



HAWKINS WORLDWIDE DNA Project
Newsletter 2005-10
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This Newsletter is addressed as a blind copy to protect individual identities.
Project site: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hawkinsdna/project/>.
Administrator: phil_hawkins@sbcglobal.net {phil_hawkins"at"sbc.... }.



If you are not receiving this newsletter with pictures, then I do not have you on the mailing list. This newsletter (with pictures) will be posted to our website, where the past six issues are maintained.

Picture of my wife (no hair) in Kokomo, Indiana in the summer of 1934.

Finally, a little bit of rain today - only .7" this month to date. It has been a fun month with an Air Force reunion in Austin, TX, and then our 50th class reunion at Butler University in Indiana. It was great to visit with old friends and relive some of those earlier days. Of course - now, I am way behind again.

With this issue, we would like to formally welcome the public participants from the Genographic Project. Members of the Genographic Project now have an option on their Genographic Project Personal Page to join Family Tree DNA. These member's identity number starts with an "N".

Hawkins Family Group-08 is now formed with the exact (25/25) match of a new participant #43037 in Indiana and #13890 in Illinois who has been waiting well over a year for that first match.

We now have 58 participants in our project. We have to date formed eight Family groups, and identified 29 distinct Hawkins lines.

We need YOU! By participating in our Y-DNA project, or sponsoring a participant if you are female, you are making a significant contribution to the knowledge about our Hawkins surname. Even when your tree ends, you can still discover information about your origin. Please give some serious thought as to how you can contribute to this meaningful project.

Last month we discussed TMRCA (Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor) and MRCA. Following is an email by John Blair that appeared in the ongoing ICOGG internet forum. The comment in it *is my insertion*.

Testing DNA is a very exact science and extremely reliable and accurate. Test results themselves are almost always correct. But what do the test results mean? By themselves they mean very little. It is only by comparing them to other test results that they take on any meaning for genealogists. The only way to derive information by comparing test results is to make assumptions and use statistical analysis. Mutation rates are a key component of computing TMRCA but no one really knows what the mutation rates are and there are several different estimates of the average mutation rate. There are also different ways of counting mutations and each produces it's own TMRCA. Statistic analysis by it's very nature can only provide a range of probabilities. All these factors introduces a great deal of uncertainty into the analysis of DNA test results. So where does that leave us?

Y-DNA testing is just another tool to be used by genealogical researchers. A tool to help us support or refute existing paper trails, break through brick walls, and hopefully connect and steer researchers in the right direction. Y-DNA testing cannot prove a relationship though it can certainly provide compelling evidence to support one and can certainly disprove a relationship. [*Comment: I believe that a relationship can be proven, assuming enough markers are tested. Phil Hawkins*] Y-DNA testing cannot establish a most recent common ancestor but it may provide some information on when this common ancestor might have existed.

As project administrators we recruit participants, have their DNA tested, try to interpret their test results, and try to connect the participants to other participants. In some cases this may be quite straight forward as when two participants believe they share a known common ancestor or when it is believed that two ancestral lines are related and the test results confirm or refute this belief. In other cases it is far more difficult as when participants with no known relationship match closely on the DNA test results. As project administrators it is only natural that we want to "prove" a connection, find the common ancestor, or at least compute the ancestral haplotype of the common ancestor. So we turn to all the tools of Y-DNA testing: triangulation, Phylip diagrams, and Fluxus diagrams. But in reality what do these really get us; a theoretically haplotype or a hypothetical diagram which may or may not depict the truth. Does any of this really bring us any closer helping the participant realize his real goal of furthering his genealogical tree?

Without a well documented paper trail the best DNA testing can do is help point participants in the right direction in continuing their research. Participants who closely match on their results can combine their efforts, compare notes, and work together to further their research. The answers, in the end, will only be found through conventional research.

While it might be of great satisfaction for the 30 participants in my Group 1 to know they most likely descend from the "original" Blair of Blair back about 1200, this knowledge is of little value to the participant who's paper trail ends in Laurel Co., KY in 1800.

.....Scottish DNA - Better than Life Insurance John A. Blair 31 Oct 2005

A note from Phyllis.

Phil, Have you run across any one from the Augustine Hawkins line that ended up in Jackson Co Tenn. I would dearly love to have one of these descendants do a DNA. With all my searching I feel that we are off that line.

I think I have it narrowed down to James Hawkins. All the trees that I find he has a son Nelson. And Nelson has a space between his kids that my three orphans would fit in nicely. Nelson dies in 1840 and I think the kids left Tenn and went to Ala. That is why no one has them listed.

Do you know of anyone that is researching the Nelson Hawkins line? William, the oldest, names a son John Nelson. Haven't found anything from Farris kids to point this way but still looking. Joseph disappears after 1850 census so can't trace him. I am at a dead end with out some help. Do you know of anybody that can help me?

Can you put a **wanted: Augustine Hawkins descendants**, in your newsletter? Thanks Phyllis

Repeat from last month: I think that we have grown to the point that we need Family Group Leaders to take over the coordination, development, maintenance, and communication of each of our Family Groups. *Help!*

Family Tree DNA has more than 2400 surname projects running with more than 46,000 records now in their database. To join our HAWKINS project go to http://www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.asp?code=Z47192 where you will receive our group discount price.

Looking at testing, I recommend the Y-DNA25 test (if you can afford the Y-DNA 37, do it). If you feel that you cannot afford that test, then go ahead with the Y-DNA12. It will tell you who you are NOT related with, will point to probably/maybe relationships, your DNA will be in the bank at the University of Arizona for the following 25 years, and using the bank you can upgrade at any time to the Y-DNA25, or 37. The Y-DNA37 is the most positive test, and it provides more information in filling in branches of the tree. Eventually you will want to upgrade to the 37.

Questions? Contact me.

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

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

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.

If you have fellow genealogists, friends, family members, or participants in a Surname Project who you think would enjoy receiving the FamilyTreeDNA monthly newsletter, send them the link below to register for a free subscription: <http://www.familytreeDNA.com/fregister.asp>

"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 and to insure that a sample has been preserved. As the sample is maintained for 20 years, you could at a later time have additional markers tested.

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 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.

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

Phil Hawkins 31 Oct 05
Administrator (No remuneration received for this endeavor.)

I am wearing my dancing slippers at the Halloween round & square dance. I do not know why my wife feels like she has to do this to me every year.

