

Ian Atherton Powys

and the

Identification of the

Y-DNA

of

**Sir Thomas Powys
(c.1648 - 1719)**

Ian Atherton Powys, The Co-DNA Identifier for Sir Thomas Powys

Ian had either been found by or he approached my brother Martin several decades ago. Eventually when I put up a web-site he contacted me and we have been in touch for around 20 years.

I had been to a lecture on some new approach to DNA testing and thought that I could do this too with a few distant Powys relatives. So, amongst others, I contacted Ian and asked him if he would like to do a test or two to see if we could find a DNA link between us. The link is not about normal bodily features such as height or hair colour but of the Y-Gene which is the gene, or chromosome, that determine one's sex. Males have this gene, females don't, that is the primary feature. I presume the Y gene, or the lack of it, controls the development of the reproductive organs. The Y-gene does not combine with any other Y-gene in females as they don't have this gene, so it is passed on to males unchanged. Somehow there are some features on the Y-Gene that do change, or mutate, at intervals of two or three centuries or so. These mutations enables families to be identified and inheritance from previous males too.

Thus the Y-Gene of males identifies the family they belong to. This means that relationships of descent can be established without knowing the intervening generations. But first a common ancestor between two or more related people has to be identified by surviving documents. Then at least two of their living male-line descendants have to be tested. The result is that either they have matching Y-DNA or they don't. If they do match they must be descended from a Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA). If they do not match then they are not related by male line descent: somewhere along someone's line there is a Non-Paternal-Event where the mother has played away from her overt partner. In fact the tests we took proved that Ian and myself had exactly the same Y-DNA so we could identify our MRCA.

There are 17 births between Ian and myself. The test showed that we have the same Y-DNA. So every father in the lines to our MRCA has to have carried the common Y-DNA. The Most Recent Common Ancestor between Ian and myself is Sir Thomas Powys who lived from c.1648 to 1719. The actual MRCA is known by historical research ('Genealogy' to lay people). So we now know what Sir Thomas carried. As do all his male line descendants of whom there are now 22 or so living. As do his male line ancestors.

If the Y-DNA of two people are the same, then a repeat of this with a third person makes it even more believable that all male line descendants of Sir Thomas will be the same too. So a third person has joined us, William Powys who is Ian's fifth cousin and my eighth cousin. So far he has done the preliminary test which shows, at that level, a remarkable correspondence with the results of Ian and myself. So his saliva sample has been passed to the more serious test that will exactly determine his Y-DNA. The results of this test take some time, about three months. so should be revealed by the end of January 2024.

Now for the documentation, of which 2 to 8 are appended, this being Part 1:

1. **R-FT287223** is the code given to the Y-DNA held by Ian, myself and the male lines ancestral to both of us. (There is virtually no significance in the letters and numbers of this code.)
2. **The test candidates** are on a chart to show the relationship between Ian, William and myself all as descendants of Sir Thomas Powys.

3. **The STR test results** as this has been completed by the three of us. This chart shows the preliminary Y-DNA results. The factors reported, 37 of them, are not that significant. The results are used to find differences between any two people. The less the sum of the differences in their scores, the more closely related are the two people concerned. The differences between us are both close and less than the differences to any other person I have found. This closeness is remarkable for a test that is normally useable for up to about fourth cousins and on the other hand we are talking here of 7th, 8th and fifth cousins who would not normally show up as closely related at all.

4. **The historical study** of Ian's descent from the Most Recent Common Ancestor. I have in fact done this separately for each of the three of us. For every generation I have found copies of the original documents for the marriage of the parents and the document for the birth of each male in the line. The study is:
 4. The statement of Ian's descent from Sir Thomas with transcripts of the documents,
 5. The list of the original documents found,
 6. Copies of the seventeen original documents. Please refer to the transcripts in item 4 if any document is hard to read.

7. A track of human migration from an Adam in Africa around 250,000 BCE to Sir Thomas in England born in the 17th Cent. This shows the power of Y-DNA research.

If you want to print all this, some pages need to be printed on A3 paper to make the text or diagrams big enough. The printing plan needs to be:

A4 paper:	Sections 1, 5, 6
A3 paper:	Sections 2, 3, 4, 7