

## Mason Family Migration

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In an effort to connect our family to one of the numerous documented lines of Mason, my brother submitted his DNA for comparison to known Mason family lines. While we did not succeed in moving the line back any farther, we were able to eliminate many of the known Mason lines of descent and autosomal DNA research eventually helped identify the progenitor of the American Mason family.

Additional testing indicated that we descend from a line of Masons belonging to a DNA halo-group called R-U198. Two or three thousand years ago, there was a mutation in an Anglo-Saxon male that his descendants carry to this day. The Anglo-Saxons lived in northern Germany and Denmark having migrated through Russia. In the early 5<sup>th</sup> century, they invaded southern and eastern Great Britain after the Romans abandoned the island and established the England nation which they held until the Norman conquest of 1066.

The R-U198 mutation is present today in samples taken from populations in England (1.4%), Germany (1.8%), Denmark (0.8%), Russia (1.8%) and rare elsewhere.

### Harry Alden Mason (1928-2006)

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Born 1928 in Oklahoma to Lyman & Maude (Miller) Mason. He was the 13<sup>th</sup> of 14 children and was raised primarily by his older sisters. He said that he was named after a friend of the family who gave the family a wagon. He was very close to his younger brother, Billy who died of diphtheria at the age of 15.

He is listed age 2 in the 1930 Allowe, Nowata, Oklahoma census and in the 1940 King, McPherson, Kansas census where his father worked the oil fields.

At the age of 18, he joined the Navy and served on the aircraft carrier, USS Antietam in the Pacific where he learned the printing trade. In 1948, he and Irene Ridenour, daughter of Arthur Ridenour and Ollie Hubbard, eloped with her sister, Blanche and husband, Champ Martin acting as witnesses. They had two children, Rebecca and Harry.

The family never stayed in any place long. They lived in Tucson, Arizona twice and Denver, Colorado at least three times moving back to Oklahoma in-between. He could always find work as a printer wherever he wanted to live.

In 1974, he married Cary Villaviencea and they had a daughter, Patricia plus he adopted Cary's children.

He worked several years at the Oil & Gas Journal in Tulsa, Oklahoma retiring at age 55 but continuing to work in the industry as a consultant until a final retirement about 1990. In 1991, he married Gloria Strander, no issue. They resided in Davis, Oklahoma until his death in 2006.

His two passions in life were flying and golf.

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### Lyman Elbert Mason (1884-1953)

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He was born 1884 in Bicknell, Knox, Indiana to Alexander Harrison Mason and Clarissa Roberts and is named in his grandfather, James Harrison Mason's will.

In 1891, he relocated with his parents to Piney, Oregon, Missouri.

In 1903, he married Maude Elizabeth Miller, daughter of Andrew Miller and Hester Story. They had 14 children, all but one of whom survived to adulthood.

About 1910, his brother Walter moved to Rogers County, Oklahoma where he was working in the oil industry.

Lyman & Maude's trip from Missouri to Oklahoma as told by his son, Paul Mason and also described in "The Mason Family" by his daughter, Fern. Lyman and his brother, Noah spent several months preparing for the trip to join their brother Walter in Oklahoma. They each prepared wagons and mules for the trip. Maude's brother, Jim Miller decided to make the trip with them but had horses pulling his wagons but they could not keep up with the mule drawn wagons.

At one point in the trip, they reached a river swollen by the rains. The wagons with mules crossed okay but Jim's wagon was swamped and he was left on one side of the river while his wife was on the other forcing them to turn back. Noah settled in Alluwe, Oklahoma and Lyman went to Whitehill in Rogers Co. Oklahoma where they set up temporary housekeeping in a tent.

In 1935 and 1940 census, they lived in King, McPherson, Kansas where Lyman worked for Sinclair Oil Company but returned to Chelsea, Oklahoma by 1942 where he registered for the draft and ran a grocery store.

In 1953, both he and his wife, Maude died within months of each other. They are buried in Chelsea, Oklahoma cemetery.

His son, Harry said that his father took good care of the family and that they never went without. In the depression, his father would drill oil wells for double or nothing because he knew if it was a dry well, they would not be able to pay.

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### Alexander Harrison Mason (1852-1905)

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He was born 1852 in Bicknell, Knox, Indiana to James Harrison Mason and Lucinda Mills, the daughter of Samuel Mills and Lucinda Maine. He predeceased his father and is named in his father's will along with the names of his children.

In the 1860 and 1870 census, he is living in Vigo, Knox, Indiana with his parents.

In 1874, he married Malinda Wampler but she died 4 months later.

Four years later, in 1879, he married Clarissa Roberts, daughter of William Roberts and Adelia Cron. They had 9 known children.

They are listed in Bicknell, Knox, Indiana in 1880 and their son, James was born there in 1890 but they had relocated to Piney, Oregon, Missouri by 1891 where their son, Noah was born. Clarissa's parents, William and Adelia Roberts also relocated about the same time as they are listed in King City, Oregon, Missouri in 1900.

Alexander died in 1905 and is buried in Pine Cemetery, Ripley, Missouri.



Clarissa is listed in the 1910 King, Oregon, Missouri census with children William and Bertha. Then in 1920 she is listed with her parents in Piney, Oregon, Missouri.

By 1923, she had moved to Chelsea, Oklahoma where she is buried in Chelsea cemetery and still has many descendants.

Her granddaughter, Fern Mason said, "Both my grandmothers, Clarissa (Roberts) Mason and Hester (Story) Miller came from Missouri to Chelsea to live out their last days near their families. Both were widows, but very independent. Grandma Miller lived nearby and we children visited her often. I remember helping her with the dishes. She made a pan of hot soapy water and the first thing she reached for, was a cooking pot. I said, "No, Grandma, Mama taught us to wash the glasses first, then the dishes and silver, then the pots". She retorted, "I want my pots to be just as clean as my dishes". As an eight-year-old, that made quite an impression on me."

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### James Harrison Mason (1823-1915)

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James Harrison Mason was born 1823 in St. Clair Co., Illinois to Bennett Mason and Mary Ava Wesner, daughter of George Wesner and Nancy Eaton.

Although he isn't listed in census records having married before 1850, his father and mother's names are listed on the back of his death certificate and his descendants still reside in Knox Co. Indiana where they generously provided old family photographs.

By 1828, the family had relocated to Bicknell, Knox, Indiana.

In 1849, he married Lucinda Mills, the daughter of Samuel Mills and Lucinda Maine. They had 9 known children. In 1850, they are living next to his father, Bennett and he is listed in the census for Vigo, Knox, Indiana from 1860 to 1910.

There is a bio sketch of him at the age of 88 in the "History of Old Vincennes and Knox Co., Indiana."

In 1915, he died in Vigo, Knox, Indiana and left a will naming his children and his grandchildren, the children of Alexander Harrison Mason.

### Bennett Mason (1795-1873)

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He was born in Kentucky, Virginia or New Jersey to James and Jane/Jean Mason and is named in his father's will.



His birth is estimated at 1795 since he was not yet of age when named in his father, James Mason's 1815 will in St. Clair Co. Illinois.

In 1817, he married Mary Ava Wesner, daughter of George Wesner and Nancy Eaton of Crawford Co. Illinois.

By 1818, he had returned to St. Clair Illinois where received his inheritance and where their first 3 children were born.

By 1828, they relocated to Knox Co. Indiana where their son Edward was born and he appeared in the Knox Co. Indiana census from 1830 to 1870. In 1830, there was an unknown Jacob Mason age 40-50 on the same census page but not listed in subsequent years.

In 1873, he died in Vigo, Knox, Indiana leaving a will and is buried in Beck Cemetery.

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### James Mason (1770-1815)

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James was born about 1770 given his age (27-45) in the 1810 St. Clair Co. census and when his children married. From DNA analysis, his parents are likely Jacob Mason and Rachel Tewksbury.

On chromosome 12, I have triangulated matches with my paternal 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, a K Johnson, descendant of James Mason and Lydia Buzby through daughter, Mary and with C. Williams, descendant of Jacob Mason and Rachel Tewksbury through son, William. Jacob is a son of James Mason and Lydia Buzby of Burlington, New Jersey. These were Quaker families.

The earliest record of James and Jane/Jean Mason is 1808 in St. Clair Co. Illinois when they joined the Bethel Baptist church at Richland along with John Steel and his wife. Of significant note is that the Richland Baptist church adopted rules prohibiting slavery. This is also a Quaker belief.

In 1810, they are living in Grand Tower TWP, St. Clair Co. Illinois. John Steel Sr. and John Steel Jr. also appear on the same census page.

He is likely the same James Mason who purchased land in 1799 in Madison Co. KY and sold it in 1807.

In 1799, a James Mason purchased a tract of land on Silver Creek in Madison Co. Kentucky. According to tax records he was not a slave holder. In October 1807, he sold 80 acres on Silver Creek. I believe this to be the James Mason who relocated to St. Clair Co. Illinois and joined the Richland Baptist Church in April 1808 because of the timing of his land sale and the fact that he was not a slave holder which the church had prohibitions against.

Additional evidence is that James Mason, Bennett Million and John Woods each purchased federal land in St. Clair County, Illinois on the same day, Sep 19 1814. They all appear on the 1800 tax list living on Silver Creek but are gone by 1810 as is a John Steel.

James Mason Jr. born 1801 consistently listed his birth place as Kentucky but it is unclear how early James Sr. actually arrived in Kentucky because His oldest son, Bennett listed his birth place as KY in 1850, NJ in 1860 and VA in 1870. Nancy & Mary Mason who were also born prior to 1799 either died prior to 1850 or moved away and I have not been able to find them in census records so I could not get a further reading on James & Jane Mason's location prior to coming to Kentucky.

However, yet to be investigated is that his father Jacob moved to Marietta, Ohio then to Harrison Co. Kentucky by 1800. From online forums, "Jacob and Rachel have a mention in the minute books of the Quaker Congregation Books in Burlington, NJ abt 1775. They were censored from the congregation for an infraction--I believe they left New Jersey shortly after that."

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### James Mason (1770-1815)

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He married Jane, sometimes listed as Jean sometime about 1793 given the birth year of his oldest son. No marriage record has been found although it is speculated that her maiden name may have been Steel or Million given both were in Madison Co. Kentucky prior to relocating to St. Clair Co. Illinois.

The 1810 census listed six daughters and three sons for J Mason. His three sons, Bennett, William and James as well as his wife, Jane are named in his will signed on Nov 30 1815. His daughters' names were reconstructed from marriage records as he was the only Mason in the county during the 1820's.

### 1810 St. Clair Co. Illinois Census

Mason, J.

1M < 10	[b.1800-1809 James b.1801]
2M 11-16	[b.1794-1799 Bennett b.1795 & William]
1M 27-45	[b.1765-1783 James Mason]
4F < 10	[b.1800-1809 Jane, Elcy, Phebe, Catherine]
2F 11-16	[b.1794-1799 Nancy & Mary]
1F 27-45	[b. 1764-1783 Jane b.1776]

### Mason Cemetery Directions

South on Highway 4 out of Mascoutah, Illinois

West on Jefferson Road

South on Brickyard Road

At top of hill on left in timber

Some headstones visible from road



James is buried in Mason cemetery on a corner of the land he purchased in 1815.

The headstone marking his grave was recorded in 1933-35 by DAR but was gone when I visited in 1998.

His son, James Jr. and grandson, Absalom are also buried there.

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### Jacob Mason (1740-1820)

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Jacob was born about 1740, the son of James Mason and Lydia Buzby. He married Rachel Tewksbury in 1763 and had two known children, William and James.

DNA evidence indicates that James Mason who died 1815 in St. Clair Co. Illinois is related to Jacob Mason's parents and by process of elimination, it is thought that their son Jacob is the father of James Mason from St. Clair Co. Illinois.

In 1779, Jacob and Rachel were mentioned several times in Quaker Meeting Records and were eventually censored. Six years later they left New Jersey.

Per WikiTree, Jacob along with son William, "sold their landed estate in Evesham township, Burlington County, New Jersey, to James Mason, son of Solomon who married Mary Lee. The deed is dated 5 4 mo. 1786, recorded at Mt. Holly, New Jersey, and the consideration was 415 pounds. After this sale the family moved to Red Stone, Pennsylvania, and later William located at Marietta, Ohio, and his father with other members of the family journey on into Kentucky where some of his descendants still reside."

Several researchers have tied a Jacob and Rachel Mason, parents of a Jacob born 1825 in Harrison Co. Kentucky to the New Jersey family. This family lists a Jacob Jr. born 1776 in NJ and who married Rebecca Harrison 1807 in Harrison Co. Kentucky. His father, Jacob Sr. died in August of 1820, no location given. No proof yet but DNA could eventually prove or disprove the claim.

### James Mason (1697-1783)

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He was born in 1697 to John Mason and Sarah Smith. He was "the only male heir of John Mason the Immigrant who lived to raise a family, married Lida (Lydia) Busby (Buzby). They left four sons: Jacob, Isaac, John and Solomon. The descendants of John and Solomon have been traced, while those of Jacob and Isaac but little is known." [WikiTree]

His birth, marriage, children and death are recorded in Quaker records.

He is tied into our family via autosomal DNA research. At the end of chromosome 12, I have triangulated matches with my paternal 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, a K Johnson, descendant of James Mason and Lydia Buzby through daughter, Mary and with C. Williams, descendant of Jacob Mason and Rachel Tewksbury through their son, William.

Profile	Relative	Side	Group	Chr	Start	End	cMs	Status	MRCA Notes
Becky	<a href="#">D Blanke</a>	P	Mason-Miller	12	115.7	133.8	39.5	MRCA	Lyman Mason m. Maude Miller thru daughter Grace Mae
Becky	<a href="#">K Johnson</a>	P	Mason-Buzby	12	126.7	133.8	21.5	MRCA	James Mason m. Lydia Buzby thru daughter Mary
Becky	<a href="#">C Williams</a>	P	Mason-Tewksb...	12	127.4	133.8	20.3	MRCA	Jacob Mason m. Rachel Tewksbury thru son William

James Mason had a plantation in the Mount Laurel area of New Jersey. A small village was named Masonville in his honor. Many families, members of the Society of Friends, settled in this region.

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### John Mason (1650-1728)

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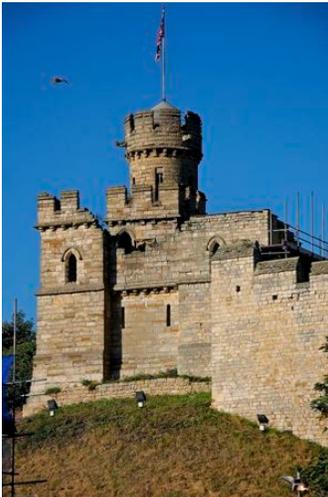
He was born about 1650 to Martin Mason in Lincolnshire, England. The name of his wife is unknown. They had 4 known children, James, John, Mary and Sarah.

"We learn from court records, at Trenton and Mount Holly, N. J., that John Mason, the progenitor of the Evesham branch of the Mason family, came to Burlington County, N. J., in a very early day, possibly with the Bortons, Moores, Engles, Pricketts, Sharps and other families and possibly he may have immigrated prior to this time. He was, no doubt, settled in America as early as 1677, as a creek which empties into the Rancocas has been known by the name of Mason's Creek since Burlington County was first settled. He leaves a will dated 20-3 mo., 1706, and also in a deed dated 5-4 mo., 1786, mention is made of his purchasing one hundred acres of land, deed dated 22-3 mo., 1689, of Thomas Olive, Colonial Governor of N. J." [WikiTree]

"He was, no doubt, a member and one who helped to organize the monthly meeting of Orthodox Friends of Haddonfield, N. J., and were it not for the fact that a part of these church records have been lost, or destroyed, we should be enabled to give a much fuller record as to the family's early history. He died at the home of his eldest son, James, in the year 1728. The name of his wife is not positively known." [WikiTree]

### Martin Mason (1630-aft 1676)

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He was born about 1630 to John Mason, "Gent of St. Swithians, Lincoln" in Lincolnshire. The name of his wife is unknown. They had three known children, John, Abigail and Martin.

"Martin Mason (from 1650 to 1676, Quaker) was the son of John Mason, Gent of St. Swithians, Lincoln, whose will leaving his son Martin his seal ring was proved 1675. Mason received an excellent education, was well-versed in Latin and became a copious writer, chiefly of controversial tracts. He joined the Quakers early and between 1650 and 1671 was continually imprisoned for his opinions. Most of his writings are dated from Lincoln Castle." [Dictionary of English National Biography]

"Martin was an active member of the Society of Friends (Quakers) and imprisoned several times for his beliefs. He was well-known for his religious writings. While imprisoned in Lincoln Castle he wrote to Charles II, King of England, and both houses of parliament stating all compulsion in religion should be removed. According to the book, The History of the Borton and Mason families in Europe and America, Martin Mason was one of four hundred liberated by the King's Patent, September 9, 1672. His son John Mason had already parted to America and since church records in England apparently stopped reporting on Martin's activities and don't report his death, it is thought he also sailed to America. There is no record of his death." [WikiTree]

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### John Mason (1610-1675)

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John Mason is thought to have been a Rector in the Church of England based on the fact that when his son, Martin, was incarcerated for his affiliation with the Society of Friends it was in Lincoln Castle, not a place to jail a commoner. [WikiTree]



The ruins of the original St Swithin's Church and the Greyfriars, Lincoln c.1784

The original church of St Swithin, was near the Sheep Market. It suffered a bad fire in 1644 during the English Civil War. It was rebuilt in stone in 1801. This was replaced with a new building on Sheep Square.



### History of Lincolnshire from Wiki

During pre-Roman times, most of Lincolnshire was inhabited by the Corieltavi people. The language of the area at that time would have been Common Brittonic, the precursor to modern Welsh. The name Lincoln derives from the Brittonic Lindo meaning 'lake'.

Lincolnshire, England derived from the merging of the territory of the ancient Kingdom of Lindsey with that controlled by the Danelaw borough Stamford.