

Y-DNA and the Hunt for the Father of Philip Quigley (March 2022)

Although there is abundant evidence of Philip Quigley's life in New Jersey, British America, in the early 1700s, there is absolutely no reliable information as to his parentage nor confirmation of the belief that he immigrated from Ireland in the 1720s. Many family trees on Ancestry show him to be a son of Daniel Quigley and his wife Susannah Yerto. But I believe this relationship is misattributed to Daniel's will of 1759 that includes a son named Philip. For the reasons given in a companion story (*Common Errors Found In Online Family Trees For Philip Quigley*), I believe that Daniel was more likely Philip's brother and that they and another brother, James, immigrated together to British America.

I have now turned to Y-DNA testing as an alternative means of research. Occasional changes in the Y-chromosome, as it is passed down from father to son, can be detected by analytical laboratories and then used to identify the generation of the most recent common paternal ancestor for two or more closely or very distantly-related males.

The most widely-used testing company for this purpose, [FamilyTreeDNA](#), supports group projects where members can compare and share DNA test data and family tree information. I am a volunteer administrator for the Quigley Project, which is focused on testers with Quigley and related surnames, and those who have been shown by testing to biologically descend from Quigleys. The project currently has 88 members, 64 of whom have taken a Y-DNA test as shown on the [Quigley Project webpage](#) at FTDNA. If you are a Quigley interested in researching your paternal Quigley line, I highly recommend joining the project. Females can also participate by having brothers or male Quigley uncles, cousins, etc. test for them as their proxy.

Some of the Y-DNA test results are shown in the FTDNA Block Tree below. They indicate that my brother and I, in Block B, have a common ancestor, born about 1800, with three Quigleys (a grandfather, father and son) in Block A. We also share common ancestors, all born before 1650, with other testers in Blocks C, D and E, some of who can trace their paternal lineages back to Ireland.

The family tree for the Block A Quigleys goes back to a James Quigley, born 1776 in Delaware. This is quite close in time and location to Philip Quigley descendants and relatives who were then living in nearby Delaware and Pennsylvania at the time. Finding the connection to James Quigley is now the focus of my research by additional Y-DNA testing and paper-trail research.

