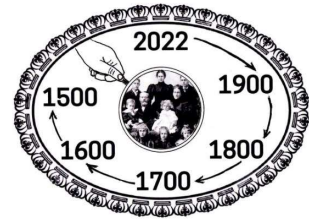
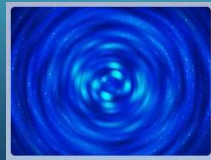


**RANDOM GENEALOGY TIPS:**

**LOVING THE LEAVES**



**WHILE DODGING RABBIT HOLES**



MARY-LYNN DUBRAY  
2022-23 DIRECTOR-EDUCATION  
QC GENEALOGY CLUB  
26 OCTOBER 2022

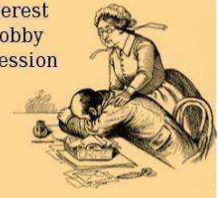
## A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MY JOURNEY

- Born "Forty-five Minutes from Broadway"
- Over 45+ years of researching
- My favorite mysteries...some stories are even true
- Recently agreed to be Education Committee Director
- Hope today will provide you with some relevant experiences, random tips and suggestions for researching and following up on hints



### Genealogy

It begins as an interest  
It evolves into a hobby  
It becomes an obsession



ROTTENCARDS USER CARD

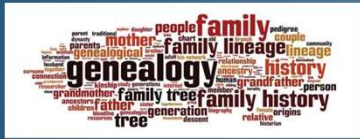
"Forty-five Minutes from Broadway" is an old George M Cohan vaudeville song about New Rochelle, New York

- Not really sure when I started this genealogical quest...actually have note from questions I asked my mother from over 50 years ago
- I love reading all kinds of books, including mysteries, but my favorite mystery stories are those I've been able to solve along this journey. And having collected many stories passed down through my family for years, it's nice to find that some of them are even true!
- Recently took on the Education Committee Director for the Club – looking forward to getting a strong team together and planning beneficial events for the upcoming year.
- Title of this presentation includes "Loving the leaves" ...the leaves refer to "hints" while conducting genealogical research and family tree building...such as the Ancestry.com leaf shown on this page...









**THERE'S A LOT OUT THERE...  
PROCEED WITH CAUTION**

- **PROPER NAMES –**
  - COMMON NAMING CONVENTIONS
  - NICKNAMES
  - DUPLICATE NAMES
  - ABBREVIATIONS IN RECORDS

**How about proper names?** CONSIDER COMMON NAMING CONVENTIONS --  
IRISH/ENGLISH: Sons: 1st son named after the paternal grandfather (his father's father); 2nd son after the maternal grandfather (his mother's father); 3rd son after his father; 4th son after his eldest paternal uncle (his father's eldest brother) and so on in that order. Daughters: 1st daughter named after the maternal grandmother (her mother's mother); 2nd daughter after the paternal grandmother (her father's mother); 3rd daughter after her mother; 4th daughter after her mother's eldest sister; and so on in that order. When remarried: the name of the deceased first wife was often given to the first-born daughter of the new wife. **RC:** Baptized Saint's name  
**GERMANY:** Common for each child to be given two first names...normally would have been called by their second name. Traditionally, children were named after grandparents, but this practice is fading. The most common and traditional German names are biblical, such as Johann/Hans (John), Georg/Jörg (George), Jakob (Jacob), Anna, Maria and Christina. Other popular names have Germanic origins, such as Friedrich and Ludwig.  
**NICKNAMES:** For Mary: Polly, Johanna: Josie, Henry: Harry/Hank, Butch = (Butch is a common nickname used to separate "Sr" from "Jr" esp w/ German backgrounds), Bridget: Delia, Florence: Flossie, Leroy: Lance, Francisco: Poncho  
**DUPLICATE NAMES:** Reusing proper names is common – especially if they're important historical names for the family.  
**ABBREVIATIONS:** John-Jno, Johanna-Joha, Ambrose-Amb, William-Wm, James-Jas, Abraham-Abm, Mary-My, Henry-Hy



**Dates/Locations/Sources?**

- ✓ 1851: Ireland
- ✓ 1870: New Hampshire – Fed Census
- ❖ 1876-1879: Australia – multiple kids
- 1880: New Rochelle, NY – son James born
- 1880: New Rochelle, NY – Fed Census
- ❖ 1883-1887: Australia – multiple kids
- ...more of the same...
- ❖ 1896: Australia – death
- ...was he resurrected?...
- 1901: Ireland - Census

**Jeremiah Sheahan**  
 BIRTH: APT 1851 • Ireland  
 DEATH: 1896 • Newtown, New South Wales

**Facts**

- 1851** Birth: APT 1851 • Ireland
- 1870** Residence: 1870 • Keene, Cheshire, New Hampshire, USA
- 1876** Marriage: 24 May 1876 • Tumut, New South Wales, Australia
- 1877** Birth of son ALBERT E. SHEAHAN (1877-1878)
- 1878** Birth of daughter MARY SHEAHAN (1878-1970)
- 1878** Death of son ALBERT E. SHEAHAN (1877-1878)
- 1879** Birth of daughter Katherine Aloysius SHEAHAN (1879-1947)
- 1880** Birth of son James Sheahan (1880-1936)
- 1880** Residence: 1880 • New Rochelle, Westchester, New York, USA
- 1883** Birth of son Robert Downing SHEAHAN (1883-1951)
- 1883** Birth of son JOHN PHILLIP SHEAHAN (1883-1959)
- 1887** Birth and death of son JEREMIAH SHEAHAN (1887-1887)

**Sources**

- 1870 United States Federal Census
- 1880 United States Federal Census
- Web: Ireland, Census, 1901

**Family**

- Unknown father
- Unknown mother
- MARY ANNE DOWNING (1852-1909)
- ALBERT E. SHEAHAN (1877-1878)
- MARY SHEAHAN (1878-1970)
- Katherine Aloysius SHEAHAN (1879-1947)
- James Sheahan (1880-1936) James Sheahan (1880-1936)
- Robert Downing SHEAHAN (1883-1951)
- JOHN PHILLIP SHEAHAN (1883-1959)
- JEREMIAH SHEAHAN (1887-1887)
- James Daniel SHEAHAN (1889-1970)
- Margaret Sheahan (1901-1981)
- Bridget Lillian SHEAHAN (1903-1952)
- William Francis Patrick Sheahan (1905-1975)
- Ellen Angela Sheahan (1905-1990)

Here's part of an individual's online tree – I happen to know the person who's built this tree is a direct descendant of the "James Sheahan" identified with an oval in the list of children on his father Jeremiah's record.

**Let's look at part of the timeline provided for James' father Jeremiah.**

1851: Born in Ireland – okay – no known issues yet  
 1870: Living in New Hampshire – could be likely, if he emigrated to the U.S.  
 1876: Marries a Mary Anne Downing in Australia? – What? Is it likely he had emigrated from the U.S. to Australia? – I'd be very skeptical of that, and I don't see any supporting sources that show that happening...but...we'll just continue  
 Between 1876 and 1879: He and Mary Anne are shown as having multiple children born (still in Australia)...but...  
 By May 1880: this tree depicts them as having loaded up their 4 young children and emigrated (back for him, first time for the others) to the United States – to NY  
 1880: If they really did that, the 1880 US Census that's attached could be a good record, however, (although you can't see the details here) the document that's attached only shows one child – James. So, if that's the case all of the other children would have been deceased by 1880. But, the tree depicts that at least 2 of them would have been alive – Mary and Katherine.  
 1883-1887: Wait a minute...now they're back in Australia having 3 more kid? I'd think not.  
 1896: Jeremiah passes away in Australia – well that would be okay if they'd really gone back  
 Wait...he must have been resurrected and moved back to Ireland...since there's a 1901 Irish Census attached. -- Let's look at another tree on the next slide.



**genealogy** family lineage history person tree generation relative origins

**Dates/Locations/Sources?**

- ✓ 1850: Ireland - Birth
- ✓ 1875: U.S. Arrival
- 1879: New Rochelle, NY - Marriage
- 1880: New Rochelle – son James born
- ✓ 1882: Westchester County, NY – Naturalization Petition filed
- ✓ 1882: New Rochelle – son T.A. born
- ✓ 1884: New Rochelle – son W.J. born
- ✓ 1884: Westchester County, NY – Naturalization Petition finalized
- ✓ 1887: New Rochelle – son J.F. born

**Jeremiah Fitzpatrick Sheahan**  
 BIRTH 08 Jul 1850 • Ireland  
 DEATH 04 Nov 1914 • 104 Church St, New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York, USA  
 great-grandfather

**Facts**

Year (AGE)	Event	Location
1850 (7)	Birth	08 Jul 1850 • Ireland
1858 (10)	Birth of sister Catherine "Kate" Sheahan (1858-)	01 Mar 1858 • Glamorgan and Balindangan, Cloyne Parish, Cork, Ireland
1875 (25)	Arrival	1875
1879 (29)	Marriage	1879 • Blessed Sacrament R.C. Church, New Rochelle, New York, USA Mary Ann Delaney (1846-1923)
1880 (29)	Birth of son James F. Sheahan (1880-1936)	12 May 1880 • New Rochelle, NY
1880 (30)	Residence	1880 • New Rochelle, Westchester, New York, United States
1882 (32)	Naturalization - Petition of Intention to become Citizen of the	18 Oct 1882 • Westchester County Court, New York
1882 (32)	Birth of son Timothy Ambrose Sheahan (1882-1950)	07 Dec 1882 • New Rochelle, Westchester, New York, USA
1884 (33)	Birth of son William Joseph Sheahan (1884-1965)	05 Mar 1884 • New Rochelle, New York, USA
1884 (34)	Naturalization	22 Oct 1884 • Westchester County, New York, USA Naturalization Finalized as Citizen of USA
1887 (37)	Birth of son Jeremiah Francis Sheahan (1887-1915)	Sep 1887 • New Rochelle, NY

**Sources**

- 1880 United States Federal Census
- 1900 United States Federal Census
- 1910 United States Federal Census
- 1920 United States Federal Census
- Ancestry Family Trees
- New York, Death Index, 1880-1960
- New York, New York, Index to Death Certificates, 1862-1948
- New York, State Census, 1905
- U.S. City Directories (Beta) - New Rochelle, NY
- U.S. City Directories (Beta) - New Rochelle, NY
- U.S. City Directories (Beta) - New Rochelle, NY
- U.S. City Directories (Beta) - New Rochelle, NY

**Family**

- Parents: Timothy Sheahan 1815-1875, Mary Fitzpatrick 1821-1892
- Spouse and children: Mary Ann Delaney 1846-1923, James F. Sheahan 1880-1936, Timothy Ambrose Sheahan 1882-1950, William Joseph Sheahan 1884-1965, Jeremiah Francis Sheahan 1887-1915, Johanna Gertrude Sheahan 1888-1970

Okay, here's part of my online tree that shows the same "James Sheahan" identified with an oval in the list of children on his (actual) father Jeremiah's record. Do the dates, locations, facts here make sense? (Hint: they better, they're mine)

**Let's look at James' (real) father Jeremiah's timeline.**

08 Jul 1850: Born in Ireland – okay – no known issues yet

No mention or U.S. 1870 Census: since he didn't emigrate to the U.S. until 1875

1879: Marries a Mary Ann Delaney in New Rochelle, NY. The only town he ever lived in from the time he arrived, he followed his relatives earlier emigration after his university graduation in Ireland

1880: James is born in New Rochelle, NY.

1882: Began Naturalization process and son Timothy Ambrose born

1884: Naturalization finalized and son William Joseph born

1884-1914: Another son and daughter born, multiple supporting documents attached to tree including 20+ years of City Directories, newspaper articles, death certificate, obit...

That person who built that previous tree is my 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, 2x removed but you'd never be able to find my line of the family using her tree...since it's so wrong... I've provided her with copies of certified records and offered to assist but she just keeps adding onto her tree without making any corrections. **Moving on...**





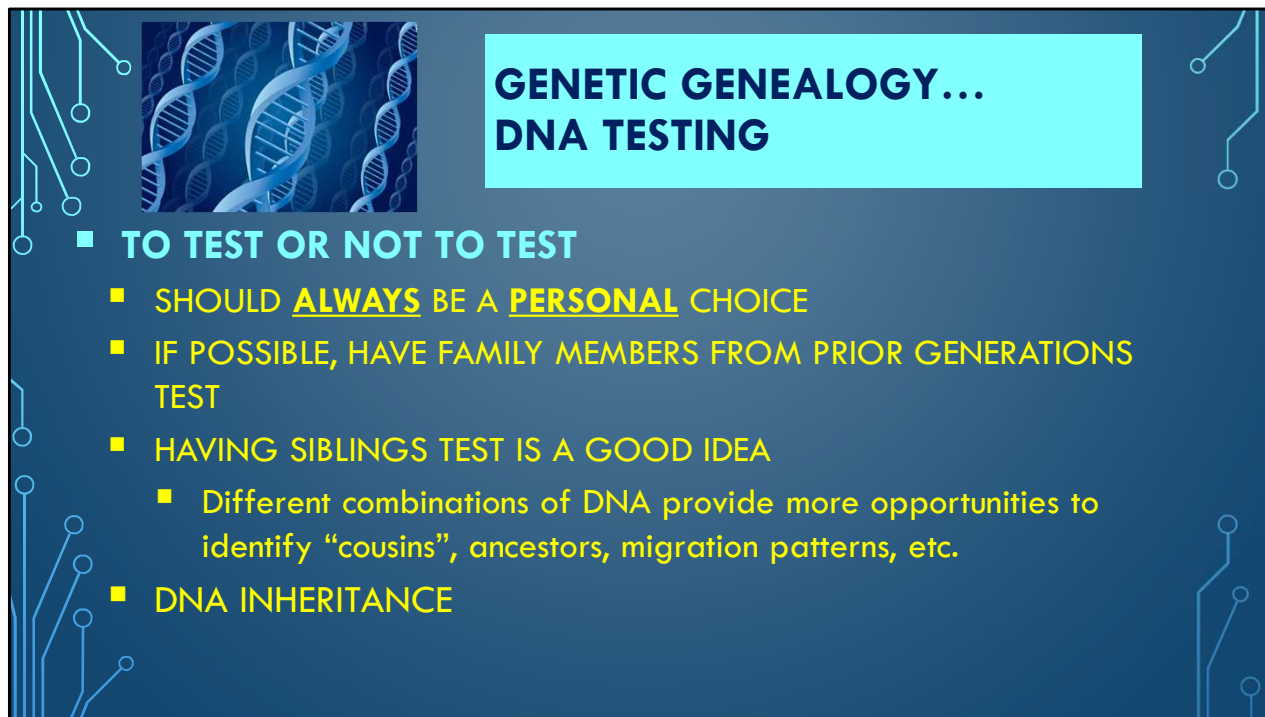
See anything that looks fishy? If married couple Johann P Heilmann and Maria C Schmidt were indeed born in 1800 and 1802 respectively, having children born between the years 1825 and 1839 certainly was biologically possible.

However --- their son Georg Adam born in 1827 could not have married a Justine Heilemann who was born and died before he was born. And another Georg Adam listed couldn't have had a son Andreas who was older than his parents Johann and Maria.



Let's look at the daughter... As mentioned earlier, reusing proper names is common – especially if they're important historical names for the family. These families are of German descent – common that each child was given two first names... normally would have been called by their second. So I'd have no concerns seeing the names "Maria Eva", "Maria C", "Maria B" as sisters in a tree. Even seeing two "Maria C"s here could be accurate – one Maria C was born and died in 1830. It would not be uncommon to use the same name when another daughter was born.





**GENETIC GENEALOGY...  
DNA TESTING**

- **TO TEST OR NOT TO TEST**
  - SHOULD **ALWAYS** BE A **PERSONAL** CHOICE
  - IF POSSIBLE, HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS FROM PRIOR GENERATIONS TEST
  - HAVING SIBLINGS TEST IS A GOOD IDEA
    - Different combinations of DNA provide more opportunities to identify “cousins”, ancestors, migration patterns, etc.
  - DNA INHERITANCE

- First of all, there’s **nothing more personal than an individual’s DNA** – everyone has their own reasons to decide whether or not to take a DNA test. Respect their choices – and if someone does allow you to manage their DNA testing/results, ensure you protect that information to the tested individual’s desired level.
- **Encourage family members to test** – especially those from earlier generations. Very simply, older relatives share more DNA with your ancestors than you do, giving you many more DNA matches and the chances to find out more about where your ancestors came from and to collaborate with DNA cousins.
- **DNA inheritance:** Each individual inherits 50% of their autosomal [DNA](#) from their mother and 50% from their father. Beyond that, they inherit approximately 25% from each grandparent and approximately half the previous amount from every subsequent generation of ancestry. Eventually, due to the random nature of autosomal DNA inheritance, there will be some ancestors from whom an individual does not inherit significant portions of their autosomal DNA. Any autosomal or X-DNA you inherit from a specific ancestor has to be less than or equal to the amount of DNA that your parent inherited from that same ancestor which in turn is a subset of the DNA that your grandparent inherited from that same ancestor. While your grandmother may share 25% of her DNA with your second great-grandparent, you will share only about 6% of your DNA with that same ancestor.





## GENETIC GENEALOGY... CHOOSING A TESTING COMPANY

- **MATCH TESTING COMPANY TO DESIRED GOALS**
  - Ethnicity/Family Migrations/Find Cousins
  - Genetic Health
  - Diet/Wellness

■ Co\$t



The truth is that any one of the leading DNA companies will do a good job of providing you with reports and tools that can help you understand your family's genetic past. However, I'll give you a little info on some tests that you might consider when choosing a testing company.

**AncestryDNA** is probably the most well-known test – their sample database by far is the largest with approx. 20 million testers; primarily from **North America** but test usage has also expanded into the UK. AncestryDNA's test is strictly an autosomal DNA test; They do not accept uploads of any other testing company's DNA test results so you'll have to use their test for ethnicity reports and matches of potential relatives from their database. Using your DNA sample, you can not only connect to your relatives, but you can use your ancestry report to help build your family tree. AncestryDNA has also started venturing into the health sector with its Health + Ancestry offering. In fact, Ancestry now offers a genetic health test based on your genetic data. Ancestry DNA does allow you to download your raw DNA information which you could then upload to other testing companies that do accept uploads.

**23andMe** is another well-known company with a database of approx. 12 million testers. 23andMe tests autosomal DNA, X-chromosome DNA, Y-chromosome DNA, and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). Using these extra sources of DNA, 23andMe can determine your haplogroups, which can tell you about your maternal and paternal lines. They also estimate your Neanderthal DNA, and can provide better information if you have Native American ancestry. But, if you want insight into health data and possible diseases running in your family, information provided from their DNA test really sets 23andMe apart. 23andMe has been researching and collecting health information for a lot longer than Ancestry DNA or others. The information that they present in the health reports and the ease-of-use in understanding the reports will be slightly better. The reports from 23andMe cover 150+ personalized health reports - including the highest number of FDA-approved health tests. These include reports on diabetes risk, the BRCA genes related to breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease risks, Parkinson's risk, Celiac disease, as well as over 40 reports on genetic diseases that you may be a carrier of including cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, Tay-Sachs disease, and many others. The 23andMe tests have undergone an evaluation by the FDA for accuracy, reliability, and consumer comprehension. But, in general, AncestryDNA's health test is now almost as rigorous as 23andMe's health test.

**MyHeritage** is primarily a company based around building and researching your family tree. MyHeritageDNA test is **most popular in European countries** – like AncestryDNA, their test is strictly an autosomal test. They also have one of the largest database sizes, so test results have a higher statistical probability of being correct. The company provides for you to do in-depth ancestry research on your family history, connect to your relatives in their database, and you can use your ancestry report to help build your family tree. They recently started offering a health report in addition to their ancestry report, to better compete with companies like 23andMe. However, their primary business is still genetic genealogy and building family trees.

**FamilyTreeDNA** is best for those who are serious about genealogy and want a DNA analysis specific to one side of their family. With FTDNA, you can purchase the Y-DNA or mtDNA tests, allowing you to get test results specific to your paternal and maternal lineage. While these specific tests come with an additional cost, FTDNA is the only DNA-analysis company to offer comprehensive DNA tests on these parts of your DNA. Essentially, this allows you to determine your father or mother's genetic makeup.

**Living DNA** is considered by many to be the best ancestry test for people with **roots in the British Isles (Irish)**. Both YDNA and mtDNA are tested. You can also search LivingDNA's user database for family matches simply by uploading your raw DNA data from another DNA analysis site for free. They offer DNA matching, use a cheek swab and are now partnered with **Find My Past**.

**Health and wellness DNA tests** can tell you your **genetic risk and carrier status for certain conditions, as well as your predisposition to physical and behavioral traits**: Given that you can order these tests on Amazon, they are much easier to get than other tests that require a physician. With low-cost **Vitagene's** "Unique Like You – Health & Ancestry Test" you can learn which diet, skin, fitness, and supplement plans are best suited for your DNA and goals based on your genetic traits report.

**Co\$t consideration**: Testing companies offer sales all the time – time your purchase when possible. Some also provide discounts for multiple tests.



## GENETIC GENEALOGY... DNA TESTING

### • DNA RESULTS – MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

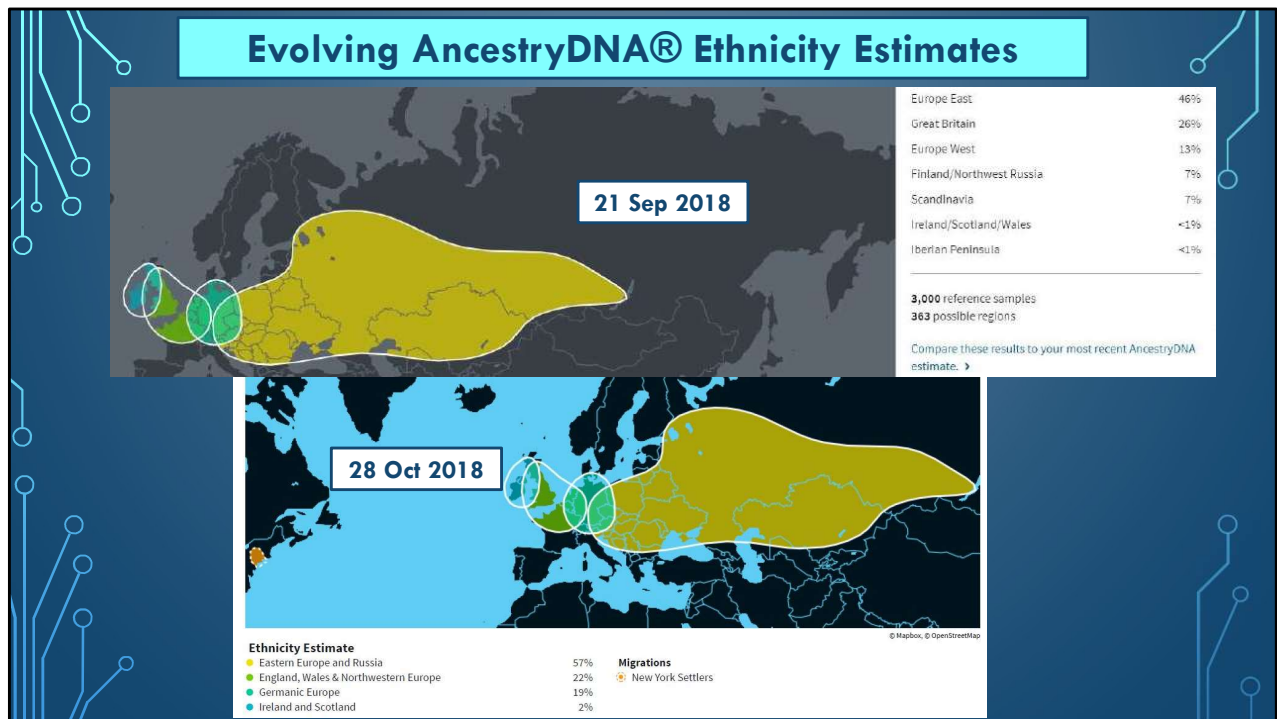
- The more samples in the test database, the more accurate the results
- DNA testing outside of a court system is illegal in some locations (France is a good example – imposes high fines and possibly jail time)
- Be prepared for surprises

**Ethnicity/Ancestry averages** are shown as a percentage—of where your ancestors lived hundreds of years ago, as far back as around 1,000 years.

**France** is the European country with the most restrictive legislation on DNA testing. Like **Germany**, it has long been prohibiting paternity tests unless they're ordered by a judge. French law also stipulates that genetic tests can only be pursued "for medical or scientific purposes." That includes genotyping services offered by 23andMe and the like. Ordering one is punishable by a 3750€ fine for the client, and a 15 000€ fine for the company—in theory. Okay, let's look at some sample ethnicity/ancestry test reports.

**If you don't want to know...don't test**

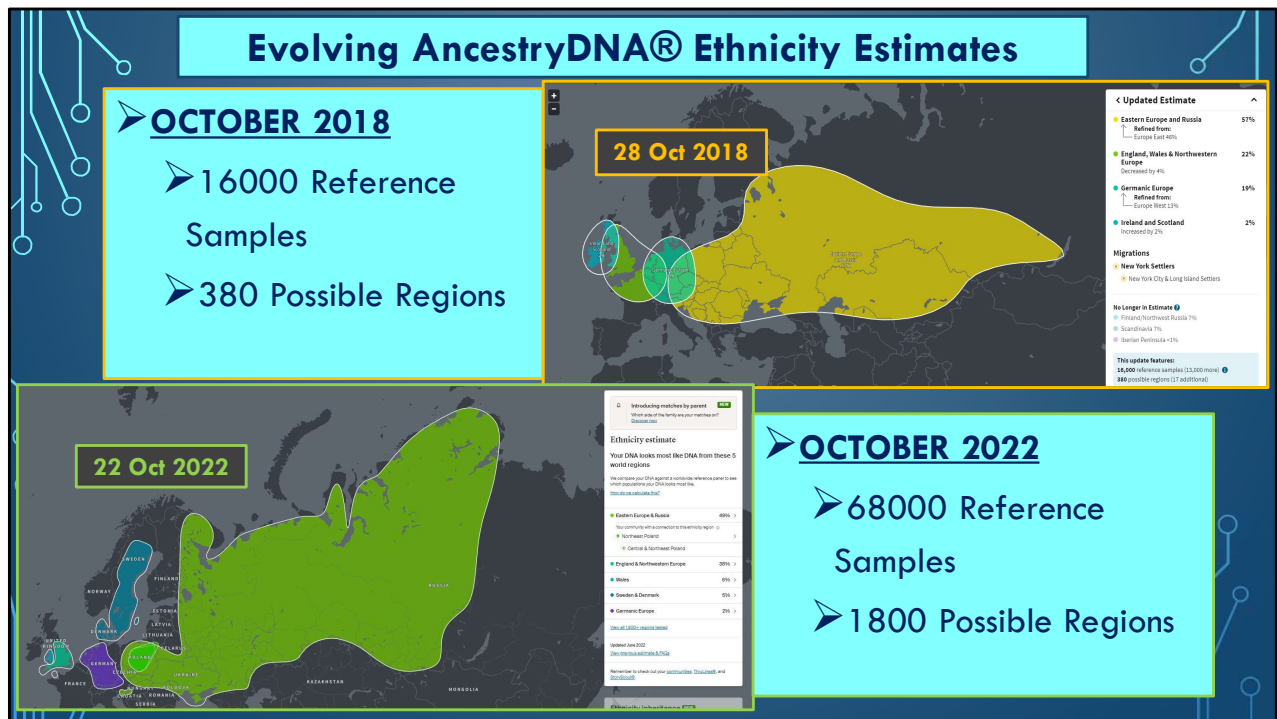




Are genealogy DNA tests accurate? Generally, results of ancestral DNA tests depicting specific segments of DNA compiling a person's chromosomes are **99.9% accurate**

However, that doesn't mean that the two ethnicity results shown on this slide should be expected to be 99.9% accurate, nor can the testing companies provide you that high level of confidence. Testing companies break down results into different regions and each company uses different regions. Don't get pulled in by specific countries...think how boundaries have changed over the generations.

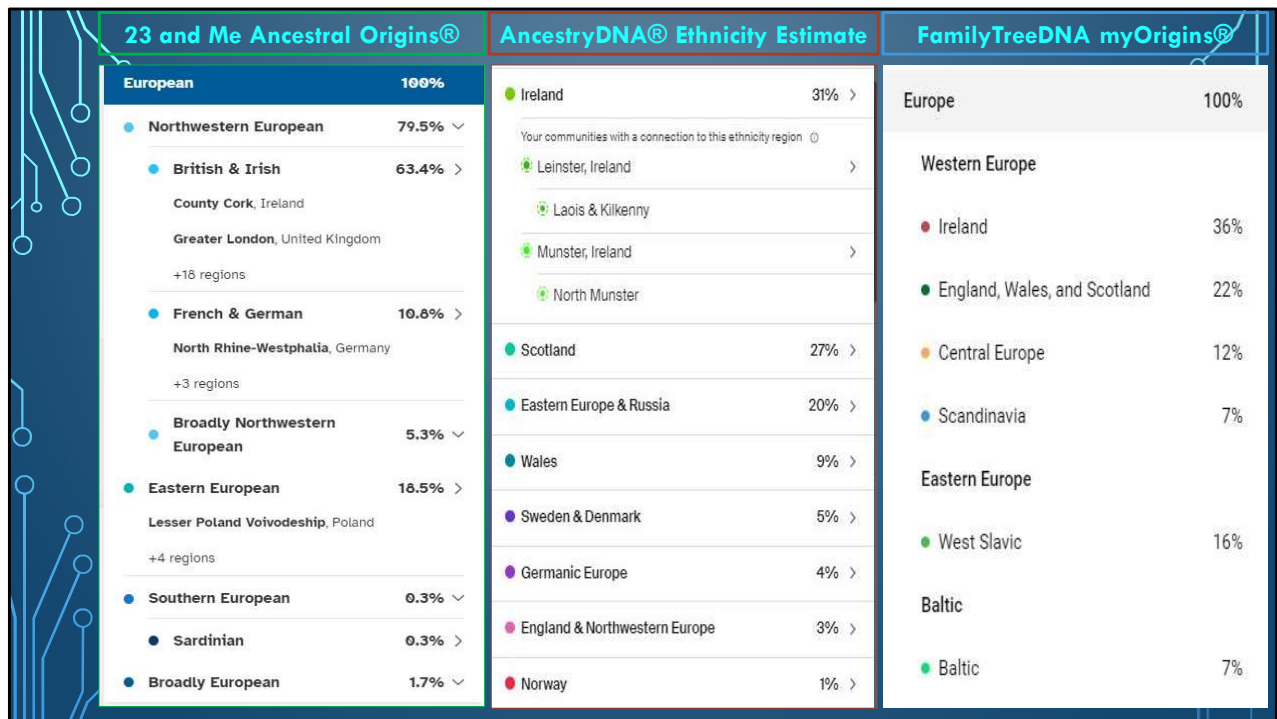
The results shown here are for the same person who completed **one DNA test** with Ancestry. Notice how in a little more than a month, the ethnicity report changed. Although highlighted areas on the maps appear to be the same, the regions and breakdowns have changed. As more and more people test, testing companies refine and update their algorithms which improves confidence in the accuracy of the results. Here, **AncestryDNA** updated their testing algorithm, increased the number of regions and had a significant increase in the number of reference samples used in that short period. From approximately 3000 samples broken down into 363 possible regions in September to 16000 samples broken down into 380 regions in October. **What type of changes in ethnicity estimates might one expect in a few years?**



What do this same person's results look like now? In almost 4 years, the number of reference samples has grown from those approximately 16000 in October 2018 to 68000 reference samples. In addition, the overall testing algorithm has been refined double-digit times with the number of total possible regions growing from 380 to 1800 and some of those further refined into migration patterns. How about the map display of locations? Looks quite a bit different.

**Remember these results are all from one person who only took one test...**

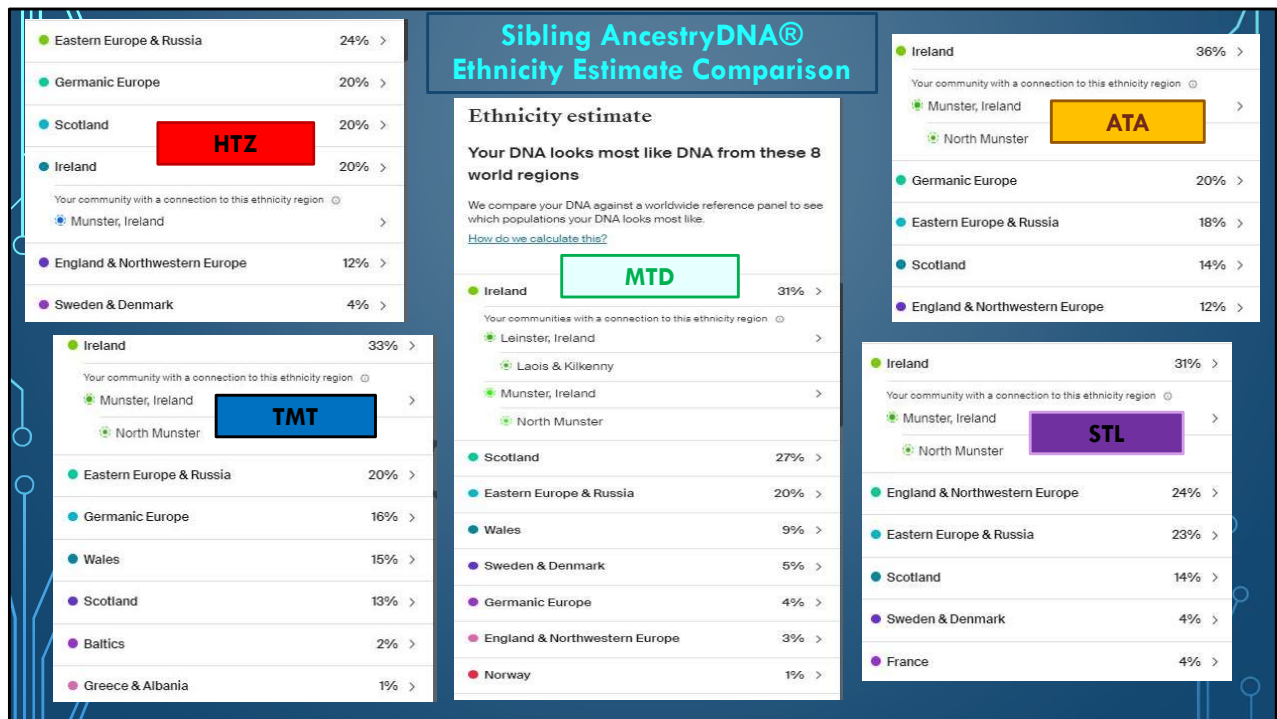
**Let's compare some ancestral/ethnicity results from multiple companies.**



## Comparison of DNA Test Results from Different Companies – Ancestral Origins//Ethnicity Percentage Estimates –

Okay, I've tested with multiple companies. Here are some of my results

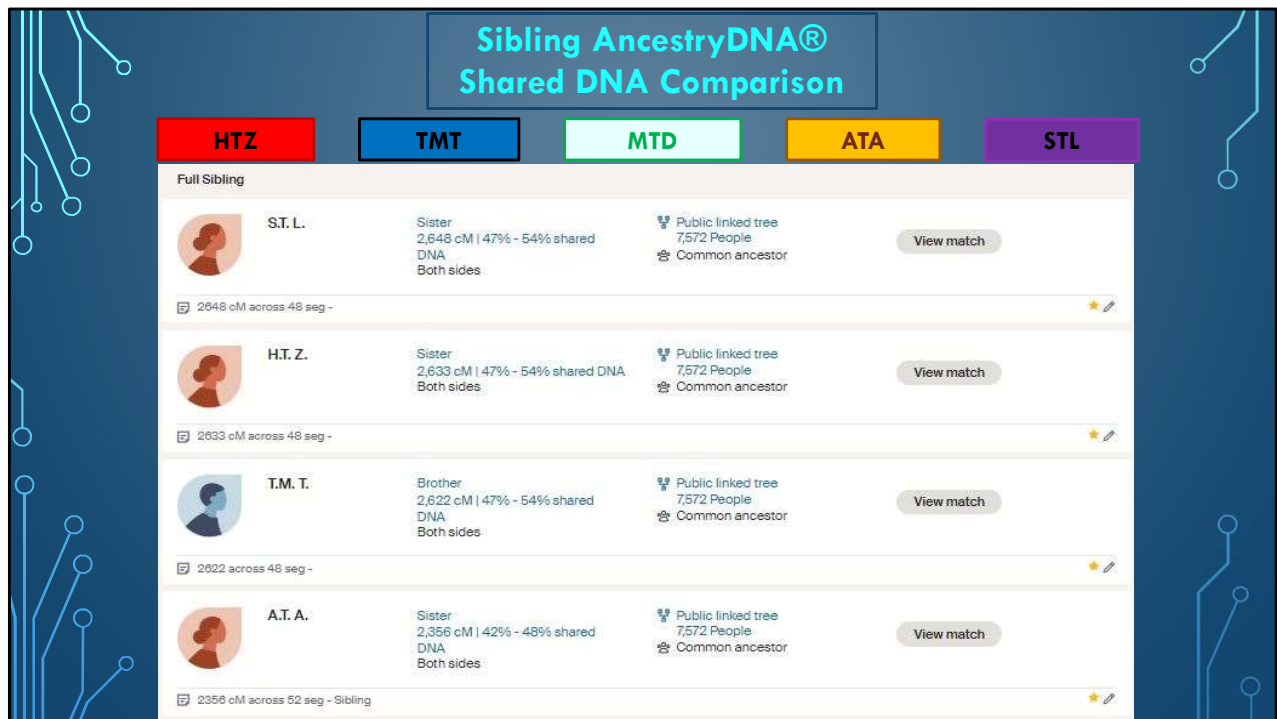
– If I get my siblings to test, will their results reflect these same percentages?



## The DNA coverage concept – Randomness of DNA passed to each child

By testing yourself, 100% of your autosomal DNA will be represented in a database, 50% of your parents' DNA will be represented, and 25% of each of your grandparents' DNA will be represented in the database. Though each individual inherits 50% of their DNA from each parent, siblings inherit different 50% portions.

- Though each will share some DNA in common with a sibling, each sibling will also carry unique DNA. Recombination will shuffle the parents' DNA differently for each child; on average, siblings only share about 50% of the same DNA
- By testing a sibling, you could obtain approximately 75% coverage of your parents' DNA and about 37% coverage of each of your grandparents' DNA.



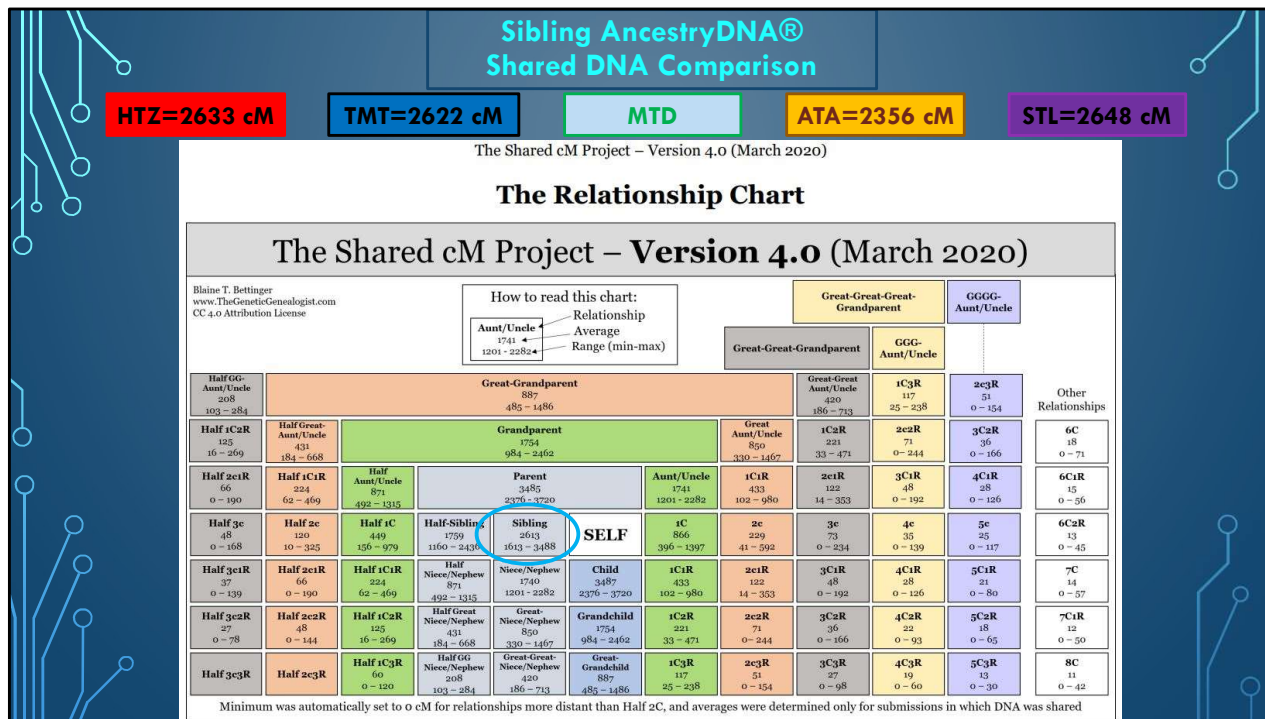
Looking at these differences in ethnicity results, do we still expect that we're full siblings?

That answer won't be found in the ever-evolving ethnicity percentages.

However, autosomal DNA test takers also receive a list of potential DNA relatives based on your shared DNA (measured in centimorgans (cMs), and these results are generally more reliable, useful for tracking actual family lineage.

Based on the amount of shared DNA we have, Ancestry has even predicted and combined us as "Full Siblings"

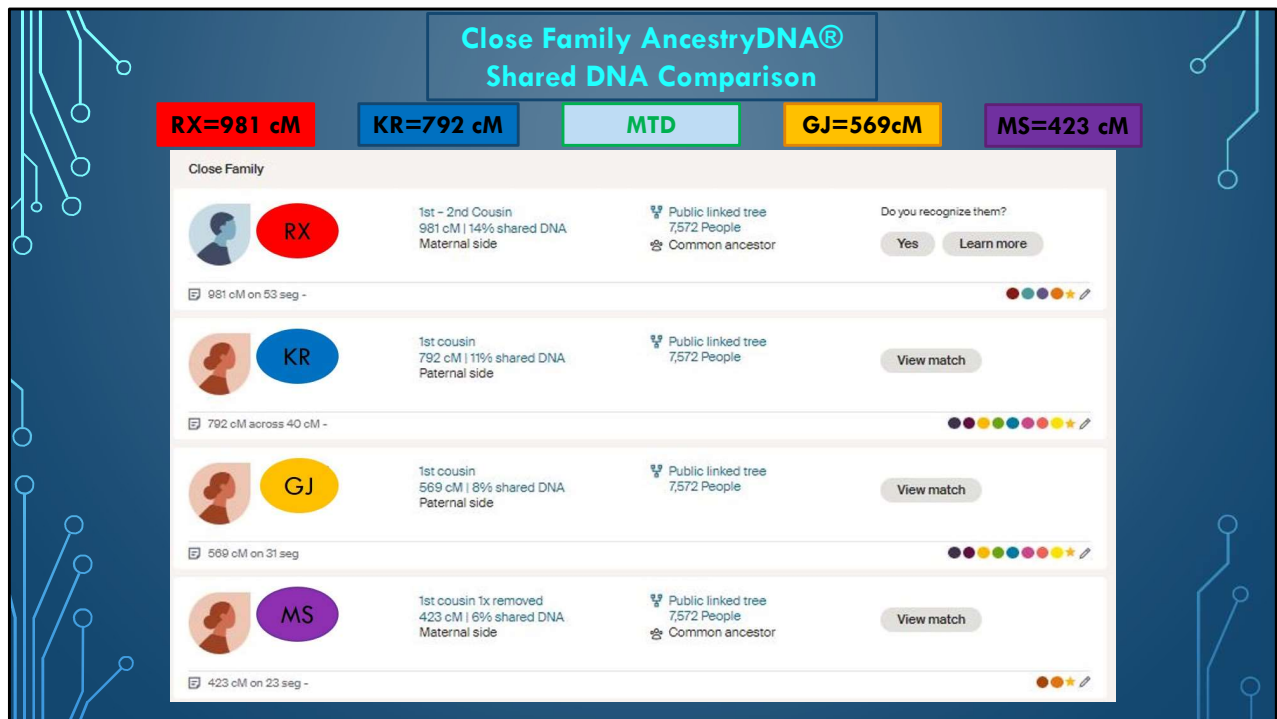
**Let's delve a little more into the amount shared DNA cMs**



This Shared cM Project (available at <https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>) is one of the most commonly used tools for estimating relationships between people with shared DNA. It was last updated in March 2020.

- Comparing my AncestryDNA shared DNA results with my four siblings with the predicted relationships based on shared DNA on this chart, do our results make sense?
- The average shared DNA centimorgans (cM) among **siblings** tested/compiled for this database is **2613**. However, also based on this data, a full sibling **could share as little DNA as 1613 cM or as much as 3488 cM**.
- The **least** amount of DNA **any of my siblings share with me is 2356 cM and most DNA shared between us is 2648 cM**...pretty much all very close to the average. So no surprises here.
- This tool is very helpful when trying to determine potential relationships with DNA matches.





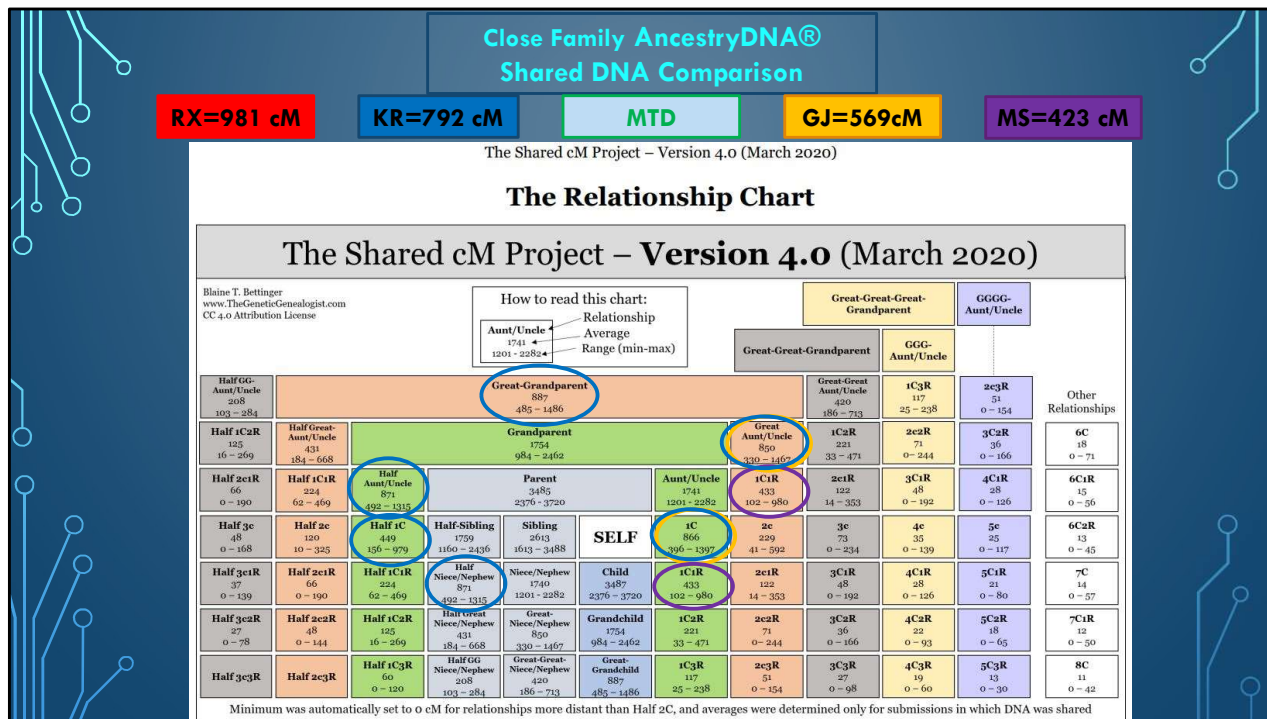
How about some others relatives whose tests I manage.

Ancestry has predicted that the relatives listed here are “**Close Family**”.

Relationship **predictions** will normally be provided in **relationship ranges**. For instance, Ancestry predicts that RX is related to me in the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin range – so either of those (1<sup>st</sup> cousin, 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin) or possibly in between (ex. 1C1R, Half 1C, etc.).

However, when you know exactly how you are related, you can edit the relationship range that is displayed in your list to reflect that information – displaying the family lineage side (maternal/paternal) and relationship (1<sup>st</sup> cousin, 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 1x removed) -- I’ve done that here with KR, GJ, and MS.

Using the same shared DNA cM Project Chart from before, do these make sense?



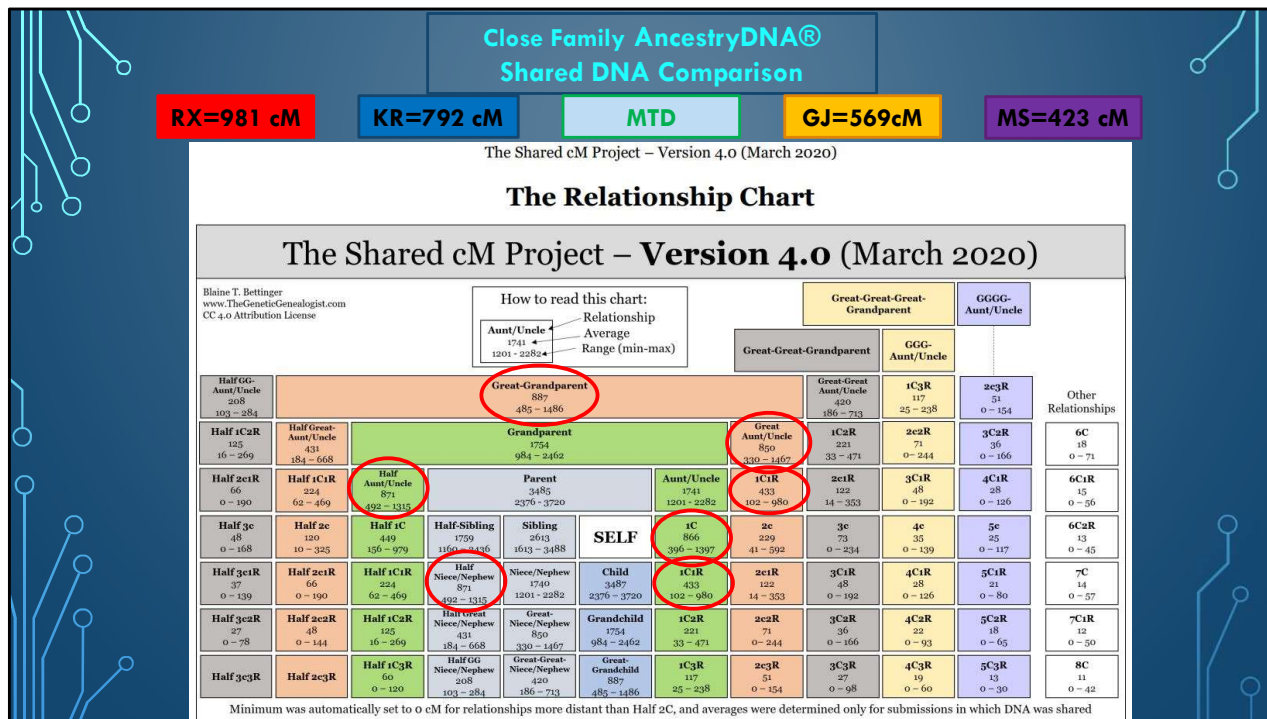
Let's look first at the three with whom I already knew our actual relationships and correct lineage: KR, GJ and MS

Notice that there are a number of boxes with similar ranges and averages – when that happens, determine if you know or can predict by generation.

Given my age, it would be a miracle for a great-grandparent, great-aunt or great-uncle to still be alive so I'd rule those relationships out.

**No surprises here:** GJ and KS are indeed my first cousins (1C) and MS is my first cousin, once removed (1C1R).





But, let's look at that relative that showed the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> cousin range in the list.

In this case, none of the projected relationships for RX based on the amount of shared DNA are correct – because he's a **"double-cousin"** – related to me on both of his mother's parents' lines.

His maternal grandmother was my maternal grandfather's sister and his **biological** grandfather was my maternal grandmother's brother. So, he's actually a double-2<sup>nd</sup>-cousin. When first seeing his test results, I expected the 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin relationship of between 41-592 cM shared DNA from his maternal grandmother's line...the biological grandfather was a surprise.

**So**, although this is a very useful tool, like ethnicity reports, the predicted relationship ranges will continue to evolve as the database gets larger. But using the amount of shared DNA and communicating with DNA matches can be genealogical gold in the search for relatives.

**LivingDNA® Finding Relatives**

**REACH OUT TO OTHERS TO FIND/CONFIRM CONNECTIONS**

Mary-Lynn and Molly Hayton's DNA story

Molly Hayton  
United Kingdom  
3rd - 5th cousin  
0.61% DNA shared (43.90 cM)  
5 shared matches  
[Click here to view >](#)

Motherline haplogroup X2  
Motherline subclade

Conversation Relationship Notes Shared map Shared DNA  
Now Coming soon

LivingDNA  
Molly Hayton <mollykh@hotmail.co.uk>  
2:52 PM  
To: mld756@aol.net

Hi Mary-Lynn,

It was lovely to hear from you on LivingDNA! Mary Ann Burgess was my great-grandma and my dad loved her very much and always spoke of her fondly. My name itself is partly in honour of her (and my dad's aunt - she was born Georgiana Mary but everyone called her Molly) as Molly is an old Irish nickname for Mary.

Funnily enough, no one in my family ever knew much about Mary Ann's family or her backstory as she didn't talk much about it. She told my dad she was born out of wedlock and all she knew was that her father was an Irish man. She went on to have seven children with my great-grandfather and my grandpa Vincent was born in 1920.

I was born in Bolton in England which isn't too far from Fylde where my great-grandparents were married. Mary Ann lived there for the rest of her life and my dad went to stay with her a lot. My dad joined the army in the 1970s when he was only 15 and went to fight in Ireland during the conflict Britain had with them. He always said she wasn't happy about that as she considered herself an Irish woman first and foremost!

It's nice to hear that you were in touch with the Quinn side of the family as I know so little about them! Did you ever get to meet your great-grandmother? I would love to hear more about the other relatives that you met! Whereabouts are you from in America? Did your great-grandmother emigrate there?

Best wishes,  
Molly

Hi Molly - I was reviewing my DNA matches today and found that you and I share approximately 43.9 cM and LivingDNA estimates us to be in the 3rd-to-5th cousin range. Your last name really jumped out at me as I've previously identified a 1st cousin 2x removed (Mary Ann Burgess) who married a George Allan Hayton in Fylde, England in 1913. Mary Ann's mother, Sarah Ann "Sarann" Quinn, was my great-grandmother's (Martha Mary Quinn) older sister. I'd love to share information to find the connection, whether it's through them or someone else. I live in the U.S. but was lucky enough to make a trip overseas about 4 years ago and met a number of relatives on the Quinn line. Please contact me via my regular email address (mld756@aol.net), if you'd prefer. Thanks and hope you're having a wonderful weekend. - Mary-Lynn Dubray

Upon finding DNA matches, testing companies have messaging systems you can use to contact your potential relatives, attempt to determine actual relationships and possibly share information. The top portion of this slide shows a recent message I sent to one of my matches in the **LivingDNA** test database. Since I recognized her surname from other connections previously made in the UK, I gave her specific info of a potential line of my family tree where I thought we might be related. The bottom portion of the slide shows her response to me. **Yes!** We've now confirmed a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin, 1x removed relationship between us. I've also been able to put her in touch with other members of our common Quinn family living in the UK.

**Okay – enough DNA stuff...**

**CHECK YOUR FOUNDATION WHILE CONTINUING TO BUILD**

- AS TIME GOES BY, IT'S EASY TO BE SWAYED BY "FACTS" OTHERS POSTED – STICK TO GOOD RESEARCH PRACTICES
- INFORMATION IS EVERYWHERE...THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX
- TIME MANAGEMENT TO SUSTAIN STRONG RELATIONSHIPS
- SOME FINAL TIPS...

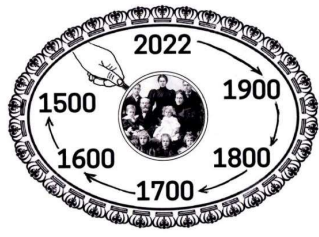
**A best practice in genealogy is to continue to go back and review what you've done.** Remember, genealogical research is not a sprint. You can go years without identifying much, if any, new information. Don't get discouraged – remember to stick to good research practices, ensure you have supporting documents/information before expanding your tree.

**Information is Everywhere – think out of the box for possible ways to obtain new facts to update your tree.**

**Cemetery Strolls are one surprising way you might find answers and/or new leads to follow:** Go visit those cemeteries where your ancestors are buried...and roam throughout for other possible relatives. And take note of some of those symbols you see on headstones in cemeteries. They have meanings and can sometimes indicate information about a family member you might not have yet found. One particularly interesting symbol is the depiction of a rose or rosebud. While it can, of course, mean love, hope, beauty, and/or purity, a rose on a headstone—specifically its stage of bloom—can also indicate the general age of the person at their death. Some various versions you might see: **Rosebud:** the person was under the age of 12; **Rosebud with a Broken Stem:** a young person's life was cut short; **Partial Bloom:** the person was in their teens; **Full Bloom:** they passed away in the prime of their lives, usually meaning their twenties; **Intertwined or Joined Rosebuds:** a mother and child who both died during childbirth, or around the same time. Can also indicate two family members with a strong bond who passed away at the same time.

**Prayer card collection:** For some reason my dad kept some of those small prayer cards from wakes, memorial services that are sometimes at the funeral home. I'm not sure what year he started doing it, but there were multiple cards rubber-banded in bunches in his sock drawer. After he had passed away but before my mom was willing to have anything of his given/thrown away, I made a handwritten list of all the cards with their pertinent info, i.e. names, birth/death dates, funeral home name/location, etc. and then returned all the cards to the drawer. I eventually took that multipage handwritten list and typed the info into spreadsheet. I had no idea who about ¾ of the people listed were, but since then I've found relatives and determined other relationships just from recalling names. **Google search** and online obituaries are your friends for finding living people who are possible relatives.

**And remember it all takes TIME** – away from your spouse, significant other, friends, family, exercise, social activities, etc. -- **recommend you establish some time/date barriers for yourself for a healthy life balance.**



## CONTINUING YOUR JOURNEY

- TYPE OF TREE YOU BUILD DOESN'T MATTER – JUST START BUILDING
- AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS IS NEVER GUARANTEED
- ONLINE FORUMS PROVIDE UNIQUE ASSISTANCE
- QC GENEALOGY CLUB AND OTHER LOCAL FACE-TO-FACE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE

REMEMBER TO ENJOY THE RIDE

### **Some tips as you continue your genealogical journey**

- If you haven't started that tree, **START TODAY**–
- **Passing time really might affect your ability to obtain records.** As much as more and more information becomes available digitally, changes in privacy and other FOIA laws and partnerships with data collecting agencies might make that record you could have obtained last month no longer readily available. For example, in 2018 Find My Past (FMP) and the Archdiocese of New York established a partnership where FMP indexed and digitized all New York City Roman Catholic parish baptismal and marriage records that were more than 100 years old and made them available for viewing and download from the FMP website. FMP was notified the last week of September 2022 that the Archdiocese was not renewing the partnership and rights to only the indexes would be made available on FMP as of Oct 1, 2022. The indexes do not have all the info that's on the parish records, so researchers now have to contact the parish (or the parish where closed churches' records have been moved) to request copies of the actual images.
- **Join Online Forums:** Country/State/City specific, DNA shares by location, language translation, handwritten alphabets...
- Get involved with others who also have the genealogy "bug"
  - **QC Genealogy Club:** [www.qcgenealogy.com](http://www.qcgenealogy.com) – looking for experienced people interested in being part of or assisting our Education Committee
  - **Southern Arizona Genealogy Society** - <https://www.azsags.org/> (located at La Posada) – (\$30/yr from 01 Oct to 30 Sep) – located at La Posada
  - **Pima County Genealogy Society** - <https://azpimagensoc.org/about.php> (\$25 individual/\$32 couple per year rolling annual membership) – robust group located in Tucson with many Zoom meetings and webinars



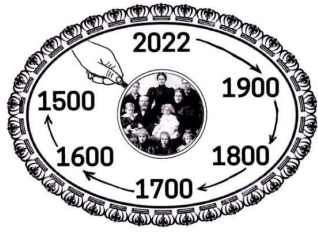
## ENJOYING THE JOURNEY & REWARDS OF GENEALOGY...



**Some examples of treasures from my genealogical adventures.** In the middle of this slide is the **only confirmed photograph** of my great-grandmother, **Martha Mary Quinn Twohig**, (photographed on her wedding day in New York in 1896) – provided to me by a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin in Wales. In 1894, 15-year-old Martha emigrated to New York, joining her older sister who had emigrated two years prior. The photo was sent back to one of her other sisters, it's signed on the back by Martha on her wedding day.

### **My oldest sister, brother and I made a 2018 trip to the UK and Dublin:**

- Included a chance of a lifetime family luncheon at the Blackpool Golf Club with John Quinn/Sarah Case descendants one 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, 1x removed – multiple 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins, me and two siblings and a few spouses thrown in...with cake
- Photos from St Marie Roman Catholic Church, St Helen, Lancashire, England: altar and baptismal font – Martha and many other Quinn relatives were baptized there, my 2nd-great grandparents were married there.
- **Not on this slide but from a prior overseas trip to Germany**, I have photos of a church where family baptisms and marriages as early as 1719 were performed.



QUESTIONS?