

Brewer DNA Project, Subgroup Under Consideration A

DNA Evidence:

Kit to kit comparisons of STR marker values for the kits below can be seen online at the [Brewer DNA Project's Y-DNA results page](#). Please note that complete results may only be available to Project members who are logged into their individual FTDNA accounts. Individual members should also utilize their individual accounts at FTDNA where there are tools, question and answer pages and other guides to help with the interpretation of your Y-DNA test results.

Kit #554763

1. John Brower
2. Abraham Brower (1758-1828)
3. Nicholas Brower (1785-1871)
4. John A. Brower (1820-1853)
5. John A. Brower (1853-1948)
6. James H. Brower (1889-1953)
7. (Living) Brower

Kit #67624

1. (?) Brower
2. (?) Brower
3. Leander Brower (1808-1855)
4. Isom H. Brower (1833-1912)
5. William B. Brower (1866-1917)
6. Lum H. Brower (1910-1962)
7. (Living) Brower

FTDNA kit #554763 and #67624 have a genetic distance of 7 on 111 markers. The two match on 105 of 111 markers, but have a two-step difference at DYS635 (no.104), therefore a total distance of 7. FTDNA's TiP report gives a 52.09% chance of the two sharing a common ancestor within 6 generations. It gives a 64.59% chance of the two sharing a common ancestor within 7 generations. It gives a 74.81% within 8 generations and an 82.66% chance within 9 generations. The direct lineage table for Kit #554763 is 6 generations removed from his earliest known ancestor (EKA) John Brower. Kit #67624 is 4 generations removed from his EKA Leander Brower (1808-1855). From the tables it is known that the common ancestor must have lived prior to Kit #554763's 3great-grandfather, Abraham Brower (1758-1828) who is five generations removed. That person may be Abraham's father John Brower (65% chance) or John Brower's father (75% chance) or John Brower's grandfather (83% chance). The identities of the father and grandfather of Leander Brower (1808-1855) are presently unknown.

Kit #82980

1. (?) Brower
2. (?) Brower
3. Leander Brower (1808-1855)
4. Leander Brower (1854-1926)
5. Monroe Brower (1906-1959)
6. Lloyd Brower (1927-)
7. (Living) Brower

Kit #67877

1. (?) Brower
2. (?) Brower
3. Jacob E. Brower (1812-1881)
4. William S. Brower (1841-1909)
5. Vachel B. Brower (1881-1948)
6. James V. Brower (1906-1988)
7. James E. Brower (1929-1995)
8. (Living) Brower

FTDNA Kit #82980 has been tested on 37 markers and has a 4 step difference with #554763. He also has a 2 step difference with #67624, with whom they share a known common ancestor, Leander Brower (1808-1855) who is only 4 generations removed. FTDNA's TiP report gives a 70.52% chance of kits #82980 and #554763 having a common ancestor within 8 generations. #82980 has a 1 step difference with Kit #524302 and a 2 step difference with #197800. The TiP report suggests an 89.06% chance with #524302 and a 70.52% chance with #197800 (both below) on sharing a common ancestor within 8 generations. It must be pointed out that these results are based on tests for 37 markers for #82980, #524302 and #197800. Factoring what we know regarding the lineages of each of these kits, it is easy to see how FTDNA's TiP calculations can be somewhat unreliable or at least less useful when only working with the first 37 markers. Kit #67877 has only tested at 12 markers, and as a result FTDNA's TiP report calculates only a 55.88% chance of a common ancestor within 8 generations between #67877 and #554763. Compare that to the TiP calculation of 74.81 between #554763 and #67624, the two kits who have tested at 111 markers. In addition, the TiP report calculates only a 20.19% chance of finding a common ancestor within 8 generations between #67877 and #82980. Yet, traditional genealogical evidence tells us that the two very likely had a common ancestor only 5 or 6 generations back! This wide difference illustrates the importance of having all members of the group test at the same level, and of the value of testing at the higher 111 marker level. It is suggested that all kits in this subgroup upgrade to the YDNA-111 marker test.

Kit #524302

1. Henry Brewer (c.1735-1799)
2. John Brewer (1765-1810)
3. William Brewer (1801-1846)
4. Denton Brewer (1833-1914)
5. Henry L. Brewer (1864-1927)
6. Edward D. Brewer (1895-1980)
7. Robert L. Brewer (1928-2012)
8. (Living) Brewer

Kit #197800

1. Henry Brewer (c.1735-1799)
2. Peter Brewer (1776-1855)
3. John Brewer (1802-1884)
4. Adam Brewer (1833-1905)
5. Harvey C. Brewer (1869-1941)
6. Clem E. Brewer (1899-1968)
7. Donald C. Brewer (1931-2008)
8. (Living) Brewer

FTDNA kit #524302 matches #197800 on 36/37 markers. FTDNA's TiP report gives an 83.30% chance of the two sharing a common ancestor within 7 generations. As seen in the direct lineage tables, the two tested descendants (no.8 in each) share a common ancestor 7 generations removed. The two are 6th cousins. Both of these kits have only been tested at 37 markers. Based on 37 markers, FTDNA's TiP report places a 97.28% chance that kits #197800 and #554763 (EKA John Brower) have a common ancestor within 8 generations, a 98.26% chance for 9 generations and a 98.89% chance at 10 generation. Kit #524302 and #554763 (EKA John Brower) show an 88.06% chance at 8 generations, a 91.54% chance at 9 generations and a 94.05% chance at 10 generations. The difference here is due to values at marker DYS449, a "fast changing marker," where #197800 and #554763 have a value of 31, and #524302 has a value of 30. Since these TiP results are calculated based only on the first 37 markers, the suggestion is for kits #524302 and #197800 to upgrade to 111 markers*. Combining 111 marker Y-DNA tests with what has been learned from traditional genealogical research should help all get a better idea of just how closely they are related, and may point to areas where additional research efforts should be

focused. *As of December 18, 2016, kit #197800 has upgraded to the 67 marker level STR test. Kit #197800 and #554763 have a 3 step difference at 67 markers. FTDNA's TiP calculator predicts a common ancestor for the two at 95.27% at 8 generations, 97.06% at 9 generations and 98.19% at 10 generations. When including the fact that the two tested descendants do not share a common ancestor within the past six generations, FTDNA's calculations change to state that the two have a 74.37% chance of sharing a common ancestor at 8 generations in the past, a 84.07% at 9 generations and a 90.18% chance at 10 generations.

What is known from traditional genealogical research:

The earliest known ancestors (EKA) from the six kits mentioned are Henry Brewer/Henrich Brauer of Bedford Co., Pennsylvania, John Brower/Johannes Brauer who is found in York Co., Pennsylvania, and later Randolph Co., North Carolina, and Leander Brower (b.1808) and Jacob Brower (b.1812) who are believed to be brothers who relocated from Randolph Co., North Carolina to Henderson Co., Tennessee.

Henry Brewer, recorded as Henrich Brauer on the baptism record of his daughter Anna Margaretha in April 1766, Trinity Reformed Church in York County, Pennsylvania, died according to his gravestone on 18 February 1799, age "about 64 years." He is buried in the Bethel Community Church Cemetery in present day Warfordsburg, Fulton Co., Pennsylvania. He is recorded on tax lists in Bedford Co., Pennsylvania as early as 1773. He left a will dated 14 February 1799 (four days before his death) which was proved on 5 March 1799 in Bedford Co., Pennsylvania. Henry names his wife Christina (received 100 pounds) and ten children who are to divide his estate. Henry's children are proved and numerous descendants can be easily documented. His first was Barbara (family name not known) who died 30 June 1795, "aged about 64 years," and is buried with Henry. Henry married his second wife, Christina Flick on 11 December 1797. The marriage is recorded in the records of the German Reformed Church at Hagerstown, Maryland. Henry and Christina had one child, a son George born in 1799. Henry's other nine children are all presumed to be with his wife Barbara who is named in the April 1766 baptism record mentioned above. The lineages for the two descendants who have participated in the Project (#524302 and #197800) are not disputed. His age at death, "about 64 years," indicates that he was born about 1735. **The identity of the parents of Henry Brewer is not known.**

John Brower is recorded as Johannes Brauer in the records of the same Trinity Reformed Church, York Co., Pennsylvania mentioned above. His sons Christian (b. 17 May 1756), Abraham (b. 10 June 1758) and David (b. 18 October 1760) were all baptized there on 24 June 1762. Son Adam (b. 4 February 1763) was baptized there on 20 March 1763, and son Jacob (b. 14 October 1765) was baptized there on 3 November 1765. The mother of the children is recorded as Hannah nee Echelbaur in the 1762 baptism record. A son John for whom no record of baptism has been found, died in 1814 in Randolph Co., North Carolina with four children between the ages of 14 and 21. The son John is proved by the will of Abraham Wanger which will be discussed shortly. No record of John Brower's marriage has been found, but it is clear that he and Hannah were married by 1756 when their first known child was born. Generally speaking, men from John's time, place and culture were marrying once they were established with property which usually occurred in their mid to late twenties. Assuming that John had not

previously been married, it is likely he was born around 1730. Of his six known sons, Christian, Adam, David, Jacob and John moved to and settled in Randolph Co., North Carolina probably in the late 1770s. John's son Abraham settled in Berks Co., Pennsylvania where he died in 1828. It has been commonly believed that John Brower was a son of Hubert Brower and a brother of Christian Brower of Coventry, Chester County, and of Henry Brower also of Coventry. **I do not believe that this is correct.** If this John Brower is a descendant of Hubert Brower, he may be Hubert's grandson. Administration on the estate of a John Brower was granted 30 May 1777 in Chester Co., Pennsylvania to Daniel Brower and Henry Brower. Previously in 1770, John Brower and his wife Susannah deeded land in Coventry, Chester County, to Daniel Brower. **It appears that these last two events belong to a different man named John Brower.** It is more likely that this second man named John Brower is the claimed brother to Christian and Henry Brower of Coventry. The will of Abraham Wanger of Union Twp., Berks Co., Pennsylvania provides evidence to the fact that John Brower (father of Christian, Abraham, David, Adam, Jacob and John) cannot be the John Brower whose estate was administered in 1777 in Chester County. Abraham Wanger's will was dated 2 September 1792, a codicil was added on 3 May 1794, and it was proved on 7 May 1794. This will has apparently been overlooked or misinterpreted by previous researchers of Hubert Brower's descendants. [A transcript is online.](#) The original, found in [Berks Co. Wills, vol. B2, p.373 can also be viewed online.](#) From his will it is apparent that Abraham Wanger did not have any surviving heirs or a surviving wife when it was written on 2 September 1792. Abraham Wanger leaves his plantation in Union Twp. To his "**Friend Abraham Brower which is son of John Brower in Carolina.**" Abraham Brower is required to pay five hundred pounds to other relations of Abraham Wanger (siblings, nieces and nephews) who are mentioned by name later in the will. Abraham Wanger also leaves fifty pounds to "**my beloved friend John Brower Junr a son of John Brower Senr which liveth in Carolina.**" These two mentions in Abraham Wanger's will indicate that John Brower, the father of Abraham Brower of Berks County, and of John Brower of Carolina, is himself alive and living in Carolina in September 1792. He cannot be the John Brower who died previous to 30 May 1777 when his estate was administered in Chester County. The John Browsers must be two different men. **A date and place of death for John Brower (of Carolina) has not been found.** The codicil of Abraham Wanger's will may be the root cause for the confusion regarding the idea that John Brower was a son of Hubert Brower. First it must be emphasized that Abraham Wanger does not mention any family relationship between himself and Abraham Brower or the two John Browsers named in his will. In fact, he refers to the three as "friends." In his codicil dated 3 May 1794, Abraham Wanger states that since he wrote his will he married Barbara, the widow of Henry Brower. This Henry Brower would be the same Henry Brower of Coventry mentioned above, a presumed brother of Christian Brower and John Brower (d. 1777), both also of Coventry. Henry Brower had died 14 October 1784. The widow of Henry Brower and new wife of Abraham Wanger was Barbara High who then died on 17 Jan 1797. The codicil does not state or mention any family relationship between Henry and Barbara Brower, and John Brower and his two sons Abraham and John.

John Brower's sons: As mentioned above records of baptisms (with dates of birth) are found for five sons of John Brower in the records of the Trinity Reformed Church in York County, Pennsylvania. John's son **Abraham Brower** (b. 10 Jun 1758) received Abraham Wanger's plantation by the latter's will (for a price of five hundred pounds to be paid out to Wanger's stated legacies). He remained in Berks

Co., Pennsylvania and died there on 28 October 1828. His wife was Mary Bunn and they had eight children whose descendants can be well documented. He is an ancestor of kit #554763.

John Brower's sons Christian, David, Adam, John and Jacob all went to Randolph County, North Carolina. Randolph County was first settled by Quaker and Baptist families from Pennsylvania and was formed in 1779. It appears that John and the four mentioned sons were among those settlers.

Christian Brower (b. 17 May 1756) was married to Magdalena Amick, a daughter of Nicholas Amick who was another settler of Randolph County. The couple had ten children, and descendants can be well documented. Christian left a will dated 24 January 1816, and he died 2 May 1819.

John's son **Adam Brower** (b. 4 Feb 1763) was married to Katherine, who some claim is Katherine Fruitt or Pruitt, but this is not certain. The couple had nine children born between 1785 and 1808. Adam died 6 August 1822 in Randolph County and his descendants are also well documented. There is a marriage record in Craven County, North Carolina dated 5 April 1819 for an Adam Brower and Catharine Frious/Friu, and this may be the source of the idea that Adam's wife was Katherine Fruitt. The second Adam Brower and his wife Catharine Frious are clearly a different couple as this Adam died in 1848, the couple had five children born between 1828 and 1845 (they likely had more) and can be found in Craven County and later Chatham County, North Carolina.

David Brower (b. 18 October 1760) went to Randolph County where [he died in battle during the Revolutionary War at Sandy Creek in July 1781](#). He would have been three months shy of 21 years of age. I suspect that he was not married and did not have children.

John Brower's son **John Brower**, mentioned in the will of Abraham Wanger, also appears to have settled in Randolph County. The [estate file of Col. John Brower, Randolph County, 1815](#), shows that **Jacob Brower** settled there as well. In August 1816 **Jacob Brower** was appointed guardian of John Brower's minor children Sarah, Daniel and Betsey, all over the age of 14. As minors, meaning under age 21, but over age 14, the three would have been born between the years 1795 and 1802. [John Brower left a will dated 15 Apr 1814](#). In his will he names his wife Catharine and three children, Sarah, Daniel and Elizabeth. Since no record of baptism is found for John, and as his children were not born until after 1794, it is likely that John was born after his brother Jacob (b.1765) and probably by about 1770.

Jacob Brower (b. 14 October 1765) is most certainly the Jacob Brower who was appointed legal guardian for Col. John Brower's three minor children Sarah, Daniel and Elizabeth. While Jacob's wife has not yet been identified, it is apparent that he married and had a son named David. The accounting of the sale of items from Col. John Brower's estate includes item purchased by one "David Brower of Jacob." Jacob Brower can be found on the 1800 census at Hillsboro, Randolph Co., with a household of 2 males under age 10, 1 male age 26-44, 4 females under 10, 1 female 10-15, 1 female 16-25, and 1 slave. Jacob Brower's household in Randolph Co., in 1810, consists of 1 male under age 10, 1 male 10-15, 2 males 16-25, 1 male 26-44, 4 females under 10, 2 females 10-15, 1 female 26-44. The census records suggest that Jacob had children other than the son David. Jacob is also found as a witness to numerous marriages in Randolph County in the years 1813-1816, although none involving persons named Brower.

Of the above described sons of John Brower, the names Leander Brower and Jacob E. Brower are not found among the sons, or grandsons, of Christian (1756-1819), Abraham (1758-1828), David (1760-1781), Adam (1763-1848), or John (?-1814).

In addition to the above mentioned known sons of John Brower there exists living in Randolph County, a **Nicholas Brower**, [born in 1771 and died 10 July 1847](#). His relationship to the John Brower family is not certain, but it is reasonable to suspect that he is also a son of John Brower and Hannah Eckelbaur. Nicholas and his son Eli Brower were the witnesses to the [1814 will of Col. John Brower](#). They are also found in the accounts of Col. John Brower's estate file, having purchased items from the estate. [Nicholas' own estate was administered by his son Alfred Brower in 1847](#). The administration proceedings, which include law suits, name Nicholas's heirs as Alfred Brower, Eli Brower, Mason T. Brower, John Brower, Emsley D. Brower and Peter Shamburger and his wife Adeline (Brower). There is no mention of heirs named Jacob or Leander.

Leander Brower (b. ca. 1808) is stated to have been born in Randolph County, North Carolina. The 1850 U. S. census, Henderson County, Tennessee, gives his age as 42 (incorrectly transcribed as 22 at Ancestry.com) and place of birth as North Carolina. His wife Barbary is age 39 in 1850, also born in North Carolina. The children in the household (six, ages 9-21) were all born in Tennessee. Leander Brower first appears as a head of household in Henderson County on the 1830 census, his age given as 20-29. In the household are two males ages 15-19, so certainly not his sons. They may be brothers. Also in the household is a female 15-19 (perhaps his wife) and a female age 50-59 (perhaps a mother or mother-in-law). A **Thomas Brower** (or Brewer) is also found on the 1830 census in Henderson County. Thomas is recorded as Thomas Bruer, age 43 on the 1850 census in Henderson County. A [Find-A-Grave memorial \(#82340417\)](#) gives the year of Leander Brower's death as 1855, but his place of burial as "unknown." Leander is found on tax lists in 1836 and 1837, and on the 1840 census in Henderson County, but is not on the 1860 census; while his wife having remarried is recorded as Barbara Hite, age 49. Her maiden name is stated to be Barbara Ward.

Jacob E. Brower is presumed to be a brother of Leander Brower. There is no reason to think otherwise. Jacob E. Brower is on the same tax lists in Henderson County in 1836 and 1837. A **John Brower** is also on the 1837 list, but is not found on other records. Jacob is on the 1840 census in Henderson County, age 20-29, with a household of 1 female under age 5, 1 female age 20-29, and a female age 70-79 (perhaps his mother, or mother-in-law). Jacob is found in Madison County, Tennessee on the 1850 census, age recorded as 30. His wife Elizabeth is age 28, and there are four children ages 2 to 11. In 1860, still in Madison County, Jacob is recorded as age 46. The 1870 census places him in Dry Creek, Howell Co., Missouri, age 57. Jacob's grave marker gives his date of birth as 21 December 1821. He died 28 March 1881 and is buried in Dripping Springs Cemetery, West Plains, Howell Co., Missouri ([Find-A-Grave memorial #11218312](#)). His wife is stated to be Caroline Elizabeth Ward, although census records give her name only as Elizabeth.

Conclusions:

The Y-DNA testing (STR markers) of the six descendants represented above indicates beyond any doubt that they are related and that they share a common ancestor who lived no more than ten generations in the past, and may well have lived closer to the present than ten generations. In addition FTDNA has predicted that the haplogroup for all six testers is R-M269. Haplogroups are determined by SNP tests (different than STR marker testing) and no SNP testing has been done. The haplogroup, R-M269, is the

most common for men with western European ancestry. The tested descendants may wish to confirm their haplogroup by either taking a single SNP test for R-M269, or by taking FTDNA's R1b-M343 Backbone SNP test which may further refine the haplogroup.

As **Henry Brewer** of Bedford Co., Pennsylvania was born about 1735, and that it can reasonably be suspected that **John Brewer** (ancestor of #554763) was born around 1730, it can be assumed that the two are likely brothers (sharing a father) or perhaps first cousins (sharing a grandfather). An upgrade to a Y-DNA 111 marker test by the two descendants of Henry Brewer should allow for a better indication of when a common ancestor lived.

John Brewer (ancestor of #554763) is probably not a son of Hubert Brewer, an assumption that has seemed to be accepted among those interested in the descendants of Hubert Brewer for some time. Hubert Brewer may well have had a son named John Brewer, however, that John Brewer had a wife named Susannah (living in 1770) and died in 1777 in Chester Co., Pennsylvania. In contrast, John Brewer (ancestor of #554763) had moved to North Carolina, and appears to have been living there in 1792. It is possible that John Brewer (ancestor of #554763) is a grandson of Hubert Brewer.

Leander Brewer (b. 1808) and **Jacob E. Brewer** (b. 1812) both of Henderson Co., Tennessee are believed to have been brothers and there is little reason to suspect otherwise. Descendants of both Leander and Jacob are closely related (Y-DNA tests) to the descendant of John Brewer (#554763) and the descendants of Henry Brewer. As both were said to have been (and likely were) born in Randolph County, North Carolina, it has to be highly likely that they too are descendants of John Brewer (#554763), and are either grandsons or perhaps great-grandsons of John. After looking at the descendants of the known sons of John Brewer (#554763) it is apparent that what is known of John's son Jacob Brewer (b. 1765) is incomplete. Based upon the elimination of John Brewer's other sons as possible ancestors, it is likely that Leander (b. 1808) and Jacob E. (b. 1812) are (to date) unknown sons of Jacob Brewer (b. 1765). Jacob Brewer would have been aged 43 in 1808, and age 47 in 1812. It is also possible that Jacob (b. 1765) is Leander and Jacob E. Brewer's grandfather. Since they are not mentioned in the settlement of the estate of Nicholas Brewer (1847) it is very unlikely that Nicholas Brewer was the father of either Leander or Jacob E. Brewer.

Nicholas Brewer (1771-1847) is currently unplaced. It can be suspected that he too is a son of John Brewer (#554763). However, since records supporting this possibility are lacking, only Y-DNA testing of proven direct male descendants of Nicholas Brewer remains as a viable option for demonstrating any relationship.

Hubert Brewer, immigrant to Pennsylvania in 1726, is said to have had three sons named John, Christian and Henry, all of who lived and died in Coventry, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Proof of this belief, as widespread as it is, has not been found. **Y-DNA testing of direct male descendants of John, Christian and Henry Brewer is needed to prove (first) that they are in fact brothers, and (second) to see if the six tested descendants represented above are in fact related to John, Christian and Henry Brewer.**

Also see the Brouwer Genealogy posts of [November 1, 2016](#) and [September 11, 2016](#). The will of Abraham Wenger is discussed in the post of [December 8, 2016](#).

The following simplified tree illustrates the **possible** relationships between the EKAs of the Y-DNA tested participants.

?Brower

- John Brower (b. ca. 1730)
 - Abraham Brower (ancestor of #554763)
 - Jacob Brower (b. 1765)
 - Leander Brower (ancestor of #67624 and #82980)
 - Jacob E. Brower (ancestor of #67877)
- Henry Brower (1735-1799)
 - John Brower (ancestor of #524302)
 - Peter Brower (ancestor of #197800)

November 3, 2016, updated December 19, 2016

Chris Chester

[Brewer DNA Project](#)