

## Wright Y-DNA Project Progress Report: 2015

We have reached a milestone with more than 500 members who have contributed family line Y-DNA tests. This took longer than a decade to gather, and it seems a good time to pause and reflect on some findings.

While genetic genealogy is a useful tool to confirm a relationship between two individuals, it does not define that relationship; the work to do that resides with tracing all available forms of documentation. The family lines represented below reflect thousands of research-years of work to sort out the “how are they related” question. Each group has researchers who have worked to find documentation, recruit key participants for testing, and burn mental energy to sort it all. It is great to be part of this large team of genealogists who provide the energy to study the Wrights.

Wright is an occupation name, so it makes sense that many genetically different lines are represented. The results show that we have now identified 169 distinct lines of Wright. There are several clusters forming which may help researchers locate their family line. To see the project results (or to join), go to the website at:

<http://www.wright-dna.org>

The naming of the group reflects the style of naming a line based on the earliest known ancestor with year-of-death and first name used to identify the individual. A few groups have a large number of participants and are named to reflect a focus of research – e.g., the Kelvedon Hatch Wrights group that includes Deacon Samuel Wright, and the Wright Brothers of airplane fame.

When a group of 3 or more participants match, a new group is defined. These groups are divided into those in haplogroup R1b (the most common haplogroup of European males) and those in all other haplogroups. About 60% of our participants are in haplogroup R1b which is consistent with Wright being a common surname in England. Page 1 Results show those in haplogroup R1b and Page 2 Results shows all the others.

Results:

Page1Group1            Flushing NY Wrights

*It has long been thought that the Wrights of Flushing NY were related to the Wrights of Oyster Bay NY. Dan Stone has been working to define these groups. See the link to his website, and below under Oyster Bay for additional detail. It appears the groups are not related – but there were many intermarriages.*

Page1Group2            1792 John Wright

*Perhaps no other group has generated so much consternation and controversy. Many family genealogies have included a link to 1729/30 John Wright of Stafford County Virginia – the son of 1713 Francis Wright and Anne (Washington) Wright of Westmoreland County Virginia, thereby creating a linkage to the first US president George Washington line. What we have learned from the DNA testing is that 1792 John Wright is not a genetic match to that Francis Wright line and therefore those who show 1792 John Wright as a son of 1729/30 John Wright have incorrectly identified their line. At this time, we have no identified Wright descendant of 1713 Francis Wright and Anne (Washington) Wright. We do have participants who descend from 1713 Francis Wright and his second wife, Martha (Cox) Wright (see below).*

*The summary of these findings are described in a book by Robert N. Grant aptly titled “The Identification of 1792 John Wright of Fauquier County Virginia As Not the Son of 1729/30 John Wright of Stafford County Virginia” published by Heritage Books in 2009.*

*More likely this large group of Wrights, whose descendants have settled across the United States, arose from a different John Wright of Westmoreland County Virginia. Further research is needed to confirm that relationship.*

Page1Group3            Yorkshire William Wright

*This group matches to William Wright who was born about 1587 in Addingham, Yorkshire, England. The connections among the members have not yet been established.*

Page1Group4            Philbert Wright descendants

*This group has one of our largest numbers of participants. This group began with research on the descendants of Richard Wright, Sr. who died about 1785 in North Carolina. As work progressed, additional matches confirmed that Richard descends from Philbert and Esther (Becraft) Wright of colonial Maryland. There is still work to be done to find the links to some of the participant lines, including identifying the father of 1876 Obadiah Wright who is an ancestor of the current US president, Barak Obama.*

Page1Group5            Oyster Bay NY Wrights

*This line starts with Thomas Wright who was born about 1422 – which makes it one of the longest known Wright Y-DNA lines. Peter, Nicholas, and Anthony Wright were the first American immigrants first settling in Massachusetts about 1636, and then they established the colony on Long Island Oyster Bay about 1653.*

Page1Group6            1816/25 Robert Wright

*Much of the research started on the Wright lines were initiated by the quest to sort the various lines of Wright who were early immigrants to Virginia. Descendants of this group are widespread across the US representing the common pattern of spread from Virginia to surrounding states, and then westward.*

Page1Group7            1749 Anthony Wright

Page1Group8            1752 John

*The participants in this group (except one unknown) descend from John's son, 1805 William Wright of Fauquier County Virginia. This group is clearly distinct from Page1Group2 above.*

Page1Group9            1782 Solomon Wright

*This group seems to be predominantly from the southern US – Georgia, Alabama, and Texas, but also includes a member who resides in England with line originating in Cambridgeshire. This group is tightly related among members, so the challenge remains to sort out how they are related.*

Page1Group10           1868 Wilson Woodruff Wright

*Wilson was born in North Carolina and migrated westward to Indiana, then to Kansas. This links among these lines has not been completed.*

Page1Group11           1776 William Wright

Page1Group12           1736 Thomas Wright

*This line dates to pre-Revolutionary Virginia with descendants spreading westward. His original immigrant ancestor is yet to be identified, but there are some circumstantial evidence pointing to Samuel Wright of Lancaster County Virginia as a potential ancestor. This line is distinct from the other Orange County Virginia Wrights in Page2Group7.*

Page1Group13           1799 Jacob Wright

Page1Group14           1867 Moses Wright

Page1Group15           James Wright

Page1Group16           1838 Solomon Wright

Page1Group17           1881 J. Alexander Wright

*While not a large group, this one is significant because it includes the second Wright Y-DNA sample submitted to this project over 11 years ago when genetic genealogy was just beginning. And it represents the line of the Wright Y-DNA project founder, Linda Magellan. Linda continues to fund and support this project website even though it has*

*not yet revealed the link to the ancestor of J. Alexander Wright. She is active with the International Society of Genetic Genealogy which is helping to name and sort the various haplogroups identified. A huge thanks to Linda for her ongoing support.*

Page1Group18      1773 Richard Wright

Page1Group19      1709 Edward Wright

Page1Group20      1892 John Fulton Wright

Page1Group21      1730 William

Page1Group22      1864 John Wright

Page1Group23      Andrew John Wright

Page1Group24      1828 Crispin

Page1Group25      1806 William Wright

Page1Group26      1691 Richard Wright

Page2Group1            1690 Francis Wright

*This group carries the haplogroup found in the Norwegian Vikings that migrated to England. The American immigrant ancestor has not been established, but the family line dates to 1653 in the Northern Neck of Virginia. Descendants are located across the US. A connection to existing Wright families in the UK is sought.*

Page2Group2            1843 Joseph Wright

*These members have not identified their common ancestor. It is likely that they relate to Page2Group1 above, but the common ancestor of was about 800 years ago.*

Page2Group3            Shadrick Wright

*Haplogroup A was the first branch off the human tree with origins in Africa. The ancestor of Shadrick has not yet been identified.*

Page2Group4            Kelvedon Hatch Wrights

*Researcher Michael Wright has documented this group well and continues to work to verify the English origins. In fact, he theorizes that this family originated from Romans who migrated to England in the first century – well before the Wright surname was adopted. There is very solid evidence that this group represents the Wright Brothers, so anyone who does not match is not related to them – contrary to many family stories.*

*Check out this string of messages from Mike for further information:*

<http://boards.ancestrylibrary.com/surnames.wright/6959.2712.1.1.1.1.1.2.1.2.1/mb.ash>  
[X](#)

*Also, this group includes a descendant of Daniel Wright of Connecticut who married Eleanor Denton. This shows that he was not related to either 1785 Richard Wright of Rowan County North Carolina (see above), or to 1816 Isaac Wright who married Rebecca Thompson – participant descendants from those lines do not match, and do not match each other. See below for the line of Isaac Wright.*

Page2Group5            Charles R. Wright

*This group of closely-related members seems to have origins in Wimbish, Essex, England. It is tantalizingly close to matching Page2Group6 below with an estimated common ancestor 400-800 years ago.*

Page2Group6            1816 Isaac Wright

*Isaac started out in North Carolina and ended up in Rutherford TN. His line seems often misattributed. He was neither the son of Daniel Wright from Connecticut (see above), nor was he the father of 1785 Richard Wright or 1834 John Wright who are related and in Haplogroup R1b1. Therefore, Isaac's father is not yet identified. However, this group closely matches those in Page2Group5 with origins in Essex, England.*

Page2Group7            Orange Virginia Wrights

*There is a large group of Wrights in early Orange County Virginia represented by this group. 1833 William Wright who married Mary Bledsoe then Rachel Perry had a large family, and he was part of a large family with many brothers, and uncles in the area. A great number of descendants have spread across the US.*

Page2Group8            1540 John Wright

*While not a large group, this group is significant for it is often misattributed as the line of 1729/30 John Wright mentioned above in haplogroup Page1Group2. This line was key to sorting out the differences thanks to participants from Virginia, England, and Spain who showed that this line was of Haplogroup J. One family still has a farm that has been in the family over 400 years.*

Page2Group9            1763 Thomas Wright

*Thomas was in Bedford Virginia – we only have participants from one of his sons, Joseph. It would be great if we could verify this line by locating descendants of his other son, John to join the project. The connections with other matching families have not been established.*

*Robert N. Grant is a descendant of this line in addition to being a descendant of the 1690 Francis Wright line (Page2Group1). He has provided data selflessly in his study of the Virginia Wrights over that last 40 years and has tirelessly promoted the highest standards of integrity and accuracy in genealogic research. All of us are indebted to his standards, wisdom, and kindness.*

Page2Group10            1725 Lt. Abel Wright

*This line matches those with origins in Lincolnshire, England and includes Lieutenant Abel Wright who settled in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1655. This line does not match the Kelvedon Hatch line from Page2Group4 above.*

Page2Group11            1779 John Wright

*John Wright was found in Goochland and Prince William Counties, Virginia. Most of the matching lines, and his descendants were in Georgia and then Texas. Work is ongoing to find the common ancestor and origin of these lines.*

Page2Group12            George Wright

*This group is unique in that all participants match almost exactly at the 67 marker level (only 4 out of 335 markers vary by one step) – yet how they are connected remains undefined. This close match implies that they could be related to a common ancestor within several generations.*

Page2Group13            1834 Joel Martin Wright

Page2Group14            1810/11 William Wright

Page2Group15            1779 George Wright

Please send any updates, corrections, additions, etc.

Jeff Wright      [Jeff.Wright.gen@gmail.com](mailto:Jeff.Wright.gen@gmail.com)  
Updated:      24 May 2015