

-DRAFT- Fleming Ancestry DNA analysis

by James Michael Fleming

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During 2019 I started to analyse DNA links to see what light they could shed on my paternal ancestry – the Fleming line. Towards that end, this research report documents my family's DNA matches, my associated research and the conclusions I have drawn. It also outlines what further work could be done.



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Researching: Bowen, Flowerdew, Gardner, Gordon, Grady, Hanrahan, Jolliffe, Kemp, Kessey, Murphy, Poulton, Press and so many more!

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Our DNA samples

In early 2019 my siblings submitted three DNA samples for analysis by laboratories that focus on genealogical research. These samples supplemented my own yDNA test that was submitted several years ago. So, now we have undertaken four DNA tests altogether:

- 2019 – MtDNA test through Family Tree DNA – sample supplied by Peta
- 2019 – yDNA test on 111 locations through Family Tree DNA – sample: Patrick
- Years ago – yDNA test on 44 locations – sample: Jim
- 2019 – Autosomal DNA test through Ancestry.com – sample: Shae

Mitochondrial DNA

Peta supplied the MtDNA sample, but it would have been the same if it had been supplied by Jim, Shae or Patrick. This is because the Mitochondrial DNA is inherited from the mother. None of it came from Dad. This test is not suitable for finding cousins with whom we share ancestors; but it does provide an overview of our ancient heritage on the maternal branch of the family tree.

The mtDNA from Peta is classified to haplogroup T. This means that our maternal ancestors migrated out of Africa to the middle east (around Turkey) and then on to Germany. Haplogroup T is present in modern day populations in western Europe, northern Europe and the middle east. This result is consistent with our expectation of a Western European origin (based on known family history).

yDNA

Patrick provided the recent yDNA sample, but it would have been much the same if it had been supplied by Jim; by Patrick's son, Jed; by our uncle Geoff Fleming or his son David; or by our cousin Barry Fleming. This test may be the most useful for finding distant Fleming cousins and hence clues to our paternal ancestry.

The Y-DNA test indicates our paternal ancestry. Our father, paternal grandfather and earlier paternal generations would have had much the same yDNA. In fact, all our Fleming ancestors would have had much the same yDNA (albeit it can change slightly over a long time due to natural mutations than can occur once every few generations).

FamilyTreeDNA classified our yDNA to haplogroup R-M269. Note that this haplogroup is different from the MtDNA one (Peta's test) because the ancient origins on the paternal side could be completely different from those on the maternal side. For example, a person could have an African father and a Japanese mother.

Haplogroup R-M269 is the dominant lineage across all Western Europe. This haplogroup is also known as R1b1a1a2, a sub-clade of human Y-chromosome haplogroup R1b. It is found in low frequencies in Turkey and the northern Fertile Crescent, while its highest frequencies are in Western Europe. So, as it happens, both our MtDNA and Y-DNA haplogroups are associated with Western Europe. The migration paths (out of Africa) for both these haplogroups are very similar.

This result is (as expected) consistent with the haplogroup finding from the yDNA test that I took some years ago. That test suggested a haplogroup of R1b; Patrick's much more detailed test has allowed us to drill down further along branch R1b to twig R1b1a1a2.

More recently I have arranged for a more detailed analysis of Patrick's sample (the BigY700 test), but the results are not yet available.

Autosomal DNA

My sister, Shae, provided the sample for the Autosomal DNA test. This comes 50/50 from each parent. This test is most useful for finding cousins (on all branches) with whom we share recent ancestors; and it also provides a view of our ancient heritage across all branches of the family tree.

DNA matches

The point of analysing DNA matches is to look for clues that may help in finding a common ancestor. So, for each match, we compare their earliest known ancestry (EKA) to ours.

Our earliest-known Fleming ancestor

Our Fleming ancestry in Scotland is as follows:

- Charles Taylor Fleming b 1878 Glasgow d 1937 Australia
- Charles Fleming b 1854 Coatbridge, Lanark d 1928 New Zealand
- Angus Fleming b 1831 Cambuslang, Lanark d circa 1882 Scotland
- Angus Fleming b 1800 Cambuslang, Lanark d 1837 Cambuslang, Lanark
- James Fleming b 1761 Stonehouse, Lanark
- Robert Fleming who married Janet Hamilton at Avondale on 7 Apr 1752

So, our earliest known Fleming ancestor is Robert Fleming of Stonehouse Lanark who was probably born there around 1720-25.

yDNA matches

FamilyTreeDNA compares our Y-DNA result to all the other test results that it holds in its database to see if there are any close matches. They give matches at five different levels, depending on whether they match on 12, 25, 37, 67 or 111 markers. This is because the number of markers examined has increased over time, but they retain the early samples in their database. We would expect the closest relatives to match on the greatest percentage of markers.

For each match, it allocates a measure of genetic distance. Genetic Distance is the number of differences, or mutations, between two sets of results. A genetic distance of zero means there are no differences in the results being compared against one another, i.e., an exact match.

While the yDNA follows the paternal line, so too does the surname. So, crucially, if our yDNA matches with the yDNA of another person named Fleming, this is a double clue that we share a common ancestor with that other person. Hence, it can be very useful when looking for clues about our very early Fleming heritage.

In our case we have 979 matches altogether, but many of these have a relatively high genetic difference; or have tested only 12 markers, which is practically useless. The significant matches comprise:

- Donald III Fleming (66 of 67 markers);
- Antony Fleming (36 of 37); and
- Robert Bruce Fleming (11 of 12).

To these we need to add the case of William Robert (Bill) Fleming of Missouri USA who had previously matched my yDNA sample on all 26 of the markers that Bill had tested.

The remaining yDNA matches (970 odd) are not Flemings and must, therefore, have had one or more non-paternity events in their ancestry. I expand on this group of matches in the section headed "Non-Fleming yDNA matches" later in this report.

Autosomal DNA matches

The autosomal test was arranged through Ancestry.com and has resulted in hundreds of matches. Among these are 386 that are estimated to be 4th cousins or closer. But our search for Fleming ancestors needs to extend well beyond 4th cousins.

In assessing each DNA match, I focussed on their earliest known ancestry as I looked for a link to our Fleming family of Lanarkshire. Accordingly, I focussed on matches with people named Fleming.

The autosomal matches could be a cousin on any of our many ancestral branches. In order to focus on Fleming cousins, I employed two search techniques:

1. I looked for matches whose surname was Fleming; and
2. I looked for matches who had Fleming in their Ancestry.com family tree.

In taking this approach, I kept in mind that the fact that their surname is Fleming or that they have a Fleming ancestor does not mean that an autosomal DNA match relates to the Fleming family. For example, bpalmo40 matches on 28 cM across 3 segments and has 9 Flemings in her tree, including her ancestor John Fleming (born Glasgow 1712). But the DNA match is much more likely to result from the fact that she is my 2nd cousin once removed on my Gardner line (from my GG-grandparents Attwood Charles Gardner and Frances Kemp).

Similarly, cajungumnuts matches on 20 cM across 3 segments and has 8 Flemings in her tree including her ancestor Robert Douglas Mines Fleming (born Sydney 1936). But the DNA link is likely to be a result of the fact that she is my 3rd cousin once removed on my Kessey line (from my GGG-grandparents Thomas Cassey and Judith Grady).

There are other examples as well.

Nevertheless, search number 1 identified 12 distant cousins whose surname is Fleming. I have written to all of these and received 2 responses.

Search number 2 revealed scores of matches who had Fleming somewhere in their tree. These Flemings may or may not have been an ancestor of the person to whom we have a match. I trawled through these looking for Scottish Flemings, especially those from Lanark.



Map showing the main counties of origin of Scotland-origin Fleming DNA matches
Most matches relate to the adjacent counties of Lanark, Stirling, Dunbarton and Renfrew.

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Match #	CNames	Surname	cM	Segs	EKA	Summary
	Total matches					
L1	William Robert	Fleming			William Fleming & Isobel Stirling	Bill Fleming & Gretchen Stone
L2	Antony	Fleming			James Fleming & Isobel Dyer/Dyet	Tony Fleming
LA	Greg	Wilson	13	1	Margaret Fleming 1755 - married in Avondale	Hasn't gone back further
LB	Mary Lynn	Brown	12	1	James Fleming & Isobel Dyer/Dyet	Dau of Roy Brown - F ancestry Lanark
LC	Roy	Brown	12	1	James Fleming & Isabel Dyer => John Fleeming & Chirstan Grant	Very doubtful - F ancestry Lanark
LD	M	A	11	1	Robert Fleming b ca 1795 Lanarkshire m 6 Jun 1830 Ann Hamilton	F x 3 in Lanark
LE		Quinners	11	1	James Fleming & Mary Sinclair	Guesswork?
LF	R	S	10	1	Margaret Fleming b20/5/1714 EK m 19/3/1747 EK d 1795 Kity side	
LG	DWP	Martin	9	1	John Fleming b ca 1685 Auldstone, Stonehouse, Lanark	Good - F x 3 in Lanark
LH	Jennie	Westfall	9	1	John Fleming b 20/4/1689 EK m 15/2/1712 EK to ?	Good
LI	B	Crooks	8	1	William Fleming & Isobel Stirling	
OA	Robert Bruce	Fleming			John Fleming, London, bc1610 d1657	No response - email address?
OB	C	N	10	1	Margaret Fleming b1788 Northumberland m1805 d 15/12/1857 Tweedsmouth Northumberland	
OC	Joan	Owens	17	1	Margaret Fleming 1701-1801	Ireland
OD	Mark	McAuliffe	14	1	Enid Mary Fleming, b 17/10/1913 Wangaratta - 2/3/1988	F ancestry before Australia unclear
OE	Elizabeth	Malthouse	13	1	Jessie McDonald Fleming b ca 1900	F ancestry still unclear
OF	Barb	Fleming	9	1		
OG	Kevin	Fleming	7	2	Martin Fleming, Ireland 1752-	
OH	Kelley	Fleming	7	1	Kenneth Sherman J Fleming d 2009	
OI	Lynda	Fleming	7	1		
OJ	Darren	Fleming	7	1		
OK	Donna	Fleming	6	1	Thomas Fleming b 25/11/1826 England d 27/6/1883 Mass	
OL	Jade	Fleming	6	1		
OM	Terri	Fleming	6	1		
ON	M	B	8	1	Thomas Flemming 1823 (Cork) - > 1880 Lebanon NY	
OP	James	Fleming	7	1	Thomas Nelson Fleming	Brick wall. Jim Fleming has ordered a yDNA test, as I suggested
OQ	Ian	Fleming	6	1	No known link	Suggested he do a yDNA test and join Fleming project
OR	Patric	Brandon				
SA	Francis Brian	Francis Brian	8	1	well documented back to Malcolm Fleming b1670 Derry Ioran, Ireland. Claims descent from Earls of Wigtown	Disputed Will get back to me
SB		Stewart	12	1	John Fleming 1634-1665 Cumbernauld	
SC	H H	Compton	11	2	Alexander Fleming b1612 Cumbernauld d 1688 Rappahannock Virginia m 1632 Margaret Livingston	
SD	Terry	Kennedy	10	1	John Wigton Fleming b 4/11/1697 Virginia d 6/11/1756 Virginia	
SE	Orilla	Johnson	8	1	James Fleeming b ca 1717 Kilsyth Stirlingshire m 31/12/1739 Cumbernauld	
SF	B	B	13	1	John Fleming b 28/5/1744 Denny Stirlingshire m 22/5/1761 Jean Mary Bryson	9 miles Cumbernauld
XA	Donald III	Fleming			Col. James Fleming	Don Fleming
XB	D	D	8	1	Elizabeth Fleming b 1801 Lochwinnoch Renfrewshire	Close
XC	Chris	Edgar	10	1	David Fleming b ca 1790 Paisley Renfrewshire m 3/6/1818 Bo'Ness to Grace Ross d 1859	
XD	Heather	Fleming	6	1	Alexander Fleming, Scotland 1864	
XF	G	Fleming	8	1	Fleming surname - John Fleming Scotland ca 1800	

Chart summarising the main DNA matches.

Key: **Bold red text with a blue background** – yDNA matches
Orange background – Autosomal DNA matches

Analysing DNA matches

I have grouped the DNA matches (whether yDNA or autosomal DNA) by the origin of the earliest known ancestor. The groups are:

- **Group L** - Lanarkshire, Scotland – where our Flemings came from; and it is also the location of Biggar, the earliest seat of the aristocratic Fleming family of Scotland;
- **Group S** – Stirlingshire (which borders Lanark to the north) and Dunbartonshire (which borders both Stirlingshire and Lanarkshire on the west); note that the main seat of the aristocratic Fleming family of Scotland was Cumbernauld, which is in the part of Dunbartonshire that is sandwiched between Lanarkshire and Stirlingshire;
- **Group X** - Scotland Other, including Renfrewshire – the county that borders Lanarkshire and Dunbartonshire to the west; and
- **Group O** – Other origins, or unknown.

Group L – Lanarkshire matches

There were two yDNA and several autosomal DNA matches whose earliest known ancestor lived in Lanarkshire where our Fleming ancestors came from.

yDNA match L1 – Bill Fleming (Missouri)

Our first match is with the late William Robert (Bill) Fleming of Missouri USA (who was born in Kansas). His yDNA matched with mine on all 26 markers that Bill had tested.

Since Bill Fleming passed away, I have been in contact with his daughter (Gretchen Stone) and his sons (William and Randall Fleming).

I worked with Bill to search for a common ancestor. Bill traced his Fleming ancestry as follows (where the details in italics are more recent research findings):

- Robert Crawford Fleming (b. 1871 Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland)
- William Fleming (b. 1849 Blantyre, Lanark, Scotland) m. Mary Bryce
- Robert Fleming (b. 1823 East Kilbride, Lanark) – at Blantyre in 1841 - m Agnes Morton
- William Fleming (b. 1796 East Kilbride, Lanark) m Isabella Stirling
- David Fleming (*b. 1764 East Kilbride, Lanark*) m *Janet Arbuckle*

So, Bill's earliest known ancestor (David Fleming) was born at East Kilbride. This is just 12 miles from Stonehouse (where Robert Fleming, my earliest-known Fleming ancestor originated from). Both Bill's family and mine were later also associated with Blantyre (where David's grandson Robert and G-grandson William were recorded on the 1841 census). It seems that we are close to finding a common ancestor, but we are not there yet.

I am in touch with Pat Thomson who is also descended from David Fleming and Janet Arbuckle. Pat has done very extensive research on the Fleming families in Lanarkshire.

yDNA match L2 – Antony Fleming (California)

Our second match is with Antony Fleming of California USA. According to FamilyTreeDNA we match on 36 out of 37 markers.

I wrote to Antony and received back an email that summarised his Fleming ancestry as follows:

- Donald Fleming (b 1900 at Carmuir's Farm, Larbert, Stirlingshire)
- William Fleming (1862-1936) m Elizabeth McKechnie.

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Based on that information I managed to trace Antony's Fleming ancestry back a further three generations, as follows:

- Donald Fleming (b 1900 at Carmuir's Farm, Larbert, Stirlingshire)
- William Fleming (1862-1936) – m Elizabeth McKechnie
- James Fleming (1824-1915) – baptised at East Kilbride, Lanark – married Alison Duncan
- Alexander Fleming (1797-) - baptised at East Kilbride, Lanark - married Marion Young
- James Fleming (born at Carmunnock) – married Isobel Dyer or Dyet.

So, Antony Fleming's earliest known ancestor was James Fleming who was born at Carmunnock, just 16 miles north-west of Stonehouse where my earliest Flemings originated from; and just 4 miles from East Kilbride where (match L1) Bill Fleming's Fleming ancestors came from. Again, while this is encouraging, we have yet to identify a common ancestor.

Autosomal match LA – Greg Wilson

Greg Wilson matches on 13 cM over 1 segment. He descends from Margaret Fleming who married Archibald Walker at Avondale in 1776. (There were five Margaret Flemings born in Avondale in the 1750s – to 2 x James; 2 x John and 1 x David.) Avondale (now Strathaven) is just 4 miles from Stonehouse where my ancestor Robert Fleming came from. It is possible that Margaret Fleming was Robert Fleming's cousin or niece; or even his daughter.

Autosomal matches LB and LC – Roy and Mary Lynn Brown

Roy Brown (and his daughter Mary Lynn) both match on 12 cM over 1 segment. They claim to be descended from James Fleming and Isobel Dyer (or Dyet). Note that James and Isobel are also ancestors of Antony Fleming (see Match L2 above). Unfortunately, Mary Lynn was unable to assist further; and Roy has not responded.

Roy's tree on Ancestry indicates that James Fleming was a son of John Fleeming and Chirstan Grant, but this information is not sourced. Without source details this seems unlikely, since that couple was associated with Banff, which is 250 km from Carmunnock where James Fleming was born. It seems much more likely that he was the James Fleming who was born at Carmunnock in 1744 (father, James Fleeming; mother unrecorded). His children were born at Carmunnock.

Autosomal match LD – MA

MA matches on 11 cM over 1 segment. They trace their descent through three generations of Flemings who were all born in Lanark. The earliest of these was Robert Fleming who was born about 1795 and whose marriage to Ann Hamilton was recorded at Stonehouse on 5 June 1830 and at nearby Hamilton the following day. It seems very likely that this Robert Fleming from Stonehouse was related in some way to my ancestor (Robert Fleming of Stonehouse) who was born a century earlier. There may also be a link on the Hamilton side.

Autosomal match LF – Andrea Speirs

RS matches on 10 cM over 1 segment. They trace their descent through Margaret Fleeming (who was baptised at East Kilbride on 20 May 1714) and her father John Fleeming. East Kilbride is just 12 miles from Stonehouse (where Robert Fleming, my earliest-known Fleming ancestor, originated from).

Autosomal match LG – Darren Martin

Darren Martin matches on 9 cM over 1 segment and claims descent from John Fleming who was born in about 1685 at Auldstone, Stonehouse, Lanark. Could this John Fleming be the father of my Robert Fleming who was about 40 years younger and lived in the same place? I know that my Robert Fleming named his eldest son John.

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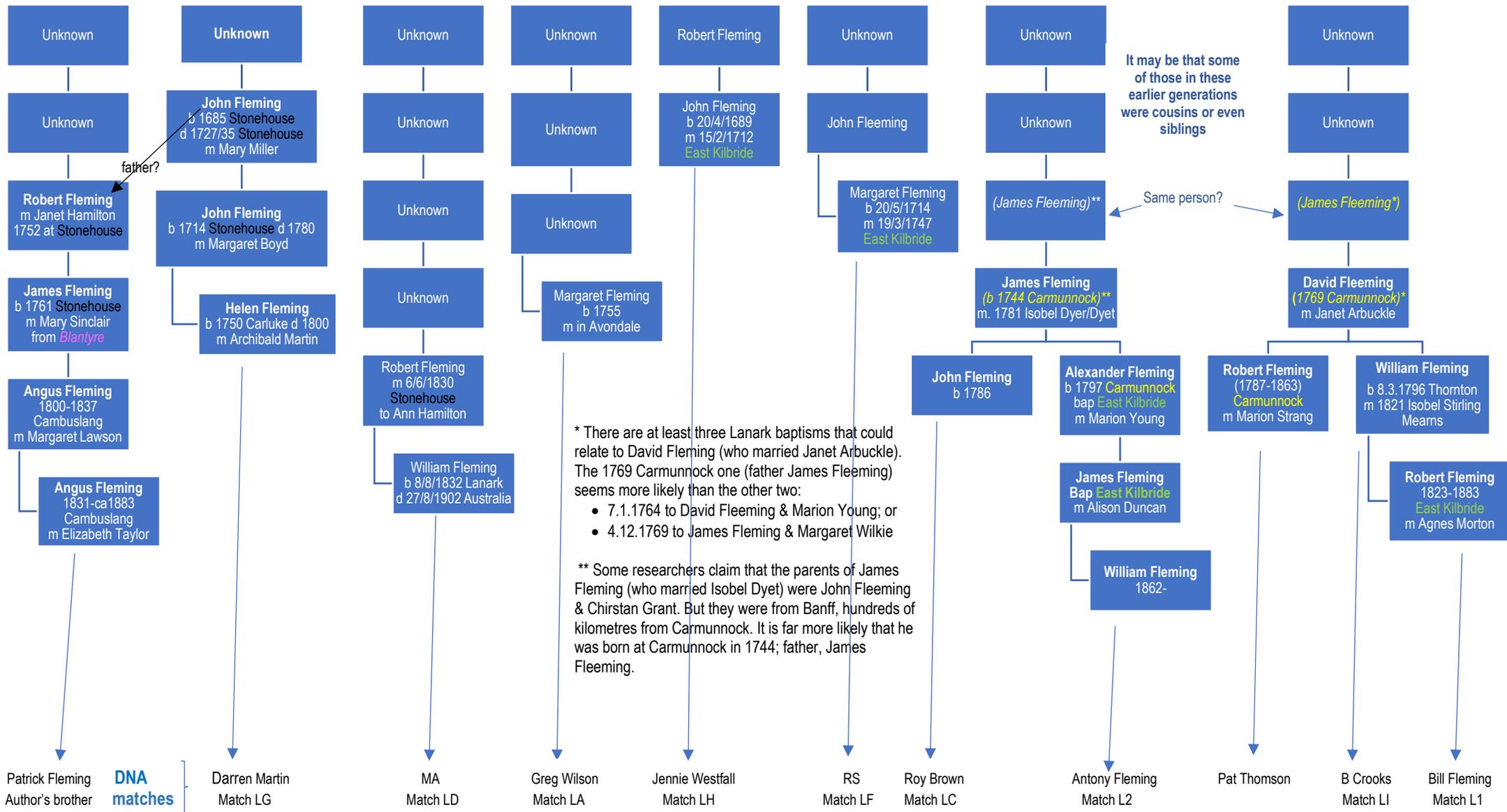


Chart 1: Summary of significant Lanarkshire DNA matches

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Autosomal match LH – Jennie Westfall

Jennie Westfall matches on 9 cM over 1 segment. She traces her Fleming descent from John Fleeming who was baptised at East Kilbride on 28 May 1689; and his father Robert Fleeming.

Autosomal match LI – B Crooks

B Crooks matches on 8 cM over 1 segment and claims to be descended from William Fleming and Isobel Stirling. Note that William and Isobel are also ancestors of Bill Fleming (see Match L1 above). Unfortunately, I have not yet had a response to my email.

Group S – Stirlingshire and Dunbartonshire matches

Cumbernauld, the main seat of the aristocratic Fleming family of Scotland, is in Dunbartonshire, with parts of Stirlingshire very close by. Several autosomal DNA matches claim that their earliest known Fleming ancestor came from the general Cumbernauld area.

Autosomal match SA – Francis Brian DeHart

Francis Brian DeHart matches on 8 cM over 1 segment. He has traced his ancestry back to Malcolm Fleming (born 1670 at Derryloran, Ireland) and claims descent from the Earls of Wigtown (Scotland). He has responded to my email with an undertaking to provide details in a few weeks.

Autosomal match SB – Stewart

Stewart matches on 12 cM over 1 segment and claims descent from John Fleming (1634-1665) of Cumbernauld.

The critical link in Stewart's claimed Fleming line is from Alexander Fleming (1711-1770) of Delaware and Virginia (USA) to his claimed father William Fleming (1691-1766) who was apparently born at Kirkintilloch (Scotland) and died at Derryloran (Ireland). Note that Derryloran is also associated with match SA above.

There are no sources quoted, however, that place William Fleming in the USA where he is supposed to have fathered Alexander; so, this link seems, on the face of it, to be speculative. I have not yet had a response to my email.

Autosomal match SC – HH Compton

HH Compton matches on 11 cM over 2 segments and claims to be descended from Captain Alexander Fleming (born 1612 at Cumbernauld), a son of John Fleming (2nd Earl of Wigtown) and Margaret Livingston. Alexander Fleming is said to have died in 1688 at Rappahannock, Virginia, USA. This is a particularly interesting match because of the association with the aristocratic Fleming family of Scotland (the Lords Fleming). Descent of Captain Alexander Fleming from the Earls of Wigtown is, however, questioned¹.

¹ See <https://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/fleming/5512/> and <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Fleming-26>. It is difficult (and probably impossible) to find documentary evidence of such links four hundred years later. In my opinion, it is reasonable for genealogists to step down from a proof standard of "beyond reasonable doubt" to "on the balance of probabilities" in these circumstances. Otherwise, documentary brick walls are insurmountable. For this reason, while I respect those who question the link between John Fleming (1633-1686) and his supposed grandfather John Fleming (2nd Earl of Wigtown), there is, nevertheless, good circumstantial evidence for the links. The new science of DNA analysis has a role to play in providing supporting evidence in such cases.

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Some researchers are not convinced that John Fleming (1633-1686) is a son of Captain Alexander Fleming; nor that Captain Alexander Fleming is the same person as Alexander Fleming, the second son of John Fleming (2nd Earl of Wigton). I contend that DNA analysis can contribute to resolving this dispute, hence my interest in working with HH Compton. Unfortunately, I have not yet had a response to my email.

Autosomal match SD – Terry Kennedy

Terry Kennedy matches on 10 cM over 1 segment and claims descent from John Wigton Fleming (born 4 Nov 1697, died 6 Nov 1756 Virginia, USA). This is an interesting case because of the middle name “Wigton” which is reminiscent of the Fleming family’s title as Earls of Wigton. I have not yet had a response to my email.

Autosomal match SE – Orilla Johnson

Orilla Johnson matches on 8 cM over 1 segment. She also claims descent from the Cumbernauld Flemings, through Jean Fleming who was born at Cumbernauld on 15 Mar 1781 to John Fleming and Jean Moffat. John Fleming was baptised at Kilsyth (near Cumbernauld) on 6 Jan 1754 and his father James Fleeming was born circa 1717 at Kilsyth. I have not yet had a response to my email.

Autosomal match SF - BB

BB matches on 13 cM over 1 segment. They claim descent from John Fleming who was born at Denny (Stirlingshire) on 28 May 1744 and who, at aged 17, married Jean Mary Bryson on 22 May 1761. Denny is about 12 km from Cumbernauld.

Group X – Other Scotland matches

There was one yDNA and several autosomal DNA matches whose earliest known ancestor lived in other parts of Scotland.

yDNA match XA – Donald Fleming III (Australia)

Our closest yDNA match is with Donald Fleming III of Australia. According to FamilyTreeDNA we match on 66 out of 67 markers; a very close match that means that there is a 95% likelihood of a common ancestor within 8 generations.

While both Don and I are Australians, I knew that there was no common ancestor in Australia, because I know all the descendants of my GG-grandfather Charles Fleming (1854-1928) who was the first member of his family to emigrate to Australia.

I wrote to Don and received an email from his wife (Carmen) that summarised his Fleming ancestry as follows:

He is descended from a Duncan Fleming b 1871 -1941 and Jess Orr (Duncan’s parents were Donald Fleming and Sarah McDonald).

Based on that information I managed to trace Don’s Fleming ancestry back a further three generations², as follows:

- Duncan Fleming (1872-1941) m Jess Orr
- Donald Fleming (1838->1881) m Sarah McDonald and Flora MacKinnon
- James William Fleming (c 1818->1865) x Catherine McColl
- Colonel James Fleming (1783 Inveraray -1859) x Elizabeth Sewell
- John Fleming (c 1760->1783) m Mary Monroe

² I recorded this research in my report entitled *Fleming Don ancestry.docx*
Fleming Ancestry DNA analysis.docx
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Colonel James Fleming was born at Inveraray in Argyllshire in 1783 to John Fleming (a jeweller) and Mary Monroe. He later inherited a large estate at Kinlochlaich from his mother's side of the family (the Monroes). His son (James William Fleming, a regimental doctor) was illegitimate and could not, therefore, inherit Kinlochlaich. His son Donald Fleming (also illegitimate) was born at Lismore in Argyll and was raised by his mother and grandmother, both named Catherine McColl.

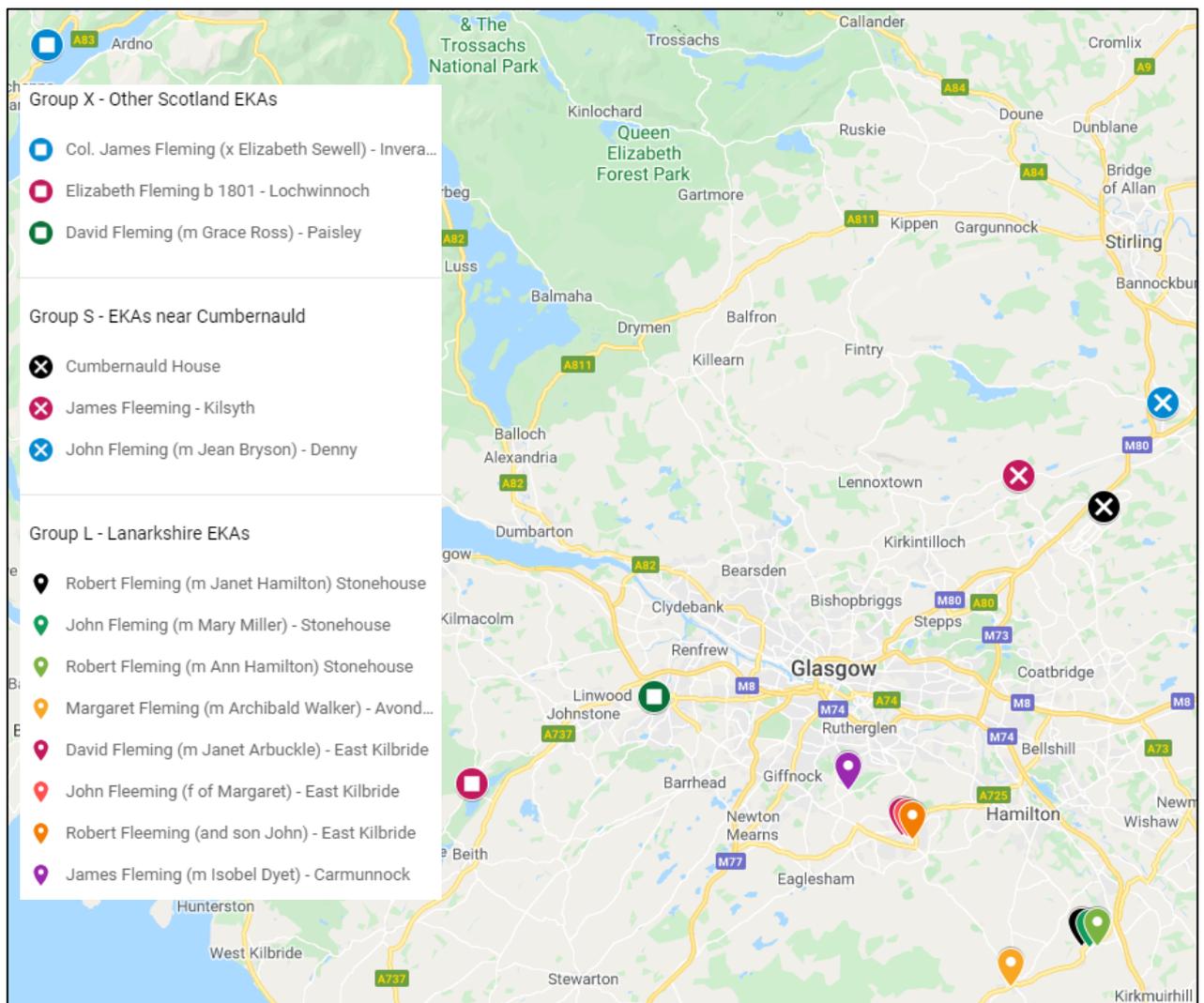
So, Colonel James Fleming was born at Inveraray (Argyll), 113 km north west of Blantyre. Apart from this DNA match, there is no apparent link to our Fleming Family of Lanarkshire. It seems that the common ancestor was somewhat further back in history.

Autosomal match XB – Jenna Davidson

The DNA sample managed by Jenna Davidson matches ours on 8 cM over 1 segment. The earliest known ancestor is Elizabeth Fleming who was born at Lochwinnoch (Renfrewshire) in 1801. She married Matthew Campbell. Lochwinnoch is 35 miles from Stonehouse. She has replied to my email and is interested in the outcome of this project.

Autosomal match XC – Chris Edgar

Chris Edgar traces his ancestry to David Fleming who was born at Paisley (Renfrewshire) in about 1790 and who married Grace Ross at Bo'ness in 1818. Paisley is 25 miles from Stonehouse. He has not responded to my email.



Map summarising the origins of the earliest known ancestors of our main DNA matches.

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Autosomal match XD – Heather Fleming

Heather Fleming, who matches ours on 6 cM over 1 segment, traces her ancestry to Alexander Fleming (Scotland, 1864). I have not had a reply to my email.

Autosomal match XF – G Fleming

G Fleming, who matches our sample on 8 cM over 1 segment, traces their ancestry to John Fleming (Scotland, 1800). I have not had a reply to my email.

Group O – Other matches

There were some autosomal DNA matches whose earliest known ancestor lived in other parts of the United Kingdom or Ireland.

yDNA match OA – Robert Bruce Fleming - London

Our fourth yDNA match is with Robert Bruce Fleming. According to FamilyTreeDNA we match on 11 out of 12 markers. I have sent two emails but have not received a response.

The details for this match indicate that his earliest known ancestor was John Fleming of London (born about 1610 and died 1657). So, like match XA above, it seems that the common ancestor is well back in history.

Autosomal match OB – Deb Noonan

The DNA sample managed by Deb Noonan matches ours on 10 cM over 1 segment. The earliest known ancestor is Margaret Fleming who was born in Northumberland in 1788. I have recently sent an email.

Autosomal match OC – Joan Owens

The DNA sample managed by Joan Owens matches ours on 17 cM over 1 segment. The earliest known ancestor is Margaret Fleming (1701-1801) who originated in Derry, Ireland.

Autosomal match OD – Mark McAuliffe

The DNA sample managed by Mark McAuliffe matches ours on 14 cM over 1 segment. The earliest known ancestor is Enid Mary Fleming who was born in Australia in 1913. Mark is not aware of earlier ancestry.

Autosomal match OG – Kevin Fleming - Ireland

There is also the interesting case of Kevin Fleming who matches us on 7 cM over 2 segments. He claims to descend from Martin Fleming of Ireland (born 1752) but has not responded to my email.

Autosomal match OP - James Fleming

James Fleming (who matches on 7 cM and 1 segment) is descended from Thomas Nelson Fleming (USA) but has hit a brick wall that is stopping him getting back further. He has now, on my suggestion, ordered a yDNA test.

Autosomal match OQ – Ian Fleming

Ian Fleming (who matches on 6 cM and 1 segment) could find no known link. I have requested that he do a yDNA test and join the Fleming project on FamilyTreeDNA.

Summary of matches by earliest known ancestors

In summary, there were four yDNA matches to Fleming descendants and many autosomal matches. I have grouped these by the location of the earliest common ancestor.

Group L - Lanarkshire

Several of these are descended from Fleming ancestors who lived just a short distance from Stonehouse (Lanark) where our earliest known Fleming ancestor (**♠Robert Fleming who married Janet Hamilton**) came from. These are:

- Stonehouse
 - Match LD (MA) – from **♠Robert Fleming (m Ann Hamilton)**;
 - Match LG (Darren Martin) – from **♠John Fleming (m Mary Miller)**;
- Avondale (now Strathaven), 4 miles from Stonehouse
 - Match LA (Greg Wilson) – from **♠Margaret Fleming (m Archibald Walker)**;
- East Kilbride, 12 miles from Stonehouse
 - Matches L1 (Bill Fleming) and LI (B Crooks) along with Pat Thomson – from **♠David Fleming (m Janet Arbuckle)**;
 - Match LF (RS) – from **♠Margaret Fleming and her father John Fleming**;
 - Match LH (Jennie Westfall) – from **♠John Fleeming and his father Robert Fleeming**;
- Carmunnock, 16 miles from Stonehouse
 - Matches L2 (Antony Fleming), LB (Roy Brown) and LC (Mary Lynn Brown) – from **♠James Fleming (m Isobel Dyer/Dyett)**.

Group S – near Cumbernauld

Several matches claimed descent from the **aristocratic Fleming family of Scotland** that had its main seat at Cumbernauld. These included:

- **⊗** Cumbernauld
 - matches SA (Francis Brian DeHart) and SC (HH Compton) from the **Earls of Wigton**; and possibly SD (Terry Kennedy) from **John Wigton Fleming**;
- **⊗** Kilsyth (7 km from Cumbernauld)
 - match SE (Orilla Johnson) is descended from **James Fleeming** (b 1717);
- **⊗** Denny (10 km from Cumbernauld)
 - match SF (BB) claims descent from **John Fleming and Jean Mary Bryson** (m 1761); and
- Kirkintilloch (10 km from Cumbernauld)
 - match SB (Stewart) supposedly from **William Fleming** (b 1691).

Group X – Scotland Other

Our closest yDNA match and several autosomal matches have earliest known ancestors who originated in areas of Scotland that are further away from Stonehouse. These include

- **■** Paisley, Renfrewshire (25 miles from Stonehouse)
 - match XB (Chris Edgar) from **David Fleming (1790-) and Grace Ross**;
- **■** Lochinwinnoch, Renfrewshire (35 miles from Stonehouse)
 - match XC (Jenna Davidson) from **Elizabeth Fleming (1801-) and Matthew Campbell**;
- **■** Inveraray, Argyllshire (80 miles from Stonehouse)
 - match XA (Donald Fleming III) from Colonel James Fleming (1783-1859) and his parents **John Fleming and Mary Monroe**.

Non-Fleming yDNA matches

I mentioned above that we have 979 yDNA matches altogether. The four discussed above have the Fleming surname but most of the matches have a surname other than Fleming. None of these claims a paternal ancestor named Fleming. How can this be?

There are many reasons why our yDNA sample might match a person with another surname. These are referred to as non-paternity events and include:

- Bastardy (illegitimacy outside marriage): boy taking maiden name of mother
- Cuckoldry (infidelity within marriage): boy taking surname of mother's husband
- Re-marriage: boy taking surname of step-father
- Adoption: boy taking surname of adoptive parent
- Apprentice or slave: boy or man taking surname of master
- Tenant or vassal: boy or man taking surname of landlord or chief
- Formal name-change, e.g. to inherit land: man taking maiden name of wife or mother
- Name-change to hide criminal past: man taking unrelated surname
- Mistake in genealogy, or in DNA analysis.

We have 34 matches to people descended from a Fleming: 4 yDNA matches, 12 autosomal matches to Flemings and 18 autosomal matches to other people who descend from Flemings. It is therefore very unlikely that there have been any recent non-paternity events in our ancestry. So, any non-paternity event must have occurred in the ancestry of the other family.

Matches to Wilbur, Wilburn, Wilbourn, Willburn

There are thirteen matches to people named Wilbur, Wilburn, Wilbourn or Willburn. I have written to Samuel Randolph Wilborn whose earliest known ancestor is Edward Wilbourne born 1724/5 in Prince William County, Virginia, USA. He matches our yDNA sample on 101 of 111 markers. His mother, Carmen Willbourn has offered to help this project.

Matches to Tapp

There are six matches to people named Tapp. I remember years ago that I was contacted by a Ken Tapp who matched my yDNA, but I can't find the correspondence. I have contacted three of these Tapp matches to seek help in locating a common paternal ancestor. However, two emails bounced and the other one was deleted unread!

Matches to Jackson

There are two matches to people named Jackson. I have contacted these Jackson matches to seek help in locating a common paternal ancestor.

Other non-Fleming yDNA matches

There are many other matches, but none of the others stands out as being likely to shed any light on our Fleming ancestry.

Where to from here?

- *Liaise with Pat Thomson and Janet Flemming for ideas*
- *Concerted effort to go back further on selected lines*
 - *My line – tried but no*
 -
- *Push to get some autosomal testers to test yDNA and join Fleming study*
- *Circulate this report to generate interest*
- ...