

# HAWKINS WORLDWIDE DNA Project

Newsletter 2006-11

30 November 2006



This Newsletter is addressed as a blind copy to protect individual identities.

Project site: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hawkinsdnaproject/>.

Family pages: [http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hawkinsdnaproject/tree\\_g-1.html](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hawkinsdnaproject/tree_g-1.html)

Administrator: [phil\\_hawkins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phil_hawkins@sbcglobal.net) {phil\_hawkins"at"sbc.... }.



The Elijah Jacob  
Hawkins Family in  
Fannin County, Texas,  
about 1913.

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If you have a Hawkins  
picture that you think  
others would be  
interested in seeing,  
especially if it has a story  
to go with it, please email  
me a copy.

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Following is a reprint  
from *Facts & Genes*, a  
newsletter from Family  
Tree DNA. It is a good  
review of basic DNA  
testing, and of my

responsibility as a Group Administrator. If you have questions, please ask me for answers.

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## **Genetic Genealogy: Easy, Safe, Reliable**

If you or a relative has been thinking of taking a DNA test, it is typically comforting to know that these tests are easy, safe, and reliable.

A test kit is sent to you in the mail, and you swab the inside of your mouth. The process is painless, and performed in the privacy of your home. The directions provided with the test kit are easy to follow.

The tests are safe. The collection process is not invasive, and does not involve drawing blood.

The test results are reliable and performed to scientific standards. Repeating the same test on the same sample will produce the same result.

Taking a DNA test is an opportunity for discovery and to learn more about your origins. Males can take a Y DNA test and a mtDNA test. Females can take a mtDNA test.

If you take a Y DNA test, you will receive information about your direct male line, which is your father, his father, and back in time up the family tree.

Taking a Y DNA test is an opportunity to discover information on 3 levels:

- Genealogical
- Surname
- Anthropological

The primary use of Genetic Genealogy testing is to provide information which can not be found in the paper records to help you with your genealogy research. The applications of DNA testing for genealogy are as diverse as the problems that can be encountered in your research. For example, perhaps you are trying to bridge the gap of destroyed records, or trying to sort out multiple families with the same surname in a location.

Typically those who take a Y DNA test join a Surname Project, if one exists. A Surname Project has a Group Administrator who is a volunteer who performs a variety of functions including managing the project, recruiting participants, assisting participants in understanding their results, and providing suggestions for further research or testing.

Once you take a Y DNA test, you will be able to determine which other family trees with your surname are related to you.

Over time, the group of participants in a Surname Project will grow. Once the group reaches the point where most or all of the family trees for the surname have tested, it will be possible to draw conclusions about the surname. To draw these conclusions, comprehensive research in early records will be combined with the results of Y DNA testing. The research in early records is important, since drawing conclusions without the associated research will lead to erroneous results. Just as Y DNA testing is combined with genealogy research for your family tree, Y DNA testing of multiple family trees of the surname is combined with genealogy research to draw conclusions about the surname.

A Y DNA test will also provide you interesting information about your distant origins.

A mtDNA test provides information both for genealogy research and about your distant origins. The applications of mtDNA testing to genealogy research are more limited than Y DNA testing, primarily because the surname usually changes for the female in each generation, as well as the fact that mtDNA does not mutate as frequently as Y DNA, resulting in a longer time frame for a match to a common ancestor.

DNA testing for genealogy is a tremendous opportunity to uncover information not found in the paper records, provide information to help you with your genealogy research, contribute to the knowledge about your surname, and learn about your distant origins.

Getting started is easy. If a Surname Project exists for your surname, you can order your test kit through the project. A link is shown below to search the Surname Projects. Otherwise, you can order a test kit at the link below, or send an email to discuss starting a Surname Project.

To search for a Surname Project: <http://www.familytreeDNA.com/surname.asp>

To order a test kit when a Surname Project doesn't exist:  
<http://www.familytreeDNA.com/products.html>

To discuss starting a Surname Project: [leahw@familytreeDNA.com](mailto:leahw@familytreeDNA.com) for Leah Wark

If you want to view sample pages, that show what you will receive, visit our demo:  
<http://www.familytreeDNA.com/ftLogin.asp?kit=Demo-2&code=A2418>

To see an example certificate and report you will receive in the mail, click on the link below:  
<http://www.familytreeDNA.com/CertReports.html>

### **Recruiting Participants: Cost Justification**

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One function performed by a Group Administrator is to recruit participants for the Surname Project. Part of this process will involve addressing the issue of the cost of testing, and discussing how many markers to test. [Test for the highest that you feel affordable.]

Genealogy is one of those hobbies where a lot of small costs can add up over time. Since these costs are spent in small increments, they usually are not obvious. There are also larger expenses, including database subscriptions, such as Ancestry.com, and research trips.

The costs for family history research could involve any or all of the following:

- Magazines
- Books
- Society memberships
- Cost to attend society events (Travel and entrance fee)
- CD purchases
- Genealogy software
- Pay per view sites
- Database subscription sites
- Certificates and documents: birth, marriage, death certificates, wills, etc.
- Conferences
- Copies (print outs at your FHC or library)
- Professional Researcher
- Research trips

You can get a Y DNA test for 12 Markers cheaper than a color copy of an A0 piece of paper! from the PRO, UK. [Test for the 25 marker test as a minimum if possible.]

A DNA test can save you time and money. In addition, the DNA test will continue to provide a return, for years in the future.

Often Group Administrators encounter a price objection from a potential participant. If the potential participant is an active genealogist, then beyond surfing the net, costs are incurred as they pursue their hobby. The potential participant may not realize that all the small costs throughout the year add up to more than the cost of a DNA test. Those on a budget may want to start with the 12 Marker test, and upgrade to the 25 Marker test at a later date. Perhaps some of their genealogy expenses, such as subscriptions or memberships, can be skipped for a year, and the funds applied to the DNA test.

DNA testing is much less expensive than research and can be much more valuable.

For more information on dealing with the issue of cost, see:

Recruiting Participants: The Cost of Genealogy Research  
[http://www.familytreeDNA.com/facts\\_genes.asp?act=show&nk=3.1](http://www.familytreeDNA.com/facts_genes.asp?act=show&nk=3.1)

Recruiting Participants: Cost Justify the Price  
[http://www.familytreeDNA.com/facts\\_genes.asp?act=show&nk=2.9](http://www.familytreeDNA.com/facts_genes.asp?act=show&nk=2.9)

### **Case Studies in Genetic Genealogy**

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In each issue of the Newsletter, we present a situation which you may encounter as you utilize Genetic Genealogy testing for your family history research, followed by our recommendation.

#### **Case Study**

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I have just started a Surname Project, and wonder how many! people need to test to get a fair representation of DNA. I am studying the family name in the USA and UK.

#### **Recommendation**

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The answer to this question involves taking a look at the number of family trees for your surname and variants, the variants selected for the project, and the distribution of your surname worldwide.

The number of family trees of the surname is the critical factor. From your research, you have probably identified family trees. Lets assume, for our example, that you have identified 34 family trees, each of which goes back to a different progenitor.

Ideally you would want two distantly related males from each family tree to participate. The second male validates the result to their common male ancestor. Hopefully, the common male ancestor is the progenitor or close to the progenitor. Trees that span multiple centuries, or have a large number of sons in one or more generations can benefit from testing each major branch.

In our hypothetical example, with 34 family trees, the issue is the number of trees tested, not the number of males who participate. The number of males who test will vary for each family tree.

In one case, you could have tested 30 men, representing 15 family trees. In this case, you have tested almost 50% of the family trees.

In another case, you could have tested 30 men, which represent only 11 trees, since multiple branches of 3 trees tested. These participants would represent less than 33% of the family trees.

In another case, you could have tested 30 men, representing 30 family trees. The trees aren't validated, though you have close matches between some trees. You have 10 results that do not match anyone, so further investigation is needed. In this case, you have tested a large number of trees, but have more issues to resolve, since the validation step was skipped.

The number of trees for the surname, and the number of trees tested tell you the percentage of trees tested.

An other factor to consider is the distribution of your surname worldwide. You mentioned that you are studying your surname in the USA and UK. Often, for these type of studies, it is helpful to see if the surname is found in other countries, particularly those countries that were destinations for migration from the UK, such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the Republic of South Africa. Including all occurrences of the surname in your Surname Project and research will usually help significantly. For example, perhaps you have a DNA result for one tree in the USA that doesn't match anyone, and you are leaning towards calling this result a non-paternity result. Including Australia in your project could lead you to the discovery that this result is also found there, where the family proliferated. If there was a non-paternity event, it would have to have occurred before the common ancestor of these trees in the UK.

The variants you select for your project are also important. The more variants you include, the wider the scope of your project will become, and there will be more family trees to test. There is also the risk, with a large number of variants that you include a variant that arose from a different prior surname from a different country. The important factor is the variants selected, not the number of variants. If you have a surname consistently recorded the same through the generations, you probably wouldn't have many variants. If you have a surname from an area with a dialect, you may have many forms evolve over time, especially with migrations.

Each family tree that tests is an opportunity for discovery. You can monitor your progress by the percentage of trees tested.

It is a good idea to wait until all the family trees have tested for a surname or variant, before drawing conclusions about the surname.

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I want to strongly stress to those of you that have only a single living Hawkins surnamed male, that it is very, very important that he be tested. It is your final chance to positively link yourself to a particular line. We know that advances in DNA science will continue, and we want to have samples in the 25-year bank maintained by Family Tree DNA

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We added more participants this month making 94 of us. Eleven (11) Family groups have been formed and are sharing knowledge. To date 37 distinct Hawkins lines have been identified. With so many distinct lines it is no wonder that so many of us run into those brick walls. Thank goodness that we now have the DNA tool to help find our way out of the maze and onto the correct path. Hopefully most of the new participants will be falling into one of our established family groups, or matching a previously unmatched participant to form a new family group.

One thing we can say for sure. Some of the participants have benefited **greatly** from the results of participating. Some of those closed doors have been blown off their hinges, and as each month goes by we see more of those brick walls crumbling. For those that are not matched yet, it is just a matter of time until they see a green light. It is truly exciting when it's you that the door opens for.

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Family Tree DNA surname projects total 3,700, and they have more than 82,435 Y-records now in their database. To join our HAWKINS project go to [http://www.familytreedna.com/surname\\_join.asp?code=Z47192](http://www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.asp?code=Z47192) where you will receive the group discount price.

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Check out the Roots Television site at <http://www.rootstelevision.com/>.

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All past newsletters with pictures have been added to our project web site at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hawkinsdnaproject/#Newsletter>.

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Questions? Contact me at [phil\\_hawkins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phil_hawkins@sbcglobal.net).

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-----Repeating-----

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 Hawkins 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.



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. Maybe you have the perfect paper records, but the mutations that occur in the separate lines need to be identified now for succeeding generations (and just maybe your paper records are not as solid as you assume).

1941 and World War II is only a few months away. I was eight years old and it didn't scare me.

Phil Hawkins 30 November 2006 Administrator [No remuneration received]