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MAY-L Archives

[Archiver](#) > [MAY](#) > [2002-04](#) > 1018903784

From: Mark May <mmay@richmark.com>

Subject: [MAY] Case study: success with DNA for Genealogy

Date: Mon, 15 Apr 2002 15:49:44 -0500

Gene Boswell MAY feels that she has been a big winner in our MAY family DNA reconstruction project. I asked her to write up why she felt the project was successful for her. I think her write-up shows how DNA analysis can be a vital new extension of traditional genealogy, but one must always come back to the paper trail. On the other hand, someone surname MAY (or his sister) that knows nothing about his/her MAY ancestors could shortcut a lot of work by knowing they have a 20/21 match to Gene's ancestors.

Here is what she wrote:

I am Imogene MAY BOSWELL and I research all MAY families in the south as a full time hobby. When Mark MAY told me about the MAY DNA Project, I was eager to be a part of it. My brother participated in it on my behalf, and his DNA was shown to be an exact match with that of two descendants of John and Ann MAY of Anson Co., NC. He and one of those descendants then participated in an additional DNA test and got a 20 out of 21 match, thus giving them a 99.9% chance of having a recent common ancestor.

For 18 years, I had worked to find the parents of my great-great-grandfather, Claiborne B. MAY, who was born about 1798 in SC, died about 1865 in Greene Co., AL. In so doing, I collected reams of information on other SC MAY families. As I identified them and traced them forward and backward, I began to collect data on all MAY families in the south.

The only SC line that seemed a possibility for the parents of Claiborne MAY was that of James and Mary Ann MAY of Edgefield Co., SC. James was born about 1770 in VA, died 1851 in Crawford Co., GA. According to census records, they had two sons born 1790-1800 who had not been identified. Mary Ann MAY died 1803-1811 when James married Gatsy HUTCHINS in Jefferson Co., GA. To complicate the problem, James died in Crawford Co., GA in 1851 and left a will naming his two daughters by his first marriage, and his three sons by his second marriage, with no mention of his two sons by Mary Ann.

Based on land records, James MAY was the son of Phillip MAY, Sr., born about 1740 in VA, died 1803 in Edgefield Co., SC. I knew that Phillip MAY was related to the MAY families in Anson Co., NC and believe Phillip was the son of John and Ann MAY of VA and Anson Co., NC, based on age and proximity as well as a through study of all Anson Co., NC MAY families. Also, the research of a granddaughter of James and Gatsy [HUTCHINS] MAY which is filed in the archives of at least two libraries, stated from her personal knowledge that her grandfather was the first cousin of Augustus Hugh MAY, the son of Peter MAY. Peter was the son of John and Ann MAY. This puts my MAY line back an additional three generations, which gives me eight generations of my MAY line including myself.

This thread:

- **[MAY] Case study: success with DNA for Genealogy by Mark May <mmay@richmark.com>**

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