

John G. Casto

For over 20 years I have researched my Casto family, in particular my earliest known ancestor, John George Casto (AKA Castoe). Other relatives have searched for many years as well. Although I assumed he could be connected to either David ca 1715 or William 1717, documentation proving his background or parentage was not to be found.

In the spring of 2005 I became aware of DNA being used as a genealogical research tool. Thinking this the next logical step I suggested to Mr. Walter Casto that we start such a program for the Casto family. After participants were enlisted and results started coming in, it was apparent we were dealing with two different groups of people.

Myself, a 2nd cousin, and a 3rd cousin, with John G. Casto as a common ancestor are DNA matches. However, we are different from the eleven other participants who traced their ancestry to either David ca 1715 or William 1717.

What we know about John G. Casto's early life comes from statements he made in his Civil War pension file. He was born in 1805 in Wood County, (West) Virginia. At the age of 14 he moved to Gallia County, Ohio, where he learned the blacksmith trade. In 1835 he moved to Missouri and in 1837 married Jestern Coots. They would spend the next 60 years in south west Missouri.

John and wife had the following children: Mary b.1839, George W. b. 1840, Robert b. 1843, Sarah b. 1845, David b. 1846, Virginia b.1849, William R. b. 1851, John G. b. 1854, and James C. b. 1857.

In 1894 the elderly John and Jestern moved to Pope County, Arkansas with son David and family. John died in 1903 in Benton County, Arkansas.

At this point who John's parents were and why he took the name Casto are unknown. I have some ideas I will be working on this year. If I discover anything of importance I will let you know. I would invite any John George descendants to contact me if they have any ideas they would like to share with me.

Thank You
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