

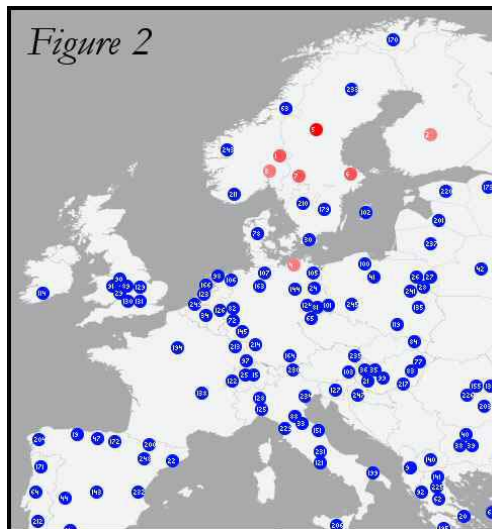


## *Goff Surname DNA Study - findings as of 5 May 2005*

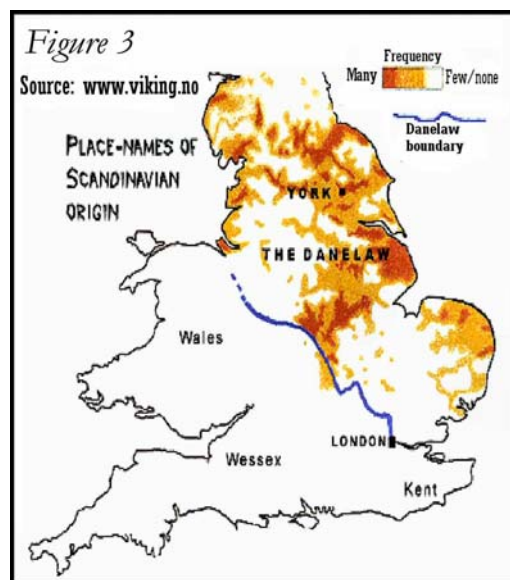
through time, a perfect history of the paternal ancestors of James, John Turton and Salathiel Goff has been passed down to the present day in the Father Goff haplotype. From these numbers, we know that the father of the four Goff brothers was a member of the I1a subclade of haplogroup I. Take a look at DYS455, which is equal to “8” above. Only 12% of all haplotypes have DYS455=8, with over 84% having DYS455=11, according to the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation (“SMGF”) online database of over 12,000 haplotypes. DYS455=8 is a litmus test for I1a. As of this date, every published report reflects that DYS455=8 is only found in I1a and everyone in I1a has DYS455=8.

So what is I1a? According to the most authoritative paper on the subject, *Phylogeography of Y-Chromosome Haplogroup I Reveals Distinct Domains of Prehistoric Gene Flow in Europe*, haplogroup I arose in Europe before the last Ice Age, 18,000 years ago. This means that the mutation in the Y-chromosome that defines haplogroup I occurred after the founder of the group was in Europe. During the Last Glacial Maximum, I1a may have taken refuge in the Iberian Peninsula or southern France. As the ice retreated, I1a migrated into northern Europe, most particularly Scandinavia.

When the Father Goff haplotype is compared to the Y-HRD database of 13,574 European haplotypes, the 13 matches are concentrated in Norway and Sweden (red dots on the map, Figure 2). Other online Y-chromosome databases, such as SMGF, Ybase, Ysearch, and Oxford Ancestors, show this same concentration of the Father Goff haplotype in Northern Europe, and particularly in Scandinavia.



Page 5 of *The Four Goff Brothers of Western Virginia* states that the children and grandchildren of the four brothers believed that James Goff, John Turton Goff, Thomas Goff and Salathiel Goff came from England or Wales. So how do we reconcile Northern Europe/Scandinavia as a place of origin for the Goff family when early generations in America said that the four Goff brothers were from the British Isles? Close matches to the haplotype of the father of the four Goff brothers also appear in eastern England. This corroborates the beliefs of early generations of the descendants of the four Goff brothers who claimed the Goff brothers were born in England or Wales. These matches likely stem from a common ancestor before the use of surnames in about 1400 AD.



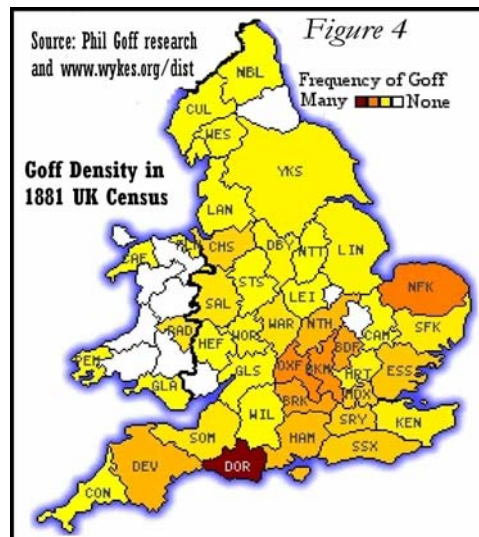
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*The Goff Surname DNA Study has opened new avenues for research. Please help continue the progress by joining the Goff Surname DNA Study as a participant at <http://home.comcast.net/~philgoff/GoffDNA.htm>, or as a financial supporter at: [www.familytreedna.com/contribution.html](http://www.familytreedna.com/contribution.html) (specify “Goff-2 Project”).*

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Early Goff family traditions, DNA evidence and European history point to a coherent theory about the origin of the Goff family. After the last Ice Age, a paternal ancestor of Father Goff likely lived in northern Europe, perhaps in northern Germany, Denmark or Norway. Starting in about 400 AD, the Angles, Saxons and Jutes of northern Europe filled the vacuum left by retreating Romans and settled in southern and central England. Beginning in 787 AD, Vikings from Norway and Denmark invaded England. By 871 AD, the Danish King took control of the Danelaw, which encompassed much eastern England. Father Goff's paternal ancestor was likely among the Angle, Saxon, Jute or Viking invaders into England between 400 AD and 1000 AD (Figure 3).

The four Goff brothers could write and always spelled their surname as Goff rather than Gough, which is the more frequent spelling in the UK. In 1881 census, there were less than 2,000 Goffs in the UK, concentrated as a percentage the population in Norfolk and Dorset Counties (Figure 4). Other than the London area, there were more people with the Goff surname living in Norfolk than any other county in England. For these reasons and since Norfolk County was part of East Anglia ("Angles") and later Danelaw (Figure 3), I chose Norfolk as the starting point in my search for the four Goff brothers in England:



Norfolk County, England parish records are available online at: [www.genealogy.doun.org/transcriptions/index.php](http://www.genealogy.doun.org/transcriptions/index.php). Frettenham Parish in St. Faith's District includes the following two entries from 1587:

"Salathiell the sonne of John Goffe bap. the 16 of Aprill Eas(ter)day"

"Salatheill Goffe buried ye 23 of Julye"

Salathiell Goffe was the first born child of John and Mary Goff's six children. John had four more children by two other wives. The Goffe family of Frettenham may be linked to the four Goff brothers. The name Salathiel appears often in the families of the four Goff brothers: James Goff had a son and grandson, John Turton Goff had a grandson and Salathiel Goff (1748-1791) had three grandsons named Salathiel. James Goff's son Salathiel Goff was named nine years before the death of James' brother Salathiel, possibly for an earlier family member. In the 1881 UK census, there were only 19 people with the given name of "Salathiel." While Salathiell Goffe of Frettenham Parish lived and died 150 years before the births of the four Goff brothers, the combination of the right place and name require further consideration.

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