

The Kaighins of Scaresdale, Kirk German, Isle of Man

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Background

After twelve years of research, the parents of John Kaighin (Family 7600)¹ of Kirk German, Isle of Man have finally been discovered. Until now, John was the earliest known ancestor for a large group of living Kaighins split between Australia and the United States. Many interested parties have collaborated over the years to attempt to discover John's ancestry without success. Early in my research, I discovered a manuscriptⁱ written by Mormon genealogist Archibald Bennett in 1956 containing a very detailed pedigree of the Kaighin family which spanned several generations beginning in the late 16th century. Although Bennett's pedigree was discovered to be flawed, its existence indicated an interest by the Mormon Church in the early history of the Kaighin family.

This interest stems from Elizabeth Kaighin (10500) who was the second wife of the third Mormon president, John Taylor. Elizabeth was one of the first Manx Mormon converts, and travelled with a company of Mormon pioneers across the United States before settling in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1849. Because the Mormons consider it a duty to baptize deceased ancestors, there is a strong interest among Elizabeth's descendants and others interested in the early history of the religion to ascertain her proper ancestry.

In 2010, my Kaighin one-name study drew the interest of professional genealogists with Price and Associates Genealogy in Salt Lake City who were working on a project for a client seeking to prove all of Elizabeth's ancestral lines. After several months of collaboration, we were only able to prove what I had already concluded regarding Elizabeth's Kaighin ancestry – that she was the Grand Daughter of John Kaighin and Jane Mylchreest (7600) who married May 28, 1776 in Kirk Germanⁱⁱ through their son Thomas (10500). The paper trail ran cold before John's marriage. We were however able to narrow down the candidate families to three. These were:



Elizabeth Kaighin, 1811 - 1895

1. John Kaighin and Eleanor Cowley who married October 12, 1745 in Kirk Onchanⁱⁱⁱ
2. Charles Kaighin and Margaret Quark who married October 17, 1747 in Kirk Malew^{iv}
3. Gilbert Kaighin and Susannah Kissack who married April 30, 1749 in Kirk Braddan^v

These were the only Kaighin families who had a son named John who was born in the correct timeframe, who was alive in 1776 and who was not married to another woman during the time period that John and his wife were having children. But without a paper trail, we could go no further.

¹ Family numbers in parenthesis are used throughout this paper. These correlate to family numbers that can be found in the Kaighin Genealogy Database and in the charts below.

Naming the Scaresdale Kaighin Branch

There are eleven surviving branches of the Kaighin family that can be traced back at least seven generations and originate from a handful of quarterland farms² straddling the border of the parishes of Kirk Michael and Kirk German. There is strong Y-DNA evidence that proves that all Kaighins share a single common ancestor who lived c. 1200 – c. 1400 AD. One of my project goals has been to identify and name the various branches.³ Until the discovery described below, I had given this branch of the family a rather clumsy name – The Australia Kaighin and US Keighin Branch.

I have attempted to name each branch based on the quarterland farm, treen or town where the progenitor of that branch resided and I had always intended to give this branch a proper name. But twelve years have passed and until now I hadn't been able to identify its progenitor. I have now identified William Kaighin (2400) who resided at the quarterland farm⁴ of Cronkbane⁵ in Scaresdale Treen, Kirk German^{vi} in the late 1600s as the grandson of John Kaighin (900) who is the progenitor of this branch. Although I have not been able to ascertain where John lived, it is assumed that he lived elsewhere within Scaresdale Treen as well. So this branch has now been renamed the Scaresdale Kaighin Branch.

All living members of this branch (currently about 85) share Thomas Kaighin (10500) as their common ancestor through two of his sons, Thomas Jr. (15600) and David (15500). Thomas Jr. emigrated with his wife Jane Caine to the small gold mining town of Bright, Victoria, Australia near where many of his descendants still live. David emigrated to America, eventually settling in a large Manx settlement near Peoria, Illinois. Along the way he married a Manxwoman named Mary Anne Cowley, and the spelling of his surname was changed to Keighin, so now all of his living descendants share this spelling, which is unique to this line of Kaighins only.

Since 2004, I have been contacted by several members of both the Australian and US lines of the Scaresdale Kaighin Branch who have each contributed their own genealogies and family histories to the project, so now all members of this branch are accounted for in the Kaighin Genealogy Database.⁶

The Kaighin Y-DNA project

In 2009, a Y-DNA project was initiated for the Kaighin family to augment the Kaighin one-name study with the intent of solving several mysteries that remained unresolved after several years of traditional genealogical research. Among those mysteries is the one discussed here. The project has progressed slowly, but after six years, enough male Kaighins have now participated in the project that the resultant analysis is now meaningful. I have now secured the participation of at least one male Kaighin from each of these eleven branches. As of this writing, the results from two Kaighins, each the sole representative of their branch, are still pending. Once these last two DNA

² For an explanation of major land divisions in the Isle of Man, please see http://manxmanorialroll.com/introduction/land_organisation.html

³ A full description of all eleven surviving branches can be found at <http://www.kaighin.com>.

⁴ Alternatively spelled Skeristal, Skerrisdale or similar

⁵ Location of Cronkbane on Google Maps: <http://bit.ly/1Ec88xJ>

⁶ The database can be downloaded from <http://www.kaighin.com>. Please contact the author for the password.

kits are processed, all branches of the family will be represented in the project, at which point I intend to write up a full report on my findings.

It has only been within the last six months or so that this analysis has been useful to start yielding answers to some of these mysteries. It has also helped to correct some of the mistakes that I made in my earlier genealogical research, particularly with regards to the handful of Kaighin families that existed in the 17th and early 18th centuries. So at this point there are two mysteries remaining (unrelated to this discussion) and the number of named common ancestors to all living Kaighins have been narrowed down to four Kaighin men, each born between about 1580 and 1700.

Y-DNA explained

Because both parent's DNA is distributed equally on the other 22 chromosome pairs and only the father's DNA is passed to his son virtually unchanged on the Y chromosome pair, only the Y chromosome is useful to determine and compare patrilineal descent. Often, during this process, mutations occur on random markers along the DNA strand, and these mutated markers are then in turn passed on to downstream generations.

Some of these markers are known to mutate at relatively reliable frequency down the generations. Some are fast mutators, mutating as often as every 3 generations, and some mutate as slowly as once every 250 generations.

These markers are known as Short Tandem Repeat (STR) markers. STRs are segments of repeated code in a short section of the DNA strand. So for example, a certain pattern may appear in a short section 15 times. If a mutation occurs upward, that same pattern will then repeat 16 times in that same section, so subsequent generations will have a value of 16 on that marker until it mutates again. Mutations can occur in both directions, so it is possible to find that a marker mutated (for example) from 15 to 16, and then in some future generation, mutate back down to 15.

The testing company used for the Kaighin Y-DNA project, Family Tree DNA⁷, currently tests 111 Y-DNA STR markers due to their known mutation frequency rates. So every Kaighin who has participated in the project has been tested on the same 111 Y-DNA STR markers.

When a group of closely related males participate in a Y-DNA project such as this, the results are analyzed for shared mutations between multiple individuals tested. These shared mutations indicate a common ancestor who passed that mutation down to the two or more male descendants who have tested. However, because some markers are known to mutate very quickly, it is possible for a marker to mutate independently along two lines of the same family, causing confusion when interpreting the results. Because of this possibility, fast mutators are generally ignored, and more weight is given to slow mutators.

When mutations show up on multiple markers known to mutate relatively infrequently, we can infer that the two or more males who share the values on those slow mutators also share a common ancestor. This is how we can determine when and with whom a mutation occurred – in essence, when a branch formed.⁸

⁷ <https://www.familytreedna.com/>

⁸ For a short read about DNA and how it is used for genetic genealogy, see *Genetics & Genealogy – An Introduction With some DNA Case Study Examples*, Charles F. Kerchner, Jr., 2001-2013. <http://www.kerchner.com/books/introg&g.htm>

Figure 1 shows a section of the Kaighin Y-DNA Tree⁹ which I have created to help visualize the various branches and to present and explain the findings of the Y-DNA project. This section shows four branches of the Kaighin family relevant to this discussion. This chart represents my understanding of these four branches prior to Y-DNA testing. Each of the Kaighin males at the bottom of the chart participated in the Kaighin Y-DNA project.

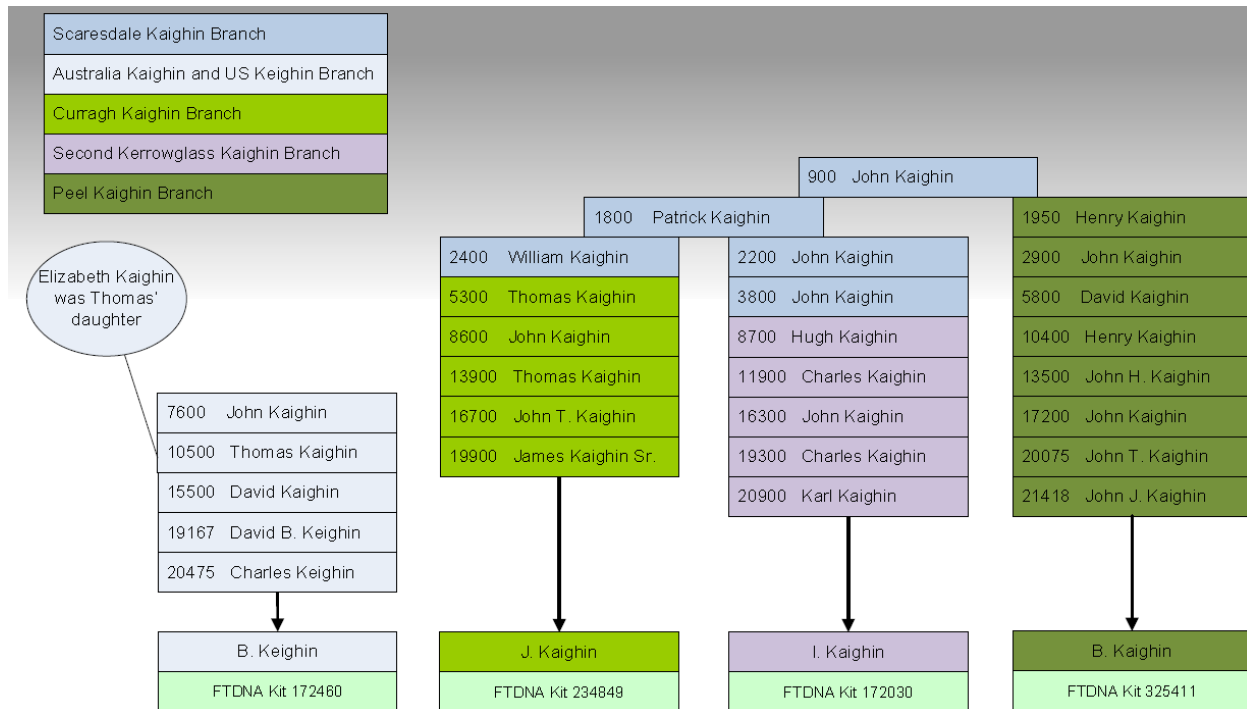


Figure 1. The four Kaighin branches (pre-discovery)

Y-DNA Analysis of the Scaredale Kaighin Branch

Y-DNA testing results revealed that there are mutations on three STR markers critical to solving this mystery. These are DYS712=23, DYS452=32 and DYS576=17. In Figure 2., these mutations are shown under each of the participants. Other mutations occurred within this subset of Kaighin branches, but for the sake of this conversation those are omitted since they are not relevant to the discovery.

DYS712 mutated from a value of 22 to 23 with an ancestor upstream from John Kaighin (900). We know this because the participants representing the other branches of the family (not shown) carry the value of 22. So John carried the value of 23 and passed it down to his descendants who all share that value. We therefore can conclude that B. Keighin, representing the Scaredale Kaighin Branch, is descended from John Kaighin (900).

⁹ The full Kaighin Y-DNA tree can be downloaded from http://www.kaighin.com/familyhistory/dna/str/phylogenetic_tree/kaighin_phylogenetic_tree.pdf. The tree is subject to change before analysis is complete. But I don't have any reason to believe that there will be any significant changes to the structure of the tree, or anything that will materially alter the conclusions that I present here.

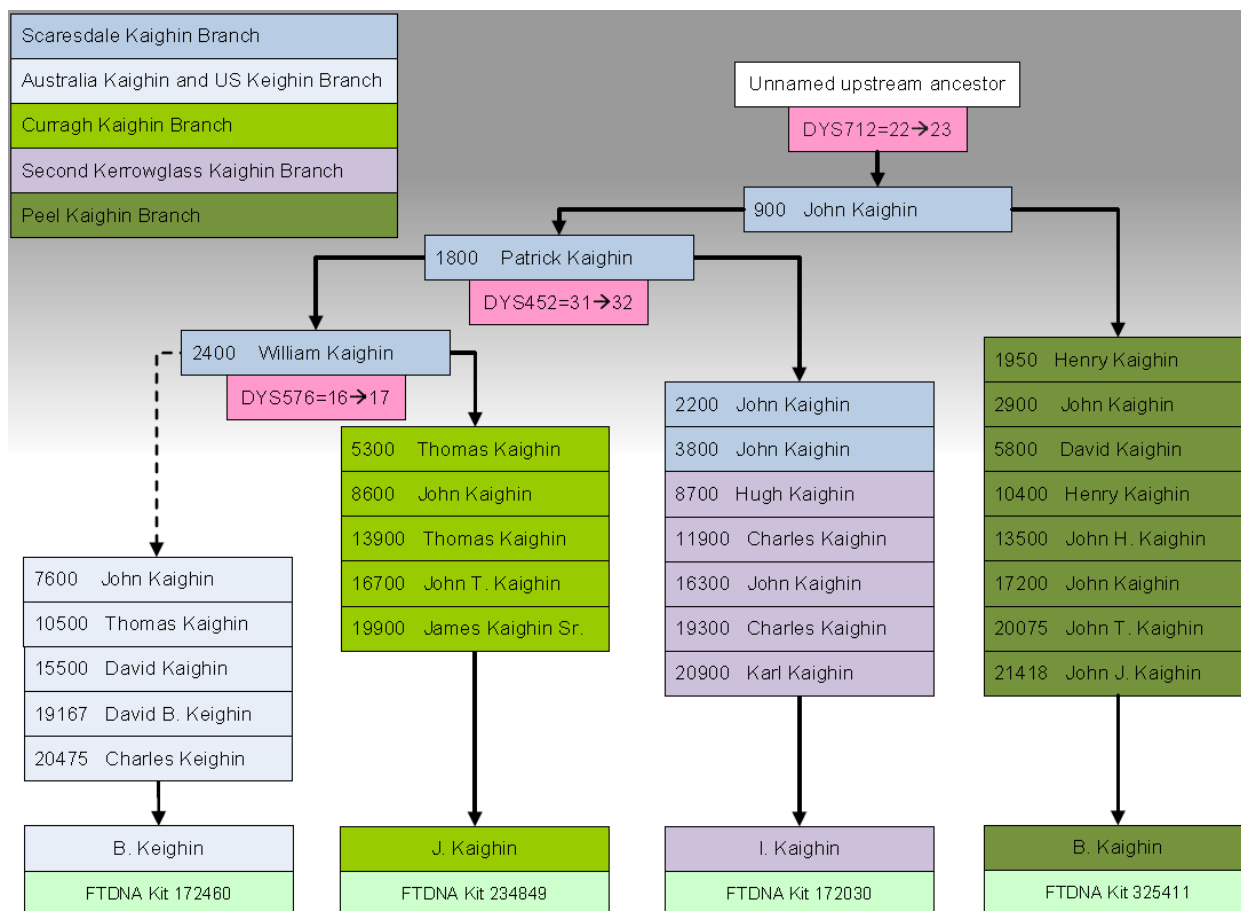


Figure 3. Genetic relationship between William Kaighin (2400) and John Kaighin (7600)

Conclusion

William Kaighin (2400) married Katherine Quayle als Kaighin February 5, 1689^{vii} in Kirk Michael. Among their several children was Gilbert, christened January 13, 1711/12^{viii} who married Susanna Kissack^{ix}. Since Gilbert was one of the three candidates as the father of John Kaighin (7600), we can conclude that Gilbert Kaighin was the father of John Kaighin (7600). John was therefore christened May 13, 1750 at St. Mathews Church, Kirk Braddan^x.

The reason why this mystery has not been solved until now is likely due to the fact that there is no will to be found for Gilbert or Susanna. Wills will typically give the names of surviving children. Gilbert's death or burial record cannot be found in any index or parish record that I've found. He died sometime after the birth of his last child in 1768, but there are no Gilbert Kaighins in any index after this date. Susannah was buried January 29, 1800 in Kirk Braddan, but there is no corresponding will available.

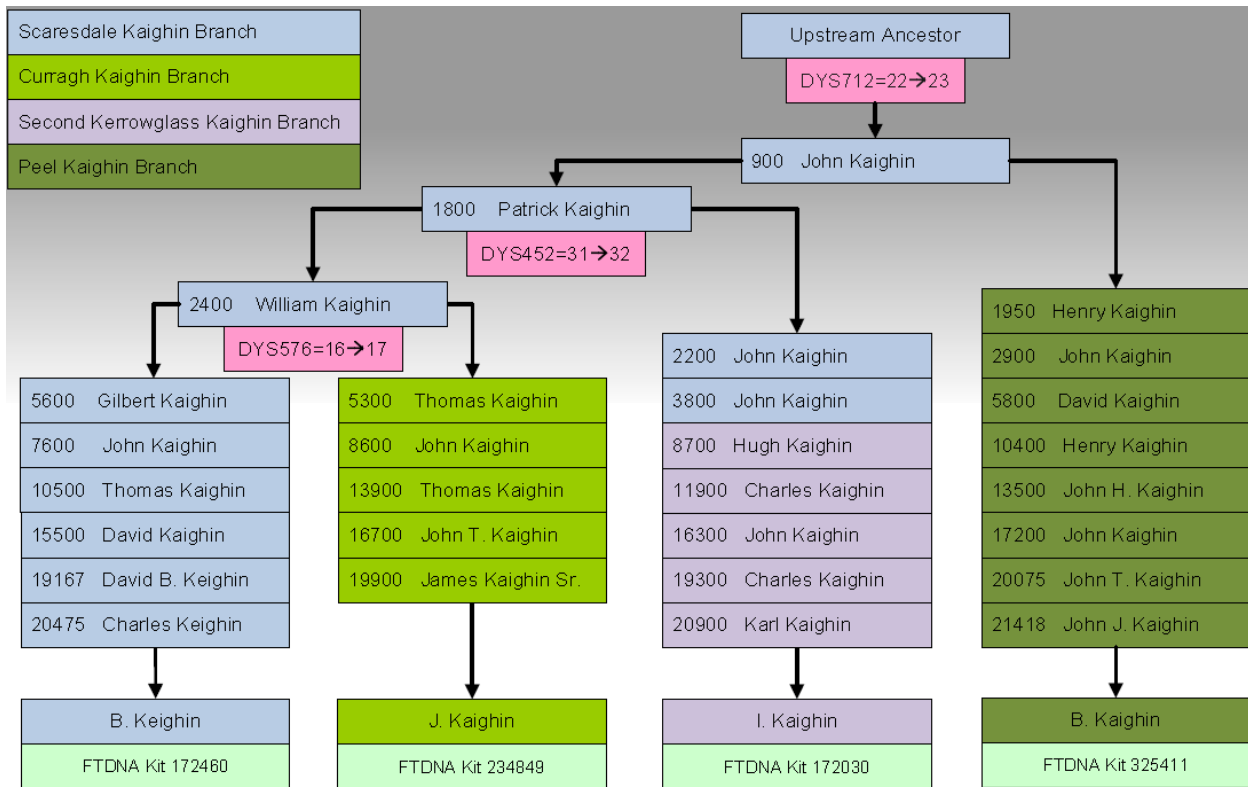


Figure 4. Resultant tree structure showing the Scaresdale Kaighin Branch

Follow up

I have seen secondary sources, which all appear to rely on a single patron-submitted entry in the International Genealogical Index¹⁰ which attribute a Thomas Kaighin, born about 1586 as John's (900) father. Because I have not seen a primary source for this, I do not include him in my database. I am in the midst of researching 16th through 18th century property records in Kirk Michael and Kirk German parishes, and I am still collecting wills that have not been previously transcribed for the same period. I expect that this will take at least another year to complete, but my hope is that I will be able to put names to some of the upstream ancestors who are not shown or named on the Kaighin Y-DNA tree. I will also be focusing on the family of (3600) Henry Kaighin who is the progenitor of the Kirk Malew Kaighin Branch (not shown). He shares a common ancestor with John Kaighin (900).

The Kaighin Y-DNA Project continues. To date, 14 participants across all eleven surviving branches of the family have participated, with two new participants pending test results. All interested parties are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can. If interested, please contact the author.

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¹⁰ <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/igi>

ⁱ Bennett, A. F. *The Kaighin Family of Kirk Michael and Kirk German Parishes and Town of Peel, Isle of Man, England*, [FHL microfilm 932 Item 2], Salt Lake City, Utah, Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Digitized by Greg Kaighin, retrieved May 12, 2015 from

http://www.kaighin.com/FamilyHistory/Bennett/The_Kaighin_Family_Archibald_Bennett.pdf.

ⁱⁱ "Isle of Man Parish Registers, 1598-2009," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-12455-8615-96?cc=1784428> : retrieved May 17, 2015), German > Marriages 1757-1785 (MS10974-3-3) > image 70 of 111; Manx National Heritage Library, Douglas.

ⁱⁱⁱ "Isle of Man Marriages, 1606–1911," index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XTM2-Y52> : retrieved May 12, 2015), John Kaighin and Ellinr. Cowley, October 12, 1745; citing Onchan, Isle Of Man, England, reference ; FHL microfilm 106, Item 715.

^{iv} "Isle of Man Marriages, 1606–1911," index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XTM2-7BZ> : retrieved May 12, 2015), Charles Keaghyn and Margt. Quork, October 17, 1747; citing Malew, Isle Of Man, England, reference ; FHL microfilm 106, Item 732.

^v "Isle of Man Parish Registers, 1598-2009," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-12446-104554-81?cc=1784428> : retrieved May 13, 2015), Kirk-Braddan > Baptisms, marriages, burials, confirmations, parish chest 1712-1795 (MS09073-1-2) > image 157 of 160; Manx National Heritage Library, Douglas.

^{vi} Moore, A. W. *The Surnames & Place-Names of the Isle of Man*. London: Elliot Stock, 1890. Pp277. Retrieved May 13, 2015 from

<https://ia902708.us.archive.org/9/items/surnamesplacenam00mooruoft/surnamesplacenam00mooruoft.pdf>.

^{vii} "Isle of Man Parish Registers, 1598-2009," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-266-12647-38663-66?cc=1784428> : retrieved May 17, 2015), Michael > Baptisms, marriages, burials 1611-1751 (MS10469-1-1) > image 32 of 62; Manx National Heritage Library, Douglas.

^{viii} "Isle of Man Parish Registers, 1598-2009," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-266-12647-38691-58?cc=1784428> : retrieved May 17, 2015), Michael > Baptisms, marriages, burials 1611-1751 (MS10469-1-1) > image 13 of 62; Manx National Heritage Library, Douglas.

^{ix} "Isle of Man Parish Registers, 1598-2009," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-12446-104554-81?cc=1784428> : retrieved May 13, 2015), Kirk-Braddan > Baptisms, marriages, burials, confirmations, parish chest 1712-1795 (MS09073-1-2) > image 157 of 160; Manx National Heritage Library, Douglas.

^x "Isle of Man Parish Registers, 1598-2009," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1951-33770-223-39?cc=1784428> : retrieved May 17, 2015), > image 1 of 1; Manx National Heritage Library, Douglas.