

- The last example regards Richard III, which involved a theory that his remains were under a carpark in Leicester, England. The mtDNA testing of those remains were compared to that of matrilineal descendants of Richard's sister over eighteen generations.

Catherine Pillard

Several matrilineal descendants of Catherine Pillard, who married Pierre Charron dit Ducharme in Montreal, Quebec in 1665, all had the same mtDNA sequence, which was Haplogroup A (a haplogroup common amongst the indigenous population of northern North America). Prior genealogical research had suspected Catherine to have been born in France, but these mtDNA results caused a reexamination of the genealogical evidence consistent with these genetic results.

Jesse James

The infamous outlaw Jesse James was killed in 1882 and buried in a family plot in Missouri. Decades later, however, several men claimed that they were actually Jesse James and the body in the grave was a different man. Exhumation of the grave was undertaken and compared to matrilineal relatives. DNA research was also undertaken on relatives of at least one of the men who claimed to be Jesse James.

Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln

I summarized my research in 2003 on Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln, who in earlier works, had been assigned five possible sets of parents. I dismissed three of these theories, and indicated two remained possible, favoring one theory over the other, and indicating mtDNA testing may be a possibility of finding a solution. The Hanks DNA project undertook this suggestion and reached a satisfactory conclusion.

Mary (Carlisle) Haines

One of the my own ancestors, Mary (Carlisle) Haines (1674-1746), of Burlington County, New Jersey, has been claimed in past genealogies by descendants to have been Native American, despite a likely christening record for her in England. While my own mtDNA is not useful for this research, I have so far solicited one matrilineal descendant for mtDNA testing.

Mrs. Priscilla Ramsdell

17th century research by Ian Watson on the Ramsdell family made him wonder why Aquila Ramsdell of Lynn, Massachusetts had that given name. A possibility emerged that his mother Priscilla might have been connected to the Purchase family of Massachusetts. mtDNA testing may corroborate or dismiss this theory.

Victoria Bassett

NEHGS colleague Sam Sturgis took a 23andme test noticing Native American DNA along his x chromosome. We then looked at the DNA of his second cousin who had the Native American mtDNA haplogroup B2c. This led to additional research on their common great-grandmother Victoria Bassett (d. 1919), of Ontario and Michigan, through earlier records several generations back in Quebec.

Esther (Dyer) Flanders

Esther Dyer married George Flanders in Braintree, Vermont in 1814. The Flanders family moved to Livingston County, New York and lived near many members of the Dyer family that had earlier lived in Braintree. Two theories of her parentage are examined at a senior and junior generation—one parentage being matrilineal to Priscilla Mullins of the *Mayflower*. Matrilineal descendants of all applicable couples were solicited and approached to see if either possibility has merit.

Going Fishing!

“Ellen” married “Roger Doggett” of “Hartford, Connecticut,” about 1693. A matrilineal descendant of Ellen took mtDNA testing and had a very close match to six participants on FamilyTreeDNA. One participant had a detailed matrilineal family tree also going back to Hartford in the 1700s. A search of Hartford birth records found five girls born between 1665 to 1675 named Helen or Ellen. A search of this family led to a plausible identification of Mrs. Ellen Doggett.

Testing Companies – where mtDNA and xDNA can be analyzed

- FamilyTreeDNA: <https://www.familytreedna.com/>
- 23andMe: <https://www.23andme.com/>

DNA Resources and other sources mentioned in this presentation:

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- Michael Sean Dunn, “The Parents of Esther (Dyer) Flanders (1790-1876) of Braintree, Vermont, and Livingston County, New York: A Matrilineal Priscilla Mullins Descent,” *Mayflower Descendant* 66 (2018): 23-48, 178.
- John Welsey, Haines, *Richard Haines and his Descendants: A Quaker family of Burlington County, New Jersey since 1682*, (Boyce, Va.: Carr Publishing Company, 1961-1965)
- International Society of Genetic Genealogy, <http://isogg.org>
- Blogs
 - Blaine Bettinger: The Genetic Genealogist <http://thegeneticgenealogist.com/>
 - CeCe Moore: Your Genetic Genealogist <http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com/>
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 - Chris Child, “X Marks the Spot,” <https://vita-brevis.org/2015/11/x-marks-the-spot/>
 - Chris Child, “King Richard III’s Matrilineal Kin,” <https://vita-brevis.org/2015/04/king-richard-iiis-matrilineal-kin/>