

DNA Expands Knowledge of the Harvie Family of Nova Scotia

by Elizabeth L. Nichols

Elizabeth L. Nichols is well known as an author and teacher in the field of genealogy and family history. She is an accredited genealogist (A.G.) and prior to retirement a long-time employee of the Family History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She was the primary writer on the Boy Scouts of America merit badge pamphlet for genealogy, 1988 ed. Her book, The Genesis of Your Genealogy, first published in 1969, remains a popular tool for beginners.



THE Y-DNA TEST RESULTS of descendants of this Harvie/Harvey family focuses on descendants who have well-documented paper-trail pedigrees that are respected and have stood the test of time. There have been multiple investigations into family history and genealogy in the various areas involved, in particular, USA; Ontario, Canada; Nova Scotia, Canada; and Ayrshire, Scotland.

Who they are

Arriving in Hants County, Nova Scotia in 1760 on the Sloop *Sally* from Rhode Island were passengers named HARVIE originally from the small town of Dalry in Ayrshire, Scotland, including James Harvie [Sr] with two sons, James Harvie Jr, 1746-abt 1784, Archibald Harvie 1743-1818; a daughter Margaret [or Marion]; and a nephew John Harvie 1730-1822, son of Andrew Harvie, brother to James Sr.

This family is described in several publications (see details at the end of this article), beginning with *From Old Scotia to New Scotia: A Family of Harveys...* by Dr. McLeod Harvey, published in the 1940s.

DNA testing results

DNA testing, both autosomal and Y-DNA has been done by descendants. The autosomal DNA testing takes chromosomes from both parents, and either gender can provide the sample. It is only accurate or trustworthy for about five generations, with less accuracy to about eight generations.

Y-DNA is limited to direct-line male descendants, and the sample must be provided by a male direct-line descendant--in this case, a Harvie/Harvey male descendant. It pertains only to the paternal line.

We will focus on the Y-DNA since it can trace the paternal line back hundreds, and they say, thousands of years. The tests for these studies have been made by Family Tree DNA (familytreedna.com) known also as FTDNA.

Perhaps it will be of interest to begin with a direct-line descendant of Dr. McLeod Harvey, compiler of the Harvey Family history published in the 1940s [and familiar to many descendants].

The testing participant is a great-grandson of Dr. McLeod Harvey. His paternal line goes back directly to the "nephew" John Harvie born in Scotland in 1730, son of Andrew Harvie and Janet Speir.

The basic Y-haplogroup is "R" and is part of the quite common R-M269 and R1b "family" of Y-DNA haplotypes and haplogroups.

As of 2 June 2020, his verified Y-DNA at the BigY700 level of testing is R-FT161972.

There are two other Y-DNA testers who matched exactly with this same Y-haplogroup. Their paternal pedigree goes directly back to James Harvie [Sr] who married Margaret Boyle, and who died in Nova Scotia in 1792.

CAUTION: It is known and recognized that some Y-DNA tests by persons who thought they were descendants of this Harvie/Harvey family do not

match this “R” Y-haplogroup, but have an entirely different haplogroup beginning, for example, with the letter “I”. Others have the “R” basic haplogroup, but do not continue to match.

If you desire more details, please contact Elizabeth Nichols, email: nicholsel@q.com or Leland Harvie, email: harvie57@gmail.com

The study continues. Come join in this Y-DNA Study, if you qualify. You can do this by going directly to the testing company site (www.familytreedna.com), or by contacting either of the above.

Some publications about this family

From Old Scotia to New Scotia: A Family of Harveys: Tracing the Lines of Connection from the Past to the Present by McLeod Harvey, Ph.D., D.D., published by the Hants Journal Press, Canada in the 1940s. A link to this book is found here; the reader can access the entire book. It is from the Family History Library [FHL] or now called familysearch.org Library Catalog.

John Harvie (1730-1822) of Newport, Nova Scotia: Three Generations of Descendants by Robert Paton Harvey; originally published as an article in the *Nova Scotia Historical Quarterly*, vol 6 no. 4, 1976. Reprinted as a pamphlet by McCurdy Printing Co. Ltd., Halifax Nova Scotia, Canada. This may be available only at Family History Centers due to copyright restrictions.

The Harvie/Harvey Family of Hants Co. Nova Scotia by Leland H. Harvie, privately published in Nova Scotia, Canada in 1984; available for free access from your home at: <http://harviefamily.ca>

Elizabeth H. Harvey Bolton 1846-1919: born in Nova Scotia, Canada; married Ontario, Canada; died Iowa USA; a brief history including parents, siblings, husband, children, and Harvie ancestors by Elizabeth L. Nichols; privately published in USA in 2010; FHL call no. 921.73 B639n; this book is available [online](#) and can be accessed free at your home. It includes

pictures, copies of letters from Scotland to Nova Scotia, genealogy charts, including copies of some originals as well as transcribed copies of letters and documents.

Note From the Author

My family became involved in Y-DNA testing in 2004 and I have always managed kits for brothers, cousins, and some friends. We became involved in autosomal DNA testing in about 2014. Our involvement has not been limited to one DNA testing company-- but with several.

Elizabeth L. Nichols is a great-granddaughter of Elizabeth H. Harvey (1846-1919) who married William Henry Bolton and who was a daughter of Andrew Harvey (1794-1872) and his wife (who was also his cousin), Abigail Harvie (b 1806).

Their grandparents go back to James Harvie (1765-1850) who married his second cousin, Margaret Harvie (1768-1853). James goes back to the nephew John Harvie 1730-1822. Margaret goes back to James Harvie Jr. who married Alice Wilcox and to James Harvie Sr. (abt 1710-1792) who married Margaret Boyle.

My grandfather, John Albert Ernest Bolton, was a cousin to Dr. McLeod Harvey, compiler of the Harvey booklet published in the 1940s.



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