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## Christopher Branch Sr. (abt. 1598 - 1682)

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### Christopher **Branch Sr.**

Born **about 1598** in **London, England** 

Son of [Lionel Branch](#) and [Valentia \(Sparks\) Branch](#)


ANCESTORS 

Brother of [Richard Branch](#) [half] and [Elizabeth Branch](#) [half]

Husband of [Mary \(Addie\) Branch](#) — married 2 Sep 1619 in St Peter Westcheap, London, England 

Father of [Ephraim Branch](#), [Katherine Branch](#), [Thomas Branch](#), [William Branch Sr](#) and [Christopher Branch Jr.](#)

DESCENDANTS 

Died **Feb 1682** at about age 84 in **Henrico, Colony of Virginia** 

Profile manager: [Kerry Larson](#)   [\[send private message\]](#)

PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS

Branch-50 created 27 Mar 2011 | Last modified 2 Jun 2024 | Last [tracked change](#):

**2 Jun 2024**

21:20: [Kerry Larson](#) [edited the Biography](#) for Christopher Branch Sr. (abt.1598-1682). (Inventory) [\[Thank Kerry for this\]](#)

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## Biography

Christopher was the son of [Lionel Branch](#) and [Valentia Sparke](#), born around 1598 in London, England.<sup>[1]</sup> He married Mary Addie on 2 Sep 1619 in St. Peters Church, Westcheap, London Greater London County, England. The translated marriage record reads: "Which daie appeared Xtofer Braunche gentleman, and a batchelor aged xxii [22] or there abouts and at his own government and disposing his father and mother both being deceased and did allege that he intendeth to marrie with Marie Addie mayden, aged xxiii [23] or there abouts the daughter of Francis Addie of Darton in the countie of Yorke husbandman and then appeared Thomas Addie miller, being brother to ye said Marrie and with whome she nowe lyveth and did testifie the consent of his said father to this intended Marry and the truthe of the promise as before that they know of no lawfull let or impediment by reason of pre contract or otherwise to hinder the same they both made faiethe and prayed licence for them to be married together in the pareshe Church of St. Peter Westcheap, London."<sup>[2] [3] [4] [5]</sup>



Christopher Branch Sr. is a [Qualifying Ancestor of the Jamestowne Society](#).



Christopher Branch Sr. was a [Virginia colonist](#).



Christopher Branch Sr. was a [Jamestown colonist](#).

"Christopher Branch came in the *London Marchant*, Mary, his wife in the same shipp, Thomas his sonne was aged 9 months" to the new Virginia Colony according to "The Muster (census) of the Inhabitants of the Colledge: Land in Virginia taken the 23th of Janery 1624 (1625)."<sup>[6][7]</sup> After sailing on the "London Merchant" in 1620, "Thy settle on

[Genealogist-to-Genealogist \(G2G\) Forum](#) posts:  
[Magna Carta ancestry for Christopher Branch?](#) Feb 8, 2015.

### DNA

No known carriers of Christopher's DNA have taken a [DNA test](#). Have you taken a test? If so, [select it here](#). If not, [see our friends at Ancestry DNA](#).

### Images: 7

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#### [Indian massacre of 1622](#)



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#### [Virginia 1607-1624](#)

1619 for the benefit of the proposed University at Henrico. "On the northerly side of James River, from the falls down to Henrico (about 14 miles below the present city of Richmond) . . . are the public lands reserved and laid out, whereof ten thousand are for the University lands, three thousand are for the company's lands, with other lands belonging to the Colledge" (Date: 1625 or '6).<sup>[8]</sup>

Christopher and Mary Branch survived the Indian Massacre of 1622. "A List of the Names of the Dead in Virginia since April Last [April 1623] Feby 16th 1623 [1624]" included Christopher and Mary Branch as "living".<sup>[8][9]</sup>



He returned briefly to Abingdon in 1632 for the purpose, amongst other things no doubt, of trying to gain possession of the Bull Inn, which he claimed ought, by rights, to be his, but of which he had been cheated by his uncle, Robert Payne. In the Chancery pleading, Christopher noted that his father had died twenty-seven years previously.<sup>[10]</sup>

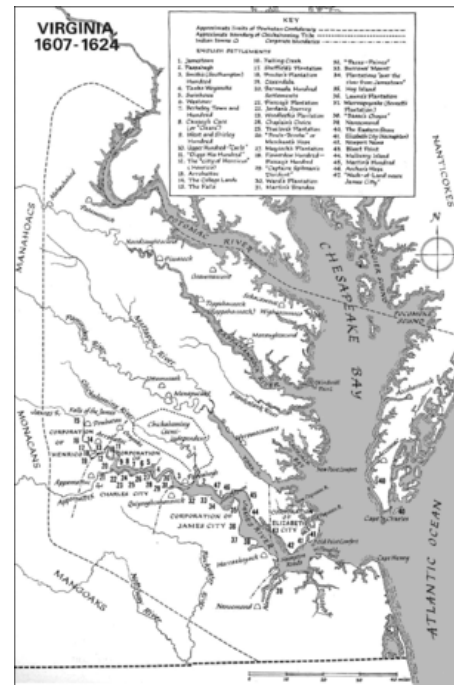
"Bill of Complaint of Christopher Braunche of Harrihattocks in Virginia, planter there, which Christopher Braunche is sonne and heire of Lyonnell Braunche third son of William Braunche, while he lived of Abingdon in the countie of Berks, gent, deceased, and wch said William Braunche was natural brother and heyre of Thomas Braunche, late while he lived Citizen and Draper of London, sworn 26 October 1632".<sup>[11]</sup>

Children:

1. [Thomas](#)<sup>[12]</sup>
2. [William](#)<sup>[12]</sup>
3. [Christopher](#)<sup>[13]</sup>

On October 20, 1634, Christopher Branch patented one hundred acres of land on the south side of the Appomattox River.<sup>[14][15]</sup> On December 8, 1635 he patented an additional 250 acres<sup>[16][17]</sup> he called Kingsland Plantation. He assigned "3 score acs., part of his plantation at Kingsland, lying N. upon his own land & S. upon Turloe (?) Kills Land" to James Pace on 14 Jun 1636.<sup>[18][19]</sup> Then on 14 September 1636, he patented 100 acres ("due by exchange from James Place, to whom it was due for transportation of 2 servants, Richard Pierce, James Hunt.")<sup>[20][21]</sup> in the same section as the earlier patent. Christopher Branch patented 450 acres in Henrico Co. on 28 Feb 1638, "E. by N. upon the great river, S. by E. upon Proctors Cr. etc. & N. by E. upon land granted to John Griffin..., 100 acres due in exchange from James Place, to whom in was due in right of 2 servants & 350 acres for transportation of 7 persons: Richard Peirce, James Hunt, Edward Salter, Thomas Morgan, Samuell Fitch, Tho. Richardson, Robert Elam, Charles Steward, Richard Bumpass."<sup>[22][23]</sup> "Christopher Branch, Gent." patented 250 acres adjacent to Long field on 12 Mar 1638, "50 acres for his own personal adventure and 200 acres for the transportation of 4 persons."<sup>[24]</sup> "Kingsland" was just west of "Farrar's Island", was also near "Osborne", home of the Jeffersons. He aquired another 1,380 acre plantation where today's "Kingsland Road" on Proctor Creek got its name. The present Kingsland Creek ran through his property.

Christopher was one of the viewers of tobacco in Henrico and one of the representatives for Henrico County in the house of Burgesses in 1639. He was Justice of the peace in Henrico County, in 1656.<sup>[12][25][26]</sup>



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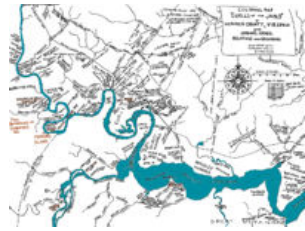
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Princeton University Library 1612

[Comments: 2](#). Popularity: 2.

### Virginia circa1640





(click three times for maximum enlargement)

The will of "Christopher Branch of Kingsland" was dated 20 Jun 1768. Oldest son [Thomas Branch](#) had already received 240 acres. Younger sons William and Christopher were already deceased. Grandson [Christopher](#) (son of [Christopher](#)) was to receive the land between son Thomas and Proctors Creek provided he help his brother [Samuel](#) build a house. [Samuel](#) was to receive the land called "Jacks Bottom" at Proctors Creek provided he help his brother [Benjamin](#) build a house. [Benjamin](#) was to receive land between Proctors Creek and Jacks Bottom. "It is my will that neither Samuel nor Benjamin go off the plantation but to live with Christopher and to have housing and ground and to work together until they be able to seat their own land unless they be willing to go off themselves." Sons of William, "[William](#) and [John](#) Branch shall have liberty to fish or fowl in the creeks or swamp." [Thomas Jefferson](#), the husband of granddaughter [Mary](#), was to receive one hogshead and four hundred pounds of tobacco. Grandson [Christopher Branch](#) was the sole executor and [Abel](#) Gower and [Richard](#) Ward were witnesses. The will was proved on 20 Feb 1681/2.<sup>[27][28][29]</sup> An inventory of his estate was "taken this 13th day of April 1682." The total value was 38 pounds, 7 shillings, 10 pence.<sup>[30]</sup>

Although William's sons did not inherit in the will, they had already received land. A 1716 land sale mentioned "one hundred acres, lying & being at Kingsland in the County of Henrico which sd. land was by deed dated the 17th of October 1659 conveyed by Christopher Branch unto his grandsons William Branch and John Branch..."<sup>[31]</sup> A 2 Nov 1726 sale from James Branch to Henry Vanderhood also noted that the "land was conveyed by Christopher Branch unto his grandsons William and John Branch by one certain deed bearing date the seventeenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand hundred fifty nine..."<sup>[32]</sup>

## Research Notes

There is some disagreement about the date of Christopher's birth. In the suit against Payne, Cabell noted: "that the said Lyonnell dying when your orator was of but tender years, about two or three years olde, (*this would fix 1602 as the date of birth of Christopher Branch, but it must be remembered, he has every reason to make himself appear as young and helpless at the time of his father's death as may be possible*) and your orator being transported over into Virginia in his infancy (*this, any how, is most adroitly put; he was it is true, a minor at the period alluded to, but the wording certainly would not suggest that he was a married man traveling in the company of his wife*) where he hath lived in the space of twelve or thirteen years..."<sup>[33]</sup> However, this would have meant he was much younger than his wife and married at only age 17 whereas the 1619 marriage record says he was age 22. More importantly, his mother died in 1600 as Valentia Branch was buried on 4 Aug 1600.<sup>[1]</sup> A birth year estimate of 1598, between his parents' marriage in 1596 and his mother's death in 1600 seems more reasonable. [Larson-2750](#) 22:27, 24 November 2023 (UTC)

Proposed ancestry of Christopher Branch to [Henry \(Normandie\) of England \(1068-1135\)](#):

1. Henry I, King of England, d. 1135 = Matilda of Scotland
2. (illegitimate by -) Robert of Caen, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Gloucester Mabel FitzHamon
3. Maud of Gloucester = Ranulph de Gernon, Earl of Chester
4. Hugh Kevelioc, 3rd Earl of Chester = Bertrade de Montfort
5. (illegitimate by -) Amicia de Meschines = Ralph de Mainwaring
6. Bertrade de Mainwaring = Henry de Audley
7. Emma de Audley = Gruffudd ap Madog, Prince of Powys Fadog

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E-Card

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### Tobacco Haul



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## Research

[RootsSearch for Christopher Branch Sr.:](#)

conveniently search 20+ genealogy websites. [\[more info\]](#)

Here is a likely matching profile for Christopher on the [FamilySearch Tree: LRXD-SHX](#). [\[more info\]](#)



9. Agnes Arderne = Sir John Whetenhall
10. Margaret Whetenhall = Adam Bostock
11. Adam Bostock = Janet Bradshaw
12. Sir Ralph Bostock = Isabel Lawton
13. Sir Adam Bostock = Elizabeth Venables
14. Nicholas Bostock = Catherine Mobberly
15. Hugh Bostock = Joan Del Heath
16. William (Richard?) Bostock = Margery Higginson
17. Elizabeth Bostock = Richard Branch
18. William Branch = Catherine Jennings
19. Lionel Branch = Valentia Sparkes
20. Christopher Branch of Va. = Mary Addie

Sources: GVFVM 1:208-32 (Branch) [GVFVM is *Genealogies of Virginia Families From the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* but the article that is reproduced is just Walne's "Branch of Abingdon: A Revision." See Sources for link. KKL] , plus a forthcoming Branch- Bostock article by John Anderson Brayton (based in part on the wills of Richard and Elizabeth [Bostock] Branch); W. H. Rylands, ed., *Four Visitations of Berkshire, 1532, 1566, 1623 and 1665-6*, vol. 2 (HSPVS, vol. 57, 1908), pp. 76-78 (Bostock); Ormerod, vol. 3, p. 259 (Bostock), vol. 2, pp. 195 (Whetenhall), 85, 77 (Arderne, Powys Fadog); Delafield, vol. 2, pp. 589-97 (Powys Fadog, Audley and Mainwaring); AR8, lines 125, 124. RA 4: 282 does not include a daughter Margaret for Gruffudd ap Madog, Prince of Powys Fadog and Emma de Audley.

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- This is a little bit different line than in the *Royal Descents of 500 Immigrants* which was commented on at <https://groups.google.com/g/soc.genealogy.medieval/c/aCkHF2AcFjQ/m/z0iPLmdDS00?pli=1> in 1998 and abandoned altogether in 2014, <https://groups.google.com/g/soc.genealogy.medieval/c/Ut2BwOzAe9o/m/9V8nNjHodekj>

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  - View free [Ancestry Sharing Image](#).
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- Wikidata: [Item Q5111979](#) 
- Wikipedia contributors, "Christopher Branch", *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*
- FamilySearch profile, Christopher Branch, FamilySearch Person: [LRXD-SHX](#)
- FamousKin [Ancestors of Christopher Branch](#)
- Find a Grave (has image), Find A Grave: [Memorial #115319744](#), Memorial page for Christopher Branch Sr. (2 Sep 1598-Feb 1682), citing Branch Family Cemetery, Henrico County, Virginia, USA; Maintained by Gresham Farrar (contributor 47643741).
- [Jamestowne Society](#): Branch, Christopher - A1010; born 1602, died 1681/2 Henrico Co.: (Muster of 1624/5). (*accessed 27 Sep 2021*)

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[J.Friedman](#)

I see that the Baronial Order of Magna Carta does accept Christopher Branch as a Gateway ancestor and uses, I think, Gary Boyd Roberts 2018 : Royal Decsents of 900 Colonists with the newly update lineage on page 822.

posted Jan 05, 2023 by [J.Friedman](#)

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**Robert Gang**

Is it true that Christopher Branch is considered to be a Colonial Gateway Ancestor?

posted Dec 23, 2022 by [Robert Gang](#)

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**John Townes**

Yes. Check out the Jamestown Society. (He is a great grandfather of mine through about five lines.)

posted Dec 25, 2022 by [John Townes](#)

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**Kerry Larson**

You may mean something different but he's not a Gateway Ancestor in the Wikitree Magna Carta Project ([https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Gateway\\_Ancestors\\_-\\_Magna\\_Carta\\_Project](https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Gateway_Ancestors_-_Magna_Carta_Project)). They rely primarily on Douglas Richardson's works. There is controversy regarding the wife of Richard Braunche IV as well as the feasibility of the Bostock line. It's likely that Christopher Branch has royal ancestry as well as to the magna carta barons, but some of his ancestral lines need more support.

posted Dec 25, 2022 by [Kerry Larson](#)

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Individuals should have one WikiTree profile that is [shared by all family members](#). If you [find matches for Christopher Branch](#) (Branch-50) merge them. [\[more info\]](#) [\[more merging tools\]](#) [\[for Christopher Branch\]](#)

Pending Merges

Unmerged Matches

Rejected Matches

None.

None.

None.

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This week's featured connections are [World War II Heroes](#): Christopher is [13 degrees from Sarah Baring](#), [18 degrees from Virginia Goillot](#), [22 degrees from Christina Granville](#), [16 degrees from Bill Halsey](#), [15 degrees from Hedy Lamarr](#), [12 degrees from George Marshall](#), [20 degrees from Ron Middleton](#), [14 degrees from Frank Pickersgill](#), [23 degrees from Mary Reid](#), [20 degrees from Charles Upham](#), [26 degrees from Bram Vanderstok](#) and [34 degrees from Waverly Woodson](#) on our [single family tree](#). See [your connection](#) or [your genealogical relationship](#) with Christopher.

[B](#) > [Branch](#) > Christopher Branch Sr.

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