

Basics of Genetic Genealogy - outline

I. Why Test Your DNA?

- A. Paper sources are inaccurate
 - 1. Living in a census household with the same surname is not proof of a relationship
 - 2. Letters or deeds calling someone a brother is not proof of a relationship.
- B. Adoptions and illegitimate children
 - a. Are not always recorded in written or oral history
 - b. Have happened for thousands of years.
- C. Name changes not recorded
 - a. Ancestor left the country or state to escape from the law.
 - b. Ancestor wished to distinguish himself and his descendants with a variation of his surname
- D. Spelling errors become the norm.

II. How Does DNA Help Genealogists?

- A. Determines if two people are related.
- B. Determines if two people descend from the same ancestor.
- C. Finds out if you are related to others with the same surname.
- D. Proves or disproves family tree research.
- E. Proves or disproves oral history of relation-ships to famous or infamous people.
- F. Provide clues about your ethnic origin.
- G. Find researchers interested in the same family lineage.
- H. Assist documentation for many lineage societies.
- I. Save money in not researching the wrong lines!

III. From Where Does DNA Come?

- A. Dead – usually only get mitochondria dna
- B. Living – anyone can test

IV. What Are the Types of Tests?

- A. Ydna
- B. mtDNA
- C. Autosomal (Family Finder)
 - 1. Everyone can test all lines of their pedigree chart.
 - 2. Gender no longer counts.
 - 3. Segments of each chromosome are compared to determine cousinship.
 - 4. Adoptees can find recent cousins.
 - 5. Females can match men in Surname Projects.
 - 6. Half-siblings can be determined.

V. What Do These Terms Mean?

- A. Haplotype – your DNA test results or DNA signature
- B. Haplogroup – a group of Haplotypes which is your twig on the world family tree
- C. STR – Short Tandem Repeat created by chemical basis repeating in a pattern
- D. Genetic Difference – different between you and another tester

VI. What Is the Future of Genetic Genealogy?

- A. New tests and advancements will continue to be made.
- B. Haplogroup regions will be refined to pinpoint countries and/or ethnicities.
- C. People will someday begin their genealogical quest with a DNA test.

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