The Group 45 Discovery History

An Ongoing Story

Last updated 22 January 2026

A young man has found out he was adopted and walks into a room …
A wife, helping her husband, walks into a room …
They do not know it yet, but they walked into the wrong room.
Later a man walks into the right room.
The first two finally walk into the correct room.
In the proper room ...

The story starts like so many jokes, but it is real life and a real journey of discovery.

Here we have surnames Quick, Duclos and Carpentier who have never met each other. But, their ancestry has a common ancestor born about 390 years ago.

Claude Carpentier was born of goodly parents in 1636 and of Neuville Ferrier, Seine Maritime, France. In time he emigrates to what will be Canada and dies there in 1709. He has several children and three sons who will in turn have sons, and their sons will have their sons in turn toward the present day. His Y-DNA is passed down the generations virtually unchanged.

This Discovery Story has a few unusual twists and turns. We have an illicit affair by a French priest, a Royal Navy deserter who gets away, a Native Americans Metis Lady and a person who becomes his brother. Then we have wars, rumors of wars, great social changes, marriages, deaths, industrialization, and all normal things that people have in their ancestral families. And they will all discover the truth … in time.

Genetic Genealogy

Before we delve into the beginning of that last paragraph, I should mention that wrong room. The wrong room described above is an Autosomal DNA (atDNA) room. In genetic genealogy the three most common types DNA tests are atDNA, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and Y-Chromosomal DNA (Y-DNA).
https://carpentercousins.com/DNATesting.pdf
https://isogg.org/wiki/Beginners'_guides_to_genetic_genealogy

By the way, DNA is Deoxyribonucleic acid, and it is long chain of nucleotides. Those are the basic building blocks of the human body.
https://www.fjc.gov/content/361230/DNA-basics-nucleotides-genes-genome

Let us take a glance at those figurative genetic genealogy rooms.
https://isogg.org/wiki/Genetic_genealogy

Briefly, each type of DNA used in genetic genealogy testing is very unique to each other. This means you cannot put the DNA data up on the wall and compare it. The following is the most common DNA tests used.

The mtDNA is passed down from the mother to all her children, but only her daughters can pass it down to the next generation. And this has happened through many generations of time. This is excellent for maternal DNA research.
https://isogg.org/wiki/Mitochondrial_DNA_tests

The atDNA is passed down from each biological parent. Each provides half of their chromosomes in their respective sperm and egg. They themselves received their atDNA in the same manner back into time.

This type of atDNA test is excellent for the immediate extended family and close cousin matches. But it is not ideal more distant cousins or surname matches.
https://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA

The Y-DNA is passed down from father to son virtually unchanged over the generations. It is excellent for surname research. Y-DNA markers called short term repeats (Y-STRs) provide a numerical value for the repeating proteins in each marker.
The numerical value for each marker creates a number sequence we call a genetic profile or a genetic fingerprint. This means 111 Y-DNA markers provide a higher level of resolution of relatedness than say 37 markers.

When Y-DNA markers are compared to extended family's group such as descendants of one male ancestor then you will see a group mean of matching Y-DNA markers. An occasional mutation or two may or may not be significant or it may be a potential sub-group markers showing a genetic split in a lineage.

When doing surname research the Y-DNA room is where you want to be.
https://isogg.org/wiki/Y_chromosome_DNA_tests

And even better is to go to the specific part of the room dealing with the surname you are interested in. There is usually a common group of people having that surname, a surname study in progress and on occasion volunteers willing to help. This like the Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA (surname) Project supported by the Carpenter Cousins Project.
https://carpentercousins.com/carpdna.htm
https://carpentercousins.com/

Quick

I mentioned that the story has a few unusual twists and turns. Let us start with Jason Quick.* For one reason or the other, Jason was adopted and loved by his parents. He was raised well, but in time he grew curious of his biological parents.

* Those named gave permission to use their forename.

Based on the advertising he saw on television, he ordered, received, took, mailed in and got his atDNA results. He found out he had so much European and this and that in his ethnic breakdown provided by the DNA testing company.

Then he started looking at his atDNA matches, and he began to see common surnames. He was able to contact one of two close cousins and that led him to discover his biological parents who had never married. They had been so very young when they had him. And decades later they were so very pleased he was raised so well.

Using the information received, he began exploring his Carpenter surname genealogically back into time. He saw them in Massachusetts, Maine, and then in Vermont. Then he got to a Joshua Carpenter born 1825 who was born in Canada. His father Nicolas is cited but nothing found proves exactly where he came from.
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/99357023/joshua-carpenter – see also his father.

And as in many genealogical efforts there be "roadblocks." This be situations where there is either too much information, too little or nothing really found to connect a child to their parents to take the genealogy back to another generation. This information block may require better or specialized documentation, such as "The Document" that provides the person with their parents, their spouse and their children. Or, at least the information you need.

But sometimes to get around "a roadblock" you can try a DNA test. But each DNA test has their strengths and weaknesses. These fortes and foibles require one to focus on what the DNA test best provides. For surname studies, the Y-DNA test is the one to use.

Jason had to go to a DNA testing company that provides Y-DNA testing. Jason ordered a 37 marker Y-DNA test in February 2017 from Family Tree DNA, and in due time it came back without a close surname match. Remember he was looking for a Carpenter or similar surname.
https://www.familytreedna.com/

Jason continued to research and tried some other DNA tests and joined the Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project, which is a surname project. He asked for help. He learned about documentation and how to due research genealogy over time.

To be honest, not having any close genetic matches is the pits! It is really frustrating, but Jason was encouraged to keep trying and he did.

One year rolled into another.

Duclos

Debbie Dee, the wife of E. Duclos, was curious about his ancestry. He reported he had some **Metis** ancestry like her. She started his DNA Journey using atDNA then mtDNA testing in July of 2014.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/**M%C3%A9tis**

Debbie and her husband share several Québec and **Mi'kmaq** ancestral lines, which is normal in that part of the Maritime Providences of Canada.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/**Mi%27kmaq**

His paternal lineage was centered in Ontario and earlier in New Brunswick in Canada. His oldest paternal Duclos ancestor was named Pierre Duclos born about 1766 in Bonaventure, Gaspé, New France, now in, Québec, Canada and his mother was named Marie Duclos.

Marie was an Aboriginal or a Métis woman. The word métis itself is originally French for 'person of mixed parentage' and they mostly spoke French while living in Quebec.
https://www.britannica.com/place/Quebec-province

Bonaventure is a town on the Gaspé Peninsula in the present-day Bonaventure Regional County Municipality of Quebec, Canada. It is located on Chaleur Bay near the mouth of the Bonaventure River. The majority of the inhabitants are of Acadian descent, who found refuge there after the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755. They arrived there in 1760.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonaventure,_Quebec

The story reported that Pierre Duclos was sired by a French priest names "Father Bonaventure."
http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/carpentier_bonaventure_4E.html.

Debbie asked how could this be story be proven?

In June of 2020 she got her husband a 37 marker Y-DNA test from FTDNA.com. In July, she had his Y-DNA results. She was a little disappointed. She did not see any Carpentier or similar surname Y-DNA matches. She did see one Jason Quick with a genetic distance of one, aka a 36/37 marker match.

Then Covid 19 and things shut down. And when all else fails, check the improbable.

Debbie contacted Jason and found out he had a Carpenter ancestry going back into the Quebec region of Canada. Jason eventually told Debbie about the Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project.

Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project

The Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project started in 2002 after a Carpenter Family meeting in Clearwater, Florida. It was in essence the changing of the old guard and adapting new technologies toward genealogy.
https://carpentercousins.com/carpdna.htm#toc000

Personal Computers and genealogy programs were now capable of holding tens of thousands of genealogical records with notes to document the data found. The first effort to collect various Carpenter surnames together had been published a year previously from a five-year effort of data inputting and sharing. The programs allowed comparing data much more efficiently than ever before. But it also showed where no data led to speculations without any clear way to help tell the differences between claims.

Then there was a new DNA testing company called Family Tree DNA (FTDNA.com) that offered to the public tests to help with their genealogy since 2000. The Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project started in 2002.
https://www.familytreedna.com/group-project
https://carpentercousins.com/carpdna.htm

Have a genealogical roadblock or a brick wall? You can use DNA testing to help resolve it. Then that was easier said than done. You either had to wait until matches came in or you had to go hunt down people to DNA test.

Over time, the patterns of Y-DNA with Carpenter and related surnames began to be clear. Lineages were cross checked with Y-DNA tests and the wheat was separated from the chaff. Lineages became more accurate in specific surname studies. The Carpenter Cousins genetic Y-DNA profiles clearly showed the difference between the organized groups.

But, in contrast the proliferation of poor error filled genealogies online multiplied and copied ad nauseam online. These poorly done genealogies – often without documentation greatly outnumbered the well done and decent documented genealogies.

Today, the Carpenter Cousins Project has a web page that supports genealogical efforts, research, and presentations of many different genetic Carpenter groups. There are over 120 unique Carpenter Cousins documented Y-DNA genetic profiles and now 45 organized groups. We use genetic genealogy triangulation to cross check the genealogy with the Y-DNA and it has made a tremendous difference.
https://carpentercousins.com/
https://isogg.org/wiki/Triangulation

Carpenters, Carpentiers, Charpentiers, Carpenters who were Zimmermans, Zimmerman(n)s who were still Zimmermans and those with related surnames donated genealogies, documentation, research and the database went over 265,000 records. All focused on those Carpenter Cousins surnames. Some lines more than others of course

got better documented, and the focus was primarily on the Y-DNA lines. This later was to prevent the database from getting unmanageable. Why? All record name places and data had to be standardized for search purposes.

In time more Y-DNA markers became more affordable, and more markers mean a closer resolution of the relatedness. Having 111 Y-DNA marker is much more favorable than say 12 markers.

Debbie and Jason were sent a genealogical draft genealogical report of some French Canadian Carpentiers and that matched up with research leading to one "Father Bonadventure."

Harder came the translation, the parsing of records with more online research and library research which took time to match a Nicloas Carpenter in Maine with the Nicholas Carpentier in Quebec.

A story of two brothers deserting a French sailing vessel in Quebec and one drowning was found. The survivor went to America and settled in Maine. But further research revealed oddities.
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/184571570/nicholas-carpenter

Why is a French sailing ship in Quebec when England was at War with France?
Why was the birth dates conflicting and why could we not find the baptism record?

Slowly the story of a brother taking the birth year of his brother made sense. He was a British deserter who fled to America. And slowly the facts jelled and began to make sense. In the end, we had only a four year gap where one ended and the other started.

Please click on and read the blue colored text [Notes] on the Carpenter Cousins links starting with notes of Nicolas Carpentier-224174. The notes will show how we matched the correct Nicolas Carpentier in Canada and Nicholas Carpenter in the United States. See: https://www.carpentercousins.com/Group45/aqwg12.htm#224174 - Depending on screen settings, you may need to scroll up a line or two.

FYI- The number after the surname is the database record information number.

And that Carpentier line found in Canada went back to a **common genealogical ancestor of Claude Carpentier**-131802 (Florent, Nicolas) was born on 10 May 1636.
https://www.carpentercousins.com/Group45/aqwg03.htm#131802

Claude had several **sons**. We cite three below.

Son - Jean Baptiste "Pere" Carpentier-131800 (Claude, Florent, Nicolas) was born on 23 Jul 1672 . Quick is one of his descendants.
https://www.carpentercousins.com/Group45/aqwg04.htm#131800

Son - Etienne Carpentier-131859 (Claude, Florent, Nicolas) was born on 13 May 1688.
https://www.carpentercousins.com/Group45/aqwg04.htm#131859
And his son was …
Étienne Carpentier-213424 who became "**Father Bonaventure**" and the Duclos descendant line comes from him.
https://www.carpentercousins.com/Group45/aqwg05.htm#213424

Son - Joseph Carpentier-131968 (Claude, Florent, Nicolas) was born on 8 Jul 1690. Our Carpentier matching sample is one of his descendants. This is our second Carpentier to test. More on this below.
https://www.carpentercousins.com/Group45/aqwg04.htm#131968

Again, please read their blue colored text [Notes]. There is good documentation on them.

In April 2024, J. Duclos upgraded to 111 Y-DNA markers and also took the advanced Big Y-700 Y-SNP (Haplogroup) test. The later provided more Y-STRs and advanced Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (pronounced SNiPs) associated with deep ancestry. The Y-SNP Haplogroup is I defined by Y-SNP FTF77078.
https://discover.familytreedna.com/y-dna/I-FTF77078/story

In June 2024, Quick followed also with the same upgrade.

And within a month or so they matched at 111 markers then even closer with the Big Y-700 test. But neither of them was a Carpentier and they matched no one with that surname. Could it be a coincidence only that they matched each other genetically?

To prove they matched a male Carpentier on that genealogical line, that would require a new Y-DNA test with a biological male Carpentier that was genealogically documented.

In Genetic Genealogy, we need triangulation of data. We had the Quick and the Duclos connecting through Carpentier generations. Now to help prove they were related via the Carpentier line, they needed a genealogical related Carpentier to Y-DNA test to complete the genetic genealogy triangulation.
https://isogg.org/wiki/Triangulation

But try as we might; we either could not find someone still living to test or to convince someone to take a Y-DNA test. We put out messages and sent out many requests.

This took some time and finally about the ninth try we found a male Carpentier willing to Y-DNA test in June 2025. The genealogy seemed to match up; we got them a Y-DNA test, they provided a sample and mailed it back to FamilyTree DNA in Houston, Texas. Then the waiting began. And we waited with high hope.

When the Y-DNA results came in more than a month later - they did not match even closely. Even the Y-Chromosome Halogroup R was different by over 20,000 years to Haplogroup I. **Bummer.**

Group 90 Temp																						
MIN				13	23	14	10	14-14	11	12	11	12	11	28	14	7-9	8	11	22	15	19	28
MAX				13	23	14	11	14-14	12	14	12	13	13	29	18	9-10	12	11	24	16	20	29
MODE				13	23	14	10	14-14	11	14	11	12	11	28	14	7-9	8	11	22	16	20	28
N257386	Canada	I-FTF77078	Big Y-700	13	23	14	10	14-14	11	14	11	12	11	28	14	7-9	8	11	22	16	20	28
642854	France	I-FTF77078	Big Y-700	13	23	14	10	14-14	11	14	11	12	11	28	14	7-9	8	11	22	16	20	28
1029731	France	R-M269		13	23	14	11	14-14	12	12	12	13	13	29	18	9-10	12	11	24	15	19	29

This was very frustrating and disappointing. But they did not give up.

“Energy and persistence conquer all things.”
Benjamin Franklin

So, we tried again. It was a 50/50 chance to match the last Carpentier person Y-DNA tested or the Quick/Duclos Y-DNA profile.

And on 17 December 2025 we had our first 37 Y-DNA maker match! It was an early Christmas present.

We finally had a genetic genealogy triangulation of genealogy and a genetic Y-DNA 37 marker test among the three. And with only one minor mutation! A Quick, a Duclos and a Carpentier were genetically related. And we created a new Group 45 in the Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project.

Group 45
The French Canadian Carpentier line

37 markers showing
https://www.familytreedna.com/public/carpenter%20cousins%20%20dna?iframe=ydna-results-overview

Kit Number	Country	Haplogroup	Test	DYS393	DYS390	DYS19	DYS391	DYS385	DYS426	DYS388	DYS439	DYS389I	DYS392	DYS389II	DYS458	DYS459	DYS455	DYS454	DYS447	DYS437	DYS448	DYS449	DYS464	DYS480	Y-GATA-H4	YCA II	DYS456	DYS607	DYS576	DYS570	CDY	DYS442	DYS438
Group 45																																	
MIN				13	23	14	10	14-14	11	14	11	12	11	28	14	7-9	8	11	22	16	20	28	12-13-15-16	10	10	19-21	15	14	16	19	35-37	12	10
MAX				13	23	14	10	14-14	11	14	11	12	11	28	14	7-9	8	11	22	16	20	28	12-13-15-16	10	10	19-21	15	14	17	19	35-37	12	10
MODE				13	23	14	10	14-14	11	14	11	12	11	28	14	7-9	8	11	22	16	20	28	12-13-15-16	10	10	19-21	15	14	17	19	35-37	12	10
N257386	Canada	I-FTF77078	Big Y-700	13	23	14	10	14-14	11	14	11	12	11	28	14	7-9	8	11	22	16	20	28	12-13-15-16	10	10	19-21	15	14	16	19	35-37	12	10
1035137	Unknown Origin	I-M253	Y-DNA37	13	23	14	10	14-14	11	14	11	12	11	28	14	7-9	8	11	22	16	20	28	12-13-15-16	10	10	19-21	15	14	17	19	35-37	12	10
642854	France	I-FTF77078	Big Y-700	13	23	14	10	14-14	11	14	11	12	11	28	14	7-9	8	11	22	16	20	28	12-13-15-16	10	10	19-21	15	14	17	19	35-37	12	10

We then waited for the Carpentier (I.E. the second one to Y-DNA test) upgrade from 37 to 111 markers. This to achieve a higher resolution genetic match.

When the results came in, we became puzzled.

We achieved a genetic genealogy triangulation of genealogy and a genetic Y-DNA 67 marker test among the three. The 38 to 67 markers looked very good.

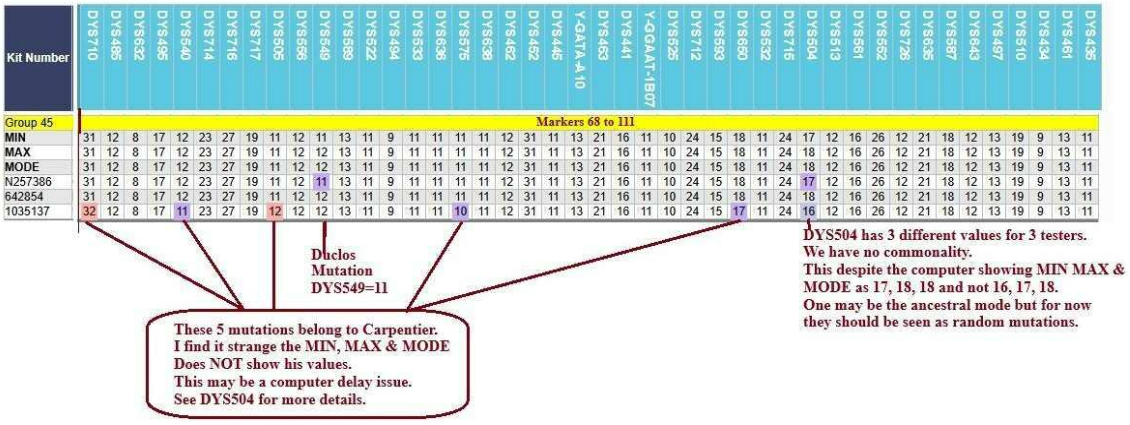
Kit Number	Country	Haplogroup	Test	DYS631	DYS578	DYF395S1	DYS590	DYS537	DYS641	DYS472	DYF406S1	DYS511	DYS425	DYS413	DYS557	DYS594	DYS436	DYS490	DYS534	DYS450	DYS444	DYS481	DYS520	DYS446	DYS617	DYS568	DYS487	DYS572	DYS640	DYS492	DYS565
Group 45				Markers 38 to 67																											
MIN				11	8	15-15	8	11	10	8	9	9	12	23-25	15	10	12	12	17	8	13	26	20	13	13	11	12	11	11	12	11
MAX				11	8	15-15	8	11	10	8	9	9	12	23-25	15	10	12	12	17	8	13	26	20	13	13	11	12	11	11	12	11
MODE				11	8	15-15	8	11	10	8	9	9	12	23-25	15	10	12	12	17	8	13	26	20	13	13	11	12	11	11	12	11
N257386	Canada	I-FTF77078	Big Y-700	11	8	15-15	8	11	10	8	9	9	12	23-25	15	10	12	12	17	8	13	26	20	13	13	11	12	11	11	12	11
642854	France	I-FTF77078	Big Y-700	11	8	15-15	8	11	10	8	9	9	12	23-25	15	10	12	12	17	8	13	26	20	13	13	11	12	11	11	12	11
035137	Unknown Origin	I-M170	Y-DNA111	11	8	15-15	8	11	10	8	9	9	12	23-25	15	10	12	12	17	8	13	26	20	13	13	11	12	11	11	12	11

Red is estimated by the test shown
Green is confirmed by the Big Y-700
Duclos
Quick
Carpentier

Please Note:
Duclos & Carpentier match 66/67 - Genetic distance = 1
Quick & Carpentier match 67/67 - GD = 0

But ...

The 111 markers then met a related genealogical match but not a very good genetic match among the three testers. Our Carpentier Y-DNA sample went from matching very well until we got into the 68 to 111 marker range. The results were interesting to say the least for that Carpentier line.



It was strange to see only significant differences at this level of Y-DNA testing. Normally we would see those such difference in the lower range of Y-DNA markers in certain markers that are considered "fast mutators."

Fast Y-DNA genetic mutators refer to highly variable Y-chromosomal Short Tandem Repeats (Y-STRs), like DYS464, DYS449, and DYS439, that can change significantly over the generations, making them crucial for distinguishing very recent paternal lineage connections. This is unlike slower-moving markers used for higher range 68 to 111 Y-STRs and deep ancestry Y-STRs seen in the 112 plus marker range. The lower marker ranges and first step higher range (68 to 111) are key in forensics and genealogical tracing of close relatives.

Mutation rates are normally are within a certain average range. We have those slowly mutating, average mutators, then slightly faster ones. See the documented mutation rates for each DYS marker at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Y-STR_markers

Statistically the results we saw fit easily within the 95% probability rate but were not as close as expected. We got five distinct mutations or differences in the Carpentier line genetics. Then we had a single marker that no one of those testing did not match. They had no common numerical value. Net results show that we have a minimum genetic distance of 6 mismatches out of 111 markers on the Carpentier line alone.

The expected mutation difference should have been at or less than 3 or 4 out of 111. The general conclusion is that the 5 Carpentier mutations, or a portion thereof, were random or a cumulative set of possible sub-group mutations from his specific line.

In genetic genealogy, these differences are considered likely, based upon the genealogy and having the same surname. Technically we are matching two of three non-Carpentier surnames. Thus, we need to call this last effort **– a close near miss**.

In traditional genetic genealogy when this happens, people are encouraged to test another descendant line to find an in between results or one within the expected mutation range.

This means focusing on another son of Claude Carpentier and finding a descendant willing to Y-DNA test. We targeted and began researching descendants of Antoine Carpeniter born 1 Mar 1680.

We are now actively searching for a biological male Carpentier direct descendant of Antoine. Any help is appreciative!

And time slowly goes by as we make the next steps in the Discovery story ….

Current Conclusions and thoughts

Jason Quick writes, "It is an incredible story! Thank you for all of the hard work you have put into making it happen. It started off a little rocky understandably but thank you for being patient with me and keeping me grounded in the science. It's hard to believe it's been 8 years since I first Y-DNA tested!"

"Ancestry.com and My Heritage's (autosomal DNA) tools definitely helped me pinpoint the Cap Sante area, but the proof is in the pudding. You, Carpenter Cousins, and Y-DNA (Project) proved my theory to be true. In which I am truly grateful."

"A missing piece of my identity has been given back to me, and I couldn't ask for anything more. I thank God for that!"

"I surely didn't want to create a stir with all of this. I just wanted to know the truth."
Not all genetic genealogy efforts have so many twists and turns. While many are successful and the citizen scientists taking part are happy with the results, some are not.

On occasion in genetic genealogy efforts, we do find the skeletons hidden by the past. These figurative skeletons were often an embarrassment, an effort to cover up something or something else the family did not want revealed.

Most people taking genetic genealogy tests can handle such skeletons in their ancestry. And the farther back in time it is – the better it is.

Some people have stopped researching and removed themselves when they found that the skeleton hits too close to home or the present.

But the members of Group 45 are not such people. They are dedicated wanting to know the truth.

Jason Quick faced learning about an adoption, learning about his biological father surnamed Carpenter then learning about a deserter surnamed Carpentier who fled Canada for America. And then he found out that he matched a Duclos genetically and only later a Carpentier. He is a dedicated genetic genealogy citizen scientist who "just wanted to know the truth."

Debbie Dee, the wife of a Duclos, read a story about a priest siring a male child with a Duclos. She wondered if it was true that her husband could be a descendant on that priest. Then her curiosity asked how it could be proved. And she started into genetic genealogy. To be honest, I had my doubts if it could be confirmed because of the sheer number of generations involved. Her dedication, her efforts and confidence that it was possible makes it clear she a dedicated genetic genealogy citizen scientist who took an idea and worked the problem to its successful completion.

The (first name redacted) Carpentier is one who heard two stories, and no doubt may have thought it was a bit weird. But he was willing to offer up his DNA to try to help and to learn more about his genetic genealogy. That makes him a citizen scientist also in learning the truth.

There are a few others that will not be named for one reason or the other for now. In many different ways they all helped move this Discovery Story forward.

Hopefully, in time, for a successful completion!

To those named and unnamed, **I Thank You All!**

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