

The Greatest Bargain in Genealogy?

Family Chronicle

The Magazine for Families Researching their Roots

The Best Online Databases

December 2004

\$6.95 US

\$7.95 Cdn

Tracking Your Research:

The art and science of using research logs to speed and organize your search

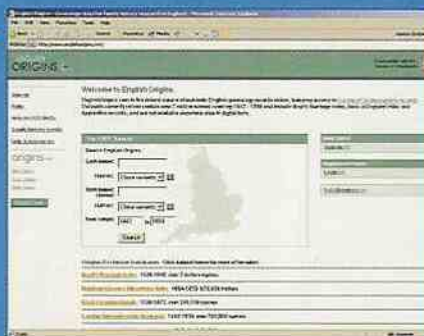


Identifying People in Old Photos:

Tips and tricks for determining the subjects in photos

20 Top English and Welsh Sites:

The most useful sites for research in England and Wales



The Experts Answer:

Professionals share their solutions to tough problems

Evolving Language:

Watch out for terms that have changed meaning over time



Military Pension File Secrets:

How to access the surprising amount of information they contain

Pushing DNA Boundaries:

The newest developments in genetic genealogy

Match	Genetic Relationship	Estimated Shared DNA
John Doe	1st Cousin	~25%
Jane Smith	2nd Cousin	~12.5%
Bob Johnson	3rd Cousin	~6.25%
...

www.familychronicle.com



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

Family Chronicle

The Magazine for Families Researching their Roots



Getting Good Value Online.
Page 11.



Military Pension Files.
Page 17.



Top English and Welsh
Websites. Page 20.



Godfrey Memorial Library
Databases. Page 25.



Identifying People in
Photographs. Page 26.

NEWS AND LETTERS5

RESEARCH RESOURCES8

Products and services for the amateur genealogist.

GETTING GOOD VALUE ONLINE11

Donna Potter Phillips compares the quality of information available on several pay-only sites.

SURPRISING SECRETS FROM MILITARY PENSION FILES17

Cindy Thomson explores what's available in these ancestral military records.

TWENTY ONLINE SOURCES FOR ENGLISH AND WELSH ANCESTRY20

Alan Stewart recommends 20 of the top sites for English and Welsh genealogy research.

GODFREY MEMORIAL LIBRARY ONLINE DATABASES ..25

Halvor Moorshead describes one of the best bargains in the genealogy field.

HOW TO IDENTIFY PEOPLE IN PHOTOGRAPHS26

John M. Hoenig describes how to identify those mystery relatives.

DOCUMENT THE DRAMA30

Barbara Renick shares her insights on how proper documentation can assist your research in an extract from her book *Genealogy 101: How to Trace Your Family's History and Heritage*.

LET YOUR FINGERS DO THE WALKING37

Donna Murray Allen reports that online databases are just a few keystrokes away.

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF GENETIC GENEALOGY41

Megan Smolenyak looks at some of the latest uses for DNA research in genealogy.

THE EXPERTS ANSWER49

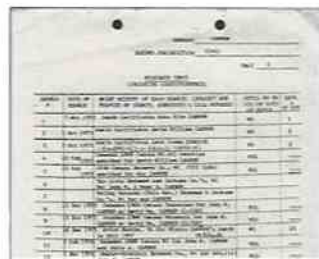
Various genealogy researchers share how they solved some of their favorite research puzzles.

WEBSITES WORTH SURFING60

Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Genealogy Finds, Genealogy Pro, GenAttic.

EVOLVING LANGUAGE62

Donna Murray Allen examines how evolving language can occasionally confuse researchers.



Document the Drama.
Page 30.



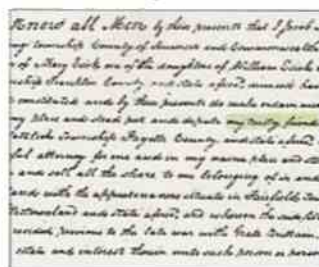
Let Your Fingers Do the
Walking. Page 37.



Pushing the Boundaries of
Genetic Genealogy. Page 41.



The Experts Answer.
Page 49.



Evolving Language.
Page 62.

HANCOCK / HANDCOCK - DNA TEST RESULTS

This is an on-going project and new results will be posted as they are received, so check back often. If you have been to this page before, "Reload" the page to see the latest edition.

Note: Group numbers will be assigned as matches occur.

***The first DNA result, in the table below, is that of John Hancock the SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

HANCOCK / HANDCOCK - DNA Test Results

Click on the Test # to see the Earliest Documented Ancestor of that participant.

Test #	Group #	Earliest Ancestor	Date @ Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
102516	101	John HANCOCK	b. 1691, Boston, Massachusetts, England	...																																				
102517	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102518	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102519	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102520	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102521	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102522	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102523	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102524	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102525	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102526	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102527	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102528	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102529	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102530	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102531	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102532	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102533	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102534	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102535	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102536	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102537	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102538	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102539	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102540	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102541	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102542	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102543	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102544	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102545	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102546	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102547	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102548	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102549	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102550	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102551	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102552	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102553	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102554	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102555	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102556	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102557	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102558	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102559	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102560	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102561	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102562	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102563	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102564	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102565	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102566	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102567	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102568	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102569	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102570	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102571	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102572	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102573	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102574	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102575	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102576	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102577	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102578	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102579	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102580	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102581	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102582	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102583	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102584	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102585	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102586	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102587	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102588	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102589	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102590	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102591	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102592	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102593	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102594	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102595	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102596	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102597	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102598	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102599	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102600	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				

Those believing they share a common ancestor with John Hancock now have a means to find out once and for all.

Adoption

Adoption has always been a research road block for some, but now adoptees have a new means to peek into their ancestral past, even though it doesn't reveal who their parents are. While it's true that we're now seeing the formation of adoption-focused DNA banking services (where the child and birth parents can deposit samples in anticipation of a match someday; see www.the-seeker.com/dna.htm for details), it's also possible for adoptees to use conventional genealogical DNA tests to explore their roots.

For instance, William "Chris" Scott is an adoptee currently in search of his birth father. He has already found his birth mother and five half-siblings through her husband. The siblings all have the same father, but not Scott, since he's the result of an extra-marital affair during WWII.

His mother was alive but in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's when he contacted the family. Sadly, she passed away about 10 days later, so there was no chance for Scott to gather information about his birth father. Through other channels, he was eventually able to learn his

father's name, but it turned out to be a common one: Baker.

Confronted with this situation, Scott decided to take a Y-DNA test to see what, if anything, it might reveal. He was fortunate, as his results are quite rare and point to a Finnish paternal heritage. As he says, "Obviously, this approach will not zero-in on my father *per se*, but it at least gives me a fighting chance to locate him amidst the sea of potential candidates."

Debra Royer is another such adoptee. With dark hair and eyes, she has an exotic look that could pass for Hispanic, Asian or Native American. Testing showed her maternal line to be of Native American origin, and while that may sound hazy to some, it's a relief to one who's wondered all her life. Says Royer, "Learning about part of my heritage was great! I felt like 'somebody' and was thrilled to find answers in a laboratory that I couldn't get from my parents or Social Services. I am real and have a history that goes beyond my expectations."

Genetic Pedigree

Another goal some genealogists are pursuing is the construction of

a genetic pedigree. This is done by obtaining Y-DNA or mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) samples to represent each of the branches of one's family tree back for a selected number of generations. Why do this? Partly to obtain an understanding of your deep ancestry and how and where your ancestors might have migrated thousands of years ago, but also to stand ready for future opportunities.

New studies — especially surname ones — are launched all the time. If you acquire samples now, you'll be first in line for appropriate projects as they start. In fact, I've done this with two of my Irish branches from the maternal half of my pedigree.

And who knows what we might be able to test two, five or 10 years from now? Tracking down assorted cousins with the "right" DNA to represent each of your lines now serves as insurance against a line dying out without genetic representation.

Louis Loccisano's easy-to-follow genetic pedigree (see www.calabriadna.com/Louis-tree.html) is an excellent example. He's already gathered results for just about all his branches back through his great-grandparents, and a few beyond. Yes, it takes both detective and persuasion skills to find and secure the participation of likely testing prospects, but the reward is insight into your geographic origins and the knowledge that you're prepared to take advantage of any new tests that might be developed in the future.

Geographic/Heritage-Based Projects

Since surname projects have been around for about half a decade, it probably shouldn't be surprising that a growing number of people are finding ways to stretch their boundaries. Just as we often extend the scope of our traditional genealogical research to include collateral relatives, neighbors and other community members, the same is now being done with DNA projects. For the most part, such projects have a geographic or heritage-specific focus.

Current ones include:

- Calabria, Italy
- Pennsylvania Deutsch/German (aka Pennsylvania Dutch)
- Scotland and Northumberland
- Anabaptist (including Mennonites, Amish, Brethren, Hutterites, etc.)
- Shetland Islands
- Bahamas
- Welsh Patronymics
- Puerto Rico
- Osturina, Slovakia
- Mexico
- Melungeons

Most of these studies (see www.worldfamilies.net/regional_project.htm for a more complete list) focus on Y-DNA and surnames, and are designed to shed light on the deep ancestral origins of our connections among a select group of people, often associated with a particular territory. The Osturina, Slovakia project, for instance, has revealed that surnames can be a less-than-perfect indicator of shared ancestry in that region, since some participants with the same surname do not match each other, while others with different surnames do. It also demonstrates that even those in an isolated village can have a variety of origins, since participants' haplogroups (which provide evidence of early human migration) are anything but uniform.

Some studies like this also lend themselves to mtDNA research. MtDNA follows the straight maternal line, and since the surname changes with every generation, projects are hard to organize. However, in small closely knit communities, where most people are descendants of a small number of founders, mtDNA may reveal unsuspected links between families with different surnames.

One of the most ambitious projects is Charles Kerchner's Pennsylvania Deutsch/German study, started in March 2003, which stands out because of its goal of obtaining not only Y-DNA, but also mtDNA and BioGeographical data for its partic-

Participant No.	Surname	Y-DNA	mtDNA	Self-identified and Self-Designated	Percentage of Ancestry
577	HERSCHER	H (European)	H (European)	European 100%	European 70%, Asian 20%
712	HERSCHER	H (European)	H (European)	European 100%	European 100%
714	HERSCHER	H (European)	Not Tested	European 100%	European 100%
816	HERSCHER	H (European)	Not Tested	European 100%	European 100%
866	SCHACH	H (European)	H (European)	European 100%	European 100%
1188	HERSCHER	H (European)	H (European)	European 100%	European 100%
1121	FRANZ	Not Tested	Not Tested	European 100%	European 100%
1171	HERSCHER	H (European)	Not Tested	European 100%	European 100%
1300	GARDNER	H (European)	H (European)	European 100%	European 100%

Charles Kerchner's PA Deutsch study shares Y-DNA, mtDNA and BioGeographical results for participants.

ipants (see www.kerchner.com/pa-gerdna.htm). In fact, BioGeographical tests (also known as DNAPrint), which break out an individual's geographic origins into percentages of Indo-European, Sub-Saharan African, Native American and East Asian, are the first priority in this project. On his website, Kerchner delineates his theory-hypothesis "That a significant percentage of people, or sub-groups, within the Pennsylvania Deutsch/German (aka PA Dutch) ethnic group may have a significant average percentage, but not dominant percentage, of Asian genetic content in their genome, of non-recent origin in a genealogist's time frame, possibly harbored in their genome from the major invasions of southern Germany by tribes from Asia such as the Huns and Mongol hordes which invaded Europe at various times during the period of 1,600-1,700 years ago, or of even older more ancient origin. Data collected by this project, and subsequent analysis, will attempt to prove or disprove this hypothesis and/or will be used to try and get an anthropologist or population geneticist to look at this possible discovery about the PA Deutsch in greater detail."

To this end, the project is seeking participants who self-identify as being of Pennsylvania Deutsch origin and can document at least 62.5 percent Pennsylvania Deutsch ancestry (that is, at least five of eight great-grandparents).

Keep On Pushing

Kerchner refers to his undertaking as anthrogenealogy, an appropriate term (originally coined by Family Tree DNA), since projects such as his are blurring the lines between genealogy and anthropology. And anytime you have to dream up a new word or borrow a freshly minted one to capture what you're doing, it's clear that you're in pioneering territory. Here's hoping that avid genetologists continue to play with the possibilities and develop new methodologies for all of us.

Megan Smolensky Smolensky, co-author of *Trace Your Roots with DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree*, can be reached through www.genetealogy.com.

Testing referred to in this article was performed by Family Tree DNA, Trace Genetics, Relative Genetics and DNA Heritage.

