

Finding a Male Hodge(s) Descendant for Y-Chromosome DNA Testing

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Why Test Male Y-Chromosome DNA

- ▶ All males carry the Y-Chromosome of their fathers
- ▶ As a result the same DNA markers are passed from father to son
- ▶ Look for a surname study at www.familytreeDNA.com
- ▶ DNA results of males with the same surname can be compared to see if they descend from a common ancestor
- ▶ Males having similar DNA markers can then be put in family groups
- ▶ For example there are now 16 different groups of Hodges or Hodge males who each share a common ancestor



Comparing DNA Results

- ▶ The more participants in the surname study, the more likely it is to find a common ancestor
- ▶ DNA markers mutate over time, so it is helpful to find descendants of males who were related three and four generations back
- ▶ Sometimes people with the same surname are not biologically related
 - ▶ The surname may be a trade or place of origin
 - ▶ Some surnames changed when families arrived in the USA
Zimmerman was translated to Carpenter
 - ▶ Sometimes a non-paternity event occurred, meaning the husband of the mother was not the biological father



Males Who Should Test Their DNA

- ▶ **Males with the Hodges or Hodge surname**
 - ▶ Especially those who have no male offspring
- ▶ **Test more than one male relative**
 - ▶ Find the living grandsons of great uncles to test
- ▶ **If a non-paternity event is revealed, you need to try to find in which generation the event occurred**
 - ▶ Go back a generation at a time and find a living male descendant, until you find a DNA match
 - ▶ You may need to research all male descendants from your earliest Hodges descendant
 - ▶ See the excel spreadsheet with this presentation for a five generation example



Female DNA

- ▶ Women can test their DNA, called Mitochondrial DNA
- ▶ Mitochondrial DNA traces the DNA passed by mothers to daughters, generation to generation
- ▶ Surname projects concentrate on Y-DNA, rather than mitochondrial DNA, since Y-DNA follows the surname
- ▶ If you are female Hodge(s) descendant and want to know about your Hodge(s) lines, you need a male Hodge(s) uncle, brother, or nephew to participate for you



What if You are Female with No Living Male Hodges Relative?

- ▶ Identify your last living male Hodges or Hodge ancestor
- ▶ Identify all his sons
- ▶ Research each of those sons and their descendants to the current generation that has living Hodge(s) males
- ▶ There has to be a continuous line of male Hodge(s)
 - ▶ Use census records
 - ▶ Cemetery records or death certificates to find death dates
 - ▶ Find obituaries in local newspapers or through an online newspaper subscription service
 - ▶ Use www.whitepages.com to find a phone number and address



Asking Them to Participate

- ▶ I usually write a letter explaining that I need a male Hodge descendant from Allen C. Hodge
- ▶ I provide Family Group Charts and explain how we are related
- ▶ I offer to split the cost of the DNA test
- ▶ If that doesn't work I offer to pay for all of the test
- ▶ The Hodges-Hodge Society has a fund to help subsidize the cost of the test, especially if we have few or no participants from a particular lineage.



My Hodge Family Example

- ▶ Allen C. Hodge was born in New York State in 1831 and died in Lenawee Co., Michigan in 1895
- ▶ He and his wife Mary Borst had thirteen children including eight sons
- ▶ I descend from his second oldest daughter Eva born in 1860 in Steuben County, New York and died in 1919 in Rockford, Kent County, Michigan
- ▶ So I traced all eight sons.
- ▶ Several of the lines ended with no sons



My Hodge Family Example

- ▶ I began with the sons in Michigan where I live.
- ▶ Michigan has a death index from 1869-1897 available online
 - ▶ Although early deaths were not always recorded
 - ▶ The index is full of spelling errors so the search is sometimes difficult
- ▶ Michigan has death certificates online from 1898 to 1920
- ▶ Once I had a death date, I checked the newspapers in the Library of Michigan for obituaries



My Hodge Family Example

- ▶ When those lines ended with no sons, I researched the two sons who lived to adulthood in New York.
 - ▶ One had no surviving children; the other had only daughters.
- ▶ Then I researched Hubert Eugene Hodge who moved to Washington State (family in blue on spreadsheet)
- ▶ I researched the family through the 1930 US census.
- ▶ Washington State has a partial death index online
- ▶ The Tacoma Public Library has an obituary index online
- ▶ I ordered eight obituaries @ \$6.00 each and traced the family forward for three generations



My Hodge Example

- ▶ Per his obituary Lester Leroy [great grandson of Allen C. Hodge] had four sons
- ▶ Of the four sons, two had already died
- ▶ I looked them up at www.whitepages.com
- ▶ I found addresses but no phone numbers for the two sons
- ▶ I wrote them each a letter and mailed it on Saturday
- ▶ On Thursday one of the sons, Joe Hodge, called me
- ▶ I ordered and paid for the DNA test kit and had it mailed to Joe Hodge
- ▶ He took the test which says he is related to five other Hodge participants who have tested
- ▶ He is part of Hodge lineage X



My Hodge Example

- ▶ DNA indicates Lineage X participants share a common ancestor
- ▶ We are now sharing research information in upstate New York to see if we can find the common ancestor, who probably lived before the Revolutionary War
- ▶ We are continuing to find other Hodge participants to test their DNA to see if we can find our common ancestor
- ▶ I have also posted the Allen C. Hodge descendants spreadsheet so you can see how I researched each generation from Allen C. Hodge and recorded the information



Questions?

- ▶ For questions about this presentation and finding a male ancestor to test, contact janalpert@aol.com
- ▶ For questions about the Hodges-Hodge DNA Project, contact project administrator rvhodes@mindspring.com

