
NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

OH MY GOODNESS!!! As I read through articles on DNA in genealogy to prepare to write this Newsletter I thought I was getting on top of the subject only to find the next web page I looked at adding more information and, often I can say, confusing information making me re-think everything.

Obviously, family historians' interest in genetic genealogy has opened up a huge market in the USA and UK and perhaps worldwide and companies offering DNA test kits have leapt in with great glee, each trying to outbid the others with what they offer. Price is by no means the sole criterion on which to judge a choice of company to use for your DNA test. What size is its database? Would all the cousins offered to you be purely from the United States? What else could the company offer?

Just as I was thinking, "I must stop researching DNA now or I'll have an information overload", a member of the SA Genealogical group on Face Book threw a cat among the pigeons by querying the accuracy of the results she and her friend obtained. There was some doubt on where her family came from as she knew they were from Northern Europe but South America was the source suggested by her test results. The response from other family historians also showed a few disgruntled customers. For example: one person had been told that his DNA showed a large Jewish component which he claims is wrong as he knows of no Jewish ancestors. One response to this was from a pro-science person who said that we cannot accept our paper documentation of our family history in the face of scientific proof such as the DNA results. Another took the exact opposite view saying words like "Jewish" or "Scandinavian" were too generalised terms for any North-Eastern European ancestors and that whether our ancestors came from Germany, Scandinavia, Poland or Baltic countries it is hard to tell from DNA because they are so similar, DNA speaking. In fact, most of the articles I read about DNA genealogy say that DNA results **do not replace** good old paper documentation of our family tree but can help us to break down brick walls by indicating possible connections with cousins. Imaginary example: – great-great-uncle Albert who disappeared, perhaps didn't go to the mines in Johannesburg as the family says but left his wife in Cape Town and went off to Australia and that distant so-called "cousin in Australia" that you find on the list of the DNA results is in fact a cousin because he is Uncle Albert's great-great-grandson!

I gave Anne Johnston a lift to the February meeting and she spoke of the Northern Ireland Genealogical Society's DNA Interest Group who meet monthly purely to assist members to understand and use their DNA results fruitfully. At the price we pay for these DNA tests, their results must be used fruitfully for us or we are wasting a lot of money! Anne kindly submitted an article covering her experience.

I have also included an article comparing the different organisations offering DNA testing and what they offer, at what price. Many of the companies do not offer services in South Africa. Backdoor ways of having the test done include having the Test Kit sent to a UK or USA relative's address and then have your relative ship it to you and you return it to the company using the same method. Something Anne mentioned to me was that the N. Ireland Society offered to be the 'agent' for Family Tree DNA and the Society distributes the kits to members at a special price. They also collect and post the kits back to Family Tree DNA. Not only could a special cheaper price be offered but also you could be given advice on who else in your family should be tested to help you get a clearer picture. The Cape Town Family History Society might be too small – the N Ireland society has over a thousand members - but perhaps we should start negotiating with these DNA testing companies to see if we can play a similar role.

If I've made glaring omissions or mistakes in these articles, feel free to correct me. I'm still learning about DNA

DNA FOR GENEALOGIST

Edited and abridged by Derek Pratt

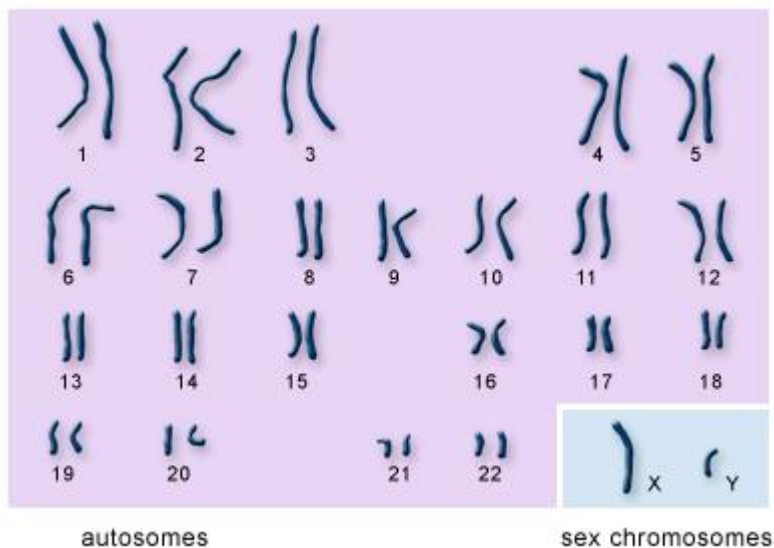
Before I was ordained I worked for 23 in hospital laboratories. The last couple of years -from about 1990 to 1993 – DNA testing became more important in diagnosing certain diseases. Certainly, for me in Chemical Pathology at Red Cross Hospital, the definitive diagnosis could be made for Cystic Fibrosis. But at that time the testing was so expensive that it was only used to confirm doubtful cases where the old test (unbelievably measuring chloride levels in a child's sweat!) was not quite positive but also not definitely negative.

When DNA testing first appeared in family history field and I saw the prices being charged, I decided I could exist quite happily without knowing which earthly region my ancestors came from, perhaps they were aliens from outer space so DNA wouldn't help. But seriously, DNA has become 'the flavour of the month' of late. So, I thought we all needed to have a basic understanding of how it works and what it can tell us.

I don't know about you but I had to search the internet to find something I could understand. I did this at a website called www.dnaexplain.com and the copyright rests with them even though the writer says "Feel free to share and pass it on". I've taken an article called "DNA Testing for Genealogy 101" but it is twelve pages long so I cannot simply 'cut-n-paste' it here. But I've used it as a source and have tried to make it simpler for us folk at the foot of Africa!

DNA – The Basics

Every human being has 23 pairs of chromosomes, which contain most of your DNA which is often known as and referred to as Genes. One chromosome from each pair comes from a person's mother and the other from their father's. Do you remember the word meiosis from when you did biology? Well, meiosis is when DNA from Mum and Dad recombine in each of 22 of your 23 chromosomes. These are known as autosomes and they have DNA from both and their parent's parents (and their ancestors before them). I'll talk about autosomal DNA (atDNA) further on in this article



U.S. National Library of Medicine

mum. But they inherit from each parent so if they inherited their Dad's X chromosome (males are XY females XX), then the child would be XX and not a male. Understand?

Okay, so now what? Well, we can use the Y chromosome to compare against other men of the same surname to see if they share a common ancestor because if they do their Y chromosome DNA will match either exactly or nearly so (also an important point to keep in mind as you read on).

I've mentioned DNA in three different ways so far. Firstly, **autosomal DNA** then **X chromosomal DNA** and finally in the male **Y chromosomal DNA**. These three types are in the nucleus of the cell. There is a fourth type of DNA called

mitochondrial DNA usually abbreviated to **mtDNA**. This DNA is not found in the cell nucleus but in the cell mitochondria. What is useful for us is that this mtDNA is inherited from their mothers. Remembering what I said above about X chromosomes in men, we can say that men inherit their mother's mtDNA but do not pass it on to their offspring. Women on the other hand have their mother's mtDNA and pass it on to both female and male offspring. So, what does that give us? Well, women inherit their mother's mtDNA unmixed with their father's and pass it on generation to generation from female to female. This enables us to compare our mtDNA with that of others to determine whether we share a common **maternal** ancestor.

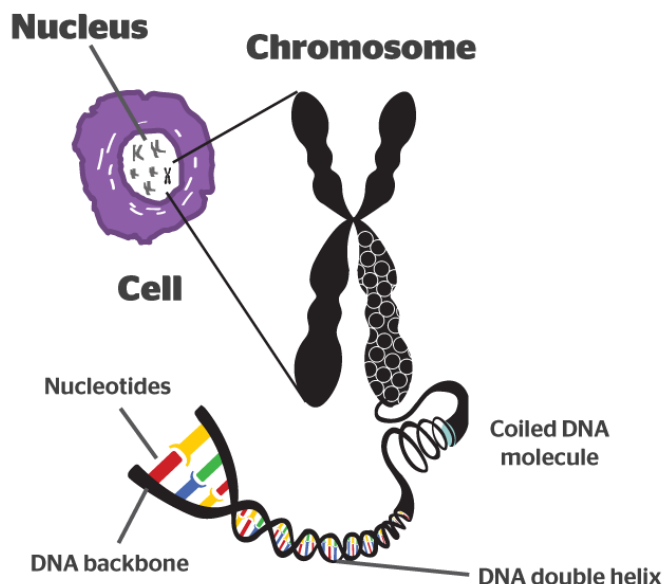
What about **autosomal DNA**? Well, these 22 chromosomes that are not the X or Y chromosomes and not mtDNA tend to be transferred in groupings which give us traits such as Mum's blue eyes, Grandpa's blond hair and Dad's short stature. It is these autosomal DNA that we use to search for inherited diseases or tendencies such as addiction. We can also use them to for genealogical reasons.

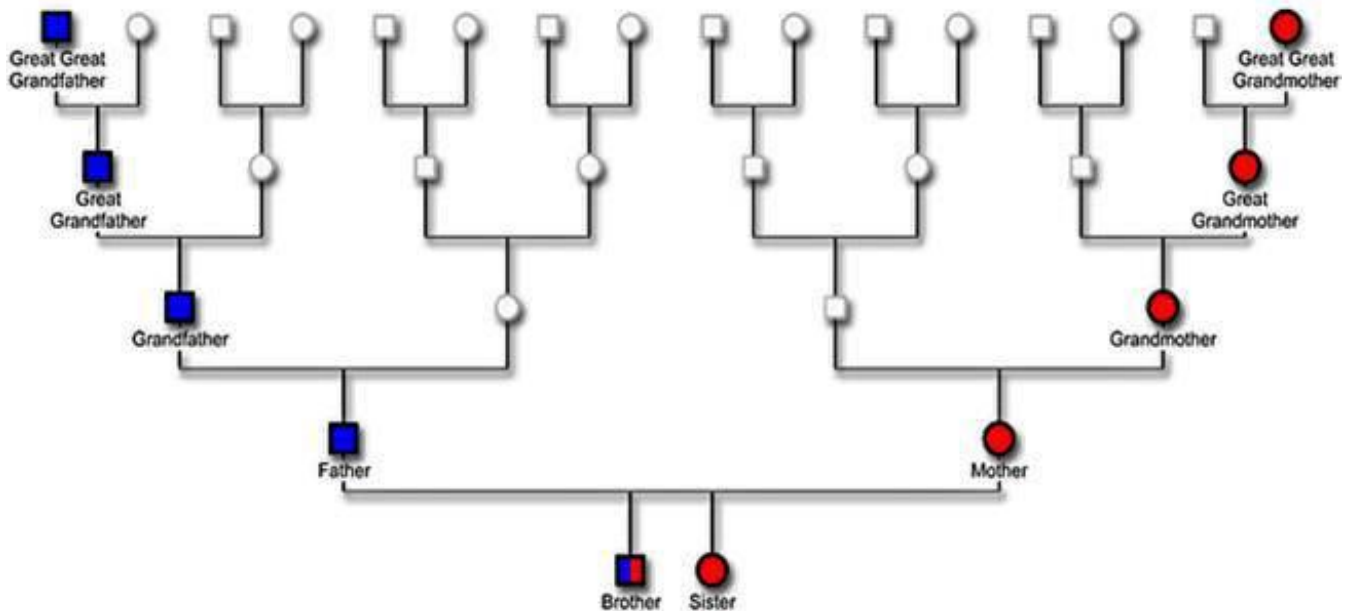
To summarise: There appears to be three sorts of DNA. yDNA, which follows the male line, mtDNA which follows the female line and then autosomal DNA which links any of the chromosomes DNA (not specifically the sex chromosome as in yDNA) to another person's DNA. Now, this is great you might think because it will help you with both the maternal and paternal line. Yes, to a certain extent - to the extent of about 5 to 7 generations or just over 200 years. Why only that? Well, mutations happen to our DNA from generation to generation - that is why some our children have different coloured hair from the parents etc. The autosomal DNA or atDNA measures a certain number of points on the DNA chain. Going to fifth cousins, there are most probably, statistically speaking, too many differences at that 'certain number of points' to be absolutely positive that your sixth (seventh, eighth etc) cousin is really related, but ignoring stats, some people who have done the test have found they can go back more than fifth cousins. The results can also be enhanced by getting your second cousins, which you might know through normal paper documentation to be related to you, to do the test. With a larger number of data points to look at the accuracy of the test can be enhanced. To quote the International Society of Genetic Genealogists (ISOGG): *For genealogical relationships between second cousins once removed and 5th cousins a more careful approach is necessary and data needs to be collected from multiple family members. For relationships at the 4th cousin once removed to 5th cousin level you may need to test 10 to 20 or more first and second cousins and see how much autosomal DNA they share with a potential 4th cousin once removed or a potential 5th cousin in order to have sufficient data to generate a statistically significant average amount of autosomal DNA that is shared among the entire group, assuming that you are dealing with a non-endogamous population.*

How can unreccombined DNA help us with genealogy?

During normal cell combination, called meiosis, each ancestor's autosomal DNA gets watered down or divided by roughly half with each generation, meaning each child gets half of the DNA carried by each parent. (See Autosomal DNA below for an example)

However, that isn't true of the Y-line or mtDNA. In the following example of just 4 generations, we see that the Y chromosome, the blue box on the left, is passed down the paternal line intact and the son has the exact same Y-line DNA as his paternal great-grandfather.





Similarly, the round red doughnut shaped O represents the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and it is passed down the maternal side, so both the daughter and the son will have the exact same mtDNA as the maternal great-grandmother (but only the female child will pass it on).

Now because of our tradition of passing on surnames down the male line, so the Y line DNA passes down with the surname. How does this help us? If males share a surname and share a common ancestor in recent times – like 100 years - then that man's Y-DNA will match or nearly so with the man with the same surname. This has led to the rise of Surname Projects to facilitate and co-ordinate the comparison of individuals with the same or similar surname. Basically, they are building up databases of Y-DNA results that can match (completely or closely) with others with same surname.

If any of you have read about Watson and Crick and how they discovered the double helix or perhaps seen National Geographic channel as they speak about the human genome you will realise just how many locations there are on it. So how do they do this DNA testing? Well, they test a number of locations on the Y Chromosome – this can vary according to the test chosen from 12, 25, 37, 67 or 111 locations. What they are looking for and reporting are the number of exact repeats of that segment of DNA. Sometimes a segment is dropped by the process of passing on DNA and sometimes a segment is added. This is normal and typically has no effect on the person. But for genealogist these changes are wonderful as these small changes will typically be passed on from one generation to next and these help to differentiate families. Without these mutations all our DNA would look alike and there would be no genetic genealogy.

This is where **autosomal DNA** or **atDNA** comes in. It can trace both the maternal and paternal lines back to possibly 7th generation or about 210 years. I said above that in meiosis we get half our mother's and half our father's DNA but it is a random half (that is why siblings are different). We can't say which half we will get. So, using atDNA and comparing siblings they would share 50% DNA (in practice between 40% and 57%). First cousins would share a quarter of that 50% or **12.5%** (in practice between 8.8% and 14.2%), Second Cousins would share a further quarter or 3.125% (in practice 1.3% to 4.3%).

In an interesting video on YouTube I found gives an example where he found in his grandfather's belongings a Wedding Card from Australia with the bride bearing the same name as his grandfather. Being curious he traced documentation on the couple and discovered they were from Australia and the bride gave the same forenames for her parents as his grandfather's parents. So, were they related? Tracing the Australian family, he found a grandson (let's call him Alan) who was still live and he convinced Alan to have atDNA done. The author and his father had already done atDNA and so they compared their DNA. He found that Alan and his father had 2.4% similarity in DNA which falls within the 1.3%-4.3% range for 2nd cousins and even the author's DNA had a 1.4% similarity. The author concludes that they are related

but (and this is important) there are more unanswered questions. So more corroborative evidence was required. And what does that mean? Good old paper documents are required.

Conclusion

Y-DNA need when searching for relatives down the paternal line because the same surname is passed down.

mtDNA help us to find relatives on maternal line

atDN (autosomal DNA) gives us relatives on all lines for past 210years (about) or about seven generations.

If you are looking for deep ancestry and human migration you need to have Y-DNA and mtDNA done. If you are merely going on a fish trip to find who your ancestors might be then atDN will give you more links that Y-DNA and Y-DNA will give you even more than mtDNA.

If you have specific questions that need answering (e.g. Are the Durban PRATT family related to the Cape Town PRATT family) then using different tests according to the problem will help clarify the answer.

In the case of projects looking at One-Name-Family (all the Pratt, or all the BLO(O)RE for example) then Y-DNA is the way to go.

Let me put this in bold **DNA will not be the complete answer**. Sorry folks! It is not a substitution for documentary evidence but it can find long lost families and maybe break through that brick wall.

So, why doesn't everyone have a DNA test. Well, cost for starters. They have dropped below \$100 but that is still over R1000. Then when you get your results they are often very hard to understand. Anne Johnston was telling me that in Northern Ireland they have a DNA group where those who have had their DNA done can come and be trained at interpreting the results and then share with other's how they using the results to advance their family tree. Other issues also can arise by having them done – privacy matters – do you want long lost cousins (cousins you have 'lost' on purpose!) to come after you! And legal implications – what happens if it is discovered that you are not the legal son and heir to the Dukedom? The website uses the abbreviation NPE (not paternity event) for discovering that you father isn't your father after all! How would you respond?

How do you decide where to have the test done? There appears to be four companies offering DNA testing. You can choose which one to use on price but they might not have a very large database from which to send you possible connections. Unfortunately, the different companies haven't been talking to each other up to now, although now the biggest to (FamilyTreeDNA and AncestryDNA) will allow you to bring your data across if you move over to them. In America DNA testing is the in thing and so most of you matches will be in the USA. Useful perhaps if you have Irish blood but not if you are British Colonial – although some of your family might have "gone West".

There is actually a lot of information online – do a goggle search for DNA for genealogist and see – some pages brief and simple other's enormous and highly technical. But this is the way genealogy is going so at least get informed even if you don't have the test.

My DNA Research

Anne Johnston

(anne.johnston33@gmail.com)

A few years ago I decided that it was time to try DNA testing as a tool to help me with my family history research. The cost of testing had reduced to a more reasonable level and I had hit brick walls across most of my family lines so I hoped that DNA testing would give a boost to my research.

The question of who to test was easy – me, as I have no surviving relatives of an older generation. My first real issue was what type of test should I go for – Y DNA (which follows the paternal line), mitochondrial DNA (which follows the maternal line) or autosomal DNA (which covers all lines but is only reliable going back approximately 5 generations). The Y test can only be taken by males and I had no suitable candidates in my family. I had nothing specific I wanted to

test on my maternal line and in any case the mitochondrial DNA tests are the most expensive. The autosomal test seemed the most appropriate for me as I had lots of gaps in my family tree within 5 generations (and it was the cheapest of the 3 tests). The next question was which company to test with – Ancestry, FamilyTreeDNA or 23andMe. Ancestry has lots of test results in its database but most of them are from the USA – my father's family is from Northern Ireland and my mother's family is from Scotland. Results are linked to trees in Ancestry and as I am only an occasional subscriber to Ancestry I was concerned that I might be 'locked in' to the site. 23andMe was in a state of flux at the time regarding its focus on health results versus genealogy results. FamilyTreeDNA was gaining a good reputation for its analytical tools for the 'serious' genetic genealogist so it was my preferred option.



A FamilyTreeDNA kit using a cheek scraping

I sent off my money and waited with eager anticipation for the test kit to arrive. FamilyTreeDNA requires a cheek swab so it was easy to do and immediately the test tubes were heading back to Houston, Texas for analysis. There was even greater anticipation while waiting for the test results to arrive in my inbox about 7 weeks later (times vary according to demand but it now takes about 4 weeks).

I think my first reaction was surprise that there were just under 1000 matches. In ignorance I was expecting one or two or if I was lucky a handful. How could all these people be related to me? Surprise soon turned to being overwhelmed as I dipped in and out of this long list of names and contact details not knowing what to do next. Some had added their trees, others had added a list of surnames and places, still others had added both. But no-one stood out as a potential 'cousin'. I contacted a few people but we couldn't identify any definite connections.

However as more and more people undertook tests new names were being added to my list (it hit the 2000 mark at the end of last year) and about 6 months

after I undertook my test I had my first success. I was contacted by someone in Florida, USA who said that she was managing the results of her birth mother (she had been adopted as a child) and we both had the surname Falconer in our family trees. Her 3x great grandmother was Isabella Falconer and I had an Isabella Falconer as the sister of my great grandfather but I didn't have any more details. We did some joint research and established that it was the same Isabella, that she had married in Scotland and then, having had 6 of their 9 children, they emigrated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Life in their new homeland did not go smoothly. I became very familiar with US court records and records of alcoholism and children taken into care through the generations but it has added a whole new branch (and a few skeletons) to my family tree.

With experience I've learnt how to manage my list of matches better. They are listed in order of potential closeness of relationship. Start at the top and focus on the top dozen initially. Only the top 10% of the list merits detailed consideration – the others are 5th+ cousins and it is difficult to establish the connections, although it depends on the 'depth' of your researched family tree. I haven't made much progress on the Irish side of my family but I have been able to go further back on the Scottish side but I haven't established any 5th cousins yet.

I've also come to realise that key to success in DNA analysis is to have 'markers' in your list that you know who they are and where they appear in your family tree. Then you can use the FamilyTreeDNA tool 'In Common With' to establish likely family lines. For example, names on my list which are also on my Falconer contact's list are likely to be from the Falconer line. I now have 7 'markers' in my list, 4 where I have established a definite relationship on FamilyTreeDNA and 3 which I have planted myself, 'cousins' who have agreed to be tested and where I manage their test results.

Compare List

1+ cM

Remove

Shared Segments: 42

Shared Segments: 34

Reset Defaults

Clear Compare List

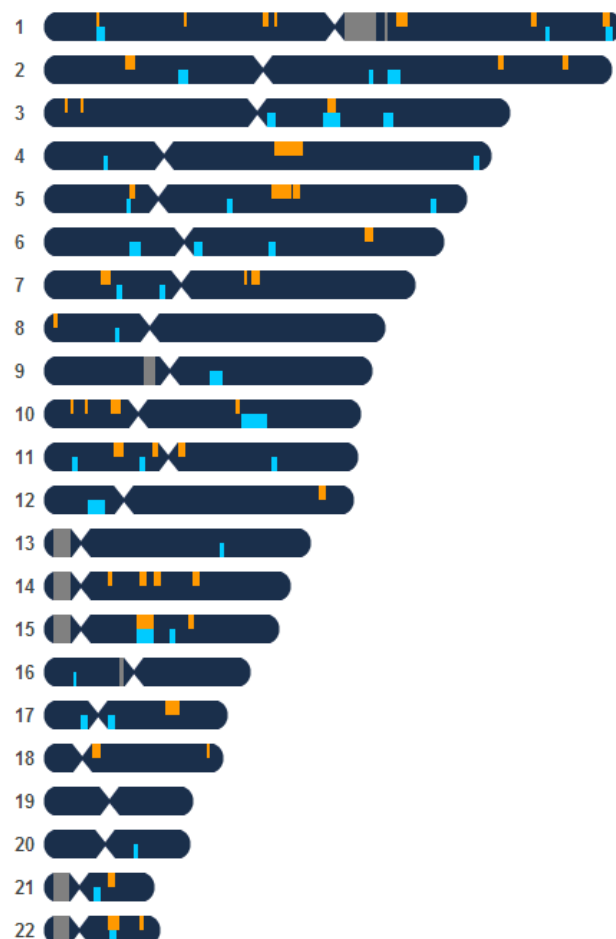
Close Relatives

1 - 2 of 2

Hide 3rd Party Matches

Pg. 1

★ Indicates Uploaded 3rd Party Match



Optional Views: [Download to Excel \(CSV Format\)](#) | [View this data in a table](#)

An example of a result sheet – you can see why Anne was so confused!

It is important to post your family tree (at minimum your direct ancestors) on the site along with a list of surnames and places from your family history. I know that I skip over people that haven't done so as it is too much hassle to email them to find out the details and I'm sure others do the same. Places are also important in DNA analysis. An example is one of my 'planted' South African 2nd cousins. I was contacted by someone in California, USA who matched her. I asked him if he had any known Dutch ancestry and he replied in the negative, so that ruled out her father's side of the family. He didn't match with me so that ruled out her mother's mother's side of the family as that is how we are connected. So that left her mother's father's side – the Lairds. But he had no known Lairds in his family. So we 'talked' about the Lairds and I managed to push them back a further generation to the small village of Kilmacolm in Renfrewshire, Scotland. As soon as I mentioned this he produced family documents referring to the village but which, up until then, had no particular family significance to him. He is now researching his family in Kilmacolm.

Regarding ethnicity testing, so widely used by Ancestry in its advertising, it is not yet as reliable as they make out. The results are generally accurate to a continent level and perhaps with Jewish ancestry, that is, they can sort European from African from Asian from Native American relatively accurately. However when dealing with intra-continental ethnicity, Europe in particular, identifying one country or region versus another, the tests are not reliable. The exception is Ashkenazi Jewish results which are generally quite accurate. This applies to all the testing companies. I would stress that DNA testing does not replace traditional family history research and is not a silver bullet that can produce an instant family tree (at least not yet). It is just another tool in the armoury of family history research and requires the same detective skills that we use while rummaging around in the archives to analyse the DNA matches. There is also some technical knowledge required which can, at times, be daunting but DNA testing can produce results that would be difficult to find through conventional means. Most importantly, the more people that test the better it is for all of us in helping us to find that elusive ancestor!

Which Genealogy DNA Test is the Best? A Detailed Comparison Guide to Help You Decide

From www.familyhistorydaily.com

Company offering	Family Tree DNA	MyHeritage DNA	Ancestry DNA	23andMe
Price	\$79 about R1034	\$79 about R1034	\$99 about R1296	\$99 about R1296
Sample Collection Type:	Cheek Swab	Cheek Swab	Saliva	Saliva
Chip Used:	Illumina OmniExpress	Illumina OmniExpress	Illumina OmniExpress	Illumina OmniExpress
Ancestral Makeup Report:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cousin Matching:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Size of Matches Database:	About 275,000 Family Tree	New and growing	About 2.5 Million	About 1.2 Million
Family Tree Integration:	Yes, Limited	Yes, Advanced	Yes, Advanced	No
GEDCOM Upload:	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Chromosome Browser:	Yes	Upcoming	No	Yes, limited
Other Advanced Tools:	Yes	Potentially upcoming	No	Some
Allows Raw DNA Download:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Accepted by GEDMatch:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Health Results Provided:	Compatible With Promethease	Compatible With Promethease	Compatible With Promethease	Only in the \$199 package
Known Privacy Concerns:	None	New, none	Yes	Yes
Ongoing Costs:	No	For some features	For some features	No
Additional Tests Available:	Yes, YDNA and mtDNA	No	No	Yes, health
Average Time to Results: Visit Family Tree DNA	About 6-8 Weeks	About 4 weeks	About 6-8 Weeks	About 6-8 Weeks

Details for the DNA Comparison Chart

How much does each DNA test cost?

Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) recently lowered their regular price to \$79, MyHeritage DNA has had their price set at \$79 since they launched their test in November 2016 but their site shows the regular price is \$99. We are unsure when this may go up. AncestryDNA's cost is \$99 and 23andMe who, in the past, charged \$199 for genealogy and health information, now offers a genealogy only test for \$99. Prices are for US customers and do not include shipping charges, subscription fees for record research, or additional add-ons that may be available. Most providers also offer their services outside the USA, but prices vary.

DNA Sample Collection Type

Each testing provider uses one of two methods to take your DNA sample and neither require blood. Family Tree DNA and MyHeritage DNA both use a cheek swab method where the users gently scrapes the inside of their cheek. The

swab is then placed in a vile and sealed. AncestryDNA and 23andMe use a saliva sample. Some people may have a hard time producing a saliva sample so this should be taken into consideration when deciding on which test to choose.

Processing Chip Used

All four of these companies use the Illumina OmniExpress chip, however 23andMe uses a specially modified version. This may be confusing, leading some to believe that all tests are created equal. This is not the case. The chip used to process DNA samples is only one part of the process. Each company develops their own analysis of the results, references different population samples and provides different reports. In addition, each one of these DNA test providers offers different tools for you to analyze the data you receive.

Admixture (Ancestry Makeup)

Admixture percentages are one of the biggest reasons people choose to have their DNA tested. This report attempts to accurately match your DNA with population samples from around the world to tell you where your ancestors came from. Each of these companies has strengths and weaknesses when it comes to this calculation, and in the reports it provides to users.

Unfortunately, the results from these reports are still far from being highly accurate or refined and results need to be placed within the context of solid genealogical research, and further reading, comparisons and analysis, to be properly understood. None of these tests will be able to perfectly pinpoint what country or countries your ancestors came from – but all will provide fairly accurate regions to explore.

Finding small percentages of unexpected ethnicities may prove to be inaccurate upon further examination, and NOT finding traces of a certain group, such as Native American, may not necessarily prove that you do not have ancestors from that region or group. You can apply this statement to any ethnicity or region you might expect or hope to find in your results.

Even large percentages can be hopelessly misplaced (too much Scandinavian anyone?) so remember to combine your results with your research for the best results. Paired with your own solid paper trail, genetic information can be a huge help in growing, proving (or sometimes even disproving) parts of your tree. But it must be used wisely.

Still, it is fun to see a visual and numerical representation of where your ancestors came from (generally speaking) and, although there are those who swear by one company or the other, all of these testing companies do a fairly decent job of giving you a report you can enjoy and use in your research.

Of course, downloading your raw data for further analysis is highly recommended if you want to make sense of what you are seeing and get a much more detailed (and hopefully accurate) picture of your genetic past. We explain this below.

Cousin Matching

Each one of these testing companies will provide you with a list of those people you are related to in their database, and we often refer to this as cousin matching. The database size, criteria for matching, responsiveness of matches and tools you need to make sense of these matches all vary greatly.

FTDNA has the most advanced tools for easily analyzing cousin matches as of now, although it is possible that MyHeritage DNA may catch up. They seem very eager to please customers at this point. FTDNA does fall short when it comes to the ability to sync with developed family trees however. This is certainly not intentional on their part, they have developed some great tools for this purpose, but FTDNA (unlike Ancestry and MyHeritage) does not provide record searches or an online family tree program for the purpose of genealogical research. For this reason they are inherently limited in this regard. See a further explanation below.

Size and Quality of the Database for Matching Relatives

AncestryDNA has the largest database to compare your results to when making matches, with 23andMe coming in second and FTDNA in third. MyHeritage DNA is so new that we do not want to even guess at numbers since they are likely to grow very fast – but, for now, their database is small in comparison.



Generally speaking, those people who have tested with FTDNA, AncestryDNA or MyHeritage DNA have done so for genealogical purposes (even if it is only curiosity about their family's past) so the response rate from contacted matches is fairly decent. Often matches are open to being contacted by relations and are eager to compare trees. This is, of course, not always the case, but we have found it to be true for the most part.

23andMe is a bit different in that many people have tested with their company for the health results and are not necessarily interested in genealogy or matching with relatives, even if they opted into this feature. That doesn't mean you won't get a good response when

reaching out, but it may be less common than with the other testing companies. Recently 23andMe has been placing more focus on genealogical testing, however, so this may be shifting.

Data from all four testing companies can be uploaded to GEDmatch for additional comparisons.

Family Tree Integration and Additional Costs

FTDNA has, by far, the most advanced tools built in for easily analyzing cousin matches and it does have a family tree feature that has been recently improved, but most people have not taken advantage of this feature and the family trees found on FTDNA are, when present, generally underdeveloped. However, because FTDNA also provides a host of advanced features that can provide invaluable data to dedicated researchers their cousin matching system still stands apart from the crowd, drawing in those who are interested in more deeply analyzing their results.

Both MyHeritage DNA and AncestryDNA have countless pedigrees built into their system already and your DNA results can help you make connections with these trees – but the tools required to make this happen may cost you and the results are not to be taken at face value.

Ancestry charges an additional monthly fee for access to its trees and additional features, and MyHeritage says that they will show cousin matches as part of your DNA purchase for free, but contacting those matches or using smart matching features will cost an additional, monthly fee.

23andMe no longer offers any sort of tree service. They have worked with MyHeritage in the past to provide this service but that relationship is no longer active.

GEDCOM Upload

Family Tree DNA, MyHeritage DNA and AncestryDNA all allow uploads of GEDCOMs, and for MyHeritage and Ancestry these trees are the same as would be used for genealogical research. 23andMe does not offer a tree and, therefore, does not allow uploads of family tree data.

Chromosome Browser

FTDNA is currently the only company to offer an advanced and full featured chromosome browser (the ability to analyze your results and compare matches by chromosome). 23andMe does offer a more limited version and MyHeritage DNA states that they will add one soon. Ancestry does not offer this service at all.

Allows Raw DNA Download

Yes, each company allows you to download your raw data to be used elsewhere.

Accepted by GEDmatch

GEDmatch is a service where anyone with raw DNA data can upload it, see a list of cousin matches and use a powerful selection of advanced tools to analyze their data. The service is free and powered by donations (extra tools are provided to those that donate). From parental phasing and triangulation, to a variety of admixture calculators and a robust database of people from all testing companies, GEDmatch is the best place to go to explore your genetic data

in detail. The system accepts raw data from any one of the main testing companies and has a proven track record of properly managing user information.

Health Insights

Only 23andMe provides health insights when testing, and only if you choose their Health + Ancestry Service for \$199. Data from all four companies is compatible with Promethease, however, and the cost is \$5. See their site for more information. [**Promethease** is a literature retrieval system that creates a personal DNA report based on your DNA data, taking into account all the scientific and medical literature cited in SNPedia. Customers of DNA testing services (Ancestry.com, 23andMe, FamilyTreeDNA, and MyHeritageDNA) use Promethease to learn more about their DNA variants, independent of whichever company produced the raw DNA data.]

Known Privacy Concerns

It is very important that you take the time to read the privacy policy, terms and conditions and consent forms associated with any DNA test you take or any site you choose to upload your data to. While FTDNA has a proven track record of protecting the privacy of its users, there have been serious concerns over how AncestryDNA and 23andMe have used data in the past, as well as how they may use or sell your data in the future. MyHeritage states that their consent from (that would allow sharing or selling of your results in aggregated data) is optional.

Ongoing Costs

FTDNA has no additional costs associated with testing, although they do offer a variety of additional tests that you may want to explore.

23andMe also has no additional costs, unless you decide to upgrade to add health results.

Both AncestryDNA and MyHeritage DNA either require additional memberships to take full advantage of some features (like tree matching or contacting cousins) as discussed above. Neither require these ongoing subscriptions, but you may feel compelled to use these tools.

Warning: Also, note that testing with any of these companies may cause a bad case of GGTA (genetic genealogy testing addiction) which may occur once you get your results back and realize that testing your entire family would be both fun and a great addition to your research. **GGTA can get very expensive.**

Additional Tests Available

FTDNA offers YDNA and mtDNA tests and 23andMe offers a health report. Neither MyHeritage DNA or AncestryDNA offers additional tests at this time.

Average Time to Get Your DNA Test Results

Every company on this list promises test results in 6-8 weeks after they receive a sample, except for MyHeritage DNA which claims 3-4 weeks. This can vary however and is influenced by demand and other factors. It is generally a good rule of thumb to anticipate that it will take 2-3 months for results once you order a test. This accounts for the time it takes for you (or your recipient) to receive the test, provide a sample, mail it back and for processing of your results.

So which DNA test for ancestry research should I choose?

The truth is that any one of these companies will do a good job of providing you with results you can use to understand more about your family's past. It is up to you to weigh the pros and cons and decide which test fits your needs. Let's review briefly.

Family Tree DNA has the longest track record of responsible user management, a well-developed database of (mostly) enthusiastic matches and the most powerful in-house tools for serious research. However, family tree integration is weak and their database is not as large as some of the others.

AncestryDNA is appealing to many because the results can be matched (to some degree) with many well-established family trees, but major privacy concerns (about how your data is used and sold) have been present in the past. For many, this is a deal breaker. They also offer the fewest advanced tools for analyzing data, although their database is very large.

23andMe has also been the target of concerns over how they handle user data. Their tools are more advanced than what AncestryDNA offers, and the International Society of Genetic Genealogists claims that they have the most accurate admixture results – but many in their database are health testers and may not be receptive to matching for genealogy purposes. They also offer no family tree integration at all.

MyHeritage DNA is the new kid on the block and, while their database is still growing, it is comprised of people who have tested from all of the other three testing companies (this is thanks to their free DNA upload offer). In addition to this, they have shown a clear commitment to concerns and requests by their users by promising to provide advanced tools in the future and by creating an open and optional consent policy for use of DNA data. They also offer the ability to tie in with a large database of family trees and records. We think this test has a lot of promise if they continue to respond in this positive way to users.

Remember, all of tests are compatible with GEDmatch for additional tools and analysis. Our online course offers straightforward help on using this service, or you can find help from GEDmatch [here](#).

In the end, you must decide what test is best for you. Ask around, read posts online and explore the features and privacy policies of each company in detail. Whichever route you choose, it's bound to be an exciting journey!

[Visit Family Tree DNA](#)

[Visit MyHeritage DNA](#)

[Visit AncestryDNA](#)

[Visit 23andMe](#)

Practical necessities when contemplating getting your DNA done

- First of all, get as many relatives to test as you can but remember GGTA (see article Which Company?). The more data you have, the easier it is to make useful comparisons and sort new DNA relatives into their related family lines.
- Secondly, make sure you know how to use a spreadsheet: sorting, deleting rows, inserting columns; you only need to know the easy stuff.
- Third, check your understanding of how DNA works. Perhaps read – <http://blog.kittycooper.com/2013/04/the-basics-at-23andme/> – and follow up with whichever lessons, books or videos appeals to you among those that this page suggests or that you find listed in the ISOGG wiki – http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA
- Also, lots of beginner questions are answered at <http://blog.kittycooper.com/dna-testing/newbie-faq/> – so check there when something is confusing.
- Fourth, bookmark a page with an explanation of all the acronyms – this is a good one: <http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Abbreviations> – a key term is cM. You do not need to understand the definition of a centimorgan (cM), hardly anyone does; just accept that it is the best measure of the importance of a DNA match, the larger the better.

One thing the writer of the above list left out was:

- Make sure you understand the terminology first cousin, second cousin etc as well as first cousins once removed, twice removed etc

Wikipedia has a good page on this:

Definition: The ordinals in the terms "first cousins", "second cousins", "third cousins", refer to the number of generations to one's closest common ancestor. The number of "G" words used to describe this ancestor will determine how close the relationship is. For example, having "great-great-grandparents" in common would be third cousins.

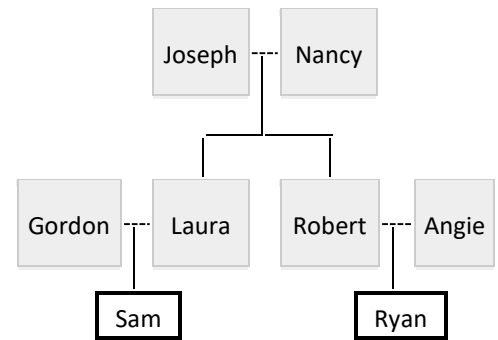
When the cousins are not the same generation, they are described as "removed". In this case, the smaller number of generations to the common ancestor is used to determine the degree, and the difference in generations determines the number of times removed. Note that the ages of the cousins are irrelevant to the definition of the cousin relationship.

Understand? Thought not... Let me show you visually:

First cousins

A child ("Sam") of one person ("Laura") and a child ("Ryan") of "Laura's" sibling ("Robert") are first cousins. First cousins share grandparents ("Joseph" and "Nancy").

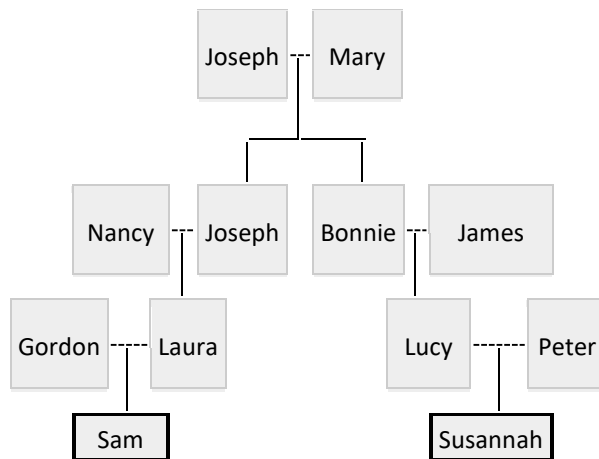
Sam and Ryan are first cousins because they are non-siblings who share a pair of grandparents.



Second cousins

The children of first cousins share a second cousin relationship. Second cousins share great-grandparents. People occasionally mistake the child of their first cousin as their "second cousin" - however that would actually be a first cousin, once removed. The removal denotes the generational difference.

Sam and Susannah are second cousins because they are non-first cousins and non-siblings who share great-grandparents. In other words, Sam and Susannah's parents (in this case "Laura" and "Lucy") are cousins.



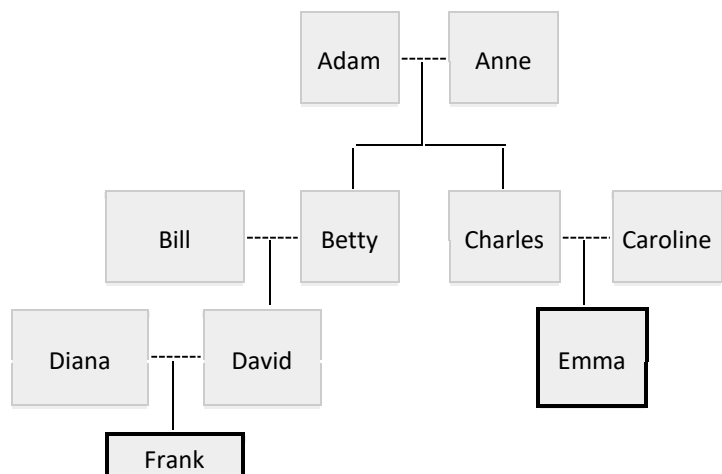
First cousins once removed

Two people for whom a first cousin relationship is one generation removed. The child of one's first cousin; also the first cousin of one's parent.

Frank and his father David's first cousin, Emma, are first cousins once removed.

There exist numerous terms for first cousins once removed that describe the relationship more specifically:

- For a male in the higher generation, "cousin-uncle" or "second uncle"
- For a female in the higher generation, "cousin-aunt" or "second aunt"
- For a male in the lower generation, "cousin-nephew" or "second nephew"
- For a female in the lower generation, "cousin-niece" or "second niece"



MY DNA

David Slingsby



I was fortunate to inherit a family tree. A great document in its own tin canister – it stands about 1200 high and is about 100mm Ø. On the top it states “The Pedigree of the Honourable Family of Slingsby” by The British Museum. For years (on special occasions) my mother would unravel this great roll and try to teach us the history our Slingsby ancestors. This was very satisfying until I joined the Cape Town Family History Society, here I learnt to treat all rumours, family stories, notes etc with suspicion until one could prove true family relationships from recognised documentary sources, even then checking names, dates and places were correct before committing what was found was ‘gospel’.

Along this journey of proving this document, I was assisted by an ‘internet’ relative who joined the tree a few generations back. She found my name in an article I had produced for the Heritage Platform site. I had kept the article fairly chatty, she is a true genealogist, after enquiring from me demanded all the proof, ancient correspondence etc, I managed to convince her of the veracity of our ‘family tree’ with documentation I had discovered back up to a point. She had spent a lot of time and money obtaining probate’s (wills), studying various ancient taxes etc and was pretty confident our shared family went back to a William Slingsby circa 1657 (we have his probate).

William Slingsby on my family tree is the third son of Sir Francis Slingsby a Knight of Kilmore and Cork. According to my records there were three sons and a number of daughters. According to Burke’s Landed Gentry of Ireland there were only two sons born to Sir Francis Slingsby. The probate of William Slingsby names the other sisters and their husbands. Confusion. I then discovered Sir Francis eldest son on the ‘tree’ is noted as ‘settled in Ireland’. This was in fact not accurate; Francis converted to a Roman Catholic, a Jesuit and took up Holy Orders. Correspondence with his parents he refuses his father’s estates and money only accepting a small donation to a Catholic College. He then converted his brother and mother to Catholicism for which he was cast into gaol, latter escaping to Rome. After thinking about William’s will and the names contained therein, I supposed William was not a Slingsby, however he married Mary – the eldest daughter of Sir Francis and assumed the name of Slingsby.

How could I prove this? I found a register of Irish probates in that book, Sir Francis Slingsby was listed, if I could find this probate maybe it would shed some light upon his children. Sadly all Irish records were destroyed (On June 30 1922, during the Irish Civil War, the Public Records Office of Ireland, located at the historic Four Courts in Dublin, was severely damaged by fire resulting in the loss of a huge number of records).

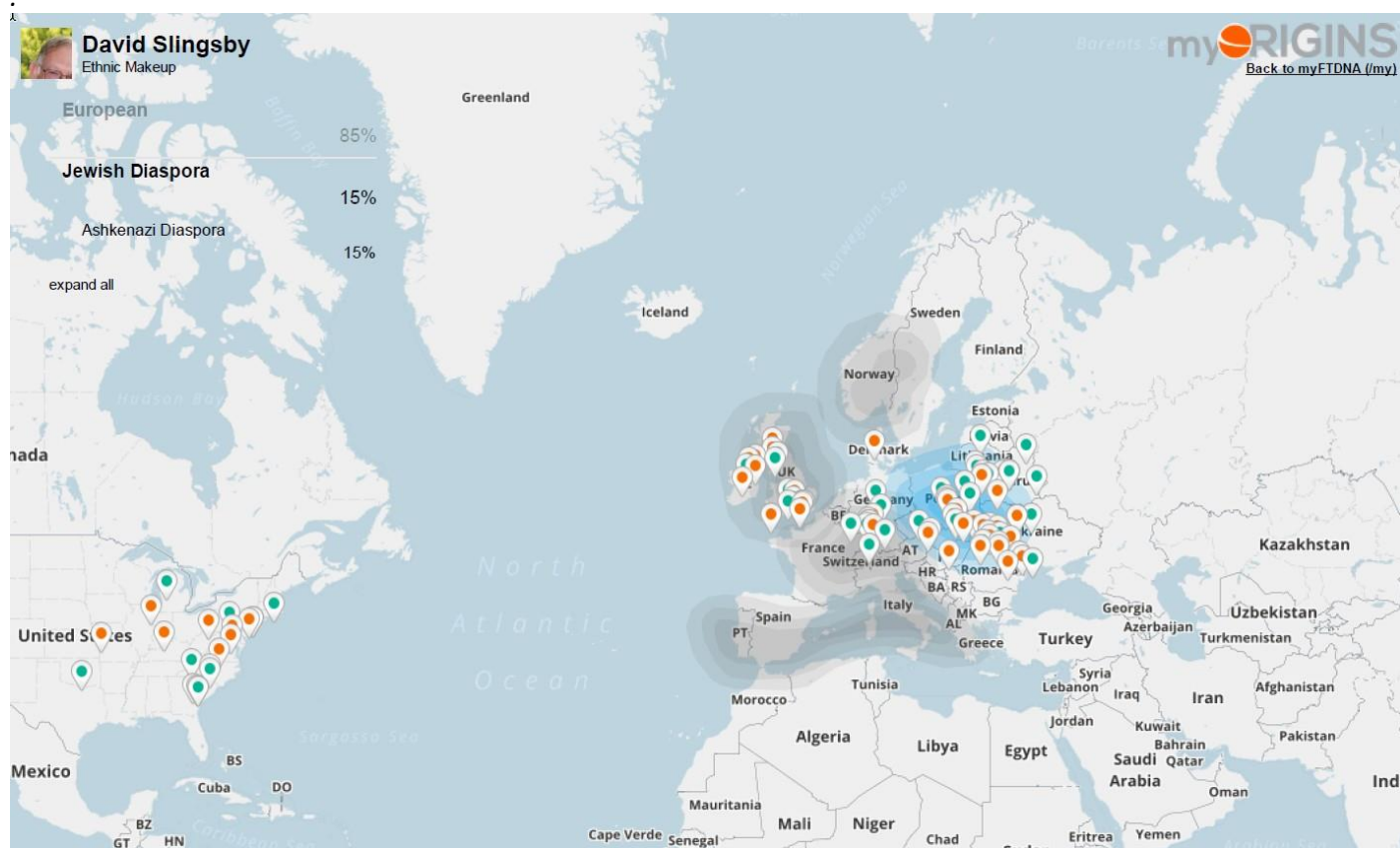
Going further back from Sir Francis Slingsby was easy as I had a book “The Diary of Sir Henry Slingsby” – the full genealogy was listed and was a 99% match to my ‘Family Tree’. So how to prove the link? Spurred on by Cherie Wright I resolved to have a D.N.A. Test. .

I purchased Family Tree DNA from America. Cherie had mention a fee and as I was about to have a birthday I persuaded my family this was a suitable Birthday present this proved to be false – a test for females one can purchase a mtDNA test this will follow your mothers line – normally a ‘special’ is offered – however when declaring your sex and putting male you get slapped for an additional test a Family Finder Test. I think to ‘beat’ the system if you are male starting off go to the Family Finder test.

Family Finder Test – while of interest I can’t say it really helped me in my quest – the result of my test told me my family consisted of Scandinavian 41%, Western & Central European 22%, British Isles 17%, Southern Europe 5% and Ashkenazi Jew 15%. This came as no particular surprise as the Slingsby’s had been originally Viking folk who settled in Yorkshire, my mother’s family had been Huguenot families who fled central Europe to England, and since my Great Grandmother had been a converted Jew from St Helena Island it sort of made sense.

What it also told me how my ancient ancestors had left Arica and from my DNA could detail as to how they evolved and what occupied their daily fight for survival - I quote from my results on the web site; “*The European Continent*

has been witness to many episodes of human migration, some of which have spanned over thousands of years. The most up-to-date research into these ancient migrations on the European Continent suggests that there were three major groups of people that have had a lasting effect on present day peoples of European descent: Hunter-Gatherers, Early Farmers, and Metal Age Invaders. The graphics below display the percentages of autosomal DNA that you still carry from these ancient European groups. You can click on these graphics to display more information



HUNTER-GATHERER 42%



The climate during the Pleistocene Epoch (2.6 mill – 11,700 YA) fluctuated between episodes of glaciation (or ice ages) and episodes of warming, during which glaciers would retreat. It is within this epoch that modern humans migrated into the European continent at around 45,000 years ago. These Anatomically Modern Humans (AMH) were organized into bands whose subsistence strategy relied on gathering local resources as well as hunting large herd animals as they travelled along their migration routes. Thus these ancient peoples are referred to as Hunter-Gatherers. The timing of the AMH migration into Europe happens to correspond with a warming trend on the European continent, a time when glaciers retreated and large herd animals expanded into newly available grasslands.

Evidence of hunter-gatherer habitation has been found throughout the European continent from Spain at the La Brana cave to Loschbour, Luxembourg and Motala, Sweden. Based on the DNA evidence gathered from these three sites, scientists are able to identify surviving genetic similarities between current day Northern European populations and the first AMH Hunter-Gatherers in Europe. The signal of genetic sharing between present-day populations and early Hunter-Gatherers, however, begins to become fainter as one moves further south in Europe. The hunter-gatherer subsistence strategy dominated the landscape of the European continent for thousands of years until populations that relied on farming and animal husbandry migrated into the area during the middle to late Neolithic Era around 8,000–7,000 years ago.

FARMER 44%

Roughly 8,000–7,000 years ago, after the last glaciation period (Ice Age), modern human farming populations began migrating into the European continent from the Near East. This migration marked the beginning of the Neolithic Era in Europe. The Neolithic Era, or New Stone Age, is aptly named as it followed the Paleolithic Era, or Old Stone Age. Tool makers during the Neolithic Era had improved on the rudimentary “standard” of tools found during the Paleolithic Era and were now creating specialized stone tools that even show evidence of having been polished and reworked. The Neolithic Era is unique in that it is the first era in which modern humans practiced a more sedentary lifestyle as their subsistence strategies relied more on stationary farming and pastoralism, further allowing for the emergence of artisan practices such as pottery making.



Farming communities are believed to have migrated into the European continent via routes along Anatolia, thereby following the temperate weather patterns of the Mediterranean. These farming groups are known to have populated areas that span from modern day Hungary, Germany, and west into Spain. Remains of the unique pottery styles and burial practices from these farming communities are found within these regions and can be attributed, in part, to artisans from the Funnel Beaker and Linear Pottery cultures. Ötzi (the Tyrolean Iceman), the well-preserved natural mummy that was found in the Alps on the Italian/Austrian border and who lived around 3,300 BCE, is even thought to have belonged to a farming culture similar to these. However, there was not enough evidence found with him to accurately suggest to which culture he may have belonged.

Although farming populations were dispersed across the European continent, they all show clear evidence of close genetic relatedness. Evidence suggests that these farming peoples did not yet carry a tolerance for lactose in high frequencies (as the Yamnaya peoples of the later Bronze Age did); however, they did carry a salivary amylase gene, which may have allowed them to break down starches more efficiently than their hunter-gatherer forebears. Further DNA analysis has found that the Y-chromosome haplogroup G2a and mitochondrial haplogroup N1a were frequently found within the European continent during the early Neolithic Era.

METAL AGE INVADER 14%



Following the Neolithic Era (New Stone Age), the Bronze Age (3,000–1,000 BCE) is defined by a further iteration in tool making technology. Improving on the stone tools from the Paleolithic and Neolithic Eras, tool makers of the early Bronze Age relied heavily on the use of copper tools, incorporating other metals such as bronze and tin later in the era. The third major wave of migration into the European continent is comprised of peoples from this Bronze Age; specifically, Nomadic herding cultures from the Eurasian steppes found north of the Black Sea. These migrants were closely related to the people of the Black Sea region known as the Yamnaya.

This migration of Asian Steppe nomads into the temperate regions further west changed culture and life on the European continent in a multitude of ways. Not only did the people of the Yamnaya culture bring their domesticated horses, wheeled vehicles, and metal tools; they are also credited for delivering changes to the social and genetic makeup of the region. By 2,800 BCE, evidence of new Bronze Age cultures, such as the Bell Beaker and Corded Ware, were emerging throughout much of Western and Central Europe. In the East around the Urals, a group referred to as the Sintashta emerged, expanding east of the Caspian Sea bringing with them chariots and trained horses around 4,000 years ago.

These new cultures formed through admixture between the local European farming cultures and the newly arrived Yamnaya peoples. Research into the influence the Yamnaya culture had on the European continent has also challenged previously held linguistic theories of the origins of Indo-European language. Previous paradigms argued that the Indo-European languages originated from populations from Anatolia; however, present research into the Yamnaya cultures has caused a paradigm shift and linguists now claim the Indo-European languages are rooted with the Yamnaya peoples.

By the Bronze Age, the Y-chromosome haplogroup R1b was quickly gaining dominance in Western Europe (as we see today) with high frequencies of individuals belonging to the M269 subclade. Ancient DNA evidence supports the hypothesis that the R1b was introduced into mainland Europe by the Asian Steppe invaders coming from the Black Sea region. Further DNA evidence suggests that a lactose tolerance originated from the Yamnaya or another closely tied steppe group. Current day populations in Northern Europe typically show a higher frequency of relatedness to Yamnaya populations, as well as earlier populations of Western European Hunter-Gatherer societies.

David continues: My mtDNA deals with my mother's side this DNA travels from mother to mother. There is a *Book the Seven Daughters of Eve* by Bryan Sykes. Sykes explains the principles of genetics and human evolution, the particularities of mitochondrial DNA, and analyses of ancient DNA to genetically link modern humans to prehistoric ancestors. My group is Helena: corresponds to Haplogroup H. It should be noted Sykes seven daughters of Eve refer to occupiers from Europe and in fact there are other 'daughters' or groups which cover the rest of humanity. I have not really seriously investigated my mother's side of the family, this has however given great food for thought.

Y – DNA – Test to find out about my Slingsby roots I find the most frustrating. Every day I get notification of a 'match' – however some of the matches include their family names – despite all the matches not one has yet turned up to be a long lost cousin nor to assist in my original quest. The following précis is from Family DNA web site

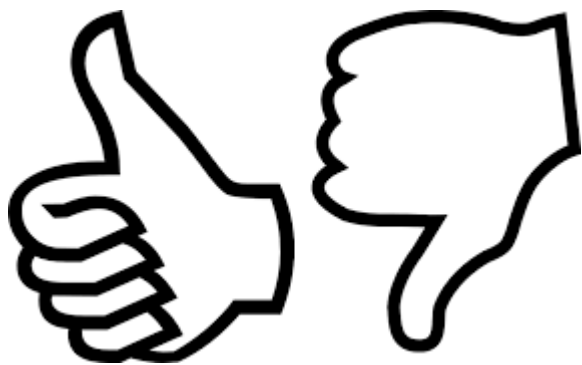
Just as there are surnames which are very common, (such as Smith and Jones), and surnames which are uncommon, there are Haplotypes (a set of results that characterize you on the Y-Chromosome) with a high frequency of occurrence (aka common), and Haplotypes with a low frequency of occurrence (aka uncommon). The 12 Marker result from the Y-chromosome test is called a Haplotype, and can help determine if your DNA sample is common or uncommon.

When you compare a 12 Marker result to another 12 marker result of someone with the SAME surname, and the results match 12/12, there is a 99% probability that you two are related within the time frame included in the MRCA tables. If the match is 11/12, there's still a high probability that you are related IF the 11/12 match is within the same surname. If you compare a 25 Marker result to another 25 marker result for the SAME surname, and the results match 25/25, then there is also a 99% confidence that the two individuals are related...and at a much closer time interval than with the 12 marker test. If you compare the 12 marker result to someone else who does not have the same surname, but the scores match, you are most likely NOT recently related. When we use the term recently related, we are talking about a time frame within the last 1000 years or 40 generations, a time depth that accommodates the earliest known use of surnames.

Since we all descent from one person, and then from a few families, and as times goes by those families keep branching out up to the point where we get to our own family nest, it would be natural that when we check our DNA, the less markers we check, the less unique they are, and the more markers we test, the more unique the whole string of markers is. In other words, to go to extremes, if we tested only one marker, we would most certainly match with millions of individuals that shared that marker for thousands of years. But if on the other hand when we test many markers, we will match very very few people that share those same markers. Those would be the ones that are closely related to us.

Our bodies work as copy machines when it comes to the Y-DNA. You can have a copy machine doing 1,000 copies without a problem, and then, the 1,001 copy may have an "o" that looks more like an "e". And when we use this copy to make additional ones, all the new ones will now have an "e" instead of an "o". This is a simple way to explain how mutations occur in our Y-DNA when it's transferred (copied) from father to son.

Without the genealogy research, and where 2 participants with the same surname match on the 12 marker test, then the scientific answer to the degree of relatedness is that 50% of the time the common ancestor would have occurred within 7 generations, or within approximately 150 years. The range of generations for the common ancestor extends to 76.9 generations, or almost 2000 years for those cases where there is not a surname in common. Therefore the importance of a surname link is paramount to provide a comfortable conclusion of relatedness. Most of the time random matches with people with different surnames do not stand the test for extended DNA testing."



David's view on his DNA results?

David writes: So – I haven't really found out what I was looking for the answer is NO. Am I sorry I spent money on these tests? The answer is no. I shall continue to try to understand how this will assist me to find out more.

If you are thinking of having a test done – have patience – there are specials, keep checking the site. I know over the Christmas period there were plenty of specials on offer. I think a major problem in doing a DNA test one needs to start young – have your parents DNA tests done, in this way you will be able to better isolate your parents genes and be able to trace back along those genes which are transmitted from father to son and daughter to daughter. I thought I could short cut this as I have a sample bunch of hair from Great Grandfather Slingsby – sadly at this point of time they do not have facilities for this.

David Slingsby March 2017

Talking about “paper documentation”, Ancestry.com brought out this list of question with the comment that our great-grandchildren will demand from us why we didn't record our answers to these sort of questions. Here the opportunity to take this list and answer them (either in hard-copy or electronically) and keep it for your descendants.

Interview Questions and Tips

Questions to Start the Conversation

Our family's story is a vital part of our family history, and recording our own personal history is just as important as compiling a pedigree. The stories passed down by older relatives may include vital clues that help you in the research process as well. Here are some questions to get you started.

- How long did your family live in the neighbourhood you grew up in? Are parts of the family still there?
- Was there extended family living in the area at that time?
- Did you live on a farm, and if so, what kind of crops and livestock did you raise?
- Did you have pets in your household?
- What was your house or apartment like? How many floors? How many rooms?
- Where did the family congregate?
- What kind of amenities did it have? Indoor plumbing? Electricity? Gas? Telephone? Refrigerator? Cooking stove?
- Television?
- Were there any special items in the house that stand out in your mind? A favorite possession belonging to you, your parents, or a sibling?
- What kind of neighbourhood did you grow up in?
- Did the town have a railroad? Post office? What kinds of stores or shops?
- Was your family part of a religious community? If so, where did you go to worship?
- What religious ceremonies did you take part in?
- Do you have godparents or sponsors?
- Where did you go to school?
- What level of education do you have?
- What was your favourite subject to study?
- Did you have any special interests when you were growing up (sports, hobbies, crafts, etc.)?
- What kinds of games did you play?
- What was your favourite toy?
- What did you do for fun (go to the beach, a park, movies, a zoo, etc.)?
- Did your family ever take trips to visit family or go on sight-seeing vacations?
- Did you ever attend a family reunion, and if so, where was it?
- Were there any foreign languages spoken in your household? Do you speak any foreign languages?
- Who were your friends growing up?
- Who were close friends of the family?
- Describe the personalities of your family members.
- Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?
- Were there any serious illnesses in your family? Do any illnesses run in the family?
- Were there any memorable traditions that your family observed?
- Can you remember any stories that were told to you as a child (fictional, folk lore, or real life)?
- What events stand out in your memories from your childhood?

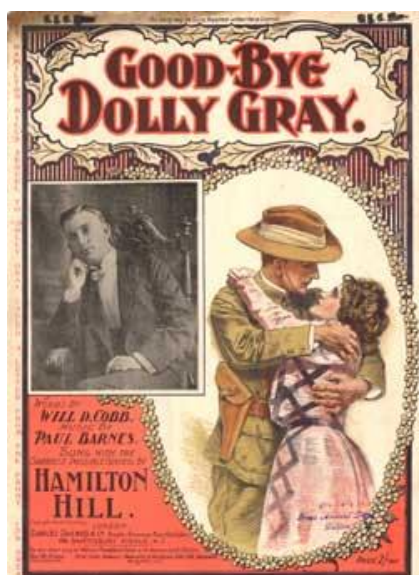
From: c.ancestry.com/cs/media/interview-tips.pdf

June 2017 Newsletter



Did your ancestor(s) fight in the **Anglo-Boer War**? Did they serve on the side of the British? Or perhaps of the Boers? Or perhaps they came to South Africa to fight in the War but liked it so much that they stayed on? Or perhaps a woman or child ancestor lived (or died) in one of the British Concentration Camps?

Let their memories linger on by writing a short paragraph (or page) or two on their background both here or in the UK before the War began and submit it in time for the **June Newsletter** (latest 20 May 2017) to Derek Pratt at dpratt@mweb.co.za



September 2017 Newsletter



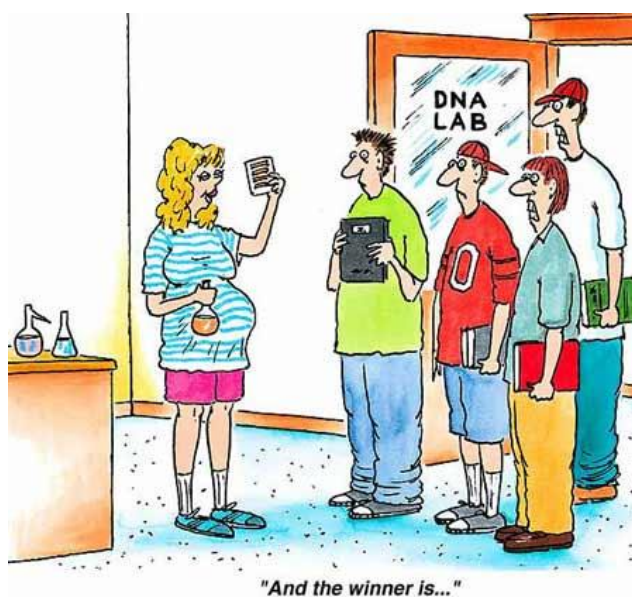
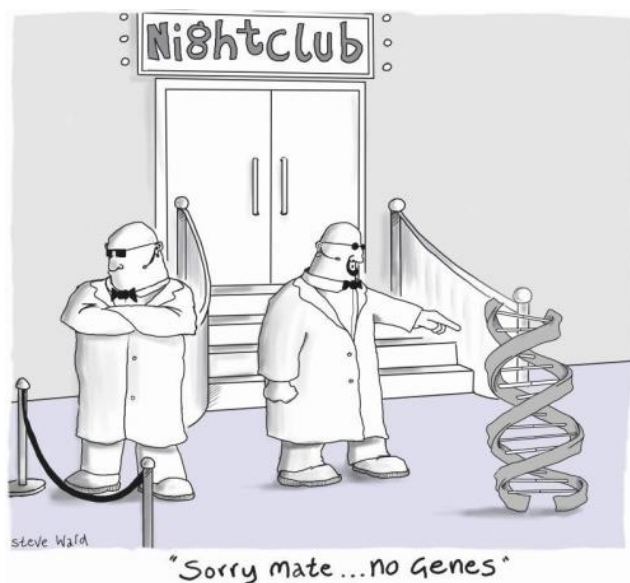
Recognise any of these flags?

If so you most probably have relatives who lived in Zimbabwe or Rhodesia or Southern and Northern Rhodesia. We would love to hear how you found information about these relatives living to the North of us.

The September 2017 Newsletter's theme is **Zimbabwean/Rhodesian Families and how you researched them.**

Stories no matter how short or long to Derek Pratt at dpratt@mweb.co.za by mid-August but the sooner the better.

BACK PAGE HUMOUR OF A DNA KIND



CAPE TOWN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY AGM

Saturday 18 March 2017 at St John's Church, Wynberg. 14.15 for 14:30pm

We are holding our **Fifteenth Annual General Meeting** followed by a talk by **Nigel Fox** on "The Machine Guns of Mushroom Valley – the climax to South Africa's civil war (the Boer Rebellion in 1914)"