

FALKE – FAUX of Suffolk and Norfolk, England: Surname Origins and Genetic Evidence

Clearly in all but a few instances, it is going to be very difficult to trace ancestral details in the era prior to the adoption of surnames circa the 13th Century in England. The evidence relating to early origins will be influenced by details of the surname (e.g., whether a patronymic or occupational surname), place of residence of the earliest known ancestor, the social status of the family in Medieval times. Less direct but immensely important data as to surname origins arises from the fact that English surnames generally follow the direct male line. Thus the genetic evidence written on the Y-chromosome, inherited paternally, will come into play. The latter provides the opportunity to interpret the signals from the markers on the Y - chromosome in relation to known geographical origins. With sufficient paper trail genealogical records, and high resolution testing of the Y chromosome of males with the surname Falke or Faux, it is then possible to compare this information with archaeological, linguistic and historical records that can support a hypothesis suggested by the more specific findings. Hence a goal is to determine the place of earliest emergence of the Falke - Faux ancestor, before the creation of wills, Pipe Rolls, and other records in post – Norman England. It is possible to combine genealogical and genetic data and put forward a hypothesis that the Falke – Faux male line ancestors were native Britons; or Roman era, Anglo-Saxon, Viking, or Norman invaders.

Introduction:

The present author's paternal grandfather was born in Norwich, Norfolk, East Anglia, England. It is known via parish records, wills, and manorial records from Mundford, Norfolk and surrounds that in the mid 1500s the **FAUX** surname evolved from **FALKE** via the addition of an "s" sound at the end of the surname by brothers John and Thomas - after the death of their benefactor and uncle Thomas Falke, LL.B. (Cambridge), rector of said parish. All were born at Worlingham, Suffolk, East Anglia where the name had been Falke back in recorded history to the mid to late 1300s. This spelling, or some variant with or without the "s" sound, is likely the name used by the family from the time stable surnames were adopted.

The first known ancestor to step out of the mists of time is one William Falke who died at Worlingham, Suffolk in 1455, indicating that he was born likely circa 1385. He was a substantial land owner at the time (his son was buried in the Church – although the Latin translation is disputed by one Faux family researcher).



Worlingham Hall



Worlingham All Saints Church

[Falke of Worlingham](#): What is known is that the Falke family owned land in Worlingham and also in various locations in the surrounds, may have had the means or

social status to be buried inside the local church, and had a strong connection with ship building and the occupation of shipwright. In their wills, in addition to the usual provisions for the eldest son to inherit the lands and tenements, other sons appear to have been given substantial “closes” which contained the oak trees needed for the ship building. Thus the Falke family at some early date were master ship builders, and some (descendants of Alexander Falke of Aldeburgh for example) may have built ships such as the Pelican at Aldeburgh (near Worlingham) for Sir Francis Drake (who later changed the name of the ship to the Golden Hind, as found in all English history books).



Replica of the Pelican (Golden Hind), Launched 1577

Unless further documentary evidence emerges, it will likely be impossible to know if William Falke was born locally or elsewhere in England, or whether he was among the many trades people who immigrated to England during the Middle Ages bringing their skills which were much in demand in that maritime nation.

EARLY ORIGINS OF THE SURNAME

[The Surname Falke in Scandinavia:](#)

The name Falk is a Germanic - Scandinavian word meaning falcon. Thus the surname means Falcon but (as noted below) the subsequent addition of an "s" for "son of" to the end of the surname resulted in Falkes and variants including Faulkes and Faux. It is a name of some antiquity. Carved in rune script on the great stone of Rok in Ostergotland, Sweden is an inscription that has been dated to the 9th Century. It is very cryptic and reads as follows:

THAT I SAY THIRTEENTHLY WHO WERE TWENTY KINGS SAT IN SEALAND
FOUR WINTERS BY FOUR NAMES SONS OF FOUR BROTHERS: FALKIS FIVE.
RATHULFSONS, HREITHULFS FIVE. RUGULFSONS, HAI SLAR FIVE.
HARUTHSSONS, GUNMUNDS FIVE. BIRNARSONS. [probably BIRNARSONS,
FALKIS FIVE]

The meaning has eluded scholars for over 150 years, but clearly in Zealand, Denmark circa 800 AD there was a king named FALKIS residing there.

At a later date the surname was still in evidence in Denmark and the rest of Scandinavia. The surname Falk is also found in Germany to this day, and is relatively common among Ashkenazi Jews there.

[The Surname Falke in Normandy:](#) The first recorded instance of the name Falc or variant is in the "Ship Lists" of the Conquest in 1066. Here one finds, in the Wace contemporary list, "e cil qui est siree d'Alnou". This village is Al(u)nou - le - Faucon, on the Orne River south of Caen near Argentan. The first recorded Seigneur here is "Fulk I d'Aunou" (see Elizabeth Van Houts, 'Wace as Historian', in "The History of the Norman People", Glyn S. Burgess (Ed.), 2004, Boydell Press, Woodbridge, Suffolk, p.L).

The 'Dictionnaire de la Noblesse' gives the following: " AUNOU, ou AUNOUF : La Terre d'Aunouf, ou d'Aunou est située dans le Bailliage d'Alençon , sur la rivière d'Orne , entre les Villes de Sées & d'Argentan \ cette famille, qui en tire son nom, est des plus anciennes de la Province de Normandie. Il y a si longtemps qu'elle est éteinte que la plupart des Mémoires en font perdus , ce qui nous empêche d'en pouvoir parler en ce lieu aussi amplement que nous l'aurions bien désiré. Le sieur d'AuNou est nommé dans le Catalogue des Seigneurs Normands qui passèrent la mer avec leur Duc Guillaume le bâtard 3 pour la conquête du Royaume d'Angleterre , l'an 1066. Fouques d'Aunou , Chevalier, (qui pourroit bien être le même) est nommé témoin à la fondation de l'Abbaye de la Sainte-Trinité de Caën , faite par le même Duc Guillaume , à son retour de la Conquête d'Angleterre , l'an 1084. Ensuite , dans le dénombrement qui fut fait des Chevaliers portans Bannières en Normandie , par le Roi Philippe-Auguste , l'an 1108 , Fouques d'Aunou y est mis au premier rang. Le même Fouques d'Aunou , ou son fils j fut un de ceux qui tinrent l'Echiquier à Caen, l'an 1114. Dans l'Armorial de la Province , dressé par le commandement du Roi Gras V, l'an 1368, est nommé le Sire d'AuNou. Les armes de l'ancienne Maison d'AuNou , ou Aunouf , étoient : d'argent t a une sasce de gueules t accompagnée de trois aigles de même , deux en chef & une en pointe. Il y a la Baronnie d'Aunou , de la Subdélégation de Scez , qui appar tient au Prévôt de la Cathédrale de Sées, à titre d'acquisition, faite en l'année 1360J par le Chapitre. Il y a aussi la Baronnie d'Aunou-le-Faucon 3 subdélégation d'argentan, qui est un Domaine engagé en 1584, à faculté de rachat perpétuel, à François d'O , Sur-Intendant des Finances, & possédé présentement par Stanislas Brulé-des-Gouy , Ecuyer , Sieur de Blaru , par acquêt de Marie-Joeph-Francois-Claude de Montagu , Marquis d'O.

[The Surname Falke In England:](#) The name Falc and variants first arrived with the Normans. It was a baptismal or font name such as William, Robert or John; but also seen in the form Le Falke.

Introduction: The best source is “A Dictionary of English Surnames” by Reaney (various editions). He notes that the following surnames are equivalent: Fawke, Fawkes, Fawcus, Faux, Falck, Falco, Falk, Falkous, Falkus, Faulkes, Faulks, Fake, and Fakes. All mean falcon or falcon’s son (with the “s” added). In addition it is chronically confused with Folks, Fowkes etc. (derived from the German Fulk, meaning people). In the Norfolk dialect the surname is pronounced more like Forks (and sometimes written thus), Folkes, and occasionally (but rarely) Fox. In Norfolk, perhaps because of the local dialect, the names Forks, Forkes, and even Fowkes and variants are interchangeable with Faux. For example, there are numerous entries for "Faux" in the parish register for Watton, Norfolk from the early 1700s to the mid 1800s. During the 1851 census of Norfolk all members of this family spelled their name "Forks". The use of the "s" sound as in Faulkes or Falkes or Faux seems to have been quite arbitrary, but much more common as the years progressed.

It must be noted that the same person went by Falke and Faulkes, even in the same document, from the earliest date. While the surname had “settled in” as Falke in Worlingham from the 1300s in the 16th Century the same John Falk born Worlingham was shown also as John Fawkes, Falkes, Faulkes, Faux and other variations in the various Norfolk manorial records. Whether he began using an “s variation” consciously or whether it was simply more fashionable and the manorial clerks made an arbitrary change is not known. However, as we shall see, this process is also seen in Medieval times.

The present author went through childhood as “Folkes” because that is the way Canadians heard his grandfather’s East Anglian pronunciation of Faux. Upon reaching adulthood, the author altered the pronunciation to Fox which made more sense within a Canadian context. If someone does not pronounce the name as “Foe” (assuming it is a French adjective, meaning false, or noun, meaning scythe) then they assume Fox, which is closer to the original.

[Domesday Book of 1086:](#) The earliest recorded use of the name Falke in England is one individual of this name found in the Domesday Survey for Suffolk in 1086. Here at Bradfield (there being a Bradsted near Limfjord) where there were 10 freemen with 2.5 carucates of land. "Roric holds of the Abbot 1.5 carucates of land. And Falc half a carucate." Also it was noted that "Under them 54 sokemen. And they have 12 bordars". According to Hoskins (1957), sokemen were descendants of Danish settlers (bordars and villeins being of Anglo - Saxon heritage) found only in the Danish settlements with the meaning of "superior land owning peasant" who were required to pay taxes. Bradfield is southwest of Worlingham. There is no evidence that the Falc of Suffolk in 1086 and the Falke of Suffolk in 1385 were connected except by name.

It should also be noted that there are a number of individuals with the spelling Fulc in Domesday – and even to the present time these names (e.g., Faulkes, Foulkes) are

frequently confused in parish registers and other such documents. For example there is a Fulco de Lisors with manors in Nottinghamshire; and a Fulwy (Fulco) Waruhel with manors in Cambridgeshire.

Medieval Times: Reaney gives examples of the name, where the version without an “s” sound such as one Tomas Falch 1182, Walter Falc 1221, John Falk 1275 – curiously all recorded from Worcestershire. In 1284 there is on Robert le Falke (meaning “the falcon”). Numerous examples of this nature may be found on the UK National Archives website.

As a surname, Falke is found recorded at a minimum of 150 years before the birth of William, with the UK National Archives website providing the following as examples:

A declaration dated circa 1250 relating to Coventry in Warwickshire is as follows:

"Declaration by Peter son of William Falke that William Pye and his heirs shall be his attornies to receive and to pay the farm which is due from him to the heirs of Nicholas de Widibrok', namely from Reginald the merchant (mercator) and his heirs 40 pence annually, from Henry son of the said William Pye three men in the autumn for one day, three hens at Christmas and at 4 terms of the year 28 pence of silver, and from the said William one hen at Christmas and one man for one day in the autumn.

Witnesses: Osbert Durdent, Richard Burgeys, Pagan Pake, Richard de Wengha, Reginald the merchant (mercator), Robert Haune, Richard le Gardiner and others.

Seal on tag: circular, green. A fleur-de-lys. Legend: S. PETRI FIL' WILL'I FALKE.

Endorsed: i) Carta Petri Falk

ii) iiis. iiiid. iis. iiiid. et servitia [AG]

iii) xxd. videlicet pro quolibet iid. obolum [AG]

iv) Family tree"

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=188-dr10_1-1&cid=1-1-1-18-24#1-1-1-18-24 (National Archives, Shakespeare Center Library and Archive).

At least one document from the same source shows that " le Falke" was a variant at this time (1284):

"From: Alice daughter of Adam atte hoke, widow To: the prior and convent of Canterbury Cathedral Priory For 20 acres of meadow and pasture lying in the parish of Linton ('Lenenton") in a place called 'hoklonde', lying with the meadow of William atthoke to west, the priory's wood called 'Frith' to east, the king's highway called 'Chalfstedestrete' to north and the priory's meadow to south. Witnesses: Richard de Welmenton', bailiff ('ballivus') of [East] Farleigh; Robert le Falke; Thomas de Snode; Thomas Stel; Thomas attechirche; Michael makehayt; Richard mountemor; William Selvestre; William mayleyne; John of Loose; Matthew de Perifeld; Richard de EastLenenton'; William atthoke; William de Grenehull' Endorsed with description and note of registration in the Farleigh section in late 13th cent hands."

Yet another (1281): "From: Emma daughter of James the smith ('faber') of Linton ('Lyneton") To: the prior and convent of Canterbury Cathedral Priory Whatever fell to her in inheritance in the parish of Linton ('Lyneton") after the death of James, her father, and whatever can fall to her in any way conditionally henceforth. Also an annual payment of 6d, payable as specified by John Anfre of Linton for 2 crofts of land called 'Richereslond' lying in the parish of Linton. Dated 9EdwI, no month. Witnesses: Matthew de Prifeld'; John the weaver ('textor'); Ralph Davy; John Anfre; James the roofer ('coopertor'); William Ate Hoke; Thomas le mayster; Adam de Estlyneton'; Richard, brother of Adam de Estlyneton'; Thomas de Ecclesia of Loose; Michael makeheyt; Thomas le Stel; William Silvestr'; Robert le falke Endorsed with description and note of registration in the Farleigh section in late 13th cent hands."

An later example shows that the name was similar to FitzOsbern or FitzWalter, in other words a name arising from the son of Falke:

"Scriptum Henrici fil' Falcasii vinetarii.
ijs. vjd.

Grant by Matilda, daughter of Walter de Kyngestone and wife of Richard le Fuster, to Henry Fitz Falk (fn. 1) (filius Falcasii), late vintner, of 3½ marks quitrent of a tenement formerly held by his father in the parish of All Hallows de Bredstrete [Bread Street in the City of London], and situate near the tenements of William Hewe and William de Beverley. To hold the same for a term of seven years from Christmas, A.D. 1307.

Acknowledged by the above Matilda on Wednesday after the Feast of Conversion of St. Paul [25 Jan.], 1 Edward II.[A.D. 1307-8]."

1. Or Henry "Faukes" See 'Cal.Letter-Book B,' p. 158 n.

From: 'Folios cxxx - cxxxix', Calendar of letter-books of the city of London: C: 1291-1309 (1901), pp. 210-227.
<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=33066> Date accessed: 23 February 2013.

"per scriptum.
ijs. vjd.

Saturday after the Feast of St. John Bapt. [24 June] came Matilda, daughter of the late Walter de Kyngestone and wife of Richard le Fuster, before the Chamberlain and acknowledged that she had granted and confirmed to Henry "Faukes" 3½ marks annual quitrent issuing from a tenement held by the said Henry in the parish of All Hallows, Bread Street; which tenement formerly belonged to "Falcasius" his father. (fn. 24) To hold the said quitrent for a term of seven years from Christmas, A.D. 1303. For which recognizance the said Henry acknowledged he owed the said Matilda the sum of 62s.; to be paid, viz., 41s. at Michaelmas, and 12d. at each quarter following until, &c.; and unless, &c.

(Whereof the said Matilda received the instalments up to Michaelmas, anno 34 Edward I., as well as for that term and the following Christmas.)

24. Here we have a good illustration of the use of the suffix "s" to denote "son of," Henry "Faukes" denoting Henry the son of Falk (Falcasius) or Fauke For further illustrations see Athenæum, 28 Dec., 1889." [above]

Other Possibilities: The name and the occupation suggest that IF the Falke family came from elsewhere, it was probably coastal Germany or Denmark where both the name and the occupation were well established. One candidate would be the family of Bo Falk (born about 1330) of Vallo, Sjaeland, Denmark whose family had established a very substantial castle in that area (and which is a tourist attraction to this day). Their family crest includes a falcon.

Conclusion as to Surname: It is unknown whether any of the above named individuals have anything to do with the Falke family from Worlingham, Suffolk. Whether their origin is in England or another Germanic country, or within Normandy is, frankly, unknown. So the only correct statement that can be made is that the surname Falke which led to the Faux family of the present study first saw the light of day, in terms of written records, in the 14th Century. It is possible, however, that genetic evidence pertaining to the Faux Y chromosome may be helpful in pointing towards one of the different possibilities.

GENETIC EVIDENCE

Y Chromosome DNA: The Y chromosome is passed from father to son only, and all Y chromosomes descend from one male who lived in Africa about 200,000 (likely more) years ago. Since that time, as mankind migrated to all parts of the globe, the Y chromosome changed or mutated slightly and some of these mutations are characteristic of men residing in particular geographical regions. Here it is possible to, for example, determine general patterns, such as whether the Y chromosome arose from a Native American source or one that was European. This is accomplished by assessing the haplogroup, reflected in a series of single nucleotide polymorphisms (single base pair changes of the 27 million base pairs on the Y-chromosome, known as **SNPs**). As will be noted later, key SNPs may provide specific information about ancestors within Europe. The basal part of the Faux / Falke Y - chromosome is within the most common haplogroup in Europe - R1b1c characterized by a mutation known as M269, but being of a variant (L20/S144) that is relatively rare, and having a very circumscribed geographical distribution. Later we will explore how one can refine this grouping. What is important to note is that new information is emerging on a weekly basis so that this report will be somewhat outdated from the moment it is written.

Y-STR (Haplotype) and Y-SNP (Haplogroup) Testing: Generally what is measured in Y chromosome testing for genealogical purposes is a series of 12 to 67 markers (111 marker tests are available), called short tandem repeats (**STRs**), situated along the length of the chromosome providing a haplotype (genetic signature) for the person which should be

almost identical to those who are related within a genealogical timeframe (e.g., past 500 to 1000 years). This DNA is essentially "junk DNA" in that it serves no known purpose, but is very useful for detecting similarities and differences between males. Basically the scores at all say 25 markers should be identical between a father and his biological son; and between individuals who are descended from a common ancestor in the last few hundred years (with occasionally up to three mutations in 25 markers). Most people are interested in the period since surnames were adopted - about 1200 AD. In that time frame of 800 or so years, if two individuals have the same surname but a very different patterns of scores (e.g., only 15 of the 25 STR markers match) they are not likely related through the male line. If, however, there are only four differences in the scores between two men with the same surname, it is probable that they had a common ancestor – IF it can be shown that they belong to the same haplogroup (more on this later).

1) Evidence from Various Y-STR Databases: There are many databases available to assist in interpreting haplotypes. Most, unfortunately, suffer from serious flaws that make them problematic for determining ancestry pre 1200 AD (approximately when surnames were adopted) - unless one has a very rare R1b haplotype – and databases using less than 25 markers are virtually useless due to the danger of matching coincidentally. Thus, one might have a 12/12 match that is not even the same haplogroup, meaning that the “match” is an illusion and you are only “identical by state” and not related within the past few thousand years.

The author’s father, his second cousin, a third cousin, and two 8th cousins have been tested using 37 markers. While there is a definite “Faux signature” on markers which rarely mutate, there are a number of false close matches at 25 markers, but within 5 mutations of 37 markers only other known Faux cousins have closely matching signatures.

The Faux Surname DNA Study is found at www.davidkfaux.org/fauxsurnamedna.html. In comparing the results here to any public Y-STR database, the result tends to be much the same – the Faux signature is quite unique. For example there is the **Ysearch** (presently unavailable) of FTDNA (uploaded data from customers and others), as well as **Ybase** of DNA Heritage and the **Sorenson Genomics database (SMGF)**. With about 60,000 haplotypes available, comparisons here may be promising, however at present there are no high resolution matches to the Faux haplotype in any of these databases. What emerges depends on the markers chosen, such that one could get the results desired simply by selecting a particular subset of the markers.

Using the databases above, upon entering the markers which seem most characteristic of the Faux "signature" (27), including a particular marker DYS464 which has 4 components, there were a handful of matches at 23/27. Of those with attached genealogies and a known place of origin (other than being "brick walled" in the USA) the closest were one from Switzerland (Bern) but it dead ended in a non - paternity event; and one from Norway. The latter was very interesting in that the person's earliest ancestor was from Vestfold in Southeastern Norway – which takes on more significance in discussing haplogroup findings below.

Considering the academic research findings (noted below) this finding may be of some significance. The author then queried the database using the 6 most common R1b markers from academic papers and entered the values for the Faux haplotype as well as the rare 14, 15, 17, 17 motif for marker DYS464. There were 60 exact matches. While there are double the number of German haplotypes in this database relative to Denmark, there were only 3 German matches and 4 from Denmark. The latter were all from northern Jutland (e.g., Aalborg). Although sample sizes are small here these results may be of some significance.

An academic population genetics study by Dupuy et al. (2005) provides 1766 Norwegian haplotypes in an article entitled, "Geographical heterogeneity of Y-chromosomal lineages in Norway". The country is divided into Oslo, Bergen, South, West, Middle, North, and East. The author's 10 marker haplotype is found from 0 to 2 times in all regions except East where it is found in 6 samples. Even taking into account sample size, there are proportionately more of the haplotype in the East (but none in Oslo) relative to other areas of Norway. The East takes in the Vik (Vestfold) which was, as with Skane in Sweden, essentially a part of Denmark for most of its history.

Despite some tantalizing possibilities, the bottom line is that this line of inquiry holds little promise UNLESS there is a haplogroup connection.

2) [Haplogroup Y-SNP Signature](#): The Y chromosome marker known as M269 or haplogroup R1b1c of David K. Faux indicates that his paternal ancestors may have first arrived in Western Europe in Paleolithic (unlikely), Neolithic (more likely) or "Metal Age" years (most likely). The fact is, however, that the first appearance of R1b1c in Western Europe is unknown. Soon, perhaps, securely dated archaeological samples will help settle the matter.

What is clear is that individuals with this haplogroup are descended from a single male, known as "the patriarch", with the defining single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) marker a single single letter nucleotide base substitution from Thymine to Cytosine at a single location along the 27 million base pairs that make up the human Y chromosome. This man's descendants spread all across Europe, with declining numbers as one goes from Ireland or Spain (where the percentages are often 90% or more of the males in the region) to the borders of the Middle East (where the numbers taper off to a few percentage points in most of the populations). This fact makes it difficult, but not impossible, to ascertain with any certainty the origin of the male ancestor say 2000 years ago.

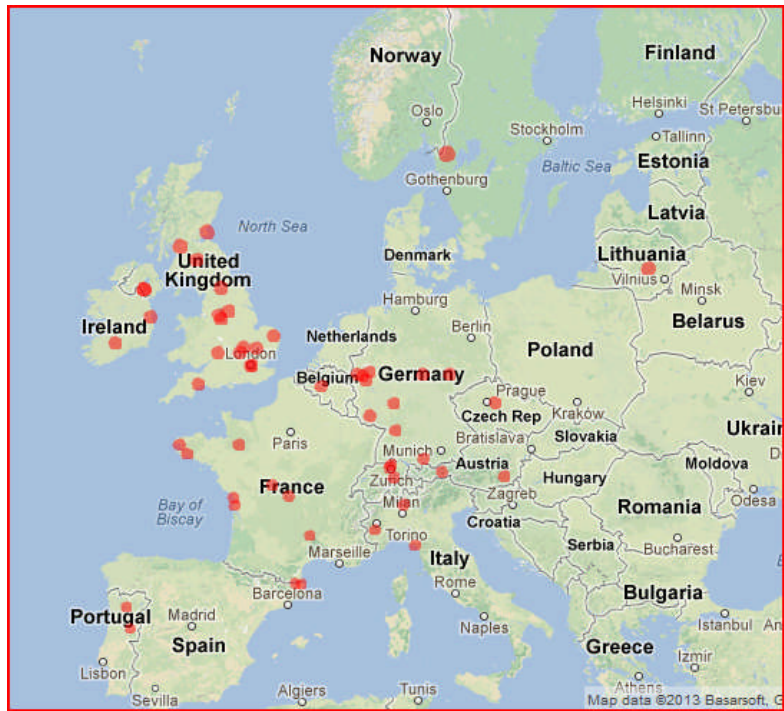
This Y-SNP testing showed that in addition to the generic M269, and newly (2004) discovered S116 / P312 mutations, our branch of the Faux family is S28+ or U152+, categorized phylogenetically as R1b1c10, R1b1b2h, R1b1b2a1b4, R1b1b2a1a2d in a constantly shifting panorama of letters and numbers. For the sake of clarity and brevity, the broad haplogroup designation will be known as R-U152, although the markers S28 and U152 (which are merely the names used by different companies for the same marker) will be used interchangeably. Further testing has revealed that the Fauxes are both

L2/S139+, and L20/S144+, markers which are downstream of U152 and adding further detail and resolution to the profile. What will be important is to determine is what, if anything of significance, can be said about being "S28 positive", meaning having a simple nucleotide letter change along with perhaps millions of others at this. R-U152 and subgroups is found in multiple locations, but, particularly due to biased sampling (e.g., over abundance of testing in those whose ancestry is traced to the British Isles and relatively few from France), the findings must be interpreted with caution.

Considering that the Faux ancestor resided in East Anglia there are a number of candidates, the Native Britons (e.g., Iceni), the Anglo - Saxons (perhaps more likely Angle), Danish Viking, and Norman (either from the region that is today Denmark or Norway). There were also Huguenot and Fleming migrations to East Anglia, but in the time period after the first Faux - Falke had already made an appearance. So which ones can be ruled likely or unlikely, probable or improbable? This is no easy task - especially since U152 is recently discovered and there is little in the way of research findings to rely upon.

3) [Research Findings for S28 / U152](#): The academic papers which have plotted the distribution of S28 / U152 and derivatives can be found summarized in various websites (that of the author is somewhat out of date), and particularly www.U-152.org. Obvious "hotspots" include Switzerland and the Rhine Valley. However, there are places which are "under sampled" which might be relevant to the appearance of the Faux Y chromosome on East Anglia by the 14th Century.

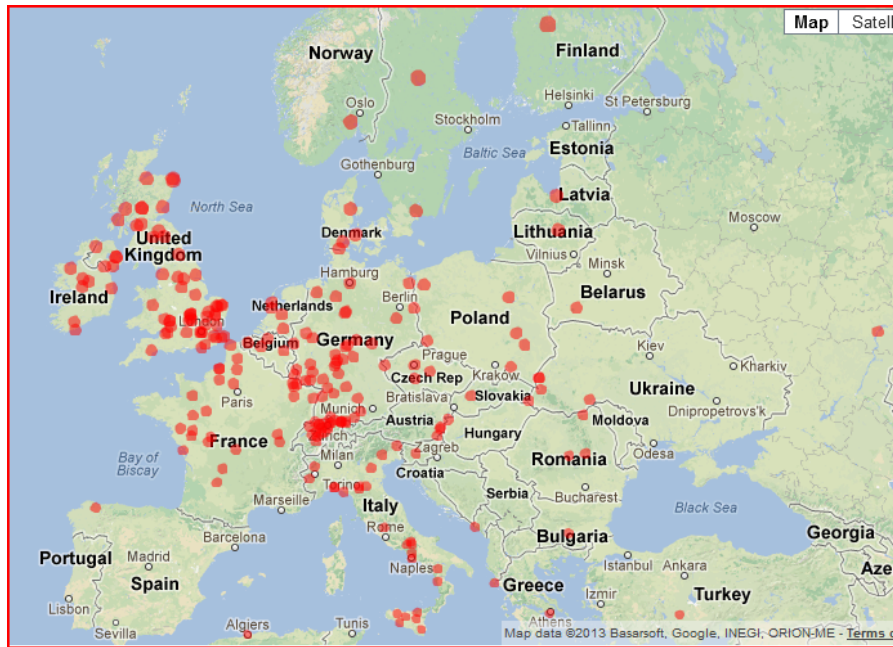
To give a sense of the distribution of S28 / U152 and sub groups, the following maps from the Family Tree DNA Y haplogroup database may be instructive. The first map shows those who have tested positive for the S144 / L20 marker (plus a Halvorson at Lillehammer above Oslo, Norway; and a Hebert dit LeCompte le Roussy from Mont Saint Aignan, Normandy, France – for example). It is important to note that many who are labeled S139 / L2 or simply S28 / U152 below have not been tested for the presence of L20 so we do not know the true extent of this haplogroup across Europe.



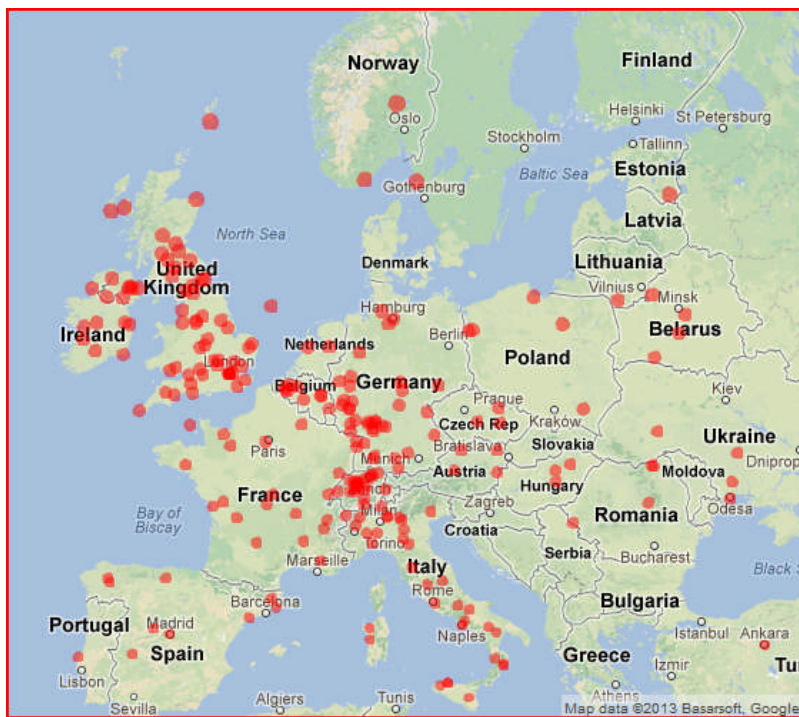
L20 in the Database of FTDNA



Steve Gilbert's L20 Google Map



L2 in Database of FTDNA (may also include those who are L20+)



S28/U152 in Database of FTDNA (may also include those who are L20+)

[Recent SNP Findings](#): Recently the author took the Genographic 2 test, which includes thousands of newly discovered Y chromosome SNPs from for example the “1000 Genomes Project”, and the “Walk the Y Project”. While the data is still emerging (due to

a change from Build 36 to Build 37 affecting the results showing at present) the following new SNP that to date has only been seen in the Faux output (although only 4 who are L20+ appear to have taken the Geno 2 testing) such that at the time of writing the signature is: **M269>U152/S28>L2/S139>L20/S144>CTS11795**.

Conclusion:

While it is tempting to come up with a plausible hypothesis about migration to East Anglia (as the author has done in the past), a sober assessment of the available data would opt for a "conservative" wait and see interpretation.

It must be admitted that there is little to no clear evidence as to the origin of haplogroup R-L20 in England, there is a tendency for it to cluster along the east coast. An inspection of the most up to date distribution maps show that the source could have been Normandy, Germany, the Low Countries, or Scandinavia.

The author's grandfather, when asked, said that our family were NORMAN, which does fit with the distribution a la above map, the surname origin, and the status of the family when it first appears in the Medieval records. Hence it makes good sense to tentatively ascribe our family origins as Norman, until such time as better evidence is available. One thing is certain, grandiose speculations may make for a good story, but are unwarranted at this point. However within the foreseeable future, continuing work blending genealogy, history, archaeology, and DNA (particularly ancient DNA sources) may serve to better pinpoint the origin of the Faux Y chromosome.

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