

**"Update on Stillman Family Genealogy"
aka STILLMAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION
Newsletter No. 1
August 24, 2004**

Hi all,

Over the last few years, I have collected e-mail addresses of people who have expressed an interest in the Stillman family tree from e-mails from other researchers, the LDS website, RootsWeb lists, etc.

If you are not interested in the Stillman Family, please let me know right away and I will make sure that I take your address off my distribution list.

Normally, I would Bcc everyone, but for this initial contact, I thought I would let everyone see all the addresses, in case anyone knows of others who may be interested.

I apologize for the length of this e-mail.

The reason for this e-mail is that I have just come returned from the Dillman Family Mega Reunion, which was held on Aug 20th, 21st in Cincinnati. I wanted to make Stillman family researchers aware of what was discussed at this reunion. This reunion is not the traditional "hot dog and T-shirts" kind of reunion, but one where serious researchers exchange information and present new discoveries.

Why was I interested in the Dillman Family Mega Reunion hosted by the Dillman Family Association?

- In 2002, I submitted a DNA sample (cheek swab) to a DNA testing company called FamilyTree DNA (www.ftdna.com)
- In 2003, my DNA matched perfectly that of a member of the Dillman Family Association at the 12 marker level.
- these tests were upgraded to newly announced 25 marker tests and the DNA was still a perfect match
- 3 more Dillmans and 1 more Stillman were tested and we all matched perfectly.
- In 2004, a new and more accurate 37 marker test was announced. Myself and my Stillman cousin matched perfectly.
- we matched with the initial Dillman participant in 35/37, meaning there were two slight deviations on the fastest mutating markers
- and 1 week ago, we (the Stillmans) matched 36/37 with another Dillman participant who upgraded his test. The deviation again was slight and was on one of the same markers from the 35/37 results. The other Dillman

participant also matched the new Dillman test result at the 36/37 level.
-clearly the Stillman line and the 2 Dillman lines are very closely related.

After the conference, several Dillmans said they were "blown away" by the material. This was due to a presentation by Dr. James Freed, Dr. Freed is a retired Ohio Wesleyan University Professor of Zoology, where he taught genetics for over 20 years. Dr. Freed has been a genealogist for over 35 years and has published a 950 page history of his Mason family. Dr. Freed provided his interpretation of the DNA results (notes taken from his presentation, including his handouts are in attachments at the bottom of this page). He was prepared to conclude that George Stillman, Andrew Dillman and Georg Michael Dillman (heads of the lines of the DNA test participants) were brothers. He said that he only held back from making this claim since to date, the documentary evidence isn't as strong, although the oral history does stand up. But this highlights how close the two families are related and how strong the DNA test results are. Please take a read of the notes from his presentation for more details. The most interesting piece of his presentation was this concept of "expected number of mutations". Given the number of generations involved in the test, known mutation rates for markers, and the accuracy of the tests, the expected number of mutations works out to 1.924. The observed number of mutations was 2 so those mutations are perfectly acceptable. (Dr. Freed's presentation also lists some excellent web sources for information on DNA testing. Please check them out)

Naturally, a healthy dose of scepticism is to be expected. Any comments, questions or queries, can be forwarded to me. I will be in Halifax the first week of September doing research at the Archives, but after that, I should be able to respond to your e-mails.

I am also attaching a presentation that I gave at the reunion, the day prior to Dr. Freed's. Dr. Freed and I came to similar conclusions. I am also attaching notes I had made for my presentation.

The Dillman Family Association would like to welcome all Stillman Family researchers to their Association. I believe that Annual membership is \$5. They hold their reunions every 2 years. They even considered changing the name of their Association to the Dillman/Stillman Family Association. However, I didn't think that was necessary or appropriate.

I have been given permission from the DFA to share with all Stillman Researchers a 2 CD set of source documents the DFA scanned on the Dillman family from their 2002 reunion and the CD that will come out from the reunion that just took place. If anyone is interested in the CDs please let me know. The DFA has a new website and it is located at www.dillmanfamilyassociation.org.

ONLY if you provide permission will I forward your e-mail address to the Dillman Family Association, to keep you up to date on the the Association. Again, this is ONLY if you provide permission.

Personally, I have joined the DFA. However, I think we may want to form our

own Stillman Family Association. I am not sure what form this should take, but I would like for everyone to take some time and reply with your thoughts on forming an Association for the promotion, co-ordination, and sharing of research on the Stillman family. Currently, we do this informally, but it may be appropriate to start something more formal.

I have taken the initial steps of setting up a Stillman Family DNA Project with the Family Tree DNA testing service. It would be very good if we can find other male Stillman participants to join this study, particularly those who descend from Edward, Andrew, Samuel, John or David Stillman. This tool can assist in providing definite proof of relationships when documents are scarce especially in the case of John and David Stillman. The link for signing up for the DNA project can be found at :

http://www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.asp?code=R45557

By setting up an Surname project, it enables test participants to save \$60 off the cost of all tests. I would encourage participants to begin with the 25 marker test (Y-DNA25 paternal test). The 12 marker test is now obsolete. I am willing to cover 50% of the test cost for interested male participants, provided the results come back indicating a relationship (ie, at least 23/25 or 33/37). The cost for the 25 marker test (Y-DNA25) is USD 169. The cost for the 37 marker test (Y-DNA37) is USD 229.

Any and all feedback is welcomed and I, again, apologize for the length of this e-mail. I know there is much here to digest.

In summary, I would specifically like to hear back from everyone on:

- 1) if you want me to share your e-mail with the Dillman Family Association,
- 2) what are your thoughts on forming our own Stillman Family Association; and
- 3) potential candidates for DNA testing.

Sincerely,

Andrew Stillman