Why I Treat My Wife Like Royalty……

By William J Anhorn K.C. ICD.D

One of the more recent developments for those who are interested in genealogy and creating their own family tree is the emergence of DNA testing and a more dramatic offshoot of this process-forensic geneology. It seems that hardly a week goes by without a newspaper report indicating that a "Cold Case" has been solved using advanced DNA matching, which has led to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator of the crime. Even more fascinating is the conclusive identity of a criminal responsible for a murder (as an example) who has since passed away. Or the exoneration of a convicted felon after years behind bars. The collection of DNA evidence at a crime scene and the storage and cataloging of this evidence for future reference has resulted in many cases being solved long after the event.

Although the amateur genealogist will seldom solve a "case" in this fashion, a basic understanding of DNA profiling and forensic DNA may be a helpful resource. The proliferation of sites that offer DNA testing as a tool for genealogical inquiry make this aspect of research readily available. Some of these sites[1] include:

- Ancestry DNA
- 23andMe
- My Heritage DNA

[1] When we submit our DNA samples to DNA testing companies for profiling or genotyping, they use advanced technology to determine our genetic makeup. Part of this process of preparing our DNA results includes comparing our DNA to the DNA of other customers in order to identify identical DNA segments. The creation of a DNA database therefore allows for more and more comparisons to be made over time. But as some have reported "be careful" what you ask for.

What is Forensic DNA?

Forensic genealogy, also known as DNA "profiling" is the use of DNA analysis techniques to identify and compare DNA samples collected from crime scenes, suspects, victims and other sources. It involves the extraction, isolation and analysis of genetic material from biological samples such as blood, saliva, semen, hair and tissue, typically found at a crime scene. Even the most minute sample can be used for this purpose. Forensic DNA analysis has become a valuable tool in criminal investigations because DNA evidence can be used to identify suspects, exonerate or eliminate innocent individuals, link crimes together and establish an important timeline of events.[2]

DNA profiling can also be used in paternity testing, identification of human remains and the investigation of historical cases. For example, the remains of a Canadian soldier from WWI were recently discovered in France. Through an exhaustive process using DNA recovered from the site, the identity of the soldier was determined and, more importantly, living family members were identified and contacted and the mystery surrounding his disappearance and death was finally resolved, bringing closure for the family.[3] This later aspect of DNA profiling has created a new area of study or discipline known as "forensic genealogy".

The analysis of forensic DNA involves comparing DNA samples from different sources to determine if they match. This is done by examining specific regions of the DNA molecule called "markers", which are unique to each individual. If DNA profiles match, based upon probability algorithms, it is highly likely that the two samples come from the same person or closely related individuals. If

[2] Although there is a large portion of the population which has been identified through DNA analysis, often in a "Cold Case" the surreptitious collection of DNA from a suspect may be required as part of the investigation.

[3] There are countless unknown soldiers from WWI whose bodies have never been recovered. Many countries that participated in the Great War established memorials or monuments dedicated to these unknown patriots, including the cenotaph in London,England and the tomb of the Unknown soldier in Paris, France. One of the more impressive memorials is the Menin Gate in Belgium, where thousands of unknown soldiers are memorialized with their name engraved on a marble wall.

they do not match, then the samples come from different individuals or from completely different genealogical families.

The key to this branch of science lies in the fact that as “human beings” we all have, much like a fingerprint, a unique DNA molecular profile, which we have inherited from our parents and grandparents and other antecedents. This is referred to as “autosomal DNA matching or sequencing”. It is here that genealogy and science intersect, with amazing results.

But how does it work? Simply put, it is in our “genes”!

All living species have a unique set of chromosomes. A chromosome is a thread-like structure made of DNA and protein molecules found in the nucleus of a cell. Chromosomes carry genetic information in the form of genes which are segments of DNA that provide a special code of specific proteins or RNA molecules. In most organisms, chromosomes exist in pairs, with one chromosome from each parent and they are responsible for the transmission of genetic information from one generation to the next during reproduction. Each species has a different number of chromosomes and the shape and size of these chromosomes can vary.

Humans are unique in that the human cell has 23 pairs of chromosomes for a total of 46 chromosomes in each cell, except for the sperm and egg cells which only have 22 individual chromosomes.

What is an autosomal DNA match and why grandparents are important?

An autosomal DNA match is a person who has a shared genetic sequence on a numbered chromosome that may indicate at least one common ancestor. When we talk about DNA matching, we are almost always referring to autosomal DNA matches. An “autosome” is one of our 23 numbered chromosomes. We have two copies of each chromosome. One copy is the maternal copy or from the maternal side of the family (mother) and the other copy is the paternal copy, which is from the paternal side of the family.(father)

Each person inherits 50% of their DNA from their mother and 50% of their DNA from their father.

When we consider DNA matching or profiling from a genealogical perspective, there is a rather interesting anomaly, which results in forensic genealogy being more of an art form than a science.

The 50% of the DNA that is inherited from the mother is made up of half of the mother's DNA and a random[4] percentage or segment that has been passed down on the maternal copy of each autosomal chromosome. This random segment has been passed down through multiple generations.

The same occurs with respect to DNA inherited from the father.

In this manner, everyone has a unique connection to their ancestors from the past and from the standpoint of the amateur genealogist, this opens up a new and fascinating aspect of inquiry.

But herein lies the interesting anomaly!

Let me explain.

When we consider the DNA that we inherit from our ancestors, the only quantity that we can be **certain** of is that we receive half of our autosomal DNA from each parent. Beyond parent-child relationships, experts tend to talk about averages or statistical probabilities, when analyzing or comparing DNA samples. These figures vary because our parents didn't necessarily pass on to us equal portions of the DNA that they received from their parents.

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[4] Even though half of our parents' DNA is inherited in relatively random fashion through a process called recombination, large clumps of DNA are passed down from multiple generations,both from the maternal side and paternal side,going back multiple generations. These clumps of DNA are called DNA segments.

The level of variation is driven by the number (and location) of crossover events that occur when the ova and the sperm cells are created.

For instance, we receive an **average** of one quarter of our DNA from each of our four grandparents and an **average** of one-eighth of our DNA from each of our eight great-grandparents and so on and to a lesser degree from each earlier generation of grandparent.

From a genealogical perspective, parents are one generation back. Grandparents are two generations back. Great-grandparents are three generations back, and so forth, at least in theory, infinitely.

For families who have a long recorded history where information is available in the form of original source material (ie birth records, marriage records and other confirmed and reliable sources), it is not unusual for a family tree to go back multiple generations. For example, it is not uncommon for a family tree to go back 20 generations or more. This is particularly true of famous families[5] which have become the subject to intense scrutiny and academic research[6].

How many grandparents or great grandparents do we have?

Going back 20 generations or approximately 500 years (based on 25 years per generation), it is relatively speaking, a simple mathematical calculation:

- Parents: 2 (cumulative: 2) [First generation]
- Grandparents: 4 (cumulative: 6) [Second generation]
- Great Grandparents: 8 (cumulative: 14)[Third generation]

[5] The most obvious example is the British Royal Family.

[6] https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~pamonval/genealogy/howbig.html

- Great-great grandparents: 16 (cumulative: 30) [Fourth generation]
- Great-great-great grandparents: 32 (cumulative: 62)[7]
- Great-great-great-great grandparents: 64 (cumulative: 126)
- Great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 128 (cumulative: 254)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 256 (cumulative: 510)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 512 (cumulative: 1,022)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 1,024 (cumulative: 2,046)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 2,048 (cumulative: 4,094)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 4,096 (cumulative: 8,190)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 8,192 (cumulative: 16,382)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-
- great grandparents: 16,384 (cumulative: 32,766)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 32,768 (cumulative: 65,534)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 65,536 (cumulative: 131,070)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 131,072 (cumulative: 262,142)

[7] A great-grandparent is the parent of your grandparent. Both the mother and father of each of your grandparents is a great-grandparent, and is often referred to as a great-grandfather or great-grandmother. Rather than using multiple alliterations of “great”, genealogists often refer to subsequent grandparents beyond great grandparents as 3rd or fourth great grandparents and so on. (e.g. 14th great grandparent).This reflects each successive generation in the family.

- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 262,144 (cumulative: 524286)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 524,288 (cumulative: 1,048,574)
- Great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents: 1,048,576 (cumulative: **2,097,150**)

This calculation is mind-boggling and for the amateur genealogist it offers up endless opportunities for research. It also provides tremendous possibilities to populate the family tree, all with the hope that the inquiry will discover a famous relative or a unique familial connection to history for which we can claim some fame. Or at the very least, we can identify the family heritage and prepare a family pedigree for future generations to enjoy.

As a writer, historian and amateur genealogist, I have researched and written several articles relating to both my family history (Anhorn/Weiss) and that of my wife's family (Medlicott). For posterity, I have also created an extensive family tree for each family using the auspices of ancestry.com. However, I have barely "scratched" the surface. (Anhorn-1,197 ancestors and Medlicott 3,428) largely due to the absence of original source material or other reliable information. Much of the research therefore is based upon research of other family tree managers who have created their own family pedigree and have offered to share their results with others, who have a common ancestor or familial connection.[8]

And the search continues[9].

[8] Care must be taken to rely solely on this information and should be referenced and cross referenced to insure accuracy whenever possible.
[9] Most of my genealogical research has resulted in various articles, which can be found on my blog at http://wjanhorn.ca under the category of genealogical stories. In addition, much of my

In an earlier article, I chronicled my wife's family history and discovered a fascinating connection to the aristocracy of England. It is entitled, **The Medlicott Family History- " A Family of Knights, Lords and Ladies".**

In another article, I accomplished every amateur genealogist's "dream" and documented without qualification, a family connection to royalty. The composition is entitled, **"A DREAM COME TRUE"[10] Joan Elaine Medlicott of Medicine Hat and her Relationship to Lady Diana Spencer, The Princess of Wales.**

Most recently, following up on the theme of "grandparents" and their linkage to a families ancestral past, I populated the Medlicott family tree with a small portion of my wife's grandparents going back to the 20th generation and made some other fascinating discoveries, which reinforces the title to this article. -**Why I Treat My Wife Like Royalty.**

These "grandparents" are very closely linked and are all within a clearly identifiable hierarchy or direct genealogical pedigree to her 4th great grandfather, Edward Medlicott(1779-1850).

The rich family history and the direct antecedents (in this case, her grandparents only) of my wife and her relationship to "Knights, Lords and Ladies" is further reinforced by this inquiry.

Knights, Lords and Ladies

This investigation began with three historically famous lineages-**Gascoigne**, **Hastings** and **Davis**.

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historical research on the history of Medicine Hat and companion stories have a genealogical research component

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[10] This is a 2022 revised and updated version of an earlier article posted to my site in 2017.

These families are connected with a less famous family surname-**Whitehouse.** The most relevant and meaningful connection with all of these families and the Medlicott family is my wife's 4th Great grandfather, Edward Medlicott (1779-1850) and his marriage to Anne Whitehouse (1784-1860). She was born at Four Crosses, Staffordshire, England.

But let's start at the beginning.

The Gascoigne Family

The **Gascoigne** family history is well documented as the family originated from Gascoigne, Viennes, Aquitaine, France and as one might have expected, this was prior to the Norman Conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066. The first recorded patriarch of the family was Guillaume (William) de Gascoigne (1035-1098)[11]. There were thereafter 12 successive generations of the Gascoigne family with all of the male descendants named William, from William the first to William XII, all having the prefix "Sir".

Anne Hastings (Gascoigne)-16th Great Grandmother

Lady Anne Gascoigne was born in 1436 at Gawthorpe, West Yorkshire, England, She died June 07, 1488 at Fenwick Manor, Campsall, Yorkshire, England. She was the Daughter of Sir William Gascoigne, KG and Lady Margaret Clarell 'Dame of the Garter' and the wife of Sir Hugh Edmund Hastings. Sir Hugh Edmund Hastings (1447- 1489) was the 10th Baron of Hastings.

[11] Although there is no direct evidence,anecdotal evidence would suggest that he was a high ranking member of the army of William the Conqueror.

He died in 1489 at age 42 at West Riding, Yorkshire, England.

Together they had 8 children with several having claims of fame and notoriety and a unique connection to royalty. The children were as follows:

- Lady Isabel Hastings (1456-1534)-Lady of York-Regent of Ki. She married **Sir John Davis.** She was born in York Castle[12] in 1456.
- Lady Muriel (1460-1515) married Sir Ralph Eure (1453-1539) of Witton, Durham, England. His father, Sir William Eure was the 1st Baron of Eure of Witton.
- Lady Margaret married John Cresacre and later, Sir John Mallory, Knight of the Realm
- Sir George Hastings married Lady Joan Brabazon and became the 12th Baron of Hastings
- Lady Elizabeth married John Salvin
- **Sir Brian Hastings married Agnes Portington and is regarded by respected genealogy authorities as the 13th great grandfather of Princess Diana, Princess of Wales.**
- Lady Catherine married Sir John Melton, Knight of the Realm
- Sir John Hastings, who by succession became the 11th Baron of Hastings, followed later by his brother George.

Lady Anne Gascoigne was the sister of Robert Gascoigne, Lady Joan Gascoign of Gawthorpe, Ralph Gascoign, Sir William Gascoign XIII, 14th Lord of Gawthorpe Margaret Scargill and Elizabeth Redman and half sister to Sir William Fitzwilliam and Eleanor Ryther and John Fitzwilliam.

[12] York Castle: On the first northern expedition by William the Conqueror after the Norman conquest (1066) he built a number of castles across the north-east of England, including one at York. It continues today to be a famous historical site and museum attracting visitors from around the world.

The most notable **Gascoigne** antecedent is **SIR WILLIAM GASCOIGNE** (*c.* 1350-1419), chief justice of England in the reign of Henry IV.

Both history and tradition testify to the fact that he was one of the great lawyers who in times of doubt and danger have asserted the principle that the head of the state is subject to law, and that the traditional practice of public officers, or the expressed voice of the nation in parliament, and not the will of the monarch or any part of the legislature, must guide the tribunals of the country. The date of his birth is given as 1350 but it can not be fully verified. But it appears from the year-books that he practiced as an advocate in the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II. On the banishment of Henry of Lancaster, Gascoigne was appointed one of his attorneys, and soon after Henry's accession to the throne was made chief justice of the Court of King's bench. After the suppression of the rising in the north in 1405, Henry eagerly pressed the chief justice to pronounce sentence upon Scrope, the archbishop of York, and the earl marshal Thomas Mowbray, who had been implicated in the revolt. He absolutely refused to do so, asserting the right of the prisoners to be tried by their peers. Although both were afterwards executed, the chief justice had no part in the transaction. Other similar stories have circulated suggesting that his action and other actions contrary to the King's demands or other politician's demands were the forerunner to the "separation of state" and "judicial independence".

He died in 1419, and was buried in the parish church of Harewood in Yorkshire of England.

He is the great grandfather of Lady Anne Hastings (Gascoigne) and would be the 19th great grandfather of Joan Elaine Medlicott.

The Hastings Family

The marriage of Anne Gascoigne to Sir Hugh Edmund Hastings would identify **him** as the 16th great grandfather of Joan Elaine Medlicott.

Sir Hugh Edmund Hastings was the son of **Sir John Hastings** and Anne de Morley.[13] Sir John Hastings is considered now to have been rightfully entitled to the title as the 9th Lord of Hastings according to established English peerage authorities. But his claim to this title was disputed during his lifetime. He was Sheriff of Norwich, and constable of Norwich Castle and gaol. He was Lord of Elsing, Gressenhall, and Weasenham, all in Norfolk. He was Captain of Saint-Lô in the Cotentin in Normandy in February 1437/8 near the end of the period in the 100 years war when England held significant parts of France after the victories of Henry V.

He was preceded by his father Sir Edmund Hastings (1382-1438)

The Davis Family

The Medlicott family via the Whitehouse family is connected to another infamous family of English aristocracy-**Davis.**

As noted earlier, Anne Hastings had a daughter, Lady Isabel Hastings who married Sir John Davis (1457-1535). They had a son named Sir John Davis, who married Martha and they had a daughter named Lady Elinor Davis (1516-1613). She married John Whitehouse, the 13th great grandfather of Joan Elaine Medlicott. Together they had a son named Richard Whitehouse[14] who also married into the Davis family albeit a

[13] Their marriage required Papal Dispensation(April 1434) as they were related by 3rd and 4th degrees of kindred.They would be the 17th great grandparents of Joan Elaine Medlicott.
[14] He would be the 12th great grandfather with Lady Elinor Davis being the 12th great grandmother.

different but very close family member. Her name coincidentally was also Lady Elinor Davis (1556-1597).

They had a son named Thomas Whitehouse who married Elinor Fellow(1579-1670). Her mother was Lady Helen Parker who was an English aristocrat who was the daughter of Sir Henry Parker who was the 10th Lord of Morley. She married Edward de Vere, the 17th earl of Oxford. She was well known for her beauty and intelligence and was a strong patron of the arts. She died in 1598 and was buried at Castle Hedingham in Essex. By extension, she would be the 14th Great grandmother of Joan Elaine Medlicott

Both of these branches of the Davis family had a collection of "Knights, Lords and Ladies" including:

- Sir John Davis, High Sheriff Buckinghamshire (1505–1545)
- Sir Robert John Davis (1500-1550)Knight of the Realm
- Lady Agnes Samon Chandler(1500-1589)
- Sir John Davis (1550)Knight
- Sir James Thomas Griffith Davis (1487-1520),Knight
- Sir Thomas Samon Chandler (1468-)1551)Knight

Conclusion:

Genealogy derives its name from the Greek words "generation" and "knowledge" and is the study of families and the tracing of their lineages and history. The results are often displayed in charts or in written narratives. The pursuit of family history and origins tends to be shaped by several motives, including the desire to carve out a place in one's family in the larger historical picture and a sense of responsibility to preserve the past for future generations. This has always been my prime motivation.

More importantly, I have discovered in the course of my research how genealogy and history often intersect with amazing results. As a consequence, another motivation for my writing is to draw attention to this interesting

discipline and to encourage others to take up the cause of researching and documenting their own family history.

Who knows that in the deep recesses of your own “genes”, there is a family connection to an important historical event or if you are lucky, like me, you are able to find that your wife is related to “Knights, Lords and Ladies” so that you have no excuse for not treating her like royalty!

The difficulty with a project such as this is not where to start but where to end. I choose to end here but I encourage you to take up the challenge of researching your own ancestry. You will soon discover that “grandparents” are important.

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“About the Author”

William J. Anhorn was born and raised in Medicine Hat, Alberta and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree (Political Science) from the University of Calgary and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta.

He returned to his hometown of Medicine Hat in 1976 and practiced law for over 35 years as a Senior partner with the Law firm of Pritchard and Company. He retired in 2012 and he and his wife Joan Elaine Anhorn (Medlicott), a retired teacher, continue to reside there. Always having a keen interest in writing and more recently genealogy, this is one of a series of articles he has researched and written not only in relation to his family and his extended family (Anhorn/Medlicott/Williams/McIvor) but also on behalf of others that have requested his assistance in discovering their own family origins.He is a member of the Medicine Hat Genealogical Society and past Chairman of the Historical and Heritage Resource Committee of the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Company. He has been a volunteer at St Margaret’s Church (Eagle Butte) and has researched and written several articles in relation to its history. Most recently he co-authored a booklet on the history of St Margaret's Church entitled “ A Tiny Prairie Cathedral”.

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