

The Family of Henry and Dorothy Culp

To begin piecing together the family of Henry Culp (1762-1844) a good place to start is with two letters to Daniel Cassel, published in Cassel's "A Genealogical History of the Kolb, Kulp or Culp Family" in 1895¹. Cassel appended letters he had gotten from people who had Kolb, Kulp or Culp ancestry, but whose ancestry could not be matched with the book's subject ancestry, the descendants of Dielman Kolb. Two of these letters pertain to Henry Culp.

The First letter by E.C. Culp, Salina, Kansas, 1894 states that "His [Christian Culp's] father, Henry Culp, came to Ohio from Virginia, Rockingham County. Henry Culp had six sons and some daughters, Christian, Henry, Jacob, John and David." I take it this was written by Edward Clinton Culp (1843-1904).

The Second letter by Mrs. Sherman Culp, Plymouth, Ohio, 1895 states that "His [Christian Culp's] father's name was Henry Culp, and the names of his brothers and sisters were Jacob, David, Benona, Mary, Sallie and Hannah." I take it this was written by Louise (Strong) Culp, wife of Sherman Culp (1853-1911).

The two letters were written about 46 years after the death of Christian Culp, but only 25 years after the death of his wife Eleanor (Burton) Culp. The lists of children of Henry disagree in part. Let's start by assuming their recollection of Christian's father's name was correct. We'll then name **Christian** as one child of Henry.

We know Henry Culp moved into Fairfield County, Ohio about 1805. Christian Culp married in Fairfield County in 1812, and by 1820 he had moved up to Huron County. In 1848 his name appears in a Lancaster newspaper² announcing the sale of the "Culp Farm". He and Mary Lamb are listed as the agents in the sale. This Mary Lamb is likely Mary (Culp) Lamb who was born in Virginia in 1787 and married Jacob Lamb in Fairfield County in 1806. She is likely the **Mary** mentioned previously in Mrs. Sherman Culp's letter, and I'll name her as another child of Henry Culp.

Mrs. Culp's letter mentions a Benona Culp, and since this is an unusual name I'll look into it next. There was a Benoni Culp in Fairfield County who married Magdalena Comer there in 1820. I'll note here that Henry Culp and Samuel Comer had adjoining farms. Benoni moved up to Hancock County in the early 1830's. We know from a Hancock County history³ that Benoni and his brother David came to Hancock County from Fairfield County. We also know from land records that both Benoni and David purchased some land in Hancock County from "Henry Culp and Dorotha his wife, of Fairfield County, Ohio". It seems Henry had previously bought land either for speculation or to sell to his children. I'll name **Benoni** and **David** as children of Henry Culp.

Mrs. Culp mentions a Hannah Culp. There was a Hannah Culp in Fairfield County who married Isaac Comer in 1818. After bearing four children Hannah died in Fairfield County about 1830. Isaac remarried and moved the family up to Hancock County. The Culp and Comer families held joint reunions in Hancock County in the 1890's. I'll name **Hannah** as another child of Henry Culp.

Mrs. Culp also mentions a Sallie (i.e. Sarah) Culp. There was a Sarah Culp who married Daniel Brumbach in Fairfield County in 1816. They moved up to Huron County and their land purchase was witnessed by Christian Culp⁴. I'll name **Sarah** as another child of Henry Culp.

Both letters to Cassel mention Jacob Culp. There were two Jacob Culp in Fairfield County in those years. One married Mary Lamb and died in 1831. The other married Mary Radebaugh and

died in 1884. The short-lived Jacob appears to be the son of Henry for two reasons. One, he wasn't involved in the sale of the Culp farm in 1848, which suggests he probably died prior to 1848. Two, he married a Lamb as did Mary Culp. This evidence is not great, but I'll name **Jacob** (d. 1831) as a son of Henry.

E.C. Culp mentions a son named John, but I've found no record of a John Culp in Fairfield County. This may be a recollection of a story about a John Culp who is thought to have been a brother of Henry Culp.

E.C. Culp mentions a Henry Culp as a son of Henry. There was no Henry Culp in Fairfield County fitting that description, but there was a Henry Culp, born about 1781, who married Frances Funk in Virginia and later moved to Union County, Ohio. If this is a son of Henry, then he never came to Fairfield County, Ohio, but instead remained in Virginia until about 1830 before moving to Union County. The evidence for this Henry is weak, but on the other hand there is no alternate Henry available. One bit of evidence in favor of this **Henry** is that he married the daughter of Bishop Funk of the Mennonite sect and was thus established in Virginia and unlikely to have moved to Ohio with his parents, who came to Ohio with a group of people who had broken away from the Mennonites and formed their own Primitive Baptist congregation. (I've not proved that the senior Henry Culp was a part of this group, but the Comer family certainly was, and the connection between these two families appears strong, both in their intermarriage and movements.)

There is a record of a Hannah Culp marrying Daniel Deffenbaugh in Fairfield County in 1806. She was born in Pennsylvania to Peter Kolb and Mary Heinly, and is not a member of this Culp family.

As you can see, the evidence for the family of Henry Culp is not strong.

Autosomal DNA Evidence

Autosomal DNA evidence can shed some light on the family of Henry Culp, but it can't by itself prove anything to a genealogical standard. What it can do, if enough evidence is collected, is build a "preponderance of evidence" case. Test takers today who are descendants of Henry and Dorothy Culp will be fifth cousins with each other, plus or minus, and that means they're not likely to share DNA, and the DNA segments they do share could be from some line of descent other than the Henry and Dorothy Culp line.

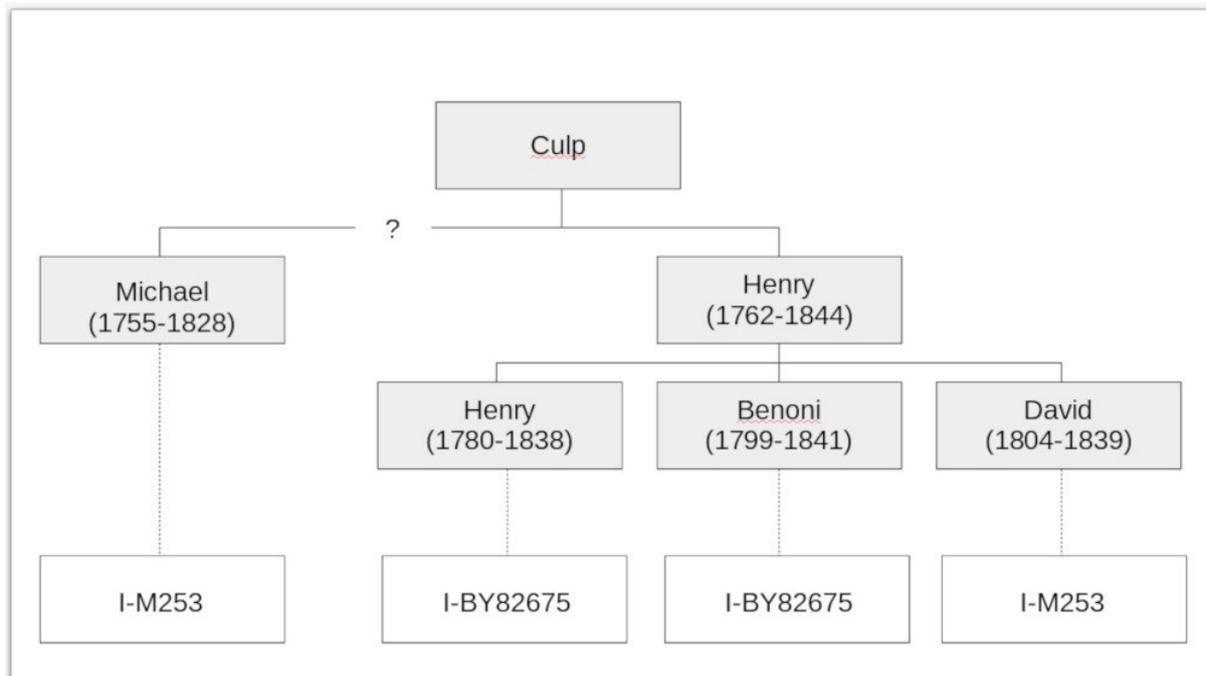
I've started an autosomal DNA project for collecting this evidence. It consists of a spreadsheet for each participant tester, and within each sheet are entries for each DNA match who also descends, via a "paper" genealogy, from Henry and Dorothy Culp through one of his presumed children. The entries are then subtotaled for each presumed child. So far there are three participants and their subtotals are shown here:

		Henry and Dorothy Culp							
		Henry	Jacob	Mary Lamb	Christian	Sarah Brumbach	Hannah Comer	Benoni	David
Dave		7	16	4	2	4	1	65	14
Bob		5	1	0	0	2	0	44	1
Sue		7	46	3	1	4	0	8	1

Dave and Bob, brothers, are descendants of Benoni Culp. Sue is a descendant of Jacob Culp and is a fifth cousin of Dave and Bob. As more participants join the project we'll get a clearer picture of the family of Henry Culp. We can already see a strong connection between Benoni, David and Jacob, with a less strong signal for Henry, Mary and Sarah. The signal for Christian and Hannah is weaker, and we can explain some of this away by noting from paper genealogy that there are fewer descendants from these two who would be available to test now. NOTE: if you are a descendant of Henry Culp and would like to participate in this project, please contact me.

Y-DNA Evidence

From Y-DNA we know that there are at least four lineages with the Culp/Kolb/Kulp surname⁵ in the United States who are not related to each other on the paternal line. The lineage associated with Henry Culp is identified with the I-M253 haplogroup. The results for this lineage can be simplified into one chart:



Two of the testers have taken a deep test which results in a more precise haplogroup assignment of I-BY82675. The four testers (at the bottom) are shown with their line of descent from their most distant paternal line ancestor.

It's important to note that these haplogroup assignments cannot be used to prove that any two ancestors were brothers. What it does show is that the testers share a common ancestor on the paternal line. The ancestors could be brothers, but they could also be cousins via their paternal lines.

David P. Culp

daveculp@cox.net

11 Aug 2021

1. *A Genealogical History of the Kolb, Kulp or Culp Family and its descendants in America*, Daniel Kolb Cassel, Morgan R. Willis, Norristown, PA, 1895, pages 553-557.
<https://archive.org/details/agenealogicalhis00cass>
2. *Lancaster Gazette*, Lancaster, Ohio, 3 Mar 1848, page 3 col. 6.
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/6677119/sale-of-the-culp-farm-1848/>
3. *History of Hancock County, Ohio*, Robert C. Brown, Warner, Beers & Co., Chicago, 1886, page 481 <https://archive.org/details/historyofhancock00brow/page/480/mode/2up>
4. *One Brumbach Family...* by Edward A. Brumbach, c1988, page 70.
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/365119>
5. The Kolb Culp Surname Project at FamilyTreeDNA. <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/culp?iframe=ycolorized>