

DNA: The Newest Tool for Genealogists [Y-DNA, mtDNA and atDNA test

The Main Line Genealogy Club 14 May 2015 by Jim Bartlett jim4bartletts@verizon.net

1 Concept

If two people have matching DNA, they have a common ancestor!

[per the type of DNA test]

[within a genealogical time frame]

Very powerful, extremely accurate info!

2 Levels (of involvement with DNA)

1. Accept the list of Matches, contact them, determine the Common Ancestor
 - Relatively easy
 - Focus is on genealogy
2. Use the DNA data
 - Combine the DNA clues with genealogy
 - Narrow your search
 - Confirm your genealogy
 - DNA is a powerful tool

3 Types of DNA tests – 3 different uses:

1. **Y-DNA** only passed from fathers to sons - Used in surname projects
2. **mtDNA** only from mothers to children - Used to trace all female lines
3. **atDNA** from parents to children - Find cousins from all ancestral lines
[Y= Y-Chromosome; mt= mitochondrial; at= autosomal]

3 Types of DNA “Projects”

Tracing all male line = **SURNAME Project**

- tests the **Y-DNA**: matching = common ancestor
- same SURNAME: easier to research

Tracing all female line... = usually **D-I-Y Project**

- tests **mt-DNA**: matching = common ancestor
- all SURNAMEs different: difficult to trace

Searching for all ancestors [**Family Finder**] = **collaborate with cousins**

- tests all **at-DNA**: matching = common ancestor
- share/compare with new matching cousins

DNA: Just DO IT!

Determine which test you want and who will provide the DNA

- **you** (for mt or Family Finder); only male for Y-DNA

Go to www.familytreedna.com *

- order a test (join a project for some discounts)
- have Kit mailed to you or sent to someone else
- pay by credit card or have them bill you

Follow Kit Instructions – like brushing your teeth

(no pain, no blood)

Mail the Samples back – wait.....

[* you can use other companies, but FTDNA has highest recommendations]

For Jim's 2013 notes, click on links below

[DNA Comparison chart](#)

[Using FTDNA, 23&Me, and Ancestry DNA for Autosomal DNA](#)

[DNA Testing for Genealogists](#)