

William Griffith of MD and [W]VA

William Griffith of Baltimore County, MD goes to Ohio County, Virginia

William Griffith migrated from the region near Cockeysville in Baltimore County to Holliday Cove in northern Brooke/Ohio County, in the Virginia Panhandle (now West Virginia). His migration is documented in a 1796 deed recorded in Baltimore County in which William is called “William Griffith of Ohio County in the state of Virginia Esq”.¹ He grants to “Benjamin Griffith, son of John Griffith late of Baltimore County, deceased” tracts called “Christmas Eve” and “Disturbed Mind.” They are located on the “south side of the main road leading from Thomas Cockey’s Mill to Rayeston²” it being the “dwelling plantation of James Griffith, Sr. late of Baltimore County, deceased” The deed excepts the part of the land reserved as a grave yard. William appoints his nephew, Abednego, as his attorney. The deed is witnessed by John Kerr and James Wells (believed to be related to William’s father-in-law, Alexander Wells of Washington, Co., PA.)

There were many Griffiths in Baltimore County. Some settled first in Ann Arundel and Cecil Counties. Some were Baptists and came from Delaware in the early 1700’s.³ Many were Quakers who came from Pennsylvania.⁴ As noted by Scharf in his *History of Baltimore...*⁵ “Cockeysville” was in the heart of Quaker Bottom in Baltimore County. It is not the purpose of this report to unravel the distant relationships of these various Griffith families.

Griffiths of Christmas Eve

The Griffiths of Christmas Eve lived in Baltimore County at least since 1750, according to Barnes (op. cit.).

James Griffith left a will dated 25 Mar 1778 and filed 18 July 1778 naming wife, Rachel, and **sons John and William**. Mentions “Christmas Eve” and “Griffiths Mount.” Other deeds show they also owned a tract named “White Oak Bottom.” (Will Book 4: 319-321 and Will Book 3: 366,7, 25 Mar 1775, proved 18 Jul 1778)

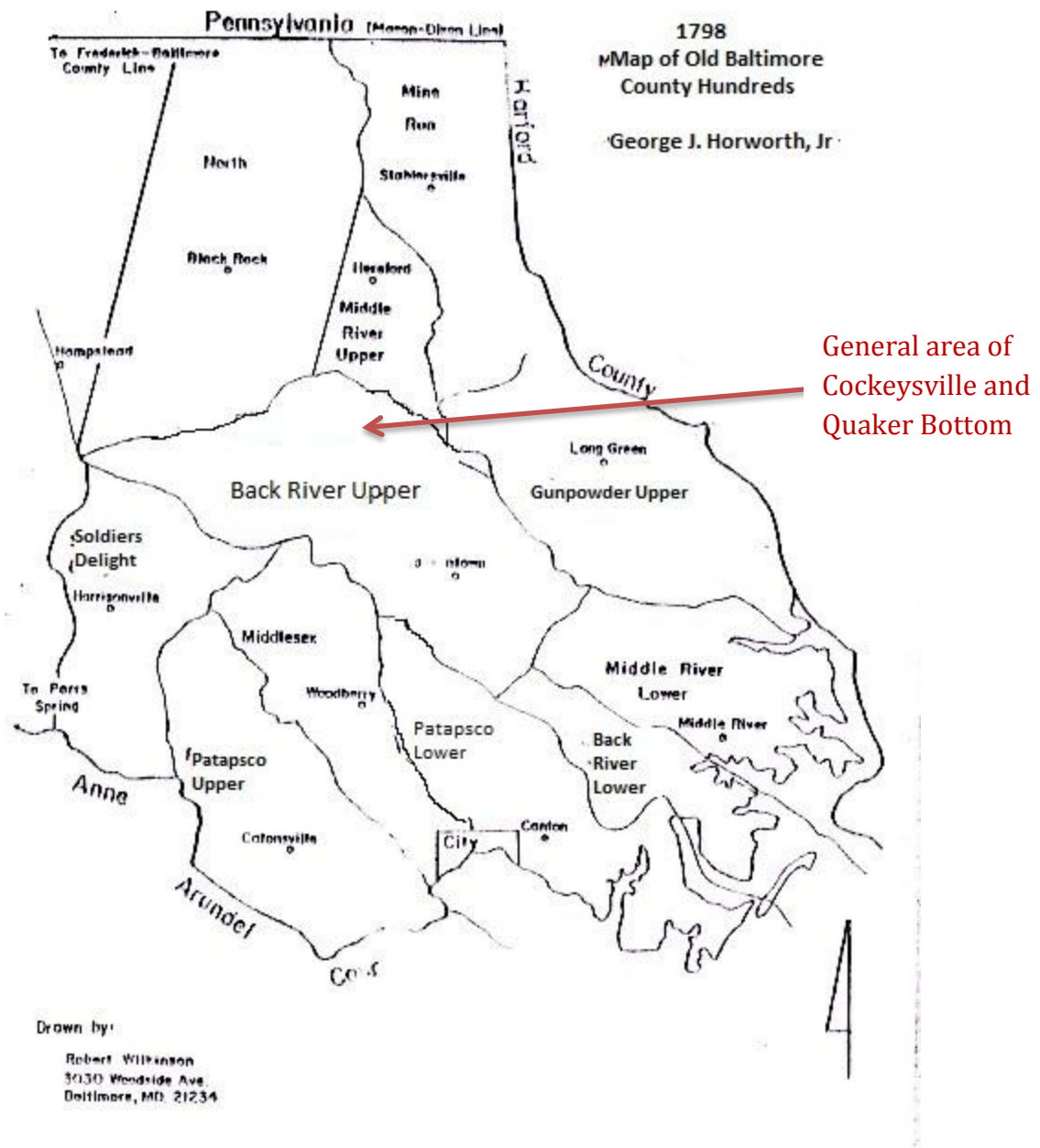
¹ Baltimore county Deed, Book WG VV, p. 210, filed 18 April 1796.

² Possibly Reisterstown.

³ See at my website: www.westerly-journeys.com/genealogy/famGriffith/BenjaminGriffithBaltimore.pdf

⁴ See at my website: www.westerly-journeys.com/genealogy/famGriffith/JosephGriffithGenealogy.pdf

⁵ John Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County, from the earliest period to the present day*: including biographical sketches of their representative men (Philadelphia, L.H. Everts, 1881)



John Griffith (brother of **William**) left a will dated 2 Jan 1792 naming children **Benjamin, Abednego, James, Nathan, Rebecca, Ruth and Rachel**. (Will Book 5, pp. 32-33).

William Griffith granted his interest in Christmas Eve to John's son, Benjamin (see above).

William Griffith in Ohio and Brooke Counties, [West] Virginia.

William also left many records in Ohio/Brooke County, VA. He married the daughter of **Alexander Wells** who migrated from Baltimore County to Washington County, Pennsylvania near the location where William Griffith settled.

Robert W. Barnes: *Baltimore County Families*,⁶ gives the following:

Alexander Wells (b. 1727) died 9 Dec 1813 in Washington Co., PA had children **Alexander** b. 1756, **Anne** b. 1758 and **Balzaleel** b. 1763.

From records in Washington Co. PA **Alexander Wells** also had sons **Henry** and **Nathaniel**. Alexander's daughter, **Anne, married William Griffith** and William acquired land at **Cross Creek** from **Alexander Wells**. A will left by a **Richard Griffith**, 1830, states that **Bezaleel Wells** was his-brother-in law. (So Bezaleel Wells married a Griffith woman.) **Alexander Griffith** died 1822. An **Alexander Griffith** bought **lot 32 in Hopewell** Township, Muskingum County, Ohio.

Will of **Richard Griffith** (Washington County, PA, WB4-495) 10 Jan 1822, 23 Mar 1830, land at Cross Creek and Mingo Bottom, Jefferson Co. OH, exec, Bezaleel Wells; mentions wife Helen, sons **Alexander**, James, Joshua and Bezaleel; brother-in-law Bezaleel Wells, Steubenville (Jefferson County, OH)

Will of **Alexander M. Griffith** (Washington County, PA, WB 3-486) 11 Nov 1821, 5 June 1822, exec John R. Griffith; mentions wife Sally, brother John Griffith in charge of children (implying children were still minors).

Ohio County, VA , deed from **Alexander Wells** to his son-in-law, **William Griffith**, shows the migration from Washington County, PA into Ohio County [West] Virginia.

Ohio Co. Deed Bk. 3:263, 6 May 1793: Alexander Wells of Washington Co. PA to William Griffith of Ohio Co. VA and his wife daughter of said Alexander Wells, "dower" formerly August "on a small tract of [smudged] "argns Cr [Harmon's Creek?] a branch of the Ohio adjoining lands if Harmon Greathouse in the above granted to said Alexander Wells by "patent" from W of VA 7 Mar 1780

From the Deed Books of Brooke County, [West] Virginia:

Deed from Alexander Griffith to John Brown, 93 ac. Holliday's Cove, 17 Dec 1813; mentions will of William Griffith his father. Deed Book 5, page 217

Deed from Alexander Griffith to John Brown, land in vicinity of John Griffith, 13 Jan 1815; mentions estate of William Griffith: sons Alexander, John and William. Deed Book 5, page 347.

From DeedBooks of Ohio County, [West] Virginia.

Ohio Co. [W]VA Deed Bk. 6:343, 11 Jan 1808, **William Griffith**, Late of Ohio Co., by Linsley to Thomas Evans, **Zanesville Addition**.

Ohio Co. [W]VA, Deed Bk. 7:36, to Joseph Griffith from David Cooper, Parr's Run and Graves Creek, 1810

⁶ Robert W. Barnes, *Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759*(Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1989).

William Griffith MDd – [W]VA
Marilou West Ficklin
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