

**The Greatest Bargain in Genealogy?**

# Family Chronicle

The Magazine for Families Researching their Roots

## The Best Online Databases

December 2004

\$6.95 US

\$7.95 Cdn

### Tracking Your Research:

The art and science of using research logs to speed and organize your search

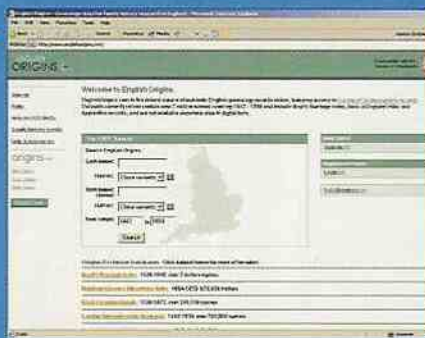


### Identifying People in Old Photos:

Tips and tricks for determining the subjects in photos

### 20 Top English and Welsh Sites:

The most useful sites for research in England and Wales



### The Experts Answer:

Professionals share their solutions to tough problems

### Evolving Language:

Watch out for terms that have changed meaning over time



### Military Pension File Secrets:

How to access the surprising amount of information they contain

### Pushing DNA Boundaries:

The newest developments in genetic genealogy

SNP	Reference	Sample	Match
123456	A	A	Yes
234567	G	G	Yes
345678	C	C	Yes
456789	T	T	Yes
567890	A	G	No
678901	G	A	No
789012	C	C	Yes
890123	T	T	Yes
901234	A	A	Yes
012345	G	G	Yes

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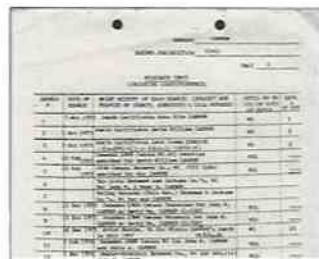
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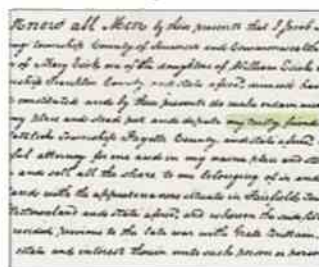
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HANCOCK / HANDCOCK - DNA TEST RESULTS

This is an on-going project and new results will be posted as they are received, so check back often. If you have been to this page before, "Reload" the page to see the latest edition.

Note: Group numbers will be assigned as matches occur.

**\*The first DNA result, in the table below, is that of John Hancock the SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

HANCOCK / HANDCOCK - DNA TEST RESULTS

Click on the Test # to see the Earliest Documented Ancestor of that participant.

Test #	Group #	Earliest Ancestor	Date @ Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
102116	101	John HANCOCK	b. 1691, Boston, Massachusetts, England	...																																				
102117	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102118	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102119	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102120	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102121	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102122	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102123	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102124	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102125	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102126	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102127	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102128	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102129	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102130	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102131	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102132	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102133	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				
102134	101	William HANCOCK	b. 1788, England	...																																				

Those believing they share a common ancestor with John Hancock now have a means to find out once and for all.

## Adoption

Adoption has always been a research road block for some, but now adoptees have a new means to peek into their ancestral past, even though it doesn't reveal who their parents are. While it's true that we're now seeing the formation of adoption-focused DNA banking services (where the child and birth parents can deposit samples in anticipation of a match someday; see [www.the-seeker.com/dna.htm](http://www.the-seeker.com/dna.htm) for details), it's also possible for adoptees to use conventional genealogical DNA tests to explore their roots.

For instance, William "Chris" Scott is an adoptee currently in search of his birth father. He has already found his birth mother and five half-siblings through her husband. The siblings all have the same father, but not Scott, since he's the result of an extra-marital affair during WWII.

His mother was alive but in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's when he contacted the family. Sadly, she passed away about 10 days later, so there was no chance for Scott to gather information about his birth father. Through other channels, he was eventually able to learn his

father's name, but it turned out to be a common one: Baker.

Confronted with this situation, Scott decided to take a Y-DNA test to see what, if anything, it might reveal. He was fortunate, as his results are quite rare and point to a Finnish paternal heritage. As he says, "Obviously, this approach will not zero-in on my father *per se*, but it at least gives me a fighting chance to locate him amidst the sea of potential candidates."

Debra Royer is another such adoptee. With dark hair and eyes, she has an exotic look that could pass for Hispanic, Asian or Native American. Testing showed her maternal line to be of Native American origin, and while that may sound hazy to some, it's a relief to one who's wondered all her life. Says Royer, "Learning about part of my heritage was great! I felt like 'somebody' and was thrilled to find answers in a laboratory that I couldn't get from my parents or Social Services. I am real and have a history that goes beyond my expectations."

## Genetic Pedigree

Another goal some genealogists are pursuing is the construction of

a genetic pedigree. This is done by obtaining Y-DNA or mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) samples to represent each of the branches of one's family tree back for a selected number of generations. Why do this? Partly to obtain an understanding of your deep ancestry and how and where your ancestors might have migrated thousands of years ago, but also to stand ready for future opportunities.

New studies — especially surname ones — are launched all the time. If you acquire samples now, you'll be first in line for appropriate projects as they start. In fact, I've done this with two of my Irish branches from the maternal half of my pedigree.

And who knows what we might be able to test two, five or 10 years from now? Tracking down assorted cousins with the "right" DNA to represent each of your lines now serves as insurance against a line dying out without genetic representation.

Louis Loccisano's easy-to-follow genetic pedigree (see [www.calabriadna.com/Louis-tree.html](http://www.calabriadna.com/Louis-tree.html)) is an excellent example. He's already gathered results for just about all his branches back through his great-grandparents, and a few beyond. Yes, it takes both detective and persuasion skills to find and secure the participation of likely testing prospects, but the reward is insight into your geographic origins and the knowledge that you're prepared to take advantage of any new tests that might be developed in the future.

## Geographic/Heritage-Based Projects

Since surname projects have been around for about half a decade, it probably shouldn't be surprising that a growing number of people are finding ways to stretch their boundaries. Just as we often extend the scope of our traditional genealogical research to include collateral relatives, neighbors and other community members, the same is now being done with DNA projects. For the most part, such projects have a geographic or heritage-specific focus.

Current ones include:

- Calabria, Italy
- Pennsylvania Deutsch/German (aka Pennsylvania Dutch)
- Scotland and Northumberland
- Anabaptist (including Mennonites, Amish, Brethren, Hutterites, etc.)
- Shetland Islands
- Bahamas
- Welsh Patronymics
- Puerto Rico
- Osturna, Slovakia
- Mexico
- Melungeons

Most of these studies (see [www.worldfamilies.net/regional\\_project.htm](http://www.worldfamilies.net/regional_project.htm) for a more complete list) focus on Y-DNA and surnames, and are designed to shed light on the deep ancestral origins of our connections among a select group of people, often associated with a particular territory. The Osturna, Slovakia project, for instance, has revealed that surnames can be a less-than-perfect indicator of shared ancestry in that region, since some participants with the same surname do not match each other, while others with different surnames do. It also demonstrates that even those in an isolated village can have a variety of origins, since participants' haplogroups (which provide evidence of early human migration) are anything but uniform.

Some studies like this also lend themselves to mtDNA research. MtDNA follows the straight maternal line, and since the surname changes with every generation, projects are hard to organize. However, in small closely knit communities, where most people are descendants of a small number of founders, mtDNA may reveal unsuspected links between families with different surnames.

One of the most ambitious projects is Charles Kerchner's Pennsylvania Deutsch/German study, started in March 2003, which stands out because of its goal of obtaining not only Y-DNA, but also mtDNA and BioGeographical data for its partic-

Participant No.	Participant's Surname	Y-DNA	mtDNA	BioGeographical	Phenotype	
077	KERCHNER	222 (German)	H (European)	European 100% PA Deutsch 87%	DNAPrint ver. 2.0-2002 European 70% Asian 21%	None
712	KERCHNER	222 (German)	H (European)	European 100% PA Deutsch 70%	DNAPrint ver. 2.0-2002 European 100%	None
714	KERCHNER	222 (German)	Not Tested	European 100% PA Deutsch 70%	DNAPrint ver. 2.0-2002 European 94% Asian 5%	None
816	KERCHNER	222 (German)	Not Tested	European 100% PA Deutsch 62.5%	DNAPrint ver. 2.0-2002 European 100%	None
866	SCHACK	222 (German)	I1 (European)	European 100% PA Deutsch 62.5%	DNAPrint ver. 2.0-2002 European 100%	None
1188	KERCHNER	222 (German)	H (European)	European 100% PA Deutsch 62.5%	DNAPrint ver. 2.0-2002 European 100%	None
1121	FRANZ	222 (German)	Not Tested	European 100% PA Deutsch 100%	DNAPrint ver. 2.0-2002 European 98% Asian 2%	None
1171	HEITZ	222 (German)	Not Tested	European 100% PA Deutsch 62.5%	DNAPrint ver. 2.0-2002 European 100%	None
1300	GARDNER	222 (German)	H (European)	European 100% PA Deutsch 70%	European 90%	None

Charles Kerchner's PA Deutsch study shares Y-DNA, mtDNA and BioGeographical results for participants.

ipants (see [www.kerchner.com/pa-gerdna.htm](http://www.kerchner.com/pa-gerdna.htm)). In fact, BioGeographical tests (also known as DNAPrint), which break out an individual's geographic origins into percentages of Indo-European, Sub-Saharan African, Native American and East Asian, are the first priority in this project. On his website, Kerchner delineates his theory-hypothesis "That a significant percentage of people, or sub-groups, within the Pennsylvania Deutsch/German (aka PA Dutch) ethnic group may have a significant average percentage, but not dominant percentage, of Asian genetic content in their genome, of non-recent origin in a genealogist's time frame, possibly harbored in their genome from the major invasions of southern Germany by tribes from Asia such as the Huns and Mongol hordes which invaded Europe at various times during the period of 1,600-1,700 years ago, or of even older more ancient origin. Data collected by this project, and subsequent analysis, will attempt to prove or disprove this hypothesis and/or will be used to try and get an anthropologist or population geneticist to look at this possible discovery about the PA Deutsch in greater detail."

To this end, the project is seeking participants who self-identify as being of Pennsylvania Deutsch origin and can document at least 62.5 percent Pennsylvania Deutsch ancestry (that is, at least five of eight great-grandparents).

### Keep On Pushing

Kerchner refers to his undertaking as anthrogeology, an appropriate term (originally coined by Family Tree DNA), since projects such as his are blurring the lines between genealogy and anthropology. And anytime you have to dream up a new word or borrow a freshly minted one to capture what you're doing, it's clear that you're in pioneering territory. Here's hoping that avid genetologists continue to play with the possibilities and develop new methodologies for all of us.

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, co-author of *Trace Your Roots with DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree*, can be reached through [www.genetealogy.com](http://www.genetealogy.com).

Testing referred to in this article was performed by Family Tree DNA, Trace Genetics, Relative Genetics and DNA Heritage.

