

Who Fathered William F. Mumaw/Moomaw?

by
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BACKGROUND

A woman by the name of Anna Mumaw, b. abt 1823, gave birth to a child in 1845 who was known during his life as William F. Mumaw or Moomaw. From a Will left by a Harmon Webb, who died in 1849 at the age of 65, we learn that Anna Mumaw worked for him as a housekeeper. Harmon bequeathed a significant sum of money to Anna, by the standards of that time, if she continued to faithfully serve him in the manner she had previously done. Other Webb researchers say that Harmon and his wife were divorced, or at least had separated. Upon examining the 1850 census for Shenandoah County, Virginia, we find that Anna has now married a man by the name of William Fadely and their family consists of a 6 month old female child by the name of Emily E. Fadely and a William Webb, age 5. In all other documents, including Civil War records, etc, this William's surname is listed as Mumaw or Moomaw. Soon after the Civil War, William migrated to West Virginia where he married and raised a family of eight children. All of his descendants spell their surname as MOOMAW.

From our previous DNA testing, however, we clearly determined that a Moomaw descendant of William F. Mumaw does not have the MUMMA DNA "fingerprint". This led to speculation that the father of William F. Mumaw was quite possibly Harmon Webb or one of Harmon's sons who were about the same age as Anna and were living nearby, possibly in the same house. No written documentation, other than William's surname being listed as "Webb" in the 1850 census, has been found to confirm or validate the speculation that his father was a Webb.

THE PLAN

Descendants of Harmon Webb were solicited and two were tested so that a WEBB surname DNA "fingerprint" could be determined and compared with the DNA results previously obtained from the Moomaw descendant of William F. Mumaw. If William's father was indeed a Webb, then the Webb Y-chromosome DNA results should match that of William Mumaw's descendant.

THE RESULTS

The results from these Y-chromosome tests are shown below. The numbers recorded in the table are called "alleles" or "repeats". These numbers represent the values that were measured at specific places along the length of the Y-Chromosome. These specific locations along the Y-Chromosome are given "DYS numbers" by scientists to serve as identifying descriptors of the specific location..

INTERPRETATION

Typically, allele values change or "mutate" very slowly, about once in every 500 generations. If two people match each others allele patterns exactly, then 50% of the time they will share a common ancestor within 15 generations, often much closer. Because a mutation can occur at any generation, we allow a difference of one value at one marker and still consider that men can share a common ancestor with "matches" on 11 of 12 markers. You can read about these statistics and the DNA testing process in more detail at the Family Tree DNA web site: <http://www.familytreedna.com/faq2.html>. Therefore, for two people to be closely related and share a recent common ancestor, their pattern of alleles (called a person's "haplotype") must match the other person's pattern exactly at ALL locations or with a maximum variation of 1 number difference. The results from 35 men who share the MUMMA surname (or similar

