



Journal of Liberal Arts and Humanities (JLAH)
Issue: Vol. 2; No. 5; May 2020 pp. 1-15
ISSN 2690-070X (Print) 2690-0718 (Online)
Website: www.jlahnet.com
E-mail: editor@jlahnet.com
Doi: 10.48150/jlah.v2no5.2021.a1

DISMANTLING WHITE SUPREMACY FROM THE INSIDE-OUT: SEVEN UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS AND A FOUNDING FATHER HAVE JEWISH ANCESTRY

Elizabeth C. Hirschman
Hill Richmond Gott Professor of Business
Department of Business and Economics
University of Virginia-Wise
E-mail: elizabeth524@aol.com

Abstract

The recent upsurge in White Supremacist activity has drawn attention to their central claim that White Anglo Saxon Protestants were the original colonists, leaders and patriots of the United States. The present study directly challenges this claim by using genealogical DNA analysis to show that seven early American Presidents and a renowned statesman were of Jewish ancestry. Coupled with recently published studies showing the same results for early American settlers, the core tenet of American White Supremacy is falsified.

Keywords: White Supremacy, Jewish Ancestry, American Presidents, Benjamin Franklin, Genealogical DNA Testing

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF WHITE SUPREMACY IN THE UNITED STATES

Over the past decade there has been a marked increase in violence related to White Supremacy in the United States (Baird 2021). Several reasons are said to account for this, for example the concern by Whites about immigration from Latin American and Middle Eastern countries, the election of the country's first Black President (Obama), and the election of a Populist White President (Trump) (Baird 2021). As immigration and birth rates rise among “non-whites”, decreasing the dominance of the white U.S. population, fears have increased that the United States will lose its distinctive White British Protestant cultural heritage (Dobratz and Shanks-Miele 2000, Saini 2019).

Despite the Declaration of Independence granting freedom to Americans, White Supremacy has long been one of the nation's core tenets -- at the time the Declaration was signed, only white males were considered citizens (Saini 2019). Persons of East Asian, South Asian, Middle Eastern, Jewish, Native American and African ancestry have often been excluded from full citizenship for much of the country's history (Saini 2019).

Underlying this pattern of ethnic discrimination has been the presumption that persons of Northern European ancestry, especially those persons having light hair, light skin and pale eyes, were 'naturally' superior to persons from other sections of the globe (Baird 2021; Saini 2019). The basis of this presumption is that the United States was originally settled by persons of Northern European ancestry, and therefore its rise to world economic and political dominance is directly attributable to this colonial ancestry (Dobratz and Shanks-Miele 2000; Saini 2019).

However, a series of recent research articles using ancestral DNA analysis has called into question the veracity of this basic assumption. These studies have shown that a portion of the North American Colonial population was composed of persons having Jewish, Balkan and South Asian ancestry (Hirschman Vance and Harris 2018, 2019a, b). Among the groups and individuals now identified as “non-white” are David Crockett, Daniel Boone, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Frank and Jesse James, Cole Younger, the Hatfield Clan of West Virginia, the Central Appalachian Settlement, the Plymouth/Mayflower Colony, the Roanoke Colony and the Texas Old 300 Colony (Hirschman 2021, Hirschman, Vance and Harris 2018, 2019a, b, 2021 a, b).

Since there are additional US Presidents and statesmen who are descended from these sets of colonists, it makes sense to specifically examine their ancestry, as well. In the present study we begin with Benjamin Franklin and then examine the ancestry of US Presidents James Monroe, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, Andrew Jackson, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, and Ulysses S. Grant. Some of these men were outstanding statesmen, some were mediocre executives, and some were deemed to be really poor presidents. But all of them, we propose, had Jewish ancestry.

Methodology

This research presents genealogical evidence grounded in recent DNA technology to show that although the ancestors of these seven US Presidents and Founding Father Benjamin Franklin did arrive in North America from Britain, their ethnic origins were in the Middle East, the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe. Thus far, the use of DNA data has been generally avoided among social historians who prefer to use contemporaneous documents as their primary, often sole, data source. We propose that this document-dependence can lead to the misinterpretation of historical events.

One of the current buzzwords in the social sciences is *disciplinary silos*. This concept draws attention to the insularity of academic disciplines and research approaches that use only one dominant paradigm or method to study a phenomenon. Over the past few decades, greater strides have been made within and across academic fields when ideas and ways of thinking are imported from other disciplines.

We propose that the same can be said for the discipline of social history studies. Whether examining the last decade, the last century, or the last millennium, historians have largely depended upon written, carved, printed – and more recently – electronic images to conduct their research. By contrast, archaeologists, who also study human history, have been more open to adopting novel technologies such as satellite photography, in-ground radar, and magnetic imaging in their research. These have provided novel perspectives to researchers, permitting them to locate, for example, the outlines of flattened city-walls, which are not visible when a site is only viewed from ground level or excavated downward.

We propose that current social historians resemble the archaeologists of old – they dig in one narrow trench using available documents and consider that an accurate excavation of an historical event. In so doing, they may miss the big picture. While historical documents may be lost, falsified, or written to be purposely misleading, DNA is what it is – chemical molecules in each and every cell of one's body. Properly collected, analyzed and compared to other samples, DNA does not lie.

In 2000, Family Tree DNA (FTDNA.com) became the first commercial company offering genealogical DNA testing for ancestry research. Since then, several other companies have begun offering these services, e.g., Ancestry.com, 23 and Me.com. In 2019, new genealogical analysis tools were developed; these included auto-clusters (visually grouping persons with matching DNA markers into clusters) and family tree theories (suggesting possible relationships between DNA matches by combining several family trees, as well as global phylogenetic trees). This new technology permits users to track the genetic evolution of their ancestry in a fine-grained manner; one's ancestors' paths across both time and space can now be viewed, sometimes to within a few hundred years. Presently, it is estimated that the major genealogical testing companies have accumulated about 26 million DNA profiles (FTDNA.com). Most companies have posted their test results on multiple commercial sites, giving users at each one access to all data collected globally (Bettinger and Wayne 2016).

How do they work?

A genealogical DNA test is performed on a sample provided by the individual. The sample is then processed using a technology known as **DNA microarray** to obtain the genetic information requested by the individual (Bettinger 2019).

Male Y chromosome (Y-DNA) testing. In the present study primarily male lineages are investigated. The Y-chromosome is one of the 23rd pair of human chromosomes. Only males have a Y-chromosome, because women have two X chromosomes in their 23rd pair. A man's test results can be compared to another man's results to determine the time frame in which the two individuals may have shared a most recent common ancestor (MRCA) in their direct paternal line (Bettinger 2019). There are two types of paternal DNA testing: STR and SNP.

STR markers. The most common type of testing is performed using STR (short tandem repeat) markers. A certain section of DNA is examined for a pattern that repeats basic chemical components of the DNA. The number of times it repeats is the value of the marker. Typical tests examine between 12 and 111 STR markers. STRs mutate fairly frequently, which permits different branches of paternal ancestry to be charted. The results of two individuals can then be compared to see how closely they are related.

DNA testing companies usually provide an estimate of how closely related two people are, in terms of generations or years, based on the differences between their results (Bettinger 2019). A person's male ancestral haplogroup can often be inferred from STR results, but can be proven only with a Y-chromosome SNP test (**Y-SNP test**). A single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) is a change to a single nucleotide in a DNA sequence. Typical Y-DNA SNP tests examine about 20,000 to 35,000 SNPs. Getting an SNP test allows a higher resolution of one's male ancestry than STRs. It can also be used to provide additional information about the relationship between two individuals across time and to confirm one's ancestral haplogroup. In the present research both STR and SNP Y-DNA results are used to determine an individual's ethnic ancestry.

We turn now to examining the genetic ancestry of an early American polymath, patriot and statesman: Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and the Treaty of Paris. As the first United States ambassador to France, Franklin represented the democratic ideals of the newly formed American nation on the world stage (see e.g., Schiff 2005, Srodes 2002, Van Doren 1933). In the words of historian Henry Steele Commager, "In Franklin would be merged the virtues of Puritanism without its defects, the illumination of the Enlightenment without its heat (Commager 1944)." To Walter Isaacson, this makes Franklin "the most accomplished American of his age and the most influential in inventing the type of society America would become (Isaacson 2008)."



Benjamin Franklin's ancestors were part of the Massachusetts Bay colony founded in the early 1600s. His earliest known ancestor is Henry Franklin (1573-1631), followed by Thomas Franklin (1598-1681), then Josiah Franklin (1657-1745). We examine the ethnicity of the Franklin paternal lineage below:

Benjamin Franklin

Birthdate: January 06, 1706
 Birthplace: Milk Street, Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts
 Death: April 17, 1790 (84)
 Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States weeks)
 Place of Burial: Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States
 Immediate Family: Son of Josiah Franklin and Abiah Franklin
 Husband of Deborah Franklin
 Father of William Franklin, Colonial Governor of New Jersey; Francis Folger Franklin and Sarah "Sally" Bache
 Brother of John Franklin, postmaster of Boston; Peter Franklin; Mary Homes; James Franklin, printer; Sarah Davenport

Haplogroup I - Lineage 1											
3	81142 1	Henry Tyler b. Abt. 1607 d. Bef. April 13, 1672	England	I-M223	14	23	15	10	14-15	1	1
4	17976 9	Henry Tyler, Jr., b. VA @ 1785 and d. @1845	United Kingdom	I-CTS10148	14	23	15	10	14-15	1	1
5	10668 5	Henry Tyler b. 1607 and d. 1672	United Kingdom	I-M223	14	23	15	10	14-15	1	1

The paternal Tyler DNA markers shown above were a 21 out of 24 marker match to three men in the Jewish Heritage Project (FTDNA). They also had matches at the same level to persons in the I-m223 DNA Project (FTDNA.com) from Armenia, Slovakia, Italy, Germany, France and Romania. This likely indicates Ashkenazic Jewish ancestry for the Tyler ancestor originating in Southeastern Europe.

James Monroe



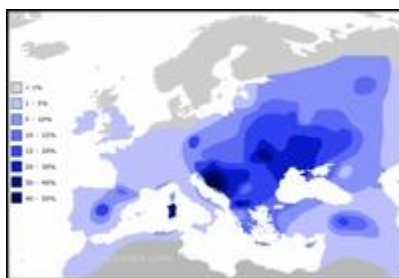
James Monroe was an American statesman, lawyer, diplomat and Founding Father who served as president of the United States from 1817 to 1825. Best known for issuing the Monroe Doctrine, a policy of opposing European colonialism in the Americas, he also served as governor of Virginia, member of the United States Senate, U.S. ambassador to France and Britain, seventh Secretary of State, and eighth Secretary of War (Ammon 1971, 2002, Hammond 2019)..

Monroe was born into a slave-holding planter family in Virginia and served in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. After studying law under Thomas Jefferson from 1780 to 1783, he served as a delegate to the Continental Congress. In 1790, he won election to the Senate, where he became a leader of the Democratic-Republican Party. Monroe won election as Governor of Virginia in 1799 and strongly supported Thomas Jefferson's candidacy in the 1800 presidential election (Ammon 1971, 2002, Hammond 2019)

In 1811 he joined President James Madison's administration as Secretary of State. Monroe defeated Federalist Party candidate Rufus King in the 1816 presidential election. As president, he signed the Missouri Compromise, admitting Missouri as a slave state, but banning slavery from territories north of the parallel 36°30' north. In the 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty with Spain, Monroe secured Florida and established its western border with New Spain. In 1823, Monroe codified the United States' opposition to European intervention in the Americas with the Monroe Doctrine, a landmark in American foreign policy. He also was a member of the American Colonization Society, which supported the colonization of Africa by freed slaves; Liberia's capital of Monrovia is named in his honor (Ammon 1971, 2002, Hammond 2019).

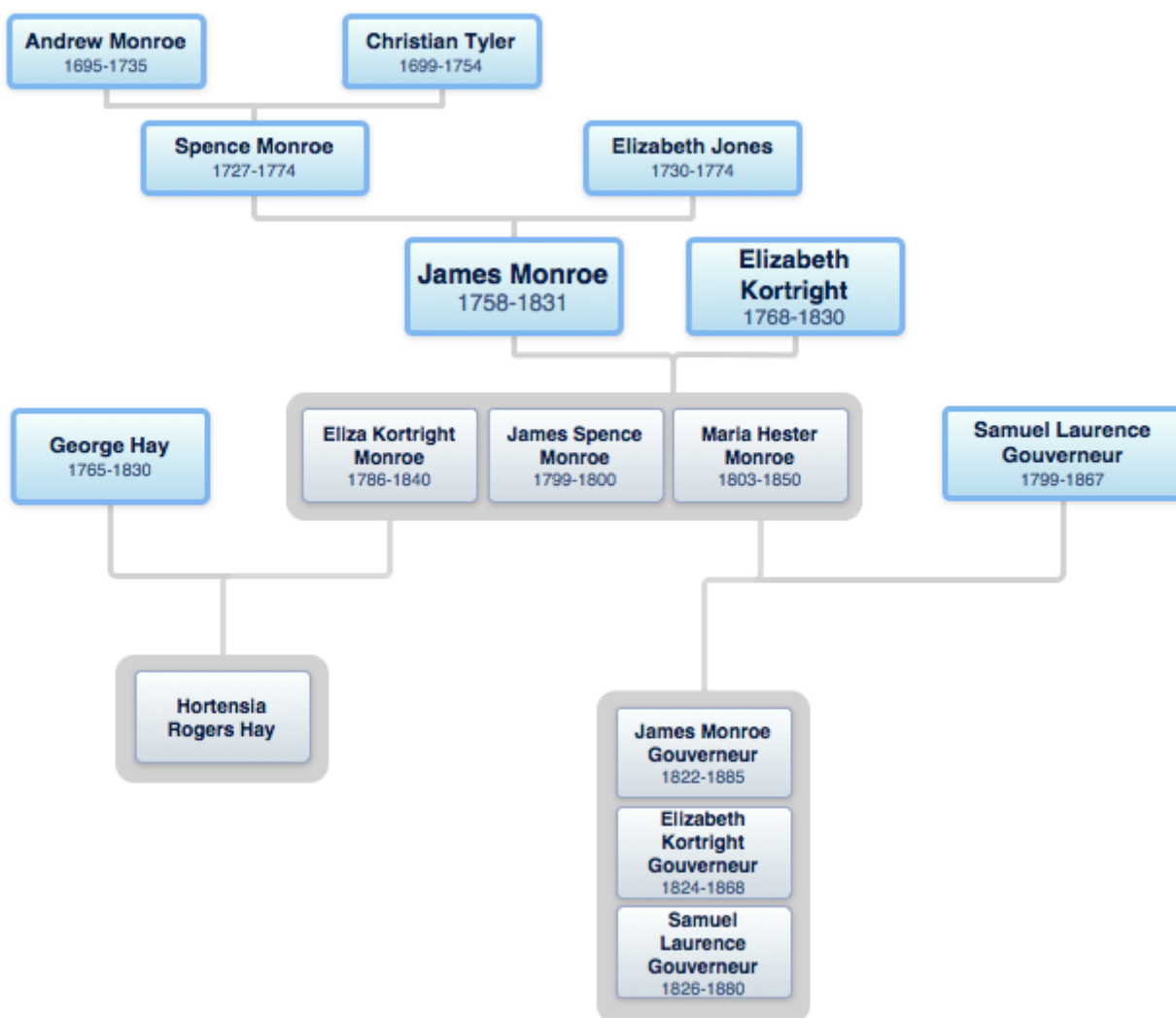
Monroe's DNA markers are shown below (Monroe DNA Project FTDNA).

191 2	1729 9	Munro	Donald Munro, born abt, 1806, Rosskeen, Scotland	Scotland	I-Y12073	1 3	2 5	1 5	1 5	1 0	12- 16	1 1	1 2	1 1	1 3	1 1	3 0	1 9	8- 10
191 6	34942 9	Munro	frederick seymour munro b 1853, d 1926	Scotland	I-FT339764	1 3	2 5	1 5	1 1	1 1	12- 16	1 1	1 2	1 1	1 3	1 1	3 0		19
191 7	24281 3	Monroe	James Monroe b. abt. 1735 d. abt 1811 Bath Co., VA	Scotland	I-Y19285	1 3	2 5	1 5	1 1	1 1	12- 16	1 1	1 2	1 1	1 3	1 1	3 0		19
191 8	22839 1	Munro	Capt. Hon. John Munro, U.E., b. 1728 and d. 1800	Scotland	I-P37	1 3	2 5	1 5	1 1	1 1	12- 16	1 1	1 2	1 1	1 3	1 1	3 0		19



As can be seen from the distribution map of Monroe’s DNA haplogroup I-p37, it is centered in the Balkan Region with very little distribution in Britian. This implies that persons having this haplotype likely originated in Southeastern Europe and a few ventured to the British Isles. When the Monroe haplotype was compared to persons in the Jewish Heritage Project, it was found that there were four matches at the 22 marker level or better. Thus James Monroe was likely of Jewish paternal origin.

In the Monroe genealogy shown below, it can also be seen that the Tyler and Monroe families intermarried.



James Buchanan Jr. served as the 15th president of the United States (1857–1861), having previously served as US secretary of state (1845–1849) and represented Pennsylvania in both houses of the U.S. Congress. Buchanan was a states' rights advocate and minimized the role of the federal government in the nation's final years of slavery (Binder 1992, 1994).

As President, Buchanan attempted to pressure the Supreme Court to support the pro-slavery and anti-Black decision in the Dred Scott case. He also attempted to engineer Kansas coming into the Union as a slave state (Birkner 1996, Meerse 1995). In the following presidential election, Buchanan failed to unite the fractured Democratic party, leading to a four way electoral split and the election of Republican Abraham Lincoln. After Lincoln was elected, Southern states began seceding from the Union. Buchanan's failure to forestall the Civil War has been described alternatively as 'incompetent inaction', or 'passive acceptance' of the South's pro-slavery position (Binder 1992, Birkner 1996, Meerse 1995).



James Buchanan

23068	Buchanan	James Buchanan, bc 1745 dc 1824 KY	United States	R-A9880	1 3	2 4	1 4	1 0	11- 14	1 2	1 2	1 3	1 3	1 9
500332	Buchanan	John Buchanan, b. 1763, Lancaster, PA	United States	R-A11095	1 3	2 4	1 4	1 0	11- 14	1 2	1 2	1 3	1 3	1 0
54887	Buchanan	James Buchanan d 1750/1, Charles Co MD, sons to NC	Scotland	R-M269	1 3	2 4	1 4	1 0	11- 14	1 2	1 2	1 3	1 3	1 0
447653	Buchanan	James Buchanan d 1750/1, Charles Co MD, sons to NC	Scotland	R-BY23375	1 3	2 4	1 4	1 0	11- 14	1 2	1 2	1 3	1 3	1 0
N107417	buchanan	John Wilson Buchanan b 7-4 -1851 d 5-12 1932	United States	R-A10738	1 3	2 4	1 4	1 0	11- 14	1 2	1 2	1 3	1 3	1 0

The Buchanan DNA markers shown above are a 21 out of 24 match to a group of Ashkenazi Jews living in Hungary, Poland, Belarus and Ukraine (FTDNAJewish R1b/R-m269 Project). Given this, it is probable that Buchanan's ancestors were Ashkenazi Jewish. The Buchanan surname may have evolved from the Yiddish word "buchen" (book).

Zachary Taylor was a renowned American military leader who also served as the 12th president of the United States. Taylor began his career as an officer in the United States Army, where he rose to the rank of major general and became a national hero due to his victories in the Mexican–American War. He won election to the Presidency in 1849. Taylor died sixteen months into his term, having made little progress on the most divisive issue then facing the nation -- slavery (Dyer 1946, Eisenhower 2008, Fry 2009).

Taylor was born into a slave-holding plantation family which moved from Virginia to Louisville, Kentucky. After enlisting in the Army, Taylor quickly moved up the military ranks and began establishing forts along the Mississippi River to guard against Native attacks. Taylor began the war against the Black Hawk Natives in 1832 and continued to be a prominent advocate of Native American removal during the Second Seminole War (Dyer 1946, Eisenhower 2008, Fry 2009).

During the annexation of Texas, President James K. Polk sent Taylor to the Rio Grande River anticipating a battle with Mexico over the disputed Texas–Mexico border. The Mexican–American War broke out in April 1846. Taylor defeated the invading Mexican troops and then led his troops across the Rio Grande into Mexico. Despite being severely outnumbered, Taylor defeated the Mexican forces under Antonio López de Santa Anna at the Battle of Buena Vista (Dyer 1946, Eisenhower 2008, Fry 2009)

The Whig Party chose Taylor to head their ticket in the 1848 presidential election. He won the general election with New York politician Millard Fillmore as his running mate, becoming the first president to be elected without having served in a prior political office. Despite being a Southerner and a slaveholder, Taylor did not advocate the expansion of slavery. To avoid political conflict over the issue of slavery, he urged settlers in both New Mexico and California to draft constitutions for statehood – bypassing territorial status -- setting the stage for the Compromise of 1850 (Dyer 1946, Eisenhower 2008, Fry 2009).

Zachary Taylor's paternal DNA haplotype is J-M172. This is recognized as one of the founding haplogroups of the Jewish people and arose in the Middle East, where it is still most concentrated (Jewishgen.com). His specific DNA markers match those of known Jewish men in the Jewish Heritage Project (FTDNA) at the 23 out of 24 marker level. There were also high level cross-matches to a man named Berger from Russia who is Jewish. Thus it is very likely that Zachary Taylor's ancestors were Ashkenazi Jews.

21365649	Taylor	Zachary Taylor b 1848 d 1919	United States	J-M172	1123151015-16111512131129		
214582089	Taylor	William Taylor, b. 1795 and d. 1870	England	J-M172	1223141012-17111711131129199-911		
21565003	Baker	William Taylor, c1820 -1863 UK Z6055?	England	J-M172	1223141013-17111511131129148-911		
219313183	Taylor	Abraham Taylor, ca1636 ENG? -1692, Accomack, VA	England	J-M172	1224151013-171115		
220N80457	Smith	Smith, James Taylor b. 1827, d. 1902 Louisiana		Unknown Origin	J-M172	1224151014-181115	
221110008	Berg	Berger	Russian Federation	J-M172	1324151015-171115		

Andrew Jackson



Andrew Jackson was an American lawyer, soldier, and statesman who served as the seventh president of the United States from 1829 to 1837. An expansionist and populist, Jackson sought to advance the rights of the "common man" against a "corrupt aristocracy" and to preserve the Union which was being threatened by the issue of slavery. He was born in the colonial Carolinas a decade before the American Revolutionary War. Jackson became a lawyer and served briefly in the House of Representatives and the Senate, representing Tennessee. Upon retiring from politics, Jackson became a slave-owning Tennessee planter (Booraem 2001, Brands 2005, Latner 2002, Meacham 2008).

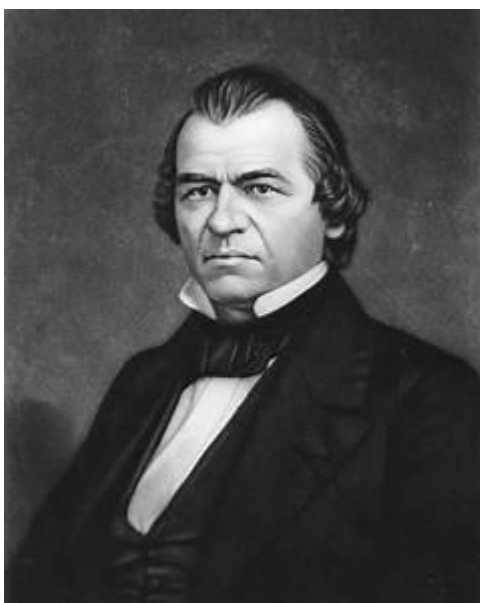
He led US troops against Native Americans during the Creek War of 1813–1814, winning the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. The subsequent treaty required the Creeks to surrender their vast lands in present-day Alabama and Georgia to the United States. In the 1812 war against the British, Jackson's victory at the Battle of New Orleans made him a national hero. He also commanded U.S. forces in the First Seminole War, leading to the annexation of Florida from Spain (Booream 2001, Brands 2005, Latner 2002, Meacham 2008).

Running for president in 1824, Jackson won a plurality of the popular and electoral vote. However, because no candidate won an electoral majority, the House of Representatives (with the influential efforts of Henry Clay), elected John Quincy Adams. In reaction to this alleged "corrupt bargain" between Adams and Henry Clay, Jackson's supporters founded the Democratic Party. Jackson ran for the presidency again in 1828, defeating Adams in a landslide. In 1830, he signed the Indian Removal Act, which forced most of the Native tribes to re-settle farther west in Indian Territory. These forced removals were subsequently known as the Trail of Tears, because not only were the Natives dispossessed of their ancestral land, they also suffered widespread death and disease during the journey to their new lands. A slave holder himself, Jackson also opposed the growing abolitionist movement (Booream 2001, Brands 2005, Latner 2002, Meacham 2008).

Jackson	John > Andrew > Wm. Jackson d.1792 Guilford Co.NC	Unknown Origin	I-M223	14	23	15	10	14-15	11	1	1	1	12
Jackson	Andrew > Andrew > Wm Jackson d1792 Guilford Co. NC	Northern Ireland	I-BY103184	14	23	15	10	14-15	11	1	1	1	12
Jackson:Sponsor:Beverly Jackson	John > Andrew > Wm. Jackson d.1792 Guilford Co.NC	Unknown Origin	I-M223	14	23	15	10	14-15	11	1	1	1	12

Andrew Jackson’s DNA haplotype is in haplogroup I-m223. As can be seen from the chart above, this haplogroup is centered in the Black Sea Region. Within the Jewish Heritage Project (FTDNA) there were three Jewish men who matched the Jackson markers at the 21 out of 24 marker level. When an additional search was made through the I-m223 DNA Project database (FTDNA), it was learned that a man named Lynn who had immigrated to Virginia from England in the 1600s had very similar markers, as did a man named Samuel Jackson (also arriving in 1600s Virginia). This suggests that some ancestors in the larger Jackson family had arrived from England earlier than the Northern Ireland Jacksons who arrived in the Carolinas during the 1700s. Additional searching revealed that the Jackson DNA profile was also close to persons from Hungary (Szucs), Germany (Berger, Zender, Shuman, Musser, Stahl) and a German man named Jacobi Lang. These men are also likely of Ashkenazic Jewish ancestry.

Andrew Johnson



Andrew Johnson was the 17th president of the United States, serving from 1865 to 1869. Notably, he became president due to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. In contrast to Lincoln’s policies, Johnson advocated an immediate reconciliation of the Confederate states with the Union, but offered no protection for the former slaves. This policy soon led to conflict with the Republican-dominated Congress, culminating in his impeachment by the House of Representatives in 1868. Johnson was acquitted in the Senate by a single vote (Castel 1979).

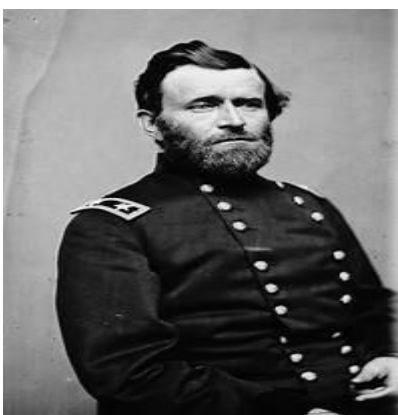
Johnson was born to a farming family in North Carolina and had no formal education. He apprenticed as a tailor and worked in several Appalachian towns before settling in Greeneville, Tennessee. Johnson was elected to the House of Representatives in 1843, where he served five two-year terms. He then became governor of Tennessee and was elected by to the Senate in 1857. When the Southern slave states seceded from the Union, Johnson was the only senator from a Confederate state who did not resign. In 1862, Lincoln appointed him as Military Governor of Tennessee after most of that state had been retaken by Union forces. This made Johnson the logical choice as running mate for Lincoln's second term in order to send a message of national unity (Castel 1979).

After Lincoln's assassination, Johnson implemented a series of orders directing the seceded states to hold elections to re-form their civil governments. In response, the Southern states simply re-elected many of their prior pro-slavery office holders and passed Black Codes to deprive newly emancipated Black men of their civil liberties. In response, Congressional Republicans refused to seat these legislators and put forward legislation to overturn the Southern states’ actions. Johnson vetoed these bills, but Congressional Republicans overrode him, setting a pattern of conflict for the remainder of his presidency. Johnson opposed the Fourteenth Amendment which granted citizenship to former slaves. He lost the 1868 Democratic presidential nomination and left office the following year (Castel 1979).

Andrew Johnson’s DNA markers are shown below. They also belong to haplogroup I-M223 and are relatively close to those for Andrew Jackson. However, the Johnson markers are most consistent with two Ashkenazi Jewish men who emigrated from Germany to Ireland in the late 1700s named Rinehart, to an Ashkenazi Jewish man named Joseph Thum who immigrated to America from the Czech Republic in 1722, and to an Ashkenazi Jewish man named Jacob Braun who immigrated from Belgium. Thus it is very likely that the ancestors of Andrew Johnson were Ashkenazi Jewish.

8830	Johnson		Scotland	I-M223	15	1	2	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	3		
15828	Johnson	James Johnson d. 1782, Samuel Johnson d. 1846	Unknown Origin	I-M223	15	1	2	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	3	1	8
30818	Johnson		England	I-M223	15	1	2	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	3	1	8
173780	Johnson	Jacob Johnson, ca. 1778 - 1812	Unknown Origin	I-M223	15	1	2	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	3	1	8
163555	Johnson		England	I-M223	15	1	2	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	3	1	8

Ulysses S. Grant



Ulysses S. Grant was the Commanding General of the Union Army during the Civil War and later served as Secretary of War under Abraham Lincoln. He became the 18th president of the United States from 1869 to 1877. As president, Grant created the U.S. Department of Justice and worked with Republicans to protect African American rights during Reconstruction. Unfortunately, several governmental departments became embroiled in financial scandals during Grant's term in office (Anbinder 1997, Brands 2012).

Grant’s military career began after West Point where he graduated in the class of 1843 and served with distinction in the Mexican–American War. Grant resigned his army commission in 1854 and returned to Ohio, but found he was unable to support his family financially.

He joined the Union Army in 1861 and won several early victories against Confederate forces. In 1863 he led the Vicksburg Campaign, gaining control of the Mississippi River. President Abraham Lincoln promoted him to lieutenant general after his next victory over Confederate forces at Chattanooga (Calhoun 2017, Chernow 2017).

For thirteen months, Grant and Confederate general Robert E. Lee dueled during the Overland Campaign and at Petersburg, VA. On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox. Only a week later, Lincoln was assassinated and then succeeded by President Andrew Johnson; Johnson promoted Grant to General of the Army in 1866. Later Grant openly broke with Johnson over Johnson’s anti-Black Reconstruction policies; Grant used the Reconstruction Acts, which had been passed over Johnson's veto, to enforce civil rights for recently freed African Americans (Calhoun 2017, Chernow 2017).

As a war hero, Grant was unanimously nominated by the Republican Party and elected president in 1868. During his presidency Grant stabilized the post-war national economy, supported ratification of the 15th Amendment, and attacked the Ku Klux Klan with Federal troops. He appointed African Americans and Jewish Americans to prominent federal offices. In 1871, to help reduce federal graft, Grant created the Civil Service Commission. He was re-elected to a second term as President. Although Grant sought to assimilate Native Americans into the American culture; the Great Sioux War was fought during his term and ultimately resulted in the removal of most of the Plains Indians to reservations (Calhoun 2017, Chernow 2017).

The DNA markers for Matthew Grant (President Grant's immigrant ancestor) are haplotype R-U106. President Grant’s DNA markers were a 22 out of 24 marker match to multiple men in the Jewish R1b/Rm269 Project (FTDNA) and one man in the Iberian Ashkenazi Project (FTDNA). The Jewish men came from countries such as Hungary, Germany, Lithuania and Belarus; thus it is very likely that Grant had Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry. The original Grant family—whose name was originally spelled Graunt – may also be related to the man named John Graunt described below:

John Graunt, an English tradesman, statistician, and epidemiologist, was born Apr. 24, 1620. To call Graunt a statistician and an epidemiologist, while true, is misleading, because neither discipline existed until Graunt published his milestone book, Natural and Political Observations Made Upon the Bills of Mortality, in 1662. Grant compiled his tables...and managed to find a way to estimate life spans and ages at death, no easy task, since the bills of mortality did not record the ages of death victims. It was, all in all, an extraordinary and unprecedented accomplishment, especially for a man who earned his living as a tradesman. www.lindahall.org/john-graunt.

115576	Grant	Matthew Grant (b.1601 England d. 1681 Windsor, CT)	England	R-A15177	1 2 1 1 11- 1 1 1 1 1 2 1	3 3 4 1 14 2 2 1 3 3 8 8
42347	Grant		England	R-M269	1 2 1 1 11- 1 1 1 1 1 2 1	3 3 4 1 14 2 2 1 3 3 8 8
54763	Grant		Scotland	R-M269	1 2 1 1 11- 1 1 1 1 1 2 1	3 3 4 1 14 2 2 1 3 3 8 8
309300	Grant	Matthew Grant 1601-1681	United Kingdom	R-M269	1 2 1 1 11- 1 1 1 1 1 2 1	3 3 4 1 14 2 2 1 3 3 8 8
163661	Grant	Matthew Grant, b. 1601 d. 1681 Windsor CT	England	R-A15177	1 2 1 1 11- 1 1 1 1 1 2 1	3 3 4 1 14 2 2 2 3 3 8 8

Discussion

And so the non-WASP ethnic pattern continues; using genealogical DNA methods, many of America's founders, presidents and generals are turning out to probably have Jewish ancestry. While one, two or even three aberrant ethnic identities would not likely overturn the populist belief that the United States was founded and governed from the early 1600s to the post-Civil War period by White Anglo-Saxon Protestant men, the current accumulation of DNA evidence from the Mayflower/Plymouth colony to Central Appalachia to the Carolinas and onward to Texas indicates that much of the Eastern seaboard of North America was settled by persons of Jewish ethnicity.

Some of these colonists originated in Spain and Portugal (the Sephardim), while others came from Jewish ancestors in Western and Eastern Europe (the Ashkenazim). All likely had fled for their lives from religious persecution at different times and in different places. All probably hoped to find a haven here on the shores of what would become the United States of America. They did. But by the late 1700s and though the 1800s -- periods of intense ethnic rivalry and violence -- many seem to have abandoned the faith of their ancestors and taken refuge in various forms of Protestantism.

In some families this may have occurred as late as the Civil War, when public ethnic identity became the key to one's survival: Which side are you on? Are you with us or against us? Are you White or not-White? These were choices that many early settler Jewish families would have had to confront in the late 1700s and certainly by the 1860s.

Remarkably, in places like Mexico, South America and the Caribbean, which were largely settled by Sephardic Jews pretending to be Catholics, these long-hidden identities began re-surfacing in earnest during the early 2000s as crypto-Jews publicly acknowledged their religious identity (Alexy 2003, Halevy 2009, Jacobs 2009, Gitlitz 2002). They were soon followed by New Mexico and Texas residents also 'came out' as having Jewish ancestors (see Hordes 2005, Kunin 2009). The willingness to acknowledge who their ancestors 'really' were enabled many Latino families to emerge from their assumed Catholic identities and begin to connect with others across the globe who had been living as crypto-Jews for the past several centuries.

Will the Jewish descendants of America's first colonists be willing to do the same? Will they have the courage to stand against the wave of racism now epidemic in the United States, will they allow themselves to recall the harrowing escapes their own ancestors made to get here and develop empathy for others currently in the same situation? Stay tuned and we will find out.

References

- Alexy, T (2003). *The Marrano Legacy: A Contemporary Crypto-Jewish Priest Reveals Secrets of His Double Life*. University of New Mexico Press. [ISBN 978-0-8263-3055-0. OCLC 51059087]
- Ammon, Harry (1971). *James Monroe: The Quest for National Identity*. McGraw-Hill.
- Ammon, Harry. (2002), "James Monroe" in Henry F. Graff ed., *The Presidents: A Reference History* (3rd ed.)
- Anbinder, Tyler (June 1997). "Ulysses S. Grant, Nativist". *Civil War History*. 43 (2): 119–41. doi:10.1353/cwh.1997.0086.
- Baird, Robert P. (April 20, 2021). "The invention of whiteness: the long history of a dangerous idea". *The Guardian*.
- Binder, Frederick Moore (1992). "James Buchanan: Jacksonian Expansionist". *Historian*. 55 (1): 69–84. doi:10.1111/j.1540-6563.1992.tb00886.x. ISSN 0018-2370.
- Binder, Frederick Moore (1994). *James Buchanan and the American Empire*. Susquehanna University Press. ISBN 9780945636649.
- Birkner, Michael J., ed. (1996). *James Buchanan and the Political Crisis of the 1850s*. Susquehanna University Press. ISBN 9780945636892.
- Booraem, Hendrik (2001). *Young Hickory: The Making of Andrew Jackson*. Lanham, MD: Taylor Trade Publishing. ISBN 978-0-8783-3263-2
- Brands, H. W. (2012). *The Man Who Saved the Union: Ulysses S. Grant in War and Peace*. New York: Doubleday. ISBN 978-0-385-53241-9.
- Brands, H. W. (2005). *Andrew Jackson: His Life and Times*. New York, NY: Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group. ISBN 978-1400-03072-9.
- Calhoun, Charles W. (2017). *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. ISBN 978-0-7006-2484-3.

- Castel, Albert E. (1979). *The Presidency of Andrew Johnson*. American Presidency. Lawrence, Kan.: The Regents Press of Kansas. ISBN 978-0-7006-0190-5.
- Chernow, Ron (2017). *Grant*. New York: Penguin Press. ISBN 978-1-59420-487-6.
- Chitwood, Oliver Perry (1964) [Orig. 1939, Appleton-Century]. *John Tyler, Champion of the Old South*. Russell & Russell. OCLC 424864.
- Cohen, Jared (2019). *Accidental Presidents: Eight Men Who Changed America* (Hardcover ed.). New York: Simon & Schuster. pp. 1–48. ISBN 978-1501109829.
- Commager, Henry Steele, (1944) (Introduction). *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*.
- Crapol, Edward P. (2006). *John Tyler, the Accidental President*. University of North Carolina Press. ISBN 978-0-8078-3041-3.
- Dobratz, Betty A. and Shanks-Meile, Stephanie (2000) "White Power, White Pride!": *The White Separatist Movement in the United States*. Johns Hopkins University Press. ISBN 978-0-8018-6537-4
- Dyer, Brainerd (1946). *Zachary Taylor*. Southern Biography series. Louisiana State University Press.
- Eisenhower, John S.D. (2008). *Zachary Taylor*. The American Presidents series. Times Books (Macmillan) ISBN 978-0-8050-8237-1.
- Fry, Joseph Reese (2009) [1848]. *A Life of Gen. Zachary Taylor*. Bedford, MA: Applewood Books. ISBN 978-1-4290-2125-8
- Gitlitz, David M. (2002), *Secrecy and Deceit: The Religion of the Crypto-Jews* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press).
- Halevy, Schulamith C. (2009). *Descendants of the Anusim (Crypto-Jews) in Contemporary Mexico* (PDF). Hebrew University.
- Hammond, John Craig (March 2019). "President, Planter, Politician: James Monroe, the Missouri Crisis, and the Politics of Slavery" (PDF). *Journal of American History*. 105 (3): 843–67. doi:10.1093/jahist/jaz002
- Hirschman, Elizabeth C. (2021c) DNA and Historical Evidence indicates Colonial Texas was settled by Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jews, *May, Immigrants and Minorities Journal*
- Hirschman, Elizabeth C., (2021b), DNA and the Jewish Ancestry of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, *May, Journal of Liberal Arts and Humanities*.
- Hirschman, Elizabeth C. (2021a), Jewish Outlaws and Clans of the Post-Civil War Era with James A. Vance, April, *Journal of Liberal Arts and Humanities*.
- Hirschman, Elizabeth C., James A. Vance and Jesse D. Harris, (2019a), "DNA Evidence of a Croatian and Sephardic Jewish Settlement on the North Carolina Coast Dating from the Mid- to Late 1500s", *International Social Science Review*, August/September.
- Hirschman, Elizabeth C., James A. Vance and Jesse D. Harris, (2019b), "DNA Evidence for a Colonial Jewish Settlement in Appalachia", *Ethnic Studies Review*.
- Hirschman, Elizabeth C., James A. Vance and Jesse D. Harris, (2018), "DNA and Genealogical Evidence Suggest the Plymouth Colonists were Sephardic Jews", *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, September
- Hordes, Stanley M. (2005). *To The End of the Earth: A History of the Crypto-Jews of New Mexico*. Columbia University Press. p. 376. ISBN 978-0-231-12937-4.
- Isaacson, Walter (2003). *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*. New York: Simon & Schuster. ISBN 978-0-7432-6084-8.
- Kunin, Seth D. (2009). *Juggling Identities: Identity and Authenticity among the Crypto-Jews*. Columbia University Press. p. 288. ISBN 978-0-231-14218-2.
- Latner, Richard B. (2002). "Andrew Jackson". In Graff, Henry (ed.). *The Presidents: A Reference History* (3 ed.). New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons. pp. 106–127. ISBN 978-0-684-31226-2. OCLC 49029341.
- Liebman Jacobs, Janet (2002). *Hidden Heritage: The Legacy of the Crypto Jews*. University of California. p. 212. ISBN 978-0-520-23517-5.
- Meacham, Jon (2008). *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*. New York, NY: Random House Publishing Group. ISBN 978-0-8129-7346-4.
- Meerse, David (1995). "Buchanan, the Patronage, and the Lecompton Constitution: a Case Study". *Civil War History*. 41 (4): 291–312. doi:10.1353/cwh.1995.0017. ISSN 0009-8078.
- Saini, Angela (2019), *Superior: The Return of Race Science*, Boston: Beacon Press
- Schiff, Stacy, (2005), *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America*, Henry Holt
- Srodes, James, (2002), *Franklin, The Essential Founding Father*, Regnery

- Tobias, HJ (1992). A History of the Jews in New Mexico. University of New Mexico Press. . ISBN978-0-8263-1390-4. OCLC 36645510.
- Van Doren, Carl (1938). Benjamin Franklin. Viking. ISBN 978-1-931541-85-5.