

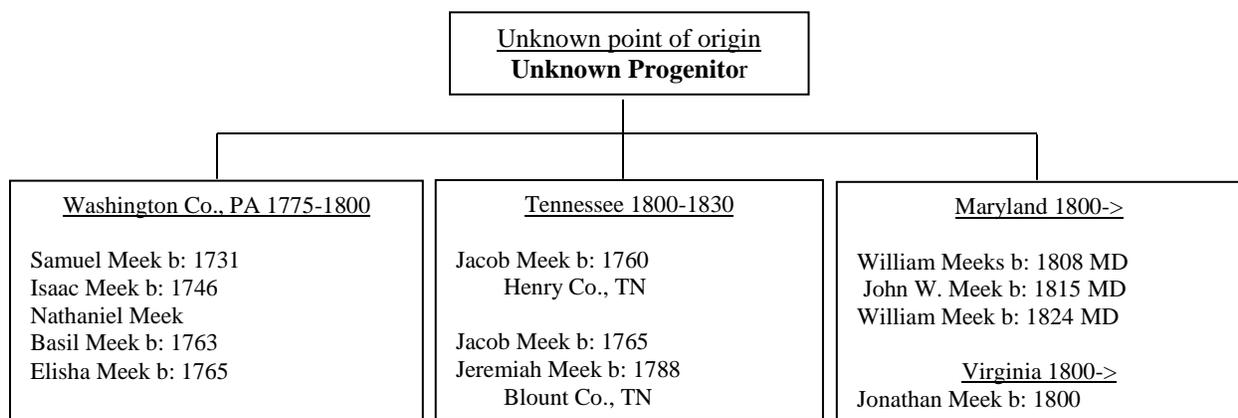
# Origins & Migration of Group B1 Meek Families

By Christopher A. Meek

Group B1 Meek families involve 12 early U. S. ancestors defined by matching Y-DNA STR markers of their descendants.<sup>1</sup> Those familiar with Meek genealogy might recognize the list of ancestors as being similar to the list of sons of Jacob Meek born 1698 Lincolnshire, England who was the son of Adam Meek<sup>2</sup> or the list of sons of Jacob Meek born 1717 in Ann Arundel Co., MD the son of Guy Meek II.<sup>3</sup> Both progenitors were given the same set of sons neither of which has been proven in over 100 years of research. The reader is referred to the article [The Progenitor Myth](#) for details.<sup>4</sup> In summary there is no documentary evidence that Jacob Meek son of Adam Meek was ever in America, had any particular wife or had any particular children. Jacob Meek son of Guy Meek was well documented but there is absolutely no documentary evidence who any of his children were.

The Meek/Meeks DNA Project has proven that the list of sons for Jacob Meek identified by early authors was a combination of men from three unrelated families. Despite the incredibly sloppy genealogies the early authors may have been partially correct. The largest group of supposed sons of Jacob Meek was concentrated in S. W. Pennsylvania. While some of them were misidentified a similar list of early ancestors has been shown by Y-DNA to have been related. They may not all have been brothers but they were definitely related.

## Ancestors in DNA Project Group B1



There is no reliable evidence concerning where these ancestors were born with the exception of those later men that are known to have lived in Maryland. H. B. Meek said that Basil Meek born 1763 was born in Hagerstown, MD. His genealogy has so many significant errors it cannot be trusted. He misidentified Jacob and Jeremiah who turned out to be unrelated. H. B. Meek said that Jeremiah went to Tennessee but the person he identified lived and died in Westmoreland Co., PA. But as can be seen other men named Jacob and Jeremiah from Tennessee were related to the men in Washington Co., PA.

<sup>1</sup> The Meek/Meeks Family Y-DNA Project

<sup>2</sup> [A Meek Genealogy](#), 1902 by H. B. Meek

<sup>3</sup> [On Meek Families](#), 1967 by Joseph L. Meek, unpublished

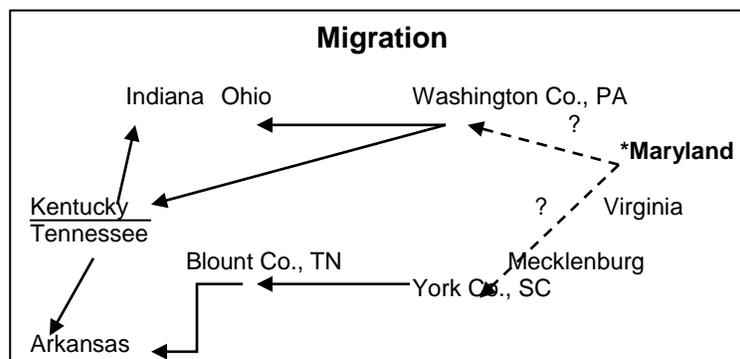
<sup>4</sup> [The Progenitor Myth](#), August 25, 2001 by Christopher A. Meek

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There is minimal evidence that one or more of the Henry Co., TN ancestor came from Washington Co., PA. On the other hand there is minimal evidence that the men from Blount Co., TN came from York Co., SC.<sup>5</sup> This presents a confusing picture of where the men in DNA Group B1 originated. The men from Maryland, born slightly later, suggest a Maryland connection. There is no documentary evidence that the Pennsylvania or Tennessee families migrated from Maryland. However, it cannot be excluded as a possibility.

Samuel Meek of Washington Co., PA was born in 1731.<sup>6</sup> His father would have been born no later than 1713 and probably somewhat earlier. Samuel's children are known from his will and are not listed as ancestors above. It is not outside the realm of possibilities that Basil born 1763 or Elisha was a son of Nathaniel or some other unknown ancestor in this family. With the two men named Jacob Meek in Tennessee it does appear the ancestors represented are part of a larger complex family.

It is known that Group B1 ancestors were in Washington Co., PA in the 1770's.<sup>7</sup> Some of those men migrated to Pulaski Co., KY about 1800. Other Group B1 ancestors were in Blount Co., TN and the Cumberland Co., KY/Overton Co., TN area about 1800. The Blount Co., TN men may have come from South Carolina but the larger question is where the common ancestor lived.



Not only do the traditional genealogies of the Meek family indicate that they came from Maryland it is known that other unrelated Meek families in S. W. Pennsylvania came from that state<sup>8</sup>. It is also known that people migrated from Maryland to York Co., SC including other unrelated Meek families<sup>9</sup>. Of course the Scotch/Irish were immigrating to South Carolina in the mid 1700's as well.

There is some evidence or at least clues concerning the point of origin for the Meek families in Group B1. Those clues are laid out below but are far from conclusive.

Nathaniel Meek witnessed the will of William Iams on 20 Feb 1795 in Washington Co., PA. A different William Iams married a daughter of Elisha Meek in Greene Co., PA. The Iams family

<sup>5</sup> [The Meek/Meeks Family of Tennessee and Arkansas](#), May 19, 2008 by Christopher A. Meek

<sup>6</sup> The Meek(s) Family Genealogical Clearinghouse Internet site

<sup>7</sup> [The Meek/Meeks Family of Tennessee and Arkansas](#), May 19, 2008 by Christopher A. Meek

<sup>8</sup> [The Meek/Meeks Family of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Kentucky](#), July 4, 2007 by Christopher A. Meek

<sup>9</sup> Adam Meek of Cecil Co., MD, See Clearinghouse web site

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was from Washington Co., MD as well as Ann Arundel Co., MD. However, proximity of two families does not establish a relationship.

Early genealogies of Isaac Meek born 1746, son of Guy Meek, were developed prior to and independently of H. B. Meek's 1902 book on Adam Meek and Jacob Meek<sup>10</sup>. However, reading about those early genealogies today one can see that a second wave of genealogies did co-mingle information from the 1902 book. It is in the second wave of genealogies that Isaac Meek born 1746 is given a place of birth of Anne Arundel Co., MD. This appears to have been guesswork based on the fact that Guy Meek had a documented son named Isaac born 1710. Early researchers assumed without proof that Isaac Meek born 1710 was the father of Isaac Meek born 1746 based solely on the two men having the same name.

In fact that unwarranted assumption may be true. There is some reason to believe that Isaac Meek born 1710 moved to Harrison Co., WV and lived not too far from the Meek families in S. W. Pennsylvania. Proving either one of these hypothesis may be impossible at this point in time. However, Jacob Meek born 1717 the son of Guy Meek and Dorothy Cobby or other members of his extended family cannot be excluded from being related to the Group B Meek families.

H. B. Meek said that his ancestor, Basil Meek born 1763, was born in Hagerstown, MD. This appears to have been based on some sloppy genealogy. The author may have confused information on an unrelated Basil Meek born 1740 Maryland. The latter left a pension record saying he was born in Maryland. It appears that the author mistook the later man's pension record for that of his own ancestor Basil Meek born 1763. However, a birth place of Hagerstown is not unreasonable for Basil Meek born 1763.

Basil Meek born 1763 first appears in the records of Clark Co., KY about 1795. Basil was a bondsman for Thomas Hulse on 7 Feb 1795. Thomas Hulse was the son of Paul Hulse and Nancy/Eleanor Meek who came from Berkeley Co., WV. Paul Hulse also paid 1787 Virginia taxes for Elisha Meek who later lived in Washington Co., PA. Based on Y-DNA tests Elisha Meek was related to Basil Meek born 1763. The Hulse family is documented to have come from Berkeley Co., WV.

Paul Hulse born 1740 was the oldest male child of Josiah Hulse who died 1777/78 in Berkeley Co., WV. Josiah owned land on the mouth of Sleepy Creek and the Potomac River, which is now part of Morgan Co., West Virginia, near Berkeley Springs. Berkeley Springs are about 5-10 miles south of the Maryland border and 20 miles west of Hagerstown, MD.

It is not known where Basil was before 1795. He may have come from S. W. Pennsylvania because he joined up with Nathaniel Meek in Clark Co., KY and associated with him for many years. But he also may have been from the Berkeley Co., WV area based on an apparent association between the Meek and Hulse families. Berkeley County is across the Potomac River from Washington Co., MD and Frederick Co., MD.

There were other unrelated Meek families in and around Berkeley County. Some member of Group A Meek families (which included Basil Meek born 1740) are documented to have lived in

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<sup>10</sup> Men named Isaac Meek, Dec 18, 2011, by Christopher A. Meek

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Berkeley County. Thomas Meek born 1708 lived in Washington Co., MD. He is in Meek Group C. In addition Jacob Meek born 1717 lived in Frederick Co., MD not far from Thomas. The Y-DNA signature for Jacob Meek born 1717 and the Guy Meek extended family is not known at this point in time.

New evidence in the form of Y-DNA testing was discovered in 2015. A known associate of Jacob and Jeremiah Meek of Blount Co., TN was John Roberts born about 1773. According to census records he was born in Maryland. Three individuals from two different sons of John Roberts completed Y-DNA tests and the match the ancestral signature of Meek Group B1. This establishes the likelihood that John Roberts shared a common ancestor named Meek with Jacob and Jeremiah Meek. He was related to them and his paternal surname was probably at one time Meek. John Roberts associated with the Meek family his entire adult life. If he came from Maryland then it is possible Jacob and Jeremiah did also. Regardless 1773 is the earliest documented date that anyone related to the Group B1 Meek families was in Maryland.

Group B1 may have originated in Virginia but there is no evidence of that. The few references to Berkeley Co., WV could involve Maryland families just as easily as Virginia families. There is no evidence that any of the Group B1 Meek families could not have been from Maryland. It is a logical option when one considers the possibilities. But more direct evidence needed to make that determination.

The evidence available to date indicates a dual migration path. One was to Washington Co., PA, Pulaski Co., KY and Indiana or Arkansas. The other was to York Co., SC, Blount Co., TN, Arkansas and Texas. See migration chart above. Whether the two groups started at the same point of origin or met up in Arkansas from different starting points is very much an open question. One cannot ignore the possibility that different members of the family may have emigrated separately from Europe to different places in the U. S.

One should use caution in assigning a place of birth for the Group B1 ancestors listed above. Many of the genealogies seen today are copies of someone else's undocumented genealogy. In addition they can all be traced back to one very flawed genealogy written in 1902 by H. B. Meek. Whether or not one has ever heard of H. B. Meek many Group B1 genealogies contain some elements of what he wrote. In more than 100 years no one has been able to prove what he wrote about the early generation in his genealogy.

Until a **proven** descendant of the first Guy Meek is found for DNA testing Guy Meek cannot be eliminated as the progenitor of Group B1. If the Guy Meek family is determined not to be related to Group B1 there is no other known early American ancestor left that could have been the progenitor. Many of the known Meek ancestors have already been eliminated through the Y-DNA Project. There are few other known Meek ancestors left who lived early enough or who had a large enough family to have produced the large complex Group B1 Meek family.