

12 THE FINNISH CONNECTION: U5

Of course, America had often been discovered before Columbus,
but it had always been hushed up.

—Oscar Wilde

Joan W. Bennett has ancestry she knows is Finnish. Her mother was born in New York of Finnish parentage and her father was born in Finland. Both their lines go back in Finland hundreds of years. The Rutgers microbiology professor tested her mitochondrial DNA in 2006. To her great surprise, her U5a mutations matched a Cherokee-American man who was in Phase I of our studies, Dr. Bruce Dean of Scottsdale, Ariz. (1951-2015). Dean's ancestry was limited to the South and Eastern part of the United States and included no Scandinavian to his knowledge. How could this be?



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One ancient Baltic skeleton also matched Dean,³⁰³ as well as a person named in Mitosearch as Marie Eastman, born 1900 in Indian Territory. On the flip side, Bennett's autosomal results listed Russia – Evenk (n=14)³⁰⁴ as her No. 1 result and included the following American Indian populations in high positions:

- Mexico – Mayo – Sonora (n = 45)
- Native American – Minnesota³⁰⁵ (n = 191)
- Native American – Minnesota (n = 203)
- Native American – Minnesota (n = 100)
- Guatemalan – Mestizo (n = 200)³⁰⁶
- Native American – Saskatchewan (n = 105)
- Mexico – Huichols³⁰⁷ – Nayarit (n = 65)
- Native American – Saskatchewan (n = 40)
- Mexican – Northeastern – Mestizo (n = 143)

Bruce Dean Direct Maternal Line

Mother: Geneva Carrier, b. June 5, 1928, Rockcastle, Ky.

Grandmother: Verdie Van Winkle, b. May 11, 1901, Rockcastle, Ky.

Great-grandmother: Charlotte Jane Rose, b. Sept. 22, 1864, Horse Lick, Jackson County, Ky.

Great-great-grandmother: Mary Polly Runyon, b. May 6, 1830, Ky., wife of Tillet Rose, son of Samuel Rose, b. Tenn.

3rd-great-grandmother: Hobbs, b. 1812, Tenn., wife of William Runnon, b. 1810, Tenn.

³⁰³ S. Översti et al, "Human Mitochondrial DNA Lineages in Iron-Age Fennoscandia Suggest Incipient Admixture and Eastern Introduction of Farming-related Maternal Ancestry," *Scientific Reports* 9/1 (2019), 16883. doi: 10.1038/s41598-019-51045-8. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31729399/>. See also Ian Logan, U5a2a webpage, http://www.ianlogan.co.uk/sequences_by_group/u5a2_genbank_sequences.htm.

³⁰⁴ L. A. Zhivotovsky et al, "Developing STR databases on Structured Populations: The Native South Siberian Population *versus* the Russian Population," *Forensic Science International: Genetics* 3/4 (Sept. 2009), e111-16.

³⁰⁵ Mostly Chippewa/Ojibway/Anishnabe, see <https://dnaconsultants.com/native-american-minnesota/>.

³⁰⁶ Esther Martinez-Espin. et al, "Guatemala Mestizo Population Data on 15 STR Loci (Identifiler Kit)," *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 51/5 (2006), pp. 1216-8, doi: 10.1111/j.1556-4029. See also n. 28, chapter 1.

³⁰⁷ See "The Huichol of the Sierra Madre," <https://www.shamanism.com/huichol>. See also n. 21, chapter 1.

Joan W. Bennett Maternal Line

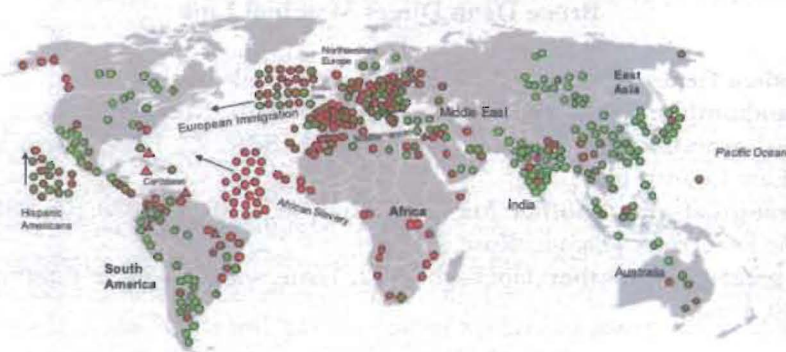
Mother: Gertrude Elina Wennstrom, b. Mar. 14, 1920, Brooklyn, New York

Grandmother: Anna Erika Abelintytär Johnson, b. Mar. 2, 1885, Finland

Great-grandmother: Erika Maria Heikintytär (Henricsdotter) Sorri b. Mar. 23, 1861, Finland

Great-great-grandmother: Brita Kaisa Savolainen, b. Nov. 29, 1834, Finland

Additionally, American Indian was Bennett's third strongest megapopulation (North Asian was No. 1), and on her Rare Genes from History test, she received the Ancient One³⁰⁸ and Crazy Horse³⁰⁹ genes, these coming from both sides of her Finnish parentage.



Distribution of the Crazy Horse Gene. Bright green is strongest, red denotes absence. Notice strong matches (bright green) in North Russia and Native American populations as well as a pronounced presence in Scandinavia and Estonia/Finland. The gene is absent in most of Europe and all of Africa.

One must bear in mind something that may seem obvious. No one before the recent present day knew what their haplogroup was. Ancient peoples did not form social groups on the basis of knowledge of genetics. They did not have voluntary associations like the Haplogroup U Discussion Board. Concepts in the past were centered around notions like kinship, clan and tribe. Hence, when we find haplotype matches today they are evidence of

³⁰⁸ "The Ancient One Gene," <https://dnaconsultants.com/the-ancient-one-gene/>.

³⁰⁹ "The Crazy Horse Gene," <https://dnaconsultants.com/the-crazy-horse-gene/>.

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shared secret origins, a hidden continuum. They cannot represent a real official history with authors, editors and readers. Names of ethnic types are all artificial and equivocal. Linking ethnonyms to genes, just like equating linguistic developments with demographic change, is always illusory. The debate on whether the Neolithic Revolution of agriculture and town life was spread to Europe more by migration of Middle Easterners or by cultural adoption is an example. We will attempt to confine our arguments in this chapter to genetics and try not go down too many tangents on linguistics.

Canvassing the Clades

Let's begin with participants who have haplogroup U5. In remote times, U5 was the most common maternal lineage among European hunter-gatherers, notably in the Sami people and other Northern Europeans who either would not or could not completely convert to agricultural ways of life. U5 is absent from Southwest Asia and it is very low in most of the Middle East.³¹⁰ Ancient DNA samples show that U was more prevalent and indeed dominant in Europe in the remote past. Ancient North Eurasian (ANE) is one of the three constituent megapopulations of Europe, representing descent from the people similar to Malta Boy, and it is composed of four hunter-gatherer populations, one of which is Scandinavian Hunter-Gatherers.³¹¹ The majority of ancient Latvian skeletons, including those from the Bronze Age trading site of Kivutkalns, are U4 and U5.³¹²

The skeletons of Kivutkalns date to the first millennium BCE and show that not everyone in ancient Europe was just waiting for the Agricultural Revolution to happen. These Ancient Northern Eurasians happily clung to the old ways of a hunter-gatherer society and female religion. We can surmise that their supreme deity was the Mother Goddess known as Lady of the Beasts.³¹³ They lived in a sizable town without defenses or a standing army, probably under a modified matriarchal society like the Minoans—under circumstances not dissimilar to the Indian trading towns like Melilot and Chota in North Georgia.

³¹⁰ See B. Malyarchuk, et al, "The Peopling of Europe from the Mitochondrial Haplogroup U5 Perspective," *PLoS One* 5/4 (2010), e10285.

³¹¹ I. Lazaridis et al, "Ancient Human Genomes Suggest Three Ancestral Populations for the Present-day Europeans," *Nature* 513/7518 (2014), pp. 409-13.

³¹² Astrida Krumina et al, "Population Genetics of Latvians in the Context of Admixture between North-East European Ethnic Groups," *Proceedings of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Section B*, 72/3 (2018), pp. 131-51.

³¹³ Buffie Johnson, *Lady of the Beasts: The Goddess and Her Sacred Animals* (Rochester: Inner Traditions, 1994).



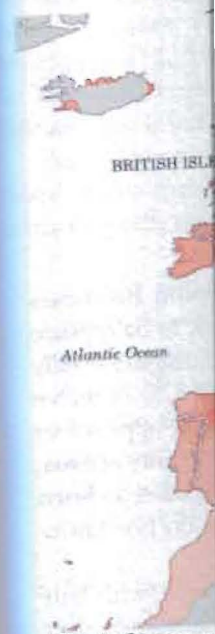
Conceptualization of one of the Kivutkalns skeletons, nicknamed Gunars, haplogroup U. A citizen of the town and celebrated member of the long-distance luxury fur trade, he was buried in a hollow log with a homely bone needle laid across his chest representing his craft. He probably did not look much different outwardly from an East Coast Indian of the Bronze Age.

Kivutkalns is located on the outskirts of Riga, the capital of present-day Latvia. It represented a large settlement with burials that included the ten individuals in this sample. They were carbon-dated. The site was uncovered on an island in the 1960s in the course of construction of a hydroelectric plant. In addition to protecting against enemies, the fort also served as a residence for the inhabitants, who hunted, trapped, fished, foraged and traded for their food. The bronze hoard in the fort contained neck rings, bracelets, and socketed axe heads, dedicated to the Goddess. Other objects made of bone, antler, and stone were also found. Most of the individuals at this site were buried within hollowed oak logs and had bone pins placed on top of them. A few were found in other wooden coffins. They ranged in age from late teenage years to around seventy years old.

Genetic analysis has shown that while there was a strong replacement of local hunter-gatherers in other regions of Europe with incoming Neolithic farmers, there was much more continuity in the Eastern Baltic with earlier hunter-gatherers. This pattern remained consistent through the Yamnaya migrations that began in the Early Bronze age and represent the populations present at the Kivutkalns. These people had ancestry from both earlier Anatolian farmers and more recent Yamnaya migrants but retained strong characteristics and traits of earlier hunter-gatherers.

Genetically speaking, three individuals in this sample (30%) belonged to mitochondrial haplogroup U, the most common haplogroup among

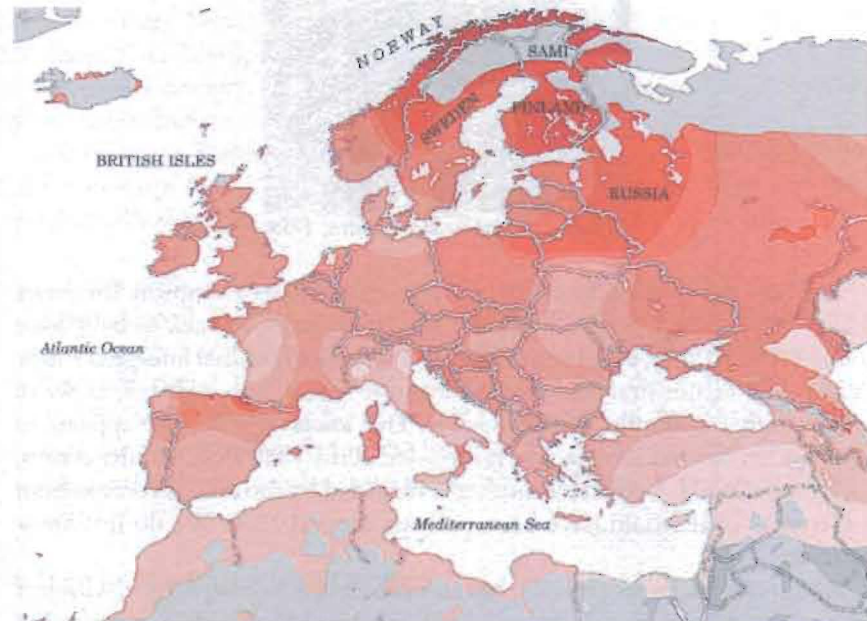
European hunter-gatherers. The Creek and other mitochondrial haplogroups each belonged to different European haplogroups. Europeans now have a different chromosome haplogroup during the Paleolithic.



High frequency of the same source as the high frequency (14.5%) and the Estonians (13.5%), Dargins (13.5%), Caucasus, the in northern Spain, the Slovaks (13.5%), the Ukrainians (13.5%).

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European hunter-gatherers of the Paleolithic as well as among Cherokee, Creek and other Southeastern Indians. Five individuals belonged to mitochondrial haplogroup H, dominant in Europe today. One individual each belonged to the minor haplogroups J and T, which are found in Europeans now at about the level of 10%. All of the males belonged to Y chromosome haplogroup R, a very ancient lineage thought to have arisen during the Paleolithic.³¹⁴



High frequencies of Haplogroup U5 in Europe according to Eupedia. The same source asserts that one-fifth of Finns and all Sami belong to U5. "Other high frequencies are observed among the Mordovians (16%), the Chuvash (14.5%) and the Tatars (10.5%) in the Volga-Ural region of Russia, the Estonians (13%), the Lithuanians (11.5%) and the Latvians in the Baltic, the Dargins (13.5%), Avars (13%) and the Chechens (10%) in the Northeast Caucasus, the Basques (12%), the Cantabrians (11%) and the Catalans (10%) in northern Spain, the Bretons (10.5%) in France, the Sardinians (10%) in Italy, the Slovaks (11%), the Croatians (10.5%), the Poles (10%), the Czechs (10%), the Ukrainians (10%) and the Slavic Russians (10%)," claims Eupedia.³¹⁵

³¹⁴ A. Mittnik et al, "The Genetic Prehistory of the Baltic Sea Region." *Nature Communications* 9/442, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-018-02825-9>. See also id (2017), bioRxiv, <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/113241v1.full.pdf>.

³¹⁵ Haplogroup U5 (mtDNA): https://www.eupedia.com/europe/Haplogroup_U5_mtDNA.shtml.



Sharri Compton Breshears, U5a.

A **U5a** case in the Cherokee DNA study is Sharri Compton Breshears (3.55, C8217). She lives in Oklahoma and traces her line back to Sally Josie Roeden (1853-1900), a native of Georgia. Her mitochondrial lineage is totally unique, that is, not matched anywhere in the world, although U5, as we've seen, is rather common in Scandinavia. Her ancestor's mother appears to have lived in North Georgia. She is included in the 1880 Polk County census, married to a W. H. Yerta. Her mother is recorded by the census taker as born in Georgia. That would have been perhaps around 1830. We do not know her name.

Another **U5a**, participant 25, has an exceedingly rare haplotype, with half the exact matches being listed as of unknown origin. We do not know her genealogy, but she took the Cherokee and Rare Genes from History tests. On the latter, she received the Lake Baikal and Amerind genes. On the former, her no. 1 autosomal match is Norwegian, her no. 2 Swedish and no. 61 Admixed Cherokee (n=62). Her no. 1 megapopulation is Jewish.

Similarly, participant 46 (I4952), has a unique **U5a** haplotype, with a double hit of the Odin Gene along with Cherokee matches on an autosomal basis.

The remaining U haplogroup participants in Phase III are all **U5b's**, the most familiar subclade of U5. B1246 (no. 20) has a handful of full matches to her rare haplotype. On an autosomal basis, she shows American Indian as her no. 2 megapopulation, Michigan Native Americans as her no. 1 and Norway as her no. 7 match worldwide. In addition, she has a strong South American Indian ancestry picture.

Kristine Dupuis (3.5, D3500) lives in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Her U5b haplotype matches only one person in the world according to available databases. That is Marie Bernatchez of Gaspé, Canada. High autosomal

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matches include Yupik, Inupiat, Evenk, Cherokee, Alaska Athabaskan and Saskatchewan Algonquians.

Ramona George's maternal line seems to go back to an Irish woman, but we cannot be sure whether her haplotype was a late-arriving type on the American frontier or a pre-existing Gaelic or pre-Gaelic form of U5b among Indians (3.14, G7024). Her mutational set is rather common on both sides of the Atlantic. George traces her line to Elizabeth T. Ramsey, born 1843; Minerva A. Edwards (1825-1880) and Nancy McVey (1801-1853), born in North Carolina. Nancy McVey's mother was reportedly Sarah Gorsuch of Maryland (1782-1860), whose mother in turn was Sarah Donovan, born 1765 in Maryland. Certainly, George's ancestry includes a good deal of American Indian: that is her no. 3 megapopulation.

According to Richard Thornton, "It seems that the first History of the State of Georgia (1847) by Dr. William Bacon Stevens was far more accurate ethnologically than modern texts." Stevens' book opens up by stating:

...early settlers on the South Carolina and Georgia coast encountered light skinned Indians, who spoke a dialect of Gaelic, which Irish immigrants could understand. They were the Duhare (Du H'Aire) or Early Medieval Irish colonists. Stevens said that the Norsemen from Dublin and Wexford, who ferried the Irish over in their Scandinavian ocean-going boats, settled to the north of the Irish in South Carolina.... He also said that peoples from the Caribbean Basin settled to the south of them.³¹⁶

Irish in Pre-Columbian Georgia

In 1520, Peter Martyr d'Anghiera, a historian and professor, was appointed by the Emperor Charles V to be chronicler for the new Council of the Indies. Though Martyr died in 1526, his report, founded on several weeks of interviews, was published posthumously in a book named *De Orbe Novo* (About the New World). The book has been published and translated numerous times in the centuries since then. The passages concerning the land that would become Georgia and the Carolinas were always included, but generally ignored, says Thornton. While interviewing Spanish colonists, Martyr took note of their vicious treatment of Chicora Indians. However, he also included in his report that the Spanish colonists had a very good relationship with another nearby colony, which Martyr reported to be named

³¹⁶ "A Constellation of Peoples Once Lived on the South Atlantic Coasts," <https://apalacheresearch.com/2020/03/09/a-constellation-of-peoples-once-lived-on-the-south-atlantic-coast/>. Cf. William Bacon Stevens, *A History of Georgia from Its First Discovery by Europeans to the Adoption of the Present Constitution in 1798*, 2 vols. (Mishawaka: Palala, 2015).

Duhare. Physically, the people of Duhare appeared to be European according to the Spanish colonists in the area. The people of Duhare had red to brown hair, tan skin and gray eyes, and were noticeably taller than the Spanish. According to Spanish accounts, the people of Duhare were Caucasian, though their houses and pottery were similar to those of American Indians. The king of Duhare was said to be named Datha and was described by the Spanish as being a giant, even when compared to his peers. He had five children and a wife as tall as he was. Datha had brightly colored paint or tattoos on his skin that seemed to distinguish him from the commoners.³¹⁷

Gary James (3.42, J8194) likewise has an old colonial, mostly Scots-Irish Southern line, with links to Daniel Boone. The New Mexico resident possesses a rare but not unique **U5b**, which he has traced to North Carolina as follows:

1. Gary D. James, b. 1946
2. Zelpha Faye Walker, b. Dec. 18, 1921, Arkansas
3. Alberta Boone Turner, b. July 14, 1881, Izard County, Ark.
4. Barbara Cassandra Sheffield, b. Sept. 11, 1852, Izard Co., Ark.
5. Sara Jane Hill, b. Dec. 20, 1831, Tenn., d. May 12, 1871, Izard County, Ark.
6. Elizabeth Foster, b. May 18, 1808, Rutherford Co., Tenn.
7. Tabitha Susannah Moore, b. about 1772, Granville County, N.C., m. William Foster, d. 1820 in Tenn.

To this matriline we can tentatively add Tabitha Foster's mother, Mary Phillips Fuller (1740-1821), who married George Lane Moore in North Carolina. We do not know if Mary Phillips Fuller Moore's mother was native or European. By 1740, there were numerous half-breeds, quadroons and octoroons in Southern records with, ultimately, Indian ancestry. James' haplotype has been tied to Native American lineages, it is true, but its closest match in the mitochondrial concordance (not exact, but close) was Finnish. Again, one has to make a judgment call.

How old does a connection have to be to qualify as tribal or primeval rather than recent admixture? Are the founding mitochondrial lines coming from Europe by water in the Bronze Age to be considered American Indian or European when detected in Cherokee descendants two thousand years later? The question seems more than just an academic one.

³¹⁷ Irish Central, "Proof an Irish Colony in South Carolina Predates Christopher Columbus," Oct. 14, 2019: <https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/irish-colony-south-carolina-christopher-columbus>. On the general subject, see William R. McGlone and Phillip M. Leonard, *Ancient Celtic America, with an Appendix on Ancient Astronomy* (Fresno: Panorama West, 1986).



Littleton: U5b.

Dr. Sally Littleton has a very special type of U5b2a2b1. The founder of Enlightenment Reiki Healing Association lives in Traverse City, Michigan and traces her maternal line back to New England. Other lines, she thinks, have more Cherokee. The family lived in Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri.

Self: Sally Ann Littleton, b. 1952 Bakersfield, Calif.

Mother: Betty Marie Watson, b. 26 Mar 1924 Newberry, Luce Co., Mich., d. 28 Nov 1992 Flint, Genesee Co., Mich.

Grandmother: Ruth Gertrude Elton, b. 14 Jun 1902, Mich., d. 14 Jul 1998 Newberry, Luce Co., Mich.

Great-grandmother: Myrtle May Mowat, b. 3 May 1876, Hartwick Twp, Osceola Co., Mich., d. 28 Oct 1949 Newberry, Luce Co., Mich.

Great-great-grandmother: Sarah Evaline Leeman, b. 3 Aug 1855 Newfane, Niagara Co., N.Y., d. 19 Mar 1927 Flint, Genesee Co., Mich.

3rd-great-grandmother: Sally Ann McKinley, b. 15 Jul 1818 Berne, Albany Co., N.Y., d. 19 Sep 1883 Hartwick Twp., Osceola Co., Mich.

4th-great-grandmother: Lucy, b. abt 1792 Albany Co., N.Y., m. Alexander McKinley, d. unknown

Littleton wrote several years ago that she was "quite confused" by her DNA results. "I have been proudly Cherokee my entire life, and can see many ways the Cherokee culture has contributed to my worldview and sense of self." Her Cherokee heritage was strongest through her paternal grandfather, who was one-sixteenth by blood. "I recall he spoke about his father or grandfather having to sign away rights in order to leave the reservation."

"My blood quantum of one-sixty-fourth was taught to me by age 3," she continued. "I learned that my heritage was English, Irish, Indian, Scottish and Welsh. As a small child I heard stories about the Trail of Tears and was

given books about Sequoyah and the Cherokee Syllabary. We spent much time in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California, where my grandparents had a cabin that my grandfather built. It seems much like the area in Arkansas where he and two previous Littleton generations were born and lived.

"I have traced back in my father's line to Eli Littleton (b. abt. 1793 in Georgia) living in Union County, Illinois by at least 1818. Married Ede Hughes (b. abt. 1800 Kentucky) in 1818, Union County, IL. Union County is very near to the location in Missouri where many Cherokee Old Settlers were living at that time. The family later moved to Arkansas and remained in the heart of the Cherokee Nation's location before the last push to Oklahoma, until re-locating to Los Angeles, CA in 1904. I've been thinking that the story about the signing to leave the reservation, may actually have been not applying for allotment in OK, on the Dawes Rolls, in order to stay in Arkansas and/or move to CA, all unclear. The other part of the family story was that a few years after leaving the reservation, oil was struck on the land that had been forfeited."

Surnames in her family tree include Hughes, Mann, Jones, Harris, Leeman and McKinley. Her great-grandmother on her father's side was Nancy Mann, also known as Nina Jones, born 1868 in Otoe, Nebraska, whose mother was Amanda Harris, born 1834, Jackson County, Missouri. Of this great-great-grandmother, Littleton reported, "Since starting to research my genealogy, I learned from a distant cousin that though always claiming to be white, she confided to a granddaughter that she was part Indian." Stories of such confessions, often toward life's end are, of course, legion.

After commissioning some detailed genealogy research, Littleton learned that her mother's line also probably went back to a Cherokee woman. "This research was essential for understanding how my Cherokee and other admixture fits into my family tree," she says. "Before, I thought that my strong family tradition of Cherokee heritage was only through my paternal grandfather (1/16th by blood). Now I know it is pervasive, other tribes are involved as well as Melungeons and there are multiple discrepancies between online information and the truth as shown in historical records."

Cherchez la Femme: It Must Go Back to a Woman

So we have a number of U lineages, some documented back to a Cherokee woman, some not, some ambiguous. In Phase I, we had three very clear instances of anomalous Cherokee U's, all U5a1a's, viz. (pp. 65f.):

- No. 17, a descendant of Ann Dreaweah, Cherokee, Marine City, Michigan, matching only South Carolina and Norway
- No. 19, a descendant of Jane Rose, at least a quarter-blood Cherokee, whose grandmother was born in 1812 in Tennessee (Bruce Dean)

- No. 20, a descendant of Clarissa Green (Ravenwolf), Cherokee Wolf Clan, N.C., b. 1846

These cases would appear to be sufficient proof that Norwegians, including women, not just men, came to pre-Columbian North America in considerable numbers. They seemed to have migrated early on and continuously, producing descendants over several millennia. Possibly the Bronze Age settlers were not the first wave and the circumpolar movement of Old World DNA began as long ago as 20,000 before the present. Possibly, the route was across ice, as postulated by the Smithsonian's Dennis Stanford and others.³¹⁸ Perhaps the Albans following the walrus ivory trail in the far north were part of this trend.³¹⁹ Without going too deeply into speculation, we shall call them "pre-Viking Vikings." Their DNA certainly survived in Indians who identified as Cherokee in colonial times. Scandinavian-American Indian DNA is deep rooted in Virginia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, although none of the descendants has any memory of Scandinavian culture whatever. The same might be said of Finnish and Irish presences before Columbus.³²⁰

Geneticists make light of any Norse contribution to Native American population history.³²¹ They discount Uralic, Finnic and Irish matches in autosomal testing. If they are right about the Scandinavian haplogroups, what

³¹⁸ Dennis J. Stanford et al, *Across Atlantic Ice: The Origin of America's Clovis Culture* (Los Angeles: UCLA P, 2012). See also Donald Y. Gilmore and Linda S. McElroy, eds., *Across before Columbus? Evidence for Transoceanic Contact with the Americas Prior to 1492* (Edgecomb: NEARA, 1998).

³¹⁹ Farley Mowat, *The Farfarers: A New History of North America* (New York: Skyhorse, 2011).

³²⁰ Stephen Jett shows how popular Scandinavian voyages are in novels, despite their disrepute in the eyes of scholars. Gunnar Thompson has explored and documented the facts extensively in his research. Stephen C. Jett, "Some Novels Involving Medieval Norse Transatlantic Voyages" [reviews of 13 novels], *Pre-Columbiana: A Journal of Long-Distance Contacts* 4/2-4 and 5/1 (2010), pp. 192-97; see also id., "The Norse in the North Atlantic: An Overview," *Pre-Columbiana: A Journal of Long-Distance Contacts* 2/1 (2000), pp. 2-21. Gunnar Thompson, *American Discovery: Our Multicultural Heritage*, 2nd ed. (Seattle: Argonauts Misty Isles, 1994), "Ancient Mariners (10,000 BC – 1,000 BC)," pp. 47-69, "Welsh and Irish Rovers," pp. 189-212 and "Norse Seafarers," pp. 257-82.

³²¹ It took decades before the academic community completely accepted (if they have accepted it even now) the importance of the Norse colony at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland. An archaeological excavation was conducted from 1960 to 1968 by an international team led by Anne Stine Ingstad. To date, L'Anse aux Meadows is the only confirmed Norse site in or near North America, although most academicians do not think it lasted long or had any influence on North American history.

we are looking at is an example of post-Columbian admixture instead.

After our chapter was shared on the Internet, here is what Richard Thornton wrote:

The Haplogroup U in the Cherokee is most likely a combination of very ancient mixing across the Atlantic and then from the large numbers of Tennessee Uchee absorbed into the Cherokee Alliance during the 1700s. Much of eastern Tennessee was originally occupied by a Uchee tribe known as the Tokah-re. There was also a tribe by the same name in Ireland. It means "Principal People." Another Uchee tribe gave their name to the Keowee River where the Lower Cherokee lived, plus several locations along the Savannah River. It was called the Kiar-re, but because of Uchee and Creeks rolling their R's, was written as Kiale. The Kialegi Creek Tribal Town in Oklahoma is descended from those immigrants. County Kerry, Ireland gets its name from the Kiar-re. The petroglyphs in County Kerry are identical to those in the Etowah River Basin of Georgia. On the other hand, all but a couple of the symbols on the famous Track Rock Petroglyphs in Union County, Georgia, can be found on the Nykoping, Sweden petroglyphs, which have been dated to 2000 BC. In short, everything that I am finding "on the ground" and in the tribal names backs up your genetic findings 100%.

In July 2021, as this last chapter of the book was being concluded, Thornton wrote again, by way of an update, and said:

Everything that I am finding via architectural and linguistic research is backing up your view of a pan-Atlantic, multiethnic origin for Eastern Native Americans. That goes for both the Cherokees and Creeks. By the way . . . the primary founders of the so-called Olmec Civilization were the Zoque, Soque or Sokee. The word is pronounced *Sjo - kee* and in Bronze Age Nordic-Irish means "Sea People." Early figurines, made by the Zoque, portrayed them carrying fish and having mustaches and full beards.³²²

So both the oldest Eastern tribe, the Apalachites, and first Mexican civilization explicitly called themselves Sea Peoples. It is a good point to end on.

³²² Email communication, July 16, 2021.

EPILOGUE

Anyone undertaking to set himself up as judge in the field of truth and knowledge is sure to be shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods.

—Albert Einstein

So, what is the big picture? A modal profile was constructed from 33 Enrolled Cherokee samples from North Carolina included in the classic 2016 Globalfiler study by J. Ng et al³²³ Below are the most commonly reported STR alleles on 15 loci, hence the modal DNA fingerprint of a North Carolina Cherokee. Because of their autosomal nature, the scores reflect equally the maternal and paternal contributions to ancestry combined.

Reassuringly, both authors of this study (Donald and Teresa Yates) independently match Enrolled Cherokees in their top world results, as do many other participants in the three phases of Cherokee DNA Studies conducted since 2006.

Loci	Alleles		Range
D8S1179	13	14	7 - 24
D21S11	29	30	12 - 41.2
D7S820	10	11	5 - 17
CSFIPO	10	12	6 - 18
D3S1358	15	16	9 - 21.1

³²³ J. Ng et al, "Native American Population Data Based on the Globalfiler® Autosomal STR loci," *Forensic Science International: Genetics* 24:e12-e13. Online, see abstract and references: [https://www.fsigenetics.com/article/S1872-4973\(16\)30115-6/fulltext](https://www.fsigenetics.com/article/S1872-4973(16)30115-6/fulltext).

THO1	7	9.3	4 - 13.3
D13S317	9	12	5 - 17
D16S539	11	12	4 - 20
D2S1338	23	23	10 - 28
D19S433	14	15	7 - 19.2
VWA	17	18	8 - 24
TPOX	8	8	5 - 16
D18S51	14	14	7 - 31
D5S818	11	11	6 - 17
FGA	24	25	6 - 48.2

Modal Profile for Reference Population U.S. Cherokee Enrolled (n=33).

This genetic profile of an average Cherokee in the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians was input into DNA Consultants' database, the STR frequency program behind its Cherokee DNA Test and Basic American Indian DNA Test, as well as the company's standard autosomal offering, the DNA Fingerprint Plus. First of all, it was apparent that the Cherokee, despite all the disbelief and suspicion aimed at them, are very Native American. They have only small indications of non-Indian DNA. The reference population in the study (N=533) comes in at position no.16. In terms of megapopulations (aggregate ethnicities) Cherokees' strongest admixture is American Indian. This is three times stronger than the next contenders, Central Asian, Iberian American and North Asian. Jewish hardly appears in any of the results, seemingly suggesting that it is of minor importance—a sufficient, but not necessary condition.

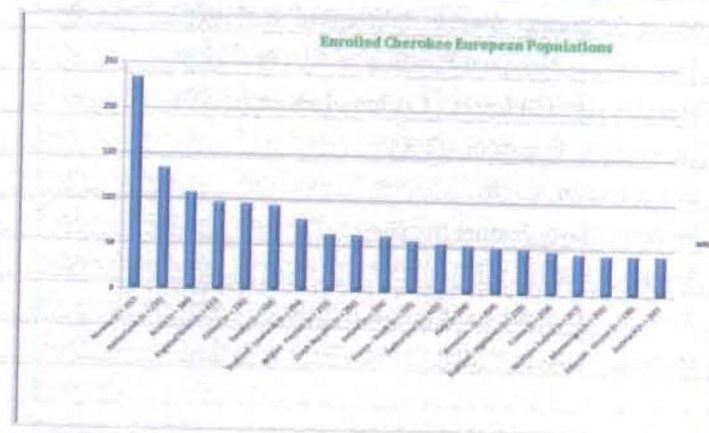
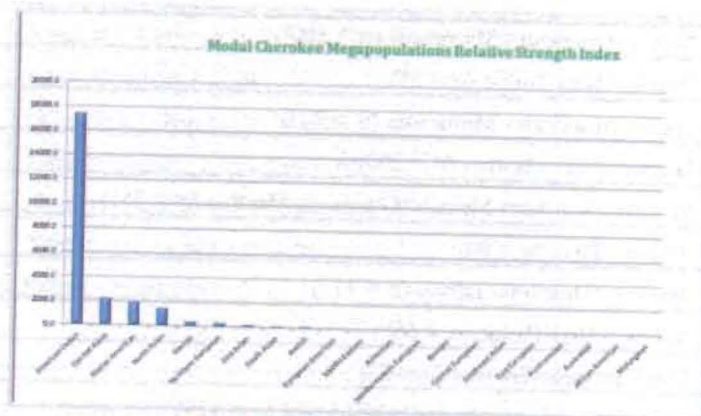
TOP FIFTY POPULATIONS MATCHING CHEROKEE (14 loci basis)	
Rank	World Population Matches
1	U.S. Cherokee Enrolled (n = 33)
2	Mexico (Central) - Nahau, Atocpan, Otomi, Cuetzalan Indians (n = 11)
3	Mexico & U.S. - Kumeyaay/Diegueno and PaiPai Indians (n = 27)
4	Ecuadorian - Kichwas (n = 115)
5	Native American - Northern Ontario (n = 129)
6	California - Miwok Indians (n = 33)
7	Mexico & U.S. - Kumeyaay/Diegueno Indians (n = 15)
8	Native American - Saskatchewan (n = 105)
9	Mexican - Hidalgo - Metztitlan (n = 180)

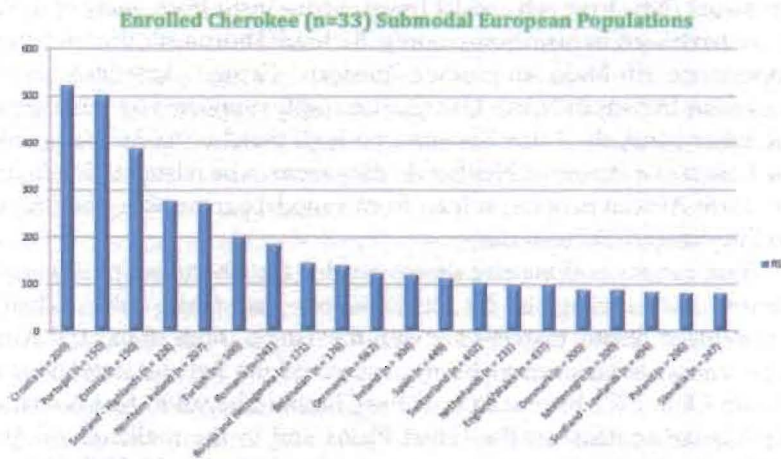
10	Native American - Choles - Chiapas, Mexico (n = 109)
11	North American Native Americans (n = 533)
12	Mexico - Nayarit and Jalisco - Huichol (n = 30)
13	Russia - Tofa Turkic (n = 35)
14	U.S. Apache and Mojave Indians (n = 88)
15	Argentinian - Salta (n = 83)
16	Peruvian - Mesa Redonda Lima (n = 151)
17	U.S. Creek/Muskogean Indians (n = 6)
18	Native American - Minnesota (n = 203)
19	Ecuadorian (n = 150)
20	Mexican-Southern Mexico (Guerrero) Mestizo (n = 251)
21	Bolivian
22	Mexico- Tarahumaras, Chihuahua (n=204)
23	Guatemalan - Mestizo (n = 200)
24	U.S. Chippewa Indians (n = 22)
25	Argentinian - Patagonian - Rio Negro (n = 593)
26	Mexico- Huichols- Jalisco (n=117)
27	Colombian - South Andean Occidental (n = 125)
28	Mexico - Baja California - Cochimi Indians (n = 25)
29	Argentinian - Neuquen province (n = 111)
30	Mexico- Mayo- Sonora (n=45)
31	Argentinian - Patagonian - Chubut (n = 320)
32	Mexican - Northeastern - Mestizo (n = 143)
33	El Salvadoran (n = 228)
34	Paraguayan (n = 168)
35	Chilean (n = 732)
36	Argentinian - Corrientes (n = 43)
37	El Salvadoran (n = 296)
38	Arizona - Hualapai and Yavapai Indians (n = 52)
39	Russia - Altai Turkic (n = 68)
40	Colombian - Bogata (n = 150)
41	Russia - Tuva (n = 80)
42	Native American- Salishan - British Columbia (n = 104)
43	Colombian - Andean, Amazonian, & Orinoquian (n = 846)

44	Mexican - Chihuahua (North Central) (n = 161)
45	Costa Rican (n = 260)
46	Colombian - Boyaca (n = 120)
47	Mexico - Coras- Nayarit (n = 85)
48	Mexico - Huichols- Durango (n = 57)
49	Argentinian - Chaco (n = 56)
50	Russia - Khaka (n = 51)

TOP FIFTY POPULATIONS MATCHING CHEROKEE (9 loci basis)	
Rank	World Population Matches
1	Mexico & U.S. - Kumeyaay/Diegueno and PaiPai Indians (n = 27)
2	Mexico & U.S. - Kumeyaay/Diegueno Indians (n = 15)
3	Ecuadorian - Kichwas (n = 115)
4	California - Miwok Indians (n = 33)
5	U.S. Creek/Muskogean Indians (n = 6)
6	U.S. Cherokee Enrolled (n = 33)
7	Native American - Choles - Chiapas, Mexico (n = 109)
8	Native American - Saskatchewan (n=105)
9	U.S. Apache and Mojave Indians (n = 88)
10	Mexico (Central) - Nahau, Atocpan, Otomi, Cuetzalan Indians (n = 11)
11	Native American - Northern Ontario (n = 63)
12	Native American - Northern Ontario (n=129)
13	Native American - Saskatchewan (n = 40)
14	Native American - Arizona - Apache (n = 99)
15	Mexican - Hidalgo - Metztitlan (n = 180)
16	North American Native Americans (n = 533)
17	Bolivian
18	Mexico - Nayarit and Jalisco - Huichol (n = 30)
19	Peruvian - Mesa Redonda Lima (n = 151)
20	Ecuadorian (n = 150)
21	Argentinian - Salta (n = 83)
22	Native American - Minnesota (n = 191)

23	Native American - Minnesota (n = 100)
24	Russia - Tofa Turkic (n = 35)
25	Native American - Minnesota (n = 203)
26	Guatemalan - Mestizo (n = 200)
27	Mexico - Southern Mexico (Guerrero) Mestizo (n = 251)
28	Russia - Tuva (n = 80)
29	Mexico - Huichols- Jalisco (n = 117)
30	Russia - Altai Turkic (n = 68)
31	U.S. Chippewa Indians (n = 22)
32	Colombian - South Andean Occidental (n = 125)
33	Native American - Arizona - Navajo (n = 93)
34	Argentinian - Patagonian - Rio Negro (n = 593)
35	Argentinian - Patagonian - Chubut (n = 320)
36	Mexico - Tarahumaras, Chihuahua (n=204)
37	El Salvadoran (n = 296)
38	Mexico - Coras- Nayarit (n = 85)
39	El Salvadoran (n = 228)
40	Costa Rican (n = 260)
41	Hispanic - North Carolina (n = 157)
42	Native American - Alaskan Athabaskan (n = 101)
43	Argentinian - Neuquen Province (n = 111)
44	Mexico - Baja California - Cochimi Indians (n = 25)
45	Colombian - Bogata (n = 150)
46	Paraguayan (n = 168)
47	Mexico - Mayo- Sonora (n=45)
48	Russia - Khaka (n = 51)
49	Arizona - Hualapai and Yavapai Indians (n = 52)
50	Hispanic - U.S. (n = 199)





Here are some other findings:

- Thirty-eight of the top 50 autosomal matches are other Indian tribes.
- Cherokee are most like Mexican Indians, for instance the Diegueño of California and Baja California and various Huichol groups in West Mexico.
- They are little separated in genetic distance from the Creek Indians (nos. 5 and 6).
- Cherokees have high matches to Guatemalan Mestizos and other Central American populations with high quotients of Maya in them.
- In addition to Mexican Indians and Mayas, Cherokees also have strong matches to Ecuadorian Kichwas (no. 3) and other South American Indians (Bolivian, Peruvian, Argentinian, Colombian).
- In terms of European matches, Norway is far and away the strongest, followed at a distance by Netherlands, Russia, England/Wales, Finland, Sweden and Scotland
- Notice that in terms of megapopulations, Iberian American (Hispanic) and Iberian (Spanish-Portuguese) occupy the third and fifth highest positions—an admixture that makes sense in that the Cherokee are from a region of the country, the Southeast, that was colonized and first populated by Spaniards and Portuguese people (16th-17th century). Jewish registers as 9th in the top 10. African American is near the bottom (no. 20), suggesting Cherokees do not have much black admixture.

The European results bear out the prominent influence of the "pre-Viking Vikings," Iberian, Atlantic Islanders and "pre-Celtic Celts" in early Native America. They also appear to show more recent admixture from

Croatians (No. 1 on sub-modal basis), Scots-Irish, Portuguese and Turkish, as we have seen in historical records. Richard Thornton's theories about the importance of Maya and other Mexican, Central American and South American Indians in North Georgia are amply supported by this analysis. On the other hand, the Cherokee have no high matches to Asiatic peoples like the Chinese or Japanese. Neither do they seem to be related to Mediterranean or North African peoples, at least from a modal perspective, and they exhibit no Sub-Saharan African ties.

If we can say nothing else we can say that the Cherokees possess an ethnic identity that appears to be quite ancient and fairly stable. Their most pronounced Asiatic matches are with the Turkic tribes of Central Asia. This same region is believed to be the source of the Lenape migrations of the Walam Olum. We have seen how the Cherokee began to be associated with Algonquian Indians on the Great Plains and in the midlands of America. Eventually the two groups went separate ways. Matches 11-13 link Cherokees with the Algonquians of Canada. Finally, it is evident that the Cherokees have a rather high, though not the highest, affinity with the Chippewa, or Anishnabe, the oldest Indians in Eastern North America (nos. 22, 23, 31).

In sum, the Cherokee have been, and still are, a complex confederation of cultures, clans and lineages, like the Creeks, only very different. "British diplomats, dealing with the Cherokees, had to bring with them at least four translators, so the various bands of the Cherokee could communicate with each other."³²⁴ In chasing down our participants' stories from Phase III and evaluating scattered pieces of historical and scientific evidence we have just scratched the surface. It has been far from our intention to write a new history of the Cherokee Indians. We have exposed the most obvious myths and considered the most glaring contradictions in the genetic, linguistic and archeological records. It is hoped others will be encouraged to follow up critically and positively with a host of exciting new studies that do the amazing Cherokee people and their descendants justice.

Much of what we have been looking at is not only tentative but tenuous. In genetics, particularly since the advent of ancient DNA, the ground constantly shifts beneath us.

No one had Armenians even on their radar before DNA Consultants added four populations to their database. Overnight, Armenian matches were coming out of the woodwork. Their unmistakable genetic signature was traced to Ottoman, Safavid, Croatian and Hapsburg policies in the Old Southeast. Several other mysteries have also been laid to rest—or at least placed on the table. In addition to Jews and Crypto-Jews, our follow-up research brought into focus many different Christian and Muslim groups. Who would have expected such a large Scandinavian background? Or Greek,

³²⁴ Richard Thornton, personal communication, 19 April 2020.

Iberian and Libyan influences? Or so many ties to the Apalache, Caribbean Indians, Huichol, Maya and other Central and South American tribes?

Who would have guessed that Sequoyah, Nancy Ward, Moytoy, Attakullakulla, Black Fox and most of the earliest figures we read about in books were probably not even Cherokee in a strict sense, and that standard Cherokee genealogies based on war department rolls and Emmet Starr are almost all corrupted and mendacious?

We did not set out to ambush the most revered icons in Cherokee history and kill them off in cold blood. As in previous phases of the project, we intended simply to analyze mitochondrial DNA haplotypes and see how the mother-to-daughter lines compare with genealogies which participants reported as Cherokee. We felt we owed it to the project members and public to pursue the truth, wherever that might lead us.

This search led us through some of the uninhabited wilds and eerie battlegrounds of American Indian history. The field was more a minefield than anything else. Who were the Moundbuilders? What was an Iberian sun-temple doing underneath three Creek mounds in Georgia? Or a Viking iron furnace under an Adena mound in Ohio? Did Virginia Dare's mother really travel around the Southeast leaving messages for her father and marry an Apalache Indian chief and was she ultimately buried in Georgia? What was the "old language" Cherokees spoke before their present one?

Often our only proof of discovery was a single ancient inscription, a single antiquated work, a single foreign-accented voice, a single obscure customer case. We wish we could have written more on each argument, but we had to be necessarily brief and to the point. Despite the scorn heaped upon such arguments by geneticists, anthropologists and others—or perhaps because of that scorn—we persisted. It was *our* story, *our* ancestry, *our* DNA test, not theirs, and by "our" we mean all the volunteers and participants in a bold project.

People want to know their real ancestors. They do not want a quasi-scientific connection to an estimated, probable or theoretical ancestry. Think of paternity tests. When a person takes one, they do not want to get results in the form of a lineup of possible dads. Their search, in the case of ancestry as well as parents, is more of a spiritual quest for an identity, a family, a sense of belonging. As so many of the testimonials in this book adduce, a DNA test is for scientific validation of something one seems to know in their heart, to feel in their marrowbone. In furtherance of that goal we have attempted to provide hard evidence for everything we arrived at. Everything in this study is documented. Identity is a serious matter.

Not many people know it but two words in everyday use today among Americans are Cherokee. We refer to *ubn-ubn* (also written *uh-hub*), meaning

yes, and wow, the interjection.³²⁵ Go ahead, Google it. The origin of neither is clear. The underlying languages are older than Greek or English. It doesn't mean you are Cherokee if you say the words, but they do testify to an ancient, deep-seated American Indian habit in most of us, particularly Southerners. It comes out in moments of affirmation and community. And it's coming back.

As Cyclone Covey remarked in the early 1990s, when evidence for the multicultural origins of American Indians first began to accumulate:

Recognizing what is unknown and how supercilious old theories fail to interpret the known may be the most salutary development of the last two decades. We had to discard an arrogant conviction of innate inferiority of Indians as well as of their unrelatedness to the same Old World ethnic groups we encounter in Eurasian and African history. We grossly underestimated both earliness and lateness of overseas migrations, their scale and impact. We did not appreciate how deeply traditions carried across both Atlantic and Pacific hybridized in the duress of regressive adaptation. Realization of false assumptions generated new discovery as discovery outmoded false assumptions. When baffled to despondency, we can contrast present grasp with that of the obsolete 70s and anticipate staggering evidence about to emerge.³²⁶

Has anything changed since then? Maybe.

³²⁵ "Ung-Ungh – Yes" and "Wâwh." *Payne-Butrick Papers* 1, 2, 3, pp. 96, 219.

³²⁶ "The Implausible Union of Ankh and Thunderbird," in: Joseph B. Mahan, *North American Sun Kings: Keepers of the Flame* (Columbus: ISAC, 1992), p. 19.

Letter from The Tra

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