

Guy Meek's DNA

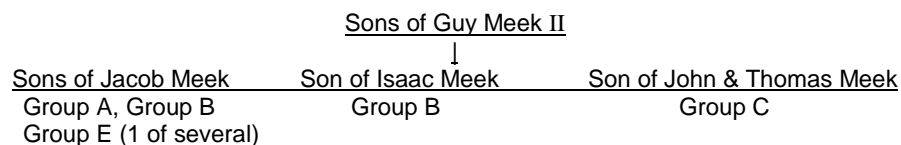
By Christopher A. Meek

One of the goals of the DNA project is to identify a male descendant of the Guy Meek I for DNA testing. That cannot be done without reliable evidence of a connection through the Meek surname line of descent. Guy Meek immigrated to the United States in the mid 1600's and lived in Ann Arundel Co., MD. This is well before most of the surviving Meek families came to America. One of the current individuals in the DNA project may be a descendant of Guy Meek. It is also possible no one in the DNA project is a descendant of Guy Meek. The purpose of this paper is to discuss the pros and cons of the likelihood that one of the groups in the Meek/Meeks DNA project has a connection to Guy Meek.

H. B. Meek and Carleton Meek wrote about Adam Meek born 1640 in Lincolnshire, England and his descendants. Their primary focus was on a son named Jacob Meek born 1698. Many people today claim descent through this person. Joseph L. Meek and others wrote about the Guy Meek family specifically his grandson Guy Meek II. This Guy Meek had a document son named Jacob Meek born 1717 in Ann Arundel Co., MD. Both sets of authors assigned the same set of children to both men named Jacob. Unfortunately it does not appear that there has ever been any evidence of who the children of either Jacob Meek were.

Joseph L. Meek also named the siblings of Jacob Meek born 1717 including Thomas Meek born 1708, John Meek born 1707 and Isaac Meek born 1710. While the son Isaac and son Jacob are documented in Ann Arundel Co., MD records Thomas Meek and John Meek are not. In the case of John Meek one cannot even find a connection to Maryland. In the case of Isaac Meek the descent is through his unproven son Isaac Meek born in 1746. There is no documentation that Isaac Meek born 1746 was born in Anne Arundel Co., MD. Arguably more people have claimed descent from Jacob Meek born 1698 the son of Adam or Jacob Meek born 1717 the son of Guy Meek than any other early ancestor. Both men named Jacob have been given the same set of children which first appeared in the 1902 book by H. B. Meek.

In addition to unreliable genealogical information any connection to Guy Meek is now seriously disputed due to the results of DNA testing. Descendants of Jacob Meek, based on old genealogies, fall into three unrelated DNA groups. (A member of one DNA group cannot be related to a member of any other Group.) Two of these groups are represented by ancestors who settled in S. W. Pennsylvania. One of those two groups includes descendants of Isaac Meek 1746. Descendants of Joseph Meek born 1744 who lived in Washington Co., VA constitute the third unrelated group. In addition the descendants of Thomas Meek and John Meek constitute a fourth unrelated group. DNA analysis proves that these four groups of Guy Meek descendants are totally unrelated.



These four DNA groups constitute a large portion of the people in the DNA project. Only one of these groups can possibly be the descendants of Guy Meek II. Given that DNA has further

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proven the unreliability of past genealogical information there is no reason to believe that any of the four groups are descendants of Guy Meek II or for that matter Adam Meek of Lincolnshire, England.

Guy Meek II had five brothers living in Ann Arundel Co., MD. There is at least a possibility that he had uncles as well. This was a very large family that populated Western Maryland and parts of Virginia. It seems likely that there are living descendants of Guy Meek I if not his son John. A large percentage of known Revolutionary era Meek ancestors have been identified by the DNA project. It seems at least possible that at least one of the members of the DNA project is a descendant of Guy Meek.

Group A

This is one of two groups of S. W. Pennsylvania ancestors described in early genealogies as sons of Jacob Meek. The notable aspect of this group is that it has a documented connection to Ann Arundel Co., MD as well as the area near Frederick Co., MD where Jacob own land. That connection is based on the pension record of Jacob Meek born 1755. Basil Meek born 1740 also said he was born in Maryland. A son of Jeremiah Meek is documented by deed records to have been in Berkeley Co., WV. Unfortunately there is absolutely no record of them in Ann Arundel County. It should be remembered that there is also no trace of Jacob's children.

The known dates between the births of the men in this group are 1731 for Joshua and 1755 for Jacob born 1755. Jeremiah was older but not the father of Joshua, Basil, John and Jacob. He may have been born as early as 1710. Given this information it is unlikely that this group were descendants of Jacob Meek born 1717. However, that does not mean they were not somehow connected to the extended Guy Meek family.

Group B

This is a large diverse group. At the core are the ancestors who settled in Washington Co., PA in the 1770's including Isaac Meek born 1746, Samuel Meek born 1732, Nathan Meek, Basil Meek born 1763 as well as others. Through DNA it is known that this group was related to two families in Tennessee who lived at the same time. Contrary to published genealogies there is no evidence that any of them came from Maryland although that is a possibility. Somewhat more recent ancestors are found in Maryland and Virginia.

It is unclear what the structure of this family was but it is clear that it was a large family that spread out over a large territory. There are no records connecting them to a known ancestor in the United States. At the same time it is difficult to believe that they all immigrated to the United States in small groups over a relatively short period of time.

Group C

The two main ancestors in this group are Thomas Meek born 1708 and John Meek born 1707. They lived in Washington Co., MD and Augusta Co., VA respectively. DNA proves that they shared a common ancestor but it does not differentiate between the two. Joseph L. Meek listed

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them as sons of Guy Meek II. However, they do not appear in the records of Ann Arundel Co., MD. Thomas at least had a Maryland connection and lived in the same area as Jacob Meek born 1717 who lived in nearby Fredericks Co., MD. Their descendants are fairly well defined. It is unclear whether identified ancestors born later were descendants or distant cousins. There is one current member of the project who lives in and whose family comes from Ireland.

Group E

This group has one ancestor traditionally associated with the Jacob Meek. Joseph Meek born 1744 resided in Washington Co., VA. Where he was born is not known and he had no known connection to Maryland. The genealogical connection to Guy Meek has always been highly questionable. One or more Group E ancestor lived in Eastern Maryland but their sons moved to York Co., SC. There is no reason to believe that these ancestors had a connection to Guy Meek.

DNA strongly suggests Group E ancestors are divided in two sub-groups. One sub-group has a variety of members representing the previously mentioned Maryland ancestors as well as a Canadian ancestor with a proven paper trail to Ireland. A current member lives in Ireland. The other sub-group represents ancestors who came to the United States from Ireland in the mid 1700's before the Revolutionary War and settled in Mecklenburg, NC and parts of South Carolina. This sub-group also has a current member living in Ireland.

This is decidedly an Irish group with no known connection to Guy Meek. It is also noted that Guy Meek came to the United States in the mid 1600's well before any of the ancestors in this group came. Since Guy Meek was almost certainly English any connection would pre-date the settlement in the United States. It seems highly unlikely that a member of this group descends from Guy Meek although a more distant connection cannot be ruled out until a descendant of Guy Meek is found.

Group F

This group is represented by one ancestor, William Meek born about 1725 who lived in Virginia. While his four sons produced many descendants this is a compact group that has no known connection to Guy Meek. If there were a connection it seems likely more DNA matches outside this one family would have been found. There are now two members of this group with genealogies from Scotland. The connection between them and between them and the U. S. ancestor is not known. However, this is definitely a Scottish group.

Summary

The grandchildren of Guy Meek I were a large family in Western Maryland and Eastern Virginia. They produced many great grandchildren. It is difficult to believe that there are no living male descendants named Meek. However, that is a possibility. It is also possible that the DNA project has not yet found one of those descendants. On the other hand given the number of Revolutionary era ancestors that have been identified in the project and the way that they are grouped tends to support the proposition that one of the existing groups in the project includes the descendants of Guy Meek.

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Group A is clearly a possibility because there is some evidence that they came from Ann Arundel Co., MD. They probably represent two brothers born about 1700 and the group is not diverse. Group C is less likely to be connected to Guy Meek but cannot be ruled out due to their Maryland connection and being a slightly more diverse group. This group also has a current member living in Ireland but it is not known how long the family has been in Ireland.

Group B is the most likely group in the DNA project to be descendants of Guy Meek. All of the early ancestors represented could have come from Maryland although there is no proof of that. They represent a large diverse set of ancestors living in the 1700's who migrated to different parts of the country. Ancestors born around 1800 lived in Maryland and Virginia. Many early Meek ancestors have been identified by DNA and can be excluded from any family connection with Group B. Of the known early Meek ancestors not included in the DNA project there are no obvious progenitor that could have produced the Group B ancestors or was in a location consistent with the Group B migration pattern.

If Guy Meek was not the progenitor of Group B, it is inconceivable that there was a family in the United States (1) early enough, (2) was large enough, (3) was located in the right place and (4) did not leave a footprint. The alternative for Group B is that different branches of the same family immigrated to the United States small groups in the early 1700's over a short period of time.

Guy Meek was in Maryland in the mid 1600's. He produced a large family through one son and probably had other sons that are unknown. The family moved into Virginia and was ideally located to have members migrate to both S. W. Pennsylvania and Tennessee as well as leaving descendants in Maryland and Virginia.

As much as everyone wants to know Guy Meek's DNA profile this paper just presents one theory that has not been proven. More research is needed and more DNA is needed. At the current time it is not possible to determine if a descendant of Guy Meek is in the DNA project.

By Christopher A. Meek, Revised 15 Nov 2011/Rev 26 Nov, 2011