

WHITLOCK YDNA PROJECT - UPDATE

We are in the process of completely revising the Whitlock YDNA project. Since 2007 the project has been in house and the only compilation of all the test results has been on my computer. I have sent copies out (without names) to anyone participating. We will now have a profile page on the Guild of One Name Studies site and our project will be included in the Projects section of the Family Tree DNA site. We also get a reduced rate for YDNA tests through FTDNA £80 (\$150). This should make our project more public and hopefully attract more participants.

While we are only testing the male YDNA, the mitochondrial DNA is also involved through the Haplogroups. Haplogroups track the migration of from the Mitochondrial Eve over the last 100,000 years. The 26 different branches are labeled A to Z with sub-branches alternating numbers and letters. eg R1b1a2 etc They are only a very rough estimate of how these people move out of Africa and populated the world.

So far our results have confirmed what our paper research has indicated. Our recent connection of the Virginia families back to England was indicated by the paper research and the YDNA tests confirmed we were on the right track. Finally finding the parents of the immigrant ancestor was amazing.

The paper research into the WHITLOCK16, New Jersey families indicated an origin in Wiltshire and the YDNA research shows these families share YDNA with the descendants of the Pitton, Wiltshire families. Interestingly the WHITLOCK09 families from Connecticut share the same YDNA which indicates we will likely find their origins in Wiltshire as well.

The majority of the 33 tests done so far have been from the different Virginia families, W23,25,33,85 etc plus one family from Union Co., SC and we had a good indication from documents in the 1680's that at least the WHITLOCK25 family was connected to the WHITLOCK02H family The Whitlocks of Wokingham, Berkshire. A Whitlock from BC, Canada, a member of the WHITLOCK02H family was tested and it confirmed the Virginia families are connected to the Wokingham families. Part of the WHITLOCK02H family went to Canada in the early 1900's whereas the Virginia families went to America in the 1670's. Their first common ancestor is Richard Whitlock who married Katherine Burchette November 7, 1615 at St. Andrews Holborn, London. This part of the family is all Haplogroup R1b.

The next section is the Pitton families. They all seem fairly closely connected and are all Haplogroup R1a.

The third group are just two results from the Scotland/Ireland families. One is only the 12 marker test so is hard to compare. Also Haplogroup R1b.

The fourth group is from Holland. They matched pretty well with the Whitlocks of Wokingham when they were first tested with a 16 marker test but subsequently the 37 marker tests showed they are not as closely related as we had thought. I have therefore moved them to a separate section. Also Haplogroup R1b

The fifth group is "the rest". Results that have not yet matched with anyone. So far all tests except one are Haplogroup "R", the most common Haplogroup for Europe. There is one result from Haplogroup "I".

We are already starting to see small sub groups emerging. While they may only share 35 to 36 of 37

markers with the main group, they share the same variances. This indicates they are more closely related to each other than to the main group. Very useful information, genealogically speaking.

DNA research is going to grow and expand over the next few years and new ways to use DNA are being explored. There is already a way to measure the length of matching strings of DNA to estimate the closeness of relationship. The longer the strings of matching DNA the closer the relationship. This autosomal DNA test is based on the concept that you get roughly half your DNA from each parent, roughly one quarter your DNA from each grandparent, roughly one eighth your DNA from each great-grandparent etc. Unfortunately to make connections both parties trying to connect using this method will likely have had to do considerable paper research and know a range of family names back 200 to 300 years to be able find the family whose DNA matches.

YDNA 37 marker tests are still relatively expensive and I would like to thank everyone who has participated in this project for sharing their test results. I know as more tests are done the value of this project will grow as will our understanding of the evolution of the name Whitlock and how we came to be using it and its variants as a surname today.