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4 SCANDINAVIANS, POLYNESIANS, PHOENICIANS, BERBERS AND EGYPTIANS

Condemnation without investigation is the height of ignorance.

—Albert Einstein

Minor and unique haplogroups found in our study testify to the surprising diversity of Cherokees. All our cases are rare *haplotypes*, meaning they are usually unmatched, reported only in the one carrier, a participant in our study. All of them pinpoint surviving lineages from long ago and connect the dots in an ancient world of advanced civilizations and global diffusion.

V is an infrequent lineage associated with hunter-gatherer populations. It is prominent in, even diagnostic of, the Sami, or Lapps, 42% of whom have it. The first instance in our study we should like to discuss is Diana McDargh, of Springfield, Ohio (III.1, A1016). Her autosomal results were mentioned in a previous chapter and are replete with American Indian matches. Mitosearch produced two exact matches, both North American: U7GFW and MWMY8, a descendant of Cathern Wallace (1837-1922). They and the subject are thus cousins probably in a genealogical, as well as genetic, sense, sharing a common female ancestor in recent history. McDargh's rare mutation 16271C was reported by Richards et al⁹⁰ in only one person, and that person was Scandinavian. Such matches possibly lend support to the assertion of Richard Thornton, a Creek architect and historian, that the Uchee people were founded by a Bronze Age Scandinavian settlement at the mouth of the Savannah River. Thornton, who has Uchee ancestry himself, has assembled extensive evidence of Scandinavian DNA and rock art in

⁹⁰ Martin Richards et al, "Tracing European Founder Lineages in the Near Eastern mtDNA Pool," *American Journal of Human Genetics* 67 (2000), pp. 1251-76.

Georgia. Diana McDargh, who identifies as African American and American Indian, has traced her mitochondrial line with genealogical research to an ancestor from North Georgia who went on the Trail of Tears in the 1830s.

The second example of V belongs to Gene Ponder (2.39, P2811), a cabinet manufacturing company entrepreneur in East Texas. His mutations have no exact or full matches at all. Ponder traces his ancestry back to the Cherokee in Alabama. The only possible matches to consider as meaningful are to Polynesian (Lum 1994) and Tongan specimens (Vigilant 1989). Unless these are false matches based on incomplete comparisons, they possibly point to Cherokee Twister or Long Hair Clan affiliation. The name in Cherokee for this clan, Ani-Kilohi, appears to be Polynesian. Gi-lolo is the land where the earliest ancestors of the Hawaiians come from, identified by later Spanish, Dutch and English navigators as the Moluccas in the Indonesian Archipelago. Compare Hawaiian *hilo* “twisted, rope.”⁹¹ Polynesian peoples are known to have lived among the Southern Indians, influencing their house architecture, clothing, dance and song.⁹²

Phase Three adds a new haplogroup to our list, and that is mitochondrial **R**, exceedingly rare in any population. Ramona Bachman Woodrum (3.24, W1784) wrote to us:

I bought the book by Mr. Yates *Old World Roots of the Cherokee*. The book mentioned many of my ancestors' surnames: Hyde, Leatherwood, Walker. I wanted to learn more so I sent my DNA off to a company to see what category my haplogroup was. The results were shocking, as it shows my haplogroup as R0a-60.1T. Seeing that ancestors on my mother's side migrated from North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, and settled in Oklahoma, I was shocked that testing showed no Native American ties. Is there an actual R0a?

Yes, we have to tell Woodrum, there is an actual R0a, but your particular form of it is the rarest of the rare. It matches no other living person on the planet.

Although mitochondrial R eventually evolved into the most common Eurasian haplogroups, such as H and U, the basal clade of R0 is found today only on the tiny South Arabian island of Socotra, an important trading station of the Indian Ocean (1.2%), as well as in Northeast Africa (1.5%), the Middle East (0.8%) and the Arabian peninsula (0.3%). Half the forms of R0a and N*

⁹¹ Yates, *Old World Roots*, p. 36.

⁹² Richard Thornton found Polynesian DNA on Wassaw Island with possible Maori markers; see Richard L. Thornton, “A Constellation of Peoples Once Lived on the South Atlantic Coast,” *Americas Revealed*: <https://apalacheresearch.com/2020/03/09/a-constellation-of-peoples-once-lived-on-the-south-atlantic-coast/>.

have never been detected in neighboring regions. Until recently, Socotra was almost completely isolated. R0a is described as Arabian and it cannot be confused with any other lineage.⁹³ Because of the random precision of the match, it is likely to come from ancient rather than recent admixture. Socotra, interestingly, is discussed in *Old World Roots of the Cherokee* and appears to have been one of the rich ports touched upon by Ptolemaic expeditions to the East. We are again confronted with the amazing feats of Greek deep-water shipping.

Greek colonies, of course, were not unusual, even outside the Mediterranean. The ancient geographer Agatharchides employed by the Library at Alexandria wrote a treatise on the Indian Ocean in which he mentions a Greek colony on the island of Socotra. The name is usually glossed as a Greek form of Sanskrit Dvipa Sukhatara, meaning “the Happy, or Blessed Isles.” ... Sukatra (Java in Indonesia)... means “beloved, blessed, blissful.”⁹⁴

Massive colonization efforts involving the sudden movement of thousands, even hundreds of thousands of people by ancient colonial powers are not unknown. A Phoenician scheme from about 500 B.C.E. sought to populate West Africa with 30,000 desert-dwelling Moors from the hinterland of Carthage, the new capital (present-day Tunisia). The record of the colony was cast in bronze and displayed in a temple at Carthage. Numerous ancient authors plainly reported the contents of this monument. One actually transcribed it in a surviving Greek document of 650 words. The leader of the expedition was Hanno, who commanded a fleet of sixty ships with fifty oars each.⁹⁵

Disregard You Heard This

Speaking of precision hits, we must insert the story of a Greek-American woman who corresponded with our company briefly about her haplotype X lineage. One of our Cherokee participants had matched it uniquely and nothing else. When I emailed the woman she told me her mother’s people came from a tiny island in the Aegean. She was the first in her family to leave that island and come to America. No one knew anything about Cherokees or American Indians. As far as they knew they had lived on that island for thousands of years.

⁹³ V. Černý, et al, “Out of Arabia—The Settlement of Island Soqatra as Revealed by Mitochondrial and Y Chromosome Genetic Diversity,” *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 138 (2009), pp. 439-47.

⁹⁴ Yates, *Old World Roots*, p. 29.

⁹⁵ Ibid, p. 33-34.

This obscure islet in the Southern Cyclades came into the crosshairs of our interest. Did it represent the origin of an ancient Greek lineage that survived today in two locations only, in the Mediterranean and in the Southern Highlands of the U.S.? According to its myths, it was founded by a son of Minos. It was only 12 square miles and had exactly 765 inhabitants. The only thing it was known for was a nudist beach. Its political organization was within the Thira Regional Unit. Also called Santorini, this was the site of the volcanic eruption of circa 1500 BCE that ended the Minoan empire.

When the entire island of Santorini blew up one summer's day in or around 1646 BCE, it is believed to have been the largest, most violent volcanic eruption ever witnessed by humans in the historical era. With the force of forty atomic bombs, the explosion appears to have vaporized the interior of the island, killed 20,000 people and thrown a layer of ash and pumice over the luxury villas on the hill measuring 130 feet deep today. Researchers note that Chinese annals recorded the event on the other side of the world, and tree rings as far away as California and Ireland registered the effect. It snuffed out Minoan civilization, Europe's first, and gave rise to the story of Atlantis, as told to Pericles by Egyptian priests and repeated by Plato.

After the downfall of the Minoans in the mid-second millennium, it was left to the Mycenaeans, allies from mainland Greece, to pick up the pieces. Many of King Minos' merchantmen must have been far off at sea and escaped harm. The Mycenaeans ruled in the Minoans' stead until the Trojan War, when a second world catastrophe struck about the year 1100, followed by five centuries marked by the Doric and Ionic invasions and known as the Greek Dark Ages.

Five ancient "Atlantis survivors," as they could be termed, were recovered from four different sites in present-day Greece, one from near Athens, one from the Peloponnese and the other three from Crete.⁹⁶ One female's grave came from Agia Kyriaki on the island of Salamis west of Athens. A second female came from an elite Mycenaean tomb in Peristeria on the Peloponnese. A male and a female were recovered from the rock-cut tombs of Galatas Apatheia, near Chania, on the northwest coast of Crete.

Four of the five individuals in this test are women, and three of the samples of mitochondrial DNA belonged to haplogroup X. This lineage is centered in the East Mediterranean but diffused sparsely all over the world, including in America. Many people consider X to be the veritable signature of the Phoenicians, who followed in the wake of the Minoans and Mycenaeans.

⁹⁶ Iosif Lazaridis et al, "Genetic Origins of the Minoans and Mycenaeans," *Nature* 548/7666 (2017), pp. 214-18.

Phoenician Connections

Phase III produces only one new instance of haplogroup **X**. This is William Forsyth, a resident of Kalispell, Montana (3.27, F1219). We may recall that although X occurs only at a frequency of about 3% for the total current indigenous population of the Americas, and is negligible in Europe and Asia, it is a major haplogroup in northern North America. Among the Algonquian and Ojibway peoples it comprises up to 25% of mtDNA types. It is also present in lesser percentages to the west and south of this area—among the Sioux (15%), the Nuu-Chah-Nulth (11%–13%), the Navajo (7%), and the Yakima (5%). It is also reported in small amounts among the Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek and other Southeastern tribes, as well as Pueblo and Pima Indians.

Forsyth's mitochondrial mutation set is not matched anywhere. As with many other project participants the only instance of that exact lineage is his own, which he reports to be Cherokee. He also took a DNA Fingerprint Plus test. His top results matched him to all three Cherokee populations as follows (Cherokee matches in red):

Rank	World Population Matches
1	Belarusian (n = 176)
2	Slovenian (n = 193)
3	Portuguese-Azores Archipelago (n = 95)
4	U.S. Cherokee Admixed (n=62)
5	Spanish - Northeast (n = 204)
6	Lithuania (n = 300)
7	Bosnian (n = 210)
8	White - Canadian (n = 83)
9	Polish (n = 412)
10	White - Canadian (n = 164)
11	Ukrainian (n = 900)
12	Polish - Podlasie (North East) (n = 413)
13	Russia - Saratov (n = 52)
14	Czech (n = 1141)
15	Polish (n = 136)
16	Italian - Piedmont (n = 147)
17	Polish - Central (n = 430)
18	Polish (n = 125)
19	Belarusian - Northeastern Poland (n = 212)
20	Polish - Podlasie (n = 842)

21	Romanian - Transylvanian - Csango (n = 220)
22	Poland - Lodz (n = 1000)
23	Serbian (n = 200)
24	Polish - Southeastern (n = 714)
25	Slovakia - Zemplin (n=558)
26	Lithuania - Vilnius (n = 140)
27	White - Maine (n = 151)
28	Azerbaijan (n = 285)
29	Spanish - Valencian (n = 101)
30	Portuguese - White (n = 146)
31	Portuguese - Madeira (n = 100)
32	White - U.S. (n = 200)
33	Slovakia - Abov-Gemer (n=1044)
34	White - U.S. (n = 102)
35	Swedish (n = 311)
36	Russian (n = 402)
37	Native American - Michigan (n = 29)
38	White - U.S. (n = 199)
39	White - North Carolina (n = 372)
40	Belgian - Flemish (n = 231)
41	Polish (n = 870)
42	Hungarian (n = 4213)
43	Spanish - Balearic Islands (n = 113)
44	U.S. Cherokee Enrolled (n = 33)
45	Portuguese - Porto region (n = 39)
46	Australian - Western (n = 2645)
47	India - Oriya Brahmin (n = 57)
48	Bavarian (n = 155)
49	Serbian - Serbia/Vojvodina/Montenegro (n = 100)
50	U.S. Cherokee Admixed (n = 92)

Central European, Melungeon, Jewish and Portuguese are also evident in Forsyth's picture of Cherokee ancestry. The question is how old is the Jewish element. Did it come into the gene pool in the 3rd century before the common era with Ptolemaic origins, as argued in *Old World Roots of the Cherokee*, in the second century at the same time as the Bat Creek Stone with its Hebrew writing, or late in the game, say, with Jewish or Spanish/Portuguese traders

in Cherokee country beginning in the sixteenth or seventeenth century? Signals of Jewish DNA in the Cherokee are robust and persistent.

One should remember that haplogroup X originated in Lebanon and was common among the Phoenicians, and that their true name was KNAI "Canaanites." Phoenicians are referred to by James Adair when he observes that "several old American towns are called Kanāai." Adair suggests that the Conoy Indians of Pennsylvania and Maryland were Canaanites and their tribal name is a corruption of the word Canaan. These Conoy Indians are the same Indians William Penn around 1700 described as resembling Italians, Jews and Greeks. By about 1735 they had dwindled to a "remnant of a nation, or subdivided tribe, of Indians," according to Adair.⁹⁷

One of the oldest Cherokee clans is called Red Paint Clan (*Ani-wodi*). Paint People is a customary term for Phoenicians in all languages, though their word for themselves is *Knai*. This name is preserved in Native America as Kanawa, a tributary of the Ohio. Traditionally, Paint Clan members were doctors and hunters (*kanati*, compare Greek *gennadi* "noblemen"), keepers of history (*tikano*, compare Greek *tynchana* "events") and prophecy, and masters of protocol, diplomacy, and ceremony. Peace chiefs and Ukus ("owls," or wise men, in the Greek model; compare Hopi *mongwi* "owl, chief") were often chosen from their ranks.

Paint Clan Perspectives

Before it was overtaken by the Wolf Clan at the beginning of the nineteenth century, Paint Clan was the most common division among the Cherokee. The agent Return Meigs stated it was the most numerous, not Wolf.⁹⁸ Probably one reason for the falling numbers of the Paint Clan was their members often did not appear markedly "Indian." Nor were they bound by the clan rules of the other Cherokees but were free to marry other Paint Clan members. They often did exactly this, confounding today's Cherokee genealogists. Paint Clan genealogies mix with Jewish ancestry in several prominent Cherokee families, including that of Sequoyah, the Waties, Coopers, Oconostota, Dragging Canoe, Black Fox and many others. There used to be a Paint-town in North Carolina. Most of the intruders who flooded out of Tennessee and North Carolina after 1800 and took possession of Creek, Chickasaw and Choctaw lands in northwest Georgia and northern Alabama were Paint Clan. Aside from X, Paint Clan descendants seem frequently to have U, T, K or J in the female line and T or J on the male side.

⁹⁷ *Adair's History of the American Indians*, ed. by Samuel Cole Williams (Johnson City: Watauga, 1930; originally published London, 1775), pp. 56, 67, 68.

⁹⁸ *The Payne-Butrick Papers Volumes One, Two, Three*, ed. William L. Anderson et al (Lincoln: U of Nebraska Press, 2010), p. 130, n. 84, citing "Journal of Return J. Meigs," *East Tennessee Roots* 8 (Summer 1996), see p. 354.

Turning from X to H1, another rare Cherokee type, we can detect traces of another people with whom Phoenicians were associated. Both Participant 3.52, Dorene Soiret (S8160), and 3.53, Karen Garruto (G8184), have peculiar forms of **H1z1**. Soiret's mutation at 16188.2C is not reported anywhere else in combination with her other mutations and thus makes her mitochondrial lineage unique. Since it only occurs in North America in this exact form, the presumption is that it is American Indian; it has been traced to Eliza Jane Murray, born 1829 in Scott County, Va., a region that formed part of the historical homeland of the Cherokee, embracing also the traditional stronghold of the Conoy Indians on the New River and Kanawha River, today the primary river of West Virginia. Certainly, the family regarded their heritage as Cherokee, mixed with Shawnee (see her genealogy in Appendix B, III). Garruto, who lives in Brandon, Fla. across the country from Soiret, also has the rare 16188.2C but in combination with other mutations, making her lineage part of a cluster with Soiret's in origin, perhaps 10,000 years ago. Presumably, the two lineages have shared the same historical travels from their original geographical source, down to their presence in Cherokees, or a related tribe, where they are the sole, puzzling exemplars.

Dorene Gound Soiret

Alice LaBier, b. Jan. 28, 1943 Va.

Treecia Mae Jarrell, b. Sept. 4, 1912, W. Va.

Minnie Mae Minta Adkins, b. May 9, 1887, W. Va.

Emily Adkins, b. May 10, 1864, Lincoln Co., W. Va., d. 1939

Eliza Jane Murray, b. 1829, Scott Co., Va., d. 1908, Logan Co., W. Va.

Genealogically speaking, Garruto's female line has been traced to Nancy Ward Noel, born about 1785 in Virginia. Nancy Ward Noel's mother was remembered only as being named Phebe, almost certainly not a Cherokee name since Cherokees could not pronounce p's or b's. We assume this gets us back to the time of full and half-bloods. It seems to confirm Cherokee heritage with the name of Nancy Ward being used for one of the Noel children. It also shows Jewish connections.⁹⁹

⁹⁹ Noel is a Melungeon, Norman, English, Huguenot, Cherokee and Sephardic Jewish surname deriving originally from the Hebrew name Noah in the south of France. Note the so-called theophoric, or God-bearing, suffix, -el, as in Nathaniel, Riddle, Howell, Bagsell, Judhael and Lowell. Phoebe is also a theophoric name, and was popular with Jews and Crypto-Jews. It comes from Phoebus (Foix in Aquitaine, Philipps in England, Forbes in Scotland).

Phebe, b. 1785 Va. (1860 Adair Co., Ky. Federal Census)
Nancy Ward Noel, b. 9 September 1818, Washington Co., Ky.
Katherine Ellen McClain, b. 10 January 1845, Adair Co., Ky.
Myrtle Willis b. 1875, Tex.
Minnie Johnson b. abt. 1900, Tex.
Minnie Marie Johnson b. 23 April 1919, TX, d. Vinita, Okla.
Karen Garruto

In ancient times, H1 was centered in Libya and Tunisia among the Tuareg people, concentrated around the site of ancient Carthage. In the first millennium BCE, this was the maritime capital of the Phoenicians, who sent teeming colonies westward composed of natives from the Maghreb interior. Carthage itself was a colony. The Greek term *Phoiniki* designated people associated with the phoenix (a mythological bird that rose from its own ashes), the date palm and a reddish-blue or purple dye, all emblems of Phoenician or Punic civilization. Phoenician trade was founded on Tyrian purple, a violet-purple dye derived from the Murex sea snail's shell. These Levantine people stepped into the copper and tin trade of the Minoans after about 1200 BCE and moved their center of operations from Lebanon to Asia Minor to Carthage.

After the Third Punic War, the Phoenician state was defeated by Rome. Supposedly it was utterly annihilated. Scipio Africanus set fire to their navy and sowed salt in the fields around Carthage in 146 BCE. But Phoenician DNA did not cease to exist. Two clans—the Red Paint and the Blue Paint—traced themselves to the Phoenicians. The phoenix rising from the ashes became the national symbol of the Cherokees. Also, early law cases in Tennessee mention Phoenicians as ancestors of Melungeons.

A curious Phoenician fable is embedded in the Cherokee national origin narrative and may throw some light on these ancestries. It tells how the honest, trusting red men were hoodwinked by white people arriving in ships:

Then the white strangers, which were supposed to be visitors from heaven and who were supposed to be such on account of their white skins, as the idea and emblem of white was purity and spirituality among the Cherokees, these strangers were taken to be such, asked that they be allowed a small piece of ground upon which to camp, cook and sleep; it was charitably granted. These strangers were entertained by the Cherokee clans very charitably and food and other articles of comfort freely given to them. Then these strangers made known their desire and willingness to remain with the native Cherokee clans if they were allowed to purchase a small piece of ground upon which to camp and sleep. They made known to the

tribe that they only needed a small piece of land about the size of a bull hide. This modest request was freely granted to the strangers and sold to them for a trifling consideration. The supposed heavenly strangers then cut one of the ox hides which they had brought with them into a small string which they stretched around a square enclosing several hundred square yards. The strangers were asked to smoke with the clans. All the clans gathered at the ancient site of the sacred round or half sphere temple. This they claimed to be in accordance with the purchase agreement to which the tribe finally agreed, saying at the same time that they had been deceived. Other purchases of land were made for which a consideration was always given by the white heavenly strangers, after the cession of which the tribe always acknowledged that they had been deceived. Then the tribe finally came to the conclusion that this white stranger was from the opposite pole of the heavens and put on his white skin for the purpose of deceiving.¹⁰⁰



Masks, a Phoenician specialty, were often items of trade. They were used as home décor in classical antiquity. Shown here is a Paint Clan mask in the collection of Donald Yates. It is carved from buckeye wood, hardened with fire, painted with organic and mineral paints and covered with bee's-wax by Virgil Crowe, who single-handedly revived the Cherokee Paint Clan way of making masks. He made this mask as a demonstration of mask-making art in 1990, Cherokee, North Carolina. The starkly divided colors were said to represent the fate of a warrior, a choice between life (red, the color of the Paint Clan) and death (black). Red and black can also be interpreted as the colors of the East (the source of life) and West (place where the ancestors live, Elohi), as well as the colors of the two paint clans, Ani-Wodi and Ani-Sahoni.

¹⁰⁰ *Cherokee Origin arlinF*, pp. 12-15.

Before coins were invented the ancients used either barter or trade tokens. Throughout the long length of Egyptian civilization barter was the order of the day. There are simply no Egyptian coins in collections today unless they are specimens of rare Ptolemaic issue (323 to 30 BCE). A standard type of token was the ox-hide-shaped copper ingots or reel-shaped metal pieces of the Phoenicians. These are very common in the archeological and pictorial record of Eastern tribes in the Ohio Valley. The point of the story recited by the Cherokee at their Green Corn Dance seems to be that white invaders offered the Indians money and inflated the value thereof. It was a myth first told by the ancient Phoenicians about their success in winning possession of the hinterlands of Carthage. The multitudinous desert folk they overcame composed the bulk of Phoenician colonists.

Minoans

Just as the Phoenicians didn't call themselves Phoenicians, the Minoans did not call themselves Minoans. Whatever their name, though, they were the first high civilization in Europe and first seafaring traders. The maritime empire they built in the East Mediterranean was almost certainly a beneficiary of the biggest bonanza of all human history, the mineral riches of Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale. Michigan's hyper-pure float copper fueled the Copper Age and Bronze Age in the Old World after copper veins in Qatar, Cyprus, Sardinia, Anatolia and other Mediterranean locations were scraped clean. More than 500,000 *tons* of it were removed from the earth, as estimated from ancient abandoned mine shafts and galleries as well as missing crystalline copper boulders. Little of that amount can be accounted for in the archeological record of American Indians. Most was forged into ingots and shipped across the Atlantic to eager world markets.¹⁰¹

Three of the known staging areas for the copper trade were Poverty Point, Louisiana; Mississippi's Pearl River, where there is still a place called Ancient Forges, and the lower Chattahoochee River (witness the Metcalf Stone with letters in Linear A identified by Cyrus Gordon and so-called Indian Princess, a Tifinagh style token). The reasons these places were favored were accessibility by water and an abundance of hot-burning large cypresses and cedars that could be felled and floated to the forges.

Upstream on the headwaters of the Chattahoochee are the rich deposits of the Nacoochee Valley and Georgia Gold Belt where the Apalache Indians had their capital. The placer gold and nuggets found there rank among the purest in the world. It has been suggested Nacoochee is a corruption or

¹⁰¹ See C. Fred Rydholm, *Michigan Copper: The Untold Story, A History of Discovery* (Marquette: Winter Cabin, 2006), who notes Minoan, Greek, Phoenician, Norse and other connections. See also Roger Jewell, *Ancient Mines of Kitchi-Gummi. Cypriot/Minoan Traders in North America*, 3rd ed. (Fairfield: Jewell Histories, 2011).

adaptation in a Creek language of a word meaning “bear.” Confusingly, in the Creek and Seminole languages the word for bear, Nokosi, is the same as or very similar to the Cherokee one for star, *nokwsi*. The Cherokee word for bear is *yona*.

Yet none of these languages represents the oldest layer of settlement. The earliest name for the Georgia Gold Zone was undoubtedly a variation of *Nucay*, the word for ‘gold’ that Columbus and De Soto and the other European gold-seekers repeatedly inquired after. The Taino forms *nucay*, *nozay* are related to the African forms *nege*, *nexe* (pronounced nuh-kuh) and Egyptian *nb-*, all meaning “gold, ore, precious metal.”¹⁰² Gold was called by its Old World name in the New World.

Many of the first families in Habersham, Stephens and White County reportedly have latent Iberian, Semitic, North African, East Mediterranean and Middle Eastern DNA, testifying to early mining communities.

It’s not impossible that the earliest European DNA in Georgia’s Gold Belt goes back to the Minoans who were drawn there for mining metals, especially gold.¹⁰³ According to this etymology, the original name must have been something like Nuh-kuh-gee, meaning “Gold Lands,” which the Creeks heard as their name for “bear,” the Cherokee interpreted as their word for “star,” or renamed in the Cherokee language substituting Yonah Mountain, and white settlers eventually corrupted into the form Nickajack. It’s a theory anyway.

There may yet be a connection to the bear and to stars. The Minoan, or Cretan, capital on Thera destroyed by a volcanic eruption around 1670 BCE, was, according to several sources, named Callistea. Galisteo, New Mexico, with its distinctive “bear constellation” petroglyphs, one forty feet tall, has the same name. The Cherokee recount in their national origin story that when they arrived in America, reduced from twelve clans to seven, the surviving clans “were separately named after the seven stars in the Yohna constellation.”¹⁰⁴ They were, evidently, mariners, not just a bunch of primitive tribes looking for better place to live.

The oldest shipwreck in the world is a merchantman found in modern times off Antalya in Turkey, dated to about 1600 BCE. The ox-hide shape of its commercial copper ingots is unmistakably the same as found in Minoan

¹⁰² See Rafinesque, p. 723. Doric Greek *knakos* “yellow” may be related.

¹⁰³ Richard L. Thornton, *Native American Encyclopedia of Georgia* (Americas Revealed: Clarksville, 2020), p. 281.

¹⁰⁴ Donald N. Yates, *The Cherokee Origin Narrative* (Cherokee Chapbooks: 2017), p. 3. The Big Dipper is a large asterism consisting of seven bright stars of the constellation Ursa Major. They stand out and are used by navigators to find the North Star, Polaris, and other important stars. But the bear outline with feet is suggested only in the larger asterism. The whole was called Callistea by the ancients. Callistea’s “genealogy” went back to Pelasgus, the father of the Pelasgians or pre-Greeks.

palaces and depicted in ancient Egyptian tombs. The processed copper probably originated in America, though there is no way to be sure. In Mexico, where huge copper mines were also worked, the main staging areas in Olmec times were on the Vera Cruz coast, for the same reasons.

A Phoenician Gene?

Although our project concentrates on female lineages, a male haplogroup should also be mentioned, haplogroup **T**. This haplogroup is found sporadically even today in Eastern U.S. tribes. The trail of the Phoenicians is obvious as well in higher than average frequencies in Cyprus, Sicily, Tunisia, Ibiza, Andalusia and the northern tip of Morocco. In Spain, haplogroup T peaks at 10% in Cadiz, a Phoenician colony, and reaches over 15% on the island of Ibiza, a daughter colony of miners and traders from Cadiz in the first millennium BCE. The original haplogroup may derive from southwestern Iran or the Gulf region, where important metals were first mined and the earliest sea ports arose.

The poet William Butler Yeats' grandfather William Pollexfen (1811-92) claimed the Cornish and Devonshire Pollexfen family was descended from Phoenician seafarers. Tales like this remind us the Phoenicians live on even though banished from history. One of our customers says a Lebanese-American associate of her and her husband boasts of Phoenician genes and attributes his success in business to them. Phoenician memories go back to the very name Britain, which means Tin Isles in the Phoenician language.¹⁰⁵ The west of the island is noted for its unusual Mediterranean lineages, such as the paternal haplotype T of Thomas Jefferson. This has been traced to Wales and identified by many genealogists with that of Charlemagne. When he was 77 years old, Jefferson wrote in his diary, "The tradition in my father's family is that their ancestors came to this country from Wales, from the region of Snowdon, highest mountain in Great Britain." The copper mines of Gwyneth have been worked since antiquity and the region is famous for its high incidences of Mediterranean DNA types, such as E, J and T.¹⁰⁶

True Phoenician descent until recently has seemed to belong to the realm of fantasy. But with a new ancient DNA test, people are able to directly compare their personal genome with the actual DNA of five Phoenician skeletons from the coastal Lebanese Phoenician heartland city of Sidon, dating to around 1700 BCE. I myself (Donald Yates) got above an eight percent match on average with Bronze Age Phoenicians. My highest match was to a skeleton named Elissa, whose mitochondrial type is K1a2, and whose name means "my god is abundance." My Phoenician affinity is slightly

¹⁰⁵ Elizabeth Caldwell Hirschman and Donald N. Yates, *The Early Jews and Muslims of England and Wales* (Jefferson: McFarland, 2014), p. 5.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid, "Appendix A. Jewish DNA Hotspots," pp. 191-97.

higher than results of the Ancient Israelites Test (7.6%) but not as high as Minoans and Mycenaeans (9.5%).

The Phoenicians actually called themselves Canaanites. This was their ethnonym. Only a few lines of their language survive, even though they are credited with inventing our alphabet. The Bible says the Israelites wiped out the “sons of Canaan” upon taking possession of the Promised Land. Tantalizing mention of them occurs in Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian and Greek writings, where they are named as Sidonians or people of Tyre (another of their cities in Lebanon). But ancient DNA now has a fuller story to tell.

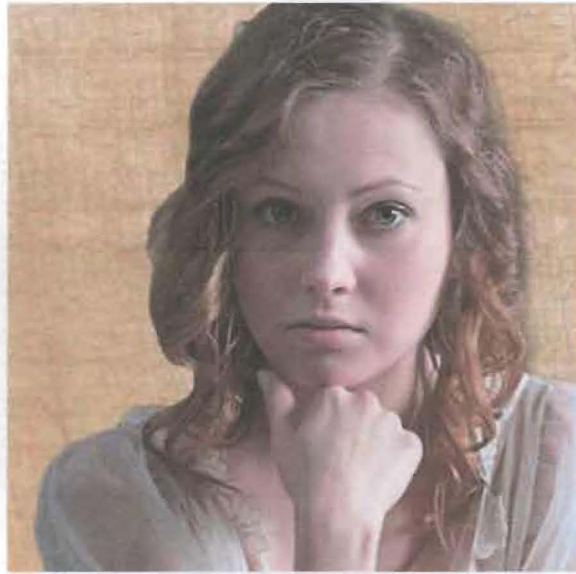


Eastern U.S. Indians in remote times may have resembled this Carthaginian, known as the Young Man of Byrsa. His mitochondrial haplogroup is U5b (European), but his overall ancestry combines Levantine, Iberian and North African.

Can we please replace “Carthage must be destroyed” with “Carthage must be recovered?”

Karen Garruto exhibits the following top matches on an autosomal basis: Cherokee (no. 1 worldwide), Majorcan Jews, Moroccan Arabs, Portuguese (Madeira), North African (Maghreb), Egyptian Berbers, Malta, Italian, Greek, Cypriot, Sicilian and Canary Islanders. Note the preponderance of island populations in these results. In the Rare Genes from History Test (a marker

panel with assorted ancient ethnicities) she shows the Helen and Europa (two Eurasian markers) and Amerind and Aztlan (two American Indian markers).



Ocean-going Helen Gene is one of 33 ancient DNA markers discovered by DNA Consultants.

The Helen Gene: A People Mover

Let us look at an ancient DNA marker that may reflect Phoenician influence. Named for “the face that launched a thousand ships,” the Helen Gene has a high frequency in the Aegean area, the same region which produced the first long-distance seafarers in Mesolithic times. From there, it was spread all over the Mediterranean and beyond, in discontinuous fashion, that is, by sea, rather than land. Notable landfall occurs in Cyprus, the Balearic Islands and the British Isles. The rough center of diffusion is ancient Troy, site of one of the world’s oldest trade empires and longest wars about 1100 BCE. Models of history associate the Helen gene with Greeks (Hellenes), Italians, Turks, Sephardic Jews, certain North Africans, Celtic migrations and modern-day Melungeons. It is found in as many as 1 in 18 Cherokees, 1 in 24 Berbers, 1 in 26 Melungeons and 1 in 29 Turks. Similarly in Northern Ireland, another island environment, it is carried by 4 percent of the population, its second highest appearance after Cherokees.

The opposite end of the scale proves the rule. It is present in only 9 out of 2,500 subjects in certain Japanese and Chinese. It has not even been reported in many African, Chinese and Indonesian populations. How rare is it? Its worldwide occurrence is 0.8%, concentrated in Mediterranean and Mediterranean-influenced populations.

World Ancestry of the Helen Gene



Geneticists are not usually inclined to try to reconstruct anything but land migrations of ancient peoples, which they must expand statistically in star-like fashion. The Helen Gene, on the other hand, clearly has a discontinuous, non-random, highly selective pattern of diffusion. On land, bodies of water can interpose barriers, but across oceans water can be like a conveyor belt for the movement of people.

Populations with High Frequency of "Phoenician Gene"	Percent	Comment
U.S. Cherokee Admixed (n=62)	0.056	Paint Clan
Northern Ireland (n=207)	0.041	Element in Melungeons
Moroccan Berbers (n = 50)	0.041	Hinterland of Carthage
Malta (n=157)	0.041	Phoenician colony
Albanian - Italy (n = 100)	0.04	Mediterranean people
Melungeon (n = 40)	0.038	Phoenician roots
Turkish (n = 198)	0.035	Home of Troy, Byblos
Native American - Michigan (n = 29)	0.035	High hg X, Ojibway
Croatian (n = 105)	0.034	Dubrovnik
White - Maine (n = 151)	0.033	Abenaki Indians
Western Sicily (n = 120)	0.033	Motya, Palermo, Pantelleria
Greek Cypriot (n = 1475)	0.033	East Mediterranean, Kittans
Spanish - Minorcan (n = 100)	0.03	Carthaginian colonies
Italian - Tuscany (n = 188)	0.03	Etruscans

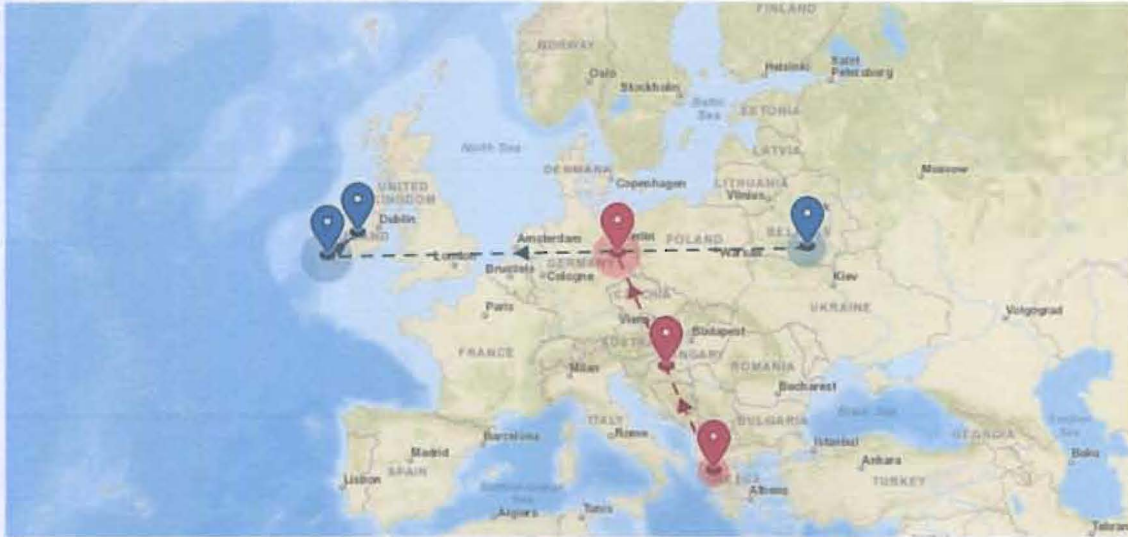
<u>Saharawis (n = 59)</u>	0.029	Hinterland of Carthage
<u>White - Minnesota (n = 160)</u>	0.028	Ojibway & copper mining
<u>Moroccan Arabs (n = 80)</u>	0.028	West Carthaginian Empire
<u>Italian (n = 223)</u>	0.027	Mediterranean
<u>Majorcan Jews - Chueta (n = 102)</u>	0.025	Former colony
<u>Tunisian (n = 196)</u>	0.025	Capital region with Carthage
<u>Armenian - Lake Sevan (n = 101)</u>	0.025	Traders, related to Greeks
<u>Spanish - Balearic Islands (n = 113)</u>	0.022	Ibiza colony, lead & silver mines
<u>England/Wales (n = 437)</u>	0.022	Tin Isles
<u>Greek (n = 205)</u>	0.022	Mediterranean sea people
<u>Spanish - Canary Islands (n = 240)</u>	0.021	Former colonies
<u>Portuguese - Madeira (n = 100)</u>	0.02	Former colonies
<u>Arabs (Palestinian etc.) (n = 100)</u>	0.02	Traders, Sidonian homeland
<u>Arab - Damascus, Syria (n = 100)</u>	0.02	Traders, Sidonian homeland
Sicilian (n = 220)	0.02	Largest colony, breadbasket
<u>Jewish (n = 124)</u>	0.016	Sephardic Jews fr. Spain/Port.

The top frequencies of the Helen Gene are shown above with possible explanations. By these calculations, the Phoenician shadow in both European and American history is large. It lasts even down to the present in a genetic dimension. None of Phoenicia's expansion was land-mediated or random in its spread. It was all strategic and seaborne. The Helen Gene was carried along with breeding females to settle lands with valuable resources. Examples are the unique tin deposits of Cornwall, the rich copper, silver and gold mines of Spain and the bonanzas of float copper on the shores of the Great Lakes. Such a pattern is not revealed in simulations of migration, genetics and prehistory adopted in today's handbooks and encyclopedias, which have no place for discontinuous, non-gradual, oceanic expansion.¹⁰⁷

By the same token, the migration maps of origins and admixture presented to consumers by companies like HomeDNA, FamilyTreeDNA and others are often misleading. HomeDNA uses the theories of Israeli-American geneticist Eran Elhaik. It shows my (Donald Yates') main ancestors (Story A) starting out in Greece "prior to 696 AD," and "between 395 AD and 799 AD... or at least by 1935" moving from Croatia to Germany, where my ancestors intersected with others from Belarussia (Story

¹⁰⁷ See for instance the McDonald Institute's excellent *Simulations, Genetics and Human Prehistory*, ed. Shuichi Matsumura, Peter Forster and Colin Renfrew (Cambridge: Oxbow, 2008).

B). The B group tracks to some point located in the North Atlantic Ocean and then settled in Ireland, where they went through the Irish Dark Age and experienced the Gaelic Invasion of Roman Britain. Unlike even cows and wildlife, these peoples all traveled in straight lines. Here is a screenshot:



Donald Yates' ancestry according to HomeDNA.

My son's and my wife's stories were very similar and equally fantastic. None of their results shows any Native American ancestry. Now, word of mouth in my family does not even mention Greek, Russian, Belarusian, Hungarian or Croatian ancestry; it dwells rather significantly on Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Scottish, English, Irish, French and Jewish. My DNA story certainly did not stop in Ireland or the British Isles. It leapt the ocean and played out since the 1600s in America. The places trotted out by HomeDNA don't seem to match up at all with biogeographical results from my mitochondrial, Y chromosome or forensic tests. The "experts" declare me Scandinavian, Southern French and Pakistani, and list my top gene pools as Fennoscandia (22.2%), Southern France (14.6), Orkney Islands (Norse, 13.9) and Southeast India (11.4). But in all my hours and miles of genealogical research I've never encountered a single figure from any of those places, with the one exception of a French Huguenot great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather whose family came from Southern France but was Spanish and Jewish. One reason for this skewing, I believe, is there is no provision by population geneticists for the movement of peoples across the water. It is like trying to write a history of the earth without volcanoes.

Any historian or archeologist worth his summer grant money heartily detests diffusionism, of course. Obedient to academic rules, we must ignore any Native American histories that involve crossing either the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans. Native Americans are obligated to migrate across a Bering land-bridge. If your ancestors didn't, they weren't Native American. Remember the A-B-C-D-and-sometimes-X rule from the previous chapter?

The Cherokee and the Hopi, however, have origin narratives that specify crossing an ocean. Their earliest legends depict their civilization arriving full-blown on the shores of North America.

The Cherokees' classic account was published in 1896 as *Red Man's Origin* by William Eubanks and George Sanders. Its first words are, "When we lived beyond the great waters..." The protagonists come from Elohiyi, a land in the west conceived as being on the other side of a spherical Earth. The people had twelve clans at first—a standard number of mythic lineages found in Greek and other Old World peoples. This conventional number finds expression in the signs of the Zodiac, the Olympian gods and goddesses and Twelve Tribes of Israel. The primeval Cherokee world echoes classical antiquity in having gods, priests, temples, assembly halls, towers, stores, floods, armies, navies, sophisticated weapons, cults, mysteries, oracles and wise men.

The ending specifically invokes the image of the phoenix:

The race will ... according to the oracle of the Stone of truth containing the image [divining crystal], be driven to the sea shore, where they will cross the water and landing in the old country from whence they came will find the five lost clans, become reunited into twelve clans, into one people again, will become a great nation known as the Esh-el-okee [willing settlers] of the half sphere temple of light [councilhouse]. They will become reunited into twelve clans, into one people again, and become a great nation.



Phoenix, shown on a Greek coin of 1828, is the symbol of renewable riches adopted by Egyptians, Phoenicians, Greeks, Persians, Arabs, Cherokees, Sephardic Jews and other mercantile peoples.

How do we account for these contradictory elements in Native America? As I told one science reporter incredulous of alternative histories in American Indian descendants, it's a long way from the Ice Age to 1492. There is time for almost any people on earth to discover America, and most of them did. Many of them settled here and mixed with a multitude of tribes already present. Indeed, it makes more sense to ask what ethnic groups are *not* included in the diversity of the Americas.

We will close this chapter with the story of the Filles du Roi, adopted daughters of the French king in the early colonization of Acadia who were frequently of native blood. Acadia was a colony of New France in northeastern North America which included parts of eastern Quebec, the Maritime provinces of Canada and Maine to the Kennebec River. Although there had been several episodes of contact in the sixteenth century, the first French colonists did not arrive until 1604 under the leadership of Pierre du Gua de Monts and Samuel de Champlain. England contested it with France at various times. The natives were small, independent Algonquian tribes we know today as Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, Abenaki and Penobscot with a number of reservations in Canada and the United States. The capital of Acadia was Port Royal in Nova Scotia. Inland, north and west of the area lived the Montaignais or Innu. Many of the Filles du Roi of Acadia have been found to be of Native American extraction by their mitochondrial descendants, often an anomalous type like T or X.

One Phase III participant (who prefers not to be named) traces his maternal line back to an Acadian woman in the early 1600s. His ancestor Jacquette Michel is listed as a Fille du Roi, one sent to New France. One of Jacquette's daughters is noted as a Metis woman, confirming the line was American Indian. Jacquette's mother was Jeanne Dupont. Interestingly there is a record of Jeanne's death in Riviere Ouelle, Quebec one week after Jacquette's death, indicating a probable epidemic. Here are the first five generations in our participant's Filles du Roi descent (he appears in the 12th generation):

1. Jeanne (Dupont) Michel b. 1617
2. Jacquette (Michel) Miquier b. 1637
3. Françoise(Miquier) Morin b. 1674
4. Marie Rosalie (Morin) Dubé b. 1710
5. Catherine (Dubé) St. Amand b. 1744

Was Jeanne the daughter of a French explorer/fur trader, who was returned to France during the English occupation? Apparently so, and both Jacquette and Jeanne left a lineage surviving down to our day as a T1 haplotype with a distinctive HVR1 mutation. This marker has so far been found only in the New World, suggesting it is an American Indian type rather

than European or Middle Eastern. It matches six people of Cherokee descent.

Alexandre Alemann's list of 115 provable Metis women of Eastern Canada has Jacqueline Michel, Jeanne Dupont's daughter, listed as no. 9. These women came to the New World sponsored by the French government to be married to the settlers. Many were Metis or Native sent at first to France for an education and baptism. They thus lost their true identity. It should be noted that Jeanne Dupont died in Canada. Filles du Roi did not bring their mothers with them when they emigrated or returned to the New World.

All of these documents are controversial because mitochondrial DNA tests on the descendants of these women 'prove' that they were Europeans. If a descendant has a T neither that descendant nor the ancestral source of that mitochondrial DNA can be Native American.

By following the genealogical trail as far back as we could, to around 1600, we have established, we believe, beyond reasonable doubt that at least one of the American Indian lines in early French Canadian colonial history was mitochondrial haplogroup T, long falsely held to be a non-Indian type. The choices of ethnicity for Jeanne Dupont's mother are Montagnais, Huron, Abenaki, Mi'kmak, Etchemins and Meleceets, "a veritable constellation in Eastern Canada where the Indians and the Metis shared the same founding roots called 'native'" (Alexander Alemann).

The widespread reports of T in Canada's East Coast and St. Lawrence River tribes echo high frequencies of the haplogroup among the Cherokee and other Eastern Seaboard and Ohio River Valley Indians. T, like X, J, K and the other anomalous haplotypes that have come to light in the Cherokee DNA Project, are part of an ancient pattern and uniform population structure. To adopt a metaphor from geology, they are part of the country rock of North America.

In our first volume, we linked the high frequency of haplogroup T in the Cherokee with the Ptolemaic expedition of 234 BCE. Evidently, however, we can add underlying Egyptian inputs to the Native DNA that developed in the Northeast as well as the Southeast. Barry Fell found correspondences between Ptolemaic Egyptian and more than 400 terms referring to mariners, navigation, astronomy, meteorology, justice and administration, medicine and economy in the Micmac and Abenaki languages of present-day New England.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁸ Barry Fell, *America B.C.: Ancient Settlers in the New World*, rev. ed. (New York: Pocket, 1989), pp. 252-76. See also John H. Cooper, "Ancient Greek Cultural and Linguistic Influences in Atlantic North America," *NEARA Journal* 35/2 (2001), pp. 81-91.