

Tying into Medieval Royalty

How much DNA do we get from our distant ancestors?

According to <https://genealogy.stackexchange.com/questions/12701/how-many-generations-back-will-specific-ethnicity-show-up-in-dna>

“..... back to about 5 generations back, we generally have some DNA from all of our ancestors in that generation. For each of those ancestors though, we will have only a few blocks of DNA from that person scattered around our total DNA. When we have a child, because they only get half our DNA, they may get one of say, three blocks we have from a particular ancestor, or they may even not get any. When we get down to having only one block from a distant ancestor, each child may or may not get that block. These blocks are large enough that we can discern them when matching distant relatives, for example, but they are small enough that they are unlikely to get split in half by the crossover mechanism. So, **past about 5 generations, it's not that we get tinier and tinier chunks of DNA from ancestors at each subsequent generation, it's that we either do or don't get the chunk(s) our parent has for a particular ancestor.** At about the 6th generation back, we get to a situation where some ancestors are no longer in our DNA at all in detectable amounts. Simulations show that our DNA has room to represent about 128-256 ancestors at any particular generation. So, you could have a detectable block of DNA from an ancestor 10 generations back, but you have detectable blocks of DNA from only about 10% of those 10th generation ancestors.”

So why take the time to tie into Medieval royalty if it is back twenty some generations when very little or none of the DNA way back may not even be our individual genomes? One word, fun.

The Gateway ancestor

The gateway ancestor to medieval royalty in George Miller's pedigree is Sarah Brewster. When Sarah Brewster was born in 1656 in Brookhaven, New York, both her father, Nathaniel and her mother, Abigail Reymes, were 34. Sarah married Jonathan Smith, the son of Richard "Bull" Smith, the patentee of Smithtown, NY on January 1, 1673. They had five children in 22 years. She died on February 2, 1743, in Duxbury, Massachusetts, having lived a long life of 87 years. Sarah Brewster was one of George Robert Miller's 6th Great Grandmothers.

Sarah Brewster's mother Abigail Reymes' 2nd Great Grandmother was Elizabeth Boleyn, the cousin of Ann Boleyn, 2nd wife of King Henry VIII. Elizabeth Boleyn's line branches, with both of her parents' lines leading to various royal ancestors. Her father Edward Boleyn's line ascends to royalty including Sir Robert de Ros who was an Anglo-Norman feudal baron, soldier, and administrator, who was one of the Twenty-Five Barons appointed under clause 61 of the 1215 Magna Carta agreement to monitor its

observance by King John of England. Robert de Ros married Isabella of Scotland. She was the daughter of William I King of Scotland; she was the great granddaughter of King David of Scotland. Her fourth great grandfather was Robert I “the Magnificent,” the first Duke of Normandie.

Elizabeth Boleyn’s mother was Anne Tempest. Anne’s grandmother was Katherine de Welles, whose line traces back to various royalty distant grandparents, including Edward I King of England, and his ancestors King Henry III, King John, King Henry II. Edward I’s 2nd wife Margaret of France also traces back to various royals, including her father Philip III King of France, grandfather Louis IX, great grandfather Louis VIII, 2nd great grandfather Philip II and so on back to Hugh Carpet, the beginning of the Carpathian line of Kings. Margaret’s pedigree can also be traced back to another 2nd great grandfather Alfonso VIII, the King of Castile and Toledo.

By tying into these various lines of Royalty, the descendants of George Robert Miller can claim various contemporary distant cousins, great Aunts and Uncles, including but certainly not limited to Presidents Washington, Jefferson, both Adams, both Harrisons (and also including Benjamin Harrison, signer of the Declaration of Independence,) Gerald Ford, FDR, Woodrow Wilson, and both Bushes. These descendants are related to these lines are some of the current English royalty, including Kate Middleton and Princes William and Harry. Also included in these lines are many first ladies, various colonial governors and assistant governors, Revolutionary War patriots, and influential citizens. Also included are even some actresses and actors, including James Bond 007 – Daniel Craig.