

CAOA DNA Project Update

Project Surnames: Castor - Caster - Coster - Custard - Custer - Gerster - Kaster - Keister - Kester Kiester - Kistard - Kister - Kistard - Koester - Koster - Kuester - Kustard - Kusterd - Kuster . . . and more

The CAO A DNA Project now has 16 participants in the project and 11 sets of results with the surnames Caster, Castor, Custard and Custer.

The DNA test results can now be grouped together. The first grouping is the Haplogroup.

"What is a Haplogroup?" A Haplogroup is a way of describing groups of people, where they came from and when their DNA signature (represented by I1c and R1b in the results) came into being.

The results show 2 haplogroups represented I1c and R1b. The group R1b is a little bit older than the I1c group, well that is if you call 11,000 years a little bit. They can be traced back to about 35,000-40,000 years ago on the European continent in the area that is the border of Spain and France today and the British Islands. Looking at the map one can imagine a seagoing people traveling from Spain/France to the British Isles.

The group I1c (now defined as I1a2b (we will have to get used to things being redefined as new data is received)) can be traced back to 22,000-23,000 years ago on the European continent in the area of what is Germany today.

The second grouping compares the values of the DNA markers. For this project a group is defined when all but 3 or less markers match the others in the group. This grouping can be thought of as a **DNA family or a Haplotype**. The results can now be grouped into 4 haplotypes.

Haplogroup I1c — 9 Participants
Haplotype 1 has 8 participant
Haplotype 2 has 1 participant

Haplogroup R1b — 2 Participants
Haplotype 3 has 1 participant
Haplotype 4 has 1 participant

There is strong evidence through the paper trail that all but one of the descendants in Haplogroup I1c are descendants from the Paulus Kuster 1644-1708. That one participant is believed to be from the Ludwig Kister 1688-//, the DNA results indicate he may be a descendant of Paulus.

The other seven participants are from Benjamin Castor 1741, John Caster Sr, 1754, William Custer 1729 and William Custard 1810. This group has been defined as Haplotype 1. The ninth participant is a descendant of Paulus Kuster through his son Hermanus. A second participant has tested from this line. The results, hopefully, will be available in time for the December issue. For the time being this group is defined as Haplotype 2 because there are more than 3 markers that are different than the Haplotype 1 group.

The two Haplotypes 3 and 4 from Haplogroup R1b, are definitely not related. The participant defined as being in the Haplotype 3 group descends from Robert Cursiter 1750 of the Orkney Islands in Scotland. The participant defined as being in Haplotype 4 is a descendant from the Paulus-Arnold-Conrad line.

Haplotype 4 is a complete surprise because it is believed the participant is from Paulus Kuster 1644-1708. Since the possible Paulus descendants (Haplotypes 1 and 2) are from Haplogroup I1c it is unlikely that he is from Paulus since he is from Haplogroup R1b.

More tests are needed to expand all of these haplotypes.

When doing DNA research and comparing the results to paper trail evidence, surprises will happen. Such is the case for the descendant of Ludwig Kister and the descendent of Paulus-Arnold-Conrad.

At this time no decisions are being made as to the paper trail evidence against the DNA results because there are not enough tests yet to really define the Haplotypes. The research has helped to define the goals of the project as:

1. Identify Ancestors by DNA Groups (Haplogroup) and then by DNA Types (Haplotypes)
2. Compare the results against the documentation that exists
3. Do further research to link together family lines within the same Haplotype
4. Break down brick walls
5. Confirm the existing documentation in the archives

**"I am I1c and he is R1b
 What does that mean?"**

It is highly unlikely that a person from either Haplogroup is related to someone in the other Haplogroup.

**There is more information on the CAO A Web Site at
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~caoa/>**