

Anthony and Giles Slocum Have the Same Y-DNA Pattern

by Judy L. Slocum and Melville C. Brown

THE NAME SLOCOMBE SEEMS TO HAVE BEGUN IN AN area known as Slo Combe, now located in Exmoor National Park, Somerset, England. A "sloe" is a wild plum tree, and a "combe" is a valley or hollow. While Slocum is the most commonly used spelling in America, other spellings — Slocomb, Slocumb/e, Slocom — have been recorded.

For many years, Slocum family historians have tried to determine the relationship between Anthony Slocum and Giles Slocum, the first two Slocums to appear in New England records. An 1882 Slocum genealogy posited that Giles was the son of Anthony.¹¹ Although both had owned land in Taunton, Massachusetts, no documentation of a relationship between these two men has been found.

Anthony Slocum, born about 1590, appeared in Taunton in 1637 as one of the first forty-six purchasers in the settlement of Cohannet. He settled near the party of Mistress Elizabeth Poole, daughter of the antiquary Sir William Pole, from Devon, Somerset, and Dorset.¹² In August, 1643, he was on a list of men able to bear arms. He was a shareholder in the ironworks there between 1652 and 1656, and served as a surveyor of highways in 1662. After 1662 Anthony sold his land in Taunton — he was not included on the July 2, 1666, tax list. He may have moved to Dartmouth on the Pascamanset River, in the area known as Slocums Neck.¹³ He probably had become a Quaker. Anthony disappeared from Massachusetts, but was later found in Albemarle County in the Province of Carolina (now North Carolina). A 1680 deposition there established his advanced age of "ninety years or thereabouts" and proved that he was not a younger relative of the same name.

Anthony Slocum's will of November 26, 1688, was proven in Albemarle County on January 7, 1689/90. His known children were:

1. Martha, married Joseph Gilbert of Taunton
2. John, born Taunton 1641, died Taunton 1650
3. Joseph, born Taunton ca. 1644. He married

Margaret _____, lived in Albemarle County, and probably died before 1688 because he is not in his father's will, while his sons are.

4. John (again), born Taunton ca. 1653, married Elizabeth Mundy, lived in Albemarle County, died about 1692.

Some researchers have included Edward Slocum, born Cheddar, Somerset, England, about 1607, as a son of Anthony, although it is possible that he was the son of Edward [Sr.], born 1560 in Bristol, England. It is believed that Edward died in King Philip's War.

No son named Giles was mentioned in Anthony's will, and the name was not used in the family. Anthony named two sons "John," perhaps indicating that one of their grandfathers was named John.

Giles Slocum first appeared in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, in 1648 when he was granted land there. He married Joan _____, possibly in England. G. Andrews Moriarity speculated that Giles could be the man, born September 28, 1623, named as son in the 1642 will of Charity

(Bickham) Slocombe, widow of Philip, of the parish of Old Cleeve, County Somerset.¹⁴ Philip's will was proved in Goathurst, Somerset, July 1625 and named son Giles (age two) and wife Charity (with child). Jane F. Fiske thinks another possible clue to his origins may lie in records of the parish of Charlton Adam, Somerset.¹⁵ Bishop's Transcripts for that parish show the baptisms of Joane Slowcome, September 27, 1609, and William Slowcome, April 27, 1629, both children of Giles, and the burial of a Giles Slowcome October 19, 1629. A search of Bishop's Transcripts indicates that Giles of Charlton Adam could be the second son of William Slocombe of Wiveliscombe and the older brother of the above-named Philip of Old Cleeve.

Giles Slocum bought lands in Taunton, Massachusetts sometime between 1659 and 1662. It is possible that Giles was a nephew or other near relative of Anthony and this kinship was the reason for his land purchase. Although the dates of their land ownership in Taunton could have overlapped, there is no record that puts

"For many years, Slocum family historians have tried to determine the relationship between Anthony Slocum and Giles Slocum, the first two Slocums to appear in New England records."

Anthony and Giles on the same land or in the same room together. Giles was granted lands at Navesink, New Jersey, in 1667 and bought land in Shrewsbury, New Jersey, in 1670; both lands were soon given to his children, Joanna and John. Giles also bought land in Jamestown, Rhode Island, and Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Before his death he provided land for all of his children except Samuel.

Giles and Joan were members of the First Baptist Church in Newport until October 1673, when Joan was excommunicated for her theological views. Giles, Giles Jr., and Joanna were excommunicated within the next three months. Giles and Joan became Quakers, recording eight of their children's births in the records of the Portsmouth Quaker Meeting.

1. Samuel, birth date unknown, listed first in father's will
2. Joanna, b. May 16, 1642
3. John, b. May 26, 1645
4. Giles [Jr.], b. March 25, 1647
5. Ebenezer, b. March 25, 1650
6. Nathaniel, b. December 25, 1652
7. Peleg, b. August 17, 1654
8. Mary, b. July 3, 1660
9. Eliezer, b. December 25, 1664

Again, Giles did not use the names Anthony, Charity, or Philip when naming his children.

Son Samuel, who received no land, was mentioned first in his father's will ("I do give and bequeath unto my loving son Samuel Slocombe five shillings in lawful monies of New England"), and was not included in the listing of Slocombe children in the Portsmouth Quaker Meeting records. He may have been the child of a first marriage who remained in England. There are no records of him in New England.

"Joan Slocum, the wife of old Giles" died in Portsmouth "31st day, 6th month, 1679." Giles died between the October 10, 1681, signing of his will and its proving on March 12, 1683.

Traditional genealogical research did not prove or disprove a relationship between Anthony and Giles. We decided to supplement the meager paper records with Y-chromosome DNA studies. Genetic genealogy is still in its infancy, and most people researching their family history are not aware of this powerful new tool that may provide guidance to the modern-day researcher. Family Tree DNA provided us with the necessary information and test kits.¹⁰ We selected the Y-chromosome twelve marker test for our project. The Y chromosome is passed to each generation by the male — from father to son — and shows which males are related to other males who carry the same surname. The signature may mutate very slowly over time, but a pattern can be stable over hundreds of years.

We easily located two volunteers descended from Giles through his sons Ebenezer and Eliezer. Anthony's descendants were more difficult to find, but letters, telephone calls, and Internet queries helped locate two men whose descent from Anthony through his sons Joseph and John was documented, and the project began.

The testing showed that the volunteers descended from both Anthony and Giles were all an identical match, indicating that Anthony and Giles had a common ancestor. The match does not prove that Giles was the son or nephew of Anthony, or even that the relationship was very close.

We have found other Slocum Y-DNA that differs from that of Anthony and Giles, and are not surprised that there may have been multiple origins for the surname. We will continue to pursue traditional genealogical research in England, New England, and North Carolina in hopes of proving the origin of Anthony and Giles, and perhaps elucidating their relationship.

The DNA study is ongoing, and we hope that other Slocums in America and Canada will volunteer to participate. The continuation of the study will help to confirm our present results, and to locate other possible family lines. We would like to test descendants of Giles's other sons. We are also looking for English participants in Somerset and Devon in hopes of finding Slocums with the same DNA pattern, to help focus our genealogical searches. We would like to establish which Slocum lines in England are related to Anthony and Giles, and which are of differing DNA patterns. ♦

"The DNA study is ongoing, and we hope that other Slocums in America and Canada will volunteer to participate."

Notes

- ¹ Charles Elibu Slocum, *A Short History of the Slocums, Slocombs and Slocombs of America* (Syracuse, New York: the author, 1882, vol. 1; Defiance, Ohio: the author, 1908, vol. 2).
- ² *Register* 110 (1956): 78.
- ³ Bob and Loyce Snyth, *The Slocums, Slocombs of the South* (Colorado Springs, Colorado: the authors, 1997), 2nd ed.
- ⁴ *Register* 70 (1916): 283-4, 78 (1924): 395-6.
- ⁵ Jane Fletcher Fiske, "The Family of Giles' Slocum of Dartmouth, Massachusetts and Newport, Rhode Island: A Corrected Account Based on New Evidence," *Rhode Island Roots* 19 (1993): 13-24.
- ⁶ *FamilyTreeDNA.com*

JUDY L. SLOCUM may be reached at Slocum52@aol.com and MELVILLE C. BROWN through mb237@attbi.com.