Question/Chat Log Finding Birth Families Using DNA
Saturday, November 18, 2017

Rebecca: 10:07 AM: Please clarify that the information currently being shared applies to U.S. birth certificates.

Kathleen: 10:09 AM: How does the birth date affect law in MN?

Marianne: 10:10 AM: Adoption has to be more than 100 years previous

Sandy: 10:10 AM: Non-ID doesn't include health history? Really important.

Marianne: 10:11 AM: Be careful with Non-ID info; my cousin's birth mother lied completely about the birth father to conceal his identity

Jacqueline : 10:12 AM: Based on the trees of my Ancestry matches - my birth mother lied about her name!

Thomas: 10:17 AM: It is an amazing story about Mary's client! The story: http://wkar.org/post/decades-after-war-vietnamese-adoptees-search-parents#stream/0

Jennifer: In your experience, was incorrect information re name of parents given for original birth certificates, as well as non ID?

Jacqueline: 10:20 AM: Mine stated "sole surviving parent' rather than a name.

Marianne: 10:28 AM: How again does the pull down menu for trees pop up?

Pamela: 10:28 AM: You can also just search for a tree. Sometimes they don't attach the tree to their DNA.

Marianne: 10:31 AM: Can't you change the 5+ cM to something higher on FTDNA?

Thomas: 10:32 AM: CSV = comma separate value - it is a generic format for Excel

Marianne: 10:37 AM: An endogamous community (a lot of intermarriages) can skew the numbers high. That happened to me.

Thomas: 10:38 AM: FIRs - Fully Identical Regions

Thomas: 10:43 AM: Wolfram Alpha - calculates relationships - https://www.wolframalpha.com/input/?i=first+cousin+once+removed

Thomas: 10:44 AM: On the chart what does HIR mean?

Marianne : 10:45 AM: how does she put them into a cousin cluster and color code them?

Marianne: 10:47 AM: How does she document the clusters??

Jacqueline: 10:49 AM: I am confused about the probability chart. If your cM match amount is 654 and the chart shows 650 and 700, which one do you look at (or both?)

Chris: 10:50 AM: How do I attach my autosomal DNA to this mirror tree if I have already attached it to my tree?

Frank: 10:52 AM: Do you only get SAH's if your mirror tree is public? Will you get SAH's if mirror tree is set to private?

Jane: 10:58 AM: I'm searching for a father's ancestors. I have the mother's DNA and ancestry. Is there a way to eliminate the matches with the mother's side in AncestryDNA?

Pamela:11:00 AM: How does this mirror tree work when you are looking for both birth parents?

Sandy: 11:02 AM: Please caution women that they DO NOT belong in the name column - be sure to put the Y-DNA tested male, not female's name.al haplogroup be the same as his?

Pamela: 11:03 AM: Should you test with Family tree DNA also if you are looking for your BF besides Ancestry and all of the testing companies? Does this also work if you are looking for both parents?

Maryann: 11:05 AM: Can atDNA identify which of two sisters (both deceased) is the moth

Jacqueline: 11:09 AM: All of my current matches from FtDNA are MtDNA! er of the adoptee.

Chris: 11:13 AM: What is the difference in the tests on 23 and Me ($99 and $199)?

Pamela: 11:15 AM: Mary, As a geneticist can I get my deceased father's DNA off of a tooth I have and where do I go.

Thomas: 11:15 AM: 23andMe $99 is autosomal $199 is autosomal plus health testing

Sandy: 11:16 AM: Please mention that transferring data to FT-DNA does not yield full matching - you lose some. Best to actually test at FT-DNA especially with the $59 sale prices. Can upgrade later to Y or mtDNA.

Jacqueline: 11:17 AM: I have a match with 654 cM and no response to 3 requests (on Ancestry) - whine!

Marla: 11:18 AM: Where can I purchase past webinars on this subject?

Pamela: He was adopted don't know his parents but it is a tooth. Have on Ancestry.

Thomas: 11:19 AM: Anyone who wants to purchase our other DNA topics please see http://hackgenealogy.com/features/store/

Jacqueline: 11:21 AM: The match has initials with a tree and the matches in common mostly have no trees.

Jane: 11:22 AM: Yes, how about filtering out the shared matches?

Carolyn: 11:23 AM: I have 5 matches ranging from 75 to 222 cM who all descend from the same couple 4 generations back. Is this a strong enough match or should I be looking to a sibling of this distant ancestor?

Jane: 11:23 AM: See previous question. Eliminate mother's dna to find father's dna.

Sandy: 11:24 AM: FTDNA can sequentially filter - ie paternal then ICW then a name. Other companies don't do this.

Kathleen: 11:25 AM: I want to eliminate my father's DNA to find my mothers'! :)

Jane: 11:25 AM: Yes, but the test was at AncestryDNA.

BREAK

Sandy: 11:27 AM: FT-DNA again - if you add a tree to your account AND link several of your matches to it, it often has enough info to generate a paternal and/or maternal list among your matches - fantastic option!

Marla: 11:27 AM: Jane, you can download the raw data from ancestry and transfer it to other programs, like my heritage and FTDNA, GEDMatch, etc.

John : 11:35 AM: One thing to do, especially if there are fewer than 5 Shared Matches at AncestryDNA and no relevant relationship to you that can be used to triangulate matches, is to eliminate all of those Shared Matches that have not opened their accounts in over a year. I've considered in detail almost 100,000 Shared Matches and that is my highest criterion, because I cannot reach out to people who have allowed their accounts to lapse. J.B.

John: 11:42 AM: When I say "eliminate," I meant to say that you ought to not "star" those matches and not that you ought to "delete" the Shared Match. Never "delete" a Shared Match! J.B.

Cynthia: 12:00 PM: Is the Chrome extension by J Snavely, you are able download the DNA matches (for all kits) and do some analysis then. It takes a good bit of time to scan and download to a csv file, is this useful? Also it is a bit clunky and prone to freezing.

Marianne: 12:00 PM: FYI Wikipedia still has the cousin relationship article posted. I found it by searching "relationship charts".

Frieda: 12:01 PM: I'm trying to help my son-in-law, who has taken an atDNA test find his half-brother who was his mother's first child born in 1951 or 1952 when she was 16 or 17. She did not disclose the birth father's name. She was sent from Iowa to Wisconsin to have the baby. Son-in-law's brother is thinking of hiring a private detective. What suggestions would you have for finding this half-brother?

Marianne: 12:31 PM: My paternal ancestors are all German and Dutch, back to the 1600s, but Ancestry tells me I'm British

Sandy: 12:32 PM: What is brother's ethnicity?

John: 12:32 PM: AncestryDNA has told me (when I asked) that they run the Shared Ancestor Hints algorithm at least once a week (even though it could seem to happen right away, or possibly does.)

Maryann: 12:43 PM: There are problems with Ancestry transfers of data in that the data is skewed and cannot be transferred to FTDNA or GEDmatch.

Marla: 12:44 PM: I have a group C match, which I was working as a first cousin, age of my person is 27, the match is 45, should I be considering a half aunt? there is no tree and I hit a wall, but I did find info on FB. I'm looking for the BF.

Thomas: 12:58 PM: DNA Geek: Letter to a Birth Parent http://thednageek.com/letter-to-a-birth-parent/

Kathleen: 1:10 PM: Is there a recommended company to test East European ancestry?

Marla: 1:10 PM: the 1st cousin match has not replied to me. I found her and her brother on FB, would you recommend contacting them through FB? I'm searching for a friends BF.

Sandy: 1:10 PM: If you find that your deceased grandfather is the adoptee, what would you do first? You're already way back.

Rebecca: 1:12 PM: My father and I are still searching for the maiden name of his Czech (we think) birth mother who died in Israel when my father was a toddler. My father and I have both tested at FTDNA (at-both, Y-111 and mtFull Sequence-dad). We have my bio grandmother's father's first name from cemetery records. Gravestone has no info. We have her Israeli ID no., birth and death dates, possible date of illegal emigration to British Palestine in 1939, possible kibbutz on which she may have been living, last street address before she died, newspaper article detailing the accident that caused her death, condolence ad placed by neighbors and friends, etc. A professional researcher in Israel was unable to procure her maiden name. Either the Israeli gov't is unwilling to part with the info., or they don't have it.