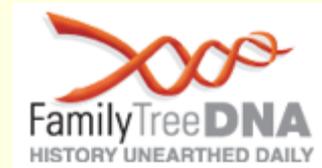


The Spearin Surname Project update – Oct-Dec 2011

New Y-DNA results expected shortly

Since the last newsletter in September, 4 new members have joined the DNA project. One of these new members is a Sperring and can trace their ancestry back to Somerset in 1790, so it will be exciting to see if the Spearin's who originated in Limerick are related to Sperring's from the UK. Another new member is a Spiering from the Netherlands – a positive match here would confirm what we suspect: that the Spearin's originated from the Low Countries / Flanders. These results should be available early in March.



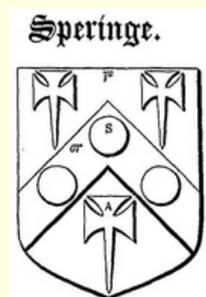
In addition, 3 existing members have upgraded their test results to 67 markers. This will bring to 5 the number of members who will have been tested out to 67 markers and potentially will allow further differentiation of the various branches identified so far.

All of these results should be in shortly and we will keep you abreast of developments by regular postings on the Spearin/Sperring Facebook page.

Y-DNA Project Members

There are currently 10 members with results available in the Y-DNA Project.

- 7 members belong to Genetic Family 1 (GF1)
 - This group can reliably trace their roots back to the [London goldsmiths](#) from the 1500's. They belong to Haplogroup I2b1 which is consistent with a [Dutch/Belgian origin](#) for the Spearin line.
- 1 member belongs to Genetic Family 2 (GF2)
 - The MDKA (most distant known ancestor) of this group is [Peltiah Spearin](#) (1802-1875) from Benton, Maine. This family could be directly related to those in Genetic family 1 but there may have been an adoption or illegitimacy somewhere in the past. Or it could be a Spearin family with a completely different origin. Testing another descendant of Peltiah (as distant from the current testee as possible) may help answer this question (i.e. if their haplotype matched GF1 or GF3 this would confirm a "non-paternity event" in the other Peltiah line).
- 1 member belongs to Genetic Family 3 (GF3)
 - The MDKA of this group is either [John Spearing](#) (1720-1790) from Kennebec, Maine; or [Joseph Spearing](#) (1766-1844) from Benton, Maine. Again, this family could be directly related to those in GF1 (or GF2) but an adoption or illegitimacy introduced different Y-DNA to this line. Or it could be an entirely different Spearin family. Testing another descendant (as distant from the current testee as possible) may help answer this question.
- 1 member belongs to a Non-Spearin Male Line (that's me – my great-grandmother was a Spierin but my Y-DNA is Gleeson)



The Spearin Surname Project update – Oct-Dec 2011

DNA Project – next steps

Now that we have identified 3 possible genetic families, the next step will be to search public databases to see if any Spearin variants match the genetic signature of the project members who belong to each of the genetic families (GF1, GF2 & GF3). This is an ongoing project that will hopefully be completed in the next several months.

Two members have now taken the [Family Finder test](#) (this analyses autosomal DNA i.e. DNA other than the sex chromosomes, X and Y). Unfortunately there is no match between the two indicating that they do not share sufficient "Spearin DNA" to qualify as a match. This is not too surprising as the sensitivity of the Family Finder test gets less the more distant the cousins. It will only detect about 10% of 5th cousins and <2% of more distant cousins. Given that the common ancestor for GF1 was probably sometime in the early 1700's, then the likely relationship between people tested in the group so far is about 7th or 8th cousins, probably putting them outside the reach of the test. However, there is always a chance that some common DNA will be detected if the right two people test.

Videos have been added to the website which help to explain the DNA results and how to interpret them. The following topics are covered:

- [How to read the table of results](#)
- [The Modal Haplotype](#) – are we looking at the genetic signature of our Most Recent Common Ancestor?
- [Direct Male Lines & Triangulation](#)
- [Mutation History Trees](#)
- [What DNA tests do we do next?](#)

Check them out and if you have any questions post them on our Facebook page.

Facebook Update – 131 members

Facebook is proving to be a very helpful way of connecting people and sharing information about the genealogy of the different branches of the larger Spearin family. Already people are finding out things about their particular family line that they never knew before. It also helps to prevent people reinventing the wheel – many people have been researching the Spearin's for many years and it is great that they now have the opportunity to share their accumulated knowledge with their distant cousins!

For ongoing real time developments with the project, why not join our Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/219630734727688> and sign up for notifications of any posts or comments by clicking "Edit Settings" and configuring it the way you want it.

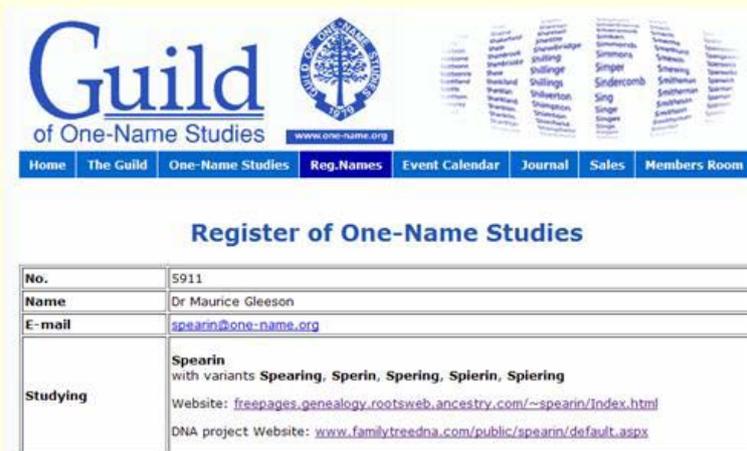
Margaret will be collecting lineages from Facebook members and these will be added to the website ([Table 3](#)).



The Spearin Surname Project update – Oct-Dec 2011

Spearin's are now GOONS

The Spearin Surname Project is now registered with the [Guild of One Name Studies](#)! This formalises what we have been attempting to do for some time – to trace every Spearin around the world back to their roots. The website is a great resource for this project and tying our work into the GOONS allows us to use many of their [facilities](#), including English BMD records and their online library. Membership details can be found [here](#).



The screenshot shows the website for the Guild of One Name Studies. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, The Guild, One-Name Studies, Reg.Names, Event Calendar, Journal, Sales, and Members Room. Below the menu is the 'Register of One-Name Studies' section. It contains a table with the following information:

No.	5911
Name	Dr Maurice Gleeson
E-mail	spearin@one-name.org
Studying	Spearin with variants Spearing, Sperin, Spering, Spierin, Spiering Website: freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~spearin/Index.html DNA project Website: www.familytreedna.com/public/spearin/default.aspx

Website Updates

The long awaited [third instalment](#) of the semi-autobiographical opus that is the fantastic family of Joe Spearin from Limerick has been uploaded to the Storyteller section.

[Facebook lineages](#) are being added all the time as our membership increases. A big thank you to Margaret for harvesting these from new members.

Bob is collecting a lot of these isolated "orphan" records from the 1700's and putting them into a spreadsheet for ease of reference (this will be uploaded to the website as [Table 4](#)). These records may hold clues as to how the various Limerick branches are connected.

More website updates will come over the next several weeks and we will keep you posted via the [Facebook Group page](#).



Who Do You Think You Are? – Live!

The biggest family history event in the world returns to London's Olympia from February 24-26. Whether you're new to tracing your family tree or a seasoned researcher, it's packed with industry-leading genealogy experts, informative workshops and celebrities from the TV show to help with your own family history quest. Tickets are still on sale [here](#). I'll be there – fancy a coffee?



The Spearin Surname Project update – Oct-Dec 2011

Traditional Genealogy – Next Steps

As always, DNA evidence will never replace paper-based research and collecting traditional documentary evidence is an ever ongoing activity. However as more and more paper records are being digitised, there is a constant stream of new sources available online. Over the past few months there has been a surge in the amount of “orphan records” discovered from a variety of new sources that have become available. If you haven’t done so already, check these out and see if you can find any more ancestors. Post your successes on the [Facebook Group page](#) ...

[Findmypast.ie](#) ... this is a new subscription site but it has excellent records never before seen (such as prison records, wills, land & estate records, etc)

[Irishgenealogy.ie](#) ... new church records for Dublin are now online – a wealth of information for anyone with relatives from Dublin City & its environs

[Britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](#) ... this includes digitised copies of all Irish newspapers. Also remember that many Irish stories made it into the British press so some Irish Spearin’s will appear in regional British papers. This is also a subscription site.

Other projects that remain to be tackled include analysis of wills & grants and estate papers. These could be a valuable source of additional clues.

The [Traditional Families table](#) is being updated and links added to online family trees, both on [Rootsweb](#) (accessible to all) and [Ancestry.com](#) (subscription needed). This is an ongoing exercise – we now have approximately 225 families to get through and more English families will be added following the work that Bob has done tracing English families back before 1700 and Margaret’s ongoing surfing of the web for Spearin family trees on Rootsweb and Ancestry.

Spreading the Word

Please feel free to pass this on to anyone who is interested in researching the Spearin name, or ask them to [send me](#) their email address and I will add them to the list.

If you have a genealogical question that you want to “put out there”, please post it to our genealogical mailing list at SPEARIN@ROOTSWEB.COM where our team of researchers will be waiting to help you out. And if you have a specific question about the DNA results, post it to SPEARIN-DNA@ROOTSWEB.COM.

The website for the Spearin Surname Project is at

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~spearin/Index.html>

The logo for Rootsweb, featuring the word "rootsweb" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The "roots" part is in a dark grey color, and the "web" part is in a light green color.

If you want to be Y-DNA tested at a discounted rate through our project, [click here](#).

If you want to [unsubscribe](#) from this list at any time, just let me know. No questions asked!

*Maurice Gleeson
Project Co-Administrator
Jan 25th 2012*