



THE NICHOLAS ROBBINS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

WINTER, 2009

Robbins DNA Studies

by James Clark Robbins and Lawrence G. Robbins

(Editor's Note: In July, 2008, Clark and I began an email exchange on DNA testing. At that point Clark had recently received the results of some testing performed by the Family Tree DNA group and he was interested in knowing whether any other descendants of Nicholas Robbins had been tested. I had been thinking about having some testing done, mainly so I could compare my test results with other male descendants of the early Robbins families of Massachusetts to see if there was any genetic connection among us. Abstracts of our email exchanges follow, together with testing results and other related information. LGR)

JCR to LGR, July 14, 2008:

My name is James Clark Robbins and I'm originally from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, now living in Montreal, Quebec. I and my siblings are, as best we can figure, descendants of Nicholas Robbins. Recently I had my Y-chromosome (Robbins paternal line) DNA tested and the results were as follows:

- (1) Haplogroup G2a
- (2) No matches with anybody on the Family Tree DNA data base, including the eighty-five or so Robbins participating in the Robbins family DNA project.

Do you happen to know of any other descendants of Nicholas Robbins who have had themselves tested (by other organizations) and if so, what were their haplogroups and did they have any matches?

LGR to JCR, July 15, 2008:

You are the first Nicholas Robbins descendant to have a DNA test so far as I am aware. I've been planning to have mine done, primarily to solve a riddle regarding the alleged common ancestry of several Robbins males who arrived in Massachusetts about the same time as

Nicholas. At this point I'm still trying to identify male descendants with verifiable lineage back to the other Robbins immigrants, who are willing to do the testing and compare the results.

JCR to LGR, July 17, 2008:

I guess you are aware of the existence of the Family Tree DNA company, where I had my testing done. There are other companies which do this, but this one seems to offer the best value and is the one used by the National Geographic for its 'Genographic Project'. If you do your testing under the auspices of a DNA testing project, for example the Robbins family DNA project, you get a reduction in price. On the 12 marker project you would pay \$99 instead of \$140. The 12 marker test is a good place to start. Later, if necessary, you can upgrade to 25, 37, or 67 markers. Excuse me if I'm telling you what you already know. On the other hand, if you have questions about DNA testing, then please do let me know.

LGR, August-October, 2008: I opted to take the 37 marker test in mid-August and my swab samples were sent to Family Tree DNA in early September. While waiting for my results, Clark and I agreed to co-sponsor a DNA test for Eric Robbins, who has traced his lineage back to John Robbins of Wethersfield, Connecticut via traditional methods. Many believe this John Robbins to be the brother of Nicholas Robbins.

In late October my test results came back from Family Tree DNA. Clark had earlier supplied me with his haplogroup and his 12 marker results. We compared as follows: (1) Both in Haplogroup G; (2) Shared 11 of 12 markers, the only difference being Marker # 12 (DYS 389-2), where Clark's DNA code (allele) was noted as 30 and mine as 31. Clark inquired about the significance of that difference with a Family Tree DNA representative and was told that those with the same haplogroup, who shared 11 of 12 markers had a 95% probability of having a common ancestor within the last ten generations. We had previously discovered by conventional research that we were both 12th generation descendants of Nicholas Robbins via his great-great grandson, Deacon James Robbins of Plympton, Massachusetts and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

JCR to LGR, December 4, 2008:

I've just received word from Eric on his DNA test results. His haplogroup is "I1" as opposed to our "G" and only four of his twelve DNA markers match ours. Family Tree DNA has confirmed to me that Eric can not be related to us. However, Eric did have a match with another male Robbins who also claims to have a solid paper trail back to John Robbins of Wethersfield, Connecticut. Eric is in the process of contacting this matching person.

JCR to LGR, December 5, 2008:

Eric's test results and those of the other descendant of John Robbins (of Wethersfield, Connecticut) are now posted on the Robbins family DNA project.

Summary:

It is clear from the foregoing DNA test results that Clark Robbins and Lawrence Robbins have a genetic relationship and that they share a common ancestor within the last ten generations. It is equally clear that there is no genetic relationship between those two

gentlemen and Eric Robbins. Haplogroup studies supplied by the Family Tree DNA company with the test results, suggest that Haplogroup "G" and Haplogroup "I" split from one another ("mutated") approximately 20,000 years ago somewhere in the Middle East. After the split, both groups continued a westerly migration, depositing their seeds along the way, so that in the present day, members of the Haplogroup "G" group can be found in Eastern Europe, France and England, while the migratory pattern of Haplogroup "I" appears to be a bit more southerly through Greece, Italy, France, England and then north into Scandinavia.

Ongoing Research:

In addition to the Family Tree DNA data base and its subgroup, Robbins family DNA project, Clark has compared his results with YSearch, Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation, DNA Heritage, Y Chromosome Haplotype Reference Database and Ancestry.com. Lawrence is also listed on the Family Tree DNA data base and the Robbins subgroup as well as YSearch. Clark also had a "deep clade test" of his DNA sample to help determine the branches and twigs of his "G" Haplogroup.

There is an excellent article on the migratory pattern of DNA in the March, 2006 issue of National Geographic, entitled "The Greatest Journey". While the evolution of the "G" Haplogroup is of great interest, it remains a means to an end, the end being a 12 marker match with a male in the "G" Haplogroup, who can verify his ancestry back to 1600 and help us discover the English origins and birthplace of Nicholas Robbins.

For more details on the foregoing DNA testing activities, please contact Clark Robbins via email at clarkr2@hotmail.com. Clark has lots of useful information on selecting a testing company and how test results may be registered on various data bases to enhance matching possibilities. Kathleen, the group administrator of the Robbins DNA Project, a sub-group of Family Tree DNA, is also a good resource on testing procedures and the registration of results with the Robbins DNA Project. She may be contacted by email at adamsapple@qwest.net. And by all means, let the Nicholas Robbins Family Newsletter know about your DNA testing experiences. Email the editor at riaresearch@aol.com.

FAMILY FORUM

(Editor's Note: You are cordially invited to submit queries and notices related to the Nicholas Robbins and his descendants. Topics may vary from information requests and "lost sheep" inquiries to birth and marriage announcements and family reunion notices. If you are able to provide an answer to a previous query, please send it in so we can publish it for the benefit of the original correspondent and other family researchers. Queries and notices may be submitted via email addressed to riaresearch@aol.com or by regular post to Lawrence Robbins, P. O. Box 8274, Portland, OR, 97207. Thank you.)

1. Seeking information on SETH ROBBINS of Plympton, Massachusetts. Seth was the son of Eleazer and Priscilla (Lucas) Robbins, born on 12 May 1769 at Plympton. Probate records indicate him to be a laborer residing in Carver, Massachusetts, in November, 1793, following his mother's death. Anybody know what happened to him after that? Submitted by Lawrence G. Robbins, riaresearch@aol.com.

2. Seeking information on LEWIS ROBBINS, second child of John and Betsey (Standish) Robbins, born about 1808 in Vermont. Some researchers believe him to be the Lewis Robins living in Portland, New York, proximate to John Robins in the 1840 Census. In that census Lewis had a household consisting of one male born between 1810 and 1820, one female born between 1810 and 1820 and one male born between 1835 and 1840. In the 1850 Census there are three Lewis/Louis Robbins/Robins recorded: Lewis Robbins, age 41, born in Massachusetts, residing with his family in Clay Township, Chenango County, New York; Louis Robbins, age 31, born in Vermont, residing with his family in New York City; and Louis Robins, age 45, born in Massachusetts, residing with his family in Pottawattamie County, Iowa. None of the families in the 1850 Census match the family size and age parameters of the 1840 Census. Can anyone supply additional evidence to support a connection between one of these Lewis/Louis Robbins/Robins (or some other Lewis Robbins) and John and Betsey (Standish) Robbins of Portland, New York? Submitted by Lawrence G. Robbins, riaresearch@aol.com .

3. Seeking information on COLUMBUS M. ROBBINS, son of Eleazer and Rebecca (Doughten) Robbins of Hartford, Maine. Columbus was 23, single, and residing with his parents at the time of the 1850 Census. Anybody know what happened to him after that? Submitted by Lawrence G. Robbins, riaresearch@aol.com .

4. Seeking information on EBENEZER ROBBINS (JR), son of Ebenezer and Eunice (Fuller) Robbins, born 4 Aug 1762 at Plymouth, Massachusetts. All I have been able to find on this individual is an epitaph on the family gravestone at Burial Hill Cemetery in Plymouth. It reads: "In Memory of Ebenezer Robbins who died in captivity in the 21st year of his age". The age at death suggests he died during the final years of the American Revolution. Did he die as a British prisoner of war? Any information and/or war record pertaining to Ebenezer Robbins (Jr) would be greatly appreciated. Submitted by Lawrence G. Robbins, riaresearch@aol.com .

5. Seeking information on LYMAN ROBBINS, son of John and Olive (Knight) Robbins of Floyd, New York. According to Oneida County probate records, Lyman was born in September, 1798. His father died when he was four years old and it appears that he was raised by his older brother, Ephraim. A family history says "he went to the West and died when a young man". Any information on Lyman's westerly migration and his death would be greatly appreciated. Submitted by Lawrence G. Robbins, riaresearch@aol.com .

6. Seeking information on DAVID ROBBINS (JR), son of David and Abigail (Plummer) Robbins of Thompson, Connecticut. Local records indicate he was born about 1791 and that he married Judah Green in January, 1813 at Thompson. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Tamar (Moffitt) Green, born in October, 1793 at Thompson. It seems likely that he is the David Robbins living proximate to his brother Samuel Robbins in the 1820 Census for Thompson. What happened to this couple after 1820? Any children? Submitted by Lawrence G. Robbins, riaresearch@aol.com .

7. Seeking information on SAMUEL ROBBINS, son of Nathaniel and Ruth (Robbins) Robbins of Oxford County, Maine. A family record indicates that Samuel was born in Sumner, ME, around 1811 and that he married Catherine Cotton of Woodstock, ME, date uncertain. Anyone have a record of this marriage? What happened to this couple after marriage? Any children? Submitted by Lawrence G. Robbins, riaresearch@aol.com .

Obituaries and Memorials

(Editor's Note: This segment honors our family members who have preceded us in death and will be a reoccurring feature of the Newsletter. Older as well as recent obituaries and memorials of Nicholas Robbins descendants and their spouses are welcome. They may be submitted as attachments to emails addressed to riaresearch@aol.com or by regular post to Lawrence G. Robbins, P. O. Box 8274, Portland, OR, 97207. Please identify your media source, i. e. newspaper, on-line site, etc., as well as the date it was printed so that proper attribution can be included. Thank you.)

MELISSA (HARRIS) ROBBINS "Melissa (Harris) Robbins, our Missy, passed away at her home in Browns Mills, New Jersey, on June 14, 2006, following several months of illness with cancer. She was 66. Born in Washington, D. C., the daughter of Herbert and Marian Harris, Missy was raised in Alexandria, Virginia as well as in Japan and Spain, where her father was posted as an Army officer and diplomat.

Missy was a graduate of Sullins College and worked in early childhood education for several years while raising her family. She had a wonderful rapport with children and was loved by all she taught. Missy later worked in sales in the Trenton, NJ area, putting her friendly caring personality to good use. For many years she owned and operated En-Sure, a legal record storage service in Lawrenceville, NJ.

Missy's love of adventure flowered in retirement. She and her husband, Larry, traveled widely in the U. S. and Canada and spent several months each year at their winter home in Hemet, California. Her hobbies also included walking, golf and crocheting. She was an avid reader and a great fan of Janet Evanovich and Sue Grafton.

Missy never lost the genteel Southern charm and courtesy of her youth. She was always kind and respectful of others and always had a smile and friendly greeting for everyone she met. She will be greatly missed by all.

In addition to her husband, Larry, Missy is survived by step-daughter, Valerie Vickers of Oregon; two children by a previous marriage, Doug Anderson of Virginia and Kelly Jopko of Pennsylvania; three grandchildren, Kristen Jopko, Steve Jopko and Grace Vickers; cousins, Tom Pattie of Virginia and Franke Giottonini of Oregon and a multitude of friends.

A memorial fund has been established in Missy's name at the Browns Mills Library. Donations may be made to Friends of the Pemberton Community Library Association and sent to their attention at 16 Broadway, Browns Mills, NJ, 08015." (Burlington County Times, June 19, 2006)

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