

The Meek Family of Allegheny Co., PA

Meek Group A Introduction

In the 1770's a significant number of families named Meek(s) lived in S. W. Pennsylvania and they can be identified in the records of Westmoreland, Allegheny and Washington Counties. Not all of these families were related¹. However, five of them were related to each other and not related to other Meek families in the area. This is known because Y-DNA testing on the descendants proves that they shared a common ancestor. They came from Maryland based on pension records and may have lived in Virginia before going to Pennsylvania².

There was a single progenitor for this group of people that remains unknown. While it appears that **Jeremiah Meeks** who died in 1783 was the oldest member of the group the earliest date we have is **Joshua Meek's** date of birth of 1731 which is based on the age inscribed on his tombstone. **Basil Meek** was born in 1740 Maryland based on his pension application. **John Meek** was born about 1754 and **Jacob Meek** was born in 1755 Maryland based on his pension application.

Joshua and John settled in what is now Moon TWP, Allegheny Co., PA in 1774 and 1773 respectively. Jacob Meek settled in the same immediate vicinity in 1773 but in Findley TWP. The exact relationship between Joshua and the other two is not known and DNA is not available from his descendants. However, he is presumed to be a brother.

Jeremiah Meeks died in 1783 in nearby Westmoreland Co., PA. He is thought to be the same person who sold land located immediately south of Jacob in Findley TWP in 1779. Basil Meek served in the Virginia Army between 1777 and 1779 at Ft. Pitt. He came from and returned to York Co., SC. Thus we have all five men living in the same area in the 1770's.

John and Jacob are identified as brothers by the writings of two descendants. Basil Meeks, grandson of John Meek born in 1754, wrote a typewritten letter dated August 20, 1920 about his family. He said of his grandfather, John Meek:

"He had a brother Jacob Meek, who was named in the will of John Meek as executor, the will dated 1801, copy of which I have. I have often heard my father speak of this Jacob as "old uncle Jacob Meek"."

Jeremiah L. Meek, a son of Jacob Meek born 1755 wrote in an 1837 newspaper article in the Richmond Palladium in which he describes his family's migration from Pennsylvania to Henry Co., KY.

"We here left the Ohio and went up the Licking River as far as Cynthiana where father had a brother-in-law residing. We spent the winter there and in the month of March 1793 he moved out to the extreme frontier where his brother, John Meek, had built a station."

In addition, Basil Meek can be identified as a brother of John and Jacob. The obituary of Jacob Meek born 1755 was published in the Richman, Indiana Palladium on May 23, 1840. In the last paragraph it states:

"DIED - In the county Henry in the State of Kentucky about six weeks since, Basil Meek, a brother of the above aged one hundred and nine years. He was also a patriot of the revolution."

¹ The Meek/Meeks Y-DNA Project <http://meekdna.com>

² Joshua son of Jeremiah is found in the records of Berkeley Co., VA and Basil born 1740 joined the army in Winchester, VA.

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Y-DNA testing supports the genealogical evidence that they were brothers. The relationship of Jeremiah to the others is not known although it is believed that he was not the father as it is thought that he had sons named Joshua, John and Jeremiah³ who lived in Westmoreland Co., PA at the same time that Joshua and John lived in Allegheny Co., PA.

John and Jacob move to Henry Co., KY. John dies in 1803. Basil joins the family in Henry County about 1806. Joshua remained in Allegheny Co., PA and Jeremiah's son Joshua moved to Fairfield Co., OH.

This group of men represented at least two separate families. One family was led by Jeremiah and one was presumably led by the father of Basil, John and Jacob. Whether or not they were brothers is an open question. However, it appears the common ancestor was born before 1680. There were very few American Meek ancestors born before this date who have not been eliminated by Y-DNA testing.

Common Ancestor		
Joshua b: 1731	Unknown Father	Jeremiah d: 1783
	Basil b: 1740	Joshua b: <1745
	John b: 1754	John
	Jacob b: 1755	Jeremiah
	Daughter*	Ann=Ralph Cherry

*Jacob stopped in "Cynthiana" to visit his brother-in-law.

Joshua's position relative to the others is unknown although it seems probable that he was a brother of Basil, John and Jacob. He could have been an uncle or first cousin. His father was born before 1713 and probably earlier assuming he was at least 18 when Joshua was conceived.

The common ancestor does not have to be the father of Jeremiah. He could have lived several generations earlier. However, this was a small compact group with little evidence that there were other relatives in America in the mid 1700's. Two or more brothers (or cousins) came to Maryland and by 1773 lived in S. W. Pennsylvania. (See The Meek/Meeks Family of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Kentucky, 2nd Ed, 4 Jul 2007, by Christopher A. Meek.)

Y-DNA testing has also proven that this group of men was not related to several other early ancestors⁴. They were not related to the men who lived in nearby Washington Co., PA including Samuel Meek born 1732, Isaac Meek born 1746, Nathaniel Meek and Basil Meek born 1763. Also in this group were Jacob Meek who died in Henry Co., TN in 1824 and Jeremiah Meek born about 1788 and Jacob Meek born about 1765 who moved from Blount Co., TN to Carroll Co., AR. These ancestors are in DNA Group B. Group A was also not related to any other group or individual identified by the DNA project.

This Meek family falls in a sub-clade of Haplogroup R defined by the SNP marker R-U198. No other Meek family outside of the Meek project Group A is classified by this marker.

³ Westmoreland Co., PA deed records

⁴ No person in one DNA group can be related to a person in another group.

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Group A Ancestral Signature

Group A member kit#6576 has been SNP tested with the Big Y test at Family Tree DNA and results to date indicate a haplogroup of BY16497. The path on the polygenetic tree is R-P311>U106>Z381>Z301>S1688>U198>S15627>Y14069>Y14201>BY16497
The member has five “novel variants” which may or may not represent additional levels.

All members of Group A are presumed to be positive for BY16497. Two surnames are known to be associated with this SNP. They are Meek and Gibson. In fact the same is true for next higher level, Y14201. This is a fairly exclusive group.

The defining STR markers in the Group A ancestral signature are a fairly unique set of marker values. Normally one determines this by simply noting the deviations from the R1b modal values. However, thanks to the U198 Haplogroup Project certain STR markers in the Group A ancestral signature can be associated with certain U198 subgroups, some of which can be identified by certain SNP markers.

The R-U198 is a branch of the Western European haplogroup R-U106. U106 can be partially identified by the STR markers DYS390=23 and DYS492=13. U198 can be predicted with a high degree of confidence by the STR markers DYS390=23, YCAII=19-22, DYS607=14 and DYS492=13. This is not true of all haplogroups.

S15627 is a major branch of U198. Descendant carry the STR marker DYS464=x-x-x-18 usually 15-15-17-18.

Y14069 is a branch of S15627. The first man to carry the Y14069 SNP mutation probably had a STR marker pattern which was the same as the other S15627 men. However his descendants developed a series mutations, DYS393=14, DYS464=14-x-x-x (or 14-15-17-18), and DYS576=16. The Descendants are known as the 14-14 subgroup which is not identifiable by a SNP marker.

Then a branch developed with additional mutation at the STR markers DYS439=13 & DYS534=16. As time passed a descendant acquired the SNP mutation Y14201. STR markers continued to mutate. At some point before the use of surnames an ancestor had acquired DYS458=16, DYS449=30, DYS464=x-14-x-x (or DYS464=14-14-17-18) AND CDYa=36-38. A man took the surname “Meek” and the haplotype remains relatively unchanged up to the present. The first three markers are what will distinguish the Meek surname from the Gibson surname.

It is not necessary for an individual to match all defining markers. Mutations can occur in any marker in any generations. What is important is when a mutation occurred.

In most cases a person with a Y-DNA test does not need to know how the ancestral signature developed over time. However, Group A members have a lot of “matches” and understanding this information helps explain these matches. Each mutation, whether SNPs or STRs, in the development represents time. While a Group A member is “related” to most of his matches the

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connection, in most cases, dates to before the use of surnames (about 1300) or as far back as 2000 years.

Definitions:

Haplogroup: A group of similar haplotypes that share a common ancestor with a SNP mutation. (ISOGG glossary)

SNP= Single nucleotide polymorphism

Novel variants is a SNP that has not been named and its position on the tree is undefined.

STR=Short tandem repeat

Haplotype: The term for the set of numbers that consists of your Y-chromosome or mitochondrial DNA results. Haplotypes are also known as genetic signatures. (ISOGG glossary)

A modal haplotype is the most commonly occurring haplotype (a set of STR marker values) derived from the DNA test results of a specific group of people. The modal haplotype does not necessarily correspond with the ancestral haplotype... (ISOGG glossary)-

Most recent common ancestor (MRCA): The most recent ancestor from whom a group of individuals share descent. (ISOGG glossary)

Ancestral haplotype: The haplotype of a MRCA deduced by comparing descendants' haplotypes and eliminating mutations. (ISOGG glossary)

Defining STR markers are those markers that make one haplotype different from another

By Christopher A. Meek 24 May 2011/Rev Jan 2012/Rev Jan 2013/Rev Mar 2017

Meek(s) Family Y-DNA Results																												1-37											
Project Group	DYS name -->	3	3	1	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	G	Y	Y	4	6	5	5	C	C	4	4		
	Geographic Area	9	9	9	9	8	8	2	8	3	8	9	8	5	5	5	5	4	3	4	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	A	C	C	5	0	7	7	D	D	4	3	
	Area	3	0		1	5	5	6	8	9	9	2	9	8	9	9	5	4	7	7	8	9	4	4	4	4	4	0	T	A	A	6	7	6	0	Y	Y	2	8
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