

Two Different Birth Certificates:

Did you know, under certain situations, a person could have two different birth certificates with two different first and last names?

We have recently seen proof of this from a family in New York State that had adopted two children. Each child was under the age of one at the time of adoption. These adoptions took place in the early 1970's and the adopting parents were given the option of have "new" birth certificates issued for their adoptive children. These "new" birth certificates make **NO** reference as being anything other than original birth certificates and the "new" birth certificates cite the adoptive parents as being their biological parents.

We use quotations marks around the word "new" only for emphasis. We acknowledge the adoptive children are legally every bit part of their new family and these children have all the rights of their adoptive family surname. These children usually are totally and completely welcomed into their new family circle. However, their DNA would likely yield no biological connection to the adoptive line or their new surname.

We think we understand the thinking of the New York State Legislature when they gave the New York State Health Department permission to issue new birth certificates. We also believe an original birth certificate probably exists somewhere locked away and would likely require the action of the courts to bring that original certificate forward.

Various organizations such as *The General Society of Mayflower Descendants*, *the Daughters of the American Revolution* (DAR), and the *Sons of the American Revolution* (SAR) are aware of this. These organizations, amongst other similar organizations, "just have to deal with the situation" and suspect there may be some members in their organizations that may not actually have a biological connections to the organization with which they are affiliated. This is a word of caution to those of us that are using DNA to link folks with certain families groups in the Hadley line, although it is probably unlikely we will encounter this situation.

James R Hadley February, 2013