

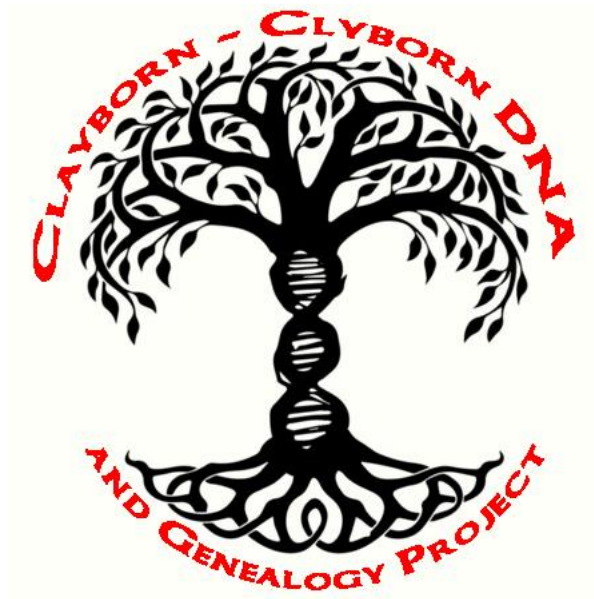


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# CLAIBORNE-CLYBORN DNA & GENEALOGY PROJECT UPDATE

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Jan 2022



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## REVIVING THE PROJECT

### Project Status

Late last year Family Tree DNA reached out to me and asked me if I would be willing to take over as the administrator for the Claiborne DNA project as I have experience with both genealogy and DNA research. The previous administrator, Dr. Alex Waldrop, seems to have disappeared.

My first task was to admit all of the new members waiting to join the project and then send out an email to everyone in the project letting them know that I had taken over. About 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of those emails bounced back with invalid addresses. I have since discovered that 6 of the project participants have passed away.

My next task was to try to see what information Dr. Waldrop left behind. He has a couple of articles that were published by the Claiborne Society, the most recent being a 2013 report. Unfortunately, none of the study participants included a family tree with their DNA submission. Further complicating the issue, due to the manner in which Dr. Waldrop privatized the report – above and beyond Family Tree DNA's standards – it's not possible to link his notes to specific kits within the project. I've only had success on a handful of these. I'm sure that was his intention, to preserve privacy, but it hinders the work of trying to rebuild what he had.

All total there are now 92 members in the project, 45 of which are Y-DNA participants and the rest are MtDNA participants. Given that I had almost no genealogical records and no notes to work from, I started over from scratch and used the DNA itself as the basis for my analysis.

### Original Design

Dr. Waldrop and I are both working toward the same goal – determining direct male descent. But, due to the limitations I outlined above, I had to restructure my approach. Here's how the original study groups migrated to the new phase.

- 1) the descendants of William Claiborne of Virginia, son of Thomas Cleyborne of King's Lynn, County Norfolk, England. – **This group still exists in the study.**
- 2) the descendants of the Westmorland family of Cliburn Hall in England. – **This group still exists in the study.**
- 3) the descendants of John Cliborn/Clyborn of Old Henrico [NOTE: This family has often been referred to as the John of Dale Parish line.] – **This group is now called "Descendants of Edward Cleiborne".**
- 4) the descendants of John Clibborn born in Durham, England who went to Moate, Ireland around 1640; John Clibborn later became a Quaker. – **This group is now called Clibborn of Moate.**
- 5) Descendants of the Clayburns of Yorkshire that apparently originated in the Howden area of the East Riding of Yorkshire, England. – **I have no records for this group, it has been disbanded.**
- 6) A control family without a Claiborne-like surname – **Several controls exist.**
- 7) Descendants of Richard Claiborne (1755-1819) – **This is folded under "Descendants of Col. William".**
- 8) Descendants of Alfred Charles Cliburn who was born in 1873 in Brighton, Sussex, England. – **I have no records for this group, it has been disbanded.**
- 9) Descendants of William Cliburn (1750 to after 1820). Many of these Clyburns settled in South Carolina. – **I have no records for this group, it has been disbanded.**
- 10) Descendants of Nathaniel Britton Claborn/Cliborn (1803-1902) born in South Carolina and later moved to Alabama. – **This group still exists.**

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- 11) Descendants of John Clayburn (1820-?) of Manchester, England – I have no records for this group, it has been disbanded.
- 12) Descendants of another Alabama Claborn – I have no records for this group, it has been disbanded.
- 13) Descendants of Alfred Clayborn of Weakley County, Tennessee – I have no records for this group, it has been disbanded.
- 14) Descendants of Joseph Kocher (1865 to 1929) – There is a single participant of this group, but since the surname is not Claiborne and the DNA reveals no close match whatsoever, I have removed this group from the study analysis.

## GENETIC GENEALOGY

The field of Genetic Genealogy has changed quite a bit over the last decade with DNA kits becoming more and more popular among the general public. In this section I will give a brief primer on genetic genealogy, the types of genetic tests, tools, and how those can be applied to our research.

By far, the most popular type of DNA test is the Autosomal DNA test. This test is sold by companies like Ancestry, MyHeritage, and 23&Me. This test looks at your entire genetic sequence, measured in Centimorgens (cM) and finds matches who share your genetic pattern from any branch of your family. This can be a very powerful tool for tracking down recent family and ancestors. It is especially useful in adoption cases – just this month I helped a client find their birth father. The limitations of this tool are that it is only good for about 5-7 generations back, so finding genetic 5<sup>th</sup> Cousins using this tool is a longshot, and the confidence and accuracy of the results diminishes with each successive generation back in time you search. Because it's such a popular test, there are many, many 3<sup>rd</sup> party utilities and applications online to help you make sense of what you are looking at.

Mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA) is a test that examines your mother's mother's mother's line exclusively. It cannot be used in any meaningful way except for tracking that specific branch. This test, unlike Autosomal DNA, can reach back roughly 200,000 years and divides people into Haplogroups (more on that later).

Y-Chromosome DNA (Y-DNA) is a test that tracks the father's father's father's line exclusively. It cannot be used in any meaningful way except for tracking that specific branch. Like MtDNA, this test can reach back roughly 200,000 years and groups people by Haplogroups.

### Haplogroups

Both MtDNA and Y-DNA results are grouped into genetic Haplogroups, lettered A-Z. These Haplogroups represent major changes to the human genetic pattern in the sex chromosomes. DNA studies from 1995 have shown that all humans alive on Earth today share a common genetic ancestor, dubbed "Y-DNA Adam", who was alive sometime between 200,000 and 300,000 years ago. Similarly, all humans alive today are also descended from a single maternal ancestor, dubbed "mitochondrial Eve", who was estimated to live between 150,000 and 200,000 years ago. Further estimates and refinements over the decades have narrowed these values down and now geneticists believe that "Adam" and "Eve" lived about 85,000 years apart from each other. They also have refined the break in the Haplogroups to around 80,000 years ago, when the human migration is believed to have occurred out of the fertile valleys of Africa.

Haplogroups are major changes to the human genome reflected by vast differences of the Haplotype. A **haplotype** is a specific measure of genetic marker values. Geneticists use specific alleles in the sex

chromosomes – the Y chromosome for Y-DNA, and the X-chromosome for MtDNA – and they count the specific genetic value at each allele marker.

The DNA strand is composed of 4 types of nucleotides; Adenine, Thymine, Guanine, and Cytosine. These are represented by A, T, G, and C respectively.

In DNA, A & T always bind together, and G & C always bind together. Due to this fact, it's only necessary to read one strand of the DNA helix because the other strand will have the opposing form nucleotides.

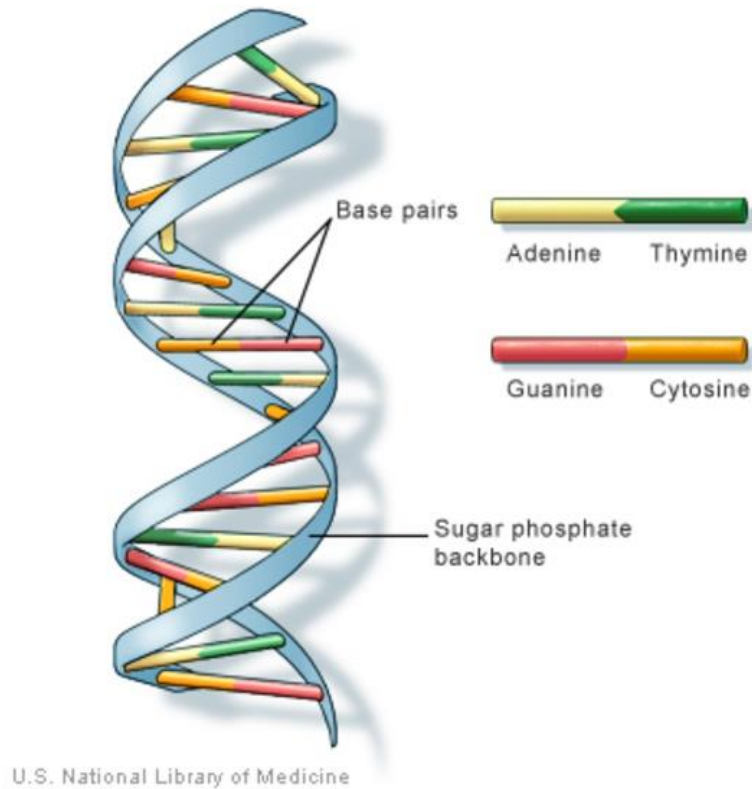
When they measure specific markers, they count the pattern of nucleotides present in the pattern. It may be: TCATCATCATCATCA. This pattern is called an STR, or a Short Tandem Repeat. In this case of my example, the

pattern for that allele repeats 5 times, so the marker value is 5. When you see those values on your DNA report, that's what the numbers mean – that pattern repeats X number of times.

Now that we know what the alleles are measuring, we can talk about haplotypes. A haplotype is a specific pattern of values for each allele in the chromosome. Each allele has a specific marker. For example, one allele is called DYS-389i. For each Haplogroup, that marker has a value. For Haplogroup R it might be between 10 and 15, and then anything outside of that value would be very rare. Once too many markers are out of range" for a specific marker, then we know that the sample actually falls inside of a different haplogroup with a better genetic fit.

Because these haplogroups are changes to the Y-DNA chromosomes across multiple markers, these changes occur very slowly and each split on the haplogroup tree represents thousands of years of distance between ancestors. If you look at the Y-DNA Tree, the branch containing R1a & R1b split from R about 25,000 years ago, if that gives you any sort of indication as to how vast these time scales are. As you will see in our study, someone who is a member of Haplogroup R-M269 (R1b) is not even remotely closely related to someone in Haplogroup I. The most recent common ancestor between them is tens of thousands of years.

In the last few decades, we have begun to better understand specific mutation rates. We know that some genes mutate relatively quickly, and others relatively slowly. By understanding these mutation rates, we



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can now take two samples of DNA and calculate the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA). These calculations have to be taken with a grain of salt, however, as recent studies have shown that they are only partially correct.

The reason for this flaw is due to the unpredictability of the STRs themselves. Sometimes certain alleles in certain families won't mutate at the expected rate, some will mutate faster or slower than the average, which throws off the estimate. There's also the complication of something called Divergence. This is where an allele starts out with one value, let's say 15, and then as the family branches some members of the family have fewer and fewer repeats resulting in values of 13, and other branches have values that increase and increase, resulting in values of 17. When comparing an allele marker value of 13 and 17, that doesn't appear to have a close match, but in truth, it could only be a couple of generations – especially if the specific allele in question is a fast-mutating allele.

Back-mutation is another complication. There is where an allele might start with a value of 15, and then one branch of the family mutates to 14, but then later that value changes back to 15. When comparing 15 to 15 there's no change, so it suggests a very close genetic match, but in truth there could be a dozen generations or more between them.

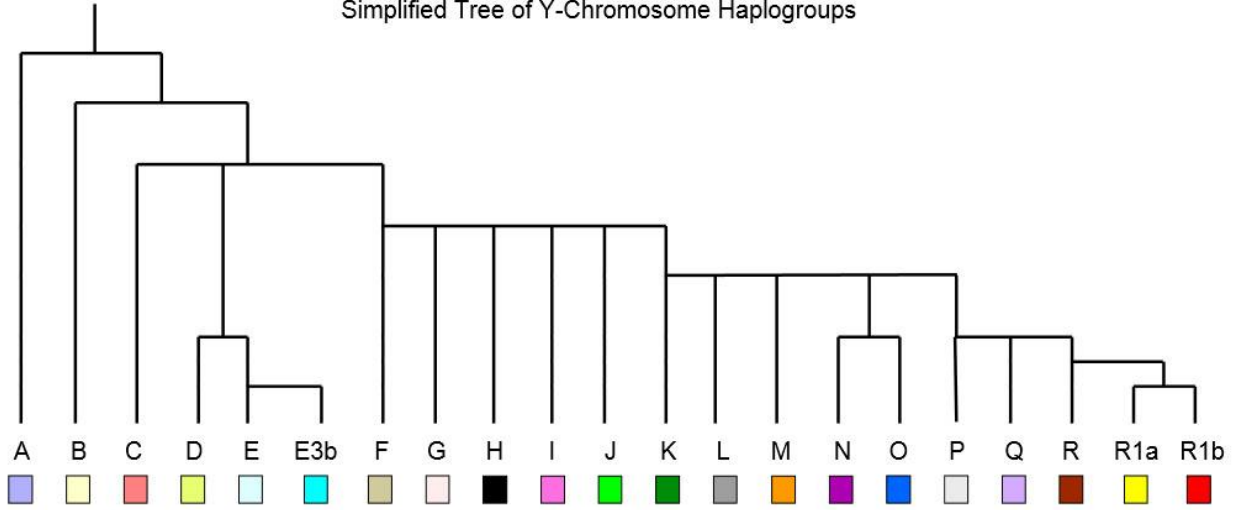
Due to these unpredictable results, any calculations performed with STR values should be taken only as a guide and an estimate with a pretty wide margin of error. The best practice is always to graft the DNA results onto family trees and to couple these results with SNP testing.

A SNP – Single Nucleotide Polymorphism – is a rare mutation that occurs at just one specific place on the DNA strand. It's not a sequence of cells, but just one specific place. Since this value is very rare and very slow changing, this is a very useful tool for proving ancestry and descendency in genealogy. When coupled with family trees, these SNP tests can prove or disprove entire genetic lineages and they can even be traced back to a single, specific individual. The fascinating part about SNP testing is that new SNPs are being discovered every day, including SNPs that are common only to very specific families. With more and more people undergoing SNP testing, and more genealogical data made available, specific SNPs can even be identified in individuals who lived several hundred years ago.



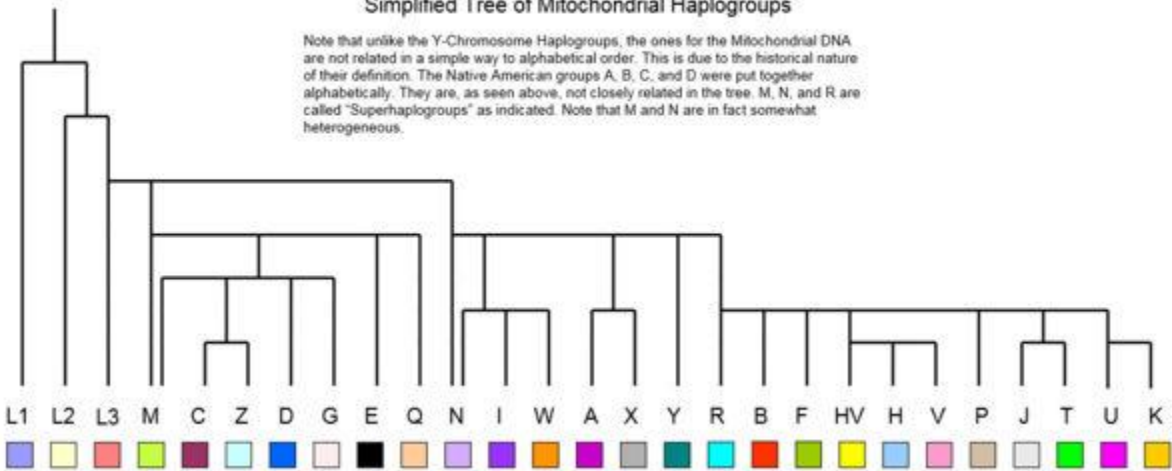
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Simplified Tree of Y-Chromosome Haplogroups



Simplified Tree of Mitochondrial Haplogroups

Note that unlike the Y-Chromosome Haplogroups, the ones for the Mitochondrial DNA are not related in a simple way to alphabetical order. This is due to the historical nature of their definition. The Native American groups A, B, C, and D were put together alphabetically. They are, as seen above, not closely related in the tree. M, N, and R are called "Superhaplogroups" as indicated. Note that M and N are in fact somewhat heterogeneous.





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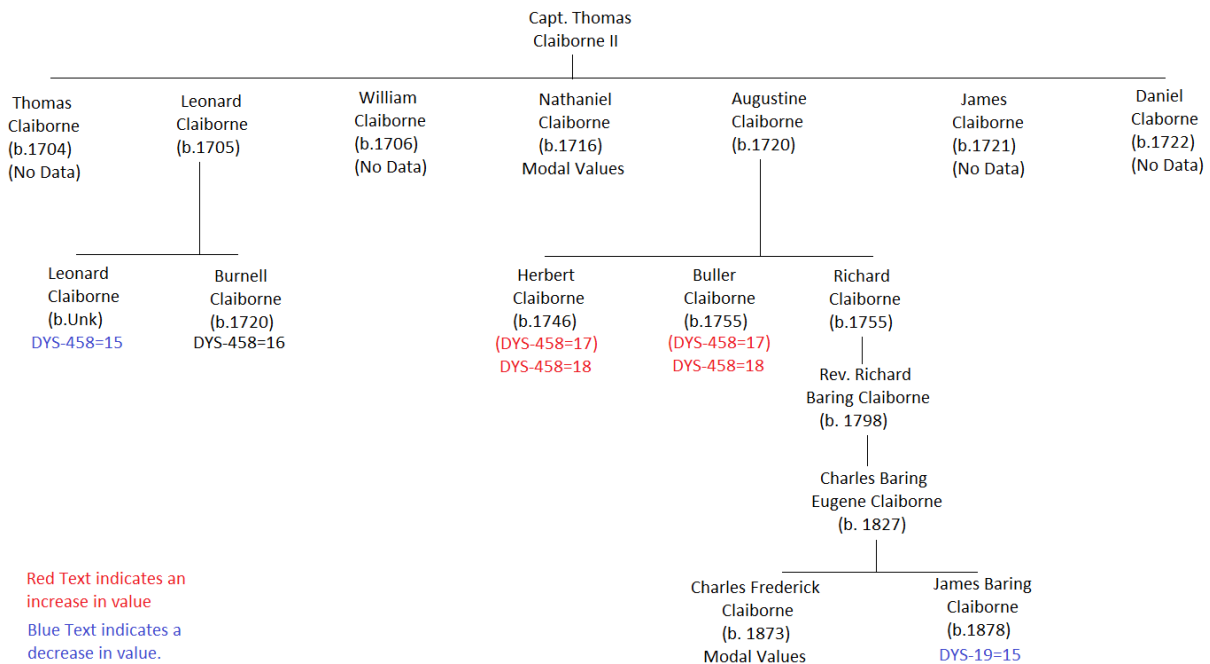
## COL. WILLIAM DESCENDANTS

There are 12 participants in this group. Dr. Waldrop had them sorted into multiple different lines, but lacking genealogical records, I had to go back to the root ancestor. I am certain that all 12 individuals within this group are related and all descend from Col. William Claiborne.

One of the hallmark signs of this group is that their Genetic Haplogroup is I-M170. They all share that same haplogroup and new members who join with this haplogroup should be looked at for potential descendancy from Col. William. The Cliburns of Westmoreland, as previously reported, are not related. That group is haplogroup R-M269, and the most recent common ancestor was around 35,000 years ago.

So far, all 7 participants that I have been able to get genealogical records on descends from a son of Capt. Thomas Claiborne II (b. 1680). There is 1 participant descended from Nathaniel (b.1716), 2 descended from Leonard (b.1705), and 4 from Augustine (b. 1720). There are 5 participants that do not have genealogies or their genealogy doesn't connect to Capt. Thomas yet. Once I am able to sort them, it should fill in the Cladogram chart a little more.

## Col. William Cladogram



## Col. William Ancestry

Since disproving Col. William as being tied to the Westmorland group, answering the question of Col. William's ancestry has been difficult. His father is now known, but no records beyond that have been found. One method of looking into this is by searching his specific ancestral Haplotype into Y-DNA databases and looking for any close matches. Any close matches at all, regardless of name, would indicate a direct male descendancy. It's possible that Thomas Clyborne, William's father, adopted the surname and that's why records are so hard to find. Or maybe he came from a different area of the country first, before settling in King's Lynn. Or maybe he came from somewhere else entirely. There are many

possibilities. Finding other DNA family matches in the broader world can help compare what know of Thomas Claiborne to other known families and look for clues about where Thomas may have come from and who his ancestors were.

## NATHANIEL BRITTON CLYBURN DESCENDANTS

This family remains a mystery and is a genetic outlier. Without the accompanying genealogical records, I don't know much about this family except for what the DNA tells me. There are two members of this group and they belong to Haplogroup I, like the descendants of Col. William. However, these members are not closely related to them. Col. William's people are Haplogroup I-M170 and these members belong to Haplogroup I-M253, which makes their most recent common ancestor an estimated 80 generations ago.

With no other data to access and no other groups to compare against, I cannot make any other inferences about this data. It's possible that these samples, which come from a father-son pair, represents what is called a "Non-Paternity Event" where non-Claborn DNA was introduced into the genealogy through adoption or other means. Or, it's equally possible that this sample represents a third unique Claborn Family. Without more data it is impossible to say.

Next steps for this group would be to try to locate additional genealogical information and then identify other members of that family tree to take the test.

### Nathaniel Britton Cladogram

With only two participants in this group, and with both of them being father and son, there's not enough data to build a cladogram.

### Nathaniel Britton Ancestry

At this time, there are no further clues regarding the ancestry of Nathaniel Britton Clyburn. Since this Haplogroup is unique among all of the other study participants a good approach would be to search the Y-DNA databases for any DNA matches at all, regardless of surname, as that may provide clues. It is impossible to tell at this point if this is a Non-Paternity Event or an entirely new line.

## CLIBBORN OF MOATE DESCENDANTS

This group has changed from Dr. Waldrop's original list. He called them the "Durham Group" because that's where the immigrant Clyburn was born. However, I don't believe that adequately describes this test group. This group consists of two people who belong to Haplogroup R-M269. These two people are closely related, sharing a most recent common ancestor between 7-9 generations ago.

This group, while belonging to the same genetic Haplogroup as the Westmorland Cliburns, is not a close genetic match. They represent a 4<sup>th</sup> unique genetic haplotype. On paper, this group's lineage traces back to Westmorland. A person who was born in 1950 would have 12 generations between them and William Cleburne, the immigrant ancestor of this line. Based on this, and based on the fact that the MRCA for the two samples is 7-9 generations, we shouldn't assume that this change in DNA occurred in Durham. Many

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of the other descendants of that family may have different Haplotypes. The only thing that we can say for certain is that this sample group is not related to any other sample group in the study and that these samples came from Ireland. To that end, it makes more sense to call this group Moate Descendants.

Next steps for this group would be to attempt to track down genealogical records for these people and to identify more people within this group to get the study and get them to participate. It seems likely that at some point after coming to Ireland, for at least part of the family, a Non-Paternity Event occurred.

### Moate Cladogram

With only two participants in this group, and no genealogical records for either of them, it's not possible to construct a cladogram.

### Moate Ancestry

There are two approaches to determining the true ancestry of the Moate group. The first would be to find more participants descended from that line who are willing to test. This will help us nail down when the Haplotype changed away from the Westmorland Modal haplotype. Concurrently, searching online Y-DNA databases for this haplotype and examining any matches may provide some clues. If there are matches that live near the Clibborns of Moate, for example, then it may provide some clues.

## CLIBBORN OF BALLYCULLUTAN DESCENDANTS

There is one sample member in this group. On paper they trace back to Westmorland. The sample group belongs to Haplogroup R-M269 and is a genetic match for the Cliburns of Westmoreland. This seems to confirm that the Clibborns of Ballycullutan were directly descended from the Westmoreland group. It doesn't confirm that all of the paper genealogy is 100% accurate, but it does at least suggest that the paper genealogy is on the right track.

Next steps for this group would be to recruit additional members to verify the findings, repeatability is important in research.

### Ballycullutan Cladogram

With only a single participant in this group it's not possible to construct a cladogram.

### Ballycullutan Ancestry

Not much work needs to be done on this Ancestry. The Ancestry of the Ballycullutan group is well-documented and the DNA Analysis supports the paper tree that exists. To firm up the ancestry, SNP testing could provide more definitive proof, but so far, the DNA agrees with the established, published genealogies for this group so there is not an obvious reason to question it.

## JOSHUA CLYBURN FAMILY

This family group does not appear to be on Dr. Waldrop's original listing of families. There are 2 members that fall into this category, both are distant cousins to each other. They are Haplogroup R-M269 and they match the Westmorland Haplotype close enough to establish direct male descent. However, at this time it is unclear exactly how they fit into the tree.

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Paper evidence for these members dead-ends with Joshua and his brothers; William, Ephraim, and possibly James. Joshua just appears suddenly in Robeson County, South Carolina and there are no known records of his arrival, nor any clues about his parents or his origin. One of these descendants is from Joshua, and the other is from William. At least 3 different hypotheses regarding how they connect to the family have been floated:

1. Joshua is the son of one of the Irish families – Joshua was a common name amongst the Clibborns of Moate. If that's true, he may be the son of Joshua Clibborn of Moate (b. 1721) who married Hannah Goffe. A complication of this hypothesis is that the two descendants of Moate that we have do not match the Joshua line. If they are of Moate, it would suggest that the Non-Paternity Event occurred after this split, or on a different line.
2. Joshua may be the son of one of the Westmorland Cliburns. There are certainly a proliferation of Cliburns in England and this marks the time period when they began to disperse into Yorkshire, Cumberland, and other parts of England. There are no known Joshuas who were born around this time, but there are still many unknown branches of the family where he could exist.
3. He is the son of one of the descendants of Edward Cleiborne. There is certainly enough time that has elapsed in Virginia for him to have been related to them. However, there are no known records of a Joshua in that tree. There are a few gaps that need to be filled in where he could exist as well.

At this point, none of these possibilities can be definitively ruled out. Based on the initial research from the DNA evidence, the data suggests that a descent from Edward may be the closest match. There are some specific allele values, namely a DYS—449 value of 30, and DYS-464d value of 19 that differ this group from the Cliburns of Westmorland. Both of these values are shared by some descendants of Edward. This is not enough to prove descent, however. These values could have just mutated in parallel independent of each other. Further analysis is required.

### Joshua Clyburn Cladogram

Although I do have complete lineages for both members of this group, a cladogram of the sub-group would be unnecessary as both members share identical haplotypes. As this group grows in size and scope then a cladogram would be warranted. Until then, figuring out how their haplotype connects to the Westmorland tree would be very useful.

### Joshua Clyburn Ancestry

In this case, searching Y-DNA databases for matches for this haplotype are not going to be helpful. We already know what haplotypes and surnames match this family. The two ways that we can approach mapping out the ancestry better are attempting to piece together a master Cladogram for all of the Westmorland families, and by expanding the DNA results to look for specific SNP markers that are unique to this group and attempt to track down where they originate, or what other unique SNP markers this group may share with others.

## EPHRAIM CLYBURN OF NOVA SCOTIA DESCENDANTS

This family was a surprise to me. Initially, when people said that they were descended from “Ephraim”, I assumed that they meant Joshua of Robeson’s son Ephraim. It wasn’t until I dug in a little closer and examined the DNA and the paper genealogy together that this other pattern emerged.

Here’s what we do know so far. This family is definitely a branch of the Westmorland group, they share the Westmorland modal haplotype close enough to establish direct male descent. As with so many of the other groups, it is not clear exactly when or how this group fits in to the overall tree nor where they originated from.

Another thing that is certain, this group is fairly closely related to the Joshua of Robeson County family. They match at 109 out of 111 markers, which would be a MRCA of not more than 3 generations ago.

There is some evidence, as suggested by Angela Clyburn, that this Ephraim of Nova Scotia is the brother to Joshua of Robeson County. This seems plausible and the DNA does not disprove this connection – but neither does it prove it. Joshua of Robeson (b. cir. 1758) had a son named Ephraim (b. 1788). Ephraim of Nova Scotia (b. cir. 1746) had a son named Joshua (b. 1813). The name Ephraim does not show up in any other known Clyborn lines.

### Ephraim Clyburn Cladogram

Although I do have complete lineages for two members of this group, a cladogram of the sub-group would unnecessary as both members share identical haplotypes. As this group grows in size and scope then a cladogram would be warranted. Until then, figuring out how their haplotype connects to the Westmorland tree would be very useful.

### Ephraim Clyburn Ancestry

In this case, searching Y-DNA databases for matches for this haplotype are not going to be helpful. We already know what haplotypes and surnames match this family. The two ways that we can approach mapping out the ancestry better are attempting to piece together a master Cladogram for all of the Westmorland families, and by expanding the DNA results to look for Specific SNP markers that are unique to this group and attempt to track down where they originate, or what other unique SNP markers this group may share with others.

I have seen some family trees listed on Ancestry where Ephraim is attributed as the son of John “of Dale Parish” Cliborn (b. 1705) and his wife Jean Clarke. I have serious doubts regarding the accuracy of these claims. These same trees list Ephraim’s birthplace as Brunswick Co, VA (with no cited sources). For starters, there is no evidence that John and Jean ever left Chesterfield County, VA. He is a well-documented individual and lived and died in Chesterfield. Furthermore, this attribution to John of Dale Parish ignores the larger family cluster. There are either 3 or possibly 4 Clyburn brothers – William Clyburn, Ephraim Clyburn, Joshua Clyburn, and possibly James Clyburn. John of Dale Parish already had 5 sons and 3 daughters. There is no evidence to support that he had an additional 4 children. As stated elsewhere in this report, SNP testing should be able to lend some serious weight toward proving or disproving ancestry lineages.

## EDWARD CLEIBORNE DESCENDANTS

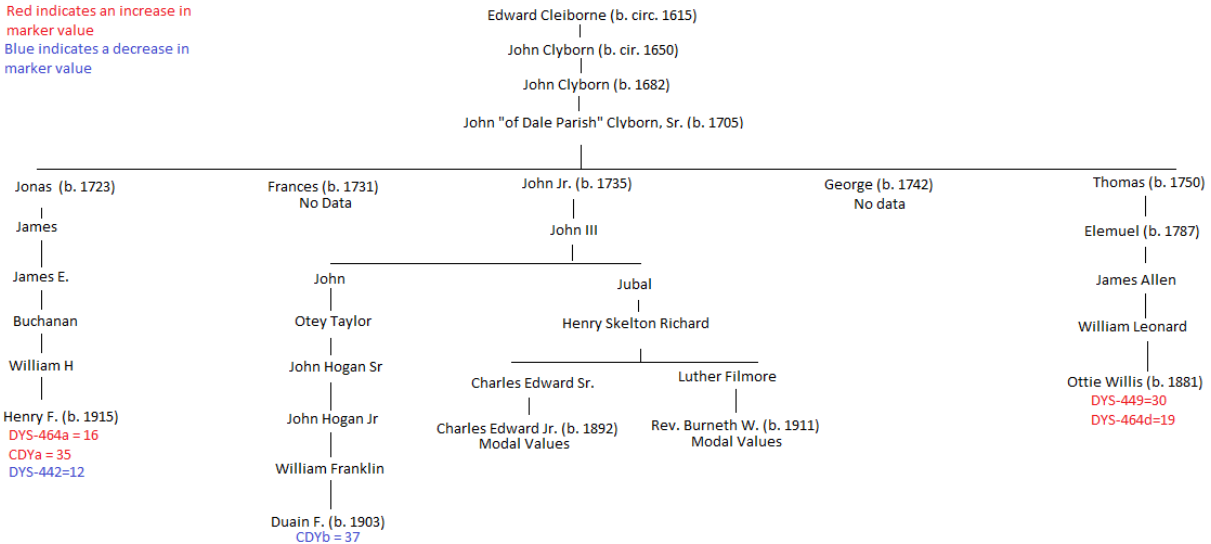
Dr. Waldrop had this group originally named "John of Dale Parish". I changed it to Edward Cleiborne Descendants because that is the earliest known ancestor of this line. For information about Edward and the evidence suggesting his place as the progenitor of this line, you can read about it through the links here: [https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Clyborns\\_of\\_Henrico\\_County](https://claybornglobal.com/Genealogy/index.php/Clyborns_of_Henrico_County)

There are at least 7 known members of this group. Their DNA is Haplogroup R-M269, and it matches the Cliburn of Westmorland Haplotype close enough to suggest a direct male decent. Based on the DNA Evidence, we are certain that this Edward is connected to Westmorland, but we are not certain how or where he fits in the tree. Based on the time period that he was born, it is unlikely that he originated from Ireland. There are many Edward Cleburnes who were born in Westmorland, and many more that are not yet known. The best fit in the record, so far, is Edward Cleburne (b. 3 Mar 1621), son of John. But this is not clear if this is John, son of Gyles of Hitton (b. 4 Sep 1580) or John, son of John (b. 2 Feb 1581). We can't even be sure that this is indeed the same Edward, it is simply a possibility that can be explored.

### Edward Cladogram

This chart represents the known mutations for descendants of Edward Cleiborne of the *Globe*. This chart is also a perfect example of the complications that arise with trying to use STR values only for tracing ancestry. The descendants of Thomas shown on the right side of the chart that closely match the values that are common mutations for both the Ephraim and Joshua lines. However, what we know about the paper genealogy makes these connections impossible. If those descendants of Thomas had the exact same mutations as the Ephraim and Joshua lines due to a single common ancestor, then those mutations would permeate throughout the entire tree because the Ephraim and Joshua lines pre-date that branch, which means any shared common ancestor must also pre-date that branch. Thus, the most plausible conclusion at this time is that those specific mutations happened independently and in parallel. A less likely scenario is that this genealogy may be wrong and this person is actually a descendant of either Joshua or Ephraim.

Red indicates an increase in marker value  
Blue indicates a decrease in marker value



## Edward Ancestry

In this case, searching Y-DNA databases for matches for this haplotype are not going to be helpful. We already know what haplotypes match. There are at least 3 different known Edwards in the greater Cliburn genealogy that could be this Edward, however we have no proof of any of them.

## DNA MYSTERIES

### Haplogroup E

There are 2 members in the study who belong to Haplogroup E. One is from Haplogroup E-M2 and his earliest known ancestor is in Natchez, MS. The other is from Haplogroup E-M35. Neither of these members have provided much genealogical data. They are not related to each other, nor to any other members in the study and represent unique genetic families. As with the earlier examples of this for Nathaniel Britton Clyburn, there is not enough data here to make a determination one way or the other. They could be anomalies, they could be Non-Paternity Events, or they could new families. Additional participants and research data is needed. One big clue is that Haplogroup E is mainly found in Africa.

The one member who has provided some data will be a starting point, and I will attempt to research his line back the old-fashioned way and see where they go.

### Unknown Origin

There are at least 3 members of study who are part of Haplogroup R-M269 and whose ancestry is unknown. These members do not have genealogies and enough additional information to be able to place them. They represent a divergent branch or an entirely separate Haplotype. Rough estimates of STR values suggest a genetic connection at around 22 generations, which is not genealogically close. It is worth noting that these 3 members all appear to be closely related to each other.

### Haplogroup R

There are two members of the study who fall broadly under Haplogroup R, but they are not closely related to the Westmorland group. One is from Haplogroup R-M512 and his Earliest Known Ancestor is John Edward Clabon (b.1835) in Greensville Co, VA. The other member is Haplogroup R-L11 and claims to descent from Westmorland, but no genealogy was provided. The DNA suggests that neither of these two members are related to Westmorland nor are they related to each other. They present with unique Haplotypes. As in the other cases, there is simply not enough data to make any meaningful analysis at this time.

### Ishom Connection

There is one member whose ancestor was Robert Isham (d. 1662) who is a perfect match for the Westmorland Cliburns. What is interesting about this person is that they were also a passenger on the *Globe*, which carried Edward Cleiborne over in 1635. These two passengers are genetic cousins descended from the same direct male ancestor. One can't help but wonder if they were aware of this and if they were travelling together, or was it just happenstance? The Ishoms lived much further south than the Cliburns, but some of the family were known to attend school at Cambridge, which is close to the Ishom ancestral lands. The current working hypothesis is that one of the Cliburns who was attending university in the late 1500s or early 1600s may have had something to do with this. Further research is definitely required to prove anything definitively. A SNP test would be recommended specifically.

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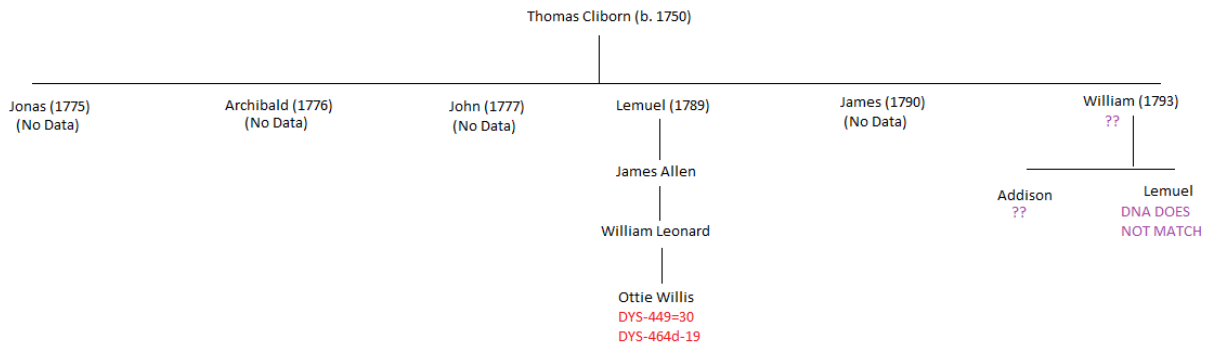
Giles County, Virginia

There is a non-Paternity Event somewhere in the descendants of Edward. I have a lot of information on this line because it happens to be my line. Although my haplogroup is also R-M269, it does not closely match the Westmorland Haplotype. However, since other members of Edward's descendants match the Westmorland haplotype, a Non-Paternity event has occurred somewhere.

In tracing down what I know to be 100% certain, I am aware of two possibilities.

1. Elemuel/Lemuel Cliborn (aka: Lemuel Croy) (b. 1834) to Christina Croy. This person was born a couple of years after William Clyborn divorced his wife and eventually Christina and her two children moved into William's house. Elemuel would later go on to fight in the Civil War and his tombstone and military records list him as Clyburn.
2. William Clyborn who adopted Elemuel may be the break. William had one son, Addison, with his first wife, Mary. After the divorce, Mary moved across the state and took Addison with her. Addison's descendants later moved down to Missouri. I have recently come across some Missouri Clayborns descended from Addison and they bear a striking resemblance. If there is not genetic connection at all, then a family resemblance seems unlikely. However, if they share a Most Recent Common Ancestor in William Clyborn of Giles County, then a family resemblance is not entirely unexpected.

Next steps for this family group are to track down descendants of Addison Clyburn of Giles Co, VA and get at least one of them to take the Y-DNA test. If their results match mine, then William is the NPE. If their results match the Westmorland modal values, then that confirms Lemuel as the NPE.



In the meantime, I am continuing searching for likely matches and candidates that may explain this NPE. I have been searching Y-DNA databases for my Haplotype with no luck. My specific DYS-464 markers are very rare, existing in only 0.1% of the R-M269 Haplogroup, so if another match is found, it is probable that they are related to me. I am also attempting to persuade by Great-Uncle to take the autosomal DNA test in an attempt to locate cousins that we can't place on our family tree. I am too far removed from the ancestor in question, so going back two generations before me gives us the best chance of finding a match that way.



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### R-M269 Outlier

There is another kit within the R-M269 Haplogroup set that is a total genetic mystery. Like my data, they don't closely match the Westmoreland Haplotype. They differ at 18 of 37 markers, making their Most Recent Common Ancestor an estimated 70 generations ago. I have no genealogical data on this individual and I have not been able to get in touch with them as their email is invalid, so at this point there are no further next steps for this mystery.

### NEXT STEPS

Across all research groups of interest, aside from the specific next steps spelled out in each research group, overall advice would be two parts.

#### SNP Testing

As mentioned in my genetics discussion earlier in the report, the STR testing in the standard Y-DNA results are not infallible. They do prove direct male descent, but taken on their own they cannot guarantee exactly how the descent occurred. Upgrading to SNP tests and looking for specific SNP markers that are unique to these family groups will definitely help not only confirming the order or descent, but also providing answers to questions such as – where did Joshua Claybourn originate from and who are his ancestors? And who are Edward Cleiborne's ancestors?

#### Genealogy Records

One problem that I encounter when researching these families is that there seems to be a great amount of confusion surrounding people's ancestry. For many years Col. William was attributed to the Westmorland Group, which we now know is false, but it still persists on many trees. Edward's children are erroneously attached to Col. William. Some of Col. William's descendants are erroneously attached to John of Dale Parish, etc. There are a great many places where casual researchers of these families cross-link the trees and place their families in as descendants of "the other family".

To combat that problem, I would suggest a more collaborative effort to make the genealogical index publicly available from an authoritative source. The Joshua descendants have done a remarkable job of this at [www.claybourn.org](http://www.claybourn.org). I think this type of approach should be scaled up and replicated across all of the Claiborne-Clyburn families.

Additionally, volunteers should be conscripted to help track down some of the known gaps in the tree and work the tree from both ends. Most researchers work the tree from present-day to the past. But we also should be picking the Earliest known ancestor and tracking down all of their descendants completely. This will help to plug some gaps and rule out certain hypothetical ancestral connections while we are waiting for SNP testing.

### CONTACT

If you have questions about the DNA project, this report, or the genealogical research, or if you would like to volunteer to help in some capacity, please send me an email at: [Johnathan.clayborn@gmail.com](mailto:Johnathan.clayborn@gmail.com)

-Johnathan J. Clayborn, MS  
6<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2022