

GENEALOGICAL MYSTERIES - PERSONIFIED

Near the beginning of an old article posted on this site is the following advice:

Be patient. Overcome disappointment with dead end searches. Learn to accept uncertainty. Far too many missing and conflicting dates and names will be encountered. But the exhilaration from a diligently searched for link will soon more than make up for these negatives. After all, if genealogy was all that easy, there would be no sense of accomplishment, and you would already know all you wanted to about your family history, and not even be here today.

No matter whether one is a beginner or a very experienced practitioner of this unique type of problem solving, mysteries are always there to be solved – or to stubbornly resist discovering their solution. Re-read the underlined parts of this advice. They are personified here.

For the Kivett family, the American patriarch Peter Kivett (from whom this open organization takes its name) and his wife Anna Barbara have tenaciously kept their ancestral identity a secret. Yes, Peter left a very explicit will from which his and Anna's offspring became known to future generations to know and study. We can even be pretty sure when and where he came to America, from the surviving record of the signature matching that on his will which he affixed to a list of ship landing persons. But, who were his parents, and in what probable European region was he born to them?

Perhaps equally mysterious is the ancestry of the lady buried beside him in McMasters Cemetery, beneath the gravestone that is engraved with "Anna Barbary". What was her maiden name? In what country was she born? When did she come to America – with Peter as his wife, or was she already there living as an unmarried lady in the Pennsylvania countryside – waiting to be the ancestral mother of all these American Kivetts?

Searches for the answers to these most haunting mysteries have long been going on. Over the years lots of theories have been proposed. Some, including noted Kivett family researcher Austin Warren Kivett, have resorted to reasoned speculation – as included in a page posted elsewhere on this site about Anna Barbara:

<http://www.pkivfa.org/KIVETBK.pdf>

Still many ask, "Who were Peter and Anna, and where did they come from?" – even this 21st Century PKFA Historian. With the advent of still developing new DNA research tools, perhaps these can finally provide a path to a solution to these mysteries.

A few years ago two paper documented living (at the time) descendants through all-male lines from different sons of Peter and Anna Kivett had Y-DNA tests conducted and analyzed. The results of these later expanded tests provided a pattern that matched almost exactly – showing

what must have been there in the DNA of Peter, himself. Further analysis of one of these samples conducted in 2015 showed that Peter's ancient ancestors probably separated into present day Germany – separated from relatives who chose to migrate toward Poland. This separation is believed to have occurred about 250 AD. Now, one can say, “So what? That was a long time ago.” What this means is that Peter, as determined from the cheek swab taken in 2004 from this author, belonged to the DNA Haplogroup: R1b1b2a1a4 - with the recently developed further SNP categorizing of U106+ Z381+ L48+ L47+ Z159+ S3251+ FGC17296+ FGC17297+. Again, “That's really getting into the weeds! Can anyone translate what all this jargon means?”.

Never rule out the appearance over time of new information from unknown individuals that magically appears – right out of the blue! Peter Jensen Paluszewski of Copenhagen, Denmark, a distant cousin who appeared through E-Mail during 2015 answers:

What your result means, is that if you find a suspected relative in Europe, the FGC17297 test can provide definitive proof of the relation. The next big discoveries will come when more people take the Big Y test. I'll let you know when I get new information.

So, although we still do not know exactly who Peter's parents or ancestral lands were, we know more about his ancient ancestral roots, and are better positioned to fill in that huge time gap from his 1749 arrival in Philadelphia back to his now identified ancestor's split from their cousins who migrated toward present day Poland around 250 AD. Look for more to be learned soon.

Now, on to Anna Barbara: During 2014 as further explained in an article posted here as:

<http://www.pkivfa.org/Female%20Genealogy.pdf>

and further supported during 2015, another documented living descendant along ALL-FEMALE lines from the same daughter of Peter and Anna Kivett had this different kind of DNA test (mt-DNA) conducted and analyzed. The results of these tests provided a pattern that matched identically – showing what must have been there in the DNA of Anna Barbara, herself. So, by 2015, we know from two tests from descendants of each what the unique DNA identities of both Peter and Anna Barbara were – not their parent's identities, but what their parents left them to pass on to their children in the form of DNA make up.

Again, chance discovery by one of those tested descendants appeared in 2015 – a document listing the names, ages, and country of origin of a Rausch family who, like Peter Kivett, arrived by ship in Philadelphia in 1737. One of the children listed on this document was named Eva Margaretha (Margaret),- age 14; another Anna Barb – age 9. What's so special about this document? From her gravestone in McMasters Cemetery we find Peter's wife Anna Barbara's birth date as 28 Oct 1729. Anna Barb Rausch would have been born about 1728, calculating back the age 9 years from their 1737 immigration record – close enough to possibly be Peter's Anna Barbara! When Peter also arrived in Philadelphia in 1749, Anna Barbara Rausch would

have been about age 21 – marrying age for Peter who would have been about 23 when he arrived.

Now, another supporting set of documents: Eva Margaretha (Margaret) Rausch is shown to have married Nicholas Sr. Emich in Lancaster, Pennsylvania about 1736. And the astounding further documentation: Nicholas and Eva migrated in the late 1750's to the northeast corner of what would be Randolph County, NC – just a few miles from the already there Peter and Anna Barbara Kivett. There they raised their separate, but maybe related, families until Eva Amick and Anna Barbara Kivett both died within a year of one another around 1797. Surely they must have known one another over this 40 year period! Maybe they were SISTERS! Maybe we could now, knowing the mt-DNA identity of Peter's wife Anna Barbara, we could find a living all female line descendant of Eva Rausch Amick.

That's what this writer has been doing for the past 25 years – finding and recording linkages of families who had their beginnings in central NC – not just the Kivetts, but some of those who lived around them. Sure enough, there was a rich set of records of the descendants of this Nicholas and Eva Rausch Amick there in the PKFA data base – including the name of a few personally known individuals who were paper traceable back to Eva Rausch. All that was needed was a “cheek swab” from a still alive one of these to prove the sister relationship of Eva Amick and Anna Barbara Kivett, and this old guy knew how to get the answer! Only an experienced family researcher can begin to imagine the excitement felt during 2015, as proof of the answer to a mystery held about 200 years was just a few weeks away! With high anticipation, a DNA test kit was quickly ordered and received.

Then the great news: One of the living candidates for such a swab was none other than a high school classmate of this author, and her NC residence address and phone number were known. A phone contact was made, followed by a letter explaining what was needed. Then, hard disappointment! This once vital lady was found to be suffering with loss of capabilities to the extent that she was not at all cooperative - even avoided communications.

So, not to be outdone, contact with another prior genealogical researcher who was also a DNA candidate was attempted. This other lady who had in the past been such an avid researcher surely would agree to provide such a meaningful test sample. Weeks went by, only to discover that this lady had died about a year earlier, and her relatives were not interested in doing a test as a memorial honor to her. Struck out again!

Finally, relying on other high school classmates, two were found who were close friends of a still alive older sister of the uncooperative first choice classmate. They provided phone introduction, during my call to her a person was heard in the background. This older sister explained that it was her niece who was visiting her. This niece, whom I will call Cecilia, wanted to talk on the phone about this test. Cecilia, herself a previously unknown candidate one generation further away from Eva Rausch, immediately became excited about the possibilities, and quickly agreed

to a meeting where the swab could take place. So, it did, using the pre-ordered test kit in her NC home a few days later. At last, the precious answer sample was in hand, and soon on its way to the Family Tree DNA lab in Houston, TX. The expected absolute confirmation of the Rausch maiden name of Anna Barbara Kivett should be sent to this family historian before the next PKFA meeting in late October, 2015. Remember, DNA results do not lie!

A personal note: This was a very anxious time! I would be able to bring great news to the family – made possible by many, after so many years of a mystery unsolved. Then in mid-September 2015 the E-Mail from Family Tree DNA unceremoniously appeared in my Inbox..

The roller coaster crashed violently! Cecilia's mt-DNA test results were COMPLETELY DIFFERENT from those two who represented Anna Barbara Kivett! Eva Rausch Amick and Anna Barbara (still unknown) Kivett were not the sisters that showed so much promise to have been related that way. Remember, DNA results do not lie! It cuts both ways!

The lesson here: Repeating: *Be patient. Overcome disappointment with dead end searches. Learn to accept uncertainty.* Life, and research, goes on. Don't expect our suspicions, no matter how well founded, to always prove true. None of us have any special capabilities to solve long lasting mysteries. Try to understand that a few mysteries may be better unsolved – it keeps us humble, and ever pursuing them.

Bill Kivett

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