Skandinavian Suomalaiset ry
Fennoskandia i samverkan / Together in Fennoskandia

QUARTERLY

DNA TEST REVEALED A SHOCKING CONNECTION TO SCYTHIAN WARRIORS AND VIKING KINGS

Juha Tainio, Chairman of Skandinavian Suomalaiset Ry and Secretary Juha Tuikka participated in an extensive DNA study mapping Finnish genetic roots. Conducted under the leadership of genealogist Ari Kolehmainen, the ultra-precise Y-DNA analyses revealed results that revolutionize our understanding of history. It turned out that the paternal lineages of the chairman and the secretary meet in Iron Age Savo, roughly around the 8th or 9th century (the 700s–800s). Both belong to the indigenous population of Finland, whose roots stretch all the way back to the Bronze Age. However, the biggest surprise was waiting on the eastern steppes.

Finnish Genes in the Scythian Elite and Viking Dynasties

The results showed that both men share a very close genetic connection to an ancient Scythian warrior's burial mound (Novozavedennoye 24) discovered in the Black Sea region. This feared horseman of the eastern steppe carried the Finnish N-haplogroup. The discovery proves that some of the ancestors of the Finns lived as part of the warrior elite of antiquity. And the surprises did not end there. A clear ancestral connection was also found between our secretary and the Rurikid

A typical Scythian kurgan, or burial mound, on the steppes of Southern Russia.

Viking dynasty, which founded Kievan Rus.

This discovery helps confirm a new historical interpretation, according to which Finns were an active part of the power structures of the Viking Age.

Lineage of a Founding Father

In addition, both also share common ancestors with John Morton, the Finnish-American who signed the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776. The very same Finnish genes that rode with the Scythians across the steppes and sailed alongside the Vikings on the Eastern Route were ultimately there to sign one of the most significant documents in world history. DNA carries stories that are simply waiting to be revealed!

SKANDINAVIAN SUOMALAISET IN SWEDEN: TRACING THE BRONZE AND IRON AGES

Chairman Juha Tainio and Secretary Juha Tuikka of Skandinavian Suomalaiset ry completed a week-long expedition to Sweden and the Finnish coast. The objective of the trip was to map Bronze and Iron Age ancient remains and to highlight the silenced role of Finns in Fennoscandian prehistory.

Shared Roots on the Coast

The journey began at Sammallahdenmäki in Rauma. The structures of the Bronze Age cairns (hiidenkiukaat) in the area are identical to those found in Sweden and Ostrobothnia. They demonstrate that the entire region belonged to the same cultural sphere during the Bronze Age. Indeed, new multidisciplinary research supports the view that these ancient indigenous inhabitants of Fennoscandia, who lived by the sea, were the ancestors of the Finns.

The burial cairns of Sammallahdenmäki in Rauma.

Hågahögen south of Uppsala.

Old Uppsala and the Mythical Scythians

In Sweden, the destination was Old Uppsala with its majestic royal mounds. According to the sagas, ancient kings of Scythian origin and the Scandinavian gods Odin, Thor, and Freyr are buried in these mounds. DNA tests commissioned by the association reveal that a portion of Finnish paternal lineages do indeed descend from the Black Sea Scythians, who in ancient times merged with Finns arriving from Siberia. Thus, the sagas often contain historical truths colored by myth.

Continuity from Håga to Uppsala

A visit to the 3,000-year-old Hågahögen kurgan mound revealed how eastern nomadic steppe cultures influenced the Nordic elite as early as the Bronze Age. Later, Iron Age Svea kings imitated these ancient monuments to reinforce their power. In doing so, they sought to demonstrate their own might and wealth.

FINNISH MIDSUMMER CELEBRATIONS IN THE USA

As Hancock, Michigan, served as the 2026 Finno-Ugric Capital of Culture, this year's Midsummer celebrations featured an expanded cultural program. The Ambassadors of Finland and Estonia, together with Hungary's Chargé d'Affaires, attended the festivities, while the President of Estonia sent a video greeting. Rune Bjerkli represented the Kven/Finnish people of northern Fennoscandia in discussions with the distinguished guests.

The history and Finnish heritage of the mining town

Hancock was once a major mining town, and many early Finnish-speaking settlers were recruited from Northern Norway to work in the mines. Their influence can still be heard today. Some older Kven/Finnish Americans still remember the greeting "Kuinka se mennee?" instead of the standard Finnish "Mitä kuuluu?"

Estonian ambassador Kristjan Prikk speaking in Hancock.

Sisu, sauna, and the echoes of history

The region proudly celebrates its Finnish heritage. Finnish street names, saunas, and the spirit of sisu remain central to local identity.

The program included lectures, music, cultural performances, and presentations on Finno-Ugric contributions to North America, including John Morton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

In picture from the left: Rune Bjerkli, Jim Kurtti (leader for Hancock events), and Bogáta Timár (Geresdlak, Hungary will be the Finno-Ugric Capital of Culture in 2027)

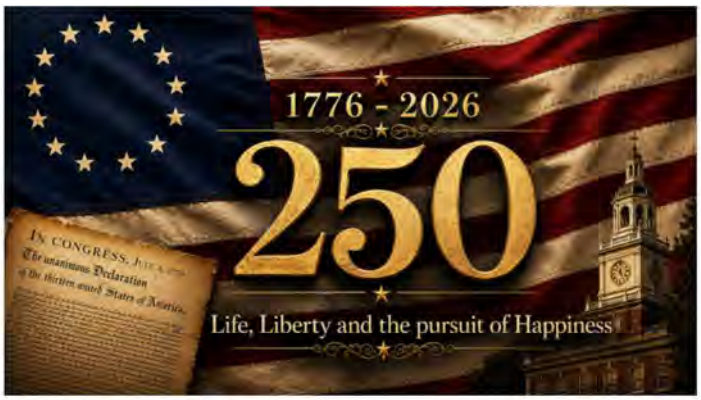
JOHN MORTON – THE FINNISH-AMERICAN FOUNDING FATHER WHO HELPED CREATE THE UNITED STATES

As Americans celebrate the 250th anniversary of independence, one Founding Father deserves renewed recognition: John Morton. Although largely forgotten today, his vote on July 2, 1776, secured Pennsylvania's support for independence and helped unite the thirteen colonies behind the Declaration of Independence.

Finnish roots and the rise to a person of influence

Born in 1725, Morton descended from the Finnish settlers of New Sweden, one of North America's oldest Finnish communities. Raised within a close-knit Finnish-Swedish society and educated by his English stepfather, he built a distinguished career as a surveyor, judge, legislator, and Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly.

Known for his integrity and ability to unite



The representatives of Pennsylvania are shown in the image. Top row, left to right: James Wilson, Benjamin Franklin, George Ross, John Morton, George Taylor, and James Smith. Bottom row, left to right: George Clymer, Robert Morris, and Benjamin Rush. (Image: AI/Rune Bjerkli).

people of different cultures and political views, Morton spent years seeking reconciliation with Great Britain before concluding that independence was the only remaining path. His decisive vote changed American history.

Morton's significance to the United States

Morton died only nine months later at the age of fifty-one. His early death and the loss of many of his personal papers caused his remarkable contribution to fade from public memory. Yet without the quiet statesman from Pennsylvania with deep Finnish roots, the birth of the United States might have taken a very different course.