

Ghost Chasers

Genealogy Board for the Surnames of the Eight Great-Grandparents of Sharon Gerald
<http://sgerald.net/genforum/>

Mourning Driggers and James Ivey

<http://sgerald.net/genforum/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=8>

Mourning Driggers and James Ivey

by **sgerald**

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Posted: **October 9th, 2011, 8:55 am**

Mourning Driggers (1754-1820) and James Ivey (1750-1820) were my 5th great-grandparents (I think). I am descended from them through their son Joseph (according to the person I copied this from on Ancestry.com). From there it is Joseph's son Matthew, Matthew's son Edward, Edward's son Joseph Andrew, Joseph Andrew's son Charlie Joe, and finally my mother Fay.

Other than the census information available for them on Ancestry.com, I really have no documentation for them. I have, however, found places where other people have discussed their findings. It turns out that possibly either one or both of them was of mixed race.

I found some places where people said that Mourning Driggers was of Native American ancestry, possibly mixed with African ancestry. I do not have names for her parents, and I haven't found anyone who claims to, but there is some speculation that she was part of the Driggers family that all descended from Emmanuel Rodriguez (changed to Driggers to Anglicize), one of the earliest free black men in Virginia -- http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/Driggers_Dutchfield.htm.

I don't know if the connection can be proven or not, but in the article I found about the Driggers line ([http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/Dri ... hfield.htm](http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/Dri...hfield.htm)), there is child named Mourning mentioned. This Mourning was a child in 1798 when our Mourning would have been 44 years old. There is no mention of a Mourning who would be the right age to be ours, but since Mourning is an unusual name, and names tend to be repeated in families, that might be at least some indication of a connection.

Additionally, I've found places where people refer to James Ivey as a "mulatto." That I have no information to support or deny. The Ivey paternal line traces back into England and then eventually into France prior to the Norman Invasion. James Ivey's mother is a question mark. I have not added parents for her on my Ancestry.com tree because there seems to be too much disagreement over who her parents were.

I have James Ivey's mother listed as Elizabeth Travis (1730-1815). Some people have her father list as Dr. Edward Travis (1705-1809), and others have him listed as John Travis (1705-1809). Others simply have the name Travis (1705-). I haven't seen Elizabeth Travis's mother listed anywhere.

I also have a great deal of uncertainty about my listings on my family tree. I copied what I have off other people's trees. I could be absolutely wrong about even the paternal lineage, and I have lots of unanswered maternal connections along the way.

Thus, I have a lot more questions than answers. Here are some of the message board posts where I found other people discussing this.

Meloday Farrar on Ancestry.com boards:

"I am looking for information on Mourning Driggers b. 1754 Marlboro, South Carolina. We were told she was of Choctaw descent, but have also heard Cherokee descent. She was married to James Ivey or Ivy, b. 1742. I am descended from them through there son Isaiah Josiah Ivey, b.1780 South Carolina or North Carolina, died 1839 on the road from Mississippi. Isaiah was said to have the Indian name Little Bear. He married in 1800 in Georgia to Mary no maiden name. She was born in East Virginia and died in 1860 in Tx."

<http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames.driggers/344/mb.ashx>

A discussion on Genealogy.com in which the question of Mourning Driggers as either Choctaw or Cherokee comes up along with the question of James Ivey as mulatto.

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/driggers/messages/1034.html>

Shared as part of this same Genealogy.com thread (from Nancy Melton-Helal):

See below from [http://www.genfiles.com/ivey/TwoInteres ...](http://www.genfiles.com/ivey/TwoInteres...) James_Ivey: James was on a "...list of eighteen "rogues [who are] free Negroes and Mullatus living upon the Kings Land... the Mob Raitously Assembled together" on 13 October 1773, in a complaint that they "infest [Bladen] County and annoy its Inhabitants." [84] His appearance on this list as "Captain James Ivey" is evidently a reference to his leadership of the mob..."

Here's a lengthy post from Genealogy.com that does offer an explanation for African ancestry in James Ivey --

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/ivey/messages/1997.html>

I have James Ivey's parents listed as Joseph Ivey (1728-1810) and Elizabeth Travis (1730-1815). I copied this from other family trees on Ancestry.com. I have not researched it thoroughly enough myself to be certain.

James Doherty, from the above Genealogy.com post, however, says that James Ivey was instead descended from an Adam Ivey who

was the son of another Adam Ivey and his slave.

I found interesting that in that same post Doherty mentions a Thomas Ivey who protested being taxed as a mulatto with claims that he was instead of Portuguese descent. This was, if I'm reading it correctly, the nephew of my James Ivey.

I haven't seen any particular documentation or even any particular speculation that would offer a Portugal connection. There is the fact that the Driggers family presumably originally had the surname Rodriguez because of being brought over to this country by Portuguese slave traders. Since that family was connected through the wife of James Ivey, it wouldn't explain why his nephew would claim Portuguese ancestry. I don't have any idea what the connection might have been.

I just find it interesting because on my DNA ancestry report Portugal was listed as my strongest genetic match after the United Kingdom, and I was unaware of any ancestry matches to Portugal whatsoever. I'm still unaware of any ancestry matches to Portugal whatsoever, but according to my DNA report, they are there. I would like to find out why one of my Ivey relations from 200 years ago claimed they were there as well.

Then, of course, there is this post from Bob Baird on Genealogy.com, that talks about some of these same Iveys and points out that claims of Portuguese ancestry were common for descendants of slaves and their owners who were trying to deny their African ancestry --

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/ivy/messages/769.html>

I'm going to have to research this quite a bit more. After seeing how much disagreement there is in the father-to-son line on these Iveys, I'm not even sure I've put the correct people on my tree even going back as far as this James Ivey. I hope I am correct that he is my 5th great grandfather. I like to find the ones that have good stories to go with them.

Since I am only just getting started, though, and most of what I've done so far is to copy in connections from other people to my family tree, I'm going to recognize the fact that I have a lot more research to do to be certain of anything, and I may never be truly certain.

Re: Mourning Driggers and James Ivey

by **sgerald**

Posted: **October 9th, 2011, 10:58 am**

After reviewing the Ivey line from my great-grandfather, Joseph Andrew Ivey, back, I do believe I have a mistake in there before I get to James Ivey and Mourning Driggers. I hate to say that because these people are fascinating, but I feel like I need to do my research if I want to make their story my own.

I feel pretty good about my Ivey line up to Joseph Ivey (1797-1854).

These are the links I know for certain due to the fact that they can be verified through the memories of people still living.

My grandfather was Charlie Joe Ivey (1912-1958). His father was Joseph Andrew Ivey (1884-1964). His father was Edward Ivey (1853-1936).

When we go past Edward Ivey, we go beyond the scope of my mother's memory, but I still feel pretty certain about the line for a couple more generations.

Edward Ivey's father was Matthew Ivey (1829-1912). Matthew Ivey's father was Joseph Ivey (1797-1854)

With Joseph Ivey, we leave Leake County, Mississippi, and that's where I think my information breaks down.

The census reports for Joseph Ivey say that he was born in 1797 in South Carolina. The South Carolina birth appears to be the reason his father is listed as James Ivey on Ancestry.com, but it seems to me to be unlikely that James was his father.

In 1797, James Ivey was 47, and his wife, Mourning Driggers, was 43. It is possible that Joseph was a late in life baby, but it seems more likely that if he was part of their family, he was a grandchild.

There are a number of people who list James as Joseph's father on Ancestry.com, and there are even a few who list Joseph's father as James Jr. I would be inclined to think it is more likely James Jr. However, I haven't yet found any real documentation to verify either possibility.

Copying off the common family tree on Ancestry.com is probably not all that reliable without the paper trail to back it up.

I'm not going to delete James as Joseph's father just yet. When I do, it will delete everyone in the tree after James as well. I am going to consider the link between Joseph and James to be undetermined as of yet. I'm going to keep looking for historical records that will place a Joseph of the right age in the family.

Meanwhile, the amount of money I need to save up to launch a family DNA study just grew considerably since I now need to have my uncle and some of his cousins do DNA tests for Ivey ancestry. Which brings me to the question...

I know that DNA tests for the paternal line are considered to be pretty accurate, but what about the mothers along the way?

No matter which Ivey ours came from, it's almost certain the paternal line goes from South Carolina and Virginia to England and eventually to France. If there were mothers along the way of Native American and African ancestry, what kind of DNA test do we need done to determine this? I don't know much about this, but I'm not sure the Y-DNA test will tell us that.

Re: Mourning Driggers and James Ivey

by **sgerald**

Posted: **October 9th, 2011, 9:01 pm**

It turns out there is an ongoing DNA project for the surname Ivey. The results are posted here -- <http://www.ivey-ivie-ivy.org/dna/DNA-Results.htm>

It looks like a significant number of Ivey men are showing a paternal line with African origins in the Y-DNA test. There's actually a fairly broad distribution among all of the haplogroups, but more than you might expect show up in the African group, including the descendants of James and Lucinda Ivey of Mississippi.

I'm trying to figure out if there is a connection between James and Lucinda of Jasper County and Joseph (my ancestor) of Leake County.

Here's a family tree that appears to say that Joseph and James were brothers.

[http://www.jlivey.com/members/jamescive ... allLine.htm](http://www.jlivey.com/members/jamescive...allLine.htm)

It also looks like on this tree that the James and Joseph who came to Mississippi were sons of James the son of the James Ivey who was married to Mourning Driggers.

If that's true then James and Mourning are in my line of Iveys, but they are one more generation back than I originally listed them.

I would be very interested in having my uncle participate in this study to find out if our Joseph Ivey was indeed the brother of the James Ivey who came to Mississippi. I'd also be fairly amused to answer the question of whether our deep ancestry turns out to be African.

These African results are most puzzling, given that they are testing the paternal line through DNA. The Iveys can be historically proven to have come from England. Thus, an African paternal line would mean either that the Ivey name came from the mother and not the father or that someone assumed the Ivey name who was not born to an Ivey. Either scenario is certainly possible.

Regardless, I think that I am at the end of any lineage I can chart with certainty when I get to Joseph. I'm seeing too many people list him in too many different ways to know exactly where he fits into the pre-Mississippi Iveys.

I would love to know where we fit in the ongoing Ivey DNA study. I just don't have the money to order DNA tests for everyone I know, and I'm not quite sure what my uncle would say if asked him to shell out \$300 for a cheek swap to find out if his ggggg grandfather was a an African man.

That said, I also find it interesting that a couple of Ivey men, both of whom appear to have Mississippi connections, have shown up in the haplogroup E1b1b, which might indicate ancestry anywhere from the Mediterranean to Northern Africa to Portugal.

In my own DNA test for ancestry, which was a different type of test altogether than the one they are doing for this study, I showed no results for Africa other than results that were labeled as European immigrants. I did, however, show a large number of strong genetic matches to Portugal. This was, in fact, listed as my strongest ancestry line after the United Kingdom.

I have no answer for where Portugal could have come into my DNA.

I do know, however, that some of the Iveys who were listed as having been taxed as "mulattos" called themselves Portuguese. Their claims have been dismissed as attempts to escape the label of being mixed race, but perhaps it is possible that some of them were telling the truth.

I don't know. I just know that I am enjoying the mystery.

Re: Mourning Driggers and James Ivey

by **sgerald**

Posted: **October 10th, 2011, 5:15 am**

More info on the connection (or non-connection) of Joseph Ivey of Leake County, Mississippi and James Ivey and Mourning Driggers.

I found this on the Ivey DNA Project site

Joseph Ivy of Covington, Yazoo, and Leake County, Mississippi. He has previously been believed to be the brother of GR-J2, the son of GR-J7 and and the grandson of GR-J1 (James of Marlboro Co, SC), but the DNA results for the participant do not confirm this connection. Either this Joseph Ivy was not connected to the GR-J2 (James of Jasper Co, MS) or there is a non-paternal event somewhere between the participant and this Joseph.

J1 - James Ivey (husband of Mourning Driggers)

J2 - James Ivey of Jasper County, MS (husband of Lucinda)

J7 - James Ivey, the father of the Jasper County James. It is thought that he was the son of J1, but that has not yet been proven.

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