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A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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A Personal Odyssey

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Family history is a great adventure, and one which provides entertainment, enlightenment, and often surprises. We all start with the question, "Who are we?" and "Where did we come from?" Given the advances provided by family resources, travel, availability of records, and the internet, most of us can easily embark on this grand adventure. Designing a research strategy specific to one's own family is the place to start. Recording everything is important, as it will avoid having to retrace steps. (We all have had to do that anyway!)

From the time a person becomes aware of family relationships, the questions start. A child asks about grandparents, aunts and uncles, and other relatives. Family bibles often have invaluable information, as over time, families often gave bibles as wedding presents, and family information was recorded. If there is a large family, all this information becomes exponential, and a lifetime can be spent in exploring all these relationships.

For the "newbie," the place to start is with oneself, collecting all the records, such birth certificate, baptism and confirmation records, social security, school records, marriage certificate, and those pertaining to one's family. With marriage and the growth of one's family, some of these records will become more and more important, and will often be necessary for varying reasons, such as enrolling children in school, and obtaining passports.

Records pertaining to parents and grandparents are also important, and these documents are the main sources of the second level of family information. From there, various resources can be researched, such as court records, including wills, administrations of estates, and land records, tax records, censuses, and miscellaneous records for agreements, judgments, bankruptcy, and more.

Putting together a family history generation by generation is enhanced by stories provided by each member of a family, and provides information and clues where to search for validation of the information. Don't overlook asking about old letters, diaries, autograph books (often a gift to a teenager, who then asked family members to sign it, with dates and places where family members were). Unfortunately, some family memories are faulty, and finding documentation helps by ordering the information.

My parents were each the last in large families and their siblings were grown with families of their own by the time my sister and I came along. My mother was the youngest of nine children, and had nieces and nephews older than she. Her mother was the eldest of 14, was married and had children older than her youngest siblings. My father was the youngest of five children, and his father was the third of nine children in two families. So, in just three generations, I had a mountain of information to compile. Family memories helped me to organize and collect everything. Where memories differed or failed, access to records helped to fill in the gaps. I have found, however, that sometimes there are no answers to all the questions. At the time of the American Revolution, for instance, losses of records

led to dead ends. Sadly, court house fires are another problem, as important records were lost and irretrievable.

Other resources for research include local, regional, and state libraries, access to which are often on-line: The Mormon (LDS) Stake libraries, historical societies, family associations, and for the past few years, various internet web sites, such as state GenWebs (Genealogical web site), and the Mormon resources such the International Genealogical Index (IGI). Joining a genealogical group will provide a wealth of information about doing family research. Many public libraries offer cost free access to research resources, such as Heritage.com and Ancestry.com. Don't forget to search for country histories where the families lived. Many were "subscribed" and included lengthy individual and family histories.

Travel is a great aid to family research. Finding distant relatives is a wonderful way to make new friends and renew family links. Often, those families will have pictures, records and stories different than those of one's own family. Each new contact provides a widening circle of research possibilities.

It's extremely interesting to locate areas where family members lived, worked, attended church, married, had children and died. Churches and cemeteries (and their records) are great sources of information, as well as providing a tangible record in pictures. Here again there are libraries and research resources different than your own.

"Family historying" can provide a lifetime adventure, and one will never be lonely.

Continuing on with the issue of genetic research…

For those of you who have just been introduced to the world of genetic research… please don't get discouraged. The study can seem complicated, but it really is no more complicated than a roadmap. Most of us lack the tools to conduct this kind of analysis, but there are those that do possess the skills necessary.

Genetics & Genealogy – An Introduction.

This is the second part of a two part article, the first part having been published in the Fall 2008 issue of the Thayer Quarterly. This part, as well as the first part were written by Charles F. Kirchner, Jr., and it's important to note © 2001-2008.
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The Mitochondria DNA Test (mtDNA)

The mtDNA test looks at the DNA of the mitochondria, a special part of all-human cells, which is passed on, female-to-child, and inherited down the female line. It is generally used to study long-term population developments such as human migrations. It is a favorite genetic tool of Anthropologists. Your Mitochondria DNA sequence test is compared to a standard reference called the Cambridge Reference Sequence (CRS). The Mitochondria DNA (mtDNA) test can reveal detail about the distant origins and deep ancestry haplogroup of your direct line maternal ancestors and could be used to link individuals via the female line. The mtDNA test will also determine your maternal Haplogroup and the area of the world where that direct female ancestor is thought to have lived. However, for genealogical purposes, even if you are tested with the enhanced/refined or so-called mtDNA Plus test, it not as precise in resolution of time to Most Recent Common Ancestor as the male Y-DNA test, and since the female line birth/maiden names quickly get lost in history, the mtDNA test is thus generally not as useful for genealogical purposes as the Y-DNA test. But it can be used to confirm scientifically that two people share a common female direct maternal line ancestor if one is suspected via traditional genealogical research. MtDNA has been extensively studied for over 20 years and is used quite extensively for anthropological studies. Interesting migration maps have been created to show the spread of different female lines throughout the world. A new mtDNA is now available which sequences the whole mtDNA molecule. This test is called the Full Sequence Test (FST) and is also known as the Full Genome Sequence (FGS) test. Since the FST sequences the whole mtDNA molecule anyone

thinking of doing this new FST test should understand that not only will it reveal your genetic genealogy markers but it also will potentially reveal medically relevant information in the gene regions of the mtDNA molecule. Thus you should consult carefully with the testing company to be sure that is what you want before ordering an mtDNA Full Sequence Test.

The SNP (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) or 'snip' Test

A deep and ancient ancestry haplogroup affiliation determination and confirmation DNA test. It tests for known variations in the nucleotide allele at an exact specified nucleotide position in the human DNA genome. These single letter changes in our DNA sequence occurred over time many thousands of years ago and are indicative of the major groups of human populations called haplogroups. These singular nucleotide allele variations in the human genome DNA sequence (a base A becomes the base T, a base A becomes a G, or other similar variations) occur at a frequency of about one in every 1,000 bases in the genome. When a change, i.e., mutation is observed at a nucleotide position it is called a polymorphism, which literally means many forms. But in the case of the nucleotides looked at with SNP tests there are usually only two forms, the original base letter and the more recent mutated base letter such as the A at that location becomes a T. These single nucleotide variations are used to determine very deep ancestry inheritance in groups and clades of people over long periods of time and the evolution of the human genome over time. SNP is pronounced "snip". SNPs are used to plot the phylogenetic tree which shows the relationship of all current human haplogroups to the original ancestor who walked out of Africa. For a Y chromosome phylogenetic tree examples see: "http://www.familytreedna.com/haplotree.html" and "http://www.isogg.org/tree/index.html".The

BioGeographical Ancestry (BGA) DNA Test (atDNA)

The BioGeographical (BGA) Ancestry Test marketed under the trade name of DNAPrint is the latest DNA test available for the use of the genealogist. It examines Ancestry Informative Markers (AIMs) found in the autosomal chromosome pairs (atDNA) inherited from the father and mother, who in turn got them from their mothers and fathers, and so on back into time. Certain marker allele values occur at higher frequency in one population group as compared to another population group. By determining which AIM allele value results one has at about 71 marker locations in one's autosomal chromosomes and then running those marker data results through DNAPrint's proprietary computer algorithm, DNAPrint provides you with a report of your population group genetic mixture expressed as percentages divided by this company into 4 major population groups identified by DNAPrint: Indo-European, East Asian, Native American, and Sub-Saharan African. The sum of these four percentage allocations to each population group of course must add up to 100%. One could test out as 100,0,0,0 or 0,0,0,100, or 79,21,0,0, or 80,10,5,5, etc. One could be found to be genetically placed all in one group, or alternatively mostly in one group and with some minority percentage of one or more of the other groups, or with some content from all four groups. Which ever group result shows more than 50% content is called the dominant population group. While the test claims it can allocate your genetic material origin to various population groups, the test cannot differentiate between whether the markers are from recent (in a genealogical time frame) or from ancient times. Thus the BGA test results cannot be used in a vacuum and must be used in conjunction with other genealogical evidence when used for genealogical purposes. For example, a genealogist could use this test to help prove or disprove a rumor or family legend which is alleged to have occurred in your genealogically recent family tree that a grandparent, great-grandparent, or gg-grandparent was of a different population group then the dominant population group of one's family tree. This BGA test can also be used to detect minority admixture markers in one's genome derived from ancient sources, and thus also can be used for anthropological projects. See this website for an example of using the BGA test: "http://www.kerchner.com/pa-gerdna.htm".

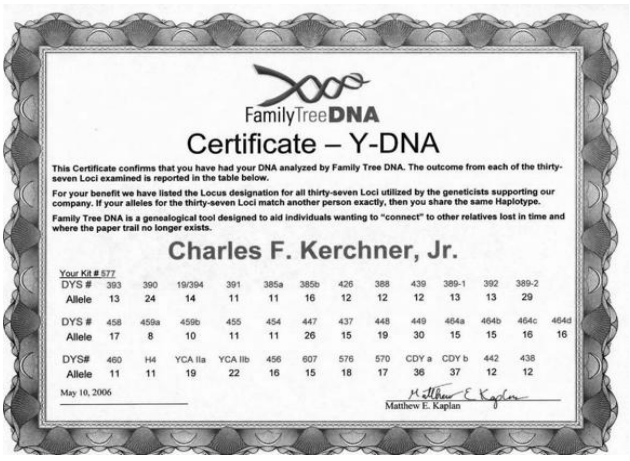
What Does DNA Test Kit and Test Results Look Like? Prices?

The typical DNA specimen collection test kit comes in a small envelope and usually consists of two swabs which look like tooth brushes. No needles or blood samples are used. Detailed instructions for the use of the swabs is included but basically these sterile swabs are used to swab the inner lining of your cheeks for about 30 seconds to gather cells for DNA testing. It is simple and totally painless. There are also vials containing a preservative liquid in which the swab heads are inserted for return to the test lab. If you are sharing your test results with a database or family project there will also be a simple release form which you must sign to allow the lab to share your results with the database or the family project coordinator.

The Y chromosome Y-DNA test results are a series of numbers which are used to compare your results to others. This is usually a series of 12, 25, 37, 43, or 67 numbers. For the 37 marker Y-DNA test, if the series of 37 numbers for two men being tested is exactly the same, or if only 1 or at most four markers are off by a count of 1 step, and you share the same or a similar surname, then you each are probably closely genetically related in a time frame of genealogical interest, i.e., the last 500 years, and have a recent common male ancestor. If you match exactly 37/37 and share the same or similar sound or meaning surname you probably share a common ancestor within the last 5 generations. The more mismatches the further back in time the common ancestor is likely to be. To get the best estimate as to the time frame the shared common ancestor lived test as many markers as you can afford. I recommend at a minimum of 37. Here is why: "http://www.kerchner.com/zip+4-analogy.htm".

Prices run about $259 for a Y-DNA 37 marker analysis. Group discounts for surname study projects are available from most test labs. Prices are dropping every year as more and more people are being tested and economies of scale are being introduced by the testing labs.

Figure 4 - Picture of DNA Specimen Collection Kit
Credits: Picture Courtesy of FamilyTreeDNA.



FamilyTreeDNA

Certificate – Y-DNA

This Certificate confirms that you have had your DNA analyzed by Family Tree DNA. The outcome from each of the thirty-seven Loci examined is reported in the table below.

For your benefit we have listed the Locus designation for all thirty-seven Loci utilized by the geneticists supporting our company. If your alleles for the thirty-seven Loci match another person exactly, then you share the same Haplotype.

Family Tree DNA is a genealogical tool designed to aid individuals wanting to "connect" to other relatives lost in time and where the paper trail no longer exists.

Charles F. Kerchner, Jr.

Your Kit # 577

DYS #	393	390	19/394	391	385a	385b	426	388	439	389-1	392	389-2		
Allele	13	24	14	11	11	16	12	12	12	13	13	29		
DYS #	458	459a	459b	455	454	447	437	448	449	464a	464b	464c	464d	
Allele	17	8	10	11	11	26	15	19	30	15	15	16	16	
DYS#	460	H4	YCA IIa	YCA IIb	456	607	576	570	CDY a	CDY b	442	438		
Allele	11	11	19	22	16	15	18	17	36	37	12	12		

May 10, 2006

Matthew E. Kaplan

Figure 5 – Typical 37 Marker Y-DNA Test Results Certificate

What Are The Rewards And Risks of DNA Testing?

The rewards from DNA testing are obvious for the genealogist…those being, to either confirm or rebuke the theory that two people are related through a common ancestor. The value in this is immense…given the amount of time and expense that most genealogical enthusiasts spend on this consuming hobby. Why travel to Germany or England to search for records of people who might be related to you when you can insure that each hour spent will be invested on record collecting for absolute members of your extended family.

While the rewards can be great, i.e., confirming that needle in the haystack, the risks can be daunting as well. In practically every family reconstruction project an example of a 'surprise negative' becomes visible. These unexpected events arise when two known relatives show up as not matching, and I'm not talking about being off by 1 or 2 data point steps, but by many data point steps on many markers when comparing haplotypes even to the point of being in different deep ancestry haplogroups, i.e., no likelihood of a common ancestor for thousands of years back in time. Some reasons for these sometimes embarrassing surprises are:

A. Prior research error. The prior historical genealogical research of earlier family members, county histories, or lineage societies, etc., is simply wrong.
B. Unannounced and hidden adoptions. Many times in the past a calamity would take place and a neighboring youth would be raised by a family. Or maybe some couple was childless and someone arranged an "adoption" but no one was told about it nor was it written down. Thus the child was given the surname of the 'adopted' family as he/she was raised as one of their own.
C. False Paternity Event aka Non-paternity Event. The biological father was different from the historically known father and/or legally recorded father and no one until now knew or if they knew they were not talking about it.
D. Family name change. An ancestor decided to change their name and adopt the surname of another family in their original area of residence and then moved away. This could have been done because they didn't like their real surname or maybe because they liked the other surname and decided to use that name to start a new life. This is sometimes seen in history with people adopting the names of famous or rich deceased people and then pretending to be a descendant and heir to that family line.

The incidence of some of these situations over the generations is estimated to average between 2-5% PER GENERATION by population geneticists. When results come back and a surprise negative is found it can be a very delicate situation for a family to deal with. If a re-construction project is underway within the family, after a re-test of the individual(s) is completed to double confirm the surprise negative, this is the time for the "Family Coordinator" to sit down and have a polite but open, frank discussion with the person who is surprised by the results and talk about how they would like these facts treated. Every situation is different and different people will react to such information in very different ways. Therefore, great care must be taken in presenting such information when doing a family re-construction project.

Case Studies

Kerchner—An evolving project which used DNA testing to establish a Y-DNA haplotype profile for the male descendants of the immigrant Adam Kerchner, who arrived in PA in 1741 on the ship Thane of Fife and then compare those results with the haplotypes of other Kerchner lines to see if they are related. This initial step took courage since there is always the possibility of surprise results. But it turned out well. The 5th and 2nd cousin tests positively confirmed the historical genealogical records and research for this clan of Kerchners and known descendants. Once a proven ancestral haplotype profile was established for Adam Kerchner's clan, this ancestral haplotype could then be used as a reference to see if Adam Kerchner's descendants were biologically related to other male Kerchner clan descendants such as the male descendants of the immigrant Frederick Kerchner, who arrived in PA in 1751 on the ship Brothers. Some researchers have theorized they were related. Both immigrants settled in the same geographic area, Hereford Township and Longswamp Township area of Berks Co PA, and the early family and historical records of the two families are often confused. The immigrant Frederick Kerchner and his family moved from the Berks County PA area to the Bedford County PA area in the late 1700's. While there is no known historical, legal or church inter-relationship between the families, the two families used similar given

names and it was thought by many researchers that the two immigrants could be closely related, possibly cousins or maybe even brothers. Initial Y-DNA testing of one recorded descendant of the 1751 immigrant Frederick Kerchner was done. The very early, initial results did not completely confirm or disprove the theory. Since only 12 markers were used and we did not get an exact match at that resolution, we could not say for sure he was closely related or that he was not closely related. In the absence of an exact match, or a large mismatch, a 12 marker test is just not clear enough. Thus the initial tests did not conclusively prove or disprove that he was recently related to the 1741 immigrant Adam Kerchner. The 12 marker haplotype of the descendant tested of the immigrant Frederick Kerchner were off by two steps from the Adam Kerchner 12 marker haplotype which is more than would be expected if he was very closely and recently related to Adam Kerchner's line, such as being a brother of Adam when they both arrived in PA. A 12 for 12 match is what is desired or at most a one step variance. However, additional testing of more markers over the next year using newer refined tests plus using a second laboratory yielded a match of 33 markers out of 35 tested. Thus the relationship grew statistically very close indeed. This indicated that Frederick and Adam were indeed related, but probably not brothers. They were most likely first to fourth cousins of each other. See the websites http://www.kerchner.com/kerchdna.htm, http://www.kerchner.com/success.htm, and http://www.kerchner.com/labmerge.htm as well as the Kerchner Surname Project handout for more details about the results and the continuing plans for this Y-DNA surname project.

Thomas Jefferson-Hemings—Used Y-DNA analysis to prove that Thomas Jefferson, or a Jefferson family male blood relative such as an uncle or nephew, fathered children with a slave named Sally Hemings who worked inside the home of Thomas Jefferson. Hand me down stories of the descendants of the slave Sally Hemings stated that Thomas Jefferson was their ancestor. Circumstantial evidence indicated that Thomas Jefferson's and Sally Hemings had the opportunity for an intimate relationship since she lived in the home of Thomas Jefferson and she traveled and lived with him in Europe during diplomatic visits. Now the new Y-DNA tests confirm the merits of the Sally Hemings descendants' family oral history and other historical evidence. For more information see the Associated Press story by Malcolm Ritter printed in the Sunday, 1 November 1998 issue of the Morning Call newspaper. Many more details about this Thomas Jefferson DNA project can be found on the Internet using search engines such as Google.com by searching under the key words "Thomas Jefferson DNA Project". Here is the address for a website I found particularly succinct in describing the Jefferson-Hemings history and Y-DNA analysis and results: "http://www.monticello.org/plantation/hemingscontro/dnareport4.html".

Mumma—Used Y-DNA testing to prove that the American Mummas were related to the German Mummahs and then further confirmed that a Swedish family, named Reenstjerna was, in fact related to the German Mummah clan. Family lore had it that the Reenstjerna Clan has been Mummahs and had immigrated to Sweden several hundred years ago; in fact the common ancestor between the Reenstjerna and Mummah families was born in the year of 1541. See website: http://www.mumma.org/DNA.htm for more details. Note: The letters DNA in the website address must be capitalized as shown in the address.

Duerinck—Used Y-DNA testing to prove that the American Duerinck's were related to the Belgium Dierick's. The Duerinck website also has lots of excellent information on using Y-DNA testing and interpreting the results. See website: http://www.duerinck.com/results.html for more details.

Melungeon—Current studies are underway to attempt to decipher the exact background of the Melungeon, a group of people that are alleged to have inhabited the Tennessee Valley of the Appalachian Mountains for about 400 years. Their exact background and origin is not known with certainty. Also who are and are not Melungeon descendants is not known with certainty. It is reported by some that the people who became known as the Melungeon came to the New World from somewhere in the Mediterranean or Europe

before the English settlements in Virginia. Some researchers also state that early English explorers discovered them living in the Tennessee Valley of the Appalachian Mountains around 1654. See website: http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~mtnties/definition.html for more details.

Sorenson Foundation Molecular Genealogy Research Project (MGRP)—The goal of the MGRP is to build a database of genetic markers that will, in the future, be used to answer genealogical questions that cannot be answered using normal genealogical research methods. The Project plans to collect 100,000 samples from people around the world. The samples will be analyzed and the results will be related to the four-generation pedigree chart submitted with each sample. These 100,000 individual samples will be organized into approximately 500 population subgroups. At some time, several years, in the future a person will be able to submit a DNA sample for analysis and comparison to this large database to determine the probable geographic location of your genetic ancestry based on the similarities in your genetic markers when compared to the genetic markers of the 500 population subgroups. See website: http://smgf.org/ for more details.

PA Deutsch Ethnic Group DNA Project—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 1600-700 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. See the webpage for more details: "http://www.kerchner.com/pa-gerdna.htm".

Frequently Asked Questions

Note: I have chosen FamilyTreeDNA.com as the testing service company for my Kerchner Y-DNA Project however similar procedures and results can be achieved with other companies. Here are some FAQ questions and answers they provided me to share with you.

When should I use genetic testing services?

When you want prove or disprove a surmised genealogical relationship which you are unable to resolve with existing historical and genealogical evidence. You may also decide to use genetic testing to scientifically confirm the known genealogical relationship between distant cousin branches as a further proof of the relationship and the validity of your research. You may also wish to contribute your DNA sample to the various DNA database libraries to build the library of known DNA marker profiles to potentially help others and using the principle of serendipity that someone, someday, somewhere will match your profile and you will find new previously unknown cousins. Used in conjunction with existing genealogical records, DNA testing helps you break down brick walls and fill in the gaps in proving or disproving assertions where little or no written historical records or other traditional genealogical evidence exists to support the assertions. As an example, DNA testing can determine and prove descent from your father's father's father or your mother's mother's mother. That means in the case of an individual's great-grandparent's generation, we can determine and prove a link to two of your eight great-grandparents, and so on back into time along the direct male and direct female lines. You can, however, also determine some other type family links by obtaining DNA samples from your male and female cousins. Contact www.FamilyTreeDNA.com for more details on exactly what genealogical information can and cannot be determined by testing samples from various individuals in your tree.

What steps does Family Tree DNA take to keep my results confidential?

Your privacy is assured because the testing facility will not have access to your name.

Only your unique Kit ID number will accompany your collection tube to the testing lab. The computer-generated number is the only information about you that the testing facility will see. Once your test has been completed, the results will be entered in a secure non-web-based database, and the lab will inform us of any matches between two coded numbers. The information placed in FTDNA's Surnames Database Library will only display your last name on their web site. However, if you authorize it and sign the release form, you can have your contact name and email address displayed for those who exactly or closely match your test results so they can contact you. No other specific information about you will be available at the web site.

Suppose I have a distant cousin in another country and we both send our specimens separately, how will you know that we want to confirm our family connections?

Unless you ordered together or sent in your samples together the testing company wouldn't know that you wanted to share results with each other. However sharing results is not a problem if you sign the simple release form included with every test kit. When the release form is signed FTDNA can then automatically release specific contact information to you and other people who have an exact match to you. If you are specifically testing with another individual, just send FamilyTreeDNA.com an email after you place your order notifying them of that fact.

I am researching a family with many distinct branches. How many people from each branch should I use?

This is an important and very practical question that speaks to the heart of genealogical testing and research. The chance that a match does not exist due to infidelity or unreported adoptions occurs 2%-5% of the time per generation. For families trying to do family reconstruction, it is prudent to test at least 2 different known male cousins from each different branch. In cases of unexpected results, FTDNA will retest you at no charge to confirm that a lab error is not an issue.

Does the genetic marker analysis shows that I may carry a problematic gene, and if so, will I be informed?

No your genealogical DNA test would not show that information and thus you could not be informed since medically related information is not revealed by genealogical DNA testing. The testing lab would not know you show positive for a genetic disease, as the lab is only testing your DNA and looking at 12/25/37 specific loci on the Y Chromosome, or in the case of the mtDNA, the markers associated with that test, which are located at different positions on your DNA molecule than where the genes for known gene related diseases are located. Genetic Genealogy DNA markers are located in the vast areas of "junk DNA" in between the genes.

Will I have the right to remove my genetic profile from the database at some later time?

Yes. Similar to an email list, if you decide that you want your data deleted from the database, you email FamilyTreeDNA.com, they will look up you ID number, and delete it from the Database. It is a good idea to write down where you can find it, the ID number and sample code of your test kit for convenient future reference.

How is the test performed?

You do the test yourself in your home. No blood is used. Your genetic test kit consists of two cheek scrapers and collection tubes. In about five minutes, you will be able to read the instructions and perform the painless inner cheek scraping. The effect of using the scraper is about the same as brushing your cheek with a soft bristle toothbrush. The second scraper and tube is included so you may take two samples to insure that a good sample is obtained by our lab. You should always use both scrapers and submit the two samples. You also need to sign the simple release form enclosed with the kit if you wish to share your results with their database and/or a surname project coordinator.

How much do these tests offered by Family Tree DNA cost?

The newest "Paternal Line 37 Marker Match" (using Y-DNA) is priced at $259. And the lower cost basic "Paternal line 12 Marker Match" is priced at $149. The high precision 67 marker test is $349. At a minimum the 37 marker test is recommended since it provides more information and precision when comparing individual's results for genealogical uses. The basic "Maternal Line Match" (using mtDNA) is priced at $129 each. An enhanced maternal line mtDNA Plus test is available for $189. Also offered is a combined 37 Marker Y-DNA and mtDNA Plus test which combines both tests above (for males who want to test both their father's, father's, father's Y-DNA lineage and their mother's, mother's, mother's mtDNA lineage). The combined test is $389 and is worth considering if funds are available and you want to learn what you can about your direct paternal and direct maternal lines.

FTDNA's also has specialized tests for Native Americans, and are available for either the female or male side. They are designed to tell you from which immigration to the new world your male or female Native American family progenitor arrived. To successfully take this test your lines of descent must be female to female to female (or male to male to male) all the way back to the person who was known to be 100% of Native Ancestry. Contact FamilyTreeDNA.com for prices on the Native American tests.

Also offered is the world's only "Cohanim" test for males of Jewish lineage. Contact FamilyTreeDNA.com for prices on the Cohanim tests for Jewish lineage.

Here is the link to the FTDNA website for more information: "http://www.familytreedna.com/cj.asp?ftdna_ref=114".

Suggested Reading

Trace Your Roots with DNA, by Smolenyak and Turner

Genetic Genealogy DNA Testing Dictionary, by Charles Kerchner

The Seven Daughters of Eve, by Bryan Sykes

Reflections of Our Past: How Human History is Revealed in Our Genes,
by John H. Relethford

Function of the Human Body, 4th Edition, by Arthur Guyton, M.D.

How to DNA Test Our Family Relationships?, by Carmichael & Kuklin

DNA For Family Historians, by Alan Savin (excellent for beginners)

The http://www.FamilyTreeDNA.com website. Lots of good information.

My DNA Testing Info and Resources webpage at: http://www.kerchner.com/dna-info.htm

The above books can be ordered via links in my Kerchner Y-DNA and DNA-Info websites:

http://www.kerchner.com/books/dnabooks.htm

http://www.kerchner.com/kerchdna.htm

http://www.kerchner.com/dna-info.htm

http://www.geneticgenealogydictionary.com/

Further information can be found on Charles's DNA Testing and Information Website at:

www.kerchner.com/dna-info.htm

An "Unburied Thayer"
Contributed by Patricia Thayer Muno.

From Debbie Joy Thayer, 26 June 2008:

I have written to you before with Thayer information that I have discovered in my cemetery travels. Now I have a different reason for writing.

One of the big news stories in Providence, RI is the skeletal remains being uncovered by drainage from the Rt 37 overpass. There are something like sixty "bodies" that have now been exhumed by the State Archeologist and hundreds more are being left under the overpass where they were buried because they are not likely to be uncovered. These are the people from the State Institution, Work Farm, Poor House, Alms House, whatever you want to call it. The sixty or so are being reburied in another cemetery near the Institution and there will be a memorial service towards the end of the summer. They are looking for living relatives. I asked for a list of names because I still can't find my 3rd great grandfather, Washington THAYER. He was not on the list but a **Lena Edna THAYER** was. She was the daughter of Henry William THAYER and Catherine F GOODELL. She was born 18 Sep 1885 and died 28 Jan 1888. I had little luck getting additional info on line or in the genealogy book so I looked on ThayerFamilies.com in the Unplaced Thayer list for RI and found Henry and Catherine. If they are unplaced, then it is not likely that a living relative can be found. I would like to be a living representative of the TFA and attend the memorial service whenever it is scheduled. I thought that, maybe, some other Thayers would be interested in this.

I am always looking for unplaced Thayers when I do my cemetery visits and I have not found Henry and Catherine. But like Washington, just because I haven't found them doesn't mean they aren't somewhere and I will keep looking.

Debbie's lineage follows: Debbie Joy (Earl Farnum[10], Charles[9], Gideon Stetson[8], Washington[7], William[6], Amasa[5], William[4], Thomas[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER.

The Actress Lorna Thayer

Sent by Patricia Muno

Does anyone know who she is? Is she a Thayer or married to a Thayer? Or is THAYER simply her stage name? The following appeared in The Baltimore Sun 20 June 2005:

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Actress Lorna Thayer, the waitress who memorably refused to let Jack Nicholson order toast in the 1970 movie "Five Easy Pieces," died June 4 [2008] at the Motion Picture and Television Fund retirement home after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was 85.

Her career spanned 40 years during which she appeared in more than 40 motion pictures and had dozens of guest roles on television shows. Most of her work, however, consisted of bit parts. She often was cast in movies credited only as "flower vendor," "warden" or "suntan lady," although she co-starred in the 1956 horror cult favorite "The Beast With a Million Eyes."

It was her testy exchange with Nicholson's character, Bobby Dupea, that made movie history.

The trouble starts when Dupea tries to order wheat toast, which isn't included with the omelet he wants. After trying repeatedly to get around the diner's "no substitutions" policy, he finally tells Thayer's increasingly annoyed waitress to bring him a chicken salad sandwich on wheat toast and to hold the butter, the lettuce, the mayonnaise and the chicken.

When she asks him sarcastically, "You want me to hold the chicken, huh?" he replies, "I want you to hold it between your knees" and sends everything on his table crashing to the floor.

Lorna Thayer in Five Easy Pieces. Photo courtesy Columbia Pictures

Foundation of American history

The following article was contributed by Maxine Martin of Denver CO, while researching the genealogy of her grandmother, Sarah Ann Bennett.

After all, America's founding fathers --- the architects of a system that has brought freedom and prosperity to countless millions --- lived two centuries ago. We are merely the beneficiaries of what they created. *Clifford May.*

By fortunate circumstances, many family histories were found which were put together through interest, time and effort of direct ancestors of Sarah Ann Bennett. These bring to light many interesting facts about the lives and experiences of those early settlers in America. Some of the background, and a few of the details are as follows:

The Mayflower sat in Provincetown Harbor for five weeks, until December 16, 1620, while the pilgrims hurried to build temporary huts. Nearly half of them died during that first winter. By March, however, only the crew wanted to return to England. Indians were friendly, and some, such as Squanto, Samoset, and Massasoit, were very helpful. London investors kept sending more settlers. By 1627, Plymouth had shown that a colony could be self-supporting in New England. A dozen other settlements had sprung up along the coast, mainly fishing ports, on land granted by the Council for New England. Most new settlers came in small groups led by their home minister. Some ancestors of Sarah Ann Bennett who came over in those early days were: Ephraim Kempton, whose brother Manassah came in 1623 on the Anne. Manassah was in Plymouth and Ephraim was in Scituate. Others, and the towns they lived in, were Benjamin Nye and Thomas Tupper, who came on the Abigail and lived in Sandwich, as did John Briggs. William Hayward was in Weymouth and Braintree. Samuel and Fernando Thayer were in Mendon. Benjamin Deland was born in Beverly, and his wife Katherine Hodges was the first teacher in the first school in Salem, the capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Reverend James Keith was in Bridgewater, as well as Thomas Edson, his father-in-law. Peter Worden went to Cape Cod. He was in King Phillip's war. He is buried in the Worden graveyard by Yarmouth Port, which is situated with a view of Cape Cod.

In 1675, a scourge of Indian wars began, called King Phillip's War. King Phillip was the son of Massasoit, but had an English title. The war began as retribution for a trial by the English of an Indian who had killed a settler. The battles and massacres were some of the worst ever in New England, as Phillip ignited all the tribes against the colonies. One town after another was attacked in Massachusetts. Of the 90 towns in New England, 52 were attacked, and 12 were destroyed entirely, including York. Deerfield, Massachusetts was destroyed twice. Many ancestors of Sarah Ann Bennett were affected by these battles. All the inhabitants of Mendon, Massachusetts fled Mendon and went to Braintree during the wars, such as Samuel Hayward and Isaac Thayer, and birth records of six of Fernando Thayer's children were destroyed by fire. The son of Benjamin Nye was killed in the wars. Peter Worden also fought in the wars. Reverend James Keith was influential in saving the life of King Phillips son. Thomas Tupper was a missionary to the Indians, and built a church for them at Sandwich. They came from Martha's Vineyard to attend the church.

Some of the families in the histories of direct ancestors are as follows:

Hayward --- The first Hayward in America was William Hayward, 1612-1659, a mariner, who was born in London about 1612. He married Margery Knight in 1633. He was in Weymouth, Massachusetts in 1643. As a boatman or seaman, he operated a ferry between Braintree and Weymouth. He met his death by drowning "while at his daily work." William's son, Samuel, 1643-1713, married Mehitabel Thompson. He lived in Mendon, Massachusetts, but left during King Phillip's war, when Mendon was abandoned, and the houses burned. During that time he lived in Braintree, Massachusetts. President William Howard Taft was a descendant through William's daughter, Huldah Hayward, who married another direct ancestor, Fernando Thayer, 1625-1713.

Thayer --- Thomas Thayer, 1596-1690, Was from Gloustershire, England. He married Margerie Wheeler in 1618. An interesting bequest in his will in 1664 was, "All firewood for his own burning from a two acre lot for life," to his son Fernando. He added, "If children shall appear to be discontented and murmur at this my last will and testament, then my will and mind is that any such children shall have but five shillings for their portion." Thomas lived in Braintree. A Thayer from Braintree, General Sylvanus Thayer, was the founder of West Point.

Wheeler --- Abell Wheeler in his will typifies the enumerations of the smallest details in the wills of that time. In his will he left, "To Elizabeth a brass pot, to Margery a sheet, etc."

Thayer --- Fernando Thayer, 1625-1713, was one of the largest proprietors of Mendon, Massachusetts and wealthy in those times. His home was a little south of the present center of town on the Providence Road. He held many offices, and his sons became extensive land dealers. Many of them occupied farms in the same name for two hundred years. Six of Fernando's children were born in Mendon, but their birth records were destroyed by fire in King Phillip's War.

Mendon, Massachusetts, where Sarah Ann Bennett was born, was first settled by whites as a plantation in 1662. In 1667 it received town privileges. In 1675 all inhabitants left to go to Braintree, Massachusetts and Weymouth, Massachusetts due to King Phillip's War.

Deland --- There is a Deland Coat-of Arms. Benjamin Deland was born in Beverly, just across from Salem, Massachusetts, b. 1656-60, and he married Katherine Hodges b.1664 m.1681. Benjamin Deland fought in King Phillip's War. His wife, Katherine, taught school in Peabody in 1710, and later she was the first schoolteacher in Salem. Her salary was five pounds, and house was near the Salem Commons.

Nye --- There is a Nye Coat-of Arms. The name Nye was first seen in Denmark about 1250. The name Nye means "new" as the family was new in Denmark when they had left Sweden for Denmark. Lave Nye, first known, was the Bishop of Roskilde 1316. Randof Nye moved to England in 1527. First he lived in Wiltshire, then in Hampshire, then in Sussex. William, his son, was a minister at the parish church of Balance-Horned. Thomas Nye had a brother, Phillip, who attended Oxford and was a celebrated minister in Cromwell's time. He was active in support of parliament during the reign of Charles I.

Benjamin Nye, of these direct Nye ancestors, was the first to come on the new world. He was born in 1620 in Kent England. It is thought he was on the ship Abigail 1635 with Thomas Tupper, another ancestor. The voyage was ten weeks, and due to the outbreak of smallpox, the ship was held in port several days after arrival with its cargo of 220 people and many cattle. Thomas Tupper was fifty years of age at that time, and Benjamin Nye was eighteen years of age. Later, Benjamin married Thomas Tupper's daughter Katherine 1640. Thomas had made at least three prior voyages to America. Both Benjamin and Thomas were left money by a man who died on the Abigail, probably for helping him during his illness. Both men became prominent men in the colonies (as did all these early ancestors) and they both lived in Sandwich, the oldest colony on Cape Cod. Benjamin Nye built a house, sawmills, gristmills, etc. His grandson, Joseph, continued living in the home working in the mills and weaving cloth. About forty acres of the property were kept in the family until about 1924, when the house was given to the state for use as a fish hatchery. In 1962 the Nye family restored some of the property as a memorial to Benjamin Nye. One of Benjamin Nye's sons was killed by the Indians in King Phillip's War. David Nye b.1706, who married Elizabeth Briggs, 1718-1777, was in the Revolutionary War at the age of 69. Five of his six sons also served in the war. David Nye's daughter, Deliverance, was a twin. She married George Kempton.

Tupper --- Thomas Tupper b.1578, was from Sussex, England. Many of his descendants still live in Sussex. Many of his ancestors went to Cambridge. His grandfather went to Cambridge and he was a pastor at Bury, in England. Thomas Tupper was an active Puritan. He conducted religious services, and he was active in missionary work for the Indians, and established a historic church in Sandwich, on Cape

Cod, which was popular among the Indians, who came from Martha's Vineyard and surrounding areas, to attend services. Thomas Tupper was one of the largest landowners in Sandwich. His house, built in 1637, stood for 300 years. It was destroyed by fire in 1921. Thomas died at the age of ninety-eight.

Across from the Town Hall, on Tupper Road in Sandwich, there is a Nye monument. Under an "N" with a circle of leaves around it is the date 1635. The words are, "Erected by the Nye family of America to their ancestor Benjamin Nye and Katherine Tupper his wife. We best serve the interests of posterity by treasuring the memory of our ancestors." Petunias, snapdragons, and marigolds are around the base of the monument.

Briggs --- John Briggs b. 1727, lived in Sandwich. Governor Bradford deeded him seven and one half acres in 1640

Keith --- Rev. James Keith 1644-1719 was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. He attended college there at the expense of a maiden aunt. At the age of eighteen he came to America and while in Boston, he met Dr. Increase Mather (who with his son Cotton Mather were very influential in the early colonies.) Increase Mather was the first president of Harvard, established in 1636. Rev. Keith was put into the church at Bridgewater, Massachusetts on February 18, 1664. He served at Bridgewater for fifty-six years. He had great influence in the colony, and helped save the life of King Phillip's son. He married Susanna Edson b 1640.

Edson --- The Edson family had a Coat-of-Arms. Edburgerie, named for the Edson's, was mentioned three times in the Domesday Book, the first census, which was taken by William the Conqueror after the Norse invasion in 1066. Edburgerie was later called Adderbury. There the earliest identifiable Edson, Thomas Edson, was born in 1480, twelve years before Columbus discovered America. He died about 1540. He was listed as a member of the Church of All Saints.

Membership Chairman Report

Al Morton—Membership Chair

I'm pleased to report that TFA boasts 380 members and affiliates, and is represented in 48 states in the Untied States of America, as well as four other nations: Panama, South Africa, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. Obviously there are Thayers all over the world, and the really fun thing is that we're all related. The annual dues notice will be mailed later this week, and I want to thank all of you who have already paid your 2009 dues. That simple thing saves the Thayer Families Association several dollars in postage.

If anyone has ever wondered where the money goes, here's a snapshot of the Thayer Families Association Treasurer's report on October 27, 2008…

Treasurers Report

Balance to date is $6,075.35
Sept 2008 bills paid:
Randolph Parcel Express: $236.00 for annual box rent and service
Refund: $123.00 to Donald Owen Thayer for meeting which he couldn't attend
Memorial: $200.00 to honor Donna Rose Thayer .
Affordable Printing: Summer Thayer Quarterly, $478.00
Annual Report filing fee to the Commonwealth of MA: $15.00
October deposits of $575.00
Postage of $109.20 for the call for dues mailing.

Upcoming expenses are the Winter Quarterly newsletter, and the inevitable paying of taxes to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for state corporate taxes. Then The Association has to make room for the inevitability of Federal Taxes shortly after the first of the year. These are the sticks and stones of a corporation that continue on a daily basis.

Judith L. Young-Thayer
TFA-Treasurer
Hampton, VA

TFA Director Biography

Amy McGraw

I was lucky enough to be born a Thayer in 1974 and raised in southern California. I graduated from Rancho Cucamonga Community College with an A.A. in dance and Cal Poly Pomona with a B.S. in biology. I moved to Virginia right after graduation and worked in several scientific laboratories. Currently, I work in a forensics laboratory for the Federal Government. Last year I started my own indexing, editing, and writing business. A year ago I was blessed with a wonderful husband and stepson.

My interest in genealogy came from my dad, Dwain Thayer. He was a history teacher and instilled the interest and importance of learning about our ancestors. In high school I began trying to contact random Thayers on the west coast to learn more about all the family connections. I'm so grateful to be a part of an organization that helps us all learn from one another. My family descended from the Thomas Thayer immigrant line.

Unplaced Thayers

In our last newsletter Jerry Thayer asked TFA members to assist in identifying "unplaced" Thayer families who have become roadblocks in his, and Trica Muno's, efforts to continue Thayer research. I volunteered to see what could be located on Isaac Thayer, who lived for a time in a county not far from Houston. The Clayton Genealogical Library in Houston, Texas, provided probate, land, tax and other vital record information. Unfortunately, Isaac Thayer appears to have made an appearance here for just long enough to be enumerated for one year in the census. I enjoyed the hunt, but didn't succeed in finding additional information. We have many such "unplaced" people in our database. Please volunteer to help Jerry and Tricia find out more about individuals and families that lived, and perhaps died, in your area.

President's Words

Recently a TFA member asked "how many individuals live in the United States with the surname Thayer"? I turned to Jerry Thayer, our assistant genealogist to try and discover an answer. Jerry discovered that there are approximately 20,000 people in the United States named Thayer, and that over 80% of the world's population of Thayer folks live here.

I find it humbling, and fascinating, to consider that there are so many families that have a connection to a handful of people that came here so long ago.

Times are uncertain right now. We are concerned about many things; the economy, medical care, etc. These concerns are universal in nature, if we are members of this group called Thayer, or not.

I will be celebrating with friends and family for Christmas and New Year's Day. Whatever your family's traditions, recognize the tie of family that binds us all together.

-----Kate Welton Kuzmich

Officers and Directors of TFA

President: Kate Welton Kuzmich
kwelkuz@earthlink.net

Vice President : Russ Thayer
Cthayer001@roadrunner.com

Secretary : Jim Thayer; jthayer@ipapilot.org

Treasurer : Judy Thayer; jlthayer@aol.com

Directors : Madora Boyd; Peggy Krapf ; Amy McGraw; Will Thayer; Duane Thayer

Thayer Families Association

Annual Dues, New Member & Member Renewal Form

Albert Thayer Morton, Membership Chairman Thayer Families Association 28 S. Main St., Box#313 Randolph, MA 02368-4821

Please fill out this form indicating if you are a New Single Member, New Family Member or Renewal Member and enclose appropriate check or money order made payable to the Association at the address above.

Please enter desired options:
Annual Dues: $20.00 **Single Membership:** _____ **Renewal:** _____

Annual Dues: $30.00 **Family Membership:** _____ **Renewal:** _____

Please note: A family membership consists of two adults of the same household (husband and wife; sisters and or brothers; or any combination of two persons. If you wish to pay dues for more than one year, just multiply the amount times the number of years chosen. Fill out the following and return this application form with your dues as indicated above.

First member name:_____
Second family member name:_____
Number of years desired:_____ X Appropriate Annual Fee ($20 or $30) = Total:_____
Most recent Thayer connection: _____ birth & death dates if known:_____
Earliest known Thayer ancestor:_____ birth & death dates if known:_____
Your Full Name(s) _____

Mailing Address: Number & Street:_____ City,
State:_____ Country, ZIP/Postal Zip Code_____

Telephone number is optional:_____

Are you able to receive, open, and read downloaded files using PDF format? Yes_____ No_____

Preferred format for the Thayer Quarterly newsletter: Electronic in PDF format _____ Paper_____

May we communicate with you via email, for membership or other TFA business? Yes_____ No_____

E-Mail Address: _____

If this is a new application, how did you discover us? _____

Thank you for your membership!

If this is a NEW membership, name of person referring you:

_____

Please mail the completed form and dues to:
Thayer Families Association 28 S. Main St., Box #313 Randolph, MA 02368-4821

THE THAYER QUARTERLY
28 So., Main St., Box #313
Randolph, MA 02368-4821

CONTACTING THE TFA

www.ThayerFamilies.com

For all official business with the TFA, please write the Secretary, James Loren Thayer:

28 So., Main St., Box #313
Randolph, MA 02368-4821
Email: JThayer@ipapilot.org

For genealogical queries, or to find a Family Representative of a particular family, please write:

Patricia Thayer Muno, Thayer Family Historian
3618 North 225 East
North Ogden, UT 84414-2762
Email: HJThayer@aol.com
Please include an SASE if you need a reply.

 Issues are mailed the first week of the month as follows: Winter (Dec); Spring (Mar); Summer (Jun); Fall (Sep). Back issues are available from 1994 to present; some may be a photocopy (Spring 2000 to present is available on CD-ROM in electronic PDF format, please specify paper or CD when ordering). Cost is $2.50 each for members, $5 each for non-members, checks only, payable to TFA. (TFA, 28 So., Main Street, Box #313, Randolph, MA 02368-4821).

ARTICLE SUBMISSION: Your articles, letters to the editor, and comments regarding content are vital to the TQ. Photographs with a light background are appreciated, and can be returned, undamaged, if requested. Digital photos sent via the Internet are also welcome. Send typed articles to the TFA address or email the editor with an attached file containing the article. Articles and submissions may be edited, respectfully, for length and readability. Please provide sources, if applicable. Any topics that are of general interest to members are encouraged, and articles written by the editor at your suggestion or from material you provide, will be credited to you. Deadline for submission to the Spring Issue is February 25, 2009. Please submit to: kwelkuz@earthlink.net.