

DNA News

Photos in this issue are of the Harmon Howard family and do not pertain to any of the articles.

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Native American DNA News

The consensus still seems to be that the indigenous people of the Americas came across the land bridge that is now underwater at the Bering Strait. However, it is now thought that the Beringia Land Bridge was much larger than originally conceived, and that the exodus from central Asia about 40,000 years ago was larger than a few hundred people, possibly as high as 4,000-5,000. It is believed this group of people became trapped in Beringia for as long as 20,000 years, by two glaciers which blocked their travel through Alaska.

Beringia was supposed to have been a very inhospitable area, which makes me wonder why they would stay in this area, why not turn back to Asia or head west through what is now Russia unless those directions were even more inhospitable or were also blocked. Whatever the reason, they decided to stay in Beringia and about 15,000 years ago there was a warming period which opened up a path between the glaciers allowing for travel into the Americas. For 5,000 years this land bridge was used as a path from one continent to the other until the rise in the sea level cut off this route.

Scientists believe that such a long habitation in Beringia should be able to be proved by archaeological evidence, but to date no such evidence of habitation has been

Ninety-five percent of the Natives of North, Central and South America have been found to descend from six women who migrated between 18,000 to 20,000 years ago. By using mtDNA to test the maternal ancestry of current Native population and a formula that is used to find mutations, scientists were able to determine "how old each branch was" and that there were six original matriarchs.

The most interesting part of the article was that though they surmised the women came from Beringia, they also state that the matriarchs did not have any DNA "signatures" found in Asia and could not have lived there. We still have no indication of where the original ancestors lived before coming to the Americas.

A question has also been raised about whether the mutation rate was properly accounted for; leaving the possibility of vastly different future findings.

National Geographic Website:
Malcolm Ritter, New York Associated Press 3/13/08
Native American DNA Links to Six "Founding Mothers"

Ker Than, National Geographic News 2/14/08
"New World Settlers Took 20,000-Year Pit Stop"



Howard DNA Project

<http://thehowardhistorian.com/index.html>

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NEW MEMBERS

110013 Kit Returned 2/18/08

Matches:

12/12: 40301: James W. Howard, b 1819 VA dc 1889

11/12: 118560: George Howard, bc 1812, KY

11/12: 84172: William E (H) Howard, Blount/Unita, TN

Note: 84172 also matches 11/12 to the St. Mary's Co., Howard's. Could he be a mutation which connects the other three Howard's in this group to the St. Mary's Group, or could he be a link to the Somerset Co., MD Group?

115158 Kit Returned 3/5/08

115860 Kit Returned 3/12/08

INTO CALCULATIONS AND FORMULAS ?

Bill Howard, a member of the DNA Project, has come up with his own formula for calculating matches and says: "Someone told me that since the analysis of genealogically related DNA testing is so young that "amateurs" are making more progress than the professional geneticists. In my case, I have had virtually no training in botany and biotechnology, I have done lots of research in astronomy and have taught statistics to astronomy graduate students when I was in the Astronomy Department at the University of Michigan. I guess I'm as equipped as anyone to plunge into this unknown. I am about to revise my paper on the web, putting in an explicit time scale and tying it onto FTDNA 'calls' about how close the relationships between pairs of haplotypes are. I should have it reposted in a day or two." See his site at:

<http://mysite.verizon.net/weh8/RCCMHamilton.htm>

NORWICH, CONNECTICUT GEOGRAPHICAL PROJECT

Members of the Howard DNA Project have been invited to join the Geographical DNA Project for Norwich, CT. Technically, a geographical project is for people from a certain area where they are testing for similar DNA or perhaps inter-relationships. In this project, they are looking for descendents of the founding fathers of Norwich. I know that some Howard families of Massachusetts moved to Connecticut, but I can't remember off the top of my head which ones, or what part of Connecticut.

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/NorwichCTFoundersSettlers/>



RESEARCH

I recently came across information which might be of interest to any families researching Philip Howards of North or South Carolina. This could include the Philip of kit# 27383 of North Carolina, and Howards of Ocracoke Island, NC.

My first note on him was when Charles Howard, Governor of Jamaica from 1678 to 1680, asked that his brother, Philip, attend him in 1678.

The next information I found on Philip was that he had been promoted to Governor of Jamaica in 1684 but that he died in 1686 before he left England to take up his position. Perhaps the commission is issued several years prior to the actual taking of office, because Charles was also commissioned a few years before he took office.

I checked my genealogy charts on the major Howard lines and discovered that Charles Howard was a grandson of William Howard the third son of the Fourth Duke of Norfolk, son of Sir William Howard and Mary Eure. Charles was known as Earl of Carlisle. However, there is no mention of a brother, Philip.

“Sir Philip Howard, an English gentleman, who procured a gift of the hundred and ninety prisoners [of the Monmouth Rebellion] from King James and designed to come over to Port Royal, never had the satisfaction of enjoying the price of their liberty; just when he was taking his leave of his friends and companions and coming over the Thames, he fell betwixt two ships and perished.” (*The History of the Suffering of the Church of Scotland, Robert Wodrow, Blackie, 1832,, pg 187*).

The most interesting part of this research was a petition “of Philip Howard, a minor, through Sir Henry Morgan and Roger Elletson, praying for half the profits of the Government from Sir Thomas Lynch’s death to

Sir Philip Howard’s death.” The petition was recorded in the Minutes of Council of Jamaica, 3 May 1688. (*Colonial Records, Calendar of State Papers, GBPRO, Longmans, HMSO, 1860, pg 541*)

Both men were prominent citizens of Jamaica, and in high government offices. Henry Morgan was a past governor and apparently a privateer. Since the petition was presented by these two, does this mean that the Philip Howard they petitioned for was in Jamaica?

Philip Howard

m. 23 Mar 1668, Elizabeth Newton
d/of Robert Newton and Elizabeth Lampton
as her second husband.
Elizabeth Newton married 1st Sir. John Barker
who died 28 Mar 1661

Philip Howard was buried 15 Apr 1686
Westminster Abby.

Elizabeth was buried with her first husband
29 Nov 1693.

(Another source says he was the daughter of William Newton, by whom he had one son.)

1. Philip Howard

Philip Senior also had a mistress, Mrs. Betty Hall described in the diary of Samuel Pepys as “my little Roman-nose black girl.” There is no further information concerning her.

If you have any ancestral photos, short research articles, or anything else that could be of use in the newsletter please contact me.

Howard DNA Project
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