



# Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

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Dear Client,

Your complete 67 marker test confirms what we had expected, in part. While you as a descendant of Hans Heinrich Martin (1701-1784) are four markers removed from two descendants of David Martin (d. 1784), one of those four markers (DYS 389-2 = 30) matches two confirmed descendants of Jacob Martin (d. before 1768, Earl Twp). David and Hans Heinrich Martin are confirmed as brothers through primary source documents including letters and diaries. Jacob Martin, who emigrated on the ship *Molly* with David Martin in 1727, is also assumed to be a brother. Your DNA profile confirms this is a possibility since your profile reveals one unique marker with Jacob not found in David. Your DNA confirms that the mutation of DYS 389-2 = 29 begins with David Martin (d. 1784) and that his father, Christian Martin (b. 1669, d. after 1748) has the original value of DYS 389-2 = 30.

Your DNA continues to allow for the possibility that Jacob Martin (d. before 1768) may be an uncle or cousin of David and Henry rather than a brother. However, since we find similar variance between your DNA and that of both descendants of David and Jacob, the argument that Jacob is a brother is made stronger. In addition we can confirm David Martin's exact DNA profile because two descendants through separate sons of his have tested and match perfectly of 37/37 markers. One of these descendants tested a full range of 67 markers, and matches you perfectly on markers 38 through 67.

Among others who have tested, a descendant of Philip Martin (c1785-after 1860, Preston Co., WV), claims Philip's father is an unidentified John Martin of Brecknock Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa. His DNA matches David Martin's profile on 36/37 markers. Philip is very likely a grandson of David Martin, but we are currently unsure of his exact parentage. The genealogies do not work out to place him as a son of David's son John.

Another tester claims descent through Samuel Martens, who moved from Germany to Odessa, Ukraine in the 1870. According to oral tradition, Samuel's father was John Martin of Karlsruhe, Germany. This family matches 24/25 markers with two descendants of Jacob Martin (d. before 1768), and has at least one and possibly two markers that are uniquely found in the Jacob Martin lineage. I suspect since one of these markers (DTS 449 = 28) appears to be unique to the Jacob Martin family, and not present among the David or Hans Heinrich Martin families; Samuel Martens is probably a descendant of Jacob Martin who remained in Germany and did not follow the rest of the family to Pennsylvania. Additional testing among the descendants of Jacob Martin (d. before 1768) may reveal more or less variance, and give us a better

confirmation as to where Jacob Martin is a brother, uncle or cousin to the confirmed brothers David and Hans Heinrich.

We have yet to find a descendant of the “fourth” brother, Christian Martin (1694-1758) to test. We also want to test several Marti/Martin families in Switzerland to fit matches with the now established DNA profile among the Swiss Martin families who immigrated to Pennsylvania.

This Martin DNA profile of which you are a part matches solidly with two other common Anabaptist families in Pennsylvania. The Mennonite Zimmerman family of Cocalico and Earl Twps., and the Amish Yoder families of Berks County all squarely converge with the Martin DNA profile with a historical time frame. In fact some match on as many as 63/67 markers, the same percent match that you have with descendants of Hans Heinrich’s brother David Martin!

I have organized these three families into a DNA cluster, described as the “Martin/Yoder/Zimmerman Cluster” and claim that they have a probable common paternal ancestor around the year 1300. Your DNA gives further support to this interpretation, and may in fact suggest that the convergence is even closer, maybe around the year 1400.

This provides a unique opportunity to study the rise of surnames, and to test a variety of hypotheses as to why these three families are so closely related genetically. Some of the answers may never be revealed, but as more people in all three families have their DNA tested, we should be able to develop explanations for this phenomenon with more confidence.

Genealogically, the Yoder family has the deepest traceable origin. The Yoders can be traced to the town of Huttwil, Bern, Switzerland prior to the year 1384. Huttwil is only about 5 km from Eriswil, where we suspect the Martins were from, and where our ancestor Christian Martin (1669- after 1748) paid an emigration tax in 1717. In 1385, some Yoders moved south-east to Steffisberg. This same year the Canton of Bern extended its jurisdiction over the Emmental and Oberland areas including Steffisberg, so I suspect that the political situation had some yet-to-be-determined effect on why the Yoders moved to Steffisberg. The Zimmermans also have roots in Steffisberg, along the shores of Lake Thun, deeper into the Alps than their ancestors who apparently (according to DNA) were the same as Martins and Yoders.

I should also add that we have confirmed through the multiple Yoders and Zimmermans tested, that this similarity in DNA is not an isolated incident. Families of multiple immigrants who claim ancestry from the same Swiss regions share the same DNA profile. It appears as though all the Anabaptists Martin, Yoder and Zimmerman families are part of one big family, tied to a common paternal lineage only a century or two prior to the dawn of Anabaptism.

Tracing further back in time, this Martin/Yoder/Zimmerman cluster is confirmed

within the defined haplogroup I2b1, and converges with other Swiss families in both Bern and Zürich. The mixing of populations in these river valleys was common throughout medieval history. One legend states that the surviving men of the 1434 plague in Sumiswald could fit around the wooden table located within the village's main inn (called the Baren Inn). Without exception, our ancestors were the survivors of these plagues, as their DNA was passed on into us. Some patterns suggest in the centuries prior to the middle ages these ancestors lived in the region east of Zürich, between Schaffhausen and Winterthur, where the Lampert and Föller families converge with the Martin/Yoder/Zimmerman cluster. However the Bernese surnames Lörtscher and Lötscher (known as Leshner and Latshaw in Pennsylvania) also share a common convergence with the Martin/Yoder/Zimmerman cluster more than a thousand years ago. Both the names Martin and Yoder were founded by patrimonial saints, well represented in the French areas to the south of the Bernese Oberland, in the modern-day cantons of Vaud and Valais.

No matter which of these regions our ancestors lived in during the early middle ages, it is more obvious from the haplogroup designation I2b1, that the Martin/Yoder/Zimmerman cluster combines with other groups within I2b1 to the north. During the Roman period and earlier our ancestors lived in modern-day Germany. They likely migrated into Swabia, the regions north and west of Lake Constance during Roman times, originating further to the north, in the regions between the Elbe and Oder Rivers of eastern Germany. These tribes were known as the Suebi, and are reported to have lived in Poland and Eastern Germany during Roman times. A branch moved to Galicia (Spain) between 409 and 411 A.D. and is well documented by historical texts. Haplogroup I2b1 has a strong presence in Galicia even to this day.

Going back further the "Swabian cluster" converges with families from Finland, Denmark, England and various other locations in the Baltic region. Here our ancestors lived 3,000 to 5,000 years ago, either hugging the southern shoreline of the Baltic Sea in areas around Danzig, Poland or closer to Lithuania or perhaps a bit further into the interior. DNA has been extracted from skeletons in Saxony radiocarbon dated to 1,000 B.C., found to be part of haplogroup I2b2, and identified with the Urnfield Culture. Our I2b1 must have split from I2b2 in modern Germany or Poland prior to this time.

Haplogroup I2a is found in higher frequency in southeastern Europe. Archaeogenetists estimate that haplogroup I2 split into I2a and I2b about 15,000 years ago, in southeastern Europe. Haplogroup I2b migrated north following melting ice from the Last Glacial Maximum (Last Ice Age) which was subsiding during this time.

Haplogroup I itself can be traced to the Middle East, particularly the Arabian peninsula during a time when Arabia was green about 25,000-30,000 years ago. The haplogroup split from supergroup IJ and earlier supergroup IJK, all with origins

in Arabia as early as 45,000 year ago.

And these in turn descend back to East Africa via the Strait of Mandab at the southern end of the Red Sea. The majority of the world's population descends through humans who left Africa via the Strait of Mandab during prehistoric times. Let me know if you have any further questions or would like to explore any of these tangents in more detail. Many of these haplogroups with their historical and modern significance is found on the Internet. Ysearch.org has a huge database of DNA profiles that are easily arranged to compare with your own.

DNA is typically a fascinating journey of discovery. Revealing the deep ancestry with both historic and prehistoric connections through people around the world has its obvious rewards. I encourage you to dig deeper and expand your knowledge of DNA by uncovering the profiles of additional surnames in your family tree. We all have highly complex origins with varied migration patterns when the DNA of all our known surnames is examined.

Thank you for choosing the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society for your testing.

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