

# Tracing Female Ancestors in America

## *Class 4: Using mtDNA to Trace Female Ancestors*

Christopher C. Child, Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



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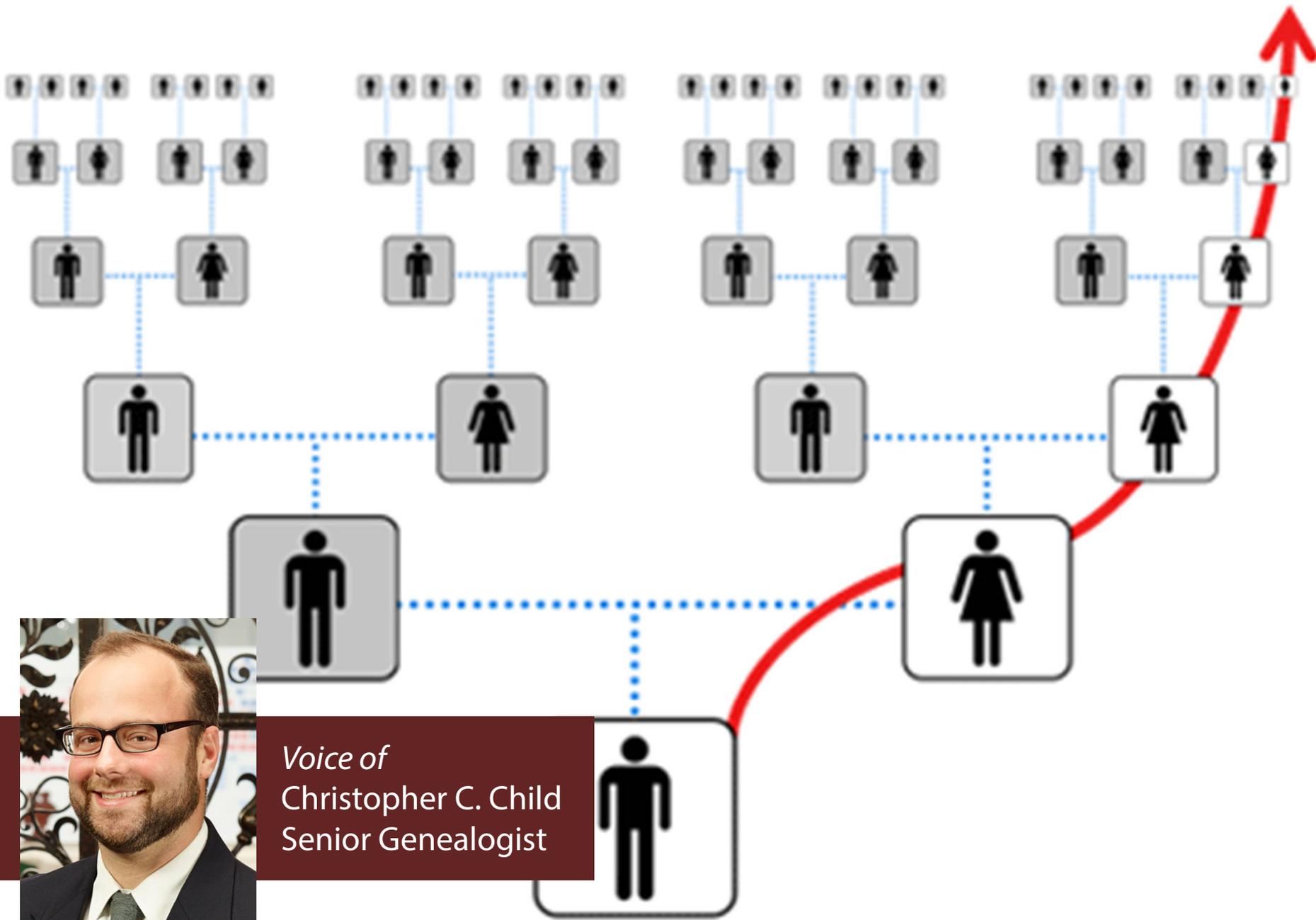
# Meet today's presenter



Christopher C. Child  
Senior Genealogist of the  
Newbury Street Press

# OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
  - Basics of mtDNA
  - Basics of the X Chromosome
  - Case studies
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

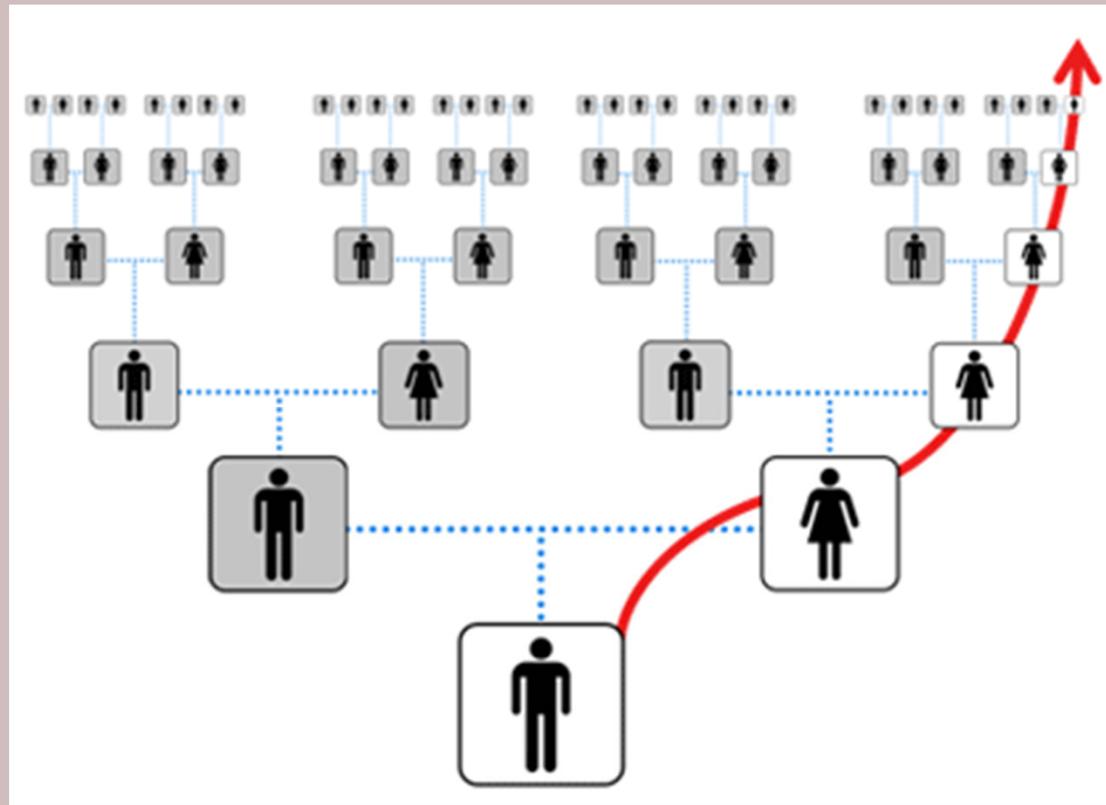


*Voice of*  
Christopher C. Child  
Senior Genealogist

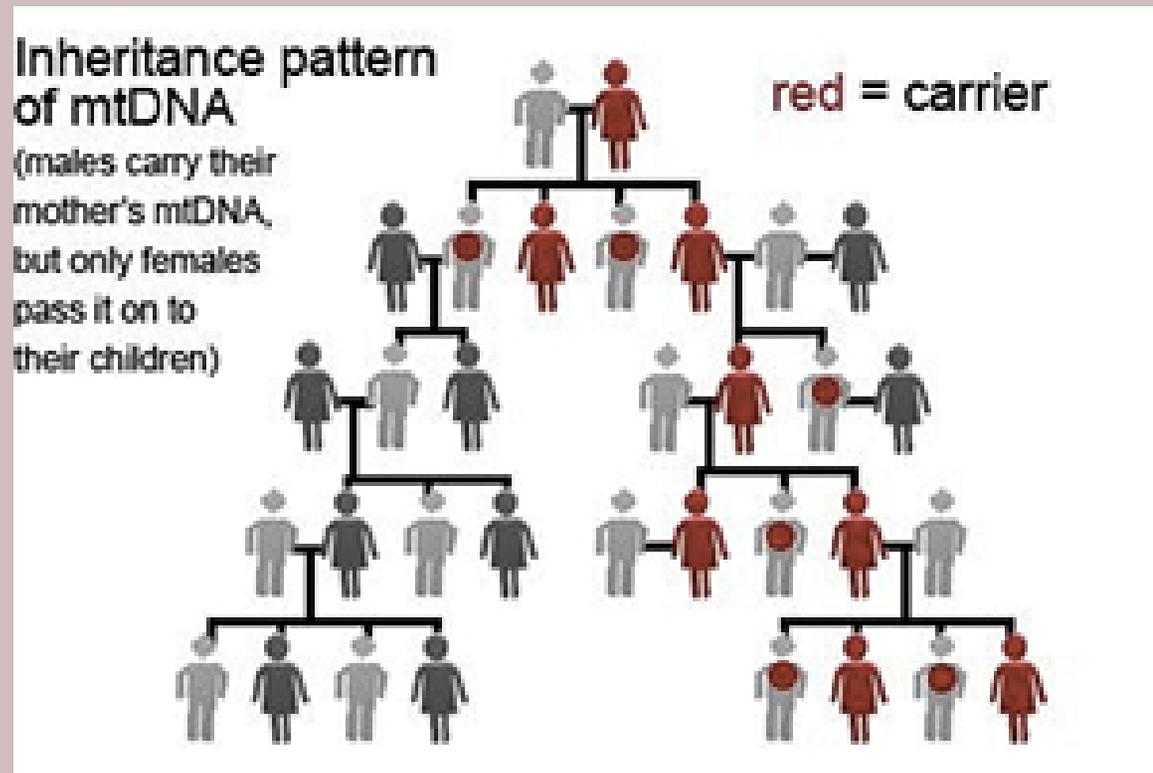
# Basics of mtDNA

- mtDNA is inherited from a person's mother
- Matrilineal-related people (even several generations back) share the same mtDNA markers
- People who do not share the same markers are not matrilineally related within recorded history (a few centuries)
- Most cases involve the solicitation of many people and existing descendants who have already participated

# Examples of Inheritance



# mtDNA (descendancy)



# Types of Tests

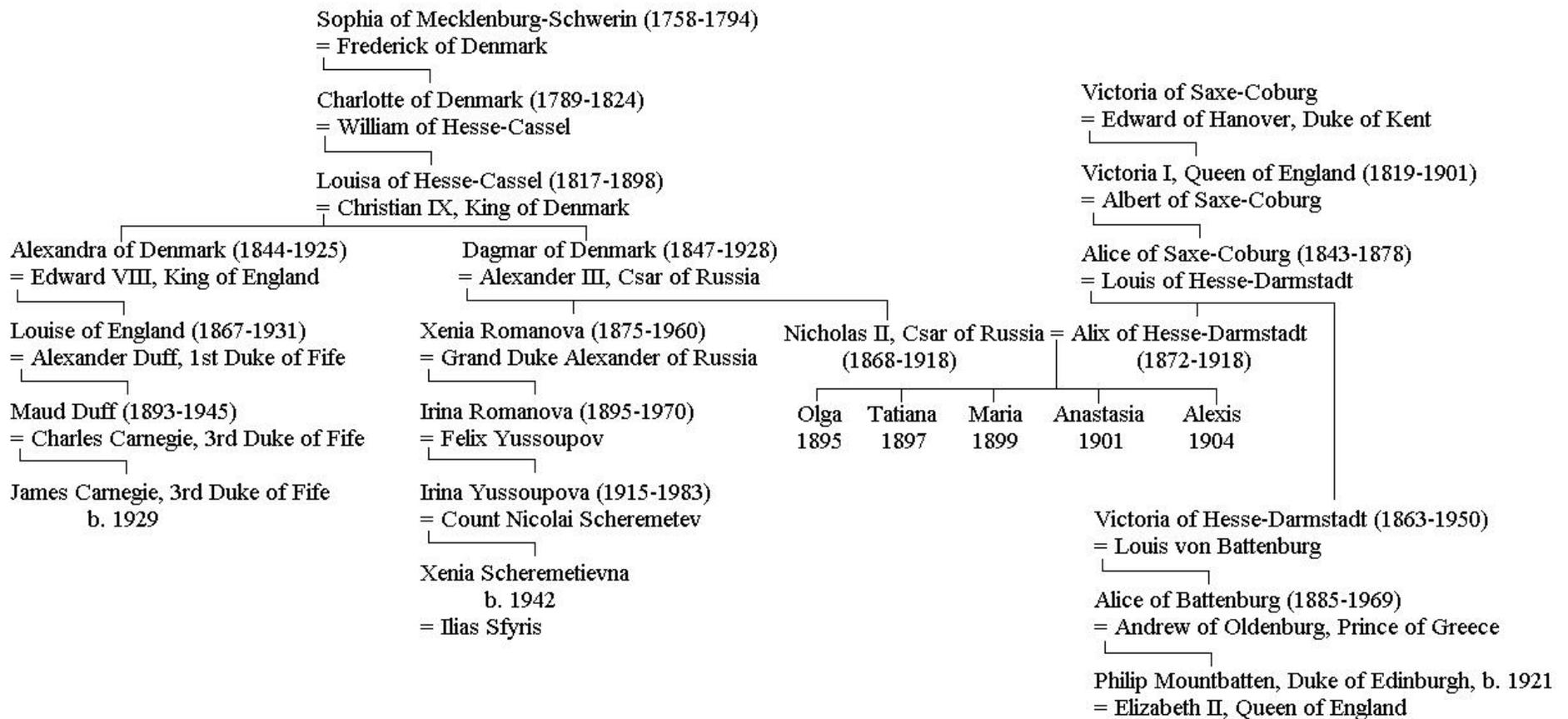
- FamilyTreeDNA is largely the only option for meaningful mtDNA analysis, offering mtDNA plus (\$89), mtDNA Full Sequence (\$149)
- 23andme's test will indicate the mtDNA haplogroup only

Tip

mtDNA tests do not  
predict the exact degree  
of matrilineal kinship

# Famous Uses of mtDNA

# mtDNA – The Russian Romanovs



# mtDNA mismatch - heteroplasmy



# Tomb of Estrid Svendsdatter

- Buried near son Sven II, one of the last Danish Viking Kings who died 1074
- Died around 70 years old
- Was this her tomb or one of Sven's daughters-in-law?
- Body was about 35 years old



# Louis XVII, Titular King of France

- Died of Tuberculosis in 1795 (parents guillotined two years earlier)
- Doctor who performed autopsy smuggled heart away from Paris in a handkerchief
- Stolen by a student
- Returned to the Spanish Bourbons
- In 1975 given to Basilica of Saint-Denis, home of the royal Bourbon crypt
- DNA tests done in 2004



# Heart gets Royal Funeral



# Richard III, Leicester

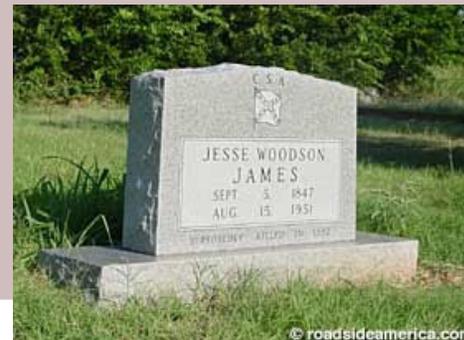
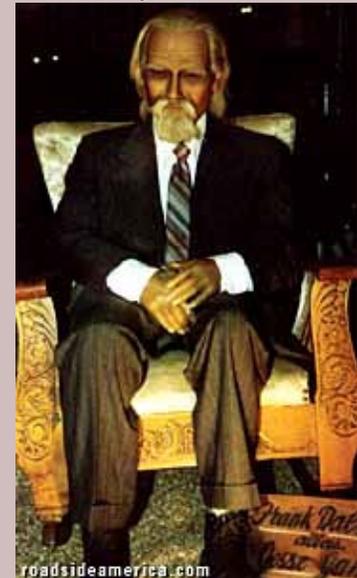
- Killed at Battle of Bosworth 1485
- Buried beneath by Church of the Grey Friars, Leicester
- Church demolished during Henry VIII's dissolution of monasteries
- Remains found under car park

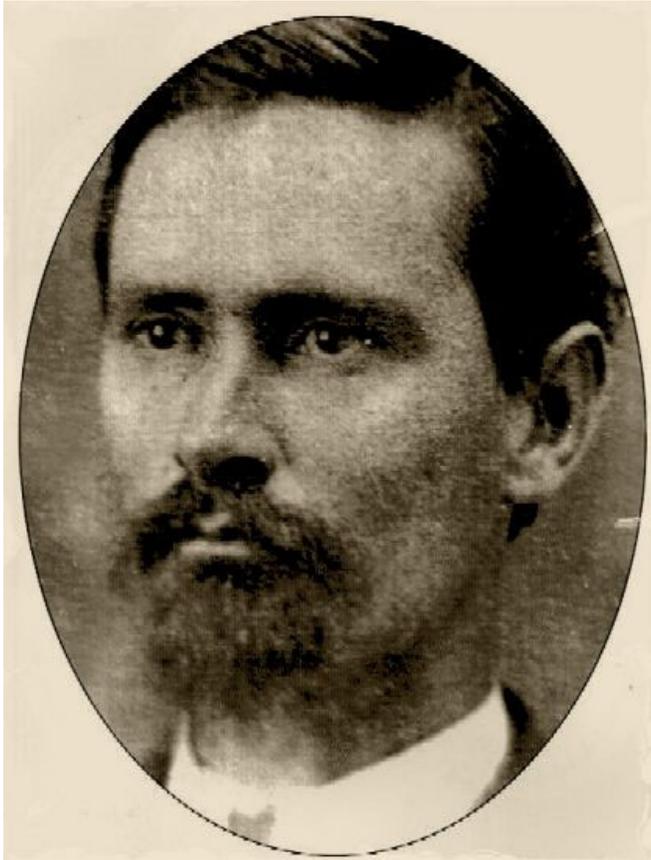


# Eighteen matrilineal generations!

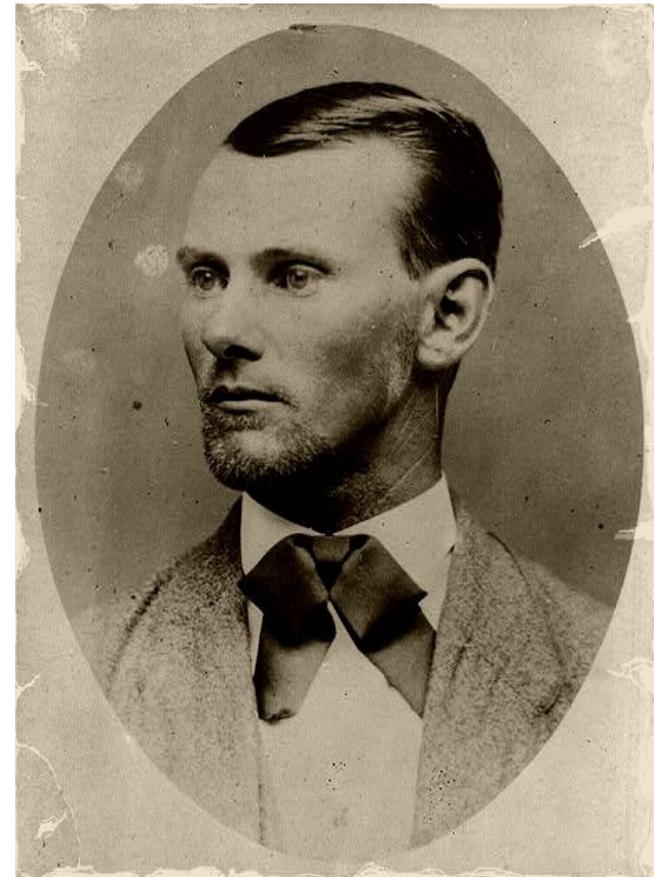
Anne of York, Duchess of Exeter, 1439-1476, mother of  
Anne St Leger, 1476-1526, mother of  
Catherine Manners, c.1500-?, mother of  
Barbara Constable, c.1525-?, mother of  
Margaret Babthorpe, c.1550-1628, mother of  
Barbara Cholmley, c.1580-1618, mother of  
Barbara Belasyse, 1609-1641, mother of  
Barbara Slingsby, c.1637-?, mother of  
Barbara Talbot, 1665-1763, mother of  
Barbara Yelverton, 1687-?, mother of  
Barbara Calthorpe, c.1716-1782, mother of  
Barbara Gough-Calthorp, 1744-1826, mother of  
Anne Spooner, 1780-1873, mother of  
Charlotte Vansittart Neale, 1817-1891, mother of  
Charlotte Vansittart Frere, 1846-1917(?), mother of  
Muriel Stokes, 1884-1961, mother of  
Joy Brown (Ibsen), 1926-2008, mother of  
Michael Ibsen<sup>11</sup>

# Jesse James, J. Frank Dalton, James LaFayette Courtney





**James LaFayette Courtney**



**Jesse James**

**Anne \_\_\_\_\_**  
= **Edward Dorsey (1615-1659) of Anne Arundel Co., Maryland**

**Anne Dorsey (ca. 1649-1698)**  
= **Nicholas Greenbury**

**Katherine Greenbury (1672-1703)**  
= **John Howard, Jr.**

**Katherine Howard**  
= **Orlando Griffith**

**Sara Griffith**  
= **Nicholas Dorsey, Jr.**

**Rachel Dorsey**  
= **Anthony Lindsay, Jr.**

**Sallie Lindsay**  
= **James Cole**

**Zerelda Elizabeth Cole (1825-1911)**  
= **Rev. Robert Sallee James**

**Jesse Woodson James (1847-1882)**  
= **Zerelda Amanda Mimms**

Zerelda Elizabeth Cole (1825-1911)  
= Rev. Robert Sallee James

Jesse Woodson James (1847-1882)  
= Zerelda Amanda Mimms

Susan Lavenia James (1849-1889)  
= Allen H. Parmer

Feta A. Parmer, b. 1888  
= Bert A. Rose

Dorothy Anne Rose, b. 1912  
= \_\_\_\_\_ Jackson

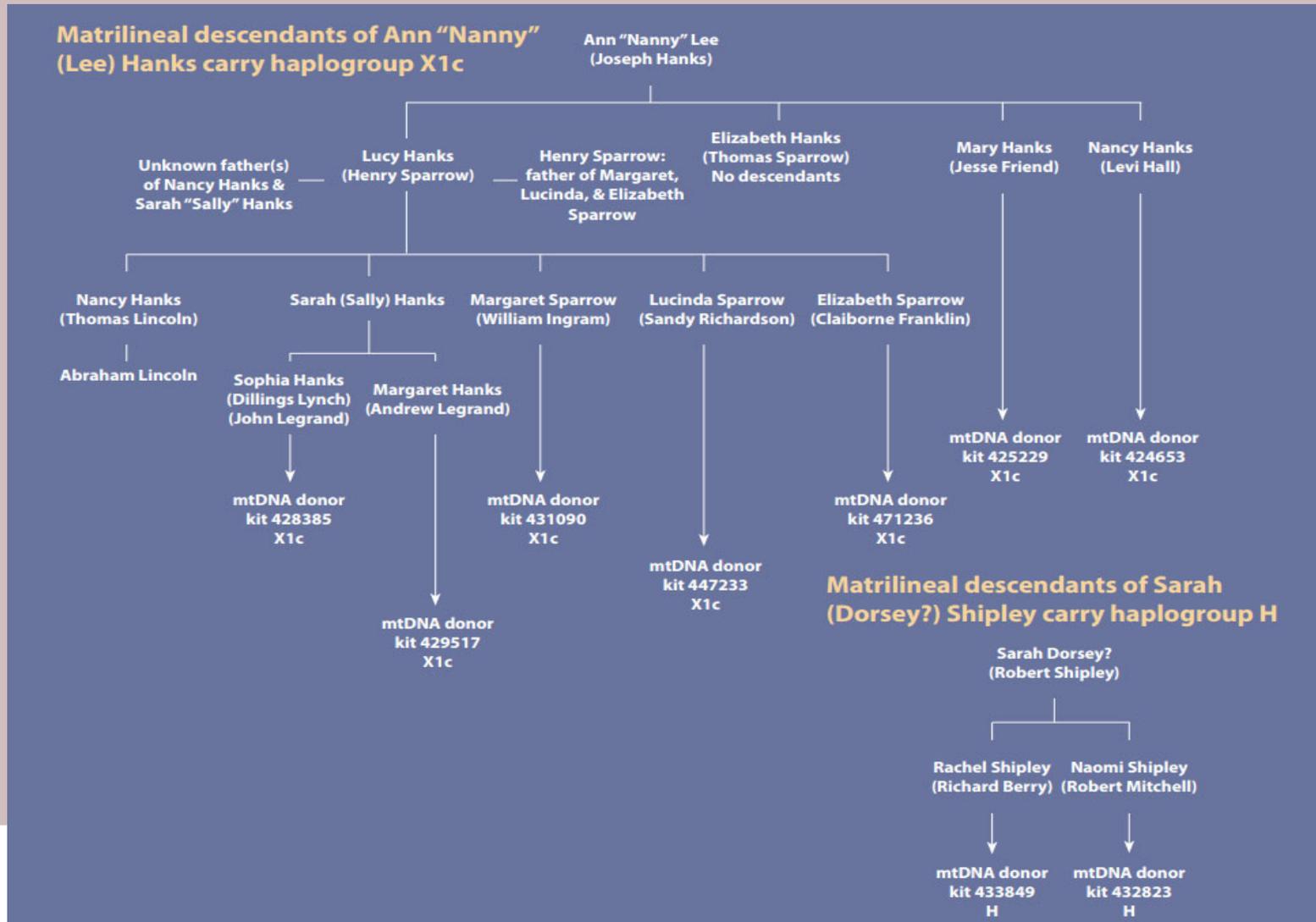
Robert A. Jackson

Jackson  
= \_\_\_\_\_ Nikkel  
Mark Nikkel

## Could More Be Done?

- Y-DNA analysis was not undertaken, but is possible
- Y-DNA analysis was done on the Courtney-Haun family, despite members of that family disagreeing with results

# Lincoln DNA Study





# QUESTIONS?

# Female Native American Ancestors

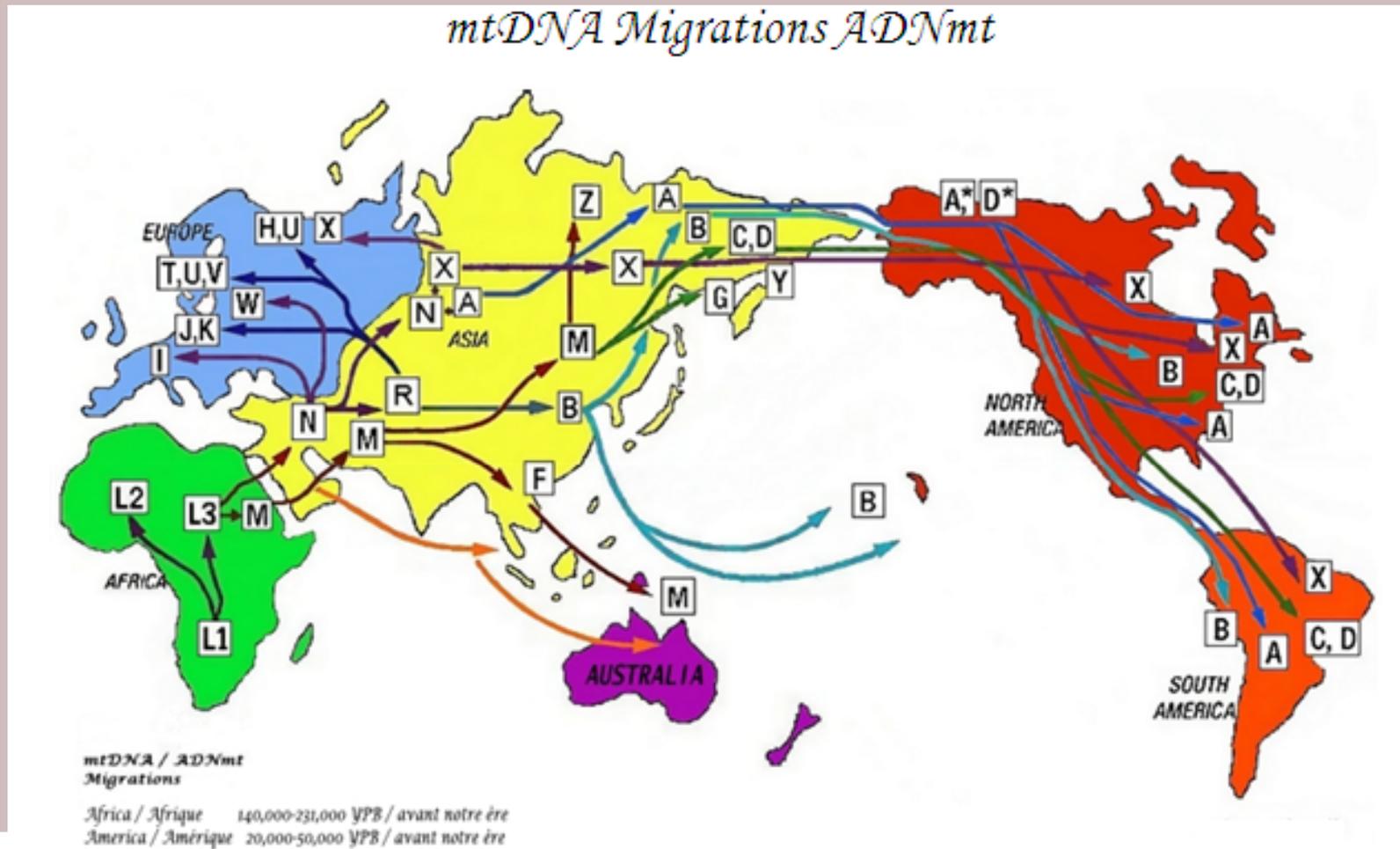
# A different than expected haplogroup

Tableau de descendance matrilineaire - Matrilinear Outline Genealogies

*Catherine Pillard*  
(Pierre Charron dit Ducharme m. 1665-10-19 Montréal, Qc)

<b>Nicole Boutin</b> Catherine CHARRON-DUCHARME (François Chagnon 1679-07-23 Contrecoeur, Qc)	<b>John Croteau</b> Marie Louise CHARRON-DUCHARME (Michel Colin 1703-02-19 Longueuil, Qc)
Marie Angélique CHAGNON (François Benoit 1711-02-07 Ile Bouchard, Qc)	Marie Madeleine COLIN dit Laliberté (Charles Charron 1739-02-08 St-Sulpice, Qc)
Marie Antoinette BENOIT-LIVRNOIS (Jean-Bte Leduc 1738-10-04 Verchères, Qc)	Marie Judith CHARON dit Larose-Cabana (Gabriel Godu 1763-01-24 Verchères, Qc)
Marie Angélique LEDUC (Louis Langevin 1760-10-06 Verchères, Qc)	Marie Judith GODU (Jean Baptiste Vachon 1788-06-30 St-Mathias, Qc)
Angélique LANGEVIN (Joseph Dansereau 1777-11-24 Verchères, Qc)	Marie Judith VACHON (François X. Dalpé 1830-02-22 St-Hyacinthe (Qc)
Marguerite DANSEREAU (Augustin Guyon 1811-10-14 Verchères, Qc)	Angélique DALPÉ dit Pariseau (Louis Ménard/Minor 1853-06-04 St-Albans, VT)
Marguerite GUYON dit Dion (Olivier Cordeau 1844-08-20 Verchères, Qc)	Sophie MINOR (Frederic A. Johnson 1888-04-02 Millbury, MA)
Delphine CORDEAU Camille Daigneault 1877-07-04 St-Dominique, Qc)	Dorothy JOHNSON (George Elmer Brady 1928 Millbury, MA)
Marie Yvonne DAIGNEAULT (Arthur Richard 1920-02-11 St-Hyacinthe, Qc)	Betty Ann BRADY (Bernard Croteau 1952-08-09 Auburn, MA)
Thérèse RICHARD (Pierre Boutin 1951-08-04 Viauville, Qc)	<b>John CROTEAU</b> Worcester (MA)
<b>Nicole BOUTIN</b> Deep River (ON)	

# Haplogroup A



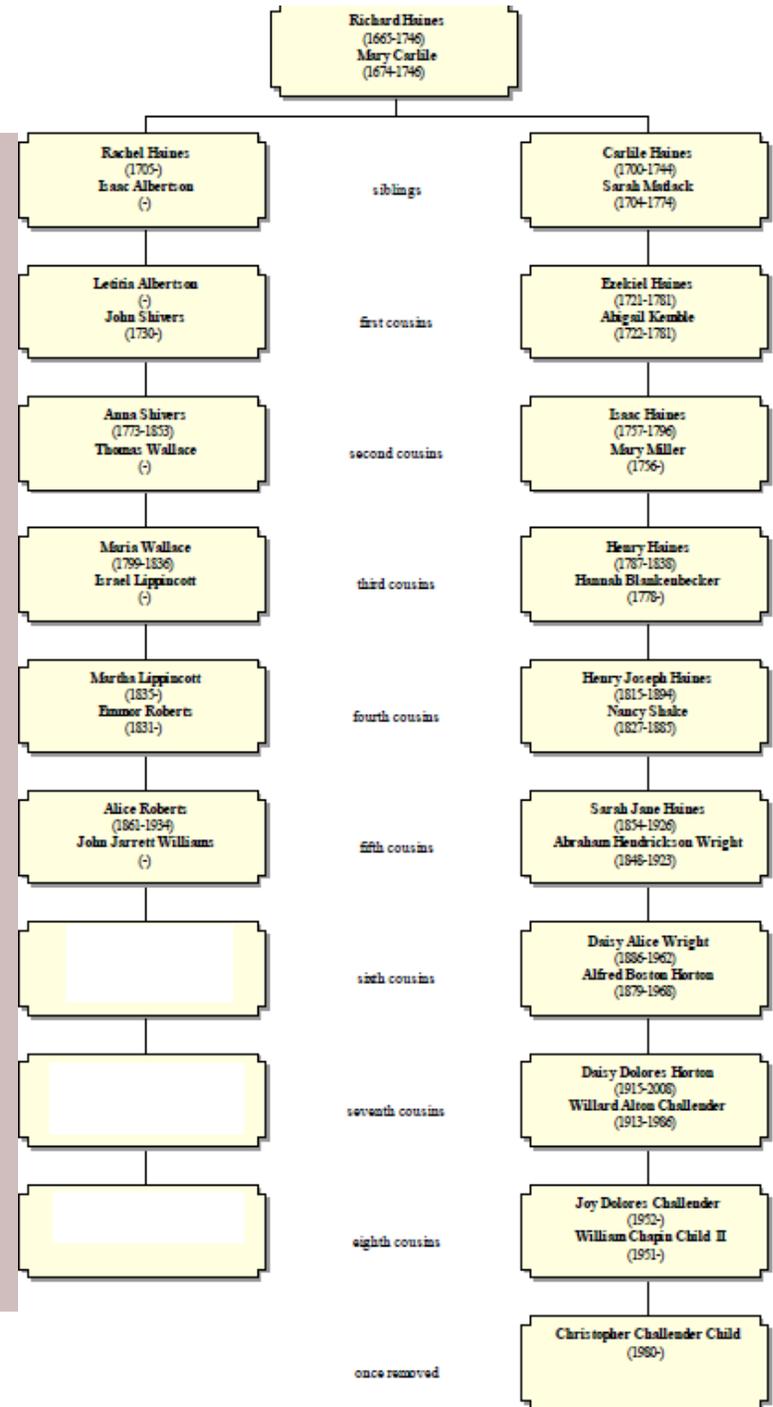


# Tip

mtDNA research will not be applicable for many challenges involving female ancestors (or your own is “useless”)

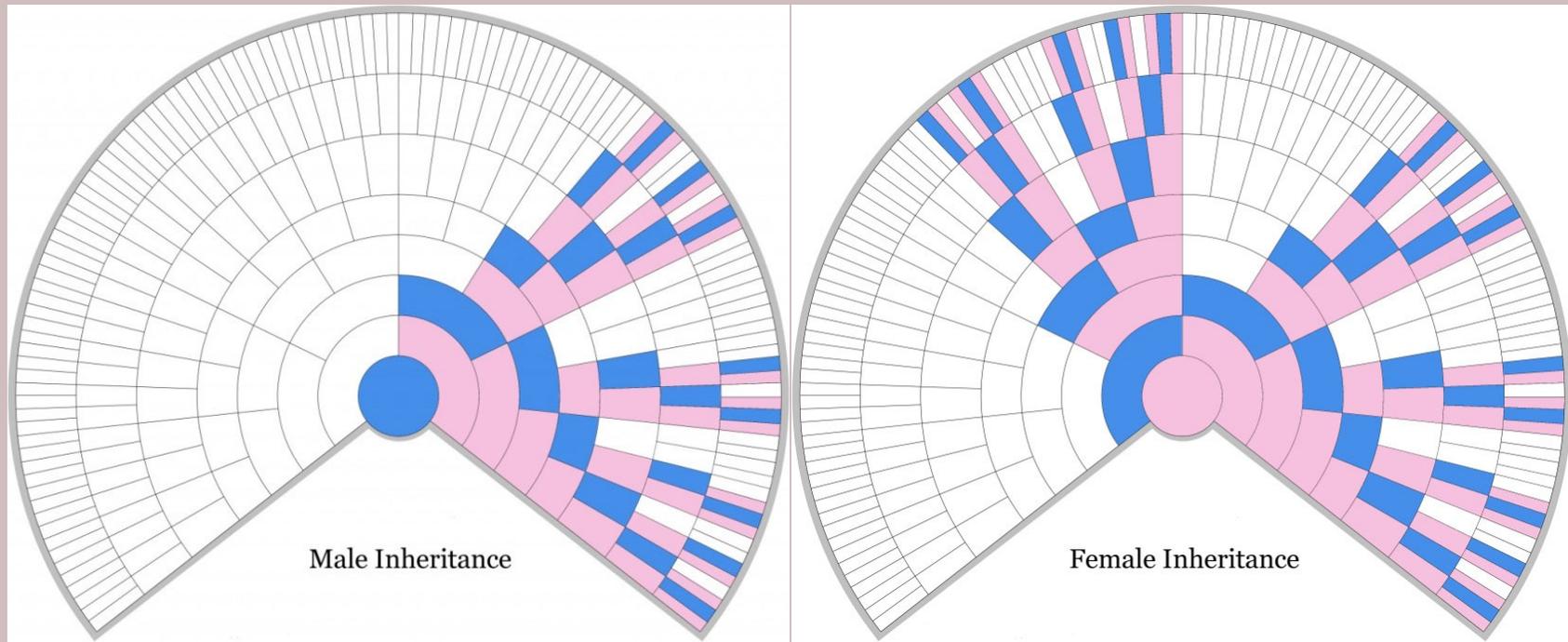
# Keep Looking!

*My own "Native American" line*

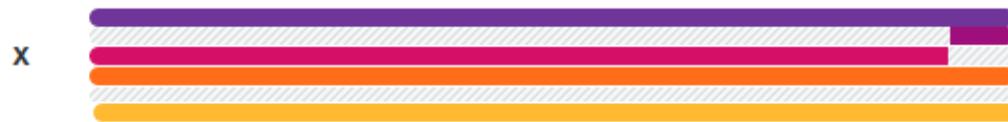
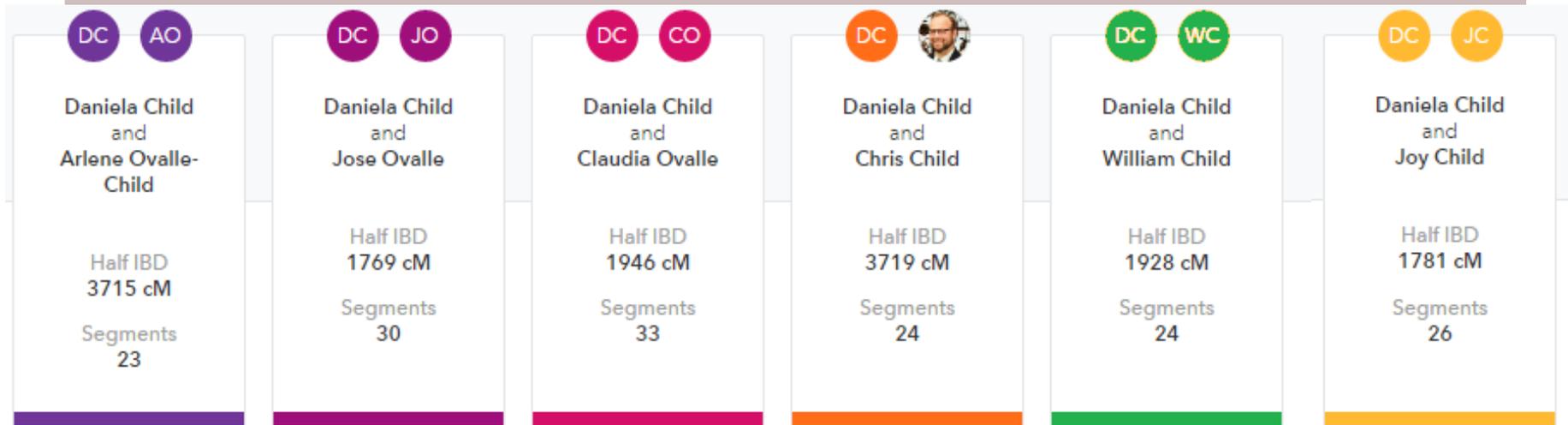


# Why You Can't Use the X-DNA

- Random inheritance from several ancestors and not gender linked



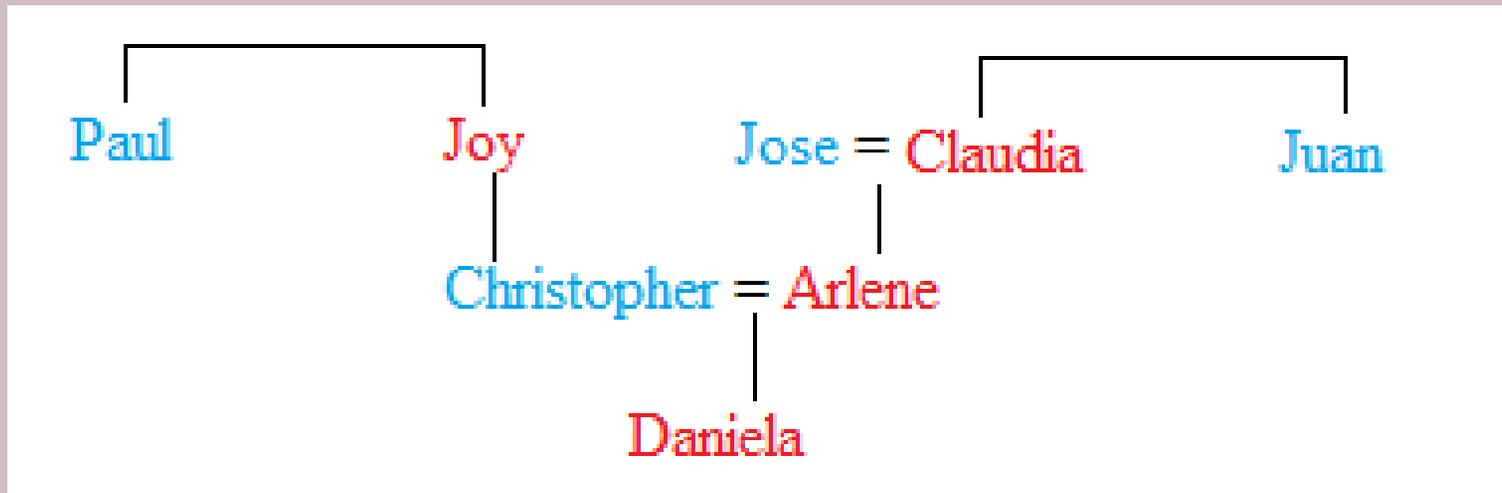
# My Daughter's X-Chromosome



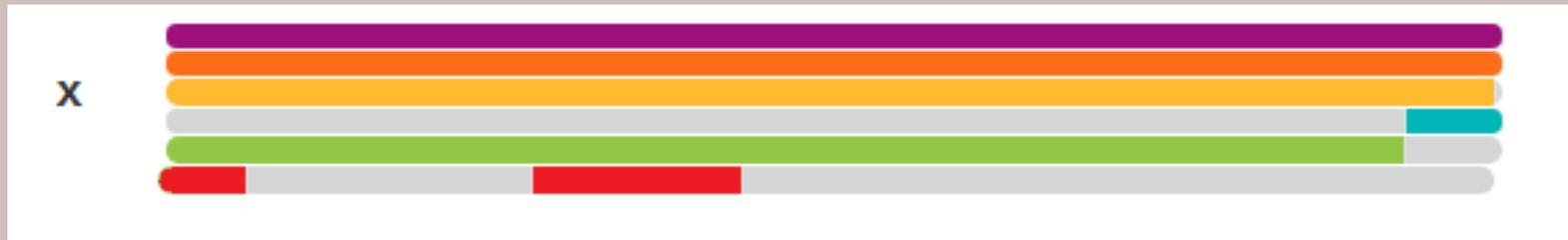
Tip

Don't rely too much on  
the x chromosome

# Matrilineal or gender alternating relatives tested



# Parents, 3 Grandparents, 2 great-uncles



# Sister, Niece, Grandniece

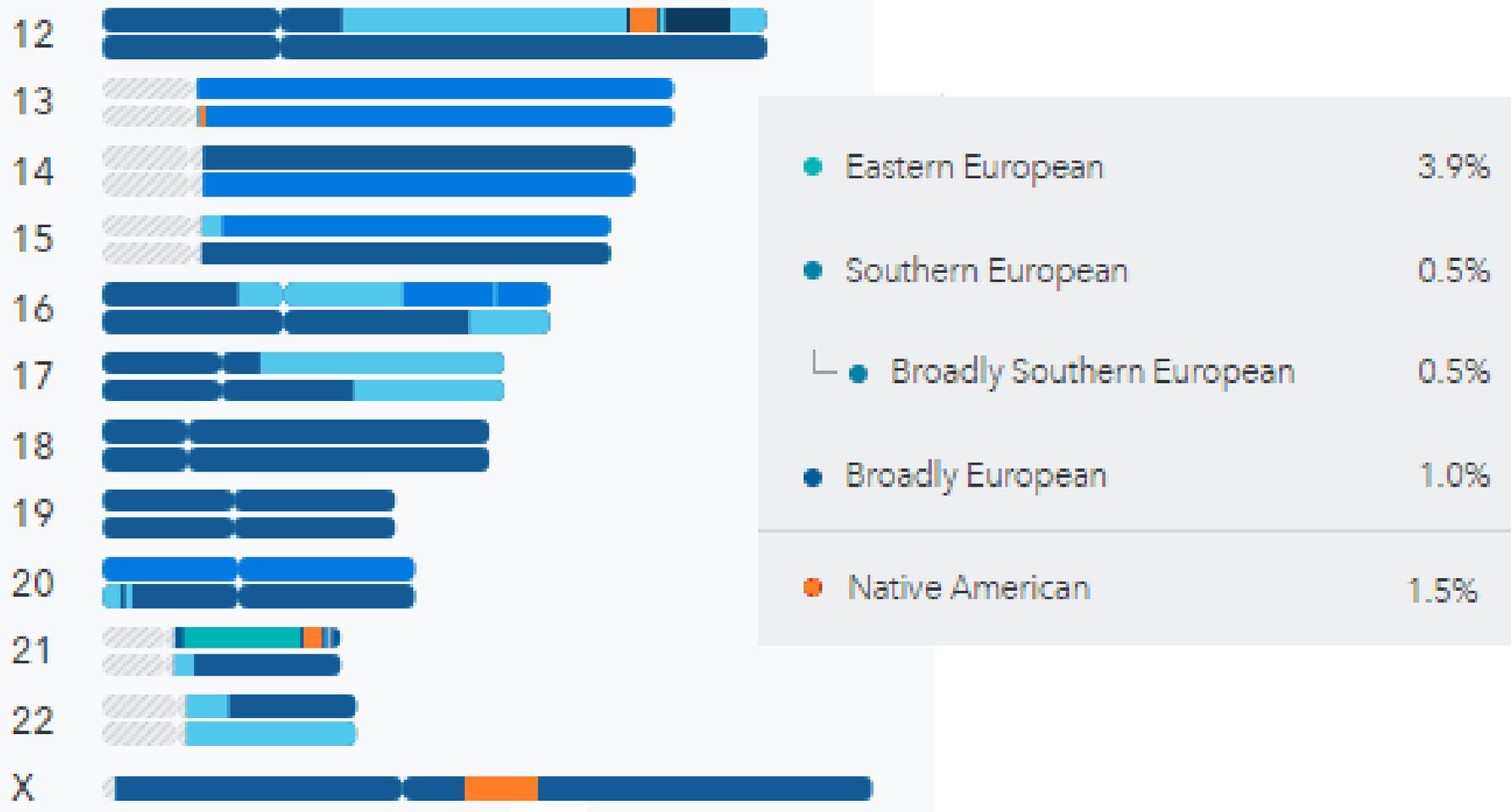
	Arlene Ovalle-Child Shared Segments: 51	
	Claudia Ovalle Shared Segments: 46	
	Daniela Child Shared Segments: 44	

X 

# Still a lot of x with a Second Cousin twice removed, yet none with a great-uncle



# Native American DNA along the X-Chromosome



# Pattern of Inheritance

Marie Victoire "Victoria" Bincette dit Bassett (1852–1929)  
m. 1876 Timothy McCarthy (1850–1931)

Maurice Joseph McCarthy (1898–1979)  
m. 1921 Martha Minetta Little (1900-1980)

Margaret Ruth McCarthy (1922-2013)  
m. Samuel Paine Sturgis (1922-2012)

Samuel Paine Sturgis  
[1.5% N.A. DNA, mtDNA T2b]

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Georgine Margaret Black (1899-1970)  
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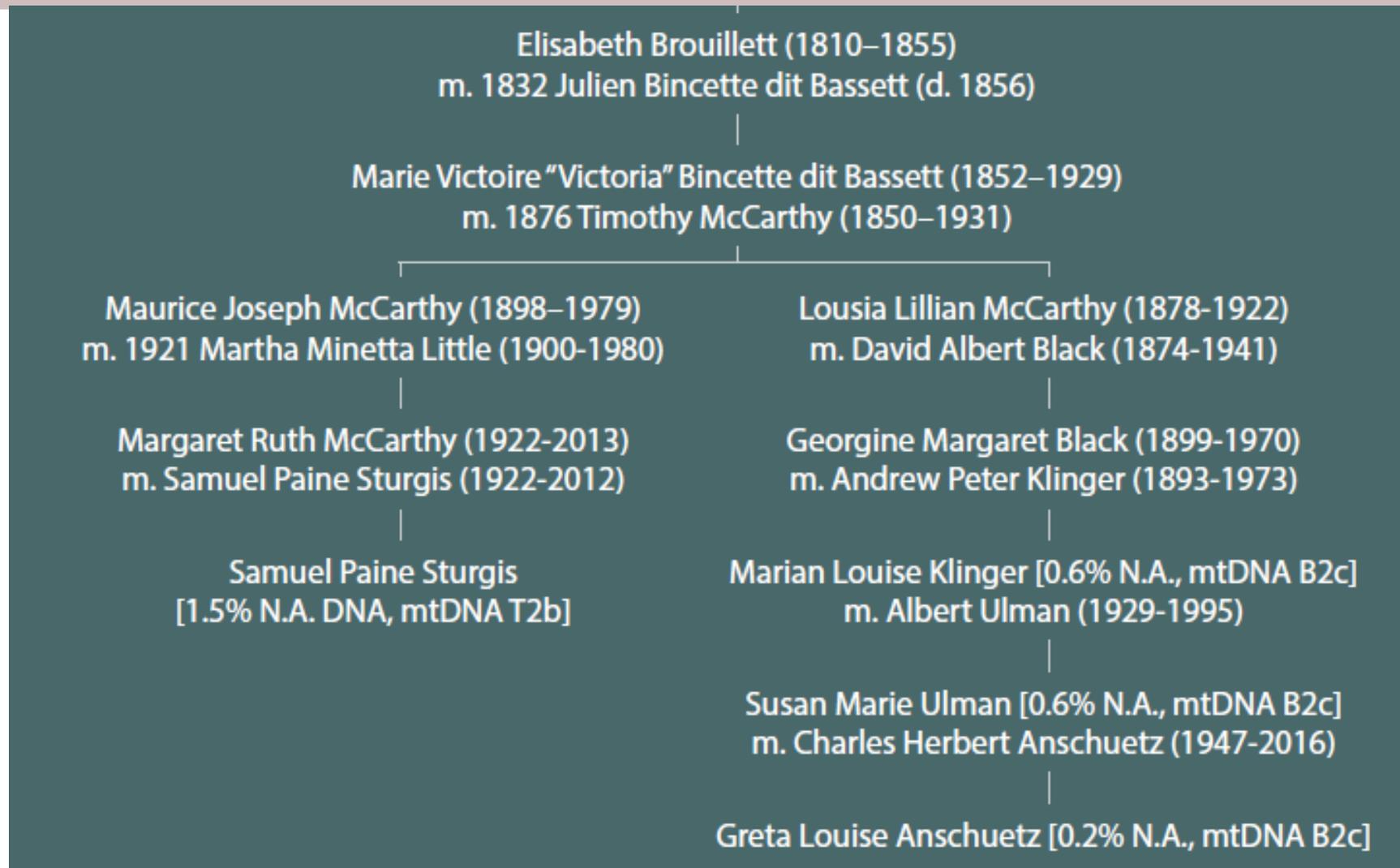
Samuel Paine Sturgis  
[1.5% N.A. DNA, mtDNA T2b]

Marian Louise Klinger [0.6% N.A., mtDNA B2c]  
m. Albert Ulman (1929-1995)

Susan Marie Ulman [0.6% N.A., mtDNA B2c]  
m. Charles Herbert Anschuetz (1947-2016)

Greta Louise Anschuetz [0.2% N.A., mtDNA B2c]

# Pattern of Inheritance



# The Abenaki descent of Victoria Bassett

Marie Paule Ouripehenemich, Abenaki (died before 1698)  
m. bef. 1681, Jean Francois Lienard dit Durbois (1657–1731)

Marie Agnes Lienard dit Durbois (ca. 1684–1749)  
m. 1704, Jean Grenier dit Garnier (1673–1723)

Marie Therese Grenier dit Garnier (1719–1795)  
m. 1742 Pierre Dore (1711–1764)

Marie Euphrosine Dore (1762–1797)  
m. bef. 1789 Etienne May dit LeMay

Marie Elisabeth (1790–1855)  
m. 1809 Maurice Brouillett (1781–1844)

Elisabeth Brouillett (1810–1855)  
m. 1832 Julien Bincette dit Bassett (d. 1856)

Marie Victoire "Victoria" Bincette dit Bassett (1852–1929)  
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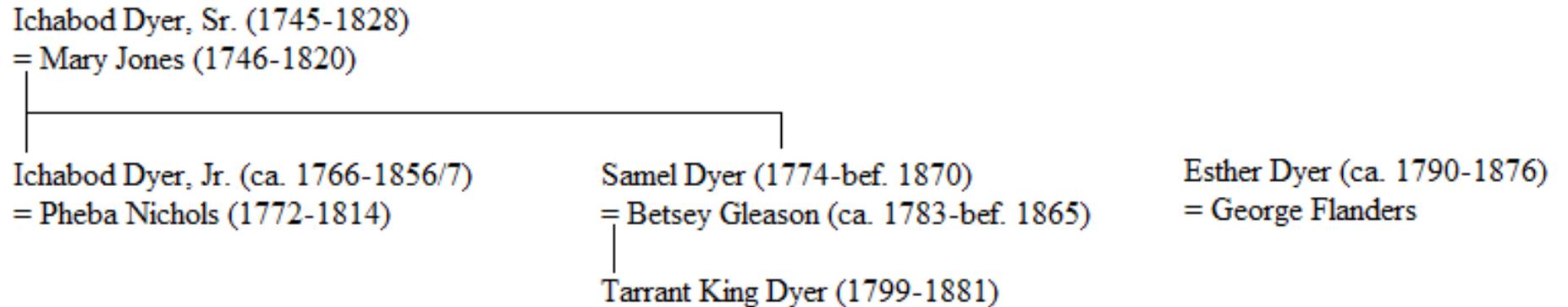
# QUESTIONS?

# New England Examples

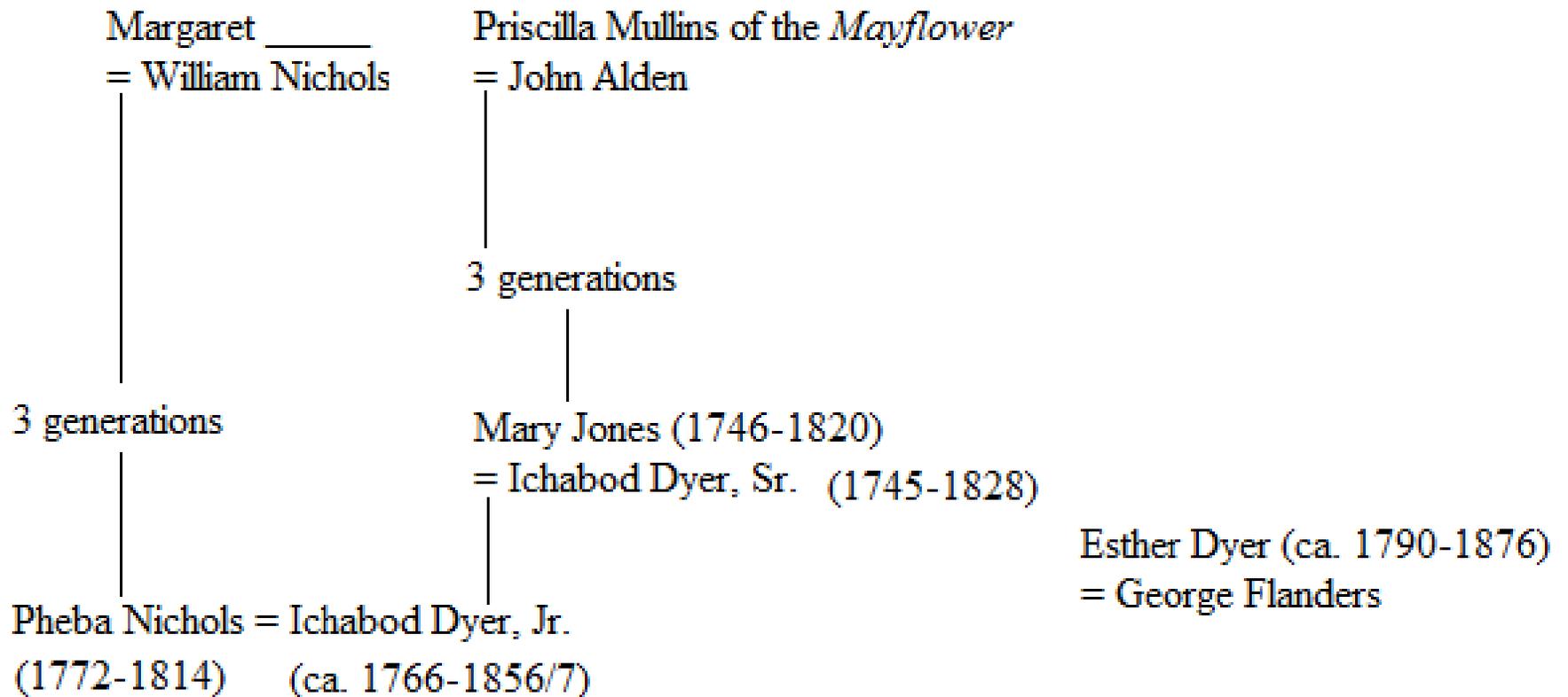
# Esther Dyer of Braintree, Vermont

- Born Vermont, about 1790
- Married Braintree, Vermont, 1814, George Flanders, and moved to New York
- In later censuses, Esther lived with Tarrant Dyer, a grandson of Ichabod Dyer, Sr. of Braintree, Vermont
- Based on the 1800 censuses, Esther could be a daughter of Ichabod Dyer, Jr., or his eldest son Ichabod Dyer, Jr.

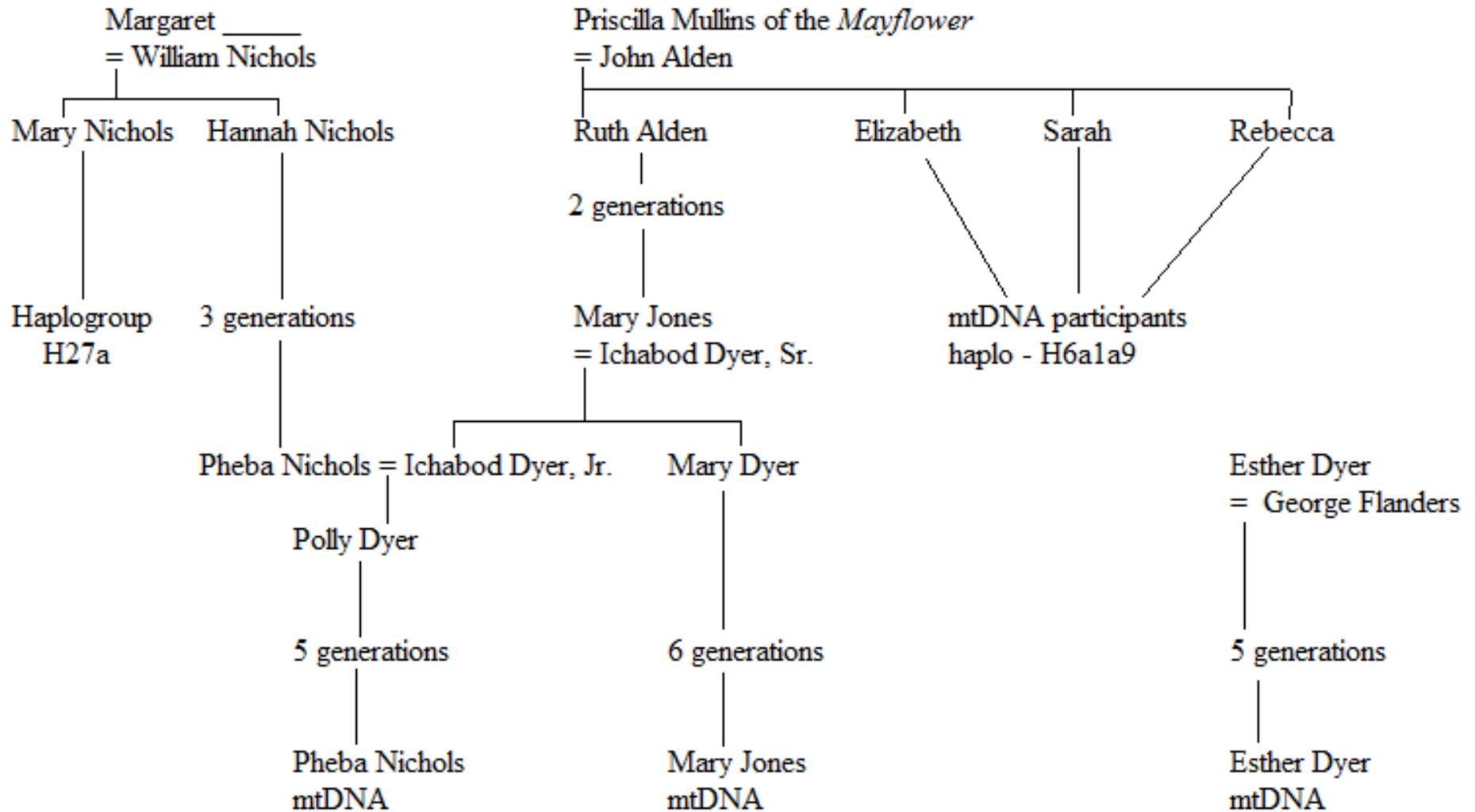
# Which family does Esther belong to?



# Matrilineal descendants



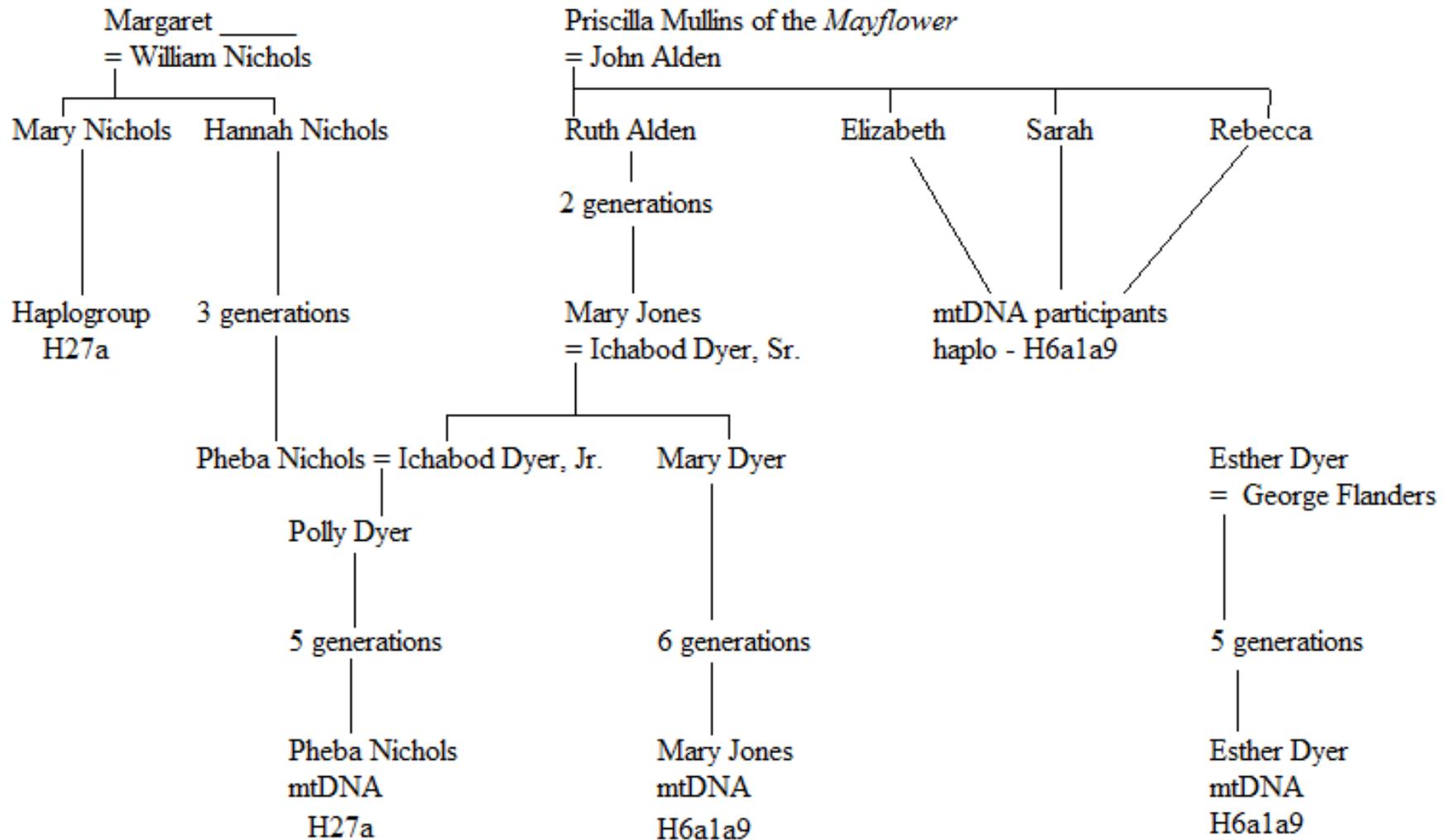
# Matrilineal descendants



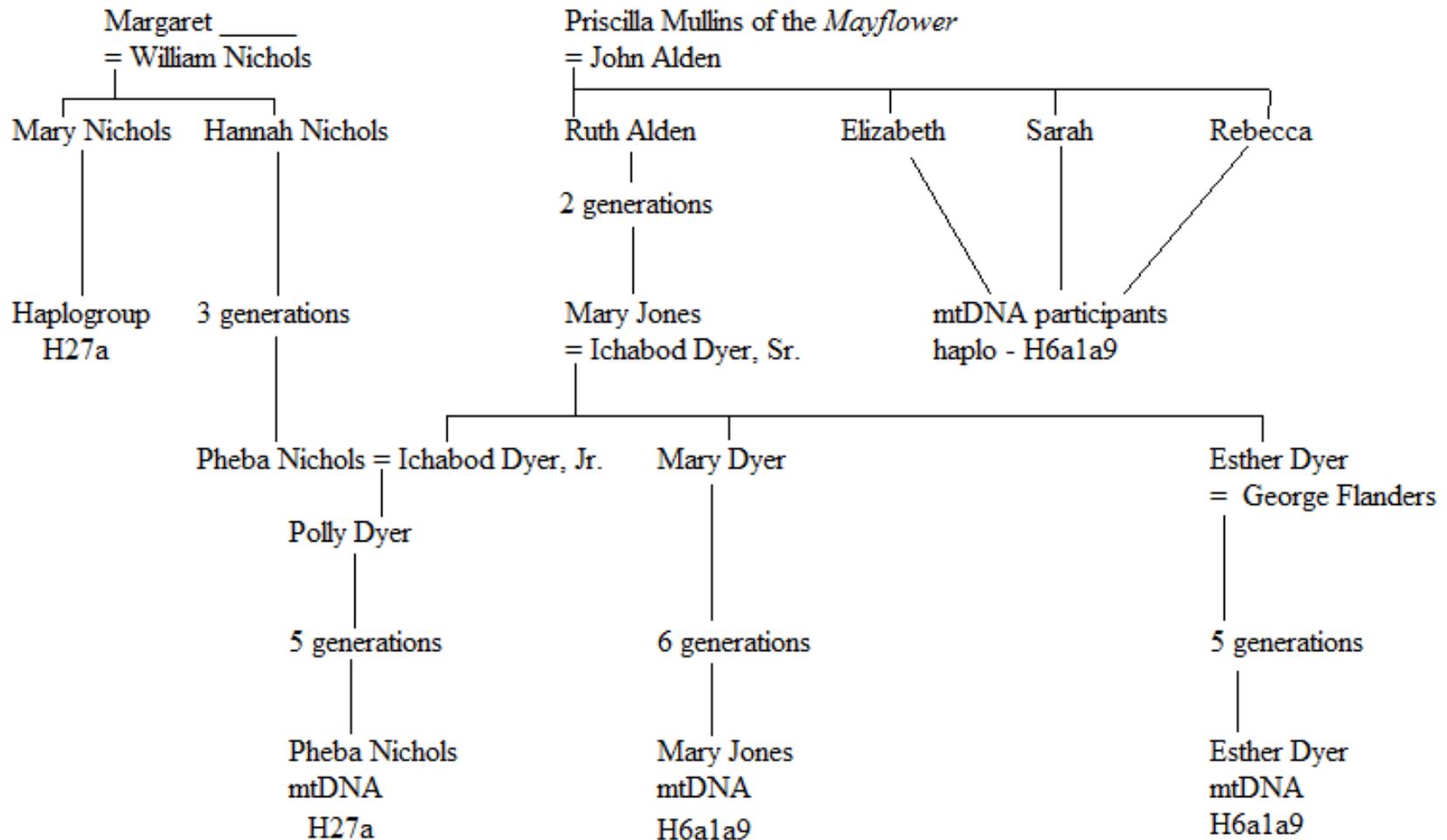
# Expected Conclusions

- Matrilineal descendants of Phebe Nichols should match descendants of Margaret (\_\_\_\_\_) Nichols
- Matrilineal descendants of Mary Jones should match descendants of Priscilla Mullins
- Matrilineal descendants of Esther Dyer should match one of these two groups
- If Esther's descendants match the Nichols bunch, she was a daughter of Phebe Nichols and Ichabod Dyer, Jr.
- If Esther's descendants match the Mullins/Alden bunch, she was a daughter of Mary Jones & Ichabod Dyer, Sr.

# Results!



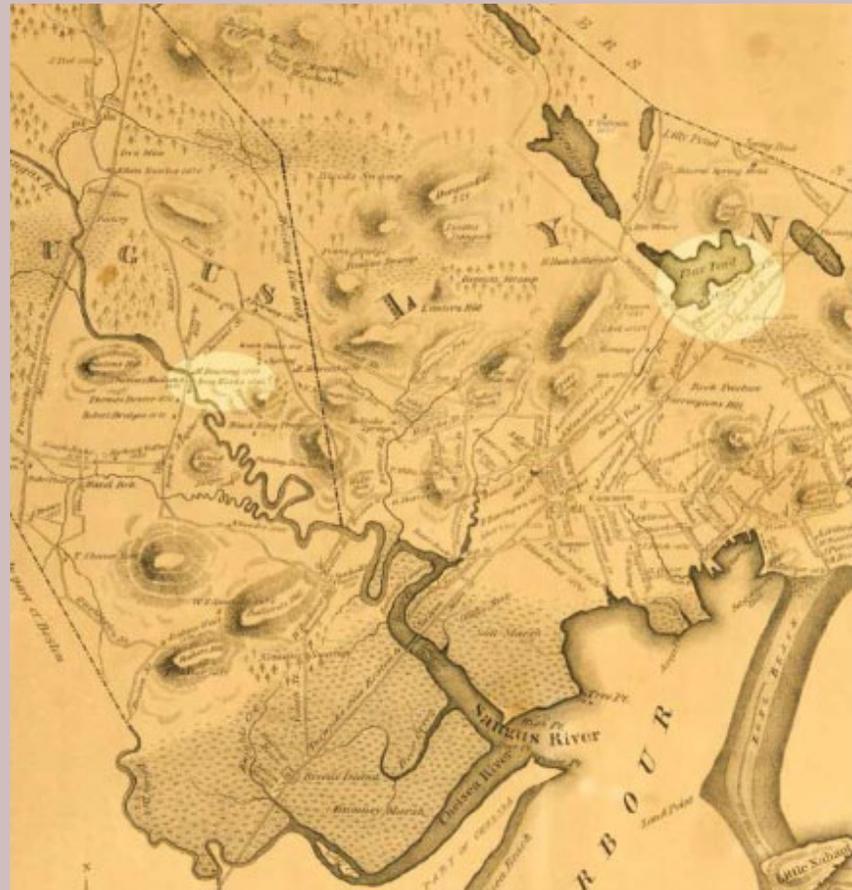
# Esther Dyer is a daughter of Ichabod Dyer, Sr. and Molly Jones



# Mrs. Priscilla Ramsdell

# Priscilla ( \_\_\_\_\_ ?) Ramsdell

- Married possibly by 1648 to John Ramsdell of Lynn, MA
- Names son Aquila
- Some interactions with the family of Oliver Purchase of Lynn (son of Aquila)
- Could Priscilla be Oliver's sister?



# Tracing matrilineal descendants

## Matrilineal descents from Ann (Squire) Purchase and Priscilla (\_\_\_\_\_) Ramsdell

Ann Squire = Aquila Purchase

Sarah Purchase = Gamaliel Phippen

Mehitable Phippen = Samuel Clark

Hannah Clark = Thomas Tousey

Amaryllis Tousey = Abel Prindle

Currence Prindle = Nathan Preston

Polly Preston = David Nichols

Lemira Nichols = Hiram Marsh

Lois/Louisa Margaret Marsh = Lyman Asa Cooper

Lenora Cooper = George Betterly Heath

NAME WITHHELD

Kit #555418 (U3b2b)

Priscilla \_\_\_\_\_ = John Ramsdell

Priscilla Ramsdell = James Adams

Hanna Adams = William Russell

Tabitha Russell = Ephraim Warren

Priscilla Warren = Peter Adams

Phoebe Adams = Daniel Tiffany

Lucinda Tiffany = Beman Stedman

Evelina Stedman = Evan Hutchins Malbone

Ellen Frances Malbone = Benjamin John Dodge

Florence Dodge = Frank L. Gilbert

NAME WITHHELD

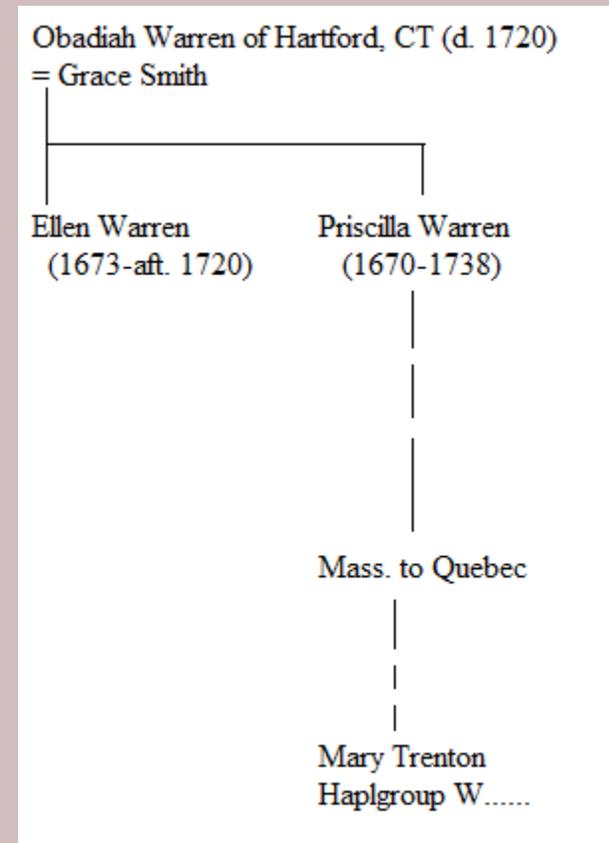
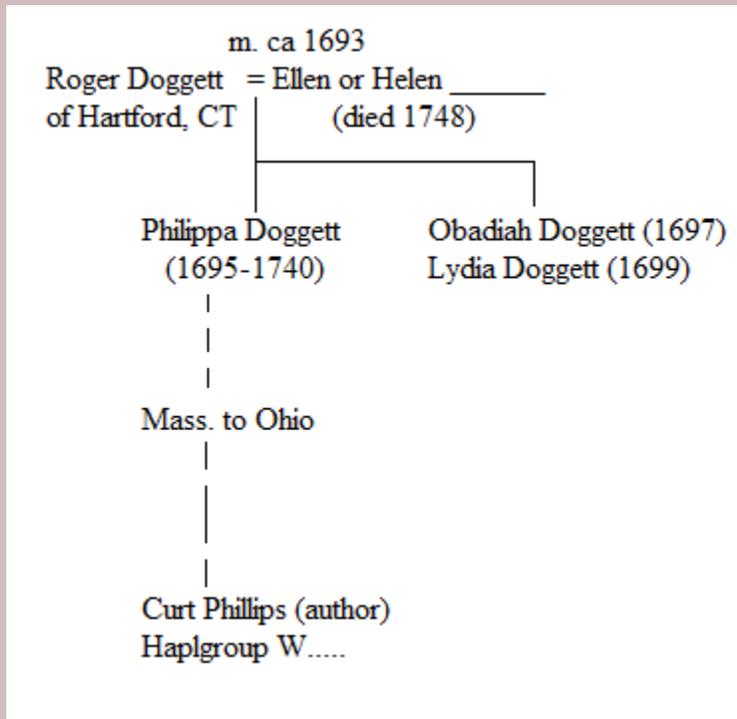
Kit #536511 (U5a1b)

# Going Fishing!

# Mrs. Ellen Doggett of Hartford

- Ellen marries Roger Doggett, about 1693
- Matrilineal descendant take mtDNA test on FamilyTreeDNA
- Until this point, only theory on Ellen's maiden name has been shown to be demonstrably false.

# Warren family of Hartford, CT



# Review

1. mtDNA has been utilized to identify remains in several historic examples involving tracing present day matrilineal descendants
2. Genealogical theories can be corroborated or dismissed, provided the right descendants exist
3. Not every genealogical problem can be aided with DNA evidence

# QUESTIONS?

**Hire Research Services**

*research@nehgs.org*

**Chat with a Genealogist**

*AmericanAncestors.org/chat*

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# Tracing Female Ancestors in America 2022

**Thank you for registering for the online course, *Tracing Female Ancestors in America*!**

Women make up 50% of your ancestry, yet their lives, experiences, and even complete names are all too often forgotten by written history. This course will help you reclaim their stories by providing resources and strategies for finding maiden names, discussing women's legal rights through history as they pertain to genealogical documents (such as land and probate records, voting lists, naturalization, etc.), uncovering material and written culture left behind, and using mitochondrial DNA to trace maternal lines. .

This course includes four 90-minute classes; exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation; and in-depth q&a sessions with the instructors.

## JOIN LIVE SESSIONS

Click here to join the live sessions: <https://zoom.us/j/93932311935>

*If you are unable to attend a live session, you will be able to watch a recording posted below.*

## COURSE SCHEDULE

[AmericanAncestors.org/tracing-female-ancestors-america-2022](https://AmericanAncestors.org/tracing-female-ancestors-america-2022)



# THANK YOU!

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