

Ancient Paternal Ancestors of Calvert Coleman

by Thomas F. Coleman

I recently submitted a DNA sample to determine my paternal lineage. I am sharing with other descendents of Calvert Coleman the results of this test and information provided to me by Ancestry.com.

Paternal Lineage and the Y-Chromosome

A male providing his Y-chromosome sample also represents the DNA of his father, paternal grandfather, and so on up the paternal line. Y-chromosome results are generally identical throughout the paternal line.

Therefore, the DNA sample I gave to Ancestry.com and the test results they found are not only valid for me but for my father, his father, and his father's father, etc. In other words, the results from my Y-chromosome sample would give us valid information about the paternal lineage of my great grandfather Calvert Coleman.

Paternal Ancient Ancestry

The Y-chromosome test provides a look into a man's ancient paternal ancestry through a prediction of his ancient haplogroup, or deep ancestral grouping. Haplogroups were formed when ancient peoples migrated and branched out from Africa tens of thousands of years ago. As they spread throughout the world and adapted to their new environments, their DNA diversified, creating new groups and subgroups.

Our Paternal Ancestors: The Artisans



My paternal ancestors, and those of Calvert Coleman, belong to the paternal haplogroup known as R1b. Ancestry.com has labeled them as "The Artisans."

The Artisans first arrived in Europe from west Asia about 35,000-40,000 years ago at the dawning of the Aurignacian culture.

This culture was remarkable for its subtle yet significant technological progress, like the shift from random flint collection to the use of a single stone core to shape flint tools as needed.

Aurignacian decorative beads and jewelry could also be the first sign we have of the uniquely human quality of self-awareness and adornment. Some anthropologists believe that the Aurignacian culture

was the first to paint. The people of this time period left behind fascinating cave paintings in France, Spain and Portugal.

The Ice Age may have played a role in the dispersion of the Artisans. At the peak of the Ice Age, a European ice shelf extended as far as southern Ireland, mid England and northern Germany, completely covering Scandinavia. Most of continental Europe was tundra and the land only supported trees as far south as southern France, northern Italy and areas north of the Balkans and across the Black Sea.

Thus, the Artisans most likely moved south of the tree line for their resources, making permanent homes where their descendants remained even when the ice shelf receded. Others returned north once resources were again available.

The Irish Connection

About 90% of individuals currently residing in Ireland are members of the Artisans. Other members can be found at high rates in the modern day populations of Spain, Portugal, France, Wales, Scotland and England. Based on this observation and other archeological and historical information, it is likely that ancient paternal ancestors of Calvert Coleman populated these areas.



Migration of The Artisans from Western Asia

The Artisans include a genetic group known as the Atlantic Modal Haplotype (AMH), which features greatly among the Irish and Welsh populations. Researchers believe that the genes associated with the AMH moved with the early Celtic migrations. Thus, the ancient Celts probably were paternal ancestors of Calvert Coleman.