

**Genetic-Genealogy Analysis**  
**Descendants of Col. John Starke of Hanover County, Virginia**  
By Clovis La Fleur; January 2015

**Abstract**

Recently, several researchers have questioned the genealogical lineage presented for several Members of the Stark Family Y-DNA Project who claim they are descendants of Colonel John Starke [1715-1799] of Hanover County, Virginia. Member #149455 is a descendant of Wyatt Starke [1796-1860]; but the Father of Wyatt had not, until recently, been identified. Therefore his genealogy to Colonel John Starke was incomplete. Member #89006 is a descendant of Rev. Joseph Starke [1798-1853]. #89006 provided a genealogy that identified the Father of Joseph as Captain John Starke [1771-1829]. The Father of the Captain was Major John Starke and the Father of the Major was Colonel John Starke. Genealogical Researchers have questioned the existence of a Wyatt Starke [1796-1829] and Captain John Starke [1771-1829]. They have also questioned whether the son of Wyatt Starke, Thomas L. Starke, could genetically be related to Rev. Joseph Starke. The genetic question asked was: *"What are the possible Y-DNA connections for Thomas L. Starke and his descendants besides Col. John Starke?"*

The genetic results presented in this document will prove the descendants of Thomas L. Starke and Rev. Joseph Starke are genetically related to three other Members of the Project; proven, genealogically, to be descendants of Colonel John Starke [1715-1799]. When genetically compared to any other Members of family groups identified by the Project administrators — *they could not have shared a common male ancestor named Starke with any of these families who came to America, lived in America, or even had lived earlier in Great Britain.*

Member #149455 provided a scanned copy of an original letter written by Della T. Heggarty in 1952 that provides verification Wyatt Starke, born February 16, 1796, was the Father of Thomas L. W. Starke. Eight other Children of Wyatt were named in this letter. Della Traylor Heggarty was a Granddaughter of one of the children named, Martha Jane Starke, born May 16, 1818. The letter was sent to a Mrs. Jones, who was a Granddaughter of Thomas L. W. Starke. The letter mentioned a Violet Woods, who was also a Granddaughter of Thomas L. W. Starke. I have proven these genealogical connections to be correct which adds to the validity Member #149455 is a descendant of a person named Wyatt Starke. One Child named in the Heggarty Letter was John Wyatt Starke (Junior), born September 6, 1823. This suggests Wyatt Starke's full name was John Wyatt Starke (Senior). Missing from the letter was the identity of the parents of John Wyatt Starke, Sr.

I researched the 1850 and 1860 census records and found a John Starke and J. W. Starke who, in my opinion, were the best candidates to be John Wyatt Starke (Senior). There was a Sarah Starke, age 82, head of the house in 1850, with a son named John Starke living in her home. Researching her origins, I was directed to review an 1846 Revolutionary War Pension Application that named Richard Starke as her spouse and three children named John W. Starke, Joseph Starke, and Richard Starke (Junior). On the basis of additional research, I have concluded Richard Starke and Sarah (Tinsley) Starke were the parents of John Wyatt Starke (Senior).

The primary source of this additional Research was the Hanover Tax Payers list from 1782 to 1815 and census records from 1810, 1820, and 1830. These proved Richard Starke [1765-1832] was a son of Major John Starke and the Major was a son of Colonel John Starke [1715-1799]. In addition, the records suggested Major John Starke most likely died in 1793 — *not in 1827, as reported by many genealogical researchers.* Other records were Wills and various other documents that confirmed: 1) Sarah Tinsley married Richard Starke; 2) John Starke [1771-1829] married Elizabeth Sheppard (contrary to many genealogical files I reviewed); 3) Major John Starke married Elizabeth Wyatt (contrary to many Genealogical files reporting he married Elizabeth Sheppard); and 4) Joseph Starke [1753-1797?] did not die in 1793 (his death year after 1796 and not known with certainty) and he married Ann Ragland, not Elizabeth Unknown.

The identity of the Father of Rev. Joseph Starke was inconclusive; but did narrow the possibilities to either Richard Starke [1765-1832] or John Starke [1771-1829]; both proven sons of Major John Starke and grandsons of Colonel John Starke [1715-1799]. Genetically, it is certain, I believe, that John Wyatt Starke [1796-1860] and Rev. Joseph Starke were either brothers or first cousins.

I hope the genetic-genealogy analysis that follows will be useful in your research of your Hanover County, Virginia, Starke ancestors and you will review my genealogical interpretations with an open mind.