

Genetic Genealogy Annotated Bibliography

This annotated bibliography was developed with two goals in mind:

- (1) To encourage genealogists to read and learn about the science of genetics and the use of DNA in their own family research;
- (2) To help genealogists unfamiliar with this scientific field to select books that will be the most relevant and useful in their research.

Rating Keys for the Reader

Relevance to genealogy projects:

- *** Excellent
- ** Fair
- * More scientific or unrelated

Difficulty level for lay readers:

- ^ Easy to understand
- ^^ Takes patience to follow
- ^^^ Need a degree in science

I. Introductory Books On Genetics and DNA

Bodmer, Walter and McKie, Robin (1994). *The Book of Man: The Quest to Discover Our Genetic Heritage*. London, UK: Little, Brown and Co.

Relevance **

Difficulty ^

While this is an older book, it is still in print (I found it on a discount table at one of the chain bookstores). It lacks the more recent research in the genetic field and was written before the completion of the human genome project. However, it is clearly written and can still offer a basic introduction to genetics and DNA.

Surprisingly this book actually spends considerable time using family history stories and traits to illustrate genetic issues. It begins with an involved story of Sir John Kerr and "*Ferniehirst Castle (which) stands on a steep slope,...on the Scottish-English border.*" They discuss how a specific trait – left-handedness – became associated with the Kerr name, and in fact the entire Castle was laid out to accommodate left-handed family members. Today in Scotland "Kerr-handed" means left-handed.

This should not be the only book that you read as an introduction because it is too out of date, but if you see it in a bookstore, pick it up as a basic introduction.

Davies, Kevin (2001). *Cracking the Genome: Inside the Race To Unlock Human DNA*. New York: The Free Press

Relevance *

Difficulty ^^

This is a good introductory book that blends an overview of the history and early discoveries in genetics with discussions of the relevance of these findings to the quality of future life. It was written shortly after the announcement in June, 2000 by then President Clinton that the first draft of the

Human Genome Project had been completed. This meant that the map of our human DNA had been essentially completed and recorded. On that day British prime minister Tony Blair called this accomplishment "the first great technological triumph of the 21st century."

My criticism of the book is that it dwells too much on the personalities and political process of the "race" to define the genome. This is not particularly relevant to our research. However, the author does have a couple of helpful chapters relevant to genealogy: "The Story of Us: The Secrets of Who We Are," and "The Language of God: A Defining Moment In the History Of the Human Race."

This is a fair introductory book but there are better ones that provide more specific introductory and basic information for our genetic genealogy research purposes.

Dennis, Carina and Gallagher, Richard (2001). ***The Human Genome***. London: Nature Publishing Group.

Relevance **

Difficulty ^^

If I had taken my time to read a few introductory books on genetics before I jumped into the more technical books a couple of years ago, it would have helped immensely and saved considerable time having to piece together aspects of the field. This is one of the most helpful introductory books even though it is slightly technical in places. It is filled throughout with colored pictures of chromosomes and DNA charts, a glossary of basic terms and 20 pages of colored print outs with images of each of our 23 chromosomes. To top that off, it even has an Introduction by James T. Watson, the co-discoverer of the DNA double helix.

The first chapter is called, "An Owner's Guide to the Genome," and it explains everything from the relationships between DNA, genes, and chromosomes to nucleotides and the human genome. Numerous diagrams explain the organization of genes along the double helix as well as the process of mutations and their effects on life and health. Another chapter, "The Art of DNA Sequencing," describes the details and process of "reading the genetic script," which is certainly relevant for all of us to understand who participate in a DNA surname project. While the book becomes somewhat more technical toward the end, the first half makes it worth the price.

An excellent book. It should be the first one you read.

Hart, Anne (2000). ***How To Interpret Your DNA Test Results For Family History and Ancestry: Scientists Speak Out On Genealogy Joining Genetics***. Lincoln, Nebraska: iUniverse Publishers.

Relevance ***

Difficulty ^

Frankly, I was expecting more from this book since the title seems to focus on what all of us need to know. However, I found it to be a rather

scattered collection of interviews, websites and random information about DNA in general with various attempts to relate the material to genealogy. It appears that it was hurriedly "thrown together" for quick publication because there are numerous spelling and grammatical errors. That may sound overly critical on my part but it tells me something about the author and the publication process. Perhaps a note on the back cover says a lot: *"She (the author)...has written up to three books a year since 1963...."*

Having said all of that, the book does have a helpful glossary of terms that covers 50 pages. Also, the author's discussion of her own experiences with testing for her mtDNA was helpful.

If you are just getting started in this field and do not plan to read a lot, then I would start with this one. However, if you have read or are planning to read other works, such as Sykes and Olson, then I would skip this one.

Hawley, R. Scott and Mori, Catherine A. (1999). ***The Human Genome: A User's Guide***. San Diego, CA: Academic Press.

Relevance *

Difficulty ^^^

I have learned from my readings that books which were written prior to 2000, when the completion of the mapping of the Human Genome was announced, are rather out of date. This book appeared that it might be a helpful resource for scientific definitions. However, I found that the term *User's Guide* in the title did not refer to lay readers, like myself, but should have read, *A User's Guide for Ph.D. Students in Genetics*.

This is perhaps the most technical book on genetics I have tried to read. However, it is a useful resource for looking up explanations of specific aspects of genetics, such as mutations and the DNA aspects of certain medical conditions.

This is beyond what most of us will ever need to know about genetics.

Scientific American (2002). ***Understanding the Genome***. New York: Warner Books, Inc.

Relevance *

Difficulty ^^^

This is a small paperback with a collection of 18 chapters that focus on either very scientific issues or speculations about how the definition of the human genome will effect our lives medically and ethically. I had thought that this would be a better introductory work but it was much too specialized in specific scientific issues to be very helpful.

For the reader who wishes to understand genetics in the broader scientific and political context.

Watson, James D. and Berry, Andrew (2003). ***DNA: The Secret of Life***. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Relevance **

Difficulty ^^^

James Watson, along with Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins, won the Nobel Prize for Physiology/Medicine in 1962. At the age of 24 years he helped identify the elusive structure of DNA – the form of the *double helix*. The definition of this structure of DNA became the foundation upon which present-day genetics has evolved and it provided the ability to map the human genome.

This is Watson's reflective story and narrative of his early years in genetics, the process by which the double helix was defined, and how the field has evolved. At times his story is fascinating and hard to put down, and in other places it bogs down in the discussion of financial and political issues in ongoing research. As certainly one of the senior geneticists in the world today, Watson's chapters on "Genetic Fingerprinting," "Gene Hunting," "Defying Disease," and "Who We Are: Nature vs. Nurture" are contributions to understanding the role that genetics and DNA will play in our futures and that of our grandchildren.

Even as a scientist, Watson was not immune from the genealogy "bug." He reports in the book about his own trip to Ireland to learn more about his great grandfather in County Tipperary. While his trip was unsuccessful in locating more specific family history, he indicated that he used Bryan Sykes' Oxford Ancestors to analyze both his Y and mtDNA. He reports: *"Sadly the tests revealed nothing romantic, no exotic ancestry. I really am, as I feared, largely the product of generic Scots-Irish stock. I cannot even blame my more brutish attributes on ancient Viking incursions into my bloodline (p.259)."*

This is an excellent book to read for those who want to become more thoroughly versed in the history and future of genetics.

II. Books that Deal with Our Genetic Origins and History

Jones, Steve (2003). *Y: The Descent of Men*. Boston/New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Relevance *

Difficulty ^

The author, a well-known geneticist at University College in London, uses his background and research knowledge to put together a work that is sometimes humorous and often irreverent in his view of masculinity – its history and future in our culture. While the book is somewhat rambling from topic to topic, it is readable and enhanced by colorful illustrations. His topics range from his belief that, based on the role of the Y chromosome, the male in our culture is declining in terms of both social status and biological longevity, to other issues of circumcision and male baldness.

An enjoyable book to read, perhaps more so for females who may wish to understand the biological and emotional make-up of males.

Fitzpatrick, Colleen (undated). *Forensic Genealogy*. Self published in California.

Relevance ****/***

Difficulty ^/^^^

This book needs to be divided into two parts in order to be reviewed fairly. The first part, slightly over one-half of the book, deals with “digital” detective work. Its goal is to enhance the detective traits of all of us who do genealogy – but, its focus is on the understanding and use of digital data. The two primary resources discussed are historic photographic analysis, and the management and analysis of digital databases. The photo analysis will be helpful to all readers, beginning and advanced, and uses clear examples to date geographical settings, clothing, and even weather information. The author uses extensive pictures and charts, and data from her own family research, to follow a case study and to illustrate getting the maximum benefit from a variety of databases.

For those of us working with DNA projects, the second part of the book focuses on “The DNA Detective.” This section moves from a helpful introduction to the use of DNA in genealogy, with good illustrations of SNPs, Haplogroups, mtDNA sequences, and MRCA calculations. However, the book then makes a rather large leap into the scientific world of mathematical models, “binomial expansion and Poisson distribution spreadsheets”, and phylogenetic charts and cladograms. A CD comes with the book as well as access to the author through her website.

For the reader who wishes to construct a phylogenetic chart of Y-DNA data, the author directs the reader to a freeware program and walks one through the steps of downloading that program, entering the data, doing the calculations, and then drawing the cladogram. My own attempts to do this found the directions from the book fairly straightforward. However, without the underlying knowledge base possessed by the author (an optical expert and scientist for NASA and the National Science Foundation), the leap to understanding the software’s rejection of my data on numerous attempts and then further complicated messages and instructions was rather frustrating. Let me add that the author responded immediately to my email for help with technical suggestions.

Read this book, in part, as an excellent resource for analyzing photos and databases. Administrators of DNA surname projects may wish to read the second part of the book to gain more scientific resources in genetics and as an introduction to phylogenetic charts and cladograms.

Sykes, Bryan (2001). *The Seven Daughters of Eve: The Science that Reveals Our Genetic Ancestry*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Relevance ***

Difficulty ^

This was a landmark book for the genetic genealogy field. It was written for lay readers and integrated the most recent DNA research with the author's own experiences as a researcher extracting ancient DNA samples and using them to track the origins of the earliest human populations. Sykes is an internationally known geneticist at Oxford University in the UK.

Sykes wrote in clear, engaging, and often dramatic language about the advancements and use of DNA in dating, tracking and linking early populations to one another and to specific geographical origins. The book offers an excellent description of Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) that is only passed on through the maternal line and how its analysis has proved to be revolutionary in dating our earliest and most primitive origins.

The "Seven Daughters" are named by Sykes to identify seven genetic profiles that eventually populated Europe. Their profiles are based on ancient mutations in the mtDNA. The timelines of these profiles ranged from 10,000 to 45,000 years ago. The data suggests that the unique DNA profile of each group was carried into history and followed them through their specific migratory routes by *just one woman* for each group. This did not mean that there was only one "Eve" but that among a population of women in primitive cultures, one woman's DNA survived to be passed into our present populations.

While the author's naming of the "Daughters" and his general findings have been debated within the scientific community and it has been acknowledged that there are probably more "Daughters" who carry the DNA of European populations, this is still an important book for our research. It is filled with great readable stories of the author's own research ranging from the retrieval and analysis of the DNA of Cheddar Man discovered in the UK to his work in identifying the origins of the Polynesian peoples and their origins.

I suggest that all volunteers in our DNA Project read this book. It should be read by all of us working in genetic genealogy!

Sykes, Bryan (2003). ***Adam's Curse: A Future Without Men.*** London/New York: Bantam Press

Relevance: ***

Difficulty: ^^

This is a follow-up book to Sykes' work above. However, it focuses entirely on the origins, evolution, and roles of the male Y chromosome. This book is somewhat more technical than the "Seven Daughters" and, while it covers a lot of basics in DNA and genetic research, it pursues more the genetic evolution of the Y chromosome and its future role for males in the population. He describes the Y chromosome as the "Lonely Chromosome" and discuss how this is singularly used "to make a man" in his chapters on "maleness," sexuality and testosterone.

The book does have good chapters which explain the use of the Y chromosome in research to "fingerprint" the migration of certain populations (much as he used the mtDNA to identify the "Seven Daughters"). He reports on his research of tracking the Vikings' DNA into Scotland, on his studies of Genghis

Khan, and in tracking the Mongolians' into Europe. As in his prior book, Sykes is good at translating genetic and population research into understanding and interesting stories for the lay reader.

The most important aspect of this book for the genetic genealogist, particularly for the males who are participants in a surname study, is Sykes' description of his own personal process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting his own YDNA profile in his lab at Oxford. He walks the reader through the entire process of how the DNA sample is analyzed chemically and how the bases and sequences are identified. He uses his own DNA to discuss how the data can then be interpreted and used to analyze the historical facts of the overall Sykes family in England.

Sykes' excitement in seeing his DNA for the first time under his microscope is contagious: *"This is my Y-chromosome, the bearer of my maleness and the token passed unaltered down from a long line of fathers.... It...now speaks with a single voice, one that has come to me from generations of men. It stands alone, a perfect copy of the chromosome that lived in my father and in my father's father and in a thousand others of my paternal ancestors stretching back to the thirteenth-century. I stare at it, imagining its long journey from distant ancestors (pp.29-30)...."*

This is must reading for all of the men who are considering or who have completed a DNA test.

Hall, Barry G. (2004). ***Phylogenetic Trees Made Easy: A How-To Manual, Second Edition***. Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates, Inc.

Relevance *

Difficulty ^^^^

The "Made Easy" part of this title is deceptive. In fact, I am surprised that it is listed on the FamilyTreeDNA "reading list." It is intended as a "supplement to the primary text" in courses on "systemics" or "phylogenetics" with its goal being to give "attention to the problem of aligning proteins and nucleic acids."

If you have read a little about phylogenetic trees and reviewed how they have been used with Y-DNA data on some of the genetic websites, then the discussion of various software to create trees and the description of the various types and shapes of trees might be helpful. A CD with data and examples comes with the book

Read this book if you are planning to learn more about the theory and mathematics on which the calculations and production of these charts are based. It will help if you have a scientific background.

III. Books On Genetic Studies Of Population Origins and Migrations

Cavalli-Sforza, Luigi Luca (2000). *Genes, Peoples, and Languages*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press

Relevance **

Difficulty ^^^

This book may help serious genetic genealogists understand the scientific data that supports the analysis of genetic patterns within comparative cultures. It is primarily scientific, quite academic, and focuses on the reporting of research in the field. Examples of data and charts include: "Genetic variations between populations"; "Genetic distances between continents"; "Comparison of linguistic families with the genetic tree"; and "A synthetic view of 42 world populations based on the genetic distances among them".

One of the most interesting aspects of the book is the author's construction of a "population tree" based on the integration of genetic and linguistic data. There is also an interesting discussion of the population data based on a comparison of DNA and blood types.

While these data reported in the book have direct relevancy for the genealogical search for our early origins, this is a complicated and technical book to read.

Olson, Steve (2002). *Mapping Human History: Genes, Race, and Our Common Origins*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Relevance ***

Difficulty ^

This is a well-organized and well-written introduction and overview of the role that DNA has come to play in both the dating and tracking the early human population movements. It is written by a journalist, not a scientist, which is simply a compliment regarding its readability.

The topics proceed from "African Origins" and "Diaspora" to the "Divergence of Modern Humans." There are good sections that relate these DNA studies to the prior literature in anthropology and ethnicity. There is also an excellent chapter on "God's People: A Genetic History of the Jews."

For those of us working on understanding and tracking our early origins based on haplogroup data, there are clear chapters on the early population settlements in Europe and the Americas.

If you only read one book in this area, this should be the one that you start with.

Oppenheimer, Stephen (2003). *Out of Eden: The Peopling of the World*. London, UK: Constable & Robinson, Ltd.

Relevance ***

Difficulty ^^

The author, who is on the faculty at Oxford University, is noted for his pioneering research on integrating DNA with past and present archeological theories. This is one of the better discussions of the "Out of Africa" theories

because he relates recent DNA findings to prior controversies and uses the DNA to support or refute these theories.

Because of his training in archeology he focuses on the environmental factors, and specifically climate changes, that may have dramatically affected the early human adaptations and migrations: *"The forces that drove our adaptive survival against overwhelming odds in the African savannah are the key to our nature and to our extraordinary story.... We were specially selected and molded by a fierce, blind, unthinking environment. Like all evolving species, we had ancestors and cousins who shared some of our abilities but perished in adversity (p.3)."*

For those of us working with Y DNA and mtDNA studies, the author provides excellent chapters on the migrations into Europe. He concludes: *"The genetic answer is clear: 80 per cent of modern Europeans descend from the old hunter-gatherer gene types, and only 20 per cent from Near Eastern farmers (p.xxi)."*

The book is filled with extensive notes, references and charts, including an Appendix on "The Real Daughters of Eve," and "The Sons of Adam."

Despite the difficulty of this subject, much of the book reads like a "story" of our ancestors. For all of us working with DNA surname data, this should be at the top of our reading lists.

Rudgley, Richard (2002). ***Barbarians: Secrets of the Dark Ages***. London, UK: Channel 4 Books.

Relevance **

Difficulty ^^

This book is ideal for those of us who have an insatiable need to track down every possible element of our earliest origins. It is particularly relevant for those readers who wish to learn more about the historical events and migrations that affect the understanding of the basic haplogroups and particularly the origins of the Celts, the Angles and Saxons, the Goths, the Vikings, and the Huns. While there is less focus on DNA data, its subject matter parallels the haplogroup research.

The timeline of the book covers AD 300 to 1000, the "Early Medieval Period," or as it was known in England, the "Dark Ages." It was a period following the fall of the Roman culture where many migrating tribes moved into new geographical areas, some for conquest, some for relocation, others to pillage. They were referred to as "the barbarians" but in reality many of the tribes displayed quite organized social structures and advanced skills, such as in ship making. If you believe that your origins are possibly Nordic, this book has five chapters on the Viking culture and the follows their earliest intrusion into England in 793.

This is well written, straightforward with colorful illustrations and stories.

Wells, Spencer (2002). ***The Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey***. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Relevance ***

Difficulty ^^

This book, written by the former head of population genetics at Oxford University, was developed in conjunction with a documentary film for television. The first one-third of the book offers a clear and concise introduction to genetics and how they are used in population studies. From there the author addresses more specific and personal issues of using DNA to identify our origins: *"My Y-chromosome is defined by a marker known as M173. What this means is that at some point in the past, a man – one person – had a change from an A to a C (the base chemicals in his DNA) at a particular position in the nucleotide sequence....All of his sons also carried this marker....and over time it increased in frequency.... Today M173 is very common in western Europe...- over 70 per cent of men in southern England have it,....(p.81)"*

The author continues by identifying other polymorphisms in his own DNA and uses this as the basis to discuss early human migrations. The latter part of the book focuses on describing a DNA-based family tree and timeline. Helpful maps and charts appear through the work.

This book explains in a clear and personal way how our DNA profiles and haplotypes tie us to the earliest origins of human life and migration.

Cavalli-Sforza, L. Luca, Menozzi, Paolo, & Piazza, Alberto (1994). ***The History and Geography of Human Genes***. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Relevance ****

Difficulty ^^^

This work, along with the *The Great Human Diasporas* (1993), represent the foundational publications on DNA population data by Cavalli-Sforza, the often-quoted Stanford University geneticist. His later work, *Genes, Peoples, and Languages* (2000), is an extension of this early data. While this is basically a scientific presentation of research data, it should not be seen as intimidating as other similar works. It is well organized and written rather clearly, with numerous charts, diagrams, and maps.

Its focus covers what the authors describe in Chapter Two as a "Genetic History of World Populations." The discussion of the role of DNA data in studying early populations is put in the context of paleoanthropology, archeology, linguistics, and climatology. The following chapters present the data within geographical regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, America, and Australia, New Guinea, and the Pacific Islands.

Read this book, or simply use this work, as a resource for understanding and answering questions about how DNA has defined the early population migrations. Surname project administrators may find this a helpful resource, as I have, to put DNA profiles into a broader historical context and in being prepared to answer more inquiries about our earliest origins related to the work of the National Geographic's Genographic Project.

Mithen, Steven (2003). *After the Ice: A Global Human History, 20,000-5,000 BC*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Relevance ***

Difficulty ^^^

For many of us, genetic genealogy opened new doors of interest in the areas of archaeology and anthropology. After we learned the nuts and bolts of collecting and analyzing DNA samples, we wanted to know more about the evidence DNA could provide about our earliest ancestors and the migratory routes they followed. DNA has provided the means for linking these populations so that we can watch their movement through history. The author states that the greatest developments in early human history occurred from 20,000 BC to 5000 BC – after the peak of the last glacial maximum. This book traces the interplay between life during and following the glaciers with the developments of human life, movements, and communities throughout the world.

The author summarizes: "Soon after 20,000 BC global warming began....By 15,000 BC the great ice sheets had begun to melt, by 12,000 BC the climate had started to fluctuate, with dramatic surges of warmth and rain followed by sudden returns to cold and drought. Soon after 10,000 BC there was an astonishing spurt of global warming that brought the ice age to its close.... It was during these 10,000 years...that the course of human history changed. By 5000 BC many people through the world lived by farming (p. 4)." The book follows specific timelines of development in geographical sections entitled Western Asia, Europe, The Americas, Greater Australia and East Asia, South Asia, and Africa

Read this book to learn more about the cultures and life experiences of our earliest ancestral communities. If your haplotype has been projected or confirmed to a certain early population, you will be able to learn a great deal about the life and movement of that population in this work.

IV. Books On Genetics and Medical Conditions

Barth, Joan C. (1993). *"It Runs in My Family": Overcoming the Legacy of Family Illness*. New York: Brunner/Mazel, Inc.

Relevance **

Difficulty ^

For those of us who have been educating ourselves about genetics and reading more of this literature, it is hard not to be impressed with the dramatic new research becoming available that can now identify specific genetic mutations that lead to generations of serious and chronic medical conditions.

While this book was written before the completion of the human genome project, it is the best available to help us look at the bigger picture of illnesses and begin to recognize and track health issues over generations of our families. Even in my

field of mental health, we are learning that specific genetic markers exist that can define disorders ranging from alcoholism to Obsessive Compulsive Disorders.

The book is filled with numerous case examples and helpful Appendices that guide the reader through a personal "Health Assessment," and another that offers sources of information on a broad range of family illnesses.

While this book lacks the benefit of the past decade of genetic research, and one would hope that it would be revised, it is an important introduction to learning how health issues may "run in the family," and in learning to look for and to ask the right questions of family members.

Krause, Carol (1995). ***How Healthy Is Your Family Tree?: A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Family's Medical and Behavioral History.*** New York: Simon & Schuster (A Fireside Book).

Relevance **

Difficulty ^

This is a "do-it-yourself" book that walks you through asking questions and organizing your own family information regarding health and medical concerns. It is focused and well-organized, and does not attempt to review or present a lot research data. I liked it particularly because it utilized many genograms to present and organize the information. There are chapters on a "Medical Family Tree Workbook," and a "Behavioral Family Tree Workbook."

To illustrate the suggestions in the book there is an entire chapter on tracing heart disease in one's family. This includes sections on "How Can I Tell if My Family's Heart Disease Is Putting Me at Risk?" and "Inherited Heart Disease: Two Personal Stories." The book is basic enough that it could be used to explain and illustrate many family health issues to your adolescent-aged children.

While this does not have extensive data on DNA and the family, it is the most practical and illustrative book I have seen on working with our genetic backgrounds and tracking our own health histories in our families.

Reilly, Philip R. (2000). ***Abraham Lincoln's DNA and Other Adventures in Genetics.*** Cold Spring Harbor, New York: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.

Relevance *

Difficulty ^^

This book offers a helpful review of the developments in genetics by providing a greater understanding and treatment of a variety of medical disorders and biological abnormalities. The author begins with an historical look at how recent research in genetics helps us understand medical conditions of well-known historical individuals. Some of these include, for example: Abraham Lincoln's exceptional height (Marfan's syndrome); King George's III chronic digestive and intestinal problems (Porphyria); and the French artist Henri do Toulouse-Lautrec's physical abnormalities as a result of inbreeding in his family. There is also an interesting discussion of the use of DNA from the family of Russian Czar Nicholas II to identify their true ancestors.

The remainder of the book reviews research using DNA to bring to light new understandings of a variety of conditions such as violence, mental health, and personality traits. There are also chapters on how DNA has broadened our knowledge on the significant medical conditions of Cystic Fibrosis, breast cancer, and Alzheimer disease with some discussion of how this knowledge will effect medical treatment in the future.

This is a helpful book for those who would like to know more about the role of DNA in medicine, and particularly for the reader who may wish to understand certain medical conditions that may exist within one's own family.

V. Books on Special DNA Related Subjects

Lewis, Jan Ellen and Onuf, Peter S. [Editors] (1999). ***Sally Hemings & Thomas Jefferson: History, Memory, and Civic Culture***. Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Press.

Relevance **

Difficulty ^^

This is a fascinating edited "academic" book that addresses the recent discovery that Thomas Jefferson may have fathered a child with Sally Hemings, one of his slaves. This was reported several years ago and created quite a controversy in the press when DNA was used to link these two families. The book is particularly interesting because it was edited by and written by academic historians whose specialties range from ethics and law, to race, to the history of slave families, to Jefferson as a former president.

Some of these chapters are quite academic in their style and format, and may cause you to feel like you are sitting in your high school history class. However, others are engaging and demonstrate the use of many of our own procedures as family historians in tracking family histories and their relations with other family lines. Several chapters focus on the Hemings slave family and their history to the present, and also illustrate the difficulty in using records to track slave data. The chapters range from intriguing, "The Ghosts of Monticello" to very academic, "Interracial Sex in the Chesapeake and the British Atlantic World, c. 1700-1820."

If you have read summaries about this issue in genealogy magazines, and are interested in this subject, then this is the book to read. It may take some patience to read through the academic style and jargon.

Books on my reading list

Jones, Martin (2001). ***The Molecule Hunt: Archeology And the Search for Ancient DNA***. New York/London: The Penguin Press

Dawkins, Richard (2004). ***The Ancestor's Tale***. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Miles, David (2005). *The Tribes of Britain: Who are we? And Where Do We Come From?* London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

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If you would like to suggest other helpful books that you have read, please forward the title and information to the author at everett5@mindspring.com. We will update this bibliography periodically.