

Autosomal DNA testing

Using DNA to Search for Pioneer John Paterson

We know that he settled in Sunny Bank in 1764, obviously deciding not to be a full-time fisherman. He listed Scotland as his country of origin. We know that he was married and fathered two sons, Peter and John, born in Sunny Bank. He was a bailiff in Gaspé for several years. He earned an income from building small boats and selling fish that he caught in the York River. All indications are that he was a soldier in Wolfe's Army. Beyond that, we have essentially no more information about him.

We don't know who his wife was or where she came from. From the census records of 1765, we know that John and his wife had two sons and three daughters. From their ages, the daughters were obviously born before they arrived in Sunny Bank. There is speculation that John's wife was a widow who came into the marriage with the three daughters. Local records indicate that one of the daughters, Mary may have married James Boyle about 1780. We have no information on the other daughters but possibly one was named Helen.

In an attempt to learn more about John, a few of his descendants have taken a Y-DNA test. These test results have been compared with others in a large data base and have yielded some interesting information which shows that John had close relatives (siblings and/or cousins) who came to the colonies. They probably entered through the port of Philadelphia and, after living in Pennsylvania for a period of time, gradually migrated to the Carolinas, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Georgia and Alabama. Perhaps John came with his family to the colonies and was recruited there into Wolfe's Army.

We have corresponded with the descendants of these early Pattersons. They have been able to trace their ancestors back to the 1700's, some of whom were Ulster Scots. So far, we have not found a common ancestor between these and Pioneer John, but, as more people get tested, we are hopeful that we will make that connection.

The Y-DNA test traces just the male line. Another test, Autosomal DNA, traces both the male and female lines but becomes less reliable beyond five generations. This reliability can be increased by having more people tested. So far, two of our Gaspé Y-DNA group have taken the Autosomal test. At this early stage, it has revealed several distant cousins (e.g. an Ascah and a Boyle) but nothing that allows us to move forward in our search.

We are hoping that more people who are interested in the genealogy of the Gaspé pioneers will take this test. Through FamilyTreeDNA, the cost is \$99. If you go to their website, you will see what is involved in ordering a kit and taking the test. The test is very easy, just a swab of the inside of your cheek. We need a larger data base so please consider taking this test.

One exciting prospect is, if descendants of John's wife's daughters take this test, we should be able to determine if John is their father. Also, through broader test results from around the world, we could find relatives of John's wife. - Nelson

Correspondence, January, 2015

Jan. 14 - You will recall that this relatively new test traces both the male and female lines. I have been thinking about a way of using this test to determine if we are related to pioneer John's wife's daughters. If we know who any of the daughters married and thus also know their descendants, an autosomal test of one of these descendants should show a relationship to me (I took this test) if we are related. If there is essentially no correlation, that would suggest that we are not related to the daughters. I will check with Bob to confirm my thinking on this.

Do we have any information on the daughters' descendants?

Nels

Jan 15 - I have gone through the matches will summarize a few of them below. I have communicated with some of these people but haven't learned anything new. New people are being tested every week so one of these days we might get lucky.

1. Sandra **** Daughter of Lewis L..... She has documented a very thorough GEDCOM going back to William Annett(b.1740) and Elizabeth Siddon.
2. Alison **** Closely related to Sandra, with the same list of ancestors.
3. Jim **** We know him.
4. Ralph **** Lists, Coffin, Hussey and Starbuck as his ancestors.
5. Keith **** Lists Baker, Curtis and Curtiss as his ancestors, along with many more. I corresponded with him but didn't get any information on his Curtis line.
6. Linda **** Lists Annett, Kitchen, Miller, Patterson, Grant, Nelson, Suddard and Tripp, along with several others as ancestors.
6. Bessie ****, Closely related to Linda, with the same ancestors.
7. Dana **** Lists Marie ODiane.... of Barachois as his grandmother.

There are many more but not as close a match as the above, which are shown as 2nd to 3rd or 2nd to 4th cousins, with the exception of Clarke which is shown as 3rd to 5th cousins.

Nels

Jan 15 - Andy asked Laurie for an opinion regarding the Boyle connection.

Query -

I am looking for your opinion on something about these autosomal tests...

My ancestor, John Paterson, B about 1735 came to Gaspé in 1764. His wife is unknown, but it appears he arrived with daughters who may or may not have been his, as John may have married their mother after her former husband had been killed in battle. In about 1778 James Boyle arrived in Gaspé and married a "Mary" who may have been one of these daughters. Nothing certain!

John Paterson was my direct paternal ancestor, 6 generations back. If a descendant of James Boyle and Mary took the autosomal test, could comparing her results to mine help us determine if Mary was the daughter of John? I would be 5th cousin with the Boyle descendant being tested.

Andy

Reply -

Hi Andy:

The short answer is YES, possibly.

However, bear in mind that Mary's descendant may not carry the DNA signatures of John this far down even if she IS his descendant... (better to be able to test her as well as a sibling, because not all siblings inherit the same DNA patterns....And sometimes the matches remain to the 9th generations, etc, sometimes the match disappears. But, thinking out loud - do try her on her own merits because you have a good spread of testers on your side.)

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The other variable that you should consider is that there could be other Boyle relationships (from John Boyle) that might just happen to match you with Stewart & confuse the issue (The brick wall "hidden" matches). See surname profiles from 1881 data. There are overlap possibilities.

I would do it...even with the uncertainty. These are much more likely to be productive considering that you have both you and your mother...and even Gladys. Once you test her you can use the "in Common" tool on the FTDNA site to learn much more about Patterson in case she IS a match. I'll help if I can.

The old Autosomal matches we have for our Tripp study take us right back to matches prior to the American Revolution and that is how we will decide where the broken Tripp surname problem is.

Laurie

Jan 15 -

If you go to my five generation project I think you can find some good lines to work with.

Let's start with the Boyles.

Jane daughter of James and Mary married Capt. William Hall. They appear to have had two daughters. Mary Charlotte married, I believe, Henry Bissett \Johnston.

Eliza married Joseph Languedoc.

James married Charlotte McKinnon of New Carlisle.

Number 32 Rev. Felix Boyle had children with a non Gaspé Bay wife.

Number 34 Mary Charlotte Boyle married John Short.

From those lines we should be able to find a Boyle descendant who is not descended from any other Gaspé Bay families.

Peter Patterson's children all have Ascah genes, but some of John Patterson's children from his second marriage do not. Martha you had some connections with some of the Mayer descendants.

If we could get a Mayer descendant and a Boyle without a Gaspé Bay spouse descendant to test, we could possibly draw a conclusion on the relationship of Mary Curtis/Patterson to the rest of the Pattersons.

John

Jan 16 - Hi Nels:

I am not sure what one can and cannot tell from the Autosomal DNA test. If I understand you correctly we should be able to tell from a Boyle descendant without any other Patterson descendants and a

Patterson descendant without any Boyle descendants (assuming they all descended from John's wife) whether they are all descended from John.

If this is the case I would suggest the following three tests:

1. A Boyle line with no Gaspé Bay spouses.
2. A Patterson line from John 2 with Margaret MacPherson and no Gaspé Bay spouses (Mayer line).

Follow this up with:

3. Another Patterson line.

From the first test we could tell if there is a connection between the Boyles and the Pattersons (Mary).

We would then want to be able to test whether they share just John's wife or John and his wife. Would test 3 proposed above give us the data to draw some conclusions on this? We would probably want to confirm results with another Boyle, as distant from the one tested as possible, and also with a Mayer line, as distant from the one tested as possible.

This will require a bit of tracking down and a bit of fund raising.

John

Jan 16 - Yes, but I think we should consult the experts once more before proceeding. I will contact Bob again. Andy, could you also contact the person that you mentioned in an earlier email?

My understanding is that if we get a strong match (with Andy's and my results) from test #1 in your list, then we are related to John's wife's daughters, (or at least Mary; it is possible that the daughters didn't all have the same father). If it is a weak match, we probably have to get one or two more candidates for test #1. In this case, I am hoping that we will see new matches that will lead to John's wife's line.

I'm not sure what we can learn from test #2 or test #3 but our DNA experts can give us an opinion on this.

Nels

Jan 16 - This is Bob's response to my query. My answer to his questions would be:

Yes we continue to pursue paternal ancestry, but the purpose of this new round of tests is to learn information about John's wife.

He is asking for information about the potential testees (their genealogies). Can you give me some info that I will pass on to Bob.

Nels

Query -

... we know very little about John Paterson and essentially nothing about his wife. Close DNA matches have provided clues on obviously close Patterson relatives but so far not a common ancestor.

We thought that it would be helpful if we can get some information on John's wife. we believe that she was a widow and brought three daughters into the marriage. Family legend also says that one of her daughters, Mary, married a Boyle. Unfortunately, because of the small community and limited choices, through the generations there were frequent marriages between Boyles, Pattersons, Millers, Ascabs, Bechervaises and Coffins and so our cluster of Gaspé Pattersons who have taken the Y-DNA test have a few genes from several of these families.

Only my cousin (4th?) Andy and I have had the Autosomal test.

Our plan now is to locate one or more Boyle descendants who have no connection to the other Gaspé families and one or more Patterson descendants who have no connection to the other Gaspé families. My question to you is: After we locate these candidates, some male and some female, what tests would you recommend (would Autosomal be sufficient?) and what do you feel that we could possibly learn from these tests? Budget is a consideration.

Thanks

Nelson

Response -
Nelson,

... A number of intermarriages down the generations can play havoc with the autosomal results, giving implied relationship closer than they are. Intermarriages don't affect Y-DNA results since here we are looking at the paternal line only.

My question is what are you trying to find? If you are exploring your paternal ancestry, then doing Y-DNA tests on male Pattersons can help. I would need to know more about them to give a better answer. Autosomal test may be useful, but what are you trying to establish? I would also need to know more about the potential testees (their genealogies).

If budget is a consideration, if we do any Y-DNA tests we can start out with a 37 marker test and upgrade as needed.

Sorry that I'm asking more questions than giving answers, but I need more information to try to guide you.

Yours aye,
Bob

Jan - 17

I suggest that we start with one good candidate and see what it tells us. The Autosomal test is \$99 and Bob said that we can get a \$15 discount if ordered before Feb 28th.

Incidentally, I see that ... Robert ..A... of Edmonton shows up on the Autosomal results.

Nels