

Men Named Jacob and Jeremiah Meek

By Christopher A. Meek

The purpose of this article is to identify men named Jacob Meek and Jeremiah Meek born before 1785 and who lived in the United States. It is also the purpose of this paper to discuss what appear to be an unlikely number of men named Jacob and Jeremiah Meek in a relatively small area of the country between 1770 and 1800. Some of these men are unidentified with little information pointing to where they came from or who their relatives were.

One cannot address men named Jacob Meek without also looking at men named Jeremiah Meek and vice versa. Where a man named Jacob Meek is found one will usually find a man named Jeremiah Meek. There were actually very few known men named Jacob Meek and Jeremiah Meek born before 1785. There are eight identified men name Jacob Meek with known families (Chart 1) and 11 references to unidentified men named Jacob in various records (Chart 2). There are seven identified men name Jeremiah Meek with known families (Chart 3) and eight references to unidentified men named Jeremiah in various records (Chart 4).

This article has been significantly revised since its initial writing. The purpose of this is to include new information, correct errors and remove unnecessary speculation.

This article is based on research from different sources, which is probably fairly comprehensive but not necessarily complete. It is based on reference to actual records and does not include undocumented genealogies. Jacob Meek, son of Adam Meek of Lincolnshire is acknowledged but not include. There is no evidence that he was ever in America or had any particular children¹. This article will not speculate on the children of Jacob (1) or Jeremiah (3). Both of them could be one of the other men on the list but there is no way to prove that at this point in time.

The new information included in this update is (1) a documented connection between Basil Meek born 1740, John Meek born 1754 and Jacob Meek born 1755². They were all brothers who lived in S. W. Pennsylvania; (2) The Meek/Meeks Family Y-DNA Project³ and (3) refined research on the Meek families in Cumberland and Pulaski Counties in Kentucky⁴.

The DNA project includes five ancestors named Jacob Meek and five ancestors named Jeremiah. The results show that these 10 men are in two groups of unrelated Meek families. This includes adding Jeremiah (1) of Westmoreland Co., PA to the Allegheny Co., PA family of Basil (Y1), John (Y2) and Jacob (4). The DNA results also places Jacob (9) and Jeremiah (7) from Blount Co., TN in a different unrelated family from Washington Co., PA that includes Jacob (5) son of Samuel and Jeremiah (6) son of Nathaniel.

¹ [The Progenitor Myth](#), August 25, 2001, by Christopher A. Meek

² [The Meek/Meeks Family of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Kentucky](#), July 4, 2007 by Christopher A. Meek

³ <http://meekdna.com>

⁴ [The Meek/Meeks Family of Tennessee and Arkansas](#), May 19, 2008, by Christopher A. Meek

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The DNA project uses Y-DNA to reveal if any two living men (usually of the same surname) share a common ancestor. By using genealogical information it is possible to identify that common ancestor. By extension one can then ascertain which of the various Meek ancestors that are known to have lived in the early United States were related. DNA by itself does not reveal who a common ancestor was or when he lived.

Genealogical research has identified a number of men named Meek or Meeks living in The United States before, during and after the Revolutionary War⁵. A significant number of those ancestors have verified descendants who have been DNA tested. The DNA project has divided early U. S. Meek(s) ancestors into five major groups with a few individual ancestors not yet in a group. A few ancestors do not yet have a representative in the DNA project. Combined with genealogical research it is known that most men named Jacob Meek and Jeremiah Meek born before 1785 fall into two of those DNA groups as well as the untested Guy Meek family of Anne Arundel Co., MD. Both of the two tested groups were found in S. W. Pennsylvania during the period 1770 to 1800.

Group A includes the men who lived in Allegheny Co., PA and Westmoreland Co., PA. In 1772 Joshua Meek born 1732, John Meek born 1754 and Jacob Meek born 1755 settled in the area of Montour Run, Moon TWP, Allegheny Co., PA⁶. About 1780 Basil Meek born 1740 serving in the Virginia Army was stationed at nearby Ft. Pitt. Genealogical evidence strongly suggests that Basil, John and Jacob were brothers. DNA testing supports that conclusion. It is not known how Joshua Meek born 1732 was related.

Jeremiah Meek sold land next to Jacob in Allegheny County on May 1, 1779. He is believed to be the same person who died in Westmoreland County in 1782. Living next to Jeremiah in Westmoreland County was John Meek, Joshua Meek and Jeremiah Meek Jr. according to deed records. These three men are presumed to be sons or otherwise closely related to Jeremiah. Joshua is not the same person who lived in Allegheny County at the same time. A descendant of Joshua has been tested showing a connection to DNA Group A. Although the genealogical connection is weak the older Jeremiah is also placed in Group A. This could possibly prove to be untrue.

There are five major ancestors who lived in Washington Co., PA represented in the DNA Project Group B. They are Samuel b: 1732, Isaac b: 1746, Nathaniel b: unk, Basil b: 1763 and Elisha b: 1765. The relationship between these men is unknown but they were related due to matching DNA. These men along with those in DNA Group A account for most of the men named Meek living in S. W. Pennsylvania and Ohio Co., VA from 1780 to 1800.⁷ The exceptions are Robert Meek born 1732 (DNA Group E) and a small number of unidentified men in the 1783 tax lists.⁸

It is from this pool of men that many of the identified men named Jacob and Jeremiah Meek and their relatives are found. With the exception of two men in Maryland the remainder of men with these names are found in east Tennessee and the Kentucky/Middle Tennessee border.

⁵ The Meek/Meeks Family of the United States, Sept 27, 2009, by Christopher A. Meek

⁶ The Meek/Meeks Family of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Kentucky, July 4, 2007 by Christopher A. Meek

⁷ Early Meek Settlers of S. W. Pennsylvania, July 17, 2004 by Christopher A. Meek

⁸ *ibid*

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The list of men named Jacob Meek and Jeremiah Meek that are documented include some men where genealogical information is available and some men where the name appears in a single record. Those with genealogical information might include a proven father, proven children or both. The former are labeled “Identified” men and the latter are labeled “unidentified” men. Chart 1 lists identified men named Jacob Meek.

Chart 1 – Identified men named Jacob Meek(s) born before 1785

- (1) **Jacob Meek** b: 1717, a son of Guy Meek and Dorothy Cubby. Children Unknown/No DNA
- (3) **Jacob Meek** b: 1755, brother of John b: 1754. (MD>PA>KY>IN) DNA Group A
- (4) **Jacob Meeks** b: about 1760, son of Walter Meeks. (Pitt Co., NC in 1800) DNA Group B3*
- (5) **Jacob Meek** b: 1760, son of Samuel. (PA>OH) DNA Group B
Son: Jacob b: 1813
- (6) **Jacob Meek** b: 1784, son of Isaac Meek b: 1746 (PA>OH) DNA Group B
- (7) **Jacob Meek** b: about 1760. (Henry Co., KY>TN) DNA Group B
- (8) **Jacob Meek** b: btw 1780-90, son of Jacob Meek b: 1760 (TN>?) DNA Group B
- (9) **Jacob (Blue Jacob) Meek** b: about 1764. (Blount Co., TN>AR>TX) No DNA
Son: Jacob b: 1823

*DNA Group B3 is distantly related to Group B and should not be considered related for this analysis.

With the exception of Jacob Meek born 1717 and Jacob Meek of Blount Co., TN all of the identified men named Jacob Meek have descendants who have been DNA tested or they have a genealogical connection to someone tested. A proven descendant of the Guy Meek extended family has not been found. When one is found he may or may not match one of the existing DNA Groups.

Guy Meek was a third generation Maryland resident who had documented sons named Isaac born 1710, Nathan born 1715 and Jacob born 1717⁹. Early Meek genealogists assigned two other men as sons who fall into DNA Group C. In addition Guy's son Jacob born 1717 was assigned the same set of sons assigned to Jacob Meek born 1698 in England. Those sons include some ancestor from both DNA Group A and DNA Group B. There is no evidence that Jacob born 1698 ever came to America or had any particular children¹⁰. As a result those early genealogies are considered incorrect. With questionable genealogies and three DNA groups involved it is not possible to know which group or even if one of those groups includes Guy Meek.

Jacob Meeks (4) descends from John Meeks born about 1700¹¹. This family was from Pitt Co., NC and other than a common ancestor probably before 1500 this Jacob or his Meeks family is not closely related to Group B. There has never been any genealogical evidence or even speculation that Group B3 ancestors were connected to Group B ancestors. Were it not for the DNA project it would not be known that there was a connection between the two groups. Jacob Meeks (4) resided in Pitt Co., NC about 1800 and therefore was not likely one of the men in Tennessee or Kentucky. Of the remaining men only Jacob (3) is

⁹ On Meek Families, 1967 by Joseph L. Meek, unpublished

¹⁰ The Progenitor Myth, August 25, 2001, by Christopher A. Meek

¹¹ Generally accepted but unproven genealogies

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not in Group B of the DNA project. Jacob (3) was born 1755 in Anne Arundel Co., MD. He resided in Allegheny Co., PA, Henry Co., KY and Wayne Co., IN¹².

The remaining 5 men named Jacob Meek included two from S. W. Pennsylvania, A father and son from Henry Co., TN and one from Blount Co., TN. Early settlers of Washington Co., PA included Samuel (Y7), Isaac (Y6) and Nathaniel (Y3). Samuel and Isaac's sons went to Ohio. Nathaniel's son accompanied him to Pulaski Co., KY. Nathaniel as well as Basil (Y4) born 1763 resided in Pulaski Co., PA from 1798 to about 1816. Both are in DNA Group B. This is a major fact impacting the remainder of the analysis.

Jacob (7) was born about 1760 and died in Henry Co., TN in 1824. His sons Jacob (8) and Jeremiah (8) were also in Henry Co., TN in 1824. Jacob (9) is found in Blount Co., TN in 1796. His whereabouts are unknown until 1830 and by the early 1830's he is in Carroll Co., AR.

With the exception of one man in Maryland all of the unidentified men named Jacob Meek were also located in S. W. Pennsylvania, the area around Pulaski Co., KY and Blount Co., TN.

Chart 2 – Unidentified men named Jacob born before 1785*

(A) **Jacob Meek** of Somerset Co., MD 9 May 1771 sells one acre. Wife Sarah mentioned. Children Unknown

East Tennessee

(B) **Jacob Meek**– 1784 petition NC-E. TN

(C) **Jacob Meek**– Blount County Jury 1795-96

(D) **Jacob Meek** – 1796 marriage bond of John Roberts

South West Pennsylvania

(E) **Jacob Meek** 1783 tax list Bethlehem TWP, Washington Co., PA (Not a son of Samuel)

(F) **Jacob Meek** 1783 tax list Tyrone TWP, Westmoreland Co., PA

1800 Cumberland Co., KY Census (from 1799 Tax List South of Cumberland River)

(G) **Jacob Meek** Sr. over 21 – Spring Creek, Cumberland River

(H) **Jacob Meek** Jr. over 21 – Smith Creek, Cumberland River

Pulaski Co., KY tax records 1801-1805

(I) **Jacob Meek** 1802-1805 (Not a son of Nathaniel or Basil b: 1763)

Tennessee

(J) **Jacob Meek** 1805 & 1811 deed record in Overton Co., TN

(K) **Jacob Meek** 1811-1816 deed record in Bledsoe Co., TN

Note: Jacob Wm. Meek signed marriage bond for Nathaniel's son Richard in Henry Co., KY in 1818.

Jacob (A) lived in Maryland in 1771 and his wife was named Sarah. Nothing else is known about him, including his date of birth, parents, children, associates or what happened to him.

¹² The Meek/Meeks Family of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Kentucky, July 4, 2007 by Christopher A. Meek

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The three records in Blount Co., TN are presumed to be Jacob (9) due to his subsequent association with Jeremiah (7), John Robert and the Blevins family as documented in the 1830 census of Cape Girardeau, MO and early Carroll Co., AR tax records.

Jacob (E) lived in the same township of Washington Co., PA near other Group B men. Jacob (F) lived in the same township of Westmoreland Co., PA where a man named Isaac Meek who is unidentified previously lived. There is nothing else known about these two men named Jacob. However, it is worth noting that it is not believed that they are duplicated in other records. The Kentucky records will be discussed later.

The following are identified men named Jeremiah Meek.

Chart 3 – Identified men named Jeremiah Meek(s) born before 1785

- (1) **Jeremiah Meek** probate dated 2 Oct 1783 Westmoreland Co., PA DNA Group A
- (3) **Jeremiah Meek** b: 1740??., son of Joshua in the Guy Meek line. (Will dated 1790 MD)

- (4) **Jeremiah Meek** b: 1776, son of John b: 1755 (PA>KY>IN) DNA Group A
- (5) **Jeremiah Lee Meek** b: 1780 son of Jacob b: 1755 (PA>KY>IN) DNA Group A

- (6) **Jeremiah Meek** b: 1776, son of Nathan Meek (PA>KY>IN) DNA Group B
- (7) **Jeremiah Meek** b: 1771-1780 Married Betsy Blevins in 1802. DNA Group B
(Blount Co., TN>AR>TX) (AKA Shotgun Jerry)
Son Jeremiah born 1815
- (8) **Jeremiah T. Meek** b: 1788 (s/o Jacob Meek b: 1760) DNA Group B
Son Jacob Amasa Meek born 1811

Jeremiah (1) lived in Westmoreland Co., PA next to Joshua, John and Jeremiah Jr. according to deed records. While there is very little hard evidence about him he is believed to be the father of the three men who lived next to him. A descendant of Joshua is in DNA Group A. Jeremiah is believed to be the same person who sold land in Allegheny Co., PA next to Jacob (4) also in Group A. Since he lived and died in Westmoreland Co., PA he could not have been any of the men in Tennessee as suggested by several early authors.

Jeremiah (3) appears to have lived in and died in Anne Arundel Co., MD¹³. His will leave the impression that he was unmarried and without children. Again we have a descendant of Guy Meek in our list of men named Jacob and Jeremiah Meek.

Jeremiah (4) and Jeremiah (5) were sons of DNA Group A ancestors John (Y2) born 1754 and Jacob (4) born 1755. They resided in Pennsylvania, Henry Co., KY and Indiana. Again, some early authors placed these two men in Tennessee which is not correct. Jeremiah (6), the son of Nathaniel, moved to Pulaski Co., KY and then Indiana.

Jeremiah (7) lived in Blount Co., TN up to about 1802 and is believed to be a brother or closely related to Jacob (9). Like Jacob (9) his whereabouts are unknown until he shows up in Carroll Co., AR in the early 1830's. Jeremiah (8) was the son of Jacob (7). He also

¹³ On Meek Families, 1967 by Joseph L. Meek, unpublished

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moved from Henry Co., TN to Carroll Co., AR and has frequently been confused with Jeremiah (7). These two men are both in DNA Group B.

Following are unidentified men named Jeremiah Meek.

Chart 4 – Unidentified men named Jeremiah Meek(s) born before 1785

(A) **Jeremiah Meek** b: - married Sarah Lee 1731 MD.

(B) **Jeremiah Meek**– 20 May 1773 deed 100 acres on Garmore Creek, Broad River. 1 Dec 1778 on 35 days military service. 17 Sep 1784 Broad River, note on military pay.

(C) **Jeremiah Meek**– 1787 Grant No. 2014 400 acres on Lick Creek, Holston River. 10 Sep 1796 Greene Co., TN Deed Book #6, p 117 sells 400 acres on Lick Creek. Of Blount County.

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(D) **Jeremiah Meek** possible son of Jeremiah (1) lived next to Jeremiah (1). (Likely son of Jeremiah (1))

(E) **Jeremiah Meek** 1783 tax list of Washington Co., PA Bethlehem TWP

1800 Cumberland Co., KY Census (from 1799 Tax List South of Cumberland River)

(F) **Jeremiah Meek** 1 male over 21; **1 Male 16/21**; on Smith Creek

Also listed (7) Jacob Meek b: 1760 died Henry Co., TN and second man named Jacob.

Pulaski Co., KY tax records 1801-1805

(G) **Jeremiah Meek** 1801-1811 (Goose Creek)

(H) **Jeremiah Meek Jr.** 1802-1804 (King Creek/White Oak Creek)

Jeremiah (A) is known only from a single marriage record in Parish records from Anne Arundel Co., MD dated 1731. He may have been born before 1715 and possibly earlier. As far as can be determined he does not show up in other records of Anne Arundel County. Several early authors have claimed who his descendants were. However, there is no hard evidence that would allow one to know that information.

Chart 5 - Other men of interest

DNA Group A

(Y1) **Basil Meek** born 1740 in MD. Resided Washington Co., PA, York Co., SC and Henry Co., KY. 1805 sell land on Garmore Creek, Broad River.

(Y2) **John Meek** born 1754 died in 1803 Henry Co., KY. Brother of Jacob (D)

(Y5) **Joshua Meek** born 1731 Resided in Allegheny Co., PA

Son Jeremiah born 1804

DNA Group B

(Y3) **Nathan Meek** 1783 Washington Co., PA>Pulaski Co., KY>Indiana

(Y4) **Basil Meek** born 1763 Clark Co., KY>Pulaski Co., KY>Indiana*

(Y6) **Isaac Meek** from Washington Co., PA. 1773 and 1783 tax list.

(Y3), (Y4) and (Y6) are related by DNA

(Y7) **Samuel Meek** 1783 Washington Co., PA.

*Basil b: 1763 may not have been in Washington Co., PA but was associated with Nathaniel.

The above table of other Meek men of interest from the previous version shows that those men also fall into the same two DNA groups. There is no single progenitor identified for

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either group. While some of the relationships are known for Group A as described earlier, the relationship between the men of Group B is unknown.

Following is a brief discussion of the records from different areas that will hopefully provide a meaningful perspective on how the unidentified men might be evaluated.

South Carolina

Basil Meek (Y1) was born 1740 in Maryland¹⁴. He was the brother of John (Y2) and Jacob (4) born 1755 and he is in DNA Group A. He served in the Revolutionary War and was Ft Pitt about 1780. However, he owned land in York Co., SC as early as 1770. A deed record dated 19 Jun 1770 conveys land on Garnmore Creek, north of the Broad River to Basil Meek. He sells his land in 1805 according to deed records and moves to Henry Co., KY. His known sons were John and Jesse.

Jeremiah Meek (B) lived near Basil Meek (Y1). A deed record dated 20 May 1773 conveys land on Garnmore Creek to Jeremiah Meek. There is no clear record concerning what happened to this Jeremiah Meek. Garnmore Creek is near Bullock's Creek where the Meek families from Cecil Co., MD resided in York Co., SC. There is a 1 Dec 1778 record on 35 days military service. The last known record of this Jeremiah on the Broad River was a note on military pay dated 17 Sep 1784.

Contrary to many claims it is not known who this Jeremiah was. He could not have been a son of Basil based on Basil's date of birth of 1740. Jeremiah was an adult by 1752-1755 based on the 1773 deed record.

Jacob Meek (B) signed a petition in 1784 in East Tennessee. (Actual location unknown.)

Previous researchers suggested a connection between these three men¹⁵ and suggested that they came from Maryland. They also suggested that they were connected to the Meeks in Blount Co., TN. Basil is the only one who is documented to have come from Maryland or who has any record before or after South Carolina. Although the early researcher lumped Jacob (B) with Basil (Y1) and Jeremiah (B) there is no proof that any man named Jacob Meek lived in South or North Carolina at that time.

If Jeremiah (B) moved into Blount Co., TN in 1787 and was related to the other men in Blount County it is known through DNA that he could not have been related to Basil Meek. In any event that issue remains an open question. There is no proof what happened to Jeremiah (B) after South Carolina. However, an East Tennessee connection is a reasonable hypothesis to pursue.

East Tennessee

Jeremiah (C) is mentioned in Greene Co. TN County Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term Minutes 1784, Page 25 involving a law suit. In the Nov Term Jeremiah Meek served

¹⁴ The Meek/Meeks Family of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Kentucky, July 4, 2007 by Christopher A. Meek

¹⁵ 14 Jul 1965 letter from Joseph L. Meek to John Rider both significant Meek researchers

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on a jury. A person named Jeremiah Meek received land grant #2014 in 1787 for 400 acres on Lick Creek, Holston River. He sold his land 10 Sep 1796 according to the Greene Co., TN Deed Book #6. The deed indicates that he was a resident of Blount Co., TN.

Jeremiah's 1796 deed was witnessed by James Swagerty. The marriage bond of James Swagerty and Delilah Meek was signed in Greene Co., TN on 30 Aug 1796. James married Delilah Meek 6 Sep 1796 according marriage records. It is not known who Delilah's father was but she was born 5 Apr 1773 according to Swagerty bible records¹⁶.

Jacob (Blue Jacob) Meek (9) was born about 1764. He was listed in court records for Blount Co., TN in 1795. He is likely the Jacob Meek who signed the petition in 1782, served on a jury in 1795 and signed the marriage bond John Roberts in 1796 (B, C & D). He was reported in the 1830 census of Cape Giraudoux Co., MO living near John Roberts and several Blevins. They all lived in Carroll Co., AR a couple of years later based on tax records.

Jeremiah (Shotgun Jerry) Meek (7) was born between 1771 and 1779. He married Betsy Blevins in Blount County in 1802 according to marriage records. He was reported in the early 1830's tax records of Carroll Co., AR.

Jeremiah (7) from Blount Co., TN appears to have been too young to be Jeremiah (B) in York Co., SC or Jeremiah (C) in 1787 Tennessee land grant. Thus it appears that there have been two men named Jeremiah in Blount Co., TN about 1800 along with one man named Jacob. A reasonable hypothesis is that the older Jeremiah was the father of the younger Jeremiah and Jacob. However, this is not proven.

It should be noted that there is no hard evidence that Shotgun Jerry Meek and Blue Jacob Meek who lived in Carroll Co., AR came from Blount Co., TN. The absence of records between 1802 and 1830 make a positive identification difficult. However the totality of evidence strongly points in that direction. All of Jacob and Jeremiah's children were born in Tennessee. The Meek families of Blount Co., TN were closely associated with the Blevins, Standridge and Roberts family in both Blount Co., TN and Carroll Co., AR. In addition there is no known alternative group of Meeks who could have been the two Meeks in Carroll County. In fact it would be suspicious if there were yet another set of men named Jacob and Jeremiah Meek.

Cumberland Co., KY

Land grants south of the Green River became available 1797. In order to receive a grant the person must be 18 years old and lived on the land for one year¹⁷. Jeremiah Meek (F) enters land August 25, 1798 for Certificate #772 on Smiths Creek. This land adjoins Jacob Meek (H). Jeremiah assigns this entry to Edward Beck on January 14, 1799. Dave Roberson enters land on Spring Creek on August 25, 1798 for Certificate #687. On October 26, 1799 he assigns Certificate #687 to Jacob Meek (G). Jeremiah, Jacob and

¹⁶ AncestralJournals.com by Iris Teta Eubank Wagner

¹⁷ Find source

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Jacob Jr. (H) are listed in the 1799 tax roll of Cumberland Co., KY and also the 1800 census which was established using the 1799 tax roll.

Jacob Meek (7) of Henry Co., TN was born about 1760. He died in 1824 in Henry Co., TN. His probate record names his wife and children. From this it can be determined that he was the same person in an 1813 Knox County court records which shows that Jacob and his children lived in Bledsoe Co., TN. The Cumberland County Jacob (G) officially transferred his land on **Spring Creek** in Cumberland Co., KY in 1816. That deed says he was from Bledsoe County. Therefore it is likely that Jacob (7) of Henry Co., TN was the same person as Jacob (G) in Cumberland Co., KY and Jacob (K) in Bledsoe Co., TN. He may also be Jacob (J) in Overton Co., TN deed records although Jacob's son (8) cannot be excluded. Overton Co., TN was just a couple of miles from Jacob's land which was 12 miles south of modern day Albany, Clinton Co., KY.

Jacob Meek (8) (son of Jacob (7/G)) was born between 1780 and 1789. It is possible that this Jacob was 18 years old and thus old enough to own land in 1799. There is insufficient data to prove the matter. However, it is a reasonable hypothesis. (Note: the tax records use the terms Sr. and Jr. but it is not possible to determine from land records which one lived on Smith Creek and which one lived on Spring Creek. That information could nullify the hypothesis above.)

Jeremiah Meek (F) would have been born before 1780 if he were 18 in 1798. He is listed in the Cumberland Co., KY 1799 tax list with a male age 16-21. That might suggest that he was much older. It is unlikely that he could be the son of Jacob (7/G). Jacob's son was born about 1788. There is no known record to connect this person to an identified ancestor. His land on **Smith Creek** joined that of Jacob Meek.

One should be mindful of the fact that the Jacob and Jeremiah of Blount Co., TN drop out of sight after 1802. Because of the overlapping dates as well as the distance involved it is unlikely that they moved back and forth between Blount Co., TN and Cumberland Co., KY. All of their children were reported in census records to have been born in Tennessee after 1800. There is nothing in the records to support their presence in Cumberland County or Pulaski County. However it is noted that DNA results for Jeremiah (7) AKA Shotgun Jerry suggests that he was more closely related to Nathaniel Meek in Pulaski County than he was to Jacob (7/G) of Cumberland County.

Pulaski Co., KY

Jacob Meek (I) was listed in tax records from 1802 to 1805.

Jeremiah Meek (G) was listed in tax records from 1802 to 1811 on Goose Creek.

Jeremiah Meek Jr. (H) was listed in tax records from 1801 to 1805 on King Creek AKA White Oak Creek. Certificate #132 for 289 acres on Kings Creek granted on June 24, 1801. (King Creek became White Oak Creek.)

There is no data to connect them to any known ancestor or any person in other records. There are no genealogies concerning these men known to this author. It is known that Nathaniel (Y3) from Washington Co., PA and Basil born 1763 (Y4) received land grants in Pulaski County on the same date that Jeremiah and Jeremiah Jr. received grants.

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Jeremiah Meek (G) entered land on June 23, 1801 and was granted Certificate #104. Jeremiah Meek Jr. (H) entered land on June 24, 1801 and was granted Certificate #132. If the requirements of the land grants were followed they were in Pulaski Co., KY by June 1800. These men are distinguished from Jeremiah (6) son of Nathaniel due to subsequent records which identify him as “Jeremiah son of Nathan” which appears along side of records for Jeremiah (G) and Jeremiah (H).

Jacob Meek and wife Mary witnessed an assignment of land to Nathan Meek on August 14, 1800. Jacob appears in the tax records in 1802 but it is unclear if he received a grant there. The wife of Jacob (7/G) from Cumberland Co., KY was named Mary. It is possible that there were two different men named Jacob with wives named Mary. When one factors in the DNA results that show some sort of relationship between Nathaniel and Jacob (7/G) the case for one Jacob and Mary becomes somewhat stronger. The fact that Jacob (7/G) has not officially sold his land in Cumberland County is a negative point but does not invalidate the hypothesis because title were frequently not recorded for years after the transfer. It is known that Jacob later lived in Bledsoe Co., TN for a period of time before the transfer is recorded.

Jeremiah (F) assigns his land in Cumberland County to Edward Beck on January 14, 1799. He was also taxed on that land in 1799. Again, the 1800 census of Cumberland County was based on the 1799 tax list. Jeremiah (F) cannot be placed in Cumberland County after 1799. It seems a reasonable hypothesis that Jeremiah (F) from Cumberland County moved to nearby Pulaski County after he sells his land in 1799.

It is not known what happened to the other Jacob (H) in Cumberland County unless he was in fact the son of Jacob (7/G) in which case he followed his father eventually living in Henry Co., TN. The absence of this Jacob in Pulaski County records does not invalidate the hypothesis that Jacob and Jeremiah moved there from Cumberland County.

Jeremiah Meek Jr. (H) in Pulaski County appears to have become ill or moved away. There are no records of anyone paying the taxes for his property from 1805-1808 but he obviously still owned the land because Jacob Meek was recognized as Attorney-In-Fact for Jeremiah Jr. It still seems unlikely that Jeremiah (H) was the son of Jacob (7/G). Jacob son would not have been 18 years old in 1801. However the possibility cannot be excluded. It is more likely that he was the son of Jeremiah Sr. (G) in Pulaski County and was listed as 16 to 21 in the 1799 tax list of Cumberland Co., KY living with Jeremiah (F) who is believed to have moved to Pulaski County. Again uncertainty about this person does not in validate the hypothesis that Jacob and Jeremiah moved to Pulaski County.

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The 1783 tax list of Mt. Pleasant TWP, Westmoreland Co., PA lists John Meek. Deed records suggest that John, Jeremiah (1), Jeremiah (D) as well as Joshua Meek lived adjacent to each other. There is reason to believe that Joshua also lived in Washington County. Jeremiah died in 1782 and Joshua moved to Ohio. Nothing is known about John and Jeremiah Jr. A descendant of Joshua was DNA tested and is in Group A.

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Jacob (F) in Tyrone Township is a mystery. Because the name Jacob fits in either Group A or Group B he could belong to either group or be totally unrelated to everyone else in the area. An unidentified man named Isaac Meek was listed in the 1773 tax list of Tyrone Township.

Jeremiah Meek (E) was listed in the 1783 tax list Morgan TWP, Washington Co., PA. **Jacob Meek (E)** was listed in the 1783 tax list Bethlehem TWP, Washington Co., PA. This area which includes part of modern day Greene Co., PA was also inhabited by Samuel Meek and his adult sons as well as Nathaniel Meek. Sons of the other Meek men in Washington County have been accounted for in the records. Samuel's son moved to Ohio.

Proximity does not prove a relationship as is evidenced by the fact that there were two unrelated families living in the same general area of S. W. Pennsylvania identified as DNA groups A and B. The DNA project also demonstrates that naming patterns also do not prove a relationship. Yet both items should not be ignored and are reasonable clues to be explored in the search for genealogical connections.

One cannot ignore the fact that Nathaniel left Washington Co., PA shortly after 1795 and ends up in Pulaski Co., KY in the same area close to where Jacob (7/G) lived. Whether Jacob is the same man in Pulaski County or just lived in Cumberland County he was related to Nathaniel according to the DNA results.

One also cannot ignore the fact that Nathaniel lived near a man named Jacob Meek (E) in Washington Co., PA. That Jacob dropped out the Washington County records after 1783 and there was no other known person named Jacob Meek in subsequent records that could be that person except the men listed in this article as unidentified who lived in Kentucky or Tennessee.

Given the small number of men named Jacob Meek born before 1785 found in the records it is a reasonable hypothesis that Jacob (E) in the 1783 tax list of Washington Co., PA is the same man as Jacob (7/G) in Cumberland Co., KY. A daughter of Jacob (7/G) has an 1880 census record that says her father was born in Pennsylvania. It is not known who the informant was or what he might have known. In fact Jacob may not have been born in Pennsylvania. It is an unusual record in that this was a predominantly southern family. That daughter may have known that her father was from Pennsylvania.

If that is a reasonable hypothesis then it is equally possible that the Jeremiah Meek (F) who lived near Jacob in Cumberland County also came from Washington Co., PA.

Nathaniel (Y3) and the two unidentified men named Jacob and Jeremiah did not appear to have owned land in Washington Co., PA. Basil may not even have been in Washington County. There is the appearance of a group of people joining relatives in Washington County but never really getting settled down so that they left a significant foot print. They may well have left for the Cumberland Settlement where land was becoming available south of the Green River.

Men Named Jacob and Jeremiah Meek

Summary

In sorting out the unidentified men named Jacob and Jeremiah Meek several hypothesis have been suggested. It is acknowledged that none of them can be proven at this point in time. Some hypotheses are more compelling than others and definitive proof will continue to be elusive given the lack of records. However, some additional evidence may eventually be found.

Jeremiah who sold land in 1796 Blount Co., TN was older and the father of Jeremiah who married Betsy Blevins and Jacob who signed John Roberts' marriage bond.
The younger Jeremiah and Jacob are the same men who settled in Carroll Co., AR.

Jeremiah and Jacob of Cumberland Co., KY were the same men in Pulaski Co., KY.

Jeremiah and Jacob of Washington Co., PA were the same men in Cumberland and Pulaski Counties of Kentucky.

If part or all of these hypotheses are correct it eliminates some of the unidentified men named Jacob Meek and Jeremiah Meek. If none of them are true then there were too many men named Jeremiah and Jacob in a relatively small area. As to the ultimate progenitor of the Group B Meek families there is no evidence that his name was either Jacob Meek or Jeremiah Meek.

This analysis would not be possible without a comprehensive understanding of most or all Meek families in the United States as well as an understanding of the history of Meek genealogy with all its flaws. The DNA project played a tremendous roll in not only in defining broader families but eliminating many possibilities. Even then an analysis such as this could only be attempted because the number of men named Jacob and Jeremiah Meek was so small as to limit the possibilities. Finally one must not be distracted by the horrendous number of undocumented and inaccurate genealogies that continually muddy the view of the truth.

In conclusion, if one does nothing more than use charts 1 through 4 to understand the universe of men named Jacob and Jeremiah before 1785 this article will be a success. One should not assume that any hypothesis in this article is true. The purpose of genealogy to prove hypothesis not repeat them as fact. This article has been revised and will be revised again. Anything written here will surely change and become outdated as time passes. If the reader does not get this article from the author they might assume that it is outdated. That is a good rule when viewing any genealogical information.

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