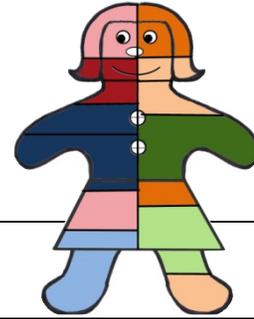


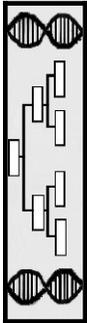
# Genetic Genealogy: Henry Parker Y-DNA and the Family Legend

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See [http://debbiewayne.com/presentations/gatagacc\\_biblio.php](http://debbiewayne.com/presentations/gatagacc_biblio.php) for more information on DNA resources.

Genetic genealogy is useful to support or disprove hypotheses based on documentary research and to provide clues for research where little or no documentary evidence exists. Experienced genealogists must take into account a well-researched paper trail and known family relationships. The genetic evidence and the documentary findings work hand-in-hand to lead to more accurate kinship analysis. This case study extract illustrates real-life situations where DNA provides evidence for a genealogical conclusion.

A father passes Y-DNA to his sons. In most Western cultures where the father passes a surname to children, the Y-DNA follows the surname through the sons. Because Y-DNA does not undergo recombination (on the markers used for genealogy), it can trace a patrilineal line back many generations. Here Y-DNA links a Texas man to a suspected father in Arkansas and disproves a family legend.

## HENRY PARKER (CA. 1825–1902)

**Henry Parker** (sometimes referred to as Jr.) was born in South Carolina probably in June 1825; died 9 April 1902, in Hood County, Texas.<sup>1</sup> He

<sup>1</sup> All URLs accessed 2 September 2016.

Debbie Parker Wayne, "Bailing, Bigamy, Brotherly Love: The Family of Henry Parker and Nancy Black," *Pegasus*, Dallas Genealogical Society, 11-20; online at *Wayne Research* (<http://debbiewayne.com/pubs.php#five>). 1850 U.S. census, Milam County, Texas, pop.

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married (1), Nancy Black, by 1850, probably in Milam County, Texas.<sup>2</sup> He participated in a marriage ceremony with (2), Elizabeth (O'Neal) Kline Quarles, 5 May 1877, in Hood County, Texas.<sup>3</sup> Tales of other wives appear to be errors propagated without supporting evidence.<sup>4</sup>

Henry's father was likely Henry Parker, sometimes listed as Henry Parker Sr. in records. The senior Henry Parker lived in Clinton County, Illinois, in 1830, with a son of an age to be Henry Jr.<sup>5</sup> By 1840, the family had moved to Pope County, Arkansas.<sup>6</sup> Henry Parker Sr. lived in Pope County from 1835 through 1851. Henry Parker Jr. appears on the tax rolls there only in 1843

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sch., Milam and Williamson District, p. 1A (stamped), dwelling (dw.) 231, family (fam.) 243, Henry and Nancy Parker in Alexander Black household; National Archives (NARA) microfilm publication M432, roll 913; for birth place. For death see Affidavit of A. F. McCoy and T. J. Abercrombie, 4 September 1902, Elizabeth Parker, widow's pension application no. 16665 (Rejected) for service of Henry Parker (Pvt., Co. A, Yell's Regiment, Arkansas Volunteers, Mexican War); Case Files of Rejected Pension Applications, Mexican War; Records of the Bureau of Pensions and Its Predecessors, 1805-1935; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group (RG) 15; NARA, Washington, D.C.

<sup>2</sup> Milam County marriage records were destroyed in a fire in 1874. Nancy is named as Henry's wife in Milam County, Texas, Commissioner's Court Minutes A:7; County Clerk's Office, Cameron; Nancy Parker wife of Henry Parker is placed on indigent list. See also 1850 U.S. Census, Milam Co., pop. sch., p. 1A (stamped), dw. 231, fam. 243, Henry and Nancy Parker in Alexander Black household. 18 September 1850 is the actual date the census enumerator visited the household, but the information on the form is supposed to be accurate as of the official census date, which was 1 June 1850. The enumeration indicates Nancy and Henry married within the year.

<sup>3</sup> Hood County, Texas, Marriage Book A:167, Henry Parker and Mrs. Elizabeth Quarles, 5 May 1877; County Clerk's Office, Granbury; Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) microfilm reel 1034522.

<sup>4</sup> Some websites name Virginia Eddings as a third wife of Henry. One researcher admitted this was a guess on her part that she shared with others. See Nancy Misenheimer (great-great-granddaughter of Henry Parker Sr.'s daughter Winnifred) to Chuck Reed, e-mail, 11 January 2006 which states the Eddings wife was an error. A copy of the message is in the Wayne Research Files, privately held by Debbie Parker Wayne. The undocumented marriage has since been propagated online. No documentary evidence of a marriage between Henry and Virginia Eddings has been located by Debbie Parker Wayne in Arkansas or Texas in any of the counties where Henry was known to be.

<sup>5</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Clinton County, Illinois, p. 106 (stamped), line 27, Henry Parker; NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 25.

<sup>6</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Pope County, Arkansas, p. 133 (stamped), line 17, Henry Parker; NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 17.

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through 1846.<sup>7</sup> Henry Jr. is not in Pope County after 1846.<sup>8</sup> Henry's disappearance from Pope County records support the conclusion he is the same Henry who mustered in for service in the Mexican War and left for Texas with his unit.

On 1 July 1846, Henry was mustered in as a volunteer for service in Company A of the Arkansas Volunteers. Henry was the bugler. He appears on the muster rolls in July and August 1846. His service record shows he was sick in August and later rolls indicate the bugler was absent sick.<sup>9</sup> Henry was discharged, based on a surgeon's certificate of disability, on 23 September 1846, in San Antonio, Texas.<sup>10</sup>

Henry apparently stayed in Texas after 1846 and arrived in Milam County about 1849 or 1850.<sup>11</sup> Henry probably met his future wife Nancy as he traveled through Texas after his discharge. No other evidence indicates the reason he stayed in Milam County instead of returning to Arkansas.

Quannah Parker "was the son of Comanche chief Peta Nocona and Cynthia Ann Parker, an English-American, who had been kidnapped at the age of about nine and assimilated into the tribe."<sup>12</sup> One family legend indicates that Henry Parker was related to Quannah Parker, the famous Comanche chief. A variation of the legend indicates Henry was a first cousin to Cynthia Ann Parker.

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<sup>7</sup> Pope County, Arkansas, Tax Rolls, 1835-1859, unpaginated entries arranged alphabetically by first letter of surname; all years read for all Parker entries; Arkansas History Commission (AHC) microfilm roll 004039, Pope County roll 65; AHC, Little Rock.

<sup>8</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Pope County, Arkansas, pop. sch., p. 287A (stamped), dw./fam. 643, Henry Parker, dw./fam. 641, Edward Parker, dw./fam. 642, Redick Parker; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 29. No entries for a Parker or a Henry of the right age for Henry Jr. is found in Pope County.

<sup>9</sup> Compiled military service record, Henry Parker, Pvt., Co. A, Yell's Regiment, Arkansas Volunteers; Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Mexican War; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, RG 94; NARA, Washington, D.C.

<sup>10</sup> Compiled military service record, Henry Parker, Pvt., Co. A, Yell's Regt., Ark. Vols., RG 94, NARA, Washington, D.C.

<sup>11</sup> Milam County, Texas, 1867 Voter Registrations, no. 502, Henry Parker entry, 13 July 1867; TSLAC microfilm reel VR-9, Austin. Henry signed with an X, indicated he had been in Texas for twenty-one years and in precinct 4 of Milam County for seventeen years.

<sup>12</sup> "Quannah Parker," Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quannah\\_Parker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quannah_Parker)).

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The legends allow for various relationship interpretations. Because both Quanah and Henry share a surname, one might assume they are related on the Y-DNA patrilineal line. That assumption is only valid if Quanah's Y-DNA came from a Parker father, which conflicts with the facts of Quanah's parentage. Henry could be (1) a Comanche related to Quanah on his Y-DNA line, (2) related to Quanah through Cynthia Ann, with Henry sharing the Y-DNA line of Cynthia Ann Parker's father, or (3) related to Cynthia Ann as a cousin through a line other than the Y-DNA line.

A Y-DNA STR test provides evidence both to determine if Henry Sr. is the likely father of Henry Jr. and to analyze potential relationships to Quanah. Several descendants of Henry Parker Sr. and Henry Parker Jr. have taken tests. Descendants of Cynthia Ann's Parker lineage have taken tests and participate in a DNA project. Native American Y-DNA generally falls into a small subset of haplogroups and can determine if Henry has Native American Y-DNA.

## Y-DNA STR TESTS LINK TO A FATHER

Descendants of Henry Parker Jr. and Henry Parker Sr. match closely on tested Y-DNA STR markers. The descendants are part of Parker Family Group 1 (FG 01) in the Parker DNA Surname Project.<sup>13</sup> These test-takers do not match on every Y-DNA STR marker tested. We now know a close patrilineal relationship can exist even when there are several markers that differ.<sup>14</sup>

The marker differences between Henry Sr.'s descendants map logically to the family tree as shown in figure 1. The chart shows four descendants of Henry Jr. who have tested and one descendant from George, a brother of Henry Jr. The notes indicate which marker values differ between the test-takers. Only differing markers are shown in this chart.

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<sup>13</sup> Dennis West and Gregory Parker, "Parker Surname Y-DNA Project - Y-DNA Colorized Chart," *Family Tree DNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/parker/>).

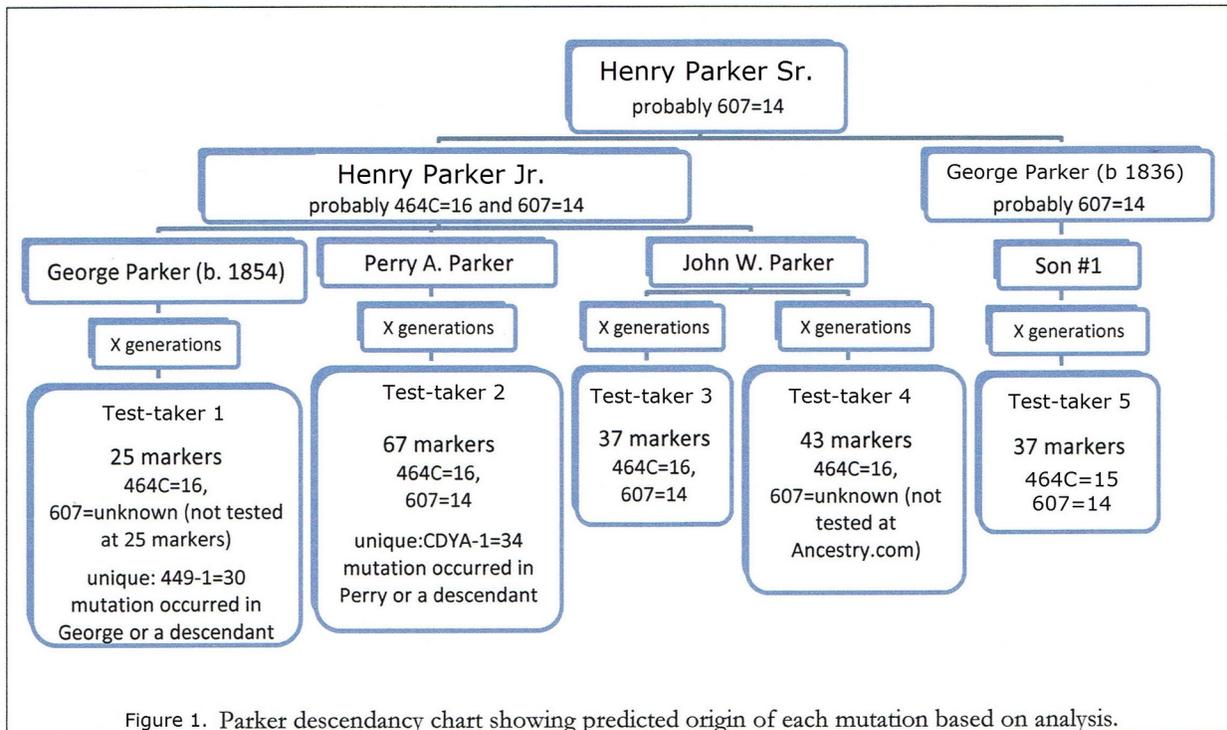
<sup>14</sup> Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* (Arlington, Va.: National Genealogical Society, 2016), 30.

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Because all of the tested men have marker DYS607 = 14 (except for two where the value is unknown as it was not part of the 25-marker test or the AncestryDNA test), it is more likely that Henry Parker Sr. had this value and passed it to both of his sons shown in the chart. If Henry Sr. did not have this value, then the same mutation had to have occurred at least twice in his descendants. Testing a descendant of another son of Henry Sr. would provide stronger evidence, but this is a reasonable conclusion based on the evidence we have and statistical probabilities. Testing DYS607 on the men where it has not been tested would also provide more evidence.

Because only descendants of Henry Jr. have marker DYS464C = 16, it is more likely that this mutation occurred in Henry Jr. who then passed the value to all of his sons who passed the value to the descendants living today. (DYS464 is a multi-copy marker requiring additional evaluation. The intricacies of evaluating this marker are not discussed here.)

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Many of the markers that are different in these test-takers are fast-moving markers.<sup>15</sup> Two descendants of Henry Jr. each has a unique mutation not seen in the other test-takers. All of these differences cause these men to have more Y-DNA STR marker differences from others in Parker Family Group 1 than is normally expected for men who are closely related. The logic of the mutations fitting with the family tree and the prevalence of changes in fast-moving markers makes the high number of differences more credible.

More data is always better with DNA. If some of these descendants take an autosomal DNA test that would reconcile this possible conflict with more differences than normally seen.<sup>16</sup> As stated above, testing more descendants of Henry Sr. and testing all men on the same Y-DNA markers would also lead to a more credible conclusion.

## Y-DNA HAPOGROUPS

A haplogroup is a name given to a large branch of the human genetic tree. There are two separate human haplogroup trees, one for Y-DNA and one for mitochondrial DNA. Both have many branches. A haplogroup assignment indicates to which branch of the tree a test-taker belongs. The first letter of the haplogroup designates the main branch of the tree. Subsequent letters and numbers provide a more defined haplogroup and place a test-taker on a sub-branch or sub-clade of the main haplogroup or clade.<sup>17</sup> Figure 2 shows a small portion of the current Y-DNA haplogroup tree with some of the branch-defining markers listed.

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<sup>15</sup> Bettinger and Wayne, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, 31.

<sup>16</sup> Debbie Parker Wayne, "Using Autosomal DNA for Genealogy," *National Genealogical Society NGS Magazine* 40 (April-June 2014), 50-54; online at *Wayne Research* ([http://debbiewayne.com/pubs/pub\\_NGSMag\\_201402\\_atDNA\\_ALL.pdf](http://debbiewayne.com/pubs/pub_NGSMag_201402_atDNA_ALL.pdf)).

<sup>17</sup> Bettinger and Wayne, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, 8-9.

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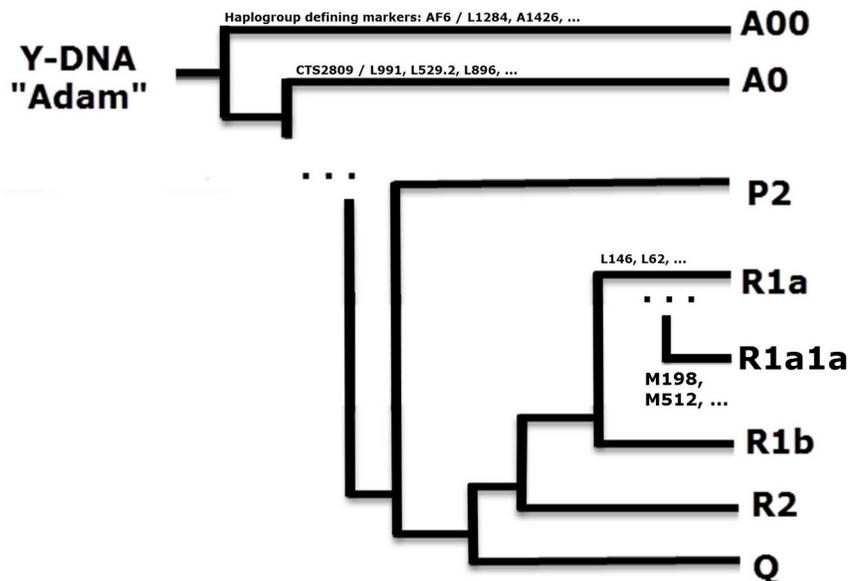


Figure 2. Selected portion of Y-DNA Haplogroup tree (2016)

In this Henry Parker family, all of the test-takers are in haplogroup R-M512 except for test-taker 2 who is in R-M198. SNP mutations named M512 and M198, among others at the same level, define the branch known as R1a1a in the older nomenclature.<sup>18</sup> The new haplogroup names—using the main branch name followed by the defining SNP name—make it appear that these Parker men are in two different haplogroups. Because these mutations are at the same level they are two different names for the same branch—formerly known as R1a1a. Test-takers who have tested Y-DNA SNPs sometimes have a different SNP designation than those who have not tested to the same depth even when the different names represent the same branch. Researchers must take care to eliminate this confusion when analyzing Y-DNA haplogroups designations.

These R-M512 and R-M198 Parker men are on the same branch of the Y-tree so they have a common ancestor sometime within the last 15,000 or so years. The STR markers discussed above indicate a relationship in a genealogical timeframe while the haplogroup link does not contradict this

<sup>18</sup> "Y-DNA Haplogroup R and its Subclades - 2016," *ISOGG Y Tree - 2016* ([http://isogg.org/tree/ISOGG\\_HapgrpR.html](http://isogg.org/tree/ISOGG_HapgrpR.html)).

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hypothesis. If any of these men were in a different haplogroup, such as R1b or I2a, then the men could not share a common ancestor within tens of thousands of years. Such a conflict would refute our hypothesis of the relationship.

## Y-DNA HAPOGROUP ELIMINATES LINK TO NATIVE AMERICAN

Generally, Native American Y-DNA haplogroups are on the Q and C branches of the Y-tree.<sup>19</sup> Those of European descent are often found on the R branch of the Y-tree,<sup>20</sup> but not normally on the same Q and C branches where Native Americans are found.

All of the Parker group test-takers are on the R branch of the Y-tree. This eliminates the possibility that this Parker line is a Native American lineage even without testing a descendant of Quanah for comparison. The Parker men are not in haplogroups Q or C where Native Americans are found. Henry is not related to Quanah on the Y-DNA line if Quanah really had a Native American father.

## Y-DNA HAPOGROUP ELIMINATES LINK TO CYTNHIA ANN PARKER'S PATERNAL LINE

We have shown our Parkers are likely related to each other through Henry Parker Sr. and are not related to Quanah Parker on the Y-DNA line. What about Cynthia Ann Parker's paternal Y-DNA line?

A search of the Parker Surname Y-DNA Project shows a descendant of Elder John Parker, Cynthia Ann's grandfather, in Family Group 5 (FG 05).<sup>21</sup> Family Group 5 has men in the R-M269 and R-L48 haplogroups. This branch of the tree was formerly known as R1b1a1a2.<sup>22</sup> R1a and R1b split many thousands of years ago. Men in the R1a haplogroup cannot be related in a genealogical

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<sup>19</sup> "Y-DNA haplogroups in indigenous peoples of the Americas," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Y-DNA\\_haplogroups\\_in\\_indigenous\\_peoples\\_of\\_the\\_Americas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Y-DNA_haplogroups_in_indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas)).

<sup>20</sup> "Haplogroup R1," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup\\_R1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_R1)).

<sup>21</sup> West and Parker, "Parker Surname Y-DNA Project - Y-DNA Colorized Chart."

<sup>22</sup> "Y-DNA Haplogroup R and its Subclades - 2016," *ISOGG Y Tree - 2016*.

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timeframe to men in the R1b haplogroup. Henry Parker Jr. is not related to Cynthia Ann's Parker lineage on the Y-DNA line.

## OTHER POSSIBILITIES

Genealogists know that there is sometimes a small kernel of truth buried in the family legend. So far, no documentary or DNA evidence supports a link between Henry Parker and Cynthia Ann Parker's family. It is possible that Henry Parker Jr. is related to Cynthia Ann Parker's family through marriage or as cousins who do not share a Y-DNA line. So far no matches through autosomal DNA have been found to anyone related to Cynthia Ann or Quanah. Perhaps Henry was related to someone who married into Cynthia Ann's Parker family. In that case, the Parker surname is a coincidence and not an indication of relationship.

## CONCLUSION

DNA evidence can make sure we are researching our real ancestors and not mythical links to famous or infamous persons. Credible conclusions based on DNA evidence require analysis of all of the possibilities. A well-researched and complete family tree can indicate the likelihood of other possible explanations. A tree with many unnamed and unknown ancestors leaves us wondering about the truth of any hypothesis.

**Debbie Parker Wayne**, CG, CGL, is experienced using DNA analysis, as well as more traditional techniques, for genealogical research in Texas, the South and West. She coordinates and teaches week-long genetic genealogy courses at several genealogy institutes, is the Texas State Genealogical Society's DNA Project Chair, and is co-author of *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, the first DNA workbook for genealogy. See <http://debbiewayne.com/> for more information.

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