

An Amendment to Revealing the Blake Family: a yDNA Analysis

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Introduction

The December 2010 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* presented an initial paper on the yDNA of the Blake family of the British Isles.¹ At that time, the descent of Jasper Blake, who emigrated to the New Hampshire Colony in the present-day United States, was accepted as outlined in Carlton Blake's book *Descendants of Jasper Blake: Emigrant from England to Hampton, N.H., ca. 1643: 1649–1979*.² Some descendants of Theophilus Blake assumed that the person presented in the book was their ancestor. However, yDNA results resulted in their re-examining the extant material for Theophilus Blake and discovering, as a result, that he was himself an emigrant ancestor and not a descendant of the emigrant Jasper Blake or a descendant of any ancestor of Jasper Blake—their yDNA results separate them from each other by thousands and thousands of years.

Background

As a result of a query by one of the descendants of Theophilus Blake to Bill Bleak, a research study group evolved via email to look at the information available on Theophilus Blake, the known ancestor of most of

the members of the Research Study Group. The group's intent was to determine firstly if Theophilus Blake was a descendant of Jasper Blake or had a different ancestry. Secondly, once this determination was made, the available evidence used to prove the first theory would then be employed to discover the ancestral home of this Blake yDNA line I2b1. Thirdly, the history of Theophilus Blake and his descendants would be published in the future, to aid other descendants of his line.

Family studies within the Guild of One Name Studies have demonstrated that individuals with the same surname—even in a particular area—have ended up, by yDNA analysis, to be unrelated although they had appeared to be related.³ In this case Sample 1 (referred to as Norfolk 1 in the earlier ACR article) and Sample 2 (referred to as Norfolk 2) display two different haplogroups: R1a1 and I2b1. The Norfolk Blake family descendant of Jasper Blake (Sample 1) is R1a1, but the descendant of Theophilus Blake (Sample 2) is I2b1. The common ancestor for R1a1 and I2b1 is Haplogroup F, which gave rise to Haplogroups I & J and Haplogroup K (ancestor of Haplogroup R).⁴

Sample 1												
R1a1	13	25	15	11	11	14	12	12	10	13	11	30
Sample 2												
I2b1	14	23	17	10	15	16	11	13	11	13	12	29

The descendants of Jasper Blake, as published in Carlton Blake's book, included Theophilus Blake born 20 Feb 1721 in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, as a son of Samuel Blake (grandson of the emigrant) and Ann Sealy.

Two Theophilus Blakes

The earliest mention of Theophilus Blake, other than the baptism of Theophilus descendant of Jasper Blake, was in Pennsylvania. He and his wife Margaret (thought to be Margaret Kennett, based on the middle

name of their son George Kennett Blake) were listed as indentured servants and recent emigrants (1745).⁵ Blake researchers who found themselves to be descendants of Theophilus Blake of Pennsylvania and later Virginia, using their family DNA results along with family stories that had been handed down, have shown that previous research directing them back to Theophilus Blake son of Samuel Blake and Ann Sealy was wrong. The yDNA results now support the historical records, which demonstrate that there were two separate and individual men sharing the name of

Theophilus: one the son of Samuel and Naomi (Sleeper) Blake, descendant of Jasper Blake of Hampton, New Hampshire, and the other, an immigrant to Pennsylvania in 1745.

Conclusion

The Blake family (Haplogroup I2b1) tracing their ancestry back to Theophilus Blake was, after emigration from the British Isles in 1745, initially located in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1745 and living in Bath County, Virginia, by 1764.⁶

Reference Notes

¹ Elizabeth Kipp, Barrie Blake, and Bill Bleak, "Revealing the Blake Family: a yDNA Project," *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, 16(4): 73–80.

² Carlton E. Blake, *Descendants of Jasper Blake: Emigrant from England to Hampton, N.H., ca. 1643, 1649–1979*. (Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press Inc., 1980.)

³ Susan C. Meates, "DNA Discoveries," *Journal of One-Name Studies*, 10(10), 6–9.

⁴ Kipp, Blake, and Bleak, "Revealing the Blake Family: a yDNA Project," 75.

⁵ Pim, William, 1739–1751, For Recording Assignments of Servants, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania, Microfilm 20994 Item 3, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah and Immigrant Servants Database, <http://immigrantservants.com/servant/show.php?servant=5748>; Immigrant Servants Database, <http://immigrantservants.com/servant/show.php?servant=5749>

⁶ Oren Frederic Morton, *Annals of Bath County, Virginia*. (New York: The McClure Co., Inc., 1918), 105–106