

# **The Fatal Flaw in White Protestant Supremacy: DNA Evidence Suggests Jamestown, Virginia Was Founded And Settled By Persons of Jewish Ancestry**

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The British colony at Jamestown Virginia has long been an ideological touchstone for the political doctrine of White Protestant Supremacy in the United States. The triumph of the Jamestown settlers over the challenges of Native attacks, harsh physical conditions and inadequate provisions is seen as evidence of the innate superiority of these initial settlers. The present research challenges this foundational assumption by examining the ethnic origins of the Jamestown Colony organizers and settlers using genealogical DNA methods and global DNA databases. These data indicate that the majority were likely of Jewish ethnicity, both Sephardic (Spanish) and Ashkenazic (Eastern European).

The study traces the origin of these persons to the Jews brought to England from Normandy in 1066 by William I and proposes that a crypto-Jewish community was present in England from 1290 onward.

**Keywords: Jamestown Colony, Virginia Company, Genealogical DNA, Jewish Ethnicity, White Supremacy, Crypto-Jews**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

For many Americans, the English settlement at Jamestown serves as a potent symbol of White Protestant America; it signifies the Anglo-Saxon spirit to overcome difficult challenges, to establish a 'civilization in the wilderness' (Horn 2005). Indeed, the settlement remains so deeply embedded in the American national consciousness that any attempt to question current beliefs about its origins will likely face a wall of skepticism. Revisionist efforts are further stymied by the lack of physical remnants from the colony's early years. Although archaeological excavation has revealed some of the early wooden structures and a few skeletal remains, there are sparse personal documents, religious relics or items of apparel or weaponry remaining to help us understand the lifestyle of the early colonists (Kelly 2018). In their stead we have layers of convenient ideological assumptions that these early settlers were of stalwart British stock and Protestant in their religious beliefs.

The present research challenges these assumptions using a novel source of historically-relevant evidence -- genealogical ancestry tracing coupled with large-scale ethnic, regional and national DNA databases. Analysis of these data suggests that **the majority of the Jamestown Colony organizers and colonists were of Jewish ancestry**. In fact, data from several recently-published DNA studies indicate that a large swath of colonial-era North American colonists, both British and French, were of Jewish ancestry (see e.g., Hirschman, Vance and Harris 2018, 2019a,b, Hirschman 2021 a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h)

### **The History of Jamestown and the History of the Colonization of North America**

Examining the current scholarly literature regarding the Jamestown Colony provides a useful starting point. Since 2005, three document-based histories have been written about Jamestown: James Horn's *A Land as God Made It* (2005), Benjamin Woolley's *Savage Kingdom* (2007), and most recently, Joseph Kelly's *Marooned* (2018). Each provides a detailed review of existing documentation regarding the origins, persons, and events surrounding the Jamestown venture. And therein lies the major problem. Their comparisons, analogies and analyses are all based on documents – the historians' stock in trade. Yet as is well-recognized in the present era of 'fake news,' documents may not tell the entire truth of a given matter; indeed they may not even tell a partial truth or any truth at all.

As mentioned above, a series of recent studies based on genealogical DNA and using publicly accessible data bases indicates that most of North America from the 1500s to the 1700s was settled by persons

of Jewish ancestry (see Hirschman, Vance and Harris 2018, 2019a, 2019; Hirschman 2021 a-h). This may seem impossible, but in fact the findings are a direct extension of earlier research into the settling of South America, Central America, Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. Based upon a socio-cultural phenomenon termed **crypto-Judaism**, these studies have found that the majority of Spanish and Portuguese colonists in the New World were of Jewish ancestry, but had publicly presented themselves as Christian ( Alexy 2003, Benbassa 2000, Brockman 2021, Carvajal-Carmona et al 2000, Gotlitz 2002, Halevy 2009, Jacobs 2002, Kunin 2009, Liegman 2002, Mundill 2010, Samuel 2004, Socolovsky 2003, Tobias 1992). Many of these colonists passed on knowledge of their religious heritage to their children. When genealogical DNA testing became available in the early 2000s, their modern-day descendants sent in samples to see if they were in fact of Jewish ancestry. Most learned that they are, and some have altered their religious affiliation as a result (Halevy 2009).

Since the Spanish also had early settlements in what became British North America, studies were next directed toward populations in the United States to see if some Spanish Jewish (Sephardic) ancestry might be present there, as well. These populations included the Lumbee Indian Tribe in North Carolina, The Central Appalachian/Watauga Settlement in Appalachia and the Plymouth-Mayflower Colony in Massachusetts (Hirschman Vance and Harris 2018, 2019a, 2019b). The same pattern was found in these three sites, as well; that is the colonists for whom reliable DNA data were available were of Jewish ancestry. But in each of the sites not only Sephardic but also Ashkenazic (Eastern European) Jewish DNA was found as well. This was an important new discovery, for the existence of crypto-Judaism was generally believed to have occurred only among the Iberian Jews. Where could these Ashkenazic Jewish lineages have come from?

### **The Arrival of Jews in Britain**

Recent research has shown that Jews may have arrived in the British Isles as early as the fourth century BCE when Carthage was sending ships to Gaul and may have been establishing mining ventures in Wales (see Hirschman 2021 "Wales"). Some Middle Eastern DNA among the southern Welsh population is unique within Britain and may have come from this time period (Hirschman 2021 "Wales"). A later possible source of Semitic DNA in southern Wales is the Roman colony which was present from 47 CE to 453 CE (Hirschman 2021 "Wales").

However, by far the strongest likely source of Jews in Britain is the Norman Invasion of 1066 during which William I brought with him a large group of Jewish merchants and their families to assist in the mercantile and financial development of his newly conquered territory (Jacobs 1998).

These Jews would have been of Ashkenazic ancestry having migrated into Northern France and the Rhineland from Italy and the Middle East after the fall of Rome (Jacobs 1903, Golb 1998, Graetz 1891 [www.encyclopedia Judaica.com](http://www.encyclopedia Judaica.com)). A study just published on the Massachusetts Bay/New England Colony (Hirschman 2021 "New England") provides detailed background on these Jews and the likely public conversion to Christianity by several of the families over the time period from 1066 to 1290. As noted in that study, if these families converted publicly to Christianity while privately maintaining their Jewish identity they could have established a network of mutual support much as has been found among the Iberian crypto-Jewish population.

This would enable them to organize and finance large-scale colonization efforts and insure that the colonists were of the same ancestry. This pattern is also what the DNA data suggest occurred in the Mayflower/Plymouth Colony, the Roanoke/Lumbee Colony, the Massachusetts Bay/New England Colony (Hirschman Vance and Harris 2018,2019a,b) and, as will be described below, in the Jamestown Colony. This same pattern was also found among the Huguenot and Acadian French colonists in Canada (Hirschman 2021, "French Canada"), the Texas Old 300 Colony led by Stephen F. Austin in the early 1800s (Hirschman 2021, "Texas"), and the Ulster Scots/Northern Irish who immigrated to North America during the 1700s and settled in Appalachia (Hirschman 2021, "Scotland").

### **Onward to Jamestown**

Flowing from this series of prior studies, the present research proposes that the Jamestown venture also was planned, financed and settled primarily by persons of Jewish ancestry. The data will show that some of their ancestral lines had been present in England since the Norman Invasion of 1066, while others arrived in England and Wales as refugees from the Spanish and Portuguese expulsion of Jews in the late 1400s and early 1500s. Although England 'officially' banned Jews in 1290, there are numerous records indicating the presence of Sephardic Jews in the Sceptered Realm, especially during the long reign of Elizabeth I (Jacobs 1893, 1903, Samuel 2004). Often they entered under the guise of being Protestant and were welcomed into English economic life, as many were competent merchants, mariners, physicians and vintners (Samuel 2004).

### **Why Did England Go to Virginia?**

Queen Elizabeth had been strongly encouraged to enter the colonial settlement arena by her close adviser Sir Walter Raleigh (Nicholls and Penry 2004). Elizabeth was promised riches, enhanced political power

and a stronger position on the world stage, if she would ‘plant’ an English colony on the Atlantic Coast of North America much as had successfully been done in Northern Ireland (see Hirschman 2021 “Scotland”). In the late 1500s her first attempt, Roanoke, failed (Nicholls and Penry 2004); (although, as mentioned above, descendants of survivors from the Roanoke Colony have now been identified among the Lumbee Indian tribe of North Carolina (see Hirschman Vance and Harris 2019a)).

Upon Elizabeth’s death, James VI of Scotland gained the throne of England, becoming James I. Once again, ambitious members of the royal court began encouraging their new monarch to expand his domain. It was proposed that another expedition to Virginia be undertaken to ensure that Britain gained its rightful place in the league of global nations (Horn 2005). We now take a look at the ethnic origins of the organizers of this new expedition, the Virginia Company of London. Who were they, and why did they choose to invest in such a risky venture? What were their motives, beyond the publicly acknowledged ones of “serving their noble King (James)”, as well as “earning substantial rewards for their investors” (Kelly 2018)?

### **The Virginia Company of London**

In 1606 Captain Bartholomew Gosnold petitioned King James I and received a charter for two North American settlement companies. The first, the Virginia Company of London, included areas that are now Maryland, Virginia and Carolina between Latitude 34° and Latitude 41° north. Gosnold’s principal financial backers in the venture were Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Somers, Edward Wingfield and Richard Hakluyt (Woolley 2007).

The Virginia Company agreed to pay the costs of establishing the colony, and in return was to possess all the land and resources therein. Settlers who could not pay the initial investment fee were required to work for the Company in return for their passage. Sir Thomas Smythe was named its first manager (Woolley 2007). To attract settlers for their new venture, Wingfield, Gosnold and a few others, circulated promotional materials throughout England claiming these New World investments would be both lucrative and likely to succeed (Kelly 2018).

Investors could purchase stock in the company as individuals or in groups. Overall, around 1,700 different parties bought shares in the Virginia Company; they included persons from across the economic spectrum, as well as group purchases made by trade guilds, towns and cities. A single share of stock in the Virginia Company cost 12 pounds 10 shillings, more than six months’ wages for the average worker – thus a large up-front investment was required. The largest single shareholder in the Virginia Company was Thomas West, Lord de la Warre, who then became the first Governor of Virginia between 1610 and 1618 (Horn 2005).

### **The Virginia Company of London Charters**

The First Charter of 1606 gave the company the authority to govern its settlers and their servants (indentured) through a ruling council in London composed of major shareholders in the enterprise. The members were nominated by the Company and appointed by King James I. The council in England then directed the settlers to appoint their own local government. The council was required to obtain approval from London for its expenditures and laws, and the entire enterprise was limited to 100 square miles (Fleet 1983).

The Second Charter of 1609 expanded the area of the enterprise from “sea to sea” (which, unbeknownst to them at the time, would have extended Virginia to the Pacific Ocean) and appointed a governor, since the local councils had proved to be ineffective.

Governor Thomas West, 3rd Baron De La Warre, sailed for America in 1610. Importantly, the King delegated to the Governor of Virginia “absolute power” over the colony (Fleet 1983). This, in effect, provided Thomas West with his own kingdom. He could personally select the persons he desired to become landowners, determine what crops were to be produced, and supervise religious practices (Fleet 1983).

The Third Charter of 1612 expanded the Company territory eastward to include Bermuda and other Atlantic islands (Fleet 1983).

On November 18, 1618, Virginia Company officers Thomas Smythe and Edwin Sandys sent a set of instructions to the current Virginia Governor George Yeardley that are often referred to as “The Great Charter”. This charter awarded the colony **self-governance**, which led to the establishment of a Council of State appointed by the governor and an elected General Assembly (House of Burgesses). It also provided that the colony would no longer be financed by selling shares, but by income from tobacco farming, which had proven to be quite lucrative (Fleet 1983). Representative government in the United States can be traced to this Great Charter, as it provided for self-governance from which the House of Burgesses and a General Council were created (Fleet 1983). Thus the Jamestown colony was the origin point for American democracy.

## II. METHODOLOGY:

### USING GENEALOGICAL DNA TO IDENTIFY THE ETHNICITY OF THE JAMESTOWN COLONISTS

We now reach the revisionist aspect of the study. One of the current buzzwords in the social sciences is *disciplinary silos*. This concept draws attention to the insularity of academic disciplines and research approaches which use only one dominant paradigm to study a phenomenon. Over the past few decades, greater strides have been made within and across academic fields when ideas and ways of thinking are imported from other disciplines, rather than using only traditional approaches. For example, energy researchers have learned from ecologists how to create fuels more efficiently and with less environmental damage. Pharmaceutical scientists have learned from indigenous peoples about compounds in plants and animals relevant to treating disease. Cognitive psychologists have learned from neurosurgeons about how humans store, process and use sensory, written and mathematical information. If each of these fields had remained embedded in prior theories and research techniques, much less progress would have been made.

The same can be said for the discipline of historical studies. Whether examining the last decade, the last century, or the last millennium, historians have largely depended upon written, carved, printed – and more recently – electronic images to conduct their research. Archaeologists and anthropologists, social scientists who also study human history, have been more open to adopting recent technologies such as satellite photography, in-ground radar, and magnetic imaging in their research. These have provided novel perspectives to these researchers, permitting them to locate, for example, the outlines of flattened city-walls, which are not visible when a site is only viewed from ground level or excavated downward in a square area. Large-scale geographic features and perimeters often become more visible when viewed from high above ground or even from space.

Current historians resemble the archaeologists of old – they dig in one narrow trench using available documents and consider that an accurate excavation of an historical event. In so doing, they may miss the big picture. While historical documents may be lost, falsified, or written to be purposely misleading, DNA is what it is – chemical molecules in each and every cell of one's body. Properly collected, analyzed and compared to other samples, DNA does not lie.

#### Commercial DNA Testing Services

In 2000, Family Tree DNA became the first company dedicated to genealogical DNA testing for ancestry research. Since then, several other companies, e.g., Ancestry.com, 23andMe.com, have begun offering these services. In 2019, new genealogical analysis tools were developed; these included auto-clusters (visually grouping all matches into clusters) and family tree theories (suggesting possible relationships between DNA matches by combining several family trees, as well as global phylogenetic trees). This permits users to track the genetic evolution of their ancestry over time in a fine-grained manner; ancestors' paths across both time and space can now be viewed, sometimes to within a few hundred years. Presently, it is estimated that the major genealogical testing companies have accumulated over 26 million DNA profiles ([www.FTDNA.com](http://www.FTDNA.com)). Many companies have now transferred their test results to multiple sites, giving users at each one access to all data collected globally.

A genealogical DNA test is performed on a sample provided by the individual. After collecting the sample, the user returns it to the company for analysis. The sample is then processed using a technology known as **DNA microarray** to obtain the genetic information requested by the consumer (Bettinger and Wayne 2016). In the present study Y-chromosome data from male descendants of Jamestown organizers and colonists is used.

**Y chromosome (Y-DNA) testing.** The Y-chromosome is one of the 23rd pair of human chromosomes and is present only in men. Using the Y-chromosome, a man's DNA results may be compared to another man's results to determine the time frame in which the two individuals may have shared a most recent common ancestor (MRCA) in their direct paternal line (Bettinger and Wayne 2016). There are two types of paternal DNA testing one can obtain: STR and SNP.

**STR markers.** The most common type of testing is performed using STR (short tandem repeat). A certain section of DNA is examined for a pattern that repeats basic chemical components of the DNA. The number of times it repeats is the value of the marker. Typical tests examine between 12 and 111 STR markers. STRs mutate fairly frequently, which permits different branches of paternal ancestry to be charted. The results of two individuals are then compared to see if there is a match. DNA companies will usually provide an estimate of how closely related two people are, in terms of generations or years, based on the difference between their results (Bettinger and Wayne 2016).

A person's male ancestral haplogroup can often be inferred from STR results, but can be proven only with a Y-chromosome SNP test (**Y-SNP test**). A single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) is a change to a single nucleotide in a DNA sequence. Typical Y-DNA SNP tests examine about 20,000 to 35,000 SNPs. Getting an SNP test allows a much higher resolution of one's male ancestry than STRs. It can also be used to provide

additional information about the relationship between two individuals across time and to confirm one's ancestral haplogroup. In the present research both STR and SNP DNA results are used to determine an individual's ethnic ancestry.

Given what has been learned from the prior studies discussed earlier, our primary hypothesis is that the persons organizing and settling the Jamestown colony were of crypto-Jewish ancestry, possibly both Ashkenazic and Sephardic in origin. The Ashkenazic crypto-Jews would have arrived in England during the 1066 through 1200 CE period and have converted to public Christianity prior to the 1290 Expulsion, while the Sephardic crypto-Jews would have made their way to England, Scotland and/or Wales during the post 1492 CE period – usually under the cover of being publicly Protestant.

To test this possibility, a search was made through the indexes of the three recent treatises on Jamestown (Horn 2005, Kelly 2018, Wooley 2007) and a list of surnames compiled. These surnames were searched for among the several global DNA databases now available to the public. Often current persons with a famous ancestor will have had their DNA tested and placed it in one of these databases either as part of a surname study, e.g., Franklin, Hamilton, Cohen, Byrd, Jefferson or as a regional/national DNA Project, e.g., Wales, Cumberland Gap, French Canadian, New Mexico, Texas Old 300, Scotland, Balkans, or as a specific ethnic group, e.g., Sephardic Jews, the Jewish Heritage Project, the Jewish R1b/R-m269 Project, Romani, Native American, Lumbee Indian Tribe, etc. There are also DNA databases devoted to persons belonging to a specific haplogroup, for example, I1a, J1, J2, R-m198.

In the present research all of these DNA resource databases were used at various stages of the identification process for a specific individual. Samples were identified for most of the persons on the compiled list, but some could not be reliably linked to an existing DNA sample. These persons were Bartholmew Gosnold, George Yeardley, and Edwin Sandys. Thus, we cannot report a complete survey of the original Virginia Company organizers. However, those who's DNA we can reliably identify do lend support to the thesis. We begin with Samuel Argall.

### **Samuel Argall**



Argall was the British navigator who identified a shorter route from England across the Atlantic Ocean to the Colony at Jamestown in 1609, resulting in shortened voyage time (Kelly 2018). He captained one of Lord De La Warr's ships in the successful rescue mission to Virginia in 1610, saving the Colony from starvation (Kelly 2018). Argall also abducted Native chief Powhatan's daughter, Pocahontas, in order to exchange her for Jamestown settlers and property captured by the Natives during an early raid on Jamestown (Horn 2005). This exchange helped restore vital trade relations between the colonists and the Powhatan Confederacy. Thus he was a central figure in the Colony's success.

The DNA sample for Argall was located in the Argall surname database at Family Tree DNA and matched two persons in the Jewish Heritage Project DNA database (also at Family Tree DNA) at a high level of resolution (23 out of 25 markers). Both these individuals came from Eastern Europe – Hungary and Poland – and are Ashkenazi Jews. Thus we propose that Argall's ancestors were likely originally French Norman (Ashkenazi) Jews who came to England with William I circa 1066 (see Golb 1998). There is at present a small

town in Normandy named Argali which has had an excellent winery for several centuries.  
 William Argall b. circa 1567 d. after 1606 Penzance, England R-BY1881  
 13 12 23 14 12 11-16 12 12 11 14 31 19 9-10 11 11 25 14 20 29 15-15-17

**Sir Thomas Gates**



Sir Thomas Gates served as governor of Virginia in 1610 and as lieutenant governor from 1611 until 1614. Born in Devon, England, he served in the West Indies with Sir Francis Drake and fought with Robert Devereux, second earl of Essex, in Normandy and Cádiz, where. Gates was an original investor in the Virginia Company of London and led command of a massive resupply fleet to Virginia in 1609 (EncyclopediaofVirginia.com)

DNA samples from the descendants of Sir Thomas Gates are shown below. This specific haplogroup (R-M512/R-M198) is the same as R-1a1a and is one of the known haplotypes for Ashkenazi Jewish Levites ([www.familytreedna.com/groups/ashkenazi-levite/about](http://www.familytreedna.com/groups/ashkenazi-levite/about)). Thus, Gates was likely of Ashkenazic Jewish descent. Given this, his original surname may have been Goetz, a common surname among Ashkenazi Jews ([www.hebrewsurnames.com/GOETZ](http://www.hebrewsurnames.com/GOETZ)).

It is probable that Gates' ancestors were among the Ashkenazic Normandy Jews brought to England by King William I. As crypto-Jews (secret Jews) living in England after the 1290 Expulsion, they may have kept in touch across the generations with other families having the same background. By maintaining this ethnic network, they would have been able to move to North America in the 1600s as a group and perhaps more openly practice their religion.

James Gates d. 1691 Henrico Co., VA. R-m512/R-m198

133545	Gates, James Gates, d. 1691 Henrico Co., VA Unknown Origin	R-M512	1324	16	10	11-15	12	12	11	13	11	31	16	9-10	11	11	24	14	20	33	12-13
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**Sir Thomas Smythe**



Also Known As: "Sir Thomas Smith", "The Merchant",

Birthdate: circa 1558  
 Birthplace: Kent, England  
 Occupation: merchant, politician and colonial administrator

The Thomas Smythe DNA samples were obtained from the Smith/Smythe DNA Project database at Family Tree DNA and are E-M35/E-V13 which is a recognized Semitic haplogroup ([www.Jewishgen.com](http://www.Jewishgen.com)). This

specific phylogenetic mutation is known to have traveled from the Baltic Region through Switzerland to England during the past 500 – 300 years, putting it within the time frame for the Jewish and Muslim dispersion from Spain ([www.eupedia.com](http://www.eupedia.com) E-m35). Persons sharing this haplotype are currently living in Ukraine (Brunemeier), Serbia (Pantovic), Iraq (Dajundi), Albania (Gacaferi), France (Frey), and Libya (Dermeesh) (E-m35 DNA Project, FTDNA.com). Thus, it seems very likely that Thomas Smythe’s ancestors were originally Sephardic Jews.

William Smyth (1518/20-1552)	E-V13	1 2 1 1 16-	1 1 1 1 1 3 1	9-	1 1 2 1 2 3	14-16-16-17	1 1 19-	1 1 1 1 30-	1 1
		3 4 3 1 18	1 2 2 3 1 1 4	19	1 1 6 4 0 0		1 1 21	6 2 8 9 34	2 0
Richard Smith, 1480	E- M35	1 2 1 1 16-	1 1 1 1 1 3 1	9-9	1 1 2 1 2 3	14-15-16-17			
		3 4 3 1 18	1 2 2 3 1 1 4		1 1 6 4 0 1				

**Sir George Somers**



Sir George Somers was an Elizabethan privateer, merchant trader, Member of Parliament, military officer and founder of Bermuda (The Somers Isles), England’s first Crown Colony. Somers was instrumental in ensuring the survival of Jamestown by sailing to their rescue from Bermuda (where he had been shipwrecked) with fresh food and supplies ([www.historyUK.com](http://www.historyUK.com)). He was born in Dorset, in 1554, the son of John Somers. A friend of Sir Walter Raleigh, he became quite wealthy as a merchant trader and privateer ([www.historyUK.com](http://www.historyUK.com))

The most relevant match (I-m253) found for George Somers is shown below. In the Summers/Sommers/Somers DNA Project database. It is in the correct time frame for his descendants who were living in England, but we cannot be certain it is directly linked to him. The sample has two matches at the 20 out of 25 marker level with two Ashkenazi Jewish persons in the Jewish Heritage Project (FTDNA), thus Somers is likely of Ashkenazi Jewish descent, and his ancestors probably arrived in England with William I.

John Summers b c 1645 and d 1705 England	I-M253	1323	1411	14-14	11 14	12 12	11 28	188-98	11 23	16 20	28 12	14-14-15
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**Edward Wingfield**



Edward Wingfield was a British military officer, Member of Parliament, and early colonist in Jamestown. He was one of the four original Incorporators for the Virginia Company in the Virginia Charter of 1606 and one of its biggest financial backers (Woolley 2007). He recruited (with his cousin, Captain Bartholomew Gosnold) about forty of the 104 original colonists, and was the only shareholder to sail to the colony. In the first democratic election held in the New World, Wingfield was chosen as the president of the Governing Council for 1607 (Woolley 2007).

Wingfield’s DNA is shown below and is congruent at the 21 out of 24 marker level with four samples contained in the Jewish R1b/Rm269 DNA Project (FTDNA) – most of the matches are from persons in Eastern Europe, indicating likely Ashkenazic Jewish ancestry. Recall that Gosnold and Wingfield were cousins, according to historians (Kelly 2018), thus it is likely that Gosnold may also have been of Ashkenazic Jewish descent. Wingfield’s family probably had been present in England since the Norman Conquest.

Wingfield	England	R-BY32364	1 2 1 1 1 11-	1 1 1 1 1 2 1 9-	1 1 2 1 1 3	15-15-16-17	1 1 19-	1 1 1 1 35-	1 1 1 9	15-	1 1	8
			3 4 4 1 14	2 3 2 3 3 9 6 10	1 1 6 5 9 1		0 1 23	6 4 9 6 36	2 0 1	16	8	0 0
Wingfield		R-BY32364	1 2 1 1 1 12-	1 1 1 1 1 3 1 9-	1 1 2 1 1 2	15-15-16-17	1 1 19-	1 1 1 1 37-	1			
			3 4 4 1 14	2 2 2 4 3 0 6 10	1 1 0 4 9 9		0 1 23	5 6 8 7 38	2			

Thus, a strong case can be made that these members of the Virginia Company were of Jewish ancestry. If we find the same pattern among the Jamestown settlers, the case for Jamestown’s identity as a largely Jewish-descended colony will be further strengthened.

**Ethnic Origins of the Jamestown Settlers**

Now we take a look at the ancestry of the surviving Jamestown settlers. Using the three recent Jamestown history books previously mentioned (Horn 2005, Kelly 2018, Woolley 2007), the indexes were searched for the names of settlers. These were compiled across the three treatises and the DNA of each survivor was searched for using on-line surname DNA projects. The results are discussed below:

**Thomas Cooper**

The Cooper DNA samples available from the appropriate time period and location are consistently J-M267 (Cooper DNA Project, FTDNA.com; J-1 DNA Project FTDNA). The extended haplotype is shown below, and it is very unique, forming its own cluster with a 17-17 DYS385a marker. J-M267 is a Semitic haplogroup and one of the founding lineages of the Jewish people (www.JewishGen.com); it is known to have originated in the Middle East, where most of the carriers still live.

However, the Cooper haplotype seems to be no longer found among the current residents of the Middle East (at least those who have had their DNA tested). This is remarkable and may indicate that this specific lineage arrived in Britain at a very early date, possibly with the Carthaginians (see Hirschman 2021



“Wales”; although it does not match any J-1 persons in the Wales DNA Project) We can conclude, however, that Thomas Cooper, settler, was likely of Jewish ancestry. But we cannot distinguish between Sephardic and Ashkenazic ancestry.

199-01. J-CTS12238-Z2217 Cluster A [DYS385a=17]																																															
345077	Cooper	John Cooper	England	J-Z2217	13	23	14	10	17	17	11	16	12	13	11	32	19	8	9	11	11	26	14	20	28	13	15	15	16	11	10	19	22	15	14	18	18	31	36	12	10						
180202	Cooper	Thomas Cooper b. 1835 and d. 1884	United States	J-M267	13	23	14	10	17	17	11	16	12	13	11	32	20	8	9	11	11	26	14	18	29	13	15	15	16	12	11	19	22	16	14	18	18	31	35	12	10						
98067	Cooper	John Purley* Cooper	England	J-M267	13	23	14	10	17	17	11	16	12	13	11	32	20	8	9	11	11	26	14	20	29	13	15	15	16	12	10	19	21	16	14	18	18	31	36	12	10	12	8	15	16	8	12
133240	Cooper	Sampson Cooper, b. 1592 and d. 1659	England	J-Z2217	13	23	14	10	17	17	11	16	12	13	11	32	20	8	9	11	11	26	14	20	29	13	15	15	16																		

### Sir Thomas Dale



Sir Thomas Dale served as deputy governor of Virginia (1611–1616) and was a member of the Council of State (1612–1616) (Keller 2018). Dale began his military career serving in the Netherlands and by 1594 was a captain in the English army. After being knighted by King James I, Dale was recommended for a three-year post in Virginia by the king's son and Dale's friend, Prince Henry (Keller 2018).

In 1611, Dale issued regulations that were printed under the title *For The Colony in Virginea Britannia. Lawes Divine, Morall and Martiall*. He founded the City of Henrico, or Henricus, in honor of his friend Prince Henry, and in 1614, as acting governor, he authorized the marriage of Pocahontas and John Rolfe (Woolley 2007). Dale journeyed back to England with Pocahontas and John Rolfe in 1616, and died there three years later (Woolley 2007). Thomas Dale was the son of Nicholas Edward Dale, whose genealogical data are given below.

#### Nicholas Edward Dale (1601 - 1647) - Genealogy

Nicholas Edward Dale: Birthdate: December 1601: Birthplace: Suffolk, England. Death: February 18, 1647 (45) York County, Virginia. Immediate Family: Son of George Dale II and Sarah Dale, Husband of Sarah Parrott, Father of Thomas Dale; Mary Lou Stanford, Jean Dale and Sara Dale.

Below are two different recorded haplotypes for Nicholas Dale. The first matched a member of the Jewish R1b/R-m269 Project (FTDNA) at the 22 out of 24 marker level. The second (I-m70) was matched to a member of the Jewish Heritage Project (FTDNA) at the 23 out of 24 marker level. Both matches were to Ashkenazi Jews. Thus, it is very likely that the Dale family was of Jewish descent, probably Ashkenazi.

Deeper investigation into the Dale surname entry into England provided the following information:

“The surname Dale is found in Yorkshire where the Yorkshire Poll Tax Rolls of 1379 listed Thomas del Dale; Willelmus at Dale; and Johannes at Dale as all holding lands there. The Dale surname appears even

earlier in the Hundredorum Rolls of 1273 in Suffolk: Ralph de la Dale and Thomas de la Dale. Further to the north in Scotland is Johannes de Dale who was a charter witness at Yester, 1374 and later, Syme of Daile and Jok of Dail of the Newtoun were listed in Ayrshire, 1470” ( [www.geni.com/surnames/dale](http://www.geni.com/surnames/dale)). Note that Syme of Daile has a Jewish given name: Simon.

These dates fit-in well with the earlier proposal of a likely crypto-Jewish presence in England and Scotland prior to 1290 (see Hirschman 2021, “Scotland”, Hirschman 2021, “Massachusetts”). Ayrshire Scotland is directly across the border from England and was identified in the Scotland research (Hirschman 2021, “Scotland”) as a haven for crypto-Jews. Thus, it is likely that the Dale family arrived in England before the expulsion of Jews in 1290 and became crypto-Jewish after that time, perhaps using Scotland as a haven. This would suggest that they are of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry.

Nicholas Dale b. 1604 Great Britain d. 1646 VA	United Kingdom	R-BY615 19	1 3	2 4	1 4	1 1	1- 1	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 3	1 3	2 9	1 8	1 0	0- 1	1 1	1 1	2 6	1 5	1 9	3 0	15-17- 17-17	1 1
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Nicolas Dale 1604 - 1646	England	I-M170	13	25	17	10	14-16	11	13	11	12	11	28												
Nicolas Dale 1604-1646	England	I-M170	13	25	17	10	14-16	11	13	11	12	11	28	16	8-9	10	12	24	15	27	14				

### Sir Ralph Lane

Sir Ralph Lane (ca. 1532 – October 1603) was an English navigator during the Elizabethan era. He was a key element in Sir Walter Raleigh’s attempt to colonize Roanoke in 1587. (As noted in earlier discussion, genealogical DNA has linked members of the Lumbee Indian Tribe to survivors of the Roanoke colony (Hirschman, Vance and Harris 2019a). We discuss Ralph Lane’s DNA here, because his efforts to settle Roanoke in 1587/1588 were instrumental in stimulating the later effort to settle Jamestown around a decade later.

Importantly, his DNA haplotype, as shown below, is R-M512/M198, originally called R1a1a (the same haplogroup as that of Thomas Gates). This haplotype is typical of Ashkenazi Jewish Levites (Jewish Heritage Project FTDNA) and supports the thesis that Jamestown was a crypto-Jewish settlement project. Since the DNA is from an Ashkenazi lineage, it also suggests that Lane’s ancestors were among the French-Norman Jews who came to England with King William I.

891001	Richard Lane, b. 1596 D. 1657	England	R-M198	13	26	16	11	11-14	12	12	10	13	12	29	15	9-10	11	11	25	14
350833	Ralph Lane	England	R-M512	13	26	16	11	11-14	12	12	10	13	12	29	15	9-10	11	11	25	14
241421	James Henry Lane, 1863-1924	Scotland	R-M512	13	26	16	11	11-14	12	12	10	13								

### Samuel Mace

In March 1602, Captain Samuel Mace, under orders from Sir Walter Raleigh, embarked from Weymouth, England and sailed to Virginia hoping to find traces of the Roanoke colony (1602 - in search of the Colony - U.S. Timeline sites.google.com/site/atimelineofamerica/1602), but was unable to locate any survivors. (They had by this time likely joined the Croatoan Native Tribe and were likely moving toward southwest North Carolina where they merged with the Lumbee Indian Tribe (see Hirschman, Vance and Harris 2021a)).

Having made two prior trips to the Virginia coast, Mace was familiar with the area, but did not explore inland for the colonists (www.EncyclopediaVirginia.com). DNA haplotypes were taken from the Mace Surname DNA Project (FTDNA). Notably, there is a Massey donor whose DNA matches that of the Mace donor, indicating that the surname may have been pronounced as Mah-see. The Mace/Massey haplotype is a 21 out of 24 marker match to two men in the Jewish Heritage Project (FTDNA) who are Ashkenazi Jews from Russia. Thus, the Mace/Massey lineage likely arrived in England around the time of the Norman Conquest.



George Percy was an English nobleman, one of the original Jamestown settlers, and the author of two important accounts of the colony ([www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org), Kelly 2018). Percy served as president of the Council (1609–1610), and briefly as deputy governor (1611). George was born in Sussex, England – the son of the eighth Earl of Northumberland. The Percy family arrived in England with William the Conqueror in 1066 and was awarded lands by King William I (Mundill 2010). The family was Catholic and frequently at odds with the Protestant regime in Elizabethan England. As a result, George’s father died while imprisoned in the Tower of London, his uncle was beheaded, and his older brother, the ninth earl of Northumberland, was imprisoned for conspiracies against the monarchy ([www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org)).

Thus, on the face of things, it would seem quite odd that George Percy would play an active role not only in financing, but also choosing to live in, the nominally Protestant Jamestown Colony. However, a solution to this puzzle will be offered shortly.

While president of the Jamestown Council, Percy and his fellow colonists suffered through the Starving Time, initiated in part by the Powhatan siege of Jamestown at the beginning of the First Anglo-Powhatan War (1609–1614). Percy wrote a second account of Jamestown, *A Trewe Relacyon*, in the mid-1620s to rebut Captain John Smith’s version of events in the colony. He died in the winter of 1632–1633 ([www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org), Kelly 2018).

George Percy (shown in the above 1618 portrait), despite his position as an aristocratic English Catholic, displays distinctly Semitic features. The DNA (R-L2) markers we obtained from the Percy surname DNA project (FTDNA) contained only one entry from England during the relevant time period. Fortunately, these markers were for descendants of Ralph Percy, the Earl of Northumberland, They are given below and we apply to them to George Percy, his descendant and Jamestown colonist/investor.

Ralph Percy, Bamburgh 1563	Engla nd	R- L2	1 3	2 4	1 3	1 0	11 - 14	1 2	1 2	1 1	1 3	1 3	2 9	1 6	9- 1 0	1 1	1 1	2 5	1 5	1 9	2 9	15-16-17- 17	1 1
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Further investigation revealed that the Percy haplotype is closely related to that of the Hapsburg dynasty of Austria and to several persons of Ashkenazic Jewish ancestry. We quote from the Hapsburg Dynasty DNA Project (FTDNA): “Five years ago, FTDNA tested Hapsburg Y-DNA and since then the Group Administrator and his Co-Administrator, Thomas Sacher, have discovered that over a dozen other Ashkenazic surnames contain close "genetic cousins" to them, namely: Fitze, Grass, Himmelsberger, Kreis, May, Mesmer, Neff, Penczer, Schiess, Schlatter, Schapbach, Sittner, Tanner, and Waldburger”. Additional close matches to the Percy/Hapsburg DNA markers were found in **Turkey** and **Algeria**. We include below an excerpt below from the BBC regarding the bringing of Jews to England from Normandy, France by King William I:

“To carry out his building programme, he (William I) needed to borrow large sums of money, however Catholic teaching did not allow Christians to lend money with interest. Therefore, Jewish people were encouraged, sometimes forced, to be moneylenders. William wanted them in England so that he could borrow money and so they could help in the administration of his government.

While some Jewish moneylenders - such as Aaron of Lincoln and Licoricia of Oxford - became extremely rich, many Jews filled a whole range of occupations within the communities where they lived, from doctors to fishmongers. They lived in many parts of England and Wales, sometimes in distinct communities practising their rituals, and sometimes alongside the wider population.

“They were allowed to mix freely and were given a Charter of Liberties by King Henry I which meant they could go to the safety of the King’s castles, if they were in danger. They also had to pay higher taxes... in return for protection from the Crown” [Reasons for coming to England - Jewish communities and their expulsion from England in 1290 - OCR B - GCSE History Revision - OCR B - BBC Bitesize](#)

As discussed earlier, some of these same Jews converted (publicly) to Catholicism to allow themselves greater access to occupations and positions in the English court, just as was done by some Spanish Jews who became *conversos* and rose to powerful positions in Spain (Samuel 2004). Many of these *conversos* retained ties to their former coreligionists and supplied them with information about planned pogroms (Samuel 2004). The Percy family probably was one such Converso/Catholic family in England. Also notable is the name of the ancestral Percy estate in England – Bamburgh Castle. There is a German town named Bamberg which was founded in the ninth century and had a large Ashkenazi Jewish population ([www.encyclopediaJudaica.com](http://www.encyclopediaJudaica.com)). It is likely that this was the original location of the Percy family prior to immigrating to England.

Thus, we propose it is probable that the Percy family was originally of Ashkenazic Jewish ancestry and remained aware of this throughout their sojourn in England as the Catholic Earls of Northumberland. We conjecture that – given his family’s violent conflicts with the Protestant English monarchy – George Percy decided to move to a more ethnically compatible residence in Virginia.

**John Price**

The piece below was written by one of the descendants of John Price, a Welsh settler in the Jamestown colony. It demonstrates the family-pride taken in having an ancestor at Jamestown.

“It is easy to find the record of an emigrant, if he was of noble lineage and belonged to the important gentry of Britain, so you will find the names of John Price, his first wife Mary, with their sons, William and Matthewe; then Ann the second wife of John Price and their daughter Mary. John and Mary Price came to Henrico County from Wales, 1620, with one son named William. This son William Price was living at College Land, near Jamestown, in 1623 and there raised a family." (Burke's History of Virginia.). “Muster of John Price, aged 40, ship *Starr* in May, 1620. Ann his wife aged 21, ship *Francis Bonaventure* in August, 1620. Mary, a child, 3 months.” (Hottens Original List, p. 203.)

Remarkably, there is an entry in the Price surname DNA project (FTDNA) claiming descent from John Price of Wales. The haplotype markers are given below and are congruent with members of the Jewish R1b/R-m269 Project at the 21 out of 24 marker level.

That the Price family immigrated to Jamestown from Wales is also very important for the thesis proposed at the outset: i.e., that a crypto-Jewish community existed in Britain during the post-1290 Expulsion period. The Price family was not located in southern England, as were most of the other Jamestown settlers, but rather in Wales. However, as recent research has documented (Hirschman 2021, “Wales”), there were very likely crypto-Jews residing in Wales dating from as early as the Roman era. (It is very unlikely, but not impossible, that Middle Eastern Jews from Carthage would have retained their ethnic memory from 300 BCE onward). But most likely the Price family was descended from Ashkenazi Jews who fled to Wales after the 1290 Expulsion and remained in contact with the crypto-Jewish community in England

John Price, I, ca 1584 Wales, Jamestown, VA	R-	1	2	1	1	11-	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	9-	1	1	2	1	1	2
	M269	2	3	4	0	14	2	2	5	3	3	9	6	10	1	1	4	5	9	9

**Thomas West: Lord DeLaWarre**



And now we arrive at the prime mover in the Jamestown Virginia colony – Thomas West. Thomas West was educated at Queen's College, Oxford. He served in the English army under Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex. In 1601 West was charged with supporting Essex's ill-fated insurrection against Queen Elizabeth I, but was acquitted of those charges and then succeeded his father as Baron De La Warr in 1602. He next became a member of the King's Privy Council ([www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org)). Lord De La Warr was appointed governor-for-life and captain-general of the Colony of Virginia, replacing the governing council of the colony under the presidency of Captain John Smith.

In 1609 the Powhatan Confederacy killed the Jamestown council president and attacked the colony. With the colony's survival at stake, De La Warr recruited and equipped a contingent of 150 men and outfitted three ships at his own expense, sailing from England in March 1610 (Kelly 2018). He returned to England due to illness in the spring of 1611, leaving his deputy, Sir Samuel Argall (discussed earlier), in charge of the colony.

Later that year, De La Warr published a book titled *The Relation of the Right Honourable the Lord De-La-Warre, Lord Governour and Captaine Generall of the Colonie, planted in Virginea* ([www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org)). He remained the nominal governor of Jamestown, and after receiving complaints from the Virginia settlers about Argall's overly-strict governance, West set sail for Virginia in 1618 aboard the *Neptune* to investigate the charges. He died at sea on June 7 of that year ([www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org)). It was thought for many years that Lord De La Warr had been buried in the

Azores or at sea. However, in 2006 researchers concluded that his body was brought to Jamestown for burial. In July 2015 archaeologists found a cache of human remains at Jamestown **and it is believed De La Warr may be among them. However DNA analysis has not yet been completed**

([www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jul/28/](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jul/28/))

Lord De La Warr's brother, John West, later became governor of Virginia and married Anne Percy, daughter of George Percy ([www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org)). The DNA scores below are from a descendant and belong to haplogroup I-m253. They are consistent with samples taken from the Jewish Heritage DNA Project (FTDNA) for a man named Lepel of unknown origin and two Jewish men from England surnamed Lang and Long. Thus the West family was likely of Jewish ancestry, probably Ashkenazic. This suggests that the West ancestors likely entered England post 1066 with William the Conqueror and became crypto-Jews after the 1290 Expulsion.


Thomas West DNA I-M253 13 22 14 10 13-14 11 14 11 13 11 28 15 8-9 8 11 24 16 20 30

### **Peter, Thomas, Robert and Richard Wynne/Winne/Winn**

Peter Wynne arrived in the Jamestown Colony in 1608 with the *Second Supply* captained by Christopher Newport (Horn 2005). After being appointed to the Council of State, Wynne became active in meeting with the nearby Native peoples and sought to establish trading relations with them. Unfortunately, he died, as did many others, during the Starving Time of 1609 ([www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org)). Descendants of Peter Wynne included Richard, Thomas and Robert Wynne also in the Jamestown Colony. As discussed below, the family appears to be descended from/or related to Robert Wynne who was a merchant and the Mayor of Canterbury, England.

#### **Robert Wynne**

Birthdate: circa 1558  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England

Death: September 06, 1609  
Canterbury, Kent, England 

Husband of Frances Wynne  
Father of Thomas Wynne; Peter Captain Wynne, Gentleman; Elizabeth Bowman; Anne Wynne; Robert Wynne,

Occupation: Wollendraper (wool clothing merchant), Mayor of Canterbury, England 1596-1599

“Robert Wynne was mayor of Canterbury. The Wynne family had lived in the Kent County area of England for at least three centuries prior to Robert Wynne's son, Peter, coming to Virginia. One of Robert's ancestors is believed to have been John Wynne, who served in Parliament in 1356”.

(Adapted from "Virginia Historical Genealogies," by John Bennett Boddie). This description suggests that the original Wynne ancestor likely entered England during the time of William I (i.e., post 1066). Since the descendants remained in England after the Expulsion of 1290, the family had likely become crypto-Jewish.

The DNA markers for the Wynne family are shown below

Wynne/Winne DNA R-P312/BY3290

13 24 14 11 11-15 12 12 12 13 13 29 18 9-9 11 11 25 15 19 30 15-15-17-18 11 19 23

When these markers were compared to persons in the Jewish R1b/R-m269 Project (FTDNA) they exhibited high level matches (22 out of 24 markers) to Jewish men from Latvia, Poland and Austria. This suggests that the Wynne family of Canterbury and Jamestown was likely of Ashkenazic Jewish origin and practiced “crypto-Judaism” after the 1290 Expulsion. Crypto-Judaism among the Jamestown settlers is discussed further in the closing section below.

### **III. DISCUSSION**

This research has utilized a novel data source – genealogical DNA testing – coupled with global ethnic, regional and surname DNA data bases to investigate the possible Jewish ancestry of the Jamestown Colony organizers and settlers. It has been found that most of the settlers and organizers for whom reliable DNA data are available were likely Jewish, primarily Ashkenazic. What has also been supported during the research is the



probable existence of a crypto-Jewish community, largely Ashkenazic in origin, which remained in England after the Jewish Expulsion of 1290.

What is especially intriguing about this community is that its members must have had some method of identifying and communicating with each other over the centuries from 1300 to 1600 in order to coordinate and carry-out the funding and settling of the Jamestown Colony. However, at this point in time it is unlikely – but certainly not impossible -- that such documentation may be found

This is one of the great benefits of DNA testing across global populations and within specific ethnic groups. Wars, political oppression, pogroms, and forced migration often lead to the destruction of family records – especially those belonging to persons who might have reason to disguise their past identities. The Jews of England certainly would have found it desirable at several points in time to alter their external/public identities to better fit-in with the general British population and to prevent being excluded from holding public office, serving in the military or belonging to the Royal Court.

What is remarkable about the Jamestown Colony, however, is that in the early 1600s multiple Jewish-descended persons were able to communicate with each other, pool their resources (both financial and political) and make their way to the unexplored Virginia coast. These settlers came from diverse parts of England and had diverse educational and economic backgrounds, but as the present research has suggested, they shared a common goal – to establish a community of kindred souls in the New World. Despite near starvation, Native predations, and political in-fighting, they succeeded. Their descendants are now scattered throughout the Southeastern United States where most probably view themselves as stalwart examples of White Anglo-Saxon Protestant culture, having lost - or abandoned - their ancestral religious identities along the way.

However, if these persons decide to take a genealogical DNA test – as some have already done – they will encounter the truth of their ancestral heritage. What they choose to do at that point is up to each individual. But in a larger perspective, what is most important about the present research is that it challenges the past few centuries of WASP political ideology—especially as presented in American history books written between 1865 and the present day. If these results are validated by other researchers, a major re-conceptualization of American heritage will be required.

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