

DNA Project Update

by Barbara Andrews

Seven CAOAs members have taken advantage of reduced prices at Family Tree DNA to have their DNA tested as a part of the Custer DNA Surname Project, which is sponsored by CAOAs.

When Patricia Caster, administrator of the surname project, contacted me, the newly appointed coordinator for the project, in mid-December to tell me about the limited-time price reduction offer for testing, I went to work.

One of my goals as coordinator is to recruit as many qualified people into the project as possible. Qualifying individuals are males who carry one of the variations of the Castor surname. There are about 35 members who qualify who had either not been tested or who had been tested by a DNA research lab other than FTDNA.

Phone calls and emails went out to all of those members with repeated attempts to reach each and every qualified member. Most were reached. Research was necessary in some instances because some members have failed to keep their contact information current

with CAOAs.

Overall this was a great experience. Not only did I succeed in getting additional samples into the family DNA bank, but I also had the chance to talk to so many great individuals most of whom are somehow related to me and to each other. DNA can help to show us just what that relationship is.

When it comes to DNA, I am a zealot in believing that this relatively new kind of genealogical research will help to answer questions that could not have otherwise been answered. The process can be individually rewarding, and it can also help CAOAs in straightening out our bent lineages.

If there are other qualified males out there who would like to be tested or have questions concerning the testing, my email address is bdad2f@mizzou.edu, and my phone number is in the directory. I'd love to talk to you. There is still a \$100.00 saving by submitting DNA samples to FTDNA through the Custer Surname DNA Project. Join the 33 other men who have put their chromosomes to work in helping to clarify the Castor family history.

DNA Testing Update by Patricia Caster

As of 4 February 48 tests have been sent out to participating project members. We have had some surprising results and have established 26 DNA signatures.

PK.0 DNA family signature

DNA Family	LID	Ancestor	# Tests
PK.0	PK.0	Paulus Kuster 1644-1706	1
PK.0	CC.0	Conrad Custard 1765-1828	1
PK.0	GC.0	George Castor	1
PK.0	IK.0	Isaac Kester 1775-1843	1
PK.0	LK.0	Ludwig Kister 1688-1770	1
PK.0	RDC.0	No ancestors provided	1
PK.0	WC.0	William Custard 1810-1895	1
PK.0	WR.0	William Custer 1729-1786	1
PK.0	PK.0	Paulus Kuster 1644-1706	4
PK.0	JC.0	John Caster Sr. 1754-1826	5

Signatures derived from two or more test results

DNA Family	LID	Ancestor	# Tests
WCust.0	WCustK.0	William Custer of MD b. 1850	1
HG.0	HG.0	Heini Gerster	3

Signatures derived from 1 test result

DNA Family	LID	Ancestor	# Tests
CK.0	CK.0	Christopher Koester 1834-1907	1
DHC.0	DHC.0	Daniel Harvey Custer 1838-1908	1
FK.0	FK.0	Frederick Keister 1730-1814	1
JJK.0	JJK.0	Jacob Kastor 1857	1
JKes.0	JKes.0	John George Kester	1
PDK.0	PDK.0	Hgrp E German Ancestor	1
RC.0	RC.0	Robert Cursiter 1754	1
THC.0	THC.0	Thomas Castor 1880	1
WL.0	WL.0	William Castor 1814-1893	1
RiK.0	RiK.0	Unknown Origin	1
RKU.0	RKU.0	Unknown Origin	1
WHCa.0	WHCa.0	Unkown Origin	1
WK.0	WK.0	Hgrp German Anc	1

While working on the web page in early February, I discovered that Ancestry.com had changed their method of evaluating some of the values of the markers. I hope to have the CAOAs web pages up to date by the time you receive this issue. Another problem for the Ancestry tests is that their haplogroup predictor does not seem to work well, and they don't seem to want to update their web pages even when the test was done to establish the correct haplogroup. Anyone with markers matching (0-3 mutations) belongs to the I1b2 Haplogroup. If you have questions about it please contact me on the CAOAs Forum in the DNA Project or by email at caoa-dna@caoa-gen.org.