

**An O-F3288 Y DNA Discovery for Patrilineal Descendants of James Revell (Accomack)**  
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**Project Scope**

The “**Patrilineal Descendants of James Revell (Accomack) Y DNA Project**” includes the Y chromosome DNA test results of three men, all living in the United States, who are, according to historical records and documented genealogies, patrilineal descendants of James Revell born 1656, an Accomack Indian from “Matomkin” on Virginia’s Eastern Shore. Accomack County is adjacent to Somerset County, Maryland to the northwest, Worcester County to the northeast, and is a part of the Delmarva Peninsula, that comprises the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware.

**Manokin Hundred (Somerset County, Maryland) Home of Charles and Edmund Revell**



A surname study such as this one benefits significantly from the use of Y chromosome DNA testing as men who descend biologically from a common patrilineal ancestor, traced from father to father, are easily identified through matching Y chromosome DNA test results. A close, Y chromosome DNA match between two men, calculated at 111 markers, for example, points to a high probability that the two men share a common, male, patrilineal ancestor within recent generations, and the unexpected Y DNA test result received by Wesley Revels, a patrilineal descendant of James Revell, revealed just how important Y DNA testing can be!

Through visits to courthouse archives and research of primary sources, Wesley had learned about a possible Native American ancestry of ancestor James Revell of Accomack County, Virginia; however, he was not expecting to find that his Y DNA results would show he belonged to the O-M175 haplogroup – as the O-M175 root haplogroup dates back more than 20,000 years and has its earliest origins in East Asia.

Curious about his Y DNA test results, Wesley contacted Family Tree DNA. He wanted to find out if his haplogroup was unique to his own ancestry, or if he would share this same haplogroup with other male descendants of James Revell. Family Tree DNA reps, including Marie Rundquist and Roberta Estes, Co-Administrators of the Acadian Amerindian Ancestry DNA and the American Indian DNA projects advised that his best course of action would be to find other Revels men who would be interested in having Y DNA tests.

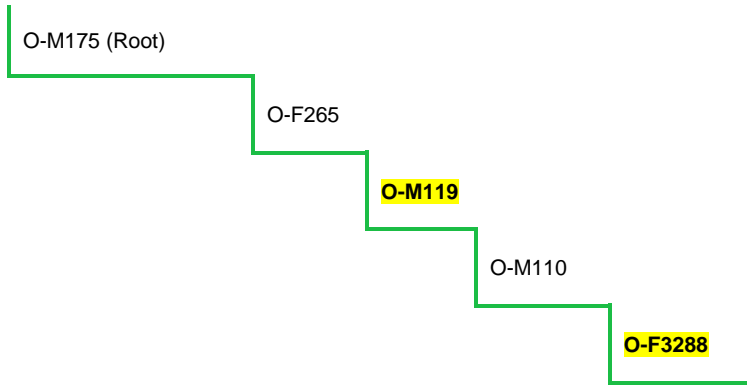
Wesley reached out to two other men whom he knew were patrilineal (father to father) descendants of James Revell – albeit through different lines. They agreed to help Wesley in his quest and each ordered a 37 marker Y DNA kit from Family Tree DNA. Each man sent in his Y DNA sample to family Tree DNA and waited for his results. After several weeks they learned the news: Their 37 marker Y DNA results revealed that they too were members of the same East Asian O-M175 haplogroup. Their Y DNA test results matched those of Wesley Revels!

Having qualified that they belonged to the same O-M175 haplogroup and had matching Y DNA results, all three men upgraded their Y DNA tests to 111 markers. They wanted to find out if their Y DNA matches would hold at the higher level of testing – and they did! Next, Wesley ordered the Big Y 500 advanced Y chromosome DNA test, hoping his Big Y 500 DNA test results would reveal a new genetic marker, a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) that could help him further qualify his matches and distinguish his Revels line from other O-M175 lineages.

Wesley's Big Y 500 DNA test results came in as haplogroup O-F3288. O-F3288 was a new O-M175 haplogroup subclade and Wesley's test results had uncovered it! To advance DNA research, Family Tree DNA made the new O-F3288 SNP available to order separately by other project members, and Wesley's other Y DNA matches then did so. One by one the O-F3288 SNP test results arrived in the Family Tree DNA database. Each man tested positive for the O-F3288 SNP. Each man belonged to the new O-F3288 subclade. Wesley and the other James Revell descendants who had tested now had their own unique Y DNA marker, a genetic heirloom passed from father to father, that distinguished their shared patrilineal ancestry -- the O-F3288 SNP!

For comparison purposes, another member of the O-M175 haplogroup who is of known and recent East Asian ancestry graciously agreed to upgrade his results to 111 markers and have a Big Y 500 DNA test. Results showed that the James Revell descendants and the East Asian man matched at 12 markers at a genetic distance of 1 but not at 25, 37, 67, or 111 markers. Test results showed that the James Revell descendants and the East Asian man belonged to different subclades of the O-M175 haplogroup; the East Asian man to a subgroup of the O-M119 subclade and the James Revell descendants to the O-F3288 subclade two steps down on the O-M175 Y DNA haplogroup tree (highlighted in the diagram below). The James Revell descendants and the East Asian man had no Big Y matches in common and their common patrilineal ancestor may have lived thousands of years ago. The East Asian man is not able to document his lineage at this time as members of his family had fled China years ago and their records were destroyed.

## Haplogroup O-M175 Y DNA Tree Branches



More about the O-M175 haplogroup and its origins may be found in the article, Yan S, Wang C-C, Zheng H-X, Wang W, Qin Z-D, Wei L-H, et al. (2014) Y Chromosomes of 40% Chinese Descend from Three Neolithic Super-Grandfathers. PLoS ONE 9(8): e105691. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0105691>

## Revell by Law

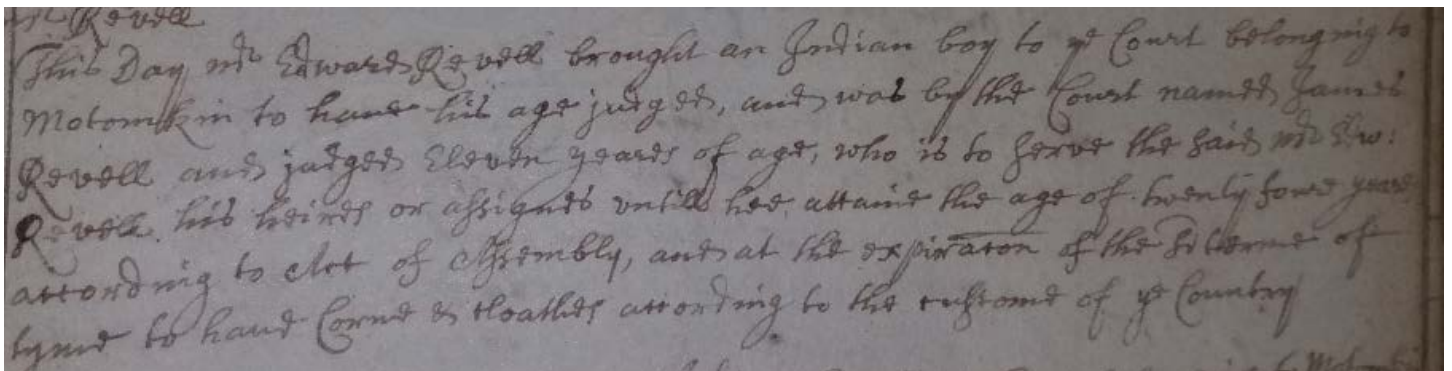
Accomack County records have that James received his name from the courts, when he was brought in by his master, Edward Revell, to have his age judged. He was thought to be eleven years old at the time. The Chief of the Matomkin tribe was said to have given James, an “Indian boy,” to Edward Revell, so that James could learn the English ways, and the courts granted James his Revell surname at that time. James Revell’s original, Matomkin tribal name was not documented in court records and remains unknown. In *Pocahantas’s People: The Powhattan Indians of Virginia Through Four Centuries*, author Helen C. Rountree provides additional background about James Revell, the problems he faced during his life, and his untimely death at age 25.

James Revell, therefore, is not the biological son of Edward Revell. To state that James Revell was a “Revell man” of the same English origins as Edward Revell, or his family, would be categorically false. James Revell was Edward Revell’s servant, a Matomkin, who was assigned his Revell surname by the courts. James Revell’s surname, therefore, has no relationship to his biological family -- or to his Matomkin Indian roots. The name of James Revell’s biological father is unknown at this time; however, the published courthouse records, and the DNA testing of his male descendants prove he was not biologically related to the English Revell family of Accomack, Virginia.

## Matomkin Village (Accomack County) Home of James Revell



## James Revell's Accomack County Court Record



## Acceptance Criteria

The three descendants of James Revell have been accepted into the project on the following basis:

- Each has provided a documented genealogy showing a patrilineal (father to father) line of descent from James Revell, Matomkin, born 1656
- Each has a matching 111-marker Y DNA test result when compared with the other men in the project
- Each has tested positive for the O-F3288 SNP, a qualifying marker
- Each has provided written permission that his DNA results may be published

Note: To protect the privacy of living individuals, the names of project participants and any living family members have been masked.

The following table displays test kit numbers, tester surnames, ancestor names, birthdates, and locations, the numbers of markers tested, Y DNA haplogroups, and terminal SNPs identified by Big Y-500 or advanced SNP testing:

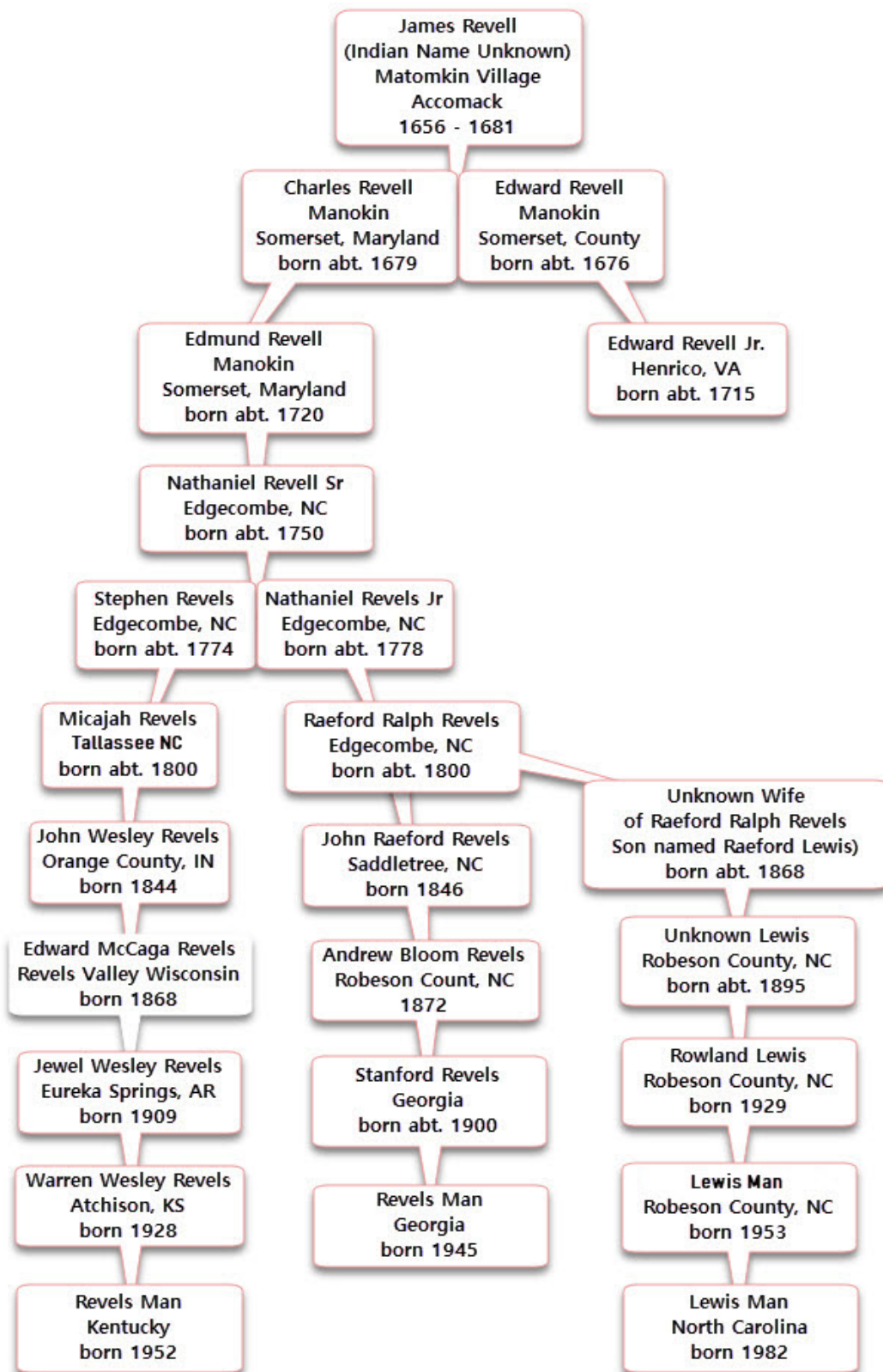
## Member Profiles

Test Kit	Surname	Location	Most Distant Patrilineal Ancestor	Ancestor's Earliest Known Location	Number of Markers Tested	Y DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP
449097	Revels	KY	James Revell, b. 1656	Matomkin Village, Accomack Co., VA.	111	O-F3288	F3288
69247	Revels	GA	James Revell, b. 1656	Matomkin Village, Accomack Co., VA.	111	O-F3288	F3288
36778	Lewis	NC	James Revell, b. 1656	Matomkin Village, Accomack Co., VA.	111	O-F3288	F3288

As shown in the table above, project participants feature two different surnames: Revels and Lewis. All three men are biological descendants of James Revell, born 1656, and all three men list their ancestor's earliest origins as the Matomkin Village, Accomack County, Virginia. Each man has completed a 111-marker Y DNA test. Each man is a member of the O-F3288 Y DNA haplogroup and each man has tested positive for the F3288 terminal SNP.

## Genealogies

The following genealogy chart shows the Revels and Lewis patrilineal lines of descent from James Revell, Matomkin Village, Accomack:



The line begins with James Revell, b. ca 1656 in the Matomkin Village of Accomack County, Virginia. As stated earlier, James Revell, the “Indian boy” referred to in court records, is biologically unrelated to Edward Revell, or any member of the English Revell family of Accomack, but through the assignment of his surname by the court, he carries the Revell name.

James Revell’s son Charles, and grandson Edmund, both lived in Manokin, now known as Somerset County, Maryland, Edmund’s son Nathaniel Sr., born in Edgecombe, North Carolina, is the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) of all three men in the project.

There were two sons born to Nathaniel Sr.: Stephen and Nathaniel, Jr. The Revels man from Kentucky descends from Stephen; the second Revels man from Georgia descends from Nathaniel, Jr.’s son, Raeford.

The Lewis man is also Raeford’s biological descendant, but through an unknown wife, who gives her son the Lewis surname. The Lewis man from North Carolina is therefore a biological descendant of Nathaniel Revels, Jr. of Edgecombe, North Carolina, as is the Revels man from Georgia.

### **Test Methodology**

To prove that all men participating in the project descend from the same most recent common ancestor, Nathaniel Revell, Sr., a patrilineal descendent of James Revell of Accomack, the two Revels men and one Lewis man participated in three tests:

- 111-marker Y DNA test
- Big Y-500 advanced DNA test
- Individual F3288 SNP testing

First, a 111-marker Y chromosome STR DNA test was performed. Test kits comprised of two swabs, used for scraping cells from the inside of the cheek, two test tubes, and consent forms were ordered from Family Tree DNA of Houston, Texas and mailed to the three men, all of whom were volunteers. On return, test results were voluntarily posted on several Family Tree DNA websites by project participants, including the American Indian Project (<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/american-indian/about/background>) and the Acadian Amerindian Ancestry Project (<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/acadian-amerindian/about/background>).

111-marker Y DNA test results revealed that the two Revels men and the one Lewis man all belonged to the same O-M175 haplogroup and had matching 111-marker Y DNA results, separated by a genetic distance of 6. Matching Y chromosome DNA test results pointed to a high probability that all three men descended from the same common patrilineal ancestor and qualified the men to progress to the next level: Big Y-500 and advanced SNP testing.

In the second phase of testing, the Revels man from Kentucky participated in a Big Y-500 advanced Y DNA test; his results yielded a positive result for the F3288 terminal SNP – and a new branch of the O-M175 haplogroup!

In a third phase of testing, a second Revels man from Georgia and the Lewis man from North Carolina had advanced F3288 SNP tests, made available by Family Tree DNA. Advanced F3288 SNP test results came back

positive for the Revels man from Georgia and the Lewis man from North Carolina. All three men therefore shared the same F3288 terminal SNP, a branch of the O-M175 haplogroup.

Following verification that all men belonged to the same O-F3288 haplogroup and that all three men were found to have matching 111-marker tests, at a genetic distance of 6, most recent common ancestor (MRCA) percentage probabilities were calculated at eight generations, and then, at twelve. Then, Y DNA matches, genetic distance, MRCA percentage probabilities were compared among study participants and charted. The following table describes number of Y DNA markers tested; the Y DNA haplogroup assigned by Family Tree DNA; the terminal SNP identified by Big Y-500 and advanced SNP testing; and if a match has been determined:

### Y Chromosome DNA Matches

Kit / Surname (Location)	Number of Markers Tested	Y DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP	Match (Y/N)
449097 / Revels (KY)	111	O-F3288	F3288	Y
69247 / Revels (GA)	111	O-F3288	F3288	Y
36778 / Lewis (NC)	111	O-F3288	F3288	Y

Note: Differences among the STR values for these markers are noted: DYS557, DYS572, DYS710, DYS714, DYS638, DYS712, DYS504, DYS635

### Genetic Distance

Within a DNA surname project, genetic distance refers to the number of mismatches that arise when Y chromosome marker test results are compared; the lower the genetic distance recorded when two sets of DNA test results are compared, the closer the genetic relationship. Conversely, the greater the genetic distance recorded when two sets of DNA results are compared, the more distant is the genetic relationship. The genetic distances recorded among the three men in the project, when 111 marker test results were compared, are within range (0 to 6 mismatches) for a common patrilineal ancestor having lived approximately 8-9 generations ago.

### Genetic Distance Comparison at 111 Markers

The following table describes genetic distances calculated for project members when 111 marker Y DNA test results are compared:

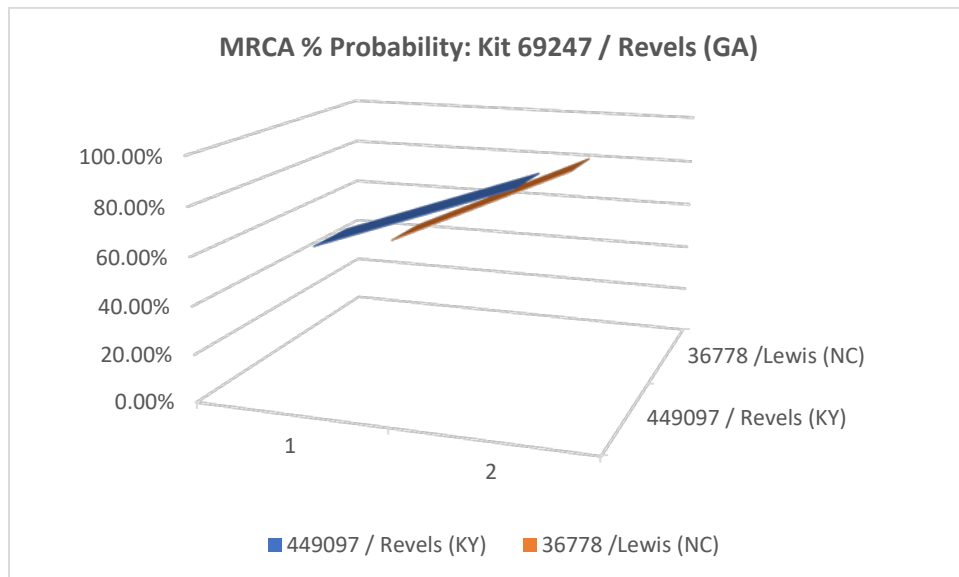
Kit / Surname (Location)	449097 / Revels	69247 / Revels	36778 / Revels
449097 / Revels (KY)	N/A	6	6
69247 / Revels (GA)	6	N/A	6
36778 / Lewis (NC)	6	6	N/A

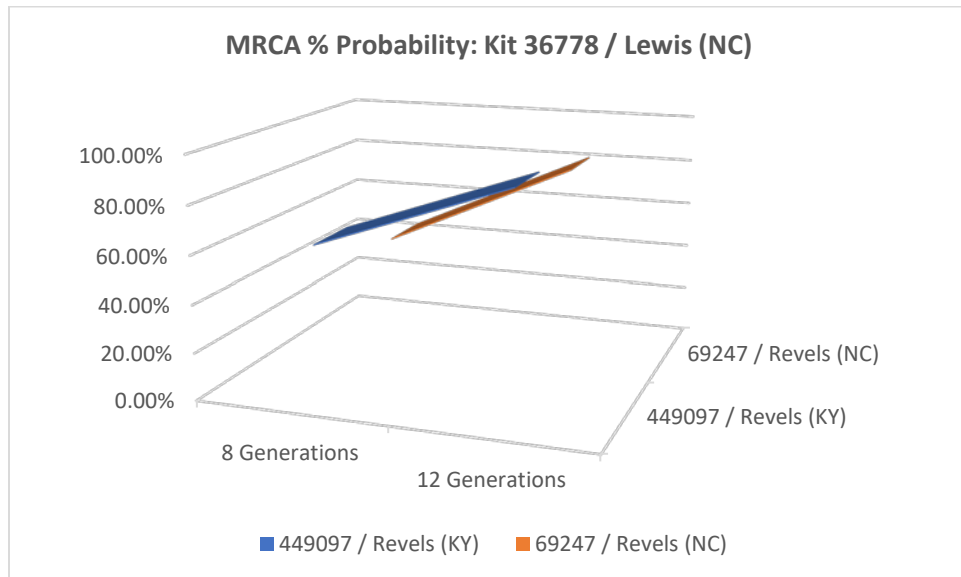
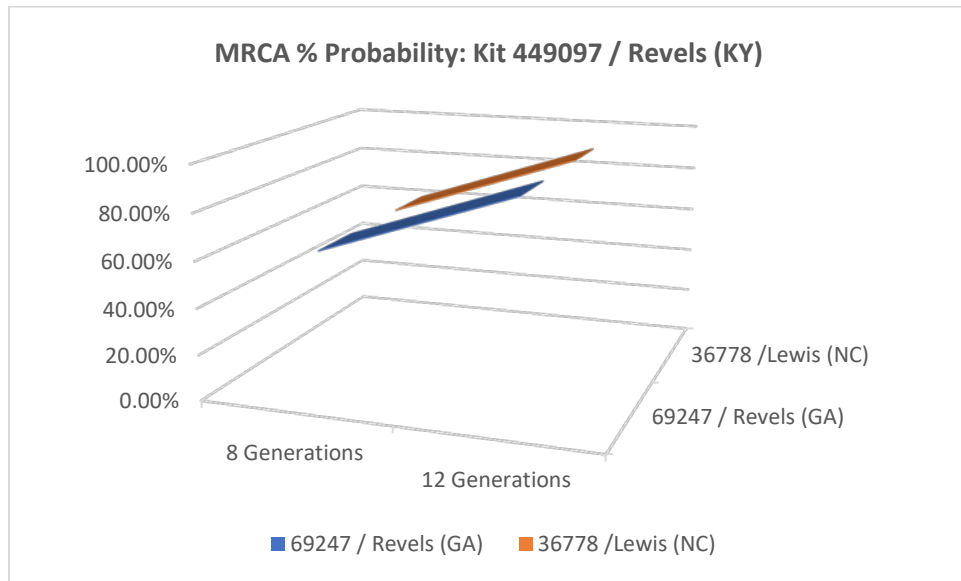
## Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA)

The following table describes percentage probabilities of sharing a most recent common ancestor (MRCA) within 8 and 14 generations, calculated at 111 markers:

Kit / Surname (Location)	449097 / Revels (KY)	69247 / Revels (GA)	36778 / Lewis (NC)
449097 / Revels (KY)	N/A	8 gen: 61.98% 12 gen: 90.90%	8 gen: 61.98% 12 gen: 90.90%
69247 / Revels (GA)	8 gen: 61.98% 12 gen: 90.90%	N/A	8 gen: 45.81% 12 gen: 82.90%
36778 / Lewis (NC)	8 gen: 61.98% 12 gen: 90.90%	8 gen: 45.81% 12 gen: 82.90%	N/A

Most recent common ancestor (MRCA) % probability within 8 and 12 generations has been graphed in the following charts:





## Conclusion

Matching Y DNA test results of three men who descend from James Revell b. ca 1656 confirm what the records have shown: that James Revell, of Accomack, was not the biological descendant of Edward Revell, or of any other English Revell man. Most recent common ancestor (MRCA) estimates calculated for James Revell descendants are in line with the timeframe for their shared ancestor Nathaniel Revell, Sr., the grandson of James Revell, who was born in Edgecombe, North Carolina during the mid-1700s – approximately 8 generations ago.

While the identity of James Revell's biological father remains unknown, O-F3288 Y DNA test results show that James Revell was of deep, East Asian ancestry. For descendants of James Revell of Accomack, the discovery of deep East Asian origins through Y DNA testing has come as somewhat of a surprise. There is nothing in recorded history that indicates James Revell, his son Charles Revell, or grandson Nathaniel Revell, Sr had East Asian origins. In Accomack County records, James Revell is described as an "Indian boy" in plain ink. The records also show that in 1725, his son, Charles, was taxed as a "non-white." Family histories have descendants of James Revell living on Indian lands and being listed as "mulatto" on census records. Another patrilineal descendant of James Revels is a member of the Lumbee tribe in North Carolina. We know, therefore, that for male, father-to-father, descendants of this line, there has been a long history of recognized, mixed-blood ancestry. However, there is no historical evidence showing that James Revell, Matomkin, or his ancestors, had East Asian origins at this time.

## Next Steps

We need to learn more. We're asking for more men who descend from James Revell, the Matomkin of Accomack County, Virginia, through a father-to-father line of descent to have Y chromosome DNA tests and join us. We also want to hear from other men who have discovered that they too belong to the O-F3288 haplogroup. Please contact the project historian, Wesley Revels, at [velocite56 @ gmail.com](mailto:velocite56@gmail.com) for more information.