

WHAT'S NEXT?
A STEP-BY-STEP PRESENTATION OF
WHAT TO DO BEFORE & AFTER YOU TAKE A DNA TEST

Saddlebrooke Genealogy Club – 7 Nov 2019

First Considerations: Privacy vs. Information Gathering

Privacy – Wherever you are on the line of Privacy, it's ok. Some people are more open, some are more private. It may be legal to write truthfully about a deceased person's failings, but certain information may be damaging to the living.

Communication – Maximize the amount of information you get for your research, and connect with helpful cousins.

Taking the test, and how the test works

- Autosomal DNA, includes all lines about 6-7 generations back in time
- Largest "pool" of people; able to build a tree and attach docs/photos

While waiting for the test results, start to build your tree!

- The DNA test-taker is the Home person, but whom else should you add?

- Pedigree View is easier to view

- Decide to either make the tree on Ancestry to be your primary tree, or a "skeleton tree" while keeping all your research in a separate format (RootsMagic, paper files, etc)

Accuracy and "depth" of your tree is crucial for Thrulines.

All About You – Your Profile Page and how to maximize it.

- Add a friendly photo

- Add your email for direct contact

- Add your Gedmatch/Genesis kit #, if applicable

- Add any other statements: "adoptee friendly" will allow adoptees to come forward

- Add research interests and your location, if you wish

Double-check your account settings, hint preferences, and email preferences.

You can have more than one tree, and can create and manage the trees. Under the Tree tab you can also change the Home person, decide with whom and to what extent you will share your tree. In addition, you can make your tree Public, or Private, or Private & Unsearchable.

The Privacy Center has answers to commonly asked questions.

You've gotten the e-mail - the results are in!

- Link your Tree! Link your Tree! Link your Tree!

You need to be the “Home” person of the Tree for the DNA sample
Your DNA Home Page

Ethnicity - the most popular feature, but the least accurate

The Pie Chart

Genetic Communities include Timelines, Background info and – great clues!

DNA Matches

Start with you closest matches

Green leaves mean common ancestors in both of your trees.

Sorted into Parent/Child, Close Family, First Cousins, Second, Third, and Fourth.

Parental Phasing, or

Compare Ethnicities

View your Match for information & Compare!

There’s a variety of ways to filter through the cousins

Use colored dots for specific groupings.

Use the “Search” for surnames and birth locations.

DNA “ThruLines” and your Genetic Cousins

How they work

Use it to go back another generation

Use it to fill in unknown cousins

“Genealogy is a contact sport.”

Looking at others’ profiles and trees: Last sign-in date? Other info?

“Cousin Bait” includes family documents and photos

Tip: Using your uploaded photos to start conversations

Messaging system can be unreliable

Research the contact’s tree and include specific information for your cousin

What My Heritage offers:

A Chromosome Browser & triangulations

AutoClusters (a great tool for adoptees with no family history)

Additional Matches not found on Ancestry

Quality printed chart options

What 23 & Me offers:

No subscription fees – cost of test only

Health Info & Research Options

Basic Maternal Haplogroup

Basic Paternal Haplogroup

Additional Matches not found on Ancestry

What Family Tree DNA offers:

No subscription fees – cost of test only

Hold on to your spit sample for about 20 years – for additional future DNA tests

Will overnight a test to you or Funeral Director to take test sample
Best determination of final Maternal Haplogroup
Best determination of final Paternal Haplogroup
Additional Matches not found on Ancestry

What will happen to your DNA digital footprint when you pass?

Technology has changed in the last 30 years – from paper to online trees...

What will technology look like 30 years in the future?

What if a DNA website goes belly-up bankrupt?

What is your plan to pass on all your research? And do they know?

Before and after your DNA test, there are lots of small decisions to make that will help you get big results.

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