THE DENBOW DIASPORA

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THE DENBOW DIASPORA

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DNA Results Roll In

Amazing Discoveries So Far . . . More Expected!

Ohio, Indiana, Iowa and Maryland Denbow & Denbo clans are "perfect matches" on 12-marker test; UK Denbows do not match NA Denbows; Maine & Caribbean returns "too close to call."

By Carl J. Denbow

The first wave of results from the Denbow DNA study are now in, and we now know a few things conclusively that we had speculated about for years, and we have in the process uncovered some things that are, to be quite frank, very puzzling. In other words, for each new answer we have a new question, or maybe two or three.

First, on the positive side, we now have virtually conclusive proof that the Maryland Denbows, the Ohio Denbows, the Iowa Denbows and the Indiana Denbos are directly linked together. In other words, we are all cousins! Robert Denbo, of Lindenhurst, Ill., representing the Indiana clan; James Denbow, of Austin, Texas, representing the Iowa clan; Frank X. Denbow, of Lutherville, Md., representing the Maryland clan; and Carl J. Denbow, of Athens, Ohio, representing the Ohio clan, were all "perfect matches" on the 12-marker Y-DNA test. (0 level in Table 1)

Genetic Distance	Meaning
0	Related (12 out of 12 markers match)
1	Probably related (11/12)
2	Possibly related (10/12)
3	Very unlikely to be related (9/12)
4	Not related (8/12) No common ancestor within thousands of years.
5	Not related (7/12) No common ancestor within thousands of years.
>5	Totally unrelated this side of the Tower of Babel.

Table 1: This table briefly summarizes in a simple way the meanings of different levels of genetic distance. Illustratively: A 10/12 match means either that you are off on two markers, or two points on just one marker.

On the negative, or at least unexpected side of the ledger, we were somewhat surprised to discover that none of the North American Denbo(w)s were a good match for Bernard Denbow and Nick Denbow, the two UK Denbows so far tested. In fact, the UK Denbows and their North American brethren, with the exception of the Maine representative were in completely different Haplogroups. You'll find out more about these elsewhere in this issue, but for now you can think of these as broad representations of various ethnic groups dating back thousands of years into the past. The Maryland, Ohio, Indiana and Iowa clans all fall in a Haplogroup called J2. The UK Denbows, and the U.S. Maine clan are in a Haplogroup called R1b. This means, in practical terms, that on the male side there could be no relationship within thousands of years. This is all summarized in Table 2.

Several theories have been advanced in the lively discussion now taking place on the denbow-l listserv (see archives at: http://listsearches.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/listsearch.pl?list=DENBOW) to try to explain this unforeseen finding. I'll reprint later in this newsletter some of the speculation, but I'm personally partial to one particular theory that I'll explain briefly. But, I must admit first that my fascination with this theory is more emotional than scientific, because it would leave us still related to Bernard and Nick, but through female lines rather than male ones from about 1646 and back. I also like this theory because we know for certain that this very thing happened in one of our Ohio Denbow lines. OK, some of you have no doubt already guessed it. My favorite theory is that John Denboe (b. a. 1646), who came to the Crown Colony of Maryland as an indentured servant in 1663 was born out of wedlock to a Denbow woman who gave him the Denbow name. Unfortunately, I don't think there is any way to test this theory using DNA technology at its present state of evolution.

The Maine clan, as I mentioned, is a very interesting story in its own right. Brian Denbow, who traces his ancestry back to a Nihell (Myhell) Denbow, who lived in England in the 1550s, was also an R1b, like the UK Denbows. However, when his markers are compared with the UK Denbows, he is a genetic distance of 8 from Bernard and 9 from Nick. This means that although he is in the same Haplogroup as the UK Denbows, he has statistically almost no chance of being related to them through a common male progenitor.

Another still unraveling story is that of Charles E. Denbow, M.D., of Jamaica. He is an African-Caribbean man who traces his family back to Antigua, where a Richard Denbow ran a rum plantation in the late 1600s and early 1700s. British researchers have not been able to figure out where this Richard came from in the UK. He has not been fitted on to any of the known British Denbow family trees, according to *The Denbow Family Book*, by W. A. Roberts.

Charles' test results clearly place him in the R1b category, which is European. Bennett Greenspan, the president of FamlyTreeDNA, the firm that is doing our testing, says that this means that somewhere in his male line was a European father; otherwise,

in the J2 group has been ordered.

The samples from Bernard and Nick show 1 mutation at location 389-2. Again further testing will confirm if and when the common ancestor existed. The UK Denbows belong to the Haplogroup R1b. Again quoting from Bennett's e-mail… "When we look at a man's signature it gives us a clue as to his deeper origins. When we have seen a signature before that we have run a further diagnostic test (called SNP test) we confidently predict which of the branches of mankind he's from…that is the case with the R1b male…they come from the refugia in northern Spain during the last Ice Age."

Being members of two different Haplogroups show that these branches do not show a common ancestor. Again from Bennett… "Your first round of results are interesting. . . as it has shown you who is nearly certainly related and who is certainly not related. The groupings you have make perfect sense."

Your sample also shows that you belong to the R1b haplogroup and would have similar orgins as Bernard and Nick. The thing to look at is the number of mutations that exist between your samples. In 6 of the 12 locations they are different. In some locations there are differences of two.

On the average a mutation occurs every 40 generations. Because of the number of differences between your sample and the rest a common ancestor would have existed thousands of years ago.

On the FamilyTreeDNA website, they do recommend that two donors be checked per family line. FAQ number 13: "I am researching a family with many distinct branches. How many people from each branch should I use?"

"This is an important and very practical question that speaks to the heart of genealogical testing and research. The chance that a match does not exist due to infidelity or unreported adoptions occurs 2%-5% of the time per generation. For families trying to do family reconstruction, it is prudent to test 2 different known male cousins from each different branch. In cases of unexpected results, FTDNA will retest at no charge to confirm that a lab error is not an issue. In case that a retest is done and the results are confirmed, a $50 charge will be applied."

Carl indicates that another individual from the Maine Clan has joined the Denbow DNA Project. Those results will help determine what direction the group should head in.

Right now there are several scenarios being tossed about on how the different groups developed. At this point the only thing that has been definitely confirmed is that the 4 of us with matching samples are cousins.

Bob Denbo
Lindenhurst, IL

the "Denbow" name over the last 1000 years. 2) The Maryland John Denboe just as legitimately belongs to one of those as any of the other Denbows, and 3) The Maryland, Ohio, Indiana and Iowa Denbows without doubt share a common ancestor. This patriarch could be the John Denboe who according to some documents was transported as an indentured servant in 1663, or maybe even someone farther back in England. We don't know yet.

Maine Denbows may or may not come from that same grouping. Maybe they will line up with Nick's group, or even with Maryland -- or maybe not, but probably we can never decide who are the "real" first,original Denbows because there were too many routes to Denbowhood. With Charles in Jamaica another set of possibilities opens up, some certainly less commendatory than others. He could turn out to have an English Denbow profile, and that will tell its tale. Or simply and adoption of the surname under other circumstances. And, here again, we may be dealing with yet another old branch of the family in England that could be just as different as Nick's group. I think what the DNA studies have done is to open our eyes to just how complex family genealogies are likely to become when one goes past 300 years or so with shaky paper trails. For me, what I am hoping for in the short run is to sort out the relation between Maine and Maryland Denbows, and perhaps with the 37 marker test, to sort out the relationship between Iowa, Indiana, Ohio and Maryland. I suspect that Iowa and Indiana will be more closely related to one another, but that depends on whether there has been enough time for little mutations to accumulate to a point where they can tell us something. Most likely it will continue to lead us into that "black hole" of SW Pennsylvania, between about 1750 and 1790. But I am ever the pessimist.

I really didn't mean to get off on such a rant. The wine was good, but I can see one shouldn't drink and drive.

All the best, Jim

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Next, here's a very thoughtful response from Bob Denbo, of Lindenhurst, Ill., to a question raised by Brain Denbow, of Maine. He asked for an explanation of his test results.

There is some good information on the FAQs pages at this website: www.familytreedna.com/faq.html. And, this page goes into further detail about the MRCA or Most Common Recent Ancestor: www.familytreedna.com/faq2.html#table1

The samples from James, Carl, Frank and me are all identical. This indicates that our common ancestor has a 91 percent chance of existing some time in the last 600 years. By upgrading the test to include more markers the time frame can be further refined. Based on similarities between our markers and other people that have been tested they predict that we belong to the Haplogroup J2. Quoting from Bennett's e-mails to Carl.... "which is the signature of the Semitic Neolithic farms who came to Europe 9500 years ago and taught the Europeans how to farm. The other group of people who are solidly in Haplogroup J are Jews who came to Europe after the destruction of the second temple. (70 AD)." The test to confirm membership

his Haplogroup would be E3a. Now, the question remains whether this European father was a Denbow or someone else. Unfortunately, the results so far are at least a bit ambiguous. On the surface the answer appears to be that the European father was not a Denbow, but further testing will be needed to show this for sure. Specifically, Charles has a genetic distance of 4 with both Bernard and Brian, and a 5 with Nick. However, when one closely examines his results with Brian the differences are only on three markers — and they are the three known to mutate the most rapidly. (See Table 2, again)

At this point, we are trying to address the new questions raised by the DNA results in several ways: 1. Ordering 37-marker tests in cases where it's felt this will shed additional light on a burning question (e.g., the likely time period of a common male progenitor for the Ohio, Maryland, Indiana and Iowa clans, and the question of Charles' possible relation to Brian.); 2. Seeking additional UK Denbows for the testing, since it seems there may be more than one Denbow strain among our English brethren; and 3. Looking back at old historical documentation through the fresh lens provided by our new level of knowledge.

On this last point, Robert Denbo, of Lindenhurst, Ill., has provided an article appearing in this issue that in a very preliminary way takes a new look at some extant information on families that seem to have intermarried with both North American Denbo and Denbow families. Prior to the DNA testing, this information did not seem as relevant as it does now, with our firm knowledge of the relationship between the Indiana Denbos and the Ohio Denbows specifically, and the Maryland and Iowa Denbows more generally. When you read this article you will see an example of the kind of tantalizing new questions that our DNA studying can engender. Let me stress that some of these, like the ones Bob raises, could have been asked earlier, but the DNA results have simply served to focus our energies in different directions. Other new questions, of course, like searching for different strains of Denbowism in the UK couldn't have been asked before we knew the DNA results. Similarly, the issues surrounding Charles' European male progenitor and whether or not he was a Denbow, is a brand new

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This newsletter is published two or three times a year by the co-editors, who are proud to claim that it is the only newsletter in the world "For Denbows by Denbows." Denbos welcome, too!

Table 2

Kit	Name	Haplogroup	DYS# 393	390	391	385	426	388	439	389-1	389-2	392
34377	James Denbow (James Denbow, m. 1807, Hardin Co., KY (Iowa clan))	J2	12	24	14	10	14	15	11	15	12	14	12	31
34381	Carl J. Denbow (John Denboe, 1650 Cecil Co., Maryland (Ohio clan))	J2	12	24	14	10	14	15	11	15	12	14	12	31
34383	Frank X. Denbow (Maryland clan)	J2	12	24	14	10	14	15	11	15	12	14	12	31
34384	Robert B. Denbo (Joseph Denbo, Crawford Co, IN d1851 (Indiana Clan))	J2	12	24	14	10	14	15	11	15	12	14	12	31
34481	Brian Denbow (Maine clan)	R1b	13	24	14	10	10	16	12	12	13	13	13	29
34376	Charles E. Denbow (Caribbean clan)	R1b	13	24	14	10	11	14	12	12	12	13	13	29
34379	Bernard Denbow (UK clan)	R1b	13	24	15	10	12	14	12	12	12	14	13	31
34380	Nick Denbow (Digory Denbow, Devon, 1462) (UK clan)	R1b	13	24	15	10	12	14	12	12	12	14	13	32

so many other scenarios that are equally or maybe even more likely at this point.

With regard to the j2 and r1b Haplogroups, I think one needs to keep in mind how these are constructed in the sense of very long term history. I haven't plowed through all those articles yet, but the way "western Paleolithic" versus "eastern or Mediterranean farmer" gets constructed is from interpretations of linguistic, archaeological and genetic data.

First, the fact that languages like Basque (and Finnish, Hungarian, Etruscan, to name a few others) do not belong in the Indo-European language family is the evidence that many use to propose that this language is a kind of "linguistic fossil," and so the people who now speak it are genetically typed as representative of a now submerged "original" hunting and gathering population that inhabited Europe before farming was introduced by, according to some archaeologists like Colin Renfrew, the first Indo-European languages speakers coming from the northern fertile crescent where the J2 Haplogroup is today the most common form. Remember that no one is typing old bones here - but modern genes and associating them with archaeological scenarios and linguistic data gathered mainly from speakers of Indo-European and non-Indo-European languages today. So, what those Haplogroups "could" suggest is a gradual expansion of farmers from the fertile crescent beginning around 6000BC to Greece (following Renfrew's model) and gradually expanding northward up the Danube and other rivers, reaching Scotland, etc.
around 3000 BC.

While people in the J2 Haplogroup may have begun this process, Renfrew proposes that farmer's would have been accorded higher status (bigger, more sedentary villages, more dependable crops, etc.) than the indigenous hunter-gatherers who would have both married them (thus in some cases spreading the j2 gene if it is the women marrying j2 men of higher status), but more importantly assimilated with them. So that by 3000 - 1000 BC, or later, there would have been plenty of culturally indistinguishable farming villages in Northern France and England that had, not the j2 of the first farmers, but even more inhabitants of the R1b, etc. Haplogroups who likely outnumbered any invaders from the Fertile Crescent. In other words, indigenous populations had now also become farmers culturally, if not genetically, identical to those related to the first agriculturalists at 6000 BC.

One of the more interesting aspects of the j2 distribution in western Europe and southern England, at least from looking at the maps in the article we were pointed to, is the concentration of j2 along coastlines -- places that could perhaps indicate a maritime spread of this Haplogroup. A spread that may also be correlated with lots of things besides the spread of farming villages, such as early Phoencians (from 1100 BC or so) and Cartheginians (after 800 BC) going to southern Spain and possibly even as far as Cornwall in search of tin during the bronze age beginning around 2500 BC or so. Or maybe even later Greek (ca. Post 1500 from Mycenaee) and certainly Roman excursions (post 200 BC) into those same areas.

Anyway, that's my take on it so far. In summary: 1) There are likely many unrelated clans in England that have taken up

Cousins Corner

Where Denbow, Denbo or even Denbeau family history buffs can express their views and ideas on genealogical research.

In this issue we bring back a popular feature from the past — Cousins Corner. In this issue we will feature exclusively two of the most insightful and thought-provoking emails from the ongoing discussion of the Denbow DNA Study on the denbow-l listserv. — CJD

First here's an email from Jim Denbow, Austin, Texas, who has quite a different take on the lack of DNA linkage between our North American Denbow lines (exclusive of Maine) and the UK ones. Since these DNA studies impinge on his area of professional expertise, anthropology, these remarks are probably more learned and should be given more weight than those expressed by fellow Diaspora editor CJD in the opening article.

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Hi all,

It seems like we are getting more and more speculative scenarios here of who are real Denbows and who are not. Before that, I think that it is just as, if not more, likely that there has been linguistic convergence as well as divergence - particularly for surnames that we begin seeing identified later as "Denbow" going back to before 1200 AD in England. Some of these that have later been together by the quite respected bibliographers in the indices of the King's rolls, etc. as "Denbow" include, as far as I know, from oldest to youngest: de Einebut, de Enebaud, Denebeald, Denbaud, Deneband, Denboude, Deneboude, Donebawed, Denbold, Denbawede, Denbold, Denbolt, Denbowe, and of course in the US all those Denboes, Denbeaux, Denbow, Denbo, etc. and maybe even a few Dinbo, Danbo, that we have never considered.

All of these names come from written records, and all the English ones reference those sometimes wildly variant names in their indices as "Denbow."

For such an old surname, it should come as no surprise that there may be a multitude of lines, some perhaps not even related genetically at all, that have come to suffer the consequences of having the name Denbow or Denbo in this century. So for my part, I say enough with illegitimate children and so forth when there are

Table 2: (to the left) This chart shows the 12-marker DNA test results as of 19 Jun 2005. The column with the notation "Haplo" refers to a general division of mankind into ethnic groupings. The rest of the columns refer to the measurements on various markers on the male (or Y) chromosome. Those with the outline font (385a, 385b and 439) are known to mutate more rapidly. In general, a perfect, or close to perfect, match indicates a high probability of a common male progenitor. Men in different Haplogroups, however, are very unlikely to be related along a male line for several thousand years. The information after each man's name indicates, when available, his earliest known Denbo(w) ancestor and his clan grouping.

question based on the DNA results. Before the test, all we could do was speculate that as a descendant of an Antigua slave he *might* have had some European blood. Now that we know he does, we can focus our question more specifically on whether this might be Denbow blood, and if so which one of the aforementioned "strains" — or some yet untested one — it might it be from.

It's clear that we have entered a whole new paradigm, with apologies to Professor Thomas Kuhn, the philosopher of science who first used that term to indicate major shifts in scientific understanding from one "era" to the next. Using DNA research to answer questions of genealogy is so different from methods used in the past that it is truly revolutionary. Although, unlike in a Kuhnian paradigm shift, old technology (e.g., researching paper trails) is still relevant, but it is put in a whole new perspective.

We will keep you informed on further developments on the DNA testing front in future issues of *The Denbow Diaspora* newsletter. In the meantime you can find out more about the raw results of this study as they become available by visiting the public page for the Denbow DNA Project at the following URL: http://www.familytreedna.com/public/denbow/.

Sharp family may be key to Ohio-Indiana Link

Denbo-Denbow: A Sharp Connection?

By Robert B. Denbo, Lindenhurst, Ill.

After digesting the initial information from FamilyTreeDNA that shows that the Indiana, Iowa, Maryland and Ohio clans share a common ancestor my thoughts turned to how to locate this gentleman. To narrow down the time frame as to when he lived a number of us ordered upgrade tests on our samples. During the agonizing wait for the results to be returned by the laboratory, Carl Denbow and I have kept in frequent contact by e-mail. One day reviewing old messages I began to notice that some of Carl's e-mails contained names from his paternal line in his standard "signature line." My attention was drawn to one name in particular, Sharp.

Indiana Denbo's and the Sharp's

Harrison Denbo has a connection to the Sharp's. His two wives were sisters, Leanna Scott and Damidia Scott Lambdin. Their parents were Wilson B. Scott and Dorinda Guy Sloan Sharp. Dorinda's first husband was James Sharp. They were married in Barren Co., Ky., in 1811. In 1815 she marries Wilson Scott.

Dorinda Guy Sloan's line goes back further. Her parents were John Sloan and Rebecca Guy. She was born in Iredell Co., N.C. John Sloan's Last Will and Testament was written and recorded in 1779, witnessed by William Sharpe, Jacob Sharpe and J. Cathey. John Sloan has a sister Jean who is married in 1778 in Rowan Co., N.C., to Joseph Sharpe. Joseph Sharpe was born in Cecil Co., Md., in 1753.

The Sloan's were originally from Lancaster Co., Penn., which is the county directly north of Harford and Cecil counties in Maryland.

Ohio Denbow's and the Sharpe's

John Denbow born 1797, patriarch of the major Ohio clan was from Harford Co., Md. His wife Martha Sharp, born 1798, was also from Harford Co.. Md. John and Martha left Cecil and Harford Counties to move to Ohio.

Sharp Summary

Wilson Scott originally laid out the town of Hartford, Ind., which was later renamed English. The similarity between Harford Co., Md., and Hartford, Ind., one letter difference, raises an interesting question. After all, it is just a letter that separates Denbow and Denbo.

Although no Sharp connection has been established between the Ohio and Indiana clans, we share more than the Denbo(w) name. Each of the lines has common surnames in common places around the same time. This would be consistent with the migratory practices of that time. Groups of families migrated westerly across our country. Some members continuing onto new destinations, some staying put and others turning back. It was not the single family on the move as it is today.

DNA evidence has told us that we share a common male ancestor, the movement and migratory patterns of other individuals may hold the key to where and when he lived.

Editor's Note: I think Bob may be on to something here. It seems to unlikely that Bob's g4grandmother's first marriage to a Sharp(e) and her aunt's marriage to a Sharpe with Cecil County, Md., connections can all be coincidence. (Bob, it should be pointed out, is descended from Dorinda's second husband Wilson Scott.) Those from both Ohio clans (or should we call them "sub" clans because they are descendants from brothers?) may note that this last name also occurs in marriages of Ohio Denbows. There is Catherine Denbow, daughter of Basil (1794-1857) who married Henry Scott (c. 1835), and Hannah Jane Denbow, daughter of Bazzel Denbow (1819-1896), who married Isaac Scott in about 1866. Perhaps these Scott lines also trace back to Cecil County, Md. I have never had, that I can remember, any contact with people researching these Scott lines. Perhaps, this might be another avenue to pursue as we attempt to locate a time and a place for our now confirmed common progenitor. As they once said on Dragnet, "We know you are there, and we are coming to get you."

ATTENTION!!! The Mini-Reunion will be held at the home of Carl and Jane Denbow in Athens, Ohio, on Saturday, July 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP as soon as possible if you plan to attend. You may call hostess Jane Denbow at (740) 592-2133, or send her an e-mail at zelda@denbow.org. (For laughs, ask her how she got the nickname Zelda!) You can also send postal mail to the editorial office as listed in the masthead.