

# FAMILY HISTORY & DNA

I was very interested in a recent email from Fred Whitlock and thought I would just print it as see what comments we receive on this subject:

“Like most people who have entered the murky waters of Family History Research, I did so to find out where my roots were, who I belonged to and who belonged to me. After 15 years of research I justifiably felt pleased to get back to the mid 1600's and perhaps maybe one day I might be able to push further back. But probably like most, one gets those little niggling thoughts, like 'what if I have taken a wrong turning', so I thought that DNA might confirm or prove a point, which I think it has.

When I was a young lad I often heard the expression 'It is a clever man who knows his own son, and an even cleverer son who knows his own Father'. Never gave the matter any thought, but after receiving my DNA report it occurred to me, "I do" and what's more I know there is an unbroken continuity back some 500 years when those in the WHITLOCK 16 Group in the USA and my family line shared the same Ancestor. Michael Parson who lives in Highcliff, Dorset, Eng. and may be known to you, is a well known Writer and Historian on matters about Pitton & Farley. He expressed the view that he thought the WHITLOCK who traded as a Wool Merchant at the end of the 14th.Cent. in Salisbury, Wilts. was possibly the Ancestor of all the Whitlocks in that area. Only DNA will confirm or deny that, and it would be nice to know the truth of the matter, but a rather tall order.! However a few more samples from WHITLOCK's who claim ancestry from this Group would give a clearer picture. My DNA Haplogroup is R1a (or possibly R1a1) so I was informed by the DNA Lab. Report, this is only 4.5% of the total English DNA content, the rest being filled by R1b some 67% and the balance with I1 or I2. Any DNA results that show a difference would indicate the possibility of there being more than one source of WHITLOCK's in the area, or perhaps an indecession by some Whitlock Woman ! You takes your choice!

I don't pretend to have more than a passing knowledge of these matters but I do feel that DNA will be a useful tool, it may well be that my line may have come into the Salisbury area from elsewhere, if so it would be a big step forward if we can show a connection with another Group, which I am sure was the reason for you instigating the DNA Programme. I am of the view that we need to encourage as many as possible to enter into the programme and will support you any way I can. Personally I would be happy to make a small donation say £10 or more Annually to a Fund (Similar to the Whitlock Tomb) and if we can generate enough interest from others, build a fund to perhaps award say a couple of Tests to others each year. No merit need to be found amongst those chosen other than the need to make connections. I think the choice of those recipients should remain with you (you're the Guvenor!) as you have an overall view. It maybe that this is just "Pie in the Sky", I hope not. The stated view of the WHITLOCK Family Association is to expand our knowledge of the Whitlock Name and Family we all want this, I hope. I don't know if this makes sense or whether it will be worth a shot, give me your views.”

I agree with Fred that even with the small number of DNA test results the Whitlock DNA Project has received it has yielded great results. The confirmation of some of our long held assumptions has been gratifying to say the least. The connection of so many of our charts to the WHITLOCK02H chart has been very interesting. Even the WHITLOCK90 chart that traces back in Holland to 1300, while not a 37 marker test, still only has one variance from one of the families that likely connects to the WHITLOCK02H chart. While the DNA tests normally say there is likely a common ancestor within 500 years this is already 700 years.

One of the things I have learned lately is that the families showing the same mutation are likely

connected closer so having one or two mutations is desirable as that constitutes a subgroup of from the main line. Theoretically you should be able to determine where your mutation breaks off from the main line. The confusion is determining which is the mutation and which the main line!!

This said, I would encourage more male Whitlocks to take the plunge and have your DNA test. Family Tree DNA still seems to be the most common choice for this and has the largest database so far. They can be found easily by searching for that name. The 37 marker test is most common test done and gives the best comparison. The tests are still somewhat pricey at about \$150. Fred's proposal is interesting and I would like to hear comments about setting up a fund to subsidize some of these tests where we deem the test of particular interest to our Whitlock research.

While the Virginia families are fairly well represented - more tests will allow us to look at the mutation data and see if it yields any interesting conclusions. There is still only one test from the WHITLOCK01 line (me) and I am very curious to see if others in my own family share the same DNA as I do. The Pitton, Wiltshire Whitlocks appear to share a different DNA from the WHITLOCK02H line and more tests from descendants of that line would help confirm that as well.

Thanks Fred for your thoughts on this subject - hopefully this results in more tests being added to the project with more confirmation that our research is on the right track!!

All test results are confidential and only the WHITLOCK line number and the area where you live shows in the summary of the test results.