

WILCOCKSON CASE STUDY

Written by Celia Renshaw for Chesterfield & District FHS, February 2017

Since 2012, in collaboration with a group of eight interested parties in Britain and the USA, I have looked for the British origins of two Derbyshire Wilcocksons, a Puritan and a Quaker, who migrated to the new world in 1635 and 1719.

This case-study sets out the research strategy which was followed in pursuit of Quaker emigrant George Wilcockson, highlighting the main sources used and finds made. The family tree which was produced from the research is attached as an appendix.

THE WILCOX & WILCOCKSON FAMILY PROJECT

For decades, people in the USA named Wilcox and Wilcockson have been looking for their roots in England. Most of them descend from two migrants and one US-born Wilcockson:

1 Puritan William Wilcockson

In 1635, William Wilcockson with a small family groupⁱ set sail from London on board the ship 'Planter'. They arrived in New England at a time when settlements were first being established and were among the founders of Stratford, Connecticut. Descendants of Puritan William are nicknamed 'Billies'.

2 Quaker George Wilcockson

In 1719, George Wilcockson from Derbyshire married Elizabeth Powell, daughter of migrant Welsh Quakers, in a Meeting House in Chester County, Pennsylvania. George carried with him a 'clearness certificate' from Breach Monthly Meeting near Heanor, Derbyshire, and his marriage record states he was the son of John Wilcockson of Cossall, Notts.ⁱⁱ

3 "1720 John" Wilcockson

In about 1742, a John Wilcockson, probably born about 1720, married Sarah Boone, sister of the famous frontiersman Daniel Boone. They raised many children, went with Daniel into Kentucky and are commemorated on the Fort Boonesborough monument. Despite huge amounts of research, nothing definite was known in the USA about this John. It seemed likely he was the son of Quaker George but evidence was lacking. 1720 John's descendants in the USA are known as 'Boonies'.

DNA BREAKTHROUGH

In 2002, one member of our group, Jane Wilcox (a professional genealogist in the USA (<http://www.4getmenotancestry.com>)) carried out extensive research in the UK which led her to theorise that her ancestor Puritan William was born in Biggin by Hlland, a member of Wilcockson families who had lived and farmed there since Medieval times.ⁱⁱⁱ

Around the same time, the results came through for the first US Wilcocksons to try DNA testing. Y-DNA tests were taken by men from both Billie and Boonie lines. The results showed that the lines are connected quite closely. Considering Jane Wilcox's conclusions about Biggin, this was enough to conjecture that Billies and Boonies both had their roots in Derbyshire.

In 2012, Jane (who is a Billie) and a US Boonie descended from 1720 John asked me, because of my specialism in dissenting ancestors, to help with their Wilcockson quests. The main challenge was to identify the ancestry of '1720 John'.

RESEARCH STRATEGY

First, I assessed the information and previous research supplied by Jane and Reg about US and British Wilcocksons, including work done by professional genealogists. I built speculative family trees from this data (using Family Historian software) which were updated and consolidated as I obtained verifications (or not) from original documentation.

Two key aspects emerged from this data: (1) Quakers; and (2) Biggin by Hlland near Wirksworth, Derbyshire. Therefore, it was agreed with the research group that I would explore the sources available for 17th century Quakers and for Biggin by Hlland. These two strands were explored simultaneously.

For the Biggin strand, the most important document sent to me was the unpublished draft of Jane Wilcox's book^{iv} which studied and assessed all the Wilcockson family groups discovered during her 2002 research and set out a 'proof argument' that Puritan William Wilcockson (Jane's ancestor) was from Biggin.

For the Quaker target, the key document was a family group report produced by US researcher William G Scroggins in 1998 after a research trip to Britain. This suggested that Quaker George's parents were John and Dorothy (Hall) Wilcockson, Quakers who married in Morridge, Staffordshire in 1686, and had six children (Anne, John, Dorothy, Isaac, George and David, all recorded at Staffs Monthly Meetings 1687-1698^v. Scroggins made a perfectly logical deduction that John, the father of this family, was the son of Cheshire Quakers Arthur and Dorothy Wilcockson. This John's birth was recorded on 14 September 1667 at Manley, Cheshire^{vi}. The difficulty was that no paper trail could be made between Staffs/Cheshire, Cossall, Notts and Breach/Hleanor, Derbyshire.

As work progressed, we added a third strand to the research : to locate living Wilcockson men in Britain interested in Y-DNA testing, to see if this would prove or refute the theory that 1720 John Wilcockson was Quaker George's son.

RESOURCES

The starting date for the Wilcockson quest was the early 18th century, long before the start of civil registration and censuses. So the main sources available were:-

Sources For Biggin

Parish registers (PRs)/bishop's transcripts (BTs)

Original registers and microfilm copies are held at Derbyshire Record Office in Matlock (DRO), Bishops Transcripts at Lichfield Joint Record Office (Lichfield JRO). Biggin residents were parishioners of Wirksworth St Mary but the church was several miles away so Biggin Wilcocksons often used nearer churches, especially Kirk Ireton Holy Trinity and Atlow St Philip & St James. Limitations of these sources:

- Wirksworth PRs start only in 1608 (BTs from 1698); Kirk Ireton PRs start in 1572 and indicate when people are from Wirksworth, Duffield and Atlow, but sizeable sections in the early volumes are illegible or obscured (BTs start only in 1663). Atlow PRs do not start until 1682 (when BTs also start) - the first register entry is a Wilcockson suggesting the families used this church before 1682.
- Since we know that migrant George was a Quaker in 1719, we can theorise that other Biggin Wilcocksons were Quakers too. Since Quakers were separatists and didn't use parish churches from the 1650s onwards, there would inevitably be significant gaps for them in the local parish records.

Therefore, it was necessary to make use of alternative sources for Biggin, most importantly probate and property records.

Probate records

Locating probate records is often a research project in its own right.

- Derbyshire and Staffordshire were in Lichfield & Coventry (L&C) diocese so probate records (Wills and Administrations) up to 1858 are mostly held in the diocesan archives at Lichfield JRO.
- Images of L&C Consistory Court probates (but not those proved in Peculiars) are now accessible on Findmypast website.
- Some Wills and Administrations of L&C residents were also proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) in London.
- Images of the court copies of PCC Wills are now accessible at the Ancestry website (but not PCC administrations, still only obtainable from the National Archives).
- A few probates for L&C residents were proved at the Prerogative Court of York (for those who also had land or property in the Northern Province). These are held at the Borthwick Institute in York and are not available yet online.

To complicate matters when trying to track down John Wilcockson of Cossall, Nottinghamshire is in the Archdeaconry of Nottingham and Diocese of York. Records of most Wills/Admons proved in Nottingham Archdeaconry are now held at Notts Archives in Nottingham, but not all – Act Books (sometimes the only record available of a probate) are held & microfilmed at the Borthwick Institute in York and the complete collection of other ecclesiastical records for Nottingham Archdeaconry are held at Nottingham University Library Manuscripts & Special Collections.

These complicated sources were checked as thoroughly as possible for Derbyshire & Notts Wilcocksons. Limitations:

- Although probate records were very important to the Wilcockson research, the most important one, for John Wilcockson of Cossall in 1719, was only an administration. Other Wilcocksons and people they married also failed to leave full Wills, to such a degree that, along with evidence from other research projects, I have formulated the theory that dissenters, especially Quakers, often avoided Church of England probate courts, and the oaths they required, making alternative arrangements for transfer of assets to children (testing this theory could also make a historical research project!).

Property records

There are many forms of property records, including: deeds, notable family and estate records, rentals, land taxes, hearth tax, sales indentures etc. Property records of this kind held at DRO Matlock for the Biggin area were checked for Wilcocksons. However, the source that proved most vitally important to the quest was **Manorial Records**, specifically the **Court Books for Duffield Fee**,^{vii} thanks to a curious historical quirk in our favour.

Duffield Fee was a group of manors managed collectively under a Steward and Deputy Steward. The whole Fee was held by the Duchy of Lancaster until 1628. Its member manors were: Duffield, Alderwasley, Belper, Biggin, Hazelwood, Heage, Holbrook, Hulland, Idridgehay, Southwood, Turnditch and Windley. In 1628-9 Sir Edward Leche bought the Fee, except for Heage (sold to the Stanhopes) and Holbrook (sold to freeholders). Duffield Fee is also almost but not quite contiguous with Duffield Frith (frith=forest) which held forest courts similar to the manorial courts of the Fee. Inevitably, the two became confused even at the time, as any researcher of the area also quickly becomes. Records of Wilcocksons were found in both Frith and Fee records.

Duffield Fee's manorial records were stored by the Duchy, first at Tutbury Castle and nowadays at the National Archives. It was forbidden for local copies to be made and retained. Luckily for us, between 1595 and 1608, Anthony Bradshaw was Deputy Steward for Duffield Fee and he took it on himself to defy regulations and keep his own copies of court minutes (he was deprived of his job in 1608!). Bradshaw's minute books are held at DRO Matlock, therefore easily accessible. His son Exuperius, appointed Deputy Steward in 1615, continued the practice until sale of the Fee in 1628. The minutes kept of Fee courts by Stewards for the Leche family after 1628 are also held at DRO Matlock, under the same reference D1404.

So manorial records were a massive resource for Wilcockson research. Most important for my quest was a Surrender that Cossall John Wilcockson undertook in October 1712, arranging for money and property in Biggin to be transferred to his children^{viii}, a clear substitute for a normal Will. When he died in Cossall in 1719, there was no Will, and no burial was found (typically for a Quaker) so our only death record is the Administration granted to his wife at Nottingham Archdeaconry Court.^{ix}

The 1712 Surrender named Cossall John's wife Dorothy and all his children: John, Anne, Dorothy, Isaac, George and David. These names exactly correspond to the family identified by Scroggins from Staffordshire Quaker records. The 1719 Administration for Cossall John also named widow Dorothy's bondsmen John Wilcockson farmer of Biggin, Derbyshire and Isaac Wilcockson, clothworker of Cossall. The names match again and, what is more, offer another direct link back to Biggin.

Even without baptisms, marriages and burials for this family in PRs or BTs, Duffield Fee manorial records plus the few Wills and Administrations available gave solid proof of migrant George's family. They disproved Scroggins' theory that George's father John was born to Cheshire Quakers and strongly supported the theory that George's family origins were in Biggin, Derbyshire.

Sources for Quakers

There are few available sources for 17th century dissenters. Mostly this is because most dissenters then were Puritans who remained members of the Church of England, trying to purify it from within, so there were no separate records made. Then, between the Restoration in 1660 and 1689 (when the Toleration Act was passed), there was a period of severe persecution of dissenters, under a set of draconian laws collectively known as the Clarendon Code. Written records in those 29 years were evidence that could be used to prosecute and punish so mostly they were never created. The marked exception is Quaker records. Quakers were not fearful of prison or punishment. From the mid-1650s, they kept their records anyway, despite the risk, records that were frequently very detailed, a goldmine for present-day researchers.

On the other hand, they can be difficult to understand, especially when viewed online or on microfilm rather than in their original form.

The Quakers started out as independent groups meeting secretly in people's houses, often in remote locations that were hard for the law to reach and provided easy escape routes across county borders. The Quaker meetings at Leek and Morridge on the edge of the Staffordshire moorlands were two such, where Cossall John Wilcockson married Dorothy Hall and their children's births were recorded. Each meeting always kept its own records. However, as the movement grew rapidly in the 17th century, there was a need for more organisation so Quakers introduced a hierarchy of business meetings (held in addition to gatherings for worship):

Monthly meetings (locally held, once a month, sometimes with additional Preparative Meetings and Men's and Women's Meetings, each of which had different purposes.)

|
Quarterly meetings (held every three months, to which representatives of Monthly Meetings would send reps every quarter.)

|
Yearly meeting (held in London annually, which reps of Quarterly Meetings attended.)

Records of births (no baptisms were practised by Quakers), marriages and deaths/burials were kept in the most detail at local level. Summaries of those were sent through to the Quarterly Meetings, and the Quarterlies sent summaries through to the Yearly Meetings. Therefore, it is possible to find the same birth, marriage or burial recorded in three different sources! But the local (Monthly Meeting) level record is usually the most detailed. Also individual Certificates were often made and copies kept in archives too. Many of these records, at all three levels, have been microfilmed, up to 1837 at least (when the Public Record Office required all non-conformist registers to be submitted. They are now held at the National Archives at Kew). Most Quaker Quarterlies made at least summary copies of their registers before submitting them.

Meetings at all levels were also scrupulous in recording their other activities, including correspondence, accounts, records of migration, pre-marriage clearness certificates, disownings, recommendations to Meetings (at home and abroad) when members moved, and so on. You might start to wish all your ancestors were Quakers!

It may not be obvious, however, where particular archives are held. As the Quaker sect grew and scaled down again, Monthlies and Quarterlies were created and then dissolved, renamed or amalgamated, and they didn't necessarily conform to geographical boundaries. The national Friends House Library in Kings Cross, London and their website can tell you whereabouts records are held: (<https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/library>), as can the Quaker Family History Society: <http://www.qfhs.co.uk/>.

In Derbyshire, there were once a number of Monthly Meetings, including that held at Breach Farmhouse near Codnor in Heanor parish, where Wilcocksons were members. But later Derbyshire became part of the Notts & Derbyshire Quarterly meeting. All Quaker records for the two counties now form part of the extensive collection (ref. NC Q) at Notts Archives in Nottingham. A detailed paper catalogue exists for this, but no part of the collection is digitised and there is no specific index for it.

In addition to their own records, information about Quakers can be found in other archive sources:

- Quarter Sessions and Ecclesiastical Court records show Quakers being presented and punished for holding illegal meetings, non-attendance at parish church, causing disturbances and refusal to pay tithes or parish rates. Reprisals over tithes and rates continued until the end of the 18th century. There were imprisonments (and Quakers died in prison) and steep fines.
- The punishments experienced by Quakers were also recorded in Besse's Sufferings^x where more detail about individuals is often provided.
- Quakers included all classes but were predominantly middle-class, many of them prominent trades, banking and business people, so their personal, family and business records can provide a lot of detail.

Wilcocksons in Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Yorkshire Quaker records

With the starting point of migrant George's clearness certificate (issued by Breach Monthly Meeting) and his US marriage record which named his father as John of Cossall, Notts (only a few miles from Breach), I began exploring Quaker records on microfilm at Chesterfield Local Studies Library. These were very confusing because of the different levels of record-keeping as aforementioned but I found my first Wilcocksons there – marriages which later proved to be for two of migrant George's sibs (Anne and John).

Then I found out the full Derbyshire Quaker records were at Notts Archives and made several visits to trawl through them as much as possible. I also visited Staffs Archives in Stafford to gather the Quaker records for George's family that Scroggins had previously collected and to check none had been missed. The final repository I visited was Leeds University Brotherton Library where Yorkshire Quaker records are held.

In each case, the Quaker birth, marriage and death/burial records^{xi} were vital to the Wilcockson quest but even more so were **Monthly and Quarterly Meeting Minute Books**^{xii} – from these I was able to establish that Cossall John Wilcockson must have moved from his Biggin birthplace to Staffordshire in 1685-6. On 25 Feb 1685/6, he declared to Monyash Monthly Meeting his intention to marry Dorothy Hall of Morridge, and in 1686, the year they married, Leek MM recorded that John Wilcockson of Forde near Grindon, had been fined hay worth 6s and corn worth 9s, probably for non-payment of tithes. His name turns up in the minutes of **Staffordshire Area Monthly Meetings**

until 1711. From that date, he appears in the minutes of **Breach Monthly Meeting**, having probably moved straight to Cossall, rather than back to Biggin where his son John was settled at the family farm. His daughter Ann was resident in Cossall at the time of her Quaker marriage to Jonathan Green at Breach in 1713/14.

Cossall John disappears from Breach Monthly Meeting minutes around 1716 and his death in 1719 is not recorded. We only know of that from the 1719 Administration proved by his widow Dorothy in Nottingham.

Breach Minute Book also tells us that migrant George's brother Isaac travelled to the new world – and back again – as a certificate for travel to America was awarded to him in 1721 and he is later described as living again in Biggin.

Finding living Wilcocksons to Y-DNA test

Perhaps the most important Quaker records for the Wilcockson quest however were those held at Leeds University Library.

My final target was to locate living Wilcockson men who might undertake Y-DNA tests. From migrant George's family, the only brother to continue the surname in England was David (John had three daughters, Isaac either didn't marry or migrated to the US). I established that David married Yorkshire Quaker Alice Anderson in 1724 and Breach Minute Book recorded a reference to him being in Yorkshire afterwards. He settled with Alice at Kildwick and later Burnsall and had three sons. Crucially, **Knaresborough MM minute book**^{xiii} recorded the removal of David and his mother Dorothy from Breach to Skipton in 1723 and the clearness of David for marriage. Another piece of gold!

Quaker records in Yorkshire and online for Lancashire enabled me to trace David's descendants to the present day and to contact, with help of other researchers, two men who were willing to test, one of them being Steve Wilcockson the present Archdeacon of Doncaster. Both men descend from Quaker families in Lancashire, started by David's son Isaac who moved across the Pennines with his new wife Mary Gilpin in 1751.

The glorious moment came when the results of the two tests arrived showing the highest possible probability that they were matched to the US Boonie who had first contacted me (and paid the research expenses), the descendant of "1720 John" Wilcockson!! All three evidently belonged to the same family, and the only way that could be true was for migrant George to have been 1720 John's father. This discovery was only possible because of Quaker records, in both England and America – and the new tech of DNA testing. Through my continuing research into the Biggin Wilcocksons, I was also able to give the US Boonies an ancestry for 1720 John going back to the 1550s.

Afterword

The Wilcockson quest demonstrates how, when parish registers and probates - the standard sources for pre-1837 research – fail to provide information, there's a strong probability the family in question was non-conformist. Although records of dissenting faiths can be hard to locate, especially in the 17th century, when they do exist they often deliver a great deal more information than parish records. This is particularly true of Quakers and their meticulous attention to record-keeping at all levels of their hierarchy.

What remains now is to discover the link between the Quaker line of Biggin Wilcocksons and the Puritan family of William who migrated to New England in 1635.

Jane Wilcox theorises that Puritan William was born in Biggin, son of tanner William senior and his first, unknown, wife. She has traced tanner William's probable line, through manorial and legal records held at the National Archives in Kew, back to the early 16th century, and Wilcocksons in Biggin even further, to the early 15th century, but a shared ancestor for the different branches still eludes her.

Also, after many years of research by Jane plus a couple more by me, no direct documentary evidence has yet been found to prove definitively that the William Wilcockson who sailed on the Planter in 1635 was from Biggin, Derbyshire (only a mountain of indirect and circumstantial evidence heavily supporting Jane's theory). Nor have we located in the UK any living male descendants of tanner William to DNA-test and compare with those in the USA. But the quest goes on...

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APPENDIX QUAKER GEORGE'S ANCESTRY

There are so many Johns in this line that nicknames have been given to tell them apart.

Quaker George WILCOCKSON was born on 31 Dec 1695 in Staffordshire, son of John ["Cossall John"] WILCOCKSON and Dorothy HALL: "George WILCOCKSON son of John WILCOCKSON and Dorathy his Wife was born ye 31d day of ye tenth month 1695"). George emigrated to Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1718-19 and married Elizabeth POWELL, daughter of Welsh Quakers Rowland and Maud (Richard) POWELL, on 15 April 1719 in Haverford Meeting House.

Cossall John WILCOCKSON and Dorothy HALL married on 25 Apr 1686 at her father John's house in Morridge, Ipstones parish, Staffs: "John WILLCOCKSON did take to wife Dorothy HALL in a meeting at her father John HALL's house in Morridg in the presence of the Lord and in an assembly of his people being many witnesses, upon the 25th of the second month called April 1686". John and Dorothy had five other known children besides George: Ann [1687], John ("Biggin John") [1688], Dorothy [1690]; Isaac [1691] and David [1699].

Dorothy HALL was born 2 Feb 1655 at Morridge in Ipstones, Staffs, daughter of John HALL and his wife Ann. No burial has been found for her; she may have died in Yorkshire where she moved with son David in 1723.

No death or burial record for Cossall John has been found either, but there is a grant of administration of the estate of John WILCOCKSON of Cossall, Notts, made by the Nottingham Archdeaconry Court on 29 Apr 1719, to his widow Dorothy of Cossall, whose bondsmen were John WILLCOCKSON farmer of Biggin, Derbys & Isaac WILLCOCKSON clothworker of Cossall. The fact of John's family being resident in Cossall in 1719 ties them directly to Quaker George in America. No other WILCOCKSON events have been found in Cossall.

Cossall John WILCOCKSON is known to have been the son of another John WILCOCKSON ("Ould John"), firstly from the minutes of Monyash Monthly Meeting which record that Ould John did not initially support the planned marriage of Cossall John to Dorothy HALL. Ould John is described as living in Nether Biggin at that time (June 1686). Secondly, the Will of Ould John WILCOCKSON, proved 26 Apr 1695 leaves the same properties to his children, including a son John, as are described in the 1712 Duffield Fee surrender of that son Cossall John.

While these sources confirm that Cossall John was the son of Ould John, no birth or baptism has been definitely located for Cossall John in Quaker or Church of England records. There is no indication that Ould John was an early Quaker – he doesn't appear as a member in any Quaker records. There is a birth and a baptism at Kirk Ireton Holy Trinity (where many of the Biggin WILCOCKSONS' family events happened) which could be for Cossall John

- Birth 29 Aug 1657 of John WILCOCKSON son of John
- Bap 15 Jul 1660 of John WILCOCKSON son of John.

It is possible that these records relate to the same child, the 1657 birth recorded during the interregnum and a baptism perhaps delayed until July 1660, shortly after Charles II's

restoration. No burial has been found for an infant John 1657-1660. There is an additional complication arising from these birth/baptism dates.

A Duffield Fee surrender by George and Agnes WILCOCKSON dated 29 Sep 1653 of a property in Nether Biggin suggests that Ould John (George and Agnes's son) probably first married an Alice BAGNALL around that time, daughter of Ralph and Alice BAGNALL who had connections to Alstonefield, Staffs, though no marriage has been found.

In Kirk Ireton PRs, an Alice WILCOCKSON wife of John was buried 11 Sep 1657, less than two weeks after the birth recorded for John WILCOCKSON son of John. To my mind, this makes it possible that Cossall John WILCOCKSON was the son of Ould John and Alice (Bagnall) and that Alice died shortly after Cossall John's birth.

However, from Kirk Ireton PRs and Ould John's Will, we know that he had 4 more children from the early 1660s onwards and that his wife when he died was named Dorothy (we do not know anything more about her). Therefore it is still possible that Cossall John was born a few years later and was the son of second wife Dorothy rather than first wife Alice.

Ould John WILCOCKSON: We know from the Will of George WILCOCKSON proved 12 Apr 1661 plus Duffield Fee manor court records that Ould John was the son of George and his second wife Agnes MADDOCK, daughter of Robert MADDOCK, tanner of Wirksworth. There is a suitable baptism at Wirksworth St Mary church dated 28 Nov 1633 for John son of George WILCOCKSON. Ould John was the only son of George and Agnes; he had three older sisters, Elizabeth, Helen and Agnes. Ould John was buried on 31 Dec 1694 at Wirksworth St Mary.

George WILCOCKSON married twice: (1) to widow Catherine BONSOL [Bonsall] on 8 Dec 1608 at Wirksworth St Mary. George and Catherine had no children but with her previous husband Thomas BONSOL (who died c1603, probate of his estate granted to Catherine on 13 Sep 1604), she had 5 children who later engaged in legal disputes with stepfather George over property. Catherine was buried 12 Mar 1621/2 at Wirksworth and George remarried to (2) **Agnes MADDOCK** on 2 May 1622 at Wirksworth.

George was buried on 10 Mar 1660 at Wirksworth St Mary and his Will was proved at Derby on 12 Apr 1661, his son "Ould John" the executor. Agnes survived George and was buried on 9 Apr 1667 at Wirksworth.

George was born before the surviving parish registers at Wirksworth begin in 1608 and no baptism has been found for him at Kirk Ireton, but he was likely born about 1585. We know his parentage from manor records and probate documents. George was one of nine known children of **John WILCOCKSON and his wife Ann** (written as Amy in one document).

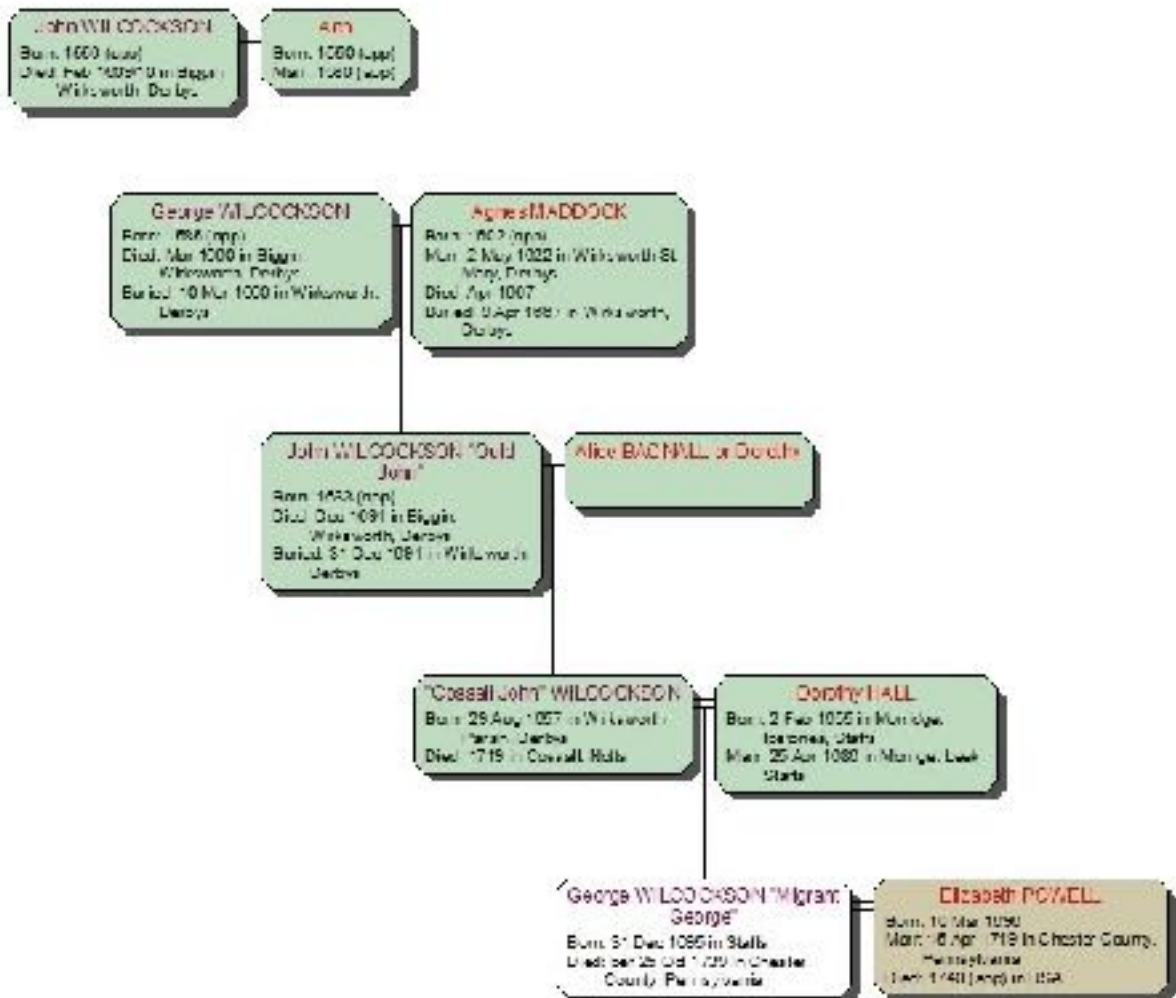
John WILCOCKSON was probably born about 1550 but his parentage is so far unknown, and we do not know how he relates to the other early WILCOCKSONs in Biggin. He died in February 1609/10 in Biggin (date and place known from the inventory of his goods; no burial found) and his Will was proved 24 May 1611 naming George as his eldest son to whom John had surrendered his copyhold lands.

Ann WILCOCKSON widow of John seems to have married twice more after John's death. She appears in Duffield Fee manor records as Ann STEYNES (1622) and as Ann WARD (1642), on both occasions referred to as the mother of the George WILCOCKSON married to Agnes. No burial has been found for Ann.

It is a curious fact that we haven't yet found information about any of George's eight younger sibs after they were mentioned in their father John's Will. Perhaps they moved with mother Ann away from Biggin when she remarried?

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NB: Full citations and transcriptions of the sources described above are available on request.



Endnotes

ⁱ William's group on the Planter consisted of his wife Margaret, son John, Ann Harvie, Richard Harvie, William & Mary Beardsley & their children Mary, John & Joseph. Jane Wilcox has set out evidence supporting the theory that Margaret Wilcockson, wife of William, was nee Harvie, as was Mary wife of William Beardsley, and that all four Harvies were natives of Ilkeston, Derbyshire. The origins of William Beardsley have not been identified though the name occurs in Ilkeston and around Biggin/Belper at the same time.

ⁱⁱ Minutes of Radnor Monthly Meeting, Men's Minutes 1718-33, film MR-Ph 538, p7-8, transcribed by Jane Wilcox at Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania.

ⁱⁱⁱ Jane E. Wilcox, *From England to America: The Odyssey of the William and Margaret Wilcockson Family*, (unpublished MS), 2013. Privately held by Jane E. Wilcox, Kingston, N.Y.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Staffs Monthly Meeting Births 1651-1762 ref RG6/1278, recorded from microfilm at Stafford Archives, original registers held at the National Archives.

^{vi} Cheshire & Staffs QM births 1648-1783 RG6/1035, accessible online at BMDRegisters and Ancestry.

^{vii} Derbyshire Record Office ref. D1404/1-62, Duffield Fee Court Books 1595-1935.

^{viii} Derbyshire Record Office ref. D1404/34 Duffield Fee Court Book July 1707-April 1722, Court of 30 Oct 1712

^{ix} Nottinghamshire Archives ref. PR/NW Admon/bond of John Wilcoxon of Cossall, yeoman, proved 13 May 1719

^x A Collection of the Sufferings of the people called Quakers... 1650-1689, by Joseph Besse (Society of Friends, 1753, London) – accessible in full online at www.archive.org.

^{xi} Notts & Derbys Summary Registers of Births 1632-1837; Marriages 1651-1837; Burials 1651-1837 (Notts Archives, ref. NC Q/463-465; Records of Staffs Area Meeting, previously Stafford Monthly Meeting, or Stafford and Leek or Staffs Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Staffs Record Office, ref. CPO1); Carlton Hill and Clifford Street Collections of Quaker Registers and other records (Leeds University Special Collections department of the Brotherton Library)

^{xii} Records of Staffs Area Meeting, *ibid*; Codnor (Breach) Monthly Meeting Minutes 1701-62 (Notts Archives, ref. NC Q/59); Monyash Monthly Meeting Minute Book 1672/3-1735 (Notts Archives, ref. NC Q/86).

^{xiii} Knaresborough Monthly Meeting Minute Book 1721-53 (Leeds University Brotherton Library, ref. A1.1)