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## Pruett/Pruitt/Prewitt

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### Thoughts about genealogy...

Most of us can talk to the fact that our family lines are older lines that came into America and not recent immigrants (within the past two hundred years). We can easily trace into the early 1800's without any problem whatsoever. We have spoken about a disconnect at this point for many branches. So the question would be: what is the alternative? Are there any Pruett/Pruetts around that no one has made a connection to as of yet?

I remember one of the possibilities about the surname Pru-ett that had to do with Iceland-Ireland-Scotland connection which would be a nice fit for my DNA...just as well as the Scandinavian/Norse/N-orthmen(Norman)/Norse/England hypothesis. Either one could be a 11 narrative. Of course the Norman narrative could be just as easily a R1 narrative as well. My thoughts are that the name was attached to several branches in different places around the Isle. There are plenty of proud, haughty, loyal and small (i.e. - common person) people that were around at the time, just like there were Heralds, Millers, Bakers, etc. I think the tendency is to think of history in a nice compartmentalized way but historians/genealogists should know that is highly naive.

Any thoughts on different possibilities for the various Pruett/Pruitt results?

#### Comments



**Bill Pruiett** Feb 20, 12

Ritch, you started this discussion about the Pruett/Pruett/Prewitt surname origin before I joined this group, I think it is an important conversation to continue, particularly given that we have 8 DNA groups now and the probability there will be many more. I've been looking at Surname Distribution data I found at this site - <http://worldnames.publicprofler.org/> - and determined the following:

1. The most frequent Pruett/Pruett/Prewitt sumame in the UK today is Prewett at 9.46 per million. After that, the frequencies drop dramatically - Pruett (2.72 per million); Prewitt (2.21); and Pruitt (0.13).
2. The most frequent Pruett/Pruett/Prewitt sumame in the US today is Pruitt at 149.25 per million. After that the frequencies are - Pruett (51.83 per million); Prewitt (31.87); and Prewett (6.99).

I don't think it's significant to look at the frequencies for the various spellings of our names in the US and compare them to the UK frequencies for the same spellings. We know many of our families spelled their names differently through the years. I suspect that Pruitt became the most common spelling in the US because it was the most phonetic. It's probably more significant to average all the frequencies for each country. When you do that, it's very clear that the Pruitt/Pruett/Prewitt surname is much more common in the US than the UK.

It's also very clear from looking at worldwide data that the Pruitt/Pruett/Prewitt sumame originated in the UK. So, why is our sumame so much more frequent in the US? Other surnames are much more equal between the two countries (for example, the surname Smith frequencies are 12000 in UK, 9000 in US; Archibald frequencies are 83 in UK, 33 in US; Turner frequencies are 2300 in UK, 1200 in US.) Does this fact of much higher frequency of our sumame in the US have any implications with respect to our quest to find a link to our ancestors in the UK?

Anyone have some thoughts they'd like to share?

Bill



**Mardine Campbell** Feb 25, 12

This may be off topic but it is something I have observed with the line of Solomon Sr. I assume that others have found the phenomenon of multiple spellings within the same line also. In the document I put in the group files, Solomon Sr wrote his name Prewett. On censuses, etc. it is spelled Prewitt which was used by his son, Solomon Jr, and others. In the late 1800s the spelling was changed to Pruitt by most but not all of the Prewitts. My g grandfather used Pruitt but his brother, Alexander Campbell Pruitt, spelled it Pruiett. My grandfather and one of his brothers changed the spelling to Pruiett when they moved to TX but KY and TN families still spell it Pruitt. I have to use all of the above spellings when researching. By the way, my grandfather always said he was Scotch-Irish, not English, but like everyone else I can't confirm this.



**Bill Pruiett** Feb 29, 12

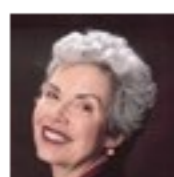
Mardine, my family also spelled the name differently over time. I even have one census record in which my ggrandather's immediate family had their name spelled three different ways in the same record. No one in the family could read or write, so the enumerator was just making it up for each name he was given during the visit.

The possible Scots-Irish connection is interesting. Most of our families migrated along the same Scots-Irish migration routes. Lately, I've been reading a lot of about their emigrations and the places where they settled. The first Scots-Irish immigrants came in five waves between 1717 and 1775. Those dates would fit many of our Prew-its, but would probably preclude those who arrived before 1717. The interesting thing about the Scots-Irish was the fact that many English were among their ranks. The English emigrants to Ulster were absorbed into the Scots-Irish culture and considered themselves part of that culture when they emigrated to the colonies. In the same way, in the colonies, when Germans, English and others married into a community of Scots-Irish, they became Scots-Irish. So, I wouldn't be surprised if some English Prew-its migrated to Ulster and then America and considered themselves Scots-Irish. I also wouldn't be surprised if some American male Prew-its married Scots-Irish brides and were absorbed into the culture of their bride's family. One historian remarked that the Scots-Irish clan structure always emphasized "collateral rather than lineal descent."



**Mary Zashin** Mar 3, 12

In 1772 my ancestors, William Pruitt and his son, Martin, signed a letter seeking a clergy man to establish a Presbyterian church at Sinking Spring, in Washington County, VA, on the Holston River. Presbyterianism in Appalachia strongly suggests Scots-Irish to me.



**Mary Zashin** Mar 3, 12

However, my cousin Jim's DNA (group E) is Norse. . .



**Mardine Campbell** Mar 3, 12

Bear in mind that the Vikings settled the Orkneys and much of the east coast of Scotland as well as having some settlements on the west coast and in Ireland (not even mentioning England).

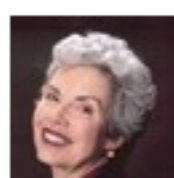


**Ritchie Pruitt** Mar 6, 12

Group D is a Norse group as well. The Vikings that settled the Orkneys and Scotland (between 700-1100) are the culprits for our group as well. I think it is important that we do remember that the nationalities of our family lines might have changed a few times through the thousands of years that DNA lines often address.

Group D's I1d (L22+) designation means that it's collective DNA history started almost 2500 years ago in southern Scandinavia (Norway/Sweden/Denmark). Group D Pruitts were probably Norse Vikings, Scottish, Scot-Irish-American and so on in this three thousand year window.

I find it fascinating that we are discovering and often re-writing the narratives of our different family's histories.



**Mary Zashin** Mar 6, 12

Yes, I know the Vikings were all over the place. Even Russia.



**Mardine Campbell** Mar 6, 12

And Italy and Turkey! They were guards for the Emirs!



**Ritchie Pruitt** Mar 6, 12

Sorry, I should have been more specific. I was referring to I1d Norse, which Mary and I are. There were two major fractions of Vikings: Norse and Danish. Some R1's and I1's are Danish Vikings. Norse Vikings are primarily I1, and definitely I1d (Norse). I think it is interesting that our families probably took similar routes into America.



**Ritchie Pruitt**

Wrote this on May 19, 10

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