
A Father for Walter Griffith of Tuscarawas County, Ohio

By Ann Raymont, CG

Names of siblings in an undocumented published work are key to identifying the father of Walter Griffith of Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Y-DNA evidence supports the identification.

Walter Griffith, born about 1775–1794, died in 1827 in Tuscarawas County, Ohio.¹ No probate record in that county suggests a possible father.² A published genealogy includes a Walter Griffith, born in 1783, son of Hezekiah Griffith of Maryland, but cites no source.³ Was Walter of Tuscarawas County Hezekiah's son?

Study of the family produced no direct connection between Walter and Hezekiah. However, testing the genealogy's reported relationships puts the family puzzle pieces into place. Identifying and tracing potential siblings reveals that Walter Griffith of Tuscarawas County fits into Hezekiah's Maryland-born family. A Y-DNA study supports the identification.

HEZEKIAH GRIFFITH'S FAMILY

An 1892 genealogy authored by a Griffith descendant reported Hezekiah and Catherine (Warfield) Griffith had nine children. No locations more specific than “Maryland” are given for the family's vital events that are summarized here.

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1. For age, 1820 U.S. census, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, population schedule, Wayne Twp., p. 162 (stamped), Walter Griffith; microfilm publication M33, roll 95; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C. For death year, *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005870723>), digital film 005870723, image 125, Tuscarawas, Ohio, Probate Court, Administration Record, vol. 2:46–47, Walter Griffith estate, letters of administration, 13 October 1827.

2. Ruth Dunlap, *Index: Wills and Intestate Estates of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, 1809–1850 and Will Index, Vol. 1 to 12, 1809–1902* (New Philadelphia: Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society, 1981). Also, “Ohio Probate Records, 1789–1996,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1992421>) > Tuscarawas > General index 1808-1914 vol 1-2 > images 82–93, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, Probate Court, Index to Files, 1808–1890, vol. 1: 141–60, for “G” surnames.

3. R. R. Griffith, *Genealogy of the Griffith Family: The Descendants of William and Sarah Maccubbin Griffith* (Baltimore: W. K. Boyle & Son, 1892), 134–35.

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Hezekiah Griffith was born 25 November 1752, eldest son of Greenberry Griffith and Ruth Riggs; he died 28 July 1825. He married Catherine Warfield 14 November 1775. Catherine was born 7 April 1757 to Azel Warfield and Sarah Griffith; she died in 1796.⁴ Children of Hezekiah Griffith and Catherine Warfield:

- i. Ann Griffith, born 27 September 1776; married Jonas Clark before 1798 (first child). Their eight children, with birth dates, are listed.
- ii. Sarah Griffith, born 17 May 1778; died 10 July 1839; married Bazaleel Wells in 1797. Eleven children, with birth dates and some death dates, are listed.⁵
- iii. John Belford Griffith, born 28 December 1780.
- iv. Walter Griffith, born 3 February 1783.⁶
- v. Lydia Griffith, born 10 December 1785; died April 1815; married George Fetter and had five children (birth dates provided). George died September 1817.⁷
- vi. Roderick Griffith, born 8 December 1787; died 26 May 1817.⁸
- vii. Hezekiah Griffith Jr., born 1 November 1790; died 13 August 1840; married Lydia Mobley 1 September 1813. They had ten children (birth dates provided) and thirty-eight grandchildren (birth dates and some death dates and spouses provided).⁹
- viii. Charles Greenberry Griffith, born 3 July 1792; died 24 May 1864; married Jane Johnson and had ten children and at least four grandchildren (birth dates provided). Some marriage and death information for the grandchildren appears in the genealogy, including an 1889 marriage and death.¹⁰
- ix. Jane Griffith, born 3 November 1794.¹¹

Although he provides no documentation for Hezekiah's family, the author names five Maryland parishes whose records he reportedly researched. His information comes primarily from correspondence with cousins.¹² Additional generations reported for siblings Hezekiah Jr. and Charles suggest his informants may have included their children or grandchildren. Son Charles received the family Bible from Hezekiah's estate.¹³

4. Griffith, *Genealogy of the Griffith Family*, 134.

5. *Ibid.*, 135. Sarah's husband's forename has several variants. For consistency the name appears here as *Bazaleel* unless referencing a record with a different spelling.

6. *Ibid.*, 134.

7. *Ibid.*, 136–37.

8. *Ibid.*, 134.

9. *Ibid.*, 137–40.

10. *Ibid.*, 140–42.

11. *Ibid.*, 134.

12. *Ibid.*, v. "Wills and Extracts," pp. 281–90, includes four wills for other Griffith families.

13. *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/004019777>), digital film 004019777, image 751, Jefferson Co., Ohio, Probate Court, Inventories, 1822–1828, vol. 4:167, Hezekiah Griffith, estate inventory, 23 September 1825. Property "taken by the heirs" includes "Large Bible taken by C Griffith." Extensive searches for Hezekiah Sr.'s Bible produced negative results. A Griffith descendant reported the last-known owner was Charles Griffith's great-grandson, Oscar Burdge (1874–1951). Since 1942 its location has been unknown. See Kathleen Zipperer (e-address for private use), to Ann Raymont, email, 19 November 2016, "WikiTree: Chas Greenberry Griffith"; author's files.

HEZEKIAH GRIFFITH OF MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, AND OHIO

The Griffith family story begins with Hezekiah Griffith in Maryland in the mid-eighteenth century.

Hezekiah Griffith in Maryland

Records of the Protestant Episcopal (Anglican) Church in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, show Hezekiah Griffith was born 25 November 1752, the eldest son of Greanberry Griffith and Ruth Riggs.¹⁴ The parish has no records for Hezekiah's marriage or his children's births.¹⁵ By 1779 Hezekiah and his father owned land in neighboring Montgomery County, Maryland.¹⁶ No church records of Hezekiah's family exist there either. Few births were recorded between 1773 and 1800. No Griffith baptisms, marriages, or deaths were recorded in the period. Church registrations waned in many Anglican parishes as Americans pushed for independence from British rule.¹⁷

In 1790 Hezekiah headed a Montgomery County household of four females and four boys under sixteen. He had five slaves.¹⁸ The 1892 genealogy shows three boys born before the census enumeration date, with the fourth, Hezekiah Jr., born in November 1790. The genealogy may have omitted a son who died young. Possibly the enumerator visited after Hezekiah Jr.'s birth and included him.¹⁹

Hezekiah Griffith in Virginia

Hezekiah does not appear in the Maryland 1800 enumeration.²⁰ He had moved his family west. In 1795 Hezekiah of Montgomery County sold his Maryland property and his wife Caty relinquished her dower right.²¹ In 1796 and 1797 Hezekiah Griffith purchased land in Charlestown, Ohio County, Virginia (now

14. "Christ Church, Queen Caroline Parish, Howard and Anne Arundel Co's Parish Register, 1712–1937," p. 34; PDF file, *Maryland State Archives* (<http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccolm/m0000/m0200/m273/pdf/m273.pdf>), image 5. Pages 34–45 of the register appear to have been detached, reinserted, and microfilmed immediately after the book's index and before page 2.

15. *Ibid.* The author viewed pp. 1–53, which cover families with marriages before 1800.

16. Montgomery Co., Md., County Court, Land Records, 1777–1781, Book A:332–34, Greenbury Griffith to Hezekiah Griffith, 21 August, recorded 6 September 1779; digital images, Maryland State Archives, *MDLANDREC* (<https://www.MDlandrec.net>).

17. Nate Miller, archivist, Maryland State Archives (msa.helpdesk@maryland.gov) to author, email, 15 May 2017, "search/copy church record"; author's files. The search extended from 1773 to 1800 with negative results for any "G" surnames.

18. 1790 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., Md., p. 57 (penned), Hezekiah Griffith; NARA microfilm M637, roll 3.

19. The assistant marshal returned the Montgomery County 1790 enumeration 22 April 1791. See *ibid.*, p. 63 (penned).

20. "1800 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7590/>), broad search for Hezekiah Griffith in Maryland; no matches returned.

21. Montgomery Co., County Court, Land Records, 1795–1797, Book G:122–24, Hezekiah Griffith to Charles Magruder, 28 October 1795, rec. 19 February 1796; digital images, *MDLANDREC*.

Wellsburg, Brooke County, West Virginia).²² He appears on tax records there only in 1797, 1798, and 1799. Each reports he had three slaves over sixteen.²³ In 1800 Hezekiah emancipated slaves James, Harry, and Jann, and resigned his commission as Brooke County coroner.²⁴ Perhaps he anticipated moving across the Ohio River, where slavery was illegal.²⁵ On 16 January 1801, “Hezekiah Griffith of the County of Jefferson in the North Western Territory [*sic*]” sold the Charlestown, Virginia, lots purchased in 1797. The absence of dower release supports the published genealogy’s claim that his wife died in 1796.²⁶

Hezekiah Griffith in Ohio

In 1809 Hezekiah Griffith purchased land in Jefferson County, Ohio.²⁷ He was taxed there in Warren Township from 1807–19 and appeared in the county’s 1820 census.²⁸ The published genealogy says Hezekiah Griffith of Maryland died 25 July 1825. Hezekiah Griffith of Warren Township wrote a will proved 25 August

22. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008135207>), digital film 008135207, image 144, Ohio Co., Va., Deed Book 3:224–25, Elijah Cooper and Debra, his wife, to Hezekiah Griffith, 5 February 1796, proved February term 1796. *Ibid.*, images 165–66; Deed Book 3:266–67, William McKinly and Jane, his wife, to Griffith, 2 May 1796, proved May term 1796. For additional Charlestown lots, *ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008219487>), digital film 008219487, images 78–79; Brooke Co., Va., Deed Book 1:129–31, Charles Prather and Ruth, his wife, to Hezekiah Griffith, 25 October 1797, proved October term 1797. Brooke County was formed from Ohio County in 1797; see Johni Cerny, “West Virginia,” in Alice Eichholtz, ed., *Ancestry’s Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1989), 720. For Charlestown’s name change, *Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia* (Richmond: Thomas Ritchie, 1816), 161, ch. 99, “An Act changing the name of Charlestown in the county of Brooke.”

23. *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/008249439>), digital film 008249430, Brooke Co., Va., Commissioner of Revenue, Personal property tax lists, 1797–1804. Hezekiah Griffith appears in 1797, p. 16, image 20; 1798, p. 17, image 44; 1799, p. 16, image 71; and no other years.

24. *Ibid.* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/008219508>), digital film 008219508, image 536, Brooke Co., [Court] Order Book 2:485, April term 1800, Hezekiah Griffith, late coroner.

25. United States Continental Congress, *An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States, North-west of the River Ohio* (New York: n.p., 1787), 2nd page; digital image, *Library of Congress* (<https://www.loc.gov/resource/bdsdcc.22501/?sp=2>). Enacted 13 July 1787, article 5 defines the borders of the territory and article 6 prohibits slavery.

26. *FamilySearch*, digital film 008219487, image 449, Brooke Co., Deed Book 2:296–97, Hezekiah Griffith to Joseph Doddridge, 26 January 1801, no recording date.

27. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004021824>), digital film 004021824, image 16–17, Jefferson Co., Ohio, Deed Book C:23–25, John Barret, guardian of Mills’s heirs, to Hezekiah Griffith, 30 September 1809, rec. 19 December 1809.

28. For taxes, see “Ohio Tax Records, 1800–1850,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1473259>), search for Hezekiah Griffith, Any place: Warren, Jefferson, Ohio (exact match); returns entries from 1807–19. Also, 1820 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Warren Twp., p. 236 (stamped), Hezekiah Griffith. 1800 and 1810 Federal censuses for Ohio (formerly Northwest Territory) are lost except for Washington County. See Kathleen W. Hinckley, *Your Guide to the Federal Census for Genealogists, Researchers and Family Historians* (Cincinnati: Betterway, 2002), 114.

1825. He devised land to three sons, Hezekiah, Belford, and Charles, whose names match the Griffith genealogy.²⁹ Belford and Charles reported their birthplaces as Maryland.³⁰ Hezekiah Griffith of Maryland was the Hezekiah Griffith of Jefferson County, Ohio.

Hezekiah's will does not name Walter, but left the balance of personal property after debts paid "to be equally divided by my children, share and share alike."³¹ The three sons who inherited land lived nearby. In 1820 Charles and Belford Griffith, twenty-six to forty-four, resided in separate households in Warren Township, Jefferson County, near Hezekiah Griffith, forty-five or over. Hezekiah's household also included another male twenty-six to forty-four.³² This was likely Hezekiah Jr. who inherited the tract where his father lived.³³

Hezekiah's estate papers do not name other family members.³⁴ Testators do not always name children, especially daughters, who have received their estate portion. But Griffith's genealogy included sons Walter, born in 1783, and Roderick in 1787. The author reported Roderick died in 1817, eight years before his father's death.³⁵

Ann and Sarah, Hezekiah's two oldest children in the Griffith genealogy, link to Walter of Tuscarawas County, although all three were unnamed in their father's will.

SARAH (GRIFFITH) WELLS, DAUGHTER OF HEZEKIAH

Sarah Griffiths of Charlestown, Virginia, married Bazaleel Wells on 23 June 1797.³⁶ Hezekiah Griffith lived in Charlestown at that time.³⁷ After 1800 Hezekiah

29. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004019759>), digital film 004019759, images 224–25; Jefferson Co., Ohio, Record of Wills, vol. 2:76–78, Hezakiah Griffith will, 19 August 1822, proved 25 August 1825.

30. 1850 U.S. census, Athens Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Ames Twp., fol. 126r, dwell. 1785, fam. 1804, Belford Griffith; NARA microfilm M432, roll 660. 1850 U.S. census, Jennings Co., Ind., pop. sch., Geneva, fol. 293r, dwell./fam. 45, Charles Griffith; NARA microfilm M432, roll 155.

31. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004019759, images 224–25; Jefferson Co., Ohio, Record of Wills, vol. 2:76–78, Hezakiah Griffith will, 19 August 1822, proved 25 August 1825.

32. 1820 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Warren Twp., p. 236 (stamped), Hezekiah Griffith; NARA microfilm M33, roll 91. Also, *ibid.*, Charles Griffith. *Ibid.*, p. 237 (stamped), Belford Griffith.

33. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004019759, images 224–25, Jefferson Co., Record of Wills, vol. 2: 76–78, Hezekiah Griffith will, 19 August 1822, proved 25 August 1825.

34. *Ibid.*, digital film 004019777, images 749–51, Jefferson Co., Probate Court, Inventories, 1822–1828, vol.4:163–67, Hezekiah Griffith estate, 23 September 1825. Also, "Ohio, Jefferson County Court Records, 1797–1947," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1935519>) > Probate records > Account record vol 2 1824-1832 > images 1–461; author searched page-by-page with negative results.

35. Griffith, *The Genealogy of the Griffith Family*, 134.

36. West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, "Vital Research Records Search Selection," digital images, *West Virginia Archives and History* (http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_view.aspx?Id=11694956&Type=Marriage), Bezaleel Wells (of Washington Co., Pa.)-Sarah Griffiths (of Charlestown, Brooke Co., Va.), marriage, 23 June 1797.

37. *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/008249430>), digital film 008249430, image 20, Brooke Co., Va., Personal property tax list, 1797, p. 16, Hezekiah Griffith.

Griffith and Bazaleel Wells appear together in records. The Virginia legislature in 1806 set the ferry price “from the land of John Connell in the county of Brooke, across the Ohio River to the land of Bazaleel Wells and Hezekiah Griffith on the opposite shore.”³⁸ At Hezekiah’s death they still co-owned property in Ohio. Hezekiah’s will left his son Charles 142 acres “which I hold in partnership with Bazaleel Wells.”³⁹

An 1880 biographical sketch of Bazaleel Wells, a prominent early Ohio land speculator, says “His wife was Sarah Griffith, daughter of Hezekiah Griffith, of Wellsburg, Brooke County, Virginia, who subsequently removed to the vicinity of Phillipsburg (now called LaGrange), Jefferson County, Ohio.”⁴⁰ Onomastic evidence supports the connection: Bazaleel and Sarah named a son Hezekiah Griffith Wells.⁴¹

Sarah Griffith, wife of Bazaleel Wells, was almost certainly Hezekiah Griffith’s daughter. She fills in a section of the puzzle that helps prove her relation to Ann Griffith Clark, revealing in turn a connection to Walter.

ANN (GRIFFITH) CLARK, DAUGHTER OF HEZEKIAH

The Griffith genealogy reports that Hezekiah and Catherine’s oldest child, Ann, married Jonas Clark.⁴² However, no contemporaneous record survives documenting Ann Griffith’s marriage to a Clark—or to anyone else.⁴³ No Jonas Clark appears

38. *Acts Passed at a General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia; Begun and Held at the Capitol, in the City of Richmond, on Monday the Second Day of December, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Five* (Richmond: Samuel Pleasants, 1806), 31–32, ch. 54, § 1.

39. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004019759, images 224–25, Jefferson Co., Record of Wills, vol. 2:76–78, Hezekiah Griffith will, 19 August 1822, proved 25 August 1825.

40. J. A. Caldwell, *History of Belmont and Jefferson Counties, Ohio* (Wheeling, W.Va.: Historical Publishing, 1880), 478.

41. “The Founder of Steubenville,” *Steubenville Herald* (Steubenville, Ohio), 4 December 1896, p. 4 cols. 2–3, citing the paper “Sketch of Bezaleel Wells, Esq.,” read by J. B. Doyle at the monthly meeting of the Wells Historical Society. Wells’s son Francis had lived in Steubenville before his 1892 death and may have been a source. For Hezekiah G. Wells’s middle name, see W. J. Beal, *History of the Michigan Agricultural College and Biographical Sketches of Trustees and Professors* (Lansing, Mich.: Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co., 1915), 342–44.

42. Griffith, *The Genealogy of the Griffith Family*, 135.

43. Negative search results for Ann Griffith marriage: “Maryland Marriages, 1778–1800,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/48201/>). Also, “Maryland Marriages, 1777–1804,” *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/300782>). West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, “Search Marriage Records,” *West Virginia Archives and History* (http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_mcsearch.aspx), searches for bride Griff* 1800 +/- 5 years. “Ohio, County Marriages, 1789–2013,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1614804>).

in Brooke County tax records from its formation in 1797 to 1809. However, a James Clark lived there from 1797 to 1802, overlapping the period when Hezekiah Griffith did.⁴⁴ James Clark and Hezekiah Griffith were associates.

- In 1801 Hezekiah Griffith sold Charlestown property and moved to Jefferson County, Ohio. James Clark witnessed the deed.⁴⁵
- In 1803 James Clark of Brooke County bought land in the military tract of Ohio. The seller acknowledged the deed before Hezekiah Griffith in Jefferson County, Ohio.⁴⁶

Harriet Pfouts Wright, granddaughter of Ann (Griffith) Clark, wrote in her memoirs, “Ann Griffith oldest child of Hezekiah and Catherine married James Clark in 1797. Born Sept 27th 1776, died 1842.”⁴⁷ Ann’s birth date matches the Griffith genealogy.

Harriet wrote that her grandparents James Clark and Ann Griffith moved to Ohio early in their marriage.⁴⁸ Deeds support this. James Clark purchased several lots in Charlestown, Virginia, starting in 1797.⁴⁹ After buying Ohio land in 1803, he sold the last of the Charlestown lots in 1806 and his wife, Ann, relinquished her dower right.⁵⁰ These records and family-name choices support Harriet’s assertion that Ann was Hezekiah Griffith’s daughter.

44. *FamilySearch*, digital film 008249430, Brooke Co., Personal property tax lists, 1797–1804. The author searched 1797–1804 for Clark among surnames beginning with C. No Jonas Clark found. James Clark appears in lists 1797–1802, but not in 1803 or 1804. See *ibid.*, images 16 and 17, 1797, pp. 8, 10, James Clark; images 39 and 42, 1798, pp. 7, 12, James Clark; images 66 and 68, 1799, pp. 6, 10, James Clark; image 93, 1800, p. 11, James Clark Esq.; image 119, 1801, p. 10, James Clark Esq.; image 146, 1802, p. 9, James Clark.

45. *FamilySearch*, digital film 008219487, image 449, Brooke Co., Deed Book 2:296–97, Hezekiah Griffith to Joseph Doddridge, 26 January 1801, no rec. date.

46. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004022382>), digital film 004022382, image 814, Washington Co., Ohio, Deed Book 8:290–1, Benjamin Biggs and wife, Priscilla, to James Clark, 29 March 1803, rec. 24 September 1803.

47. Harriet S. Wright, “Annals of Harriet S. Wright,” typescript, ca. 1911 (MS 892, Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Ariz.), p. 102. Handwritten copy with transcription, written in 1911 by Harriet S. Wright (1841–1932).

48. Harriet S. Wright, “Annals of Harriet S. Wright,” pp. 101–2.

49. *FamilySearch*, digital film 008219487, images 19–20, Brooke Co., Deed Book 1:13–15, Charles Prather to James Clark, 24 May 1797, proved May term 1797. For examples of additional purchases in Charlestown between 1799–1803, see *ibid.*, images 134–35, Deed Book 1:238–39, Christian Callendine and wife, Mary, to James Clark, 24 May 1798, proved May term 1798.

50. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007901646>), digital film 007901646, images 64, Brooke County, Va., Deed Book 4:58, James Clark and Ann, his wife, of Muskingum County, Ohio, to Joseph Huston, 29 September 1806; lots 11 and 55 in Charlestown.

James and Ann Clark named a son after Sarah Griffith's husband, Bazaleel Wells.⁵¹ Figure 1 shows selected family members Harriet mentioned in her memoirs. Harriet's brother, Paris Pfouts, wrote a memoir in 1868. Although he does not name his grandmother, he describes the family's move when he was fourteen from Stark County, Ohio, to Holt County, Missouri. The party included his father, George Pfouts, his "uncle Bezelle Wells Clark," and Grandfather Clark.⁵² Paris's 1881 biographical sketch, for which he likely provided information, names his parents and maternal grandparents, James Clark and "Anna" Griffith. The sketch chronicles James Clark's move from Wellsburg to settlement on the Tuscarawas River in 1801.⁵³

Missouri records support parts of Paris's and Harriet's stories. George Pfouts died in Holt County, Missouri, in 1845. His will left everything to his wife Sarah, and James Clark was witness.⁵⁴ Sarah, George's widow, headed an 1850 household including nine-year-old Harriet and remarried later that year in Holt County.⁵⁵ In 1850 seventy-eight-year-old James Clark lived in the Holt County household of thirty-four-year-old "Bzal" Clark.⁵⁶ The latter's probate file confirms his name was Bazaleel W. Clark.⁵⁷

Harriet Pfouts Wright identified her grandparents James and Ann (Griffith) Clark and their immediate family. It was no coincidence that James and Ann named a son Bazaleel Wells Clark. Ann and Sarah were sisters, and daughters of Hezekiah Griffith. The Griffith genealogy erred in identifying Ann's husband as Jonas Clark. Ann and her husband, James, fill in part of the family picture, which in turn reveals a place for Walter.

51. "Anne Leigh Goodman – her book of genealogy," online post by "Gildeagirl," 26 September 2011, *Orlando Memory* (<http://orlandomemory.info/people/anne-leigh-goodman-her-book-of-genealogy/>), p. 10. This post is a transcription of Harriet Pfouts Wright, "Anne Leigh Goodman: Her Book of Genealogy," hand-written MS, 1921 (Vertical file, West Oaks Branch Library and Genealogy Center, Orange County Library System, Ocoee, Fla.). Provenance of original manuscript is unknown. See Allison L. Ryall, genealogy specialist, West Oaks Branch Library and Genealogy Center (e-address for private use), to Ann Rayment, email, 28 August 2020, "Anne Leigh Goodman Book of Genealogy"; author's files. Author did not view the original.

52. Paris Swazy Pfouts, *Four Firsts for a Modest Hero: The Autobiography of Paris Swazy Pfouts, Written in the Year 1868, Published in the Year 1968 by the Grand Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, of Montana* (Portland, Ore.: Dunham Printing Company, 1968), 23, 27, 35.

53. William S. Speer, ed., *The Encyclopedia of the New West: Containing Fully Authenticated Information . . . also, Biographical Sketches of their Representative Men and Women* (Marshall, Tex.: United States Biographical Publishing, 1881), 76–78, particularly 77 for Griffith-Clark family.

54. "Missouri Probate Records, 1750–1998," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2399107>) > Holt > Wills, 1837–1912, vol A–C > image 7, Holt Co., Mo., Will book A:2–3, will of George Pfouts, 19 June 1845, rec. 4 August 1845.

55. 1850 U.S. census, Holts Co., Mo., pop. sch, District 38, fol. 114r, dwell./fam. 572, Sarah Pfouts; NARA microfilm M432, roll 401. For widow and remarriage, "Married," *St. Joseph Gazette* (St. Joseph, Mo.), 27 Nov 1850, p. 3, col. 2.

56. 1850 U.S. census, Holt Co., Mo., pop. sch., District 38, fol. 86r, dwell./fam. 208, James Clark.

57. "Missouri Probate Records, 1750–1998," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2399107>) > Holt > Will books A–C, 1837–1912, images 20–21, Holt Co., Will Book A:29–30, will of Bazaleel W. Clark, 23 April 1853, proved 2 May 1853.

Tuscarawas County. They bought 303 acres there in 1803.⁶⁰ James visited pioneer merchant David Peter in nearby Gnadenhutzen that September, buying sugar and chocolate.⁶¹ The next month, Walter Griffith purchased moccasins from Peter.⁶² Perhaps Walter had joined his sister's young family to help on their frontier farm. During 1806 and 1807 James and Walter visited Peter's store on the same day at least four times.⁶³

Walter Griffith married Elizabeth Jennings on 24 September 1807 in Muskingum County, Ohio.⁶⁴ In 1810 he acquired the patent for 163 acres in northern Tuscarawas County.⁶⁵ Samuel Smith had filed for that government land at two dollars per acre on credit, but failed to make the payments.⁶⁶ Smith owed \$243.75 in 1809 and the rights were assigned to Walter Griffith.⁶⁷ Walter's new home was roughly twenty-five miles north of James and Ann Clark. See Figure 2.

Two other Griffith men purchased land in Tuscarawas County within the next few years.

- Roderick Griffith bought lot 431 in New Philadelphia, the county seat, at auction in 1811.⁶⁸ The Griffith genealogy identifies Roderick, son of Hezekiah Griffith, born 8 December 1787 and died 26 May 1817. If the purchaser was Hezekiah's son, he would have been twenty-three at the time of purchase. Roderick disappeared before

60. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004022382, image 814, Washington Co., Ohio, Deed Book 8:290–1, Benjamin Biggs and wife, Priscilla, to James Clark, 29 March 1803, rec. 24 September 1803.

61. "Peter store records, daily cash ledger, October 1799–September 1811," manuscript, photocopies of original hand-written ledger; Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society Library, Dennison, Ohio. The original ledger is held by the Gnadenhutzen Museum, Gnadenhutzen, Ohio. Entries in 1803 are arranged by date. James Clark bought sugar and chocolate, 12 September 1803.

62. *Ibid.* Walter Griffith purchases, 5 October 1803.

63. "Peter store records," 1806–1807, purchases grouped by customer name and within that group, by date. Examples of dates James and Walter visited the merchant on the same day: 17 July 1806, 12 September 1806, 3 October 1806, and 3 June 1807.

64. "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789–2013," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1614804>) > Muskingum > Marriage records 1804–1818 vol. 1 > image 7, Walter Griffith-Elizabeth Jennings, marriage, 24 September 1807, unnumbered entry; p. 12.

65. Bureau of Land Management, "Land Patent Search," images, *General Land Office Records* (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>), Walter Griffith (Tuscarawas, Ohio), no document number, accession no. CV-0008-343, 7 April 1810.

66. Samuel Smith entries, no. 1386, 23 February 1807; no. 1428, 23 March 1807; Auditor of State, Book of entries and receipts (credit system), 1806–12, Zanesville Land Office, Register of Entries, Nos. 60–1598; Ohio History Center (OHC), Columbus. For an explanation of the credit system and assignees, see Judy Russell, "Cash or Credit," blog post, 15 May 2014, *The Legal Genealogist* (<https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2014/05/15/cash-or-credit/>).

67. Samuel Smith of Columbiana County, certificate no. 699, 28 March 1807; Walter Griffith of Tuscarawas County, final certificate no. 238, 13 August 1809; Auditor of State, Zanesville Land Office, Register of Certificates (credit system), 1804–18; OHC.

68. Tuscarawas Co., Deed Book 2:131, Henry Laffer, Sheriff, to Roderick Griffith [no residence identified], 18 June 1811, rec. 13 February 1812; copy provided by Tuscarawas County Recorder, New Philadelphia, Ohio.

the 1820 census.⁶⁹ The Tuscarawas County Collector sold multiple New Philadelphia lots for back taxes in 1826, including Roderick's lot 431, which had uncollected taxes since 1818—consistent with his reported death in 1817.⁷⁰

- In 1815, Hezekiah Griffith and Bazaleel Wells of Jefferson County jointly purchased one hundred acres in Tuscarawas County.⁷¹ They paid nonresident taxes.⁷² Perhaps the tract was investment property or was intended for lease or family to work the land. In 1825 Hezekiah sold his share to Bazaleel Wells; the absence of a dower release confirms this was Hezekiah Sr. and not his son who was married.⁷³

In 1815 James Clark sold his three hundred-acre lots in Tuscarawas County and bought land in Sugar Creek Township in adjacent Stark County, Ohio.⁷⁴ Although James and Ann lived in Sugar Creek by the 1820 census, they continued to own property in Tuscarawas County until 1834.⁷⁵ Figure 2 depicts selected locations of Griffith land in Tuscarawas and Stark Counties. The parcels were not adjacent. At the time of Walter Griffith's death, James Clark lived about seven miles from Walter.

69. "1820 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7734/>), database search for Roderick Griffith in any state; no matches.

70. Tuscarawas Co., Deed Book 5:356, Collector Smith to Gabriel Cryder, 9 December 1826; microfilm, Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society, Dennison, Ohio.

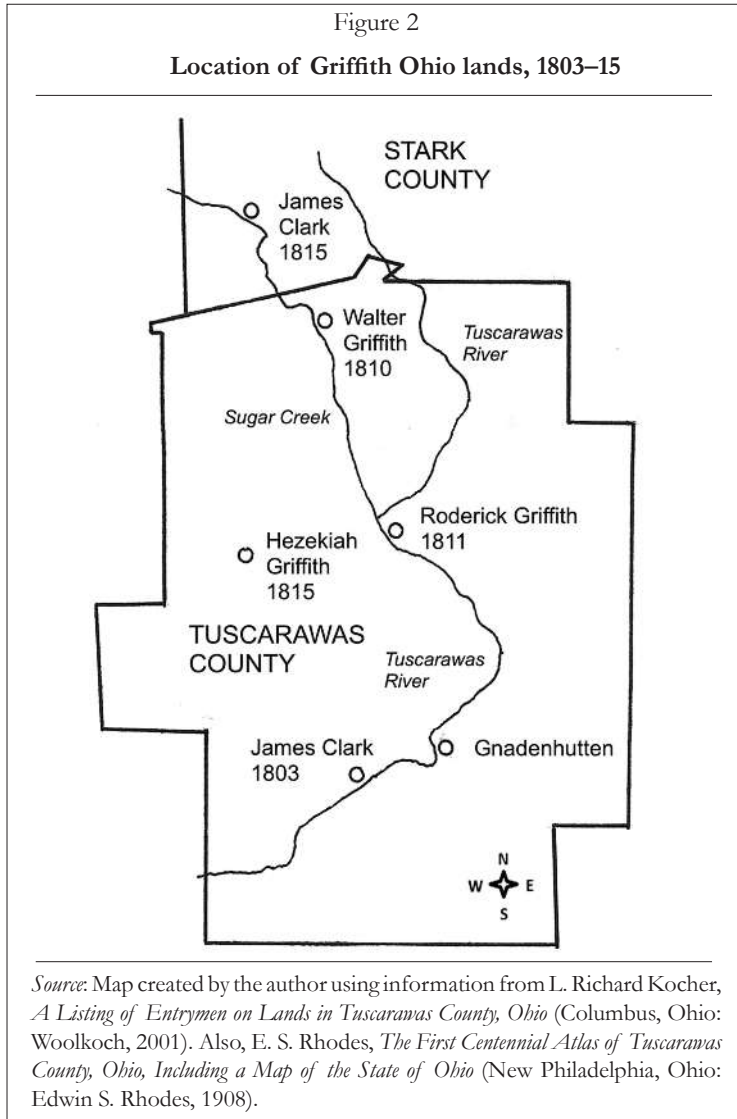
71. Tuscarawas Co., Deed Book 2:610, James Chaplin to Hezekiah Griffith and Bezaleel Wells, 28 December 1815, rec. 18 December 1816; Tuscarawas County Recorder.

72. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004849164>), digital film 004849164, digital image 146, Tuscarawas Co., Tax record, 1820, arranged by initial letter of surname, Bezaleel Wells.

73. Tuscarawas Co., Deed Book 5:149, Hezekiah Griffith to Bezaleel Wells, 23 May 1825, rec. 9 April 1828; Tuscarawas County Recorder. For proof of Hezekiah Jr.'s marital status in 1825, see profile of Hezekiah Griffith II, "Griffith patrilineal line," public tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/162605346/person/162132669945/facts>).

74. Tuscarawas Co., Deed Book 2:535, James and Ann Clark to Aquilla Carr, 28 October 1815, rec. 6 July 1816; Tuscarawas County Recorder. Also, Stark Co., Ohio, Deed Book I:538–39, Aquilla Carr to James Clark, 2 November 1815, rec. 10 November 1831; Stark County Recorder, Canton. James and Ann Clark later sold the tract. See Stark Co., Deed Book J:255, James Clark and Ann, his wife, to Samuel Shull, 25 November 1831, rec. 12 May 1832.

75. 1820 U.S. census, Stark Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Sugar Creek Twp., p. 194A (penned), James Clark; NARA microfilm M33, roll 94. For their final sale, see Tuscarawas Co., Deed Book 14:342, James and Ann Clark to Henry Shaffer, 15 November 1834, rec. 24 April 1839; Tuscarawas County Recorder.



Walter Griffith left few records in his lifetime. He acquired another one hundred acres in the same township as his original purchase, and he never sold either parcel.⁷⁶ He appears in only a few surviving court records. Other than his estate proceedings,

76. No Walter Griffith grantor found in Tuscarawas County Ohio deed indexes, vol. 1 and vol. 2; searched by the author at Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society. Not found as grantee for the added 100-acre parcel, but Walter paid taxes on both parcels beginning in 1820. See *FamilySearch* digital film 004849164, image 119, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, Tax record, 1820, arranged by initial letter of surname, Walter Griffith.

none of the court entries involve James Clark or other Griffiths.⁷⁷ Walter is named in only one census record. In 1820 Walter Griffith, age twenty-six to forty-four, headed a household of ten in Tuscarawas County.⁷⁸ This age is consistent with the 1783 birth date in the Griffith genealogy and the 1790 Maryland census, reporting four males under sixteen in Hezekiah's household.⁷⁹

Walter Griffith died intestate in 1827, twenty years after his marriage.⁸⁰ His oldest son, Hezekiah—possibly named for his paternal grandfather—was a minor.⁸¹ On 13 October 1827 the court ordered “that letters of Administration on the Estate of Walter Griffith deceased be granted to James Clark and Elizabeth Griffith, the widow of the deceased, that the[y] give bond in the sum of Sixteen hundred dollars.”⁸² A surviving widow “often claimed her right to administration as a co-administratrix with another next-of-kin.”⁸³

If James's wife, Ann, was Walter's sister, she would have been his nearest relative. Typical of the era, men were given preference over women in assigning an administrator.⁸⁴

Despite the common name, no other James Clark lived in the area in 1827. James was assessed nonresident real property taxes in Tuscarawas County, but no man of that name paid personal property taxes there in 1827.⁸⁵ This James Clark

77. *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008704616>), digital film 008704616, image 24, Tuscarawas Co., Court of Common Pleas Journal, 1819–26, vol. 2:20. *Ibid.*, image 79, vol. 2:131; image 107, vol. 2:187; image 110, vol. 2:192. *Ibid.*, image 194, Court of Common Pleas Journal, 1826–31, vol. 3:5. *Ibid.*, image 201, vol. 3:18; image 228, vol. 3:72. *Ibid.*, image 394, Court of Common Pleas Journal, 1831–37, vol. 4:36. *Ibid.*, image 412, vol. 4:73; image 423, vol. 4:94; image 436, vol. 4:120; image 453, vol. 4:154; image 484, vol. 4:216; image 560, vol. 4:369; image 573, vol. 4:395; image 595, vol. 4:439.

78. 1820 U.S. census, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Wayne Twp., p. 162 (stamped), Walter Griffith. The part of Wayne Township that Walter owned is now in Franklin Township, formed in 1858. See Mansfield, *The History of Tuscarawas County, Ohio*, 550.

79. Griffith, *The Genealogy of the Griffith Family*, 134. Also, 1790 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., Md., p. 57 (penned), Hezekiah Griffith.

80. *FamilySearch*, digital film 005870723, images 125–26, Tuscarawas, Probate Court, Administration Record, vol. 2:46–47, Walter Griffith estate, letters of administration, 13 October 1827.

81. For son, see profile of Hezekiah Griffith, “Griffith patrilineal line,” public tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/162605346/person/162133337912/facts>). For birth year, Hamilton Cemetery (Hamilton, Steuben, Co., Ohio), Hezekiah Griffith marker, read by author, September 1995. Marker inscription says: “died May 22 1869 age 58 y 1 mo.”

82. *FamilySearch*, digital film 005870723, image 125, Tuscarawas Co., Probate Court, Administration Record, vol. 2:46–47, Walter Griffith estate, letters of administration, 13 October 1827.

83. Val D. Greenwood, *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, 4th ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017), 450.

84. Greenwood, *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, 450.

85. “Only residents paid [Ohio] personal property taxes.” See Diane VanSkiver Gagel, *Research in Ohio* (Arlington, Va.: National Genealogical Society, 2008), 45. For nonresident real property taxes, see for example *FamilySearch*, digital film 004849164, image 208, n.p. (1822), image 754, p. 152 (1827), Tuscarawas Co., Tax record, 1822 and 1827. For no personal property, see *ibid.*, images 596–825, Tuscarawas Co., Tax record, 1827; page-by-page search through seventeen townships' personal property tax records found no James Clark.

is the man whose deeds prove he moved with his wife, Ann, from Brooke County, Virginia, to Tuscarawas County and then Stark County, Ohio, before continuing west to Missouri. James Clark and his son-in-law George Pfouts—the father of memoirists Harriet and Paris Pfouts—purchased items at Walter’s estate sale.⁸⁶ James Clark, co-administrator of Walter’s estate, was the husband of Ann Griffith, daughter of Hezekiah.

If Sarah, Ann, and Walter were siblings and Hezekiah their father, why did Hezekiah exclude son Walter from his will? Perhaps he had already helped financially when Walter first purchased Ohio land in 1810. Perhaps Hezekiah believed that Walter, living sixty-five miles away with 262 acres, did not need a share of his Jefferson County property. He left his estate to local sons who were working the land they would inherit. No record answers the question.

OTHER WALTER GRIFFITHS

Could there be a second Walter Griffith who might be Hezekiah’s son? Conceivably Hezekiah’s son Walter died young, leaving no records. Perhaps he was alive at the time of the 1820 census but lived with another family. If Walter, Hezekiah’s son, headed a household in 1820, at the presumed age of thirty-seven, only three candidates are found.

- Walter Griffiths, of Deerfield, Oneida County, New York, lived 425 miles northeast of Hezekiah Griffith.⁸⁷ At that distance and location, he was not likely Hezekiah’s son.
- Walter Griffith of Washington, Clermont County, Ohio, lived 233 miles west of Hezekiah Griffith.⁸⁸ He married Sarah Pigman in Montgomery County, Maryland, in 1803.⁸⁹ Hezekiah had left Maryland by 1796 when his son Walter was thirteen. Walter Griffith of Clermont County was not Hezekiah’s son.
- Walter Griffith of Wayne Township, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, living sixty-five miles northwest of Hezekiah in 1820, is the only viable candidate.⁹⁰

86. *FamilySearch* digital film 005870723, image 126, Tuscarawas Co., Probate Court, Administration Record, vol. 2:48–49, Walter Griffith estate, sale list, 7 February 1828.

87. 1820 U.S. census, Oneida Co., N.Y., pop. sch., Deerfield Twp., p. 238 (penned), Walter Griffiths; NARA microfilm M33, roll 73.

88. *Ibid.* Clermont Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Washington Twp., p. 21 (stamped), Walter Griffith; NARA microfilm M33, roll 89.

89. Rev. J. F. Wright, “Mrs. Sarah Griffith,” in Rev. E. Thompson, ed., *The Ladies’ Repository and Gatherings of the West: A Monthly Periodical Devoted to Literature and Religion*, vol. 5 (Cincinnati: L. Swormstedt and J. T. Mitchell, 1845), 281. For Walter’s wife’s maiden name, see also *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005428871>), digital film 005428871, images 50–51; Clermont Co., Ohio, Record of Wills, vol. F:60–61, Sarah Griffith will, 12 September 1843, rec. 5 August 1845. She left her estate to her Pigman brothers’ families.

90. 1820 U.S. census, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Wayne Twp., p. 162 (stamped), Walter Griffith.

The author of the 1892 Griffith genealogy attempted to identify all descendants of immigrant William Griffith, who died in Maryland in 1699.⁹¹ He found only two named Walter born before 1800—Walter, son of Samuel, who married Sarah Pigman, and Walter, son of Hezekiah.⁹² Y-DNA testing may support or disprove the conclusion that Walter of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, was the son of Hezekiah Griffith of Maryland, and descended from immigrant William Griffith.

Y-DNA EVIDENCE

The Y-chromosome, passed from father to son, is found only in males and is one of the two sex chromosomes in humans. Y-DNA can be useful for genealogists because the Y-chromosome does not readily recombine. Thus a male may inherit his Y-chromosome, almost unchanged, from a distant patrilineal ancestor. Y-DNA testing cannot prove a specific genetic relationship, but can support a hypothesized descent from a common male ancestor.⁹³

Two patrilineal descendants of Walter Griffith agreed to take the Y-DNA test at FamilyTreeDNA. Male descendants of Hezekiah Griffith's sons Hezekiah Jr. and Belford Griffith also tested.

Each descendant joined the FamilyTreeDNA Griffi(th)(n)(s)(ng) DNA surname project.⁹⁴ By examining Y-DNA STR (Short Tandem Repeat) marker values, project administrators place the project's test takers into separate family groups perceived to have a common patrilineal ancestor within a genealogical timeframe. Each group is assigned a modal haplotype—a unique genetic signature containing the baseline marker values for the family group's most recent common ancestor, before subsequent mutations in the descendants occurred.⁹⁵

91. For death of William Griffith, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007737515>), digital film 007737515, image 532, Maryland, Prerogative Court Wills 6:303, William Griffith will, 31 August 1699, proved 23 October 1699. For immigration, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008141651>), digital film 008141651, image 172, Maryland, Land Office Patent Record, Liber MM:329, Michael Stuppel and Stephen Barnerd, warrant, 18 June 1675. The warrant for 1,750 acres was for transporting thirty-five persons into the province, including William Griffith.

92. Griffith, *Genealogy of the Griffith Family*, 49, 57, 134.

93. Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* (Arlington, Va.: National Genealogical Society, 2016), 23–26. Mitochondrial DNA and X-DNA are not useful for this study. Autosomal DNA might be useful, however, the author found insufficient relevant matches who would give permission to be included in this study.

94. Janine Cloud and Gail Riddell, administrators, “Griffi(th)(n)(s)(ng) DNA Results,” *FamilyTreeDNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/griffith/dna-results>).

95. Maurice Gleeson, “The Modal Haplotype,” video, October 2011, *YouTube* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKwhscl0S9I>). Also, “Modal haployppte,” *ISOGG Wiki* (https://isogg.org/wiki/Modal_haplotype).

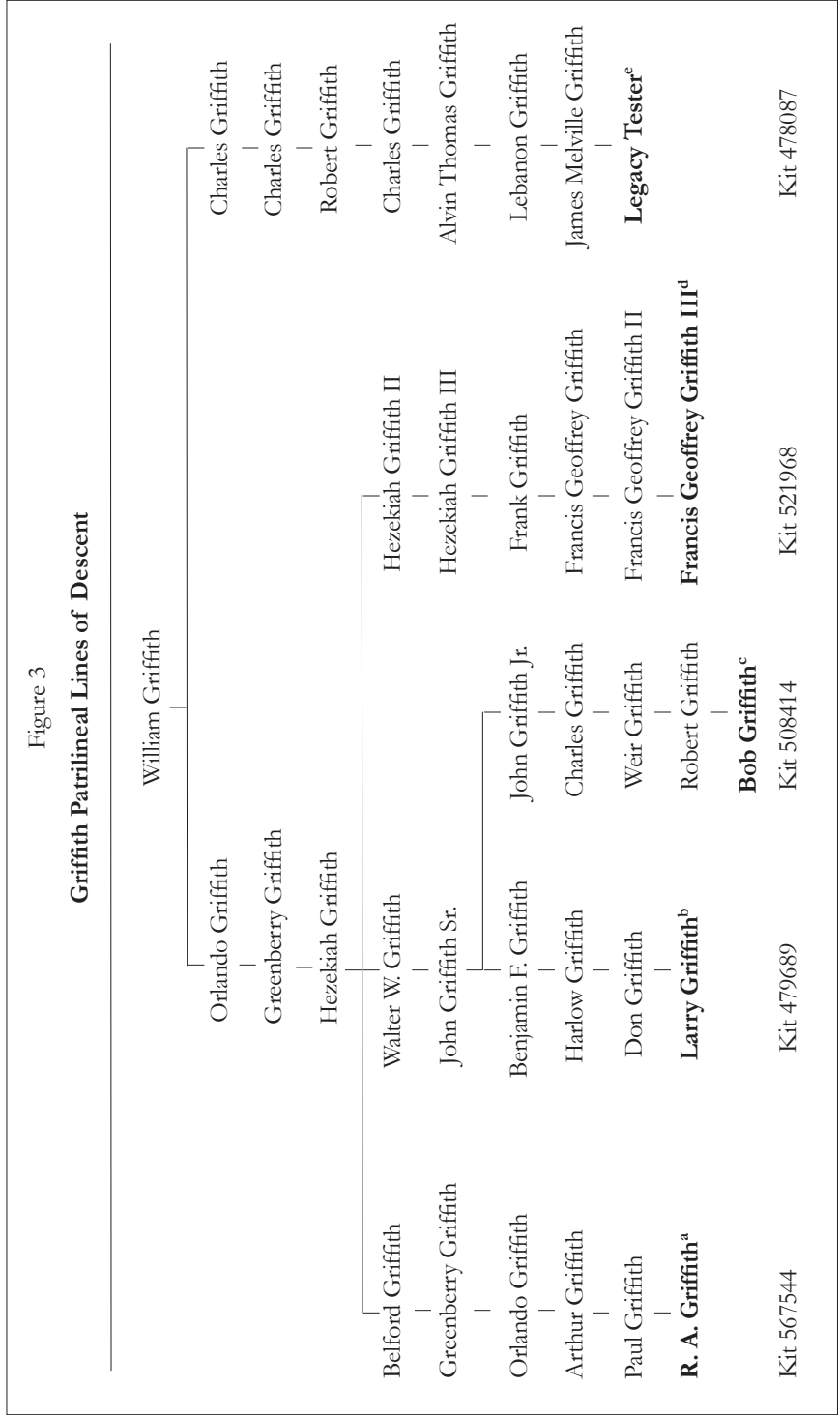


Figure 3 (continued)

Notes and Sources:

Test takers are shown in bold font with their FamilyTreeDNA kit numbers below their names. The author-created “Griffith patrilineal line” public tree on Ancestry documents the patrilineal ancestry from the DNA test-takers to the shared immigrant ancestor, William Griffith. Proof of the relationship between each test taker and his father is omitted from this public tree for privacy reasons; documentation is in the author’s files.

- a. For R. A. Griffith’s father, Paul Griffith, see Ann Raymont, “Griffith patrilineal line,” public tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/162605346/family?page=1&cfpid=162128215537&selnode=1>).
- b. For Larry Griffith’s father, Don Griffith, see *ibid.* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/162605346/family?cfpid=162127174862&selnode=1>).
- c. For Bob Griffith’s father, Robert Griffith, see *ibid.* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/162605346/family?cfpid=162119906384&selnode=1>).
- d. For Francis Geoffrey Griffith III’s father, Francis Geoffrey Griffith II, see *ibid.* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/162605346/family?cfpid=162127174971&selnode=1>).
- e. For Legacy Tester’s father, James Melville Griffith, see *ibid.* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/162605346/family?cfpid=162120021292&selnode=1>).

The four test takers in this case study were placed in “Hap’group R1b (M343; M269) - Genetic Family L,” together with only one other project member, identified here as Legacy Tester. Legacy Tester descends from Robert Griffith, a second cousin of Hezekiah Griffith. Hezekiah and Robert were great-grandchildren of the immigrant William Griffith, who died in Maryland in 1699. See figure 3 for the five test takers’ patrilineal lines of descent from immigrant William Griffith.

Each of the five test takers’ results matched the proposed genetic signature of William Griffith on 66 of 67 markers, with only a single mutation. No two test takers had the same mutation. Three of the five Y-S’TR markers with a mutation—DYS458, DYS449, and CDY—are known to be faster-mutating markers and more likely to change within a genealogical timeframe.⁹⁶ Table 1 shows a comparison of the differing marker values.

96. “What do the colors for the Y-DNA results chart headings mean?,” *FamilyTreeDNA* (<https://learn.familytreedna.com/project-administration/gap-reference/colors-y-dna-results-chart-heading/>).

Table 1

Comparison of Y-STR values for Griffith test takers

TEST TAKER	DYS393	DYS458	DYS447	DYS449	CDY
R. A. Griffith (Kit 567544)	13	17	25	29	37-39
Larry Griffith (Kit 479689)	12	17	25	30	37-39
Bob Griffith (Kit 508414)	13	17	25	30	38-39
Francis Griffith III (Kit 521968)	13	18	25	30	37-39
Legacy Tester (Kit 478087)	13	17	24	30	37-39

Source:
 “Griffi(th)(n)(s)(ng) DNA Results,” *FamilyTreeDNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/griffith/dna-results>) > Classic Chart > Hap’group R1b (M343;M269) - Genetic Family L.

These results confirm that Walter Griffith of Tuscarawas County belongs to the Griffith family of Maryland. However, Y-DNA can confirm only that test takers descend from a common ancestor on their patrilineal line. These results cannot distinguish whether Walter was a brother of Belford and Hezekiah Griffith Jr. or some degree of cousin.

CONCLUSION

Evidence from contemporaneous original documents, manuscript collections, authored works, onomastics, and Y-DNA confirms the hypothesis that Walter Griffith of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, was the son of Hezekiah Griffith of Maryland. Hezekiah’s move from Maryland to Virginia to Jefferson County, Ohio, opened the way to confirming the identity of his daughter Sarah and sons Belford, Charles, and Hezekiah Jr. Identifying Sarah made it possible to resolve a conflict regarding Ann’s husband’s name, and thus place Ann in the family. Ann’s identity as Sarah’s sister led to evidence that Walter Griffith of Tuscarawas County fits in this family.

Because Ann and Sarah had brothers, testing their male descendants’ Y-DNA made it possible to show a genetic relationship between Walter, Belford, and Hezekiah Griffith Jr. DNA evidence combined with documentary evidence establishes that Walter Griffith was the son of Hezekiah Griffith.