

Why Is My Record Not There?

Family Chronicle

The Magazine for Families Researching their Roots

February 2004

\$5.95 US

\$6.95 Cdn

Using Resources in Your Ancestor's Home Town

The Immigration & Naturalization Cycle:

Stop chasing your tail and get out of the research loop



DNA and One-Name Studies:

Using genetics to find connections between people who share a surname

Clues from Funeral Homes:

How to get data from this unusual source



Keeping a Journal:

Write it down and do future generations a favor

Pennsylvania German Resources:

10 places to look for their records



French Connections: 21 useful websites for Franco-American research

www.familychronicle.com



Canadian Publications Mail Agreement
No. 40062922
PAP Registration No. 10630



Translation on a Shoestring:

Getting good value on translations

Family Chronicle

The Magazine for Families Researching their Roots



Immigration-Naturalization Circle. Page 10.



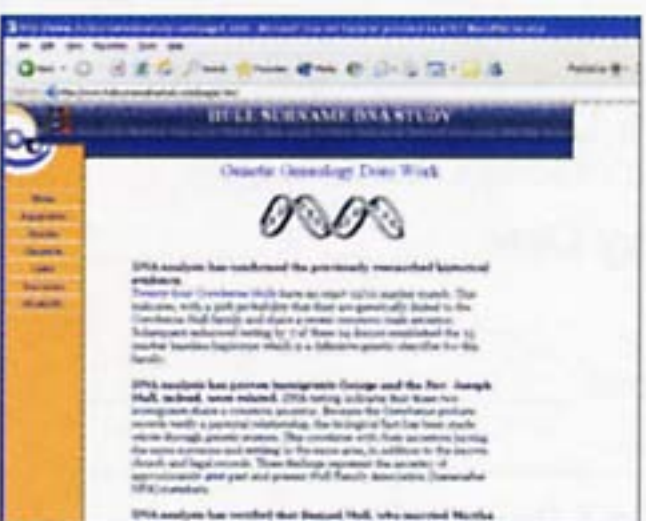
Keeping a Journal. Page 17.



Pennsylvania German Resources. Page 19.



French Connections. Page 23.



DNA One-Name Studies. Page 27.

NEWS AND LETTERS5

RESEARCH RESOURCES7

Products and services for the amateur genealogist.

THE IMMIGRATION-NATURALIZATION CIRCLE10

John M. Hoening gives advice on how to stop chasing your tail.

KEEPING A JOURNAL17

Thea Atkinson recommends genealogists do future generations a favor.

TEN RESOURCES FOR PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN ROOTS19

James M. Beidler examines the most useful resources for tracing these early immigrants.

FRENCH CONNECTIONS: 21 HOMES FOR FRANCO-AMERICAN HERITAGE23

Erika Dreifus, Ph.D., shows what's available on the Internet for Franco-Americans.

ONE-NAME STUDIES TURN TO DNA27

Megan Smolenyak finds out how one-name studies are employing DNA testing.

WHY IS MY RECORD NOT THERE?33

Barbara Krasner-Khait and David W. Webster attempt to answer the age-old question.

CLUES FROM FUNERAL HOMES40

Donna Murray Allen says funeral homes are good places for genealogists to unearth clues.

MAKING THE MOST OF RESOURCES IN YOUR ANCESTOR'S HOME TOWN44

Janice Nickerson takes a tour of the resources in your ancestor's home town.

THE GOOD BOOK46

Shannon Kelly Kurtz tells how an inherited family Bible helped her genealogical search.

TRANSLATION ON A SHOESTRING49

Dena Bugel-Shunra presents six cost-paring strategies for making sense out of documents in another language.

WEBSITES WORTH SURFING50

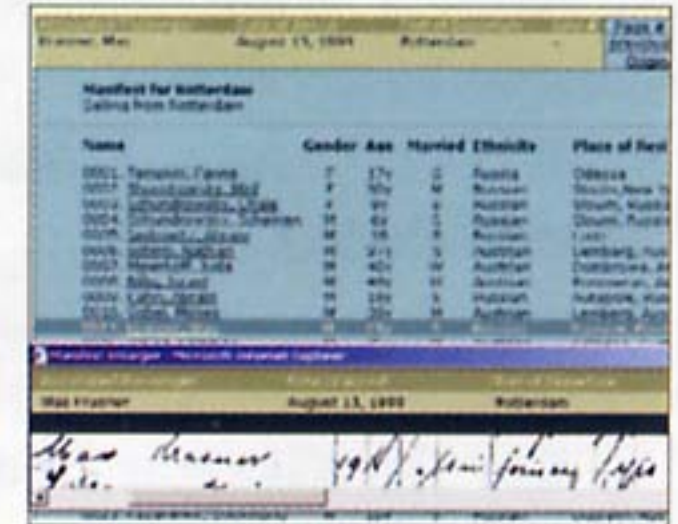
Slices of Time, FamilyTales, inGeneas, Diaspora Connections.

YOU WANTED TO KNOW52

Convict transportation, medieval land terms, British Columbia burials, "good daughter", birth announcements, heads of household, placing ads in newspapers.

LOVINA HADLOCK AND HER POOR RELATIONS54

Beverly Smith Vorpahl tells how she became a believer in synchronicity.



Missing Records. Page 33.



Records in Your Ancestor's Home Town. Page 44.



The Good Book. Page 46.



Translation on a Shoestring. Page 49.



Websites Worth Surfing. Page 50.

One-Name Studies Turn to DNA

Megan Smolenyak finds out how one-name studies are employing DNA testing.

HOW COMMON OR RARE is your surname? How many others share it? How many of them do you suppose might be related to you? Are some similarly spelled names really variants of yours?

Many of us are fascinated with our surnames and have asked these questions, so it's no surprise that one-name studies — geared toward researching all occurrences of a surname — are so popular with genealogists. The Guild of One-Name Studies, for instance, has more than 7,000 members.

And while it can be a daunting task to try to gather and sort out the thousands of people who share a given surname, that doesn't stop many from trying. Fortunately, these groups gained access to a valuable new tool for their quest in late 2000: the Y-chromosome DNA test.

Y-Chromosome

Since the Y-chromosome is passed from father to son down through the generations, essentially mapping the top line of a traditional pedigree chart, this test is custom-made for those seeking to trace a particular surname and learn of connections among those sporting the name today.

In early 2001, I availed myself of this new technology to study my own surname, Smolenyak. Luckily for me, there aren't too many with our name in the world, and through decades of research, I had learned that all of us hailed from a tiny town called Osturna. Through the records of this village, I was able to determine that we sprang from four lines. The assumption was that we all shared a common ancestor, but since the paper trail petered out in the late 1700s, we couldn't prove it. This presented a tidy and finite study for DNA testing, so I had men from each of the four lines tested. Surprise! None of

us were related — not even close. Just to be sure, I had extra men from the lines tested (to rule out the possibility of non-paternity events) and the results were confirmed. None of the four lines of Smolenyak shared a common ancestor.



The FamilyTreeDNA website offers a form visitors can use to sign up for DNA studies such as the McCarthy one.

Fortunately, our ties have survived this genetic severance because we share a distinctive cultural heritage and many of us are distant cousins through other branches of our family trees. And while we would have preferred to match each other, we're happy to know the truth and to save ourselves many more years of trying to prove an apparently false belief.

Surname Projects

I share our experience because it illustrates on a minor scale how DNA testing can be used by those pursuing the origins of a selected surname. But I was curious about the results and experiences of other surname-focused projects. How and why had they started? How had they attracted participants? How were they handling the expenses involved? And what, if any, insights had they obtained from their research?

To find some answers, I identified and contacted 100 DNA project managers. It speaks volumes of

their commitment that fully half of them took the time to respond. From these, I've selected a representative subset whose projects were either initiated by a surname association or are conducted in close coordination with one. Rather than interpret their words for you, I thought it best to let them speak for themselves, so the following are their responses to a few critical questions — questions that I hope will be of particular value to those of you who are contemplating such projects yourselves.

The Interviewees

By way of introduction, these are the surnames and project administrators included, as well as the number of participants as of August 2003 to provide a sense of the scope of each study:

- McCarthy; Barbara McCarthy and Cliff McCarthy; 22 completed, 25 in total.
- Rose; David W. Brown; 142 tested so far.
- Hull; James Reynolds Hull, Ph.D.; 88 "in the bank" with 12 considering participation.
- Spencer; Sharron Spencer; 70 participants with 59 results at this time.

To simplify matters, each response from this point on will be listed by the surname of interest.

What Prompted You to Launch the Study?

I wondered how each of these coordinators had first learned of the potential of DNA testing and what might have been the spark for their decision to initiate a study.

McCarthy: [Barbara:] I read two newspaper articles — the first was in *The New York Times* and the second was in *The Sunday Times* (London). Both articles were about Brian Sykes and Oxford Ancestors. My 84-year-old father was my inspiration to launch the project. He is the last surviving male in his

immediate McCarthy family (no brothers, uncles, sons or male first cousins). [Cliff:] My first exposure was to Brian Sykes as well — a workshop at the GENTECH conference, followed by reading his book, *The Seven Daughters of Eve*.

Rose: A short press release in the *Vancouver Sun* written by Bryan Sykes of Oxford in February 2000, describing his study of the Sykes family. Several researchers for a century in my own family had been unable to get past one Samuel Rose, a United Empire Loyalist, and this caught my eye. Myself and Kathleen Rose (a distant cousin) researched the subject over an extended period, and eventually decided to grab the ball and run with it. Prior to the fall of 2001, we felt the science may not have progressed sufficiently to expect good results with limited funds. At that point we decided to attack our particular problem by sponsoring eight tests with carefully selected people of known ancestry that could possibly be related to our ancestor. At the time, we certainly expected to have to do (and planned) a couple rounds of this nature, but we were lucky enough to hit the jackpot with our first batch. Although the writing was already on the wall, we did several follow-up tests to confirm the findings soon after.

Hull: When Richard Steadham, Coordinator of the Stidham Surname DNA Project, called me in late 2000 to ask me if I would be willing to financially support my Stidham second cousin twice removed in a DNA study, I was intrigued. After Steadham explained what DNA testing was capable of accomplishing and the possibilities that it held for unlocking genealogical clues, I was smitten.

Spencer: A cousin, now deceased, and I had discussed DNA testing in general several years ago to help unlock our brick-wall ancestors. When I read Dick Eastman's very first article about it (in which he mentioned Family Tree DNA in Houston), I phoned a cousin in Houston and she went and visited in person with the

owner. We were off and running after that.

What Was Your Purpose in DNA Testing?

Although the motivation for starting a project was sometimes intertwined with its purpose, I explicitly asked each of the administrators what they hoped to achieve through the testing.

McCarthy: The main focus is to see if patterns will emerge that can be associated with specific branches of the McCarthy Clan. A secondary focus is to see if these emerging



The website of the Rose DNA Study, maintained by The Rose Family Association.

patterns are localized in certain geographic areas of Ireland. Results might facilitate one's research by focusing his/her efforts in a specific area of an Irish county. And I think it's fair to say that a third purpose is to help participants make connections to others within their branch of the McCarthy Clan.

Rose: The initial purpose was limited to shedding some light on the Samuel Rose situation, but as soon as such swift and definitive results were obtained and published in the *Rose Family Bulletin*, many from other Rose families wanted to participate and build on the success. The Rose Family Association strongly urged us to open it up to all with the surname, and began soliciting people to submit samples. We handle it now on a volunteer basis for the Association. Our focus ever since then has been to identify any relationships between earlier Roses, to uncover any evidence of geographic origins, and to provide a focus for participants to research their own branches.

Hull: The purpose for doing a DNA study in the beginning was to find out who is related to whom and to help Hull genealogists to climb over brickwalls. It soon became obvious that we would be building a reference library, so to speak. By performing Y-DNA tests on males with the Hull surname, we are building a database with the various Hull lines, grouping them by their DNA signatures. As these DNA signature groups are formed, we will be able to compare the lineage of individuals with the lineage of others in the same group in the hope of finding links between the various Hull families. As more people are tested, more Hull family DNA signatures are found, and as we continue to gather traditional documentation, Hulls will eventually be able to identify their immigrant ancestors or further extend their lineages.

Spencer: To learn if there were genetic connections among several unconnected lines, and to provide pointers for further research on our several brickwall ancestors, all of whom had the same surname and were in close proximity at various times in the past.

How Do You Recruit Participants? Because it is still relatively new and there are a lot of misconceptions about DNA testing, I was especially interested to hear how each of the project managers recruited participants.

McCarthy: The McCarthy Surname Study is open to all McCarthy/McCarty/MacCarthy, etc. males. We sent letters to all members of The Clan MacCarthy Society and have information posted on The Clan MacCarthy Society website; sent a direct mailing to all (43) McCarthy males in the Dunmanway area of County Cork, Ireland; sent flyers to the librarian in Dunmanway requesting posting on bulletin boards; wrote to The Irish Ancestral Research Association (Sudbury, MA), The Irish Family History Society (Naas, County Kildare, Ireland), *Irish Roots* magazine (Cork, County Cork, Ireland), New England Historic

Genealogical Society (Boston, MA); Irish Genealogical Society, Int'l. (St. Paul, MN) requesting that our write-up about the study be listed in their publications; placed numerous announcements on genealogy bulletin boards on the Internet; got the study added to Kevin Duerinck's Y-chromosome listing (www.duerinck.com/surname.htmlsite); and, of course, used word of mouth.

Rose: Most participants are now recruited through the efforts of Christine Rose, the *Rose Family Bulletin* and website (ourworld.cs.com/Christine4Rose/rosedna.html).

Others see us mentioned on various genealogy boards, the FTDNA surname list, word of mouth, etc. It is almost essential to have a surname publication that is widespread, at least to grow to the size of our project.

Hull: During the "organizational jitters", I sent 500 letters of introduction, which was not very successful. Fortunately, as a long-time member of the Hull Family Association (HFA), I realized early on that I had a built-in database of potential Hull donors. By working with the HFA and its genealogist, we have been able to seek, find and encourage those Hull men who are known to be related, by way of tradition and/or historical documentation, to Hull progenitors.

Probably, the best communication device is the telephone. For a Hull to talk to another Hull about the "mystery of DNA" and how it can tell them what Hulls they are or are not related to is sometimes like trying to sell someone the San Francisco Bridge. Personal telephone calls allow you to listen to the other person's concerns, show them the logic behind the process, and to dialogue the questions of each individual. Using genealogical message boards (RootsWeb, Ancestry.com, MyFamily.com) for informing people about the technology and the fact that your DNA project exists is also a good way to generate interest.

Spencer: Our participants must be able to prove their lineage back to at least 1850 in order to participate in our study, and they provide their pedigree/ancestor chart to us.

Our DNA study is reported in the quarterly newsletter and updated on the Spencer Historical & Genealogical Society (SHGS) website.

How Do You Share and Explain Results?

Helping participants understand their results can sometimes be rather challenging, so I questioned the coordinators on their tactics for this.

McCarthy: We set up a private, for-participants-only McCarthy Group on AOL so that all participants can interact, share information and ideas, ask questions, etc. We also have a modest website where anonymous results are posted for all participants.

Rose: Upon the completion of each test, the participant is provided with an explanation, as well as any additional meaning that is evident. This includes a list of all in the project that have meaningful similarities to theirs, along with the earliest known ancestry for each of them. E-mail addresses or other means to contact them is also provided. All of those involved in the match are also sent a copy. They are invited to communicate with each other or to ask us questions. Generally, some contact is maintained, and they are kept posted by the website and the *Rose Family Bulletin*.

Hull: One of the criteria at the beginning of the project was that we would communicate results and information on a website. This easy-access method keeps everybody informed and allows others to reach donors. I do, however, have some individuals who are not netizens, so I stay in touch with them by telephone. As I previously mentioned, I have the HFA as a mouthpiece for promoting DNA testing and have utilized the *Association Journal* for writing reviews of the Hull DNA Study's progress.

In addition, e-mail broadcast messages are sent to donors and those who have expressed an interest in the study whenever the results are updated or there is new information to share. Moreover, in addition to what the laboratory supplies in the way of interpretation and analysis, each person is

TRACING YOUR IRISH ORIGINS?

www.irishorigins.com

The Definitive version of
**GRIFFITH'S
VALUATION**
available on-line

{ In association with the
National Library of Ireland }

And other exclusive
Irish records on-line

{ • Index of Irish Wills 1484-1858
• William Smith O'Brien Petition }

Try out our Free Irish ancestor search...
visit www.irishorigins.com

IRISH RECORDS ON CD-ROM

- The 1851 Dublin City Census
- Memorials of the Dead
(Galway & Mayo)
- Grenham's Irish Surnames

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

*Eneclann is the premier
genealogical research agency
in the island of Ireland.*



ENECLANN

Eneclann Ltd, Unit 1, Trinity Enterprise Centre,
Pearse Street, Dublin 2, Ireland
T: +35316710338 F: +35316710281
info@eneclann.ie www.eneclann.ie

Partners in:

www.irishorigins.com

given this “amateur’s” opinions. If a donor’s results are straightforward (i.e., perfect matches), I usually detail those results by e-mail. For those donors with no matches or a greater than one-step genetic distance (mutations), I telephone them and personally make sure they are not left with the feeling they have been “rode hard and put away wet”.

Spencer: It seems that most of our participants have a good understanding of the results so little is required of me when their results are available. They want to be off and running with their newly found relations to work together and break through their brickwalls. It is a delight to see unfold!

How Is the Study Paid For?

Although DNA testing can ultimately save participants time and money, many still get “sticker shock” when they first hear the prices, so I asked the administrators how they covered the expenses involved.

McCarthy: Each participant pays for his own testing, although I (note: Barbara) paid for several kits that I received and then mailed to men who were related or suspected of being related.

Rose: As the project started with a very restricted purpose, a small group of us financed the tests. Since expanding to include all of the surname and variations, it has been user-pay only. Because of the limitations on who can be tested, many are “by proxy” — that is, financed by a close relative. In rare circumstances, for a test judged to very important, we solicit funding from a select group of participants who may be affected.

Hull: It is understood up front that this is a “charitable” organization, and that begins with each participant. The participant or his sponsor can pay by invoice at the time the sample is sent to the lab, or they have the option to pay by credit card, which is done directly with the laboratory (FTDNA) billing process. An approach that works quite nicely for the cost-conscious donor or sponsor is to recruit others within their

family to chip in and help pay for the DNA representative for their family line (this is an excellent way for women to participate in a Y-study). And I was blessed with some funding from the HFA that is used after consultation with the HFA genealogist to determine and target “problem” genealogies.

Spencer: Each participant pays for his own test. Some participants



The website of the Hull Surname DNA Study reports on progress and urges others to join.

share the cost with another family member. All of our participants easily recognize that the cost of a DNA test is a bargain compared to a research trip and can save them countless hours of work.

Have There Been Any Surprises?

Sometimes DNA testing confirms hypotheses and sometimes — as with the Smolenyaks — it does the opposite. I wondered whether these studies had produced any surprises, and if so, how they had been handled.

McCarthy: None so far!

Rose: There are many surprises, especially discovering people that are from completely different families or nationalities than may have been anticipated. There also appears to be some non-paternity, many of which in earlier cases may be due to undocumented adoptions. Many of the scientific community estimate this to be in excess of two percent of birth events. Over the 8-10 generations most can trace back paternally, this becomes quite sizeable. Our own data appears to be generally in line with that estimate, although it is not possible to say for certain anyone is of a non-paternity event, as opposed to another independent family. Many

“established genealogies” are certainly challenged by the results, but in few cases does total disbelief or anger follow. Most participants appear to start with open minds, trying to uncover new information, as opposed to confirming their predetermined bias.

Hull: An interesting scenario developed when a donor’s results indicated that he had African-American DNA. At first, this was a shock, but after more reading and consultation on my part with the testing company, I began to see how this might happen; however, it didn’t produce any presidential connections! The sponsor of this particular donor — luckily — was open-minded. After some time had passed, he came back to me with a family story that probably made all of this quite possible.

For those who are familiar with *The Hull Family in America* by Ora Eugene Monnette and Charles Weygant (1913), it is unfortunately filled with many errors. It is a good source for clues, but the lineages must be carefully researched. The Hull Study has proven that some of the tidy Hull lineages that some call “their” family tree are now not genetically linked to certain famous Hull individuals. Also, DNA testing has proven that two Hull immigrant men were brothers and this correlates with those Hulls who lived in the same areas. It genetically ties the ancestry of approximately 400 past and present members of the HFA.

Spencer: Yes — handled with diplomacy and compassion.

Would You Do It Again?

Finally, I asked my panel of experts whether — knowing what they do now — they would do their study again. I also requested their advice for others considering launching a project.

McCarthy: Yes, definitely! We would advise him or her to start off with a small focused project — and to decide later if the project needs to be expanded. Learn as much as you can about DNA testing and the possible benefits. And be patient.

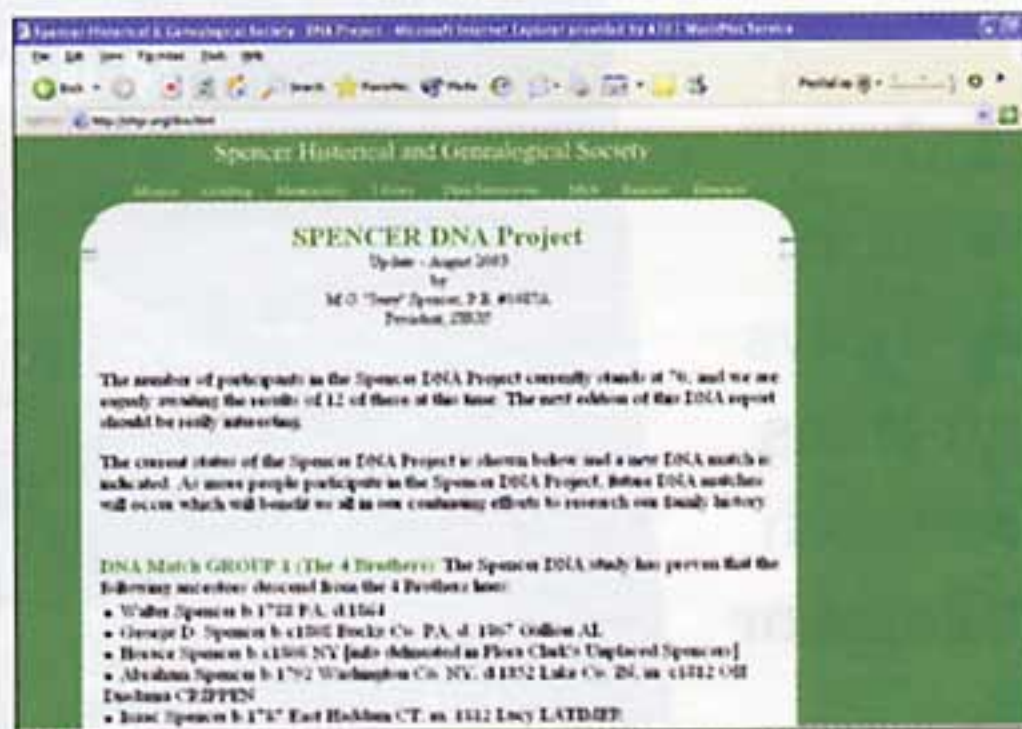
Rose: At the personal level, I have no regrets at all. I am very

happy with what it has provided me, first with rather selfish information, and later with the satisfaction of being involved in new discoveries and helping others. It is most interesting and educational. We are extremely fortunate in having a true expert on all families of the surname available all the time and fully participating. Christine Rose (CG, FASG) provides tremendous insight into the genealogy. She follows up and allows us to focus on the numbers aspect, which is best done somewhat independently of known genealogy. However, the genealogy is absolutely essential to meanings of the numbers.

It is best to start with a narrower focus, and solicit the financial help of those with that particular focus. This allows one to get started, lay the groundwork and obtain some results that can later be used to compare. You can accept tests from others from the outset, but to avoid disappointments, it is better to strongly encourage others only after some initial results are in. As the number of results builds up, it feeds back on success and becomes self-fulfilling to a degree. One should also seek the participation of the best genealogy expert available on the surname.

Hull: Granted, it takes a lot of time, effort and personal resources to be an informative, provocative and helpful DNA project administrator. It is amazing the faith and trust people have in an amateur genealogist who is trying to deal with his own genealogical brick-wall (I haven't had much time to deal with that lately). But I have experienced some of the hurdles that others are experiencing, so I figure — nothing ventured, nothing gained. Rather than be parochial with our research and our experiences, we can collectively do so much, making mistakes and discoveries along this DNA path, in spite of all of the roadblocks. My attitude is: *People of accomplishment rarely sit back and let things happen to them. They go out and happen to things.* It looks like there are others that think the same way. It's my goal to find them!

If I were coaching a potential DNA project coordinator, I would suggest that he or she first write "My Rationale for Doing a DNA Study." If you understand what you want to accomplish, and realize the (your) limitations, then you can easily walk the talk. It is extremely important — a must — that the administrator have a who-what-when-where-and-how DNA



The Spencer DNA Project is still underway and growing.


project map. Most definitely, discuss your plans with more than one DNA laboratory or facilitator. Hook up with a customer-oriented company (we chose FTDNA), and above all, lean on the experience of other DNA project coordinators. Look at Kevin Duerinck's and FTDNA's websites to see a list of many of the current DNA projects in motion. Do not be afraid to ask questions — jump in with both feet — as most coordinators want to share and help.

Spencer: Both of my projects are ongoing, so that answers the question. As to advice, go for it! As I reviewed the responses from 50 project managers, I

couldn't help but notice how often the exact phrase "go for it!" appeared as an answer to my question for advice to others. Respondents were realistic, but uniformly positive, and none regretted launching a DNA project. The overwhelming sense of enthusiasm conveyed by these pioneering project managers makes it clear that DNA testing is here to stay and will probably become an important part of your genealogical arsenal in the not-too-distant future. When you decide to take the leap, I hope you will use the insight offered by Barbara McCarthy, Cliff McCarthy, David W. Brown, James Reynolds Hull, and Sharron Spencer to smooth your way to a successful study.

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, author of Honoring Our Ancestors: Inspiring Stories of the Quest for Our Roots, In Search of Our Ancestors and They Came to America: Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors, can be reached through www.honoringourancestors.com.





WILLOW BEND BOOKS

A Division of Heritage Books, Inc.

65 East Main Street
Westminster, MD 21157-5 26

Phone: 41 -876-61 1 * 8 -876-61 3
FAX: 41 -871-2674
Email: bookorder@WillowBendBooks.com
Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 am-5 pm, Eastern

Thousands of Titles on History, Genealogy & Americana

www.WILLOWBENDBOOKS.COM