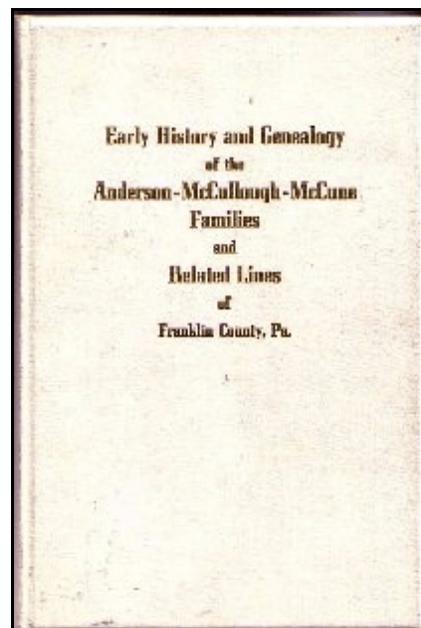


James McCullough Project

The goal of this project is to prove through DNA testing whether our branch of the McCullohs descend from the Archibald known to be the brother of James, John and Sarah McCullough, the original 1740's immigrants. James was married to Martha and his diary was published by Oxford University Press in 2003 in the book *Irish Immigrants in the Land of Canaan*. His son John was a famous Indian captive whose account of his captivity was published by The Telegraph Printing Company in 1912 in the book *Genealogy of the McCullough Family and Other Sketches*.)

For many years our family line has depended almost exclusively on one book for our genealogical history; *Early History and Genealogy of the Anderson - McCullough - McCune Families and Related Lines of Franklin County, Pa.* by Elizabeth Brubaker Wolff; generally known as "The White Book." *The White Book* has been our only source for linking our branch of the McCulloh family to the James McCullough branch. We have no primary documents such as birth certificates, baptismal records, Bible records, etc., to prove "our" Archibald is the Archibald known to be the brother of James. Although *The White Book* contains a wealth of genealogical information it must be noted the book was relatively recently published (in about 1953) and does not include footnotes, endnotes, citations or bibliographical data to support any of the information presented. Consequently we have no way to verify or validate the source of the information. And at least one recent researcher has expressed doubts as to whether our Archibald is the Archibald known to be the brother of James, John and Sarah McCullough though she failed to give any specific reasons or evidence to support her doubts. The 24 contributors to *The White Book* clearly obtained their information from various sources of some kind. Who knows what old Bibles, letters or other documents they may have consulted to develop *The White Book's* genealogy.



DNA testing has really become an incredible tool in genealogy research. You may already know how this works but if not let us 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.

Male descendants of James McCullough will have *exactly* the same number sequence as male descendants of his brother Archibald. This is what makes DNA testing so valuable for genealogy research. We are in the process of obtaining DNA from descendants of "our" Archibald McCulloh. To do a comparison we need two or three descendants of James to have their DNA tested. If the number sequences match then we will have proven that *The White Book* genealogy is true. (If the sequences do not match then we have a lot more work to do.)

The DNA test costs \$268 and **we will pay the entire cost of the test plus pay \$100 for your help.** This test will help us take an important step towards determining once and for all whether our Archibald was indeed the brother of James McCullough. 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, we will not reveal the names of the volunteers who provide samples unless we 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. We 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 three to five weeks we will both receive the DNA sequence at which point we will send the volunteer \$100 for successful completion of the test. We hope to find three volunteers from three separate branches of James McCullough’s descendants to do the test so we can achieve a pretty certain result.

To proceed we will need to confirm the following:

1. Volunteers must be male with the McCulloh or McCullough surname or a similar variation.
2. Volunteers must be descendants of James McCullough. We will need a clear understanding from the volunteers as to how they descend from James.

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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