

WHITE PAPER - CYAN 4
WILLIAM “T” VAUGHAN OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, VIRGINIA

It is more important to get the facts right than to be right.

Prior to reading this, please read:

White Paper Cyan 1 - Two James Vaughan

White Paper Cyan 2 - Two Alexander Vaughan

White Paper Cyan 3 - Joshua Vaughan

Note: This white paper is based upon research completed as of April 6, 2020. The conclusions may change if new DNA results or traditional research comes to light. For additional details, please see www.genealogyfacts.org.

Preface

My name is David Robertson. I have been actively researching genealogy for over 40 years. In the “bad old days” we did research the hard way. We looked through a few published books. There simply weren’t that many. Copy machines were few and far between and the costs to use them was very high. We had not even dreamed of fax machines, email, the Internet, personal computers, cell phone cameras, online searches, Ancestry, DNA and the like. (The cartoon character Dick Tracy had a wrist radio and even that was far fetched.)

Most of the time, we would look at something and write down what we found by hand! We passed along family tree research by hand written letters, but most often skipped the sources, quite frankly because cause few people actually had them. Once in awhile we might get to visit an archives and cram as much research as we could in way too little time. We made a lot of assumptions with far too little data to back them up. We developed a lot of theories, some of them well thought out, but a lot of them were simply rubbish. Some of that rubbish has been repeated over and over so many times that it is accepted as fact.

Today is a whole new world in genealogy, one we never dreamed of.

There have been many theories on William “T” Vaughan. I have had the luxury of seeing most all of them over the years. Lately, the prevailing wisdom is that he was b. about 1705 and was m. to Julia Green. This theory has simply been passed along more than the others, eventually drowning out the competition. If you hunt through Ancestry and the Genealogies tab of www.familysearch.org you will find many of them. Unfortunately, all are just theories and most of the content is just *ill informed* speculation — not fact.

Scope of research. I have done extensive research in the twenty some odd counties of Southside Virginia. This research is posted at: <https://www.genealogyfacts.org/>

The various files organized by county contain references to original records, almost all of which can be viewed at www.familysearch.org. [Matters in brackets are either notes or my thoughts]. The Vaughan Roster files make some minimal assumptions in an attempt to assemble records by person. The Vaughan Wiki files are my conclusions.

Preliminary Comments:

1. The “T” is not a middle initial. It comes from mark he used to sign documents. Accordingly, it is better form the refer to him as William “T” Vaughan and not William T. Vaughan.

2. Much information that has been passed around about him is totally and completely unsubstantiated. He has been proved by strong circumstantial evidence to be a member of Subgroup 5 Cyan Vaughan DNA Project. It appears that he is from Dinwiddie Co. as are virtually all of the members of Subgroup 5 Cyan Vaughan DNA Project. There are at least five William Vaughans living in Dinwiddie (Prince George) Co. abt. the time he may have been there. There is no clear evidence of (1) which one, if any, he may be; or (2) who his father or mother was.
3. Ancestry family trees, without *good* references, are not sources. They are conclusions passed from person to person. Some have been passed on so many times they are accepted as being true. Ancestry hints (“leaf”) are often very valuable and support some aspects of some family trees. But the family trees are opinions only. Unfortunately, Ancestry has no mechanism to correct or challenge these opinions. Far too many people accept them as gospel and adopt them without any further thought or research.
4. The vast majority of birth dates for people who died before 1850 are estimates. Whenever you see one, you will be wise to question how that date was determined. Even many complete dates as opposed to year only are not supported by any evidence whatsoever. *Worse yet, many cite the Bristol Parish Register for dates that do not appear therein. This is abject carelessness or outright intellectual dishonesty.*

Preliminary DNA Comments

What We Have Learned from yDNA about the Vaughan Family of Prince George County, Virginia

The eldest proven member of the FTDNA Vaughan DNA Project Cyan Group is Daniel Vaughan m. to Elizabeth. Daniel lived in Bristol Parish. There are others in early Bristol Parish records that we have no knowledge as to whether they are Cyan or Orange Group descendants. It would seem that Daniel’s father would have appeared in the earliest records if he had been there. At this time, we are presuming (famously and tragically often wrong) that Daniel is the progenitor most of the Cyan Group. However, he may have had siblings. We will adjust our assumptions when needed. *We have not found any evidence of any member of the Cyan Group originating from anywhere other than Prince George Co.* [One kit in the Cyan Group is from a completely separate line from the British Isles and traces back to the border between England and Wales. Three kits in the group have a greater genetic distance from the others and share three out of four genetic markers among them. All three of them trace to early Brunswick Co., Virginia. All of the rest have a close genetic distance to each other.

Back in the “bad ole days” before DNA we had it all figured out. William Vaughan d. in Charles City Co., VA. He had seven sons who were in Prince George Co., VA which was formed out of Charles City Co. Dinwiddie Co., VA, Amelia Co. and Nottoway Co. were later formed out of Prince George Co. The area was loaded with Vaughans that looked like they all descended from William Vaughan of Charles City Co. It all fit so nicely. yDNA from FTDNA has shattered our naivete.

This writing is an attempt to summarize what we know from traditional genealogy research as further illuminated by yDNA. There are now clearly *at least five* known Vaughan families mixed together in the above defined area.

Family 1: Several members of the FTDNA Vaughan DNA Project that are descendants of Nicholas Vaughan have been tested and are found to be within the *new* Group 11A Orange. Others in the 11A group are very close in relation. This means that William Vaughan of Charles City Co. *and all of his descendants must be orange coded.* This also means that *none* of the 05 Cyan Group descend from William Vaughan. Most if not all of Group 05 Cyan members are of the second Vaughan Family.

Family 2: Now there is another member of the Group 11B Orange that proves back to Salathiel Vaughan and has significant number of descendants in Dinwiddie Co. Unfortunately, the genetic distance to proven Nicholas Vaughan descendants is at least 4 at 37 markers. This statistically points to Salathiel Vaughan *not* being a descendant of William Vaughan of Charles City Co., hence we have a third Vaughan Family. Admittedly, it is very remotely possible, *but not very likely*, that Salathiel Vaughan is a descendant of William.

Family 3: Cyan families from Dinwiddie Co.

Family 4: Three Cyan FTDNA members from Brunswick Co.

Family 5: William Vaughan, of Bristol Parish, who m. Priscilla _____ and who later settled in present day Greensville Co., VA is from yet another DNA branch that has yet to be assigned a color.

Assumptions

One key fact is that white males were taxed in Virginia starting when they are 16 to 21 years old. The age differs slightly from time to time and from county to county. Someone 21 years and older usually paid for the males between 16 and 20 years old. One key assumption is that when males first appear in tax digests they were b. between 16 and 21 years earlier. Likewise, if a person male or female appears in a deed, it is assumed they were born at least 21 years earlier.

Contrarian Questions

1. Please review the following table from Bristol Parish. How is it that of all these William Vaughan, someone decided his wife was Julia, much less *Mary Julia Green*? Why were the others excluded?
2. Many family trees shows William "T" Vaughan with several children b. before 1742. At that time Bristol Parish encompassed all of Dinwiddie Co. Why did he not appear in Bristol Parish with children's birth records?

What We *DO* Know

Bristol Parish records of Prince George Co. (and later Dinwiddie Co.) are an incredible resources. Bristol Parish was formed in 1643. Bath Parish was split off from Bristol Parish in 1742. Dinwiddie was originally comprised of Bristol Parish and Bath Parish.

The following table identifies six different Williams that could *possibly* be William "T". Only one, the husband of Priscilla can be *absolutely* eliminated as he settled in Brunswick Co. (later Greensville Co.) when it was formed. Please note that *none* of the known children of William "T" conclusively appear on this list. (Discussion continued below the table.)

**DINWIDDIE COUNTY
VAUGHAN FAMILY
Bristol Parish Register
Sorted by Father and Date**

FATHER	MOTHER	CHILD	SEX	DATE
In this Time Frame Prior to 1735 Bristol Parish Covered Present Day Prince George, Amelia, Dinwiddie, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties (and Perhaps a Small Part of Brunswick County)				
WILLIAM VAUGHAN	ANN	ELIZABETH	DAU	14 SEP 1721
WILLIAM VAUGHAN	PRISCILLA	PEARCE	SON	15 MAR 1722
		WILLIAM	SON	05 AUG 1724
		JAMES	SON	06 MAR 1725
		SUSANNAH	DAU	25 DEC 1727
		MARY	DAU	12 NOV 1732
WILLIAM VAUGHAN	JULIA	JANE Negro belonging to WILLIAM, SR.		25 NOV 1724
		SIPIO M. slave of WILLIAM VAUGHAN & JULIA		31 DEC 1726
		PETER M. slave of WILLIAM VAUGHAN & JULIA		14 FEB 1734
WILLIAM VAUGHAN	MABLE	ABIGAL	DAU	15 JAN 1729
		CALEB	SON	25 JAN 1731
		ABNER	SON	25 FEB 1733
		MABLE	DAU	12 JAN 1740
Family Groups Known to Be in Amelia County/Raleigh Parish. Both Isham and Robert Were in Amelia County Very Shortly after it Was Formed and Likely Were There When it Was Still Part of Prince George County				
WILLIAM VAUGHAN	Not found			

**DINWIDDIE COUNTY
VAUGHAN FAMILY
Bristol Parish Register
Sorted by Father and Date**

Family Groups Left after Amelia County/Raleigh Parish Split off in 1735 Includes All of Present Day Dinwiddie County. During this Time, All Residents of Amelia County Would Drop off of the Bristol Parish Register. Bristol Parish Would Include All of Dinwiddie County.				
WILLIAM VAUGHAN	MARY	ANNE	DAU	7 JAN 1735
		ANNE	DAU	20 JAN 1741/2
Family Groups Left after Bath Parish Split off in 1742. Includes Eastern Side of Present Day Dinwiddie County. Bristol Parish Was Reduced to a Relatively Small Area up Close to Petersburg. The Lion's Share of Residents of Dinwiddie County Would No Longer Be in Bristol Parish. The Approximate Boundary of Bristol Parish Started on the Appomattox River Just West of Petersburg; Thence in a Straight Line to Roughly the Mouth of Butterwood Cr. at Stony Creek; Thence down Stony Creek to the Sussex County Line; Thence to the Prince George County Line; Thence to and Including the Portions of the City of Peterburg That Fall Within Prince George County.				
WILLIAM VAUGHAN	ELINOR	MARY	DAU	26 JUL 1752
Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne, <i>The Vestry Book and Register of Bristol Parish, Virginia, 1720-1789</i>				

Sometimes, what you *don't* find is very instructive. None of the known children of William "T" appear in the birth register. We have already established that the Cyan Group of Vaughan *all* appear to come from Dinwiddie Co. So where is he and his family? The answer lies in the formation of Bath Parish in 1742. The only logical conclusion is that he lived in the area that became Bath Parish, and his children were b. after Bath Parish was formed in 1742.

William "T" Vaughan first appears in Lunenburg Co. receiving a patent in 1756 for 400 acres on Buffalo Creek (in present day Mecklenburg Co. In 1764 he paid tithes in Lunenburg Co. for himself and his two eldest sons John and James. That would have meant his sons were 16 years old. Assuming the eldest was let's say 18 years old and he was m. at abt. 18-25 years old. He would have been b. abt. 1821-1828. We know he was m. to Mildridge by 1778 (Mecklenburg County, Virginia Deed Book 5, page 211).

He paid personal 1782-1785 and his estate paid personal taxes in 1786. He paid land taxes 1782-85 and his estate paid land taxes 1787-1790. His widow Mildridge (or her estate) paid land taxes 1790-1806.

Thanks to (1) the Wills of William "T" Vaughan and his widow Mildridge; and (2) Mecklenburg County, Virginia Deed Book 7, page 263, we know the names of his children and most of their spouses.

The children

Millicent Vaughan, m. Zachariah Overby. He first appears in deed records in 1765 (Mecklenburg County, Virginia Deed Book 1, page 150).

Ann "Nanny" Vaughan, m. Richard Gregory. Richard Gregory first appears in Halifax Co., Va. in 1764 in Order Book 4.

John Vaughan, b. bef. 1748, d. 1813, m. Amelia Jones, dau. of John Jones, Sr.

Sarah Vaughan, m. Ambrose Gregory, son of Mildridge. Ambrose first appears in 1770 in Halifax Co., Va. (VA Halifax DB 08.152)

James Vaughan [Slave Jacob], b. bef. 1748. James had sons William and Sterling over 16 by 1787.

Peter Vaughan, b. aft. 1748 and bef. 1775. He first appears in deed records in 1769 (Mecklenburg County, Virginia Deed Book 2, page 342).

Samuel Vaughan, b. aft. 1748 and bef. 1771, d. Feb 1798 Washington County, Ky., m. Prudence Claiborn/Clay Hood

Molly Vaughan, m. Winkfield Hayes, b. bef. 1757. He first appears in deed records in 1778 (Mecklenburg County, Virginia Deed Book 5, page 192).

Milly Vaughan, m. David Chandler, b. bef. 1756. He first appears in deed records in 1777 (Mecklenburg County, Virginia Deed Book 5, page 154).

Elizabeth Vaughan, m. Peter Overby, b. bef. 1748. There is more than one Peter Overby in Mecklenburg Co. It is not possible to find his first deed with complete certainty. He does appear to have witnessed a deed in 1769 (Mecklenburg County, Virginia Deed Book 2, page 342).

Nothing herein points to William Vaughan having any children before the mid to late 1740s.

William names Mary Sizemore in his will, but does not set forth any relationship.

See Mecklenburg County, Virginia Will Book 2, page 149; and Mecklenburg County, Virginia Deed Book 7, page 263.

Building on What We Know

Adjusting Birth Dates

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Critically Important Side Studies

Two James Vaughans

There are two James Vaughans, likely first cousins. They lived right on top of each other in Mecklenburg Co. The Two James Vaughans article proves (1) which James is the son of William "T" Vaughan; and (2) which James is the genetic match discussed in the Two Alexander Vaughan article. Please see Two James Vaughan article for more details.

The Two Alexander Vaughans

There are a two Alexander Vaughan that are a genetic match to each other. The father of the younger Alexander Vaughan is James Vaughan, who is abt. the same age as the elder Alexander Vaughan. Analysis of the traditional and DNA data leads to the conclusion that their common ancestor is Joshua Vaughan, son of Daniel Vaughan of Dinwiddie Co. Please see Two Alexander Vaughan article for more details.

Joshua Vaughan

Joshua Vaughan is a bit of an enigma. Joshua Vaughan was b. in Dinwiddie Co. (Bristol Parish Register, b. 14 Dec 1722), the son of Daniel Vaughan and his wife Elizabeth. Joshua married to Sarah _____. They had a son James b. in 1745 and a son Jesse, baptized in 1751. In 1765, he was granted 400 acres on both sides of Sanson's Fork of Horsepen Creek (present day Charlotte Co.) (VA PB 36.855). This was near Abraham Vaughan (Orange DNA Group). In 1777, he sold the 400 acres and his wife Sarah released her dower rights (VA Charlotte DB 04.038). Also in 1777, he purchased 100 acres on Little Buffalo Cr. near William "T." Vaughan (Cyan DNA Group)(Mecklenburg County, Virginia Deed Book 5, page 116). The seller was James Wilkins. James Vaughan (discussed in the Two Alexander Vaughan article) married a daughter of James Wilkins. She d. and he married another daughter of James Wilkins. Joshua sold the land in 1784 and his wife Sarah released her dower rights (Mecklenburg County, Virginia Deed Book 6, page 417). Then he leaves Mecklenburg Co. to parts unknown.

There are a few deeds of a Joshua Vaughan in Columbia County, Georgia in and around the same time as Alexander Vaughan lived in the vicinity. Whether or not this is the same Joshua Vaughan from Virginia is open to debate. There are later deeds in Columbia Co. by a Joshua Vaughan as well as by Daniel Vaughan, known son of Alexander Vaughan.

3 Dec 1793. Joshua Vaughan and Theodore Dorsett witnessed a deed from James Ross and his wife Ann Ross to Benjamin Bledsoe for 200 acres on both sides of Little Kioka Cr. for £100 (where Bledsoe now lives). Originally granted Martin Weatherford 15 Mar 1771. Recorded 14 Mar 1796. Columbia County, Ga. Deed Book C.160.

1 Nov 1796. Joshua Vaughan deeded to Robert Crawford 15 acres on Little Kioka Cr. adjacent D. Harris, J. Vaughan (himself?) R. Crawford & B. Bledsoe for sh5. Witnesses: Zach. Sinquefield, A. Crawford, J.P. Recorded 1 Apr 1797. Columbia County, Ga. Deed Book D.57.

Note: None of the names on the two preceding deeds jump off the page as being associated with the Vaughan family in Virginia.

Additional Sources

Extensive additional Vaughan research covering Southside Virginia up to 1850 is posted at: <https://www.genealogyfacts.org/> . Please feel free to contact me with any questions. David Robertson.

Lastly, I want extend an enormous thank you and acknowledge the huge help I have received from Chuck Vaughan. We talk regularly and his input as been invaluable. Chuck moderates a private Facebook Group for Vaughan researchers. Drop him an email (Chuck Vaughan <hobby1964pw@yahoo.com>), if you would like to join.

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