

Kivett Family DNA Research Update

October, 2009

About 10 years ago the technology to identify the specific part of person's DNA associated with their ancestry became practical and affordable. One particular test leads to laboratory identification of multi part patterns that are inherited from grandfather to father to son, along male lines. It is called a y-DNA test. This test consists of swabbing the inside of the mouth to extract small amounts of skin cells, and sending them to an established organization which does the analysis and reports results. Although it will not positively identify exactly who one's male ancestor was, those who descended in an all male sequence over many generations almost certainly show the same unique y-DNA marker sequence.

In the spring of 2004 this author, William Daffron "Bill" Kivett submitted a sample for testing. Through previously documented research, it is known that this individual was a descendant of Pieter Kieviet's son Peter (II) Kivett, and further all Kivett surname generations. The report was received in May, 2004. Although no other known individuals in the Family Tree DNA data base matched this pattern, a unique one that probably also would have been present in the immigrant Pieter Kieviet was established.

In August, 2005, Neil "Buddy" Kivett agreed to also have his y-DNA tested. Buddy is documented to be an all male to male descendant of another of Pieter Kieviet's sons, John Matthew Kivett. A few weeks later his reported pattern was AN EXACT MATCH OF THAT OF BILL KIVETT. This provided positive clinical proof that this common pattern represented the y-DNA of a common ancestor – our immigrant Pieter who lies buried in McMasters Cemetery.

In early 2009, a refined test on W. D. Kivett's 2004 sample was conducted which permitted a further "Deep Clade" study to identify patterns found in different geographic locations of ancient civilizations. In early October, 2009 it was determined that W. D. Kivett's y-DNA could be classified as **haplogroup: R1 b1 b2 a1 a4. tests: L48+ U106+**. So what does this mean? Tim Peterman of Kansas City, MO, a descendant of Pieter's son Henry who funded this latest test reports the following:

"If the Kivett DNA had been P312+ or U152+, it would have made Switzerland or the Low Countries more likely. Since the Kivetts are U106+, it makes northwestern Germany a lot more likely than Switzerland, although it doesn't rule out the Low Countries.

The history of R1b in Europe seems to be that in about 3,000 BC or so, these people (L11+) migrated up the Danube from the Black Sea area. They diversified in the area of Austria. The first group to break off was P312+ & they moved toward Switzerland and France. P312 split into L21+ & U152+ populations. U152 remained in Switzerland & near the Alps, with L21 settling further west in France & later in Spain & the British Isles.

The remainder of L11 remained in Austria. In about 1,000 BC, there was another mutation (U106+) that marks a new population. They moved sharply to the NW, remaining well to the north and east of lands that were already occupied by P312+ descendants (ie, Celts). This U106+ population merged with an R1a (ie, Balto-Slavic population) & together, they formed the German tribes that the Romans came to know & despise.

In short, we now know that the Kivett ancestors were probably never identified as Celts, but were authentic Germans - this still doesn't rule out a Netherlands presence, but I think that when we compile the spelling of Kuwit (u with an umlaut), the fact that Peter lived in Pennsylvania German country & now, the fact that he was U106+, it is highly implausible that he was anything but a German. The Dutch theory really needs to be put to rest. I still hold out hope that we can find matches in Europe, but it may take years."

PKFA DNA Project Director Warren Whiteside reviewed Peterman's report and concurs with his findings.