

In Search of Anna Kivett's Granddaughters and Maternal Cousins

A 2016 report of the Kivett Project

In gender specific searches many times the search has been focused on the male, paternal or yDNA part. Generally it is because of the availability of an unbroken line of a specific surname that aids a tradition document search. Over the years this has changed considerably due to the DNA tool. A prime example is with the FTDNA Kivett Project. As background, it was a Dr. Robert Black of Canada who knew and had documented his maternal line back to Anna Kivett. So in October of 2013 his mtDNA kit from FTDNA opened a new chapter in expanding the Kivett family search to know Anna and to help in locating her modern day granddaughters. Better yet, there was suspicion that her 1700's family in Bucks County Pennsylvania had female sisters to Anna. Since then the mtDNA results and Kivett Project participants has blossomed to eight. Some female participants are not tied to Anna through documents but could be of her family of women back to Europe. Anna carried a very unusual and infrequently seen subclade of the H type females who dominate the female population of Western Europe. Although the H haplotype females are dominant in western Europe her subclade points to a very much old founder female whose numbers were and are still small in a population sense. Anna's genetics sprang from a small subclade of H known as H6a1b3. Most materials fail to show the origins of this subclade but we feel certain it was north Germany and the coastal area reaching into Holland. During the migrations to Penn's Grant from 1690 forward these people were generally described as Palatines. This very same area is where the Kivett males had their early tribal origins. The first palatine migrants to arrive in North Carolina were in 1710 in the New Bern area but were destroyed by natives in 1711. Others that landed later in Penn's Grant soon saw the best available land could only be secured by migrating south. So, by 1747 the palatines began to come again to North Carolina. Among those settlers were Pieter and Anna Kivett in 1750. Because of Anna having family in Penn's Grant we now are attempting one of the more difficult of genealogy searches to find and establish her female line. The mtDNA is being employed to help point out if Anna had potential sisters along with identifying her present day granddaughters. Once a genetic lead is found then it is a matter for traditional genealogists to trace and find the documented proofs. Confirmation is the more difficult and tedious part of this research. However it is not impossible to see that Anna's female line is growing. It is my hope that this research will continue and add to the overall knowledge of my maternal Kivett Family. My apology for not presenting this report in person as well as my heartfelt appreciation to my Cousin Bill Kivett for his continued support for what I have attempted to do. He continues to be the spearhead of this effort.

Cousin Warren Whiteside (Grandson of Mattie Kivett-Asheboro)