

Introduction

This document outlines the research done by a group of descendants of John Bassett & Martha Carbis (calling ourselves BassettBylines) to identify the birth and parentage of John Bassett. There has been much conjecture as to who John Bassett's Parents were. "John" and "Bassett" are both common names. Different researchers have drawn different conclusions as to who John's parents were, which have later proved to be incorrect. Much time has been invested in disentangling previous research by other Bassett researchers. It is hoped that by drawing together and disseminating this paper that others will be able to add meat to the bones of our current knowledge.

To help with clarity both John Bassett & William Bassett have been highlighted in blue throughout this document for easier reading and identification.

Please contact us if you have or find any further information that might be useful in our quest. Copies of originals/or source data used in support of this document can be obtained on request from either Marsha Webster or Sandra Williamson.

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The known life John Bassett c 1790-1868.

Born Madron Cornwall c 1790

Possible Parents William and Mary

Married 15th March 1812 in Paul, Cornwall to Martha Carbis

An outline of his life

- From the Censuses we know he worked in the Mines.
- Father In Law and Brother In law charged with theft which occurred in 1812 and trial held 1815. The shame of the theft may have caused him to alter the names of his parents as his wife Martha Carbis did in naming her brother as her father.
- At the time of his marriage he couldn't write.
- When his three sons married they each signed their marriage copy.
- The whole Bassett family paid their way to Australia, some returning to England to bring out more family.
- John Bassett's last trip to Australia was in 1861. We think he travelled to Australia in 1853 with his son John.

Children of John and Martha

All born Cornwall

1. William c 1816 St Hilary
2. John c 1820 Germoe
3. Francis c 1823 Breage
4. Ann c 1826 Camborne
5. Martha Germoe 1828
6. James c 1833 Breage d 1833 Godolfin?
7. James c 1834 Breage
8. Samuel c 1838 Germoe

Also with parents of John Bassett and Martha. This may be a child of our John and Martha.

- John b 13 Nov 1814 Perranuthnoe, Cornwall, England

[Note:-re John born 1814 have you identified any other couple known as John Bassett & Martha? As there is such a large gap between when our John & Martha marry and known birth of William in 1816 it would seem logical that John born 1814 was their child. Inserted Friday, 16 March 2007 question posed on BassettByLines]

Searching for our John Bassett 1790 – 1868

Our Research So Far

Not much is known about John Bassett's family of origin.

What we do know from John Bassett's Australia death certificate is that John's father was a farmer named William. However there is much conjecture as to who is our John Bassett

John Bassett's Birthplace & Date

John's Bassett's birth date is based on the following evidence

1. On his death certificate it says that John was 22 years old when he married Martha. According to the Banns we have located he was married on the 15 Mar 1812, this means that he would have been born in 1790.
2. On the 1841 census his age is given as 50 which means he could have been born between 1785 and 1791. Ages in the census were rounded down to the nearest 5 years. His place of birth was in the county of Cornwall.
3. On the 1851 census his age was given as 60 and his birthplace was given as Madryn. As there was no rounding down of ages in this census this would mean that he was born in 1790 or 1791.
4. On the 1861 census his age was given as 70 and his birthplace was given as Madron. As with the 1851 census there was no rounding down of ages so this would mean that John was born in 1790 or 1791.
5. When John migrated to Australia on the SS Great Britain in 1861 his age was listed in the ship's passenger list as 70. Therefore making his birth 1790 or 1791.

Based on the above we need to search records for 1790 and 1791 and locate all the John Bassett's born in this period.

Possible Candidates Identified for the position of our John Bassett

1. **John Bassett christened 27 March 1788, St Izzey, Cornwall** his parents were William Bassett and Mary Symons. This John Bassett however died 7th Oct 1851 in Fairwater House, Taunton Somerset. John was a lunatic confined to Fairwater House Lunatic Asylum for many years admitted July 1828 having previously been a patient at a similar establishment near Tauton, Fivehead House since 25 Oct 1822. This was a wholesale move and transfer of license from the one to the other asylum by the same surgeon/owner. Private patient. Cause of death peritonitis and effusion in the chest (Somerset RO 1/5/87). *This therefore couldn't be our John Bassett B as he died in England n 1851 and our John died in Eaglehawk in 1868*
2. **John Bassett christened 5 September 1790, Madron, Cornwall** Unfortunately only one parent is given, the father, to a William Bassett according to the Madron Parish records see below
"5 Sep 1790 John s/o William Bassett, pauper at Madron"
This could be our John Bassett however on his death certificate it stated that John Bassett's parents were farmers (which may or may not be accurate), if his parents were farmers it is unlikely they would have been listed as paupers on his christening record.
[My thoughts are that even if this John's father was a pauper on the Baptism record he may have become a farmer later on in life. Just as a matter of interest around this time a Farmer was also known as a Tax Collector for the King or wealthy land owner. The Farmer would collect the rent from Tenement farmers. A farmer as we know them would have been called an Agricultural Labourer as well.- Marsha Webster]

There are a few others listed in the church records that although not quite as nice a fit who could possibly be my John Bassett however much more research needs to be done to establish a link.

Discovering who are John Bassett's Parents

On John Bassett's death certificate (died 1868) his father is listed as **William** and his mother is listed as **Mary unknown**. In the 1851 & 1861 John is identified as being **born in Madron**.

Therefore we are looking for a **William** who could be his father who was living in Madron.. See below for the possible fathers of John Bassett and perhaps a Francis Bassett (husband of Ann Drew Carbis*) who could have been a cousin or brother to our John.*Ann Drew Carbis is a sister of John's wife Martha Carbis.

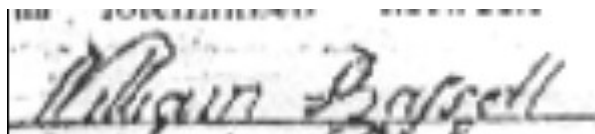
Marriages Listed in the parish records 1754-1800 for Madron

William Bassett (signed with a mark)	Eleanor Sampson (signed with a mark)	1761 23 Jun	Witness James Bassett who signed his name	Witness Margery Grenfell made a mark	Page 45 Reg#178	W. Bassett makes his mark Also transcribed by William Rowett
James Bassett who signed his name	Magery Grenfell (signed with a mark)	1761 2 May	Witness William Bassett who signed his name	Witness Arthur Rich who signed his name	Page 46 Reg#183	Witness W. Bassett Signature No 1 (very clear)
William Bassett (signed with a mark) needs to be removed see last block this row	Jane Mathews (signed with a mark)	Banns Pub July 27, Aug 3 & 10 1783 Marr 13 sep 1783	Witness Sibion Thoastes? who signed his name	Witness Mathew Hoken who signed his name	Page 212 Reg#844	Signature No 2 (child like writing) Also transcribed by William Rowett 1980
<i>Additional Marriages from the parish church records of Penzance</i>						
William Bassett	Magery Grenfield	1735 Aug 23				as transcribed by William Rowett The Vicarage Madron)

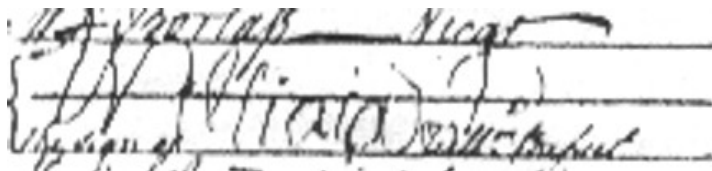
This marriage is too early for the parents of our John Bassett although this could be his grandparents (?)

Untangling the William Bassett's signatures that appear in the parish register

Enlargement of the William Bassett signatures from the Marriage Banns



Signature 1
(rbasetmarr02sig1)



Signature 2
(rbasetmarr04sig2)

William Bassett

Three William Bassetts were found in the Marriage register in Madron during this period. All three appear to be different people for the following reasons-

Comparing the first William Bassett signatures the other two W Bassett on this film we came to the following conclusions

1. The first W.Bassett in March 1761 makes a mark and in May 1761 at James Bassett wedding a W.Bassett signs his name as a witness very clearly (Signature No 1)– this indicates that it is most likely not the same person because even if he had learnt to write in the last 3 months it would not have been so accomplished.
2. The first W.Bassett in March 1761 makes a mark and in 1783 another W.Bassett makes a very poor signature however they are not the same otherwise the second W.Bassett would have been identified as a widower as this would have been his second marriage
3. Comparing the second William Bassett signature with the third W.Bassett – (Signature No 2)Clearly not the same due to the visual

Done in connection with Bassett By Lines Members – Andrea Buckley, Marsha Webser & Jean Staunton

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Research in Progress - Please do not publish . Printed on 10/03/07

difference in the signatures

William Basset Birth Record (another possibility for the grandparents of John Bassett b 1790)

IGI Individual Record **British Isles**

FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.

William Basset	02 NOV 1735	Lanreath, Cornwall, England	Parents: William Basset and Mary	
Batch Number C023072	Dates 1555 - 1812	Source Call No. 0236562	Film	Print Out Call No. 0820567

Extracted birth or christening record for the locality listed in the record. The source records are usually arranged chronologically by the birth or christening date. This also maybe John's Grandparents and possible father. Needs further investigation. It is possible that the birth and marriage took place in Madron. Penzance was a chapelry of Madron until it (Penzance) became a parish in 1871

Sources

Transcriptions of originals used as references

Census Records for John Bassett

Census in 1841

He appeared in the **census on 07 Jun 1841** in Blowing House Stamps, Breage, Cornwall, England, UK.2

1. **John Bassett**, aged 50, Tin Miner, born Cornwall
2. Martha Bassett, aged 45, , born Cornwall
3. William Bassett, aged 25, Tin Miner, born Cornwall
4. John Bassett, aged 20, Tin Miner, born Cornwall
5. Ann Bassett, aged 15, Dressing, born Cornwall
6. Martha Bassett, aged 12, Dressing, born Cornwall
7. James Bassett, aged 8, born Cornwall
8. Jenifar Moffatt, aged 15, Dressing, born Cornwall

Census in 1851

He appeared in the **census in 1851** in Godolphin Mine, Breage, , Cornwall, England, UK.7

1. **John Bassett, Head, aged 60**, Tin Dresser, born in **Madryn** Cornwall,,
2. Martha Bassett, Wife aged 57, born in Paul Cornwall,,
3. James Bassett, Son, aged 16, Tin Miner, born in Breage Cornwall,,

4. Martha Bassett, Dau, aged 22, Tin Dressing, born in Breage Cornwall,,

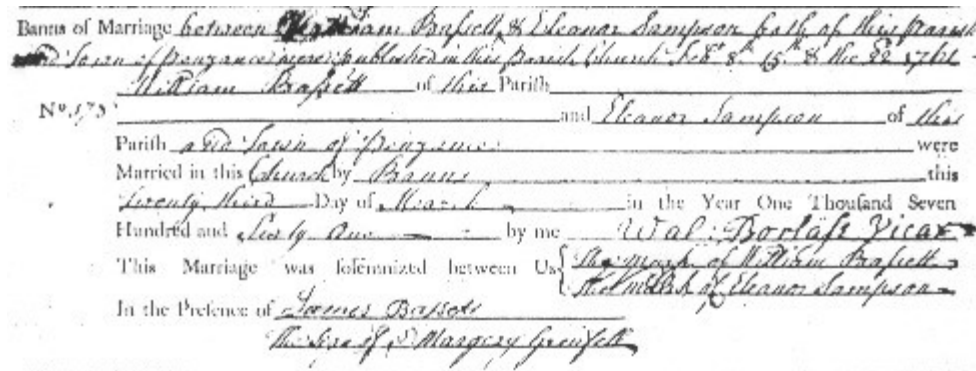
Census in 1861

He appeared in the census on 07 Apr 1861 in Fraddam, Gwinear, Cornwall, England, United Kingdom.9

1. John Bassett aged 70, born in Madron
2. Martha Bassett aged 65, born in Paul

Marriage Banns Images

Marriage Banns William Basset and Eleanor Sampson



Marriage Bans of William Basset and Jane Mathews

Marriage _____

4. William Basset _____ and Jane Mathews both of this _____ Parish _____ were Married in this Church by James Harrison Minister, July 27 August 3^d 1783 this thirtieth Day of September in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty three by me Wm. Gortals Vicar

This Marriage was solemnized between Us Wm. Gortals Vicar

In the Presence of Shilvan Hoates Richard Mathews Matthew Hoates

Marriage Bans of John Bassett and Martha Carbis

Banns of Marriage between John Bassett and Martha Carbis _____

John Bassett _____ of the Parish _____ and Martha Carbis _____ of the Parish _____ were Married in this Church by James Harrison Minister, this 28th Day of September in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty three by me Wm. Gortals Vicar

This Marriage was solemnized between Us Wm. Gortals Vicar

In the Presence of Deaneel Hoates W. Carbis

Copy

An additional possible theory for the parents of John Bassett

The parents of John Bassett as suggested by Phil Keast

Phil has suggested that our John Bassett is the son of Jane Matthews and William Bassett, outlined as follows:-

William Bassett, son of **William Bassett** and **Eleanor Sampson**, was born about 1762 in Madron, Cornwall, England and died on an unknown date.

William married **Jane Matthews** on 13 Sep 1783 in Madron, Cornwall, England. Jane was born about 1759 in Madron, Cornwall, England and died on an unknown date.

Children from this marriage (including our John Bassett) were:

1. **Anne Bassett** was born about 1784 in Madron, Cornwall, England, was christened on 4 Jan 1784 in Madron, Cornwall, England, and died on an unknown date.
2. **Francis Bassett** was born about 1785 in Madron, Cornwall, England, was christened on 11 Sep 1785 in Madron, Cornwall, England, and died on an unknown date.

Francis married **Ann Carbis** on 7 Nov 1806 in Paul, Cornwall, England. Ann was born about 1785 in Paul, Cornwall, England and died on an unknown date.

3. **William Bassett** was born about 1788 in Madron, Cornwall, England, was christened on 20 Jan 1788 in Madron, Cornwall, England, and died in 1799 in Gulval, Cornwall, England about age 11.
4. **John Bassett** was born about 1790 in Madron, Cornwall, England and died on an unknown date.

John married **Martha Carbis** on 15 Mar 1812 in Paul, Cornwall, England. Martha was born about 1794 in Paul, Cornwall, England and died on an unknown date.

5. **Mary Bassett** was born about 1792 in Madron, Cornwall, England, was christened on 8 Mar 1792 in Madron, Cornwall, England, and died on an unknown date.
6. **Mary Bassett** was born about 1794 in Madron, Cornwall, England, was christened on 9 Mar 1794 in Madron, Cornwall, England, and died on an unknown date.

7. **James Bassett** was born about 1796 in Madron, Cornwall, England, was christened on 13 Mar 1796 in Madron, Cornwall, England, and died on an unknown date.
8. **Hanna Bassett** was born about 1798 in Madron, Cornwall, England, was christened on 17 Feb 1798 in Madron, Cornwall, England, and died on an unknown date.

Hanna married **Richard Rowe** on 30 Jul 1826 in Madron, Cornwall, England. Richard was born about 1797 in Cornwall, England and died on an unknown date.

9. **Jane Bassett** was born about 1800 in Madron, Cornwall, England, was christened on 23 Mar 1800 in Madron, Cornwall, England, and died in 1810 about age 10.

Conclusion re-Phil Keast's suggestions

It all looks promising certainly all the names are the ones that are familiar to our family, however we have yet to substantiate or disprove Phil's suggestion. Phil Keast is a member of both the Keast Connect Project and the Cornwall Family History Society #11217.