



HAWKINS WORLDWIDE DNA Project
Newsletter 2005-04
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This Newsletter is addressed as a blind copy to protect individual identities.

Project site: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hawkinsdnaproject/>
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Picture of my Hawkins grandparents Edna (Spaulding) & Harry, and the children Helen, Charles, Kathleen, Lloyd, Bob, my father Harold, and Larry. Picture taken in 1940 at the home farm in Tipton County, Indiana.

If you are not receiving this newsletter with pictures, then I do not have you on the mailing list. This newsletter (with pictures) is posted to our website, where the past six issues are maintained. To view, go to <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hawkinsdnaproject/index.html#Newsletter>.

We had three new Hawkins join our project in April. Number 40 lives in California, number 41 in Mississippi, and number 42 in Oklahoma. Participants in the project live in AL (2), AZ, AR, CA (4), CO (3), FL, IL (3), IN (4), IA, KY (2), MD, MI, MS, MO, NY (2), OH, OK (4), OR, PA (3), TN (3), TX, WA, WV, and London, England.

The counter on our web site has passed 4900 since its inauguration in August of 2003. We have to date identified 19 distinct Hawkins lines.

I find it interesting that in April the Wall Street Journal ran four articles on DNA.

First I'll mention the Q & A under *Ask Personal Journal*: Q – What is the best and least expensive way to store a DNA sample ...in case something happens to me? A – “The easiest way would be to take a Q-tip and swab hard against the inside of your cheek for about 30 seconds, says Robert Shaler ... (article identifies Mr. Shaler)... Let the Q-tip air dry, put it into a self-adhesive envelope (to avoid possible cross-contamination with a licking one, and stick the envelope in a safe deposit box.”

I personally feel this would be a good thing to do for everyone in your family; who knows when/if in the future it might be important to the family. Write on the envelope what it contains, and if you use a licking envelope, be sure that the one doing the licking is the same person as sampled (write on the envelope that it was sealed by the sample donor). A cheek swabbing is the method Family Tree uses with a special swab/comb that you place in a preservation container before the return mailing. I neglected to note the date of this article.

The second (again I failed to note the date) was under *Science Journal*, and was written by Sharon Begley. It doesn't really have anything to do with genealogy, but I thought some of you might be interested. It discusses water fleas, having the same DNA, but some having a “helmet” that makes them tough for a predator to swallow, while others have no such armor. “And the reason is shaking up the world of genetics.” They state that the helmeted fleas come from a lab aquarium to which the scientists added the chemical scent of fish (the fleas main predator), and the fleas without helmets come from an aquarium with no fish in sight (or smell). In other words the fish threat activated a gene to grow the armor in those threatened, but not the water fleas where the threat was absent. The point – “The difference between genetic duplicates reflects the power of environment: It can elicit markedly different traits from the same DNA.” It goes on to discuss studies of different genes that had been associated with specific behavior or effects (aggression, cholesterol levels, etc.), and that it is being discovered having one of these genes does not necessarily mean that it is innate (cause the individual to exhibit the associated result, but that the genes are actually activated (or not activated) by an individuals environment. “...different environments can produce different [traits]from the same genotype...”

The third article, by George Anders relates to the Sorenson foundation, “It would collect small samples of many populations, focusing on the Y chromosome. Once typical profiles for each one were established, people would plug in their own data and figure out what region their forebears along the male line might have come from.” It was decide to get detailed genealogies from those who contributed their DNA. Quoting from the article: “Sorenson scientists are popping up everywhere from California to Cameroon to build a database of human DNA.” A Sorenson company, Relative Genetics, has been established to do the testing. “Eventually, ..., some people would be able to submit their DNA sample and find a connection not just to a region but also to a specific ancestor. To protect donor's privacy, the Sorenson team decided not to release details about anyone born in the past 100 years.” [This policy prevents donors from finding out who their living cousins are. The ability to contact these living cousins, who can potentially provide the gate in the brick wall, is at the very heart of using DNA for genealogical guidance. It is stated that they are thinking about changing that policy.] Mr. Sorenson, an 83 year old multi billionaire, is quoted as saying “The older you get, the more you feel connected with those who came before, ... You even start to hear your dad's voice when you speak.” The Sorenson foundation site is at <http://smgf.org/>.

The fourth article is by Charles Forelle, and was published 13 April. Sponsored by the National Geographic Society and IBM, “the aim is to create the largest and most detailed map of human lineage, one that ‘fills in the twigs of this family tree,’ says Spencer Wells, National Geographic's lead researcher on the project.” “The trick lies in persistent markers left in DNA from generation to generation. ... The hope is that such correlations [of the collected data with different groups] can show the routes early humans traveled, who they met along the way and how societies developed.”

“Anyone around the world with an Internet connection and a credit card can participate in the effort, called the Geographic Project. Starting today the National Geographic will mail out a (test) kit ... for \$99.95... that you send back and you’ll be able to check a web site a few weeks later to see, roughly, where you sit in the human family tree...” “More samples means more detail, and he hopes the project, which will run for five years will get hundreds of thousands of samples...” “...participants in the project may be able to trace their lineage all the way to the particular region their ancestors inhabited some 10,000 years ago, ...” “The task is made possible by a handy fact of genetics...(that most of the Y chromosome, which is present only in men, passes undisturbed [unchanged] directly from father to son. ... Over time, these genes mutate, but only rarely, and the mutations serve as signposts along the migratory path. ... ”For instance, the genetic evidence indicates that about 50,000 years ago, men with a Y chromosome marker known as M168 moved northward from East Africa. About 5,000 years later, this branch produced the M89 mutation on the Arabian peninsula.” For additional information go to <http://www3.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/>.

Family Tree DNA will analyze DNA samples for the National Geographic Project. I asked Bennett Greenspan, the president of Family Tree DNA about the relationship of the National Geographic Project and their surname projects. His response was, “Each Geographic project member will be given a line to FTDNA to join our system and will have the chance then to join a surname project.” Also, current Hawkins project member will be able to submit their results to National Geographic Project with a small contribution fee of \$15–20 (the contribution is not locked in yet).

Quotes from the Genealogy-DNA-List:

DNACousins@aol.com writes: "Do the easy stuff first, then check to see if a DNA test could guide your research, before you spend lots of money on death certificates or lots of hours scrolling through microfilm records."

A reply to the above: “Hear! Hear! I have a couple of participants who took this tack, and both have said it made connections for them that saved them a lot of time and effort.

”In one case, the guy had theory, based on Census data and such that he was related to a family in the same county. Turned out that family was already in our Project -- which was why he did the DNA to begin with. Not related. When there are half a dozen men named John Webb within 5 counties, it saved him a LOT of headaches.

”In the other case, the guy had an oral tradition they were related to a "famous" family of the surname. We had that family DNA documented too. He took the test expecting to match and didn't, and wasn't surprised really. He said he thought his grandfather had been "inflating" the family name. Now he's free to pursue the leads that already looked to him as more probable based on the research he had done easily.” Anne

I would point out that we have had three or four of our Hawkins participants find out that their line was not the one they thought they were related with.

By participating in a Y DNA Project, or sponsoring a participant if you are female, you are making a significant contribution to the knowledge about your surname. Even when your tree ends, you can still discover information about your origin.

To join the project HAWKINS go to http://www.familyreedna.com/surname_join.asp?code=Z47192, where you will receive a discount to the regular test price.

-----Old Stuff-----

“R1b (most of the Hawkins lines) is just too common to settle for a 12-marker test. You'd do well to start with the 25 (or 37) marker test and save time and (a little) money.” If you feel that you can afford only the 12-marker test at the current time, you can use it to confirm a non-relationship. As the sample is maintained for 20 years, you could at a later time have more markers tested.

Testing costs with U.S. companies have fallen for non-US residents. With the dollar having fallen in value as related to other currencies, the cost to interested Hawkins in the U.K., Australia, N.Z., etc. has come down considerably in the past year. Hopefully this will provide some additional encouragement to those in other parts of the world to join our project. After all, it is the Hawkins WORLDWIDE project, and NOW seems a good time.

If you maintain a web site with Hawkins information, please add a link to our Hawkins DNA Project.

Please advise us of any planned Hawkins reunions. We would like to list them indicating the patriarch, place, dates, and any other special information. Consider collecting donations to have some of the most distant cousins in your group tested. Hopefully you have the perfect paper records, but the mutations that occur in the separate lines need to be identified now for succeeding generations. Think about it. Please email me any questions that you might have.

If you know someone that would like to be on the project information mailing list, please send me their name and email and I'll add them. Anyone that desires not to be on the list should request removal.

Feel free to copy this letter to anyone that you feel would have an interest.

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Administrator (No remuneration received for this endeavor.)

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