

## Spicer Christopher of Talbot Island

### Introduction

The Early American Christopher Surname Ydna Project began in 2013 with the objective of sorting out all of the pre-American Revolution Christopher lines. By the end of the project, all the early Christopher lines were Ydna tested and, conclusively the two major early American lines were identified. The major and earliest American Christopher line is the Old Maryland Christopher. This line, today, has a data concurrence of 12 surname Christopher men whose Ydna all match. Another, but secondary, early Christopher line is out of southern Virginia, now Ydna tested with a concurrence of data of 15 Christopher men all Ydna matching. There is also a Northumberland Christopher line which is likely the third largest early American Christopher line. When researching the early American Christopher lines, one can't help but run into Spicer Christopher in the research. The genealogy "rumor" was Spicer was born in Maryland and got a Spanish Land Grant once he migrated to Florida. Spicer had a brother, Spencer, who spent much of his adulthood in Georgia. Their parents were purportedly John Christopher and Martha Bluett of Baltimore, Maryland.

This article is not about the life story of Spicer (1759-10 Jul 1811) m. Maria Greenwood. Much has been published and written about Spicer and his life and family. This article is about finding the genetic proof that Spicer actually is a match to other early Maryland Christopher lines given the various early American Christopher lines that may also have migrated down to Florida since there are other Christopher lines in early Georgia as well out of early Virginia. Mostly, however, the motive was to substantiate whether there were one or two early Maryland Christopher lines. This is the focus of writing this article about Spicer Christopher. The reader is directed to simple web searches to read the Spicer Christopher articles that are to be found there – among them several authored by Spicer's descendants - about his well-documented life in Florida.

Is it possible for targeted Ydna testing of Spicer Christopher's downline to prove whether there was one or maybe two early Maryland Christopher lines? Or perhaps would testing Spicer's downline prove to be one of the two early Virginia Christopher lines? The Early American Christopher Surname Ydna Project undertook the journey to scientifically determine, and perhaps confirm, Spicer's Christopher line Maryland origin.

The genealogists work and skill is working the upline back in history using available records. The genetic genealogical researcher must have an additional skillset. That is the ability to track downline to the present to locate living generation descendants or, at least, sources of viable DNA. The journey is more complicated and narrowing to follow the downline of male surname lineal descendants because there is always a possibility the male downline ends with only reproducing female descendants who do not bear the Christopher surname. The genetic genealogical researcher has to work all the sons generationally to pin down which sons had sons with male issue when Ydna is the research objective.

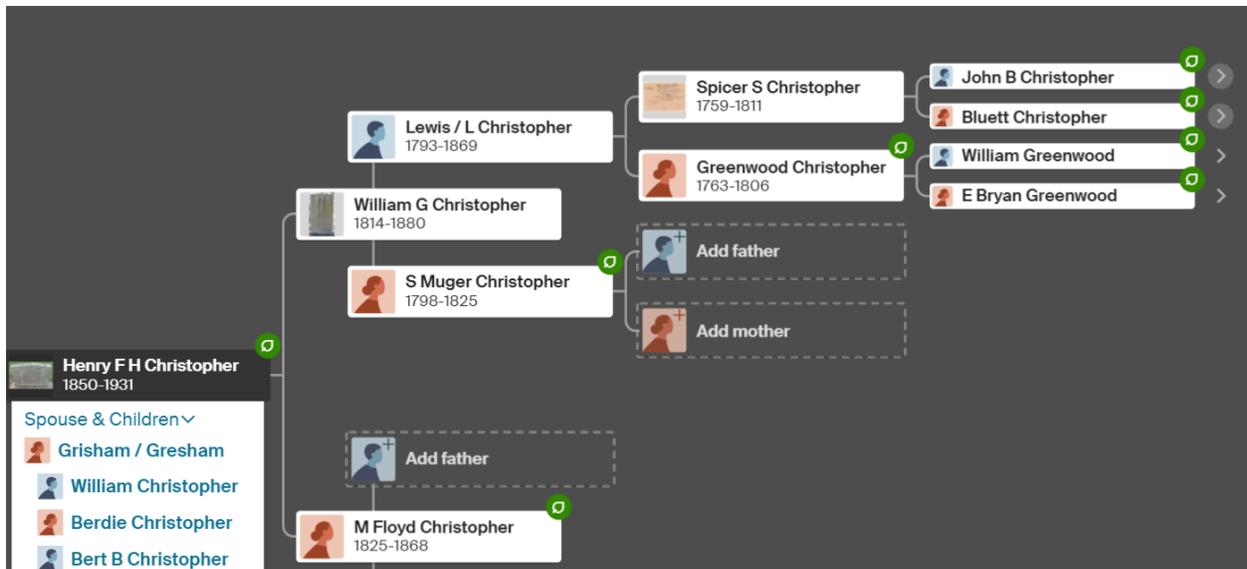
The Early American Christopher Surname Ydna Project ultimately Ydna tested 48 men and the project was successful in identifying a male Christopher lineal descendant of Spicer Christopher (Donor# 34 of

the project's 48 donors). Finding the descendant is a journey and a challenge but getting the man to test is yet another matter. The Early American Christopher Ydna Project was extremely fortunate not only to find this donor candidate but to obtain in him a very enthusiastic and knowledgeable donor. The identified donor immediately agreed to happily take a Ydna test for the project. The conversation about participating in the project even entailed his explaining that, at family reunions, a biography of Spicer Christopher Family booklet was compiled by the descendants to educate the family about their shared Spicer Christopher family lineage. It was very nice to hear this as it confirmed the downline research had been pinpoint correct.

Donor# 34 is a retired educator on the West Coast whose identity the project protects as private but whose ancestors this article will briefly trace. But did this donor's Ydna even match any other Christopher man or line? The answer is in the affirmative. The Ydna test results clearly answered all the questions of the researchers in pursuing this enquiry of Spicer's factual origins.

The discussion below will pursue only the particular line of the donor in a focused effort to illustrate the Donor# 34 relationship to his upline ancestor Spicer Christopher. There may be other living male lineal descendants of Spicer and Donor# 34 may or may not have brothers. The project did not inquire further but, rather, moved on the next early Christopher line to recruit for other lines. All Early American Christopher Surname Ydna Project publications protect not only the donor's name but the kit number as well. Donor# 34, for the purposes of this article, are be halted at the generation as close to the 1900 mark as possible, which in the case of Donor# 34, is at about 1850 due to the longevity of the donor's ancestor. We will leave it there to protect the personal data and privacy of the donor in the publication process. FTdna Ydna and autosomal DNA matches to Donor# 34 will find some of his personal and contact information in their kit matching information bar so be sure to test on FTdna if you are very interested and have a match with someone whose ancestor is listed as "Samuel Spicer Christopher". I believe the donor is also autosomal dna tested on ancestry as well and matches there can contact Donor# 34 through the ancestry messaging application.

**The Record Proofs of descendancy of Donor# 34's upline to Spicer the research followed to obtain a descendant donor**



Generation 4 downline from Spicer – Henry Frank Christopher m. Grisham – 9 Apr 1850–13 Aug 1931 - Donor# 34's Great Grandfather's proof of parentage

# Tennessee, U.S., Death Records, 1908-1965 for William Christopher

Death Certificates > Knox > 1931

**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Division of Vital Statistics  
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH** 20136

County Knox Civil Dis. 14 Registration District No. \_\_\_\_\_ File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Village \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Registration District No. \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ (No. \_\_\_\_\_) St. \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_

Length of residence in city or town where registered \_\_\_\_\_ (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)  
 How long in U. S. & if foreign birth \_\_\_\_\_

2. FULL NAME W. G. Christopher  
 (a) Residence: Norwayville, Tenn. St. \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
 (b) Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ (If nonresident, give city or town and State)

**PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS**

3. SEX Male 4. COLOR OR RACE White 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED Married  
 6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) April 9, 1880  
 7. AGE Years 51 Months 4 Days 3 8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as farmer, surveyor, bookkeeper, etc. Shimber 1947  
 9. Industry or business in which work was done, as with mill, saw mill, bank, etc. Retired  
 10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Total time spent in this occupation \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) Aug 13, 1931  
 22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
 I last saw him alive on Aug 7, 1931 death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, 1931  
 The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of causation are as follows:  
Coronary Arteriosclerosis 49  
Arteriosclerosis of coronary arteries  
Myocardial infarction  
 Cause of operation Smash Date of \_\_\_\_\_  
 What test confirmed diagnosis? Aut Was there an autopsy? Yes  
 23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:  
 Accident, suicide, or homicide? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of injury \_\_\_\_\_  
 Where did injury occur? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Describe whether injury occurred on highway, in home, or in public place.  
 Manner of injury \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nature of injury \_\_\_\_\_  
 24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? No  
 If so, specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signatures) Dr. L. Bailey M. D.  
Dr. G. Medical

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING  
 THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. NAME should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

1430 of 1974

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## Tennessee, U.S., Death Records, 1908-1965

Generation 3 - William Greenwood Christopher m. Martha Floyd – 1814-23 Mar 1880 - Donor# 34's Great Great Grandfather's proof of parentage

Knowing that William Greenwood was born in Florida and died there provides an insight into the 1840 US Census enumerating exactly two adult Christopher men residing in Florida. Lewis Christopher, the son of Spicer, is listed as well as a William Christopher. Note there are not two different William Christophers of similar birth range in Florida during that timespan as many ancestry trees would poste. This William Christopher is William Greenwood Christopher. Who this William Greenwood descended from is answered in the Will (below) of his father where he is named as 'son'

# All 1840 United States Federal Census results for Christopher



Provided in association with National Archives and Records Administration

## Your search

christopher  
Lived In: florida, usa

Broad  Exact

Apply

✓ All Categories

> Census & Voter Lists

## Results 1-2 of 2

View Record	Name	Home in 1840 (City, County, State)	Number of Slaves	Total Number of All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves	View Image
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Lewis Christopher	Duval, Florida Territory	27	33	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	William Christopher	Duval, Florida Territory		2	

1-2 of 2

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## William G. Christopher

in the Florida, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1827-1950

Save

Print



[Add or update information](#)

[Report a problem](#)

✓ Saved to: Christopher, William Greenwood aka Bluet in tree "Christopher y Peña Experimental Research Tree (unverified) - please see Tree Description note before using" [Remove](#)



Write a comment.

### Make a Connection

[Find others](#) who are researching William Christopher in Public Member Trees.

### Detail Source

Name: William G. Christopher

Gender: Male

Relationship: Son

Others Listed	Relationship
<a href="#">Lewis Christopher</a>	
<b>William G. Christopher</b>	<b>Son</b>
<a href="#">Moody</a>	Slave
<a href="#">James L Christopher</a>	Son
<a href="#">Irin</a>	Slave
<a href="#">Sur</a>	Slave
<a href="#">Little Irin</a>	Slave's Son
<a href="#">Jane Harvey Braddock</a>	Daughter
<a href="#">William M. Braddock</a>	Son-in-law
<a href="#">April</a>	Slave

Show more

*Last Wills and Testaments, 1856-1922; Author: Florida. County Judge's Court (Duval County); Probate Place: Duval, Florida*

Generation 2 downline from Spicer – Lewis / Luis West Christopher – Jan 1793-28 Jun 1869 - Donor# 34's Great Great Great Grandfather's proof of parentage

## Luis Christopher

Florida Births and Christenings, 1880-1935

Name:	Luis Christopher
Event Type:	Christening
Event Date:	2 May 1793
Event Place:	Saint Augustine, St. Johns, Florida, United States
Event Place (Original):	Roman Catholic Church, Saint Augustine, Saint Johns, Florida, United States
Sex:	Male
Father's Name:	<a href="#">Spicer Christopher</a>
Mother's Name:	<a href="#">Maria Greenwood</a>

Florida Births and Christenings, 1880-1935", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V235-W68> : 5 January 2021), Luis Christopher, 1793. Last viewed 24 May 2022.

Generation 1 of Spicer Christopher m. Maria Greenwood - 1759-10 Jul 1811 – Donor# 34's Great Great Great Grandfather

Christopher, <sup>Samuel</sup> Spicer  
500 Acres No title produced  
Am. State Papers. Vol 5 p. 418  
Report 13. No 3  
-1828-  
(Probably same tract confirmed to  
Administration)  
Old Township.  
St. Marys' River,  
Clt.  
27

The line was defined in the genealogy, the donor was willing, and the genetic genealogy proved to successfully defined the line of Spicer to his upline. Here's what ensued.

### Findings

Donor# 34 bears the Ydna of his Christopher ancestors to Spicer and Spicer's paternal ancestors back to, at least, the 1600s. His Ydna matches include donor's the Early American Christopher Surname Ydna Project covered in it's South Carolina phase and it's North Carolina phase all merging to a collective Old Maryland descendant Ydna kits. The data below showing Donor# 34 with 11 of his Ydna matches is taken from the FTdna.com Christopher Surname Project (the names below are ancestor names to the dna donors) not all of whom are project participants of the Early American Christopher Surname Ydna Project. Spicer Christopher's line does not constitute a unique line from the larger Old Maryland Christopher line and indicates that the upline from Spicer in many ancestry trees pointing to the Old Maryland Christopher line is very plausible.

and Group Mid 1600s Origin R-M269-R-BY429/>R-F1133638		13	24	14	11	11-14	12	12	11	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	29	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-19	16	14	10	17	36-37	
Didomenicis	Elison G Christopher b. 1831 SC m. Satterfield	Unknown Origin	R-M269	13	24	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	29	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-19	16	14	10	17	36-37
Christopher	Thomas Lewis b. ca 1791 Carmadthen, Wales	Wales	R-M1173	13	24	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	31	15-15-17-18	10	11	19-23	16	16	20	17	37-43
Lewis	Samuel Spicer Christopher	United States	R-FT133638	13	24	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-23	16	16	19	17	37-42
Christopher	John/John/John/Thomas/Ephraim/Devaunt Christopher	England	R-FT133638	13	24	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-23	16	16	18	17	37-42
Christopher	Riley Alonzo Rankin Christopher - SC - 1827-1910	United States	R-FT133638	13	24	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-23	16	16	19	17	37-42
Christopher	John / John / John / Thomas / David L Christopher	England	R-FT133638	13	24	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-23	16	16	19	17	37-42
Christopher	James Christopher, m. Bradford - b. 1805 & d. 1875	United States	R-FT28763	13	24	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-23	16	16	19	17	37-42
Christopher	Meredith Blassingame Christopher b. 1837 SC	United States	R-BY114662	13	24	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-23	16	16	19	17	37-42
Christopher	William W Christopher B. 1822 D. 1900 Maryland	United States	R-2253	13	24	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	31	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-23	16	16	19	17	37-42
Christopher	John / John / John / Thomas H / Andrew Christopher	United States	R-FT28763	13	24	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-23	16	16	19	17	36-42
Christopher	William Christopher 1797	Unknown Origin	R-M269	13	25	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-23	16	16	18	17	37-42
Christopher	William Christopher 1797	United States	R-BY114662	13	25	14	11	11-14	12	12	13	13	29	16	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15-15-17-17	10	11	19-23	16	16	19	17	37-42

Interestingly, the closest Genetic Distance 111-Marker Ydna match with Donor# 34 is the Early American Christopher Surname Ydna Project donor (Donor# 6) tested for the South Carolina Meredith Blassingame Christopher line which is an early South Carolina brick wall line. Donor# 34 is a 111-Marker Genetic Distance = 2 to Donor# 6.

There are also four surname Christopher autosomal DNA matches to Donor# 34 on Ftdna.com so if you are a Spicer Christopher descendant you may enjoy testing, if you haven't already, to see if you are a cousin match to Donor# 34.

## Conclusion

The FTdna Christopher Surname Project which is the data repository of the Early American Christopher Surname Ydna Project now has the data proving Spicer Christopher's descendants and upline are the Old Maryland Christopher line out of St Erth, Cornwall. The Ydna upline of Spicer Christopher was determined through Genetic Genealogy research and testing where documents were not always conclusive. Donor# 24 been Autosomal dna tested.

## Summary

The Early American Christopher Surname Ydna Project recognized the opportunity to clarify whether historically there was one Old Maryland Christopher line or to establish in Genetic Genealogy that, as with early Virginia, there were two concurrent early Christopher lineages populating the state. Once the Spicer Christopher line became a research objective, downline research identified potential donors and donor recruitment commenced. The supportive and interested donor became the 34<sup>th</sup> man the project recruited to achieve this research objective and served to confirm the family narrative of Spicer Christopher's Maryland origins with 11 concurrences of data. This research objective confirmed that a single early Christopher line inhabited early Maryland.

Not only were there 11 men with shared Christopher Ydna to Donor# 34 but the fit was with the FTdna Christopher Surname Project Old Maryland haplogroup (shown in the exhibit above). This is likely the largest and earliest American Christopher group whose common ancestor, John Christopher, as stated was born in St Erth, Cornwall, England and who came to American as a self-indentured boy to make a better life for himself.

The ideal of the Early American Christopher Surname Ydna Project would be to test all the extant English Christopher lines in Great Britain in order to match them back to their American, Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand Christopher cousins. Perhaps one day that will happen. Until then, the Old Maryland Christopher lines stand as the only Christopher lineage in early America with living male Christopher descendants that can connect their ancestral Christopher lines back to Great Britain. Only the early Christophers (with an 's' at the end) line of New London, Connecticut whose Christophers line of Cherston Ferrers, On Torbay, Devon, England is known. The New London, Connecticut line, however, today is Ydna extinct since the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This means the Old Maryland Christopher line is the only early American Christopher lineage with a complete historical genealogy back to the country of origin.

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