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# Journal

## The Six Fathers of European Men

By John Blankenbaker

In the beginning, there was one father, Adam. Though Adam's descendants are beyond counting, nearly all men in Europe descend from just six men and to these men we can give the names, R, I, G, J, N, and E. Through genetics, we can trace a path of male descent for European men from one of these men. Incredibly, we can say something about when these men were born and how their descendants moved around, even inter-continently.

### How Male DNA Works

We are born with a partial blueprint of how to build more copies of ourselves. We combine this blueprint with that from a partner to get the master plan for a descendant. The combination of the parts from the two parents is random and this randomness makes us different from our siblings. There is an exception, though, to the concept of randomly sharing or combining the blueprints from the two parents. The male parent reserves the right to contribute one hundred percent to the small portion of the master blueprint for sons and this is called the Y chromosome.

In the succeeding generations the sons of one male individual will have the same Y chromosome as the father. From father to son to his son to his son *ad infinitum*, this same Y chromosome is passed on in the male line. Though this is the general rule, sometimes a small glitch occurs when the father

makes a copy of his Y chromosome to give to a son. The son does not know that the plan he has received or inherited has been altered slightly so he makes a copy of what he has received to pass on to his son. These alterations are rare but permanent.

When one of these random changes, call it M253 just to give it a name, is passed to a son, the male progeny of that

son will have this change indefinitely. The father of the son may have other sons who do not have the change, *i.e.*, they receive the true copy of the father's Y chromosome. Thus, if there are two sons of this father, one line will consist of the males without the M253 change and the other line has the M253 change. The first male with the M253 change is said to be the father of that line (potentially a clan).

#### Also See:

**Find the Fiddle, p. 6**

**Yager Yarns: The Kentucky Five and the Three Year Silence, p. 7**

**Genealogy Meeting Notes: National Genealogical Society and Palatines to America, p. 10**

**Jacob Fishback: Wagoneer and Patriot, p. 11**

**1739: Spotswood Moves On, p. 12**

A descendant of the sons without the M253 change, after period of time, may pass a change on to one of his sons which is different from the M253 change. Call such a change, arbitrarily, S64. And a descendant of the original carrier of the M253 change may pass along another change to a son. Call this last change P78.

From the original father, after many but not any fixed number of generations, there may be individuals with the same Y chromosome but with these minor alterations:

- No changes
- M253
- M253 and P78
- S64

(In this example, the clans could be called X, X1, X1a, and X2, respectively. A sequence of alternating letter and numbers distinguishes the clans.)

The above illustration shows four populations which will continue indefinitely but always subject to further random changes. All changes are relatively minor and usually do not affect the life or the procreative ability of the individual who first has it. If the change was major, then it probably does not get passed on simply because the change is not viable.



## Today Changes Can Be Found in Individuals

We can test today to see if any of these changes are present in an individual. If we find two individuals, one with the M253 change alone and one with the M253 and P78 change, we say they probably shared, at some time in the past, a common male ancestor. Somewhere along the path of descent the M253 line generated a new, separate and distinctive line with the additional P78 change.

The alterations in the Y chromosomes occur very rarely. Ten thousand years may not see any change in a given line. The changes are random with a very small probability of occurring at any one time. Perhaps the probability is only one in a hundred or in a thousand, but a change may occur at any time. Inheriting a change is not proof that another change cannot be created immediately.

From the changes that we can measure, we can work backward and estimate when a particular change occurred. For example, if many individuals have a common change with a scattering of other changes, we may estimate the common change occurred 50,000 years ago, which is also how long Europe has been occupied. Timing the dates of change is an art based on mathematical science but the timing can be tested by alternative means such as cultural artifacts and radioactive carbon 14.

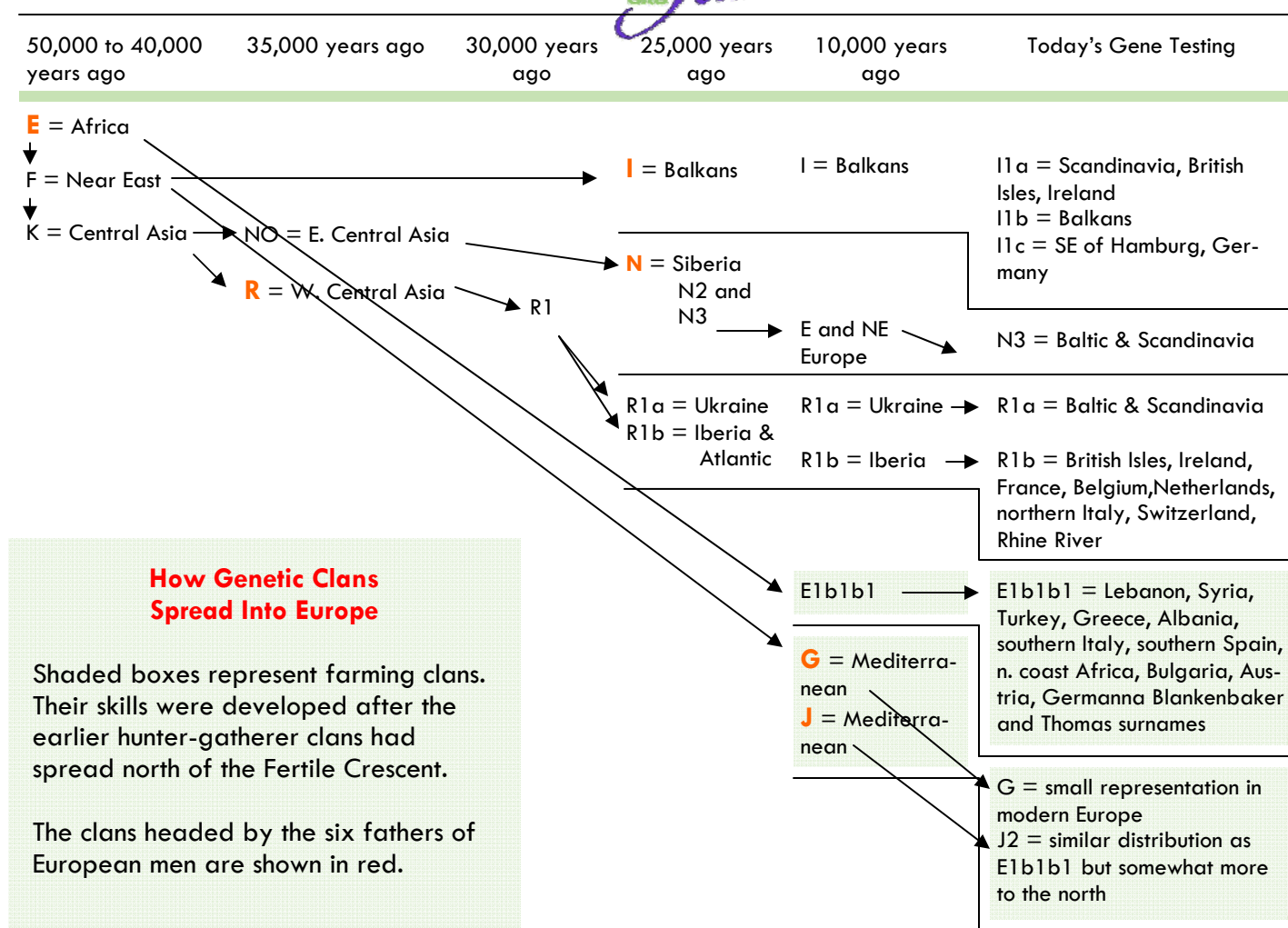
Clans or groups which share the same set of genetic changes are given names. The broadest name is a letter and this is used for the earliest individual and it distinguishes him from all others. As changes occur in one clan, the branches are distinguished by numerical and alphabetical suffixes. For example, Clan R has two major branches, R1 and R2. Now if Clan R1 has a branch, then it can be distinguished as R1a. Later there may be another branch from R1 and it can be R1b. Clans R1, R1a, and R1b may all exist simultaneously and share a common feature, a genetic change that no other clan has. R1 and R1a differ at one point in the genetic definition. Also, Clans R1 and R1b differ at one point but Clans R1a and R1b differ in two distinct ways.

Any time a new clan or line is created it initially resides in only one individual, the potential sire of

**Editorial Board:** Suzanne Matson, Virginia Nuta, Michael L. Oddenino

**Editorial Goal:** Information about our ancestors of the First and Second Germanna Colonies, and Alexander Spotswood. Contact Virginia Nuta at [vrnuta@verizon.net](mailto:vrnuta@verizon.net) with inquiries or proposed articles. We welcome them!

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that clan. Whether or not this class is recognizable later depends upon how many descendants the first carrier of the change has. Most lines or clans have probably died out and left no evidence.

## Migration Paths

If a man is the first to have a distinctive change and he has many sons, they are apt to live in the neighborhood of the father. Again, it is a matter of probabilities as to how many descendants there will be with this change. Some distinctive lines will die out and others will grow enormously. So if we find that many individuals with the M253 change live in the Balkans, we might suspect that the first M253 individual lived in the Balkans. But tracing the migration paths is more difficult than such simple-minded reasoning, especially because of the mass migrations that have occurred. Still, it is possible to make good estimates.

Europe has been occupied for at least 50,000 years and during this time there have been glacial periods which forced mass migrations to warmer areas to be followed by reoccupation of the deserted areas when the weather turned warmer. Only the broadest outlines will be given here as an introduction to genetic genealogy. Many of the thoughts here have been taken from the article, "The Origins of European Men," by Kalevi Wiik, in *Journal of Genetic Genealogy*, Volume 4, Number 1 (Spring 2008). Copies of this extensive article are available on the internet where there are many illustrations. <www.jogg.info>

## Clan E in Northeast Africa

When "Adam" lived is uncertain but probably it was not much more than 50 thousand years ago. Most researchers say that he lived in the northeastern section of Africa. Even as the descendants of Adam multiplied, there was only one clan.



About 45 thousand years ago, this one clan generated an offshoot. The original clan was called E and the new clan was called F (there may have been other clans preceding this split). Clan E remained in Africa for a long time and is known as the African Clan. Clan F moved out of Africa to the Arabic peninsula and the Near East and became known as the Asian Clan. When Clan F moved out of Africa, it probably occurred over many generations with no one man making the total move. The migration went by stages and might even have taken thousands of years.

About 40 thousand years ago, the Middle Eastern or Asian Clan F sired a new Clan K which moved to central Asia, perhaps through present day Iraq and Iran to the north of those areas. Many millenniums later, people in the Middle East found this area was good for farming but Clan K did not consist of farmers. They and all of the early settlers of Asia and Europe were hunters and gatherers. They led very unsettled lives and were on the move following game, especially the larger animals.

About 35,000 years ago two new clans, R and NO, branched off from K. Clan R moved to western central Asia in the area we know today as Tashkent north of Afghanistan. Clan NO moved to eastern central Asia. Today this area is north of Tibet and west of Mongolia.

The originator of Clan R was one of the six fathers of European males. Descendants of R led to two new branches, R1 and R2, about 30,000 years ago. Clans R1 and R2 are each recognizable today. For this reason, some people recognize R1 and R2 as two sires of European men but the position here is that they had the same ancestor, R, who is called one of the six fathers. Descendants of R1 and R2 followed separate paths and they will be considered here as separate categories.



## Hunter-Gatherers Migrate to Europe

About 25,000 years ago, Clan R1 gave rise to Clan R1b who journeyed over the generations to Iberia (Spain) and the Atlantic coast. At a slightly later time Clan R1a branched from R1 and became common in the present-day Ukraine.

For about 25 thousand years, Clan F continued to live in the Middle East where a genetic change created a sub-clan I who moved to Anatolia (in Turkey) and the Balkans. The start of Clan I, due to a genetic change in one individual, was about 25,000 years ago.

About this same time, Clan NO in eastern central Asia developed into a Siberian Clan N and moved to the north. Then Clan N led to two branches, N3 and N2. The N3 Clan moved first to northwestern Siberia and later to eastern and northeastern Europe.

After these developments had occurred, Europe experienced a severe cooling climate as ice sheets developed in the North and moved south across Europe. This Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) lasted a few thousand years. The ancestors of the European men retreated south and found refuges in Iberia, the Ukraine, the Balkans, and Siberia. These core areas were habitable even during the coldest periods of the LGM.

The dominant clan in Iberia was R1b, in the Ukraine was R1a, in the Balkans was I. In Siberia, outside of Europe, the N3 Clan lived. As the Ice Age was ending after a few thousand years of very cold weather, the clan members moved out of their retreats. In some cases they moved quite far.

All of these people were hunter-gatherers who followed the larger game animals such as the woolly mammoths. They were a mobile people with no fixed home. New major clans were slow to develop though there were further differentiations in the existing clans.

## Newer Farming Clans Enter Europe

About 10,000 years ago new clans and cultures entered Europe. The cultural element, introduced by the new clans, was farming. This was done without displacing the hunter-gatherers. The latter learned the new ways of providing for food and a home.

One of the new clans was E1b1b1, a derivative from the African Clan E. The older Asian Clan F had, by then, led to two new classes, G and J. Collectively, these are called the farming clans. They spread out of the Middle East to Anatolia in Turkey, on to Greece, and in general over the Mediterranean coast, both the north and south shores.

Clans I also originated in the Middle East but is not included with the early farmers because it had

spread into Europe before the emergence of effective domestication of wild plants and animals in the Middle East.

## Old and New Europeans

It is common to speak of the “Old Europeans” and the “New Europeans.” Today, European men, based on their Y chromosome, can be classified as Old or New Europeans. The Old Europeans were in Europe before the start of the Ice Age. However widely dispersed they were, they moved to one of the three European refuges when they were forced out of northern Europe and were the first to repopulate Europe after the Ice Age, although the repopulation patterns may not have been indicative of the pre-Ice Age settlement patterns. These Old Europeans are the bulk of the present European male population, though there are smaller areas when New Europeans are well represented.

The Iberian refuge was dominated by Clan R1b, the Balkan refuge by Clan I, and in the Ukraine by R1a. Adding Clan N3 in northeastern Europe, these four clans were essentially the only peoples who were present in Europe at the start of the Ice Age.

For a quick sample of how the clans spread after the Ice Age, genes of 96% of the Basque, 70% of the French, 96% of the Dutch, 94% of the Germans, and 96% of the Polish are Old European. Though Spain was a refuge for the Old Europeans during the LGM, the percentage of Old Europeans today is low because of an inward migration of New Europeans. The New Europeans are concentrated in southeastern Europe and adjacent Asian areas. For example, Turkey is 63% New, the Lebanese 64%, Syrians 55%, Albanians 53%, Calabrian (the “toe” of Italy) 56%, and Greece 49%.

Even from the limited samples it is seen that genetics is not closely related to culture and language and neither predicts the other so far as we presently know. However, the possible links are closely monitored and studied. These genetic studies are in their infancy. Because of the limited data that has been gathered, students of the science do draw different conclusions. But with further study, and it is a serious study by academics, the picture can only be improved.

## Three of the Six Fathers—R, I and N — Old European Hunter-Gatherers in the North

Returning to our six men, father R is the best represented judging by the number of descendants. The largest branch in western Europe is R1b. In the British Isles and Ireland, a majority of the people are R1b ranging from 50% at Dover to 80% in western Ireland. Though not quite to the same degree as just cited, sire R1b can claim more than half of the population in France, Belgium, Netherlands, northern Italy, Switzerland, and along the Rhine River. These are the descendants of people who took refuge in Iberia during the Ice Age. After the end of the Ice Age, these people moved out of Iberia, especially to the north but also to the east into northern Italy and Switzerland.

Sire R1a, a cousin of R1b through their common ancestor R1, has many of his descendants in the Baltic area including the Scandinavian countries and extending well into Russia. This is the group who took refuge in the Ukraine during the Ice Age. Afterwards they spread to the north and west.

Clan I found its refuge during the Ice Age in the Balkans. Broadly speaking, the sub-Clan I1b is found near that area today. Two other sub-clans have developed and sub-Clan I1a is quite prominent in the Scandinavian countries with a small, about 10%, representation in the British Isles, but more in Ireland. Still a third sub-Clan, I1c, is concentrated in Germany just to the southeast of Hamburg. Away from this locality it is a minor contributor and even at the densest points is not a major factor. What is interesting about Clan I1 is its dispersion by the sub-clans into localized concentrations.

Clan N3 is a division of N, derived from NO and K, on back to F and thence out of Africa. The migration of its people is extremely long via central Asia, northern Asia (Siberia), and back to north-east Europe especially up to the Baltic Sea and north to the Arctic Ocean. There is a small overflow into the northern areas of Scandinavia.

Clan N2, a cousin of N3, has a similar path with dispersion into Europe.



In northern Europe, the Old Europeans are extremely well represented and very few New Europeans are found.

The farming clans are found in southern Europe, especially in the areas close to the Mediterranean.

Clan E1b1b1 is found in Lebanon, Syria, southern Turkey, Greece, Albania, southern Italy, Sicily, and southern Spain besides the north coast of Africa. There are inland concentrations, especially in the Balkans. Smaller numbers are found on the coast of northern Spain and in scattered areas of Germany. Even England has a small representation that resulted from the Roman legions that had been recruited in the Balkans.

Clan J2 has a distribution similar to Clan E1b1b1 but membership extends more to the north for small percentages. The area around the Black Sea is not without a measurable number of Clan J2.

Clan G is only slightly represented in modern Europe and is more numerous to the east of the Black Sea. No country in Europe is entirely devoid of Clan G but the representation is small.

Clan E1b1b1 which has six distinctive genetic changes including its original ancestor's change does present a puzzle. There are members of this clan living in Morocco, the Horn of Africa, and in South Africa. It is not clear whether the clan originated in Africa with some of the members migrating to Asia and Europe or whether it originated in Asia with a backward migration to Africa. It is usually considered an Asian clan.

Clan E1b1b1, known earlier as E3b, has representatives in the Germana Colonies. Known members are the Thomases and Blankenbakers. The writer here may be prejudiced since he belongs to Clan E1b1b but it seems to him that its members were intelligent people who led the way to a more advanced civilization. The Wright brothers and the creator of the first personal computer belong to this clan.

When the author had his DNA tested, he was informed that the testing service was aware of four other members of this clan. One, judging by his email address, lives in Bulgaria. The grandfather of another one lived in Austria. The earliest known sire of the Blankenbakers lived in Austria. These seem to fit the pattern described here.

It is of interest to compare these results with the finding that modern European women descend from seven women of whom six belonged to hunter-gatherer clans and one belonged to a farming clan. Maternal clans do not identify with the paternal clans. For more about the seven daughters, see the book by Bryan Sykes, *The Seven Daughters of Eve*.

In the midst of all of this, there is a mystery, the case of the Neanderthals. How they are related to the human species is unknown though they do seem to be close cousins but perhaps not close enough for interbreeding.

## Find the Fiddles!

In 1789, James Madison debated James Monroe at what is today the Hebron Lutheran Church, hoping to win a seat in the first Congress of the United States. In 1827, when telling this story to a friend, Nicholas Trist, he described the church service, which took place at the end of January in 1789, as follows:

**“Service was performed, and then they had music with two fiddles.  
They are remarkably fond of music.”**

Who among the families attending Hebron owned a fiddle/violin and might have played for Madison and Monroe? If you have the estate inventory of a person who was likely in the congregation of the Hebron Lutheran Church at that time (see John Blankenbaker's "The Hebron Communion Lists," 2003, <[www.germanna.com](http://www.germanna.com)>), please look to see if it contains a fiddle or violin. Let us know at [vrnuta@verizon.net](mailto:vrnuta@verizon.net).



## The Kentucky Five and the Three Year Silence

By Virginia Rhodes Nuta

"Blind" John Yager, b. abt. 1732, Orange Co., VA, (Adam Yager and Susannah Unknown), m. Mary Wilhoit, abt. 1757, Culpeper Co., VA, m. Susannah Berry, 14 Feb. 1801, m. Anna Kabler, 5 Aug. 1809, d. August 1826.

Joshua Yager, b. 1766, Culpeper Co., VA, m. Maria Wayland (John Wayland and Catherine Broyle) bef. 1785, Culpeper Co., VA, d. abt. May 1838, Mercer Co., KY.

Joseph Yager, b. 13 March 1767, Culpeper Co., VA, m. Margaret Wilhoit (Nicholas Wilhoit and Mary Fisher) 1792, Mercer Co., KY, d. 12 June 1856 near Danville, Boyle Co., KY.

Daniel Yager, b. 20 May 1779, Culpeper Co., VA, m. Susannah Berry (Michael Berry) 1806, Madison Co., VA, m. Athalia Rader, 1848, Shelby Co., KY, d. 14 August 1860, Oldham Co., KY.

Rosanna Yager, b. 28 Sept. 1774, Culpeper Co., VA, m. Michael Schmidt/Smith (Nicholas Schmidt/Smith and Maria Reiner) 24 July 1791 Culpeper Co., VA, d. 19 May 1832, probably Oldham Co., KY.

Mary Yager, b. abt. 1768, m. Aaron Wilhoite (John Wilhoit and Margaret Smith) abt. 1785 Culpeper Co., VA, d. bef. 1 July 1830, probably Oldham Co., KY.

My faith in land records as the most fruitful type of record to be researched began in Howard County, Indiana. There, in the mortgage records, I found an "indenture" in which my second great-grandmother turned over the raising of her baby son to foster parents until he would turn age 21.<sup>1</sup> Why would a contract about the raising of a baby be recorded in land records?

Official land records have been kept for a much longer time than birth, marriage or death records, so, we know what was *really* important to the ancestors! Also, land records were kept locally, the permanent records establishing property rights. Many persons could not write; there were no photocopiers; so how would one make a private agreement official? By persuading the courthouse clerk to write something into an official book kept in an official building, one could make such a document permanent and available, evidence of whatever one might wish to prove. So, from time to time, one runs across the unexpected in land records.

Recently I was searching the land records of Madison County, Virginia, for the early and mid-1820s. But I had rented microfilm into the 1830s, so I kept going, because I had paid for it and *you never know!* And I found something that surprised me.

Recorded in the Madison County land records of 1830 were two Powers of Attorney.<sup>2</sup> One appointed "trustworthy friend" Aaron Wilhoite, of Oldham County, Kentucky, as attorney in fact for Daniel Yager and Rosanna Smith of Oldham County, Kentucky. The other Power of Attorney, recorded the same day, 18 February 1830, also appointed Aaron Wilhoite as attorney for Joshua Yager of Mercer County, and Joseph Yager of Lincoln County, Kentucky.

Joshua, Joseph and Daniel Yager and Rosanna Smith were children of "Blind" John Yager<sup>3</sup> (son of Adam, grandson of the immigrant Nicholas Yager). Aaron Wilhoite<sup>4</sup> was the husband of another child, Mary Yager.

The Powers of Attorney were similar. Daniel and Rosanna's document directed Aaron Wilhoite "to receive and receipt for us and in our names of Jacob Gaar of Madison County and State of Virginia, administrator of John Yager Sr. deceased all such money and property as belongs to us and either of us from the estate of our deceased father John Yager Sr." It had been signed and notarized in Oldham County, KY, on December 23, 1829.

Joshua and Joseph's document directed that Aaron "go to the State of Virginia and to collect from Jacob Gaar, living in Madison County, Virginia, and who is administrator of the estate of John Yager deceased our father, the amount of money to which we or either of us are entitled as children, heirs or devisees of the said John Yager, deceased." It had been signed and notarized in Lincoln County, KY, on December 31, 1829.

Now this got my attention.



*Yager Mountain, Madison County, Virginia*

<sup>1</sup> She was not a Germanna descendant, so that romantic story will not be told here!

<sup>2</sup> Madison County, Virginia, Deed Book 10: 394-395. County Clerk's Office, Madison, VA.

<sup>3</sup> "Blind" John Yager, son of Adam and grandson of the 1717 Germanna Colonist Nicholas, b. 15 September 1732, d. August 1826, m. 1. Mary Wilhoit about 1757, m. 2. Susanna Berry, 14 Feb. 1801, probably m. 3. Anna Kabler, 5 Aug. 1809. He had 12 children, all by first wife Mary Wilhoit — Aaron, Moses, Phebe, Amy, Joshua, Joseph, Mary, John W., Rosanna, Dinah, Barbara and Daniel. Cathi Clore Frost, *The Yager Family: the First Five Generations*, (Locust Grove, VA: The Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc, 2010), 16-19, 48-56.

<sup>4</sup> Aaron Wilhoite, b. 1767, d. 1846, Jefferson Co., KY. *Ibid*, 50. Aaron married his second wife on 1 July 1830. *Ibid*. 50. We do not know if Mary was still alive when the Power of Attorney was signed.

John W. Yager, b.  
12 Nov. 1773,  
Culpeper Co., VA, m.  
Margaret Wilhoit  
(George Wilhoit and  
Elizabeth Utz) 3 Nov.  
1791, Culpeper Co.,  
VA, d. 17 Apr. 1851,  
Jefferson Co., KY.

Diana Yager, b. 28  
Sept. 1774,  
Culpeper Co., VA, m.  
William Downing  
Smith (Downing  
Rucker Smith and  
Catherine Boehme)  
20 Dec. 1792, d. 3  
Nov. 1860, Howard  
Co., MO.

Barbara Yager, b.  
6 June 1777, m. Asa  
Smith (Downing  
Rucker Smith and  
Catherine Boehme),  
23 Feb. 1795, d.  
after 1827

First, Jacob Gaar was never involved. The administrators of Blind John's estate were Benjamin Gaar and Joel Utz.<sup>5</sup>

Second and more important, Blind John, at age 94, had died before 24 August 1826, when his will<sup>6</sup> was exhibited in Court, at least three and a half years before these two documents were recorded! To our knowledge, all proceedings concerning his estate were concluded in November, 1826.

Three years seems far too long to wait to claim a share of an estate and it seems more likely that the three year silence suggests that the "Kentucky Five" were not aware of their father's death.

Blind John's will, written in 1823, directed that his property be divided among his children, or their heirs, according to a book of accounts of property and money already given them. But the executors he had named, Benjamin Gaar and Joel Utz, refused in Court to execute the Will. At the same time, however, they asked the Court to grant them letters of administration "with the will annexed" and were so appointed.

What did this mean? We can only surmise that Gaar and Utz felt it too difficult to follow Blind John's instructions. In the three years between the making of the will and death, perhaps the book of accounts had disappeared. But perhaps more daunting, how to find the children or their heirs?

Blind John and his first wife, Mary Wilhoit, had twelve children, born between 1757 and 1779, but four died before Blind John's death.<sup>7</sup>

Of the eight remaining children, six had migrated to Kentucky. Five were those represented by Aaron Wilhoite. Joshua Yager migrated between 1790 and 1793 when a child was born in Kentucky. Joseph Yager migrated before 1792 when he married Margaret Wilhoit in Mercer Co. Mary and Aaron Wilhoite migrated between 1797 and 1810 when found on tax lists in Lincoln Co. (probably 1807 when they sold Virginia land to Blind John). Rosanna and Michael Smith migrated to Kentucky between 1802 and 1813 (most likely 1806 when they sold Virginia land).<sup>8</sup>

Another child, John W. Yager, who had not joined the "Kentucky Five," lived in Boone County, Kentucky, from 1822 through at least 1831,<sup>9</sup> when he bought land in Jefferson County, Kentucky, albeit with a mortgage.

The only children who remained in Madison County were Diana and the youngest daughter, Barbara. Both married sons of Downing Rucker Smith and Catherine Boehme. Diana was widowed in 1822 and Barbara in 1825, and Jacob Gaar *was* an administrator of Barbara's husband's estate.<sup>10</sup>

Blind John owned land on Yager Mountain, and according to tax records<sup>11</sup> at the time of his death he had 6 slaves, including his "house wench," Sarah, whom he freed in his will, and two horses. With no executors, the Court had to appoint administrators to sell the land. A court-appointed administrator owes a duty to the Court rather than to the decedent. In a small community like Madison County, this must have seemed easier than a lengthy hunt for children who were not in touch.

The Powers of Attorney suggest that, in fact, Joshua, Joseph, Daniel, Rosanna, and Mary Wilhoite were not in touch. They were unaware of their father's death, or, even if aware, they were inexplicably silent for a three year period during which they did not know who was administering the estate. The three year silence suggests that Gaar and Utz may have been justified in refusing to try to find them.

<sup>5</sup> Madison County, VA, Will Book 5: 47, Madison County, VA, Clerk's Office. This is probably Benjamin Gaar who was married to Nancy Smith, daughter of Diana Yager Smith. Frost, 254. This is probably the Joel Utz included in Claude L. Yowell, "The Utz Family of Germanna", in *Germanna Record* #10, (Culpeper, VA: The Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc., April 1967): 79. He was the son of Lewis Utz and Mary Carpenter. His wife was Margaret Carpenter, daughter of Samuel Carpenter and Dinah Christler Carpenter. Yowell, 79. He was a 1st cousin once removed to William Utz, Jonathan Utz, and Noah Utz, who were married to John W. Yager's daughters Alpha, Emily and Lavinia. He owned a parcel of land adjacent to Blind John's property, according to the description of Blind John's property, Madison County Deed Book 9: 29.

<sup>6</sup> Madison County, VA, Will Book 5: 47.

<sup>7</sup> Their two eldest sons, Aaron and Moses, died in the Revolutionary War. Frost, 46-47. Their eldest daughter, Phebe, b. abt. 1760, m. Henry Blankenbaker (Jacob Blankenbaker and Mary Margaret Thomas) migrated to Kentucky in the 1780s and it is believed she died before 1813. *Ibid.*, 47. Their second oldest daughter, Amy, b. 12 July 1762, Culpeper Co., VA, m. Samuel Blankenbaker (Jacob and Mary Margaret Thomas) abt. 1779, died 23 June 1785, Culpeper Co., VA. *Ibid.*

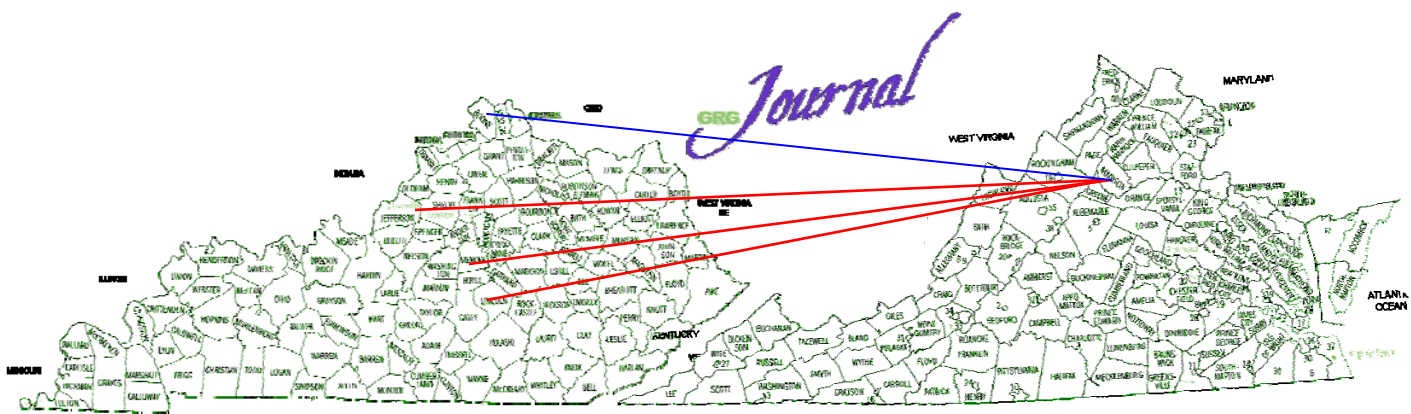
<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 49--53

<sup>9</sup> Jefferson County, KY, Deed Book EE: 400-403. Family History Library, US/CAN Film 009059.

<sup>10</sup> Frost, 55.

<sup>11</sup> Elizabeth Bates Johnson, *Following John: Documenting the Identity and Path of John Yager Born 25 November 1750 Culpeper County, Virginia and his Extended Family* (Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, 2004), 60.





Kentucky and Virginia: red lines show locations of the “Kentucky Five.” Blue line shows location of John W. Yager in Boone County, KY.

Was there a problem between Laban Yager and Blind John's freed slave, Sarah? Madison County, VA, Order Book 7, p. 16, dated 25 Jan. 1827, “Sarah (a free negro) acknowledged herself indebted to John Tyler Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and his successors in office in the sum of fifty dollars and Joseph Good her security in the sum of fifty dollars; To be levied of their goods and chattels, lands and tenements respectively and to the use of the Commonwealth rendered. But upon this condition that if the said Sarah shall be of good behavior toward all the good citizens of this Commonwealth but more particularly towards Laban Yager for and during the term of one year from this time, then this recognition to be void, otherwise to remain in full force.”

Unlike their brother John W. Yager, who did not depart for Kentucky until 1822, and whose two surviving sons remained in Virginia, the “Kentucky Five” had all migrated to Kentucky years earlier, and many if not most of their children were born there. It was probably difficult to stay in touch in the earlier years. However, transportation and communication should have improved by the 1820s. The Indians were gone. There were steamboats on the Ohio River by 1811 which would have carried mail to and from Louisville, near Oldham County, KY, and there were regular stagecoach routes for mail.<sup>12</sup> The National Road was finished to Wheeling on the Ohio River by 1821.<sup>13</sup> There were other Germanna migrants around Oldham County who might have heard the news about Blind John, who had been an important person in the Germanna community. Some Germanna men, after migration west, returned to Virginia for new brides when their exhausted earlier wives expired.<sup>14</sup>

At the time that Benjamin Gaar and Joel Utz were administering Blind John's estate, they would easily have been able to find Diana and Barbara. Also, they could find John W. Yager, despite his being in Kentucky, because his son, Laban Yager, was farming property adjacent to Blind John's plot of land.<sup>15</sup> John W. was also on good terms with Diana; he and his wife had sold their land to her husband before migration.<sup>16</sup> There would seem to be no reason why the estate proceeds could not be distributed with ease among these three.

We believe Laban would have communicated Blind John's death to his father, John W. John W.'s residence in Boone County is not so far from Oldham County, Kentucky, that word could not have travelled. But the siblings do not seem to have communicated, even though Rosanna in Kentucky and Diana in Virginia were twins; even though Aaron Wilhoite was a first cousin of Margaret Wilhoit, who was married to John W. Yager.

Could there have been a family feud? Maybe some children objected to Blind John's second wife, Susannah Berry, or Anna Kabler, believed to have been his 3rd wife. But Anna Kabler died by October 1818.<sup>17</sup> A feud seems more likely among siblings – maybe the Smith husbands of Diana and Barbara were considered outsiders, due to their English antecedents.

Why would the “Kentucky Five” be so completely cut off from their old father, who appears to have led a worthy and blameless life? One feels sad for him, and hopes that his remaining children and grandchildren in Virginia gave him happiness.

As so often happens in genealogy, discoveries may bring more questions than answers.

Benjamin Gaar and Joel Utz sold Blind John's 318 acres, on Yager Mountain, to Dinah Carpenter<sup>18</sup> for \$700.00 on 16 October 1826. No other record showing the disposition of these funds or for any other part of Blind John's estate, or lawsuit, or any report lodged with the Court whatsoever, has been located in Madison County court records, despite a search through 1832.

<sup>12</sup> *The United States Postal Service: An American History*, <<http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/pubs/pub100.pdf>>

<sup>13</sup> David Hackett Fisher and James C. Kelly, *Bound Away: Virginia and the Westward Movement*, (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2000), 224.

<sup>14</sup> Laban Yager, John W.'s son, migrated in 1836 and is found in Jefferson County in the 1840 Census; nevertheless he returned to Virginia in 1840 to marry his 3rd wife, Frances Weaver Price. John Vogt & T. William Kethley, Jr., *Madison County Marriages, 1792-1850* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1985), 83. Similar stories are told of one of Diana's Smith grandsons who travelled back to Virginia from Indiana in search of a Germanna bride. Anecdote from Debbie Smith Beheler, descendant of Diana Yager Smith.

<sup>15</sup> Madison County, VA, Deed Book 9: 29. Madison County Clerk's Office, Madison, VA. Laban later joined his father in Kentucky and was included in his will.

<sup>16</sup> Madison County, VA, Deed Book 7: 330-332. County Clerk's Office, Madison, VA.

<sup>17</sup> Frost, 16.

<sup>18</sup> Dinah Carpenter was Joel Utz' mother-in-law. Yowell, 79.

## Genealogy Meeting Notes

### National Genealogical Society Conference Charleston, South Carolina May 11-14, 2011

Attending an NGS Conference is a high point in the life of any family historian or genealogist. There are classes for beginners, for family historians, for those working to become genealogists, and for highly experienced professional genealogists. In other words, there is something for everyone.

Incredible learning events, visiting vendors' booths and actually trying out the latest genealogical software, and receiving in depth instruction on how to best use the various online search databases are some of the marvelous

opportunities awaiting you. Many genealogical and historical societies have booths and share their mission as well as offering opportunities to purchase books and other supplies.

I attended the lecture given by John Humphrey on the topic of 18<sup>th</sup> century German research. He pointed out that in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Germans did not marry someone outside their social standing. It just simply was not done. The vast majority of men followed the occupation of their father, thus generation after generation in a family would follow the same occupation.

A special highlight for me at this Conference was the opportunity to hear my Holtzclaw cousin,

Don Rightmyer, give his lecture on migration routes into Kentucky. His lecture topic is applicable to most of our Germanna families, First and Second Colonies. For those of you who haven't yet met Don, he is the editor of *Kentucky Ancestors*, an excellent publication of the Kentucky Historical Society.

While Charleston, South Carolina, has a special ambience, every city in which the Conference is held has its own charm and significance in our national story. Next year, consider attending the Conference in Cincinnati; you just might meet some Germanna cousins.

— Suzanne Collins Matson



*Vendor's Hall at PalAm meeting in Pittsburgh, June 2011.*

### Palatines To America Conference

June 2-4, 2011  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

It was a surprise that while attending a conference about Germans who migrated to America, I found the land patent of a Scots-Irish ancestor in Washington County, Pennsylvania! But such are the vagaries of genealogy and the result of the excellent Vendors' Hall at the annual meeting of the Palatines to America, which was co-sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Genealogy Society.

John Humphrey spoke at the German research track; while a second track concerned more local matters. Repeating some remarks made at the NGS meeting, Humphrey also taught us some of the mysteries of German *fraktur* typography used in German language newspapers published in the United States.

James M. Beidenger gave some general background — 80,000 German immigrants came to North America in the colonial period — and, discussing 18<sup>th</sup> century accounts of the journey to the New World, stated that

Gottfried Mittelberger, who in the 18<sup>th</sup> century wrote a terrifying report about migration to America, was paid to be terrifying by German nobles hoping to prevent migration.

Registrants received a CD containing handouts or outlines, some of which contain valuable references to websites and books.

The Pittsburgh location and weather could not have been more delightful.

— Virginia Rhodes Nuta

# Jacob Fishback: Wagoneer and Revolutionary War Patriot

By Suzanne Collins Matson

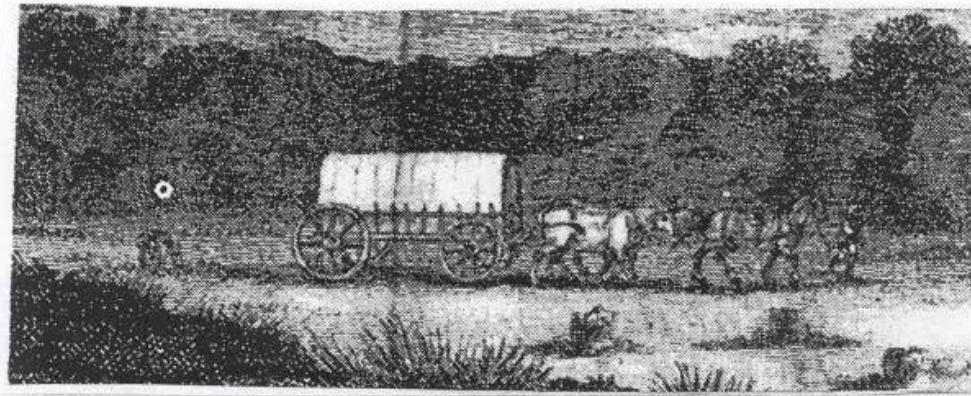
Jacob Fishback, b.  
about 1745, Prince  
William County, VA,  
m. Hannah Huffman,  
Culpeper Co., VA, d.  
30 March 1826,  
Highland Co., OH.

It is with great pride that we look back on ancestors who participated in the American Revolutionary War as we know their participation contributed to the creation of the greatest country the world has ever known. Our ancestors, however, didn't have the benefit of knowing the outcome and thus we can better appreciate what they did by understanding that they were risking it all to participate in what seemed to many at the time a very risky proposition. As we examine the various Germana individuals who were veterans of that great conflict, we can add some texture to the names on our genealogy charts and perhaps better appreciate the history and blessings we enjoy today.

One such veteran was Jacob Fishback, the son of John Fishback and Kathrina Unknown, grandson of Hermann Fischbach, the 1714 immigrant. Jacob was born about 1749 in Culpeper County or Orange County, Virginia,<sup>1</sup> and died 30 March 1826 in Highland County, Ohio. He served as a private

in two separate enlistments with different regiments during the Revolutionary War. Enlistment periods were shorter than what we are accustomed to today so multiple enlistments were not uncommon.

He served his first enlistment in Colonel Barber's [Barbour] Regiment for eighteen months beginning in 1779. Jacob enlisted in Culpeper County, Virginia, in the company commanded by Captain Wails of the regiment commanded by Colonel James Barbour on 14 April 1779. Immediately after his enlistment, the regiment wintered at Peters-



*Drawing from Thomas Anbury, "Encampment of the Convention Army at Charlotte Ville in Virginia" (circa 1779-1780). See a detailed discussion of wagons used by the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War at <http://www.continentalline.org/articles/article.php?date=9902&article=990202>.*

burg. It is unclear from the record whether Jacob Fishback returned home before his second enlistment.

In the spring of 1780, Jacob enlisted the second time for the war in Captain Clough Shelton's company and the regiment commanded by Colonel Hith. This regiment marched to Cumberland Court House, Chesterfield Court House, and several other unnamed places in Virginia. In 1782, Jacob marched to Georgia and South Carolina under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Posey and served as a wagoneer until the fall of 1783.

Jacob Fishback began the application process for a pension by appearing in the Court of Common Pleas for Highland County, Ohio, on 16 March 1819 and giving a statement of his Revolutionary War service, signing the affidavit by mark. The judge, John Thompson of the Second Circuit, at that time stated that he doubted that Jacob Fishback needed "the assistance of his Country for support." Jacob did not mention his wife, Hannah,<sup>2</sup> in his affidavit for a pension but did name his two children,

<sup>1</sup> Since Jacob Fishback gave his age as 70 years old in the affidavit, he was born about 1749. A more precise date and location cannot be determined at this time.

<sup>2</sup> Jacob Fishback & Hannah Huffman were married 3 Oct 1788 by William Carpenter (Lutheran). Source: John Vogt and T. William Kethley, Jr., *Culpeper County Marriages 1780-1853* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1984), 34, 117.



John, age 23, and Rosannah,<sup>3</sup> age 20.

A statement supplied by the clerk of the court of Highland County, Ohio, and dated 25 July 1820 listed Jacob Fishback's personal property: one pot, one small oven, six knives and forks, two plates, one dish, seven spoons, one Bible, one prayer book, one Dutch Bible, and one Dutch hymnbook. The court declared his personal property worth no more than fifteen dollars. *[Note: The fact that books were listed as part of his personal property does not prove that Jacob was literate. It proves only that he owned those books.]*

Jacob Fishback received his pension 29 May 1820 in the amount of \$96 per year and was granted payment in arrears going back to 16 March 1819. The pension payments continued until his death in March 1826.

On 2 November 1857, John Fishback, son of the Revolutionary War Patriot Jacob Fishback, filed an affidavit in Probate Court in Highland County, Ohio, in order to receive the pension that would have come to his mother, Hannah, as the widow of Jacob Fishback. While Jacob Fishback did not mention his wife in his pension affidavit, his son, John, did name her. According to John Fishback, his mother was Hannah Huffman who had married Jacob Fishback in 1787 in Madison County, Virginia.<sup>4</sup> There were only two children named, John and Rosa, [referred to as Rosannah by Jacob in his pension affidavit]. John did not mention his own family but did indicate that his sister Rosa never married and died leaving a child, Mary Ann. John Fishback signed his affidavit by mark.

At the time John Fishback filed to receive the pension that would have been due his mother, he stated that he was the only surviving heir, but that the daughter of his sister was also living and residing in Highland County, Ohio. His mother had died around 15 September 1839. His sister, Rosa, had died prior to the death of their mother in September 1839 according to an additional statement attached to the pension application.

On 1 February 1858, the Pension office denied John Fishback's petition to receive the pension that would have been due his mother had she applied for it. This decision conformed to the opinion of the Attorney General of the United States "that children of revolutionary soldiers and their widows, cannot establish and recover pension which might have been payable to their parents...."

This pension record raises some questions. Why didn't Jacob Fishback mention his wife in his pension affidavit? Was Jacob Fishback literate but perhaps could no longer see well enough to sign his name and thus signed by mark? Were the books he owned precious family heirlooms that he kept even though he couldn't read?

The more we learn the more questions we have which makes the study of the past a constantly evolving effort with ever more things to learn.

<sup>3</sup> The daughter, Rosa or Rosannah, and her child, Mary Ann, are not given in the book *Genealogy of the Fishback Family: The Descendants of Harman Fishback, The Emigrant with Additional Data*, compiled and edited by Reuben Dewitt Fishback and published by Thomas Madison Taylor, New York, 1926.

<sup>4</sup> Culpeper County was formed from Orange County 17 May 1749.

*Pension Application of Jacob Fishback, Revolutionary War Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, RG 15, M804, NARA, R3562. The "R" indicates a rejected pension claim, but in this case, it refers to the application of John Fishback, son of Jacob Fishback, the Revolutionary War Patriot. The last action taken in the pension file determines the letter which precedes the file number. The places of service, his personal property, and the names of his children are all taken from documents in this pension file.*

## 1739—Spotswood Moves On

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*No one will be received for a Tenant, who has not the Character of an industrious Man.*

*Virginia Gazette on Oct 26 1739 and again on Nov 9 1739*



# Inaugural Conference

Graves' Mountain Lodge, Syria (Madison County), Virginia  
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A conference directory will be prepared with attendees' names, email addresses and ancestor information where applicable. Please advise GRG if you do not wish to be included in the directory, at [vrnuta@verizon.net](mailto:vrnuta@verizon.net).

Attendees who stay on Friday and Saturday night at the Graves' Mountain Lodge will have their Conference meals included in the price of the rooms. Call now for room reservations! The Lodge is very popular in the autumn. Please mention GRG so that your meeting meals will be included in our counts. Call 1-540-923-4231. [www.gravesmountainlodge.com](http://www.gravesmountainlodge.com).

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