

# the Timen Stiddem Society

ISSUE 12 / WINTER 2001

NEWSLETTER

THE FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER FOR THE DESCENDANTS OF THE IMMIGRANT FROM SWEDEN IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY TO NEW SWEDEN (WILMINGTON), DELAWARE, ENCOMPASSING THE SURNAMES STIDHAM, STIDAM, STIDOM, STEDHAM, STEADHAM, AND STEDDOM, AMONG OTHERS.

## from the president's keyboard

Y chromosome, DNA, genetic genealogy—the cutting edge of family history research, and the Timen Stiddem Society has taken the lead! Richard Steadham, our newsletter editor, presents the findings of one of the first family DNA studies done in the United States—a study in which eleven members of the Timen Stiddem Family participated. The results of the study, as Richard explains, were enlightening, unexpected, and controversial. And, there was disappointment—especially for me. You see, the scientific facts of the study prove my father and I probably are *not* biological descendants of Timen Stiddem. Has my father's 30 years of Stidham research been in vain? Should he forget about publishing his Stidham book (which so many of you eagerly anticipate)? Should I resign as President of the Society? The answer to these questions is, of course, NO. And now, the rest of the story.

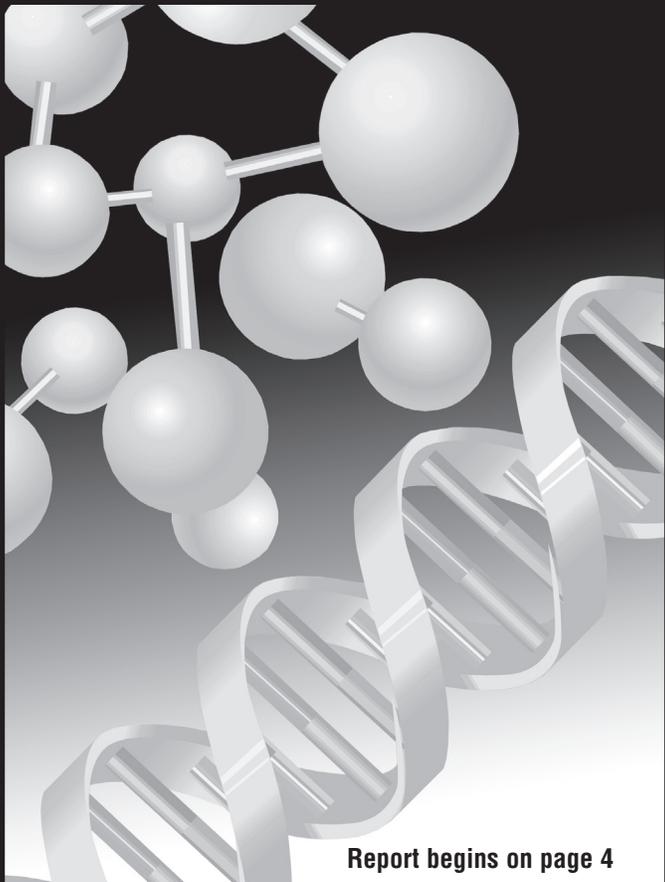
When Richard first received the test results from the DNA laboratory, he was dismayed! He was in a separate group from my father's and other known descendants of Samuel Stidham,

the Revolutionary War soldier from Ashe Co., North Carolina. This research, after all, was Richard's brain-child. He has never been truly convinced of his descent from Timen's son, Benedictus. Now, with the "scientific proof" to disprove his Stiddem pedigree, Richard was ready to resign as editor, and suggested my father remove his line from *The Descendants of Dr. Timothy Stidham* before the book is published. Richard then went about trying to find his "true" family. The logical choice was

the Scottish immigrant, John Steedman. The Steedmans were in South Carolina living amongst the Stidhams and Steadhams, and many of Steedman's descendants go by Stidham and Steadham even today. However, when I pointed out to Richard that his Benjamin Stedham was in South Carolina as early as 1722, but John Steedman was still in Europe as late as 1760, he took another look at the data. When he realized that members of his DNA group descended from three of Timen's sons, he knew he had to be a true descendant. It was the members of the Samuel Stidham group (which included my father) that were not!

My father is not a descendant?!? That's when my own interest in the DNA study perked up. Could the sci-

### The Stidham\* Family DNA Study



Report begins on page 4

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The *Newsletter* is the official publication of the TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY. It is published four times a year: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. It is distributed to all active members as a benefit of membership. The objectives of the Society are to encourage and promote the accurate recording of family data, vital statistics, and individual accomplishments of Dr. Timen Stiddem and his descendants.

Membership dues are \$12 annually for which a member receives four issues of the *Newsletter*. All members are classified as either **Descendant** or **Associate Members** based on documented lineage from Dr. Stiddem or not. Anyone with an interest in this Society is eligible to join as an **Associate Member**.

Note, Stidham\* followed by an asterisk, refers to *all* spelling variations of the surname when speaking of Stidhams in general. This spelling is the most commonly used form of the name by Timen Stiddem's descendants today.

Disclaimer: The Society and its officers disclaim responsibility for any errors or omissions, although accuracy is always strived for. It is each researcher's own responsibility to verify any data presented in these pages against the original evidence, if that is of importance to them. Each contributor is responsible for their own material not violating existing copyright laws.

The TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY is a family association member of the **National Genealogical Society** and the **Federation of Genealogical Societies**. In addition, the SOCIETY is an organizational member of the **Swedish Colonial Society, Philadelphia**.

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entific data be unreliable? Sure enough, I found what seemed to me to be an obvious error. The scientists analyzing our DNA placed two individuals in a third group (two from a common ancestor, but not Timen Stiddem). I was convinced these two were descendants of two different sons of Timen, and I thought it would be impossible for them to be in the same DNA group.

Bennett Greenspan, President of Family Tree DNA, however, said he stood behind his results and would bet the lab at the University of Arizona, on its reliability.

Never-the-less, Richard asked the lab to retest. Sure enough, the first test on one of the questionable results turned out to have been extracted from DNA of poor quality and thus produced erroneous results the first time.

Playing the devil's advocate, I then asked parenthetically, "Could the other data be unreliable?" But I really knew the answer. After the retest, the results of the individual in question made sense. And, the other DNA proof cannot be disputed. I am not a paternal descendant of Timen Stiddem. At some time in my family's history, probably during the time of Christopher (grandfather of Revolutionary War Samuel), there had to have been one of those non-paternity events Richard talks about in his article. Perhaps Christopher took Adam (Samuel's father) in as an orphan. Maybe he was a child of Christopher's sister or female cousin. However it happened, there is one undisputed fact which even the DNA white coats can't dismiss—Samuel and my father and myself and others who are Stidhams\* because of some unrecorded non-paternity event are members of the "Timen Stiddem

## CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

This quarter we have two generous contributors:

- Noria Gerig (#DCM101).....\$50
- Floyd & Gloria Enfinger (#DM287).....\$13

Those wishing to make a financial contribution to the society in order to help offset the many expenses we incur beyond the costs of the newsletter, are recognized here as "Contributing Members." If you are able to help and would like to contribute, please send your donation to: Grant J. Stidham, TSS Treasurer, 235 Taylor Avenue, Bellevue, KY 41073. Donations in any amount are welcome. Make your check payable to the Timen Stiddem Society and write "TSS Donation" on the memo line. *Thank you!*

Family." I carry the name and am descended from a long line of Stidhams\* who trace back to our immigrant ancestor. I may not have all the genes, but the family ties are there none-the-less.

However it happened, there is one undisputed fact which even the DNA white coats can't dismiss—Samuel and my father and myself and others who are Stidhams\* because of some unrecorded non-paternity event are members of the "Timen Stiddem Family." I carry the name and am descended from a long line of Stidhams\* who trace back to our immigrant ancestor. I may not have all the genes, but the family ties are there nonetheless.

Our upcoming 3rd Annual National Stidham\* Reunion will be an opportunity for Richard and others to continue this dialog on the DNA study. I encourage you to attend. We will be meeting July 19-22 in Mobile, Alabama, which is near Ft. Mims and other sites important to Stidham\* history. I look forward to seeing you there.

Oh, by the way, my father decided *not* to abandon his "book" (actually he never even considered it). We just finished spending four days of intensive work putting on the final touches to get it ready for printing. It should be at the printers by the time you read this. Hope you enjoy it.

—David R. Stiddem  
President

## from the editor's desk

This Summer, we're hoping to see a huge contingent of Stidhams\* descend on the beautiful Southern city of Mobile, Alabama. Mark your calendars now and plan on joining your cousins in a fun-filled family reunion set for the weekend of Thursday, July 19th through Sunday, July 22nd.

Our host lodging facility this year will be the Adam's Mark Hotel, one of Mobile's finest, located right on Mobile Bay in the heart of the downtown business and entertainment district. We'll hold our annual membership meeting there in one of the conference rooms on Friday morning, do lunch, then take in some of the other unique sites this city has to offer.

The reunion committee is in the process of arranging a group tour of one of the city's antebellum mansions such as the Bragg Mitchell in town or the famous Bellingrath Home and Gardens located 20 minutes south of town.

We'll finish the day on Friday by touring the U.S.S. Alabama battleship located on Mobile Bay.



Here's your editor looking rather proud of himself standing at the intersection of Texas State Hwy 114 and Steadham Road in Loving, Texas. The occasion came after the Thanksgiving Day holiday this past November, when my wife and I had the opportunity of driving across country from San Diego, California visiting family, to Woodbridge, Virginia, our home. The road is named after my 2nd-great-grandfather, Montgomery H. [1034] Steadham, whose house still stands a few blocks up Steadham Road behind me.

Saturday we plan to spend time over on the Baldwin County side of the Bay. Here we'll tour the site of Fort Mims, a place burned in the memories of many local Steadham families, as this was the site of the Fort Mims Massacre. It was here during the Creek wars in the early 1800s that many Steadhams lost their lives on that hot day in August of 1813. We can take a few moments to honor their memory with our visit there.

We'll pass through the communities of Tensaw and Blackshear, home to many early Steadham families, on our way to the (Editor's Desk continues on page 11)

# The Stidham\* Family DNA Study

By Richard L. Steadham

After receiving the unexpected results of our first DNA study, one thing can sure be said: things don't always turn out the way you think they will. Of course, I knew this going in, I just didn't expect the results we got.

In embarking on this study, I was asked by many potential participants, "what is the purpose of this study and what do we hope to find out?" My answer was to respond with two questions: 1) Can a genetic fingerprint (Y-chromosome "score") of Timen Stidham's descendants be established, and 2) If so, what is that genetic fingerprint? The study was meant as a scientific inquiry only, nothing more. This as it turned out, was not a compelling enough reason for most to get involved. However, a few intrepid souls were interested enough in finding some answers to those questions and thus, our study proceeded.

The basis for the assumptions which follow are drawn from the scientific evidence as rendered by the lab, coupled with the documented constructions of all Stidham\* families found in Jack's book, *The Descendants of Dr. Timothy Stidham, Vol. 1*, along with the position each study participant falls within those families (see the pedigree chart on pages 6-7).

From our pool of 11 participants, it was discovered that three *distinct male lines*, or *haplotypes*, were shown to exist. A haplotype is a unique set of genetic markers characteristic of all men descending from a common male line. For the purpose of our discussion here, I'm labeling these three lines: Group 1, Group 2, and Individual 3.

Group 1 appears to be a likely one at this point whose members possibly carry the Y-chromosome (from here on referred to as "Y") of Timen Stidham. The reason for this assumption is that members of this group descend from no less than three *different* sons of Timen: Lucas, Adam, and Benedictus. Conclusion: these three sons inherit their Y unchanged, from their father Timen, and pass that same Y down to their respective participant-descendants in this group.

If the above *assumption* seems plausible, than members of the other two groups *apparently* descend from common male ancestors who were at some point in the past, brought into the Stidham\* family by unrecorded adoption, or illegitimate birth. The genealogical community has ascribed the neutral terminology of "non-paternity events" to these cases. A third possibility *could* be if the male children of a Stidham\* daughter used their mother's surname, rather than their father's, they would nonetheless pass their biological father's Y down, rather than Timen's.

Four of the members of Group 2 are on record as descending from their common male ancestor, Adam [102] Stidham. Adam is a great-grandson of Timen, in the Adam line (note this Adam's position in the Adam line in the pedigree chart on pages 6-7). The other two members of this group were previously classified as "unplaced," since we didn't know where they fit into the family tree—until now. They are now confirmed descendants of at least, this Adam [102] Stidham.

So what is the implication here? Either Adam [102] Stidham was adopted into the family of Christopher [33] Stedham, or one of the other non-paternity events mentioned above was the cause.

Now, had Lynn (Group 1), a descendant of the Adam line not taken part in this first study, we could have easily seen how Timen's Y could have been passed down through either Group 1 or Group 2, because we wouldn't have known at this point whether Group 1's Lucas and Benedictus carried Timen's Y, or Group 2's Adam did. However, with Lynn's genetic fingerprint matching the others in Group 1, a non-paternity event must have occurred somewhere else down the genetic line, and the most likely place was at either Adam [102] or Samuel [166].

So where does that leave Charles in Group (or in his case, Individual) 3? He would *apparently* descend from a male ancestor unrelated *biologically* to either members of Group 1 or 2. The same principles of a non-paternity event are relevant here too. It was always supposed, but never proven, that Charles descended from Timen's third son, Erasmus [4] Stedham. The DNA evidence would now lead to the assumption that if that were so, a non-paternity event brought one of his Stidham ances-

tors into the Erasmus line at some point back up his genetic line.

## The Science

We are all made up of 23 pairs of chromosomes. Half we inherit from our mother, the other half from our father. Of these 23 pairs, a female would have a pair of "XX" chromosomes which would signify the female gender. A male would have an "XY" pair signifying the male gender.

This Y chromosome is therefore passed down from father to son to son.

The Y chromosome that males inherit can be analyzed to determine whether or not two men share a common male ancestor and an estimate of the time back to that common ancestor can be made.

When the DNA in the male chromosome is copied and passed down from generation to generation, small mistakes called *polymorphisms* are sometimes made (see Locus 12 for Richard in Group 1 on page 5). These mistakes (also called mutations) can be found at particular locations on the chromosome and are therefore passed down through the generations, father to son.

Chromosomes are composed of DNA, which itself is composed of four nucleo- (Continued on page 8)

## Scoring the Haplotypes

GROUP 1 HAPLOTYPE

Participant	Loc1	Loc2	Loc3	Loc4	Loc5	Loc6	Loc7	Loc8	Loc9	Loc10	Loc11	Loc12
Kenneth 5	8	4	5	10	12	4	4	4	5	5	6	
Lynn	5	8	4	5	10	12	4	4	4	5	5	6
Thomas 5	8	4	5	10	12	4	4	4	5	5	6	
Richard	5	8	4	5	10	12	4	4	4	5	5	7

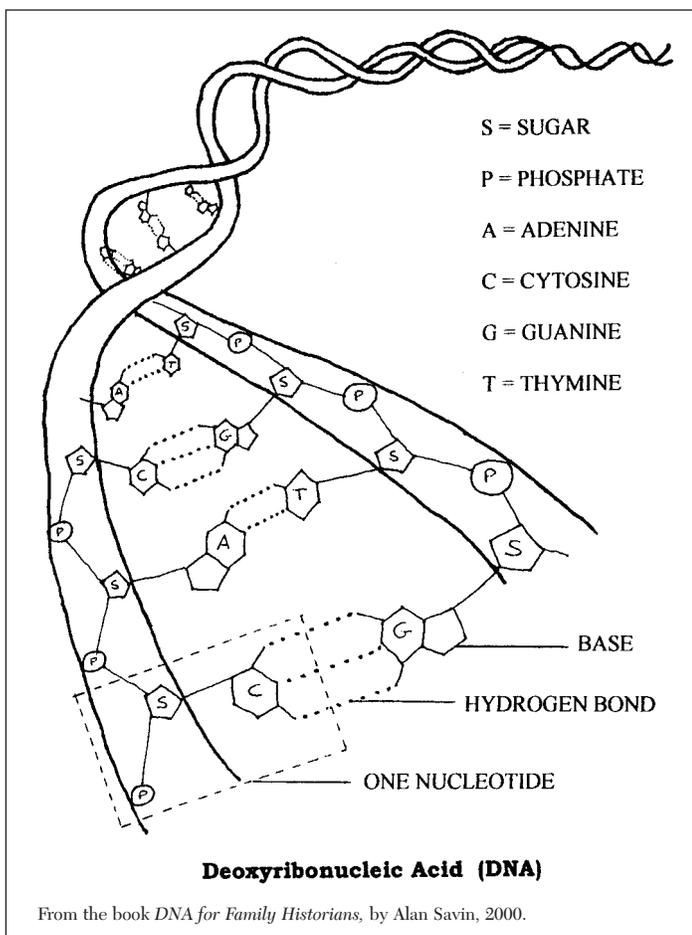
GROUP 2 HAPLOTYPE

Participant	Loc1	Loc2	Loc3	Loc4	Loc5	Loc6	Loc7	Loc8	Loc9	Loc10	Loc11	Loc12
Arlie	5	8	6	5	5	8	5	4	2	5	7	5
Daniel	5	8	6	5	5	8	5	4	2	5	7	5
Jack	5	8	6	5	5	8	5	4	2	5	7	5
Troy	5	8	6	5	5	8	5	4	2	5	7	5
Ules	5	8	6	5	5	8	5	4	2	5	7	5
William	5	8	6	5	5	8	5	4	2	5	7	5

INDIVIDUAL 3 HAPLOTYPE

Participant	Loc1	Loc2	Loc3	Loc4	Loc5	Loc6	Loc7	Loc8	Loc9	Loc10	Loc11	Loc12
Charles	5	9	5	6	5	7	5	4	4	5	8	5





tides (also called bases) and they are: A (Adenine), C (Cytosine), G (Guanine), and T (Thymine). A combination of these four bases can form a sequence such as: GATC-GATCGATCGATCGATC (5 repeats in this example) and these varying combinations of repeats can be found at specific Loci on the Y chromosome. Collectively, the results of several Loci (12 in our study) are known as a *haplotype*. The 12 Loci that our lab, Family Tree DNA of Houston, Texas analyzes, are currently the most offered among labs servicing the genealogy community. More loci analyzed allows for a better determination of relatives and a better estimation of time to the most recent common ancestor.

It should be noted that Family Tree DNA is only the commercial side of the operation performing these DNA tests. The actual lab extracting and analyzing the DNA is the Laboratory of Molecular Systematics and Evolution at the University of Arizona, headed by Dr. Michael F. Hammer, the lead geneticist in the controversial Thomas Jefferson/Sally Hemmings case study that made big news last year. Dr. Hammer is also leading an ongoing study of the Cohanim name, believed to be the Y carriers of the priestly line of Aaron, brother of the Bible's Moses.

## So Now What?

I would personally like to see more men from each of the various lines come forward and take this test and contribute *their* genetic data to the overall pedigree of this family. To induce more potential DNA test participants into doing just that, the TSS board has agreed to giving one-year membership dues free to all those who take part in this ongoing study. More data will confirm *or even possibly deny* the assumptions I've made here, but until that happens, this is the way the evidence seems to point. What's certain is this: *no member* will have their "Descendant Member" status changed based on these—or any future—DNA test results. It's important to note that no matter how it is we all came into this family, the fact remains, we're *all* part of Timen Stiddem's family.

## Now It's Your Turn

I invited some of the study participants to write their own opinions on the results of this study so I could include them with this article, however, no one took advantage. That doesn't mean all were necessarily in agreement with the results. There's probably going to be some of you with questions, and comments though, so I look forward to reading and publishing *your* "Letters to the Editor," in the next issue of the newsletter.

## For Further Study

Some of the information about DNA and chromosomes was taken from the book, *DNA for Family Historians*, by Alan Savin, 2000 (ISBN 0-9539171-0-X). You can order your own copy of this book directly from the author. The cost is \$5.99 (U.S. dollars) plus \$1.00 for air-mail postage. Send your request with a personal check to: Alan Savin, 9 Bannard Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, England, SL6 4NG. Be sure to include your home address for shipping. Alan Savin can also be reached by e-mail at: [alan@savin.org](mailto:alan@savin.org)

Other information was found on the web site of Kevin Duerinck, Esq. at: <http://www.duerinck.com/genetic.html>

To follow a lively discussion of all aspects of DNA and its application to genealogical research, check out the GENEALOGY-DNA mailing list at Roots Web: <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/Miscellaneous/GENEALOGY-DNA.html>. Lots of information can be gleaned from the archives of this mailing list and that address is: <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index/genealogy-dna>

Finally, more information about Family Tree DNA, the lab we used for our study can be found at their web site: <http://www.familytreedna.com/>