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 in "Group 42". Further, I have discovered that there are 3 men who have been tested on Ancestry.com, who also match.

Presently we are following 17 men whose DNA tests clearly seemed to 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 17 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 #12" of this paper. Since #11, we have added new information based on a "Big-Y" DNA test for James L Walker. And I have tried to improve the format for presenting what we learned from Big-Y.

Let me start by offering a table showing the STR DNA profiles of the 17 "Walker" members:
| DYS # | Location | Reference | Value 1 | Value 2 | Value 3 | Value 4 | Value 5 | Value 6 | Value 7 | Value 8 | Value 9 | Value 10 | Value 11 | Value 12 | Value 13 | Value 14 | Value 15 | Value 16 | Value 17 | Value 18 | Value 19 | Value 20 | Value 21 | Value 22 | Value 23 | Value 24 | Value 25 | Value 26 | Value 27 | Value 28 | Value 29 | Value 30 | Value 31 | Value 32 | Value 33 | Value 34 | Value 35 | Value 36 | Value 37 | Value 38 | Value 39 | Value 40 | Value 41 | Value 42 | Value 43 | Value 44 | Value 45 | Value 46 | Value 47 | Value 48 | Value 49 | Value 50 | Value 51 | Value 52 | Value 53 | Value 54 | Value 55 | Value 56 | Value 57 | Value 58 | Value 59 | Value 60 | Value 61 | Value 62 | Value 63 | Value 64 | Value 65 | Value 66 | Value 67 | Value 68 | Value 69 | Value 70 | Value 71 | Value 72 | Value 73 | Value 74 | Value 75 | Value 76 | Value 77 | Value 78 | Value 79 | Value 80 | Value 81 | Value 82 | Value 83 | Value 84 | Value 85 | Value 86 | Value 87 | Value 88 | Value 89 | Value 90 | Value 91 | Value 92 | Value 93 | Value 94 | Value 95 | Value 96 | Value 97 | Value 98 | Value 99 | Value 100 | Value 101 | Value 102 | Value 103 | Value 104 | Value 105 | Value 106 | Value 107 | Value 108 | Value 109 | Value 110 | Value 111 |
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 16 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. 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:
In the above the far left 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. (Exceptions: 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.)

**MEMO:** Previous versions of this paper used a probability analysis on the STR tests, to estimate when various people might have a MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor). The Big-Y tests to be discussed later may give us a better handle on MRCA. Will come back to that later!

**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:


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 Randolf 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:
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 vengenance, and that has contributed greatly to our assessment of how the "Davids" fit together.)

**ROBERT PAUL WALKER II: (bwalker62@icloud.com)**
One of our newer members, 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 the 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 his 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 "Blazer" 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.
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.

**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.

**Hollis Arnold Walker Jr: (c/o Marcy Walker Murdock, swissms68@att.net)**

Karen Walker is the contact for her husband Dennis, and Dennis is a late addition to this analysis. He has a good STR y-DNA match to the other members here. But of particular interest is that he has done a "Big-Y" 700 Marker DNA analysis. More discussion later!

Memo: Dennis and Karen's son Cody Walker also did a "Big Y" test. As would be expected from a father/son relationship, his y-DNA results were essentially identical to Dennis. However when I get to the "Big-Y" discussion I'll include Cody!

(Let me also now comment on something that will become apparent later. We will learn that the Dennis/Cody line has seen a "SNP Mutation" that only affects their direct line that goes back to a "David born 1788". We don't know which of their five ancestors leading back to this David "suffered" that mutation. But if a new person ever appears with this mutation, we will know that he connects to this line!)

**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.
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 may be less likely. I hope Randy will read, and offer comments.

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 in earlier analyses based on STR tests. But he recently upgraded to a Big-Y test, and there is now no doubt he belongs here. Will have more to say in later discussion.

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JAMES LEONIDUS WALKER: (JamesWalker@snet.net)

James L Walker only seems to know 5 generations of his ancestry. However he has a 65 out of 67 match to 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.

I (Fred) recommended that Jim upgrade to a "Big-Y700" test. My concern was that he believed his line came directly from Scotland or Ireland. And he therefore could not be part of the "North Carolina" family. And we have long known there were good STR matches to "Montgomery" families. Was it possible that Jim was actually more closely related to the Montgomery, than to the Walkers? His "Big-Y" showed his solid DNA connection to the North Carolina family. And we worked out the Walker relationship to the Montgomery family! See the Big-Y discussion later in this report.
JAMES BRANDON WALKER: (cabotwhite@hotmail.com)
This is the match with the greatest STR 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 is in the last sentence, "They were Presbyterian which means they were Scots-Irish and
probably came to Donegal from Scotland…".

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."

A later chart I will show where the L21 fits into the Walker origins. It would be possible for James
Brandon to upgrade to a Big-Y test. But his STR test does confirm he belongs to this Walker group.
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 one 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)

Sylvia's son could consider going to FTDNA and ordering a "Big-Y" test.
OUR "MONTGOMERY" FAMILY COUSINS:
At the lower-level STR tests, it's common to see a lot of matches to other families with similar DNA. And a lot of the above have quite good matches to "Montgomery" names. Previous analysis led us to believe the Montgomery people were clearly cousins.

We now have "Big-Y" tests on a few of the above Walkers. And many of the suspected "Montgomery" cousins have also done Big-Y. Analysis shows that Walker and Montgomery are NOT particularly close cousins. See the discussion below.

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.

The old yDNA data extracted from Ancestry is obsolete and no longer useful. While the old data hints at a relationship, John really needs to go to FTDNA and order a "Big-Y" test.
THE BIG-Y CONCLUSIONS:
We now have Big-y tests on five of our Walker participants. In the earlier genealogy chart we identified that the Big-Y test had been done on Craig Walker, Harry Walker, James L Walker, Dennis Walker, and on Dennis' son Cody. We can ask to see something called a "Block Tree" for Dennis, and we get the following picture:

This is showing us that Dennis' box is the one on the left, marked "your branch". And this is shared with Dennis' son Cody. And they are in SNP haplogroup "R-FT251815". Next to the right is a box containing Harry, Craig and James. They are in haplogroup "R-FT62461".

And then a third box for another person, Chris Carson, who is R-FT63645. But note that ALL of the boxes are under this same R-FT63645 heading. So Chris represents the most ancient of the overall group.
NEXT LET'S LOOK AT A "SNP TRACKER" MAP FOR OUR R-FT63645 BIG GROUP:
All y-DNA haplogroups originate in Africa. This map shows the evolutionary path taken by our overall ancestry over many thousands of years. It goes through various ages, and finally gets to R-FT251815, ending up in Ireland in Medieval times.
If you look closely at the above chart, the last stop before leaving the continent and heading for the islands is marked as R-L21 in the vicinity of France in the "Bronze age". Remember that one of our participants, James Brandon Walker, had a Deep Clade test that showed he was "L21".

We can show the haplogroups consistent with the above chart in table form, showing more details and showing current estimates of the time table on the above chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SNP</th>
<th>Years Ref Present</th>
<th>95% CL</th>
<th>BCE/CE</th>
<th>Tested Descendants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-PR2921</td>
<td>234000</td>
<td>36000</td>
<td>232000</td>
<td>229741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT-M168</td>
<td>65000</td>
<td>+/-8450</td>
<td>63000</td>
<td>228303</td>
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<td>CF-P143</td>
<td>64000</td>
<td>+/-8850</td>
<td>62000</td>
<td>208597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-M269</td>
<td>6400</td>
<td>+/-900</td>
<td>4350 BCE</td>
<td>83441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-L21</td>
<td>4600</td>
<td>+/-650</td>
<td>2550 BCE</td>
<td>29478</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WALKER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SNP</th>
<th>Years Ref Present</th>
<th>95% CL</th>
<th>BCE/CE</th>
<th>Tested Descendants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R-BY3374</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>+/-150</td>
<td>1150 CE</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-FT63645</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>+/-350</td>
<td>1250 CE</td>
<td>6 (Block Tree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>R=FT62461</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>+/-200</strong></td>
<td><strong>1700 CE</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 (All the Walkers)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-FT251815</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>+/-150</td>
<td>1900 CE</td>
<td>2 (Dennis &amp; Cody)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MONTGOMERY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SNP</th>
<th>Years Ref Present</th>
<th>95% CL</th>
<th>BCE/CE</th>
<th>Tested Descendants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R-BY3374</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>+/-150</td>
<td>1150 CE</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-FT38883</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>+/-250</td>
<td>1300 CE</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-BY194967</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>+/-150</td>
<td>1600 CE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-FT226729</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>+/-200</td>
<td>1750 CE</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First, be aware that the breakdowns and times on the above table are very volatile. The table is based on an application called "Discover" that was created by FTDNA. They update Discover every few weeks. The time lines and the number of tested people can change quite rapidly, but the overall layout is unlikely to change. The above is based on the **status as of September 12, 2022.**

I have highlighted in red the line for the five Big-Y tested Walker men. "Discover" describes the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) of this group as follows:

**The R-FT62461 Story**

"Haplogroup R-FT62461 represents a man who is estimated to have been born around 300 years ago, plus or minus 200 years. That corresponds to about 1700 CE with a 95% probability he was born between 1530 and 1824 CE. R-FT62461's paternal line was formed when it branched off from R-FT63645 and the rest of mankind about 800 years ago, plus or minus 350 years. As more people test, the history of this genetic lineage might be further refined."

Let's start with the R-FT62461 line, and explore up and down. The line below it, R-FT251815, includes only Dennis and Cody, and says they were related to each other within the last 100 years. (They are actually father and son.)

The line above is R-FT63645. That just adds in the Chris Carson from the Block Tree. Chris is from an older line, that appeared about 800 years ago.

Above that is a much bigger group, R-BY3374, appearing about 900 years ago, 91 tested persons.

Now, look down to the Montgomery section on this table. It also has the same R-BY3374 that appeared under the Walker group. This is the first level where Walker and Montgomery come together. The Montgomery families are indeed our "cousins", but our MRCA was likely 900 years ago. So our view that Montgomery and Walker were related, was indeed true. A long time ago!

And there are three tested sub-groups under Montgomery, with 10 Big-Y tested persons.
Now go back to Walker, and move up. I have skipped a lot of intervening steps, and jump up to R-L21. Remember that one of our participants, James Brandon Walker, had a Deep Clade test that showed he was "L21". That test proves him as being in our "group", but some 4600 years ago! Given matching STR tests, there is really now doubt that he belongs with OUR Walker group.

From there, I show several large steps, going back about 234,000 years, give or take 36,000 years!

If any of you want to do your own updates, I can send you some additional information on how I developed the above.

Fred