



The Wassons and the Presidents Bush

We're related to not just one President Bush but to two Presidents Bush!

When researching your ancestry, it can be interesting to find branches of the family tree that lead to famous people, even if they're only distantly related.

For a long time, I didn't have much luck with that. Through our Watson line in Dailly, Ayrshire, Scotland, we are likely related to Clan Cathcart and thus through marriage to King Robert the Bruce of Scotland, but I haven't been able to confirm that due to missing parish records.

Things looked more promising when researching our Sawyer line. Thomas Sawyer married Mary Prescott in the early colonial days of Massachusetts, connecting us to her parents John and Mary Prescott. John is widely reported to be the son of a Ralph Prescott back in England. The Prescotts were a prominent family, with widely circulated books documenting their ancestry going back for centuries, including such famous ancestors as Charlemagne, King of the Franks and Lombards and Holy Roman Emperor; King Alfred the Great of England; Hugh Capet, King of France; King William I of England and Normandy (a.k.a. William the Conqueror); and Henry II, King of England and Lord of Ireland.

Alas, some wills turned up that proved that Ralph Prescott's son John never left England, and thus our John Prescott was not his son. Although our John Prescott may still be linked to the that Prescott family in some way, I haven't found any research that proves an actual connection. The incorrect connection to Ralph Prescott and his famous ancestors, however, is still widely copied and reported.

John and Mary Prescott did well in Massachusetts, and at the time of John's death in 1683, his family had become one of the wealthiest and most influential in Massachusetts. And with several children, they have had countless descendants in the centuries since.

Those descendants include the generations of Wassons descended from Joseph Wasson and Carrie Sawyer. They also include President George H. W. Bush and President George W. Bush.

The Prescott-Bush Ancestry

The following shows the direct line of descendants and their spouses from our ancestors John and Mary Prescott through their son Jonathan to Senator Prescott Sheldon Bush. Those whose names are in bold are direct descendants of John and Mary Prescott through their son Jonathan, and thus are cousins to the Wasson descendants of John and Mary Prescott through their daughter Mary.

- **Jonathan Prescott** (1643-1721), Elizabeth Hoar (1646-1697)
 - **Jonathan Prescott** (1677-1729), Rebecca Bulkeley (1681-aft 1731)
 - **Abel Prescott** (1718-1805), Abigail Brigham (1723-1777)
 - Jonathan Fay (1752-1811), **Lucy Prescott** (1757-1792)
 - **Samuel Prescott Phillips Fay** (1778-1856), Harriet Howard (1782-1847)
 - **Samuel Howard Fay** (1804-1847), Susan Montfort Shellman (1808-1887)
 - James Smith Bush (1825-1889), **Harriet Eleanor Fay** (1829-1924)
 - **Samuel Prescott Bush** (1863-1948), Florence Sheldon (1872-1920)
 - **Prescott Sheldon Bush** (1895-1972), Dorothy Wear Walker (1901-1992)

The following shows select descendants of Senator Bush and their spouses, including Presidents George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush:

Prescott Sheldon Bush (1895-1972), Dorothy Wear Walker (1901-1992)

Prescott Bush was an American banker who represented Connecticut in the United States Senate from 1952 to 1963.

- **Jonathan James Bush** (1931-), Josephine Bradley (1930-)
 - **William Hall “Billy” Bush** (1971-), Sydney Davis (1970-)

Billy Bush worked in a number of positions in radio and television before becoming the East Coast correspondent for Access Hollywood. He was promoted to co-anchor of the program in 2004. In May 2016, he was hired as a Today co-host. An old Access Hollywood tape came out in October 2016 in which Bush and then-candidate for president Donald Trump were engaged in a lewd discussion about Bush’s co-anchor at the time and other women. As a result, Bush was fired from Today. In 2019, he was hired to anchor Extra.

- **George Herbert Walker Bush (1924-2018), Barbara Pierce (1925-2018)**
George H.W. Bush had a long career in politics, representing Texas in the United States House of Representatives from 1967 to 1971, Ambassador to the United Nations from 1971-1973, Chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1973-1974, Chief of the United States Liaison Office to the People’s Republic of China from 1974-1975, Director of Central Intelligence from 1976-1977, Vice President of the United States from 1981-1989, and President of the United States from 1989 to 1993. He also had served in the United States Navy during World War II from 1942-1945.

Barbara Bush used her position as First Lady to promote a number of literacy programs. She is one of only two women who have been both wife and mother to U.S. presidents.

- **George Walker Bush (1946-), Laura Lane Welch (1946-)**
George Bush worked in the Texas oil industry and became co-owner of the Texas Rangers Major League Baseball team before entering politics. He served as Governor of Texas from 1995-2000, and President of the United States from 2001 to 2009.

Laura Bush used her position as First Lady to promote education, literacy and women’s health initiatives.

- Greg Coyne (1981-), **Barbara Pierce Bush (1981-)**
- Henry Chase Hager (1978-), **Jenna Welch Bush (1981-)**
Starting in 2009, Jenna Bush Hager has worked for NBC News as a correspondent, Today contributor and Today anchor.
- **John Ellis “Jeb” Bush (1953-), Colamba Garnica Gallo (1953-)**
Jeb Bush served as Governor of Florida from 1999 to 2007.
 - **George Prescott Bush (1976-), Amanda Williams (1979-)**
George P. Bush was elected to the statewide office of Land Commissioner of Texas in 2015.
- **Neil Mallon Pierce Bush (1955-), Sharon Smith (1954-) & Maria Andrews (19xx-)**
As a member of the board of Silverado Savings and Loan, Neil Bush got caught up the Silverado scandal during the savings and loan crisis of the 1980s.

Other Prescott Descendants

In addition to the Bush family, other Prescott descendants reportedly include the following:

- Samuel Prescott, participated in Paul Revere's Midnight Ride
- Col. William Prescott, chief in command at the Battle of Bunker Hill
- William H. Prescott, historian, author of Conquest of Mexico and Conquest of Peru
- Robert Frost, poet
- Katherine Hepburn, actor

Photos of Our Bush Cousins

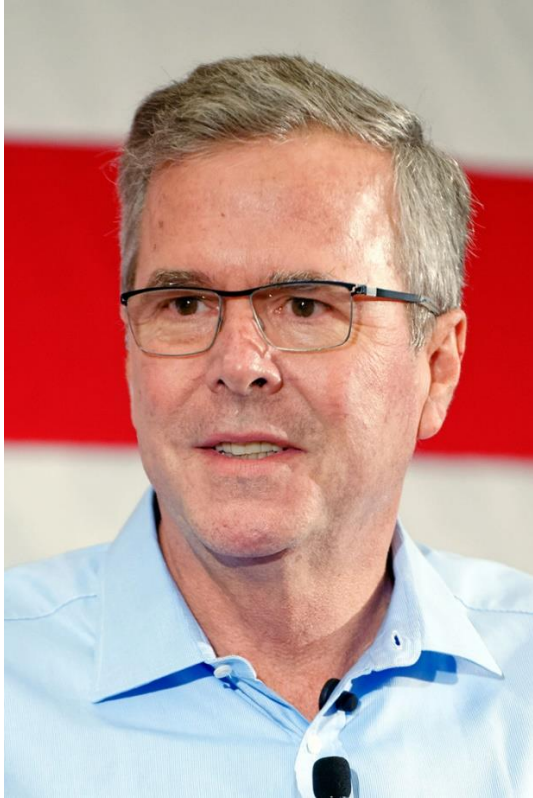
Here are photos of some of our more famous Bush cousins.



President George H. W. Bush



President George W. Bush



Governor Jeb Bush



Jenna Bush Hager



Barbara Pierce Bush



Billy Bush

How Close are We?

Short answer? Not very. We have to go all the way back to the early 1600s to find our common ancestors, John and Mary Prescott. So, if you have been wondering why they haven't been sending us Christmas cards, now you know why.

The Wasson-Sawyer descendants in the generation that includes Ella, Jessie and Duncan Wasson are 8th cousins with Senator Prescott Bush.

The Wasson-Sawyer descendants in the generation that includes Walter, Douglas, Glenn and Boyd Wasson are 9th cousins with President George H. W. Bush.

The Wasson-Sawyer descendants in the generation that includes Julie, Mark, Eric and Thomas Wasson are 10th cousins with President George W. Bush, Governor Jeb Bush, and television personality Billy Bush.

The Wasson-Sawyer descendants in the generation that includes Justin and Kristin Wasson and Duncan and Reilly Baird are 11th cousins with television personality Jenna Bush Hager and her twin sister Barbara, and Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush.

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
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