

Chaney - A Case Study

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on your Y-DNA results

Case Study

Pinpointing the Chaney Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyrone Bowes', is written above the printed name.

Dr Tyrone Bowes
9th September 2014

INTRODUCTION

A commercial ancestral Y chromosome DNA test will potentially provide one with the names of many hundreds of individuals with whom one shares a common male ancestor. But what often perplexes people is how one can match many individuals with different surnames? The answer is quite simple. Roughly 1,000 years ago one's direct medieval male ancestor, the first for example to call himself 'Chaney' was living in close proximity to others with whom he was related, but who assumed other surnames like Hatcher, Hudson, Howard and Cady. In the 1,000 years since paternally inherited surnames were first adopted there will be many descendants of those individuals some of whom will today undergo commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing. Hence the surnames of one's medieval ancestor's neighbours will be reflected in today's Y-DNA test results.

Surnames in England can still be found concentrated in the area where they first appeared or in the area where ones ancestors first settled. One can therefore use census data to determine the origin of the surnames that appear in one's Y-DNA results, identifying an area common to all, and reveal ones '**Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland.**' The paternal ancestral genetic homeland is the small area (usually within a 5 mile radius) where one's ancestors lived for hundreds if not thousands of years. It is the area where one's ancestor first inherited his surname surrounded by relatives who inherited others. It is the area where ones ancestors left their mark in its placenames, its history, and in the DNA of its current inhabitants. Since modern science can pinpoint a paternal ancestral genetic homeland it can also be used to confirm it by DNA testing individuals from the pinpointed area.

Notes of caution!

1. Paternally inherited surnames were adopted in England after the arrival of the Normans in 1066AD. Surnames in England tend not to reflect a genealogical record of a surnames founding ancestor but denote either a person's profession e.g. Taylor, Thatcher, Smith, a notable feature e.g. Short, Brown, Wise, or the place where they lived e.g. Townsend, Hill, York. As a result English surnames often have multiple points of origin, and hence potentially a large number of unrelated founding Adams (each surname may have had multiple founding 'Adams').
2. Science has demonstrated that only 50% of individuals with a unique surname will be related to that surname's founding ancestor (the surname Adam), the other 50% of people will have an association that has arisen as a result of what are called 'non-paternal events,' usually a result of adoptions or infidelity.
3. Often people are looking for their DNA results to trace back to a specific area. One must remember that the results reflect one's ancestor's neighbours from around 1000 years ago. As a result if one's English ancestors were descended from Viking raiders or conquering Normans, then ones Y-DNA results will often reflect earlier continental European or Scandinavian origin. In Ireland for example, only 60% of those with Irish ancestry are related to the pre-Christian Celtic tribes. One must approach this process with an open mind!

INTERPRETING THE Y-DNA RESULTS

To identify a paternal ancestral genetic homeland one must first identify the surnames that continually appear as genetic matches. These recurring surnames are less likely to be a result of non-paternal events (adoptions/infidelity) and reflect the surname of a medieval ancestor's neighbour. Surnames that recur as genetic matches to test subject Chaney are listed in **Figure 1**.

Test Subject	Haplogroup	Y-DNA Test Results								
		37 marker Matches					25 Marker Matches			
		exact	-1	-2	-3	-4	exact	-1	-2	
Chaney	M289	Chaney (x8) Hatcher(x9) Hudson(x4)	-	-	-	Howard/Howarth(x8)	Harris(x7) Hill(x11)	Adams(x5) Austin(x12) Bennett(x6) Blackburn(x4) Blair(x5) Bolding/Bolin/Bowling(x16) Carter(x3) Chandler(x4) Clark(x7) Coldwell(x3) Cook(x3) French(x20) ¹ Goddard(x6) ¹ Hadley(x10) ¹ Jackson(x5) Mabry(x4) Miller(x8) Morton(x3) Ogden(x7) Streeter(x10) ¹ Taylor(x6) ¹ Tharp/Thorp(x9) Thompson(x4) Weaver(x4) White(x3) Wilson(x5)	Barnes(x3) Bland(x10) Bottom/Bottoms(x5) Brook/Brooks(x11) Byram(x4) Coe(x7) Davis(x5) Douglas(x4) Ellis(x3) Fincher(x5) Garrison(x9) ¹ Gibson(x3) Graves(x6) ¹ Green(x5) Hancock(x3) Hart(x3) Hess(x3) Hogg(x4) Jones(x6) Lasiter(x6) Lovelace(x6) Middlebrook(x9) ¹ Morris(x3) Pemberton(x5) Phillips(x6) Quiring(x3) ¹ Ratcliff(x5) Red(x5) Scott(x4) Smith(x4) Stevens(x3) Williams(x6) ¹ Woodruff(x4) Young(x5)	

Figure 1: Mr Chaney's genetically recurring surname matches. Surnames are shown at the point at which they first appear as a genetic match e.g. the first match to an individual called Chaney occurs at 37/37 markers, although not all Chaney's may match at that level. In brackets are the numbers of individuals with each surname that appear as a genetic match. Coloured font denotes the ethnicity associated with each surname; **English**, black font indicates surnames with multiple possible ethnicities. ¹Multiple individuals recruited from the same close family and excluded from further analysis.

Upon commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing Mr Chaney matched other Chaney's who tested independently of him; this indicates that he is among the estimated 50% of individuals who after an estimated 1,000 years are directly descended from their surnames founding ancestor (the Chaney-Adam; the first to take that surname), see **Figure 1**. Chaney can be of English, Welsh or Scottish origin, yet Mr Chaney's genetically recurring surname matches are overwhelmingly associated with England. The predominance of English surnames throughout Mr Chaney's genetic matches is a clear indication that his paternal ancestry is associated with England and with the English Chaney's.

Y-DNA, SURNAMES AND LAND

Paternally inherited surnames first appeared about 1000 years ago at a time when the vast majority of people were involved in agriculture. Many surnames appeared

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amongst farming communities whose descendants can often be found farming the lands where their ancestor lived when he first inherited his surname. However, the link with the land for many English surnames has disappeared due to the early industrial revolution and one must therefore examine early census data to determine where farmers with the surnames that appear in one's DNA results lived, identifying an area common to all, and reveal one's paternal ancestral genetic homeland.

The 1841 Census reveals approximately 2000 individuals called Chaney, Cheney, Chainey, Channey or Cheyney, and 4 clusters of Chaney farmers associated with 4 geographically distinct parts of England and Wales, see **Figure 2**. Each Chaney farming cluster arose in a specific location surrounded by relatives who inherited other surnames; surnames which are subsequently revealed in one's commercial ancestral Y-DNA test results. Hence it is Mr Chaney's genetically recurring surname matches, as a snapshot of his ancestors neighbours from the time when paternally inherited surnames became common which will reveal where his paternal ancestral genetic homeland is to be found. Mr Chaney's Y-DNA results reveal that his closest and most frequent genetic matches are to individuals called Hatcher, Hudson and Howard. By exploring the distribution of farmers with these surnames throughout the 1841 Counties of England and Wales it reveals that they are all associated with Northamptonshire, see **Figure 2**.

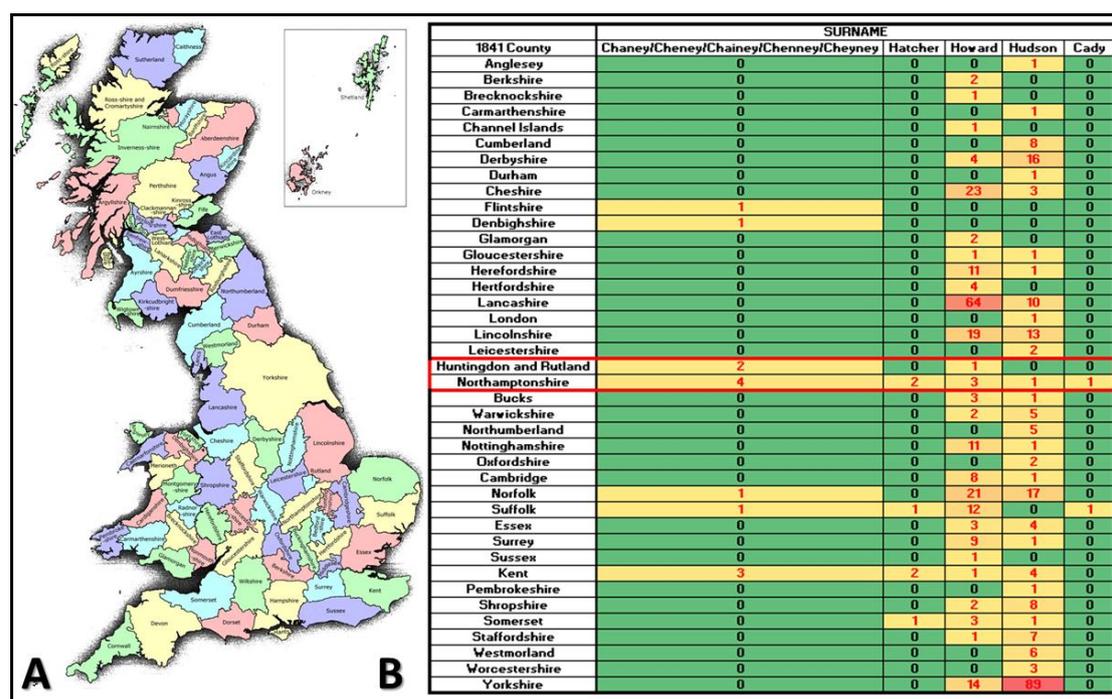


Figure 2: The farming communities associated with Mr Chaney's Y-DNA results reveal a paternal ancestral link with Northamptonshire. Census data for the 1841 UK Counties (**panel A**) reveals that Chaney is a relatively rare surname found within England, Scotland and Wales. Chaney farmers in England and Wales are associated with 4 distinct geographical areas (**Panel B**). By examining the distribution of farmers in 1841 with the surnames that appear as Mr Chaney's closest and most frequent genetic matches it reveals a paternal ancestral link with Northamptonshire (**red box, Panel B**).

The Chaney's of Northamptonshire

Since paternally inherited surnames arose among groups of related males living in close proximity to one another; one can examine where precisely farmers called Chaney, Hatcher, Hudson and Howard lived within Northamptonshire and bordering Counties to reveal where Mr Chaney's paternal ancestral genetic homeland is to found. The 1841 census reveals 2 Chaney farmers found in parishes located within North Northamptonshire and 1 recorded in neighbouring Rutland, see **Figure 3**. This small cluster of Chaney farmers lived surrounded by their genetic relatives; the Hutsons and Hatchers who are found to the north, and the Howards who cluster to the south, see **Figure 3**. In addition, Mr Chaney has a close genetic match to an individual called Cady, which is a rare surname associated with North Northamptonshire (where a solitary farmer with that surname is recorded in 1841).

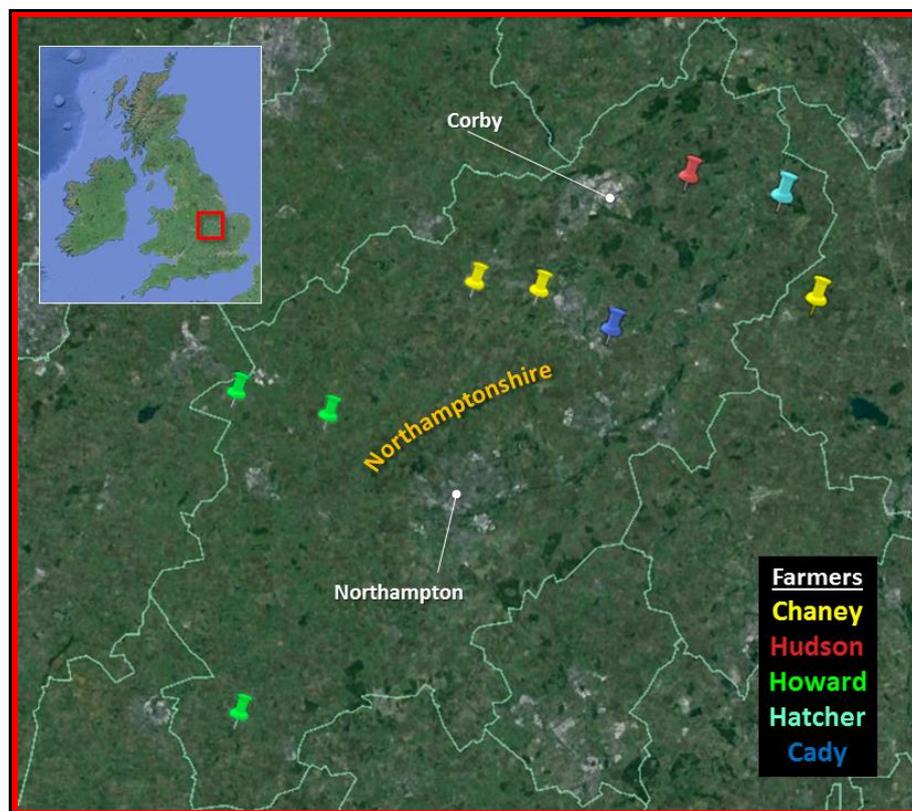


Figure 3: The farming communities associated with Mr Chaney's genetically recurring matches cluster in North Northamptonshire. By plotting the location of Chaney, Hatcher, Hudson, Howard and Cady farmers in 1841 it reveals the Chaney's clustered between the towns of Northampton and Corby and lived surrounded by their genetic relatives. Each pin has been placed in the parish where a farmer is recorded in 1841. Pin size is indicative of frequency.

Mr Chaney's Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

Mr Chaney's paternal ancestral genetic homeland is centred upon the town of Kettering in Northamptonshire, see **Figure 4**. It was there that the test subjects paternal ancestor lived when he first inherited the Chaney surname. His ancestor lived surrounded by male relatives who became Hudsons, Hatchers, Howards and Cadys. Often one's long ancestral link with an area is reflected in the surrounding

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placenames and an examination of Northamptonshire reveals a Cheyne farm and Middleton Cheney to the south, see **Figure 4** and **5**. An examination of the 1841 census reveals a considerable number of Chaney's in the village of Naseby which is within the area identified as the test subject's paternal ancestral genetic homeland. That village gives its name to the crucial Battle of Naseby which took place on 14 June 1645AD, during the English Civil War. The resulting decisive Royalist defeat changed the course of English history see **Figure 6**. The Chaney's will undoubtedly have left evidence of their long ancestral links with this area in its history but also in the DNA of the Chaney's who still live there.

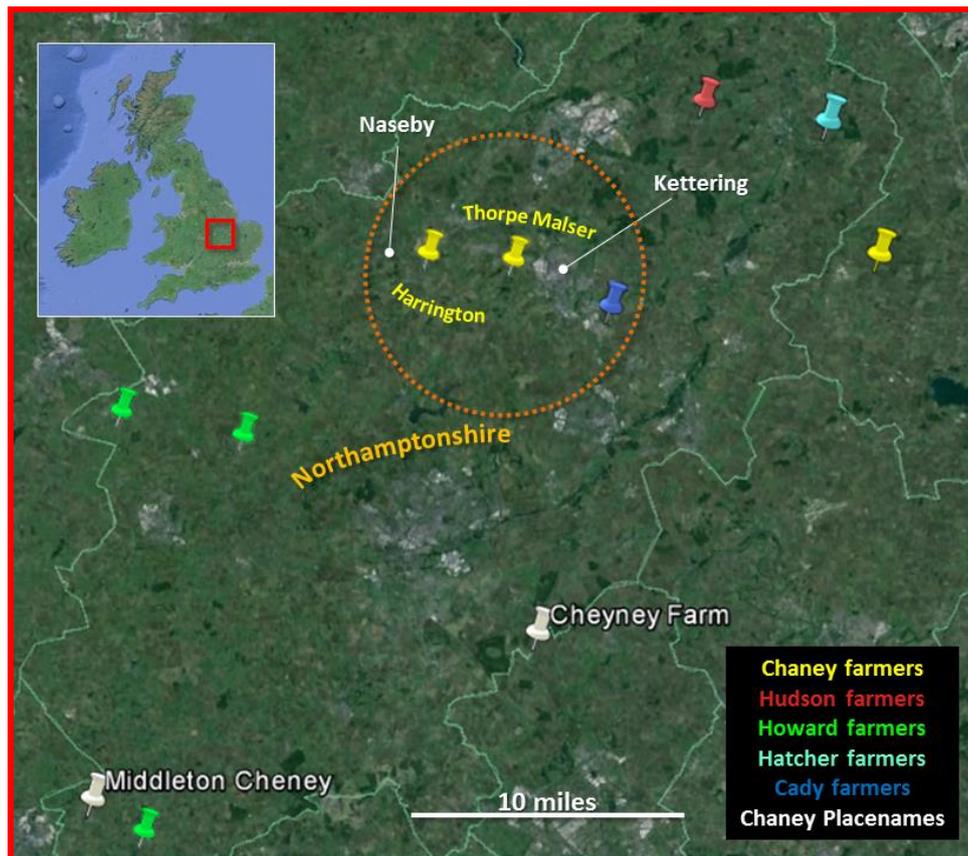


Figure 4: Mr Chaney's Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland. Mr Chaney's paternal ancestral genetic homeland lies in the area surrounding Kettering town. There are 2 Chaney farmers recorded in the neighbouring parishes of Harrington and Thorpe Malsor. The Chaney's lived surrounded by genetic relatives the Hudsons, Hatchers, Howards and Cadys. At least 2 Chaney placenames are located within Northamptonshire. The Chaney's of Middleton Cheney in the south are believed to be of Norman origin.

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Figure 5: Chaney placenames in Northamptonshire.



Figure 6: Naseby battlefield in Northamptonshire. The Battle of Naseby was fought just north of the village of Naseby. It was the decisive battle of the English Civil War and changed the course of English history. The main army of King Charles I was destroyed by the Parliamentarian New Model Army commanded by Oliver Cromwell.

Ancient Briton or Norman?

Although the Chaney surname is reportedly of Norman origin, Mr Chaney's R-M269 haplogroup and the predominance of English and neighbouring-Welsh surnames throughout his Y-DNA results would indicate that his ancestors were Ancient Britons rather than more recently arrived Romans, Vikings, Anglo-Saxons or Normans.

Confirming the Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

To confirm the area between Corby and Northampton as Mr Chaney's paternal ancestral genetic homeland will require Y-DNA testing of Chaney farmers who currently live in that area.

**Contact me tyronebowes@gmail.com for a free consultation
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*If you think you may be related to this branch of the Chaney's you can
contact Ginger (ghipszy@gmail.com)*