

The Cheshire Group

Introduction

The Cheshire Group is a group of matched Short Tandem Repeat (STR) DNA profiles (including mine) that represent roughly 30% of all tests taken to date, and that are linked to clan trees that include nearly 30% of the Warburtons included in all clan trees. Furthermore the group has been linked to a group of Dutton profiles with a Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor (TMRCA) which is consistent with the historical evidence that the first Warburton, Sir Piers or Peter de Werberton, was formerly styled de Dutton, the change occurring circa 1260.

This Dutton-Warburton group has also been placed in a grouping called **The King's Cluster** which is a grouping within the **Family Tree DNA U-106 Project**. U106 is specific Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) that identifies the haplogroup R1b1a2a1a1.

The Matched Profiles

Warburton DNA Project results can be viewed on the **Warburton DNA Project** webpage hosted by **Family Tree DNA** at: <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/warburton/default.aspx?section=ycolored>.

The matched profiles of the Cheshire Group are rendered in a Phylogenetic Tree in Figure 1 below. This shows the relationships between the members of the group using available DNA and genealogical evidence. The DNA participants are represented by the letters along the bottom. Two of the 10 Warburtons in the group have identical results, and their actual relationship is known, so they are represented by one letter (B). In addition the letter X represents a Warbritton whose family legend is that their name was originally Warburton, and whose result also matches closely.

All the profiles are compared to a modal set of values. This is the most common value within the Cheshire Group for each marker, and it probably represents the values held by our common ancestor. Wherever a result includes a marker value which differs from the mode (a mutation), the marker and its value is shown in the tree on the appropriate leg. Where a mutation occurs in more than one result it implies there is probably a more recent common ancestor.

The modal set of values for the Cheshire Group is characterised as follows:

1. The 12 markers in **Family Tree DNA** panel 1 conform to the Western Atlantic Modal Haplotype. This haplotype is extremely common on Europe's Atlantic seaboard.
2. Markers where the Cheshire Group share an uncommon value (allele) include **DYS464=15-15-16-16**, **DYS437=12**, and **DYS449=30**.
3. The modal values of all the markers in the FTDNA 67 marker test are identical to the modal values for the related group of Duttons. Comparison with modal values for the whole of **The King's Cluster** suggests this is also true for the FTDNA 111 marker test.
4. The results of **DYF395s1=16-16**, and **DYS557=15** are indicators for membership of **The King's Cluster**.

Some Short Tandem Repeat (STR) markers can be quite volatile and so may change more than once in the time period in question. It is assumed, wherever possible, that mutations only occur once. This includes **DYS438=10** on profile F which is 2 different from the mode of 12, but is assumed to be a single 2-step mutation. However **DYS444** must have mutated from 12 to 11 on two separate occasions, in profiles C and D, because these profiles fall within two separate groups that are defined by a shared mutation. **DYS444** seems extremely volatile, having also mutated to 13 on one occasion, making 3 mutations in 7 tests of the marker.

Notice is taken of known relationships. However the linking of profiles C and D to William of Partington is admittedly speculative.

Markers in bold are from the 32 markers common to the **DNA Heritage** 43 marker test and the **Family Tree DNA** 37 marker test. Those in italics are specific to the 43 marker test, and those in regular font are specific to the 37 marker test.

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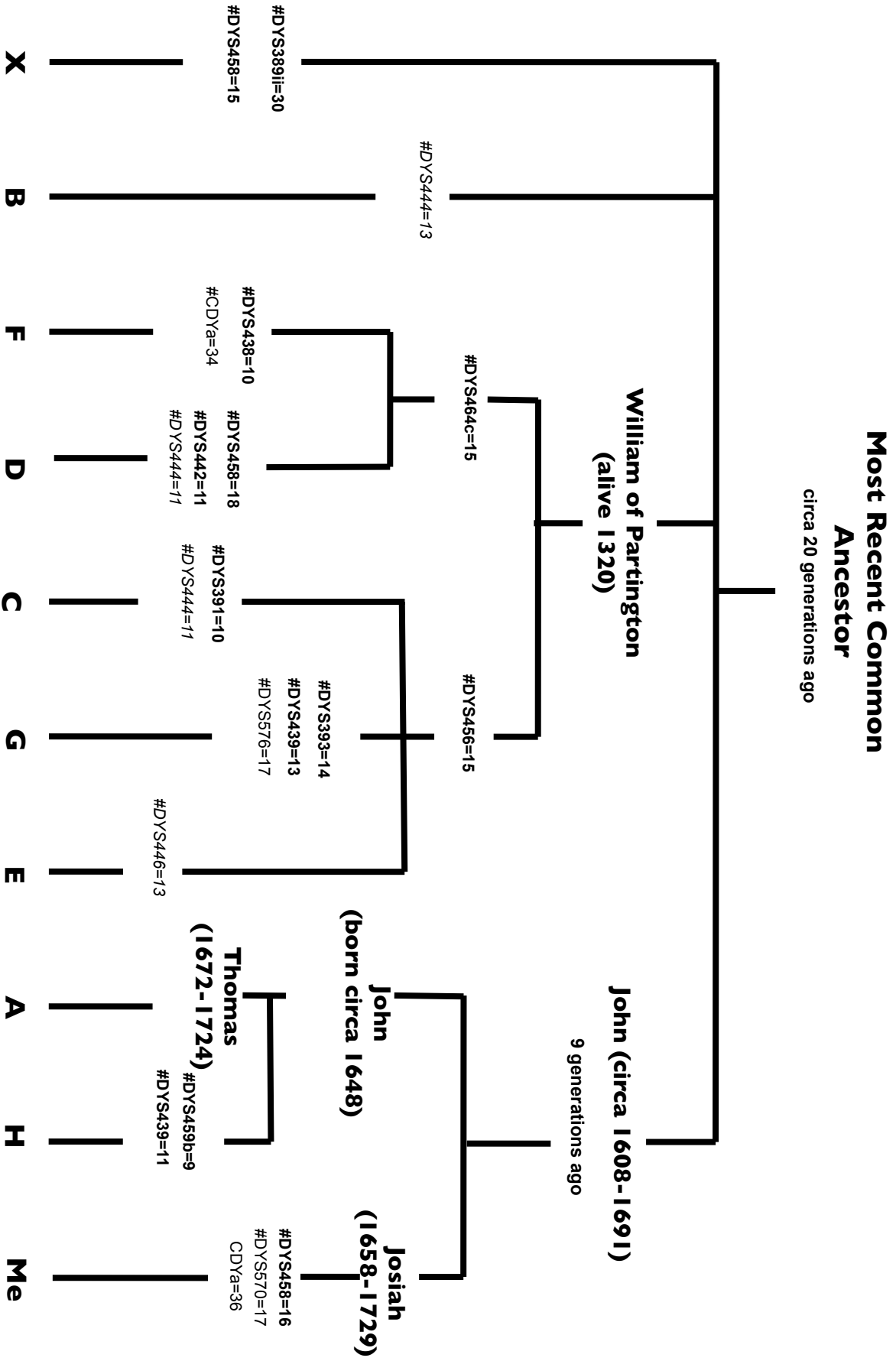


Fig. 1. Cheshire Group Phylogenetic Tree

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Profiles Description

Profiles can be identified in the results on the **Warburton DNA Project** webpage by their kit number. Kit numbers beginning with H are **DNA Heritage** 43 marker tests (except H112 which has been extended to 111 markers with **Family Tree DNA**). Other results are from the **Family Tree DNA** 37 marker test.

Most profiles belong to Warburton Clans which have been documented back to an earliest known ancestor. The following list describes the profiles in more detail.

- **Me - Kit H1112** This is my own profile. My 43 marker test shows 1 difference from the mode. However this has been extended to 111 markers and shows 2 additional differences in the 5 markers unique to the 37 marker test, plus two more in 111 markers. My ancestry is described in the Hale Barns Clan and my earliest known ancestor is George Warburton of Hale Barns (circa 1575-1639). It is likely the family were in Hale Barns from about 1500, so the most recent common ancestor for profiles not known to be linked to the Hale Barns clan would have lived before this. However not all sons and grandsons of George's son John (1608-91) are accounted for so John cannot be excluded as a possible most recent common ancestor for profile B. There are no later viable common ancestors.
- **A - Kit H1564.** This profile is identical to the mode. It belongs to the Ringley Clan which descends from William Warburton of Ashton-upon-Mersey and Ringley (1740-1820). However it is believed William was from the Mobberley Clan which is part of the Hale Barns clan (separated only for reasons of size). The rationale for this link is detailed in **The Link to William of Ashton-Upon-Mersey (1740-1820)** below. This makes our common ancestor John Warburton of Hale Barns (1608-91).
- **B - Kits H1572 and H1579** These profiles are identical and have just one difference to the mode, at marker DYS444 which isn't covered by the 37 marker test. They have a common ancestor in John Warburton (1734 -1823). John was baptised at Newchurch-Kenyon and lived at Houghton Green. He belongs to the Houghton Clan. John's birth is late enough that it is possible there is an unknown link back to John of Hale Barnes (1608-91)
- **C - Kit H1574** This profile is 3 different from the mode (2 in the common 32 markers). It includes one marker shared with profiles E and G, implying they share a common ancestor. The profile belongs to the Hamlet Clan, the descendants of Hamlet Warburton of Warrington who died in 1700. The name Hamlet suggests a link to the Warburtons of Partington who were descended from William Warburton who acquired estates in Partington in deeds dated 1320. Therefore the common ancestor of profiles C, E, and G is possibly William of Partington or one of his descendants.
- **D - Kit H1578** This profile is 4 different from the mode (3 in the common 32 markers). It also shares a mutation with profile F, implying they share a common ancestor. This profile relates to the descendants of a George who is probably the George, son of George of Partington who was baptised at Warburton in 1674. Therefore the common ancestor of profiles D and F is possibly William of Partington or one of his descendants..
- **E - Kit H1580** This profile is 2 different from the mode (1 in the common 32 markers). It also shares a mutation with profile C, and G indicating a common ancestor. No clan has yet been developed for this profile but his ancestors have been tentatively traced back to Flintshire prior to 1800.
- **F - Kit 224096** This profile is 3 different from the mode (2 in the common 32 markers). It also shares a mutation with profile D indicating a common ancestor. It belongs to the Percy Grey family which descends from Thomas Warburton (1810-93) who was born at Culcheth, near Warrington.
- **G - Kit 224421** This profile has 4 differences from the mode (3 in the 32 common markers), one being shared with profiles C and E indicating a common ancestor. It belongs to the Warrington (Stanley) clan which originates with John Warburton of Warrington (circa 1754-1821). John's details and origins are not certain but he was a flax dresser who lived in Warrington.
- **H - Kit 306676** This profile is 2 different from the mode and belongs to the Mobberley Clan. It shares a common ancestor with profile A in Thomas Warburton of Mobberley (1672-1724)

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grandson of John Warburton of Hale Barns (1608-91) the common ancestor of profiles H and Me.

- **X** This is the profile of a Warbritton from Texas. Warbritton is known mis-spelling, or mis-translation of Warburton so this probably indicates a genuine common ancestor. The profile is two different from the mode including one 2-step difference which is assumed to be a single 2-step mutation.

Cheshire Group DNA Calculations

Each of the 10 Cheshire group results can be compared with each of the others, giving 45 unique pairs. In some cases genealogical evidence exists to identify the most recent common ancestor, with greater or lesser confidence. There are also 2 groups that have a shared mutation, indicating a relatively more recent common ancestor. There then remain 32 unbounded pairs whose most recent common ancestor could be Sir Piers de Werberton, or any of his ancestors, though genealogical knowledge may put a boundary on the latest possible date.

Cheshire Group DNA Calculations is a document on the **Warburton Website** that shows details of all unique pairs including their genetic distance, the results of TMRCA (time to most recent common ancestor) calculations, and any boundaries on those dates derived from genealogical knowledge.

It includes details of the criteria used in the calculations, calculations of the probability of a given number of mutations from the mode over 20 generations (the likely number since the first Warburton lived), and weighted average dates for the 32 unbounded pairs, and subsets of those pairs defined by the number of shared markers.

The results show that the most likely number of mutations from the mode for both 37 and 43 marker tests is 2, but there are reasonable probabilities for any number from 0 to 5. The average date for the most recent common ancestor of the 32 unbounded pairs is 1177AD with a probable range (within 1 standard deviation) of 837AD to 1643AD. The 43 marker comparisons produce slightly latter dates, whilst the fewer 37 marker comparisons produce earlier dates.

The Dutton - Warburton Group

I recently (February 2013) discovered that the Cheshire group closely match a group of 5 Duttons who are included in the **Dutton DNA Project** on **Family Tree DNA**. The historical connection between the Warburtons and the Duttons is described in detail in **Origins and Statistics** which can be found on the **Papers** page of the **Warburton Website**. Briefly the earliest known Warburton family were previously Duttons descended from Odard de Dutton, a Norman knight who arrived in England with the Norman Conquest.

As one of the Dutton group (Mike Dutton) had taken the **National Geographic Project Geno 2.0** test, I took the same test. The Y-chromosome element of this test checks over 12,000 known SNPs and Mike and I have identical mutations or positives. The most recent mutation we shared was on marker Z306 so we were officially classed as haplogroup R1b-Z306. Z306 lies below U106 so we are both members of the **Family Tree DNA R1b-U106 Project**. We have both since tested positive for a more recent SNP called DF98. This mutation is thought to have occurred between 750BC and 200BC in the Frankfurt area, about the time the La Tene culture arose in that area. It is thought the expansion of this culture could have been the impetus for the spread of DF98.

DF98 matches very closely with **The King's Cluster**, to the point where it is now regarded as defining membership of that group. **The King's Cluster** is maintained by Iain McDonald who has built an impressive phylogenetic tree and distribution map that can be seen in **The King's Cluster Tree**, and **The King's Cluster Geography** on the **Warburton Website**.

Mike Dutton and I have both now taken a new test with **Family Tree DNA** called **Big-Y**. This is another SNP test but it is significant because it tests a large proportion of the Y-chromosome looking for new mutations. It is expected to find several mutations that occurred more recently than DF98. As several members of **The King's Cluster** are taking the test it should be possible to identify specific subgroups of the cluster. There may also be mutations which are specific to the Warburton and/or Dutton groups, or identify our nearest neighbours within the group. Ultimately it may determine how our profile travelled from the Frankfurt area to Cheshire, and whether this indeed included a detour via Normandy to be brought over by Odard de Dutton. However results are not expected before February 2014.

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In the meantime **The King's Cluster** has been given more definition by using the results of 67 or 111 marker STR tests. DYF359S1 equal to 16-16 (it's a double marker) and DYS557 equal to 15 are the key STR identifiers for the **King's Cluster** and these are both covered by a 67 marker test.

Mike Dutton and I have extended our STR results to 111 markers. There is one other Dutton 111 marker result but he is quite closely related to Mike and their results are very close. I have ordered an additional 111 marker test from the Warburton group and he is quite remotely related to me.

The **Warburton Website** has 2 documents that compare the Dutton and Warburton results in detail. **Warburton-Dutton DNA Results** shows the actual DNA results, and identifies those markers which are significant identifiers of the group. It includes various modes for comparison.

The 10 Warburton and 5 Dutton results produce 50 Warburton-Dutton pairs who share a common ancestor. **Warburton-Dutton DNA Calculations** is a document which shows the results of TMRCA calculations for each pair, and produces a weighted average date from the 26 pairs where at least 37 markers could be compared. This produced an average date of 1109AD, with a 68% (1 standard deviation) probability that he lived between 786AD and 1529AD. This compares with the historical evidence that he would have been born between circa 1040 and 1200. Details of the criteria used in the calculations are included in the document.

Possible Explanations

The range of possible dates for the Warburton - Dutton groups's most recent common ancestor is quite wide, and it is quite likely the criteria on which they are calculated will change. However they are consistent with the historical evidence that around 1260 Sir Peter de Dutton built a manor house on his estates at the village of Warburton (actually Werberton in those days) and was henceforth styled de (or of) Warburton. This would make the Warburton - Dutton common ancestor to be Odard, or one of his descendants up to and including Sir Peter's father Sir Geoffrey de Dutton who was born around 1200.

However although this is the most likely scenario it is not definitive proof, and other explanations are possible. To identify these it is necessary to consider all the ways that the Warburton - Dutton profile might have found its way from the Frankfurt area to Cheshire.

Firstly, if it journeyed via Normandy it could have arrived in Normandy either before the Viking invasion that brought the ruling Dukes of Normandy, or with them. The former is the most likely as there is little evidence of DF98 in the possible Viking homelands of Norway and Denmark. The Normans were usually quite good at assimilating local families (England seems to have been an exception) so Odard could easily have belonged to a family with deep roots in the Normandy area that was well assimilated into the Norman establishment before the English invasion.

It is just possible that someone other than Odard brought the Cheshire group profile to England. Half the Cheshire group have tenuous links to William Warburton, the son of Piers de Warburton (formerly Dutton), by his second wife. This raises the possibility that William was the son of an earlier marriage of his mother's (though there is no evidence to suggest this). His mother's name, Hawise, is Norman so the origin would still be Normandy, but this would mean that the profile was subsequently passed to a Dutton line by a non-paternal event.

There is a family which claimed a link to the Warburtons of Arley via one of its cadet branches. Its founder appeared in Dublin, Ireland in the 1630's, and his sons established estates, the chief being at Garryhinch in Kings County (now Offaly).

I have two DNA results from separate branches of this family which show that the family belonged to a completely different Y-chromosome haplogroup, which is estimated, using the Whit Athey Haplogroup Predictor (<http://www.hprg.com/hapest5/hapest5a/hapest5.htm>), to be J2a1-bh. Haplotype J2 is not common in Western Europe, particularly north-west England, and a better understanding of the Garryhinch sub-clade and its distribution is necessary to determine the likelihood of a Norman origin.

At this point we can determine that either the connection to the Arley family was through an illegitimate son who went to seek his fortune in Ireland, or the Arley family were all J2, and the Cheshire group is descended from an adopted son (i.e. William son of Hawise de Heffield). This implies that all the J2 lines, apart from the Garryhinch line, have died out, or are too restricted to stand out in the modern population. Certainly the main Arley Hall male line died out in 1813.

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The other possibility to bear in mind is that the Warburton - Dutton profile might have been carried to England before the Norman invasion by either the Saxons or the Danes. The latter is unlikely as Cheshire was in the kingdom of Mercia which lay outside the Danelaw. Both Warburton and Dutton are locative names relating to places in Cheshire. Warburton (Werberghs-tune) was established as a fortified settlement to defend a ford on the river Mersey against the Danes. I don't know the origin of Dutton, which lies in north-west Cheshire, close to Runcorn, but it was referred to as Duntune in the Domesday book. The suffix -ton or -tune implies it was also a Saxon fortified settlement. It is also likely that an important fortified settlement would be settled with trusted, probably Saxon families. The Warburton - Dutton profile might have been present in one or both villages when the villagers were adopting surnames in feudal times, and a carrier may well have taken the name of the village.

It is probable that both Warburton and Dutton lines originated from villagers who adopted the village name. There are certainly instances in the period since parish records began, of Warburtons and Duttons marrying. It is therefore quite possible that extra marital relationships also occurred resulting in a Warburton profile being adopted by a Dutton, or vice versa. This would result in a later date for the most recent common ancestor.

Perhaps less likely is that two closely related men were settled, one in each village, and each had a descendant who took the village name. Such a common ancestor would predate Odard as Warburton, and probably Dutton, were settled in the early 9th century.

Current Status

I cannot be certain whether it will be possible to determine which of the various possibilities represents the true story, or even if there is another possibility I have not yet thought of. I do have hopes that as more evidence is gathered one of the possibilities will become significantly more likely. Perhaps I should say probable, as it essentially a question of comparing probabilities.

The Genealogical Background

This section describes the genealogical background to the Cheshire group Phylogenetic Tree. This is done by focussing some key earliest or common ancestors.

John Warburton of Hale Barns (1608-1691).

John is my 7x great grandfather, and is the only one of my known ancestors who is a viable common ancestor of other members of the Cheshire group.

My earliest known ancestor is John's father George Warburton who lived in Hale Barns and died in 1639. From the ages of his children it can be estimated he was born no later than 1575. George's father is not known for certain but there is an intriguing reference in a set of accounts of his daughter Sybil, relating to the affairs of her first husband, and dated 1628. This refers to George paying a debt when Thomas dies, indicating he expects to receive money when he does. This may be the Thomas of Hale Barns who died in 1634, and must have been born around 1550 or earlier if he was George's father.

John was George's only son who lived to have sons of his own. The next ancestor to have multiple sons was John's grandson, also John (1716-91) who had 2 sons, in 1739 and 1741, and then a large second family from 1769 onwards. The history of the 2 eldest sons is well documented. Where known, all members of the Cheshire group have earliest ancestors who are contemporary with or predate this John so he can be excluded as a common ancestor.

The family occupied a farm in Hale Barns that was later known as Oaklands Farm. A descendant of the family (my 8th cousin) still lives in the farm house today. Eighteenth century records show that a small chief rent of 6 ½ pence per annum was paid to the lord of the manor for this farm. A local historian has surmised, based on similar arrangements with the Davenport and Danyers families, that this might mean the family were a soldier family 'planted' on land for a small rent in return for military service by the de Massey family of Dunham Massey in the early 14th century. However there are surveys of the Dunham Massey domains in the Stamford papers at John Rylands library, which include lists of freemen and villains in Hale. The earliest dates from 1347 and two others are from the early 1400s, and none of these include a Warburton.

The Dunham Massey estates fell into dispute in the 14th century, and when this was resolved in 1433 most of the Hale portion of the estate was divided between the Stanleys and the Chauntrells, whilst the main estates passed to the Booths, later the Earls of Stamford. The Stanfords

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repurchased the Chauntrell lands in 1601, whilst early in the 17th century the Stanley lands passed first to a London merchant, Sir Baptiste Hicks, and then to the Crewe family, who were large Cheshire landowners.

No records from the Stanley or Chauntrell occupations exist, and there are few references to Hale in the Stamford records prior to 1601. There is a reference in 1443 to a Hamo de Werberton as a tenant in Dunham Massey, Hale and/or Partington, and there is a John Warburton who is a tenant in Hale in 1595.

In the 17th century there was an explosion of records, including wills, parish registers from 1628, and the records of the Crewe family. By this time there are several Warburton families in Hale, as well as a place called Warburton Green. As the Oaklands farm chief rent was paid to the Crewe family it would have previously have been Stanley land. Almost certainly the Warburton occupation of Oaklands farm began during the Stanley occupancy so it would appear that the service that earned the family their land at a peppercorn rent was a service to the Stanleys.

Sir Thomas Stanley was created Earl of Derby in 1485 following the battle of Bosworth Field in when Henry Tudor overthrew King Richard III to become Henry VII and found the Tudor dynasty. It was portrayed in Shakespeare's *Richard III*, and more recently the BBC series *The White Queen*. The crucial event in the battle was when the Stanleys, Sir Thomas and Sir William, having arrived with their forces without declaring their allegiance, intervened on Henry's side.

The Stanleys had considerable lands in the North West (Lancashire and Cheshire) and amongst their supporters was Sir Piers Warburton, whose estates included the village of Warburton, and who built a new family seat at Arley Hall, near Northwich in Cheshire. Sir Piers had the soubriquet 'Wise Piers', mainly because when Sir William Stanley lost his head for his involvement in the Perkin Warbeck rebellion of 1497, Sir Piers kept his.

There is no actual record of Sir Pier's presence at Bosworth, but it is most likely that he was not only there, but that he contributed troops, and this contribution would include kin from the cadet branches of his family.

Of course it is pure conjecture that this was the occasion of the service which gained Oaklands farm for my ancestors. Nevertheless my ancestors arrived in Hale well before 1600 and were granted land on a peppercorn rent. This strongly implies a service to the Lord of the manor, who was Lord Stanley. Of course this service could be anything, but the most prominent historical event where the Stanley's played a leading role, and when Sir Piers Warburton of Arley was known to be a Stanley supporter, was the battle of Bosworth Field.

John Warburton (1608-91) had five sons named Thomas, John, George, Josiah, and Enoch. They were born in the middle of the 17th century, and are mentioned in the Hearth and Poll tax returns for Hale (1664 and 1667).

Thomas, like his father, lived in Hale Barns and inherited the family farm. He had a large family, and although several baptisms are recorded, there is evidence of children whose baptisms are not recorded in the parish record and so it is possible that not all his descendants are known. In this period a number of nonconformist baptisms went unrecorded, as they were performed at home, at Ringway Chapel which was controlled by nonconformists until 1723, or after 1723 at the new Presbyterian Hale Chapel, where records were not kept until 1752. There are a number of descendants of Thomas and Josiah, amongst other examples, whose baptisms are missing in this way. Josiah is my own ancestor, and he was one of the founders of the new chapel. See **The Origins of Hale Chapel** in Issue 7 of **The Button Files** for a more detailed article about non-conformism in this period.

John and Enoch both moved to Mobberley. John was the founder of a large family which, for reasons of size, is documented as a separate clan, the Mobberley clan.

Enoch, and his wife Ellen both died in 1692 and were buried within days of each other. Ellen paid the fines to be buried in linen. The parish records refer to the baptism of one child, a daughter. However Enoch and Ellen had been married over 8 years, and Enoch left a will which mentions children but doesn't name them. Therefore it is possible he had other children who received a non-conformist baptism, and were subsequently raised by his brothers.

Enoch's executors were three of his brothers, Thomas of Hale, John of Mobberley, and Josiah of Hale. Only George is missing and he is also excluded as executor of his father's will, although he

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was a beneficiary. This suggests he was alive when the will was written in 1685, and probably still alive in 1691 when his father died, as the will had not been rewritten. However there is no trace of any marriage, burial, or children for George in the Bowdon parish registers. The most probable explanation is that he had moved away.

It is known that profile H belongs to a member of the Mobberley clan, and that profile A is also probably linked (see below). Also profile B might possibly be linked via some of the uncertain sections of the Hale Barns tree.

William Warburton of Ashton-Upon-Mersey (1740-1820)

The first DNA match found by the Warburton DNA project linked myself and Clive (profile A). Clive's oldest known ancestor was Henry Warburton, born on March 3rd 1769. Investigation revealed the christening of Henry, son of William and Mary of Cross Street, Sale, on March 23rd 1769 at Ashton-upon-Mersey. There was a wedding on 21st April 1767 between William and Mary Kelsall at Ashton-upon-Mersey. As well as Henry, a daughter Mary was also christened at Ashton-upon-Mersey on 1st March 1772. Two further children were baptised at Bowdon, William on 11th June 1775, and Thomas on 17th May 1781. In both cases they are said to be from Bagueley. Subsequently a fifth child, Peggy was baptised at Ringley in Lancashire on 20th May 1787.

Clive has the will of Reginald Kelsall of Outwood-within-Pilkington in which he mentions his sister Mary Warburton. Neither Reginald nor Mary's baptism records have been found, but Henry's marriage was at Prestwich, which is close by, on 25th November 1797. At some point between 1781 and 1787 William and Mary moved to be near Mary's family. This was confirmed by the discovery of William's will, dated 1820, which also confirmed the above children were all his. Furthermore this led to the discovery of his burial record in the Ringley church records. He was buried on the 17th July 1820 and was 79 years old. Assuming his age is correct (which cannot always be relied on) he was born between July 15th 1740 and July 15th 1741.

Henry's birth in Sale brought him close to my own ancestors in Hale. A review of all Williams baptised in and around Bowdon parish who might fit Henry's father produced two who were close to the correct age.

On July 17th 1740 a William was baptised at Bowdon. His parents weren't recorded. On September 21st 1740 William the son of George and Mary was christened in Mobberley, one of seven children.

The first William can be discounted because he fits the Bowdon schoolmaster of 40 years who married Jane Worthington on January 2nd 1772, and died on October 27th 1806, aged 66. His will was published in 1807. The marriage to Jane clashes with the christening of Mary, Henry's younger sister.

The baptisms of the Mobberley family fit with the wedding of George and Mary Walton at Bowdon on 3rd June 1734. George's baptism is not recorded at Mobberley though there is an International Genealogical Index record that says he was born about 1711, the son of Thomas. Thomas was the son of John of Mobberley, the brother of Josiah my ancestor. George and his elder brother Aaron are the youngest of Thomas's twelve children, and the only ones whose baptism is not recorded at Mobberley. However they are mentioned in their uncle John's will so their parentage is confirmed.

William's burial record fits neatly with the baptism of George and Mary's son, though there is nothing beyond this coincidence to tie the two together. There are records of other Williams marrying in North Cheshire in the 1770s but nothing to tie them to William of Mobberley.

The DNA match between myself and Clive can be counted as additional evidence. TMRCA calculations give a range for the birth of our common ancestor which centres on 1665, with a 68% chance it falls in the range 1385 to 1840. As John of Hale Barns is the only viable candidate since about 1550 this makes him the most probable (but not certain) common ancestor. Is possible there is another William born around 1740 whose baptism is unknown, but it is very likely that William of Mobberley is the link. On this basis my on-line trees show the Ringley clan as linked to the Mobberley clan through William

John Warburton of Houghton (1734-1823)

Two members of the Cheshire group with identical profiles (B) are descended from John of Houghton. With a genetic distance of one from Clive (A) and two from Me a more recent common ancestor is suggested. Also they are not linked to any other subgroup by a shared mutation.

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We can therefore determine there is a probability that John of Houghton is descended from John of Hale Barns, though it is also possible that their common ancestor lived before 1550. The search for a link has so far been fruitless, though it proved interesting and solved some other mysteries. The rest of this section describes its progress.

The first of the two profiles obtained from the Houghton clan was instrumental in resolving a genealogical issue. It came from a descendant of William of Widnes. At that time I had two families descended from a William of Widnes. Parish records confirmed that the two families were descended from the same William, via different sons. In one of the families William was identified as being born in 1779, the son of Bancroft Warburton. However Bancroft is known to be illegitimate so the DNA match with the Hale Barns clan disproved this link.

William of Widnes appears in the 1841 census, aged 60. Since ages in the 1841 census were rounded down to the nearest 5 years this gives a possible birth date between 1777 and 1781. The International Genealogical Index has the baptism of 15 Williams between these dates (6 in 1779 alone). These include 2 at Bowdon, 1 at Farnworth (the son of Bancroft), and 1 at Winwick. The rest were further afield.

Given the probability that John of Hale Barns is the common ancestor, the two Bowdon baptisms seemed significant. One of them died in infancy. The other was baptised on 23rd May 1779, son of Josiah and Martha. Following my ancestor Josiah's role in the nonconformist movement in Hale, his name has been used frequently within the family, so it is a useful marker for likely relatives.

However this Josiah's ancestry is unknown. His death was recorded at Bowdon and his age suggests he was born around 1745, but there is no matching baptism record, suggesting a possible nonconformist baptism. Another Josiah and Martha were married in 1737 at Bowdon. They had one son baptised at Mobberley in 1739 and several children baptised at Bowdon from 1747 onwards. This gap is puzzling and lead to doubts that this was just one family. However it is also possible that other children were born in between and given nonconformist baptisms, possibly at Hale Chapel. There is evidence this might be so as one daughter was buried in 1745 at Bowdon but her baptism is missing. Also Josiah and Martha's subsequent home at Ashley is close to Hale.

The birth date of the second Josiah fits in the gap, and given the name Josiah it is possible he was their son. This still leaves the problem that the elder Josiah's ancestry is also unknown. The only possible baptism on record is at Northenden in 1716, father John. More likely he is another missing nonconformist baptism.

This line of reasoning was rendered irrelevant by the second, identical DNA match. The ancestry of this participant had been traced back via William of Widnes, to John of Houghton. Houghton is in Lancashire and falls in the parish of Winwick. One of John's sons is the William baptised at Winwick in 1779. Whilst it is still possible that the Josiahs in Bowdon are descendants of John of Hale Barns, they cannot be ancestors of this second participant.

This lead me to investigate William further and I found him in the 1851 census, transcribed by Ancestry as Warhurst, but now annotated as Warburton, which is probably why I didn't find it earlier. His age is transcribed as 77, but is in fact 72, and his place of birth is given as Houghton Green, which confirms the link.

John Warburton of Houghton was buried at Winwick, St Oswald on January 5th 1823, aged 88. The closest baptism that fits was at Newchurch Kenyon, in the parish immediately to the north of Winwick, on June 2nd 1734, father Robert, and date of birth recorded as May 18th.

It is possible that at some point a son or grandson of John of Hale Barns moved, either to Houghton, or to somewhere else from whence there was a second move to Houghton. The possibilities are that this was either George, John's mysterious middle son, or an unknown grandson, the son of either Thomas or Enoch. There is also a William, son of John of Mobberley by his second marriage who was born in 1701. No record of him has been found thereafter, though he is presumed dead by 1756 because he is not mentioned in his brother's will.

Hamlet Warburton of Warrington (circa 1635 - 1700)

One member of the Cheshire group (profile C) is descended from Hamlet of Warrington. He also shares a mutation with two other members of the group, suggesting they have a common ancestor who is more recent than the one shared with other group members.

The Cheshire Group

Hamlet of Warrington died in 1700 and so was contemporary with John of Hale Barns. Therefore their common ancestor must have lived before 1550.

Unfortunately there are very few records from this period of history, especially for the lower classes. One source for the history of the time is **Warburton: The Village and the Family** by Norman Warburton, published in 1972.

The book includes some interesting material on the name Hamlet. It is a form of Hamon, which is the name born by seven successive Barons de Massey of Dunham Massey. The line died out about 1340. Hamlet or Hamnet appears in Warburton families from Partington and nearby areas such as Poulton, Thelwall, Carrington, and Eccles. It also appears several times in the index to the Stamford papers. The Earls of Stamford were successors to the de Masseys at Dunham Massey. It does not appear very often further south in Cheshire. Norman Warburton's view was that use of the name suggests these families were related.

Chief of these families is the Warburtons of Partington, who as late as the end of the 17th century possessed 4/18ths of the Manor of Partington. According to Norman Warburton these lands were acquired in 1320 by William Werberton. William was the son of Hawise de Heffield, the second wife of Sir Peter de Werberton, formerly de Dutton and the first to take the Werberton name. William had two sisters, Cecelia and Alice. Hawise is deemed to be a second wife as Sir Peter had 4 other sons, including his heir. Unfortunately the most comprehensive genealogy of the Warburtons of Arley, published in 1819 by George Ormerod in his **The History of the County Palatine and the City of Chester**, makes no mention of Hawise or William and his sisters.

William's descendants are not documented in detail but there are several variants of Hamlet associated with Partington down the years:

- Hamo de Warburton occurs in the Recognisance Rolls of 1436 and 1442.
- Hamo also appears in the Stamford estate records as a tenant in Dunham Massey, Hale and/or Partington in 1443.
- Hamnet, free tenant in Partington 1400, 1513, and 1514 (Stamford estate records).
- Hamo of Partington, gent, attorney in 1515 (Stamford estate records).
- Hamon of Partington, gentleman, juror in 1517. A Haymo also appears on the Inspecimus of 1520 as a tenant in Warburton. Norman Warburton considers him to be the same person.
- Hamon was a juror in 1580.
- Hamnet, gent, was a tenant in Dunham Massey 1615-25 (Stamford estate records).
- Hamnett was coroner for Cheshire, compounded for knighthood in 1631 and buried in the chancel of Warburton Church in 1651.
- Hamlet, party to an action at Dunham Massey court leet 1718 (Stamford estate records).
- Hamlet former tenant in Partington 1722 (Stamford estate records).

There are also some wills:

- Hamlett of Carrington 1593. Hamnett's widow Isabell left a will in 1608. Both mention son Hamlett/Hamnett.
- Hamnett of Thelwall 1616
- Hamnet of Poulton, Warrington 1620.
- Hamnet of Partington. Gent 1651. There are 8 other wills of Warburtons of Partington between 1590 and 1686.

Of course all these references are not necessarily to members of the same family, and there is no indication other than the name Hamlet, that Hamlet of Warrington was related to the family at Partington. However it does increase the possibility that this is the case.

George Warburton of Warburton (circa 1674 - 1735)

George is the oldest known ancestor of a family that settled in Pennsylvania in the 19th century and includes a member of the Cheshire group. This member (profile D) also shares a mutation with another member of the group, suggesting they have a common ancestor who is more recent than the one shared with other group members.

The Cheshire Group

George was documented as being born in Liverpool around 1670. However all the parish records that relate to him occur in or around the village of Warburton, including his burial at St Werburgh, Warburton. The earliest record that could relate to him is a reference in the Inventory of George of Partington dated 1686 in which he makes provision for the education of his children, including 12 year old George. There is a matching baptism at St Werburgh dated April 2nd 1674, father George.

Although Partington was part of the ancient parish of Bowdon it was physically closer to St Werburghs at Warburton and so it was often used by the Warburtons of Partington. Also locations relating to George's children cluster around Warburton, Partington, and Lymm.

This possible identification of George as the son of George of Partington means that both George of Warburton and Hamlet of Warrington have a link with the Warburtons of Partington. Shared mutations mean that five of the ten members of the Cheshire group might be descended from the Warburtons of Partington.

Profile X and Others

The phylogenetic tree in figure 1 includes a profile X. This is a Warbritton profile. I was contacted by a Warbritton from Texas wondering if Warbritton derives from Warburton. He has a DNA profile that has 2 differences from the Cheshire Group base. Warbritton appears several times in Ancestry transcriptions of census entries from the 19th century, but it is usually a corruption of Warburton. It is virtually absent as a name in modern Britain. It is slightly more frequent in the USA. The close match would appear to confirm the link between the two names, though the change might be by design rather than accident. There is a suggestion the name was adopted to signify allegiance during the American War of Independence. No actual evidence to explain the link has yet been found.

There are other profiles to be found, particularly on Ancestry, which match to some degree but there is no evidence they are other than random matches. One match of particular interest came from contact with a descendant of a William Hunter born circa 1861 in Lancashire. The DNA profile from one of William's descendants differs in only one marker from the base. There is a possibility this is a random match, but it is also possible, especially given his origins, that he has a Warburton in his ancestry.