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Pruett/Pruitt/Prewitt

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Welcome Karen

I saw that your DNA had a genetic distance of 14 from Bill Pruiett, so for the moment I put you in that group. Please feel free to share any information or ask any questions to the group. Welcome again!

Comments



Bill Pruiett Apr 2, 11

Indeed, welcome, Karen. As I told you in the couple of emails we exchanged yesterday, it's great to find a Pruiett on this site who's related to me, even if it's an MRCA of 14. Based on what you told me, our most recent common ancestor should be Samuel Pruiett I. Your family descends from Samuel I's son, Samuel II, mine from Samuel I's son, John, Sr. The birth year for Samuel I was either 1700 (April) or 1684, depending on the source; however, I've never seen a primary document that supports either claim. There is a record of a birth of a Samuel Prewitt to a Rosamond Prewitt in Northumberland Co., Va. in Feb. 1700. Many Northumberland Co. residents migrated to Maryland (and vice versa). By 1720, we find our Samuel marrying Elizabeth Hawker in Prince George's Co., Md.

From my understanding of MRCA's, a rough calculation would be that we share a common ancestor around 420 years ago (14 x 30 years). That would mean our common ancestor was born around 1600. This is not exactly the same as a birth year of 1684 or 1700, so I wonder if someone else on this site can weigh in on the possible implications of this discrepancy (besides the fact that one of us might have our family tree wrong). Speaking of possibly having the family tree wrong, the other possibility is that my John Pruiett, Sr. was not the son of Samuel Pruiett I. There's only scant evidence for a direct relationship. However, there is evidence that I am related to Samuel Pruiett I since one of his grandson's, Zachariah Pruiett, raised my ggrandfather, Thomas S. Pruiett. According to Richard Prewitt, there's a document that says Thomas and his brother William were the sons of Zachariah's cousin, Asa Prewitt.

One thing that has confused me about MRCA's is the fact that 30 years is not always an accurate measure of the length of a generation. In my case, Samuel Pruiett I was likely born in 1700 (310 years ago and, based on the 30 years per generation calculation, it would suggest that he lived 10 generations before me. In fact, he lived 8 generations before me. Does that mean an MRCA of 14 is even more distant or is the 30 year rule of thumb better?

Another question: I notice there are a number of differences in the markers that Karen's uncle and I had tested. Does that introduce a margin of error in the MRCA calculation and what might that mean.



Karen Schooler (James Pruiett) Apr 2, 11

Hi Bill!

When we had his dna tested through Family Tree DNA, I think they said they calculate a generation as 25 years?

My problem is that my ggrandfather was James Montgomery Pruiett, but the people on [ancestry.com](#) use different census' as the source to determine that his parent was Samuel IV. These census' only state that he was born in GA, because they are all from when he was an adult. I haven't found a primary source that tells who his parents really were. His mom is supposed to be Ardesia Montgomery (daughter of James Montgomery) which would be perfect, but if his father is Samuel, how do we know which Samuel Pruiett it was? There were a lot of them! Thanks for any help!



John W. Pruiett-VA DF13 Apr 2, 11

Bill, I am not an expert on DNA or MRCA's (Most Recent Common Ancestors), but I will try to comment on some of the things you asked.

MRCA numbers are not very precise and should only be used as a "rough" guide. That 30 year span that they use does not hold up very well. We have found that when both people get the 46 Marker Paternal DNA test done by Ancestry that MRCA's work a lot better. Ancestry won't allow the two people to edit or modify their tests in any way. For some reason the DNA manually entered from Family Tree and other DNA services does not work out very well as far as the MRCA numbers are concerned.

There are two examples of people being retested in our Compare DNA section. The first is Ron Pruiett who was originally tested at FT with the 67 marker test. When Ron's results were entered, Ancestry only used 34 of the 67 FT markers in their calculation of MRCA. Ron originally showed up as a 2 MRCA in Group B. Ronald was retested using the 46 Marker Ancestry test and he dropped to a 1 MRCA. A 1 MRCA is very close and sometimes two brothers usually show up with a 1 MRCA.

The second example is Paul Pruiett who has extensive documentation of his family in Group

C. Paul originally was tested by a DNA service and manually entered approximately 25 markers in our database. Paul showed up as a 18 MRCA which is pretty distant. After Paul retested using the Ancestry 46 Marker test his MRCA went from a 18 to a 6. Paul also identically matched Dwain and Micheal Pruiett of Family Group C in all 46 markers.

In Karen's case she has entered about 33 markers and still has to enter her value of 14 in DYS19a. I don't know if this will lower her MRCA. Based on our experience of people being retested by Ancestry using the 46 marker test I would guess if Karen's uncle were retested her MRCA probably would fall in the 6-9 MRCA. This MRCA would put Samuel I as your common ancestor. It appears that Karen belongs in your Family Group F whether the common ancestor is Samuel I or someone further back.

Maybe someone more experienced can comment on the MRCA's which aren't always so accurate.



Marcia McClure Apr 3, 11

I agree with John. The MRCA is a general estimate. They are finding that some families have very stable markers from generation to generation while others mutate at a much faster rate. If you look at the Hamilton family, they appear to be cloned - very distant cousins match each other exactly. Other families have a number of mutations even though they have a common ancestor born in the past 300 years.

As you get more matches, it should be easier to see where the mutations occurred. One step mutations can occur in any generation.

Karen - there's a pretty good trail on Samuel 1762 - 1845. There are Bible records for the birth dates of his children and for his son Samuel's marriage to Adelia/Ardesia Montgomery.

Here's a link to my notes on him:

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=marciamcclure&id=I11240>

This family seems to have been pretty well off and the children all received educations, including the daughters. That was somewhat unusual for the time.

Here's an interesting posting on where Samuel is buried although I don't know where she got the info that he was the son of a Hezekiah. He had a son Hezekiah born 10/5/1789.

<http://boards.rootsweb.com/topics.cemetery.us.ga/931.3.1.1/mb.ashx>



Karen Schooler (James Pruiett) Apr 5, 11

Thank you for sharing your site! I've seen a lot of the information before, but not all in one place. I especially like the history of the people on the plantation. Are there any other recollections from Susan Adella Pruiett-Hardin? Did it come from a book by Donna Duckworth? Is it possible to buy a copy?

Thanks,
Karen



Ritchie Pruiett

Wrote this on Apr 1, 11
8 views • 5 comments

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