

Connecticut Genealogy News

For Those Who Pursue Their Family Heritage

Spring 2022

Vol. 15 No. 1



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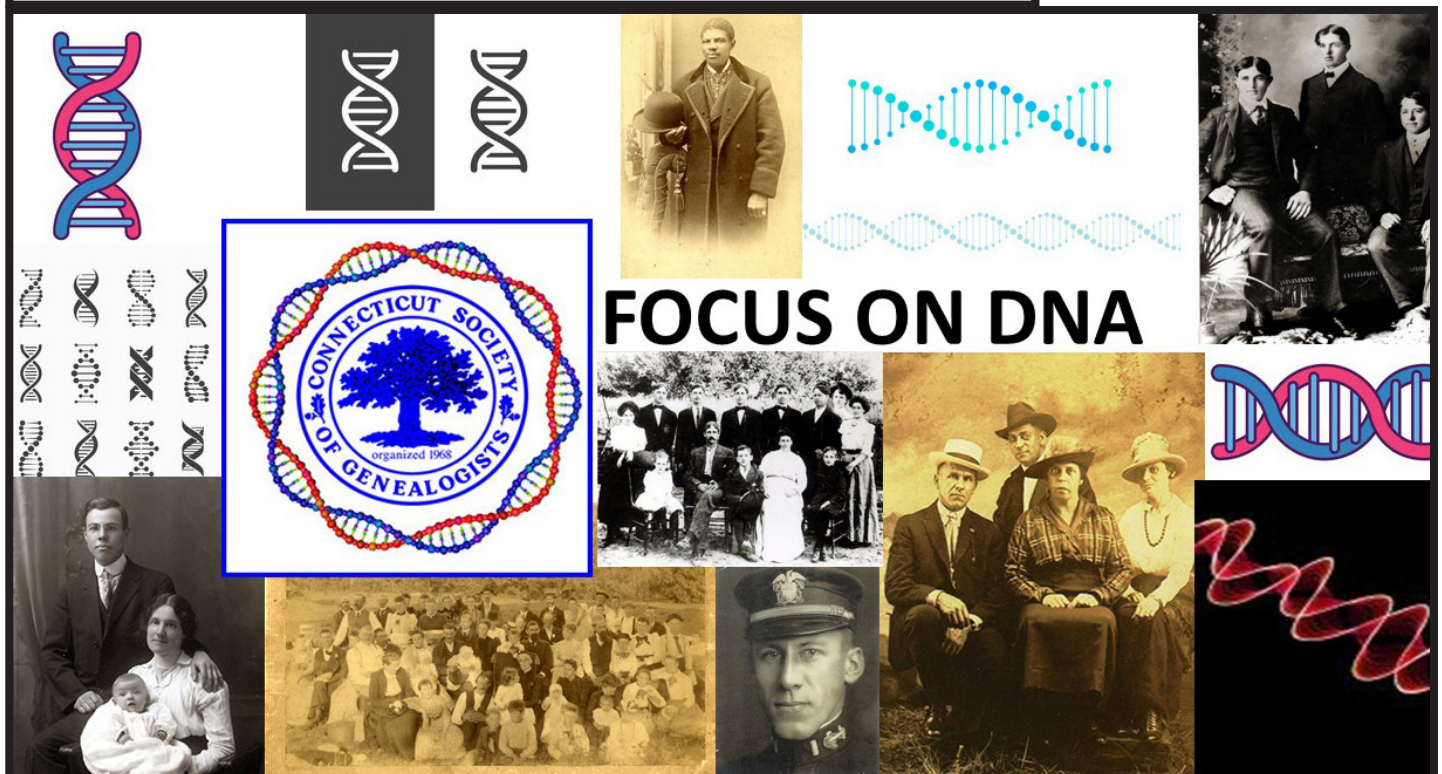
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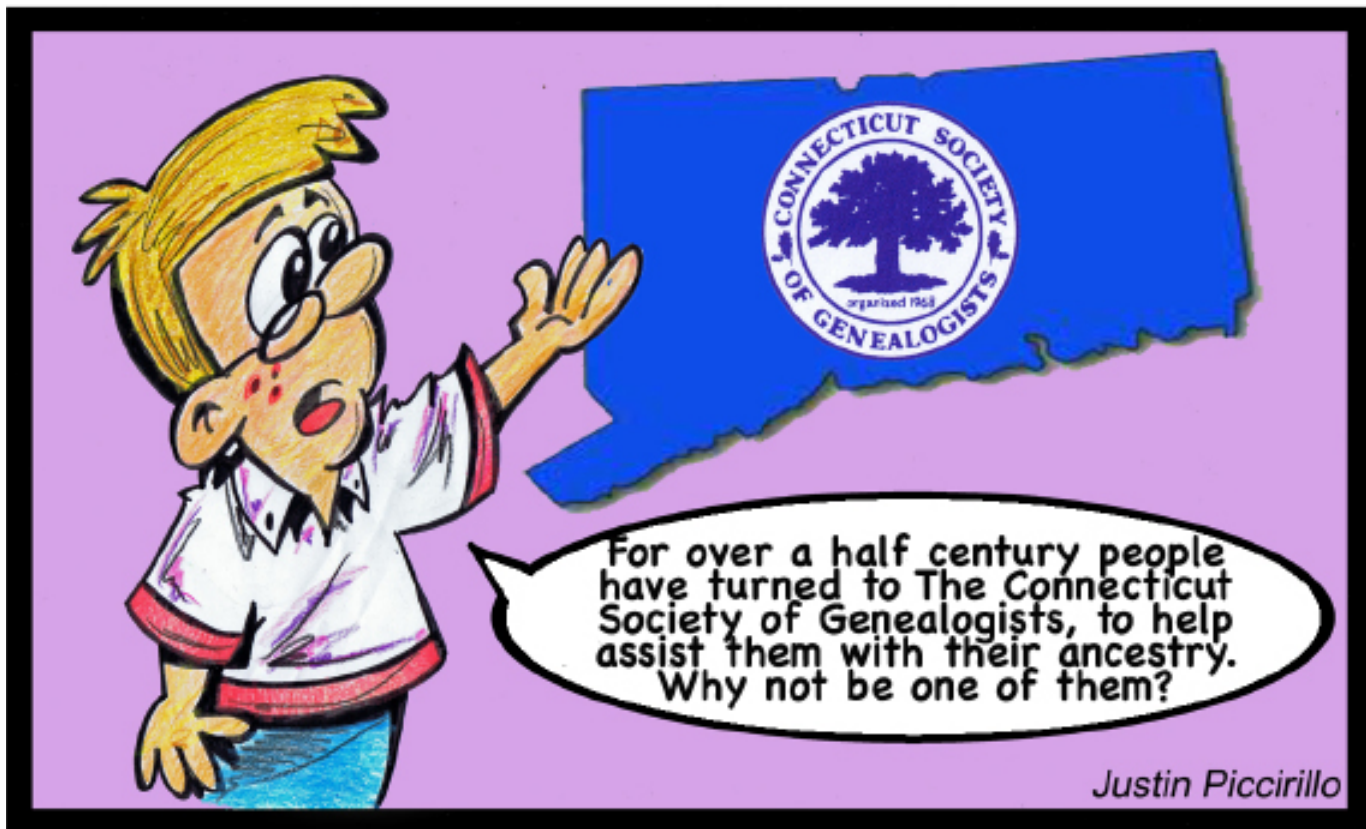
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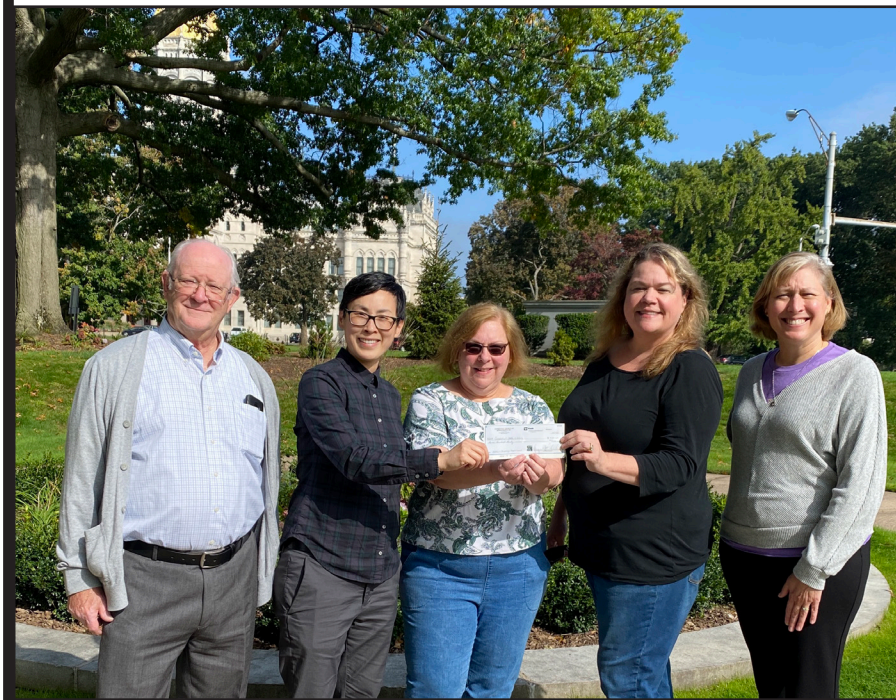
Plus Much More...





It was a beautiful day in October 2021 to head down to the Connecticut State Library to donate to Carolyn Picciano at the History and Genealogy Department a check of the proceeds from all the participating societies of our "Ancestry Allies Virtual Genealogy Help Day" in June 2021.

The event was co-sponsored by CSG and the Windsor Historical Society. Participating organizations were: Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, Inc. Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, Inc.; French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc.; Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut (JGSCT); Middlesex Genealogical Society of Connecticut; and the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast.



From left to right: Paul Lajoie (FCGSC), Michelle Tom (WHS), Carolyn Picciano (CSL), Jenny Hawran (CSG & DFAW), Sara Zagrodzky (MGSC) present the check in the amount of \$330 to Carolyn.

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A Quarterly Publication of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.

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Diversity and Inclusion Statement (adopted 21 November 2020)

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President's Message



Have you taken a DNA test? Are you using it simply for ethnicity results, or are you actively using it in your genealogy research? It's safe to say DNA tests are not going anywhere anytime soon. In December 2021, a consumer market report predicted that

DNA test kits sales would grow 24% in the next four years alone.

As I look ahead to our upcoming Annual Meeting on May 21, I'm excited to be welcoming a very special guest to talk about his own experience in taking a DNA test --my friend Bill Griffith.

A veteran financial journalist and anchor on CNBC for three decades, Bill is also an author and amateur genealogist. His 2016 book, *The Stranger in my Genes*, chronicles his journey after taking a DNA test and discovering his father was not his biological father. Bill's book is beautifully written and brutally honest. He walks readers through the pain and grief a discovery like that can cause.

For myself, I already knew that pain and grief firsthand. Bill and I share a similar story. It was because of his book that we became friends, in fact. We joke that we both joined an exclusive club that no one ever wants to join.

It was April 26, 2015, when my world changed forever. I discovered my Dad was not my biological father. Like Bill, the discovery left me shattered and brokenhearted.

I had picked up my first DNA kit a year earlier when I was attending the Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree in Burbank, California. DNA was still a new thing in genealogy, and I was just interested in my ethnicity results. Six weeks later, I received my results from Ancestry. They were pretty much what I expected and matched up with my paper trail-- a mix of British/Irish, German, and a wee bit of Native American. Nothing out of the ordinary. DNA really wasn't my thing, nor my interest, but it was fun to do. I promptly forgot about it.

A year later, I attended the FGS Conference in Salt Lake City. This time, 23andMe DNA kits were the new popular kids on the block because of the health trait re-

ports. They had a great sale, and I picked one up for myself and my oldest brother. Our Dad had died in 2009, and I meant to get at least one of my brothers to test to have the Y connection documented. I am the youngest of five kids, and none of my siblings were in the least bit interested in genealogy or DNA. My brother agreed to take the test, and I managed the account for it.

That evening of April 26, 2015, I was sitting up in my bed on my iPad when I received notification that my brother's results were in. I logged into the 23andMe site and read his results, which were pretty similar to mine. No big surprises there. Although I still wasn't interested in using DNA in my genealogy research, I knew the topic was gaining speed quickly. I felt I should have a basic understanding of how it all worked. What were centimorgans and how did it look when DNA connected families?

I compared my brother's DNA to mine. Scientific-looking charts and unfamiliar words came up at first. I had no clue what any of it meant. But then my eyes looked further down the screen, and there it was. Estimated relationship: half-sibling.

My stomach dropped, and I became hot and dizzy. I was confused. It felt like the floor dropped out from underneath me. It must be a mistake, I thought. But I would soon confirm that it wasn't. It was true. After asking my other siblings to test, we discovered they are all full siblings with each other, but only half with me.

The irony is not lost on me that as the family historian, the genealogist, the sentimental one in the family, I would now discover that half the family I have spent 25+ years researching was not my biological family at all. It was crushing to me. It was as if half of me was now gone, and I was left with an empty hole.

Bill's book came out that next September, and my heart stopped when I saw its promotion come through my Facebook feed. I was struggling terribly, and what's worse, I hadn't told a single soul what I had discovered. I immediately downloaded Bill's book on my Kindle and stayed up all night and into the following day reading it. His words described exactly how I was feeling. I contacted Bill on Twitter, and thankfully he took me under his wing, and we became fast friends over our shared experience.

I've come a long way in the seven years since my discovery. There has been a lot of healing, but the scars remain. There are several NPE (Not Parent Expected) support groups on Facebook. The one Bill and I belong to has over 8,000 NPE members. No matter how much time has gone by, we all still have our moments.

DNA can be a double-edged sword. There are so many positive things about it. It reunites people; it solves

mysteries; it can make a person feel whole again. But for experiences like Bill's and mine, it shakes the core of your identity. I've often said that you don't "get over" something like this. You get "through" it. A big part of me has done that.

And speaking of DNA, at CSG, DNA has been a big topic this year already. We hope you are enjoying our DNA Virtual Lecture Series and are learning more about DNA and how to apply it to your genealogy re-

search. And I hope that if you live in the area, you will come to our Annual Meeting in May and meet Bill and his wife, Cindy. He's written a sequel to *Strangers*, and we hope to have advanced copies available for those interested.

I know I'll be reading it.

*Stay well,
Jenny Hawran, President*

Editorial

In this issue, we are focusing on DNA. Thank you to Nora Galvin for her overview on how DNA can help in our genealogy research, and to our president, Jenny Hawran, and CSG Governor Judith Bowen for sharing their DNA stories as well. The CSG Publication Committee invites you to share your DNA stories. See page 13 for more information. Our thanks also go out to Keith Wilson for providing us with the biographies of the Mansfield Civil War Soldiers.

CSG has already offered three DNA programs on the first of each month since January. These are planned to continue throughout the year for as long as we can. See our calendar on pages 14 and 15 for the DNA programs planned for April and May as well as the other great programs that we have lined up this spring.

For a brief change from DNA, Diana McCain will speak on Connecticut women on CSG's regular "third Saturday" in March. Deanna Korte will be our regular program speaker in April on Swedish research. More information may be found on page 14.

It's back to DNA for our Annual Meeting on the third Saturday of May. We are excited to welcome Bill Griffeth who will share his own DNA story. We are also excited to announce that we are planning for this to be an in-person meeting. See the flyer on page 16 for more information.

I'm looking forward to a great spring and hope you are as well.

~ Stephanie Hyland, Editor



Come visit the CSG Library! Now open Mondays from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

In addition to our unique Ancestry Service and new books that have been added to our collection, patrons have access to:

- ~ **FamilySearch.com** (CSG is an Family Search Affiliate Library)
- ~ **NEHGS's AmericanAncestors.com**
- ~ **Ancestry.com**
- ~ **Fold3.com**

There is no cost to research here!



DNA Testing: How Can It Help Your Genealogy Research?

Part I

by Nora Galvin, CG, CSG #18813

DNA testing is not merely a fad. It is fast becoming the gold standard, the one sure way to prove you are related to or descended from a particular person. Major genealogy journals, especially the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, are requesting that authors use DNA evidence to help solve the tough problems in their articles.

What is this revolution about? Does it mean everyone has to get a DNA test? How do we learn about DNA testing and how to use the results? This article will answer those questions.

Introduction

Do I really need a DNA test?

Lots of people ask this question. DNA is particularly useful in several situations. One is the search for birth parents in the case of adoption. Another is having researched all the available sources and still being unable to identify an ancestor (hitting a brick wall). A third is to help figure out where an ancestor came from when you know there are no records to prove it. A fourth is to prove or disprove descent from a particular male immigrant. Another is to rule in or rule out a particular woman as an ancestor.

Many people say they get tested because of brick walls in their research, and they hope to find a relative who can help solve the problem. In addition to those more serious reasons to get tested, many people simply like to do it because the technology is available, and they will be able to graphically visualize how they are related to siblings, parents and others. You are almost guaranteed to meet relatives this way, and you may discover some new information about your family.

A warning is in order. Sometimes DNA tests reveal secrets that no one in the family knew. These revealed secrets can be upsetting, even devastating. Sometimes they can cause rifts in the family. So be sure to consider what you are getting into before you take this step. Finding that a particular person is not your ancestor is one possibility. Finding that someone unexpected *is* an ancestor is another.

So, if you know all of your ancestors out to six generations (the approximate limit of one of the three tests) and you are not interested in meeting new relatives, maybe getting your DNA tested is not necessary for you. However, if you think it sounds like you might like to try it, read on.

How do they get my DNA?

No, it's not a blood test! For genetic genealogy tests DNA is extracted from cells from the inside of the cheek. It is collected in one of two ways, depending on the company you use. One is to collect the cells directly by gently scraping the inside of your cheek with special scrapers and submitting the little scrapers in the tube provided. The other is to submit a saliva sample: you spit into a tube up to a measured line. Cheek cells are collected from the saliva sample. Either way, it's simple and painless.

Why DNA?

Why is DNA particularly useful to genealogists? First, we know DNA is passed from parents to their children and therefore we all contain in our genomes bits of DNA from many of our ancestors, the very people we are trying to identify. Second, the passing of DNA from parent to child is accomplished in a predictable and logical way, providing the kind of evidence we like. And third, DNA is duplicated over and over again in our bodies, as we develop into a full human from the tiny fertilized egg, when we need to repair damage or maintain health in our bodies, even to create eggs and sperm. DNA is replicated billions of times in our cells without error, making it very stable. This makes it a powerful tool for comparing related people, or people of an unknown relationship with the goal of determining kinship. Of course, mutations—changes in our genetic makeup—do occur occasionally. These changes turn out to be useful tools, as well. They will be discussed below.

How do I know what test to get?

There are three types of DNA that are tested for genetic genealogy:

- mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)
- Y-DNA
- autosomal DNA (atDNA)

I will explain the first two tests in this article, and then will discuss autosomal DNA in the next issue. Before we get into details of the tests, let's take a look at DNA in general.

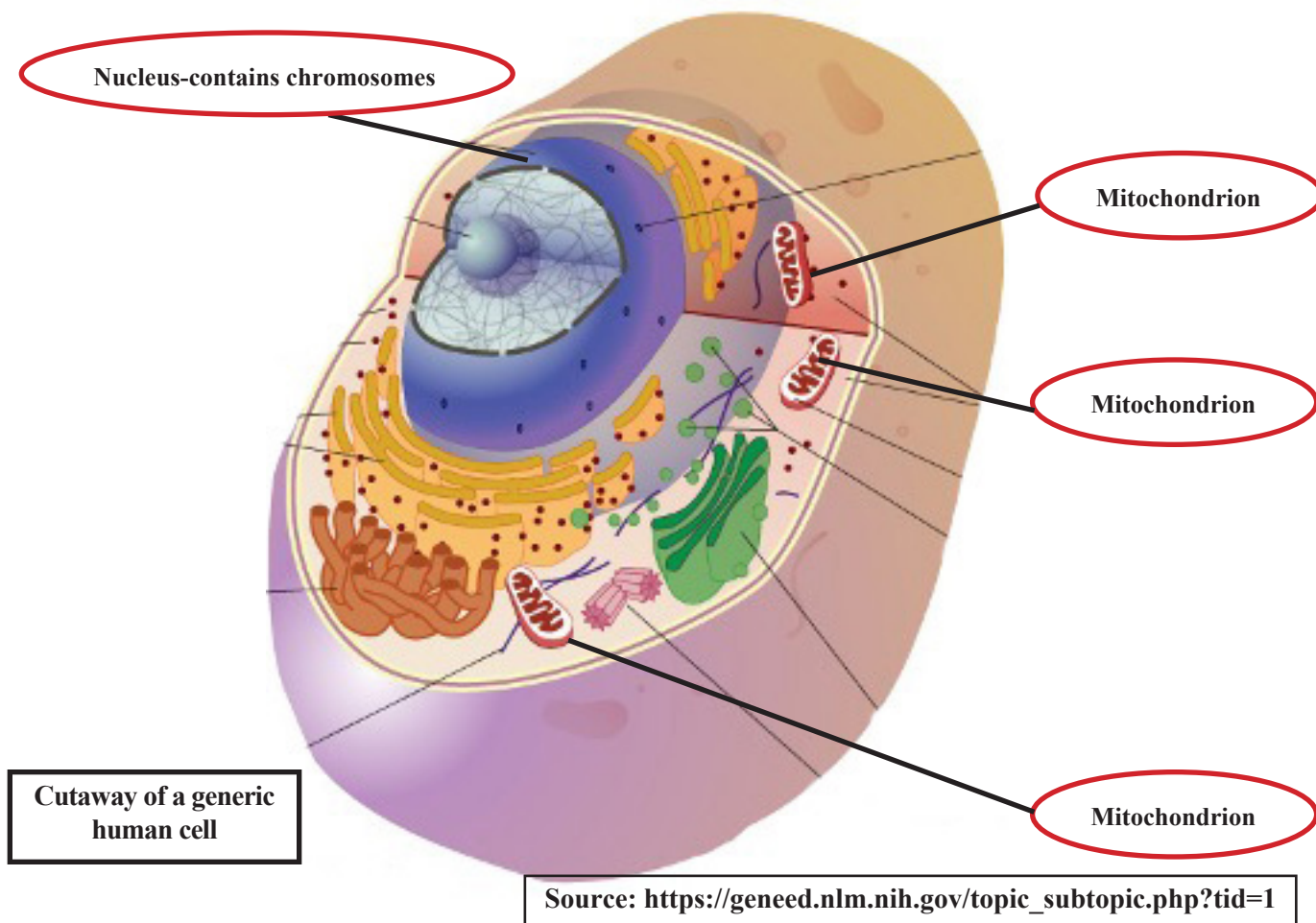
How new humans are created

We know that humans are created by uniting an egg from the mother with a sperm from the father. It's important to realize the difference between these two entities. The egg is a full cell with all the structures of a cell, except that it has only one of each chromosome instead of a pair. The sperm is a tiny package of DNA with a tail, nothing more. By comparison to the egg, the sperm is miniscule. Its only function is to deliver the father's DNA to the nucleus of the mother's egg cell. Sperm also have only one of each chromosome instead of a pair.

DNA and where it is found

We learned in high school biology that we each have 23 pairs of chromosomes which direct the activities of the cells. These chromosomes are found in a part of our cells called the nucleus. Of the 23 pairs of chromosomes, 22 are called *autosomes* and the 23rd pair are the *sex chromosomes* —the X and the Y. We learned that a female has two X chromosomes, and a male has one X and one Y. (There can be abnormal numbers of sex chromosomes in an individual, but those conditions will not be considered in this article.) The first 22 pairs of chromosomes (autosomes) plus the X chromosome are used in the autosomal DNA test and only that test. The Y chromosome is used in the Y-DNA test and only that test.

One thing many of us did not hear in high school is that there is another type of DNA, found in other structures in the cell called mitochondria (the singular form is mitochondrion). There are hundreds or thousands of mitochondria in each cell; I have marked just three in the drawing below. This DNA is different from the chromosomes and is passed on to children differently. This



DNA is used in the mitochondrial DNA test, and only that test.

The tests

Now you have some basic information about DNA and we can move on to discussing the individual tests that are available for genetic genealogy. Each of the three tests will be discussed separately its own section, but here is a brief summary of the usefulness of each test.

- Mitochondrial DNA, since it is provided by only the mother, follows matrilineal inheritance and can tell us something about the single ancestral line of our mother, her mother, etc., back for hundreds or thousands of years.
- Y-DNA, since it is a male characteristic, can tell us something about patrilineal ancestors back hundreds or thousands of years, but also can tell us something about much closer male relatives.
- Autosomal DNA can tell us something about our ethnicity and about relatives—both direct ancestors and cousins—who fall anywhere on our pedigree chart out to about six generations.

Mitochondrial DNA test

As we just read, mitochondrial DNA is found in cell structures outside the nucleus, separate from our other DNA, the chromosomes. When a new fetus is created, it starts as a single cell, the egg from the mother fertilized by the tiny sperm from the father. The mother, as the egg donor, supplies all the mitochondria and thus all the mtDNA. In other words, the *DNA in the mitochondria is passed from a mother to her children without contribution from the father—unchanged from mother to child*. What happens to it in the next generation? Each child gets the mother's mtDNA, but who can pass it on? Only those children who pass on a full cell—an egg—to their children. That is, only the females. Females pass their mtDNA to all of their children. Male children receive their mother's mtDNA but do not pass it on.

Mutations

A mutation is a change in one of the smallest units of DNA (called a base, a nucleotide, or a SNP). Mutation occurs when there is a copying error and one SNP is swapped out for another. Most mutations are silent,

meaning they do not cause a change in the function of the DNA.

Mutations occur occasionally when mtDNA is duplicated in the formation of new cells from existing ones. If a mtDNA mutation occurs during the formation of an egg, it will be passed on to the child. The rate of mutation in mtDNA is very slow, so slow that dozens of generations could pass before a mutation occurs. Meanwhile, in the absence of mutations, the mtDNA passed from each mother to her child and passed on by her daughters is identical generation after generation for hundreds or thousands of years.

A population that lived in one continent or region in the distant past will have different mutations than those of populations in other regions (for example, Africa, Asia, North America, western Europe). The various mutations can be used to divide populations into genetic groups, and there are different mutations within the groups as well, so we end up with “branches” and “trees” that show how mutations have occurred and been passed down over the last tens of thousands of years. These groups are called mitochondrial haplogroups. The broadest category is designated by a capital letter such as H or U. When scientists discover new mutations which divide large groups into smaller ones, they add a number or letter to the designation. For example, my mtDNA haplogroup is H13a1a. Some groups have several more numbers and letters. Movement of populations since the end of the last ice age has dispersed haplogroups so that currently they are not confined to specific geographic locations. Of course, in modern times people move all over the world, so haplogroups are dispersing rapidly.

How can genealogists capitalize on mtDNA?

I'm going to repeat a sentence from above: In the absence of mutation, the mtDNA passed from each mother to her child and passed on by her daughters is identical generation after generation for hundreds or thousands of years. You can probably see where this is going. Daughters get their mtDNA from their mothers, pass it on to their daughters, who pass it on to *their* daughters. Female-female-female-female-female, etc., back into the mists of time. Barring mutations, people with the same mother will have identical mtDNA. Cousins who are children of sisters will have identical mtDNA. You have mtDNA that is identical to your maternal grandmother's mtDNA.

Because of the way mtDNA is passed on, we can expect every woman in our direct matrilineal line, back for many, many generations, to have had exactly the same mtDNA we have. To help you understand which ancestors are in this line, look at a pedigree/ancestor chart in which you are the key person. The mtDNA line follows the bottom set of lines on the chart: mother, maternal grandmother, her maternal grandmother, and so forth.

There are probably thousands, possibly millions, of people in your mtDNA haplogroup. How can this possibly be useful to genealogists? In the broadest application, mtDNA can tell you where this single, very long line of female ancestors originated. For example, haplogroup H13 originated outside Europe before the last glacial maximum and expanded into the Near East and southern Caucasus regions between 33,000 and 26,000 years ago.^[1] All of my immigrant ancestors are from Ireland, so this information creates more questions! My list of mtDNA matches shows maternal ancestors with Irish surnames, but also with Scandinavian names. Could my mtDNA have come from the Vikings who invaded Ireland? If so, they must have brought their wives with them or the mtDNA would have stayed back in Scandinavia.

MtDNA is best used to answer specific questions. Here's an example from my research. Oral history says that three siblings, two women and a man, lived in Youghal parish in Co. Tipperary, Ireland, in the nineteenth-century. Marriage records have been found for these three people, but these records do not prove kinship, only that the three had the same surname. There are no records of their baptisms, so we don't know the names of their parents. Were they siblings?

I am working with three descendants, one from each of these alleged siblings. I realized that two living people in my study descend from the two alleged sisters (one from each) via all-female lines. This is a perfect scenario for an mtDNA study. If the mtDNA of the two descendants matches, then it is likely the women in Ireland had the same mother. (It does not *prove* this because the two could have had mothers who were sisters, or maternal cousins.) If the mtDNA does not match, then we have proved that the two women did not have the same mother. Results: the mtDNA of the two living descendants does not match. They aren't even in the same haplo-group. This means the two women in Ireland did not have the same mother. It does not rule

out the possibility that the mothers were both wives of the same man, though, so the two could still have been siblings, but only half- not full, sharing their father's surname.

Other uses for mtDNA testing

- Adoption cases to show which woman is likely the mother of the adoptee if there were multiple wives of a proven father.
- Determining which of two wives of a male ancestor a particular line descends from.
- Determining if a particular female ancestor was European, Native American, Asian, African (any of the haplogroups).

Details of the mtDNA test

Mitochondrial DNA has about 16,000 bases. You may hear about two types of regions in mtDNA—the hypervariable regions (there is one HVR at each end of the DNA) and the coding region. These regions initially were tested separately, but as costs have come down, only the full mitochondrial sequence test (FMS) which includes all the regions, is done. FMS identifies every one of the bases in the full mtDNA molecule, giving you a very detailed result. You cannot say you are closely related to a match unless you match 100% in the FMS. Even then, your shared female ancestor may have lived long enough ago that you will not be able to identify her.

What the results look like

MtDNA tests identify the full name of your mitochondrial haplogroup. They also return a list of differences found when comparing your results to a standard mtDNA sequence. The science is in transition regarding the standard, so there are currently two standards.^[2] Make sure you are comparing data from two people to the same standards. Your results will be a list showing the standard base, the base number and your value at the base. Examples:

G73A C2259T A16129G

This means that at base 73 the standard has G, but this sample has an A in; the standard C in base 2,259 has changed to a T; and the standard A at base number 16,129 was changed to a G. There is no intrinsic meaning in the mutations. It's just a simple exchange of bases via copying error. These differences can be replacements, as shown in the examples, or additions or deletions.

MtDNA results also include a list of people who are “matches” and the names and origins of their earliest known matrilineal ancestor (provided by the person who tested).

Projects

Family Tree DNA has a number of mtDNA projects that you can join, and which serve both to educate you and to further scientific knowledge about mtDNA. There are projects for the various haplogroups (“mt lineage projects”) and projects for geographical regions, such as Ulster Heritage mtDNA project.

Recapping mitochondrial DNA

- mtDNA can tell us the distant origins of our matrilineal ancestors.
- People with the same mother have identical mtDNA (except in the rare case of mutation).
- mtDNA can be used to explore relationships in the matrilineal ancestors.
- Results are reported as base changes (designated as letters) at specific locations in the DNA and the base changes are the criteria for placement in a mitochondrial haplogroup.

Who can take the mtDNA test?

Everyone has mtDNA, so everyone can take the test. Be sure to identify the correct earliest ancestor from whom the mtDNA was inherited—your earliest proven matrilineal ancestor.

What companies offer this test?

- *Family Tree DNA* offers the FMS test for \$159.
- *23 & Me* reports a mtDNA haplogroup when you do an autosomal test there (\$99). They do not report your mutations but do cite scientific publications for your haplogroup.
- *AncestryDNA* does not report mtDNA information.

Y-DNA test

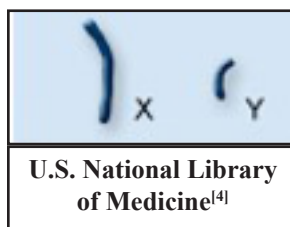
Let’s review some information about the Y chromosome. It is one of two chromosomes called sex chromosomes that can appear in pair #23—the X or the Y. Girls get two X chromosomes, one from their father and one from their mother. Boys get one X—from their mother—and a Y—from their father.

Occurrence of mutations in Y-DNA

Y-DNA tests look at specific areas on the Y chromosome, known as markers. Scientists have learned that mutations occur at different rates at different markers. Genealogy companies choose specific markers that will help to provide a range of information. Markers that mutate slowly are used to classify Y-DNA results into Y-DNA haplogroups. Notice that these Y haplogroups are totally different from mtDNA haplogroups because they are based on a different type of DNA. At first, you may find that the names of the mitochondrial haplogroups and Y haplogroups seem similar since they both use letters and numbers in a similar way. As you get more exposure to these group names, you will be able to tell the difference easily.

Other Y-DNA markers mutate more rapidly, though not all at the same rate. Some might be predicted to mutate every five generations, another every 15 generations, for example. Genetic genealogy companies carefully select the markers they test so that they will cover a range of mutation rates. Then, when results for two men are compared and there is a difference between them, the company can see which markers are different and predict the number of generations to the most recent common ancestor (MRCA)^[3] based on the average rate of mutation at those markers. A difference at only fast-mutating markers would result in a prediction of a closer relationship than a difference at more slowly mutating markers.

Why is Y-DNA useful to genealogists?



Here is a picture of an X and a Y chromosome side-by-side. The photograph has been enlarged quite a bit, but the *relative size* of the X and Y has not been changed. We can see that the Y chromosome

is much smaller than the X chromosome. Over millions of years of evolution, the Y chromosome has slowly changed (mutated) so that it is very different from X chromosomes. It has become so different that when sperm are made, a Y chromosome does not recombine (exchange bits of DNA) with the partnering X chromosome. This introduces the critical usefulness of Y-DNA: because it does not exchange material with the X chromosome, *the Y chromosome is passed down, virtually unchanged*, from father to son to grandson, and so on. A man living today has Y-DNA that is identical to the Y-DNA of his father, grandfather, great-grandfa-

ther, and so on. Of course, as with all DNA, mutations do occur occasionally, at a rate that can be measured.

Another feature that is (usually) passed down from father to son is the surname. Therefore, except for instances of adoption, misattributed paternity or name changes, *the Y chromosome and the surname track together in families through history*. This opens numerous useful avenues for genealogists. Surname studies can be conducted to see if particular men are descendants of the same man or from different, unrelated men with the same surname. The father or other close male relative of a male adoptee can be identified using Y-DNA. (Since brothers have identical Y-DNA, and it is identical to their father's and to male paternal cousins and uncles, it is not possible to prove absolutely which man in a family group with identical Y-DNA is the father using this method.) One can certainly *rule out* paternity using Y-DNA if a male's Y-DNA does not match that of the alleged father.

The slow-mutating markers—the ones which determine the Y-DNA haplogroup—tell deep ancestry, that is, the region of the world in which the Y-haplogroup originated. Deep ancestry markers alone will not identify *close* relatives. Here is the link to an excellent map showing the range of Y-DNA haplogroups throughout the world: <http://tinyurl.com/d6lx7sz>. The pie charts on the map show the Y haplogroups in the present populations in each area. You can see the results of movement of major populations of the world because none of the pie charts contain only one color (haplogroup). You can still notice strong representation of certain colors in the pie charts in different continents such as royal blue in Asia, lavender in the Americas and red in western Europe. These represent the Y haplogroup of the indigenous populations.

The Y-DNA, since it comes from one's father, his father, his paternal grandfather, and so on, is represented on the pedigree/ancestor chart in the names that occur at the very top of the chart. This is only one narrow line of ancestry. It can answer certain deep ancestry questions such as whether a patrilineal ancestor was European, African, or Native American, for example.

Details of the Y-DNA test

Y-DNA tests examine two types of markers, both of which can have mutations. One type of marker is called short tandem repeat (STR, pronounced as the individual letters).^[5] STRs are areas in the Y-DNA where a small

group of bases is repeated multiple times. You can think of STR sites as beads on a string. Occasionally a hiccup occurs in the DNA replication mechanism resulting in more or fewer repeats of an STR. The number of repeats can be counted, and they have proved to be a good tool for establishing a comparison framework.

The other type of marker is called a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP, pronounced “snip”).^[6] SNPs are individual spots in the DNA in which one base (aka nucleotide) is swapped out for a different one, just as we saw happens in mtDNA.

What the results look like

The Y-DNA results report a Y-haplogroup and a series of STR values. These are useful in studying both deep ancestry and closer relationships. The haplogroup is predicted by the STR values and can be confirmed by SNP tests. As with mtDNA, the Y-haplogroup is a broad category containing thousands or millions of men. The haplogroup indicates where in the world the Y-DNA originated, that is, the deep ancestry. [See Table 1 on page 10].

Each STR position in the test has a scientific name called a DYS number (DNA Y-chromosome Segment). The Y-DNA results show the DYS number and the number of repeats at that position. Table 1 shows one man's results for 67 markers. If he had gotten only 37 markers tested, only the first three rows of data would appear in his results. Note that some positions, such as DYS385, have more than one number reported because there are multiple sets of STRs in those positions.

The DYS values are compared to the DYS values of other men. Matches with about six or fewer differences are displayed in a match list. Sometimes a man will have no matches. This is simply because no one he is related to has been tested. You might find this to be the case for a recent immigrant. Men with deep colonial U. S. roots will likely find many people in their match list because there will likely be many descendants of the colonial ancestor alive today.

Projects

Y-DNA projects are a powerful tool for learning more about patrilineal ancestors. Studying the data of a larger group is much more useful than looking at only a few men who are close matches. Surname projects work to establish lineages attributable to specific male ancestors. There are also projects that focus on Y-DNA found in

Table 1. STR results from Family Tree DNA 67-marker test.

PANEL 1 (1-12)												
Marker	DYS393	DYS390	DYS19**	DYS391	DYS385	DYS426	DYS388	DYS439	DYS389I	DYS392	DYS389II***	
Value	13	24	14	10	11-14	12	12	11	13	13	30	
PANEL 2 (13-25)												
Marker	DYS458	DYS459	DYS455	DYS454	DYS447	DYS437	DYS448	DYS449	DYS464			
Value	18	9-9	11	11	25	15	19	31	15-15-17-18			
PANEL 3 (26-37)												
Marker	DYS460	Y-GATA-H4	YCAII	DYS456	DYS607	DYS576	DYS570	CDY	DYS442	DYS438		
Value	11	11	19-23	16	14	16	17	35-38	14	11		
PANEL 4 (38-47)												
Marker	DYS531	DYS578	DYF395S1	DYS590	DYS537	DYS641	DYS472	DYF406S1	DYS511			
Value	11	9	15-16	8	10	10	8	10	10			
PANEL 4 (48-60)												
Marker	DYS425	DYS413	DYS557	DYS594	DYS436	DYS490	DYS534	DYS450	DYS444	DYS481	DYS520	DYS446
Value	12	23-23	16	10	12	12	16	8	11	24	20	14
PANEL 4 (61-67)												
Marker	DYS617		DYS568	DYS487		DYS572		DYS640		DYS492		DYS565
Value	12		11	13		11		11		12		12

various geographic regions such as Ireland Y-DNA and Western Sephardim DNA Project. You can see a list of all the current projects for free at the company website: familytreedna.com (Projects menu at top of page). People in these projects work to learn more about inhabitants in specific areas with an eye to studying migration and settlement patterns. The project administrators—usually people who have tested and have a passion for studying Y-DNA—are trained by Family Tree DNA. A project may require more detail than the STRs can provide so administrators may suggest some SNP testing.

Differences in certain SNPs have been identified by scientists as determining factors in Y-haplogroup classification. The presence of particular SNPs can place men into narrower Y-subgroups. It can also make haplogroup naming simpler. Instead of using a very long string of letters and numbers, haplogroups can now be named for the determining SNP. An example is R1b1a2, a common Y-haplogroup originating in western Europe. R is the letter for the large Y-haplogroup. As new subgroups were found due to Y-DNA testing, numbers and letters were added behind the R and they were difficult to keep track of. Now it is known that a specific mutation, M269, determines classification into this subgroup, so the subgroup is now called R-M269.

DNA testers are not required to have the additional SNPs tested (it does cost additional money), but often doing so adds to the scientific knowledge about the haplogroup and its subgroups. Some Y-DNA projects have funds provided by other members to help pay for additional tests.

Recapping Y-DNA

- Y-DNA is passed in the patrilineal ancestry virtually unchanged for generations.
- Y-DNA can show deep ancestry—where in the world the Y haplogroup originated.
- Y-DNA can also show close relationships since brothers, their sons and fathers and paternal uncles and grandfathers all have identical Y-DNA.
- Mutations in Y-DNA can be used to predict the number of generations to the MRCA.

Who can take the Y-DNA test?

Since the Y chromosome is the male determinant, only men have it and only men can take the Y-DNA test. Women who are curious about the Y-DNA of their surname of birth need to ask a male relative (brother, paternal cousin, father, paternal uncle) to take the test.

Different lines can be explored by asking male cousins from different parts of the family tree to take the test.

The original tests for 12 and 25 markers are no longer offered though results are still available at FTDNA. The minimum number of markers that can be tested is 37, and that test can be upgraded to 67 markers. Tests which are much more detailed, Y-DNA111, Big Y 700, and a number of tests for specific SNPs, are available but are primarily useful if you are in a project that is using those results, or if you are trying to distinguish among closely related men, or if you simply want to delve deeper into the science. Project administrators can advise you about which additional tests might be useful for your goals or for those of the project.

What companies offer this test?

- Family Tree DNA has the largest database. See their website for tests and prices.
- Smaller specialty companies, e.g., African Ancestry (africanancestry.com), also provide the test and there are one or two other companies in England, but they do not provide the service of sharing and creating a match list.
- 23 & Me tests a sample of SNPs and reports a Y-DNA haplogroup when the atDNA test is done, but it does not report the details.

- AncestryDNA does not test for Y-DNA or haplogroup.

Endnotes

- ¹ Family Tree DNA, <https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/ftdna/what-is-the-geographic-and-historic-origin-of-my-mitochondrial-dna-mtdna-haplogroup/>, and the author's personal results page.
- ² The scientific community is transitioning from the original standard (rCRS) to one (RSRS) that has reconstructed the "original" human.
- ³ MRCA is the closest ancestor that two people share. For example, the MRCA of 2nd cousins is a great-grandparent.
- ⁴ U.S. National Library of Medicine, <http://www.livescience.com/27248-chromosomes.html>, accessed 29 July 2016.
- ⁵ short = 6-20 bases long, or so; tandem = they are side by side; repeat = same thing over and over, so an STR is a section in the DNA where identical sections are found side by side in a chain.
- ⁶ single = one; nucleotide = DNA base—one of the letters A, C, G, or T; poly = many, morph = form, so a SNP is a single spot in the DNA that can have multiple possible bases.

Query

Members may submit up to three queries per issue or as space allows. See Connecticut Genealogy News, Volume 14, Issue 2 (Summer 2021), page 23 for instructions for writing queries or contact the CSG office.

Robert J. STEEN b. Ireland, 1847, m. Mary Ann Sweet HENRY 23 JUN 1880, Hartford, CT d. 2 NOV 1883, Middlesex, CT, wife d. 9 APR 1888, Hartford, CT, their son Horace Alexander STEEN b. 11 FEB 1881 orphaned at age 7. Seeking for probate and or guardianship records that may list parents or family of Robert and Mary Ann.

Ginger Dee Scott, CSG # 21089
gingerdscott.88@gmail.com

A DNA Story: Cousin – Lost or Missing?

by Judith A. Bowen, CSG # 16113

Author's Note: All names have been altered to prevent identification of individuals.

I took an Ancestry.com autosomal DNA test so that the results would have DNA from both my father and my mother. My father's ancestry is based in New England and Norway; my mother's in Ireland. Sometime after the results arrived, I uploaded them to familytreemaker.com on the advice of CSG Board of Governors member Keith Wilson. At FamilyTreeDNA.com, I currently have 4,822 relatives, with centimorgans (abbreviated as cM) ranging between 53 and 8. At Ancestry.com, I have 581 relatives, from a child (more than 3,400 cM) to distant cousins with less than 20 cM. This is a story about an unexpected DNA result.

I had heard the saying "DNA doesn't lie." A few months ago, when I looked at all my DNA relatives at Ancestry.com, I discovered among a list of known first cousins (some maternal and a few paternal) a decidedly new and different surname: Landowski. In the list the first cousin with the most centimorgans/cM (and therefore with the most DNA like mine) was John with 1026 cM. He is the son of my mother's oldest brother and is therefore a full first cousin. Following John in the list are his sister Rosa (1021 cM); then Mary1 (1016 cM), a daughter of my mother's oldest sister. Next comes a paternal first cousin Jerome, a son of my father's sister, with 857 cM, followed by another maternal first cousin, Mary2, with 849 cM. The outlier is next: Landowski with 781 cM. After Landowski, the next ten in the list are known first cousins once removed with cM ranging from 685 down to 343.

Landowski contacted me by means of an Ancestry.com message; we communicated by email, and then he sent me his telephone number. On a whim, I called him one day; we had an extensive conversation, but I was at a loss to identify how we were related. Landowski told me that he was born in the same city where I was born and where much of my mother's family lived; that he was born in the late 1950s; that his DNA showed that he was "all Irish;" that he was adopted; that he knows who his birth mother is; and that she does not remember who might be Landowski's birth father.

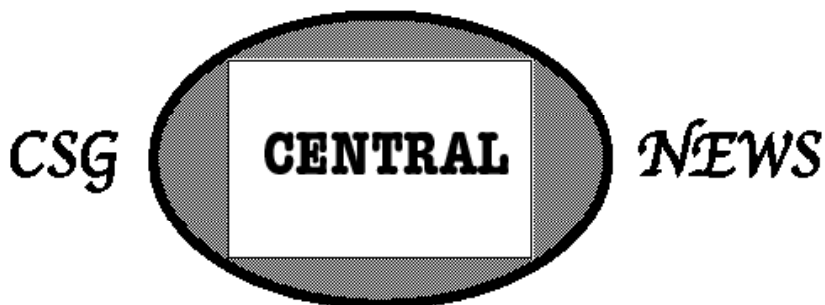
I consulted a maternal cousin, Emma, who is as interested as I am in our maternal ancestors and family

members. We looked at all the cousins once removed in our databases and found no probable candidate for Landowski's birth father. Based on the number of centimorgans and the elimination of first cousins once removed, it seemed clear that Landowski was a first cousin on my maternal line.

My mother, Theresa, had thirteen siblings, two died as children, one male, one female. Of the fourteen children, four sons and eight daughters survived to adulthood. Of those twelve, five daughters and two sons married and had children. It seemed clear that one of the four sons, my maternal uncles, was the birth father of Landowski. But who? It wasn't Uncle John, first born, who moved to New York State in 1936 and never returned to the city where Landowski was conceived and born; nor was it Uncle Dan who was killed in World War II, six days after D-Day. It could not have been Uncle Frank because he died in May 1941. There remained only one possibility: the fourth son whom I'll call James.

However, James, who served in World War II, had been married in the late 1940s and had four sons and one daughter by his only wife. But how to prove that DNA doesn't lie? Oddly, James was considered a possibility also because Emma and I knew that he lived separated from his wife and children for years at a time. Asking one of James's sons to take a DNA test at Ancestry.com seemed to be the only option to confirm this possibility. Emma and I discussed how to approach our first cousin Mitch, James's oldest son; Emma decided to gently ask Mitch to take a DNA test at Ancestry.com. Although Mitch told Emma that he had taken the test, the results did not show up in my list of DNA relatives at Ancestry. Unfortunately, within about three months after Mitch took the DNA test, he died. Landowski will remain a mystery unless one of Mitch's surviving brothers takes an Ancestry DNA test. Because neither Emma nor I know these much younger first cousins well, we haven't come up with an approach that might solve the mystery.

DNA doesn't lie, but it will tell you things you might otherwise never have known.



The logo features the word "CSG" in a stylized font on the left, "CENTRAL" in a bold, sans-serif font inside a white rectangular box with a black border, and "NEWS" in a stylized font on the right. The entire central box is set within a larger, dark oval with a halftone pattern.

From the CSG Office

It's Dues Time Again! The 2022-2023 Membership Renewal notice was mailed in February. If you have not received it or need help renewing, please contact us.

If you are interested in joining CSG, you may contact the office or visit our website at www.csginc.org.

Our Office and Library are open to the public Mondays from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for researching or if you want to come in to renew your membership in person.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Please find the 2022 Annual Appeal letter on page 14 of this issue, along with a donation return envelope for your convenience.

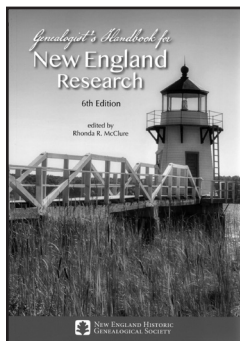
From the Library Committee

Come visit us! The CSG Library is open for research.

Thank you to San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society and Nancy McNamara for the donation of:

A History of the City of Brooklyn, N.Y., Vols. I, II & III by Henry R. Stiles.

Early Settlers of King's County to 1700 by Teunis Bergen.



We have also just acquired the *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* (6th edition) edited by Rhonda R. McClure.

We have added these books to our collection and they are available for patrons visiting the CSG Library.

There are opportunities to volunteer at CSG right from your own home transcribing the Ancestry Service Index. All you need is a computer and the ability to use Microsoft Excel. This can also be done at the CSG Library if you choose. Contact the CSG Office for more details or for other volunteer opportunities.

From the Literary Awards Committee

The 2022 Literary Awards and "Tell Your Family Story" Essay Contests opened March 1, 2022. Rules and Entry forms for the contests may be found on pages 17-20 or on the CSG website at www.csginc.org/literary-awards.

From the Nominating Committee

If you are a CSG member and would like to serve on the CSG Board of Governors or know of a CSG member that you would like to nominate, please contact the CSG Office at 860-569-0002 or email csginc@csginc.org and they will put you in touch with the Nominating Committee.

Also, there is no need to serve on the Board of Governors to serve on a committee; only membership in CSG is required. Committees include Building and Maintenance, Government Relations, Library, Outreach, Programs, Publications, and Technology. For more information on this, contact the CSG Office.

From the Publications Committee

Articles are continually needed for both *The Connecticut Nutmegger* and *Connecticut Genealogy News*. Guidelines for authors may be found on the home page at www.csginc.org/submit-an-article. Honorariums are paid for published articles. For more information, contact the CSG office at csginc@csginc.org or call 860-569-0002.

If you have a DNA story you would like to share like the one our president has shared on page 2 or the one from CSG Governor, Judith Bowen on page 12, please share it with us. We would love to print it. Note: we do ask that if there are living people involved that you change the names to protect their privacy. For more information, contact the CSG Office.

CSG Members: *Connecticut Genealogy News* is in need of book reviewers. This is a volunteer opportunity as books become available. Please contact the CSG Office for more details.

From the Programs Committee

***THE CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF
GENEALOGISTS, INC.***

PRESENTS...

The continuation of the FREE Online Genealogy Help Sessions with Judith Bowen and Keith Wilson.

Sessions will continue the second and fourth Thursdays between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. throughout the winter. To register or for more information, go to www.csginc.org/event/help-with-your-family-research, call 860-569-0002 or check our Twitter or Facebook pages.

**March 19, 2022 -
Diana McCain**

**"From the Kitchen to
the Capitol: Four Feisty
Connecticut Women"**

Diana Ross McCain is an independent historian who has been researching, writing, and speaking about Connecticut history for more than 35 years.



She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in history, and was on the staff of the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford for 25 years. She is the author of five non-fiction books on Connecticut history.

Connecticut women who revolutionized American cooking, defied a government that taxed them but denied them the vote, and shattered a political glass ceiling will be highlighted in this presentation, Diana will draw on her book *It Happened in Connecticut* for inspiring stories about remarkable women from three centuries of the state's past.

Place: IN-PERSON only at the CSG Library,
175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT.

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Cost: FREE but please pre-register so we may plan appropriately.

Please register at <https://csginc.org> under Events.

**April 1, 2022 - DNA DAY
Skip Duett**

**"Adding Y-DNA Testing
to Your Genealogy
Toolbox"**



While autosomal DNA gets most of the press, Y-DNA continues to be a proven workhorse in solving patrilineal mysteries in our family trees. Learn the basics of the science and how to apply Y-DNA to help trace your direct male line in your family tree. Understand how to effectively evaluate your Y-DNA matches.

Skip Duett is a professional genealogist, speaker, and author specializing in Upstate New York research and DNA analysis. He is conducting cutting-edge research in the application of advanced Y-DNA analysis for genealogy. He is a volunteer administrator on three surname projects hosted by FTDNA. He serves on the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYG&B) Family History Advisory Committee.

This program is for CSG Members only. Members may register at <https://csginc.org>.

Webinar via Zoom - 6:30 p.m. Cost is FREE.

**April 16, 2022 -
Deanna Korte**

**"Swedes in Connecticut
and Beyond"**

A brief history of how and why Swedes emigrated to the USA and Connecticut, what life may have looked like after immigration, and how to trace one's history back to Sweden using genealogical records. For more information on the speaker or to register, please visit the CSG website.



Webinar via Zoom - 1:30 p.m. Cost is FREE. Please register at <https://csginc.org>.

May 1, 2022 - DNA DAY
Jill Morelli

“Finding a Father for Molly - Using DNA”



Molly leaned against the sink in the kitchen, wiping her hands with the towel, while she shared with me remembrances of the father she never knew. At one time she knew his name, which was now forgotten. Step-by-step the resolution of identification of Molly's father unfolds. This "simple" case provides the basic structure of any DNA study, but is presented without jargon--you do not need to be a geneticist to understand what is going on. It illustrates target testing, ethics of DNA and where one can go wrong. Strategies and techniques for a successful resolution of a decades long mystery are explained. You may not have a mystery to solve, but it's still

a good story.

Jill Morelli, CG is a writer, lecturer and co-founder of Applied Genealogy Institute, providing practicum-based educational opportunities for high-intermediate and advanced genealogists. In 2017, she founded the Certification Discussion Group, an online series discussing her certification journey, which demystifies the process. She lectures nationally and has written articles for *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *Swedish American Genealogist*, and many others. Jill is past president of the Seattle Genealogical Society, and a member of many local genealogical societies.

This program is for CSG Members only. Members may register at <https://csginc.org>.

Webinar via Zoom - 6:30 p.m. Cost is FREE.



If it is the FIRST of the Month - it's DNA Day!

On the FIRST day of every month we will feature a speaker on a DNA topic. The levels will be mixed – beginner to advanced – no one needs to feel left out if they miss a month!

This opportunity is limited to CSG MEMBERS ONLY!

Members can view previous DNA program recordings on the CSG website under Members!

Please visit our website, <https://csginc.org>, or our Facebook page for more on this exciting series or for more information on becoming a CSG member.

**Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.
Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 21, 2022**

Registration Cost: \$29 per Person

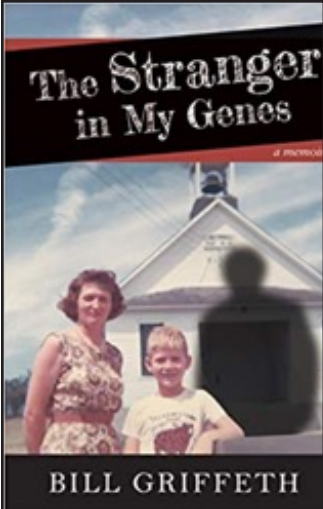
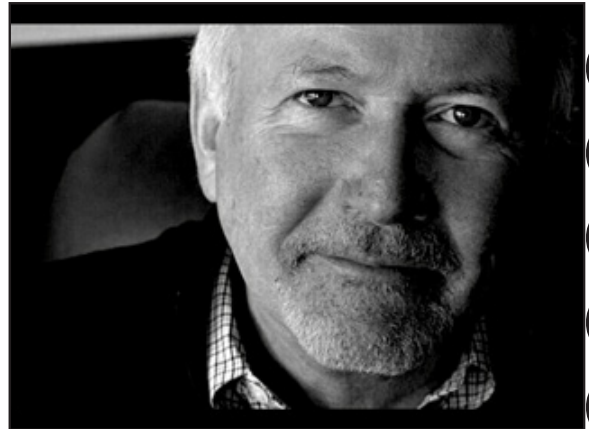
**Hilton Garden Inn Glastonbury
85 Glastonbury Boulevard – Glastonbury – CT – 06033**

Guest Speaker: Bill Griffeth

“How a DNA Test Eliminated Half of My Family Tree.”

In 2012, Bill took a DNA test that indicated that the father who raised him was not his biological father. He has written two books on the subject – *The Stranger in my Genes* published 2016, and his new offering *Strangers No More: A Memoir About DNA Tests & Family Secrets*, which will be out in May.

His talk will focus on the issue of what a family tree looks like after a DNA test such as this.



“Do I still keep the paternal part of the tree I grew up with? Eliminate it all together? And what do I do about my “new” biological family’s history? My wife and I have done extensive genealogical work on that family’s history. Do I include it in my family tree? Do I now have three main branches? I look forward to hearing the thoughts of the attendees that day.”

Bill and his wife Cindy live in New Jersey. He was part of the production team that started the Financial News Network in 1981. Bill Griffeth joined CNBC in 1991, when NBC purchased FNN and merged it with CNBC. He has anchored several programs for CNBC. Bill retired from full time anchor duties in 2019, and is now an “Anchor at Large.”

Schedule of the Day

10:00 a.m.: Coffee and social time

10:30 a.m.: Annual Meeting

12:00 noon: Lunch

1:30 p.m.: Guest speaker, Bill Griffeth

To register, go to <https://csginc.org>. For questions, call the CSG Office at 860-569-0002 or email csginc@csginc.org. This is an in-person event only.

LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST 2022

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST

Sponsored by
CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033
Library/Office Address: 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118
Telephone Number: 860-569-0002 / Email Address: csginc@csginc.org

ENTRY RULES

Grand Prize of \$500 is awarded to the overall best publication

**Two First Prizes of \$250 each may be awarded for the best in each of the remaining two categories:
“Genealogy & Family History,” “Genealogical Resource,” and “DNA & Technology.”**

1. The Contest opens March 1, 2022 and Entries must be received in CSG’s Office by July 15, 2022.
2. a. Genealogy & Family History: Begins with someone in the past and moves forward in time through his/her descendants or begins with a contemporary person (living or deceased) and covers his/her ancestors, usually in one or more direct lines.
b. Genealogical Resource: Might include cemetery abstracts, compilations, court records, specialized vital records data, etc.).
c. DNA & Technology: Covers topics in DNA and other technology advancements related to or assisting in genealogical research.
3. Entries must have been published after 2017 and have some relevance to Connecticut and/or New England.
4. An Entry Fee of \$20 and TWO copies of the publication must be submitted with each Entry Form. One copy will be added to the CSG Library and the other usually donated to the Connecticut State Library. On the entry Form, the author may designate one copy to be donated elsewhere or be returned instead.
5. Entry is open to anyone except CSG staff, the current/sitting CSG Board of Governors and their immediate families. Membership in CSG or Connecticut residency is NOT required to enter.
6. Submit completed Entry Form to CSG at the mailing address above.
7. Photocopies of the Entry Form are welcome.

Entries will be evaluated on a variety of criteria including, but not limited to the following: relevance of title, format (logical, readable, interesting arrangement); sentence structure; grammar; and presentation (spelling counts and typographical errors are noted). All entries should include title page, table of contents, index (Name & Place where applicable), and page numbers. Where applicable, evaluation will also be based on the following: overall presentation, numbering system (was it easy to follow); quality of references; bibliography; and narrative. Books should be bound (both hardcover and softcover are accepted. Spiral-bound accepted).

CDs are acceptable entries; however, all non-paper entries must have a fully searchable and easy-to-follow names index with page numbers. A searchable place index is also encouraged. All entries will be retained in our library and available for research. The second copy, unless specifically requested to be returned to the entrant, will be offered to the CT State Library. Content on CD entries must be in a commonly used format. PDF is preferred.

**Winning entries will be formally announced at CSG’s Annual Family History Seminar in October.
Winners will be notified by September 1, 2022. See page 18 for entry form.**

LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST 2022
THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST

Sponsored by
CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033
Library/Office Address: 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118
Telephone Number: 860-569-0002 / Email Address: csginc@csginc.org

ENTRY FORM

Please Print or Type

Title of Publication

Category (Circle one): GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY RESOURCE PUBLICATION

OR DNA & TECHNOLOGY

(Note: CSG reserves the right to reclassify a category)

Author's/Authors' Name(s)

Year of Publication

Address(es) (including PO Box(es) if applicable)

Date Submitted

Town/City, State, Zip+4

Purchase Price

Telephone Number(s)

E-mail Address(es)

CSG Member Number(s) (if applicable)

Name(s) of Person(s) Submitting This Entry [if different from Author(s)]

Address(es) (including PO Box(es) if applicable)

Town/City, State, Zip+4

Telephone Number(s) E-mail Address(es)

CSG Member Number(s) (if applicable)

Publisher

Publisher Address(es) (including PO Box(es) (if applicable)

Publisher Telephone Number(s)

E-mail Address(es)

Contact Person

Please indicate disposition of second copy after contest (circle one): Donate to Connecticut State Library

Donate to _____ (include address) or Return to author

We encourage you to photocopy this Entry Form and pass it on. See page 17 contest rules.

CSG LITERARY AWARDS 2022
ELEVENTH ANNUAL “TELL ME YOUR FAMILY STORY”
ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by
CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033
Library/Office Address: 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118
Telephone Number: 860-569-0002 / Email Address: csginc@csginc.org

OPEN TO ALL
THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE \$100!

ENTRY RULES

1. Entry is open to anyone except for CSG staff and current/sitting CSG Board of Governors or immediate family thereof. Membership in CSG or Connecticut residency is NOT required.
2. Contest opens March 1, 2022. All entries must be received in CSG’s Office by July 15, 2022.
3. Essay must have some relevance to New England (including at least one of the six states which are: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont).
4. Essays must be well written, not more than ten pages, double-spaced and typed. Supporting documentation may be included if available but will not be counted as part of the essay’s text.
5. TWO copies of the essay (which will not be returned), including supporting documentation, must be submitted with each Entry Form. If submitting copies of supporting documentation, please include for both essay copies. If selected to be published, an electronic copy in Microsoft Word format will be required. Email attachments accepted.
6. Submit completed Entry Form to CSG at the mailing address above. Entries may be hand-delivered.
7. Photocopies of the Entry Form are welcome.
8. Currently there is no entry fee!

Essays may include family stories; oral histories; genealogy-related blog entries, excerpts from an ancestor’s journal/diary; transcriptions of Bible records or cemetery markers; family histories/traditions and socio-economic background surrounding/affecting an ancestor. Each essay should include how it pertains to its author. Genealogical summaries should be easy to follow. Essay writers are encouraged to use their imagination when deciding on topics. Please bear in mind that essays must have some relevance to New England (see #3 above).

Essays will be evaluated on a variety of criteria, including but not limited to: the relevance of the title page; page numbers (important); format (logical, readable, interesting narrative or arrangement); New England content (this is of paramount importance); spelling (this counts); sentence structure; grammar and presentation. All entries will be permanently retained in the CSG Library and will be available to anyone who visits. The winner and selected entries may be published in Connecticut Genealogy News magazine. Authors are asked to sign the Copyright and Ownership Conditions on the entry form.

Winning entries will be formally announced at CSG’s Annual Family History Seminar in October.
Winners will be notified by September 1, 2022. See page 20 for Contest Entry Form.

LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST 2022
ELEVENTH ANNUAL
“TELL ME YOUR FAMILY STORY” ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by
CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033
Library/Office Address: 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118
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ENTRY FORM

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Spotlight on Connecticut Towns & Cities

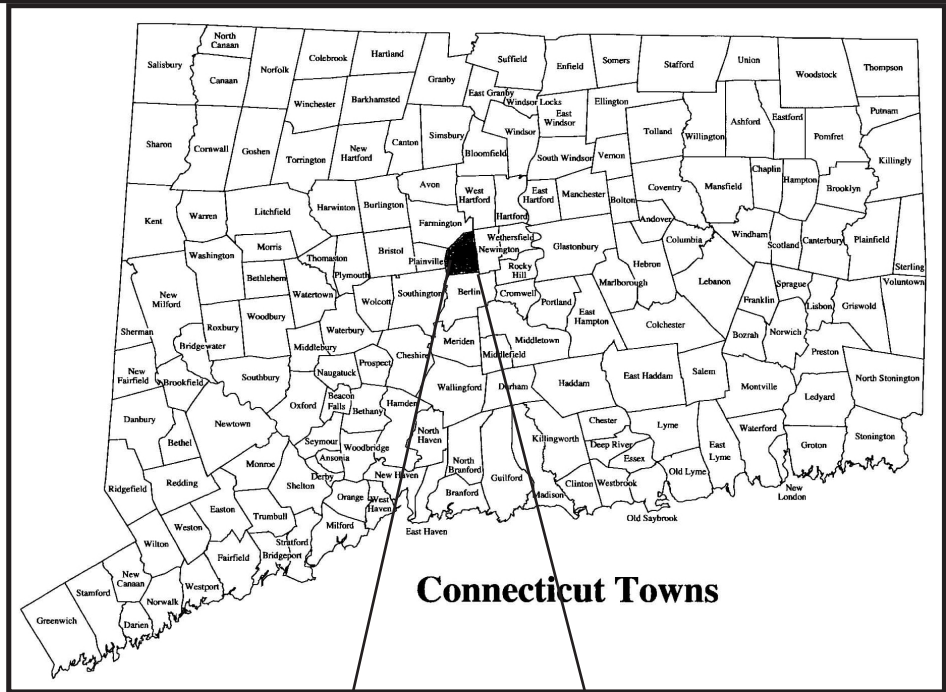


Spotlight on New Britain

by Edwin W. Strickland II, CSG # 3709

Geography

New Britain is a city in Hartford County, with an area of 13.4 square miles, about 9 miles southwest of Hartford.^[1] Population in the 2020 census was 74,135,^[2] making it the eighth largest city in Connecticut at that time. It is bordered north and west by Farmington, Plainville and Southington, south by Berlin, and east by Newington.^[3] Most of the city is high, composed of rolling hills and irregular valleys. The railroad crossing at Main Street is more than one hundred and thirty feet higher than that at Asylum Avenue in Hartford.^[4]



Connecticut Towns

New Britain

History

The area which includes New Britain was settled by Europeans in 1687 as part of the town of Farmington, mainly in the Christian Lane area of present-day Berlin. At the time, there were no or few Native Americans residing there.^[5] Early settlers included the North, Seymour, Gilbert, Steele, Standley, Roote, Hart, Norton, Cowle, Porter, Lankton, Newel, Gridley and Bronson families.^[6]

In 1707 the town of Farmington agreed to a new Society at Great Swamp (Second Society of Farmington), in the southern part town and that their support of the minister in Farmington be abated.^[7] The original meeting house was at the corner of Christian Lane and Deming Road in present day Berlin.^[8] In 1722 parts of Wethersfield and Middletown were added to the Great Swamp Parish and the name changed to Kensington.^[9]

The Ecclesiastical Society of New Britain was formed from the northern part of the Great Swamp Society in 1754. The Society remained a part of Farmington until the incorporation of Berlin from parts of Farmington (Great Swamp), Middletown and Wethersfield in 1785.^[10] After the



separation of the New Britain Society, the remaining part of the Great Swamp was divided in 1772 to form the Kensington (in the west) and Worthington (in the east) Societies.^[11]

The New Britain Ecclesiastical Society (now First Church of Christ, Congregational) has been known as the Third Church of Farmington, the Second Church of Berlin, and North or Center Church New Britain depending on location and time period. The first three meetinghouses were in the area of present day downtown New Britain. The current building is located on Corbin Avenue.^[12] Maps from as early as 1758 and as late as 1796 identify the New Britain Society as Quebeck.^[13]

The town of New Britain was incorporated in 1850, being set off from Berlin.^[14] In 1870 the borough of New Britain was chartered, being roughly one square mile, centering on present day downtown. The borough was incorporated as the City of New Britain in 1871. The City and Town were consolidated in 1905.^[15]

The seal of the City of New Britain dates from 1871 and features a beehive and seven bees, said to represent the major manufacturers of the day. The city motto “*Industria implet alveare et melle fruitur*” was adopted at the same time.^[16]



City Seal of New Britain

Industrialization

The first settlers of New Britain were farmers with any manufacturing limited to local consumption.^[17] With the growth of a number of manufacturing companies in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, New Britain earned the city the title of “Hardware Capital of the World” or “Hardware City.”

The first manufactures were James North and Joseph Shipmen who produced sleigh bells beginning in 1800.^[18]

In 1807 Seth J. North, Isaac Lee, Thomas Lee, William Smith and Joseph Shipman joined forces to form a jewelry company. About 1808 Hezekiah Whipple also

began production of plain jewelry. He was joined in partnership by Seth and Alvin North in 1812.^[19]

The North & Whipple Company was formed before the War of 1812, making rings, buckles and other parts for saddles. The company would evolve into North & Judd Manufacturing Co. in 1861, producing saddlery, hardware and iron castings.^[20]

Frederick T. and William B. Stanley began the manufacture of door locks east of Main Street, north of the railroad crossing in 1830. In 1835, they would be involved in the formation of Stanley & Woodruff Co., building a factory west of Main Street.^[21] A small stream would be dammed, forming a lake for fire protection bounded by Myrtle Street on the north, High Street to the east and Lake Street on the south.^[22]

The Landers, Frary, & Clark Company began with G. M. Landers making furniture castors and window springs. He built a shop on East Main Street in 1841, adding coat and hat hooks to their line.^[23]

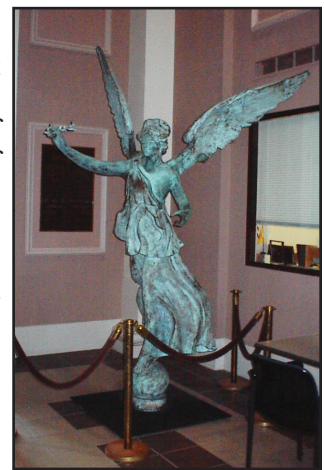
In 1849 the manufacture of hardware was begun by Doen, Corbin & Co. This company would evolve into P. F. Corbin with buildings on Park and Orchard Streets.^[24] Russell & Erwin Manufacturing Company was organized in 1851. They would become one of the first companies in the country to specialize in builder’s hardware.^[25] In 1857 the Stanley Rule and Level company was formed. They built factories west of Russel & Erwin. Russel & Erwin and P. and F. Corbin merged in 1902, and following many additional acquisitions and mergers, Corbin Russwin is now a division of Stanley Black and Decker, specializing in mortice locks, cylindrical locks and high security key systems. Stanley Black and Decker’s corporate headquarters are on Stanley Drive, New Britain, with small plants for Stanley Black and Decker and Stanley Tool south of Myrtle Street.^[26]

The above companies were by no means the only manufacturing in New Britain but were the early major players in the early development of “The Hardware Capitol of the World.”

Genealogical Resources

Perhaps no other community in Connecticut demonstrates the need to understand geopolitical history.

City Hall, 27 West Main Street. Vital Records from 1850 are avail-



Original “Winged Victory”
(now in City Hall)

able from the Town Clerk's Office. The clerk can access any Connecticut births after 20 September 2002 and issue certificates as directed by statute. Depending on the time periods, earlier records may be found in Farmington or Berlin.^[27] Land records date from 1850, with the earlier records also held in Berlin or Farmington.

Berlin Probate Court, 1 Liberty Square, New Britain. Probate Records begin in June 1824. Earlier records may be located in the Hartford, Farmington or Middletown Probate Courts depending on period.^[28]

New Britain Library/History Room, 20 High Street, The Local History collections include local and church histories, manufacture's catalogues, city directories, maps, municipal records, newsletters from local organizations, and over 9,000 photographs and slides. The vertical files contain clippings from area newspapers dating from the mid-1800s. Their digital collections include the Elihu Burritt Journals,^[29] and the Symonds, Hanna, and Klingberg Scrapbook Collection. These are browsable collections and may be accessed through the local history page of the library's website. The History Room has limited hours, and it is recommended to call the library in advance.^[30]

FamilySearch, Church Records: First Church of Christ (1757-1925), First Baptist (1821-1922), South Congregational (1842-1919), and Saint Mark's Church (1848-1902). Land Records: Indexes (1785-1903), Warrant Deed (1850-1901), Quit claims (1850-1901). Naturalization records from New Britain City Court (1874-1939) and Hartford Superior Court (1939-1945). Probate records (1824-1919).^[31] Many of these records are also located at the Connecticut State Library on microfilm.

Places of Interest

The New Britain Institute was begun in 1853 and chartered in 1858 "to establish, keep, and maintain a library reading room, and a system of public lectures and to provide such other literary and scientific objectives as it may think proper." Today the New Britain



**Library of the New Britain Institute
(part of New Britain Public Library)**

Public Library at 20 West Main, New Britain Youth Museum, 30 High Street, and New Britain Industrial Museum (59 West Main Street)^[32] are all part of the Institute. In 1897 the New Britain Institute bought land on the corner of West Main and High Street, and the new permanent library building opened in 1900.

The Institute's Erwin Building on High Street had an art room on the second floor. In 1903 a fund was established to purchase and display art. This collection would be the nucleus of the New Britain Museum of American Art. In 1937 the art museum moved to the former Grace Judd Landers home on Lexington Street. Over the following years, additions were made to the museum, and in 1995 the New Britain Museum of American Art was incorporated as a separate entity.^[33] The permanent collection at NBMAA represents major American artists from the colonial and federal periods to the present.^[34]



**Landers Mansion/New Britain Museum
of American Art**

Central Park – Soldier's Monument – New Britain Veterans Memorial^[35]

The Solder's Monument was designed by Ernest Flagg and erected "by the citizens" of New Britain in 1899. The interior is inscribed with the names of local Civil War Veterans. The monument is topped by a "Winged



Soldier's Monument (Civil War)

Victory.” She was replaced with a replica during a restoration in 2000. The original now stands inside City Hall by the entrance to the New Britain Town Clerk’s Office.^[36]

The New Britain Veterans Memorial also stands in Central Park. It was erected in 1972 by the New Britain Veterans Commission. This memorial has four stones inscribed with the names of New Britain veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam and the War on Global Terrorism.^[37]



New Britain Veterans Memorial

Walnut Hill Park – Original Design of Walnut Hill Park – World War I Memorial.^[38]

Walnut Hill Park has its origins with the purchase of 36 acres by a group of leading citizens as the Walnut Hill Park Company in 1856 to construct a reservoir to provide additional water for fire protective services. The reservoir was built in 1858. In 1867 R.T. Stanley invited Frederick Law Olmstead to visit New Britain, view the property and draw up plans for a proposed public park. Mr. Olmstead advised the purchase of adjoining property. Three years later Olmstead, Vaux & Company produced a master plan for the park and the city bought the Park Company’s land and an additional 56 acres to the west of Walnut Hill.



Walnut Hill Marker - memorial to the original design.

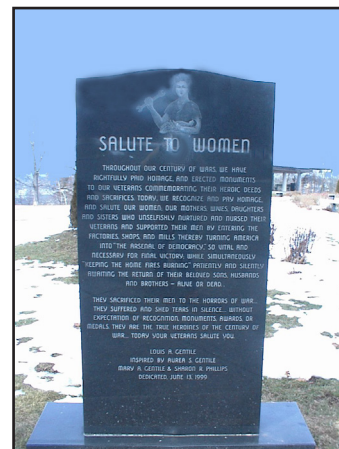
A memorial to the original design of Walnut Hill Park can be accessed by way of the stairs from West Main Street. Set into the walls surrounding the memorial are plaques dedicated to 13 other prominent supporters of the park.

In 1912 the reservoir was replaced by a wading pool. The wading pool was further reduced in size with restoration of the Rose Garden surrounding it in 2010.



World War I Memorial at Walnut Hill Park

Olmstead’s plans for the park included an observation tower just north of the reservoir. It was never built, but the site was selected in 1919 for a World War I Memorial. The Memorial was designed by Harold Van Buren Mogonigle and dedicated in 1928. It features a 90-foot column topped with two eagles. Surrounding the monument are two semi-circular walls set with bronze plaques for the 123 residents bearing their name, rank, unit affiliation and date of death. In 1999 a monument was added to the south of the World War I Memorial to honor the contributions of women to the nation’s wars.



Salute to Women memorial at Walnut Hill Park

Central Connecticut State University^[39]

CCSU was founded in 1849 as the State Normal School and was the first teacher's training school in Connecticut and sixth in the nation. The original campus was at 27 Hillside Place. After the school moved to Stanley Street in 1922, the original building housed the New Britain Board of Education and was later converted to condominiums.



State Normal School

Erwin Home for Worthy and Indigent Women, 140 Basset Street^[40]

On his death Cornelius B. Erwin, a New Britain industrialist and philanthropist, left money to the Pastor and Standing Committee of the South Congregational Church. The Erwin Home opened in 1892 and continues today as “a non-denominational residence for “worthy women of limited means.”

Endnotes

Erwin Home

¹ Wikipedia, “New Britain, Connecticut,” <http://www.wikipedia.org>, viewed 27 Nov. 2021.

² Ibid.

³ Michael J. Leclerc, editor, *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, 5th ed. (Boston, Mass.:

New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2012), 30.

⁴ David N. Camp, “New Britain,” J. Hammond Trumbull, editor, *The Memorial History of Hartford County, Connecticut*, (Boston, Mass.: Edward L. Osgood, 1886) 2:277-319, particularly 277.

⁵ Ibid., 277.

⁶ Alfred Andrews, *Memorial: Genealogy, and Ecclesiastical History, to which is added an appendix, with explanatory notes, and a full index*, (Chicago, Ill., A. H. Andrews: 1867), 16.

⁷ Ibid., 17.

⁸ Don Robertson, “A Brief History of First Church Congregational, New Britain,” First Church of Christ, New Britain, <http://firstnewbritain.org/history/>.

⁹ Genealogy.com, Valerie McGaugan, Re: The “Great Swamp Society” and “Kensington Society,” <https://www.genealogy.com/forum/general/topics/gen/20106>, posted 11 Jan. 2004.

¹⁰ David N. Camp, “New Britain,” 281. Andrews, *Memorial*, 62. Wikipedia, “New Britain, Connecticut,” 27 Nov. 2021. The Historical Marker Database, <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=41312#:~:text=Inscription.%20New%20Britain%20The%20Ecclesiastical%20Society%20of%20New,January%2C%201871%2C%20by%20vote%20of%20521%20to%20520>. Leclerc, *Genealogist's Handbook*, 71.

¹¹ Genealogy.com, Valerie McGaugan, Re: The “Great Swamp Society” and “Kensington Society,” <https://www.genealogy.com/forum/general/topics/gen/20106>, posted 11 Jan. 2004.

¹² Don Robertson, “A Brief History.”

¹³ <https://rapidappraisalinc.com/new-britain-connecticut-memories-history-through-maps/>.

¹⁴ Leclerc, *Genealogist's Handbook*, 71, 74. David N. Camp, “New Britain,” 281.

¹⁵ David N. Camp, “New Britain,” 281, 282. Wikipedia, “New Britain, Connecticut,” 27 Nov. 2021.

¹⁶ Wikipedia, “New Britain, Connecticut,” viewed 27 Nov. 2021. The city motto translates as “Industry fill the hive and enjoys the honey.”

¹⁷ David N. Camp, “New Britain,” 296.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid., 297.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid., 297-298. This building would later become part of Russell & Erwin. Co.

²² Ibid., 298. O.H. Bailey & Co, C.H. Vogt, and J. Knauber & Co. View of New Britain, Conn. [Boston, 1875] Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/74693235/>.

This lake would later be drained and is now part of Route 72, west of High Street, between Myrtle and Columbus Streets. This is part of the “ditch” carrying Rt. 72 west of Bee Hive Bridge.

²³ David N. Camp, “New Britain,” 302.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, Orchard Street can no longer be located on Google Maps.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 300-301.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 301-302. See also <https://www.stanleyblack-anddecker.com/who-we-are/our-history>.

²⁷ Betty Jean Morrison, *Connecting to Connecticut* (East Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc., 1995), 181.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 182.

²⁹ Elihu Burritt (1810–1879), diplomat, philanthropist, social activist, appointed by Abraham Lincoln as U.S. Consul in Birmingham, England.

³⁰ <https://www.nbpl.info/localhistory.html>.

³¹ Card Catalogue at FamilySearch.org. Many of these films are restricted to use in a FHL Affiliated Library, of which CSG is one.

³² New Britain Industrial Museum “collects, preserves and exhibits items representing more than 200 years of New Britain innovation and invention.” New Britain Industrial Museum. <https://nbindustrial.org/>.

³³ <https://www.newbritaininstitute.org/history>.

³⁴ New Britain Museum of American Art. <https://nbmaa.org/>.

³⁵ New Britain’s Soldiers Monument. <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=41470>.

³⁶ Dave Pelland, “Soldiers’ Monument, New Britain, 11 September 2009, <http://ctmonuments.net/2009/09/soldiers%e2%80%99-monument-new-britain/>.

³⁷ New Britain Veterans Memorial, <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=41471>.

³⁸ Michael Herrick, 16 June 2016, “Original Design of Walnut Hill Park,” <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=41374>. National Register of Historic Places nomination for Walnut Hill Park, National Park Service, https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/NRHP/82001000_text. Friends of the Walnut Hill Park Rose Garden, <http://www.friendsoftherosegarden.com/organization/>. Dave Pelland, World War I Monument, New Britain, 14 April 2010, <http://ctmonuments.net/2010/04/world-war-i-monument-new-Britain/#:~:text=World%20War%20I%20Monument%2C%20New%20Britain%20New%20Britain,at%20its%20front%20%28north%29%20base%20reading%2C%20%E2%80%99CM%DCCCXXVII%20%281927%29>.

³⁹ <https://historicbuildingsct.com/category/towns/new-britain/page/2/>.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, no page listed.

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Mansfield, Connecticut Civil War Soldiers Biographies

by Keith Edward Wilson, CSG # 4186

Editor's Note: Here we continue the biographies of the Civil War Soldiers of Mansfield, Connecticut. The series began in *Connecticut Genealogy News*, Volume 14, Number 3 (Fall 2021).

GEORGE W. FRENCH



George W. French was a resident of Mansfield on August 11, 1862, when he enlisted as a Corporal in Co. D of the 21st Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry; he was promoted August 31, 1863, to Sergeant.

On November 27, 1864, he was transferred by promotion to Co. H of the 8th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry as a Second Lieutenant by Major General Benjamin Butler. He was promoted again to 1st Lieutenant on March 5, 1865, by Major General Ord. He was mustered out at Brownsville, Texas on November 10, 1865.

On December 9, 1865, he appeared before an alderman in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and testified that he had never received any pay or traveling expenses for his service in the 8th Regiment United States Colored Infantry.

Descriptive Muster Information:

Birthplace	Age	Occupation	Eyes	Hair	Complexion	Height	Residence	Marital Status
Mansfield, Connecticut	22	Farmer	Blue	Light	Light	5' 7"	Mansfield	Married

He was born August 4, 1840, in Mansfield to James H. and Mary (Lamphear) French. In the 1860 U.S. census in Mansfield, he is a 19-year-old farm laborer in the household of Nathan F. Palmer. George W. French married Harriet M. Dunham on August 6, 1862, in Mansfield, five days before he enlisted in the army. His brothers Edwin, James and Marius also served in the Civil War, enlisting from other Connecticut towns. After the Civil War, he returned to Mansfield, and he was a farmer and a butcher. George W. French died on January 17, 1918, in Mansfield Center and is buried at the Spring Hill Cemetery in Mansfield.

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