



# NEWS & VIEWS

Underhill society OF AMERICA, INC.

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## UNDERHILL SURNAME Y-DNA PROJECT

The Underhill Society of America, Inc. has organized a Y-DNA surname project through FamilyTreeDNA, a leading genealogy focused DNA testing service. A visit to their website ([www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)) should be able to answer just about any question that you might have about DNA testing for genealogical purposes. Please also feel free to contact the Project Manager, Bob Underhill, with any questions that you might have. What follows are just a few particulars about our project.

### Why an Underhill Y-DNA surname project?

Y-DNA surname projects are a rapidly growing means of proving common paternal line ancestry. Sometimes conventional sources of proof just cannot be found or perhaps can't exist and even with "proven" lines of descent there are sometimes still grains of doubt or question marks remaining.

The extended Underhill family in the US and Canada is exceptionally well documented but even then, we do not know if all of the current Underhill lines connect back in England or whether these North American lines connect with Underhills in Australia, New Zealand or elsewhere in the world. Nor are all modern day Underhills placed within this otherwise well documented family.

Except for rare mutations estimated to occur once every 500 generations, Y-DNA passes unchanged from father to son. Matching results between otherwise unconnected Underhills would prove shared common Underhill ancestry. The results of this project could provide new clues for genealogical researchers.

How does it work? After you enroll in the project, FamilyTreeDNA will send you a test kit to obtain two samples of your DNA. The test is simple and only takes a minute. All that you will need to do is take a couple painless swabs of your inner cheek and then return the test kit to FamilyTreeDNA in the envelope provided.

Will my privacy be maintained? The only person who will have the names of participants will be the Project Manager. Your name will not be published, posted, or otherwise disclosed. Results will only be posted by identification number. FamilyTreeDNA is bound by Federal and State privacy and confidentiality laws. The testing facility itself at the University of Arizona never sees the names of participants.

Who can participate? Any male Underhill from anywhere in the world can participate. You do not need to be a member of the Underhill Society. We do ask that to the extent you can, to please identify your Underhill lineage so that we can place your results within the context of other lines of descent for purposes of mapping the Underhill family and possibly making linkages that up until now have not been made.

### Why can't women and non-Underhill males participate?

Women can't directly participate because only males have the Y chromosome and at present there is not a genealogical DNA tool for male/female lines. Underhill family females can help make this project a success by encouraging their Underhill brothers or male Underhill cousins to participate. Non-Underhill surnamed males can similarly help this project succeed by encouraging their

male Underhill surnamed cousins to participate.

What exactly will the results tell me? The Underhill Society has obtained a group rate for this project, \$99 plus \$2 S&H for the 12-marker test. You will pay FamilyTreeDNA directly.

Why should you participate? If we are to prove whether or not there is a common ancestry for all of the Underhill lines, we need sufficient participation from each line. Any line that does not participate will remain a question mark in that regard. For those Underhills who either are not sure where they fit within the larger Underhill family or for whom there may be a question as to whether they fit at all, we will only be able to place them or answer the question if we have sufficient participation so as to reach conclusions. In a nutshell, the more participants, the more definitive the results and the more questions we'll be able to answer. Especially important is participation by those with proven lines of descent so as to establish benchmarks against which other results can be compared. This is critical to the success of this project. Please consider being part of this project.

How do I join the project? Go to [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com) and once there to the Underhill surname project and complete the Underhill Project Join Request. The Group Administrator for this project will then respond back to you with the join code that you need to become a participant in this project and to buy your kit from FamilyTreeDNA at the discounted rate via their website. If you don't have Internet access but wish to join the project, please contact the Project Manager, Bob Underhill (below) and he will make arrangements on your behalf.

Who is managing this project for the Underhill Society?

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## AMERICA ATTACKED

This is yet another response to an appeal by the Society President following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Our last issue (Summer 2003) contained several reactions by members and others.

**America Attacked** – Susan McMahon, San Antonio, Texas

I was at work at USAA, United Services Automobile Association, in San Antonio, Texas on the morning of September 11. I received a phone call from my sister who told me that a plane had crashed into the Trade Center. Others around me started getting phone calls. Then we heard of another plane crashing into the ground in Pennsylvania. It was very hard to concentrate on work. Our company kept all televisions on CNN so employees could get the latest news and they kept us informed over our own intranet web site by setting up a special site for employees to view the latest happenings throughout the coming days.

USAA members are mainly military, active duty and retired, National Guard and Reservists and their families. The company had a great concern for all of their members who may have been part of this tragic attack. USAA was on the scene within a couple of days in New York and Washington, DC to assist members and their families. In San Antonio, USAA President, Bob Davis, held a special memorial program and employees (13,000) crowded around all televisions and the auditorium to take part. And, after our representative returned after weeks helping members and family who lost loved one in the attack, USAA had a special program where our representatives told us of their days assisting with death claims, property claims and just giving a helping hand to those who needed it. It is great to work for such a great company and who cares so much for their members!

I have a cousin, Tom McMahon, who is currently working in the makeshift morgue at the Trade Center site. He is a Detective with the NY Port Authority and has worked on site since September 11, 7 days a week, 12 hours a day at first and now, 6 days a week, 12 hours a day. We are very proud of

him. His maternal aunt was in the Trade Center the morning of the attack and called him as she was running out of the building. She had no shoes on and had left her purse behind. She told him she wanted to go back and get them. Tom saw what was happening on the television and told her “no”. Fortunately, she listened and made it out safely.

My uncle’s stepson worked in the Trade Center but the day of the attack he happened to have the day off! His mother didn’t know until later in the day that he had not gone to work.

A second cousin, Margaret McMahon, went from her winter home in N. H. to assist in the medical area. Bandaging, cleaning and caring for whoever came into the tent.

Our family was fortunate in that we lost no family member in the tragic events of September 11, and we are proud of those who assisted. I only hope that all families could have been that lucky.



## LETTERS

The Society President received a great e-mail note in response to an article that appeared in our Fall 2002 issue of the News and Views. The note follows:

May 31, 2003

George,

Our thanks to you for the lovely article in the Underhill News & Views Letter. We especially enjoyed the story of our journey from Corporate America and a life of Luxury to the extreme environment of The Wilderness of Alaska (The Last Frontier). I don’t imagine we’d survive that experience at our current age, although Dave did go moose hunting with some dear friends this past September. We are still enjoying the wonderful rewards in the form of roasts and steaks and wonderful tasting summer sausage and the likes thereof.

David’s father, the late George Seeley Underhill, would have enjoyed reading about his offspring in an Underhill journal.

We had a chuckle when we read about helping to start a native community. It was, in fact, a church community close to a native village. We were wondering if there was a prophetic meaning there alluding to a future adventure in store for us. We shall let you know if it comes to pass. We must get copies to our children and grandchildren. They will enjoy your article as much as we did.

Once again, we thank you for including us in this issue of the magazine. We appreciate all the time and effort that you and so many others spend, keeping the Underhill family all over the world in touch with one another.

Our sincere regards,  
David and Jay Underhill



Another note of interest to Society members concerns the history of Capt. John Underhill. Readers are also invited to visit [MysticVoicesLLC@cs.com](mailto:MysticVoicesLLC@cs.com) for another perspective.

May 31, 2003

Dear Mel Underhill,

Thanks for the information.

Thought you would be interested to know that my grandson, Luke Powell, a senior at Tufts Univ. was recently given an assignment to write a short paper on the subject of “Genocide and the Pequot War: Two Modern Day Views.” Sources for the paper were: “A Little Matter of Genocide” by Ward Churchill who argued that genocide was the intention, and “The Pequot War Reconsidered.” by Steven Katz who argued that it was not. Luke agreed with Katz. Being a descendant of Capt. John...could he perhaps be a little biased?

Nina Powell



### Special interest news from Canada:

In a letter to the Society Treasurer, we were informed that Zella Underhill Fraser celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 6, 2003. Her daughter Beverly J. Davis of Campbellton, N. B. wrote that the family planned a great day in celebrating this special event.

Zella is cited at 5:789 as Ellen Elizabeth Zella Underhill. She was b 1903 in Underhill, N. B. and married in 1928 Gordon Alister Fraser in Campbellton, N. B.



## OBITS

### BARBARA AILEEN BARTH

While full details of her death were not available it is understood she was a resident at a hospice when she died April 23, 2003. She was born Aug. 30, 1928 in Brooklyn, NY and married June 6, 1953 Richard Gertzen Barth. The Society extends heartfelt sympathy to the family.

Her genealogical reference is cited at 7:596-7 and 6:1037.



### KEITH L CONARD

The Society has learned of the death of Keith L. Conard on July 8, 2002 at the age of 50 years. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Susan, son Andrew D. 18 years, daughter Katherine L 13 years, father Donald Conard, brothers Scott and Kyle and sister Beth Conard Rowland and aunt Helen Reyes. He was preceded in death by his mother Edna Campbell Conard, grandmother Edna Duncan Campbell, and great uncle Edwin Duncan. Keith's genealogical reference is cited in 7:780.



### EDNA I. (DUNCAN) CAMPBELL

In a letter dated May 20, 2003 from Beth C. Rowland, the Society has learned of the death of her grandmother Edna I. (Duncan) Campbell in Brooklyn, NY on September 14, 1998. Edna was born July 13, 1904 in Brooklyn, NY and married March 1922 John L. Campbell. They have 3 children. Her genealogical reference is cited in 7:432-3 and 5:762-3.



**NOTE:** The genealogical references cited in this newsletter (e. g., 5:762-3) refer to the *Underhill Genealogy* published by the Society. Volumes 1 – 4 were published in 1932, Volumes 5 and 6 were published in 1980, and Volumes 7 and 8 were published in 2002. ◆

## ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Meeting of the Underhill Society will be conducted in Belleville, Michigan (near Detroit). An exciting time for attendees has been planned for the weekend of October 3, 4 and 5. Details concerning the meeting and registration information are enclosed with this newsletter. While the Annual Meeting fulfills the requirements of our By-Laws, it is another way to meet cousins, renew family connections, share insights, gain new ideas, and help give the Society continued vitality for the future! We hope you plan to attend – but if you are unable, won't you please send a letter of greetings? All such letters will be read at the Annual Meeting and will be an important addition to our historical files and collections. {Send letters to the Meeting Coordinator, Carl J. Underhill}



## NOMINATIONS

Elections of officers and committees will be conducted at the Annual Meeting in October. A nomination of an individual may be submitted – attendance at the meeting (while desirable) is not required. Any individual nominated should agree to serve, if elected. Interested individuals may also submit their own name for consideration, as well. All positions are for one year. To run an organization like the Underhill Society takes vision, desire, and interest. The Underhill Society today is the result of the dedication of the many volunteers throughout the years. The rich heritage we have inherited is a tradition that should be continued for future generations. Without YOU, how can our heritage be continued? Please consider volunteering to serve in some capacity and making a contribution. Get in touch with a current board member (telephone, e-mail, or snail mail) and discuss the possibilities!



## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial reports for the Society are attached. Thanks to Phebe, Sam and Harold! ◆

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