

Father of Amos Project

For several generations our family line has been trying to solve a genealogical mystery and if you are a male descendant of Archibald McCulloh (died 1814), George McCulloh (born 1745), John McCulloh (1771-1851) or Archibald Scott McCulloh (1797-1871) you can help us take a step toward solving this puzzle. Please allow me to explain.

My ancestors are as follows:

Archibald McCulloh (immigrant from Ireland - died in 1814 in Lexington, KY)
 George McCulloh (lived in the Little Cove; burial location unknown)
 John McCulloh (buried in The Little Cove, PA)
Mary Ann McCulloh (1802 - 1857) (lived in the Little Cove, burial location unknown)
 Amos McCulloh (Died 1876 - buried in Ft. Loudon, PA)
 William Edgar McCulloh (buried in Florin, PA)
 Rev. Charles W. McCulloh (buried in Montoursville, PA)
 Eugene R. McCulloh (living in Pennsylvania)
 Rodney L. McCulloh (*me*) (living in Ladoga, IN)

As you will note from the above genealogy our line is not a direct unbroken paternal line. The father of Amos McCulloh is not known and that is the mystery we are trying to solve: Who was Amos's father? For some time it was thought that Amos was a *brother* of Mary Ann McCulloh, not her son. Years ago my grandfather and others spent time trying to figure this out but they never could and finally concluded, based on a note discovered in Mary Ann McCulloh's bible, that Amos was her son. We don't know when or who added this note and we may never solve the mystery of who my great-great-great grandfather was but you may be able to help us get a bit closer to the answer. How? Through the "magic" of DNA.

DNA testing has really become an incredible tool in genealogy research. You may already know how this works but if not let me try to briefly explain a pretty complicated process. We all have DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid.) The main role of DNA molecules is the long-term storage of information. DNA is often compared to a set of blueprints or a recipe, or a code, since it contains the instructions needed to construct other components of cells. The DNA segments that carry this genetic information are called genes. Males have Y-DNA. This DNA is passed down *unchanged* from father to son. (Y-DNA cannot be passed down through a female since they can only pass down X chromosomes) Although DNA is made up of *millions* of repeating four letter sequences, genealogy DNA tests use only 67 of the locations of these sequences known not to mutate. I have had my DNA tested and my DNA sequence is as follows:

12-24-14-11-11-14-12-12-12-13-13-29-18-9-10-11-11-25-15-19-29-15-15-17-17-10-11-19-22-15-15-19-17-35-36-15-12-11-9-15-16-8-10-10-8-9-10-0-23-23-16-10-12-12-14-8-14-22-20-13-12-11-13-11-11-12-12

If my father was tested he would have *exactly* the same number sequence as me. As would my brother, my two sons, my grandsons, my grandfather, my great-grandfather, his father and so on for thousands of years back in history. This is what makes DNA testing so valuable for genealogy research.

So for my family line, my DNA 67 number sequence will be the same as my McCulloh ancestors but only back to Amos McCulloh. And assuming Amos is Mary Ann McCulloh's son by a non-McCulloh father (as we believe to be the case) then my DNA can't match the DNA of Mary Ann's father John, grandfather George and great-grandfather Archibald since our McCulloh line descends through the female side at Mary Ann McCulloh. BUT... what if my DNA does match John, George and Archibald? Then that would tell us that Amos's father was a McCulloh from our line; either Mary Ann's father John, or her brother, uncle or a cousin whom she never married and who is not recorded in the genealogical record.

So how can we know what John, George and Archibald's DNA numbers were? We need two or three *male* descendants of John, George or Archibald to have their DNA tested. We expect the results will conclusively prove that my McCulloh line from Amos forward has a different DNA sequence and that my line descends from an unknown male who was not a McCulloh. (Remember, DNA is passed down *unchanged* from father to son, Y-DNA cannot be passed down through a female, and all male descendants from John, George and Archibald McCulloh will have exactly the same numerical DNA sequence.)

The DNA test costs \$268 and if you are a male descendant of Archibald, George or John and are willing to take the test **I will pay the entire cost of the test plus pay you \$100 for your help.** This test will help us take an important step towards solving the mystery of who my great-great-great grandfather was; or at least who he wasn't. Additionally, the volunteers will get the DNA results for free that most people have to pay for themselves plus the \$100.

The DNA samples collected will be analyzed purely for genealogical data; no medically-relevant data will be collected or analyzed, nor will the DNA be shared. The portion of the DNA tested is from an area of the genes called "junk DNA" which has no known purpose. The tests will not tell us anything about the volunteers health or about health problems they or their family may have. Nevertheless, I will not reveal the names of the volunteers who provide samples unless I request and receive their written permission to do so.

The test is very easy to take and simply involves obtaining three DNA samples by rubbing a test swab along the inside of the cheek. The analysis will be done by www.familytreedna.com. I will order and pay for the test kit which will come to the volunteers in the mail. They will swab their cheek 3 times, 3 hours apart, place each swab in the tubes provided and mail the samples in the pre-addressed postage paid box. In a three to five weeks we will both receive the DNA sequence at which point I will send them \$100 for successful completion of the test. We need three volunteers from three separate branches of the McCullohs to do the test so we can achieve a pretty certain result.

Before we proceed we will need to be sure of the following:

1. Volunteers must be male with the McCulloh or McCullough surname
2. Volunteers must be a descendant of Archibald, George or John McCulloh but not a descendant of Mary Ann McCulloh. (George McCulloh had three sons; Evan, Samuel and John. Mary Ann had a brother named Archibald Scott. Descendants from any of these men would be perfect. We will need a clear understanding from the volunteers as to how they descend from one of these ancestors. If they are not sure if they descend from one of these men but think they might, We would love to talk with them and see if we can figure the relationship out.)

We really look forward to hearing from you! I can be reached by telephone at: **(765) 942-2342**; by e-mail at **rodney@mccullohreunion.org** or, of course, by mail.

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P.S. We are looking for a photo of Amos McCulloh and we'd love to hear from you if you have one. Thanks!