

## DNA Data and Genealogical Research Suggests Most of the First Families of Virginia Were Of Jewish Descent

### ABSTRACT

Using ethnic and global DNA databases, as well as genealogical records, we investigated the ancestry of the First Families of Virginia. We show that most of the families for whom data are available are likely to have been of Sephardic or Ashkenazic Jewish ancestry. These families engaged in endogamy (i.e., marrying within the group) upon arriving in the Virginia Colony, which indicates they may have been aware of their ancestry and sought to perpetuate their ethnic heritage.

**KEYWORDS:** First Families of Virginia, Sephardic Jews, Ashkenazi Jews, DNA genealogy

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### I. THE FIRST FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

There are several Colonial Virginia genealogical societies listing the First Families of Virginia ([www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org)). We used the list taken from Wikipedia under “First Families of Virginia”, which includes those Virginia colonists at Jamestown and Williamsburg from 1607 to around 1660 (First Families of Virginia: Wikipedia.com). Other published lists include persons arriving in Virginia up to 1799, which seems overly inclusive. Many of the names on the early-arrival list are immediately recognizable, e.g., Byrd, Carter, Duke, Fairfax, Jefferson, Lee, Rolfe.

About half the names on the FFV list had no family DNA project underway, thus no data are available for their ancestors. A few names, e.g., Fairfax, have DNA projects, but have chosen to keep their results private, so they were also excluded from our study. Some families have on-line DNA projects, but no entries coming from England during the appropriate time period (e.g., Archer). Our discussion focuses on publicly available results that can be verified by other researchers. The DNA analysis methods used in the present research are explained in detail in the Appendix. We begin with Sir William Berkeley.

#### Sir William Berkeley

William Berkeley was the longest-serving governor of Virginia (1641–1652, 1660–1677). In 1641, Berkeley was named Governor and Captain General of Virginia. He helped introduce tobacco cultivation to the colony and also experimented with other crops. His first term as governor was marked by his willingness to share power with the wealthy planter families and by the rise in stature of the General Assembly in Jamestown. The execution of King Charles I created an interruption, but Berkeley's governorship resumed under Charles II ([EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://EncyclopediaVirginia.org)).

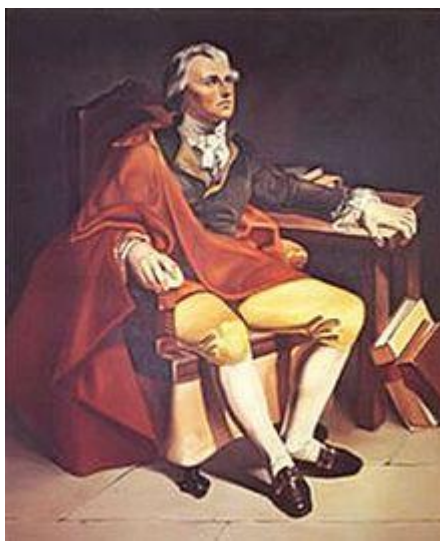
Unfortunately, Berkeley's agricultural experiments failed to diversify Virginia's tobacco-centered economy and he was also ineffective in preventing Native attacks. In 1676, Nathaniel Bacon challenged Berkeley's position, laying siege to Jamestown ([EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://EncyclopediaVirginia.org)). Although Bacon's Rebellion (1676–1677) was suppressed, Berkeley was replaced by Herbert Jeffreys in 1677. In May of that year Berkeley sailed to England where he died on July 9 ([EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://EncyclopediaVirginia.org)).

Berkeley	William Berkeley, b. 1690 and d. 1762 Virginia	United Kingdom	R-S27571	1 2 1 1 11- 3 4 4 1 15	1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 3 3 9 7 10	1 1 2 1 1 3 15-15- 16-17	11
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DNA markers from a presumed William Berkeley descendant are shown above. They matched samples in the Jewish Heritage Project at a level of 22 out of 25 markers (FTDNA). Most of these were persons of Ashkenazic

Jewish ancestry Thus we believe the Berkeley family was likely of Jewish descent from Eastern/Northern Europe.

**Theodorick and Richard Bland**



Theodorick Bland (January 16, 1629 – April 23, 1671) was an English politician, merchant and planter. He was the father of Richard Bland and the grandfather of Richard Bland II. Born in London, he served as his family's business agent in Spain and the Canary Islands during his early twenties (EncyclopediaVirginia.org.). The fact that the family had business connections in both Spain and the Canary Islands, both of which were then populated by Converso-Sephardic Jews, strongly suggests that they were of Sephardic descent (Hirschman and Yates 2012).

Bland moved to the colony of Virginia in 1653. He represented Charles City County in the 1660 House of Burgesses session and also served as Speaker. In this role, he presided over the House during the transition from the Cromwell Protectorate to the restored government of Charles II. He served on the Governor's Council from 1664 to 1671 (EncyclopediaVirginia.org). He married Anna Bennett, the daughter of Virginia Governor Richard Bennett, and they had three sons: Theodorick Bland (born 1663), Richard and John. Richard Bland married Elizabeth Randolph, daughter of William Randolph I. The couple had five children, including Richard Bland II and Theodorick Bland of Cawsons.

Not being the eldest, Richard I moved further up river and started his own plantation on land his father had purchased in 1656; this became known as Jordan's Point Plantation in Prince George County, Virginia. In 1702 he married Elizabeth Randolph (1680–1720). They had five children: Mary (1703) (married Henry Lee), Elizabeth (1706) (married William Beverley), Richard (1710), Anna (1711) (married Robert Munford), and Theodorick (1718) whose son, Theodorick Bland, also became a congressman and commander of General Washington's Virginia Cavalry. The Richard of this generation also served in the House of Burgesses. His elder brother, Theodorick II, became the original surveyor of the towns of Williamsburg and Alexandria (EncyclopediaVirginia.org). (Note at this point the high level of endogamy among the FFV families, an indicator of their awareness of Jewish heritage.)

There were two sets of DNA haplogroup scores for the Bland family in Virginia. These are shown below. The first ones are for the James River Bland family and a descendant named Robert.

**James River, VA Bland family**

Bland, Robert O	R-M269	13	24	14	11	11	11	14	12	12	11	13	13	29	17	9	11	11	27	15	20	29	15	15	16	16	11	11	19	23	16	14	18	17	37	38	12	12	11	19	15	16	8	10	10	8	10	10	10	12	23	23	16			
Bland, Edward Cole	R-Y364791	32	4	14	11	11	11	14	12	12	12	13	13	29	17	9	10	11	11	27	15	20	29	15	15	17	18	11	11	19	23																									

The haplotype given above was a close match (22 out of 25 markers) to a Jewish man in the Jewish R1b Project who ancestor was born in Scotland in 1267 and a Lithuanian Jewish man born in 1775. This would indicate that Robert Bland was likely of Ashkenazi Jewish descent and that the Bland ancestors may have been among the French-Norman Jews brought to England by William I in 1066 (Golb 1998).

13	23	14	10	13	16	11	15	10	13	12	28	17	8	9	11	11	27	15	20	32	13	14	16	16	10	10	19	22	16	13	17	16	35	36	12	9	11	17	15	15	8	10	10	8	11	19	12	18	18	14	10	12						
11494	Bland, John Richard	J-M67	1323	14	10	13	16	11	15	10	13	12	28	17	8	9	11	11	27	15	20	30	13	14	15	16	10	10	19	22																												

The second set of DNA markers shown above is for a John Richard Bland in Rockingham County Virginia. This set of markers belongs to the J-m67/Jm172 haplogroup which is Semitic in origin, as described below.

Haplogroup **J-M172**<sup>[Phylogenetics 4]</sup> is found in the highest concentrations in the Caucasus and the Fertile Crescent/Iraq and is found throughout the Mediterranean (including the Italian, Balkan, Anatolian and Iberian peninsulas and North Africa) (Giacomo 2003).

From this description, the Bland family could have been either of Sephardic or Ashkenazic Jewish origin. Thus, until we know which of these haplotypes is theirs, we will simply conclude that they were of Jewish ancestry. Incidentally, the surname Bland is a descriptive one, such as Brown or Black; it means the person is of blonde or light complexion.

### Robert Bolling

Robert Bolling, the son of John Bolling (b. 1615) and Mary Carie Bolling, was born in London in 1646. His father John, was one of the Bollings of Bolling Hall, near Bradford, England. Robert's ancestry traces to Robert Bolling, Esq., who died in 1485 and was buried in the family vault in the church of Bradford. Bolling arrived in the Virginia Colony in 1660 at the age of 14 (EncyclopediaVirginia.org)

In 1674, Robert married Jane Rolfe, daughter of Thomas Rolfe, the son of Pocahontas. They had one son, John Bolling (January 26, 1676 – April 20, 1729). John married Mary Kennon, and they had seven children. In 1681, after his first wife died, Col. Bolling married Anne Stith, daughter of John Drury and Jane (Gregory) Stith (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

The descendants of Robert Bolling's first marriage are sometimes referred to in their family history forums as "Red Bollings" due to the Native American lineage of Jane Rolfe's grandmother Pocahontas. These "Red Bollings" include Edith Bolling Wilson, wife of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson (EncyclopediaVirginia.org). The descendants of his second marriage are referred to as "White Bollings" (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Robert Bolling acquired a large estate as a tobacco planter and merchant. He was colonel of the militia and elected to the House of Burgesses from Charles City County in 1702. He died in 1709, and was buried in Prince George Co., Virginia, where his tomb still stands (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

The Bolling DNA scores shown below were compared to those in the Jewish R1b/R-m269 Project (FTDNA) and found to have moderate congruence with multiple samples, e.g., 20, 21 out of 25 marker matches. Notably, two of the close matches were with Italian Jewish families (see below). What is especially significant about these matches is that they are related to the very ancient Saltiel Jewish family who descend from an ancient Hebrew lineage as described below:

Bolling England R-m269 12 25 14 11 11-14 12 12 13 13 13 29 17 9-10 11 11 25 15 19 31  
15 15 16 17

### The Shaltiel Family History:

“Welcome to all Shealtiel, שאלטיאל, Σαλτιέλ, Сальтьель, Saltiel and Sealtiel cousins... Welcome also to members of the families descended from our common ancestors, including the Charlaps, who separated from the Shealtiels in the 1000s; and the Gracians... who separated from the Shealtiels in the 1300s. The name Shealtiel is Hebrew and commonly translated as "asked of God". It is first recorded in the Bible as the name of a son of the last King of Judea. Much of the family remains Jewish, but we embrace people of all colours and creeds. Today, our family numbers approximately 2500 people, with over six hundred households in thirty nations” (Saltiel Family Website).

Saltiel-Gracian Family (Israel)

R-m269

12 24 14 11 11-14 12 12 13 13 13 29 17 9-10 11 11 25 15 19 29 15 15 16 17

### Carter Braxton

Carter Braxton was born at Newington Plantation in King and Queen County, Virginia in 1736. It was thought at first that both he and his mother, Mary Carter Braxton, would die during the birth. His mother, "unhappily catching Cold," did die shortly after Carter was born. His maternal grandfather was Robert “King” Carter, possibly the wealthiest man, as well as the largest landowner, in Virginia at the time. His paternal grandfather, George Braxton, Sr., had also become one of the 100 largest landowners in Virginia's Northern Neck by 1704. George Braxton Sr. had been elected to the House of Burgesses in 1718 and subsequently

reelected. (EncyclopediaVirginia.org)

The elder Braxton owned at least one ship, the *Braxton*, that traded with the West Indies, and was also commission agent for cargoes of enslaved blacks sold to Virginia planters. He died, aged 71, when Carter was twelve; his eldest son (Carter's father) George Jr., succeeded him as delegate for King and Queen County in 1742 (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Educated at the College of William and Mary, Braxton married Judith Robinson, a wealthy heiress and the House Speaker's niece. She died two years later, leaving Braxton with two daughters. After a 2 year visit to England, he married again, this time to Elizabeth Corbin, eldest daughter of Richard Corbin, Deputy Receiver General for his Majesty's Revenues in Virginia, who had a £1000 dowry (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Shortly afterward, Braxton bought a shipping vessel and traded between the West Indies and American colonies, establishing relationships with Bayard & Son in New York and Willing & Morris in Philadelphia (EncyclopediaVirginia.org). At the close of the Revolutionary War, Braxton owned at least 12,000 acres and 165 slaves. His racial attitudes contrasted with those of another of King Carter's grandsons, Robert Carter III, and of George Mason IV who opposed the slave trade during their legislative careers (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Braxton began representing King William County in the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1761. He also served as sheriff of King William County, colonel of its militia, and vestryman of the St. John's Church, about ten miles east of his plantation (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

The DNA markers shown for Braxton below matched persons in the Jewish R1b/R-m269 Project at a high level of congruence, as shown below. Notably, the surnames associated with these matches indicate the possibility of both Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jewish heritages.

171 742	Danie li	Au str ia	R- M 26 9	1 3	2 4	1 4	1 0	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 3	1 9	1 7	9 0	1 1	1 1	2 5	1 5	1 9	1 2	1 5	1 5	1 9	1 9	1 2	2 3	1 5	1 7	3 6	1 1	1 1													
225 103	Mariat egui- Levi	Sp ain	R- M 26 9	1 3	2 4	1 4	1 0	1 1	1 1	1 2	1 1	1 1	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 2	1 9	1 8	9 0	1 1	1 1	1 5	2 4	1 9	1 1	2 1	1 5	1 3	3 1																				

Brax ton	Engla nd	R- M269	1 3	2 4	1 4	1 0	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 9	1 7	1 10	1 1	1 1	2 5	1 5	1 9	1 2	1 5	1 5	1 2	1 0	2 9	15-15-16- 17																					
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Ste in	United States	R- M269	1 3	2 4	1 4	1 0	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 9	1 6	1 10	1 1	1 1	2 5	1 5	1 9	1 2	1 5	1 5	1 2	1 0	3 0	15-15-16- 17																								
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**Richard and John Browne**

Richard Browne

Birthdate: circa 1614  
 Birthplace: England  
 Death: December 18, 1670 (51-60)  
 Old Rappahannock County, Virginia

**John Browne of Northampton, VA**

Birthdate: circa 1609  
 Birthplace: England  
 Death: May 24, 1655

### Northampton, Virginia

The surname Brown is often given to persons having dark hair, eyes and complexions, for example, Pardo is a Spanish surname meaning “dark” often applied to Sephardic Jews (Sephardim.co). The Browne/Brown surname is very numerous in Virginia (EncyclopediaVirginia.org). We used the DNA markers taken from Sir Thomas Browne in Kent, England to represent the family, due to its many matches to Brownes living in Culpepper, Virginia. Since Sir Thomas Browne is listed as having been in England in 1402, his ancestors may have arrived from the earlier expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1390.

Brown(e), Sir Thomas - Kent Eng. b 1402 -d 1460	Englan d	R- M269	1 2 1 1 4 3 4 2	11 14	1 1 1 1 1 2 1 2 2 2 2 3 8 7 1	9 0	- 1 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 5 5 9 9
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(matches Browne in Culpepper, VA)

In the Jewish R1b Project we found a close match to a Jewish man from Posen, Prussia (Poland) whose haplotype is

13 24 14 12 11-14 12 12 12 13 13 29 18 9-10 11 11 25 15 19 29

This would suggest that the Browne family was likely of Ashkenazic Jewish ancestry.

### William Byrd



William Byrd, ancestor of the Byrds of Virginia, was the son of John Bird, a London goldsmith. The earliest reliable genealogical information for the family is the mention of a Thomas Bird, apprenticed to Henry Sacheverell, vintner, in 1608, who was subsequently admitted to the wine merchants’ guild in 1616. Thomas Bird married his first cousin, Elizabeth Bird. It was Thomas’s son John who became a goldsmith (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

What is strongly suggested by these early records is that the Bird family was Jewish: both wine dealing and gold-smelting were professions dominated by Jews (Hirschman and Yates 2014). Further, marriage to a first cousin was forbidden by the Anglican Church, but a common practice among Sephardic Jews, as already mentioned. Additionally, the surname Bird was uncommon in England at the time, but quite common in the Austro-German region as Vogel (Hirschman and Yates 2014).

William Byrd, sometimes referred to as William Byrd II of Westover to distinguish him from relatives of the same name, was a planter, a surveyor and a member of the Governor’s Council (1709–1744). Born in Virginia, Byrd was educated and practiced law in England. He returned to Virginia in 1705. Shortly afterward, he was appointed to the Governor’s Council, and in the 1720s he served as the London agent of the Virginia House of Burgesses. He also helped survey the boundary between Virginia and North Carolina (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

On the invitation of his maternal uncle, Thomas Stegge Jr., in March 1669, William Bird/Byrd

immigrated to Virginia. In Virginia, the spelling *Byrd* became standard. On October 27, 1673, he was granted 1,200 acres on the James River. Byrd became a well-connected fur trader in the Richmond, Virginia area. Some of Byrd's landholdings later became part of the site of Richmond. (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

About 1673, he married a 21-year-old widow named Mary (née Horsmanden) Filmer, a native of Lenham, England. Mary's father had spent time in Virginia as a Cavalier fleeing Cromwell, and her former husband, Samuel Filmer, descended from the sister of Samuel Argall, governor of Virginia (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

William Byrd I and his wife became the parents of William Byrd II and three daughters. Their daughter, Ursula, married Robert Beverley Jr., Major Robert Beverley's son. They had one child William Beverley (1698–1756); Ursula died in 1698. EncyclopediaVirginia.org). Byrd was a supporter of Bacon's Rebellion, 1679.

In 1688, Theodorick Bland Jr. and his brother Richard conveyed 1,200 acres of their Westover Plantation property to William Byrd I in 1688 for 300L and 10,000 pounds of tobacco. Byrd died on 4 Dec 1704, at his plantation home of Westover, in Charles City County, Virginia (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Shown below are three sets of Byrd DNA markers from the Byrd Surname DNA Project (FTDNA). Each of these given names is found in the Bird/Byrd family genealogy. Notably, the first two sets of DNA markers are both Jewish/Semitic in origin.

88397	Thomas Bird, b. Jan 1599, Broxton, England, d. 1623 England	G-2725	14	22	15	10	14	14	11	13	11	12	11	29	18	9	9	11	11	23	16	21	32	13	13	13	13
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This DNA haplogroup is most common in Central Asia and Iran. High levels are currently found in tribal populations in Kazakhstan (FTDNA.com). If this is the Virginia Byrd family haplogroup, they are most likely of Ashkenazic Jewish ancestry.

80931	John Bird, b. c. 1729, of Bath Co. VA	Unknown Origin	E-M78	14	24	14	10	19	19	11	12	11	13	11	30	16	9	9	11	11	25	14	20	32	15	16	16	17
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This haplogroup is North African in origin and common among Mediterranean populations, such as Italians, Spanish and Portuguese. If this is the haplogroup to which the Virginia Byrds belong, they are most likely of Sephardic Jewish ancestry.

210106	Richard Byrd, b. 1750 Va, d. 1803 In	Unknown Origin	R-M269	13	23	14	11	11	14	12	12	12	14	13	31	16	9	10	11	11	25	16	19	28	15	16	17	17
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This haplotype was compared to those in the Jewish R1b Project and came close to matching an unnamed donor whose markers were

R-M269 R-P312: 13 24 14 1111-14 12 12 12 14 13 30 17 9-10 11 11 26 15 19 28 15-16-17-17

This donor was included with a man named Eliezer Mordechai ben Zvi Persky from Belarus. If this is the Byrd family DNA signature, they are likely of Ashkenazic Jewish origin.

### John Carter

John Carter was born in London around 1613, probably the son of John Carter, a London vintner, and his second wife, Bridget Benion Carter (EncyclopediaVirginia.org) Note that there are already clues at this point that John Carter is of Jewish ancestry. First, his family is engaged in wine distribution and his mother's maiden name is likely Benzion, a Hebrew surname.

In 1642 John Carter was elected a Burgess from Upper Norfolk County (later Nansemond County) for the assembly meeting in January and June of that year. He also obtained the first of several grants of land on the north bank of the Rappahannock River in what became Lancaster County. By March 1643, Carter is a member of the Assembly when, for the first time, the burgesses convene as a separate house. In 1649 John Carter represented Nansemond County in the Assembly (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

By 1652, he became a major in the Lancaster County militia and later a colonel. John married Eleanor Eltonhead Brocas, but they have no children and she dies shortly thereafter. (Note here that his wife's surname is Brocas, a version of the Hebrew word for prayer, Baracha). In 1656, John marries Anne Carter (apparently a cousin). They also have no known children and she dies shortly thereafter (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Apparently not willing to abandon his hopes of marriage and heirs, John next marries Sarah Ludlow in 1660. They have one daughter, who dies in infancy, and one son, John. Sarah dies at some point after this, because Carter next marries a woman named Elizabeth Shirley/Sherley (a Hebrew name) around 1668 (EncyclopediaVirginia.org.) There is no information on whether they had children (EncyclopediaVirginia.org)

In 1665, Carter received his largest land grant, for 4,000 acres, in return for transporting eighty people to Virginia, including twenty-one of African origin or descent. John died around 1769/1770 and was buried alongside his wives at Corotoman Plantation (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

**Thomas Carter** of Barford Plantation was the brother of John Carter who arrived with him on the ship *Safety* in 1635. Records indicate that Captain Thomas Carter of Barford (1610-1658) paid 12,852 pounds of tobacco the following October 1656 and £130 sterling on September 18, 1655 to purchase 800 acres on the eastern branch of the Corotoman River (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Below are the DNA markers of this Carter lineage. These are from a Carter descendant, Colonel John Carter of the Watauga Settlement in Western Virginia. By the late 1700s, Virginians were migrating westward toward the Appalachian Mountains, founding the Watauga Settlement, where more land was available.

Col John Carter, of Watauga Settlement d Jan 1781	E-V13	1 2 1 1 16- 3 4 3 1 18	1 1 1 1 1 3 1 1 2 2 3 1 0 6	9 9	1 1 2 1 2 3 14-16- 1 1 6 4 0 2 17-18
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This DNA is from haplogroup E-M35/V-13, considered one of the founding Jewish lineages. It was a close match (20+ matches out of 25 markers) to Jewish persons surnamed Becker, from Poland, Douek from Syria and Borghese from Italy, as well as a Cohen from Israel and a Pritkin from Russia. Given this set of ancestral matches, it is likely that the Carter ancestry originated in the Middle East and branched into both Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jewish descendants. It is also one of the direct ancestral lines of the present author.

**Colonel Henry Duke**

Colonel Henry Duke, esq. was born in England in 1640 and died in James City, Virginia in 1730. He emigrated from England first to Bermuda and then to York County, VA, then later moved to James City County. The first mention of his name is in 1680 when he is listed as one of the justices of James City County. In 1699 he was commissioned as sheriff. (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

On July 25, 1690 (as Capt. Henry Duke), he was appointed by Gov. Francis Nicholson to solicit donations for building a college in the Virginia colony. That college, William and Mary, is the second oldest college in America (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Duke was a member of the House of Burgesses from 1692 to 1699. In 1702, he was appointed to the Royal Council of the colony by Queen Anne and later designated as Judge of the Admiralty Court. He and his son, Henry Duke, Jr. were examiners of the will of Col. William Byrd, Sr., and made certificate at "Westopher," Charles City County, VA, on Jan 12, 1704/5. He was also appointed by the Council to examine the accounts of William Byrd I as Auditor General of the Colony at Byrd's death (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

The DNA markers for Colonel Henry Duke are shown below.

Col. Henry Duke, Councillor at Jamestown	England	R-M269	14	24	14	11	11	14	12	12	12	13	13	29	18	9	10	11	11	25	14	18	28	15	15	15	18
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These were compared to persons in the Jewish R1b/Rm269 DNA Project (FTDNA) and found to have close matches (23 out of 25 markers) to two Sephardic Jewish donors, one in Mexico and one in Brazil. We conclude that the Duke family was very likely of Sephardic Jewish descent.

**William Farrar**

We first note that the surname Farrar is often considered a Sephardic Jewish surname (Sephardim.co); it means blacksmith or ironworker – an occupation in which Jews have worked throughout history (Sephardim.co). William Farrar was born before April 28, 1583 in Croxton, Lincolnshire, England. He was the 3rd son of John Farrar, esq. of Croxton and London, a wealthy merchant and landowner with various properties in West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Hertfordshire. His mother was Cecily Kelke, an heiress and descendant of Edward III of England. The nineteenth century historian of Virginia, Alexander Brown, states that while in England, William Farrar received an education in law (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

When Farrar arrived in Virginia, it was still part of the Virginia Company of London. Farrar was a subscriber to the Third Charter of the Virginia Company, where his name appears as "William Ferrers". His subscription consisted of three shares that were bought for a total of £37 10s (equivalent to about \$11,200 today). Farrar also had family interests in the Virginia Company, as two of his second cousins, the brothers John

Farrar and Nicholas Farrar, played key roles in the managing the company (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Farrar left London for Virginia on March 16, 1617 or 18 along with Virginia's governor, Thomas West (Baron De La Warr). De La Warr had been commissioned by the Virginia Company to return to the colony with fresh settlers and supplies to help it achieve political and economic stability, but died en route. When Farrar arrived in August 1618, news of the governor's death threw Jamestown into upheaval (Kelly 2018). Subsequently, Deputy Governor Samuel Argall was accused of mismanagement and the misappropriation of *Neptune's* passengers and cargo. After a prolonged series of accusations from both the Virginia Company and colonists against Argall's governing, he finally stepped down in April 1619 (Kelly 2018).

In June 1619, the Virginia Company instructed that 40 indentured servants be put at the disposal of Farrar when they arrived in Virginia (Kelly 2018). The payment for the cost of transporting these colonists would have resulted in a 2000 acre headright at 50 acres a head. However, the ship carrying the colonists never arrived in Jamestown due to a hurricane. Instead of proceeding to Virginia, the captain, William Wye, left his passengers in Bermuda and sailed the repaired ship directly back to England (Kelly 2018).

However, Farrar did receive a land patent for 100 acres on the Appomattox River, near what is now known as Hopewell, Virginia. The resultant legal suits between Captain Wye and the Virginia Company regarding the financial responsibility for the ship fiasco were not resolved until the end of 1622, when Farrar had already quit residence at his patent as a result of the Powhatan surprise attack of 1621/22 (Kelly 2018).

During the Powhatan attack, ten settlers on Farrar's land on the Appomattox River were killed. However, Farrar survived and made his way to Samuel Jordan's settlement at Beggars Bush, part of the plantation known as Jordan's Journey. William Farrar remained at Jordan's Journey, as it had become a fortified rallying place for the attack survivors (Kelly 2018).

Samuel Jordan died before June 1623. Sometime afterward, Farrar proposed marriage to Jordan's pregnant widow, Cecily. However, Reverend Greville Pooley claimed he had first proposed marriage and that Cecily had accepted. However, Cecily denied his proposal and accepted Farrar's, which resulted in Pooley filing suit. Eventually, Pooley signed an agreement in January 1624/5 that acquitted Cecily Jordan of her alleged former promises (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

In November 1623, Farrar was bonded to execute Samuel Jordan's will regarding the management of his estate, and Cecily Jordan was warranted to put down the security to guarantee Farrar's bond. A year later, the Jamestown muster of 1624/25 lists "ffarrar William mr & Mrs. Jordan" as sharing the head of Jordan's Journey household with three daughters and ten manservants. During this time, Jordan's Journey prospered. By May 1625, Farrar and Jordan were finally married. They had three children together: Cecily (born 1625), William (birth year uncertain), and John (born around 1632) (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

On March 14, 1625/6, William Farrar was appointed to the Council of Virginia by Charles I. This was a period of uncertainty for the colonists; the 1619 Great Charter of the Virginia Company had established self-governance through the Virginia Assembly, but James I dissolved the charter in 1624, and put the colony under direct royal authority (Kelly 2018). Just before James I died in March 1625, Charles I announced his intention to be the sole factor of his royal colonies. To this end, he commissioned a new structure, consisting of a governor, Sir George Yeardley, and 13 councillors, including William Farrar, to govern the royal colony on behalf of the Crown's interest (Kelly 2018).

. In August 1626, Farrar was also appointed by Yeardley as commissioner of the "Upper Partes" which lie along the James River west of Piersey's Hundred. When his commission was renewed by Governor Sir John Harvey in 1632, it also mandated that the court could only be in session when Farrar was present (Kelly 2018).

The William Farrar DNA scores were several and very consistent across donors. The haplogroup is what used to be called R1a1a and now has different branches. This haplogroup is common among South Asians, Central Asians, and a subset of Ashkenazi Jews, called Ashkenazi Levites (FTDNA-AshkenaziLeviteProject). We compared the DNA markers of the Farrar men with those of Ashkenazi Levites (FTDNA) and found three 20 or 22 marker matches on a 25 marker array. We concluded that the Farrar was likely of Ashkenazic Jewish ancestry.

### **Sir William Gooch (1681–1751)**

Sir William Gooch served as Lieutenant Governor of Virginia from 1727 until 1749 and is the namesake of Goochland County. Born in England, Gooch served in the British army during the War of the Spanish Succession (1701–1714) and later during a Jacobite uprising in Scotland. Appointed Lieutenant Governor by George I in 1727, Gooch was second only to Sir William Berkeley in the length of time he lived in the colony (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Gooch worked with Virginia's wealthy planter class to implement new policies; the most significant being the Tobacco Inspection Act of 1730. This act created a network of warehouses that graded the quality of the tobacco harvest and eliminated low-quality tobacco. The program, combined with market forces, helped generate more profitable harvests in Virginia. Gooch retired from political life and returned to England in 1749,



where he died in 1751 (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

As shown below, the Gooch DNA haplotype belongs to haplogroup R-M269. His close matches in the Jewish R-1b/R-m269 Project data base are mostly to Eastern European Ashkenazi Jews, but he does also have a strong match to a man in the Ayt-Gennad tribe in Algeria.

Gooch DNA

United Kingdom R-M269      13    23    14    10    11-14   12    12    11    13  
                                  13    29    15    9-10   11    11    25    15    19    28    15-16-16-17

HERMAN SHERMAN b.c. 1869, Dubno, Russia	Russian	R-	1	2	1	1	12-	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	9-	1	1	2	1	1	2	13-
	Federati	V1	3	3	4	1	13	2	3	2	3	3	9	5	9	1	1	5	5	8	8	14-
	on	636																				14-1

Alma bwaman, Mizrana, Ayt-Gennad tribe	Al	R-	1	2	1	1	11-	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	9-	1	1	2	1	1	2	15-15-
	ge	BY17	3	4	4	1	14	2	2	1	3	3	9	8	9	1	1	5	5	9	8	16-17
	ria	2105																				

Samuel Greenspan, born 1835, Poland	Po	R-	1	2	1	1	12-	1	1	1	1	1	2	1		1	1	2	1	1	2	13-14-
	lan	M26	3	3	4	1	13	2	3	2	3	3	9	5	9-9	1	1	5	5	8	8	14-16
	d	9																				

**Thomas Graves**

Thomas Graves (c. 1580-1635) was one of the original Adventurers of the Virginia Company of London, and one of the very early Planters who founded Jamestown. Graves arrived in Virginia in October 1608 on the ship *Mary and Margaret* with Captain Christopher Newport's second supply (Kelly 2018). He paid 25 pounds for two shares in the London Company and was entitled to 200 acres. Graves settled at Smythe's Hundred, situated on the north shore of the James River, ten miles from Jamestown. Governor George Yeardley placed Graves in charge of Smythe's Hundred on May 30, 1618 (Kelly 2018).

Graves was a member of the First Legislative Assembly in America, and, with Walter Shelley, sat for Smythe's Hundred when they met at Jamestown on July 30, 1619. Smythe's Hundred was abandoned after the Native uprising of 1622, and the next record of Captain Graves showed him living on the Eastern Shore of Virginia by February 16, 1624 (Kelly 2018).

On February 8, 1627, Captain Francis West, Governor of Virginia, granted Thomas Graves a commission to command the Plantation at Accomac. As an "Ancient Planter" he received one of the first patents there in 1628, consisting of 200 acres. Graves lived on Old Plantation Creek, now in Northampton County, Virginia, and served as Commissioner for Accomac Shire in 1629. Because he was designated as "Esquire" in 1635, he may have been a member of the Council at that time (Encyclopedia of Virginia.org).

He died between November 1635, when he witnessed a deed, and January 5, 1635/6, when suit was entered for Mrs. Graves concerning theft by a servant (EncyclopediaVirginia.org). He was survived by his wife, Katherine, and six children: John, Thomas, Ann, Verlinda, Katherine and Francis.

The DNA marker set shown below for Captain Thomas Graves is largely consistent with a Jewish man named Malga from France and a man named Pedro Cabrera. Both are Sephardic Jews in the Jewish Heritage DNA Project (FTDNA). One of the present authors is a direct descendant of Thomas Graves. This was determined through advanced DNA haplotype testing.

, Capt. Thomas Graves of VA,	R-	1	2	1	1	10-14	1	1	1	1	2	1	9-10	1	1	2	1	1	2	15-15-
b.c. 1580	M269	3	4	4	1		2	2	3	3	9	8		1	1	5	5	9	9	17-17

Malga	France	R-	1	2	1	1	10-14	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	9-	1	1	2	1	1	2	15-16-
		M269	3	4	4	1		2	2	2	3	3	9	7	10	1	1	6	4	8	9	16-17
Pedro Alomar	Unknow	R-	1	2	1	1	10-15	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	9-	1	1	2	1	1	2	
Cabrera,c.1872	n Origin	DF27	3	4	4	1		2	2	2	3	3	0	6	10	1	1	6	5	9	8	

**William Randolph**

We first take a look at William Randolph I, who was born in Morton Morrell Parish, Warwickshire, England, in 1651, and died on Turkey Island, Virginia, April 11, 1711. He founded the Randolph dynasty in 1680, establishing his home below the falls of the James River. His heirs developed neighboring plantations, eleven major ones in all. As the owners of tens of thousands of acres worked by hundreds of slaves, and acting also as merchants and ship-owners, the Randolphs had great influence on the economic affairs of the colony (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

William was the son of Richard Randolph (1620 – ca. 1671) and Elizabeth Ryland (1625–ca. 1669) of Warwickshire, England. Richard was originally from Little Houghton, a small village east of Northampton, where Richard Randolph's father, William, was a "steward and servant" to Edward la Zouche, 11th Baron Zouche (1556–1625). William had previously served in that same capacity to Sir George Goring, a landowner in Sussex (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Richard and Elizabeth lived in the heart of Parliamentary Warwickshire throughout the end of the English Civil Wars; their family was among the Cavaliers who supported the king. In 1657, the family moved to Dublin Ireland. Randolph's mother died there around 1669 and his father about two years later (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

William's uncle, Henry Randolph (1623-1673), traveled to England and Ireland from Virginia in 1669, and encouraged William to emigrate to Colonial Virginia. William was in the colony by 1672. William represented Henrico County, Virginia at the Virginia House of Burgesses and later was Speaker of the Virginia House of Burgesses. He was also a founding trustee of the College of William and Mary (EncyclopediaVirginia.org). Thomas and William Randolph II, the sons of William, were Virginia Burgesses for Henrico County in 1720 and 1722. Sir John Randolph, the son of William Randolph, became a Speaker of the House of Burgesses, and later Deputy Attorney General for Charles City, Prince George, and Henrico Counties (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

**Henry Randolph**

Henry Randolph I, was born in 1623 in Little Houghton, Northamptonshire (EncyclopediaVirgina.org). He immigrated to the colony of Virginia in 1642, sponsored by Sir William Berkeley. Henry acquired title to land on the north side of Swift Creek in Bermuda Hundred in 1655 and built Swift Creek Mill, one of the first grist mills in the United States, about 1663 (EncyclopediaVirgina.org)

Henry married Judith, the daughter of speaker of the House of Burgesses, Henry Soane, with whom he had a son, Henry II. Henry Randolph I was the uncle of William Randolph of Turkey Island, whom Henry had sponsored to emigrate to Colonial Virginia. Henry died in Henrico County, Virginia in 1673 (EncyclopediaVirginia.org). Beverley Randolph, grandson of William Randolph, was a Virginia Delegate for Henrico County from 1777 to 1780 and the 8th Governor of Virginia, the first after the US Constitution was ratified. Edmund Randolph, grandson of Sir John Randolph, was an aid-de-camp to George Washington in the American Revolutionary War. He was seventh Governor of Virginia, the second Secretary of State, and the first United States Attorney General (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

The DNA haplotype markers, R-M269, for the Randolph family are very consistent across several samples. These samples are congruent with those of a man named Juan Vargas, a Sephardic Jew from Spain, whose DNA is in the Jewish R1b/R-m269 DNA Project (FTDNA). Thus we believe that the Randolph family is very likely of Sephardic Jewish descent.

	Henry Randolph of Albemarle Co., Virginia		R-M269	13	24	14	10	11-15	12	12	12	13	13	30	16	9-9	11	11	26	15	19	29	15-15-17-17	10	9	19-23	14	15	18	17	36-38	11	12
2310	Randolph	Henry Randolph of Albemarle Co., VA	England	R-M269	13	24	14	10	11-15	12	12	13	13	30	16	9-9	11	11	26	15	19	29	15-15-17-17	10	9	19-23	14	15	18	17	36-38	11	12
264410	Randolph	John Randall, b. 1470 and d. 1522	England	R-M269	13	24	14	10	11-15	12	12	13	13	30	16	9-9	11	11	26	15	19	29	15-15-17-17										

### John Rolphe/Rolfe

John Rolfe (1585–1622) was a British colonist of the Americas. He was an important figure in Virginia politics and an entrepreneur who played a significant role in founding the Virginia tobacco trade. However, he is best known as the man who married the daughter of Powhatan, head of the

Rolfe was born on Oct. 17, 1562 to a wealthy family in Heacham, England. His family owned Heacham manor and his father was a successful merchant in Lynn.

Not much is known about Rolfe's education or life in England, but in July of 1609, he left for Virginia on the Sea-Venture, the flagship of several vessels carrying settlers and provisions and the first group of government officials to the new colony at Jamestown.

Rolfe brought with him his first wife, Sarah Hacker. The Sea-Venture was wrecked in a storm on the Bermudas, but all the passengers survived and Rolfe and his wife stayed on Bermuda for eight months.

Rolfe lost both his first wife and their newborn daughter in Bermuda. He and the surviving shipwrecked passengers left Bermuda in 1610. When they arrived in May 1610, the Virginia colony had just suffered through the "starving time," a grim period in early American history. Over the winter of 1609–1610, the colonists were beset by plague and yellow fever, and sieges by the local inhabitants. An estimated three-quarters of the English colonists of Virginia died of starvation or starvation-related diseases that winter.

Between 1610 and 1613, Rolfe experimented with the native tobacco at his home in Henricus and succeeded in producing a leaf that was more pleasing to the British palate. His version was named the Orinoco, and it was developed from the combination of a local version and seeds from Trinidad that he had brought with him from Spain or perhaps obtained in Bermuda. He is also credited with inventing a curing process to prevent rot during the long sea voyage to England, as well as the dampness of the English climate.

By 1614, active exports of tobacco were being sent back to England, and Rolfe is often credited as the first person to suggest cultivating tobacco as a cash crop in the Americas, the major source of income for Virginia for centuries to follow.

Throughout this period, the Jamestown colony continued to suffer from an adversarial relationship with the Native American inhabitants, the Powhatan tribe. In 1613, Captain Samuel Argall kidnapped Powhatan's favorite daughter, Pocahontas, and eventually, she was brought to Henricus. There she received religious instruction from the settlement's minister, Rev. Alexander Whitaker, and converted to Christianity, taking the name Rebecca. She also met John Rolfe.

Rolfe married her around April 5, 1614, after sending a letter to the governor of Virginia asking for permission to do so, "for the good of the Plantation, the honor of our Country, for the Glory of God, for my own salvation, and for the Converting to the true knowledge of Jesus Christ an unbelieving Creature, namely Pocahontas."

After Rolfe married Pocahontas, relationships between the British settlers and Pocahontas' tribe settled into a time of friendly commerce and trade. That freedom created opportunities to build up the colony as it had not seen before.

Pocahontas had a son, Thomas Rolfe, born in 1615, and on April 21, 1616, Rolfe and his family joined an expedition back to Britain to publicize the Virginia colony. In England, Pocahontas as the "Lady Rebecca" was received enthusiastically: among other events, she attended "The Vision of Delight," a royal court masque written by Ben Jonson for King James I and his wife Queen Anne.

In March of 1616, Rolfe and Pocahontas started for home, but she was ill and died aboard the ship before it left England. She was buried at Gravesend; their infant son, too ill to survive the voyage, was left behind to be raised by Rolfe's brother Henry.

Though he married multiple times and had several children, many died in infancy or were daughters who did not carry his paternal Y-DNA chromosome. However, we were able to identify a contemporaneous male relative in England named Simon Rolfe whose DNA is on file in the Rolfe/Rolph DNA Project. These haplotype markers are shown below.

11	10	19-23	17	14	17	17	36-37	13	12	11	9	15-16	8	10	10	8	10	10	12	23-23	16	10	12	14	8	12	23	20	13	12	11	13	11	11	13	12	36	15	9	16	12	26		
374400	Ralph	Simon ROFFE/ROLFE, b. 1583 & d. 1640 Tenterden, Kent	R-M269	13	23	14	11	11-14	12	12	11	13	13	29	16	9-10	11	11	24	15	19	28	15-16	17-19																				

These markers were a 23 out of 25 marker match for a Spanish man in Madrid Spain and also matched two members of the Jewish R1b/Rm269 project from Puerto Rico and one Jewish man from Tunisia. We believe a strong case can be made that the Rolfe family was of Sephardic Jewish descent.

Shown below is an announcement selling a copper halfpenny minted by Simon Rolfe in Wiltshire, England. Minters were frequently of Jewish ancestry.

Simon Rolfe- Wiltshire England - abt:1610

By **Marie Thurman-Vann** June 18, 2007 at 11:07:07

17th. century copper halfpenny token (18mm.) for SALISBURY in Wiltshire issued by Simon ROLFE in 1666.

The design on this token is the Rolfe family arms and crest - three ravens with a raven crest on helmet...He is listed as one of the eighty-six Burgers of Salisbury who voted for the return of two members of Parliament in 1656.

The Rolfe family originally come from Norfolk and probably the most famous Rolfe was John Rolfe who arrived in the newly established Virginian Colony of Jamestown in 1609. John Rolfe married the Indian princess Pocahontas in 1614 thus easing the relationship between the Powhatan Confederacy and new settlers. He brought her back to England in 1616 where unfortunately she died, probably of consumption, a year later. The exact family relationship of John Rolfe and the issuer of this token is not known, but they were of the same family as they both bear the same arms.

### Robert Talliaferro



Robert Talliaferro was born in 1626 in England; he had immigrated to Virginia by 1647 when he witnessed the will of Robert Meeke of York County. Researchers differ on the maiden name of Robert's wife, Catherine. His children probably included: Frances Talliaferro (1654), who married Elizabeth Catlett, John Talliaferro (1654), who married Sarah Smith, and Richard Talliaferro, who married Sarah Wingfield, Robert Talliaferro II, who married Sarah Catlett, Mary Talliaferro, who married a Johnson, Catherine Talliaferro (1668), who married John Battaile, (this name later became spelled as Battle), and Charles Talliaferro (1670), who married Mary Carter. Thus the Talliaferro family had aligned itself with several of the major families in the Colony by the second generation (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Robert was granted 600 acres of land at the head of Ware River. On November 20, 1672, Katherine Talliaferro was granted 600 acres for transporting eight enslaved black people and four English servants "which rights I doe hereby assigne over to my son Robert Talliaferro." (*Rappahannock County Records Deed Book 5*, p. 99.)

In 1682, Frances distributed land from their father's estate to his brothers, John, Richard, and Charles. In 1686, Catherine and Charles chose their brother Robert as their guardian. On June 1, 1687, Robert Taliferro, Jr. gave bond for the estate of Robert Talliaferro, deceased. After Robert died, Catherine probably married Cadwallader Jones (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

Talliaferro is spelled Talliaferro, Tagliaferro, Talifero, or Taliferr in some records, and sometimes Anglicised to Tellifero, Tolliver or Toliver, The name Talliaferro means "iron-cutter" or blacksmith. This trade was common among Sephardic Jews. Additional research indicates that the family emigrated from Italy to

England in 1562 to serve as musicians in the court of Elizabeth I and were known to have Sephardic ancestry (Hirschman and Yates 2014).

### **Bartholomew Taliaferro, Sr.**

Bartholomew Taliaferro, Sr. was born about 1530 in Venice, Italy. He died September 21, 1601 in England. His occupation was listed as court musician to Queen Elizabeth and merchant. He married Joane Lane on January 1, 1583 or 1584 in St. Michael's, Cornhill, London, England. Their children were Katherine, Horatio, Ciprion (or Siprion), Francis, Jacob and Isack (twins) (note here the Judaic naming pattern), Jerome (or Jeromme), Elizabeth (or Elyzabeth) and Bartholomew Taliaferro (Wagner and Andrus, 1969).

The origins of the Taliaferro name were of interest to George Wythe, a Virginia colonial lawyer and classical scholar, who had married Elizabeth Taliaferro, the daughter of Richard Taliaferro. Wythe asked friend Thomas Jefferson to investigate the name when Jefferson traveled to Italy. Jefferson reported that he had found two families of the name in Tuscany, and that the family was of Italian origin. Jefferson enclosed his sketch of the coat of arms of the Tagliaferro family as reported to him by a friend in Florence, Italy (EncyclopediaVirginia.org).

The DNA samples below all match each other to a high degree of resolution and show the Talliaferro family to match across the spellings Talliaferro, Tolliver, and Toliver. The current DNA matches show family members living in Spain, Italy, France, Germany and also a match to the surname Coffey. The haplogroup E-M35 is one of the founding lineages of the Jewish people, originating in the Middle East. The pattern of dispersion shown by the sample suggests that the Talliaferro family of Virginia originally was Sephardic Jewish, some of whom migrated to England.

Talliaferro E-M35 13 24 14 10 17-18 11 12 10 12 11 29 14 9-9 11 11 27

### **TIME FOR SOME REVISIONISM IN VIRGINIA HISTORY**

It is indeed time for some revisionism in Virginia history. The families we have just discussed have been the gatekeepers of the upper level of White Supremacy since its inception in the 1700s. These families were the initial slaveholders, plantation builders, and political power holders during the formation of the United States. But the data presented in the forgoing analysis have shown them to be non-AngloSaxon, non-Christian refugees, fleeing from Inquisitions and pogroms based on prejudice and racism

Unfortunately, once they arrived in North America, they turned this same attitude of ethnic superiority and supremacy on others in order to gain economic advantage. With that choice, they lost their claim to the moral high ground. It is time we – the descendants of these refugees – came face to with this legacy. We must embrace the equality of all persons, regardless of race, ethnicity, country of origin or religious affiliation. We must remember that we too were once strangers in a strange land.

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### **APPENDIX**

One of the current buzzwords in the social sciences is *disciplinary silos*. This concept draws attention to the insularity of disciplines, activities, and research approaches using only a dominant paradigm, method, or vocabulary to study a phenomenon. Over the past few decades, greater strides have been made within and across fields when ideas and ways of thinking are imported from other disciplines, rather than using only orthodox approaches. For example, energy researchers have learned from ecologists how to make their products more efficiently and with less environmental damage. Pharmaceutical scientists have learned from indigenous peoples about plants and animals relevant to treating disease. Cognitive psychologists have learned from neurosurgeons

about how humans store, process and use sensory, written and mathematical information. If each of these fields had remained embedded in prior theories and research techniques, much less progress would have been made.

We propose that the same can be said for the discipline of historical studies. Whether examining the last decade, the last century, or the last millennium, historians have depended upon written, carved, painted – and more recently – photographic images to conduct their research. These may be cunieform symbols inscribed on clay tablets, carvings on rock slabs (e.g., stele), papyrus scrolls, tomb inscriptions, statues, hand-written documents or printed manuscripts.

Archaeologists and cultural anthropologists, who also study human history, have been more progressive in adopting technologies such as satellite photography, in-ground radar, and magnetic imaging in their research. These have provided novel perspectives to archaeological researchers, permitting them to locate, for example, the outlines of flattened city-walls, which are not visible when a site is only viewed from ground level or excavated downward in a square area. Large-scale features and perimeters can become visible when viewed from high above ground or even from space.

We propose that current historians resemble the archaeologists of old – they dig in one narrow trench using available documents and consider that an accurate excavation of an historical event. In so doing, they miss the big picture. For example, where did all the Spanish (Sephardic) Jews and Muslim Moors go after being forced out of Spain? Some have been traced to North Africa, others to the Ottoman Empire, others to the islands of the Mediterranean and some to the Baltic region. However, many of them went to two other geographic locales which are highly significant for our thesis – the Northern coast of Europe above Spain (i.e., Netherlands, France, and England) and the New World (Samuel 2004).

Indeed, anthropologists now have learned that Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean islands were – and are – largely colonized by persons of Sephardic and Moorish ancestry, as are Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Central America and Mexico (Kagan and Morgan 2009). How did these researchers learn this? Through genealogical DNA testing of the male Y chromosome and the female Mitochondria DNA (Bettinger and Wayne 2016).

Historical documents can be lost, falsified, or written to be purposely misleading. DNA is what it is – chemical molecules in each and every cell of one's body. Properly collected, analyzed and compared to other samples, DNA does not lie.

### **Commercial DNA Testing Services**

In 2000, Family Tree DNA (FTDNA.com), founded by Bennett Greenspan and Max Blankfeld, was the first company dedicated to direct-to-consumer testing for genealogy research. In 2019, new analysis tools were developed; these included auto-clusters (grouping all matches visually into clusters) and family tree theories (suggesting possible relationships between DNA matches by combining several trees as well as global family trees). This permits users to track the genetic evolution of their ancestry over time in a fine-grained manner – their ancestors' paths across both time and space can now be viewed, sometimes to within a few hundred years.

### **How does DNA Testing Work?**

A genealogical DNA test is performed on a sample provided by the individual. Typically, the sample collection uses a home test kit supplied by a service provider such as 23andMe, AncestryDNA, Family Tree DNA, or MyHeritage. After following the kit instructions on how to collect the sample, the user returns it to the supplier for analysis. The sample is then processed using a technology known as DNA microarray to obtain the genetic information requested by the consumer (Bettinger and Wayne 2016).

### **Female Line Testing**

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is transmitted from mother to child, thus a direct maternal ancestor can be traced using mtDNA (Bettinger and Wayne 2016). This transmission occurs with very few mutations over time. A perfect match found to another person's mtDNA test results indicates shared ancestry of possibly between 1 and 50 generations ago. More distant matching to a specific haplogroup or subclade may be linked to a common ancestor. (Bettinger and Wayne 2016).

### **Y chromosome (Y-DNA) testing**

The Y-Chromosome is one of the 23rd pair of human chromosomes. Only males have a Y-chromosome, because women have two X chromosomes in their 23rd pair. A man's patrilineal ancestry, or male-line ancestry, can be traced using the DNA on his Y chromosome (Y-DNA), because the Y-chromosome is transmitted father to son nearly unchanged. A man's test results are compared to another man's results to determine the time frame in which the two individuals shared a most recent common ancestor (MRCA) in their direct paternal line (Bettinger and Wayne 2016). Women who wish to determine their direct paternal DNA ancestry can ask their father, brother, paternal uncle, paternal grandfather, or a paternal uncle's son (their cousin) to take the test for them. There are two types of paternal DNA testing one can order: STR and SNP.

### **STR markers**

The most common type of testing is performed using STR (short tandem repeat). A certain section of DNA is examined for a pattern that repeats basic chemical components of the DNA. The number of times it repeats is the value of the marker. Typical tests examine between 12 and 111 STR markers. STRs mutate fairly frequently, which permits different branches of paternal ancestry to be charted. The results of two individuals are then compared to see if there is a match. DNA companies will usually provide an estimate of how closely related two people are, in terms of generations or years, based on the difference between their results (Bettinger and Wayne 2016).

### **SNP markers and Haplogroups**

A person's male ancestral haplogroup can often be inferred from STR results, but can be proven only with a Y-chromosome SNP test (Y-SNP test). Getting an SNP test allows a much higher resolution of one's male ancestry than STRs. It can also be used to provide additional information about the relationship between two individuals and to confirm one's ancestral haplogroup.

All human men descend in the paternal line from a single man, known as Y-chromosomal Adam, who lived in Africa. Different branches of this descent tree constitute different haplogroups. Most haplogroups can be further subdivided into sub-clades. Some known sub-clades were founded just in the last 1000 years, meaning their time-frame can be connected to specific surnames (FTDNA.com).

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