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MCRA

How reliable are these numbers? Elaine and I have been puzzling why Byron's MCRA is 6 but Ron's is 2 and Norm and James are 1. Can someone explain this to me?

Comments



Elaine Pruett(Ron)DF13 Jun 10, 11

To follow up on Mardine's question, for those who have not researched the line of Solomon, here is what I wrote Mardine:

Your brother Byron, descended through Marshel Jr/ Marsh.Sr/William M./Reuben,/ Sol, Jr/Sol Sr. shows 6 MRCA distance from my son Ron.

Holtzrichter: line Clyde Eugene/Oscar E (bro. to Marshel Sr.) /William M./Reuben/Sol Jr./Sol Sr./ shows 1 distance from Ron.

Ream: line Raymond C /William(Bill)/Granville,(bro. to Wm. M) /Reuben/Sol Jr/Sol Sr shows 1 distance from Ron.

The 1900 census of Smith, TN lists Oscar and Marshel as sons of Wm. M. I don't understand why the MRCA for Byron to Ron is 6, while on Holtzrichter the MRCA to Ron is only 1 since they are both descended from William M. Furthermore, Norman Ream, descendant of Granville b. 1859, a brother to William M., shows MRCA to Ron as only 1.

I admit knowing little about DNA, but wouldn't one presume that since the three testees (Byron, Ream, & Holtzrichter) are equal distance from Reuben/Sol. Jr/ Sol. Sr, that they would all be the same MRCA from Ron?



Bill Pruiett Jun 10, 11

I'm not an expert by any means, but here are my thoughts. I suspect Ron's is 2 because he didn't have as many common markers tested. It's basically a fudge factor allowing for the possibility of a difference in one of the other markers. Byron's is 6 because there was a mutation in DYS444. One source I looked at said this marker mutates slightly more often than average, one said slightly less often. I believe they determine mutation rates based on comparisons of individuals with known genealogies. Therefore, they estimate that Byron, on average, would be separated from James by 6 generations, based on the difference in this marker. The mutation could have occurred more than 6 generations ago or less than 6 generations ago; 6 is just the average based on what is currently known about the mutation rate of this marker.

Another way to look at this is to compare it to a Gallup poll. Results are usually expressed in terms like 45%, + or - 4%. The result could be 41% or it could be 49%. In Byron's case, perhaps it could be 11 generations or it could be 1 generation, depending on when the actual mutation occurred.



Elaine Pruett(Ron)DF13 Jun 10, 11

Bill, thanks for your comment. For clarification, Ron was tested at the 67 marker level by FTDNA, and those results show on our chart under my name Elaine Pruett(Ron). After joining the Ancestry DNA project, just to make sure we were comparing apples to apples, he re-tested at the 45 marker level with Ancestry. Those results are posted in the chart under his name. I believe the 45 marker test is comparable to the others in the chart with the exception of McKay Pruitt, who tested at 25 markers.



Mardine Campbell

Wrote this on Jun 9, 11

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