

Proposed Research Trip to Lancashire for Barton Lineage I Researchers

Some of us have been talking for several years about a research trip to England to see if we can find our Barton roots. Based on two recent trips, I think I now understand the possibilities well enough to propose a research project to search for the roots of Barton Lineage I – roots which I believe will be found in Lancashire.

The **Barton Surname DNA Project** began in 2001 and now includes nearly 250 participants – who make up 18 Lineages or are among the 41 men who do not (yet) match another tested Barton. (In order for us to declare a new Lineage, two men must have matching yDNA.)

Roughly one third of the men tested to date are a part of what we call **Barton Lineage I** – a group of men with matching yDNA - who are a single genetic family, all descended from a common ancestor, probably born in the 1400s or 1500s. Based on different “Earliest Known Ancestors”, there are about 35 separate family groups in Barton Lineage I (One).

The bulk of the men in **Barton Lineage I** have a Southern American heritage, with most paper trails dead-ending in **Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia** and **Tennessee**, but a few have paper trails connecting to the **British Isles**. Two families are particularly important to us, as both connect to the City of **Wigan**, located between **Preston** and **Liverpool** in **Lancashire**. One family came to the USA in the mid 1800s and has a paper trail back to **Josiah Barton**, b c1689, while the other is a **Brazilian** family who traces back through a **Thomas Barton**, who was Mayor of Wigan, to **Ralph Barton**, who was buried in **Wigan** in 1740. (Note: three other men also have paper trails that connect to the British Isles, but they have no details about “where”. Two are from “England” and the other is from “Ireland”.)

The two paper trails that connect to **Wigan** have caused us to take a closer look at this part of England, where we find a Barton family owning land - beginning in the 1200s at **Barton Hall**, a few miles north of **Preston**. There is a village named **Barton** at this location. English families followed the rule of primogeniture, where the oldest son inherited the estate and the younger sons had to find another way to earn their living. One favored theory is that the many Bartons in Lancashire are descended from the younger sons of the land-owning family at **Barton Hall**, but at this time, there is no documentation to support this idea. (Note: a second Barton family was at **Barton upon Irwell**, near **Manchester** (and not so far away) but we haven't researched there yet. This could be another branch of the same family – or a completely separate family)

Very recently, a Barton researcher found a paper trail for **Edward Barton**, who was living in **Stafford Co VA** in the late 1600s – very near to **Thomas Barton**, earliest known ancestor for many of Barton Lineage I. It has long been suspected that the various Barton men in early Stafford Co VA must have been related, but paper trails and documentation do not exist. Additionally – Edward had only 3 daughters, so there hasn't been as much focus on him. Edward's paper trail connects back to England - back to the village of **Garstang** – which is a few miles north of **Barton Hall**. The **Garstang Parish Church of St Helen at Churchtown** dates from the 1100s. **Barton Hall** is in the **Garstang** Parish.

It appears that dozens, if not hundreds, of Barton families were in this area before 1700. Based on preliminary research, we know there is a cluster in the **Barton Hall** (actually **Preston**) area (including **Billsborough, Blackburn, Broughton, Cabus, Claughton, Garstang, Goosnargh, Leyland, Myersco, Nateby, Walton le Dale** and **Wiersdale**), and in the area to the south - which includes **Wigan, Leigh, Bolton** and **Barton-upon-Irwell** (now part of greater Manchester). We expect to find more Barton clusters as we systematically compile Parish records from all Churches in the area – and also expect to find other larger areas where few or no Barton families were settled.

Anyone interested in helping should contact **Terry Barton** terry@bartonsite.org. Initially, we will be collecting and compiling records via Internet sources, with intentions of organizing a research trip in 2011. Of course, we'll also want to meet the researchers in Lancashire and to DNA test their Barton families.