

RFA Dispatch

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*An organizational communications medium addressed to members of the
Reynolds Family Association (RFA)*

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Dues, Membership and the RFA Mailing List

In spite of our earlier reminders concerning payment of RFA annual dues for 2012, we have found that we have not received renewal payments from over 30 members who are currently on our RFA Roster and on the RFA mailing list. We encourage you to check your records and, if you have not yet remitted your dues, then please do so.

After publication of this edition of the *RFA Dispatch*, we intend to remove the names of those who have not paid 2012 dues from our mailing list, which means that you will not receive future editions or emails. The RFA Registrar will be placing the names of those members who have not paid annual dues in an “inactive” status.

Your membership -- if it is one of those placed in an “inactive” status -- can be restored at any future point by remitting payment of annual dues to:

Reynolds Family Association
c/o Debbie Jones, Registrar
22922 East Trap Pond Road
Georgetown, DE 19947-3728

Again, RFA Life members are exempt from payment of annual dues.

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RFA Membership and Benefits

Your membership in RFA means that you belong to an organization which is concerned exclusively with the genealogical investigation and dissemination of genealogical facts and histories of families whose surname is Reynolds (by various spellings). Our association, which was first loosely formed in 1892 as a society to investigate the Reynolds' lines in America based upon a recognized immigrant ancestor to the US, will be changing.

Effects of the Reynolds DNA Project

Particularly with the advent of the Reynolds Surname DNA Project, and the results of that project to date, we have new insight into the very diverse origins of our Reynolds families.

The Reynolds DNA Project is demonstrating that, instead of a single line of those with the Reynolds surname, we actually have over thirteen apparently separate Reynolds lines. These lines are substantiated by multiple descendants of the same yDNA genetic characteristics. And, significantly, these results have identified two separate origins (by what is called in genetic terms as "haplogroups" (see the "Glossary" of genetic terms under the FAQ tab at the Family Tree DNA web site <<http://www.familytreedna.com/>>) of the Reynolds' name. Both of these point to origins that go back in time even before the "British Isles" were known by that name. In fact, our lines appear to derive from the Viking invaders of those islands at various points of arrival after about 459 A.D. (end of the Roman occupation).

The Reynolds DNA Project has also awakened us to the international interest that exists in the genealogies of the Reynolds lines. The Project has participants located in Australia, Canada, England, Ireland and, of course, the US, and it is beginning disclose genetic relationships (through some common ancestor in the past) between members of those countries. And as the availability of DNA testing becomes more accessible, we expect that the frequency of discoveries of such international, genetic families will increase.

Our Association then, in light of these developments, needs to change its prospective membership base from the former "American lines" to a form that is more responsive to the historical and international diversity of our roots. We, therefore, intend to open membership in the RFA to any individual, regardless of where they might reside and regardless of apparent country of origin of their known ancestor, who is interested in researching a Reynolds line. This change will allow, for example, a large Canadian segment, as well as others elsewhere, who are actively interested in the Reynolds' genealogies the opportunity to join our Association and to share information on what are probably related lines.

Also, instead of classifying our RFA membership in terms of date of immigrant ancestor to the US (as has been the convention used previously), we intend to start using the term, *Most Distant Known Ancestor* (MDKA). This will, at the onset, make almost no difference in the way we have assigned RFA membership numbers (which identify membership number as well as derivative line). This change, however, will cause an increase in the number of recognized lines, particularly with those members who have been previously classified as "Unknown" origin --i.e., "stonewalled" -- where it has been, in most cases, the want of accessible historical information

(such as “burned” or “lost” records) and not the absence of diligent genealogical research -- that has prevented further disclosure of origins.

In making this change, it is essential that we abide by the *Genealogical Standards and Guidelines* of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) < <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/> > in matters of evidentiary proof of lineages.

How This Change Might Influence How The RFA Operates

Again, the mission of our RFA is to encourage genealogical research and to share genealogical information. In the past, our method of sharing information was primarily the RFA newsletter, *Reynolds Recollections*. That newsletter was created from genealogical information held on the various Reynolds lines and disseminated to RFA members. That approach was only partly satisfactory from the stand point that, if a partial lineage happened to be in a particular member’s line, then that member would perhaps find some benefit in the newsletter content. The partial lineage would be of little interest to other readers.

The true value in being a member of the RFA lies in our collective knowledge of our respective Reynolds’ families, and, so, we are investigating a new platform to bring all of the lineage information together in a form that would show entire lineages, to the extent they are known. We are evaluating the merits of a software program that would allow us to index, relate and view a multitude of lineages.

We Will Need Help in Making This Transition

Development of this approach will take time, co-ordination and effort on the part of several people -- eventually, perhaps, all of us who are able to deal with data entry on a computer.

As a prelude to this effort, we are wondering if there are any of our RFA members, or members of their families, who have experience in using the programming languages of PHP and MySQL and would be able to lend a hand in formatting elements of the software we are evaluating? Please contact either Joe Reynolds <joe.reynolds@reynoldsfamily.org> or Gary W. Reynolds <greyno3228@aol.com> in responding to this request.

Other Changes and Additional Benefits

If you have not recently checked it out, you should visit the Reynolds Family Association web site at: <<http://www.reynoldsfamily.org/>>. This site has been revised and updated. One of the features of this web site is the provision for posting inquiries, and a number of inquiries for 2012 have been made. We encourage you to check these inquiries from time-to-time to identify those which might be linked to the line in which you are interested or knowledgeable and possibly assist those who have posted the respective inquiry.

We have also recently established an RFA presence on both Facebook and Twitter, as follows:

Facebook: < <https://www.facebook.com/ReynoldsFamilyAssociation> >

Twitter: < <https://twitter.com/#!/ReynoldsFamilyA> >

And we have created an RFA Blog at < <http://blog.reynoldsfamily.org/> > and an RFA Chat Room at < <http://www.reynoldsfamily.org/members/chat/> >. We have set up the RFA Blog to make announcements and such, and, as RFA members, you can add your comments or topics for discussion and comment. We have, for example, also posted the 2012 RFA web page inquiries and have related a recent DNA Project success story on our Blog. We have established the Chat Room as a location where you can arrange to meet, perhaps, a fellow researcher of your Reynolds line of interest, get to know each other and exchange information. Both the RFA Blog and Chat Room require that you select a user name and password for entry. If you elect to use either or both of these, please separately record the user name and password you select and keep those in a secure location for your own reference.

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A Temporary, Partial Subsidy for DNA Tests to RFA Members

During the period when the RFA was mostly inactive, two of our members donated funds to be used for DNA testing. We have recently transferred those donations to the General Fund for the Reynolds Surname DNA Project at Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), the host for the Project, for the purpose of providing a small subsidy for new DNA tests ordered by RFA members or for new tests sponsored by RFA members for one of their family line.

DNA testing is relatively expensive because of the costs of preparation of the test kit, analysis of test samples, and reporting (and recording) test results. FTDNA, which does all of this, already affords (somewhat) reduced rates for testing to organized family projects such as the Reynolds Project.

We strongly believe that at least two individuals from each of our recognized RFA lines should be tested, but the funds donated, in this instance, are limited. Consequently, and for a limited time (until the donated funds are used up), we have arranged for the following subsidy amounts to be applied to new orders by RFA members for Reynolds Project DNA testing:

<u>Type of test</u>	<u>FTDNA cost of test</u>	<u>Subsidy to be applied</u>
25 marker yDNA	\$124.00	\$10.00
37 marker yDNA	\$149.00	\$20.00
67 marker yDNA	\$238.00	\$30.00

Again, these subsidies are available as the result of contributions made by RFA members for the support of DNA testing by RFA members (these funds are not provided from your RFA annual dues payments).

If you might wish to take advantage of this limited offering to RFA members, you can do so by entering an application for yourself (you must be a male of the Reynolds surname) or an individual you intend to sponsor (a male of the Reynolds surname) to join the Reynolds Project at FTDNA by way of the following web site:

< <http://www.familytreedna.com/project-join-request.aspx?group=Reynolds> >

In your application to join the Reynolds Project, please state that you are an RFA member.

We would like to be able to continue offering this testing subsidy but we can do so only if you, as members of the RFA, wish to contribute to the General Fund for the Reynolds Project at FTDNA. If you want to contribute so that this testing subsidy can continue, you can learn how to do so by information found in the following link:

< <http://www.familytreedna.com/group-general-fund-contribution.aspx> >

You will need to specify the name of the project (Reynolds Surname DNA Project) in making your contribution.

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Prepared and distributed by:
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Reynolds Family Association