The English Ancestry Committee of

THE WILLIAM STROTHER SOCIETY, INC.

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 1, 2016

This is the ninth report to the Board of Directors by the English Ancestry Committee which was formed in 1999 to make an organized, sustained search for the ancestry of William Strother, the immigrant to Virginia in the mid-1600s.

Research of Butler and Strother Families in Rapides Parish, Louisiana
It was planned to perform additional DNA testing of male Strother members originating from Rapides Parish, Louisiana in order to confirm their link to our William Strother, the immigrant. However this testing did not take place.

DNA Project, the History
For many years Strother researchers have searched for a document trail to the ancestry of our William, all to no avail. About 1998, sufficient progress had been made on the Human Genome Project to make it feasible to use the information and lab processes to make analysis of the human DNA for genealogical purposes. It was to take advantage of this scientific development that the English Ancestry Committee was established by the Board. Almost all of the funding for the project was contributions from members of the Society.

The basic theory of genetic genealogy is that the Y-chromosome of the DNA is carried only by the male. It is passed from father to son relatively unchanged, thus enabling one to test the DNA of two men to determine if the men are biologically related. There are mutations of the various "markers" on the Y-chromosome. The average rate of mutation is once every 500 years with some markers mutating faster and some slower. As scientists have determined the usual rate of mutation of each of the markers on a Y-chromosome, they can make an estimate of the generations back to the most recent common ancestor of two men tested. If several men tested all know where their ancestors came from and the generations back to the most recent common ancestor with your man is estimated, then you have a place and a time frame within which to look for documentation of ancestors of your man.

The Committee began by sending to the testing lab DNA samples from male line descendants of each of the sons of William plus samples from some of our purported cousins in England. The results were surprising. We were not biologically related to our purported cousins in England whose ancestry was in Northumberland. So we expanded our search for volunteers to

be tested and contacted all the Strother men we could find worldwide. We obtained fifteen volunteers from five countries. The results were the same. William was not biologically related to any of the Strother men tested except his own descendants.

During our major solicitation, we contacted some men with variations of the Strother name. About a year after the major solicitation, we received a letter from a Derek Struthers from a town near Manchester, England telling us he had misplaced but had now found our letter and, if the project was still open, would like to be tested. We tested Derek. He matched our William on 63 of 67 DNA markers tested. We tested three more men with the surname Struthers. Their test results were similar to those for Derek.

The four Struthers men were unknown to each other. From this we concluded that the evidence was strong that the surname of the ancestors of our William was Struthers, not Strother. We then worked with the Struthers men to trace their ancestry. We got back to the early 1700s when the records played out. Since our William was in Virginia by mid-1600s with a Strother surname, we couldn't establish a link with the Struthers

DNA Project, Recent Activities
Since the last Conference, our activities have been mainly monitoring the activity on our DNA site on the Internet to see if we can find any clues that will give us a lead for further research.

Finances
The English Ancestry Committee had no receipts or expenses during the two years ended May 1, 2016. In September 2014, the Committee's remaining funds of $4,727 were transferred to the Society Treasurer. Since those funds were donated to the Society for the express purpose of supporting the English Ancestry Committee, the funds still should be considered available for future English Ancestry Committee work.

Committee Membership
After 17 years of service, I am retiring from the English Ancestry Committee. Fortunately, Robert Lamb has volunteered to chair the committee and continue the DNA project.

A copy of this report and of each of the other reports to the Board is on the Web site of the Society. If there are any questions about the report or the project, please let us know.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward L. Strother, Chairman

May 1, 2016