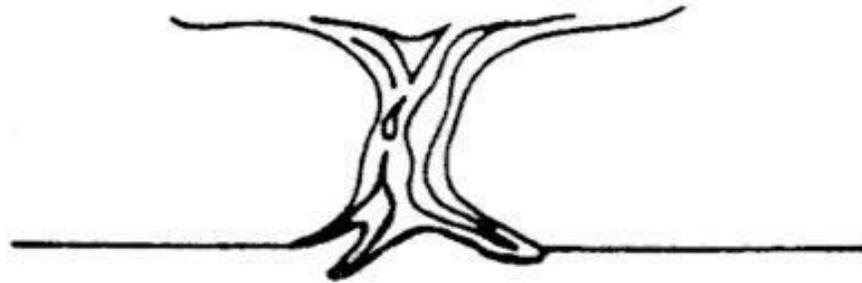


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Speak/e/s
Family Association Bulletin
Fall 2023

Volume 44, Issue 3

SPEAK/E/S FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023, Bulletin Volume 44, Issue 3

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Greetings from your President

Dear Cousins,

We recently had an excellent annual meeting surrounded by the peaks of the Great Smoky Mountains in Pigeon Forge Tennessee! On the evening of Friday the 22nd of September we gathered on a large patio at the LeConte Hotel. It was delightful sitting out under the sky while the sun was setting behind the mountains, dining on a selection of food that Dana Speeks, our local host, had provided.

After the sunset, we moved to the rocking chairs that circled a large fire pit on the patio, each person with their preferred beverage—soft drinks, sweet tea or wine. It was a lovely time reconnecting with cousins under the stars. We shared stories, photos of family, and had a relaxing evening together.

On Saturday, we enjoyed breakfast provided by the hotel, and after a little negotiation with the hotel management, we settled into the hotel's Board Room. I had the pleasure as Speak/e/s Family Association President, to welcome everyone to the annual meeting and set the theme for this year's meeting as "Beyond the Book." Now that the Book publishing is behind us, how do we build on that success? What are the most important projects for us to take on as an Association?

We took a few minutes to review those lineages in the Book for which we have not been able by using genealogy to document connections to Thomas the Immigrant. Susan Sills and Dewaine Speeks mentioned some of the lines from North Carolina described in Chapter 12 that remain unresolved.

I introduced two new genealogies:

1. Descendants of James W. Speaks of Loudoun County, Virginia (much of the genealogy was developed by descendant Megan Speakes), and;
2. Descendants of Hezekiah Speaks of Bourbon County, Kentucky (of interest to descendant Rev. Noel Julnes-Dehner).

We discussed the success that Roberta Estes had using “Big-Y” DNA testing to associate the unattached line of Aaron Luckey Speaks of North Carolina with the descendants of Bowling Speake of Charles County, Maryland.

We decided as an Association to accept the challenge of better defining where to spend our genealogical research by using Big-Y DNA testing of strategic male Speake descendants. This challenge will be addressed by testing individuals of these unattached lines and other strategically selected individuals, in an effort to define the lines of genetic descent. See the later article on this topic in this Bulletin that describes our partnership with the Speaks Project at Family Tree DNA.

We finished the day with a business meeting (see the Minutes in this Bulletin), and all went to a delicious dinner at a local Barbeque.

Wishing for you and your family the blessings of the upcoming season,

John Payne

Survey of Speak/e/s Family Association Members Hopes for, and Expectations of the Association

With increasing new membership, it is our desire to provide services and information that all of our members are seeking. Help us direct our resources and services in a relevant way by taking the time to give your personal response to this nine-question survey. We are excited to receive your valuable input that will be useful for all of us!

Please take the survey by January 15, by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/76M8R8N>

The Speak/e/s Family Association is Launching a Renewed Collaboration of DNA Testing with the Speaks Project

John Payne, Roberta Estes, and Henry Payne

The Speak/e/s Family Association (SFA) Annual meeting was conducted in September 2023. During the business meeting the leadership proposed a bold, strategic step in deciding to fund DNA testing of Speake men as a collaborative project with the Speaks Project at Family Tree DNA.

The recommended proposal was adopted as follows:

“SFA authorize \$3,000 as a budget line for DNA testing in conjunction with the Speaks Project at Family Tree DNA. The budget will provide Big-Y DNA testing and other genetic testing to strategically clarify the genetic genealogy of the Speake family. Testing will be authorized by the President of the SFA and the Administrators of the Speaks Project.”

At the time of that decision, the Administrators of the Speaks Project were the SFA member and internationally known Genetic Genealogist, Roberta Estes, and the fellow SFA member, Co-Administrator Henry Payne. Since that time, Roberta invited John Payne to also become a Co-Administrator of the Speaks Project and he has agreed.

With this partnership we are poised to advance our understanding of the genetic genealogy of the Speake family. A good understanding of genetic relationships provides a strong basis to focus our efforts in genealogy by giving the genealogist critical information for where to look for records.

Let us review what we have learned so far from the Speaks Project. As we read in the reprint from Roberta’s blog in the Summer Bulletin (Vol. 44, Iss. 2¹), the Project has shown that there is a Y-DNA match between descendants of Thomas Speake, the Immigrant, and a man in New Zealand with ancestors in Gisburn, Lancashire, UK. His documented ancestors lived in Gisburn before 1700 (when it was then part of the West Riding of Yorkshire). Other Lancashire men with the

¹ Roberta’s complete blog at: <https://dna-explained.com/2022/11/05/the-ancestors-are-speaking-an-18-year-y-dna-study-that-led-us-home-52-ancestors-381/>

Speake surname living in the Ribble Valley near Gisburn have been tested and also show relatedness through DNA testing. From this evidence, we conclude that Thomas the Immigrant likely was born in the Ribble Valley near Gisburn.

The Project has also shown that lineages of descendants of Thomas's sons can be differentiated, because descendants of Thomas' son Bowling have unique markers not found in descendants of his son, John the Innholder. Roberta described this strategy in Chapter 4 of *The Speak/e/s Family of Southern Maryland*, by showing that the line of Aaron Luckey Speaks of Iredell County, NC most closely matches descendants of Bowling Speake. As additional Speake men test using Big-Y DNA, or upgrade their testing to that level, further markers may be identified to further differentiate lines of descendants from one another. It is also possible that we will find founding Immigrants other than Thomas of St. Mary's City—but so far that has not happened.

The strategies that link lines back to a common ancestor often require all the available resources, both genealogical and genetic. The genealogy part of that cannot be ignored; we continue to need the best documentation we can develop from genealogy. Each of the strategies feeds into and supports the other: DNA matches suggest related people whose documents might be relevant to genealogy; and newly found documents suggest unknown relationships suggesting newly found Speake relatives to test.

The status of the collaboration can best be accomplished by updating information Roberta reported in her blog in the fall of 2022. The Speaks Family DNA Project has 151 members comprised of:

- 105 autosomal DNA testers
- 31 Speak Y-DNA testers
- 24 of whom are Thomas the immigrant descendants
- 11 Big-Y tests.

On the genealogical side of this collaboration we are collecting genealogies of lines that do not at this time connect to ancestors in *The Speak/e/s Family of Southern Maryland*, either because of missing documented ancestors (“brick walls”), or the lines link to unique immigration events (none of those has yet been documented). We will be posting these genealogies to the website and use them

to identify living descendants to whom we can offer free DNA testing. We can also search through these genealogies to identify men who have already done Y-DNA tests at levels less than Big-Y, who would be strategic to have tested and to offer them free DNA Test upgrades to Big-Y and autosomal testing.

Some Speak/e/s lines for which we have not found connections include:

- Hezekiah Speake/Speaks of Bourbon County Kentucky, b. ca 1760 in Prince George's County Maryland, d. 1835 in Bourbon County, Kentucky. A member who recently joined SFA, the Rev. Noel Jules Dehner is a descendant of Hezekiah Speak of Bourbon County.
- A number of Speaks families in Rowan and Iredell Counties of North Carolina listed in the book chapter written by Susan Speak Sills, Jeffrey Wills, and Dewaine Speaks. With DNA matches we are making progress.
- James W. Speaks d. 1841, Loudoun County, Virginia. A member who recently joined SFA, Megan Speakes, is his descendant. Additionally, there are many descendants of him in the greater Washington, DC area.
- Charles Everett Speaks, b. 1819 in Loudoun County, Virginia, d.1893 in Perry County, Ohio. Charles may be a brother of James W. (undocumented).

We as an Association will carry out this collaboration by addressing these, as yet unattached limbs of our family tree by:

1. Additional genealogical support to those individuals with queries,
2. Documenting and sharing of genealogies in addition to those in the Book by using our website as a repository for Speake genealogies,
3. Continuing cooperation with and funding for those doing DNA analysis to inform genealogical relationships in the Speaks Family Project at Family Tree DNA,
4. Identifying additional Speake lines, and
5. Accepting nominations of individuals to test strategically, working with members to obtain authorization for testing from these individuals (to make a nomination, contact one of the authors of this article).

We are excited to be building on the fruitful collaboration between The Speak/e/s Family Association and the Speaks Project at Family Tree DNA with renewed energy and tangible resources. We expect to see this partnership develop a deeper understanding of the genealogy and of the genetic connections within all the Speak/e/s families.

BOOK COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by John Morris, Book Committee Chair, October 9, 2023

Based on the success of our initial printing, we ordered an additional 40 books. Thirty (30) of these new books were hard covers and 10 were soft covers. That matches the 3 to 1 ratio that our sales of the first printing had been trending. We sold all the remaining hard covers and some of the newly-ordered books at the Speake Family Reunion in Pigeon Forge. Our inventory is down to 38 books left, 12 soft covers and 26 hard covers.

If you did not initially order a copy, want to order more books or, have a library or genealogical association to which you would like to donate a copy, please do so.

Donating books to libraries and genealogical societies is the best way to make sure our Speak/e/s family legacy and research reaches future generations. We encourage you to buy a book to donate. We will be happy to mail the donated book directly to the library or society of your choosing.

The Association has donated a hard-cover book to the following libraries:

- Daughters of the American Revolution Library
- Library of Congress (2 books per copyright requirements)
- Sons of the American Revolution Library, Louisville
- Fort Wayne Public Library (Allen County Indiana Public Library)
- Maryland Archives, Annapolis
- St. Mary's County Historical Society
- Martin F. Schmidt Research Library (Mid-Continent Public Library)
Independence, Missouri
- State Library of North Carolina, Raleigh
- Family History Library, Salt Lake City
- Library of Virginia, Richmond

Members have donated a hard-cover book to the following libraries:

Lawrence County, Alabama Library (Susan Sills)
Kentucky State Historical Society, Frankfort (Henry Payne)
Owensboro Daviess County Public Library (Henry Payne)
Harrodsburg, Kentucky Historical Society (John Payne)
Charles County Historical Society (Southern Maryland Study Center)
(Joyce Candland)
Maryland Genealogical Society (Joyce Candland)
St. Mary's County Genealogical Society (Joyce Candland)
St. Louis County Library (Michael Speak)
Putnam County, Missouri Library (John Payne)
Claiborne County, Tennessee Library (Roberta Estes)
Hancock County, Tennessee Library (Roberta Estes)
Library of Virginia, Richmond (John Morris – as circulation copy)
Handley Regional Library, Winchester, Virginia (John Payne)
Lee County, Virginia Historical & Genealogy Society (Dolores Ham)
Virginia Genealogical Society (John Morris)
Fairfax County Public Library, Fairfax, VA (John Morris)
Pennington Gap, Virginia Library (Mary Hentschel)
Family Search: Durham Parish Church, Nanjemoy, Maryland
(Jim Cobey)
Prince George's County, Maryland Genealogical Society (John Payne)
East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville (Dana Speeks Howard)

Libraries identified by our members but to which no book has been donated:

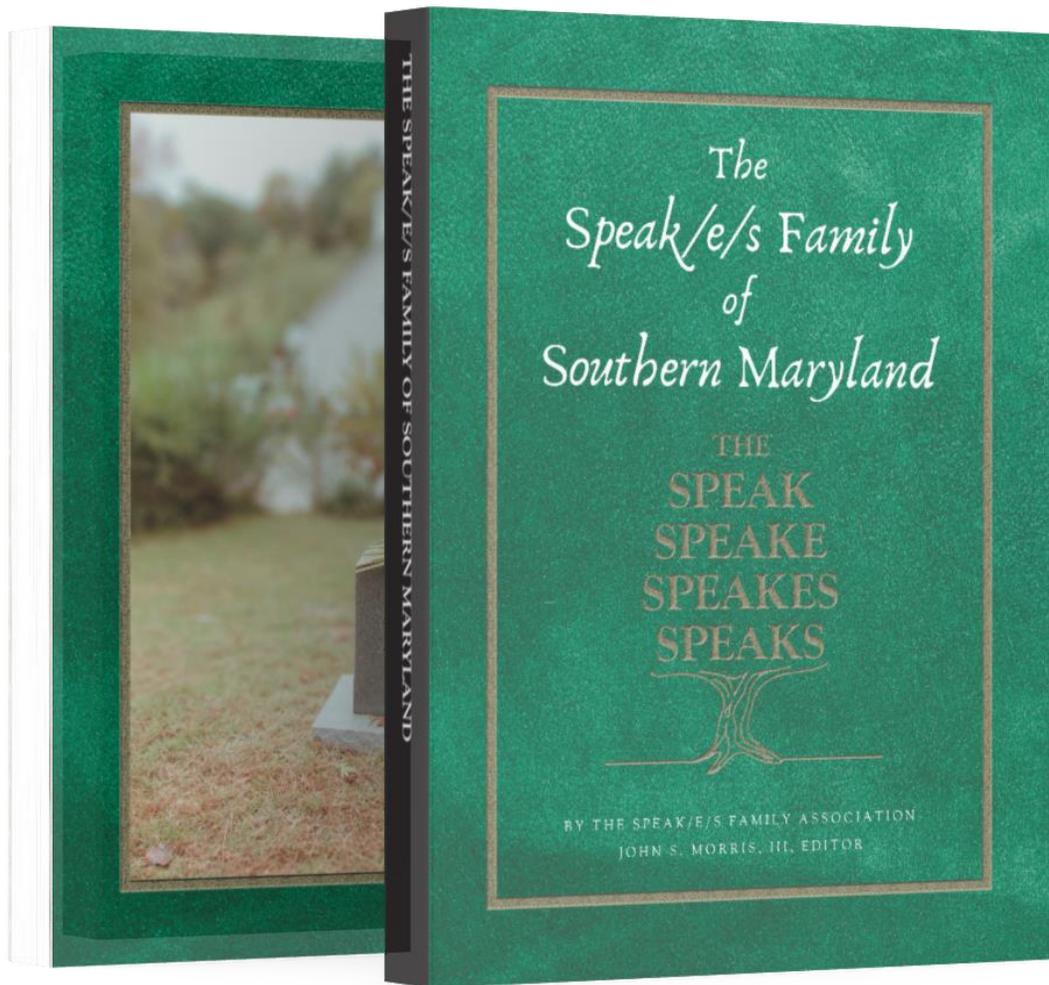
National Archives, Washington, DC
Alabama State Archives, Montgomery, Alabama
Los Angeles Public Library Genealogical Collection
Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado
Kentucky State Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky
Clark Center for Kentucky History, Frankfort, Kentucky
Bell County Library, Middlesboro, Kentucky
Adair County Public Library, Columbia, Kentucky
Casey County Public Library, Liberty, Kentucky
Marion County Public Library, Lebanon, Kentucky
Nelson County Public Library, Bardstown, Kentucky

Washington County Public Library, Springfield, Kentucky
Maryland Center for History & Culture/H. Furlong Baldwin Library,
Baltimore, Maryland
Charles County Public Library, LaPlata, Maryland
New England Historic Genealogical Society Library, Boston,
Massachusetts
Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Michigan
Adair County Public Library, Kirksville, Missouri
New York Public Library, New York, New York
Iredell County Library/Historical Society, Statesville, North Carolina
Rowan County Library/Historical Society, Salisbury, North Carolina
Hamilton County Public Library, Cincinnati, Ohio
Dallas Central Library/Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Genealogical
Collection, Dallas, Texas
Houston Genealogical Library/Clayton Center for Genealogical
Research, Houston, Texas

Thanks to all members who have already donated one or more books to libraries or genealogical societies. If you know of other such libraries or associations which you believe would be a good place for future Speak/e/s researchers and generations to research, please consider donating a book to them.

Thanks to all of you who helped with the book. It was a labor of love and collaboration among many people over many years.

***Would someone in your family enjoy receiving a copy of
The Speak/e/s Family of Southern Maryland
for Christmas?***



Order copies of the Book for Christmas!

To allow us time to process and ship the books so you are likely to receive them by Christmas, please order online by December 15 at www.speakfamily.org (If you use the form on the following page, please allow extra time for mailing).

WE WILL EXPEDITE SHIPMENT

If you donate a book to a library, genealogical society library, or a historical society, please email John Morris, III at jsmorrislaw@gmail.com so we can add your donation to the list.

Use this form, or pay online for annual membership

You may use this form and mail in a check, but there are immediate benefits if you pay for membership online using a credit card at www.speakfamily.org

- You receive immediate access to the online archives
- Automatic renewal every year of your membership

Online membership gives you all the privileges of membership: 3 to 5 Bulletins per year, access to family archives, and an invitation to the annual meeting.

At this time the website can process Regular \$25 membership fees and Patron \$100 memberships, but not Sponsor \$50 memberships.

Membership Dues for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

REGULAR - \$25 ____ SPONSOR - \$50 ____ PATRON - \$100 or more ____
Voluntary donation to the Speaks Chapel Cemetery Fund \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE _____

I am a new member ____ I am renewing ____ My address has changed ____

Print form and mail it with a check to:

Speak/e/s Family Association
Attn: Jo Ellen Speake, Treasurer
6959 Spicewood Court
Tallahassee, FL 32312

*If you have paid membership online **do not use this form.**
Your online membership will renew automatically*

Speaks Chapel Cemetery Needs Your Support!

Dolores Ham

On September 22nd and 23rd, Michael and Joannie Ham (our son and daughter-in-law) and I attended the Speak/e/s Family Reunion held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. To our surprise, we were the only descendants of Nicholas and Sarah Faires Speak present at this event! Despite the lack of fellow descendants of Nicholas and Sarah, I did give a report about Speaks Chapel Church and the Cemetery.

I first learned about Speaks Chapel Methodist Church about 1979 when I visited with our cousin, Ola Bartley Wood, and her sister, Dola Bartley Queener. Later I learned about the Speak/e/s Family Association from Billie King Snow, also a Bartley cousin. Don and I attended the SFA Convention held in Charlotte, NC in 1981. That's when I became a member.

Early on, we realized there was no stone for Nicholas and Sarah Faires Speak in the cemetery at Speaks Chapel. Billye Snow had connections with a monument company so she began a drive for funds to erect a stone in memory of Nicholas and Sarah. The Stone was first placed in the back of the cemetery near the stones of Mitchell Speak and his children. This was not appropriate. A new location was determined. Rev. Bruce Johnson (not a member of Speaks Chapel) was very active in cleaning the cemetery and preparing for the dedication held on 28 July 1991. This was very well attended. Rev. Johnson continued to care for the cemetery until he moved away from Lee County, VA. Later Chris Davis, son of Jewell Davis, became the caretaker of the cemetery.



Rev. Bruce Johnson

Other special services have been held at the Speaks Chapel Church and cemetery. Most recently we held a service at Speaks Chapel in connection with the SFA convention held in Pine Mountain State Park (23 September 2017). A marker was placed by the monument to identify Nicholas Speak as a soldier in the War of 1812.

The church property now belongs to Rev. Francis Bartley, Jr. and his wife, Rev. Lois Bartley. Since they do not plan to be at this location all the time, we need Chris Davis to continue as the caretaker for this special cemetery. The Speaks Chapel Cemetery fund has been dwindling fast. Lots of work and finances have gone into keeping the cemetery in good shape. **Please don't stop now!** Nicholas and Sarah descendants please consider donating to the Speaks Chapel Cemetery fund. In the past other Speak/e/s descendants have made donations. We will accept donations from any SFA member or other interested party!

We want to keep the cemetery in good shape for the future when our grandchildren and other relatives decide to visit. We owe it to our ancestors, Nicholas and Sarah Faires Speak, as well as our future generations to keep their memory alive.

I'm mailing my check to Jo Ellen Speak, Treasurer, 6959 Spicewood Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32312. Write the check to the SFA Association and designate the check for the Speaks Chapel Cemetery Fund. Won't you join me in this worthy project?



Back of cemetery, 3 legible stones



Speak/e/s Family Association (SFA) Business Meeting Minutes

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023

Meeting Location: LeConte Hotel & Convention Center, Board Room, 410 Pine Mountain Road, Pigeon Forge, TN. Attendees: John Payne, Rebecca McClanahan, John Morris, Dana Howard, Dolores Ham, Michael Ham, Joannie Ham, & Susan Sills. The meeting was called to order at 1 pm by John Payne, President.

Agenda:

- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of minutes of previous meeting
- Reports:
 - Approval of treasurer's report
 - Book committee report
 - Chapel cemetery report
- New Business
 - Proposal for a DNA testing project with dedicated funding and approval of a budget line for DNA testing of Speake men
- Place and time for the next meeting

Approval of the Agenda – unanimously accepted by voice vote

Approval of minutes of previous meeting (Oct. 26, 2022 in Richmond, VA) – Motion to approve the minutes made by John Morris, 2nd by Susan Sills. Motion carried.

Reports:

Approval of treasurer's report – Jo Ellen Speake provided the treasurer's report, read by John Payne for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. Opening balance of the operating account as of July 1, 2022 was \$11,396.44. Balance as of June 30, 2023 was \$6,384.24. (Note the book origination costs and the first book order are the largest expenses totaling \$9,700.92.) The SFA Chapel Fund had a balance as of July 1, 2022 of \$1,770.50 and the closing balance on June 30, 2023 was \$1,565.50. Motion made to approve the treasurer's report as read by Rebecca McClanahan, 2nd by John Morris. Motion carried.

Book committee report – John Morris reported he ordered 40 more books (30 hard and 10 soft), with an inventory of around 45 books now. He will provide a brief book report in the next SFA bulletin along with a list of potential donors that includes 40-50 libraries, etc. and identifies donations already made by the SFA and/or other donors. There was a suggestion that the list and report be shared on Facebook.

Chapel cemetery report – Dolores

Dolores Ham shared the church is now owned by Francis Bartley, Jr., a Methodist Minister, and descendant of Sarah Speak Bartley. He surveyed the church building and found that mice and rats had destroyed Bibles, etc. Much of the contents had to be thrown away. There had also been squatters living in the building. The owners plan to keep four of the church pews, leaving 14 pews available, some photos from the wall are also available. The plaque was given to Jewell's family. There was hardwood flooring underneath the old flooring. Disputes of the property line must be resolved. Dolores suggests Chris Davis continue being the cemetery caregiver for an annual fee of \$450 per year. Dolores was asked to prepare a small write-up for the next bulletin appealing for donations for the cemetery upkeep.

New Business –

- Nominations for the Membership Engagement Chair: Henry Payne was nominated (had previously agreed to serve). Hearing no other nominations. Motion by John Morris, 2nd by Susan Sills. Motion carried.
- Proposed a survey (maybe through Survey Monkey) to new and existing members to gather interests and views within the SFA. Possibly included in next bulletin after Henry's input. John Payne, Rebecca McClanahan and Joanna Ham volunteered to help as needed. Only eight members do not have an email account.
- John Payne resigned his position as Webmaster and Archivist. Nominations for the Webmaster and Archivist: Megan Speakes was nominated (had previously agreed to serve) as Webmaster and

Archivist. Hearing no other nominations. Motion made by John Morris and 2nd by Dolores Ham. Motion carried.

- **Proposal for a DNA testing project with dedicated funding and Approval of a budget line for DNA testing of Speake men**

After discussion, it was proposed that SFA authorize \$3,000 as a budget line for DNA testing in conjunction with the Speaks Project at Family Tree DNA. The budget will provide Big-Y DNA testing and other genetic testing to strategically clarify the genetic genealogy of the Speak family. Testing will be authorized by the President of the SFA and the Administrators of the Speaks Project. Motion was made by John Morris, 2nd by Dana Howard. Motion carried.

Place and time for the next meeting

Possibly Frankfort, KY or Washington, DC – Charles County, discussed and pending results of the survey.

Having no additional business, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Speaks Howard, Secretary

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Please Take the Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/76M8R8N>

Check out the webpage:

www.speakfamily.org

**For regular updates join the
Speak/e/s Family Association
Facebook Page!**