

DNA brought Me to the Forest, but where are all the Trees?

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Ancestry's Test:

- Autosomal DNA – Traces both the paternal and maternal lineage. This test may be taken by men or women, and is effective in tracing your family back about 6 generations.
- Autosomal DNA is found in 22 pairs of DNA which do not determine the sex of the child; you inherit half of these chromosomes from Mom and half from Dad. Siblings will not inherit identical halves unless they are identical twins.
- In each generation, the amount of Autosomal DNA you receive from each individual in the prior generations is reduced by about half.

Sharing DNA with a Family Member:

Relationship:	Odds you share DNA:	Relationship:	Odds you share DNA:
Parent/Sibling, 1 st cousins	99% and up	Fourth Cousins	45-71%
Second Cousins	About 99%	Fifth Cousins	10-32%
Third Cousins	90-98%	Sixth Cousins	<5-11%

Compiled from *Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, p 27.

Getting Started:

- Purchase a DNA kit at Ancestry.com or through Amazon (sold by Ancestry, fulfilled by Amazon).
- Activate your DNA Kit & attach your DNA kit to a tree.
- Spit and return your kit for testing.

Creating a Skeleton Tree:

- Begin a new tree, starting with you, and enter the basic information about your lineal ancestors. Their names, birthdates, marriage and death dates and places are sufficient. For this tree, you can leave out the collateral relatives!
- Enter your pedigree chart data as far back as you can with confidence, and link your DNA to this tree.

Your Results are Back! Now What?

- Review your Ethnicity Results – but don't get attached, they will change over time.
- Review your DNA match list and see if there are any close DNA matches you recognize! Label them in the notes field and add them to the correct group(s).
- Filter your match list for Common Ancestors and review the match and the suggested ancestral couple.
- If the couple is accurate, label these matches with the common ancestors in the notes field and add them to the correct group(s).
- Go to the matches' user profile and look for Unlinked Trees and review them for common ancestors which can be linked to your match.



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Start with Known matches

- Even if you manage the test, add the test-taker into the appropriate group; this makes placing unknown matches into an existing group easier.

DNA Tools

- Create a Custom Group based on shared Ancestral Couples, locations, or any other criteria you wish.
- Ability to filter based on: if they have a tree, how much shared DNA exists between matches, and by groups.
- Shared Matches help you group clusters of matches and separate shared ancestral couples based on how matches are connecting.

Tree Tools

- Tree Tagging can be used to flag ancestors or cousins who have been confirmed as a DNA Match. Currently, up to 20 tags may be added to each individual in your tree.

Ancestry's Helping Hands:

Use Caution with Ancestry's helpers; they all use existing member trees to identify potential common ancestors- and some trees are more thoroughly researched than others.

Common Ancestors

- May be based on information in your tree and your matches' tree, or third-party trees.

ThruLines

- Your kit must be attached to either a public tree or a private, searchable tree.
- ThruLines uses user-created trees alongside DNA Matches to theorize how individuals may be related.

Facebook Groups:

- Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/geneticgenealogytipsandtechniques/>
- DNA Detectives: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DNADetectives/>

Books:

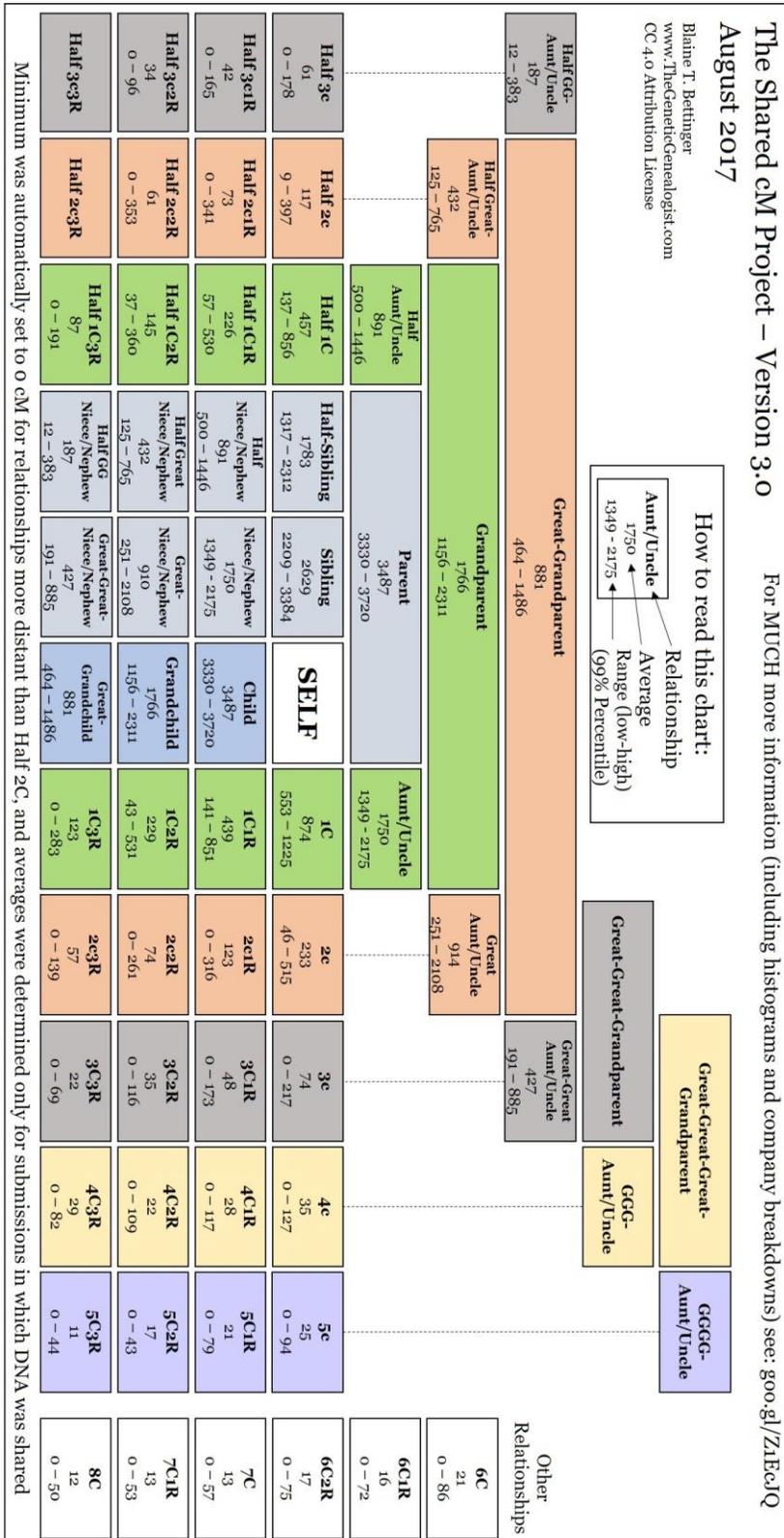
- Emily D. Aulicino, *Genetic Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond* (Bloomington, Indian: Authorhouse, 2013).
- Blaine T Bettinger, *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, 2d ed. (Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2019).
- Blaine T Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* (Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, Inc, 2016).
- Debbie Parker Wayne, ed., *Advanced Genetic Genealogy Techniques and Case Studies* (Cushing, Texas: Wayne Research, 2019).



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Shared Chromosome Project, Autosomal DNA:





McFakery Family Tree

