

“Happenings”

February 22, 2010

#5 DNA Update

In an continuing effort to keep all members of the Burlson Family Research Group up-to-date on all the “Happenings” of the BFRG, we want to introduce John Hoyle Burlson. He is one of several local individuals who are working hard to document, archive, collect, and store items of interest to the extended Burlson Family.

In this “Happenings” e-mail we would like to introduce John Hoyle Burlson.

We want to thank Daniel Burlson for this article about his father, John H. Burlson. The BFRG enjoys the fruits of his efforts.

My father, John Hoyle Burlson, as many of you know, has made many contributions to the publications of the BFRG. He has a passion for genealogy that has led too much of the information we have been able to enjoy over the past decade. However, he is also a modest man who does not speak about himself often. I thought that I would let you know a little about his history and his current activities, so that you may gain an appreciation for his work.

My father was born and has lived in Stanly County all his life. He grew up around the Endy community and my father would



Rex and John Hoyle Burlson

listen to stories of earlier generations. He has been able to maintain much of that information and continues to share it with us today. Over the past several years, he has been focusing on genealogical research as a pastime. He has been able to find a substantial amount of data through studying historical archives and governmental records. He has been able to combine those facts and the verbal histories he has heard over the years to help establish the foundation for much of the work of the BFRG.

Currently, my father is active in several organizations due to his passion for genealogy and history. He is a founding member of the BFRG, as well as a member of the national Burlson Family Association. He is also a member of the Stanly County Genealogical Society and has just recently become the editor for its publications. He regularly attends meetings for the Cabarrus Genealogical Society and is a member of the Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society. Also, my father is a member of the Colson’s Mill Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Ivy Ritchie Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Along with all of this, he has also found time to serve on the history committee at Pine Grove United Methodist Church where he is writing stories, scanning photos, and studying old documents in preparation for the church’s upcoming celebration of its founding. Through all these activities, my father has worked diligently to not only find information on his family’s past, but has helped many people

establish their own connections to their roots. He has even been highlighted in our local newspaper for his genealogical work for others.

As you can see, my father does have a love of history and enjoys working with people who share that interest. His past contributions have been invaluable to many groups, not only the BFRG. I hope we can appreciate the contributions of those like my father who spend so much of their time gathering the information that we read on a regular basis. I am proud to be my father's son and hope that I can do my small part to see that his work is shared with future generations.

Those of you who receive our quarterly issue of the **Recollections** have been able to follow John's research for the past 12 years. In this e-mailing we want to focus on his most recent passion, DNA.



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We Do Not Need To Fear The Vikings Anymore

by: John H. Burlleson

Family historians and genealogists have been the only group to write our family history. We can thank them for what knowledge we have today. Records in deeds, will's and other documentation have all this information. But it is the family historian and amateur genealogists that have spent hundreds of hours seeking and compiling the facts that pertain to our family.

Today since the 1990's we have another tool. Have you heard the old expression "Blood is thicker than water"? Modern Science and Mathematics now have proven the saying to be true. Our new tool today is DNA testing. DNA testing and specifically the Y-chromosome test can identify individual markers in the male genetics. Only the Y-chromosome is passed from Father to Son through hundreds of generations with only slight but measurable changes.

The Burlleson Family Association, in cooperation with Family Treemaker DNA Company, has recently established the Burlleson DNA Project. Their goal is to identify the kinship of the several branches of our Burlleson Family. Hopefully we can identify how close the branches are. Example: The northern Burllesons have been documented in the United States since the last half of the 1600's and the southern clan is only documented back to 1746. To my knowledge there is no documentation that proves kinship of any of the southern clan prior to the American Revolution War. That leaves 10 or 20 Families that we do not know their kinship. The Burlleson DNA project will provide answers if we can get a broad representation from these separate families. Ideally with participation from England and other countries we will define where we came from. The results of the tests are furnished to the male Burlleson that has participated in this project. It was very enlightening to me and I would like to offer my analysis for some of the information that I have been able to view.

First the Y-chromosome was tested to identify the 37- markers. Each marker is given a number value. In my case, most were two digits numbers; I had three markers that were single digits. They were 8's and a 9. The other 34 markers ranged from 10 to 35. Of the other four male Burlleson participants that matched my DNA, one matched with only 1 digit of one marker distance, two matched with only 2-digit distance from mine, and one was only 3-digits from mine. This placed us into the I1A haplogroup. It is not my intention to evaluate the closeness of kinship. The Project Director will give us that report as the project progresses.

I would like to talk about the results of the determination of the haplogroup. By following the haplogroup we can see the migration patterns of that specific group, in my case it is the I1A haplogroup. The Family Treemaker DNA Company definition of the I1A haplogroup is “the I1A lineage likely has its roots in northern France. Today it is found frequently within Viking/Scandinavian populations in Northwest Europe and has since spread down into Central and Eastern Europe, where it is found at low frequencies”. I don’t know how many haplogroups there are but I would guess the number is in the dozens at least. Family Treemaker states that the I1A haplogroup dates to 23,000 years ago or longer.

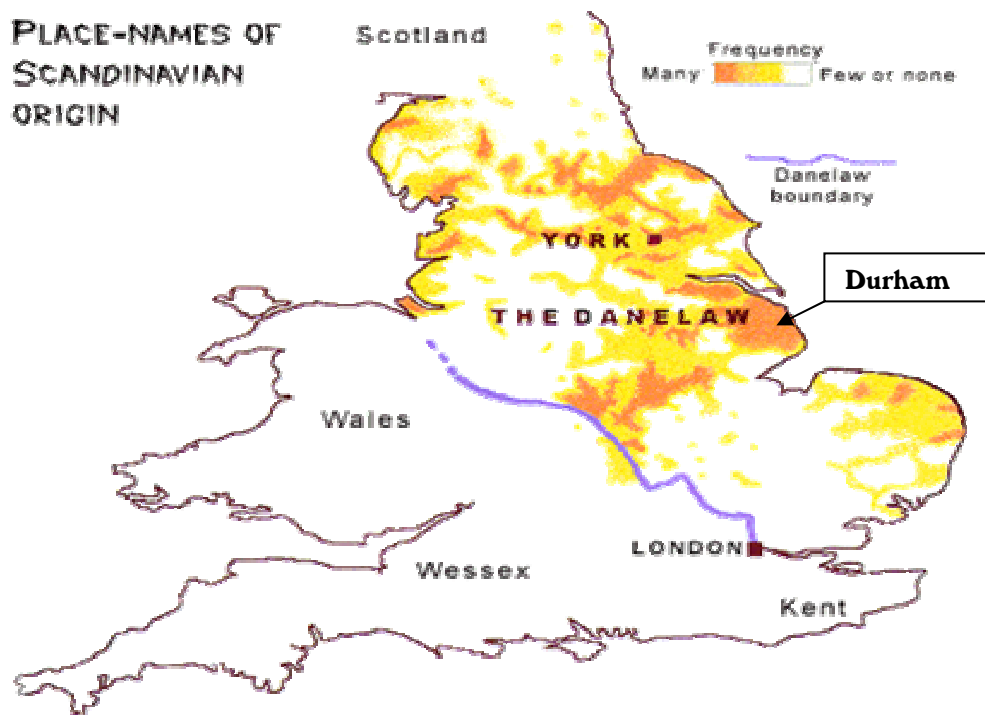
The important fact in this definition “is found within Viking/Scandinavian population of Northwest Europe”. The earliest documentation and almost the only population of Burluson’s outside the US are found in England on the coast around Durham County today. This fits the “Northwest Europe” description. Does it fit into the Viking/Scandinavian population?

Here is a short timetable of Viking history in England.

- 793- The monastery of Lindisfarne (Northumberland) is sacked on June 8 by raiding Viking, within two years, monasteries on Iona (Scotland) and at Jarrow (Northumberland) are attacked, and this is known as the start of the Vikings age. Raids became an annual event.
- 835- Viking switches from raiding monasteries to raiding inland.
- 845- Britain is under constant harassment, Viking search out new conquests in France and Germany.
- 851- Viking raiders decide to stay in Britain over winter.
- 866- York is conquered and becomes a Viking State. With most of northern England conquered a line was drawn east to west, all to the north lived under the Danelaw. The law was administered by Viking rulers.
- 876- The Viking of Northumberland began to settle their families and farm the land.
- 1016- King Canute (the last Viking king) ruled all of England and Scotland. By 1027 he was ruler of all the British Isle, Denmark, Norway, and parts of Sweden.
- 1066- The Normans conquer all of England. This was the last invasion of England.

England and the Danelaw

The map shows where settlement or parish place-names which are of Scandinavian language origin is mainly found.



The Viking presence in Durham began in 851 and they came to stay. So far the DNA trail is correct. My haplogroup takes me back to Northern England and genealogical research takes me back to the same place. Can the DNA take us any farther back than England?

To help find the “Recent Ancestral Origins” Family Treemaker produced a work sheet showing all the countries that they have had participants with matches with my DNA, and the numbers found in each country. Of 12 marker matches with only one digit distance there are 24 countries represented. The country with the most matches was England with 45 matches, Scotland with 25 matches, Germany with 21 matches, Sweden with 10 matches, Netherlands with 8 matches. Denmark was 7th with 5 matches and Norway had 4 matches.

The worksheet that shows 12 markers with two-digit distance has England with 229 matches, Germany with 129 matches, Scotland with 87 matches, Ireland with 53, Sweden with 22. Norway had 15 and Denmark had 14. 42 countries were represented plus Africa and Australia.

England, Scotland, Germany, Ireland, and the Netherlands were raided and occupied by the Vikings starting from 851. Viking blood was introduced into these countries but did not originate there. Sweden was in the top five on both lists. Sweden could well be the source of our Burleson Blood. Sweden was ahead of both Norway and Denmark in the number of matches.

How does all this fit into the widely accepted Burleson tradition of Aaron who lived in Wales, sailed to America and settled in Buncombe County? He may have lived in Wales for a time but his DNA does not identify him as Welch. (I am assuming Aaron’s DNA was the same as mine.) The Vikings never occupied Wales. They did raid on the coastal towns and did set up stop over points for their long boats, but they never established a permanent settlement. To my knowledge there has never been a Burleson Family found in Wales prior to 1800, while there were thousands in Durham and Northumberland since the 13th Century.

I suppose we can believe in oral tradition but when it conflicts with DNA, I’ll go with the DNA. Earlier it was believed and was printed that the Burlesons were from Celtic or Anglo-Saxon decent. DNA findings do not support this to be true. I think I like my newfound Viking Blood.

Update On Our Burleson DNA

By John Hoyle Burleson



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My last report on the Burleson Family Association DNA Project was to relate the determination of our Haplotype which is “I1” or the Vikings/Scandinavians group. Today “I1” has the highest frequencies in Northern Europe in the populations of the, Norwegian, Swedish, English, Danish, German, Scottish, and Irish.

The Project started three years ago and nothing has been reported or presented by the project coordinator so I have been doing my own facts gathering. What I have learned did not surprise me, but it may go against the grain of all other Burleson researchers. After I contacted all the other matching participants in the project, and after exchanging our family lines, the final results are:

- Three of the five participants are descendants of David Burleson, d. 1834, Rutherford Co, TN
 - Participant “A” was through David’s son John Washington Burleson.
 - Participant “B” was through David’s son Hilkieah.

Both A & B matched my DNA 35 of 37 markers with only two digits distance. According to Family Tree DNA Company A, B and myself mathematically have a 90% chance of having a common ancestor within the last ten generations.

- Participant “C” was through David’s son -?-(sorry I lost his line info), but he was a 34 of 37 match.

My earliest ancestor, Isaac Burleson Sr. b. about 1750, is only seven generations from me while A & B's ancestor, David Burleson b. about 1752, is eight and nine generations from them. I know that David and Isaac Sr. were brothers so having a common ancestor within ten generations sounds logical.

- Participant "D" was the closest to my DNA than any of the rest.

We matched 36 of 37 markers with only a single digit difference. Mathematically we have a 90% chance of having a common ancestor within eight generations. Participant "D" documents his line back six generations through Aaron b. 1815, Capt. James Burleson b. 1775, and finally to Aaron II d. 1782.

DNA test results are all measured mathematically and must be followed up with a documented paper trail. In our Burleson Project there are definite close matches with the lines of Isaac, David, and Aaron II. The number of generations from their time to today vary from as little as six for Aaron II, to nine for David's line. With a span of about 280 years from about 1730 (for the birth of Aaron II) to today with only a change of one digit from 37 markers in the Burleson Y-DNA leaves no doubt that we are a very closely related family.

I believe participants from the Northern Branch and England could bring the lines together. Our Southern Branch needs participants from Jesse b. 1751, the Aaron of the 1757 Georgia Grant, and Isaac of Monroe, Tennessee. These three lines along with David, Isaac, and Aaron II are the earliest documented Burleson families in the South.

An interesting note, I found a member of the Booth family originally from Statfield, Connecticut and the West Chester County of New York in the early 1700's that match my DNA in 34 of 37 markers. That's in line with my other Burleson cousins. Is there a link to our Connecticut and New York Burleson and Booth families?

DNA Update Jan 2010

by John Hoyle Burleson



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In the early part of 2007, I entered the Burleson Family DNA project hoping an expert would tell me about my true roots. The only roots that has surfaced so far, has been dug up by myself, after many hours of digging. I would like to share what I have learned. The facts that I know now are: Five of the first six Burleson participants DNA markers match and I am in that group designated as Haplogroup I1. The Family Tree DNA company definition of this group is "probably have its roots in northern France. Today it is found most frequently within the Viking/Scandinavian population in northwestern Europe and since spread down into Central and Eastern Europe, where it is found in low frequencies."

Within the I1 group there are five certain markers that determine if you are leaning more towards the Norse spectrum than the Anglo-Saxon. I was tested on three of the five markers and matched two and was only one digit off on the third. **RESULTS:** We are predicted to be in the **I1a Viking/Scandinavian** haplogroup.

I have personally contacted the other four Burleson participants with DNA markers that match mine and have recorded and confirmed their ancestral line. For privacy reasons I will only identify the participants as **A, B, C, and D**. I will list their most distant known ancestor and the genetic distance from me, a descendant of Isaac Burlison Sr. b. abt.1750, member of Capt. Charles Polk Mecklenburg Co. NC militia 1776, resettled in Montgomery Co. NC, d. between 1810 and 1813. We do not know who his father was. The other two most distance ancestors in this report were Aaron Burleson and David Burlison.

Aaron Burleson better known as Aaron II today was born in New Jersey according to his son Joseph, was granted land on Sandy Run Creek in Mecklenburg/Tryon Co NC. in 1766, resettled in Washington

Co. NC/TN where he left a will and died in 1782. His descendants are well documented. We do not know who his father was.

David Burlison b. abt 1755, first appears on Rocky River, Anson Co. NC in 1778 where he served in Col. Wade's Militia, resettled in Montgomery Co. NC until 1806 when he moved to Rutherford Co, TN where he left a will and died in 1832. His descendants are well documented. We do not know who his father was.

- A. Descends 6 generations from Aaron II and is only a genetic distance of **one** from me.
- B. Descends 9 generations from David and son John, a genetic distance of **two** from me.
- C. Descends 7 generations from David and son Hilkihah, genetic distance of **two** from me.
- D. Descends 8 generations from David and son ? is a genetic distance of **three** from me.

#A. and myself with a genetic distance of one, have a 90 % chance that our common ancestor was within the last **8** generations.

#B.& C. and myself with a genetic distance of two, have a 90% chance that our common ancestor was within the last **12** generations.

#D. and myself with a genetic distance of three, have a 90% chance of having a common ancestor that was within the last **14** generations.

I will not try to explain why the genetic distance of B., C. and D are different because they all descend from David Burlison b. abt 1755 d. 13 Aug. 1832 in Rutherford Co. TN. We need a DNA expert for that. David was a brother to my Isaac proven by several letters written by Sarah Rowland to her father, David Burlison. In two of her letters she mentions "old Aunt Martha Burlison" and "Aunt Patty Burlison"(wife of Isaac)

We can thank another child of David for revealing the relationship of Aaron II, to David. In a letter written by Hilkihah to his father David about 1824 stated he "bought land from Cousin Joseph Burlison" in Alabama. Joseph was a son of Aaron II. It is uncertain if Hilkihah meant that Joseph was his 1st cousin or if Joseph was his fathers 1st cousin. By this statement we can assume that if Joseph and Hilkihah were first cousins then Isaac, David and Aaron II were brothers. If Hilkihah meant that Joseph was a first cousin to his father David, then we can assume that Aaron II was an uncle to David and Isaac. This scenario is more likely, and I believe to be true, because of the fact that Aaron II was born at least 20 to 30 years before Isaac b. abt 1750 and David b. abt 1755. I will not try to explain why the DNA matches between the descendant of Aaron II and myself, a descendant of Isaac, are closer than they are to David. Again we need an expert in that field.

My latest digging has produced more results. The Y-Search website allows individuals to upload their DNA results to the Y-Search website into a searchable base by Surnames Matches or Genetics Matches. I encourage everyone that has taken a DNA test to upload their numbers into the free Y-Search program because the Burlison Program at Family Tree DNA has not been Administrated since 2007. Feel free to use my password "ZHGDT" at Y-Search to view DNA comparisons.

In the past two years I have communicated with a half dozen people that has a matching DNA to me but has another surname. This situation is called a "non-paternal event" which is caused by an adoption or a name change or infidelity/extramarital event somewhere back in the line. I know no better way to state it because Y-DNA is passed from father to son only. I was helping an Internet friend, Virginia, to solve the mystery of how Burlison DNA got in her Francisco family line. Her brothers DNA matched mine with a genetic distance of only two, the same distance as the descendants of David Burlison. She gave me the names of all her Francisco Family line back to the mid 1600's when they were in New Jersey. I was sure I could help and sent back to her the dates and places I knew that the Burlison Family and the Francisco Family were together and they are well documented. The places are, **1.** Anson Co. NC 1763 tax list and deeds, **2.** 1776 deed in Mecklenburg Co. NC near the Montgomery Co. NC line. **3.** Sandy Run Creek Mecklenburg /Tryon Co., Cleveland Co NC today. John Francisco married Rebecca Shipman daughter of Elizabeth Burlison (by tradition) and Daniel Shipman. **4.** Springs Creek Church in

Overton Co. TN 1806. I'm sure they went on to Arkansas and Texas together. This should have been an easy mystery to solve.

While I was typing all I knew about the two families' connections at 2 o'clock in the morning of 24th Dec, Virginia was doing the same. Her research was very thorough and she had just recently discovered a young Francisco ancestor in the mid 1800's that was living in the household of a Burleson neighbor in a 1800's Census. So the mystery is pretty much solved. Her last document was a listing of all the Burleson burials in the Knoxboro Cemetery on South St, in the town of Augusta near where her Francisco family has lived for generations. There were a total of 31 names on this list and there are dates as late as 1943 and some dates went back as far as 1772, 73, 75, 76, and 1778.

Wait a Minute!! That can't be. There are no known Cemeteries with Burleson's that old that I know of. Wait a Minute!! Where is the Town of Augusta? I failed to ask where the lady was from. There can be but one answer, my friend was looking for a Francisco/Burleson connection in the North while I have been looking in the South.

My Southern Burleson DNA and the Northern Francisco/Burleson DNA matches to a 90% chance of having a Common Ancestor within **12** generations. I am the 7th generation from my earliest documented ancestor Isaac Burlison b.abt.1750. My line has several marriages of 30+ year old men and teenaged girls, but most of the other Burleson lines are 8 and 9 generations from the year 1750. If the remaining 3, 4 or 5 generations (average of 4) of the **12**, fall within the time between the earliest documented Southern Burleson of 1757, and the earliest date of the Burleson Family in New England 1655, and they surely must, it can only mean one thing. All of the Burleson Families in the United States must descend from the Northern Branch.

At 2.30 in the morning it was too late to e-mail to ask where is the town of Augusta, but deep down in my broken heart I knew it had to be in New York or Connecticut. After a sleepless night, next morning I told my wife Nancy that I was the smartest person in the world because I knew something that nobody else knew but I wasn't sure if I wanted the facts to be known. She was not impressed; I must to have used that line before. I was still hoping there was a chance that the two families, Northern Francisco and Southern Burleson, had met in the mid 1800's. My Southern ancestors, all of them farmers, had never been further north than within a rifle shot of the Rock Wall at Gettysburg. Some of those boys did go a little bit further North. The Union Army took the captured and wounded and sent them to Elmira Prison in New York state, but that was not for a social visit, in fact I think we can rule out a friendly North/South connection since the first Burleson came South probably about the 1740's.

Since Christmas I have continued to work with Virginia, now better known as my new cousin Ginger, the nice lady from Augusta, New York and it looks like our findings are accurate. Her Burleson and Francisco line definitely appears to be 100% from the North with no chance of a Southern Burleson connection. We still need to get a DNA expert to interpret the math, and I feel certain the genealogy is correct. The final results: North or South we are all one Burleson Family, one bloodline.

At the request of John Burleson of this group and of Al Weeks, the former group administrator, I have taken over Al's former duties. I am a geneticist by training, so I am familiar with the types of DNA markers used in this testing. I am group administrator for three other projects, including my own Sisco / Francisco family. My southern branch of the Francisco family interacted with the Burleson and Shipman families of North Carolina, and one of my ancestors is supposed to have been Elizabeth Burleson who married Daniel Shipman. Their daughter Rebecca married my g-g-g-grandfather Jacob Francisco.

With the Sisco family project, I've been sharing all the data with all the family members to help us figure out who is biologically related to whom. Please email me and let me know whether you'd like me to keep all your data confidential, or whether you would like it to be shared with the other members of this Burleson group.

It will take me some time to get to know everyone and how you are related. I'm hoping you'll help me with that!

Thanks very much, and I hope I can help out.

Paul Sisco, 85 Stoney Hill Court, Asheville, NC 28804