

WALKER GROUP 42 DNA DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

by Fred Coffey (FredCoffey@aol.com)

(Source Link: www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/FamilyNotes/WalkerDNA2.pdf)

There is a Walker DNA Project on FTDNA (Family Tree DNA) that presently has more than 1000 members, in 90+ groups. My own "Walker" branch is included, with presently 13 members in "Group 42". Further, I have discovered that there are 3 men who have been tested on Ancestry.com, who also match.

So we have 16 men whose DNA tests clearly indicate a common ancestor. The purpose of this paper is to focus on the expanded "Walker Group 42", and to invite input and comments from the 16 members and other interested parties.

I am an "interested party" because my mother was a Walker. However I am a "Coffey", and obviously do not have Walker y-DNA. But I have male Walker cousins, and their DNA is represented here.

So I invite comments from the participants. And I will update this discussion paper to incorporate their input. And I have indeed already been overwhelmed with new information from those involved.

You are now reading "Draft #9" of this paper. Since #8, one new test has been added for Robert Paul Walker II.

Let me start by offering a table showing the DNA profiles of the 16 "Walker" members:

WALKER DNA

DYS # =		DYS393	DYS390	DYS19	DYS391	DYS385	DYS426	DYS388	DYS439	DYS3891	DYS392	DYS38911	DYS458	DYS459	DYS455	DYS454	DYS447	DYS437	DYS448	DYS449	DYS464	Y-GAT1A-H4	DYS460	Y-GAT1A-H4	Y-GAT1A-H4	DYS456	DYS607	DYS576	DYS570	CDY	DYS442	DYS438
Locus =		1	2	3	4	5-6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14-15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22-23-24-25	26	27	28-29	30	31	32	33	34-35	36	37	
165247	Robert Walker	REFERENCE	13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	19	19	37-40	12	12
96392	Craig Walker		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	19	19	36-40	12	12
	Robert Paul Walker II		13	22	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	19	19	37-40	12	12
838218	Walter Walker Jr.		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	19	19	37-40	12	12
509545	Bobby Eugene Walker		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	19	19	37-39	12	12
85166	James E. Walker		13	23	14	10	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	19	19	37-40	12	12
337288	John Walker (Blazier)		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	20	19	36-40	12	12
240171	Hollis Arnold Walker, Jr.		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	18	19	37-40	12	12
23049	Ralph Edwin Walker		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	16	19	37-40	12	12
(Ancestry)	Thomas Lee Walker		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	31	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23							
	Harry Charles Walker		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	13	14	13	31	17	9-9	11	11	25	14	19	30	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	19	19	37-40	13	12
338840	John A. Walker III		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	31	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	19	20	37-40	12	12
N51421	James L. Walker		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	19	19	37-40	12	12
3416	James Brandon Walker	R1b1a2a1a1b4	13	22	14	11	10-14	12	12	13	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	28	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15	15	19	19	37-39	12	12
(Ancestry)	Reginald George Walker		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	14	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15						12
(Ancestry)	John Edward Walker		13	23	14	11	10-14	12	12	13	14	13	32	17	9-10	11	11	25	14	19	29	15-15-17-17	11	11	19-23	15						12

DYS # =		DYS531	DYS78	DYS395S1	DYS590	DYS537	DYS641	DYS472	DYS406S1	DYS511	DYS425	DYS413	DYS557	DYS594	DYS436	DYS490	DYS534	DYS450	DYS444	DYS481	DYS520	DYS446	DYS617	DYS568	DYS487	DYS572	DYS640	DYS492	DYS565	
Locus =		38	39	40-41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49-50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	
165247	Robert Walker	REFERENCE	11	9	15-16	8	10	10	8	10	10	12	23-23	17	10	12	12	15	8	12	22	21	13	12	11	13	11	11	12	12
96392	Craig Walker		11	9	15-16	8	10	10	8	10	10	12	23-23	17	10	12	12	15	8	12	22	21	13	12	11	13	11	11	12	12
	Robert Paul Walker II		11	9	15-16	8	10	10	8	10	10	12	23-23	17	10	12	12	15	8	12	22	21	13	12	11	13	11	11	12	12
240171	Hollis Arnold Walker, Jr.		11	9	15-16	8	10	10	8	10	10	12	23-23	17	10	12	12	15	8	12	22	21	13	12	11	13	11	11	12	12
3416	James Brandon Walker	R1b1a2a1a1b4	11	9	15-16	8	10	10	8	10	10	12	23-23	17	10	12	12	15	8	12	22	21	13	12	11	13	11	11	12	12
(Ancestry)	Reginald George Walker																				12									
(Ancestry)	John Edward Walker																				12									

DYS # =		DYS710	DYS485	DYS632	DYS495	DYS540	DYS714	DYS716	DYS717	DYS505	DYS556	DYS549	DYS589	DYS522	DYS494	DYS533	DYS636	DYS575	DYS638	DYS462	DYS452	DYS445	Y-GAT1A-10	DYS463	DYS441	Y-GAT1A-10c	DYS525	DYS712	
Locus =		68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	
165247	Robert Walker	REFERENCE	37	15	9	16	12	25	26	20	12	11	11	12	11	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	10	19
96392	Craig Walker		36	15	9	16	12	24	26	20	12	11	11	12	12	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	10	20
	Robert Paul Walker II		37	15	9	16	12	25	26	20	12	11	11	12	11	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	10	20
3416	James Brandon Walker	R1b1a2a1a1b4	37	15	9	16	12	25	26	20	12	11	11	12	11	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	10	20
(Ancestry)	Reginald George Walker																				11	30	12	13	24	13	10		
(Ancestry)	John Edward Walker																				11	30	12	13	24	13	10		

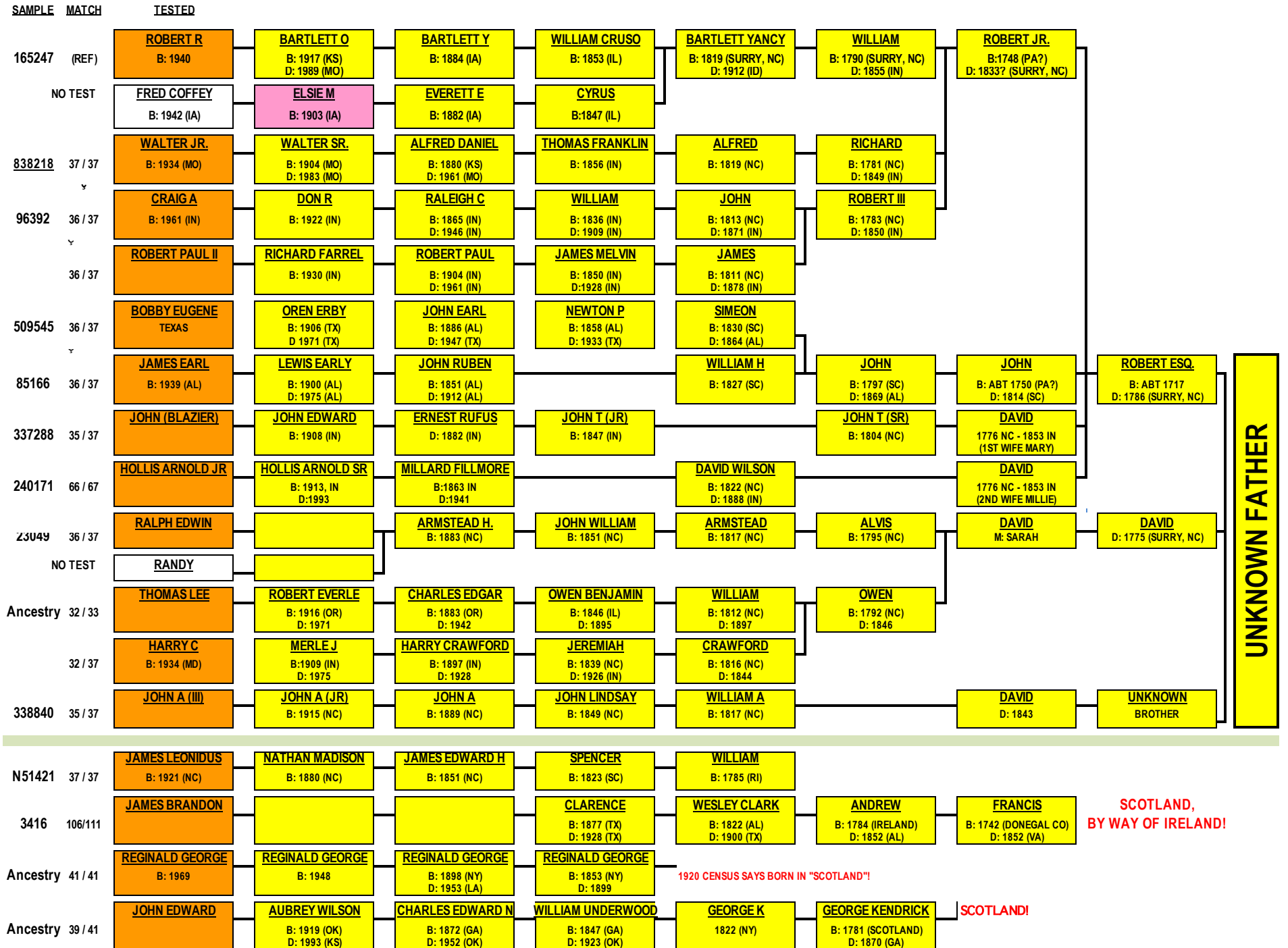
DYS # =		DYS93	DYS650	DYS632	DYS715	DYS504	DYS513	DYS561	DYS552	DYS726	DYS635	DYS587	DYS643	DYS497	DYS510	DYS434	DYS461	DYS435	
Locus =		95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	
165247	Robert Walker	REFERENCE	15	18	13	24	17	12	15	24	12	23	18	9	14	18	9	12	11
96392	Craig Walker		15	18	13	24	17	12	15	24	12	23	18	9	14	18	9	12	11
	Robert Paul Walker II		15	18	13	24	17	12	15	24	12	23	18	9	15	18	9	12	11
3416	James Brandon Walker	R1b1a2a1a1b4	15	18	13	24	17	12	15	24	12	23	18	9	14	18	9	12	11
(Ancestry)	Reginald George Walker																		12
(Ancestry)	John Edward Walker																		13

I have picked one member, Robert, as a reference and colored his profile yellow. The table then compares each of his markers with each of the other 15 members, and shades any values that are different in a pink color.

Why Robert? If you scan through the table, you will see that for each marker, he has the most common "modal" value. His y-DNA is probably identical, or nearly so, to the DNA of the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) of the entire group. The changes marked in each of the other lines can be explained by a single mutation in a single marker for one specific family line. Choosing any other starting value would require multiple mutations, and the probabilities do not favor this.

These people have been tested to different levels on different testing services. There are thus a lot of "blanks" in the above table, indicating markers that have not been tested.

Next, let me introduce what I know about the Walker male-line genealogy of each of these men. Much of this was taken from the genealogy each reported to the Walker Project or to myself:



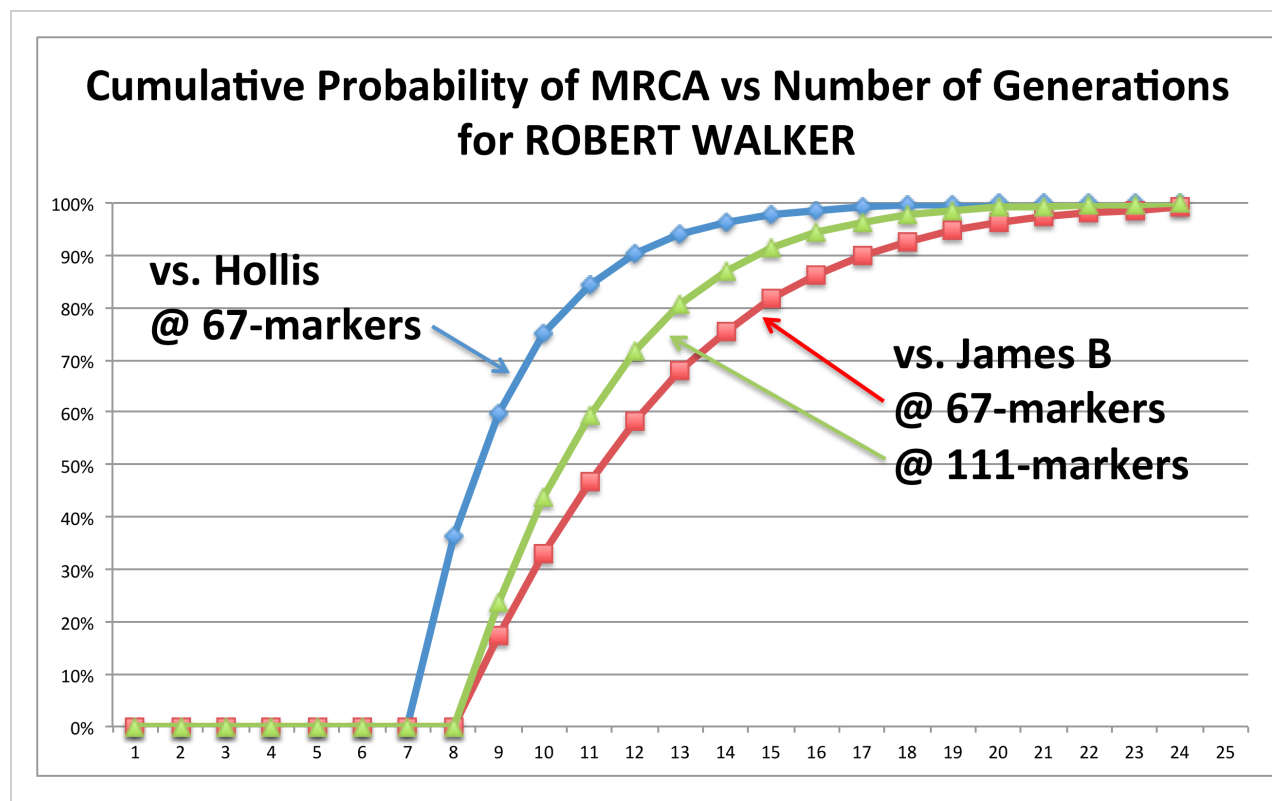
UNKNOWN FATHER

In the above the first column shows the FTDNA sample number, or indicates the data came from Ancestry. And the second column shows how many markers match our reference - i.e., "36 / 37" indicates a match on 36 out of 37 markers.

With two exceptions, everybody on this table has the surname "Walker", so only given names are shown. (I'm there with my "Coffey" surname, and John Blazier was born out of wedlock but maintained a lifelong relationship with his biological Walker father.)

Now, we have 4 people tested to 67- or 111- marker levels. FTDNA has a probability/time calculator, FTDNATiP, that can estimate the probable time to a MRCA for any two individuals. And here is a chart that gives you an idea of how closely they may be related.

(Since we have a fair idea of the ACTUAL relationship to Hollis, the comparison to James B may be more informative.)



Look first at how Hollis compares to Robert: We told FTDNATiP that there was no chance that Hollis and Robert shared a common ancestor within 7 generations, because we know their genealogy about that far out. But the DNA difference between Robert and Hollis is small, and the calculation then suggests about a 60% chance that their MRCA is within the next two generations. And that is consistent with later discussion, suggesting that Hollis and Robert are almost certainly related within about that distance.

Look next at James Brandon versus Robert: There were 4 differences between James' and Robert's DNA at 67-markers (the red line). Here the MRCA is only half as likely to be in the next two generations, and the overall uncertainty is much greater. And indeed, the later discussion talks about a family with Scottish roots, passing through Ireland, and then to the USA.

But when James B upgraded to 111-markers, there was only one additional marker difference. So the calculation at 111-markers (green line) suggests the MRCA may be about a generation earlier than previously thought.

I would now like to talk my way down the genealogy table, commenting on things I find of interest, and posing questions:

THE NORTH CAROLINA FAMILY:

First, note that the table is broken into two major sections. We now know that the first section is one closely related family, with roots in or near Surry County, NC. The "family story" is that five brothers moved together, from Pennsylvania to North Carolina, to settle there in the mid-1700's. For a long time we thought this might be a myth, but DNA is now convincing us it is at least partly true.

We long knew details on only two brothers, but DNA now convinces us there MUST be at least three.

Let me start on the right side, where I show 3 descendants of their unknown father. We've long known about Robert Esq. And we know he had a brother David, who died in 1775 in Surry County, NC. Robert had a son David, and his brother David had a son David.

So we knew of TWO Davids in the next generation to the left. However various family genealogists worked out that there were FOUR claims for lines to be descended from those two Davids! See the four boxes labeled "David" in the next column to the left.

We have now chased down living descendants of each of the four lines, and the y-DNA results say they do indeed all descend from one family.

Several genealogists, including myself, have been gathering additional clues, and trying to work out how the four "Davids" fit together. And we have concluded that the first two are the same person, who was married twice.

This involved a lengthy and complicated analysis and discussion. Interested parties are invited to read the following, and to offer any comments they may have. See:

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/familynotes/Walker7Davids.pdf>

Now let me review what I have learned about each of the individual lines:

ROBERT WALKER:

I (Fred Coffey) am the official contact for Robert. He is my third cousin. I wanted someone who was solidly connected to my line of Walkers, and whom I could talk into surrendering a DNA sample. (He was really hard to find, and the search took months. Turned out that my branch of Walkers specialized in raising daughters, none of whom had the requisite y-DNA!)

(The tested "Robert", by the way, was born "Bartlett Randolph Walker". He didn't like the name Bartlett, and legally changed it to Robert. And he thus unknowingly honored the patriarch of our family line, the original "Robert Walker Esquire"!)

FRED COFFEY (FredCoffey@aol.com)

I put myself into this picture, even though my mother Elsie Walker did not pass on the appropriate Walker y-DNA.

I have been fascinated with the Walker branch of my family. I am particularly fascinated with the Robert Walker Esquire who is the patriarch of my line. I have, with considerable help from others, written dozens of pages of notes about my line, and particularly about Robert. At the risk of being overwhelmed, you're welcome to have a look, starting with:

<http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/FamilyNotes/AboutRobertWalkerEsq.htm>

The first record of Robert is in Rowan County, NC, Court Records, July 16, 1768: *"On motion of John Dunn, Esqr. ordered by the court that Robert Walker have leave to keep an Ordinary at his own dwelling house in Rowan County."* From there he left dozens of records in the area. While we initially had no clear idea where he came from, these DNA matches are offering convincing clues!

WALTER WALKER:

Walter, after long search, concluded he was connected to the Robert Junior on the top line, and his y-DNA test proved the connection. (Walter doesn't do email, but is ready to talk on the phone. However until I get his permission to put his phone # here, call Fred Coffey @ 713-851-3819 and I'll set up his contact.)

CRAIG WALKER: (CraigWalker@wi.rr.com)

Craig Walker, and his wife Kathy, are enthusiastic genealogists. If you read the above "Robert" link, you will find their input noted for several topics for our shared ancestors. (Kathy has recently dug into North Carolina land records with a vengeance, and that has contributed greatly to our assessment of how the "Davids" fit together.)

ROBERT PAUL WALKER II: (bwalker62@icloud.com)

Our newest member, Bob recently moved from his birth location (Indiana) to Wilmington, NC. He travels back and forth through Surry, and offers "boots on the ground" if we need anything from Surry.

BOBBY EUGENE WALKER: (c/o Kim Walker Smith, kimbo.david80@gmail.com)

Kim believes that their genealogy leads back to a John Walker found in Spartanburg, SC, who died in 1814. For the 37-marker test, he has a single difference versus reference Robert.

There are quit claim deeds and land transactions, being investigated and organized by Kathy Walker, that clearly show "John Walker of Spartanburg County and State of South Carolina" is a brother of Robert, William and James, all sons of Robert Walker Esq.

And Kim found the will of this John Walker (Spartanburg), which made it clear that he remained in South Carolina until his death. (And that will gave the names of his children, which included a son "David" - continuing the family tradition of confusing overuse of the names Robert, William, John and David!)

JAMES EARL WALKER: (J-Walker@charter.net >> Not a valid address!)

(NOTE: Any Email sent to the address above, will come back undeliverable. If anyone knows how to get in touch with James Earl Walker, or with anyone following his genealogy, please advise.)The first couple of generations for James Earl were the same as for Bobby Eugene above. Since we could not open discussion with James, we have simply adopted the dates and other info for Bobby.

JOHN WALKER BLAZIER:

Despite the "Blazier" name, his biological father was a Walker with genealogy per the above table. His "David" married Mary Reece, who died in about 1808, after they had 3 children. And we are now convinced that this David was the son of Robert Walker Esq.

HOLLIS ARNOLD WALKER JR: (c/o Marcy Walker Murdock, swissms68@att.net)

Marcy has directed us to references with lots of clues about Robert Walker Esq and his brother David Walker. An extended discussion is incorporated in an appendix, discussed later. However she believed Hollis descended from the David who was the son of Robert's brother David. However our analysis now suggests this line descends from the second wife of the David who was the son of Robert Esq. I hope Marcy will study our analysis, and challenge our conclusion if appropriate.

RALPH EDWIN WALKER: (Ralph3569@earthlink.net)

Ralph provided the DNA sample, but if you ask difficult questions he quickly passes the buck to his cousin, Randy Walker. See next entry.

RANDY WALKER: (randye.walker1@charter.net)

Randy is an expert on the Walker families in Surry County (and successor counties), NC. He descends from David, son of the David who is the brother of Robert.

THOMAS LEE WALKER: (c/o Virginia Snow, fitzikitti41@msn.com)

After posting a query on Ancestry, I got a response from Virginia Snow, Tom's sister. She pointed me toward the genealogy she was maintaining, and that was used for the above.

It took me a while to realize that her ancestor Owen (1792 - 1846) was a brother of Ralph's ancestor Alvis (1795 -). So I have now finally connected the two lines!

HARRY CHARLES WALKER: (Walker526905@aol.com)

Harry was almost overlooked by FTDNA's matching criteria. He has an unusually high number of marker differences. But once we saw his pedigree, and saw the overall picture, it became quite obvious that he absolutely belonged to our group. Marker mutations are a random event, and his line just had a number of bad "rolls of the dice".

JOHN ALFRED WALKER III:

John is connected to another David Walker, whose wife is unknown, but who died in 1843. John's ancestors have had a continuous presence in "Walkertown" for the last 200 years, with John still living there.

I think that genealogist Randy Walker believed that John's "David" was the son of Robert Esq., probably because of the close association with Walkertown, where Robert Esq. had lived. However based on the analysis in the "7Davids" paper I think this is less likely. I hope Randy will read, and offer comments.

JAMES LEONIDUS WALKER: (JamesWalker@snet.net)

James L Walker seems to know 5 generations of his ancestry. However there are no DNA differences versus Robert, and his line had North Carolina ancestors, and all that initially suggested a high probability his ancestry is also somehow connected to Robert Walker Esq. But the biggest surprise is that his first known ancestor was born in 1785 in Rhode Island! That's a long way from North Carolina. I asked Jim if he has any more details:

Jim replied: "I don't have any documented info to add, but will share with you some of the family (beliefs)... We believe our Walker line came in thru the Bay Colony, well before the Revolution. We believe they spent some time in the textile business there - most likely in Rhode Island - before migrating south to establish themselves in textiles in NC or SC." Jim believes that the common ancestor for his part of this study has to be back in Scotland or Ireland.

JAMES BRANDON WALKER: (cabotwhite@hotmail.com)

This is the match with the greatest genetic distance from Reference Robert, with 5 reported differences out of 111-markers. However that is not exceptionally distant. I got a followup note from Margaret Walker White, as follows:

"So glad you have undertaken this project. My name is Margaret Walker White. James Brandon Walker who contributed the DNA sample is my nephew - I'm my Walker family genealogist. Your question was 'did we have proof Wesley Clark Walker was the son of Andrew Walker of Perry County, Alabama.' Yes, family bible of Wesley's sister, Celia Walker Southall, documents all the children of Andrew Walker. Also, we have an older Walker family bible that documents Andrew's parents as Francis and Rebecca Laird Walker of Donegal County, Ireland. Plus a number of court documents in Virginia involving the estate of Andrew's brother William Walker document Andrew Walker as the son of Francis Walker and identify all of his siblings. Francis Walker brought his family to Buckingham County, Virginia in 1800 as a result of his participation in the failed Irish Rebellion of 1798. His eldest son William Walker was already in Virginia at the time.

"The Walker family bible documents Francis Walker as the son of William Walker, but gives no additional information about William Walker. We do not know where exactly the Walker family lived in Donegal County. Best evidence suggests Raphoe Parish. They were Presbyterian which means they were Scots-Irish and probably came to Donegal from Scotland when James VI encouraged Scottish lowlanders to emigrate to northern Ireland beginning in 1630.

So there is a convincing case that the immigrant came from Ireland. However there is an important qualification in the last sentence, *"They were Presbyterian which means they were Scots-Irish and probably came to Donegal from Scotland..."*. Assuming they also left a few blood relatives back in Scotland, this means the y-DNA of our "Walker Group 42" is quite likely to be found BOTH in Scotland and in Northern Ireland!

Margaret also noted that James Brandon has had Deep Clade testing done, and the he is "R1b1a2a1a1b4", which is often referred to as shorthand "L21". She notes that *"It has been estimated that the L21 mutation first appeared approximately 3500 years ago and has a very strong Celtic signal, but the origins are unknown."* (NOTE: All of this "Group 42" would be "L21", so there is now no reason for others to order Deep Clade testing.)

REGINAL GEORGE WALKER: (c/o Sylvia Walker, sylviajwalker@yahoo.com)

Now we come to another of the three men I found on ancestry.com. I found them by uploading Robert's DNA profile under my name (hopefully they weren't too confused by discovering they had an excellent match to someone named "Coffey"!) And Kathy Walker has now confirmed the match, by uploading Craig Walker's DNA profile (under her name!).

Ancestry does not share Email addresses with matches, so I could not initially communicate with the three men directly. However I sent each of them a brief message THROUGH Ancestry links. I asked each of the three for an Email address, and invited them to participate in the editing of this discussion document. All three have now responded. (Note: Ancestry no longer does y-DNA.)

I got a reply from Sylvia Walker, advising that this tested person was her son. And that he was Reginald George Walker IV. The known line led back no farther than the first Reginald, born 1853.

Sylvia gave me an invitation to view the family tree on Ancestry. However if anyone else wants to look, it's not hard to find if you search Ancestry for a Reginald George Walker who's father is Reginald George and who has a son Reginald George!

There's a bit of a mystery here: Sylvia has a copy of a sworn statement dated 27 Feb 1920, as part of a passport application for Reginald (the one born 1898), wherein his mother affirmed that his father, Reginald (1853), was born in New York. But the 1920 Census (same year!) shows Reginald (1898), living with his mother, affirming to the census taker that his father was born in Scotland!

(Memo: I can't help but wonder if a passport application would be "facilitated" if the father was American born? But there was nothing at stake for telling the Census Taker the truth? I would love to see "proof" of the Scottish theory! Fred)

JOHN EDWARD WALKER: (JohnEWalker@suddenlink.net)

His genealogy is exciting, because it leads back to a SCOTTISH immigrant. I asked him if he could confirm this ancestry:

John advised that census records confirm George K Walker's birth in Scotland. And I was able to call up various census, and confirm this is correct. The widowed George K Walker and some of his children are found in the 1850 and 1860 census for Cass County, GA. He died in 1870, and the 1870 census mortality table confirms his death in Bartow County, GA. And all these show his birth in Scotland. (Note "Cass" was renamed "Bartow" in 1861.)

Note that John Edward and James Brandon match each other on marker DYS439, with a value of "13", versus "14" for everyone else. The probabilities do not favor two separate mutations, if there is any possible way it could be a single mutation in a common ancestor. So this hints that they MAY have a common ancestor more recent than the MRCA for the group as a whole.

OUR "MONTGOMERY" FAMILY COUSINS:

At lower-level tests, it's common to see a lot of matches to other families with similar DNA. For example, at a 37-marker level, Robert Walker has 93 matches. But interestingly, 19 of them are named "Montgomery". And at the 111-marker test level, there are still two "Montgomery" men. And while James Brandon Walker is at a genetic distance of 5, these two men are only slightly more distant, at genetic distances of 6 and 7.

Playing around with FTDNATiP, I come up with about a 90% probability that "Walker" and "Montgomery" were one, with a MRCA living sometime after about 1550. These are our genetic cousins! But we'll probably never figure out the exact connection. Most likely, there was an "adoption" (planned or not planned) between a Walker family and a Montgomery family? So was our genetic ancestor originally a Walker? Or a Montgomery?

MORE THOUGHTS ABOUT THE WALKERS OF SURRY COUNTY, NC:

Information from all the above has helped me find more information about the Walkers who trace their ancestry to Surry County, North Carolina. I've put this into an appendix, which you can view at:

www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/FamilyNotes/WalkerDNA2Appendix.pdf