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All the latest Guild news and updates



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All photos courtesy of authors unless otherwise stated.

# Chairman's Report

Hello everyone and welcome to the latest edition of JOONS.

By the time you read this, I will be packing a suitcase in preparation for the Guild conference, this year in Northamptonshire, famous for shoes. The county is represented in my personal research, with the Thorneycroft family who were from Dodford. My Great Uncle moved south, he joined the Army and married my maternal grandfather's sister. Following his time served, he was a policeman in Southend, Essex in England, and spent the war years at nearby Foulness Island. At the war end, he returned to the police at Southend, and I hope to be able to obtain Army record following the record change, from the Ministry of Defence to the National Archives.

As far as I know he never remained in contact with any of his family, he was the youngest of 12 siblings. The descendants of his three children, who are not especially interested in genealogy, will be largely unaware that I am trying to fill in various blanks. The eldest of his three children joined the Navy as soon as he was able to serve in the Second World War. He never returned to England, instead making his life in Australia and raising a family of ten.

The details I have shared here, as brief as they seem span from 1899 until the modern time. Terms such as modern and living memory are very non-specific. They give you a kind of sense, but nothing more than that. Do you ever think back to a date in your lifetime and then remember that actually that date is 30 or 40 years ago? I do and I am sure you all do as well. When I think of something from 1984, it seems recent, but the reality is, that it was almost 40 years ago. I then have that moment of doubt as I check the accuracy of my quick arithmetic.

The Guild uses very non-specific language when trying to indicate the reach and timeframe of studies. When I began my research, which was inspired by my great aunt, from paragraph one and her siblings, I focused on the details that we knew, the Surrey villages of Puttenham, Wonersh, and Shere, the towns of Guildford and Godalming and the Surnames of Budd, Butcher, and Ellis. The latest Census was 1881 and my great-grandmother, who I remember was aged 3 years. From a genealogical perspective we look at our living family and work backwards,

known to the unknown. Yet with a study we don't, we perhaps enter our study from a question mark? A brick wall. Whilst I do not think that is wrong, I do wonder whether the focus should be, to some degree on the modern and living memory perspective. The material since 1939.

As we move forward, into a world of identify fraud and other such challenges, surely, we face the risk that some of our research materials will be unavailable to us. It is for that very reason, that the General Registrars Office is now part of the Passport Office, and means that we do stand, within my living memory to find that material will be restricted in the same way that other nations, like New Zealand, do. Whilst we may not publish in the public domain our living people material, we can add these living people to our research and restrict the access to just ourselves. Food for thought, I am sure.

As I type this, I am gathering my thoughts and creating my conference packing list, featuring the things I absolutely cannot forget! The Trustees for the forthcoming year will be about to prepare themselves to take the Guild forward into another year, and in addition to those Trustee duties, will be plugging the gaps in our volunteer posts. We either plug the gaps or close off and restrict member benefits, which is absolutely the last resort, and what the Trustees do not want to do. From a team of seven Trustees, we cover some really crucial posts, including, but not limited to, webmaster, marketing and data protection. If you can help, even if the post is filled, please get in touch.

I know I shall see a number of you at conference, old faces and friends and to meet new people and make new friends, but if you cannot join us, then perhaps look to how you can connect with people, even if that is online. Who is researching, either as a study or surname interest, the surnames in your family, or is in a region where your personal people came from, who wrote an article or shared their study via a webinar? What genealogical interests do you have? Is there anything perhaps in the line-up of seminar, conference, or webinar recordings? These are all things you can do, to connect with others in the Guild.

Best wishes,

*Julie Goucher MCG*

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# Genetic Groups And Member Subgrouping

## Part One

by Susan C. Meates MCG (DNA Advisor, 3710)

### Genetic Groups

For Surname Projects, genetic groups for Y-DNA results should consist of all the participants who are related in a genealogical time frame. Therefore, these genetic groups represent a genetic tree, and are composed of the various documented trees which the participants represent. In most cases, this type of genetic group represents a surname origin.

Haplogroup Projects and Geographical Projects usually use different criteria to define a genetic group in their projects, such as all in a haplogroup or with a specific SNP.

Since a one-name study is a study of a surname and variants, the arrangement of genetic groups in a genealogical time frame is the best approach. I've noticed a few Guild Surname Projects organize genetic groups by haplogroup. A haplogroup represents a time period of thousands of years, so is an anthropological time frame. Within a haplogroup, especially haplogroup R1b, you will most likely have multiple genetic trees, who share a common ancestor many thousands or tens of thousands of years ago, well before the adoption of surnames, circa 1250-1450 in England. It is important to identify each genetic tree in a genealogical time frame.

The goal is to test each documented tree. Then documented trees that match, and are related in a genealogical time frame, are put in the same genetic group. They comprise a genetic tree, and typically represent a surname origin.

### Getting Ready for Genetic Groups

Reviewing your DNA Project for some housekeeping issues will make implementing and managing genetic groups easier.

#### 1. Participants that don't belong

The situation will happen that participants join your project that don't belong. A lot of people are confused as they start with DNA, and some think they need to join a project for every surname in their tree. Typically you will get an email when a participant joins, and they may have tested already or just ordered a test kit. If the participant has a surname covered by the DNA Project, be sure to write to them, welcome them, and get their direct male line information.

If the participant does not have a surname covered by the DNA Project, write to them to find out why they joined. Maybe they think they need to join a project for every surname in their tree. Maybe they have matches with a surname in your DNA Project, and are related prior to the adoption of surnames. Once you determine the situation, you can delete them with the trash can on the far right of their line on the Member Information report, or let them stay.

Before implementing or updating genetic groups, a quick review of your participants on the Member Information report will identify any that you don't know about, and should investigate. Occasions arise where a join email is not sent, or if sent, doesn't arrive.

#### 2. Member Information Report: Access Granted and Publicly Share DNA Results

Review the Member Information Report periodically, to insure that all your participants are set to Advanced Access, and all are set to display their DNA results. The headings for these two columns on the report are Access Granted and Publicly Share DNA Results.

Advanced Access is important, since it enables you to enter or modify their Most Distant Ancestor(MDA) aka Earliest Known Ancestor (EKA). Advanced Access also enables you to fix items, such as distant origin for the participant, and lets you see their contact information, so you know what country they are in, and if their email stops working, you have an address to send them a postal letter.

Advanced Access is set by logging into the kit, then under the name in the upper right, click Account Settings, and then click Project Preferences, then the pencil next to the Surname Project, and follow directions.

To Display DNA results, on the same page, down the page, you opt into sharing where it says this:

#### Group Project Profile

Allow my Group Administrators to publish my pseudonymized DNA results and ancestor information in the public results pages. Opt in to Sharing.

Your project profile may include any of the following: surname, haplogroups, earliest known ancestors, ancestral locations, and DNA results. The Group Administrator decides which of these items are included in the project profiles. Project profiles are always shared between project members.

Displaying each participant's results on your public website is important. Often, your prospective participants will visit your DNA Project website, and seeing the results will help overcome any fear of DNA testing. They can see that the 37 numbers (or more) are harmless. As part of your recruiting approach, you can also direct them to your DNA Project website.

On the results page, first name isn't displayed, so it is difficult if not impossible to connect results to a person. The Project Administrator sets what is displayed on the Y-DNA Results page beyond the Y-DNA result, and is typically Kit Number, Surname, Most Distant Ancestor, Haplogroup. Displaying this information is harmless.

#### 3. MDA/EKA and Distant Origin

It is helpful to have the Most Distant Ancestor and Origin correctly set for all Y-DNA participants before implementing

or updating genetic groups. You can view the MDA information and Country on the Paternal Ancestry report or Y-DNA Results Report.

The Origin or Country is where the documented tree ends. If it ends in the USA, or another migration destination country, with no documented connection to the ancestral country, then enter Unknown Origin. It is easy to assume, if the USA person has matches in an ancestral country, to put that country, but the correct entry is based on documents, and is Unknown when there are no documents.

The MDA represents the progenitor of the documented tree. Even if the documented tree has a match to a documented tree that goes back further in time, the progenitor is based on documents, and you can't just connect to another documented tree, without documentation. In other words, if you have two documented trees in the genetic tree, and you can't connect them in the same documented tree, with documents, they are therefore 2 distinct documented trees. Eventually, you will have multiple documented trees in a genetic tree.

Previous articles suggested a format for the Most Distant Ancestor field, to pack in as much information as possible with a limited number of characters. This information is helpful especially in the future, as you approach testing all documented trees for a surname, and are ready to investigate surname origins. In addition, it can be helpful in assigning genetic groups, by knowing which participants are in the same tree. And it is helpful in sorting out participants with the same name, though in different documented trees.

See:

- Guild Journal 2021-Q2 Y-DNA Most Distant Ancestor Part 1 - <https://one-name.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/wp-members/journal/vol14-2.pdf>
- Guild Journal 2021-Q3 Y-DNA Most Distant Ancestor Part 2 - <https://one-name.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/wp-members/journal/vol14-3.pdf>
- Guild Journal 2022-Q3 Y-DNA Most Distant Ancestor Part 3 - <https://one-name.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/wp-members/journal/vol14-7.pdf>

### Standard for Genetic Group Names and Color

Before you start establishing genetic groups, you might want to establish a methodology for naming the groups. Groups will be displayed in alphabetical/numerical order on your Y-DNA or mtDNA results pages. Your naming schema will therefore affect the order in which the groups are displayed.

A simple approach to naming the groups is:

Genetic Group xxx x-----optional description-----x

For example:

Genetic Group 001

or

Genetic Group 01.

You need the leading zeroes so the order of the groups display properly. If you think you will have less than 100 groups, since you have a low frequency or rare surname, then you only need 2 numbers. If you may have more than 100 groups, start now

with 001, 002, and so forth, so you don't need to re-name your groups in the future.

When you start, you will usually not have information for the optional description. You may only have one or a small number of documented trees in the genetic group. As your project grows, and there are many documented trees in the genetic group, you may have more information to add an optional description, especially when you get to the phase of investigating surname origins.

The color you select is also important. You want a color where you can actually read the letters in the title bar of the genetic group, so that means a light color. I've seen some projects that have a different color for every genetic group. I find this hard to read, where a Y-DNA Results page with all the same color, such as yellow, is much easier to read and follow. The multiple colors are distracting.

If you have participants with other surnames in your Y-DNA project, you might want to create a genetic group such as:

Genetic Group 990 Other surnames.

You can consider coloring this light grey, since it isn't part of your one-name study. One reason for these other surnames in your project is that these are participants who took an autosomal test and Y-DNA, and are male, with your registered surname further back in a branch of their tree. They are not part of your Y-DNA one-name study. An option is to create an All-Others Project if you are also using autosomal in addition to Y-DNA for your one-name study.

There is a second type of participant with another surname which joins projects. These are males who are a Y-DNA match to one or more participants in your DNA Project. This occurs the most with haplogroup R1b, and is typically a relationship prior to the adoption of surnames, and caused by convergence. In this case, they don't have value to your project, and can be deleted with the Trash can on the far right of the Member Information Report.

If you have evidence of a break in the direct male line, such as adoption of formal name change, then you would want to put them in the appropriate group.

The third type of other surname Y-DNA participants that join a Surname Project are those with the registered surname in their documented tree, but not in their direct male line, and they are confused, and think they need to join a project for each surname in their tree.

Another useful genetic group to create is:

Genetic Group 995 Documented Adoption or Documented Illegitimacy or Proven Infidelity.

For Adoption, documented illegitimacy, and proven infidelity you can take one of two approaches.

1. Put all the results for these situations in one genetic group, like the example above, so they are separated from the main genetic groups.

2. The other option is to consider each of these cases as the introduction of a new Y-chromosome into the surname, and establish for each situation, its own genetic group.

Which approach you take is a one-name study decision, and you will probably factor in the frequency of the surname which impacts the frequency of these events. If you decide to make each situation its own genetic group, it would be helpful to give the genetic groups a higher number, such as 801, then 802, and so forth, so they display separately from the main results for your one-name study, where, in time, you may investigate these various surname origins. This approach separates out the results discretely.

In summary, it is helpful when you implement genetic groups, to establish a genetic group name standard, a color schema, and decide how you will handle documented adoption, documented illegitimacy, and proven infidelity.

### Member Subgrouping: Create, Edit, Delete

At Family Tree DNA, the tool you use to put participants in genetic groups is called Member Subgrouping. You will find this tool under Project Administration when you are logged into your project.

Creating a genetic group is easy. Go to Member Subgrouping. A list of any existing genetic groups appears on the page. They are supposed to be in alphabetical order, though at the time of preparing this article, that feature wasn't working.

Click Create Subgroup. On the page that comes up, give the group a title, such as Genetic Group 001.

For the description field, you can skip this, since it only appears on the Subgroup page, or can use the description field for your notes, or to record the definition of your group, or for future reference. The Description was originally planned that this information would appear on the Y-DNA results page. This feature hasn't been implemented, and the only place the description appears is on the Member Subgrouping page.

Then toggle the choice Subgroups to display to select Y-DNA.

Then click on the box below Select a subgroup color, and select a color by clicking on it. This is the color of the bar with the genetic group name on your results page. You want colors where it is easy to read the words through the color, so avoid dark colors. Also, too many different colored group separators can make your webpage of results unattractive. You might consider just using a few or one color.

Then click Create. You are returned to the top level Subgroup page, and the genetic group you just created will appear on this page. You can create more genetic groups, to have them already there, as you go forth to group participants, or if none are there yet to group, you are preparing for the future.

To edit the genetic group name, description, subgroup to display, or color, click on the pencil to the right of the genetic group on the main Subgrouping page.

To edit just the color, click on the pallet symbol.

To delete the genetic group, click on the trash can to the right of the genetic group. If there are participants in the genetic group, they will be placed back into Ungrouped.

### Member Subgrouping: The first participant

The simplest situation is when you start and there is one participant in your DNA Project, with an applicable surname, and their MDA and origin are correct, and ideally their Access level is Advanced.

When their result is back from the lab, it will be placed in the genetic group called Ungrouped. You can see that on the Y-DNA Classic Results report.

Your first step is, from the Member Information Report, to right click on the kit number, and open in a new tab. Then click Y-DNA matches. When the Matches page comes up, if they have tested beyond 37 markers, click on 37 markers to see their matches at this level. The reason for this is that the vast majority of the database is at 37 markers, and if you look at a higher level of matches, you may miss matches with your surname. If they didn't test at 37 markers, and did 12 or 25, you want to write them to upgrade to 37 markers, and abort putting them in a genetic group. 12 and 25 markers are anthropological, so you wouldn't know where they will end up genealogically until they upgrade to 37 markers. You can leave them in Ungrouped or create a genetic group, such as Genetic Group 995 Pending Upgrade and put them there.

Assuming all is fine, and you have a 37 marker result, look at the matches for any with your surname(s) of interest. These would be men in the main database that are not in your project and are a genealogical match, and therefore in the same genetic tree, and perhaps in the same documented tree. If you find any, click on their name to get their email address, and write them with an invitation to join the project, and also to find out their direct male line information.

Now you are ready to put your participant into your first genetic group. From the Member Subgrouping page, click on the left right arrows to the right of the genetic group. The page that comes up shows an empty genetic group on the left, and the one participant in ungrouped on the right. Click the box in front of the participants name, and then click the word Move above his name. This will put him in the genetic group you selected.

Now go see how this displays at Y-DNA Results Classic. [Reports, Genetic Reports, Y-DNA Results Classic].

If you don't like the color or genetic group name, you can edit it.

### Member Subgrouping: More participants

The next article in this series will cover how to determine who should be in a genetic group, with examples.



# The Chambers Families Of Greasley And Nuthall

by Cliff Hughes (8934)

Chambers is an old Nottinghamshire surname. It is one of the more common surnames listed in the Protestation Returns in 1640 and in the Hearth Tax lists of 1664 and 1674. In 1664 John Chambers and Edward Chambers, in Nuthall, were noted as being not chargeable for the tax. On the other hand Margrit (sic) Chambers was assessed for a payment of 12 shillings in the 1689 Subsidy assessment for Nuthall. By 1881 nearly 1000 Notts people were named Chambers, the highest proportion of the population in any county. The name overall is not uncommon, so it occurred in large numbers in several English cities, but outside the cities Greasley, with 164 Chambers recorded in the census, and Nuthall, with 104, were the settlements where the name was most prominent.

However, it is not only the particular association of the name with these 2 locations which has caught my attention. Given the nature of Nuthall and Greasley parishes, with their mineral resources, the great majority of working Chambers people were coalminers. But there were also people who led rather unusual lives, and others who have risen to national prominence.

One of them was a son of a Thomas Chambers who in 1841 was a grocer at Beggarlee in Greasley parish. A few years later he moved to become a farmer, with 120 acres at Beauvale Priory. Perhaps the grocery trade gave connections with farmers, who supplied goods to sell in the shop, and this led to the change in Thomas's career. In 1848 a son, John Saxton Chambers, was born to Thomas and his wife Ann. At the time of the 1861 census John was still at home in Beauvale, but by 1871 he had moved to Stourbridge where he was managing a forge and living with his wife Annie, from Borrowash in Derbyshire, and daughters Edith (2) and Elizabeth (1), both born in Derby.

John then disappears from the census records until 1891, but there are clues to his whereabouts in the interim period in later records. We do find him in 1891 but living in quite different circumstances. He was a hotel proprietor, running the Angel Hotel, on the corner of Angel Street and Bank Street, in Sheffield. This hotel is no longer in existence but it was a well-established and well-known inn at the time. Daughters Edith and Elizabeth (and many servants) were living with John and Ann. It is clear from later census data that there were several other children, but they were not living with their parents.

By working backwards from the 1911 census it is possible to find those children. In 1891 they were living at another important hostelry, the Normanton Inn, which is still there on the A614 at the side of Clumber Park. Listed first in the census is son Horace (16). Then comes Rosamund (17) and Emily (15) - all of these were born at Wollaston (Stourbridge), and Emily's age proves that John and Ann were still living at Stourbridge in 1876. Another son, Joseph (14) was at a school in Boston, Lincs. Joseph had been born in Eastwood. There is then another daughter, Vera, aged 8 in 1891. She had been born at a place named Boucha (?) in Russia, which is amended, or refined, in a later census to be Perm.

So John and Ann had clearly left Stourbridge in 1876/7 for Eastwood, and then journeyed to Russia sometime between

1877 and 1881 (when they are absent from the census). They were still in Russia in 1883 when Vera was born. In the late 19th century Perm, in the very distant Urals region of Russia, was being developed as an industrial centre. My theory is that John, with his expertise as a foundry manager, went to Russia to help set up a metalworking industry. He would have been one of several Britons who assisted in the early industrialisation of that country. Returning in the mid-late 1880s, he invested the money earned in Russia in two English inns and the education of at least one son. He must have been quite an entrepreneur, with an adventurous and perhaps restless spirit - presumably Ann was too! However in middle age he settled down in the Normanton Inn as farmer and innkeeper, living with, and visited by, his children in various combinations.

This family was difficult but fascinating to research, and this research illustrates the type of problem genealogists can experience. The Ancestry UK interpretation of the occupants of the Normanton Inn in 1891 as the children of the next family above them in the census list seems difficult to sustain, given that they had different surnames, and the probable distance between the Inn and the next dwelling. However my interpretation is consistent with the evidence of names, dates and birthplaces.

At the time John Saxton Chambers was enjoying his latter years as farmer and innkeeper, another Chambers family was growing up at Haggs Farm in Greasley parish. According to my reading of census data, Edmund Chambers at 18 was a provision merchant's assistant, boarding at a house in Nottingham. He married Sarah Ann Oates, from the city, and they started a family, living in Nottingham for a few years. However, the various birthplaces of their growing family suggest that they moved around extensively. In 1891 Edmund was a general labourer living in Eastwood, but by 1901 he was farming at Haggs Farm.

Edmund and Sarah Ann had 7 children at home by then. The eldest daughter, Muriel was a pupil teacher. It is their second daughter, Jessie, who achieved a degree of fame as the friend and muse of D.H. Lawrence, who lived nearby in Eastwood. She was Lawrence's first girlfriend, and the model for some of his main female characters. She encouraged his writing, discussed his work with him, and corrected it. Lawrence also loved the Chambers family as a whole, and Haggs Farm too. But he was seeking a larger world, and he effectively abandoned her. Soon afterwards, she married Jack Wood, becoming a supporter of female suffrage and other causes, and writing '*D.H. Lawrence: A Personal Record*' in 1935.

Before her marriage Jessie Chambers was a school teacher, like her older sister. Teaching was perhaps the only outlet for an intelligent young woman from a respectable background who wished to have work which avoided the monotony and unpleasant conditions of factory work and gave some opportunity for wider intellectual horizons.

Young men had better chances, and one of Jessie's brothers made the most of these. Jonathan, better known as J.D.

Chambers, became Professor of Economic History at the University of Nottingham. He was one of the first British economic historians. His research and publications drew on evidence, often from Notts, and sometimes using parish registers, about population and economic development in the Industrial Revolution and the period leading up to it. His many publications included two major works on Notts and the Vale of Trent in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. His last book '*Population, Economy and Society in Pre-Industrial England*' was published in 1972, just a year after his death. In addition to his academic work, J.D. Chambers encouraged the University to promote interest in D.H. Lawrence, and to collect material relating to him.

The stories of Jessie, Jonathan, and John Saxton Chambers show how exceptional people can come from apparently mundane backgrounds. Their antecedents were shopkeepers, pawnbrokers, farmers and blacksmiths in and around the mining settlements of Greasley and Nuthall parishes, and Eastwood. Victorian England provided opportunities for enterprising individuals to travel and better themselves. The educational resources offered by Nottingham city, and its wider social horizons, enabled others to capitalise on their own intellectual potential.

Cliff has no surname registered and can be contacted at: [clifford406@talktalk.net](mailto:clifford406@talktalk.net).

## Cooperative Studies

by Marie Byatt (Vice-Chairman, 5318)

You no longer need to work alone.

As the data available on a given surname expands on the internet for availability, it becomes useful to look for help - someone that would also like to study the same name. The Guild has developed the idea of a Cooperative study. Members working together to fulfill collecting all the data from around the world to create a fantastic study for even the largest name.

A Cooperative Study is a registered one-name study where all activities of the study are shared by Study Partners. This will encourage a team approach with the ability to spread the workload. Cooperative Studies were introduced to enable members to collaborate on a one-name study, thus making it easier for members to work together on larger studies. There is no limit to the number of Study Partners in a Cooperative Study.

All Study Partners are to be equally responsible for fulfilling the requirements of a one-name study that the Guild has determined. One Study Partner shall be nominated to be the Guild contact for the study but this does not imply any special responsibility for this Study Partner.

At any time the Study Partners may agree to convert the Cooperative Study to a regular registered study with one Study Partner becoming the Registrant and any other remaining Study Partners becoming Study Associates. Registration of a Cooperative Study will be done by the Study Registrar upon receipt of an application with all Study Partners named. Whenever there is a change to Study Partners, the Study Registrar shall be informed.

1. All Study Partners will be required to be Guild members.
2. Study addressed e-mail will go to all Study Partners.
3. The Study Partners will share the genealogical work of the Study in whatever manner suits them.
4. The Partners can recruit more partners if they wish, or take on Study Associates.

5. The Cooperative study would remain registered until the last Study Partner has left the Guild.
6. The Cooperative study will be entitled to the same preservation benefits enjoyed by other Studies.
7. The Study Profile will show the names of all Study Partners and the status of the Study as a Cooperative Study.
8. The Cooperative could be sponsored by an Associate Society.

### Study associated positions

- A "Registrant" is the person who has registered a Surname Study with the Guild (sometimes called the Study Owner).
- A "Study Partner" is any one of a group of full members who have registered a Cooperative Study and has the responsibility to ensure that the study meets the Guild Requirements.
- A "Study Associate" is a Guild member that is accepted by the Registrant or the group of Study Partners to help with the study but does not necessarily have any particular responsibilities.

Want to give it a try? Pick a couple friends and try out the One-Naming for Families Activity in the:

FUN ZONE <https://one-name.org/fun-zone/>

One word of caution - until the software catches up with us, the Registrar may have to ask one partner to assume the role of Registrant temporarily. So don't be surprised if this happens. The partners can still be included in emails, you can work cooperatively and the study will become a full Cooperative on the lists when the software can support it.



# Willins - A Mutation?

by Frank Whillans (3859)

*Preamble: This article is a prologue to "From Genesis to Whillans and Back" published in JOONS [July-September 2012, v11-3](#), pp22-24, by Frank Whillans (Member 3859).*

Mutation is a permanent change, in the sense that there is a sudden departure from the parent type in one or more heritable characteristics, and here in this article I refer to changes in surname spelling vis-a-vis genes.

We know that ministers used to spell a surname as they heard it, particularly of the illiterate, so when families moved from parish to parish or from county to county, the spelling changed. If the minister changed, so too did the spelling - he heard it differently.

Over the last 25 years I have been attempting to discover connections between the various homonyms of my surname. These homonyms range considerably. To date, genetic connections between Whillans, Whellens, and one of the two Wealleans lineages, have been proven using Y-DNA. I'm still hopeful of finding connections between Whillans with Whillas, Willans, Wheelans, and Whillance.

From Willins data, five small groups have been mustered:

- Shelton John Willins of Sussex b.1801 who married Ann Bushby of Shoeham Sussex in early 1831; 24 named descendants.
- William Kerr Willins b.1822 son of William Willins and Frances Sarah née Monkhouse; 18 named descendants in Middlesex.
- Thomas Willins b.1833 married Elizabeth Richardson in Tynemouth; 16 named descendants.
- Thomas Willins chr. 1772 Holyhead Wales, Joseph Willins b.1774, and six more siblings; 33 named descendants at St Helen's Auckland, Cockfield Durham & Holyhead Wales. Their parents are hypothesised to be Joseph Willins b.1740 and Ann Wright.
- John Edward Willins b. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, pa of coalminers John b.1811 & James b.1820; 25 named descendants.

To date, these have not been connected to other homonyms. However, fortunately, a few small successes have emerged.

One success was with three members of the Wealleans lineage, descended from George Wealans b.1680 eldest child of John b.1634 who lived at Newton near Alwinton in Northumberland:

- George Wealleans chr.1797 Alwinton had eight named descendants who 'took' the Willins surname.
- Thomas Wealans b.1807 who as Thomas Willens married Jane Hetherington on 12 June 1831 with 16 of his named descendants sporting the Willins/Willens spelling.
- Thomas Wealleans b.1832, chr.1832 pa William ma Margaret at Tynemouth. His family were coalminers in Tynemouth and they 'became' Willins, with 18 descendants currently known.

There is another Wealleans group, which interestingly didn't take the Willins surname at any stage. Its progenitor was a John Whillans b.1770 who purposefully became a Wealleans in 1847 as evidenced by his family tombstone at St Michael's churchyard in Alnwick. This family had also stayed away from the larger cities, with the consequence that its ministers knew their flock and there was spelling constancy.

Willins has also embedded itself into the James Whillans story, my own lineage, in two instances:

- John Willins chr.1817 at Traquair Peebles the son of John Willians & Catharine Campbell, was the great-great-grandson of James Whillans b.1688 Jedburgh. He remained 'Willins' in Peebles to his death, so all his progeny with Marion Turnbull were Willins who stayed in Peebles.

His siblings, below, also stayed at Peebles except Angus Willins who married Sarah Middleton Goldie at Edinburgh and was appointed as a missionary to the Shetland Islands.

Margaret chr.1820  
Agnes chr.1822  
Elizabeth, hyp dau b.1825  
Angus b.1827

- William Whillans b.1796, great-grandson of James Whillans b.1688, married Mary Minto. The spelling of his surname underwent a few variations over the next couple of generations, before mainly settling on Willins.

Mary b.1830  
John b. 3 October 1832  
Isabelle b. 3 October 1834  
George b. 16 November 1838  
William b. 17 October 1840  
Betsy b. 20 March 1844  
Andrew b. 16 March 1848  
Thomas b. 5 May 1850

William's youngest son Thomas b.1850 moved to Midlothian, with his family remaining at or near Edinburgh. One descendant, Thomas' great-grandson Derek Willins, has provided paper trail support for the view that Willins has become the permanent surname for Thomas' progeny. If it was necessary, a Y-DNA test would put any residual doubt to rest.

A Whillance group, which appears to have arisen at Great Bavington in Northumberland, is also 'involved'. This family moved 30-40km SE to Newcastle-upon-Tyne and South Shields. One son christened Tyson Whillance b.1852 has an extended family of 21 known Willins living at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Another group named Willens migrated from Belfast to Glasgow, as many did, probably in the late 1840s. Particularly for the progeny of one son, Andrew Willens b.1830, there was considerable switching between Willens and Willins.

My conclusion? I can only come to one, that the homonym Willins has originated where there was some illiteracy, where the parish minister wrote the surname as he heard it. If the enunciation was at all indistinct, the easy response with any pen is to write down 'Willins'. This homonym in all known instances has replaced another.

Three maritime Willins families do have me curious. The sample is extremely small, but does posit that a maritime occupation did predispose to illiteracy.

- Mark Willins = Mary Alder on 7 August 1776 at Wallsend. Mark Willins b.1742 ship-owner of Howdon Pans (a village 2km E of central Wallsend Northumberland) + on 22 October 1803 in his 60<sup>th</sup> year; as a gentleman of Howden Pans he had made his will on 8 December 1803.

He directed that his daughters Mary and Ann receive £500 each and his son Alder £200, once they had attained 21 years of age. He also bequeathed to his dau Margaret wife of William Welands of North Shields £400, and to his wife Mary £1,405 as long as she remained his widow otherwise to his children. He also gave 50% of his ship to his son Mark, and 25% each to his sons William & Alder. In a codicil he bequeathed £200 to son Mark, £200 to son William, £100 to son Alder, and £700 to son George. His widow Mary and son Mark were declared as executors with son William as a reserve executor.

1. Mark Willins
2. Margaret Willins  
Miss Willins of Howdon-Dock = Mr William Welands (b.1760-80) attorney-at-law of North Shields on 11 January 1800 at Tynemouth.
3. John Joseph Willins/Wealleans  
chr. 24 September 1779 at Low Meeting Presbyterian in North Shields pa Mark Willins of Saugh House near Howdon Pans.  
Master John Joseph Willins (b.1778) + in his 11<sup>th</sup> year on 6 March 1790 at Howdon Pans; "*his aspiring thirst for embellishments of the mind, added to a sweetness of temper, rendered him dear to his acquaintance, and a loss ever to be remembered by his inconsolable parents.*"
4. William Willins/Wealleans  
chr. 10 March 1785 at Low Meeting Presbyterian in North Shields.
5. Alder Willins/Wealleans, son  
b. 5 October 1787, chr. 22 November 1787 Lower Meeting Presbyterian North Shields.  
Initially to receive £200 but revised to £100 & 25% of his pa's ship.  
Alder Willins 35yo of High Cowden interred 5 October 1822 at Chollerton.
6. Mary Willins b. 12 January 1790, chr. 06 July 1790 Low Meeting Presbyt N Shields.
7. Ann Willins/Wealleans dau b. 31 March 1792, chr. 5 December 1796 Wallsend.  
+ aged 22yo on 19 November 1814 dau of Mark Willins of Saugh House.
8. George Willins.

- William Willins, a master mariner residing of 16 Sidney St Tynemouth Northumberland, made his will on 17 October 1854 and +20 October 1854; with probate on his estate valued at £200 dated 14 November 1854. He

bequeathed to his wife Jane Willins all his household contents and the proceeds from his estate, to the co-executors Charles Alexander Adamson of Tynemouth and William's brother-in-law painter Thomas Sherlock at the same address all his real estate & property, and provision was made for his five children (Emma Willins, Eleanor Margaret Willins, Henrietta Elizabeth Willins, Isaac Jackson Willins, William George Willins).

In the 1871 census, 52yo widowed ma Jane Willins was living in Tynemouth North Shields with 22yo dau Henrietta E & 22yo son Isaac J., 0yo son Charles A., and 31yo lodger railway contractor David Rosser.

In the 1881 census, 62yo widowed ma Jane 'Willan' was living in Tynemouth North Shields with 32yo Isaac J. and 10yo Charles b. North Shields.

Five children were listed in his will, with three hyp grandchildren:

- Charles Arthur Willins b.1870 Q3 Tynemouth.
  - Emma Jane Willins b.1878 Q2 Kidderminster Worcestershire.
  - Leonie Virginie M. Willins b.1898 Q3 Kidderminster Worcestershire.
1. Emma Willins
  2. Eleanor Margaret Willins
  3. Henrietta Elizabeth Willins b.1848.
  4. Isaac Jackson Willins b.1848 Q3 Tynemouth.  
Isaac Jackson Wellins, a 60yo butcher in 1911, + 82yo +1932 Tynemouth. In 1891 at Heaton as a 39yo married railway clerk with his 41yo wife Mary and three children, 9yo Lillian Maud, 9yo Albert Ernest, 5yo Jane Gertrude.
  5. William George Willins b.1851.  
Feasibly William George Willins = during 1867 at Kidderminster Worcestershire.
- John Willins = Eleanor Fairlamb on 8 May 1799 at Christ Church Tynemouth.  
John Willins was a pawnbroker at North Shields, with his Durham will dated 11 September 1838, in which Eleanor Willins was listed also as a pawnbroker with his probate of 27 November 1838 indicating an estate valued at £1,500. He bequeathed to his wife Eleanor his freehold stall in Tynemouth Church and all his stock in trade & household effects for the term of her natural life; to his daughter Margaret, wife of mariner Barways Atkin, all his beds and linen and one-eighth share of the ship Triton; to his grand-daughter Eleanor Ann Atkin £50; to his son William Willins the residue of his estate, with executors been his daughter Margaret and son William.
1. John Willans b.1801 chr. at Sunderland.
  2. Margaret Willins, b. 14 August 1803, chr. 25 December 1803 at Christ Church Tynemouth.  
Margaret = mariner Barways Atkin.
  3. William Willins.
- Frank is studying the surname Whillans with variants Wealleans, Wheelans, Whellens, Whillance, Whillas, Whillins, Whillis, and Willans. His DNA Project Website can be found at [www.familytreedna.com/public/Whillans](http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Whillans). Frank can be contacted at [whillans@netspace.net.au](mailto:whillans@netspace.net.au).

# From Burglar To Banker

## Changing Fortunes Of The Ordsall Hempshalls

by Steve Tanner (4001)

My attention was drawn to the Ordsall Hempshalls for several reasons. Ordsall (now part of Retford) is the parish where I was born and raised. Second, it illustrates the drastic changes that Britain underwent during the nineteenth century, notably the coming of the railways. Third, because the family concerned experienced more than its fair share of buffeting by the vicissitudes of industrialisation: crime and imprisonment, infant deaths, the workhouse, unemployment and war. The four generations featured start with one notorious individual:

### Generation One: William Hempshall (1809-47) butler and burglar

William turned out to have a fatal flaw of character. I can only put it down to the fact that he was the much-longed-for only son of his parents' older years (his mother was 42, his father, 49) - they may have spoiled him? Or is that a modern viewpoint?

William Hempshall, a labourer's son, married Amelia Rhodes in Ordsall in 1833, then, like many from the Retford area, he moved to the boomtown of Sheffield for greater employment opportunities. They had just one child there, in 1837, George William Hempshall. George never knew his mother, as Amelia died later that same year and was buried back in Ordsall. Her name was spelt Hampshall, and as the death falls just within the start of civil registration, I obtained the death certificate. The informant was her mother, who probably did not know the correct spelling. Amelia was described as a "labourer's wife"; the fact that it was left to her mother to perform this sad task suggests that her husband William was not present at her death. He was thirty miles away in Sheffield.

### First registered cause of death for a Hempshall (1837)

The cause of death was "consumption", the old word for tuberculosis. Conceivably, she had contracted this chronic, wasting disease in Sheffield, and William had sent her back to her mother in Ordsall in the hope that the fresh country air might cure her. This remedy proved of no avail and William was left with a baby son and no wife. At least Amelia seems to have been fit enough for a few months after the child's birth to ensure his survival.

### Baby looked after by Aunt

William arranged for George to be looked after in Ordsall by his unmarried sister Mary, who had two older illegitimate children of her own. The 4-year old George was living in Mary Hempshall's house in Ordsall in 1841 (census) while his father William, after a spell working in Sheffield, entered service in 1846 as a butler to Colonel Harry Croft, who lived in Stillington Hall (pictured opposite) a few miles north of York.

### Fired by his employer?

Unfortunately, it appears that around November 1846, William left his position with the Colonel for reasons which are not clear, but he seems to have left under a cloud. A

newspaper report gives an indication that William's life then began to fall apart, although the report concerns a crime of which he was the victim, not the perpetrator:

*Yorkshire Gazette, 5 December 1846*

#### "A dangerous thief"

*At the Guildhall, yesterday, a respectably dressed man, who gave the name John Stead, and who, whilst in York for the last few days, has represented himself to be a cotton manufacturer from Manchester, was charged with having that morning stolen a sovereign, the property of William Hempshall, now a temporary resident of this city, but formerly holding a respectable position in the family of a gentleman living in this country. The prosecutor and the prisoner with other parties, were playing at cards in the Black Bull, Thursday market, nearly the whole of Thursday night. About six o'clock in the morning, Stead and Hempshall retired to bed, and before they had been there many minutes, the former contrived to extract a sovereign from the waistcoat pocket of the prosecutor, who immediately discovered the robbery and gave his companion in charge to the police. The prisoner was also charged with having stolen a breast pin from the house of Mr Sharp, eating house keeper, Parliament Street. He was remanded in each case, and Mr Johnson, landlord of the Black Bull, was fined in the mitigated penalty of £1 and costs for allowing gaming in the house.*

So it seems that William, after losing his job, was leading a dissolute life, playing cards all night in pubs, and frittering away what cash he had left, rather than trying to find new employment.

#### The sad story of the "butler's revenge"

Shortly after the above incident, William himself fell foul of the law. Perhaps his aging parents had spoiled him as a child, leaving him with some weakness of character; or the untimely death of his wife had weakened his moral resolve. Be that as it may, he is of interest to this study because of a crime he committed which earned him sufficient notoriety to be the subject of nationwide reporting including the following article:

*The Times, 15 March 1847*

*Northern Circuit York, Friday, March 12 Crown Court William Hempshall, formerly butler to Colonel Croft, of Stillington Hall, was tried yesterday, but the trial was not concluded until a late hour last night.*

*This prisoner was charged with burglary, in having, on the night of the 22nd of last December, broken and entered the dwelling of Harry Croft, Esq., and therein stolen £200 in gold, a check for £170, and an air-gun, and other articles mentioned in the indictment.*



Figure 1. Stillington Hall, demolished in the 1960s was the scene of William Hemsall's notorious burglary in 1847.

It appeared, as stated by counsel, that on the night in question, Colonel Croft, the prosecutor in this case, was the last person up in his house, and he retired to rest about half past eleven o'clock. The doors and windows of the house were fastened previous to the whole of the inmates having retired to bed. On the following morning it was found that a burglary had been committed, and that about £200 in gold had been taken away, together with a check for £170, and the clothes of the Colonel and those of other members of the family were found strewn about the floor, and in the garden.

The evidence in this case, the learned counsel said, was all nearly circumstantial. The prisoner had lived in the service of Colonel Croft as a butler, and he continued in the service until the 26th of November last. During his service he had frequent opportunity of seeing and knowing where Colonel Croft kept his cash. After the prisoner left the prosecutor's service, he was for a long time out of place, and had for a few days previous to the robbery, exhausted his funds, so much so, that he was reduced to a state of poverty. Upon the 22nd December last he went to a person named Robert Horsley, who is a servant at Etridge's hotel, which hotel Colonel Croft was in the habit of using when he visited York. The prisoner was aware that Robert Horsley would know a great deal about the proceedings of his late master's house at Stillington Hall, and accordingly he made minute enquiries as to who was staying at the hall, when he was told that no person was there but the Colonel himself... In the afternoon of that day Hemsall met a cabman named James Newby, and also a policeman, to whom he stated that he was going to Sheffield by the 3 o'clock train. That however was a falsehood, because at 4 o'clock he was at Dawson's public house, near the York railway station, and gave the servant, Ann Marsh, his carpet-bag, a hatbox, and an umbrella, and between 9 and 10 o'clock at night he went back to Dawson's, and took his things away.

He left York the following morning by the 5 o'clock train. Stillington Hall is about ten miles from this city - so that, bearing in mind that he between 9 and 10 o'clock he left Dawson's, and that he left York at half past five the next morning, he would have had ample time to go to Stillington, and perpetrate the felony with which he was charged. He was next seen at Sheffield, somewhere about half past 8 o'clock in

the morning. Upon arriving at that town, he engaged the cab of William Yates, and desired him to drive to a person named Sanderson, situate in the Wicker. He got out of the cab there, and made Sanderson the present of an air-gun, with the following remarkable injunction, - "Don't let any living soul know that I gave it to you, or that it was mine." That gun belonged to the prosecutor. After that he drove to the shop of Messrs Levy, clothes-dealer, and then the man who, a day or two before the robbery, was almost penniless, and who could not, as he said, pay for a glass of ale, bought a coat for £2-15s, a frock coat for £4-10s, a shooting coat for £2-15s, a hat-box for £1-5s-6d, and other things, altogether amounting to £12-2s-6d. These he paid for in gold. Mr Henry Levy, of whom the prisoner bought them, perceived that he had a very large quantity of gold, namely about 200 or 300 sovereigns, which certainly was very likely to attract the attention of a person of the name of Levy. Levy, however, not having a coat good enough for him, he was measured, and said he would call again; and on being asked his name, answered "Wells". On leaving the shop, he ordered the cab driver to take him to the house of a person named Peace, a groom, living at No.7, Smith Street, and having alighted there he paid the man for the cab, and gave him 6d for himself. When he got there he was observed to be very much tired and jaded, and when he was asked what gave him that appearance, he told another falsehood, and said that he came to Sheffield the night before, at so late an hour he did not like to disturb him, and passed the night in some very improper company. He sat down and fell asleep several times during the day, and it was noticed that his shoes were very dirty, and appeared as if he had been walking on some dirty roads. He went to bed at the Mermaid Inn, between 10 and 11 o'clock that night, and on the following morning he was apprehended in bed by the police. The prisoner, during the previous day, had also been at several places in Sheffield, and therefore he had ample opportunity of disposing of the great bulk of the gold seen in his possession by Levy. When he was apprehended 16s. was found in his possession, and upon the corner of the window were found five sovereigns. The prisoner, however, said that they were not his, and must have been placed there by somebody else. The chambermaid, however, stated that this could not be the case, as she pulled the blind down, and had the gold been there at that time, she must have thrown it down. A pair of drawers and a pair of socks were found in the prisoner's carpet bag, which Colonel Croft identified as his property, being marked "H.C." They were seen by him only a short time before the robbery. Beside the evidence of Colonel Croft, other witnesses were called to prove the case; but after the address of the prisoner's counsel, and the summing up of the learned judge, the prisoner was acquitted, it not appearing to be conclusively shown that he must have been the person who committed the robbery. It is understood, however, that the prisoner is again to be tried upon another indictment, charging him with larceny in respect of some other articles, the property of Colonel Croft, and found in the possession of the prisoner.



Figure 2. The attempted escape and arrest of William Hemsall.

Significantly, the prisoner at first gave his name as “Wells” which was actually his mother’s maiden name. Perhaps he hoped thereby to confuse the police, who were looking for a man named Hemsall. The accounts of the trial differ slightly from newspaper to newspaper. For example, *The Times* above refers to the Jewishness of the name Levy, Jews being supposed to have a “nose” for gold. Today this stereotypical snide remark would be considered anti-Semitic. In another paper, it is the jangling of the gold sovereigns in William’s pocket (or perhaps its bulging) that enabled Levy (presumably as a Jew) to form an estimate of the total sum. In another paper reporting the cross-examination of one of William’s “friends”, the friend states that William mentioned that his mother had recently died. This was true - she died in Ordsall on 9th October 1846, of “old age”, her age given inaccurately by her granddaughter, the informant, as 83 (she was actually 79). Here we can hardly criticise the vagueness of the cause of death, as it was also used for our late Queen Elizabeth!

Although the jury was prepared to give William Hemsall the benefit of the doubt on the first count, he was convicted on the other charges, found guilty of larceny, and imprisoned in the House of Correction at Northallerton with 18 months hard labour. It is hard not to feel a certain sympathy for William. He appears to have been an inept thief who was badly let down by his “friends”. The butler with his hands in the silver, or in this case the gold, is a stock figure of crime fiction. William, it seems, had been dismissed by the Colonel and must have been desperate, probably feeling he was entitled to a bit of “redundancy compensation” from a member of the gentry who could well afford it.

### Role of the new railway and new police

The case is interesting also for its historical background: the role of the railways, which enabled William to make a quick getaway; and the role of the newly-established police force, which was able to make an equally prompt pursuit and arrest - as shown in the map.

### Mystery of the death of Butler William

It is not clear whether William the ex-butler survived his term in jail. One report in the *Leeds Courant* states that he died in jail after only a couple of months, but this was denied in a correction issued by the same newspaper a week later. My painstaking searches have failed so far to find a death certificate at that time or subsequently, so his death remains a mystery. Northallerton jail was notoriously overcrowded. It was reported in 1848 that the 298 prisoners were sharing 68 cells and using corridors and the chapel as dormitories. After

rising concerns over malnutrition in the jail, a vicar who was among the visiting justices, narrowly avoided censure for having fed meals from the prison to his dogs for ten years. Infectious diseases were rife, which may account for the death aged 37 of the previously fit William.

## Generation Two: George William Hemsshell (1837-1911) - Jack of all trades

### Spelling change to conceal identity?

Meanwhile William’s son George, brought up by his aunt Mary, thereafter used the spelling Hemsshell (perhaps to dissociate himself from his embarrassing jailbird father?). He married Eliza Parker, a brickmaker’s daughter, in 1859 in Clarborough, near Retford, at which time he was described as a “groom”, living at “The Kennels” Ordsall (*Sheffield Daily News, and Morning Advertiser - Friday 10 June 1859*).

Interestingly, George stated that his father had been a coachman - there was no reference to his ever having been a butler. But he had hardly known his father, though the news of his imprisonment and death when George was ten years old must have percolated back to Ordsall. Later, in 1869, at his second marriage, his memory was different: he said his father had been an innkeeper. Finally, in 1904, at his third marriage, he stated that he had been a “gentleman”!

### An unsettled, wandering life

George and Eliza had two sons: George William (GW junior, 1860-1935) born at Clarborough, and Albert John (1862-1935) born at Ordsall. In between these two baptisms, however, in the 1861 census, the newly-married couple appear in Sheffield, in lodgings, with their first-born son. George was at that time a “carter”. Later, they moved to Peterborough, where a daughter, Emma Amelia (1864-?) was baptised at Peakirk, a village just outside Peterborough. George was then a “labourer”. This child’s middle name commemorated the mother whom George had never known.

### Death of first wife

However, George’s wife Eliza, like his own mother, died young, aged 26, on 20 February 1866, of typhoid according to the certificate. She died in Retford, so either they had moved back there, or Eliza was staying with friends or parents. George was now a railway porter. He could have been working at either Peterborough or Retford or both, as the LNER railway passes through both towns and railway workers could travel free. The journey took only three hours.

### Arranging care of the children

Thus George in 1866 found himself in the same unfortunate position as his father in 1837, but in his case with not just one, but three youngsters to care for. G.W. junior was by 1871 living near Retford with his grandparents, the Parkers; it is unclear who raised his brother, Albert John, who later settled in Castleford, Yorkshire. The daughter Emma Amelia disappears from the records thereafter.

### Brief second marriage

Meanwhile, in 1868, George senior remarried in Peterborough, but this second wife, Emma Taylor, also died very soon afterwards, on 13 March 1869, of phthisis (another name for TB, the same disease as George’s mother had died of in 1837). George was still a railway worker. For the next thirty-five years, George lived in an unwed relationship with Sarah

Ann Crampton. George, it seems had known her before, from his contacts in the Retford area.

### Puzzle of Sarah' eldest child

Sarah's first child, John William Hempshell, died aged 1 year and 8 months, of "convulsions", a vague term typical of the time for infant deaths, on 13 January 1870 at Mill Stone Hill, Aston - a pit village just outside Sheffield. George Hempshell, now a coal miner, was the informant, and stated that he was the father. Counting backwards, that puts John William's birth in the spring of 1868, i.e. before George got together with Sarah; indeed, before he had even married his second wife Emma. But the GRO reveals no such child as John William Hempshell registered in 1868. I surmised that he was an illegitimate child of Sarah, whom George had taken on with his mother. Sure enough, checking the GRO, I found the birth of a John William Crampton, registered in Clarborough (Retford) Workhouse, 18 March 1868; the mother was Sarah Ann. The father column was left blank - as was usual if the mother was not married.

Why did Sarah resort to the workhouse to give birth?. She had parents near at hand, a few miles away. Had they refused to help - or was Sarah too ashamed to tell them? Unmarried pregnant women were often disowned by their families, but, checking other Crampton births, I found that her sister Hannah had also had an out-of-wedlock child, a couple of years earlier, but in her case, she had given birth at her parents' home in Gringley-on-the-Hill, and married soon afterwards, presumably to the child's father. The implication is that Sarah's boyfriend had abandoned her, like poor Fanny Robin in "Far from the madding crowd", whereas Hannah's lover stood by her with only a slight delay.

### Doing the right thing?

Was George Hempshell in fact the father - and, crucially, had he known that he was? It seems likely, given that he was willing to take on Sarah and her baby, (though not to put a ring on her finger) within weeks of his second wife Emma's death. John William was conceived around June 1867. George had at that time been a widower for 15 months, so may have been in need of female company, and was, at least off and on, in the Retford area. But by spring 1868 he was back in the Peterborough area, making the acquaintance of second wife Emma Taylor, whom he married. But would he have married Emma if he had known that a child of his had just been born seventy miles away? Surely Sarah would have tried to contact him? Or had he "done a runner" to try to escape her? Or worse, was he keeping company with both women at the same time, one at each end of the railway where his work took him?

We shall never know - as the short-lived infant John William has no descendants who could do a Y-DNA test.

### Death of second child in the freezing winter of 1870

Be that as it may, Sarah had her second child, Annie Hempshell (sic) born 31 October 1870, in Brightside Bierlow, Sheffield; George was now a "drayman". The infant died on 13 February 1871 of "inflammation of the lungs". This time the family were in Eckington, about 9 miles south of Sheffield. George had gone back to coal mining.



Figure 3. Brightside - an incongruously-named area of Sheffield.

The two month period December-January 1870/71 was colder (central England temperature mean 0.5 C) than any similar period of the last two centuries apart from 1878/9 and 1962/3. They probably moved with the baby by horse and cart from Sheffield to Eckington during this period; small wonder that the poor child succumbed to a respiratory infection, exposed to the acrid, smoky freezing fog of the industrial areas of the coalfield.

### Mysterious child

Six weeks later, George and Sarah were in Worksop in time for the 1871 census held on 2 April, so had just moved again. They had with them just a four-year old, "Mary", whose parentage is unclear. Her birthplace is stated as Peakirk, near Peterborough, so the name could have been an enumerator's error for Emma Amelia - the child of George's first wife, but that child was born in 1864, so the age doesn't fit. However, the household return would have been compiled by the head of household, which was not George, as he and Sarah were only lodgers, but the lodging house keeper, who may not have got the girl's name or age correctly. George was still a coal miner, but presumably at a different pit, as Worksop is 10 miles from Eckington.

### Mystery of third child solved?

I found a third child - though deeply disguised in the GRO index. The death of an Arthur Hempshell, was registered for 19 October 1872 in Leeds, father George Hempshell, "shunter", aged 5 weeks - from "convulsions". But an initial search failed to reveal a corresponding birth in the expected third quarter in Leeds, of any infant named Arthur with any name which might conceivably have been one of the many misspellings of the name that I have encountered. I was aware that George was in the habit of dragging poor Sarah from pillar to post across the north of England, so, finally I broadened the search on FreeBMD to "Arthur \*ll, West Riding, 3rd quarter 1872. There were 24 But one birth attracted my attention:

ELMSELL Arthur, born Bramley

Elmsell is a "non-name" - not recorded elsewhere, but is a known, though rare, mistake for Hemsall etc. especially for registrars in the Leeds area, who are familiar with a local place name similar to that. To be sure, I switched back to the GRO website, which does not allow wildcards. No matches! However, they did have an Elmsel - i.e. one L. The clincher was the mother's maiden name: Crampton; also, Bramley is a

suburb of Leeds, though it was a separate registration area in the 1870s. It looks as if George and Sarah had moved house the few miles between Bramley and Leeds during the five weeks of Arthur's brief life, without George changing his place of work.

### Grim up North

So George must have tired of coal mining, and after their brief stay in Worksop, he had dragged the long-suffering, pregnant Sarah 45 miles up to Leeds. She must have been exhausted and fed up after the sixth move (that we know about) in three years: Retford>Aston>Sheffield>Eckington>Worksop>Bramley>Leeds. This continual disruption of the marital home may have been a factor in the deaths in infancy of all three of her elder children, especially as some moves were in winter, amid the acrid freezing fog of the south Yorkshire coalfield, which I can still recall from the 1950s and 1960s before the Clean Air Act. Indeed, the deaths of "five persons drowned during the recent fog" were reported at Leeds in 1872 - without further explanation. Presumably, they had blundered into a canal while walking on the towpath. (I can recall a fog so thick in 1968 that my girlfriend had to get out of the car and guide me in a Ford Anglia through the streets of Leeds, tapping the bonnet from time to time. It was so cold we had to go to bed fully clothed. How children were conceived was a minor miracle. The Monte Python "Four Yorkshiremen" sketch does have some basis in reality).

The Hempshell's moves continued - the next child, Emma, who, against the odds, survived, was born in Doncaster in 1874. But after a few months George was back in Sheffield, where he appears to have tried to dump Sarah, Emma and another child, as the following rather sanctimonious report informs us:

#### *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, 14 October 1874*

*SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL - CHARGES OF WIFE DESERTION*  
*George Hempshell, engine fitter, of Water Lane, was charged under a warrant with deserting his wife and three children, and leaving them chargeable to the union. On the 9th September the prisoner left the town, and a woman who stated that she was his wife went to the workhouse with two children and was admitted. A warrant was obtained and the prisoner apprehended. The woman now stated that she had lived with the prisoner for five years as his wife, but was not married. They had had three children. The stipendiary said it was most disgraceful of the prisoner to leave the woman after treating her as he had done, and he was sorry that he had no alternative but to discharge him.*

### Lack of rights for "common law wives"

Women at this period had no rights if they were not married, but the report also shows the strenuous efforts the law made to force errant husbands to look after their offspring - far more so than today's inept - and now largely forgotten - Child Support Agency. But the law could do nothing to help if the woman did not have a wedding ring on her finger. The report raises more questions than it solves. We know that George had already lost two wives through death; perhaps he was reluctant to tempt fate by tying the knot a third time? Or he may simply have gone away looking for a job, and neglected to tell his partner? He cannot have gone far, or else he would not have been caught and brought back to face his accusers.

### Reformed character?

George must have seen the error of his ways, as he went back to Sarah and lived with her, still unmarried, for a further 30 years. Though she was described as "wife" in each census, George only finally made an honest woman of Sarah in 1904, when they were in their sixties. They still used the spelling "Hempshell" in the 1911 census, when their son Tom had already changed to Hempshall (though the sons of his first marriage remained Hempshell). Only at his death later in 1911 was George registered by his family as Hempshall - though clearly he had no part in that.

### Survival rate of infants

During their time together, according to Sarah's statement in the 1911 census, she had given birth to seven children, of whom three survived to maturity:

(1) **Emma**, born 30 June 1874 in Doncaster. Emma was just over two months old at the time of George's absconding and the magistrate's hearing described above, so still being breastfed. She must have been one of the two children that Sarah took to the workhouse with her. But who was the other?

(2) **Tom**, born in Ordsall, registered in Retford in the last quarter of 1877. Clearly, George had seen the error of his ways. Although he could not be prosecuted or forced to provide for his wife and kids, the magistrate's words had shamed him into getting his act together. George had returned to his childhood home in Retford's rapidly growing suburb, Ordsall, where some of his cousins and friends still lived, including the children of his Aunt Mary, who had brought him up after the death of his mother when he was a few months old, and that of his father in jail, when he was 10.

(3) **Kate**, born in Wakefield about 1883, according to later censuses - but no birth record has been found under that name, or any similar ones or conceivable misspellings.

There is a puzzling gap between births, between 1877 and 1883. A new "sighting" has just emerged: a short spell in a London workhouse in June 1881:

### Oliver Twist's workhouse

The workhouse was in Mint Street, Southwark. This was the one believed to have inspired Charles Dickens' famous scene in *Oliver Twist* "Please sir, I want some more". Sarah was admitted first, on 14 June 1881; George and the children Emma and Tom on the 17 June.<sup>1</sup> Why this was so is not clear - possibly Sarah was in labour. No birth or death is recorded, so if there was a baby, it must have been stillborn. Be that as it may, all four left the workhouse a week later, at their own request. What they were doing in the capital - destitute at that - is unexplained. London was not one of George's usual haunts. He gave his occupation as "engine man" which sounds very similar to what he was doing in Yorkshire - so why come to London? This was Sarah's third stay in a workhouse - it seems she had no compunction about using them.

An exhaustive search has failed to find the family in the 1881 census, so perhaps they had been abroad on some aborted emigration - there is no evidence for this, apart from George's known restlessness, and the absence of any recorded UK births to the couple between 1877 and 1883.



Figure 4. Mint Street workhouse, Southwark.



Figure 5. The wanderings of George Hempshall (1837-1911).

### Drunk and disorderly, and physical description

On 11 October 1889 George was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly, and was given the choice of 6 days' hard labour or paying 21 shillings and twopence. He chose to do the time. We have his description:

*"5 foot five inches and a quarter; brown hair, going grey. Prominent nose, slightly crooked; mole back of the neck. His occupation was given as "engine tender" He had no previous convictions."*<sup>2</sup>

In 1891 George was back in Sheffield, and stayed there for the rest of his life. In that year, he and Sarah were both "licensed hawkers"- a term often used as a euphemism for gypsies, but they were not gypsies. In 1901 and also 1911, shortly before his death, George in the census described himself as a "boiler fireman steel" at a steel rolling mill; it seems he had finally settled to a regular, adequately-paid job.

### Second spelling change

The son, Tom, married a 17-year-old, Annie Gibson in Sheffield in 1898. For some reason, around 1908 this couple changed the spelling again - this time to Hempshall, possibly influenced by other families with this spelling who were living in the Sheffield area.

### WDYTA's theory of syphilitic neonatal death

Tom it seems got Annie pregnant when she was 16. They went on to have 16 children, of whom just eight survived infancy. Six of the first ten died in infancy, whereas thereafter, all the final six survived to adulthood. This pattern - a poor survival rate during the first years of a marriage, followed by an improvement later on - has been ascribed by some - notably an "expert" on the BBC series "Who do you think you are?" - to congenital syphilis. It was stated that in many nineteenth century families, a husband infected his wife who, while not displaying overt symptoms herself, passed the disease on to her babies, who failed to thrive, and died before the age of two, though the cause of death was ascribed to a variety of ailments other than congenital syphilis. The wife's body, so this theory goes, finally shrugged off the infection, and later children had a much better survival rate. However, this theory (which I suspect was favoured by the programme-makers partly because of its sleaziness) is unlikely to apply to this family. It does not account for the survival of fourth, fifth and seventh children (all girls). It is more likely that the last six - born between 1916 and 1923, benefitted from the higher and more regular wages earned by the father (who worked in the vital steel industry) during the first world war, and perhaps the greater child-raising experience of the mother. Paradoxically, many working-class families actually ate better during the war than before, as food was more equitably distributed. The syphilis theory also does not apply to Tom's father. Although Tom's mother Sarah lost her first three children, and reared Tom's last three, George's two sons by his first wife survived, thereby rendering the syphilis theory most unlikely.

### Early casualty of the Balfour Declaration

One of Tom and Annie's sons, Frank, was killed in one of Britain's lesser-known conflicts, In 1936 the Palestinians rebelled against the British mandate in protest at the increasing numbers of Jewish immigrants who were being allowed in by the occupying British (having been promised a "national home" in 1917 by the then Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour). The Arabs believed the Jews would soon take over their land, which indeed proved to be the case. The British army temporarily quelled the revolt, but the problem is still, 86 years on, no nearer solution. Frank Hempshall and his pals died pointlessly:

#### *Sheffield Independent, 2 September 1936*

##### **SHOT IN RAID NEAR NAZARETH**

*A Sheffield soldier has been shot by Arabs on the plains near Nazareth, Palestine. He was Private Frank Hempshall, of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment, was shot with four other soldiers in a fierce attack by an Arab band and received fatal wounds...*

##### **JOINED UP WHEN UNEMPLOYED**

*Private Hempshall who was 24, was the eldest of six sons of Mr. Tom Hempshall, steel weighman in the Sheffield Forge and Rolling Mills. There are also four sisters, three of whom are married. Hempshall went to Redhill Council School and left to become employed at the Sheffield Forge and Rolling Mills, but during the 1932 slump he was thrown out of work and joined the Army. He went to Egypt and last January went to Palestine.*



Figure 6. British soldiers marching into Nazareth, 1936.

Soon after he received this news, Frank's father, Tom, visited his daughter in Derbyshire, to tell her about it. As he crossed the road to board the bus back to Sheffield, with his sad thoughts distracting him, he was knocked down and killed, with

the letter from the army still in his pocket. Later, a younger brother of Frank, Ernest, served in the Korean War, which he fortunately survived. Another brother, Sidney, was a POW in Germany for a time; after the war he was posted to Singapore with the army. More recently, a son of Sidney, a serving army officer John Michael Hempshall, was awarded a MBE (in 2000).

Living descendants of this family include a Vice-President of a major High Street bank - a graphic example of the social mobility that makes One-Name Studies interesting.

### References

1. London Workhouse Admissions - online at Ancestry.
2. West Yorkshire Criminal Records - online at Ancestry.

Steve is studying the surname Hempshall with variants Hempsell, Hempshall, Hempshell, Hemsell, Hemshall. and also the surname Mimmack. Steve's DNA Project Website can be found at [www.familytreedna.com/public/Hempshall](http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Hempshall) and he can be contacted at [tns750@aol.com](mailto:tns750@aol.com).

## Mike Spathaky

### In Memoriam

by W. Paul Featherstone (2627)



Dear Members,

We sadly mourn the loss of a dear friend and member of our organisation, Mike Spathaky. Mike was a valued member of the Guild of One-Name Studies and made a significant contribution to our understanding and appreciation of genealogy and family history.

He served both as secretary and was our first webmaster, he could code better and quicker than I could write an English essay. He was the main driver in getting the members website program (MWP) off the ground and was its initial team leader, until ill health made him pass it to me. I remember well those planning meetings using the early Google hangouts, the trouble we had trying to get connections between Australia where Mike would spend 6 months a year, me and Bob Cumberbatch in the UK, and Jim Benedict in the middle of Canada gave us more problems than working out how the then project would be put before the then committee for approval.

I met Mike many years ago as we tried to start a user group for a family history program, we both used. He used it until the end both his websites are built with a program that takes the content from the program. I am just moving away from it myself.

Mike was a passionate and dedicated researcher, always eager to share his knowledge and expertise with others. He had a remarkable ability to bring history to life and inspire others to uncover the stories of their ancestors. He was always willing to lend a helping hand and was a true friend to all who knew him.

His work with the Guild of One-Name Studies will live on as a testament to his passion and dedication to preserving the past for future generations. Through his tireless efforts, he helped to build a rich and vibrant community of genealogists and family historians.

I discovered more about his other interests when I stopped overnight with his wife Marian and Mike as he showed me his garden, we were planning the first seminar that told members about websites and what MWP would do for the membership, his slogan was always "The Website is the Study" So his Cree and Spathaky websites are now preserved which is what his great wish was, to be able to save his work for future members to take up and carry on his work.

We will miss Mike's kind smile, his infectious laughter, and his unwavering commitment to his craft. He was a shining example of what it means to be a true member of the Guild of One-Name Studies and we are honoured to have known and worked with him.

May he rest in peace and may his legacy live on through the work that he so lovingly dedicated his life to.

# William Rondeau 1779-1852

## Attorney Turned Preacher And Ohio - Mississippi Steamboat Owner

by Paul Smith (2065)

I've been researching my wife's maiden name of Rondeau for some years and one of her most colourful ancestors was William Rondeau. He was of Huguenot descent whose family sought refuge in Spitalfields, London in 1685 after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes which began a new wave of persecution of the French Protestants. The family were master silk weavers.

William Rondeau 1779-1852 was the second son of James (last of the weavers in the family) and Mary Vigo and brother of Joseph, my wife's 3 x great-grandfather. He became an attorney and Baptist minister and moved to Manchester from London around 1804 and had 10 children. He emigrated to the USA in 1819 and settled first in Philadelphia before later moving to Pope County, Illinois and settled in Golconda. William visited and lived in New Orleans from around 1824 - 1830. He worked as a clerk, storekeeper and riverboat owner. He owned slaves, was shot and wounded in a shootout and eventually bought Golconda Island on the Ohio River which became known as Rondeau Island. There he built a house and became a farmer. The Rev Ronald L. Nelson found his diary in the archives of The Baptists and wrote "*The Life and Works of William Rondeau, the Backwoods Preacher*" which contains letters William wrote to his family.

He was born on 15 April 1779 at New Inn Yard, Shoreditch and baptised at St Leonards on 25 April. William was educated at the French Protestant School on Wilkes Street formerly his grandfather's house (Jean Rondeau) and probably left school at the age of 14 as in 1793 he became a bound apprentice to the Stationers Company in London to train as a stationer. Apprenticeships in those days were for seven years. In 1799 he was living in London in the Bethnal Green area according to the Land Tax records.

William moved to Manchester around 1804 to be indentured and to serve as an articled clerk (trainee lawyer) "in order to learn and be instructed in the profession of an attorney at law and conveyancer" to Edward Chippindall of Manchester on 15 October 1804 for five years. He married Ann Arkinstall on 5 March 1807 in Cheswardine, Shropshire but was living in the Manchester area by 1808 when their son Charles Augustus was born. His address was William Street, Chorlton Row, Manchester. In 1810 they were at 6 Tasse Street, Manchester for the birth of their son William. In 1811 William was indentured to Hugo Worthington for one year and twenty-one days as an articled clerk (trainee attorney) in Altrincham and this was where their daughter Mary Ann was born in 1812.

In 1813 the family moved to 2 St Mary's Street, Deansgate, Manchester where Mehetabel was born. Their next 3 children Theophilus 1815, John 1817 and Ebenezer 1818 were all born in Manchester.

He qualified as an attorney in 1814 and first appeared in the local directories in 1816 to 1819 at 3 St Marys St, Manchester under "Attorneys".

In 1818 William published 161 page book "*The Words of Jesus*" which appears to be a collection of sentences and verses taken from the New Testament. A copy is in the Manchester Central Library and is available to download on line. The book received a review which was written in the Manchester Mercury on 27 October 1818. The article mentions that the proceeds would be donated to Sunday Schools in Manchester and Salford. The article also mentions another publication of indexes, "the profits of which are to be donated to the London Missionary Society". Evidence of his strong faith no doubt which later led him to be ordained as a Baptist minister.

About 1817 William went into a partnership with John Dicas (1782-1837) another attorney/solicitor but this proved a disaster for William as they incurred debts which William had agreed to take on at his own expense but then William "fell in to embarrassments" and was unable to pay. In 1819 their London agent who was owed the money started legal proceedings to sue the partnership for the debt. The case was discussed in the Law magazine. This was probably the reason William and his family sailed to the USA in the summer of 1819. They arrived in Philadelphia on 22 August from Liverpool after a journey averaging 6 weeks but could have taken longer in bad weather conditions. They had five children with them, the youngest Ebenezer (who became a doctor) was only about seven months old. On the 28 January 1820 William signed his naturalisation papers in Pennsylvania.

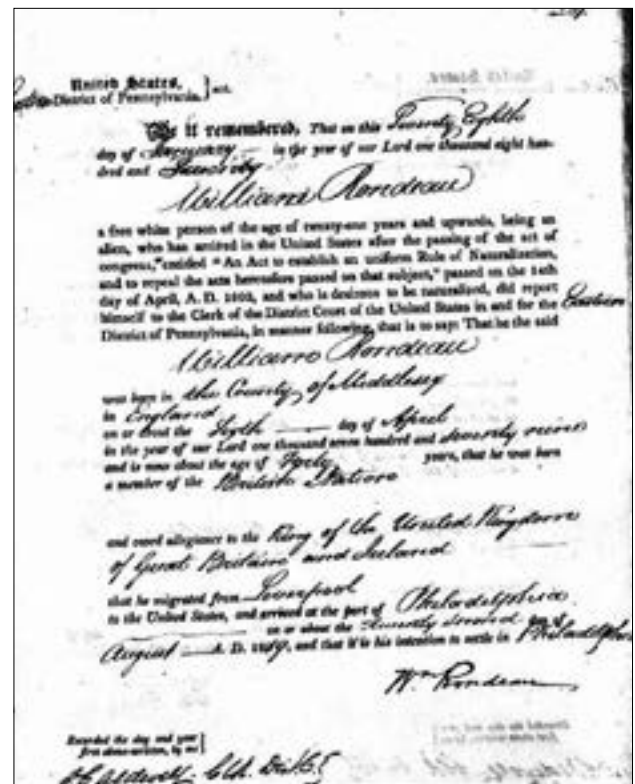


Figure 1. William Rondeau's Naturalisation Papers.

William and Ann had three further children all born in Golconda, Immanuel 1820, Sarah Ann 1822 and James Septimus 1825. In late 1820 they left Philadelphia and from Pittsburgh he bought a flatboat and headed west. By the time they reached Pope County the cold weather had frozen the Ohio River and they had to stop. William built a cabin to prevent the family from freezing possibly using the wood from the flatboat according to "Journey to the Present" by Mary Matrice Moulder Chersonsky. In the 1820 census the family were living in Monroe, Pope County and William had purchased a small farm on the Hodgeville Road west of Golconda, Illinois. In 1821 William began a retail store in Golconda to make a living but it was not successful. From 1823 to 1825 he was the Justice of the Peace for Pope County and was a member of the Regulators who captured and drove out the Sturdivant gang of counterfeiters from Rosiclare, Pope County, Illinois in 1823 in which he received a serious gunshot wound to the shoulder. A newspaper article in the Illinois Gazette dated 17 May 1823 documents the skirmish in full. At the time of the above raid, Rondeau was the clerk of the Big Creek Baptist Church, now the First Baptist Church of Elizabethtown. In 1827, he would help organize the Old Grand Pier Baptist Church, Pope County, Ill.

**Illinois Gazette, 17 May 1823**

*BLOODY BUSINESS — Last Tuesday week, a party of eighteen or twenty set out from Golconda to arrest the Sturdivants, who live about 16 miles above that place, near the Ohio river, and are supposed to carry on the counterfeiting business, being engravers, and having the necessary implements, &c. We have not learnt how the affray commenced, or who fired first, but presume it began on the attempt of the Golconda party to enter the house to make the arrest. A Mr. Small, who was at the house of Sturdivant, was shot through the body, and died in a few hours after. He is supposed to have been an agent of the counterfeiters, employed in putting off their paper. Roswell Sturdivant, the principal engraver, was shot through the nape of his neck, and is supposed to be dangerously wounded. Mr. Rondeau, who was of the Golconda party, in endeavouring to prevent disturbance, and to induce the assaltd to submit without resistance, was shot through the shoulders—the wound very dangerous. One other, we believe, was also wounded, but we do not know to which party he belonged. The party finally succeeded in taking them prisoners, and they are now confined in jail, together with such of the assailants as were concerned in the killing and wounding. The Sheriff has communicated the facts to the Judge of the Circuit, with a view to the holding a special court for the trial of the prisoners—but none has yet been ordered, and we understand it is a matter of doubt whether the statute gives authority to hold one.*

*Since the above was in type we have procured a more correct account. It was a day or two after Small was killed that the other attack was made. The first party not conceiving themselves strong enough, returned to Golconda, and a day or two after about 40 persons assembled, and proceeded up to the neighborhood of the counterfeiters on board the steam boat Cincinnati, surrounded the house, and after a considerable struggle, in which Sturdivant and another of his party; and Mr. Rondeau of the other party, were wounded, as stated*

*above, they succeeded in arresting Roswell Sturdivant and his father, and two others, and conveyed them to jail, who are the only persons that are confined—our information not being correct, which stated that some of the assailants were also in jail.*

*The commanders of this expedition against the counterfeiters, for themselves and their associates, beg leave, most respectfully, to thank the Captain of the Cincinnati for transporting them, without charge, to the neighbourhood of Sturdivants, and for his politeness to them while on board.*

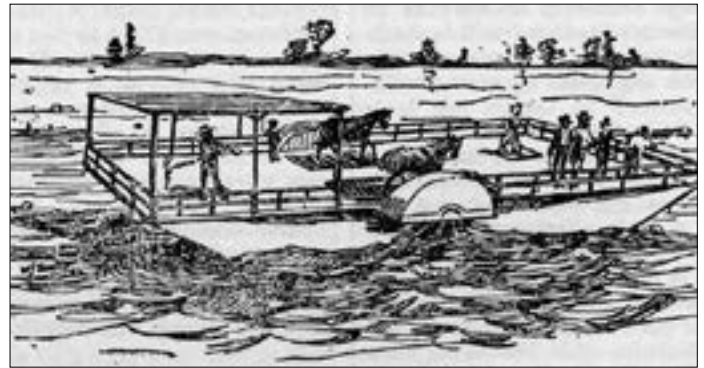


Figure 2. This is an early 19th-century horse-powered ferry boat on the Ohio River typically used by counterfeiters and river pirates.

As a result of the wounds he received in the Sturdivant raid, William Rondeau filed a law suit for compensation at the Pope Co. Circuit Court, The case dragged through the courts and the Sturdivants hired one of the best defence lawyers in Illinois history. On 16 of April, 1824, it was reported to the court that "Azor Sturdivant, the principal in the skirmish, was dead. Therefore the case was discharged."

An interesting entry is found in the Pope County Court Record Book it reads:

*"Ordered, the treasurer is required to pay to William Rondeau \$2 for iron to make hand cuffs in May last."*

In 1824 he was a candidate for State Representative but was defeated by his best friend Dr William Sim. In 1825 with his two eldest sons he packed a flatboat with goods from his store and headed south to New Orleans. The first few years were very difficult for the family and William wrote to his brother Joseph to try and raise money for their return to England. By 1829 when he realized this would not be possible he successfully applied to become a citizen of the USA which was granted on 11 December 1829.

In 1826 in New Orleans he organized the first black Baptist church. For a while William and his two sons worked as bank clerks for the New Orleans State Bank but William sent his wife and the rest of the family back to Golconda where in 1830 she bought Golconda Island on the Ohio River, the family built a two story log house and started farming. The house stood until it was damaged by floods in 1937. The island was renamed as Rondeau Island. In 1832 William went into partnership with Joseph W. Pryor and bought a steamboat named *The Telegraph* which earned him a good profit. Unfortunately a couple of year's later disaster struck and the boat and cargo was sunk in an accident involving a collision with another steamboat. William wrote to Ann "I am now

poorer than ever before in my life being many thousands of dollars in debt". Shortly after that Ann went to New Orleans to join her husband and stayed a month. From the profits from the farm which was in her name she bought household goods and four slaves one of which was a girl. After settling his affairs William and Ann returned to the island for good by steamboat with five tons of goods including a small piano and the four slaves.

William returned to farming and the Baptist ministry and helped found the Mill Creek Missionary Baptist Church and became its pastor in 1841. It is at this church he was ordained in 1824 not as stated on his gravestone 1812.

William began to increase the Rondeau farmland and in 1843 bought his son Charles's land in Pope County for \$450. In the 1850 census William is shown as a Baptist minister living on the Island with Ann his wife. William retired in his island home in 1852 due to poor health but continued to study and write for his ministry. On 11 March 1852 William died sitting up in his chair in his log home on Rondeau Island. He died of an ulcerated throat and was buried 14 March 1852 at the Golconda City Cemetery Illinois. Ann and her youngest son continued to run the farm. Ann died 1 December 1865 and was buried next to her husband. William left a will dated 1825 leaving everything to his wife Ann.



Figure 3. A sketch of the Rondeau family house they built on the island.

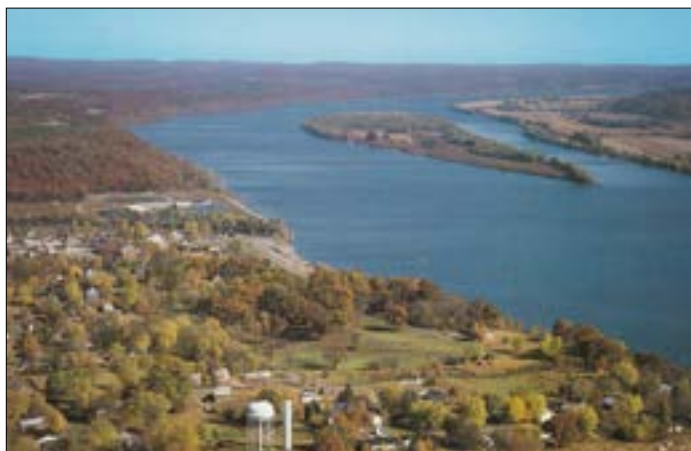


Figure 4. Rondeau Island situated at Golconda on the Ohio River between Kentucky & Illinois.

In his will William Rondeau named two slaves, Philip and Patience. Ann Rondeau named five slaves, Toby, Peter, Sam, Eliza and July in her will, dated 5 June 1860. It reads:

*I Ann Rondeau of Rondeau Island Livingston County, Kentucky do hereby declare this to be my last will and testament.*

*I do give and bequeath to my son James Septimus Rondeau absolutely and unconditionally my property called Rondeau Island situated in Livingston County, Kentucky together with my livestock that may remain of mine at the time of my decease, also my household furniture except a few articles specified namely a sofa and six cane seated chairs to my daughter Mehetabel Davis and a work table and work box to my daughter Sarah Ann Timmis Berry. I hereby give to my son Dr Ebenezer Rondeau certain lots of ground situated in the town of Golconda, Pope County, Illinois namely lots 90-91 and 111. I give to my son William Henry Rondeau whatever monies I may have at interest in the hands of my son Charles A.F. Rondeau at the time of my decease.*

*I give to my son James Septimus Rondeau my negro boy Toby. I desire that my negro boys Peter and Sam and my negro girls Eliza and July be sold and the proceeds of such sale be divided equally share alike among my sons W. H Rondeau, Ebenezer Rondeau, and my daughters Mehetabel Davis and Sarah Ann T Berry. I desire that all cash in hand the proceeds of my notes I may hold or debts due to me at the time of my decease shall be divided equally among my sons W. H. Rondeau, Dr Ebenezer Rondeau and James S. Rondeau and my daughters Mehetabel Davis and Sarah Ann T Berry after all my funeral and testamentary expenses shall be first paid therewith and if I have any debts that they be discharged from the aforesaid funds. I do here appoint my friend Dr William Sim and my son Charles Augustus Frederick Rondeau as such administrators of executors of this my last will and testament. I request Dr Sim to accept my bible as a token of my respect and esteem for him.*

I have traced African Americans living today who bear the name Rondeau who are descendants of the above.



Figure 5.

William's gravestone in Golconda Cemetery, Illinois.

fore take care of the weaker part, for your own sake, your Family's sake, and your friends and relatives' sake. There has lately been a very dreadful catastrophe in Manchester. Nearly a new factory gave way at one end and at the top of it and in an instant buried it is believed about 100 in the ruins. Ten were killed on the spot, and others dreadfully wounded. See 1 Thess. 5:3 - Commission.

Manchester increases much in population. Houses are building in all directions and are inhabited almost before they are finished. A new Town Hall is building on the site of the late Dr. White's house in King Street. It will be a very magnificent building. Several new churches and chapels have been and are erecting - factories and other public buildings. Market Street is being widened, the infirmary is about to be enlarged, and various other improvements are going forward in Manchester.

You will in all probability have received letters from Father and James, and perhaps Mr. Arkinstall before you receive this. Father and James have sent off their letters I'm informed. You can then better judge what arrangements to make when you have compared the statements of each letter together.

I know not what arrangements will be made with regard to the money which is intended to be collected for you, but if I find it necessary, I will write to you again - soon - otherwise I shall expect a letter from you without delay apprising me of your arrangements and intentions.

We are all well at present through mercy. I have 3 children, 2 girls and a boy. I much regret that I am at present so circumstanced that I cannot afford you that pecuniary aid which the nature of your circumstances require. I have however used what effort I could elsewhere on your behalf. I shall be happy to see you and my sister, Charles and William, and all the family once more in British Isles. Again my wife writes with me in love to you all and I remain, dear brother,

Yours affectionately,  
Joseph Rondeau

Figure 6. Part of a letter to William from his brother Joseph (my wife's 3 x great-grandfather).



Figure 7. There are no known photo's of William Rondeau, but this one is of his eldest son Charles Augustus Rondeau and his mother, William's wife Ann.

**Sources**

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2. Ancestry.co.uk
3. Golconda Library
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8. Newspaper Records
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16. USA Rondeau Researchers: Joanne Jolly, Mary Moulder & Jeanne Trovillion
17. Pope County Court Records

**References**

1. Nelson, Ronald. *The Life and Works of William Rondeau: "The Old Backwards Preacher."* Hartford, KY: McDowell Publications, 1979.

Paul is studying the surname Rondeau with variants Roandeau, Rondean, Rondeaw, Rondoe, Roundeau. and also the surname Whincup with variants Whincap, Whincop, Wincop, Wincup, and Winkup. Paul can be contacted at [paulsmith5555@outlook.com](mailto:paulsmith5555@outlook.com).

poorer than ever before in my life being many thousands of dollars in debt". Shortly after that Ann went to New Orleans to join her husband and stayed a month. From the profits from the farm which was in her name she bought household goods and four slaves one of which was a girl. After settling his affairs William and Ann returned to the island for good by steamboat with five tons of goods including a small piano and the four slaves.

William returned to farming and the Baptist ministry and helped found the Mill Creek Missionary Baptist Church and became its pastor in 1841. It is at this church he was ordained in 1824 not as stated on his gravestone 1812.

William began to increase the Rondeau farmland and in 1843 bought his son Charles's land in Pope County for \$450. In the 1850 census William is shown as a Baptist minister living on the Island with Ann his wife. William retired in his island home in 1852 due to poor health but continued to study and write for his ministry. On 11 March 1852 William died sitting up in his chair in his log home on Rondeau Island. He died of an ulcerated throat and was buried 14 March 1852 at the Golconda City Cemetery Illinois. Ann and her youngest son continued to run the farm. Ann died 1 December 1865 and was buried next to her husband. William left a will dated 1825 leaving everything to his wife Ann.



Figure 3. A sketch of the Rondeau family house they built on the island.

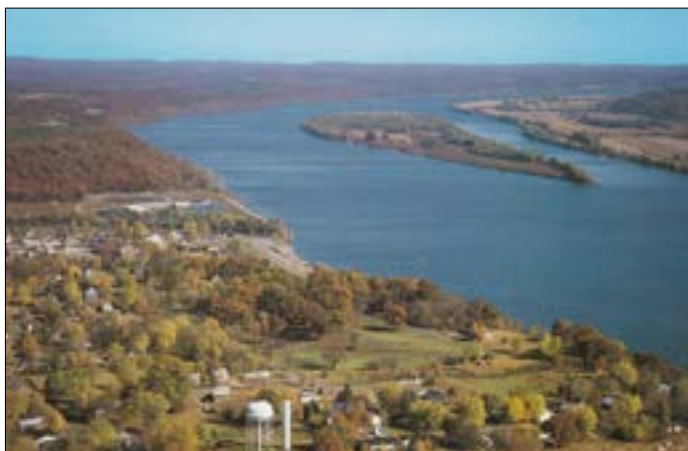


Figure 4. Rondeau Island situated at Golconda on the Ohio River between Kentucky & Illinois.

In his will William Rondeau named two slaves, Philip and Patience. Ann Rondeau named five slaves, Toby, Peter, Sam, Eliza and July in her will, dated 5 June 1860. It reads:

*I Ann Rondeau of Rondeau Island Livingston County, Kentucky do hereby declare this to be my last will and testament.*

*I do give and bequeath to my son James Septimus Rondeau absolutely and unconditionally my property called Rondeau Island situated in Livingston County, Kentucky together with my livestock that may remain of mine at the time of my decease, also my household furniture except a few articles specified namely a sofa and six cane seated chairs to my daughter Mehetabel Davis and a work table and work box to my daughter Sarah Ann Timmis Berry. I hereby give to my son Dr Ebenezer Rondeau certain lots of ground situated in the town of Golconda, Pope County, Illinois namely lots 90-91 and 111. I give to my son William Henry Rondeau whatever monies I may have at interest in the hands of my son Charles A.F. Rondeau at the time of my decease.*

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# Thoughts On DNA Testing For One-Namers

by David Bicket (4268)

## Introduction

This article is intended as a self-help guide for individuals running a surname study who want to get good value from DNA testing in that study, taking advantage of current scientific knowledge about Y-DNA testing. This article is not intended for individuals with a general interest in DNA testing, nor is it a guide for people trying to understand the results of their tests.

This article focuses in particular on the benefits which can be obtained from advances in the last several years related to Y-SNPs. This does not necessarily require Y-SNP testing, because Y-SNPs can be predicted from Y-STR results. But Y-SNP testing will give the most detailed and most usable results. In any case, using this article requires a reasonable understanding of DNA and DNA testing, especially of Y-STR and Y-SNP testing. Annex A (Summary of DNA basics for one-namers) provides a brief overview. All types of DNA testing for genealogy are briefly covered, but the focus is on Y-DNA testing since this is the most relevant for surname studies. By way of explanation, there are significant differences between what is needed to understand autosomal DNA testing (the most widely used in genealogy), and Y-DNA testing. Within Y-DNA testing, there are significant differences between what is needed to understand Y-STR testing and Y-SNP testing. It is not possible for the reader to appreciate the objective of this article without understanding these differences.

This article presents the consolidated experience and opinions of a number of one-namers who have Big Y 700 or equivalent experience, but does not claim to be definitive. The remaining errors, omissions, and biases are purely those of the author. Furthermore, the state of the art in DNA testing continues to advance, and as a result what is appropriate guidance for one-namers will likely change over time. This will happen especially as WGS testing becomes more widespread, which will someday probably be the standard test for everyone, and as more SNPs are identified and mapped into the Y-haplotype.

This article focuses on Y-DNA testing from Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), but does briefly address other types of testing, and other companies. Within the community of FTDNA users, there has been a strong tradition of the use of STR testing, and this article therefore reflects that situation. However, there is also a smaller community of users of YSEQ/YFULL, where more knowledge is required, but where the focus is on WGS testing and Y-SNPs almost exclusively, and Y-STRs are seen as inappropriate to pursue from multiple perspectives.

There is no 'one-size-fits-all' set of recommendations because the situation for any surname study will have its own characteristics which help determine an appropriate course of action for DNA testing. Some of the specific factors that help determine an appropriate course of action are:

**How many unique origins your surname has.** If the surname of your study has common origins such as occupational names, location names, or 'son of' names, then there are likely to be large numbers of independent origins for people with

that surname (and its variants). It will almost certainly not be meaningful to establish the relationships between such independently originating lineages, because they will usually be long before genealogical timeframes. In these cases, many one-namers will consider it sufficient to identify the groupings of different origins, and STR testing is well suited for this.

**What are the interests of living individuals with your study surname.** Why do people want to join your project and do DNA tests for you? Simple curiosity? Looking for a way to break down their brick walls? Finding where they came from in terms of location and culture? Some may be interested, but not if they have to pay. Some may be willing to pay, but want the cheapest options to address their interests. Some may be willing to go for the most expensive options, and to pay yet more to support tests by others. These factors may help determine the types of DNA testing you promote.

**Whether you care about determining the exact relationships between different lineages of a tree which are genetically related within a genealogical timeframe.** Another way of expressing this is whether you care about determining the exact relationships between all of the documented lineages of an STR grouping, which will have been within a genealogical timeframe. Perhaps you care primarily about your own STR grouping, but not the many other STR groupings in your surname project.

**How many existing STR tests you have in your surname project.** If your surname DNA project is quite new, and has few existing testers, then you can follow a course of action designed to get maximum benefits from whatever financial resources you have. If your surname DNA project already has large numbers of test results, most likely at Y-37 or less, then there are similar opportunities to get maximum benefits from whatever additional funds you have to spend. But there may be inertia in the existing approach which could be hard to change.

**What is sufficient to satisfy your own curiosity.** How much time and money are you willing to spend to satisfy your curiosity? Or to organize others to do the same?

## Summary

The guidance in this article can be summarized as follows:

**Y-STR uses.** Y-STR testing has many potential uses, the most significant of which is to establish groupings of testers who are almost certainly part of the same DNA lineage within genealogical timeframes. Likewise, they can demonstrate that different groupings are almost certainly not related within genealogical timeframes, and that they therefore have independent origins.

**Y-SNP uses.** Because of significant advances in Y-DNA testing over the past several years, the detailed results provided by SNP testing are now the best available for a surname project. SNP results provide everything which STR results can provide, and much more, because they show where testers are connected to the tree of mankind (the Y haplotype), and thereby specifically

how they are related to other testers, and not just that they are related by being part of the same grouping. The test from FTDNA which provides the full range of SNP results is the Big Y 700 test. (It also provides STR results, but these are incidental, and of limited relevance given the value of the SNP results which are provided.)

**Inhibitors to Y-SNP uptake.** This being said, there are two main inhibitors to a mass move to SNP testing. These are (1) the unit cost of the Big Y test; and (2) the large number of STR test results which have already been performed in many surname projects. This article will give some recommendations for dealing with both of these issues.

**Starting with Y-37 vs Big Y.** It is noted that the Y-37 STR test is described as 'a good starting point', including by FTDNA itself. A more accurate position is more nuanced than that. Always starting with Y-37 can be wasteful both in terms of time and cost, although not by excessive amounts. There is no reason to delay going directly to Big Y testing if testers have been chosen according to strict criteria. It is, however, financially inappropriate to test everyone using Big Y, just as it is financially inappropriate to test everyone using Y-37, when relationships between potential testers are already known. For the purposes of getting meaningful results, in most cases fewer Big Y tests are needed than the number of STR tests which are typically performed. Furthermore, Big Y produces qualitatively much better results, meaning that the 'bang for buck' achieved with Big Y testing can be much better than with just Y-STR testing.

**Mass participation.** There are related issues of mass participation and funding. It can be argued that the cheaper Y-STR tests are better at encouraging a greater level of participation from people with the targeted surnames, potentially resulting in a more active surname project and likewise resulting in greater funding from those participants. The readers of this article can make their own decisions about such issues. However, from the perspective of DNA results, mass participation using Y-STR tests cannot produce the definitive results of targeted SNP testing, regardless of the number of Y-STR tests performed.

### **Where are we and how did we get here?**

The science and best way of using DNA testing in a surname study has changed as testing technology has advanced. (See Annex A - Summary of DNA basics for one-namers.)

Although people started around 2000 experimenting with various forms of DNA testing, Y-STR testing was quickly viewed, in general, as the best type of DNA testing available for surname studies, and this continued to be the situation through about 2016, and particularly since 2019 when FTDNA introduced their Big Y 700 test and their dynamic haplotree. Consequently, surname projects wishing to benefit from DNA testing throughout this earlier period used Y-STR testing for its maximum possible benefits, which generally involved testing as many individuals with the relevant surname and variants as possible. From these results, it was possible to identify groupings of testers with similar STR marker patterns. These groupings showed broad patterns of surname development, e.g., often indicating different geographic origins for the same surname. However, while Y-STR testing can show that these different groups were not related to each other within historical timeframes, it does not show how people within those groupings are related to each other. Until the advent of SNP testing, showing such connections was only possible by

researching historical records, to the extent that such records existed and provided credible evidence for linkages.

Since approximately 2016, Y-SNP testing has increasingly enabled the determination of the exact genetic relationships between different testers, whether they are from different STR groupings, or whether they are from within the same STR grouping. Indeed, Y-SNP testing can bypass the need for determining STR-type groupings of testers, because it definitively shows how testers are related if it is before the surname era (and hence they would be in different STR groupings), or how they are related within the surname era (and hence they would be in the same STR grouping).

Some one-namers may wish to continue the STR approach which existed before 2016, when the main purpose of DNA testing for surname studies was to use Y-STR tests to identify groupings of testers for the purpose of identifying broad patterns of surname development. However, that approach has been overtaken by the developing science and use of Y-SNP testing. A more ambitious purpose for DNA testing for surname studies may today be defined as determining the exact genetic connections between lineages which cannot be determined from historical records.

### **Need for lineages documented by historical records**

DNA testing for surname studies, and in particular Y-DNA testing, does not exist in a vacuum. It exists to supplement work on lineages using historical records. While it might theoretically be possible to investigate genealogy purely through DNA, this article assumes that work to create lineages using historical records should always take priority. This article considers that testing done without prior efforts to determine lineages using historical records is likely wasteful financially. It may actually be counterproductive because the lack of meaningful results may discourage and demotivate participants.

For the avoidance of doubt, it might be useful to clarify what is meant in this article by a lineage defined by historical records, especially in the context of a one-name study. This article defines a one-name study lineage as being a named Earliest Known Ancestor of a given surname (or variant), together with all of that person's descendants, particularly male descendants. Ideally this lineage continues down to living men of that surname, although it may terminate earlier for some or all of its branches.

Selecting candidates for Y-DNA testing should always be done with as full knowledge as possible of all potential testers for a given lineage as defined using historical records. The following are considered appropriate:

**For Y-STR tests.** Typically two or three testers are needed for a given lineage as defined using historical records. They should be chosen to be as distantly related from each other as possible, within that lineage. Using the STR marker values from these testers, it will be possible to assess a modal value, which will be a 'best guess' as to what the STR values were for the Most Recent Common Ancestor of that lineage. Testing more individuals than three, if they are known to be related within the same lineage as defined using historical records, is quite likely wasteful. Nevertheless it is recognised that many new testers lacking a significant documented lineage

derive personal satisfaction from using STR tests to identify or confirm from which grouping of a surname they are paternally descended.

**For Y-SNP tests.** Only one tester is needed for a given lineage as defined using historical records. It is generally justified to test more than one person in a lineage only if the results from the first tester are significantly unexpected (e.g., connected to individuals with different surnames within a recent historical timeframe, indicating a possible NPE somewhere).

This being said, where lineages cannot be established through historical records, then Y-SNP testing can help determine named connections. For example, there may be multiple birth candidates for the earliest documented ancestor of a specific lineage. Y-SNP testing may indicate which of those candidates it should be.

### General recommendations

The following are recommended for all one-namers who want to make the best possible use of DNA testing in their one-name studies:

**Determine what you can about the surname's origins and distribution.** There are a number of sources of assertions about the origins of certain surnames, and you should at least understand these, even if they are later disproven, or if additional origins are discovered. There are also a number of sources which allow the creation of surname distribution maps, which can be helpful in guiding future work, whether records-based or DNA-based. For example, if a surname has multiple geographical, cultural or etymological origins, then there will almost certainly be multiple independent lineages of that surname.

**Remain focused on establishing lineages based on historical records.** You should focus in particular on lineages for currently living individuals with your one-name study surname and its variants. If you have not yet done this, try to make contact with such living individuals as a priority. Prior to the internet, a productive approach was to write to people whose names could be found in public directories, e.g., telephone directories. This may still work today. But a more effective way now is probably to search for family trees on genealogy websites whose managers have the desired surname or its variants. Contact these people, and try to get them involved. There are clearly issues with some claimed lineages, especially those on public websites built largely based on hints. All the usual skills and cautions of doing records-based research need to be applied. One issue is that amateur researchers often ignore surname variants, but by being part of a surname study which clearly recognizes name variants, this issue can hopefully be minimized.

**Review and be sure you understand the strengths and limitations of the different types of DNA testing.** If you started DNA testing prior to 2019, you may need to update your understandings. There is a summary in Annex A of DNA basics for one-namers.

**Understand how to interpret the results of the different types of DNA testing.** A significant inhibitor to being able to use different types of DNA testing is not understanding how to interpret their results and incorporate their results into one-name studies. See Annex B.

**Experiment.**<sup>1</sup> Don't discount any DNA testing approach based just on expectations or negative reports. To the extent that you can afford it, try every major type of testing, with every significant company you can. You are probably the best person to experiment on. You will learn in the process. Furthermore, you may find an unexpected result which you might have never found otherwise. (It definitely happens!)

**Start small.** Once you have decided what you want to achieve in your DNA research for your one-name study, start small so that you understand what you are doing before you launch into a more massive project. One of the best ways of starting is with your immediate family and lineage. If you are changing (or even experimenting with changing) the approach for an existing surname project, you should also start small.

**Use the Y-haplotree.** Relate all of your Y-DNA results to the Y-haplotree, regardless of the type of Y-DNA testing you perform. (With Y-STR testing, you will get a predicted Y-haplogroup. With Y-SNP testing, you will get a confirmed haplogroup, at a more detailed level.) Determine where your testers, and their branches, fit on the Y-DNA haplotree, and reflect this in how your results are shown.

**Make your findings public, without violating personal privacy requirements.** It is recommended that you make your findings available as widely as possible, to demonstrate both to members already participating in your surname project, and also to those outside the project, what you are accomplishing. It is recommended you keep your findings updated regularly, so that readers can see your project is not dormant.

### Recommendations depending on where you are starting from

Recommendations for what you can do depend to a significant degree on where you are starting.

**Established one-name study including both lineages and DNA (mostly Y-37 STR tests).** This category reflects the situation for people who have probably been active one-namers for many years, with much or most testing done prior to 2016. This category also reflects the situation for someone inheriting such a study from another one-namer.

- Decide what are your priorities. If your priority is to run a project for which the main objective is the widest level of participation possible, follow the recommendations listed below under 'Recommendations for increased participation'.
- Otherwise, review all of your groupings based on STRs to clarify which have lineages based on historical records. Try to connect in historical records those individuals which have been grouped together. Use the predicted Y-haplogroups, or actual Y-haplogroups if any testers have taken the Big Y test, to structure existing groupings according to the Y-haplotree for those SNP haplogroups. It is particularly recommended to produce a diagram showing where all of your STR groupings fit into the Y-DNA haplotree. (Note that there are several alternative approaches to obtaining predicted Y-haplogroups, including: (1) Family Tree DNA predicted haplogroup with its Y-STR tests; (2) the program NevGen;<sup>2</sup> and (3) the Y-DNA family grouping app.<sup>3</sup>) Then follow the recommendations listed below under 'Recommendations for connection results'.

**Established one-name study with lineages but little DNA work.** This category reflects the situation for one-namers just embarking on a DNA study to be joined with their records-based one-name study work. They have neither the benefit, nor the baggage, of large quantities of STR tests.

- Set up a surname DNA project if you do not already have one. It is particularly easy to do this with Family Tree DNA with the assistance of the Guild DNA coordinator. See the link in Annex D (Sources of additional information).
- Follow the recommendations above for established one-name studies which already have both extensive lineages and extensive DNA testing results. Given that there are no, or few, existing DNA tests, it is quite possible that the decision will be taken to follow the approach for connection results, rather than for increased participation.

#### **Starters for one-name studies both for lineages and for DNA**

- Set up a surname DNA project. It is particularly easy to do this with Family Tree DNA with the assistance of the Guild DNA coordinator. See the link in Annex D (Sources of additional information).
- Focus on finding individuals from different lineages, and on extending their lineages in historical records as much as possible. As you find these individuals, try to get one tester from each lineage to do a Big Y test which will give you the main benefits of the connection approach. Then decide whether you want to continue following only the connection approach, or instead the approach for increased participation.

#### **Recommendations for connection results**

**Ensure clarity of objectives:** determining the connections between separate lineages which are already defined in terms of historical records as far back as possible.

**Try to identify at least one Big Y tester per separate lineage.**

**Get them to test.** Depending on how motivated you are for connection results, you may need to pay (or get others from your project to donate to cover the cost). You want to be able to place testers on the Y-haplotype at as detailed a level as possible. Consequently, it is strongly recommended that you plan for them to take a Big Y test. To spread out costs, you might wish to test first with Y-37, and upgrade later when affordable to Big Y. You can rely on the Y-37 test alone to get a predicted Y-haplogroup, but that will not give you the detailed cascade of SNPs which the tester has, including the most detailed 'terminal SNP'.

**Establish and promote use of a project General Fund.** Some people may wish to donate to help cover the costs of these tests. It is also a convenient way to fund a test with multiple payees.

#### **Recommendations for increased participation**

**Ensure clarity of objectives:** getting more people to participate in your one-name study by getting them to participate in DNA testing.

**Try to identify as many living individuals as you can with your study surname or variants.**

**Invite them to test.** In general, the expectation is that they would cover their own costs, because there may not be much benefit from the testing in terms of connecting different lineages. Y-37 STR testing is usually the most appropriate test to advise for the purpose of increased study participation.

**Establish and promote use of a project General Fund.** Some people may wish to donate so that others who cannot afford full or part payment for their test(s) may participate.

**Publicise your analyses and comments and keep these regularly updated.** Consider a private website or blog.

#### **Recommendations for further testing**

**General upgrade considerations.** If considering an upgrade from Y-37 STR markers, bear in mind that, though cheaper, an upgrade to 111 markers will yield little of practical value whereas upgrading to a Big Y 700 test will yield much more useful data: 700+ STR markers (including Y-111 for matching purposes), all your named and private SNPs, your place on the Y-haplotype, your nearest matches, and an approximate age of your TMRCA.

**Turning private SNPs into named SNPs.** If a tester has a large number of private SNPs, get another closely related person to test. Most of their SNPs should be shared, which will have the result of those private SNPs becoming named, and visible on the Y-DNA haplotype. Consider using the 'Rule of Three' to maximize the SNP information you can get from testing a single lineage as established in historical records.<sup>4</sup> This rule has you select someone very closely related to get as many private SNPs named as possible, and then someone distantly related, but still within the same documented lineage, so as to identify likely signature SNPs for the documented lineage.

**Investigating possible NPEs.** If the SNP results for a tester are unexpected, there is a possibility that an NPE is involved somewhere. The challenge is to determine where in the records-based lineage that the records are incorrect or, if the documented lineages do not go back early enough, to at least try to identify where and when the NPE may have occurred, for example using census data. One possible approach is to test someone else who is in the same documented lineage, but as distantly related as possible. By records-based genealogy and a process of elimination, gradually testing closer and closer to the person with the unexpected result, it may be possible to determine where in the documented lineage the NPE occurred.

#### **Recommendations for documenting your findings**

It is recommended that one-namers document their DNA findings concerning the connections between different lineages (which themselves are established through historical records) at least in the following way:

**Show haplotype results.** Create a diagram which shows the SNPs for the relevant part of the Y-DNA haplotype on the top, or on one side of the diagram. In principle, this should effectively mirror the block tree showing the Big Y results for the project's testers. (You can also include the haplotype branches for people with only predicted Y-haplogroups, based on Y-STR testing, although these may be rather high-level and therefore less helpful in such a diagram.) For usability, the detail of the

chart should be limited to showing the Y- haplogroups/SNPs unique to your testers.

**Show lineages aligned to the haplotree.** Show the testers' lineages on the bottom, or alternatively on the other side of the diagram, aligned with the relevant terminal SNPs for each tester. It can be simple, e.g., showing only the Most Recent Common Ancestor for that lineage as established in historical records, and then the tester below/aside that. Alternatively, it can show the entire lineage from that MRCA down to the tester, plus others in that lineage. Showing the entire lineage, however, can create an extremely large chart. An example of a chart is given in Annex D, D.7 Examples of documentation of results.

**Consider showing haplotree branches back to Adam.** It can be instructive to show as a preface to your diagram the predicted or tested SNPs characterising each grouping/branch of the surname on a bespoke but heavily edited haplotree going all the way back to the genetic Adam.

## Annex A - Summary of DNA basics for one-namers

### A.1. Relevance of DNA test types for one-name studies

How one uses DNA testing depends on the details available from testing, and on how they are presented. These vary over time, and also in cost. There are multiple companies performing the different types of DNA testing relevant for one-name studies.

All types of DNA tests can potentially be useful in a one-name study, in particular to provide hints about where further research in historical records may produce information about connections. Because of this, all types are listed here. However, it is the different types of Y-DNA testing which are most useful in surname studies, so they will be discussed further in subsequent sections.

**mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA) testing.** These are the least relevant types of DNA tests for one-name studies based on patrilineal male descendance, although there are some unusual cases where they could be helpful, such as in the case of Richard III of England. But consider trying one for yourself for the experience. Family Tree DNA and YFULL are the only major companies offering stand-alone mtDNA testing.

**atDNA (autosomal DNA) testing.** These tests are primarily useful for finding close living relatives, including those with the same surname, and possibly NPEs. However, these are limited to identifying relatives connected through relationships at most five generations ago, i.e. they are of little use linking with anyone based on relationships prior to around 1800. If you can afford it, try one yourself with every major testing company, e.g., FTDNA, Ancestry, 23andMe, and MyHeritage. You may be surprised at the results! Ancestry is generally the best to start with because of its huge database for matches, but MyHeritage is often better for European matches, and 23andMe may produce results from people who were interested in its quasi-medical information who do not test with the other companies.

**Y-STR (Simple Tandem Repeats) DNA testing.** Today these tests are primarily useful for demonstrating if two males are related within the surname era, i.e., that they share a STR grouping, but not how they are related. See also the further explanation below of 'Differences between STR and SNP testing'. Ancestry offered this type of testing at one time, but no longer. It is now

primarily offered by FTDNA (where Y-37 is its recommended starter test for Y-DNA testing), and by YSEQ.

**Y-SNP (Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms) DNA testing.** Usually when we refer to Y-SNP testing, we are referring to Y-SNP discovery testing, i.e., testing many tens of thousands of locations for possible mutations. (See also the next entry for 'pack' or 'panel' Y-SNP testing.) Y-SNP discovery tests are primarily useful for demonstrating exactly how two males, and their respective branches, are genetically related, by showing the genetic point at which they had a common ancestor, and how they have diverged separately since that point. See also the further explanation below of 'Differences between STR and SNP testing'. 23andMe offers some limited information about SNPs, but not discovery tests. The only companies which currently offer meaningful SNP testing are those which offer NGS and WGS testing, as described further below. It is also possible for advanced users to read some Y-SNPs on autosomal test results, but this is not considered a practical way of obtaining Y-SNP information.

**Y-SNP Pack or Panel testing.** This refers to testing for a limited number of SNPs which are specified in advance, and so contrasts with discovery testing. This is a relatively inexpensive way to confirm if a tester has specific SNPs. A typical use might be to determine exactly where on the existing haplotree to place a tester who is a member of an STR grouping for which there is already a fairly well-defined haplotree, so that its defining SNPs can be specified from a SNP pack/panel test. The limitation is that the tester may have further mutations, which the test does not recognize because of its design, and therefore does not enable the tester to identify his exact place on the haplotree. Both FTDNA and YSEQ offer pack/panel SNP tests.

**Y-NGS (Next Generation Sequencing) DNA testing.** Next Generation Sequencing refers to DNA analysis by 'sequencing millions of small fragments of DNA in parallel'. 'NGS can be used to sequence entire genomes or constrained to specific area of interest'.<sup>5</sup> This is a testing methodology, which finds both Y-STRs and Y-SNPs.

**Big Y 700.** This is a branded version of Y-NGS DNA testing offered by FTDNA, which uses 'target enrichment' to try to read certain areas of the Y-DNA and not others. It reads 94% of the SNPs of the current best YSEQ WGS test.<sup>6</sup> It includes Y-STR results for 700 different markers, and Y-SNP results for over 50,000 locations. It is believed to be the most popular NGS Y-DNA test.

**WGS (Whole Genome Sequencing) DNA testing.** Whole Genome Sequencing refers to DNA analysis which results in the sequencing of (essentially) the whole genome, not just specific areas of interest such as FTDNA's Big Y 700 test. (The only exception to WGS's full coverage can be some hard-to-read areas of DNA, and even these are slowly being conquered by new technologies, in particular nanopore WGS.) The main company currently offering WGS for genealogical purposes is YSEQ. Findings and developments in this type of testing are continuing at a rapid pace. Although it is now possible to obtain WGS tests that are no more expensive than the FTDNA Big Y test, there are disadvantages: there is presently a much smaller data base with which to compare results, the amount of data to handle is vast and cumbersome, and analysis techniques digestible by laymen are still evolving.

## A.2. Differences between STR and SNP testing for genealogical purposes

There are significant differences in the usefulness for genealogical purposes of Y-DNA tests for Simple Tandem Repeats (STRs) and Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs, or 'snips'). There is also considerable historical 'baggage' in their use, or non-use. The original use of STRs was for forensic purposes, e.g., for identifying crime suspects from their DNA. This was the type of Y-DNA testing that was later adapted for genealogical purposes, and there is a large legacy of STR DNA tests which were performed from approximately 2000. SNPs were known about, but the lack of technology for reading them in sufficient detail meant that they were viewed as being only meaningful for understanding 'deep' or pre-historic evolution. However, developments in the last 6 years or so, and especially since the advent of Big Y 700 in 2019, have totally changed the situation for SNPs, as they can now be read in the detail needed to show DNA trees and branching down to current generations.

The following are the characteristics of STR and SNP mutations as currently known which determine their respective uses for genealogical purposes.

Y-STR characteristics and testing approaches and their implications:

- Low test unit costs. STR results are produced by the cheapest FTDNA Y-DNA tests available.
- Strong indicators of being genetically related within the surname era. In theory, the more STR marker counts two men share, the closer they are related; however in practice it is now recognised that this generality can be very misleading.
- Limited number of locations ('markers') tested. When only a limited number of locations are tested, there is significant opportunity for 'false positives' (apparent matches which are not correct) and 'false negatives' (true matches which are not identified). The less markers, the worse. 12 and 25 marker tests were so unreliable that they have now effectively been abandoned. In theory the more markers, the better, but in practice few people get much benefit above 37 markers, including the 111 marker level. Almost no one has found any benefit from the 700 marker level included with FTDNA's Big Y 700 test.
- Frequent back-mutations. STRs frequently back-mutate, meaning that there can be no assurance that current test results accurately reflect the mutations of prior generations.
- Parallel mutations and convergence. Because of the above characteristics of STRs, there can be parallel mutations in unrelated lineages, and likewise mutations in one lineage which result in its converging in its markers with another lineage with which it has no recent common ancestor.
- Conclusions: STRs are good for showing whether two testers are likely to be related within the surname era, and as a consequence they are good for grouping different testers who are all likely to be related within the surname era. However, it is now generally recognized that STRs are highly unreliable for suggesting exactly how testers are related, i.e., how their respective lineages connect. (In technical jargon, they cannot "build an accurate

'phylogenetic' tree, that is the branching tree from a common ancestor, whether a historical person or a prehistoric distant ancestor."7)

Y-SNP characteristics and testing approaches and their implications:

- High test unit costs. SNP discovery results require the most expensive FTDNA Y-DNA discovery tests available.
- They scientifically demonstrate exact DNA relationships between two testers, including the DNA mutations shared by their most recent common ancestor, and how their DNA lineages have evolved separately since then.
- Over 50,000 discrete locations tested (compared to 700+ STRs).
- Transmitted to all sons, usually without modification, and they rarely back-mutate to their original value.
- Definitive cascades of mutations. Because mutations are transmitted to sons, and because they rarely back-mutate to their original value, each tester has a definitive cascade of mutations which clearly define his place in the Y-DNA haplotree.
- Since SNP mutations are random, and can occur anywhere in the haplotree, the same SNPs can occur in different branches (clades) of the Y-DNA haplotree. However, the fact that SNPs are inherited in definitive cascades means that the same SNP occurring in a different branch of the Y-DNA haplotree does not cause any confusion, since the cumulative cascade of SNPs for each person will be definitive for their own haplotree branch.
- The NGS testing process can result in some locations having few reads, which are therefore considered low quality reads. However, recognizing the cascade of mutations which is intrinsic to SNPs can allow calling poor quality reads.
- While the essentials of SNP testing are quite well established, there continues to be work on some issues, such as:
  - The reading of SNPs in areas of the DNA which are considered unreliable by some researchers and companies.
  - How to deal with SNP insertions and deletions ('Indels').

Cost implications of STR testing compared to SNP testing:

- The cost to get SNP discovery results is higher per test, but much more detailed data is obtained, and in principle only one tester is needed per lineage as established through historical records research.
- This compares to the typical need to get several STR testers per lineage so as to determine the modal STR values of the lineage. (In theory only two STR tests are needed to identify a modal STR values of a surname grouping or branch, and hence distinguish between branches of the surname that have evolved during the surname era, but in practice more are typically obtained.)

- Overall, the total financial cost to get meaningful results from either approach is similar, with SNP results being much more definitive.

### A.3. Importance of the Y-haplotype

A haplotype is simply a genetic family tree derived from SNP data. The human haplotype is nature's family tree of humankind. The branches of a haplotype, called haplogroups, are defined by their grouping of single nucleotide mutations, or SNPs. There is a Y-haplotype which shows the male line of descent, and an mt-haplotype, which shows the female line of descent. For surname studies we are primarily concerned with the Y-haplotype.

We do not create the haplotype, but rather we discover it. As our ability to test gets better, and as we get more testers with their Y-DNA testing results for their specific haplogroup, we continue to get an increasingly well-defined view of nature's haplotype, and of our places in it. There can be issues about how much of the Y-DNA we read, and how accurately we can read it. Those are testing methodology issues, and not issues with the haplotype itself. Prior to 2016-2019, the Y-haplotype was so poorly understood, with so little of it discovered, that it was of little use for anything but deep ancestry and ethnology. Since then, however, the situation has dramatically changed. This is because the haplotype is defined by SNPs, and recent advances in SNP testing allow us to understand the haplotype down to present times, and place testers on it.

While it is not a very exciting term, the 'haplotype' is transformative in terms of how it allows genealogists to understand relationships with a precision never before possible.

### A.4. Differences between Y-DNA testing companies

Since Y-DNA testing is the most significant for surname studies, this section considers only those companies which offer Y-DNA testing. Companies are listed in order of recommendation, with comments added to each to explain this.

**Family Tree DNA (FTDNA).** This is the main DNA testing company used by most one-namers, based in Houston, Texas, and now owned by myDNA Life Australia Pty Ltd. Its main advantage is that it has the largest database of both STR and SNP testers available and publishes probably the most comprehensive and up-to-date Y-DNA haplotype. Therefore, its Big Y testers have the greatest likelihood of finding close matches on the Y-DNA haplotype and of determining other testers most closely related to them, whether within the surname era, or before, regardless of the surnames carried by those matches. FTDNA also offers good support facilities for surname projects. Although understanding and working with Y-DNA test results is not simple, FTDNA overall is probably the easiest to use, without demanding that users understand all the intricacies of Y-DNA testing. However, many criticise its website, and some believe it exploits its near monopoly position.

**YSEQ.** This is the second-most used company for DNA testing for one-namers, founded by someone originally with FTDNA, and based in Berlin, Germany. It offers a large range of tests, but most importantly full WGS, not just limited Y-NGS as does FTDNA with its Big Y 700, and it therefore gives results covering autosomal, full Y, and mitochondrial testing. Its WGS test costs less (as of writing) than FTDNA's more limited Big Y 700. It does not do analysis, which can be done by transferring results to a company called YFULL.

**Nebula Genomics.** This company founded in 2019 is based in San Francisco (according to Wikipedia) or Miami, Florida (based on the contact location on its website). It offers three WGS tests, although the cheapest 'standard' test is stated by their website to have only .4 coverage. It has impressive credentials based on its own website, but it is not known how well it performs in practice.

**Full Genomes Corporation (FGC).** This company, based in Rockville, Maryland, offers a range of products including WGS at various coverage levels, and also interpretation of results from other companies. Prices are higher than for YSEQ. They do not ship to the EU or the UK, apparently because of potential GDPR exposure. Most information about them externally appears to be from at latest 2016; the latest short update on their own website appears to be from 2020; and links on their own website are broken. Based on these factors, it is difficult to recommend them, but it may be useful to know about their existence as a company.

## Annex B - How to interpret DNA testing results

The results from STR testing and from SNP testing are presented in different ways which reflect the significantly different characteristics of these tests. Many one-namers will be familiar with the way that STR results are presented, how STR 'genetic distances' are calculated, and how suggested matches are shown. It should be pointed out that their implied accuracies typically imply excessive reliability in "matching" tools and underestimate the impact of convergence. More will not be explained here, but explanations can readily be found on-line in many different resources.

It is appropriate, however, to explain briefly how the most important SNP results are shown, because understanding this appears to be one of the hurdles experienced by one-namers who are just starting to work with SNPs and with Big Y 700 testing.

The two key sets of results from SNP testing are (1) the Y-DNA haplotype showing the location of the tester and his definitive cascade of named SNPs; and (2) the tester's private SNPs, also called private variants. Private SNPs are identified by their 7 or 8 digit location in the Y chromosome. They are not yet shared with other testers, and consequently have not yet been given formal SNP names, and therefore do not yet appear on the FTDNA Y-DNA haplotype except shown as a block. (Confusingly there are some cases where SNPs have apparently been named without being shared.) The value of knowing the private SNPs is that you can anticipate these SNPs being named if you are monitoring the private SNPs from multiple testers. This is because it may take Family Tree DNA several weeks to review the results of new tests, and determine that there are new public SNPs to be named. Knowing the number of private SNPs that a tester has also enables their approximate TMRCA to be calculated.

For Family Tree DNA, these two key sets of results are accessed in the following ways:

**Y-DNA haplotype.** "Big Y" / "Block Tree"

**Private SNPs/variants.** "Big Y" / "Results" / "Private Variants" / "Show All" for all columns There is an FTDNA presentation by Casimir Roman (in two parts) from RootsTech 2021 giving a more extensive explanation. See Annex D Sources of additional information for the links.

Please note that representations of the Y-DNA haplotree continue to evolve, as additional SNPs are identified, and as new testers add information about the order in which SNP mutations occurred, and branching of the haplotree occurred. In short, SNPs ‘continue giving’ more and more results as more testers participate, and as testing techniques improve, without existing testers having to do anything other than wait and spot developments relevant to the parts of the haplotree in which they are interested. (FTDNA does not notify users of these developments, so it is up to users to review the haplotree for their results periodically.)

## Annex C - Terminology issues

### C.1. Generic terminology

Many of the terms used in one-name studies, and in particular in DNA projects, are highly generic, so can be used by different people, in different contexts, to mean different things, which can give rise to misunderstandings. This Annex discusses some of these terms and related issues, in an attempt to encourage clearer usage of terminology in one-name studies.

Many of the most commonly used terms in one-name studies are subject to these issues of generality or ambiguity, including:

- Tree
- Branch
- Haplotree
- Clade
- Group or grouping

There is no usage of any of these terms which is exclusively correct or universally accepted, and to avoid confusion, anyone using any of these terms should make clear what is meant. Specifically, it is recommended to define any of these in terms of its starting individual, whether that be an identified historical figure, or an individual defined purely by DNA. Alternatively, such an individual may be asserted and identified in some other way, e.g., by the location where he or his descendants lived.

Let us start with ‘tree’ and ‘branch’. While the terms are intuitive, they nonetheless can result in significant miscommunication when understood differently. (Interestingly, neither the Family Search nor the Ancestry glossaries define these terms, except in the context of a branch of the Mormon Church.) Any genealogical or DNA tree can be taken backward or forward in time. The term ‘branch’ is equally ambiguous. Furthermore, branches are ‘recursive’, i.e., a branch can have many sub-branches, each of which is equally a branch in its own right.

To emphasize this generality of terminology, consider also the term ‘haplotree’. In surname studies we most frequently talk about the Y-haplotree as used by organizations like FTDNA and YFULL. But there are two haplotrees, one for Y-DNA, and one for mtDNA. Beyond that, there is the question of where each tree starts. The Y-DNA haplotree is typically understood to start from the ‘genetic Adam’, i.e., the Most Recent Common Ancestor of all males alive today. However, as geneticists decipher the DNA of extinct branches of mankind, the Y-DNA haplotree of all mankind extends back much further than that genetic Adam. It also has to be recognized that there can be small differences between the representations of haplotrees published by different authorities, e.g. ISOGG, FTDNA, YFull and the YDNA Warehouse. This is because the data defining

them is continually increasing, and each representation of the haplotree has slightly different underlying data.

The term ‘clade’ is similarly generic. The term is actually from the Greek for ‘branch’, so shares the same level of generic usage as the term ‘branch’, albeit within the context of discussions about a haplotree.

The prefix ‘sub-’ is also generic. There is no usage of ‘sub-’, such as ‘sub-tree’, ‘sub-branch’, or ‘sub-clade’ which is exclusively correct or accepted, and it therefore depends on how the writer means it to be understood. It is incumbent on the writer to make that definition clear.

### C.2. Conflicting terminology

The term ‘haplotype’ can be used in contradictory ways:

The most common understanding for users of STR testing in the context of genetic genealogy, is that haplotypes define the (more or less unique) groupings of testers who have taken STR tests. (FTDNA has a report listing the haplotypes it identifies in a project.)

However, the National Human Genome Research Institute ([www.genome.gov](http://www.genome.gov)) defines haplotype as “a physical grouping of genomic variants (or polymorphisms) that tend to be inherited together. A specific haplotype typically reflects a unique combination of variants that reside near each other on a chromosome.” The examples it gives are specifically of SNPs.

The similar term ‘Y-haplogroup’ applies exclusively to the Y-DNA haplotree. ISOGG defines a haplogroup as “a genetic population group of people who share a common ancestor on the patriline or the matriline. Top-level haplogroups are assigned letters of the alphabet, and deeper refinements consist of additional number and letter combinations. For Y-DNA, a haplogroup may be shown in the long-form nomenclature established by the Y Chromosome Consortium, or it may be expressed in a short-form using a deepest-known single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP).” As such, there is effectively total overlap in terminology between ‘haplogroup’, ‘clade’, and ‘branch’. It just depends on what terminology is most appropriate in the context.

### C.3. Lineages

The term ‘lineage’ may be used in different ways, similar to the terms discussed in C.1 above. However, for the purposes of this article, and to avoid ambiguity, this article defines a one-name study lineage as being a named Earliest Known Ancestor of a given surname (or variant), together with all of that person’s descendants, particularly male descendants. Ideally this lineage continues down to living men of that surname, although it may terminate earlier for some or all of its branches.

This article most often refers to lineages as established using historical records. See ‘Need for lineages documented by historical records’ above.

### C.4. Surname era and genealogical timeframe

The terms ‘surname era’ and ‘genealogical timeframe’ are typically used interchangeably, to designate the period starting when surnames were established, down to the present. However, these terms themselves are somewhat arbitrary, depending on when surnames became established in particular areas, and also on the class of the family. For example, aristocratic and other high-status families typically

had clearly documented lineages long before surnames became established for common people.

In the context of Y-DNA testing, the groupings identified by Y-STR testing are generally understood to identify testers who are related to each other, with a common ancestor, within the surname era, i.e., within a genealogical timeframe. This generalization needs to be tempered with the above comments about the arbitrariness of these terms. Where the groupings identified by Y-STR testing are not always clear, this might indicate higher than expected levels of Y-STR mutations. It might also indicate valid origins for the surname slightly earlier than commonly expected. Y-SNP testing should resolve the issue.

### C.5. Naming Y-haplogroups in long-form or short-form nomenclature

As stated above, Y-haplogroups may be described in long-form nomenclature, e.g. R1ba2b3c4, established by the Y Chromosome Consortium, and used in the ISOGG haplotree, or they may be expressed in a short-form using a single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP), e.g. R-U106. Either is academically correct, but the challenges of using the long-form nomenclature as one gets further down the Y-DNA haplotree make it too cumbersome for anything but discussions of 'ancient' branches of the haplotree.

## Annex D Sources of additional information

### D.1. Web references

- <https://www.genome.gov/genetics-glossary>
- [https://blog.familytreedna.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/big-y-700-white-paper\\_compressed.pdf](https://blog.familytreedna.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/big-y-700-white-paper_compressed.pdf)
- <https://dna-explained.com/2020/05/30/y-dna-step-by-step-big-y-analysis/>

### D.2. Book references

- *'Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA'*, Pen & Sword Family History, 2019, edited by Graham S. Holton. See particularly chapter 5 'Y-DNA tests' by Alasdair F. Macdonald and John Cleary.
- *'Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies'*, Wayne Research, 2019, edited by Debbie Parker Wayne. See particularly chapter 14 'The Promise and Limitations of Genetic Genealogy' by Debbie Kennet.

### D.3. Guild help setting up a surname DNA project

- <https://one-name.org/want-a-dna-project/> (You must be signed in to access this page.).

### D.4. Guild presentations

- <https://one-name.org/dna-seminar-2022/>. See in particular the following presentations:
  - ONS and Y-STR tests (James Irvine).
  - Strengths and weaknesses of using Y-STRs within Y-DNA projects (John Cleary).
  - ONS and SNP / Big Y tests (James Irvine).
  - Haplotrees, mutation history trees and a peep into the future (John Cleary).

### D.5. Other presentations

- Casimir Roman FTDNA presentation on Big Y at RootsTech 2021, in two parts. Please note that some of the details presented are incorrect, but the demonstration of how to use the FTDNA interface is very useful.

- <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/part-1-how-to-interpret-y-dna-results-a-walk-through-the-big-y>
- <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/part-2-how-to-interpret-y-dna-results-a-walk-through-the-big-y>

### D.6. Websites

- The Gleason / Gleeson DNA Project (<https://gleesondna.blogspot.com/>).
- SAPP - Still Another Phylogeny Program (<https://www.idvsite.com/>).

### D.7. Examples of documentation of results

- <https://bicket.one-name.net/showmedia.php?mediaID=84>
- [www.clanirwin-dna.org](http://www.clanirwin-dna.org)

## References

1. Some people disagree strongly with this recommendation. You can decide for yourself what you think is worth doing.
2. [www.nevgen.org](http://www.nevgen.org).
3. [www.ydnagroupigapp.com](http://www.ydnagroupigapp.com).
4. 'Big Y-700 Results and "The Rule of Three"', by Bill Wood, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ftdna.big.y/permalink/2039256342892782/>.
5. 'What is next generation sequencing', 28 Aug 2013, National Institute of Health, National Center for Biotechnology Information, National Library of Medicine, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3841808/>, accessed 5 June 2022.
6. Source: <https://ydna-warehouse.org/benchmarks>.
7. p121, 'Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA', 2019.

David is studying the surname Bicket with variants Becket, Beckett, and Bickett. His registered website can be found at [bicket.one-name.net](http://bicket.one-name.net) and DNA Project Website at [www.familytreedna.com/groups/bicket](http://www.familytreedna.com/groups/bicket). David can be contacted at [dpbicket@btinternet.com](mailto:dpbicket@btinternet.com).

### Can you spare some time to help with a project to improve the Guild website?

We need members to help in two ways:

- Making it easier to find things on the website. For instance, we have over 300 videos that need to be put into categories and tagged so that visitors to the site can find them when they search.
- There are many pages that need rewriting and refreshing to make them more appealing and easier to read online. You don't have to be a professional writer but good spelling and grammar and the ability to be concise are desirable attributes!

Even if you can only give a few hours of your time, it could make a real difference.

If you have relevant skills and would be prepared to help, you can find out more by contacting our Production Manager, Melody McKay Burton at:

[production-manager@one-name.org](mailto:production-manager@one-name.org)

# 'The Invisible Roots' - Finding The Women In Your Family History Seminar

Swindon Village Community Hall, Cheltenham

Saturday 30 July 2022

by Jane Wilcox (8818)

I have been researching my family history for many years and came across the Guild whilst researching my paternal grandmother's Whateley family. The women in my family have at times been hard to track down so the seminar 'The Invisible Roots' seemed an ideal first to attend after joining the Guild and it was local to home.

On arrival I was greeted warmly with teas and coffee available before the day started promptly at 10am. Due to holidays and illness the SemSub committee was reduced to two. Huge thanks must go to Alan Moorhouse who stood in as host and Denise Bright, who had recently joined as Minutes Secretary, took on the task of organising the catering, as well as others co-opted on the day.

The aims of the day were to explore the challenges of researching women and recording them in our studies, to find out more about the lives of women, how social expectations impacted them and to hear some stories of inspirational women.



Mia Bennett had entitled her session 'Searching for Hidden Women' and looked at the challenges of searching when even the mother's name can be omitted on a baptism. Using examples from her own family she showed us how using a combination of parish records, census and GRO registers you can often identify elusive women. The GRO birth records (1837-1922) give the mother's maiden name helping to identify siblings as well as

the parents' marriage. Probate records, particularly those of spinster aunts and bachelor uncles often name brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. Where married women are executors often their husband's name is recorded, but not the other way round.

One of her examples was Who was Caroline Shipp? With three to choose from this was as much about disproving who wasn't the right one by using all the information available and identifying her likely mother. Secondly Mia illustrated how creating timelines including events, places and dates can help you determine what you are missing to make connections. Whilst trying to find a William Pyecroft baptised in Boston Lincolnshire in 1766, she came across a Lincolnshire Removal Order in 1776 from London to Sleaford. Was this her William aged 10 with his mother Ann and sister Ann, and if so why were

they in London? The removal order widened the search area from Lincolnshire and she found his parents' marriage, giving Ann's surname as Nuttal, in London along with six siblings' baptisms all with their father recorded as a rope maker - as detailed on the removal order.

Mia and Alan facilitated a discussion and from the audience the consensus was that for women marrying into a one-name study you are unlikely to research their family, though you may record their parents' names and for those who marry out, follow them for one or possibly two generations of their families.

Adèle Emm gave an entertaining and informative talk explaining how 'Even Invisible women have to work'. She started with a quiz, do you know who Mrs Max Mallowan was?



Until quite recently once a woman married she lost her own identity, being referred to by her husband's name and only regaining it on divorce or being widowed. Sometimes her maiden name becomes part of a child's name giving us clues to follow. Many marriage certificates have no occupation for the wife because traditionally they left work the week before they married.

She explained that there was a marriage bar to work for many women. Those of high society did charity work but no paid work. Those aspiring to have a job were often from the middle classes, quite often with parents in trade who trained as nurses, bookkeepers and typewriters (typists today), but they had to make a choice of career or marriage; once married you stopped work as 'your husband provided for you'. This continued well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century with teachers until 1944 having to give up work and until 1973 those working in the Foreign Service. Even if you chose a career, women were normally paid between a half and third less than a man for a similar or indeed lesser role.

Working class women were most likely to be able to continue working such as in the textile mills, but there were no women management roles. In laundries they might be promoted but managers were more likely to be middle class women. However, both of these industries allowed multi generations of women to work together.

Whilst Acts of Parliament raised the school leaving age to 14 in 1918 and in 1919 industrial hours were reduced from 58 to 48 hours a week, women were still expected to go home and do all their household chores, unless another female in the family had taken on this role.

Just before lunch Howard Benbrook, the Guild's new President, said a few words about taking on the role. He had run the Guild bookshop for many years and in his working life had been an actor but mainly worked in the computer industry.



After lunch Prof Rosemary Auchmuty's talk on 'Researching women and the law' was definitely thought-provoking. Rosemary is a lecturer at the University of Reading and says that many of the role models referred to now are of middle class white women that do not necessarily reflect the students of today.

She started by outlining that historically, in law, women have been mentioned only when they must be, for example under Married Women's Property Act, trusts or when they got the right to vote. Men had always been in control of the narrative of the legal system and changes have only tended to be made as a consequence of changes in the social conscience. The stories told do not include the lost battles, the backlash after a 'victory' when a right is won, or how a woman's life will be different combining work with family.

As a timeline, in 1871 Maria Grey was refused entry to the Law Society exams, in 1888 Eliza Orme ran a legal office in Chancery Lane but a man had to go to court to represent clients, in 1888 she was the first woman graduate from the University of London (external). After WW1 the role of women had been dramatically changed and following previous failed Bills in Parliament the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919 effectively forced the Law Society to admit women. 1920 saw the first women solicitors, jurors, voters and being able to stand for Parliament. It took until 1965 for the first women

High Court Judge to be appointed, 1988 for the first woman in the Court of Appeal and in 2017, Brenda Hale became the first woman President of the Supreme Court.

Rosemary talked us through an example of Miss Bebb, who wanted to enter the solicitors profession, and was the test case *Bebb v Law Society 1914*. There is nothing about her prior to or after the case so who was she? She was born in 1889, attended St Hugh's College in 1908 gaining a first class honours degree in Jurisprudence (joint top of the class) but couldn't graduate. Between 1911 and 1917 she was an Investigating Officer at the Board of Trade and was awarded the OBE for her work as an Enforcement Commissioner in the Ministry of Food. In 1917 she married Thomas Weldon Thompson, a solicitor, but continued to work.

Her daughter was born in December 1920 - the same month that she entered Lincoln's Inn (barrister) and she graduated with BA (MA) from Oxford, as the 1919 Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act allowed universities to grant degrees to women; Cambridge didn't do this until 1948. She had a second daughter born in August 1921 and she died of birth complications in the October and so disappears from history. Her death certificate gives her occupation as 'wife of Thomas Weldon Thompson, solicitor' but in this case the registrar has put a marginal note 'Mrs Thompson's description should have been thus; OBE. MA Oxon. Barrister at law, Manager of Bank of Sherford House etc.' Was this possibly because a female relative registered the death?

We then had a Q&A session with some of the audience giving examples from their own family both at home and in the workplace.

After sorting out a few technical problems and changing laptops, our last speaker of the day, Dr Janet Few, joined us via Zoom. Her talk 'Forgotten women' was about the marginalised women in our histories, including those in asylums, disabled, the poor, prostitutes, criminals, those enslaved and witches. She used parish and poor law records, many of which are not online but at county record offices, for case studies to bring these to life. Her great Aunt Fanny Amelia Woolgar, baptised in Dulwich, married in 1884 in Hastings and in 1911 was back in Dulwich near her family, a widow. A short time later she was admitted to the workhouse, destitute, temporarily disabled and 'alleged insane'. After being assessed she was transferred



to an asylum and though released by 1915 she was re admitted and died there in 1921. She was forgotten in the family story with no photos and none of her family could even remember her name correctly.

Those who were disabled either physically or mentally received outdoor relief prior to 1834 but after the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 they were placed in workhouses or asylums. Changes to personal circumstances such as the death of parents could mean they would be admitted as there was no one to care for them.

Criminal records can often give us female relatives who did no more than try to feed their family, and there are those referred to as prostitutes simply because they had children out of wedlock. Others, such as the example of Charity Platt, were repeat offenders for being the worse for drink, robbery and assault and as with many court cases, hers were reported in the newspapers. So sometimes finding a 'forgotten woman' in your family can unearth a wealth of information.

Our last session was entitled 'Interesting, inspirational and indomitable women'. Some of the attendees related stories including Adèle telling the story of Winifred Emms, very well known as Hetty King, a male impersonator and variety hall entertainer. Denise Bright has been researching the history of her school Moorfield in Plymouth and shared with us five inspirational pupils' stories, including Angela Mortimer who won the Wimbledon tennis championship in 1961.

Bob Cumberbatch came from behind the techy stuff to tell us about Claudia Jones, born in Trinidad who emigrated to America where she was a civil rights activist before being deported. She came to England in the 1950's where she established the Notting Hill Carnival.

I thoroughly enjoyed an excellent day of presentations, meeting in person other Guild members (some from previous Zoom meetings) and took away tips to bring to life the women in my family, together with the context of the times they lived in. So whether you are a new or long-standing Guild member, if a future seminar comes to a place close to you why not pop along. You'll always learn something new or be reminded of something you've forgotten to help with your research.



Friday evening dinner

## The Guild 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference and AGM 2023

### “Spires and Squires”

Hilton Northampton, 100 Watering Lane, Northampton NN4 0XW

21 - 23 April 2023

With more stately homes than any other county, Northamptonshire has often been called the county of “spires and squires” due to its wide variety of historic buildings, country houses and churches. Although still largely rural, parts became industrialised in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and the Northampton area gained a sizeable shoemaking and leather work industry; by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was almost definitely the boot and shoe making capital of the world. These themes form the basis of the 2023 Guild conference from April 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Northampton Hilton.

The full programme is on the Guild website: <https://one-name.org/guild-conference-agm/>

where you will find links to online booking, or you can download a hardcopy booking form and send it by post. The final closing date for all bookings is 12 March 2023 - though we never discourage anyone from putting in a late booking if room availability permits. On all prices a Guild member attending their first conference can claim an additional 10% discount.

The Guild conference is a great opportunity to network with other Guild members and catch up with old friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Organising Team:

Lesley Dove, June Bird, Margaret Southgate, Stephen Dalglish

# Ten Years Of The Guild Providing DNA Kits For Members

## Look How Far We Have Come!

by Jo Fitz-Henry (DNA Kit-Coordinator, 4389)

This February marked ten years since the Guild of One-Name Studies started to sell Y-37 kits from FamilyTreeDNA as a membership benefit.

What a lot has changed!

The very first of these Y-37 DNA kits was sold in February 2013 and at that time cost £80. Back in the day, the kits were sold by sending an email to the DNA kits coordinators Teresa Pask and Jan Cooper, and then sending them a cheque or completing a bank transfer.

In that first year alone, nearly 200 kits were sold as the potential for DNA testing became apparent to our Guild members.

The price stayed at £80 for three years due to Susan Meates' negotiating power at FamilyTreeDNA for bulk buying. In 2016 we had to increase the price to £87, and again to £95 the year after. Since then, the price has reduced year on year, and during our last Christmas sale, the price was an unbelievably low £65. Members and their participants save money, which helps with recruiting to DNA projects. The Guild has now sold a total 1,260 Y-37 kits up to January 2023. As well as providing an important member benefit, the sale of DNA kits also generates a small profit for the Guild.

The Guild started selling autosomal Family Finder kits in June 2015 as a complimentary test to the Y-DNA test. They were initially priced at £60, but are now sold for our regular price of £37.

The creation of the Guild Online Shop has made the purchasing process much easier, and your family and study participants can buy their own kits via the link to the Guild's DNA page. We now even have a facility where you as a DNA project coordinator can split the cost of a kit with your participants.

Buying the kit from outside the UK? No problem! The online shop makes a real-time currency conversion at checkout and we only charge you the actual price of the postage to anywhere in the world. If your package goes astray, we organise a free replacement from FamilyTreeDNA.

Once you have bought your kit (mostly from the online shop, but we also have a presence at many of the Guild events), the small-but-perfectly-formed DNA Kit Coordination team (currently myself and Tracy Care) moves into action.

We personally write you an individualised email with the password and instructions, put your package in the post box to send to you, and field your queries. We also place your kit in your DNA Project at FamilyTreeDNA (if you have one), or else it resides in the Guild holding project.

Probably the only factor which hasn't changed in these ten years is that Susan Meates is still our DNA Advisor! Susan has patiently helped nigh on 500 Guild members start their surname project at FamilyTreeDNA, and provided advice and assistance along the way. Susan has held this post since 2006, and started one of the first 25 DNA Projects in the world in 2001.

The first Guild member to use DNA testing for their one-name study was Alan Savin in 1997, at that time quite a pioneer. DNA testing for genealogy became commercially available in 2000 when 2 members started DNA Projects, Chris Pomery and Orin Wells. In 2001, four Guild members started DNA Projects, and in 2002, six members. Today the Guild has a visible presence in the DNA project lists at FamilyTreeDNA with the blue Guild logo proudly attached to any qualifying project administered by a Guild member.

We plan to have a DNA sale in April to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Y-DNA (and nearly 8 years of the Family Finder) - watch out for notifications on the website, the forum, the mailing group and the Facebook pages. And for the truly personal touch, Tracy and I will be selling DNA kits at the Guild Conference, probably once again situated between the second-hand book stall and Alan Moorhouse Purveyor of Fine Marmalade.

If you have any questions about buying DNA kits, please drop me a line at [dna-kit-order@one-name.org](mailto:dna-kit-order@one-name.org), and we hope to see some of our regular customers at Conference.

### Instructions for Contributors

We welcome articles, photographs, letters, and news from members.

Please send your submissions to the editor at:

[editor@one-name.org](mailto:editor@one-name.org)

The deadline for the following editions are:

- 15 February
- 15 May
- 15 August
- 1 November

Please note that the Editor reserves the right to amend an article due to various reasons/restrictions and cannot guarantee which edition submissions will appear as this is due to space limitations along with ensuring diversity of content.

# Forthcoming Seminars

8 July 2023

*Delving Deep into Family History Documents Seminar*

 #GuildDocuments

Venue: Whitmore Village Hall, Coneygreave Lane, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 5HX

How to ... read and interpret wills, date old photographs, read old handwriting, understand heraldry and get the most out of the information provided on birth certificates.

21 October 2023

*'Apprenticeships, Friendly Societies, Guilds and Trade Unions' Seminar*

 #GuildTrades

Venue: Outwood Memorial Hall, 1-2 Victoria Street, Outwood, Wakefield WF1 2NE

During our research we discover our ancestors' occupations. They may have followed in their father's footsteps, worked on the land, joined the forces or gone into one of the 'professions'. By learning more about ancestors' employment we can understand more about the way they lived, why they might have migrated and to which socio-economic group they belonged.

## "Travel and Mobility" Seminar

Amersham Free Church

Woodside Road

Amersham HP6 6AJ

9.30am for 10.00am, Saturday 13 May 2023

How did our ancestors get around in centuries past? How far did people travel in a day - and where would they stay overnight on longer journeys? And how did the growth of railways, canal networks and other forms of public transport impact on the shape of their lives?

 #GuildTravel

### Programme

- 09.30 - 10.00 Registration and Coffee
- 10.00 - 10.15 Welcome to the Seminar - Sue Thornton-Grimes
- 10.15 - 11.15 *All Drawn by Horses* - Ian Waller FSG FGRA
- 11.15 - 11.30 Comfort Break
- 11.30 - 12.30 *Turnpikes and Travellers - Getting Around Before the Railways* - Dr Alan Rosevear
- 12.30 - 13.30 Lunch Break
- 13.30 - 14.30 *The Beds and Stables Survey of 1686: Reassessing its Value for Transport History* - Dr Max Satchell, University of Cambridge
- 14.30 - 15.00 Tea
- 15.00 - 16.00 *Canals, Railways and Trams of the Victorian Era* - Ian Waller FSG FGRA
- 16.00 - 16.10 Close of Seminar

Amersham Free Church Hall is a few minutes' walk from Amersham railway station. There is plenty of free parking available.

Seminar cost, including refreshments and buffet lunch, is £25.00. Book online <https://one-name.org/seminar-events/> from 5 March 2023 (bookings close Sunday 30 April 2023).



# How do I register a one-name study?

A one-name study may be registered either when joining the Guild or subsequently as a Guild member by visiting the Guild Shop. A once-only registration fee is payable for each study registered, although the fee includes the registration of a reasonable number of variants.

The Guild recognises that a one-name study can represent a considerable amount of work to research and maintain. Before registering a study name, members are recommended to have at least established an understanding of the expected size and extent of the study, and the likely geographical areas to which research should be directed.

Each study listed in the Register of One-Name Studies is classified into one of three categories, 1, 2 or 3. The category designations are intended to give a rough idea of the progress and maturity of the study. The study principles may be helpful here.

The designations of the categories used at present is as follows:

- Category 1: A study where research using core genealogical datasets and transcriptions is in its early stages.
- Category 2: A study where research using core genealogical datasets and transcriptions is well under way, but currently in some countries only.
- Category 3: A study where research using core genealogical datasets and transcriptions is well under way on a global basis.

After their study has been registered, members may update their categorisation as they wish.

Guild members are currently allowed to register no more than three separate one-name studies, though it is recommended that only one name is registered by new members. A reasonable number of variant surnames can also be registered within each study. Registered variants may be names held by living name bearers or where all lines are now extinct, and should be registered only if the member is studying them as fully as the principal registered name. Your view of which spellings are genuine variants of your registered study name may change as your study develops, and you can add or drop variants within your study at any point. It is good practice to register only the most frequently-found variants, and almost all one-name studies are, in practice, researching or monitoring more variants than those formally associated with the registration of the surname.

Any given surname may be registered as a study or variant by only one member, on a "first come, first served" basis.

The Registrar has the responsibility of assessing one-name study registration requests, according to agreed criteria for registrations. Members registering a name with the Guild should be aware of the study principles of one-name studies registered with the Guild.

The registration of any one-name study surname and variants will lapse when membership ceases. Any individual re-joining the Guild and wishing to re-register any surnames and variants (if they are still available for registration) will be required to pay the appropriate Registration Fee, although the Committee, or the Registrar acting on its behalf, may waive the fee if this is deemed appropriate.



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