

Description

Philip Calvert, Governor and Chancellor of colonial Maryland, died in 1682 and was buried in a lead coffin in the colonial capital of St. Mary's City. His remains, excavated from what had become farmland centuries after the city's dissolution, were analyzed as sample 2099. Biological markers recovered from his bones confirmed a precise physical portrait: Philip had red hair, stood approximately 168cm (5'6") tall, carried an overweight build, and bore significant signs of arthritis throughout his skeleton.

The Calvert family held an idealistic and ambitious vision for Maryland: a colony where Catholics and Protestants could coexist in peace. Philip's father, George Calvert, the First Baron of Baltimore, had conceived this vision of religious pluralism; Philip helped carry it forward as a key figure in the colony's governance. He negotiated treaties with local Native American tribes and maintained order during periods of Protestant unrest.

St. Mary's City did not survive. By the 1700s it was dissolved, its buildings dismantled, its streets buried under farmland. Philip Calvert's lead coffin lay beneath that earth for centuries, undisturbed. Excavated and studied, his remains offer a precise physical portrait of one of early colonial America's key architects: a red-haired, arthritic man who helped build the foundations of religious tolerance in a new world. Adjacent to his coffin, archaeologists found those of his infant son and his first wife, Anne Wolsey — together delineating the domestic reality of Maryland's early ruling elite within a city that ultimately did not outlast them.

Modern population	Distance
White American (Utah)	3.150
Welsh	3.151
English (Cornwall)	3.160
Orcadian	3.163
Scottish	3.178
English (Kent)	3.221
Irish	3.230

Modern population	Distance
Danish	3.251
Icelander	3.295
Dutch	3.296

Source

Date: 1743–1793 CE

Y-DNA: R-M222

mtDNA: T2b4c

Location: USA

Research: Ancient DNA Analysis of St. Mary's City Lead Coffin Burials

Sample(s): I2099.AG