

SAMUEL CECIL NEVER HAD A SISTER
By Walter V. Ball

Refer to
"History of Tazewell Co.,
Va."

William Cecil, of Prince George's County, Maryland, died in 1749 and left two sons; John and Phillip. John Cecil was the father of Samuel Cecil. For many years a tradition has persisted that Thomas Witten married Elizabeth, a sister of Samuel Cecil. The origin of this tradition is unknown but there is no basis for it. It was published in the History of Tazewell County, Virginia, by William C. Pendleton in 1920 and this book has been quoted as authority for the claim ever since. About 1767 Samuel Cecil and Thomas Witten, both with large families, moved from Frederick County, Maryland, to Southwest Virginia. This fact may have been what caused the rumor to start. The documents in the Hall of Records in Annapolis, Maryland fail to give proof that John Cecil had a daughter so Samuel Cecil could not have had a sister. The documents do prove that Phillip Cecil had a daughter named Elizabeth. A few of these documents are cited below to prove these facts;

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY:

Ct. Rec. Lib. A, Fol. 146. March 1697/98 Ct. I have disposed of my children to Maren Duvall till they are of age. John Sessell, age 7, Phillip Sessell, age 5 and Susan Sessell age 2 years /S/ William Sessell.

Bonds, Box 8, Folder 4; 9 Mar. 1733/34. Inventory of Phillip Cessell, late of P. G. County, deceased. Total Value 15 : 13 : 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ /S/ Elizabeth Sissill

Accts. Lib. 13, Fol. 87; 1735 the account of Elizabeth Cicell of the estate of Phillip Cicell, deceased "The heirs are; Phillip, John, William, Joshua, Elizabeth, and Mary Cicell, children of ye deceased" (Note daughter, Elizabeth-WVB)

Testamentary Proc. 46, 50, 17; 17 July 1749. Administrative bond in common form by Samuel Cecil, Administrator of William Cecil. John Cecil and Henry Wilson, Sureties

Inv. Lib. 41, Fol. 234; 29 July 1749 inventory of William Ciceal, of Frederick County, deceased. Approved by John Wallace, William Wallace, Thomas Cicil, Cabert Cissill, sworn to by Samuel Cecol, Administrator.

Wills. Lib. 30, Fol. 649; 4 July 1757. To my wife, Elizabeth, all that tract of land I now live on and after her death or marriage, to my son, Zephaniah Cicell. My personal estate to my wife, Elizabeth, and after her death to all of my children. Pro 7/1758.

Submitted by James Veregye

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Inventories, P. G. County Lib. 67, Fol. 107; 5 February 1759 John Cecil's administration was filed by his Executrix, Elizabeth Cecil, with Salvat Cecil and Samuel Cecil of Frederick County as her sureties. Thomas Cecil and James Cecil were mentioned as kindred.

Abstracts of the documents cited above prove that Phillip Cecil died in 1733 at 41 years of age leaving six minor children. In 1735 his widow, Elizabeth, listed the names of these children in the court records and one of them was Elizabeth. She would have been 13 years old when her father died. The documents show that Phillip's brother, John Cecil, left five sons whose names were; Zepheniah, Samuel, Sabert, Thomas and James but no daughters were mentioned in any of the documents. This leaves Elizabeth Cecil, daughter of Phillip as the only one of the proper age to marry Thomas Witten, whose first child, also named Elizabeth, was born in 1743

Supplementing all of this is Phillip Witten's cyphering book in which is recorded the birthdates of his father and mother and brothers and sisters. This "Cyphering Book" is now in the Library of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, D. C. It shows his father, Thomas Witten, was born in 1719 and his mother, Elizabeth Witten, was born in 1720. No other female named Cecil will fit in this time period in history except the daughter of Phillip.

THE GRANDCHILDREN OF PHILLIP CECIL

WILLIAM CECIL 1665-1749
Wife unknown

John

Susan
NO

PHILLIP CECIL 1692-1733
Wife Elizabeth

further record

Phillip, Jr.	John, b 1721	William	Joshua Sr.	Elizabeth M Thos Witten	Susan: No further trace of Susan
Ann	John	Mary	Joshua, Jr	Elizabeth	↓ MARY LIVING IN 1730
Elizabeth	Isaac	Phillip	Linny Berry	Susan	
Zephanah	Mary Ann	George	Levi	Phillip	
Verlinda	Eleanor	Thomas	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	
Samuel	Susannah	William	Elizabeth	Keziah	
Zachariah	Elizabeth	Elizabeth	Ann	Thomas	
Jane	Lucy	Benjamin	Brice Berry	Nancy	
Eleanor		John	Kinsy Berry	James	
John		Susan	Hazel (son)	William	
Rebecca		Archibald	Adin		

(The names of Phillip Cecil's children were recorded in 1735 by his widow)

(Note that the mother's name, Elizabeth, appears in all of the families)