

# **The Meek Family Group B Introduction**

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The Meek/Meeks DNA Project<sup>1</sup> has established Y-DNA STR signatures<sup>2</sup> for a significant number of early American ancestors. This allows for a determination of which Meek ancestors were related and which ones were not related. Combined with genealogies, Y-DNA shows several major unrelated groups of men, one of which is designated as Group B. Y-DNA 37 STR<sup>3</sup> marker tests on Group B descendants indicate that they all shared a common Meek ancestor.

As a result of Y-DNA testing, the term “Group B” can be defined as an umbrella group which includes distantly related subgroups some of which include more closely related branches. In other words, Y-DNA shows a large complex family structure. This is born out genealogically as the various early families are spread out between Maryland, S. W. Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Few of these families can be connected genealogically except by proximity and association. Given the same surname, Y-DNA signature, haplogroup, and associations certain assumptions can be made about their relationships. A word of caution is in order. Not all conclusions presented here are completely supported or without alternative hypothesis.

This article has been revised on numerous occasions as more people have joined the project and additional Y-DNA test results have become available. Y-DNA tells us there were six separate families that migrated to the United States in the mid to late 1600’s or early 1700’s. This article explores that portion of the Group B Meek family that can be seen by genetics and genealogy. While the genetic structure presented here pre-dates most of the earliest known ancestors it connects to them by virtue of the Y-DNA tests of their descendants. The genetic structure that can be seen is not necessarily the entire family either living today or in the past. There may well be other branches not yet known to us.

This article is divided into three sections, two appendix and two separate articles on genetic detail. All of them are important to understanding Group B. This article will undoubtedly be revised again. New readers should check the project web site for the latest information.

Part 1 – Group\_B Introduction/Genealogical Summary  
Appendix A: Roberts/Meek Connection (subgroup B1b)  
Part 2 - Y-DNA Haplogroup/SNP structure of Meek Group B  
Part 3 - Group B Y-DNA Ancestral STR Signature  
Appendix B: R-BY25610 Smith Family

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<sup>1</sup> <http://meekdna.com>

<sup>2</sup> 37 Y-DNA STR marker results. AKA DNA haplotype, signature, or profile

<sup>3</sup> STR=short tandem repeat

## Section 1 – Group B Genealogies

Subgroup B1b – Washington Co., PA: In 1769 the Proprietor of Pennsylvania opened the area of S. W. Pennsylvania to settlers<sup>4</sup>. Ownership of the area was also claimed by Virginia and control of the area alternated between the two states. The dispute was not settled until the 1780's when Virginia ceded the area to Pennsylvania. Virginia took part of West Augusta County and divided the area into Yohogania, Monongalia and Ohio Counties. However, the area of S. W. Pennsylvania was more commonly known as Westmoreland Co., PA which was formed in 1773 from Bedford County<sup>5</sup>.

In 1769 the area was inhabited by Indians and under attack by the British and French<sup>6</sup>. Forts were established to protect the western frontier and the settlers. In this relatively small hostile area many men named Meek brought their families and established new lives.

As early as 1772 men named Meek had settled west of Ft. Pitt in modern day Allegheny Co., PA<sup>7</sup>. A short distance to the south a different unrelated Meek family settled in Washington County. Some of these men from Washington Co., PA were well documented and have extensive descendant charts. Others left a very small footprint and little or no information is available about their descendants. Following is a brief summary of what is known about those men and their families.

**Isaac Meek** was listed in the 1774 tax list of Tyrone TWP, Westmoreland Co., PA. Isaac Meek buys 50 acres on Buffalo Creek from Derrick Hoagland in 5 Jun 1775 (Deed Book 1 page13). Isaac Meek was awarded a land grant in Ohio Co., VA on “Buffaloe Creek” on 10 Nov 1785. The Virginia certificate indicates he settled the land in 1775. He sold his land on Buffalo Creek to his daughter Elizabeth and husband, Beal Pumphrey, 5 Dec 1798. While there is some uncertainty about the identity of the man in Tyrone Township<sup>8</sup> the Isaac Meek who sold his land in 1798 also bought land in Jefferson Co., OH in 1798. He was Isaac Meek born 1746. He died 12 Dec 1840. He married Mary Robinson in 1770 Ohio Co., VA according to traditional genealogies. They had 10 children. He married Rachel Hedges 31 Jan 1792. They had nine children.

**Samuel Meek** was listed in the March 1781 tax list of Bethlehem TWP, Washington Co., PA. He was also listed in the 1783 tax list and the 1790 census for this area. He received a land grant for land named Snake Den on 27 Jan 1785. The patent was dated 31 Mar 1788. When he actually settled in Washington County is not known. His date of birth is usually given as 1732 although there is no proof of this. He signed a will on 27 Feb 1793 in Washington Co., PA. He died on 12 Feb 1799 in Washington Co., PA. His estate was probated on 13 Mar 1799. His wife and children are mentioned in his will. He married Charity and contrary to popular belief her surname is not known. They had seven children.

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<sup>4</sup> The History of Allegheny Co., PA, by Samuel Durant, 1876

<sup>5</sup> Washington County was formed in 1781. Fayette County was formed in 1783. Allegheny County was formed in 1788 and Green County was formed in 1796. To the west of Washington County and East of the Ohio River was Ohio Co., VA which later became part of West Virginia. This area was subdivided into Ohio, Brooke, Marshall and Hancock Counties.

<sup>6</sup> The History of Washington Co., PA, by Boyd Crumrine, 1882

<sup>7</sup> The Meek/Meeks Family of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Kentucky, by Christopher A. Meek, 9 Sep 2006

<sup>8</sup> Men Named Isaac Meek by Christopher A. Meek, 18 Dec 2011

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**Nathaniel Meek** (AKA Nathan<sup>9</sup>) was listed in the 1783-1786 tax lists of Morgan TWP, Washington Co., PA. He was listed in the 1790 census of Washington Co., PA (1-6-3). In 1794 he signed an oath of allegiance in West Bethlehem Township. He witnessed the will of William Iiams on 20 Feb 1795 in Washington County. He left for Pulaski Co., KY before 1799. He moved to Jennings Co., IN and died in Pulaski Co., KY in 1827. Neither his date of birth nor his wife's name is known. He had 11 children born after 1775.

There is no evidence that **Basil Meek** born 1763<sup>10</sup> was in S. W. Pennsylvania. However, he lived near Nathaniel in Pulaski Co., KY and Jennings Co., IN. He died on 12 Jan 1844 in Woodford Co., IL. He married Eleanor Roberts on 18 Aug 1796 in Clark Co., KY. They had nine children.

**Elisha Meek** first appears in the records of S. W. Pennsylvania in 1800. He appeared on the census of Morris TWP, Greene Co., PA between 1800 and 1840. He was born between 1760 and 1764. He signed a will on 20 Dec 1837 in Greene Co., PA. He married Mary Short, and they had 10 children.

**Each of the men named above has a one or more descendant who has undergone Y-DNA testing. The test results (37 marker haplotypes) strongly indicate that these five men shared a common male ancestor<sup>11</sup>.** These results do not reveal who that ancestor was, when he lived or what the relationship between the men was. The results also show that the men named Meek in Washington County were not related to the men name Meek in Allegheny County. The Allegheny Co., PA Meek family is known as Group A. and the Washington Co., PA Meek family is part of what is known as Group B.

These five men were not the only men named Meek who lived in the area of Washington and Green Counties<sup>12</sup>. The following unidentified men have been excluded from being sons of the five men named above.

Jacob Meek in Bethlehem TWP, Washington County 1783 tax list

Jeremiah Meek in Morgan TWP, Washington County 1783 tax list

Isaac Meek in Bethlehem TWP, Washington County 1783 tax list

(Probably the following man)

Isaac Meek born before 1765 1810 census of Amwell TWP, Washington Co., PA

Isaac Meek born between 1765 and 1769 1810 census of Greene Co., PA

Bazel Meek born between 1774 and 1784 Washington Co., PA 1800 census

(Probably Bazel Meek born 1776 who resided in Miami Co., OH.)

John Meek born between 1774 and 1784 Greene Co., PA<sup>13</sup> 1800 census

William Meek born between 1765 and 1784 1810 census of Amwell TWP, Washington Co., PA

Samuel had sons named Jacob born about 1762 and William born 1755. These sons were listed separately in tax lists and/or census records. Samuel also had a son named John born about 1751. Isaac born 1746 had sons John born 1781, Jacob born 1784 and Isaac born 1795. Nathaniel had a son named Jeremiah who was born about 1776. The men listed above do not appear to be sons of

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<sup>9</sup> The name Nathaniel appears in some records. Its use is a matter of personal preference by the author

<sup>10</sup> A Meek Genealogy, by H. B. Meek, 1902 Undocumented date of birth 7 Mar 1863

<sup>11</sup> The Meek/Meeks Y-DNA Project

<sup>12</sup> Early Meek Settlers of S. W. Pennsylvania by Christopher A. Meek, 17 Jul 2004

<sup>13</sup> Tuscarawas Co., OH Death Record #2 record the death of Nathan Meek age 89 on May 8, 1883, age 89 born Green Co., PA, Parents: John and Margaret Meek.

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Samuel, Isaac, or Nathaniel. One of the unidentified men could have been the father of one or more of the others on the list. Some of them could have been a grandson of Samuel based solely on their age as told by the records. But in most cases, there is not enough information on any of these men to even speculate on if or how they might have been related. In addition, it must be remembered that the unrelated Group A Meek ancestors lived in nearby Allegheny County.

While these men in the above list could have been totally unrelated, their presence in close proximity to the Group B ancestors raises the possibility of a larger extended family. While the children of the Samuel, Isaac born 1746 and Nathaniel are known their dates of birth are far from certain. Any one of them could have had an unknown wife and additional children.

East Tennessee/Arkansas: A person named **Jeremiah Meek** appears in Greene Co., TN court records in 1784. Jeremiah Meek received land grant #2014 in 1787 for 400 acres on Lick Creek, Holston River. He sold his land 10 Sep 1796 according to the Greene Co., TN Deed Book #6. The deed indicates that he was a resident of Blount Co., TN. A person named **Jacob Meek** signed a petition for a new state in East Tennessee in 1782. On Dec 9, 1796 Jacob Meek was bondsman for the marriage of **John Roberts** and Rachel Robinett. Finally, a person named **Jeremiah Meek** married Betsy Blevins on 8 Feb 1802 in Blount Co., TN according to court records. It seems unlikely that this Jeremiah Meek was the same person who appeared in the early court records. It is believed that Jeremiah Meek who married Betsy Blevins and Jacob Meek migrated to Carroll Co., AR and were immortalized in history books as Blue Jacob Meek and Shotgun Jerry Meek.

There is no direct evidence where Jeremiah and Jacob came from before Blount Co., TN. It may be pure coincidence that they lived in Carroll Co., AR where two sons of Jacob Meek who died in Henry Co., TN also lived (see below). Jeremiah T. Meek and John E. Meek came to the area from Henry Co., TN just a couple of years after Blue Jacob and Shotgun Jerry. Jacob Meek of Blount Co., TN was born about 1765 and Jeremiah Meek of Blount Co., TN may have been born between 1771 and 1780.

**John Roberts** was born about 1773 in Maryland according to the 1850 census. He married Rachel Robinett 6 Dec 1796 in Blount Co., TN. The bondsman was Jacob Meek. He was listed in the 1830 census of Cape Girardeau, MO, early tax records of Izard and Carroll Co., AR and the 1840 census of Carroll Co., AR. He was listed in the 1850 census of Milam and Williamson Co., TX. John Roberts associated with and migrated with the Meek family his entire adult life. Based on Y-DNA John Roberts shared a Meek patrilineal ancestor with the other descendants of ancestors in subgroup B1. Based on his long association with the Meek family he was probably not too distantly related.

Two adult sons of John Roberts were recorded in the 1880 census which indicates John Roberts was born in Maryland. Given his relationship with the Meek family it is possible that Jacob and Jeremiah Meek also came from Maryland. Subgroup B1 does have three ancestors who resided in Maryland in the early 1800s and may have lived there much earlier. Unfortunately, there are no records proving that the larger B1b Meek family was from Maryland.

Subgroup B1c – Tennessee/Arkansas: In September 1799 Nathaniel Meek appears in the tax records of Pulaski Co., KY along with Basil Meek born 1763. Nathan Meek receives a certificate

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for land on Wolf Creek 14 Aug 1800<sup>14</sup>. Also listed in tax and land records were **Jacob Meek**, Jeremiah Meek and Jeremiah Meek Jr. These three were believed to have first settled in nearby Cumberland County<sup>15</sup>. A case could be made that Jacob and Jeremiah came to the area from Washington Co., PA with Nathaniel but the evidence is not conclusive. The number of people named Jacob Meek and Jeremiah Meek was fairly small prior to 1785<sup>16</sup>. Jacob Meek can be identified as the man who died in Henry Co., TN in 1824<sup>17</sup>. More than one of his descendants has been Y-DNA tested and they shared a common ancestor with the descendants of the Washington Co., PA Meek family. Whether or not Jacob came from Washington County he was related to Nathaniel and Basil. However, analysis of the DNA results suggests the relationship may have been more distant than the relationship between Nathaniel and the other men in Washington County.

Two of Jacob Meek's son, Jeremiah T. and John E., moved to Carroll Co., AR and lived not far from Jeremiah Meek, Jacob Meek and John Roberts from Blount Co., TN. As mentioned above Y-DNA proves these men were also related to the men who lived in Washington Co., PA. That they lived near each other may have been a coincidence, but Jacob Meek and his sons shared a common ancestor with the other men in subgroup B1b.

Subgroup B1a: There are also other somewhat later Maryland ancestors represented in Group B1 of the DNA project. **William Meeks** was born about 1808 in Maryland. **John W. Meek** was born about 1815 in Maryland. Both his parents were born in Maryland. He married Catherine Jones. **William Meek** was born about 1824 in Maryland. All these men lived in Baltimore, MD. While there is no known genealogical connection between these three men, the Y-DNA results show that they shared a common ancestor, and each had one unique marker value (DYS570=18) difference from the ancestral signature of subgroup B1b. The overall analysis of Group B Y-DNA suggests a separate line of descent from the common ancestor of subgroup B1. However, length of that line of descent is unknown.

Prior Genealogies: In 1902 H. B. Meek published his genealogy and described the 16 children of Jacob Meek born 1698, son of Adam Meek<sup>18</sup>. While there is much controversy regarding the validity of his claim subsequent researcher identified eight of the supposed sons of Jacob Meek as residents of early S. W. Pennsylvania. Carleton Meek expanded on the genealogy of H. B. Meek in 1962 and provided details on Joshua, John, Jacob, Jeremiah, Nathan, Basil, Isaac, and Samuel<sup>19</sup>. According to Y-DNA results these men were from two unrelated families.

A review of the early Meek genealogies failed to find any documentation to support the genealogies provided by the two authors in so far as the earliest generations are concerned. Y-DNA results unequivocally tell us that the complete list of supposed sons of Jacob Meek came from three unrelated Meek families. Other researchers assigned the same set of children to Jacob Meek born 1717 the son of Guy Meek of Ann Arundel Co., MD<sup>20</sup>. In over 100 years of

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<sup>14</sup> The Kentucky Land Grants 1782-1924, Willard Rouse Jillson,

<sup>15</sup> The Meek/Meeks Families of Tennessee and Arkansas 19 May 2006 by Christopher A. Meek

<sup>16</sup> Men Named Jacob and Jeremiah Meek July 17, 2004 by Christopher A. Meek

<sup>17</sup> The Meek/Meeks Families of Tennessee and Arkansas 19 May 2006 by Christopher A. Meek

<sup>18</sup> A Meek Genealogy, by H. B. Meek, 1902

<sup>19</sup> Meek Genealogy, by Carleton Lee Meek, 1962

<sup>20</sup> On Meek Families, 1967 by Joseph L. Meek, unpublished

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genealogical research no one has provided any documentation concerning the sons of either Jacob Meek<sup>21</sup>.

Jacob Meek born 1717 is a reasonable alternative to Jacob Meek born 1698 as there are records concerning him in Maryland. There is no evidence that Jacob Meek born 1698 ever came to America let alone Maryland. One cannot trust H. B. Meek or Carleton Meek in that regard given their poor work on Jacob's children. Jacob Meek born 1717 cannot be excluded as the father of some of the supposed sons assigned to him. Jacob Meek owned land not far from Hagerstown in Washington Co., MD. Washington County is across the Potomac from Berkeley Co., WV.

H. B. Meek said his ancestor Basil Meek born 1763 was born in Hagerstown. That may or may not be true. It is not known where Basil Meek born 1763 lived before showing up in the Clark Co., KY. He may have been in Washington Co., PA. However, Basil signed the 7 Feb 1795 marriage bond for Thomas Hulse, the son of Paul Hulse, in Clark Co., KY. Paul Hulse also paid 1787 Virginia taxes for Elisha Meek one of the men from Washington Co., PA. The Hulse family is documented to have come from Berkeley Co., WV<sup>22</sup>.

Paul Hulse born 1740 was the oldest male child of Josiah Hulse who died 1777/78 in Berkeley Co., VA. Josiah owned land on the mouth of Sleepy Creek and the Potomac River, which is now part of Morgan Co., West Virginia, near Berkeley Springs. Berkeley Springs are about 5-10 miles south of the Maryland border and 20 miles west of Hagerstown, MD.

Summary – Subgroup B1 Genealogies: This section provided a brief introduction to one group of early Meek ancestors known here as DNA Group B1. Y-DNA ties together a group of documented Meek ancestors from Washington Co., PA with ancestors in Tennessee and a later group in Maryland. The records also hint at a number of other Meek ancestors who lived alongside of these men in Washington Co., PA and Pulaski Co., KY. This was clearly a large extended family more complex than the early authors recognized. However, it is also noted that there were at least two other unrelated Meek families in the area.

A major issue is where these families came from before Pennsylvania and Tennessee. Despite a tremendous number of genealogies that claim to know this information there is little evidence that pinpoints where they originated in America. It is suggestive that this group includes men who lived in Baltimore around 1800. Other families that the Meeks associated with in S.W. Pennsylvania came from Maryland. John Roberts of Blount Co., TN came from Maryland according to three census records. His descendants also match subgroup B1

Subgroup B1a has at least one member whose parents were also born in Maryland. It is assumed that these families had been in the Baltimore area before 1800. Geographically they appear to be separate from the SW PA subgroup (B1b), but one cannot rule out a back migration from SW PA to Maryland. The location combined with the apparent lack of a mutation at DYS570 suggests a separate branch. Isaac Meek born about 1746 of the SW PA (B1b) subgroup may have been part of this subgroup due to the same mutation. But this cannot be proven without additional genealogical and/or Y-DNA evidence.

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<sup>21</sup> The Progenitor Myth by Christopher A. Meek

<sup>22</sup> Iams of America, Landed Gentry of Maryland, Copyright 1998 by Ralph D. Reynolds

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Even a minimal amount of research will reveal that one Meek family dominated the area just south of Baltimore. Guy Meek was in Ann Arundel Co., MD in the mid 1600's. Despite hundreds of genealogies that will indicate a connection with the ancestors listed in the Meek DNA Project no genealogical connection to Guy Meek or Ann Arundel County has ever been proven. In addition, it is known that Group A did in fact come from Ann Arundel County. Guy Meek's Y-DNA is not known as a proven descendant has not been tested. However, this author does believe Group B is more likely the descendants of Guy Meek than Group A.

To understand this family one must look at various aspects of the history of genealogy concerning the Meek settlers of Washington Co., PA. Taken together they show that the traditional published genealogies of past times were grossly inaccurate. The early authors that so many genealogists have relied upon for decades did not engage in adequate research to fully understand the Meek family they wrote about or to fully understand how far off track they were. Even today with the benefit of years of research and technological advances such as DNA one cannot prove who the progenitor of this Meek family was.

It is the opinion of this writer that it is not possible to identify the father or fathers of these Meek ancestors based on currently available genealogical records alone. Utilizing Y-DNA it is possible to exclude many known early Meek ancestors in the United States from any relationship with them. Y-DNA does not reveal who the common ancestor was or when he lived. It does not reveal the relationships between the men in subgroup B1, or any group of men.

Subgroup B2 – New York: This major subgroup has only one member with a Y-DNA sample. However, his Big Y test with seven private variants supports the conclusion it is a separate subgroup. The member descends from **Edward Meeks** born in 1680 who lived in New York City. He married Maria Kortwright. He had one known son; Joseph Meeks was born about 1710.

The marker values in question are DYS570=18 and CDY=36-38. The sample does have the all-important DYS576=20 typical of subgroup B1 and not seen in subgroup B3. In addition to the single sample the markers themselves present certain problems when used to determine ancestral haplotypes.

The ancestor does not match the other New York Meek family found in early Putnam Co., NY. There are no other known Meek(s) families in New York this early.

### Subgroup B4-Thomas:

Five men named Thomas with 37 or more markers match the Group B ancestral signature with few recent mutations. They descend from one or more men who came to the United States and settled in Virginia and North Carolina in the 1700s. Most descend from Benjamin Thomas born about 1756 who lived in Anson Co., NC. Timing of the split with the Meek surname is unknown. Not all genealogical connection between the Thomas members has been established.

Subgroup B6 (formally B3a) – Baltimore, MD: **George B. Meek** was born about 1785 in Maryland according to the 1860 census. He married Catherine Everly. George was listed in the 1850 census of Pontotoc Co., MS, age 66. (Place of birth unclear.) He was living with Oscar Meek age 25 born Tennessee. George was listed in the 1860 census of Monroe Co., MS (age 75, MD) living with his son, John. John's 1880 census also says his father was born in Maryland. In an 1810 depositions George states that he lived in Baltimore with (James) Williamson. Also tested was a descendant

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of **William W. Meek** born about 1810 who also lived in Baltimore. The descendants match on 67 of 67 markers but the genealogical connection between them is unknown.

Subgroup B3 (formerly B3b2) –Pitt Co., NC: **John Meeks** may have been born about 1710. He died about 1772 in Pitt Co., NC. He was first mentioned in the 1755 poll tax of Beaufort Co., NC with a son. (Pitt County was formed from Beaufort County.) He received a land grant on 5 Mar 1761 from Lord Granville for 542 acres on Grindal Pocosin, adjoining Edward Collins and David Hataway. The surveyed was dated 22 Apr 1756. He signed with the mark "I". Deed records suggest that he had sons named John, Walter, Francis, and James. The last deed record was dated 22 Jan 1772 for 100 acres to James Meek. Tax records also list the names Thomas and Nathan Meeks.

It is believed that John had a father or brother named **James Meeks** in this same area. James obtained land on 6 Dec 1747 in what is now Pitt Co., NC. It was 100 acres from Joseph Barrow of Beaufort County on the east side of Coneto Creek at Thomas Little's line. John sells James's land on 1 Mar 1757. Court records place James in North Carolina, Bertie precinct on July 1727. James died before 1757.

Genealogies for this family are inconsistent. Some claim the progenitor was James Meeks rather than John. Dates of birth vary widely. Except for a few deed records showing the transfer of land between John Meeks and men listed as his sons there is no documentation known to this author regarding the relationship between James, John and the men thought to be his sons.

Subgroup B5 (formally B3b1) – West Virginia: **Thomas Meeks** was born about 1768. His will was written 25 Feb 1826 in Monongalia Co., VA. The will was probated in May 1826. He married Elizabeth Susannah George about 1793 in Maryland. She was born about 1776 in Maryland. She died about 1841 in Champaign Co., OH.

Family lore indicates Thomas was born in Scotland. That may not be true. If born in Scotland, he would represent a branch of the family that migrated much later than the others. According to Y-DNA he was related to the Pitt Co., NC family but there is no genealogical reason to believe he descends from the progenitor of that family. The common progenitor may have lived in Maryland or he may have been born in Scotland.

Subgroup B6 (formally B3a) – Baltimore, MD: **George B. Meek** was born about 1785 in Maryland according to the 1860 census. He married Catherine Everly. George was listed in the 1850 census of Pontotoc Co., MS, age 66. (Place of birth unclear.) He was living with Oscar Meek age 25 born Tennessee. George was listed in the 1860 census of Monroe Co., MS (age 75, MD) living with his son, John. John's 1880 census also says his father was born in Maryland. In an 1810 depositions George states that he lived in Baltimore with (James) Williamson. Also tested was a descendant of **William W. Meek** born about 1810 who also lived in Baltimore. The descendants match on 67 of 67 markers but the genealogical connection between them is unknown.

Summary – Subgroups B3, B5, and B6 Genealogies: While Group B3 involves a smaller number of early American Meek(s) ancestors, the Y-DNA suggests a subgroup structure nearly as complex as Group B1. The earliest known ancestor was John Meeks born about 1700. John sells the land of James Meek who can be documented to have been in North Carolina as early as 1727. The genealogical information is limited.



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While Y-DNA STR markers and the surname ties B1 and B3 together in one family there are differences. The genealogical evidence for Group B3 is limited but does extend back to 1700. However, Y-DNA evidence suggests the ancestral signature of the Pitt Co., NC family (B3) extends back many generations before the earliest known ancestors. When and where the B3 came to the United States is not known. Many questions remain about this group of people.

### **Section 2 – Y-DNA Discussion**

The pursuit of one's genealogy involves tracing one's antecedents from the most recent generation (the parents) to the most distant, one generation at a time. Eventually the information runs dry, and one is stuck at some point in the past, unable to find a name for the next generation. That is where DNA might provide some guidance. This report covers Y-DNA which addresses the father's patrilineal line of the man being tested. No DNA test alone will provide that elusive name for the next generation. But it may assist the genealogical effort and may provide general information about the early family.

As of the 2020 Group B includes nearly 70 members, most of whom descend from a man named Meek or Meeks, who have had their Y-DNA tested. Each has a minimum of 37 markers while 23 have 67 markers and 9 have 111 markers. Twelve men have tested to the Big Y level. They represent more than 20 early American ancestors. These men share a common ancestor named Meek and they are related to each other.

Group B is one of the largest groups of early Meek(s) ancestor that can be tied together by Y-DNA. Few of the ancestors are connected genealogically and the parents of these men are unknown. A review of known ancestors named Meek or Meeks born before 1800, which appear in official records, reveals few ancestors who have not been excluded by Y-DNA<sup>23</sup> or who were born early enough to have been the progenitor of either Group B or any subgroup in it<sup>24</sup>. Only a small number of those not excluded have known descendants who are likely to be DNA tested.

The ultimate progenitor of Group B, also known as the "common ancestor", produced six known subgroups that can be identified by Y-DNA, including STR and SNP markers. They are named here as B1 through B6. Each of these positions on the family tree represent unknown ancestors who in turn was responsible for different branches of the Group B family. All the subgroups are tied together by the similarity of their respective ancestral STR signature<sup>25</sup>. Each subgroup has a slightly different set of defining markers<sup>26</sup>. There is no known genealogical connection between the six major subgroups. The timing of when subgroups split is also problematic. For details of how Y-DNA reveals this information see the companion articles Meek Group B Y-DNA Ancestral STR Signature and Haplogroup/SNP Structure of Meek Group B. In addition, at least one member in five of the major subgroups underwent advanced SNP testing. Each is positive for the SNP marker R-BY25608. This means the common ancestor of all four subgroups also was positive for BY25608. Each member who was SNP tested had one or more private variant for which the other Big Y tested members are negative. It is now known that subgroups B1, B2 and B4 are more

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<sup>23</sup> Meek DNA Project

<sup>24</sup> The Meek/Meeks Family of the United States by Christopher Meek

<sup>25</sup> Ancestral haplotype: The haplotype of a MRCA deduced by comparing descendants' haplotypes and eliminating mutations. (ISOGG glossary)

<sup>26</sup> Defining markers are those markers that make one group different from another.

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closely related than subgroup B3. Subgroups B1 and B2 are more closely related than subgroup B4.

Table A – Earliest known ancestors <1800

Table A

Group	# Tested	# Big Y	Ancestor	Location1	Location2	DOB
Gp B1b	4		Samuel Meek	Washington Co., PA	Ohio	@1732
"	1		Isaac Meek	Washington Co., PA	Ohio	1746
"	3	1	Nathaniel Meek	Washington Co., PA	KY, IN	Unk
"	2	1	Basil Meek	Washington Co., PA	KY, IN	1763
"	2		Elisha Meek	Washington Co., PA	Greene Co., PA	@1765
"	2		Jeremiah Meek	Blount Co., TN	Carroll Co., AR	@1771
"	4		John Roberts	Blount Co., TN	Carroll Co., AR	@1773
Gp B1a	1		William Meeks	Baltimore, MD		@1808
"	1	1	John W. Meeks	Baltimore, MD		@1815
"	1		William Meek	Baltimore, MD	Williamson Co., TN	@1824
Gp B1c	5		Jacob Meek	Henry Co., TN	Carroll Co., AR	@1760
Gp B2	1	1	Edward Meeks	New York City		@1680
Gp B4a	8	1		N. Carolina		
Gp B4b	7	2	Benjamin Thomas	N. Carolina		@1756
"	1		William Meek	Baltimore, MD		@1810
Gp B3	7	1	John Meeks	Pitt Co., NC		@1710
Gp B5	2	1	Thomas Meek	Monongalia Co., VA		@1768
Gp B6	1		George B. Meek	Baltimore, MD		@1785

## Group B ancestral signature

Table 2	DYS439	DYS389	DYS392	DYS458	DYS447	DYS464a	DYS464b	GATA H4	DYS576	DYS570	CDY	DYS442	DYS438
L151	12	13-29	13	17	25	15	15	11	18	17	37-38	12	12
Group B	13	13-28	12	15	26	14	14	12	19	18	36-37	10	13
Con't	DYS534	DYS710	DYS556	DYS533	DYS575	DYS461		DYS572					
L151	15	36	11	12	10	12		11					
Group B	16	36	11	11	11	13		11					

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## The Meek Family – Group B Introduction

### **Section 3 - Conclusions**

The Meek DNA Project through Y-DNA testing has revealed significant facts about the Group B Meek families. Men named Meek(s) can be Y-DNA tested and grouped with other related men based on values for specific Y-DNA STR markers. Anyone not closely matching this set of marker values cannot be related to the group of ancestors mentioned above. Y-DNA does not reveal who a common ancestor was or when he lived.

Following is a list of major accomplishments related to DNA Group B.

- The Meek DNA Project has disproven the genealogy of H. B. Meek, Carleton Meek and other early authors who claim descent from Adam Meek born 1640 in Lincolnshire, England. Descendants of the sons Matthew Meek and Jacob Meek born 1698 were not related. Sons assigned to Jacob Meek came from at least three unrelated Meek families. The sons of Jacob Meek who settled in S. W. Pennsylvania came from unrelated Meek families. Most of the men who lived in Washington Co., PA in the mid 1700's are assigned to Group B and were not related to the men who lived in nearby Allegheny Co., PA who are in Group A.
- Men assigned to the Meek DNA Project Group B (Y-DNA tested) all share a common Meek ancestor regardless of surname. They are all related based on a series of STR marker values.
- Y-DNA 37 marker tests and advanced SNP tests has established six subgroups which probably connect prior to immigration to the United States. All descend from haplogroup R-BY25608.
- The men who lived in Pitt Co., NC in the mid 1700's (subgroup B3) shared a common ancestor (R-BY25608) with the other ancestors in Group B.
- Jacob Meek who died in 1824 Henry Co., TN shared a common ancestor with Group B1b earliest known ancestors but does not descendant from any of them.
- Jeremiah Meek of Blount Co., TN (married Betsy Blevins) shared a common ancestor with other men in Group B1b particularly those in Washington Co., PA. John Roberts born about 1773 also shared a common ancestor and associated with Jeremiah's family. He was born in Maryland according to census records.
- Edward Meeks born in 1860 who lived in New York City shared a common ancestor with other men in Group B.
- \* Several men named Thomas (subgroup B4) match the ancestral signature of Group B 110 of 111 markers and descend from a Meek common ancestor who was positive for R-YP1080. Timing of the split is unclear.
- Many 1800's ancestors with unknown connections to earlier known ancestors shared a common ancestor with men in Group B and are not related to other groups or individual identified by the Meek Project.

These accomplishments are significant even if they do not reveal a specific connection. They tell one where to focus their research attention and what areas to avoid. It is just as important to know who one is not related to as it is to know who one might be related to.

## The Meek Family – Group B Introduction

## The Meek Family – Group B Introduction

### Appendix A Roberts/Meek Connection

An associate of Jeremiah and Jacob Meek of Blount Co., TN was John Roberts. Jacob Meek signed the bond for the marriage of John Roberts and Rachel Robinett on 9 Dec 1796 in Blount Co., TN. John Roberts was listed in the 1830 census of Cape Girardeau Co., MO along with Jacob Meek. He was listed in tax and census records for Carroll Co., AR in the 1830s and 1840s. He was listed in the 1850 census of Milam and Williamson Co., TX where some of the children of Jeremiah Meek lived. Jeremiah Meek was a presumed brother of Jacob Meek.

John Roberts was born about 1773 in Maryland according to the 1850 census. His sons Henry and John W. were recorded in the 1880 census of Parker Co., TX and Wise Co., TX respectively. Both records indicate that their father was born in Maryland. His children, as reported in unverified genealogies, were Aaron Roberts (1795 – 1870), Nancy Elizabeth Roberts (1795 – ), Richard Roberts (1800 – 1870), John Wesley Roberts (1815 – 1880), Edward Franklin Roberts (1817 – 1881), Henry J. Roberts (1819 – 1881), James T. Roberts (1825 – 1869). In the 1850 census John Roberts is listed in the household of his son John W. Roberts age 35 Alabama. On the same page of the census is listed Aaron Roberts age 55 Tennessee.

One descendant of Aaron Roberts and two descendants of John W. Roberts have Y-DNA 37 marker results which match the ancestral STR signature of Meek Group B1b and specifically a descendant of Jeremiah Meek of Blount Co., TN who married Betsy Blevins. Using the three Roberts haplotypes one can project an ancestral haplotype for the Roberts family that matches the Meek Group B1b on 37 of 37 markers. In other words, John Roberts' Y-DNA STR signature probably looked similar to that of Jeremiah Meek.

#### Y-DNA for Jeremiah Meek=Betsy Blevins

Son: Lewis Meek b: @1818

Wallace D. Meek Kit# 87158>Reuben D. Meek b: @1912>Reuben Meek b: @1891>John H. Meek b: @1867>Moses Meek b: @1841> Lewis Meek b: @1818

And

Son: George W. Meek b: @1825

Gary Meek Kit# 366234>Walter E. Meek b: 1914>William H. Meek b: @1879>Richard H. Meek b: @ 1852>George W. Meek b: @1825

Both kits match the ancestral values for Meek Group B1b on 37 of 37 markers.

#### Y-DNA for John Roberts b: 1773

Son: Aaron Roberts b: 1795

(Private) Roberts Kit#433974> > >Aaron Roberts b:@1795

Matches Meek Group B1b ancestral values with exception of DYS570=18

and

Son: John W. Roberts b: @1815

Merle Smith Kit#154530>Louis Smith b: 1900>George L. Roberts AKA William L. Smith b: 1871>John B. Roberts b: @1841>John W. Roberts b: @1815

(The Smith/Roberts connection also supported by autosomal DNA.)

Matches Meek Group B1b ancestral values with exception of DYS439=12, CDY=36-37

and

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Chester D. Roberts Kit# 376619>Bobby D. Roberts b: 1933> William N. Roberts b: 1898>  
William L. Roberts b: 1872>Newton W. Roberts b: @1847>John W. Roberts b: @1815  
Matches Meek Group B1b ancestral values with exception of DYS439=14, CDY=36-37

### Conclusions:

**Descendants of John Roberts share a common ancestor with members of Meek Group B1b.**

**John Roberts and Jeremiah Meek shared a common ancestor.** Who that ancestor was or when he lived is not revealed by DNA alone. Both men were approximately the same age. One did not descend from the other.

**The Roberts family came from Maryland.** However, Maryland records have not been reviewed. Traditional genealogies that have been shown to be inaccurate in other areas say the Meek family came from Ann Arundel Co., MD and/or Washington Co., MD. No proof of this has ever been offered although there are records available in Ann Arundel County. Some Group B1a Meek ancestor were born in Baltimore, MD shortly after 1800.

Based on their associations during their adult lives the relationship between John Roberts and the Blount Co., TN Meek families may not have been too distant. The earliest known date for Group B1b is 1732 (Samuel Meek, Washington Co., PA).

By Christopher A Meek  
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