



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded April 15, 1959

www.birminghamgenealogy.org

<http://birminghamgenealogy.wordpress.com/>

THE PIONEER TRAILS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

General Meeting for May: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, May 21st** on the second floor of the Main Birmingham Public Library (in the Story Castle). The Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the same room.

Please join us on Saturday, May 21st (2:00 pm) as BGS President, Suzanna Rawlins, presents: "DNA 101." Suzanna will provide an overview of the different DNA Tests, how they are used and what they mean. She will also discuss the different testing companies and websites that are helpful in pulling information into one place. Please join us for this informative program!

Heirs of One May Not Be Heirs of Another: Never assume that the heirs of one person are necessarily all heirs of their spouse they had at death. It is easily possible that there were multiple marriages by either the husband or the wife. This could result in them having different heirs. But a missing heir when the surviving spouse dies could simply mean that that heir died before the surviving spouse did and that heir left no descendants of their own. Bottom line: compare heirs of the husband and wife if you can to find clues about potential multiple marriages.

Do You Get Religious After You Get Civil? Your ancestor's civil marriage record may contain the name of the preacher who married your ancestors or the church with which he was affiliated. Try and see if the church has any extant records. Church records may provide more information about your ancestors. Or they may not. Or your ancestors may have been married by a Justice of the Peace—in which case there won't be a church record of the marriage.

Was the License Returned? If you've located an entry in local marriage records that a license was issued for your ancestor, have you determined if the license was returned? The issuance of a license means only that a license was issued and that a couple was intending to get married. Usually cancelled licenses are returned and "cancelled" is written somewhere on or near the entry in the record indicating the license was issued. But not always. Sometimes they are just not returned. Sometimes licenses that are used are not returned by the officiant, even if the marriage took place.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR! THE 2016 BGS MEETING DATES:

May 21st – Story Castle – Second Floor Main Building

June 25th – Fourth Floor Auditorium Linn-Henley

July 23rd – Fourth Floor Auditorium Linn-Henley

August 27th - Story Castle – Second Floor Main Building

September 24th - Fourth Floor Auditorium Linn-Henley

October 22nd - Fourth Floor Auditorium Linn-Henley

The past is not dead. It isn't even past. --William Faulkner

Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor



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Introduction To Genetic Genealogy

By Steve Handy. DNA Genealogical Experiences and Tutorials Blog, 21 October 2012.

There are two basic concepts that form the foundation of Genetic Genealogy.

A) When two or more living things share segments of DNA, there is or was, a shared common ancestor that lived in the past that connects those living things. For example, if you compare your DNA to your 1st cousin's DNA, then some of your DNA is going to be similar to your 1st cousin's DNA. This is because you and your 1st cousin have the same grandparents. The grandparents are the common ancestors. Each grandparent passed a percentage of his or her DNA all the way down to the 1st cousins.

B) The more DNA you share with someone, the more closer you are to that person. This means that your last common ancestor lived in a more recent time frame. For example, a brother and sister are more closer to each other, than either one of them are to their cousin. The last common ancestor shared between siblings are their parents, whereas the last common ancestor shared by 1st cousins are their grandparents. Siblings share on average, 30 to 50 percent of their DNA with each other. Cousins share 12.5 percent of their DNA with each other.

When you get your DNA results, what the results mean depends on what type of DNA test you took. Let's now focus on the tests.

Types Of DNA Tests

There are three basic types of DNA tests on the market

1) Autosomal DNA Test - Humans have 46 chromosomes. The first 44 chromosomes are called the autosomes. An autosomal DNA test identifies shared segments of DNA across the first 44 chromosomes. When you and another person share a significant amount of DNA segments across your autosomal chromosomes, then you and that person have a common ancestor in your respective pasts. It is from that ancestor that you and your match received the shared DNA segments. The DNA amount, size, and segment length is represented as a unit of measurement known as the centiMorgan (cM).

An autosomal DNA test uncovers and reveals relatives (matches) on both sides of your family in a genealogical time frame. There are two major limitations that are associated with an autosomal DNA test. Let's take a look.

The first limitation with an autosomal DNA test is that it cannot identify which side of your family a match is on. This is due to the fact, that it's impossible to know which chromosome you received from which parent. Of the 44 chromosomes analyzed by the test, 22 of the chromosomes you received from your mother, and the other 22 you received from your father. In order to know, you must test a parent, grandparent, or another ancestor or relative. If that ancestor or relative matched to the same person that you matched to, then you know which side of your family your match is on.

The second limitation is that an autosomal DNA test can only go back 6 to 7 generations (last 200 to 300 hundred years). This is due to a natural process known as recombination which will be discussed in a separate document. An autosomal DNA test can identify parents, cousins, aunts/uncles, siblings, distant cousins, etc. An autosomal DNA test can also identify half relatives as well. 23andMe's autosomal DNA test is called DNA Relatives. Family Tree DNA's autosomal DNA test is called Family Finder. Ancestry.com's autosomal DNA test is called AncestryDNA.

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2) Y- DNA Test - In humans, chromosome numbers 45 and 46 are the sex chromosomes. Women have two XX chromosomes. A male has an X and Y chromosome. A Y-DNA test is strictly for men. The 46th chromosome in men is the Y- chromosome. As before, when two men share an identical amount of DNA on their Y-chromosomes, then those two men have a shared paternal (male) common ancestor. The Y-chromosome's inheritance is son -> father -> father's dad -> father's dad's dad, etc. Because your last name or surname (Williams, Jones, etc) is inherited in a similar fashion, a Y- DNA test can be used to see if a group of say, male Williams, are related. Given the fact that some surnames are fairly common (for example Williams, Jackson, etc), a Y-DNA test can help tremendously. On the other hand, a Y-DNA test can go back hundreds to thousands of generations in the past. This is due to the fact that the effects of DNA recombination are absent from a Y- DNA test. However, a Y- DNA test is mainly used for recent ancestry (last 200 to 300 years). In addition, a Y-DNA test gives you matches AND a Y-DNA haplogroup. (Haplogroups are explained in a separate document.) Family Tree DNA offers a Y-DNA test. Neither Ancestry.com nor 23andME offers a Y-DNA test. However both 23andMe and Ancestry.com do assign you a Y-DNA haplogroup. (For example E1B1A7A is a Y-DNA haplogroup)

3) mtDNA Test - Inside a human cell, there is a structure called the mitochondrion. This structure is the battery of the cell. There are multiple copies of the mitochondrion inside a single human cell. Inside a single mitochondrion is a round circular piece of DNA called the mtDNA. The important thing to understand is that only women pass along their mtDNA to their children. A human male does not pass along his mtDNA to his children. Therefore, the inheritance of the mtDNA is child -> mother -> mother's mom -> mother's mom's mom -> etc. The same principle applies as already mentioned. When you and a person share an identical amount of DNA on your respective mtDNA's, then you and that person have a common maternal ancestor. The mtDNA changes very very slowly. Because of this, the mtDNA is mainly used for deep distant ancestry.

In other words, the last common maternal mtDNA ancestor that's shared between two or more people, may have lived thousands of years ago. Unless your entire mtDNA is identical to someone else, then you and that person are very likely distantly related. The effects of DNA recombination are absent from a mtDNA test. This allows a mtDNA test to go back and span many generations (years) in the past.

A mtDNA test gives you matches AND a mtDNA haplogroup. (Haplogroups are explained in a separate document.) Family Tree DNA offers a mtDNA test. Neither 23andME nor Ancestry.com offers a mtDNA test. However, 23andMe and Ancestry.com both do assign you a mtDNA haplogroup. (For example, L3c2a is a mtDNA haplogroup).

4) BGA (Admixture) DNA Test - There is a 4th separate DNA test called a BGA or Admixture DNA Test. BGA stands for biogeographical analysis. A BGA test attempts to use your DNA to identify what part of the world your ancestors originated from. If your DNA test results have something like - 69% African, 21% European, and 10% Asia, then you had a BGA test performed on your autosomal chromosomes.

BGA Tests are controversial. Currently the accuracy and validity of such tests are questioned and generally not accepted by the scientific community. Therefore you should accept BGA tests with a grain of salt. Such tests are not conclusive and can change with the introduction of new data. In addition, the results of such BGA tests can vary between different DNA testing companies. This is mainly due to the use of different algorithms and testing methods used by each company. The same holds true for any online 3rd party tool such as Gedmatch, Dodecad Ancestry Project, etc that claims to produce BGA results. BGA tests will be fully explained in a separate document.

Summary: In short, a Y-DNA test looks at only one side of your family (father's strict paternal side). A mtDNA test looks at only one side of your family (mother's strict maternal side). An autosomal DNA test looks at both sides of your family (both meaning everything. For example your dad's mom side or your mom's dad side. This can include the father's strict paternal side or the mother's strict maternal side as well).



NEWS FROM BIRMINGHAM

Grand Forks Daily Herald, Grand Forks, ND 24 Feb 1900

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 23.-An explosion of a gasoline stove in the basement of the Metropolitan hotel this afternoon was followed by a fire which burned that building and the Hewett block adjoining, causing a loss of about \$160,000. The insurance amounts to about three-fourths of the loss. After two hours' hard work by the firemen the flames were beyond control and fearing the entire block, including the Potter buildings and the Morris hotel, would be swept away, a telegram was sent to Montgomery asking for aid. An hour later, however, the fire was under control and the request for help from Montgomery was countermanded. Everything on Twentieth street from Girst to Morris avenue, is a wreck, but a strong fire wall back of the Hewett building and the Metropolitan hotel prevented the fire from extending any further in that direction (sic). The Borney bank removed from its building and a company of militia was called to guard and keep back the crowd. A number of guests on the top floors of the hotel narrowly escaped, some having to be lowered from their rooms by means of ropes.

Springfield Daily Republican, Springfield, MA 8 Dec 1893

The southern female university at Birmingham, Ala., was burned to the ground Wednesday night. Miss Minnie Dean of Warrior, Ala., ran back into the burning building to save her jewelry and received burns from which she died yesterday morning. Virginia West, a servant, was badly burned, and her arm was broken in jumping from a window. J. R. Robbins was badly burned, and James Foster was also seriously injured while saving the young women. The money loss is \$40,000 on the building and \$20,000 on school furniture; insurance \$20,000. The structure was frame, and the girls were saved with great difficulty, being hurried from their beds just in time to escape. The origin of the fire is thought to have been from a defective flue. Misses E. and C. James were proprietors.

Kalamazoo Gazette, Kalamazoo, MI 8 May 1909

Birmingham, Ala., May 7.---Within a hundred feet of where Emil Stricker, his partner, was dashed to death in a 24-hour automobile race last fall, Lewis Strang narrowly escaped a fatal accident in the automobile race meet today. The narrow escape occurred in the 52nd mile of the 100 mile event and at a time when Strang had the race well in hand. Just as he rounded the curve, where Stricker was killed last fall, the rim of the right front wheel ran off, hurling the machine into the fence. Strang escaped with nothing more serious than severe bruises. The race was awarded to Tilford Cowell, of Montgomery in at Chalmers-Detroit, at the conclusion of the 55th mile. Cowell also won the five mile Birmingham championship in 5:45 over Cully in a Stanley steamer.

The Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, AL 20 May 1908

Birmingham, May 19.---(Special.)---The steel bridge over Cahaba River, about fifteen miles east of Birmingham, was knocked down early this morning when several cars in freight train No. 36, eastbound, became derailed and ran on the cross ties. Eight cars went into the river. No lives were lost but traffic was delayed all day. A broken flange on one of the cars in the freight train caused the wreck. A large force of men was put to work repairing the bridge. In the meantime the track of the Southern Railway was used between Weems and Henry Ellen.

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Jefferson County, Alabama Marriages to 1825 Transcribed and Contributed by Marcella Davis To be continued in next newsletter

Reed, Reddin	Powell, Nancy	3 Feb 1820	Jefferson
Reid, Allen	Powell, Lanty	6 Aug 1821	Jefferson
Reid, Eli	Lockridge, Sinthy	17 Jan 1819	Jefferson
Reid, Greenberry	Taylor, Polly	15 Mar 1821	Jefferson
Reid, James	Reid, Polly	7 Feb 1819	Jefferson
Reid, Reuben	Milwee, Margaret	27 Feb 1823	Jefferson
Rhea, Joseph	Cunningham, Charlotte D.	4 Aug 1825	Jefferson
Rice, James	Cannon, Huldy	4 Jun 1822	Jefferson
Riggins, Daniel	Hammons, Patsy	18 Apr 1821	Jefferson
Riley, John	Pitts, Drusilla	29 Aug 1822	Jefferson
Riley, Joseph	Starnes, Nancy	19 Apr 1821	Jefferson
Riley, William Jr.	Bass, Rebecca	13 Jan 1824	Jefferson
Robbins, Joseph	Barton, Elizabeth	14 Jun 1820	Jefferson
Robins, William	Self, Docia	23 Oct 1822	Jefferson
Robinson, John	James, Temperance	13 Jun 1823	Jefferson
Rockett, Richard	Abernathy, Mary	11 Jan 1821	Jefferson
Rockett, Richard Jr.	McClure, Martha G.	22 Feb 1825	Jefferson
Rogers, John B.	Alred, Margaret	17 Jul 1825	Jefferson
Rogers, Joseph	Nations, Barthana	2 Nov 1819	Jefferson
Rogers, Robert	Nations, Delily	8 Dec 1819	Jefferson
Rogers, Robert A.	Hatley, Nancy	21 Aug 1823	Jefferson
Rogers, Stephen	Tipton, Rebecca	2 Nov 1820	Jefferson
Rogers, Thomas T.	Poe, Frances	3 Nov 1825	Jefferson
Root, Aaron	Couch, Elizabeth	6 Jan 1825	Jefferson
Rose, Ambrose J.	Thomason, Elizabeth	6 Jan 1825	Jefferson
Rowan, Samuel	Pullen, Polly Ann	2 Dec 1823	Jefferson
Russe, John	Taylor, Belinda	27 Sep 1825	Jefferson
Russell, James	Turner, Polly	5 Sep 1820	Jefferson
Sadler, William R.	Owen, Emily	2 Apr 1820	Jefferson
Sanders, James	Barton, Vicy	17 Feb 1820	Jefferson
Sanders, William	Owen, Jane	24 Sep 1825	Jefferson
Saunders, Robert Jr.	Phillips, Sophia	16 Feb 1822	Jefferson
Self, Isaac	Miles, Patsey	21 Dec 1820	Jefferson
Self, Job	Burleson, Peggy	18 Jan 1824	Jefferson
Self, Nathaniel	Loggins, Parmelia	19 Aug 1824	Jefferson
Self, Spencer	Brown, Frances	25 Jan 1823	Jefferson
Self, William	Burleson, Mary	23 Nov 1822	Jefferson
Self, William	Felton, Rebecca	19 Dec 1821	Jefferson
Shackelford, Paschal	Hickman, Betsy Ann	8 Feb 1825	Jefferson
Shaw, John	Lawly, Polly	13 Jun 1822	Jefferson
Sheets, Hiram	Johnson, Elizabeth	21 Dec 1824	Jefferson
Shepherd, James	Graham, Rebecca	2 Oct 1822	Jefferson
Shepherd, Jeremiah	Rogers, Kizziah	16 Jan 1825	Jefferson

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Shipley, Eli	McClure, Jane	28 May 1824	Jefferson
Shuttlesworth, Martin	White, Eliza	5 Jul 1821	Jefferson
Sides, Elijah	Dill, Serepta	26 Jul 1823	Jefferson
Sigurs, Abijah	Lamb, Sally	23 Jun 1822	Jefferson
Simmons, Jonathon	Woodall, Sally	13 Jan 1825	Jefferson
Simons, John	Laney, Elizabeth	14 Feb 1824	Jefferson
Sims, Job	Moore, Delila	26 Jan 1819	Jefferson
Smallwood, Brooks	Gibson, Elizabeth	9 Jun 1820	Jefferson
Smith, James	Craig, Sally	18 Oct 1818	Jefferson
Smithson, Anson	Worthington, Rhoda	8 Jul 1819	Jefferson
Smithson, William	Worthington, Sarah	26 Mar 1820	Jefferson
Snow, Henry	Keys, Malinda	15 Nov 1821	Jefferson
Speakman, James	Dutton, Polly	28 Feb 1823	Jefferson
Spears, Russell	Petty, Lettice	1 Jan 1819	Jefferson
Speck, Henry	Clarke, Nancy	3 Mar 1822	Jefferson
Speer, Burrell	Speer, Jane	27 Aug 1824	Jefferson
Speer, Jacob	Tidmore, Epsy	19 Dec 1822	Jefferson
Staggs, John	Rutledge, Patsy	19 Sep 1822	Jefferson
Staggs, Samuel	Speer, Catharine	19 Sep 1825	Jefferson
Stapp, William	Daniel, Sarah	19 Dec 1822	Jefferson
Stapp, William	Maxwell, Polly	25 Feb 1824	Jefferson
Starnes, Jonathan B.	Mattison, Elizabeth	5 May 1825	Jefferson
Stewart, Elias	Neighbors, Ailsey	5 Mar 1820	Jefferson
Stovall, James S.	McAdams, Rebecca	9 Jun 1824	Jefferson
Tankersley, Reuben	Scott, Aylse H.	1 Dec 1818	Jefferson
Tannehill, Ninian	Prude, Mary	27 Jan 1820	Jefferson
Tarrant, John B.	Ayres, Sarah W.	24 Jun 1824	Jefferson
Tarrant, John B.	Russell, Margaret	16 Aug 1821	Jefferson
Tarrant, William C.	Walker, Frances L.	21 Dec 1819	Jefferson
Taylor, Isaac	Hopper, Hanna	11 Jan 1821	Jefferson
Taylor, Nathan	Harmon, Serenia	17 Dec 1822	Jefferson
Tennehill, Benjamin H.	Killough, Elizabeth	12 Jan 1819	Jefferson
Terrell, James T.	Henley, Eliza	14 Aug 1822	Jefferson
Tipton, Joseph Jr.	Tipton, Anna	5 Mar 1820	Jefferson
Truss, James	Dulaney, Priscilla	17 Dec 1822	Jefferson

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