



HAWKINS WORLDWIDE DNA Project
Newsletter 2005-12
31 December 2005



This Newsletter is addressed as a blind copy to protect individual identities.
Project site: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hawkinsdna/project/>.
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If you are not receiving this newsletter with pictures, then I do not have you on the mailing list. This newsletter (with pictures) will be posted to our website, where the past six issues are maintained.

<<< Robert Lee Hawkins, Jr. and Sr., c1915, Nashville, TN.

We were in Reno, NV for Christmas with our oldest son and family, and then to Las Vegas for a grandson's wedding on the 31st. The New Year's fireworks on the Las Vegas "Strip" were *SPECTACULAR*! All the time we were gone the news reported the wild grass fires raging in Texas (all around us) and Oklahoma. We live in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex with multiple fire departments close by, and though a lot of the fires get started they are brought under control pretty quickly.

Rainfall at our house in 2005 was 19.8" (compared to 62.9" in 2004), More than 15" below normal. Yes, I know, there are many of you that would have liked to share your overabundance with us.

We now have 60 participants in our project. We have to date formed eight Family groups, and identified 29 distinct Hawkins lines. Are you really sure of the paper trail to your ancestors? DNA testing can prove its truth, or indicate that you connected to an unrelated John or Amos or ?. Contact me if you have questions about this.

Family Tree DNA now has more than 2650 surname projects running with more than 51,000 records now in their database. To join our HAWKINS project go to http://www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.asp?code=Z47192 where you will receive our group discount price.

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

I have been notified that "F.E. (Gene) Hawkins passed away this morning" (2 Jan 2006). Gene, 103 in March 2005 was our oldest participant and was featured in our March, 2005 newsletter. Our sympathy goes out to the family.

Another great loss during December was the passing of Pat (Hawkins) Parkinson, our HAWKINS list-owner. Again our sympathy goes out to the Parkinson family in the UK.

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Genetic Genealogy: Haplogroups

When you take a Y DNA test for 12, 25, or 37 markers, your test result is called a haplotype. Different, although similar, haplotypes descend from a common yet potentially distant ancestor and both of you descend

from a common haplogroup.

Haplogroups represent the branches of the tree of Homo Sapiens. Every male in the world can be located on one of the branches of the tree. The branch of the tree is identified by a SNP test, which is pronounced as "snip."

The branches of the tree of Homo Sapiens are labeled A through R.

If you have taken a Y DNA test, there is a tab on your Personal Page called "Haplogroup." When you click on this tab, the proprietary system at Family Tree DNA will predict your haplogroup, based on your 12 marker haplotype. This prediction algorithm compares your 12 marker Y DNA result with our database of Y DNA 12 marker results and in over 90% of the cases makes a prediction.

On your Haplogroup page your 12 marker matches with the haplogroup database are shown, along with your prediction. At the bottom of the page is a description of your haplogroup.

If exact and close matches on the Haplogroup page all show the same haplogroup, then your prediction is solid, and testing is not required to confirm your haplogroup. If more than one haplogroup is shown for these matches, then your haplogroup prediction is conflicting, and a test Y-backbone test is needed to confirm your haplogroup.

Your haplogroup prediction can be confirmed by a SNP test. An individual SNP test looks at a specific location on the Y chromosome to determine if a mutation occurred. A haplogroup is defined by a mutation that occurred some thousands of years ago. These mutations are called Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms, or SNPs.

The major branches of the Y-DNA tree of Homo Sapiens are labeled A through R. These major branches have additional branches, where a haplogroup is broken down into sub-haplogroups. For example, perhaps you belong to haplogroup J. Haplogroup J is broken down into J1, J2, and J*. The system for identifying the branches of the Y DNA tree alternates letters and numbers. An asterisk is used to denote those who do not fit a defined branch. If you belong to haplogroup J, and are not J1 or J2, then you belong to J*. [Most of our Hawkins participants fall into Haplogroup R1b.]

Anthropologists follow SNPs to determine ancient migratory patterns and deep ancestral dating, such as when Europe was settled.

You can see a graphic representation of a current Y DNA tree at the following link: Y-chromosome Phylogenetic Tree, <http://www.ftDNA.com/haplotree.html>.

Your haplogroup is defined by a mutation that occurred thousands of years ago, and was passed down to subsequent generations. Additional mutations also define the branches on the tree, the sub-Haplogroups. SNPs are tested to identify your sub-branches too.

The SNP test will confirm or deny the predicted haplogroup. If it occurs that the predicted Haplogroup is not confirmed, we will continue to test your sample until a SNP confirmation is found for your sample.

It is important to remember that only one SNP test is necessary for a group of persons in a Surname Project who match. For those who take a SNP test to confirm their haplogroup, the results of your test also apply to the others in your Surname Project who are a match or close match. Therefore, only one SNP test needs to be taken by a member of a group whose results match or are a close match. There are situations when a SNP test is not necessary: when the results of a haplogroup search predict a single haplogroup.

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

Case Study

I have a brother or a father who could participate. Would one be better than the other?

Recommendation: The best approach is to select your father. Your brother would represent another

generation, and this is another opportunity for a mutation to occur.

Mutations are random events, and it cannot be predicted when a mutation would occur. All mutations occur between a father and son. Although mutations are infrequent, and most likely your brother does not have a mutation, it is possible that he does. Therefore, testing your father would increase the probability of an exact match with related individuals.

Questions? Contact me at phil_hawkins@sbcglobal.net.

-----Repeating-----

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

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



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

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

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

<<<< My grandfather Pumphrey had loaned me his knife to do a little whittling, c1941. Note the engineer's cap, like my grandfather wore when farming.

Phil Hawkins 3 January 2006

Administrator (No remuneration received for this endeavor.)