kin, the Genealogies of Some of the Early Families who Made History in the Founding and Development of Bedford County Virginia* C. J. Carrier Co., 1999, pages 347, 348, 350 & 353.

²⁰ Louise Pacquet du Bellet, *Some Prominent Virginia Families*, J. P. Bell Publishers, 1907, Vol 2 page 282.

²¹ Peggy Frances Rush, *The Willis Family of the Northern Neck in Virginia 1669-1737*, Heritage Books, 2007, page 83

would have been 10 years old when he died, and her stepmother Mildred was still living until she was 17. She married John Clayton in 1753 at 23 years of age, so where was she during those 6 years?

John Frederick Dorman²² states Elizabeth Willis was a daughter of Henry and Mildred (Lewis) (Howell) (Brown) Willis and she married John Clayton. In a bit of circular sourcing, it refers to a chapter on Salter-Weld which includes John Clayton and his ancestors, does not mention Elizabeth Willis. There it refers to Mildred Lewis in the Martiau chapter. The Salter-Weld chapter lists source for John Clayton the Berkeley book on the botanist John Clayton.

There has also been confusion between Isabella Lewis, a daughter of John Lewis \ Elizabeth Warner with Isabell Willis (some cite her name as Mary Isabell Willis) who married Howell Lewis thereby becoming Isabell Lewis. Howell Lewis was a grandson of John Lewis \ Elizabeth Warner through their son Charles Lewis.

Isabella Lewis married Thomas Clayton. Some references mistake that marriage for Elizabeth Willis who married John Clayton. Isabella Lewis is documented via her baptism record in Abingdon Parish 18 Dec 1707. Isabella had 1 daughter who died young, and Isabella and Thomas also died a few years later leaving no other children²³. These 2 Isabell(a) Lewis was a generation apart so their dates should help keep them straight.

Viewing pedigrees posted on the Internet there are many variations noted. Some list Elizabeth Willis as married to John Sale, some list her as married to James Hayes, some list her parents as William & Ann Willis. Some list her as a daughter of Mildred (Washington) (Lewis) (Gregory)

²² John Frederick Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5: Families G-P*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Fourth Edition, 2005, pages 556-557

²³ Merrow Egerton Sorley, *Lewis of Warner Hall the History of a Family*, Genealogical Publishing Co., 1935, page 59.

Willis. The circumstantial evidence of time and location support a link to Henry and Mildred (Lewis) (Howell) (Brown) Willis as parents, but the lack of documentation and conflicting alternatives is unsettling. The strongest primary source is the Willis family bible, but that has not been available for examination; that bible had a publication date of 1832 suggesting entries were copied into it later.

Matrilineal Lines of Descent

Identification of the descendants was done using traditional genealogic methods of looking for all extant documentation: census records, wills, land transactions, bible records, obituaries, tombstones, etc. When those are not found secondary sources, such as works published by genealogists were reviewed. Some pedigrees posted on the Internet have source information provided.

Sorting these families can be confusing because of frequent intermarriages and repeated use of names within family lines. Using broad Internet searches helps to locate living individuals using sites such as LinkedIn, Facebook, or public records documents found by name searches. Some people post their pedigrees in Ancestry and messages can be sent through that system. Contact was also attempted by email or letter. It is easier to interest those who are already working on family genealogy. Letters or emails from a stranger are often sent directly to trash. About 10% of attempts to contact resulted in a response.

Testing was done on those who volunteered to assist with the project. A buccal swab was obtained and processed by FamilyTreeDNA (Genes by Genes, Ltd.) a commercial genetic DNA testing company in Houston, Texas. Full-sequence mtDNA tests were performed and compared to the two human reference standards and to other contributors who have been tested by FamilyTreeDNA. They hold a very large database from participants worldwide and report that over 400,000 full sequence mtDNA tests have been performed (May 2023)²⁴.

²⁴ Personal Communication

Results

The trunk described above led to a total of 6 branches (great granddaughters of Elizabeth Martiau) whose descendants were studied further. The goal was to identify living matrilineal descendants eligible to have mtDNA testing. Of the 6 branches, 7 led to finding living female descendants eligible for mtDNA testing. Those 6 Branches and 7 Lines are:

Mildred Warner m Lawrence Washington

Branch 1 Mildred Washington 1 participant recruited:
Line 1

Elizabeth Warner m John Lewis

Branch 2 Mildred Lewis 4 participants recruited:
Lines 3, 4, 8, & 9

Branch 3 Mary Lewis 1 participant recruited:
Line 2

Branch 4 Anne Lewis

Elizabeth Reade m Thomas Chisman

Branch 5 Mildred Chisman 1 participant recruited:
Line 7

Branch 6 Sarah Chisman

In addition, there were 2 additional lines with participants recruited:

Another descendant thought to be of Elizabeth Willis and John Clayton was recruited, but her haplogroup did not match others. A further view of her genealogy disclosed an attachment was found to be an error, so results were excluded. 1 participant recruited:

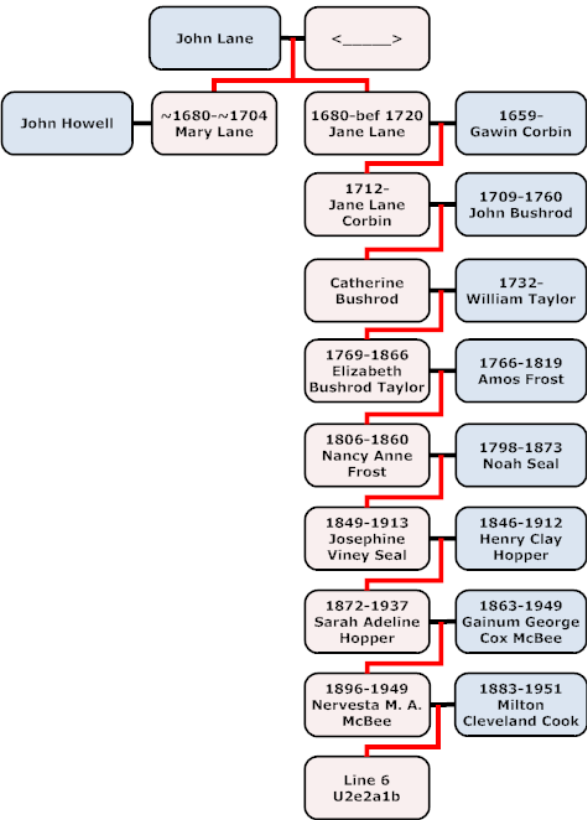
Line 5 (not shown)

A descendant of Jane Lane, the sister of Mary Lane who married John Howell, was recruited as she would share the same mtDNA as Mary

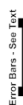
Lane. See the discussion following explaining the logic for this test. A diagram of her line appears on the following page.

1 participant recruited.

Line 6



Below is a diagram of the maternal lines of the participants—this puts all the pieces together. The green boxes share a matching haplogroup. The pink boxes are female who would share the same haplogroup if descendants could be found for testing. The blue boxes show some of the husbands to help with orientation. The colorless boxes are those who do not share matching haplogroups. The red lines show the mtDNA line of descent along each line.



There are also “error bars” that shows those lines who do not match and the point the match is lost. A description of each of those follows.

Error Bar 1 on Line 3:

Many family pedigrees posted on Ancestry list Martha Brazil as the daughter of Rebecca Brazelton and the wife of Cuthbert Adams. The 1850 census in Seminole, Chattooga Co GA lists Martha Brazeale at age 26, daughter of Morris and Rebecca Brazeale. The 1850 census in Laurens Co GA lists the wife of Cuthbert Adams as Elizabeth B. born about 1825. Therefore, Martha Brazil daughter could not be the same person as Elizabeth B. Adams.

The 1860 census lists Elizabeth’s birth as ~1820; the 1870 census lists her as Brazil Adams with birth ~1819; the 1880 census lists her as Brazila with birth ~1815. Laurens Co GA marriage records show Elizabeth Brazil Culpep(p)er marrying Cuthbert Adams 4 Jan 1838. Her tombstone in China Grove Cemetery, Mitchell Co GA has the name Martha Brazil Adams b 1824 d 1881. A pedigree posted on FamilySearch lists her as Elizabeth Brazil Culpepper daughter of Henry F. Culpepper and Edith Smith.

Martha Brazil (Brazeale) appears with her father at age 44 in the 1870 census. It appears she did not marry. No death record has been located. She probably did not have children.

Therefore, it appears that Martha, the daughter of Rebecca Brazelton and Morris Brazil is not the same person as Elizabeth Brazil Culpepper, the wife of Cuthbert Adams. But it is confusing why the name Martha Brazil appears on the tombstone of Elizabeth Brazil (Culpepper) Adams. A few Ancestry pedigrees list Martha Elizabeth Brazil (Culpeper) Adams as a full name, but no source is provided. The mismatch in mtDNA supports that Lydia Ann Adams does not share the same haplogroup as this matrilineal group.

Error Bar 2 on Line 2:

The line from the participant to Mary Lewis is well documented, but as mentioned previously, there is no documentation of her parentage.

Isabella Lewis who married John Clayton had one daughter who died young. The mtDNA results suggest that Mary Lewis was not of this matrilineal group and therefore not the daughter of John Lewis & Elizabeth Warner. Possibly she was the daughter of Nicholas Lewis per this birth record in St. Peter's Parish, New Kent Co., VA: Mary daughter of Nicho Lewis baptis. Jan. the 16th, 1708/9.

Error Bar 3 on Line 7:

Some pedigrees posted online list Mary Marshall Tabb as a daughter of Frances Chisman Smith. Others list her as the daughter of Thomas Tabb and Rebecca Booker. The former appears incorrect as Frances married Matthew Wills as his second wife and they had 7 children from 1730 to 1741. She died in 1746 and her husband, Matthew, married a third wife Mary Johnson. He died in 1761.

Mary Marshall Tabb was born in 1739, so she could not be the daughter of Frances Smith. The mtDNA haplogroup does not match the other matrilineal descendants confirming this.

Key Findings

This project defines the haplogroup for Elizabeth Martiau and her matrilineal descendants. Downstream, all daughters, granddaughters, and so on also share the same haplogroup. Sons of the last generation also have their mother's mtDNA. The matching results confirm that the shared haplogroup has been identified as mtDNA H5a1g1. This confirms the haplogroup of Elizabeth Martiau's downstream descendants: Mildred Reade, Mildred Warner, Mildred Lewis, and Elizabeth Willis, etc. Mildred Washington was also in this line and therefore shares the same haplogroup.

The answer to the research questions posed in the introduction are:

1. Yes, Elizabeth Willis was the daughter of Henry Willis and Mildred (Lewis) (Howell) (Brown) Willis.
2. Yes, Mildred (Lewis) (Howell) (Brown) Willis was the daughter of John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner.

In addition to answering the research questions there are additional findings that became evident:

1. Mildred (Lewis) (Howell) (Brown) Willis was a first cousin to Henry's third wife, Mildred (Washington) (Lewis) (Gregory) Willis. They share the same mtDNA haplogroup H5a1g1. The apocryphal story by Charles Byrd Lewis cited previously was likely true.
2. To confirm Mildred Lewis was not a Howell, a Howell line matrilineal descendant from the sister of Mary Lane who married John Howell was tested. If Mildred was a Howell, then her descendants would also match that line. The haplogroup did not match, therefore

Mildred was not a Howell.

3. Mary Lewis either was not a daughter of John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner or an adoption occurred in a female descendant. The one descendant tested has a different haplogroup.
4. Mary Marshall Tabb probably either was not the daughter of Frances Chisman Smith or an adoption occurred in a female descendant. The one descendant tested has a different haplogroup.
5. Martha Brazil (Brazeale) was a daughter of Rebecca Brazelton, but she did not marry Cuthbert Adams. More likely he married Elizabeth Brazilla Culpeper. The haplogroup of one descendant of Brazilla (Elizabeth B.) Adams does not match the other lines, but it remains unclear why her name appears as Martha on Elizabeth's tombstone as shown on her FindAGrave web page.²⁵



Looking at the matches available to all participants at FamilyTreeDNA there are 51 fully identical within the H5a1g1 haplogroup and there are 39 participants with a genetic distance = 1.

²⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/43885156/martha-brazil-adams>

There are no fully identical matches to Line 4 and 49 that have a genetic distance = 1, including Lines 1, 8, and 9. These 1-step matches are the same participants that exactly match each other which indicates that the single mutation occurred in Line 4 sometime between Mildred Howell and the participant. Testing descendants who were born since Mildred Howell would pinpoint at which generation the new sub-branch in that line was created.

Lines 1, 8, and 9 match each other exactly when comparing their full genomic sequence mtDNA. Their results share Haplogroup H5a1g1. Line 4 matches the other 3 lines with a genetic distance of 1. That single mutation difference must have occurred in Mildred Howell or one of her descendants, otherwise the 4 lines would be identical.

Lines 2 and 3 did not have matching results. Their records were further examined to determine why these did not match. The diagram below shows those who match colored in green while those who do not match without color. Pink lines should match if testing could be done on any descendants. A few husbands were included to help with identification of the lines.

Test results compared to reference standards.

The mtDNA sequence is compared to 2 human reference sequences: the Reconstructed Sapiens Reference Sequence (RSRS) and the Revised Cambridge Reference Sequence (rCRS). The tables below were copied from the results table at FamilyTreeDNA for each participant. They list the specific site along the mtDNA change that has a marker different from the reference. Lines 1, 8 & 9 match each other exactly and share the same differences when compared to the RSRS and rCRS sequences. Line 4 has a single mutation difference from those (highlighted in yellow).

RSRS Comparison to Lines 1, 8 & 9

RSRS Values					rCRS Values									
Extra Mutations					315.1C C16519T									
										Missing Mutations				
HVR1 DIFFERENCES FROM RSRS					HVR2 DIFFERENCES FROM RSRS					CODING REGION DIFFERENCES FROM RSRS				
A16129G	T16172C	T16187C	C16189T	T16223C	G73A	C146T	C152T	C195T	A247G	A769G	A825t	A1018G	G2706A	A2758G
G16230A	T16278C	T16304C	C16519T		315.1C	A444G	C456T			C2885T	T3594C	G4104A	T4312C	T4336C
										T7028C	G7146A	T7256C	A7521G	T8468C
										T8655C	G8701A	C9540T	G9804A	G10398A
										T10664C	A10688G	C10810T	C10873T	C10915T
										A11719G	A11914G	T12705C	G13105A	G13276A
										T13506C	T13650C	T14766C	C15833T	

RSRS Comparison to Line 4

RSRS Values

rCRS Values

Extra Mutations 1

315.1C G6465R C16519T

Missing Mutations 2

HVR1 DIFFERENCES FROM RSRS 1

A16129G	T16172C	T16187C	C16189T	T16223C
G16230A	T16278C	T16304C	C16519T	

HVR2 DIFFERENCES FROM RSRS 1

G73A	C146T	C152T	C195T	A247G
315.1C	A444G	C456T		

CODING REGION DIFFERENCES FROM RSRS 1

A769G	A825t	A1018G	G2706A	A2758G
C2885T	T3594C	G4104A	T4312C	T4336C
G6465R	T7028C	G7146A	T7256C	A7521G
T8468C	T8655C	G8701A	C9540T	G9804A
G10398A	T10664C	A10688G	C10810T	C10873T
C10915T	A11719G	A11914G	T12705C	G13105A
G13276A	T13506C	T13650C	T14766C	C15833T

The Matrilineal Pedigree Tables

Line 1: Descendant of Elizabeth Martiau > Mildred Reade/Warner/Washington

The first participant is a well-documented descendant of Elizabeth Martiau. Her mtDNA haplogroup was the standard to compare with other lines. The person ID number is the ID used by Dr. Justin Glenn and is shown as the “Glenn #”). References are shown at the end of this section.

Gen	Maternal Line	Lived	Glenn #	Husband	Yrs/Gen	Reference
1	(____) (____)			Nicholas Martiau		
2	Elizabeth Martiau	1615-1685/6	41	George Reade		1-3
3	Mildred Reade	1643-1695	42	Augustine Warner	28	1
4	Mildred Warner	1671-1700/1	43	Lawrence Washington	28	1,2
5	Mildred Washington	1696-1747	11	Roger Gregory	25	1
6	Frances Gregory	~1720-1790	35	Francis Thornton	24	1
7	Mildred Thornton	1736~1804	107	Charles Washington	16	1
8	Frances Ann Washington	1763-1815	103	Burgess Ball	27	1
9	Martha Dandridge Ball	1799-1822	351	Jonathan Catlett Gibson	36	1
10	Frances Ann Gibson	1818-1901	1041	James Creth Burt	19	1
11	Anna Burt	1854-1947	2983	Aylette Hawes Buckner	36	1
12	Martha Ball Buckner	1888-1996	16654	William Meade Fletcher	34	5-10
13	Anna Nancy Buckner Fletcher	1915-1942		Francis Percival Smith	27	7-10
14	Living				21	9-10
15	Participant #1				24	11-15
	Total Years =	345		Average =	27	

Line 4: Descendant of Elizabeth Warner

This is the only male participant. He inherited his mother's mtDNA. His line is also well documented but shares the problematic link to Mildred Lewis. His test provided verification of the haplogroup shown in Line 1 as well as providing verification that Mildred Lewis shared the same haplogroup. His test shows a one-step difference from Lines 1, 8 & 9. As a full-sequence mtDNA test the single step difference remains "closely related". This line descends from Mildred Lewis' first marriage to John Howell.

Gen	Maternal Line	Lived	Glenn #	Husband	Yrs/ Gen	Reference
1	(____) (____)			Nicholas Martiau		1-3
2	Elizabeth Martiau	1615-1685/6	41	George Reade		1
3	Mildred Reade	1643-1695	42	Augustine Warner	28	1
4	Elizabeth Warner	1672-1719/21	†	John Lewis	29	1
5	Mildred Lewis	1691-1733		John Howell	19	16
6	Mildred Howell	1723-1783		William Lightfoot	32	17
7	Mildred Lightfoot	1752-1799		Walter Winston Coles	29	18
8	Mildred Howell Lightfoot Coles	1769-1810		Paul Carrington	17	19
9	Mildred Lightfoot Carrington	1792-1820		Issac Howell Coles	23	12, 20
10	Elizabeth Lightfoot Coles	1812-1874		William Joel Watkins	20	21
11	Margaret Watkins	1856-1937		George William Gibbs	44	22
12	Elizabeth Lightfoot Gibbs	1886-1970		Joseph Dunning Weed	30	23
13	Living				35	13, 14
14	Participant #2				36	13-15
	Total Years =	342		Average =	29	

† Cited as the youngest daughter of Mildred Reade and Augustine Warner but no ID number was assigned.

Line 8: Descendant of Mildred Lewis

She is a key participant to verify the lineage of Elizabeth Willis to Mildred Lewis as she descends from those ancestors. She descends from Mildred Lewis and her third husband, Henry Willis. She descends from George Reade and Elizabeth Martiau through the matrilineal line shown below:

Gen	Maternal Line	Lived	Glen #	Husband	Yrs/Gen	References
1	(_____) (_____)			Nicholas Martiau		1-3
2	Elizabeth Martiau	1615-1685/6	41	George Reade		1
3	Mildred Reade		42	Augustine Warner	28	1
4	Elizabeth Warner	1672-1719/20	†	John Lewis	29	1
5	Mildred Lewis	1691-1733		Henry Willis	19	2, 24-28
6	Elizabeth Willis	1729-1782		John Clayton	38	24-28
7	Mildred Gregory Clayton	1750-1828		James Overton	21	26, 29
8	Jemima Overton	1778--1815		Thomas Harris Spencer	28	30
9	Hardina Jefferson Spencer	1804-1889		Sion Spencer Read	26	31, 32
10	Laura Caroline Read	1820-1886		Harrison Barksdale	16	33-35
11	Virginia Laura Barksdale	1851-1932		John Claude Prewitt	31	36, 37
12	Blanche Prewitt	1871-1956		Richard Downing Baker	20	38, 39
13	Mary Katherine Baker	1905-2003		Ethelbert Carter Stanley	34	40, 41
14	Participant #8				36	13-15
	Total Years =	326		Average =	27	

† Cited as the youngest daughter of Mildred Reade and Augustine Warner but no ID number was assigned.

Line 9: Descendant of Isabella Willis

Isabella Willis was one of the daughters of Mildred and Henry Willis. There was uncertainty about who was her mother, Mildred Lewis, or Mildred Washington. Isabella (aka Mary Isabella) was most likely born to Mildred Lewis as discussed previously. Ironically, it doesn't matter for this project as Mildred Washington and Mildred Lewis were first cousins and share identical mtDNA from their common grandmother, Mildred Reade. This result provides additional verification of the shared haplogroup.

Gen	Maternal Line	Lived	Glenn #	Husband	Yrs /Gen	References
1	(____) (____)			Nicholas		1-3
2	Elizabeth Martiau	1615-1685/6	41	George		1
3	Mildred Reade	1643-1695	42	Augustine	28	1
4	Elizabeth Warner	1672-	†	John Lewis	29	1
5	Mildred Lewis	1691-1733		Henry Willis	19	2, 16
6	Mary Isabella Willis	1733-1812		Howell Lewis	42	
7	Mary Howell Lewis	~1754-1813		Charles Lewis	21	42
8	Elizabeth Warner	1778-		John T.	24	42
9	Emily Kennon Alston	1806-1885		Coleman	28	43, 44
10	Mary Elizabeth Haley	1825-1852		John Jacob	19	43, 45
11	Frances C. Steagall	1848-1872		John Peter	23	43, 46
12	Harietta Elizabeth	1867-1934		Millard	19	46-50
13	Grace Jewell	1899-1988		Charles A.	32	50
14	Flora Anne Grant	1923-2000		Robert Leland	24	51-54
15	Theresa Louise	1945-2017		Gary Foster	22	55
16	Participant #9				31	13-15
	Total Years =	330		Average =	26	

† Cited as the youngest daughter of Mildred Reade and Augustine Warner but no ID number was assigned.

References for Lines 1, 4, 8 & 9

1. Justin Glenn, The Washingtons. Volume 3, Royal Descents of the Presidential Branch (The Washingtons: A Family History) pages 154-5. Savas Beatie. Kindle Edition.
2. John Frederick Dorman, Adventurers of Purse and Person Virginia 1607-1624/5, Genealogical Publishing Co., 4th Edition 2005, Vol 2, pages 503-568.
3. John Baer Stoudt, Nicholas Martiau The Adventurous Huguenot the Military Engineer and the Earliest American Ancestor of George Washington, Norristown PA, 1932, pages 1-22.
4. Merrow Egerton Sorley, Lewis Family of Warner Hall, The History of a Family, Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore, 1935 & 1937, pages 48-59.
5. Justin Glenn, The Washingtons. Volume 5, Part 1: Generation Nine of the Presidential Branch (The Washingtons: A Family History) page 1112. Savas Beatie. Kindle Edition.
6. Washington DC Marriages
7. 1920 Federal Census, Piedmont, Rappahannock Co. VA
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Discussion / Conclusion

Limitations and future research

It is possible that some of the lines of non-matching participants contained an adoption event that was not recorded. Additional testing to stepwise triangulate on the ancestors of that line might identify if such an event occurred.

Additional testing that would add to these findings.

Additional verification of descendants of Elizabeth Martiau showing they share the same haplogroup will depend on living maternal line women (or last generation sons) performing a full-sequence mtDNA test. This represents a finite number of individuals. Having traced many lines to develop this project it is interesting to notice how many lines end without living female descendants. This occurs when a child or young woman dies before having children, or she only has sons so her mtDNA is no longer passed forward beyond one more generation.

To further confirm Elizabeth Martiau's haplogroup, it would be useful to find a matrilineal descendant from Elizabeth Reade along the Chisman line who could be tested.

To further confirm Mildred Reade, finding a matrilineal descendant of Mary Warner would show results from all 3 Warner daughters. This would involve locating female descendants of Ann or Nancy Porteus most likely in Yorkshire, England.

Another participant who descends from Mary Lewis might verify that she was not the daughter of Elizabeth (Warner) Lewis.

Could these matches have occurred by chance?

H5a1g1 haplogroup frequency

The frequency of mtDNA has been counted in various regions and countries. For the H haplogroup counts show the following as reported by Eupedia:²⁶

Haplogroup H is found in about 40% of Europeans.

It makes up about 28% of American mtDNA.

Subclade H5 is found in 2.4-4.1% of those in England (highest in Wales (8.5%) and lower in other regions).

Subclade H5a1 is found in 1.8-2% of those in Europe.

Frequency of subclade Haplogroup H5a1g1 has not yet been published, but it is likely well below 1.8% in Europeans. That means that finding a match at random would only occur less than once or twice in a hundred; so, any two who match are at least 98-99% likely to share a common ancestor.

The company, FamilyTreeDNA.com (Gene by Gene, Ltd.) occasionally reports on the number of tests run. Currently they report that over 400,000 full-sequence mtDNA tests have been done (personal communication). They report identification of over 5,000 distinct lines from nearly 200 countries. If participants were equally random between groups, then there would be $400,000/5,000$ people per haplogroup = 43. Diversity is huge.

Among the 400,000+ tested, only 246 were identified within haplogroup H5a1g1 including all downstream subgroups. That is 0.0615% of total tests. There are 51 test takers (49 excluding Lines 8 & 9) who are exact matches compared to Line 1 participant ($49/400,000 = 0.012\% = 99.99\%$ chance that it is not a random match).

There are 39 with a 1-step genetic distance (about 0.018% of total tests). Three of the exact matches and 1 of the 1-step matches are included in this project which leaves 48 other exact matches and 38 other 1-step matches. Given that the diversity is high and the number of

²⁶ https://eupedia.com/europe/Haplogroup_H_mtDNA.shtml (last accessed 18 Aug 2023)
<https://www.jogg.info>

matches per haplogroup is low, there is less chance that the project participants matched due to random chance.

Country of origin of the most distant ancestor was reported by 11 of exact match testers in H5a1g1 who identify United Kingdom, England, Scotland, or Ireland (total 58%), and an additional 4 identify United States as the origin country. FamilyTreeDNA reports 11,214 mtDNA results who list England as the origin of their ancestor; of those there were only 7 in the H5a1g1 exact match group = 0.062% (table from FTDNA).

HVR1, HVR2, AND CODING REGION MATCHES			
EXACT MATCH 1			
Country 1	Match Total 1	Country Total 1	Percentage 1
Austria	1	780	0.1%
England	7	11214	0.1%
Finland	1	6373	< 0.1 %
Germany	1	9739	< 0.1 %
Ireland	3	8789	< 0.1 %
Scotland	1	4106	< 0.1 %
Switzerland	1	1144	0.1%
United States	4	14813	< 0.1 %
GENETIC DISTANCE -1 1			
Country 1	Match Total 1	Country Total 1	Percentage 1
Belgium	1	363	0.3%
England	3	11214	< 0.1 %
Germany	5	9739	0.1%
Ireland	2	8789	< 0.1 %
Netherlands	1	1187	0.1%
Scotland	1	4106	< 0.1 %
United Kingdom	2	3647	0.1%
United States	1	14813	< 0.1 %

Being among H5a1g1 exact matches is obviously rare among test takers and among those with ancestors from England. From a biologic viewpoint there is no doubt that the participants who match share a common ancestor most likely from England.

At the time Mildred Lewis lived (1690-1733) the population of Virginia (in 1730) was 84,000 white people. Using the maximum of 1.8% chance of random selection of H5a1g1, there would be about 1,500 people with that haplogroup in Virginia. The odds of picking 1 of those 1500 is $1/1500 = 0.00067 = 0.067\%$, a very small chance. The other way to state that is there was 99.93% chance the person was not randomly selected from the population.

The question then is who was that common ancestor? Because the H5a1g1 haplogroup is a more recent branch, FamilyTreeDNA states that an exact match on full-sequence mtDNA testing implies that the common ancestor lived 125-500 years ago. The timeframe of the ancestor documented by Line 1 is consistent within that range. We also know from the documentation that does exist on the other lines that these also match to location and that time range. And since 3 of the 7 exact matches listing England as the country of origin, this is consistent with this haplogroup defining the lineage of Elizabeth Martiau.

Examination of the pedigrees of others in haplogroup H5a1g1 did not reveal any other family who could link as the common ancestor of Elizabeth Martiau. Some of the exact matches had origins in England, but there were no common families found in reviewing their pedigrees. This most likely means that they shared an ancestor in distant past generations—perhaps over a thousand years ago as the haplogroup formation period was as far back as 518 CE.

By measuring time that occurred between specific changes one can arrive of an estimated rate of change and allow calculation of when a branch formed. Generally, it is predicted that 1 random change in the DNA strand will occur in each 70 generations. A new meiosis has occurred with each pregnancy. A new generation is assumed to be started each 25 years. This calculates to 1 change every 1,750 years. Published studies have measured the change in various populations and they find a range of 1 mutation in every 2,454 to 3,624 years.²⁷ However, since a random change can occur at any time, it may also happen within a recent generation. These time estimate studies make some assumptions used in their methods that can lead to somewhat different results: Did they evaluate part or all the mtDNA for example? Did they make assumptions about number of offspring and reproductive variation?

It is interesting to calculate the mutation rate for various intervals along the timeline from L0 to present. There was a period of no change in about 250 generations, but in general, the more recent intervals show a decrease in generations for a change to occur. For example, the interval from H5 to H5a1g1 had 7 mutations in about 7700 years or 1 per 44 generations while there were 9 mutations from R to H5 or 1 per 233 generations. Mutation rate may be increasing.

In this project tree there were about 9-14 generations between the MRCA (Elizabeth Martiau) and each participant. In the 4 matching lines, there was 1 DNA nucleotide change; this was in the 44 total generations and 1,095 total years represented. The intergenerational time used for most studies is 25 years per generation giving an average calculation of 1 change in 41 generations. In this project the average intergenerational time was 26.9 years. Having 1 change is not unexpected.

H5a1g1 formed 1250 ybp (CI=95% 1900-750 ybp) with average TMRCA 425 ybp (CI=95% 600-275 ybp) yfull.org (accessed: 20230501).

FamilyTreeDNA gives an estimate of the Most Recent Common Ancestor being a 50% chance between 125-400 years ago. In this project the

²⁷ Doron M Behar, Mannis van Oven, Saharon Rosset, et al. "A Copernican" Reassessment of the Human Mitochondrial DNA Tree from its Root", *Supplemental Data*, The American Journal of Human Genetics, Volume 90 (v) 2012, Apr 6.

average years from participant to Elizabeth Martiau is 336 years which fits neatly within that range.

H5a1g1 is defined by having these 3 new mutations from parent branch H5a1g: A444G, G9804A, T16311C! which means that at base pair site 444 Guanine was substituted for Arginine, at site 980 Arginine was substituted for Guanine and at site 16311 Cytosine was substituted for Thymine.

On finding the tomb of Elizabeth Martiau

Abstracted from the newspaper article²⁸:

About 1923 Mr. Minson Cook had charge of the grading of Buckner Street in Yorktown VA, which apparently had never been graded. The plow or scraper turned up two large stone slabs between lots 5 & 11. Upon examination these stones were found to be the gravestones of Col. George Read and his wife Elizabeth Martiau Read. These stones were polished, recut, and mounted on brick foundations in the churchyard of Colonial Grace Church, Yorktown, VA by Mrs. Arthur Kelly Evans of Hot Springs, VA. She was a descendant of Colonel Read.

During the month of May 1936, the national park service ran into this burial ground while laying a water main along Buckner Street. They uncovered 18 skeletal remains at the exact spot between lots 5 and 11. Two skeletons, one of a man past middle life, the other of a woman past middle life were found at that point in the street where the two Read stones were found in 1923. A broken corner of Colonel Read's stone was also found there by the park service. All the 18 remains were scientifically examined by Dr. Hopkins the curator of the park museum who classified them as to age, sex, size, and approximate length. Mr. Bennett T. Gale, park engineer was assigned to supervise the disinterment and to make a full report to superintendent B. Floyd Flickinger. They reported that considering all the evidence that this was the burial ground of the Reads. A blueprint was made of the locations of each grave and concluded that Grave 6 was Nicholas Martiau and Grave 7 was Jane Berkeley. A youth skeleton in Grave 9 was likely Nicholas Martiau, Jr. and Grave 4 may be the burial of Jane Berkeley, the daughter of Jane who married Nicholas.

The remains were reinterred at the Grace Colonial Church on May 30, 1941, by the Thomas Nelson chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. The Rev. John Baer Stoudt of Allentown PA delivered the memorial oration A firing squad and bugler from Fort Monroe fired the military

²⁸ Col. A. A. Pruden, "*Gives Records Of Bodies Re-Interred May 30*" [Daily Press, Newport News, Virginia](https://www.jogg.info), 8 Jun 1941, p 38
<https://www.jogg.info>

salute and sounded taps. At that time there were 5 generations of Martiau, and his descendants buried in this churchyard.

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