

DNA News

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Hi Everybody,

You can thank James for this newsletter, small though it is. I got caught up on writing a book about Thomas Arundel Howard and forgot I had not sent out the DNA newsletter.

There is not much news this months so it is shorter than usual. If anyone has anything they would like in the next one let me know. Also, if you have any research you would like me to undertake let me know.

Karen

Issue 4, January 2008

DNA DEEP RESEARCH NEWS

Could some Neanderthals have been light skinned, red haired people?

A team of researchers produced a DNA sequence from a fragmented Neanderthal MC1R gene to make a modified copy for research and discovered the gene produced the same level of melanin as people with red hair and light skin - the variation was different from modern humans, but the results were the same.

Scientists are rethinking their opinion on whether Neanderthals had the capability of speech.

The gene FOXP2 is, to date, the only gene known to play a role in speech. People born with an abnormal copy of this gene have speech and language problems. It has been discovered that this gene in Neanderthal man is identical to modern man.

Zebrafish & Humans

Keith Cheng, a cancer researcher, became interested in zebrafish found in a pet store which, instead of the usual white with black stripes, was a pale gold. The stripes were also not black but a lighter color.

He and his team of colleagues searched for a gene which would explain the color difference and finding it applied his research to finding a similar gene for skin pigmentation in humans, and found not one, but two genes.

He found that almost all DNA samples of Asian and African ancestry share one gene while the other was shared by almost all people who were of European ancestry. Of those with mixed heritage, the European gene was found to be dominant.



Howard DNA Project

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

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RESEARCH

Howard's of Ocracoke Island

I recently wrote an article for the Howard Historian about some information I found about the pirate William Howard; or to be more specific, information about a Captain Howard of the Royal Navy, along with a Colonel Rhett, Surveyor-General of Customs, and the commander of H.M.S. Shoreham who had a dispute with Robert Daniel, Deputy Governor of South Carolina.

The dispute concerned the sloop "Betty." The account of the incident is very confusing but it seems that Daniel had commissioned a Captain Mathew Mussen to "take" pirates. Mussen found a sloop which had plundered goods on board and either brought the sloop or the goods to Daniel at Mr. Gibbon's Bridge (South Carolina).

While the sloop was tied up, Rett, Howard and Lt. Fellows came aboard and began transferring goods to the Shoreham. Daniel and the townspeople told

them to desist, those from the Shoreham called the Governor and his people pirates and continued to remove the goods and returned to the Shoreham. A fight broke out between the two parties and though the Shoreham escaped, warrants were issued against the officers of the Shoreham.

I found no record of the results of the warrants, but found it odd that the sloop for which William Howard was arrested in Virginia was also the sloop "Betty" and the situations took place in about the same time period. I could also find no further records of the Shoreham.

A note of interest though was that Rhett went on to become a well known inhabitant of South Carolina.



ST. MARY'S CO., MD

NEW MEMBERS

The St. Mary's Howard DNA contact person, Pansylea, has been actively looking for and getting people to test who have a well researched ancestry; and it is starting to pay off. They now have six test results back with three exact matches and three matches of -1.

She is now attempting to find out who the marker changed with so that she can fit the family patterns better. Fantastic work, Pansylea.

Karen

October: Results

103853 Isaac Howard
matches: 34045 Isaac Howard b 1701 England
104032 Michael Howard b. 1793 Edgefield Co., SC
matches: 84172 James Toone (TN?)

November: Results

105969 37 Marker no Ancestor listed,
Matches: St. Mary's Descendent
106840 No ancestor name, lived in Pike Co., OH 1796
Results due mid-January

December

110013 Test not returned yet