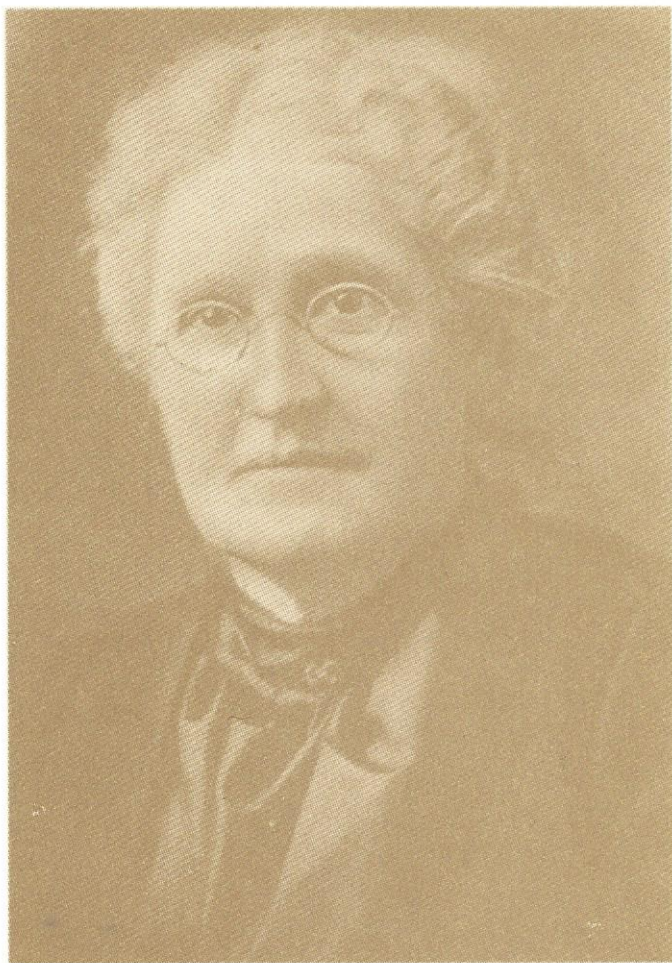


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The
National Genealogical Society

presents . . .

Faces of America

On the Cover:

NETTIE (FEAGANS) COYLE

1852–1904

Nettie's portrait, taken late in life, shows a woman perhaps reflecting on financial struggles common to middle-class residents of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many of her descendants have her round face, full cheekbones, curly locks, and fair complexion. Like most women of her era, she left few records, but her family remembered her fondly.

Nettie spent her life in the part of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley that became West Virginia. Reaching her teens during the Civil War, she likely endured the struggles residents faced during the battles of colliding armies in the valley and the devastating aftermath. In 1875 she married Julius "Jude" Marion Coyle, a Confederate Army cavalry veteran who had turned just eighteen at the war's close.

Born to a prominent farming family in the Shenandoah Valley, Jude was fun-loving and social by nature. He engaged in several occupations, including farming. As a butcher, he delivered meat throughout the valley. Family lore says he had a gambling problem, and he apparently struggled financially. At Nettie's deathbed, one of her sons promised not to smoke, drink, or play cards. When Jude inherited money from his uncle, liens required sending his share directly to a local bank. Jude's sister inherited the family farm and later conveyed it to Nettie, probably to protect it from creditors. Nettie devised the land to Jude, however. Using it as collateral, he lost it after her death. Without Nettie's guidance, Jude became homeless and rotated residences among his children. A family story says he moved to Florida, where he became ill and too impoverished to return to West Virginia. A son went to Florida to fetch him.

Nettie descends from a long line of millers, an occupation that her husband and a son practiced briefly. Her father, Cylus H. Feagans, a self-made man, worked for several Virginia mill owners in his young adult life. He eventually formed a partnership enabling him to obtain his own mill. Near the end of his life Cylus purchased his partner's share and bequeathed the operation to a son. The family mill still survives. An article in this issue describes how it, and his occupation, helped link him to his parents.

Credits: Documentation of Nettie's life is in the files of her great-great-grandson, Victor Dunn, CG; 43540 Clivedon Court; Ashburn, VA 20147-4540; <http://www.virginiaancestry.com>; victor.dunn@virginiaancestry.com. Nettie's great-granddaughter, Anne Portray of Charles Town, West Virginia, owns the portrait.

Determining Origin with Negative and Indirect Evidence: Cylus H. Feagans of Virginia and West Virginia

By Victor S. Dunn, CG

When no source provides direct evidence of parentage, other kinds of evidence can break through the barrier. In Cylus's case, negative evidence eliminated ten sets of parental candidates. Indirect evidence from documentary and DNA records identified the remaining couple as Cylus's parents.

Virginia researchers frequently encounter a black hole when seeking parents of people who came of age before the 1850 census. Marriage records from that era rarely identify parents. Birth and death registration began in 1853, but compliance was low throughout the century. Death records often did not name parents.²

Cylus Henry Feagans first appeared in public records as “Silas Feggens” in 1840, when Charles Turner paid his Loudoun County, Virginia, poll tax.³ Spelling of his surname varies in Virginia and West Virginia records. On 11 July 1842 in Loudoun County, “Silas H. Feagans” married Sarah J. Wilder, daughter of Henry and Mary

© Victor S. Dunn, CG; 43540 Clivedon Court; Ashburn, VA 20147-4540; <http://www.virginiaancestry.com>; victor.dunn@virginiaancestry.com. Mr. Dunn, a professional genealogist, specializes in Virginia and West Virginia research, with an emphasis on brick-wall solutions and land records and platting. He coordinates the Virginia track at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and has served on the boards of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, National Genealogical Society, and Virginia Genealogical Society. He thanks Feagans descendants who allowed their names and test results to be used in this article. Referenced websites were accessed on 26 February 2017, except where otherwise noted.

2. For an overview, see Conley L. Edwards, *Using Vital Statistics Records in the Archives at the Library of Virginia: Research Notes Number 2* (2000; revised, Richmond: Library of Virginia, 2015); PDF, *Library of Virginia* (<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/note2.pdf>).

3. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax lists, Loudoun Co., 1840, John Weadon's dist., p. 47, Charles Turner and Silas Feggens; personal property tax microfilm 211; Library of Virginia (LVA), Richmond. Silas's middle name, initialized during his lifetime, appears only on W.Va. death certificate 7499 (1945), Joseph Bell Feagans; digital image, “Vital Research Records Project,” *West Virginia Division of Culture and History* (http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_dcsearch.aspx), search for Joseph Feagans in Berkeley Co. Cylus's early records usually show his first name as Silas. This article uses Cylus because that spelling was common toward the end of his life. See, for example, Edge Hill Cemetery (Charles Town, W.Va.), Cylus H. Feagans tombstone; viewed by author, 17 September 2011. Also, Jefferson Co., W.Va., Register of Deaths within the District of R. A. Alexander for 1888, unpaginated, C. H. Feagan, 2 January 1888; digital image, *West Virginia Division of Culture and History*, search for Feagan in Jefferson County.

Wilder.⁴ By 1846 Silas and Sarah had moved to neighboring Jefferson County, which became part of West Virginia in 1863.⁵ Through 1880 the family moved at least twice between Jefferson and adjoining Berkeley County.⁶

Cylus spent his career in milling. In 1840 he worked for mill-owner Charles Turner.⁷ In 1867 he and Edward B. Haines bought ten acres containing a “valuable brick mill & saw mill.”⁸ In 1885 Cylus purchased Haines’s interest in the property.⁹ Cylus died in Jefferson County, which maintained two death registers at the time. Each provides similar and different information about him:

- C. H. Feagan, white, male, died 2 January 1888 at Kabletown District of Bronchitis aged sixty-eight, parents - [blank] Feagan, born in Virginia, occupation - miller, consort of Sarah Feagan, death reported by Ed. Feagan—son¹⁰
- Chas. H. Feagans, white, male, age sixty-seven years, ten months and twenty-eight days, miller, died 2 January 1888, married, born in Fauquire (Fauquier) Co., Va., resident of state for twenty-two years, died at Jefferson County from consumption¹¹

The 1888 date appears on a tombstone with the name Cylus H. “Feagans.” Giving his birth as 5 February 1820, it agrees with the birth date calculated from the “Chas. H. Feagans” death record.¹² Consistent with that birth year, four decennial censuses show him aging in ten-year increments from thirty in 1850 through sixty in 1880.¹³

4. Loudoun Co., Va., Marriage Records – Minister’s Returns, p. 113, Feagans-Wilder, 11 July 1842; Circuit Clerk’s Archives, Leesburg, Va. For Sarah’s parents, see Jefferson Co., Register of Deaths within the District of R. A. Alexander for 1889, unpaginated, Sarah J. Feagan [blank] May 1889; digital image, *West Virginia Division of Culture and History*, search for Sarah Feagan in Jefferson County.

5. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax lists, Jefferson Co., 1846, Samuel Stone’s dist., p. 12, Silas Feagans; LVA personal property tax microfilm 188. For the formation of West Virginia, see *Statutes at Large* 13 (Boston: Little, Brown, 1866): 731–32, “By the President of the United States of America: A Proclamation,” 20 April 1863.

6. 1850 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Va., population schedule, 28th dist., fol. 363r, dwelling 1037, family 1052, Silas H. Feagans household; microfilm M432, roll 953, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Also, 1860 U.S. census, Berkeley Co., Va., pop. sch., p. 128, dwell./fam. 897; Cylus H. Feagans household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 1335. Also, 1870 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., W. Va., pop. sch., Grant Twp., p. 59, dwell. 324, fam. 334, Silas Feagan household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 1689. Also, 1880 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., W.Va., pop. sch., Osburn dist., enumeration district (ED) 6, p. 34, dwell./fam. 290, Silas H. Feagans household; NARA microfilm T9, roll 1405.

7. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax lists, Loudoun Co., 1840, John Weadon’s dist., p. 47, Charles Turner and Silas Feagans. For Turner’s mill, see Loudoun Co., Deed Book 4P:254–55, Turner to Powell, 21 July 1841; Circuit Clerk, Leesburg; LVA Loudoun Co. microfilm 37.

8. Jefferson Co., Deeds 2:491, Walker to Haines and Feagans, 1 November 1867; County Clerk, Charles Town.

9. *Ibid.*, O:223–24, Haines to Feagans, 7 October 1885.

10. Jefferson Co., W.Va., Register of Deaths within the District of R. A. Alexander for 1888, unpaginated, C. H. Feagan, 2 January 1888.

11. *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/004003321>), digital film 004003321, image 332, Jefferson Co., Register of Deaths 1887–1904, p. 6, no. 52, Chas. H. Feagans, 2 January 1888.

12. Edge Hill Cemetery, Cylus H. Feagans tombstone.

13. See footnote 5.

Jefferson County has no probate for Cylus.¹⁴ An 1889 deed of trust identifies his children as Mary A. Blake, Sarah R. Baney, Virginia Selby, Nettie Coyle, Stephen H. Feagans, Wilder Feagans, Edward Feagans, and Joseph B. Feagans.¹⁵

SIBLING CANDIDATES

Sophonria Feagans, Virginia-born and age eighteen (born in 1831–32) in Cylus's 1850 household, provides a clue to his origin.¹⁶ Twelve years younger than Cylus, she was too old to be his daughter. She could, however, have been his sister. Like Cylus, Sophronia had Loudoun County connections. On 28 November 1853, the county issued a license for "Sufronia Figgins" to marry William Lowe. James Fields attested they were of age but named no parents. They married the next day.¹⁷

In 1860 William was thirty-five and "Sefrony," thirty-three (born in 1826–27).¹⁸ Six years later William reported that his wife, "Sophrony" Lowe, died of consumption at the Loudoun County poorhouse on 23 September 1836 at age thirty-six (born in 1829–30). The record names no parents.¹⁹

Census, deed, probate, tax, and vital records reveal only one other Feagans household in Jefferson and Berkeley counties in the mid-1800s.²⁰ Daniel Feagans paid personal property taxes in Jefferson County from 1853 through 1856.²¹ On 26 December 1832 he had signed a bond in Loudoun County to marry Jane Virts.²² In 1850 "Dan," forty-four (born in 1805–6), and Jane Figgins headed a Loudoun

14. Jefferson Co., in its Index to Wills 1 (from 1801); County Clerk's Office, lists no estate record for Cylus.

15. Jefferson Co., Deed Book T:450–54, Feagans to Trapnell, 23 August 1889.

16. 1850 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Va., pop. sch., 28th dist., fol. 363r, dwell. 1037, fam. 1052, Silas H. Feagans household.

17. Loudoun Co., Marriage Register, 1850–1866, chronologically arranged, Lowe-Figgins license, 28 November 1853; LVA Loudoun Co. microfilm 94. Also, Loudoun Co., Marriage Records, Lowe-Figgins minister's return, 29 November 1853.

18. 1860 U.S. census, Loudoun Co., Va., pop. sch., Southern Dist., p. 4, dwell./fam. 22, William Lowe household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 1359.

19. Loudoun Co., Register of Deaths 1:44, Sophrony Lowe, 23 September 1866; Circuit Clerk.

20. The author studied 1810–1900 censuses for Feagans. Only Cylus appears in Jefferson County deed indexes, 1840–1893. No Feagans appears in Jefferson Co., Index to Wills, 1801–1900, and Patricia B. Duncan, *Jefferson County, Virginia, 1825–1841 Personal Property Tax Lists* (Westminster, Md.: Willow Bend, 2004). The author studied Feagans entries in Jefferson Co. personal property tax lists, 1842–60, on LVA personal property tax microfilms 188 and 583–85. He found no Feagans in Berkeley Co., General Index to Deeds, Grantors and Grantees, 1800–1900; LVA Berkeley Co. microfilms 44 and 47. He found no Berkeley County entries in Wesley E. Pippenger, *Index to West Virginia Estates Before 1866*, vol. 1 (Richmond: Virginia Genealogical Society, 2013). Searches for Feagans at "West Virginia Will Books, 1756–1971," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1909099>) located no pre-1900 Feagans probates in Berkeley County. All searches included variant spellings.

21. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax lists, Jefferson Co., Samuel Stone's dist., 1853, p. 22; 1854, p. 23; 1855, p. 22; and 1856, p. 22; Daniel Feagans; LVA personal property tax microfilm 584.

22. Loudoun Co., Marriage Bonds, Feagans-Virts, 26 December 1832.

household that included Charles Figgins, sixteen, and Wilford Figgins, a laborer age forty-six (born in 1803–4).²³

Daniel was last assessed for personal property in Loudoun County in 1851.²⁴ He paid taxes in Jefferson County in 1853 and 1854 on two free tithables above age sixteen, with only one above twenty-one. In 1855 and 1856 he was taxed for two tithables above age twenty-one.²⁵ The second tithable likely was Charles Feagans, probably age twenty-one by 1855. By 1860 Daniel and Jane Figgins had settled in Cooper County, Missouri.²⁶

Wilford and Daniel Feagans probably were sons of John Feagans of Fauquier County, south of Loudoun. In 1830 Wilford headed a household in neighboring Prince William County, Virginia.²⁷ In 1836 he signed, as cotrustee, a marriage agreement between Thomas Hunt and Jemima Feagan.²⁸ On the same day Hunt signed a bond to marry Jemima, “daughter of John Feagans decd.”²⁹

Two men named John “Fagan” headed Fauquier County households in 1830, but neither was Cylus’s father. Each household included a man in his twenties, Daniel’s age at the time. Neither included a boy between ten and fifteen, Cylus’s age category in 1830.³⁰ Further, no connection has been found between Cylus and John Feagans’s apparent family.

PARENTAL CANDIDATES

Census, church, court, land, probate, tax, and vital records in the Northern Virginia counties of Fauquier, Loudoun, and Prince William identify ten sets of parental candidates for Cylus Feagans, born in 1820:

1. Daniel Feagans first paid personal property taxes in Fauquier County in 1820.³¹ Likely the son of John and Hannah (Robinson) Feagans (number 7 below), he was born about 1802–3.³² No evidence suggests Daniel married or had children.

23. 1850 U.S. census, Loudoun Co., Va., pop. sch., fol. 297r, dwell./fam. 1949, Dan^l Figgins household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 957.

24. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax lists, Loudoun Co., Geo. K. Fox’s dist., 1851, p. 18, Daniel Figgins; LVA personal property tax microfilm 607.

25. *Ibid.*, Jefferson Co., Samuel Stone’s dist., 1853, p. 22; 1854, p. 23; 1855, p. 22; and 1856, p. 22; Daniel Feagans.

26. 1860 U.S. census, Cooper Co., Mo., pop. sch., Pilot Grove Dist., p. 76, dwell./fam. 519, Dan^l Figgins household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 616.

27. 1830 U.S. census, Prince William Co., Va., fol. 67, “Wilfred” Figgins household; NARA microfilm M19, roll 196.

28. Fauquier Co., Va., Deed Book 41:107–9, Hunt-Feagan marriage agreement, 12 January 1836; Circuit Clerk, Warrenton, Va.; LVA Fauquier Co. microfilm 18.

29. Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Hunt-Feagans, 12 January 1836; Circuit Clerk, Warrenton.

30. 1830 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., fols. 443 and 474, John Fagan households; NARA microfilm M19, roll 194.

31. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax list, Fauquier Co., Nimrod Ashby’s dist., 1820, p. 13, Daniel Feagans; LVA personal property tax microfilm 113.

2. Isaac Feagans married Nancy Boudridge about 10 March 1802 in Fauquier County.³³ In 1820 Isaac lived in a Prince William County household that included two boys under age ten.³⁴ One boy was William L. Feagans, born about 1816, who married Elizabeth Thompson in 1838 and died in 1853.³⁵ The other boy was James Feagans, who attested to William's age for his marriage, married Mary Ann McCrae in 1836, and lived in neighboring Frederick County, Maryland, in 1850.³⁶
3. The first James Fagan, of four in Fauquier County in 1820 with at least one boy under age ten, was born about 1791–92 to Daniel and Lydia Feagans.³⁷ In 1815 James wed Polly Weaver.³⁸ They were likely one of two couples in 1820 with a boy under age ten and the eldest male between twenty-six and forty-five (born in 1775–94).³⁹ Similar signatures indicate that this James married Eliza Riley about 1847–48.⁴⁰ By 1860 James and Eliza lived in Rappahannock County, Virginia, where James died on 14 December 1878.⁴¹ "Jock" Fegans, James's son, reported the death. He likely was Jack Feagans who died in Rappahannock County in 1889, when his landlord gave his age as sixty-eight.⁴² In 1850 Jack apparently was "Jackson Figans," thirty (born in 1819–20).⁴³

32. Fauquier Co., Will Book 21:435, will of John Feagans, 26 March 1849; Circuit Clerk. For Daniel's age, see 1850 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., pop. sch., Ashby's dist., fol. 208r, dwell. 129, fam. 132, Daniel Fegans household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 943.

33. Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Feagans-Boudridge, 10 March 1802.

34. 1820 U.S. census, Prince William Co., Va., fol. 249r, Isaac Feagans household; NARA microfilm M33, roll 130.

35. Loudoun Co., Marriage Bonds, Feagins-Thompson, 26 December 1838. Also, Loudoun Co., Register of Deaths 1:4, Isaac Feagans, 16 October 1853. Amy Feagans identified as William's mother may have been an undocumented second wife of Isaac, identified as William's father. Regardless, tax records suggest only one man of his name lived in Loudoun and Fauquier counties during this time.

36. Loudoun Co., Marriage Bonds, Feagins-McCrea, 17 December 1836. Also, 1850 U.S. census, Frederick Co., Md., pop. sch., Petersville Dist., fol. 382r, dwell. 75, fam. 79, James Figgins household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 293.

37. For the first James, see 1820 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 54, third entry from last, James Fagan household; NARA microfilm M33, roll 136. For his birth years, see 1870 U.S. census, Rappahannock Co., Va., pop. sch., Jackson Township, p. 11, dwell./fam. 69, James Feagans household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 1674. The blurred image appears to list his age as seventy-eight. For his parentage, see Va. Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Death Registers, Rappahannock Co., 1878, unpaginated, James Fegans, 14 December 1878; LVA birth, marriage, and death registers microfilm 25. His age of ninety-seven (birth in 1780–81) is unlikely because Daniel Feagans married Lydia Hamrick in 1791. See Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Feagans-Hamrick, 16 July 1791.

38. Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Fegans-Weaver, 11 February 1815.

39. 1820 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., pp. 54 and 55, James Fagan household.

40. Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Figins-Riley, 21 December 1847.

41. 1860 U.S. census, Rappahannock Co., Va., pop. sch., p. 180, dwell. 449, fam. 420, James Feagans household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 1374. Also, Va. Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Death Registers, Rappahannock Co., 14 December 1878, James Fegans.

42. Va. Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Death Registers, Rappahannock Co., 1889, unpaginated, Jack Fegans, 9 August 1889.

43. 1850 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., pop. sch., Ashby's dist., fol. 211v, dwell. 174, fam. 177, Jackson Figans.

4. The second James Feagan who headed an 1820 Fauquier County household with a boy under ten left no other known record in Northern Virginia.⁴⁴ He probably left the area soon after 1820.
5. The third James Fagan household in Fauquier County in 1820 had three boys under ten.⁴⁵ James signed a bond to marry Frances Welch on 9 January 1815.⁴⁶ On 22 July 1839 he signed a release indicating he had received his wife Frances's share of the estate of her father, Sylvester Welch.⁴⁷ James's 1830 and 1840 households included three males of ages consistent with the three boys under ten in their 1820 household.⁴⁸ None could be Cylus, who was taxed in Loudoun County in 1840.⁴⁹ James and Frances (Welch) Feagans apparently died intestate in the 1840s. They appear in neither the 1850 census nor later Fauquier County records.
6. The fourth James Fagan in Fauquier County in 1820 also had three boys under age ten.⁵⁰ On 19 June 1805 he posted bond to marry Nancy Laws "Jun."⁵¹ They left no known record in Northern Virginia after 1820, suggesting they left the area.
7. John Fagan Junior, apparently at least age forty-five, headed an 1820 household including two boys under ten.⁵² He likely was John Feagans who signed a bond in 1798 to marry Hannah Robinson.⁵³ They had at least seven children.⁵⁴ John's father also was John Feagans.⁵⁵
8. John Fagan "Sen^r" also was at least forty-five in 1820.⁵⁶ In 1770 he married Sarah Cundiff in Fauquier County.⁵⁷ John died before 26 October 1829, when Sarah was granted administration of his estate.⁵⁸ Although the agnomens senior and junior did not designate father-son relationships during John's lifetime, he was the likely father of number 7.

44. 1820 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 54, last entry, James Fagan household.

45. *Ibid.*, p. 55, James Fagan household.

46. Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Feagans-Welch, 9 January 1815.

47. "Chancery Records Index," *Virginia Memory: Library of Virginia* (<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery>), images of Fauquier Co., chancery papers, William Lawler and wife, etc., vs. William Randall Welch, etc., case 1843-062. See the bill to the suit at images 7–12 and Fegans's release at image 53.

48. 1830 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 409, James Fagan household. Also, 1840 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., Hamilton Parish, p. 243, James Feagans household; NARA microfilm M704, roll 558.

49. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax lists, Loudoun Co., 1840, John Weadon's dist., p. 47, Charles Turner and Silas Feggens.

50. 1820 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 107, James Fagan household.

51. Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Feagans-Laws, 19 June 1805.

52. 1820 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 56, John Fagan Jun^r household.

53. Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Feagans-Robinson, 26 November 1798.

54. Fauquier Co., Will Book 21:435, will of John Feagans, 26 March 1849.

55. Fauquier Co., Deed Book 30:76, Fegans to Adams, 3 June 1828; Circuit Clerk.

56. 1820 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 56, John Fagan Sen^r household.

57. Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Feagin-Cundiff, 3 February 1770.

58. Fauquier Co., Minute Book 1829–1831, chronologically arranged, 26 October 1829; LVA Fauquier Co. microfilm 58.

9. The household of a third John Fegan included four boys under ten in 1820.⁵⁹ Likely the son of Edward, John married Lucy Robinson in 1805.⁶⁰ Both he and candidate 7—John Feagans, son of John—married daughters of Benjamin Robinson.⁶¹ This John settled in Smith County, Tennessee, by 21 May 1830.⁶² He left an 1839 will naming wife Lucy and several children.⁶³
10. On 6 January 1806 Richardson Feagans signed a bond to marry Elizabeth Routt.⁶⁴ His 1820 household included five boys under ten.⁶⁵ Richardson died about 1824, leaving a widow, Elizabeth, and ten children—Daniel, Richard, Harrison, Bushrod, John, Catherine, Elizabeth, Edward, Lucinda, and William Feagans.⁶⁶

No one in those ten sets of candidates is a likely parent for Cylus H. Feagans. Besides evidence eliminating them, no evidence suggests a connection between any of them and Cylus. Remaining, however, is an eleventh set of parental candidates—Enoch Feagans and his wife, Hannah.

ENOCH AND HANNAH (WELCH) FEAGANS

Enoch Feagans, a Virginia native, was born about 1789–90.⁶⁷ He was likely a brother of James Feagans, candidate 5 above. As young men, both were taxed in the Fauquier County household of their probable father, Raleigh Feagan.⁶⁸ Both married daughters of Sylvester Welch.⁶⁹

59. 1820 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 107, John Fagan household.

60. Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Feagan-Robinson, 19 June 1805.

61. Fauquier Co., Deed Book 30:76, Feagans to Adams, 3 June 1828.

62. Smith Co., Tenn., Deed Book K:259, Elgin to Feagans, 21 May 1830; microfilm 319,083, Family History Library, Salt Lake City.

63. “Tennessee Probate Court Books, 1795–1927,” *FamilySearch* (familysearch.org/search/collection/1909088) > Smith > Wills, 1825–1840, Vol. 02 > images 710–12, Smith Co., Wills 2, John Feagans will, 2 October 1839, proved in November term 1839.

64. Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Feagans-Routt, 6 January 1806.

65. 1820 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 55, Richerson Fagan household.

66. “Chancery Records Index,” for Fauquier Co., Chancery Papers, Daniel Feagans, etc., v. Benjamin Bradford, 1842-034; image 9.

67. 1850 U.S. census, Loudoun Co. Va., pop. sch., fol. 173r, dwell./fam. 166, for Enoch Figgins, age sixty. On 21 July 1851 Enoch swore an affidavit saying he was sixty-two (born in 1788–89). See Enoch Feagans (Pvt., under Capt. William R. Smith, Va. Mil., War of 1812) bounty land warrant file 16583-5580; Case Files of Pension and Bounty Land Applications Based on Service between 1812 and 1855; Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1960; Record Group (RG) 15: Department of Veterans Affairs; National Archives (NA), Washington, D.C.

68. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax lists, Fauquier Co., Enoch D. Wither’s dist., 1810, p. 17; 1811, p. 17; 1812, p. 16; and 1813, p. 19; for Rawley/Rawleigh Feagan (various spellings); LVA personal property tax microfilm 112. James is listed in the household in 1810 and 1811. Enoch is listed in 1813. Both are listed in 1812.

69. Fauquier Co., Will Book 13:146–47, Sylvester Welch Senr., 25 October 1833, naming daughters Fanny Feagans and Hannah Feagans. Also, *ibid.*, 13:466–67, account of the estate, ordered recorded on 27 April 1835, naming distributees James Feagans and Enoch Feagans.

Enoch married Hannah Welch in Fauquier County on 8 April 1819.⁷⁰ In November 1853 he reported her death near Montville, Loudoun County. He said she was sixty-one and born in Fauquier County to Sylvester and Frances Welch.⁷¹ Her death notice appeared in a newspaper in Jefferson County, where Cylus resided.⁷²

Enoch and Hannah lived most of their early married life in Fauquier County.⁷³ In 1820 Enoch “Fagan” headed a Fauquier household that included a boy under ten.⁷⁴ Since the couple married in April 1819, this child was likely a baby, corresponding to Cylus’s birth in Fauquier County in 1820. Enoch paid taxes in adjacent Prince William County from 1835 through 1840, returning to Fauquier in time for the 1840 census.⁷⁵ By 1847 Enoch had moved to nearby Loudoun County, where his family was enumerated in 1850.⁷⁶ Like Cylus, Enoch was a miller.⁷⁷ Enoch worked at milling as early as 1820.⁷⁸

Enlisting in Warrenton, Virginia, on 1 December 1813, Enoch served in the War of 1812 for four months and fifteen days. He received eighty acres of bounty land for his service. He provided no family information in the application.⁷⁹

The 1850 census credits Enoch with land worth one thousand dollars.⁸⁰ He left no known record of land ownership, however, and paid no tax on real estate in Loudoun County in years before and after 1850.⁸¹

70. Fauquier Co., Marriage Book 4:18; Feagans-Welch minister’s return, 8 April 1819.

71. Loudoun Co., Register of Deaths 1:4, Hannah Feagan, [no date] November 1853.

72. *Spirit of Jefferson* (Charles Town, [W.] Va.), 15 November 1853, page 3, col. 1, death notice for “Mrs. Enoch Feagan.” Also, Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax lists, Jefferson Co., Samuel Stone’s dist., 1853, p. 22, and 1854, p. 24, Silas H. Feagans; LVA personal property tax microfilm 584.

73. 1830 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 446, Enoch Fagans household. Also, 1840 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 199, Enoch Figans household.

74. 1820 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 55, Enoch Fagan household.

75. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax lists, Prince William Co., list A (Above Cedar Run), 1835, p. 3; 1836, p. 5; 1837, p. 5; 1838, p. 4; 1839, p. 5; and 1840, unpaginated; Enoch Feagan/Feagans; LVA personal property tax microfilm 290.

76. *Ibid.*, Loudoun Co., John Weadon’s dist., 1847, p. 10, Enoch Figgins and son Uriah; LVA personal property tax microfilm 212. Also, 1850 U.S. census, Loudoun Co. Va., pop. sch., fol. 173r, dwell./fam. 166, Enoch Figgins household.

77. 1850 U.S. census, Loudoun Co. Va., pop. sch., fol. 173r, dwell./fam. 166, Enoch Figgins.

78. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax lists, Fauquier Co., Nimrod Ashby’s dist., 1820, p. 15, Enoch Feagans household; LVA personal property tax microfilm 96.

79. Enoch Feagans (Pvt. Capt. William R. Smith Va. Mil., War of 1812) bounty-land-warrant file 16583-5580 and bounty-land-warrant no. 55-80-16583; Military Bounty Land Warrants and Related Papers; RG 49: Records of the Bureau of Land Management; NA–Washington, D.C.

80. 1850 U.S. census, Loudoun Co. Va., pop. sch., fol. 173r, dwell./fam. 166, Enoch Figgins.

81. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, land tax lists, Loudoun Co. 1849–50, read by author; LVA land tax microfilm 175. Also, *ibid.*, 1851; microfilm 486.

ENOCH AND HANNAH'S CHILDREN

After Enoch's death, on 2 June 1859 in Loudoun County, no one filed to probate his estate, which might have created records naming his children. Three records, however, connect him indirectly to Cylus:

- Enoch's death record identifies informant William Lowe as "friend."⁸² William bore the name, however, of the man who married Sophronia Feagans, who lived in Cylus's household in 1850. William apparently was Enoch's son-in-law.
- In 1855 Cerepta Feagins, eighteen (born in 1836–37), identified her parents as Enoch and Hannah Feagins when she married James Fields in Loudoun County.⁸³ The groom was likely James Fields who attested to Sophronia Feagans's and William Lowe's ages for their marriage.⁸⁴
- In 1847–50 Enoch paid tax on his son Uriah (a.k.a. Huriah and Hugh) Feagans.⁸⁵ Uriah, a Virginia native, was twenty-three (born in 1826–27) in Enoch's 1850 household.⁸⁶ Uriah's wife was Margaret Feagans.⁸⁷ In 1870 four-year-old "Sephronia A. Figgins" lived in their Fauquier County household, and nineteen-year-old daughter "Saphrone" lived in the widowed Margaret's 1880 Fauquier County household.⁸⁸ Sephronia/Saphrone likely was named for Sophronia (Feagans) Lowe, her apparent aunt.

Enoch and Hannah had at least five children besides Cerepta, Cylus, Sophronia, and Uriah:

- William S. Feagans married Nancy Dawson on 15 October 1846 in Fauquier County. T. D. Herndon officiated.⁸⁹ In 1850 the couple lived in Fauquier County. At age twenty-nine (born in 1820–21), William was a miller.⁹⁰

82. Loudoun Co., Register of Deaths 1:36, Enoch Feagans, 2 June 1859.

83. Loudoun Co., Marriage Register 1:10, Field-Feagins, 13 March 1855.

84. Loudoun Co., Marriage Register, 1850–1866, unpaginated, Lowe-Figgins license, 28 November 1853.

85. Va. Auditor of Public Accounts, personal property tax lists, Loudoun Co., John Weadon's dist., 1847, p. 10; 1848, p. 10; 1849, p. 12; and 1850, p. 14, Enoch Figgins and son Uriah; LVA personal property tax microfilm 212.

86. 1850 U.S. census, Loudoun Co. Va., pop. sch., fol. 173r, dwell./fam. 166, Enoch Figgins household.

87. Va. Bureau of Vital Statistics, Deaths, Loudoun Co., 1878, chronologically arranged, Uriah Feagans, 1 August 1878; LVA births, marriages, and deaths microfilm 17.

88. 1870 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., Scott Township, p. 617, dwell. 301, fam. 303, Uriah Figgins household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 1645. Also, 1880 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., pop. sch., Scott dist., ED 42, p. 50, dwell./fam. 350, Margaret Figgins household; NARA microfilm T9, roll 1365.

89. Fauquier Co., Minister's Returns, Feagans-Dawson, 19 October 1846.

90. 1850 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., pop. sch., Turners Dist., fol. 285r, dwell. 257, fam. 259, W^m Feagans household.

- Sylvester Feagans married Lydia Margaret Whittington in Clark County, Ohio, in 1845. He was a miller born in Virginia in 1820–24.⁹¹ Occupation and naming patterns support Sylvester’s identification as Enoch and Hannah’s son. Sylvester—apparently named after his maternal grandfather, Sylvester Welch—had children Silas Henry, Uriah, and Hannah.⁹²
- Sarah Jane Figgins married Beverly Boley in Loudoun County on 8 March 1849. “Huriah” Figgins/Feagans cosigned the bond with Boley.⁹³ The officiant was T. D. Herndon, a Baptist minister who also officiated at the William S. Feagans–Nancy Dawson wedding.⁹⁴ Beverly and Sarah “Bawley” were enumerated immediately after Enoch and Hannah Figgins in 1850. Sarah was twenty-one (born in 1828–29).⁹⁵
- Mary Catherine “Feagins” married Hugh F. Kirkpatrick on 13 August 1850 in Frederick County, Maryland.⁹⁶ A month before the marriage, she lived in Enoch’s 1850 Loudoun census household as Mary Figgins, age eighteen (born in 1831–32). Her future groom, Hugh Kirkpatrick, was enumerated one house after his future in-laws Beverly and Sarah Jane (Figgins) Boley and two houses after his future bride.⁹⁷

91. “Ohio, County Marriages, 1789–2013,” *FamilySearch* (familysearch.org/search/collection/1614804) > Clark > Marriages records 1845–1854 vol 3 > image 4, Clark Co., Ohio, Marriage Register 3:4; Feagans-Whittington, 27 July 1845. Sylvester’s wife appears as Margaret in the 1850 through 1870 censuses, but her obituary lists Thos. Whittington as a brother. See *Daily Gazette* (Xenia, Ohio), 12 October 1897, page 2, col. 4, Mrs. Margaret Figgins obituary. Also, 1850 U.S. census, Greene Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Dist. No. 206, Bear Creek Township, fol. 447v, dwell./fam. 19, Sylvester Feagans; NARA microfilm M432, roll 683. Also, 1860 U.S. census, Greene Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Clifton, p. 272, dwell. 487, fam. 475, Sylvester Figgins; NARA microfilm M653, roll 968. Also, 1870 U.S. census, Greene Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Clifton, Miami Twp., p. 153, dwell. 449, fam. 456, Sylvester Figgins; NARA microfilm M593, roll 1205.

92. For Silas Henry see “Dust to Dust: Very Solemn Occasion: Funeral Services Over the Remains of Silas H. Figgins and Frank B. Eich,” *Daily Gazette*, 29 August 1896, page 2, col. 4. For Uriah see *ibid.*, 12 October 1897, page 2, col. 4. For Hannah see “Ohio, County Marriages, 1789–2013,” *FamilySearch* > Greene > Greene Co., Ohio, Marriage Record 8:209 Hess-Figgins, 18 September 1884. Also, *Daily Gazette*, 22 February 1886, page 3, col. 4, Mrs. Charles E. Hess obituary.

93. Loudoun Co., Marriage Records, Boley-Figgins bond, license, and return, 7 March 1849. The minister’s return lists Sarah’s middle name as Jane, but the bond says Ann. For her middle initial as J, see 1860 U.S. census, Prince William Co., Va., pop. sch., p. 433, dwell. 105, fam. 106, Beverly Bowley household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 1373.

94. Wesley E. Pippenger, *Marriage and Death Notices from Alexandria, Virginia Newspapers*, vol. 2 (Arlington, Va.: privately published, 2005), 300, 365, and 510.

95. 1850 U.S. census, Loudoun Co., Va., pop. sch., fol. 173r, dwell./fam. 167, Beverly Bawley household.

96. “Marriage Records,” *Maryland State Archives: Guide to Government Records* (<http://guide.mdsa.net/pages/viewer.aspx?page=marriage#marlicenses>) > Marriage Licenses 1776–1886 > MSA CM492 > Link, PDF of Frederick Co., Md., Index to Marriage Licenses: Female 1778–1851, p. 127, Kirkpatrick-Feagins, 13 August 1850, citing marriage register 4. For Mary’s middle name, see Fauquier Co., Marriage Register 7:195, Garrett-Kirkpatrick, 28 January 1886.

97. 1850 U.S. census, Loudoun Co. Va., pop. sch., fol. 173r, dwell./fam. 166, Enoch Figgins household.

Table 1
Likely Members of Enoch Feagans's Pre-1850 Census Households

CENSUS CATEGORIES	NUMBER IN 1830	LIKELY PEOPLE IN 1830	NUMBER IN 1840	LIKELY PEOPLE IN 1840
Males born in 1825–30	1	Uriah	2	Uriah; perhaps Sylvester
Males born in 1820–25	1	Sylvester	1	William
Males born in 1815–20	2	Cylus; perhaps William	0	(Cylus likely lived with Charles Turner)
Males born in 1780–90	1	Enoch	1	Enoch
Females born in 1835–40	0		1	Cerepta
Females born in 1830–35	0		4	Mary and Lucinda; perhaps Sarah and Sophronia
Females born in 1825–30	2	Sarah; perhaps Sophronia	0	
Females born in 1780–90	1	Hannah	1	Hannah

Sources: For the census data, see 1830 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 446, Enoch Fagans household; microfilm M19, roll 194, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Also, 1840 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., p. 199, Enoch Figans household; NARA microfilm M704, roll 558. Also, 1840 U.S. census, Loudoun Co., Va., p. 148, Charles Turner household; NARA microfilm M704, roll 564. For names other than Enoch, see explanations and documentation in the text.

- Lucinda Feagans, daughter of Enoch and Hannah, married B. W. Garrett in Loudoun County on 6 December 1860.⁹⁸ In Enoch's 1850 household she was sixteen (born in 1833–34).

Although with a few discrepancies in estimated birth dates, table 1 shows the likely members of Enoch and Hannah's household in 1830 and 1840.

CLUES FROM KISSING COUSINS

Although Cylus left the Loudoun and Fauquier area soon after his marriage, his family likely stayed in contact with his siblings. On 14 October 1886 in Fauquier County, Cylus's son Joseph B. Feagans married Virginia H. Kirkpatrick, daughter of Hugh and Mary Catherine (Feagans) Kirkpatrick.⁹⁹ They apparently were first cousins.

98. Loudoun Co., marriage license and Marriage Register 1:26, line 28. Garrett-Feagans, 6 December 1860.

99. Va. Bureau of Vital Statistics, Fauquier Co., Marriages, 1853–1913, p. 122, Feagans- Kirkpatrick, 14 October 1886; LVA births, marriages, and deaths microfilm 14.

Two other apparent sets of Enoch and Hannah's grandchildren also intermarried:

- In 1884 Uriah's son Enoch married Lucinda (Feagans) Garrett's daughter Cora.¹⁰⁰
- In 1886 Mary Catherine (Feagans) Kirkpatrick's daughter Hannah married Tucker Garret, son of Lucinda (Feagans) Garret.¹⁰¹

AUTOSOMAL-DNA COMPARISONS

Autosomal DNA testing can confirm or disprove a parent-child relationship, like that of Cylus with Enoch and Hannah Feagans. Two of Cylus's great-grandchildren, three generations removed from him, undertook autosomal DNA testing. The descent calculated from their eight identical autosomal DNA segments on seven chromosomes is 3.1 generations to their most recent common ancestor, consistent with their documented second-cousin relationship.¹⁰²

Three descendants of Enoch and Hannah, through their documented children Mary Catherine and Cerepta, also took autosomal DNA tests. Figure 1, showing all five test-taker's descents, documents their lineages from Cylus or from Enoch and Hannah.

If Cylus was Enoch and Hannah's son, as the negative and indirect evidence implies, his descendants would share enough autosomal DNA with Enoch and Hannah's descendants for a calculation of about four generations to their most common ancestor. Table 2 compares those calculations for each of Cylus's two descendants with each of the other three test-takers. Averaging 4.25 generations, the six comparisons hover around 4 generations to the most recent common ancestor, a third-cousin relationship. Thus, the DNA test results support the conclusion that Cylus was Enoch and Hannah's son.

CONCLUSION

No record names Cylus Feagans with parents. Negative evidence eliminates ten candidates for Cylus's parents, leaving only Enoch and Hannah. Without

100. Enoch was age seven in 1870 U.S. census, Fauquier Co., Va., pop. sch., Scott Twp., p. 617, dwell. 301, fam. 303, Uriah Figgins household. Cora was age six in 1870 U.S. census, Loudoun Co., Va., pop. sch., Southern Dist., p. 111, dwell. 1170, fam. 1177, Burr W. Garrett household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 1659. For the marriage, see "District of Columbia Marriages, 1811-1950," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XLQ9-C44> : accessed 10 December 2012), digital image of Washington, D.C., Supreme Court Marriage Register 19:353, Figgins-Garrett, 31 October 1884. The image no longer is online outside FamilySearch centers.

101. Fauquier Co., Marriage Register 7:195, Garrett-Kirkpatrick, 28 January 1886.

102. "GEDmatch.com Autosomal Comparison," on-demand report, *GEDmatch: Tools for DNA and Genealogy Research* (<https://www.gedmatch.com>), kits T724976 (Margaret Coyle) and T914735 (Wilder W. Feagans). They share 184 centiMorgans (cM) of autosomal DNA. The largest shared segment is 54.3 cM.

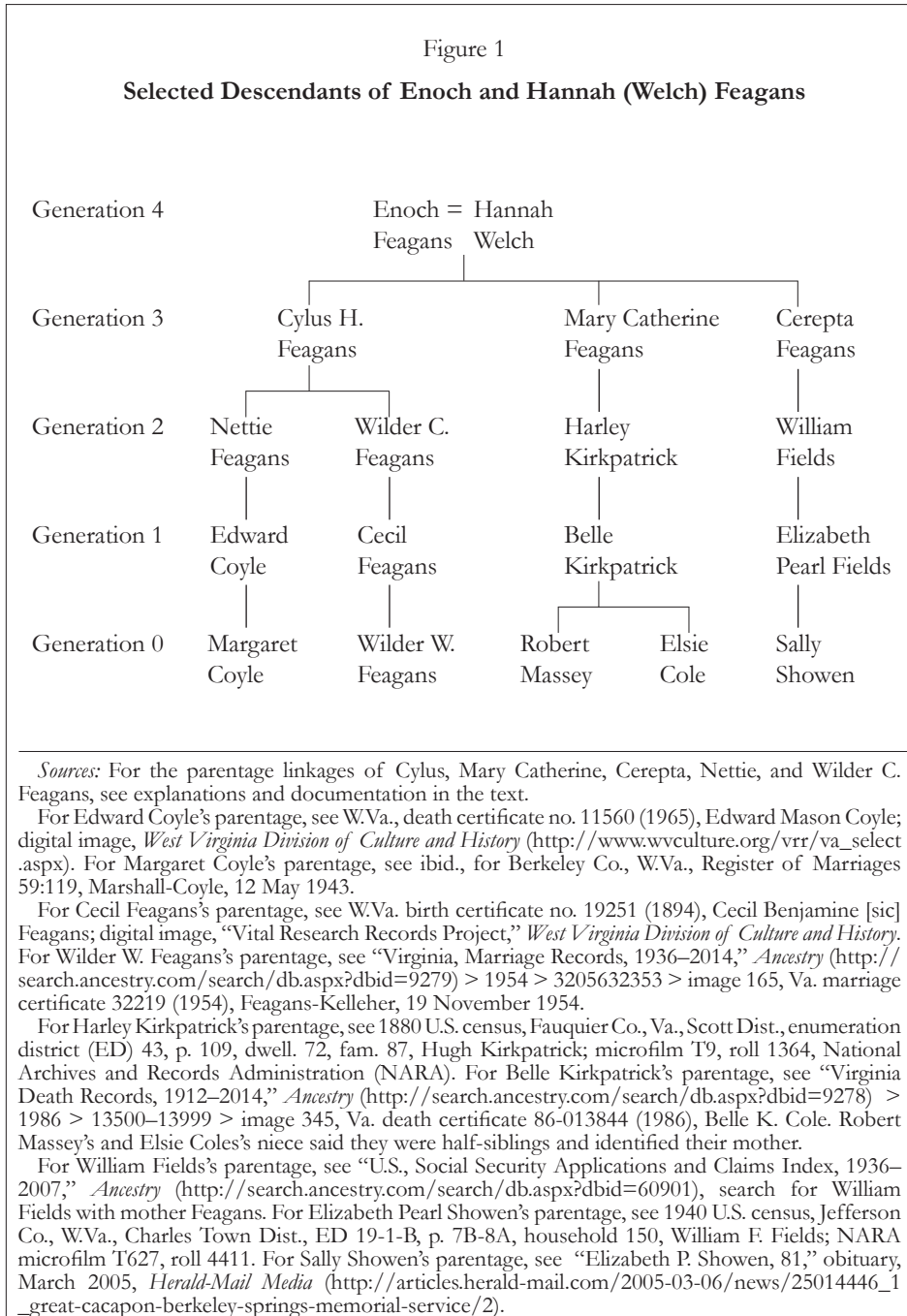


Table 2

Comparisons of Shared Segments and Estimated Generations to Most-Recent Common Ancestors Calculated from Identical Autosomal DNA Segments

DESCENDANTS OF CYLUS FEAGANS	DESCENDANTS OF MARY CATHERINE FEAGANS	DESCENDANT OF CEREPTA FEAGANS	
	Robert Massey	Elsie Cole	Sally Showen
Margaret Coyle	Sharing 59.0 cM 4.0 generations	Sharing 68.4 cM 3.9 generations	Sharing 27.8 cM 4.5 generations
Wilder Feagans	Sharing 61.0 cM 3.9 generations	Sharing 17.8 cM 4.8 generations	Sharing 31.4 cM 4.4 generations

Source and notes: “GEDmatch.com DNA one-to-one Comparison Entry Form,” *GEDmatch: Tools for DNA and Genealogy Research* (<https://www.gedmatch.com>), paired comparisons of kits T724976 (Coyle), T914735 (Feagans), A424551 (Massey), A878613 (Cole), and T629708 (Showen). The initialism *cM* refers to *centiMorgans*, “a unit of recombinant frequency which is used to measure genetic distance. . . often used to imply distance along a chromosome.” See “CentiMorgan,” *International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki* (<http://isogg.org/wiki/>).

GEDMatch’s calculation of generations to the most recent common ancestors uses two parameters: cMs and SNPs (single-nucleotide polymorphisms). See “GEDmatch Forums,” *GEDmatch: Tools for DNA and Genealogy Research* > DNA Utilities > Interpreting DNA Comp[ar]ison Results > Subject: Does MRCA get thrown off when you match on both, message 3, undated, by Jim Bartlett, Project Administrator. The above comparisons apply GEDMatch’s default minimum thresholds by using only identical segments of at least 7cMs and 500 SNPs.

Besides the tabulated comparisons, projected third cousins Showen and Massey share no segments of 7 cMs or more. Massey’s half-sister, Cole, however, shares large enough segments with Showen for a calculated 4.3 generations to their common ancestors.

land to transfer to their children and personal estates too small for probate, those hypothesized parents left no record comprehensively naming their children. Indirect evidence produced by studying close and extended family members, and their associates, supported the hypothesis. Autosomal DNA provided further support. Enoch and Hannah were Cylus’s parents.

A Crazy Burial

Buried: “The Harmless Crazy Agnes whence not known,” 30 December 1714

Source: Poughill (Cornwall), Parish Register, 1537–1812, p. 194; ref. P192/1/1, Cornwall Record Office, Truro, U.K.; microfilm 1596143, Family History Library, Salt Lake City.

—Contributed by Ronald A. Hill, PhD, CG, FASG