

Bray Family

A **William Poe** in Chatham County was married to **Elizabeth Bray**, daughter of **Henry Bray**. It appears that William Poe who married Elizabeth Bray is part of a group that migrated to the Siler City, NC area from Culpeper County, VA and is probably more closely aligned with the family of William Poe and wife Lydia who left Caroline County for Culpeper County in 1737.

From a Newsgroup Post.

1677 - 25 June to 26 July on "Increase" from London to New England.

1684 - 20 August to 1st Sept on "Hound" London to **Maryland**.

1684 - 26-30 Sept on "Love" London to **Maryland**.

1685 - 9 July to 1 Sept on "Hind" London to Virginia.

1685 - 26 Sept 24 Oct on "Love" London to **Maryland**, spelled Henry Braye

1685 - June 2 **Henry Bray of London, Glazier** age 40.

Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1684-89. page 465

The humble petition of **Henry Bray** citizen and glazier of London
Most humbly sheweth,.
Henry Bray's petition.

That Nicholas Painter of Ann Arrundell County petition. in the Province aforesaid being possessed of a certain plantation in the said County with a very considerable, stock of Tobaccos, Negroes, household goods and other goods and commodityes thereon being, and of several, debts amounting in all to a very considerable value, and alsoe being seized, off and in severall parcells of land lyeing in divers Counties in the Province aforesaid, did in or about the moneth of Aprill 1684. transport himself to London That the said Nicholas, Painter at his departure from **Maryland** constituted Coll. William Burgess his Attorney, and entrusted him with his sd esestate.

That on the eighth of September **1684** the said **Nicholas Painter** made his last will and Testament in London and thereof appointed your Lds Petitioner (his neere relation sole executor and in a few daies after imbarqued himself for Maryland, and immediately after his arrivall there dyed. That the said Nicholas Painter dureing his continuance at London became indebted to your Petitioner a considerable summe of money upon Bond, and alsoe to divers other persons severall greate summes of money, That the said Coll. Burges (without any law

full authority) not only deteines the goods and Estate of the said Nicholas Painter which wee comitted to him as aforesaid, but hath alsoe possessed himself of 15. able servants, and a considerable quantity of goods and merchandizes, which the said Painter transported with him and likewise of a parcell of goods belonging to your Petitioner.etc.

Virginia Court Records Order Book Abstracts of Lancaster Virginia 1666-1669

11 November 1668

In appearing to this court, that **Robert Bray** stands indepted unto **Richard Bray** in sixteen pounds Sterl. and 404 lb of tob: & ca: p Acct. It is ordered that ye same bee forthwth: paide wth: costs

... that **Robert Bray** stands indebted unto William Richardson in 1800 lb of sweete sented tob: & ca: 20 lb sterl. Bill. It is ordered that ye same bee forthwth: paid wth costs.

... that **Robert Bray** stands indebted unto Francys Seloe in 14341 lb of tob. & ca: p Bill & Acct. It is ordered that ye same be forthwth: paide wth: costs

12 May 1669

Peter Magne beinge arrested to this cort at ye suite of **Richard Bray** for 590 lb of sweete sented tobaccoe & ca: for not appeareing for whose appearance DNC: Therrytott was ingaged, order accordinge to Acte is granted agt ye sde. Therryott

(Old) Rappahannock County, Virginia Order Book 1689-1693. Sparacio.

p.241

Order is granted to Richard Willis as marrying the Exectrix of **Richard Bray**.

Fauquier County Co. VA Marriage Bonds

William Bragg to Nancy **Bray** 8 May 1803 Bond: Timothy Brady

Maryland Calendar of Wills, Volume 4, page 15

Pierce Bray, Pocomoke, Somerset Co.,

14th Oct., 1713

4th June, 1714.

To Jno. White and Archibald White, orphans of Archibald White of this Co., 62 A., part of "Corke."

" **son Edward** and hrs., residue of lands. **2 daus., Mary and Martha**, to live with him.

" wife and 3 child. afsd., personal estate.
Exs.: Wife and son afsd.
Test: Jno. Henry, Wm. Jones, Sarah Marshall, Robert Nairne.
13. 711.

MARYLAND CALENDAR OF WILLS, Volume 4, PG 154

Edward Bray, 'Of Pocomoke, Somerset Co.,
5th May, 1716;
28th Feb., 1717.

Testator desires that 62 A. be made over to his bros., John and Archibald White,
by his **sister Mary Bray**, in accordance with will of testator's father.

" bros. John and Archibald White and to William (son of sd. Archibald),
personalty.

" sister **Martha Bray**, all personalty left testator by his **father, Pierce Bray**,
above legacies excepted.

" sister Mary Bray, extx., real estate.

Test: David Ritchie,
Henry Scholfield,
James **Bratten**, Jr. 14. 571.

NC-11

17 June, 1790

[Will of Henry Bray](#), dated 17 June, 1790 - no probate date.
Chatham Co., NC, Record of Estates, pg. 4b, 5
NC State Archives film # C.002.500

In the Name of God amen I Henry Bray of the County Chatham and State
North carolina being weak and inform of Body but of perfect mind and
memory thanks be God Calling to mind the mortality of my Body and
knowing that it is appointed once for all men to die do make and ordain
this my last Will and Testament, that is to say, principally and first
of all I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God that
gave it and my Body I recommend to the earth to be burried in a decent
christian Burial at the discession of my Executor and as touching such
worldly Estate wherewith it has please god to bless me in this life I
give and dispose in the following manner_____

Item I give and bequeath to **Mary Bray** my dearly beloved wife one Bed
and furniture and her Saddle as her own property and the third part of
all the rest of my household goods Chattles and moveable Estate as her
own property and the use of my home Plantation so long as she continues
to be my widow or as long as she pleases to live thereon except she
marries__

Item I give and bequeath to my **son Edward Bray** the sum of Twenty

Shillings to him and his Heirs forever; ____ Item I give and bequeath to my **son Henry Bray** my Land and all the remaining two thirds of my Estate with his paying out of my Estate the sum of five pounds to each of my Daughters Vix. Sarah **Ramsour**, Mary **Johnson**, Catharine **Jones** & **Elizabeth Poe**) to him & his heirs forever_ I hereby constitute make and ordain my **Son Henry Bray** Sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament and I do hereby utterly disallow revoke and disannull all and every other former Testaments, Wills, Legaces, bequests and Executors by me in any wise before named willed and Bequeathed ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this seventeenth day June one Thousand seven hundred and ninety
Signed Seal'd and pronounced
in presence of
Thos Ragland
Henry Bray Signed Henry (his "H" mark) Bray {Seal}

A Copy Test
John Ramsey C.C.

[Morgan County, Indiana Notes on Poe and Bray](#)

Selected messages from newsgroups

Genforum Posts

In addition to the Henry Brays that have already been mentioned I have found the following;

All are for a Henry Bray.

1677 - 25 June to 26 July on "Increase" from London to New England.

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Hope this may help someone narrow down an ancestor. Glenn Longest Bray
By Dava Sanders Woodard

Henry Bray b1738 (1720-1738 ?) is my gt gt gt grandfather.

He signed the Patriots Oath in Wash.Co.,Md

was drafted in the Rev War but served a very short time; discharged as unfit for duty.

He died abt 1798 in Nelson Co., KY.

John Bray b1761 m2 Elizabeth ? Coonies from the Patriot Index, DAR, is his son & my gt gt grandfather.

For more then 32 years, I have tried to discover how the early Bray's in VA & MD could poss. fit together.

A lot of circumstantial evidence but nothing solid.

The Henry Bray Quaker line who left the **Northern Neck of VA for NC, then later to IN**, were supposedly closely related to my Bray's from correspondence with former Congressman Bray of Indiana.

My NOTE: Indiana Bray of 1820 Census.

**Orange County Indiana
1820 Federal Census**

Head of Household		Males	Females	Occupation
BRAY	Henry	120010	42010	0300
BRAY	Edward	100010	10100	0100
BRAY	Abijah	100100	10100	0100
BRAY	John	200010	31010	0100
BRAY SR.	Henry	000001	01111	0100

For years I corresponded with Edna Reece, Fisher River, NC Bray's & Mrs. Mason (Peggy) Bray, her husband descended from William Bray in MD 1680's to Pasquotank Co., NC to AL.

That elusive Bray connection was not found.

I enjoy reading the Bray Forum, hopefully somebody will uncover that record to solve this puzzle.

Dava Sanders Woodard, granddaughter of David Bray, Del City, OK

Posted by: [James W. Bray](#)**Date:** March 27, 2001 at 14:39:15

In Reply to: [Re: Descendants of Henry Bray \(1741-1812\)](#) by dee Reynolds

This is what I have in my database for Mathias D. Bray: b. 1817, Chatham Co., NC d. 18 Sept 1863, Richmond, VA

Spouse: Mary "Polly" 8 Aug 1839

Children: Sarah Ann Bray. This Mathias is listed as the son of Harmon Bray. Trouble is: lots of Mathias's and lots of Henrys.

Posted by: [Jacquie Hoggard](#) **Date:** December 02, 2001 at 19:18:04

In Reply to: [Re: Descendants of Henry Bray \(1741-1812\)](#) by John Turpin

John, I've been trying to trace these NC Brays down since about 1978, and have yet to prove who the parents of James Bray, b. 1798, Chatham Co., N.C., m. Sarah Edwards, ca. 1824, were.

Their oldest child, Samuel, b. Nov., 1824, was my great grandfather,

and unfortunately, none of his descendants thought to ask him who his grandparents were! He was about 10 years old when he, his parents, and his 4 brothers migrated, about 1834, to **Indiana**.

From there, other children were born, and some of them went with their parents, James and Sarah, to Missouri. Again, some of the "children," including Samuel and his children, remained there in DeKalb Co., and the parents and younger children went on to Labette Co., Ks., where James and Sarah lived until the 1880's. Have managed to tie most of the children together, and the grandchildren, etc., down to my own line.

But I still cannot prove my James' parentage, though I think James Sr. and Anne Welch were his parents. There were other Brays of about the same age, who lived in **Chatham** and **Randolph** Co. in the late 1790's to mid-1850's, who were not **named in the wills of the brothers of James Sr.; William, Henry, John, Mathias, Solomon (who deserted his family about 1817 and went to TN), Edward** who is believed to have died single with no issue, **Eli**, and **Jesse**, and the logical conclusion is that they were James Sr.'s children as well, though proof seems not to exist.

James Sr.'s & Anne's son, Henry, md. Isabel Edwards on a marriage bond that named him as "son of James," and Richard Bray Paschal, son of James' and Anne's daughter, Nancy, inherited his entire estate.

Those are the only children who can be proven as James' and Anne's children. The 1820 census, however, shows they had a very large family, so the other Brays of records, later census "heads of household," etc. - Isaac, Matthew, Eli, Elijah, Elisha, James, etc., not listed in those other Bray wills could very well have been James' & Anne's children.

Posted by: [John Turpin](#) **Date:** December 02, 2001 at 19:42:03

In Reply to: [Re: Descendants of Henry Bray \(1741-1812\)](#) by Jacquie Hoggard

There was a Henry Bray in early North Carolina days who married a Nancy Wilson...Found in LDS Library Files. There is another Henry Bray in early Virginia who had a batch of children and they all left for the wild west...**Indiana** and **Ohio**.