

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Newsletter



October 2017

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee



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Charmaine Riley Holley presented a program entitled “Introduction to DNA and Developing a DNA Testing Plan for Your Genealogy” at the WCGA meeting **October 21, 2017, 2:00 PM**, Warren Administration Building, 201 Locust St, Magnolia Room.

Charmaine has conducted genealogical research for more than thirty years and added DNA as a research tool in 2013. She attended the first offered week-long Genetic Genealogy workshop in 2013 in Pittsburg and several advanced workshops since that time. She also completed the 15 week Genetic Genealogy course at Excelsior College taught last fall by Blaine Bettinger, JD, PhD (Biochemistry). She has many Tennessee roots (some going back to before 1820), including Anderson, Hill, Uselton, Moore, and others in Bedford, Coffee, and Franklin Counties.

Using DNA for Genealogy

by Ann Brown

When you embark on using DNA for Genealogy, it is necessary to learn some new terms and different ways of researching. Many of these terms and ways of analyzing data will seem strange and confusing. Don't be discouraged. It takes time and persistence to learn how to use DNA with genealogy, but you don't have to be an expert to benefit from using this tool in your research. In this article, we will try to touch on some of the highlights of DNA and Genealogy.

What is DNA?

DNA, deoxyribonucleic acid, is the book of life for all organisms. In essence, it's the recipe for you – it's what makes you unique.

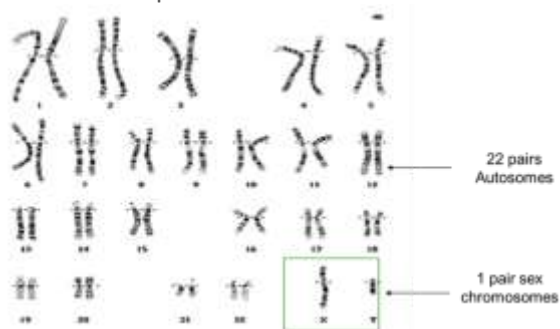
DNA is formed of strands that twist to form the familiar double helix pattern.



The Recipe for You

So first, let's review some of the basics about DNA. In the nucleus of each cell, the DNA molecule is packaged into thread-like structures called *chromosomes*.

We all have 23 pair – 22 autosomes pairs and 1 sex chromosome pair.



Using DNA for Genetic Genealogy

Genealogists use different kinds of DNA tests in different ways for obtaining ancestors' information

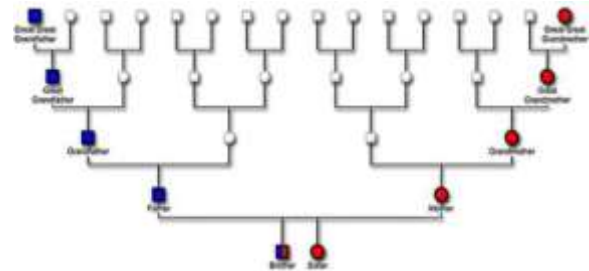
relevant to genetic genealogy. There are unique inheritance patterns for each kind of DNA – meaning we inherited **different kinds of DNA from different ancestral paths**. If one kind of DNA test doesn't work in a particular situation, chances are good that another type of test might. The following types of test are most often used in genetic genealogy:

- **Y DNA** – passed from males to male children, only (your father's paternal line)
- **mtDNA** – Mitochondrial passed from females to both genders of children, but only females pass it on (your mother's matrilineal line)
- **atDNA** – autosomal – matches all relatives with no indication of whether the match is maternal or paternal.

These tests are offered with multiple degrees of accuracy and varying prices from different companies. The YDNA tests are good for tracing your paternal line and the mtDNA tests are good for tracing your maternal lines.

So, for each of your 22 autosomal chromosomes, half comes from your mother and half from your father (so a pair).

Male children will have an XY chromosome (blue) and female children will have an XX chromosome (red).



Why test?

Before testing, it is best to decide what you want to discover. There are many reasons but we will review four of the most common here: Heritage, Adoption Research, Fellow Researchers, and Surname Research

1) Heritage Information

Heritage information is offered by most companies.

- It is important to remember they are all "estimates".

- Each DNA company performs their admixture analysis differently.
 - Ethnicity methodology is based on reference populations, not the users in the database.
- The following examples are from my Ancestry heritage mtDNA test which shows maps and information from your long ago ancestors as well as your more recent ancestors. Your more recent ancestors are more accurate and can be very interesting in understanding how your ancestors migrated in the United States.

Genetic Communities™

Hundreds of years ago

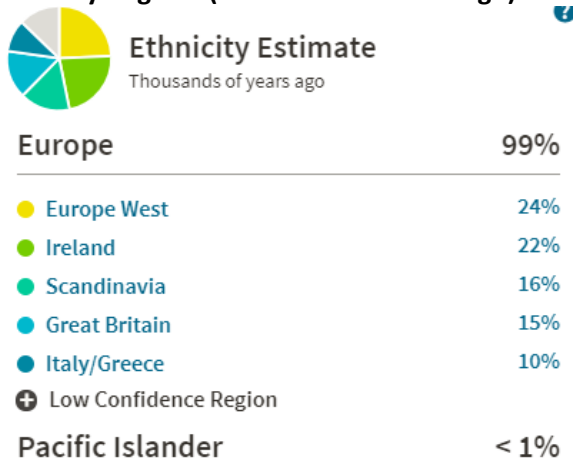
Early Settlers of Eastern Kentucky & Northeast Tennessee (yellow)

Settlers of the Missouri Ozarks & East Tennessee (red)



An interesting exercise is to see where your known ancestors are from and how they relate to your genetic communities. My Ethnicity Regions show the likely regions of migration to the United States.

Ethnicity Regions (Thousands of Years Ago)



2) Adoption Research

For adoptees, learning more about your ancestry or discovering relatives which “might” lead to closer family cannot be underestimated.

There are lots of “happy ending” stories on television, the internet, and in the news about adoptees locating their birth parents through DNA testing. Someone considering this option should weigh the pros and cons of testing. Are you prepared for unexpected answers and/or reactions to the results of testing?

As an adoptee, when I first received my matches for my mtDNA test at Ancestry, I had a 1st to 2nd cousin match whose maiden name was Brewer. From previous research I knew that my birth mother was a Brewer. So, obviously this was a very good clue. And, in fact, this led me to my birth mother’s family. Keep in mind that the relationships are estimates. My 1st to 2nd cousin match is actually my 1st cousin 1X removed.

3) Researchers in Common

- DNA testing can be very rewarding
- as in verifying that your paper tree reflects your DNA
- or locating someone who has a missing link that has been your “brick wall”.

4) Surname Research

It’s a great way to network with others researching the same surnames that you are

researching. I had my great grandmother's and great grandfather's names. By searching for surname matches, I found a picture of my great grandmother. I also found that my great grandfather had remarried after her death. I now have a picture of my great grandfather with his second family.

Anyone considering a DNA test should be prepared for unexpected results.

Who to Test?

Start with you! If this gives you all the information that you are seeking, you are done! If you want to do more in-depth research (or think you might in the future), start with your oldest generation relative. Grandmothers, Great Aunts (or grandfathers, etc.) are awesome! Move on to mothers, fathers, siblings, cousins, children. Multiple tests increase your chances of matches (especially if you are trying to solve unknown birth relations).

How and Where to Test?

So, now that you've decided what you want to know, let's review some of the places that you can test and what they offer. I have used Ancestry, Family Tree DNA, and gedmatch.com. This is not a complete list of functionality from these companies and I have never used 23andMe.

- 1) Ancestry DNA (over 5 million tested)
 - Autosomal DNA only (atDNA)
 - Most popular for genealogy
 - hints
 - shared family trees
 - ease of use
 - limited analysis tools
- 2) Family Tree DNA (just under 1 million tested)
 - Variety of tests (YDNA, mtDNA, atDNA) with different levels of testing
 - Can upload raw dna from other companies (free)
 - Family Tree interface not as user friendly
 - In common with / Not in common with
 - Chromosome mapping for additional costsFamily Tree DNA is the world leader in Y-DNA testing and has a huge number of surname projects.

Y-DNA can predict a man's likely surname,

but not necessarily who his father is.

Y-Haplotype Test will give you your Haplogroup designation. In general, these tests are used to look back thousands rather than hundreds of years. From the earliest human to everyone living today, each haplogroup traces from the smallest twigs of the human family back to the branches and then to the trunk and human origins.

For example, we have a brick wall at my great grandfather, Cyrus Warren. There are disagreements among Warren researchers who his father is. But we know from DNA testing which Warren group we belong to. This is Haplogroup I-M253 – Poynton Warrens who trace back to Sir Edward Warren of England

A **haplogroup** is a genetic population group of people who share a common ancestor on the patriline (son to father to grandfather, etc.) or the matriline (daughter to mother to grandmother, etc.). **Haplogroups** are assigned letters of the alphabet, and refinements consist of additional number and letter combinations

- 3) 23andMe (over 1 million tested)
 - The only company that provides health information
 - Genetic Health Risks
 - Wellness
 - Carrier Status
 - Traits
- 4) Gedmatch.com
 - Free site with advanced utilities for analyzing raw data from other companies
 - Offers no testing
 - A great way to compare testers from other companies
 - Not as user friendly – more technical
 - Chromosome Mapping
 - Admixture Heritage
 - One to One
 - One to Many

Cost of testing varies from company to company. Autosomal testing typically starts around \$99 but sometimes you can find them on sale for \$69 to \$79. YDNA and mtDNA tests are more expensive and are offered in varying degrees of detail ranging from around \$200 to over \$500. Detailed Health Testing is about \$200 from 23andMe. All of these companies are constantly improving their products and adding new features.

Analyzing Data

Here are just a few of the analysis tools that are useful in your DNA research. There are many more available if you want to take the time to learn how to use them

1) Shared Matches (Ancestry)

Shared matches are a good way to enhance your knowledge about your matches.

I use shared matches to give me an idea if my matches are on my birth mother or birth father's side. I can do this because I have 3 half-siblings and a 1st cousin 1X removed who have tested on Ancestry also. So, if none of these show as a shared match, it's a pretty good chance that I have a match to my birth father.

Here is a good example of testing multiple family members and using shared matches to trace connections. Cheryl Watson Mingle tested herself, her mother, her mother's brother, and her mother's aunt. With these tests, she was able to use shared matches to validate an entry in her Great Aunt's Bible. Cheryl's 3rd great grandfather was always known as William H. Stoner. However, his father was listed as Peter Countiss in her Great Aunt's Bible. When Richard Countiss from Texas visited the Magness Memorial Library, Brad Walker relayed the story to him. Cheryl contacted Richard who agreed to take a DNA test for her and allow her to be the administrator for his account. Richard shows as a 5th to 8th cousin to her Great Aunt. So, a clue in a family Bible is proven to be true. With the

help of DNA and a little detective work, we now know that Richard and Cheryl are 3rd cousins 2X removed.

2) Chromosome Mapping

- gedmatch.com (free)

- Family Tree DNA (fee)

Sometimes, we have so many matches with so little information that it is hard to determine how we are connected. If we are lucky enough to have at least two known matches (that is, we have two matches whose share a common ancestor), we can use triangulation to narrow our search. This example from a chromosome browser shows the overlap of four different matches to the person who was tested. These matches are a good place to start researching.

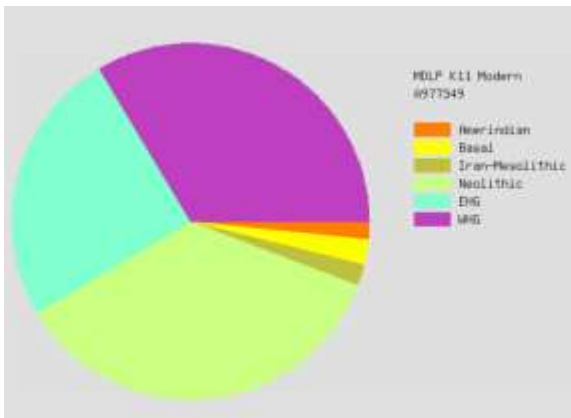


3) Admixture heritage (gedmatch.com)

Admixture Proportions gives you a pie chart and Admixture by Chromosome allows you to examine your inherited heritage by chromosome which will often show American Indian that doesn't show in other tests.

In our geographical area, almost every family has a story about their Indian heritage. Paper trails to prove this are hard to come by and often impossible. The overall heritage results from the major companies often will not show any American Indian simply because the percentages are so small.

My husband's family has handed down stories of ancestors who were Indian but normal testing through Ancestry or Family Tree DNA did not show any American Indian. The chart below shows a small percentage of American Indian that does not show up on Ancestry or Family Tree DNA.



If we examine his American Indian at each chromosome, he has American Indian on chromosomes 5-7, 9-15, and 17-22 with percentages ranging from 2% to 7.6% on each chromosome.

The confusion sometimes results from how we think about our inheritance and how DNA is actually inherited (*more about this under "What to Expect"*).

4) Triangulation

In autosomal DNA testing, triangulation is the term used to describe the process of reviewing the pedigree charts of people who match on the same IBD (inherited by DNA) segment to see if a common ancestor can be found. In other words, if you have three matches who match at exactly the same spot on a chromosome, that's a good indication that they share a common ancestor.

This analysis is best utilized after you have gained experience with chromosome browsers.

What to expect?

1) Lots of matches

My husband (JB) and I both tested through Ancestry:

Ann: 62 shared ancestor matches, 2700 4th cousin or closer, > 49,000 matches

JB: 100 shared ancestor matches, 1699 4th cousin or closer, > 41,000 matches

The predictions for relationship are ranges, and may vary widely (this is not a problem with the companies algorithms, it is just a statistical reality)

2) Surprises

Most everyone who tests will find some surprises in their testing. These surprises might have an impact on others, so it is good to be aware of these possibilities.

3) More questions than answers

- Distant relatives (4th cousins and beyond) often share no genetic material at all.

- It is possible to share a segment with very distant relatives.

Sometimes, more distant relationships are more likely.

- Most of your relatives may be descended from a small fraction of your ancestors (ie, the larger families).

Because we have no better rule of thumb (or statistical model), we utilize the theory that one inherits about 50% of the DNA of each ancestor in each generation. We know this is absolutely true between Mom and Dad, but you don't receive exactly 25% of each of your grandparents' DNA. However, the mixture of what and how much of your grandparents' DNA you do inherit is approximately 25% and appears to be random, like a card shuffle. If it's not random, we don't know what the rules of inheritance are.

4) Unresponsive matches

You may find matches who have no tree attached or whose tree is private. Most companies provide a way to communicate with your matches. One of the biggest frustrations is that not every match will respond to you.

Not everyone who tests is interested in tracing family history or contacting new cousins.

In the end...

So, now what? Pick a place and start. Take your time. Don't worry if all the new terms and technologies are still confusing. As you move along and use the tools available, the terms and tools will become more useful. Here are a few tips to remember:

- 1) Genealogy is a practice in patience.

- 2) Most of those who have tested quickly find out that our concerns about privacy are overblown.
- 3) Genealogy is a collaborative effort which depends on our willingness to share, whether the sharing is DNA, photos, research, or our time in helping others. Through our shared DNA we learn that we are connected in ways we may never imagine. The boundaries that separate us from others begin to blur and we make connections across the globe. We are all ambassadors for the genetic community: let us conduct ourselves ethically and in the hope of promoting the greater good.
- 4) Pay it forward. Many of the genealogists and family that helped us are long since departed. They could not have imagined that DNA would be used to prove long held legends (or disprove them) and to solve family mysteries.

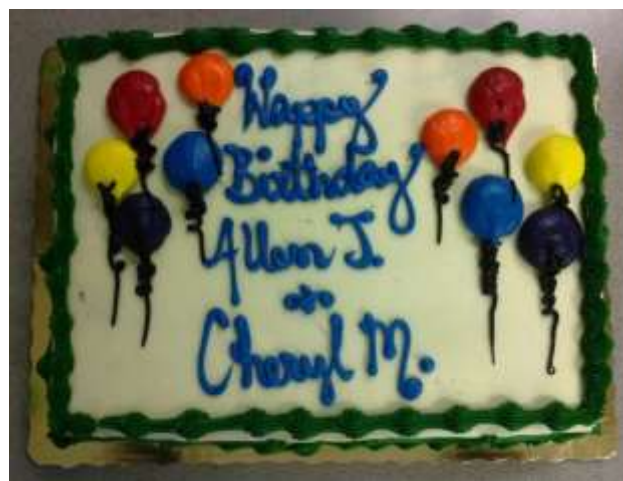
If this article has given you a clearer understanding of ways to use DNA in your genealogy research, then my time has been well spent. Good luck in all your searches!



October refreshments provided by Barbara Bates, Cheryl Watson Mingle and Ann Brown. Thanks Ladies.

Memberships begin on 1 Jan of each year.

NOTICE 2018 Memberships dues will be \$25.



Barbara surprised Allen Jaco and Cheryl Watson Mingle with a Birthday cake and ice cream for all to enjoy.



Our New Members

Wayne Wolford McMinnville, TN

wolf32@charter.net

Researching: Wolford, Bolden, Webb, Johnstone, Bradberry, Graves, Knight, Morman

WCGA next Member meeting
Saturday, November 18th, 2 p.m.
Avery Curtis Tour 3 p.m.



WCGA On The Radio



WCGA guest speakers were members Ann Brown and Allen Jaco "Behind The Mike" radio show on October 19, 2017. Pictured: Kelly Marlowe who is host for the AM radio in McMinnville.

30 Sept 2017 Membership

Complimentary Memberships (Receive Bulletins, at no fee)	3
Exchange Memberships (Swap of Bulletins, at no fee)	3
Honorary Life Memberships (Receive Bulletins, at no fee)	2
Renewed Memberships (A member in prior year - Full fee)	84
New Memberships	10
Total Memberships 30 Sept 2017	102

Do You Have CIVIL WAR SOLIDERS who lived in WARREN COUNTY before, during or after the war?

Submit your Civil War Solider
for entry in our upcoming
Warren County Civil War Soliders BOOK'S

You may obtain forms
on our Facebook Page or at the
Magness Library Genealogy Department.

WCGA is on Facebook!

Come visit us at:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Warren-County-Genealogical-Association/135126859883450>
We're also on the web, visit us at
www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn

Give a piece of Warren County History



The Courthouse, McMinnville, TN
(First in a series)

First Methodist Church, McMinnville, TN
(Second in a series)

The Birthing Tree, McMinnville, TN
(Third in a series)

Hebe, McMinnville, TN
(Forth in a series)

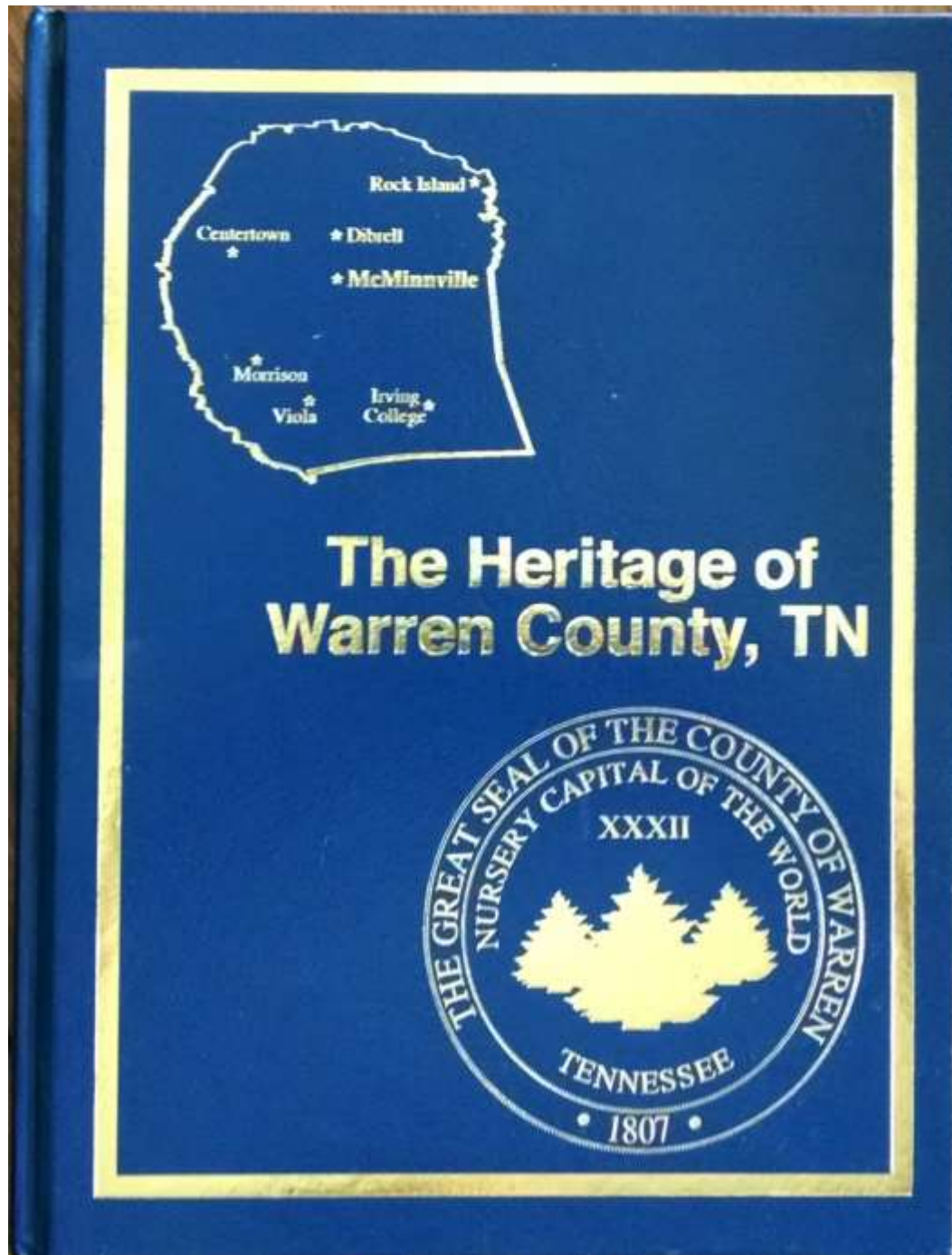
*All four available for \$18 each at
Southern Museum
201 E. Main Street, McMinnville
Open Wed., Fri., Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m.
and*

Warren Co. Genealogical Association Office
County Administrative Building
201 Locust St. Look for our sign at rear of building.

Open Fridays 1:00-4:00 p.m

A Special THANK YOU to Bob & Barbara Bates for planning the WCGA Tour on October 17, 2017. The tour included visiting the Old City Cemetery, Stones River Battlefield and the Nastional Cemetery ending at the Sam Davis Home.





Attention

This book can be yours for just **\$72.00 plus shipping.**

Make check out to
WCGA
Mail to:
WCGA
P. O. Box 411
McMinnville, TN
37111

Or

Stop by the
WCGA
Office on Fridays
1 to 4 p.m.

County
Administrative
Building
201 Locust St



Look for our sign
at rear of building

Last of **The Heritage of Warren County, TN books** from County Heritage, Inc.
For more information contact: Allen Jaco Treasurer @
allenjaco@blomand.net or Cheryl Watson Minge @ ctmingle@blomand.net.

Association's website is: <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/tn/county/warren/>