

Dan Smith Research Project

3 September 2021

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research project is to use DNA and genealogical records to determine the biological parents of Dan Smith, who was born on 5 February 1857 in Virginia and died on 9 January 1923 in Dalton, Whitfield, Georgia. Dan Smith married first, Emma Cobb, on 18 October 1874 in Dalton, Whitfield, Georgia, and second, Mary Famber, on 21 December 1890 in Dalton, Whitfield, Georgia.

LIMITATIONS

- The test takers are 2-3 generations away from the research subject, making many of the DNA matches applicable to this project 3rd-4th cousins. 3rd-4th cousins may not share very much DNA with the test-takers, which can make verifying the exact relationship between a DNA match and the test-takers difficult.
- There is also pedigree collapse in the population of these DNA matches. As described by Paul Woodbury: "Pedigree collapse occurs when two related individuals produce offspring. As a result, the number of unique individuals occupying locations in a pedigree decreases or collapses".¹ Pedigree collapse can complicate a DNA analysis as each match may have more than one common ancestor shared with the test-taker.
- This project was limited to 20 hours of research.
- The use of online records was primarily used for this phase of the research project.

¹ Paul Woodbury, "Dealing with Endogamy, Part 1: Exploring Amounts of Shared DNA", *Legacy Tree* (<http://www.legacytree.com> : accessed 10 June 2021), paragraph 3.

METHODOLOGY

Autosomal DNA can only help identify ancestors up to 6-8 generations back. When reviewing a DNA match, the testing website reports the amount of DNA shared with a match, but the specific relationship is only discovered through analyzing pedigrees. Placing matches in genetic networks and tracking the surnames and locations that appear in different pedigrees can help pinpoint a common ancestor between a test taker and a DNA match. This process can help prove family relationships and lead to hypotheses for missing ancestors.

RESULTS SUMMARY

- Reviewed genealogical records previously gathered on Dan Smith.
- Searched genealogical records in the hope of finding more information on Dan's parents.
- Analyzed DNA of five of Dan's descendants to locate Dan Smith's parents.
- Created a network graph of the DNA matches of the Tester 2.
- Discovered descendants of Dan Smith through both of his wives who were sharing DNA with a group of descendants from George Robinson and Elmira Pinkard.
- Found that George Robinson seemed to be the son of a white man named Jaquelin Marshall Meredith.
- Searched for other descendants of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith in the DNA matches of Dan Smith's descendants.
- Found the DNA suggested that Dan Smith is also the son of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith, though most likely with a different mother than George Robinson.
- Showed that Jaquelin Marshall Meredith did own slaves, but the specifics about these slaves is unknown.
- Discussed the idea of Dan Smith's mother being the slave of an associate of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Before the research for this project, the client provided multiple documents on Dan Smith previously gathered. This information showed birth years for Dan ranging from 1851-1860 with a consistent birthplace of Virginia. Interestingly, on Dan's death certificate, filled out by his son, Howard L. Smith, Howard listed Dan's parents as unknown.² Along with that, the earliest source available for Dan is his 1874 marriage to his first wife, Emma Cobb, in Dalton, Whitfield, Georgia.³ Dan's son not knowing Dan's parents' names and Dan having moved from Virginia to Georgia by the time he was 17 (assuming an 1857 birthdate as seen on his tombstone),⁴ infers that Dan's children never knew his parents (their grandparents) and that Dan may have moved to Georgia from Virginia on his own. No further information on a more specific Virginia birthplace for Dan was provided in the previously conducted research.

The test-takers for this DNA project were Dan Smith's great-great-granddaughter, and four of Dan Smith's great-granddaughters. These descendants took autosomal DNA tests through *Ancestry.com*. Figure 1 shows the test takers and their relationships to Dan Smith.

² Death Certificate for Daniel L. Smith, Whitfield County, Georgia, 9 January 1923; citing Georgia Department of Health, certificate #3738. **Document 1**

³ Marriage License for Daniel Smith and Emma Wooten, database with images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 10 July 2021), 18 October 1874, Whitfield County, Georgia; citing Family History Library microfilm #339861. **Document 2**

⁴ *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/181356737: accessed 27 July 2021), memorial page for Dan L. Smith (5 February 1857 - 9 January 1923), Find A Grave Memorial #181356737; citing Calhoun-Famber Cemetery, Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia; photo included. **Document 3**

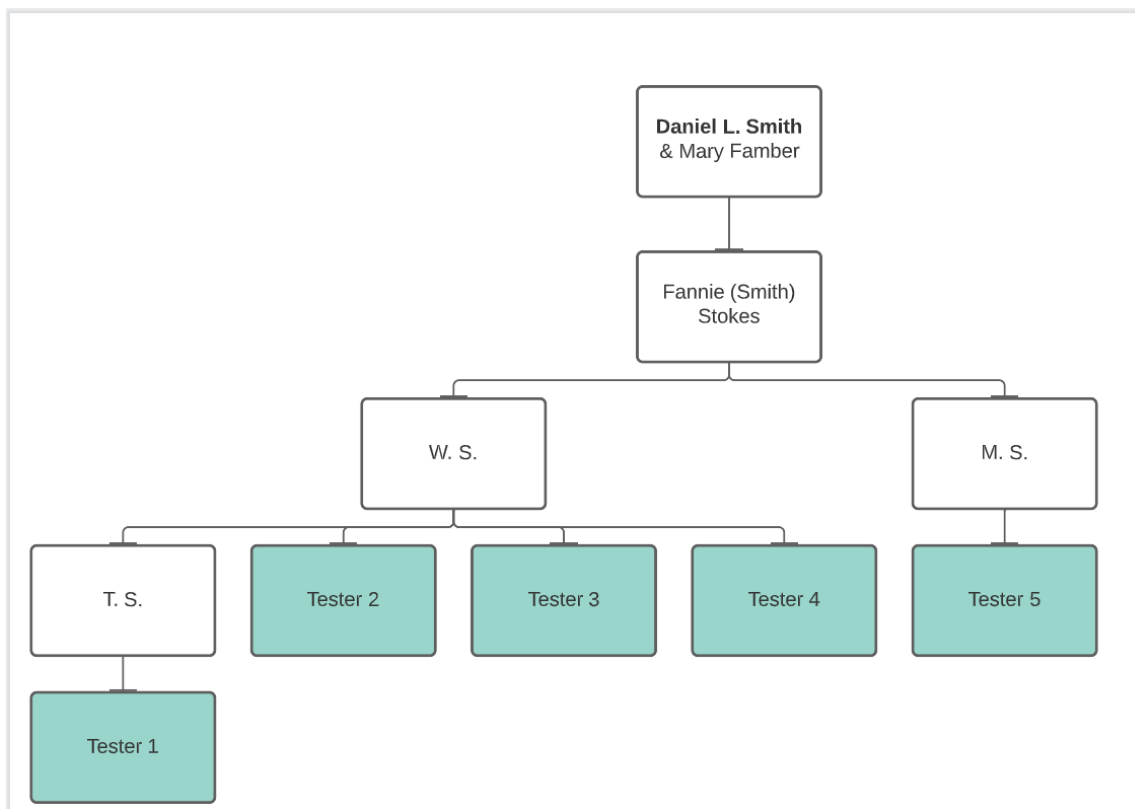


Figure 1. Test-Takers' Relationships to Dan Smith

Access to the DNA of five descendants of Dan Smith, along with genealogical documentation pointing to the birthplace of Virginia, gave a promising start in the search for Dan Smith's parents.

Dan Smith's Birthplace

Determining a more specific place within Virginia for Dan's birthplace was one of the first steps to finding Dan Smith's parents. Death certificates often list the names of the deceased's parents and where the parents were born. As such, the death certificates for Dan Smith's thirteen children were searched to see if any named a specific part of Virginia for the birthplace for Dan.

Online, only two death certificates for Dan Smith's children were readily available: Mollie (Smith), Taylor & Sarah (Smith) Richard. Mollie (Smith) Taylor's death certificate had Dan's

birthplace as unknown⁵, and Sarah (Smith) Richard's death certificate had Dan's birthplace as Dalton, Georgia.⁶ While Dan raised his family in Dalton, Georgia, most sources of Dan's birthplace have Virginia listed.

The death certificates for Dan Smith's other children either have not been found yet, are in states where the parents' birthplace was not listed, or are in states where the death certificate needs to be ordered from the state's health department for a fee (see Research Log for details). Future research could look at Dan Smith's associates from Dalton, Whitfield, Georgia, and see if they were also from Virginia. Perhaps locating where in Virginia the associates were from may give better clues about Dan Smith's origins. With the children's death certificates not showing a more specific place for Dan's birthplace, DNA methodology was utilized for more hints on how to locate Dan Smith's parents.

Analyzing DNA Matches

Before analyzing the DNA evidence, it is essential to understand the makeup of Dan Smith's family and his descendants. Dan married twice: first, to Emma Cobb in 1874,⁷ and second, to Mary Famber in 1890.⁸ Dan Smith had four children with Emma Cobb and nine children with Mary Famber.⁹ The goal was to find DNA matches who descend from Dan's children with Emma Cobb

⁵ "Michigan, U.S., Death Records, 1867-1952", database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2021), Mollie Taylor, (25 September 1919), Detroit, Wayne, Michigan; citing Michigan Department of Community Health, certificate 9502. **Document 4**

⁶ "Michigan, U.S., Death Records, 1867-1952", database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2021), Sarah Richard, (20 August 1905 - 20 August 1929), Detroit, Wayne, Michigan; citing Michigan Department of Community Health. **Document 5**

⁷ Marriage License for Daniel Smith and Emma Wooten, database with images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 10 July 2021), 18 October 1874, Whitfield County, Georgia; citing Family History Library microfilm #339861. **Document 2**

⁸ Marriage License for D. L. Smith & Mary M. Fambro, 21 December 1890, Whitfield County, Georgia; citing Whitfield County Marriages, page 296.

⁹ Ancestry Member Trees, tree details privatized, database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 August 2021), sourced data for family of Daniel L. Smith.

and those who descend from Dan's children with Mary Famber. This could lead to a group of matches related to Dan Smith, either as his direct descendants or as descendants of his parents.

Ancestry ThruLines

The test-takers DNA matches who also descend from Dan Smith were identified using Ancestry ThruLines and quick tree building. Ancestry ThruLines is a tool provided through Ancestry DNA where the trees of a test-taker's DNA matches are compared to the tree of the test-taker. ThruLines will then suggest a hypothesized common ancestor between the test-taker and a DNA match based on these online trees. As the information is all based on online trees, which are notoriously fallible, it is crucial to verify the relationships on the tree with traditional genealogical records. For this project, DNA matches were only identified as descendants of Dan Smith if their online tree had sources verifying the relationships ThruLines was suggesting. This exercise identified descendants from both of Dan's wives, Emma Cobb and Mary Famber, as shown in Figures 2 and 3, respectively. The names in green represent test-takers in these figures, and the names in orange represent DNA matches.

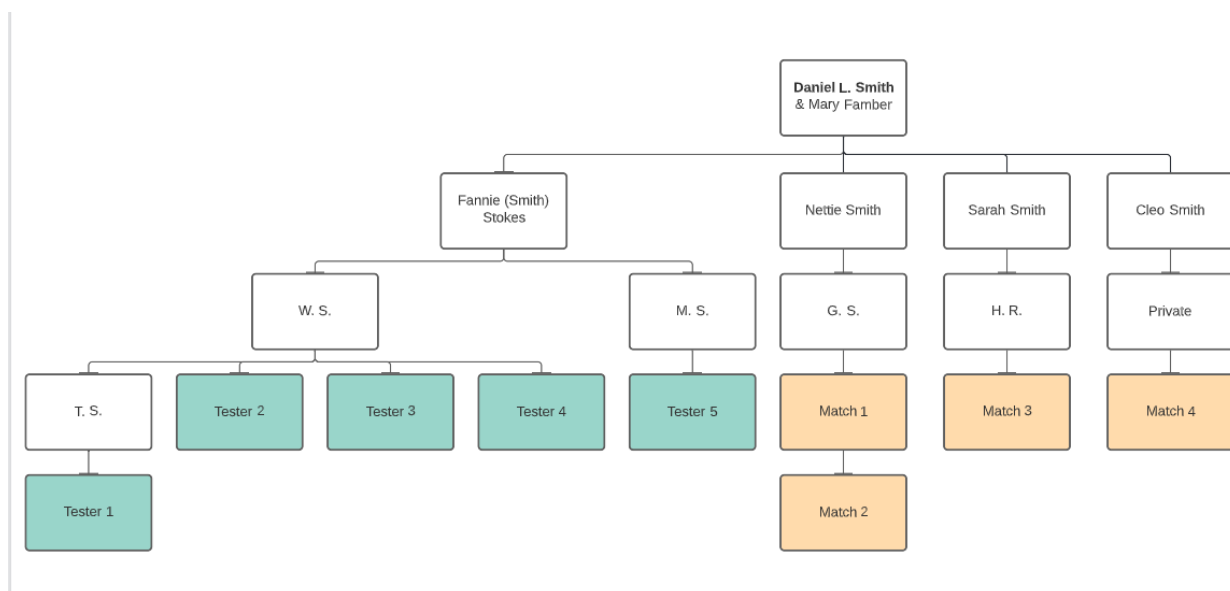


Figure 2. DNA Matches Descended from Dan Smith & Mary Famber

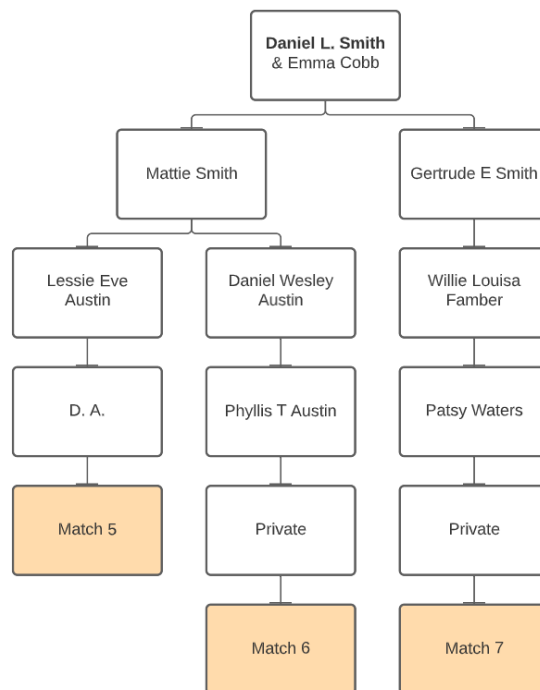


Figure 3. DNA Matches Descended from Daniel Smith & Emma Cobb

Identifying these DNA matches confirmed that the test-takers descended from Dan Smith as they share DNA with descendants from both of his wives.

Network Graph

To find the group of matches that most likely share DNA with Dan Smith and his parents, a network graph was created for Tester 2 (see Figure 4). A network graph is a clustering tool that sorts a test-taker's DNA matches into different clusters based on their shared matches. So, as the test-taker is related to DNA matches, if those DNA matches are also related to each other, that would form a cluster. These clusters usually represent the descendants of a common ancestor between the matches.

Each node in the graph is a DNA match to Tester 2, and each line is a shared match connection between two DNA matches. When many matches match each other, a cluster is formed. Lines between the clusters indicate relationships between the clusters. Each color represents a different cluster. Each cluster has been assigned a number as well for ease of discussion. Figure 4 shows the network graph created using Tester 2's DNA.

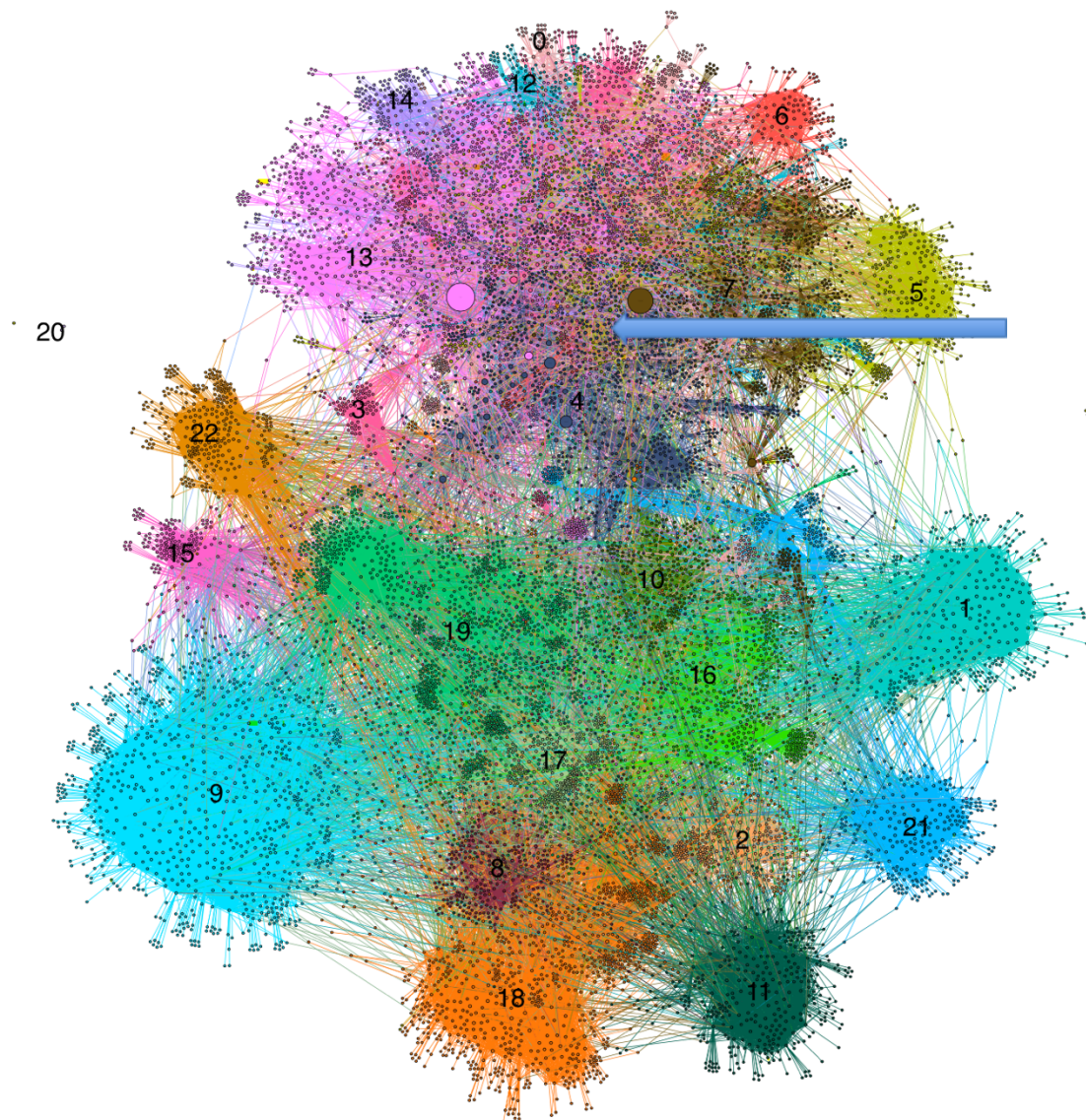


Figure 4. Network Graph for Tester 2 Ancestry DNA Matches

The different clusters in this network graph are not clearly defined visually as they are interacting with multiple other clusters throughout the graph. This is due to the pedigree collapse in the population of the DNA matches. Pedigree collapse occurs when DNA matches share more than one set of common ancestors and can be seen in populations where intermarriage happened among a group of individuals.

The descendants of Dan Smith, from both wives, are represented in this network graph in cluster 4 (the dark blue cluster in the top middle of the graph). Determining the common ancestor of the other individuals in this cluster may find possible parents or ancestors of Dan Smith. A future research project could identify the common ancestors of the other clusters interacting with cluster 4 to find more ancestors of Dan Smith.

Parents for Dan Smith

Analyzing and comparing the trees of the individuals in cluster 4 may find a common ancestor between the shared matches in this cluster. This common ancestor would most likely be related to Dan Smith in some way. Researching this common ancestor can lead to a hypothesis for the parents of Dan Smith.

William Henry Smith & Sallie Jane Ballowe

One DNA match found in cluster 4, Match 8, had the parents of Dan Smith listed as William Henry Smith and Sallie Jane Ballowe on his online family tree.¹⁰ However, limited sources were attached to the tree proving the relationship. Research on William Henry Smith and Sallie Jane

¹⁰ Public Member Trees, tree details privatized, database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 2 August 2021), sourced data for family of Daniel Smith.

Ballowe's family found that they were a white family, therefore unlikely to be Dan Smith's parents.¹¹ Along with that, no other DNA matches connected to this couple were found.

George Robinson and Elmira Pinkard

Reviewing other DNA matches in cluster 4 from the network graph led to a group of matches that descend from the couple George Robinson and Elmira Pinkard. It was unclear whether George Robinson or Elmira Pinkard was the biological relation to Dan Smith, so the parents of both George and Elmira needed to be researched. Once parents were found, DNA matches confirming the relationship could tie Dan Smith into the family tree. Research began with George Robinson.

George Robinson was born on 4 October 1857 in Fauquier County, Virginia.¹² The timing of George Robinson's birth in October 1857 and Dan Smith's birth in February 1857 (according to his tombstone) would lead one to believe that the relationship between the two men may have been brothers. If the years for both men are correct, it is possible, but unlikely, that both men had the same mother as there were only eight months between the birthdates. Therefore, Dan Smith and George Robinson may have been half-brothers who shared the same father. The DNA matches who descend from George Robinson and Elmira Pinkard are shown in Figure 5, with Figure 6 showing the hypothesized relationship between George Robinson and Dan Smith.

¹¹ "Virginia, U.S., Death Records, 1912-2014", database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 July 2021), Dabney Andrew Smith, (June 1872 - 10 March 1950), Wealthia, Buckingham, Virginia; citing Virginia Department of Health, certificate 6232.

"U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007", database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 July 2021), Thomas Shelton Smith, (27 February 1875 - May 1937), Well Water B, Virginia; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, SS #229036185.

¹² "Virginia, U.S., Death Records, 1912-2014", database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 July 2021), George Robinson, (4 October 1857 - 20 November 1933), Gainesville, Prince William, Virginia; citing Virginia Department of Health, certificate 25293. **Document 6**

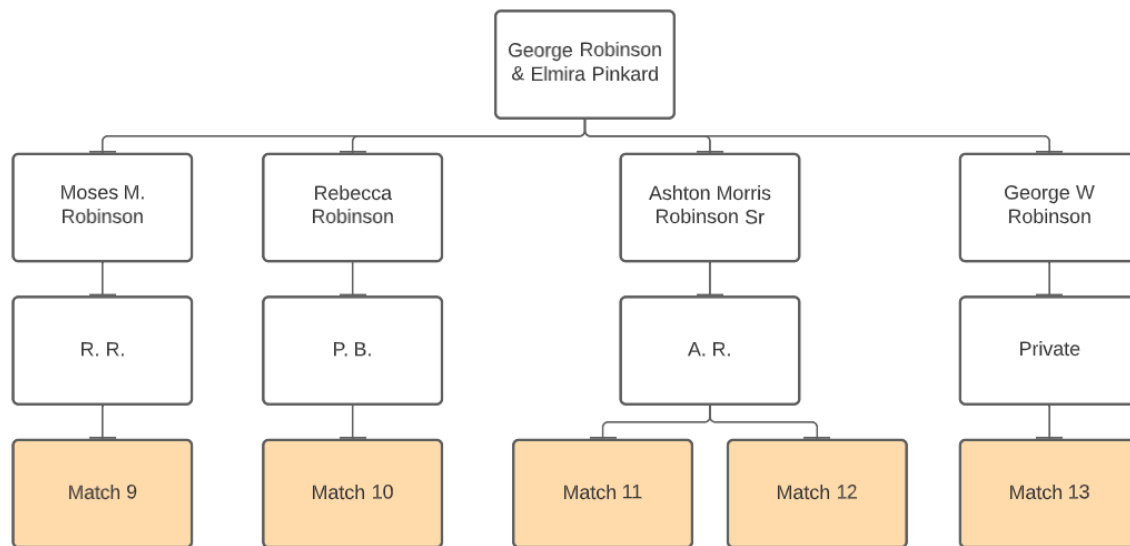


Figure 5. DNA Matches who Descend from George Robinson and Elmira Pinkard

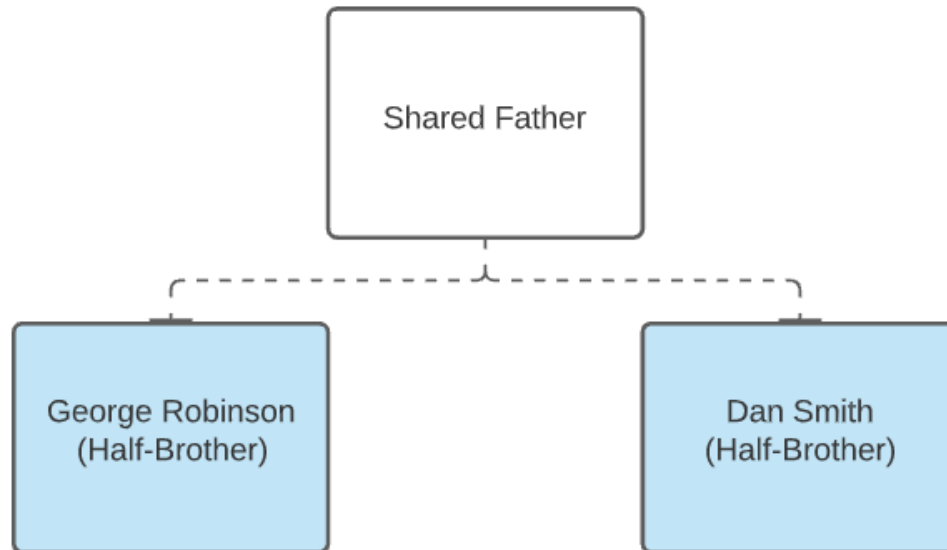


Figure 6. Hypothesized Relationship between George Robinson and Dan Smith

Analyzing the amount of DNA shared between the descendants of George Robinson and the descendants of Dan Smith (the test-takers) using the Shared cM Project can test the hypothesis that Dan Smith and George Robinson were half-brothers. The Shared cM Project is a tool used to hypothesize family relationships based on the amount of shared DNA between two people. The Shared cM Project uses data from 60,000 DNA testers who have reported the amount of cM they share with known relatives.¹³ This has created a database where researchers can enter the amount of cM of an unknown relationship and find the most likely relationship based on the set of data available to the Shared cM Project. Table 1 below shows this analysis.

The names in the table colored blue are the Dan Smith descendants, while the names in orange are the George Robinson descendants. Each box compares:

1. the shared DNA between the two people
2. the hypothesized relationship (3C = 3rd Cousin; 3C1R = 3rd Cousin Once Removed), and
3. the average amount of DNA for the hypothesized relationship from the Shared cM Project

For example, Tester 1 and Match 9 share 41 cM. Based on the hypothesis that George Robinson and Dan Smith were half-brothers, Tester 1 and Match 9 should be half third cousins once removed (Half 3C1R). The Shared cM Project shows Half 3C1R sharing on average 37 cM.

Table 1: DNA shared between George Robinson Descendants and Dan Smith Descendants					
	Tester 1	Tester 2	Tester 3	Tester 4	Tester 5
Match 9	41 cM Half 3C1R	19 cM Half 3C	51 cM Half 3C	Not matched	Not matched

¹³ Blaine Bettinger, The Shared cM Project - Version 4.0 (March 2020), *DNA Painter* (<http://www.dnapiainter.com>) : accessed 19 August 2021).

	Avg: 37 cM	Avg: 48 cM	Avg: 48 cM		
Match 10	8 cM Half 3C1R Avg: 37 cM	40 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	96 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	56 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	33 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM
Match 11	Not matched	27 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	44 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	36 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	25 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM
Match 12	Not matched	22 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	39 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	29 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	45 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM
Match 13	Not matched	38 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	42 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	38 cM Half 3C Avg: 48 cM	Not matched

Analyzing the amount of shared DNA between Dan Smith descendants and George Robinson descendants shows it is close to the average amount of DNA expected for the hypothesized relationship. Searching for the parents of George Robinson through genealogical records can further test the hypothesis that George Robinson was the half-brother of Dan Smith.

Parents of George Robinson

George Robinson's death certificate lists Caroline Robinson from Fauquier County, Virginia as his mother, with his father listed as unknown.¹⁴ However, a family tree of the DNA match Ashton Robinson shows Jaquelin Marshall Meredith as the father of George Robinson.¹⁵ Jaquelin Marshall Meredith was a white man from Hanover County, Virginia.¹⁶ If he was the correct father of George Robinson, George would have been half-black, half-white, and may be found as listed mulatto on certain records. The 1870 census enumeration listing for George Robinson confirms that George Robinson appeared mulatto, as his inferred mother and siblings were listed as black, but he was enumerated as "M" for mulatto (see Image 1).¹⁷

¹⁴ "Virginia, U.S., Death Records, 1912-2014", database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 July 2021), George Robinson, (4 October 1857 - 20 November 1933), Gainesville, Prince William, Virginia; citing Virginia Department of Health, certificate 25293. **Document 6**

¹⁵ Public Member Trees, tree details privatized, database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 July 2021), sourced data for family of George Robinson.

¹⁶ "Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940", database, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 July 2021), Jaquelin M. Meredith & Ellen Bankhead, 5 January 1858, Orange County, Virginia; citing Family History Library microfilm #0048810100. **Document 7**

¹⁷ 1870 U.S. Census, Scott, Fauquier, Virginia, population schedule, Upperville Post Office, sheet 85, dwelling 521, family 516, entry for Caroline Robison household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 July 2021); citing NARA fil M593, roll 1645. **Document 8**

Robinson Caroline	411	7	B
— George	15	M	M
— Arthur	8	M	B
— Richard	5	M	B
— Snowden	3	M	B
— Pleasant	6 1/2	M	B
— Emily	13	7	B

Image 1. George Robinson in 1870 Census

The enumerator made a point that George was a different color from his mother and siblings, increasing the likelihood that George's father was white. Dan Smith was consistently listed as mulatto, indicating that one of Dan Smith's parents was also white.¹⁸

Searching for DNA matches who descend from Jaquelin Marshall Meredith, but not through George Robinson (Dan's hypothesized half-brother), in the DNA matches of the Dan Smith descendants could help see if Jaquelin Marshall Meredith may have also been Dan Smith's father (see Figure 7).

¹⁸ 1880 U.S. Census, Dalton, Whitfield, Georgia, population schedule, East Dalton, Enumeration District 194, sheet 18, dwelling 154, family 154, entry for Daniel Smith household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 171. **Document 9**

1910 U.S. Census, Dalton, Whitfield, Georgia, population schedule, North Depot Street, Enumeration District 157, sheet 14A, dwelling 145, family 145, entry for Dan Smith household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 220. **Document 10**

1920 U.S. Census, Dalton, Whitfield, Georgia, population schedule, E Dept St, Enumeration District 197, sheet 13A, dwelling 145, family 145, entry for Daniel L. Smith household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 285. **Document 11**

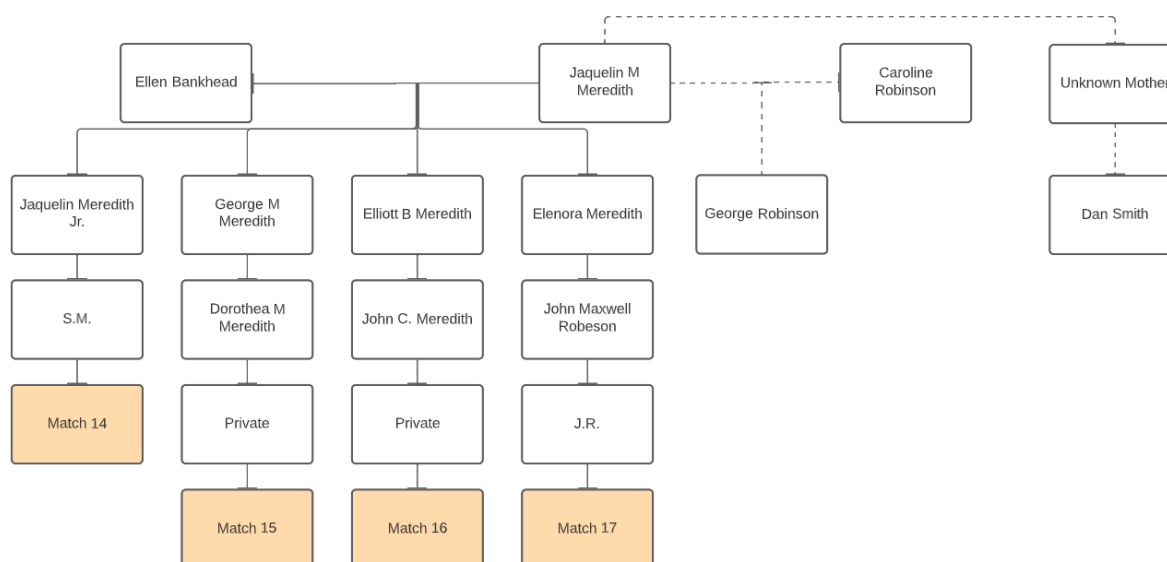


Figure 7: Descendants of Jaquelin M. Meredith who share DNA with Dan Smith Descendants

The four DNA matches illustrated in Figure 7 descend from Jaquelin Marshall Meredith and his marriage to a white woman, Ellen Bankhead.¹⁹ These DNA matches are also represented in cluster 4 of the network graph seen in Figure 4. There does seem to be a biological relationship between the descendants of Dan Smith and the descendants of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith, indicating that Jaquelin Marshall Meredith may have been the father of Dan Smith. Future research could employ the tool of segment triangulation to find if descendants of Dan Smith, George Robinson, and the other children of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith share segments of DNA in the same place.

As the biological relationship between Dan Smith's descendants and the descendants of George Robinson and Elmira Pinkard seemed to be related through George Robinson's father, Jaquelin Marshall Meredith, the research did not continue in researching the parents of Elmira

¹⁹ "Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940", database, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 July 2021), Jaquelin M. Meredith & Ellen Bankhead, 5 January 1858, Orange County, Virginia; citing Family History Library microfilm #0048810100. **Document 7**

Pinkard. Instead, the study explored the possibility that Dan Smith’s mother could have been a slave to the Meredith family.

Jaquelin Marshall Meredith

In the 1850 and 1860 U.S. Census records, the federal government conducted “slave schedules” where each slave owner reported how many slaves they owned, the gender of the slave, and the age of the slave.²⁰ Unfortunately, the slave schedules listed only the names of the owners and not the slaves. A search for Jaquelin Marshall Meredith was conducted for the 1850 and 1860 census, with no results found.²¹ However, tax records for Jaquelin Marshall Meredith showed that he owned eight slaves above 12 years old in 1857 and 1858, 3 slaves above 12 in 1859, and 1 slave above 12 in 1860 (See Table 2).

Table 2: Jaquelin Marshall Meredith’s Slaves from Stafford County Tax Records	
	# of slaves over 12 years old
1857 ^a	8
1858 ^b	8
1859 ^c	3
1860 ^d	1

²⁰ FamilySearch Wiki, “United States Census Slave Schedules,” *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 13 August 2021), paragraph 1.

²¹ Searched for Meredith in “United States Census (Slave Schedule), 1850”, Virginia, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 29 July 2021).

Searched for Meredith in “United States Census (Slave Schedule), 1860”, Virginia, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 29 July 2021).

- a. Stafford County, Virginia, "Personal Property Tax Lists, 1856-1861," image 142 of 589, entry for J. M. Merideth, line 12, 1857, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 6 August 2021); citing FHL microfilm 8574691. **Document 12**
- b. Stafford County, Virginia, "Personal Property Tax Lists, 1856-1861," image 272 of 589, entry for J. M. Merideth, line 14, 1858, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 6 August 2021); citing FHL microfilm 8574691. **Document 13**
- c. Stafford County, Virginia, "Personal Property Tax Lists, 1856-1861," image 364 of 589, entry for Jacquelin M. Merideth, line 13, 1859, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 6 August 2021); citing FHL microfilm 8574691. **Document 14**
- d. Stafford County, Virginia, "Personal Property Tax Lists, 1856-1861," image 451 of 830, entry for Jacquelin M. Merideth, line 11, 1860, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 6 August 2021); citing FHL microfilm 8574691. **Document 15**

Jaquelin Marshall Meredith was not found in the 1856 or 1861 tax assessment lists for Stafford County, Virginia.²² As Dan Smith was born in February 1857²³, Dan's conception would have occurred in 1856. As such, determining the location of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith in 1856 is crucial to identifying possible mothers for Dan Smith.

While the tax records found Jaquelin Marshall Meredith in Stafford County, Virginia, from 1857-1860, there is evidence that Jaquelin Marshall Meredith had connections with the neighboring county of Fauquier County, Virginia. For example, the other hypothesized son of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith is George Robinson. George Robinson was born in October 1857, and his death certificate lists his birthplace as Fauquier County, Virginia.²⁴ To have conceived George Robinson, Jaquelin Marshall Meredith would have been in Fauquier County, Virginia, in early 1857. Along with that, Jaquelin Marshall Meredith's mother was from Fauquier County, Virginia, and biographies note that he spent much of his childhood there.²⁵ Jaquelin Marshall Meredith was likely in Fauquier County,

²² Searched Stafford County, Virginia, "Personal Property Tax Lists, 1856-1861," entry for Jacquelin M. Merideth, 1856 & 1861, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 6 August 2021); citing FHL microfilm 8574691.

²³ Find A Grave, database with images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/181356737: accessed 27 July 2021), memorial page for Dan L. Smith (5 February 1857 - 9 January 1923), Find A Grave Memorial #181356737; citing Calhoun-Famber Cemetery, Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia; photo included. **Document 3**

²⁴ "Virginia, U.S., Death Records, 1912-2014", database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 July 2021), George Robinson, (4 October 1857 - 20 November 1933), Gainesville, Prince William, Virginia; citing Virginia Department of Health, certificate 25293. **Document 6**

²⁵ Stafford County Virginia Historical Society: History Lives in Stafford, "Jaquelin Marshall Meredith (1833-1920)," *Stafford County Virginia Historical Society* (<http://www.staffordhistorical.org> : accessed 5 August 2021), paragraph 1.

Virginia, in 1856, leading to the hypothesis that Fauquier County, Virginia, was the birthplace of Dan Smith.

A search for Jaquelin Marshall Meredith online found papers of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith from 1834-1920 available for order from the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. The summary of these papers as found online reads:

"Primarily correspondence and loose notes of the Rev. Jaquelin Marshall Meredith concerning his religious education as service as rector of Episcopal churches in **Fauquier, Rappahannock, and Stafford counties**, VA, his service as chaplain to the 47th Virginia Infantry Regiment of the Confederate States Army of the Valley, and genealogical research on the Meredith and related families. Some materials also concern the education of young women in nineteenth-century Virginia and **African American slavery**."²⁶

The papers note that Jaquelin Marshall Meredith was the rector of Episcopal churches in Virginia's Fauquier, Rappahannock, and Stafford counties. In a future research project, each of these counties could be examined for evidence of Dan Smith's birth or Dan Smith's mother. Along with that, these papers state that they concern Jaquelin Marshall Meredith's thoughts on African American slavery. Reading these may help understand how and where Jaquelin Marshall Meredith interacted with African Americans, leading to further clues as to Dan Smith's mother's identity.

It is unclear whether Dan Smith's mother was one of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith's slaves or the slave of one of Jaquelin's associates. With emancipation after the Civil War, many slaves took the last name of their owner for their last name.²⁷ Therefore, it is interesting that Dan Smith's last name was "Smith" and not "Meredith." It is possible that Dan Smith's mother was one of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith's slaves but was sold to someone else before the emancipation of the slaves.

²⁶ Jaquelin Marshall Meredith, *Papers, 1852-1934*, Archival Material (Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA), OCLC #: 29907353.

²⁷ FamilySearch Wiki, "Quick Guide to African American Records", *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 22 August 2021), paragraph 10.

Therefore, Dan Smith's mother may have had a "Smith" owner, an associate of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith. This hypothesis can be the subject of a future research project.

CONCLUSION

At this point in the research, time had expired. Reviewing genealogical records previously gathered on Dan Smith showed that little was known about his parents, with the only clue being that they were most likely from Virginia. More genealogical records were searched in the hope of finding more information on Dan's parents, but no further hints were found. As such, the DNA of five of Dan's descendants was used to locate Dan Smith's parents. Creating a network graph of the DNA matches of the test-taker Tester 2 showed that descendants of Dan Smith through both of his wives were sharing DNA with a group of descendants from George Robinson and Elmira Pinkard. Researching the Robinson family further found that George Robinson seemed to be the son of a white man named Jaquelin Marshall Meredith.

Searching for other descendants of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith in the DNA matches of Dan Smith's descendants found the DNA suggested that Dan Smith was also the son of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith, though most likely with a different mother than George Robinson. Researching Jaquelin Marshall Meredith showed that he did own slaves, but the specifics about these slaves is unknown. The idea of Dan Smith being born in Fauquier County, Virginia, to a slave of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith or a slave of one of Jaquelin's associates was discussed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Using the network graph created in this phase of the research, find DNA matches who match with descendants of Dan Smith through both of his wives but do not match with Robinson/Meredith descendants to focus on Dan Smith's maternal matches. Finding the common ancestor of these matches may lead to Dan Smith's mother. Specifically, cluster 13 and cluster 7 seem to interact mainly with cluster 4, where descendants of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith were found.

- Order the Jacquelin Marshall Meredith Papers, 1852-1934, from the Virginia Museum of History and Culture to learn more about his life and look for clues on his associates (specifically any with the surname of Smith).
 - In e-mailing with the reference coordinator of the Virginia Museum of History and Culture (Matthew Guillen: mguillen@[virginiahistory.org](mailto:mguillen@virginiahistory.org)), he clarified that there are 194 items in this collection, and he would suggest focusing on a section of the papers. In these papers, section 3 covers the period when Dan Smith would have been born. The description online specifically mentions the discussion of African Americans in Jaquelin's correspondence with family members. Ordering this section would cost \$30.00 and may take some time due to understaffing at the museum. The papers can be ordered [here](#).

- Search Fauquier County, Virginia, Stafford County, Virginia, and Rappahannock County, Virginia land and tax records for evidence of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith living in this county around the time of Dan's birth and conception. This may lead to a better understanding of who Dan Smith's mother was. Many of these records are only available at a Family History Center.
 - Fauquier County, Virginia
 - [Indexes to deeds, grantors, M-Z, 1759-1914 \(microfilm # 31580\)](#)
 - [Indexes to deeds, grantees, M-Z, 1759-1914 \(microfilm # 31582\)](#)
 - [Some Slaves of Fauquier County, Virginia : will books by Sandra Barlau](#)
 - [Fauquier County, Virginia land tax books](#)
 - [Personal property tax lists, 1846-1850 \(microfilm # 2024535\)](#)
 - Find out if tax lists from 1856 are available for this county.
 - Stafford County, Virginia

- [General indexes to deeds, 1699-1977: grantors "K-L" -- grantors "M" \(microfilm # 2070280\)](#)
- [General indexes to deeds, 1699-1977: grantees "K-L" -- grantees "M" \(microfilm # 2070284\)](#)
- Tax records for Stafford County were viewed in this research project
- o Rappahannock County, Virginia
 - [General index to deeds, grantor L-Z 1833-1952 \(microfilm # 33658\)](#)
 - [General index to deeds, grantee A-Z 1833-1952 \(microfilm # 33659\)](#)
 - [Register of free Negroes, 1834-1863](#)
 - [Some slaves of Rappahannock County, Virginia : will books A-D, 1833-1865 by Sandra Barlau](#)
 - [Personal property tax lists, 1833-1850](#)
 - Find out if tax lists from 1856 are available for this county.
- Search Fauquier County, Virginia, Stafford County, Virginia, and Rappahannock County, Virginia for Smith families who may have been associates of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith and the owners of Dan Smith and his mother. Start this search with the 1860 slave schedules and 1860 U.S. Census, as those are the most straightforward record sets to search. Next, narrow down Smith families as there are bound to be multiple.
- Employ the tool of segment triangulation to find if descendants of Dan Smith, George Robinson, and the other children of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith share segments of DNA in the same place to strengthen the argument of a relationship between Dan Smith and Jaquelin Marshall Meredith. This can be done using the segment triangulation tool on the Tier 1 tools of *Gedmatch* using Kathy Miller's DNA and finding descendants of George Smith

and the other children of Jaquelin Marshall Meredith who have also shared their DNA on *Gedmatch*.

- Look at Dan Smith's associates from Dalton, Whitfield, Georgia, and see if any of them are also from Virginia. Perhaps locating where the associates are from in Virginia may give better clues about Dan Smith's origins. This search could start with the earliest census where Dan is found in Georgia and search that census for other African Americans (enumerated black or mulatto) residing in Dalton, Whitfield, Georgia, but were also born in Virginia.

Thanks for allowing us to research your family! We look forward to continuing as desired.

A. K. / D. E.

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