

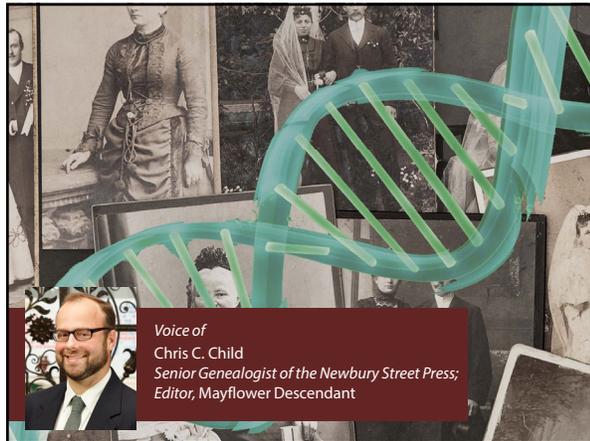
1



2



3



4

Reasons for determining recent parentage

- Person knows adopted or has an unknown parent or grandparent
- As a result of taking a commercial DNA test, a person learns they are adopted, or an ancestor of record is not their genetic ancestor (unexpected results)

5

Types of Surprises

- “Colonial” Surprises (Y-DNA, mtDNA, xDNA)
- More recent surprises (atDNA, Y-DNA, mtDNA, xDNA)

6

Reasons for Unexpected Results

- “misattributed parentage”
 - Extramarital relationship
 - Unknown adoption
 - Use of sperm or egg donation
 - Incorrect genealogical conclusions
 - Mistaken assumptions of the match from an online tree
 - Switched at birth, or later in life
- Less shared DNA, while the known kinship still works

7

Using DNA to find biological relatives

- Now often a “first resort”
- Not all answers may be available
- Sometimes you can only figure out half the solution or narrow it down to a few siblings or cousins

8

Types of DNA tests

- Y-DNA test (patrilial line)
- mtDNA test (matrilial line)
- X-DNA (contained with an autosomal test)
- Autosomal DNA test

9

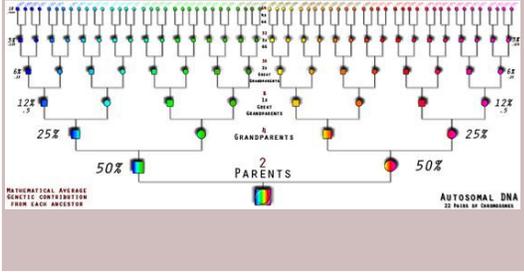
Usefulness of Y-DNA, mtDNA, X-DNA tests alone

- Truly a needle in a haystack
- Maybe used in conjunction with autosomal testing
- Rarely a solution from these tests alone



10

Autosomal tests (atDNA) average amount of DNA from ancestors



11

Will DNA help?

- Are you or your parent the adoptee or person of unknown parentage?
- Were your ancestors living in the United States?
- Have several generations passed since the adoption or misattributed parentage?
- Did this occur in a country other than the U.S.?
- It's always worth taking a test, but . . . *there are no guarantees!*

12

Tip

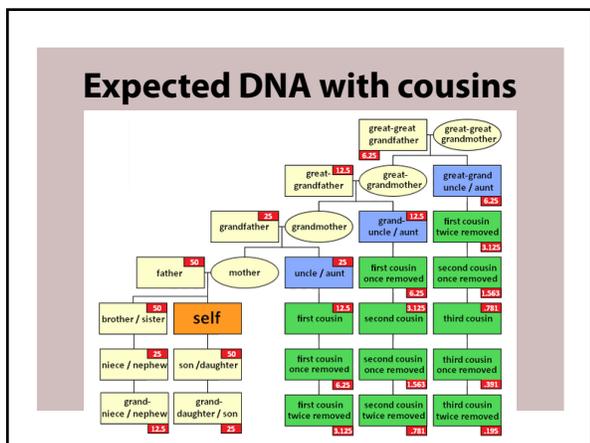
If you or your parent has
a misattributed
parentage, test relatives
on the “known” side

13

Finding the Adopted or Rumored Relative

- If you or a close relative gave a child up for adoption or lost relative, and you want to find them through DNA testing, this process may be more difficult
- There are fewer individuals whose results would help you find the adopted or lost child
- A person usually has more first and second cousins than descendants
- You won't know until you test!

14



15

Uploading your "RawDNA" elsewhere

- GedMatch
- FamilyTreeDNA
- MyHeritage

User Profile (Name)
 Name: Chris Child
 Email: [redacted]@gmail.com
 Registered User
 View/Change/Delete your profile (password, email, groups)
 Change ED1/Herken kit status
 The number of online users is 116

LEGEND
 (Status indicators shown to the right of each kit below)
 Kit has completed all processing and has good status
 Click on pencil if you wish to EDIT or DELETE kit profile
 [Unknown Status]
 Click on blue kit number to go directly to one-to-many results

Your DNA resources

[redacted]	✓ Edward Horton	[redacted]
[redacted]	✓ Vernon Horton	[redacted]
[redacted]	✓ Paul Chalender	[redacted]
[redacted]	✓ Joy Chalender Child	[redacted]
[redacted]	✓ William Child	[redacted]
[redacted]	✓ Charles Child	[redacted]
[redacted]	✓ Chris Child	[redacted]
[redacted]	✓ Ariene Ovalle-Child	[redacted]

19

Going through your results

20

Wicked Easy!

Parent/Child

	Joyce [redacted]	Parent/Child Shared DNA: 3,476 cM across 29 segments	1,615 People
	Harry [redacted]	Parent/Child Shared DNA: 3,456 cM across 27 segments	1,615 People

21



22

Screenshot Everything!

- All the numbers
- All the trees
- Any identifying information
- This kit may not be managed by the person that took the test, it may be their spouse, child, parent, etc.

23

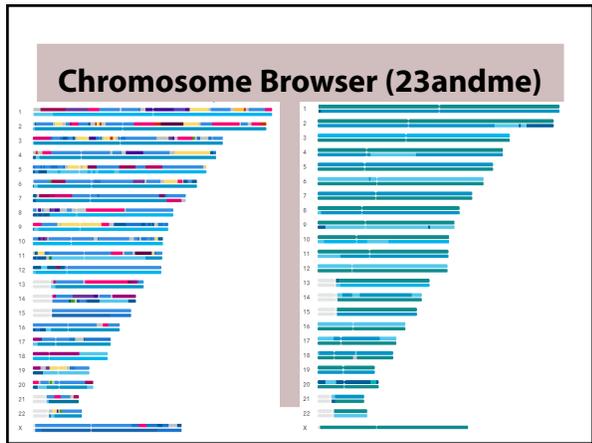
“Sleeping matches”

- People get this test based on the commercial
- Some people never look at their matches and never upload a tree
- Email messages go to spam
- Some matches are dead
- It can be possible to identify matches based on their screen name or other identifying information even no contact is established

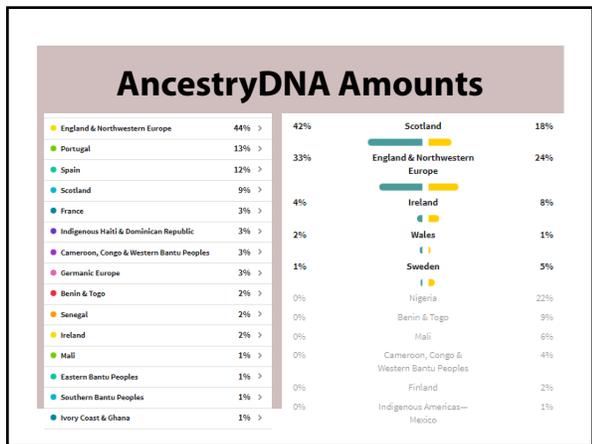
24



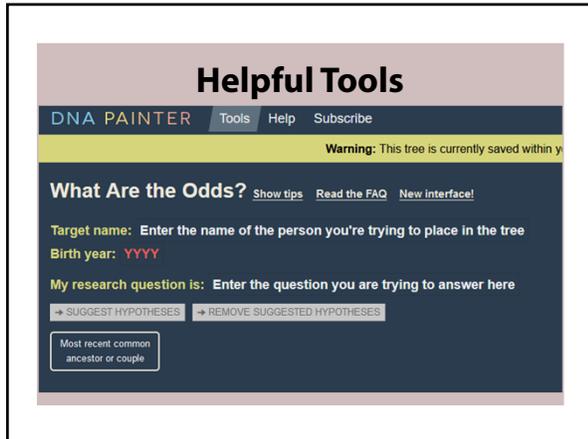
25



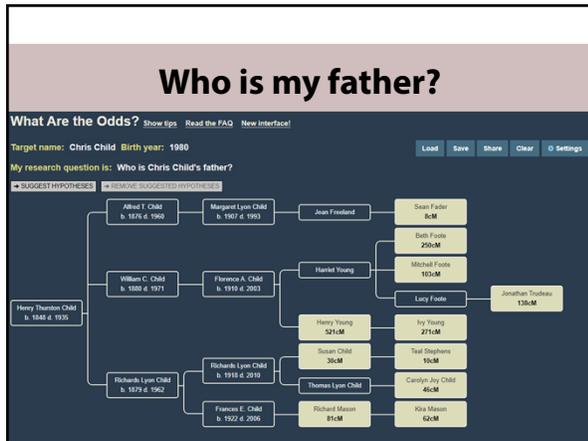
26



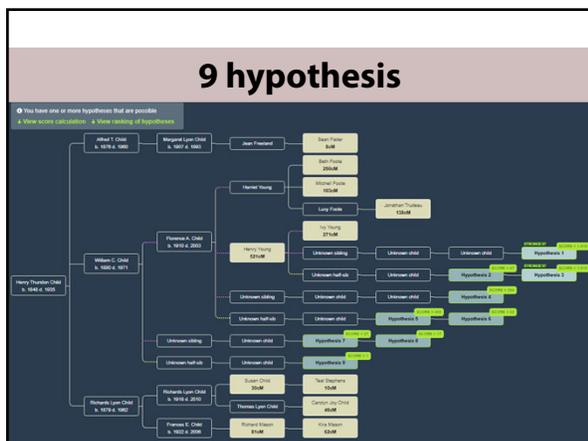
27



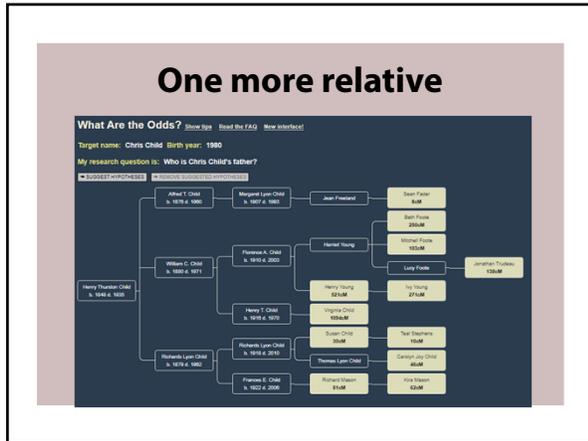
28



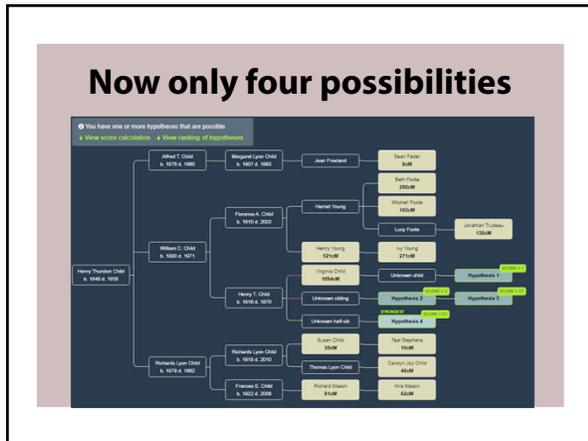
29



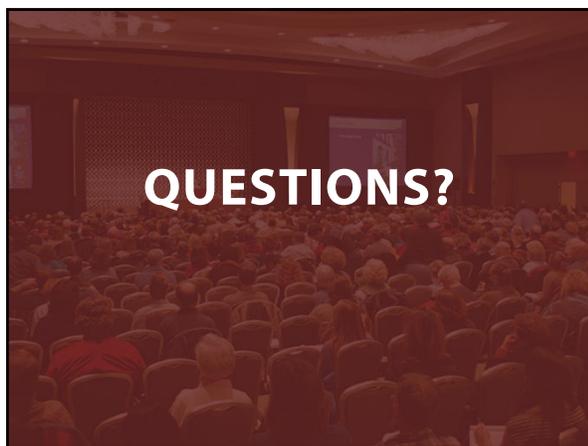
30



31



32



33

Figuring out recent parentage with some known information

34

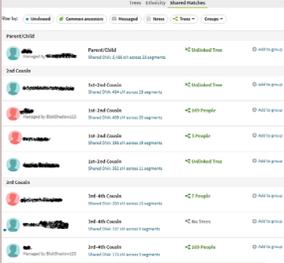
Amanda, born 1986

- Raised by a single mother
- Mother is not sure who biological father is, acknowledges relationships with two brothers – Wesley and Curtis, as well as their father Curtis (Sr.)
- Wesley and Curtis Sr. have died
- Curtis, Jr. is living but will not take a DNA test

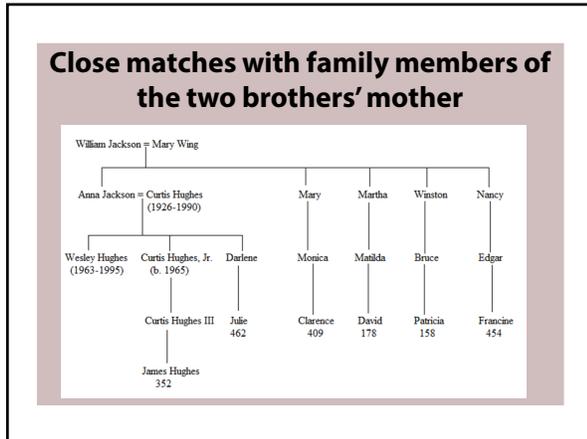
35

Going through the Trees of Shared Matches

- Find common ancestors between shared matches
- Chart out how they are related
- From close matches common ancestors, see if you relate do descendants of each of their siblings
- Identify them as a likely “ancestral couple”



36



37

The Jackson Second Cousins

- If Wesley or Curtis, Jr. were Amanda's father, the four other (non-Hughes) great-grandchildren would be Amanda's second cousins
- Their numbers range from 178–454
- Second cousins average 233, and can range from 46–515 [consistent]
- This would eliminate Curtis Hughes, Sr., as these are relatives via his wife

38

James and Julie

- James is either a half-nephew (500–1446) or a first cousin once removed (141–851)
- Julie should be a first cousin, which averages 874, ranging 553–1225

39

Possible explanations?

William Jackson = Mary Wing

Anna Jackson = Curtis Hughes (1926-1990)

Wesley Hughes (1963-1995) Curtis Hughes, Jr. (b. 1965) Darlene

Curtis Hughes III Julie 462

James Hughes 352

Mary Martha Winston Nancy

Monica Mailda Bruce Edgar

Clarence 409 David 178 Patricia 158 Francine 454

- A maternal first cousin is Amanda's father?

40

Tip

Think of your biological heritage in terms of "halves," "quadrants," "eighths," etc.

41

Top Twelve Matches

Match Type	Shared DNA	Segments
Parent/Child	5,400 cM	across 23 segments
Close Family	3,202 cM	across 60 segments
Close Family-1st Cousin	1,649 cM	across 34 segments
1st Cousin	1,508 cM	across 44 segments
1st-2nd Cousin	1,000 cM	across 39 segments
1st-2nd Cousin	892 cM	across 42 segments
1st-2nd Cousin	832 cM	across 46 segments
1st-2nd Cousin	689 cM	across 18 segments
2nd Cousin	462 cM	across 23 segments
1st-2nd Cousin	454 cM	across 28 segments
1st-2nd Cousin	454 cM	across 28 segments

42

Look for people not related to your other matches

- Group A – 6 maternal first cousins
- Group B – all paternal “first” or second cousins
- Group C – Katie?

43

What can 889cm be?

Half Great-Aunt/Uncle 432 125 – 765	Grandparent 1766 1156 – 2311					Great Aunt/Uncle 914 251 – 2108
	Half Aunt/Uncle 891 500 – 1446	Parent 3487 3330 – 3720			Aunt/Uncle 1750 1349 – 2175	
Half 2c 117 9 – 397	Half 1C 457 137 – 856	Half-Sibling 1783 1317 – 2312	Sibling 2629 2209 – 3384	SELF	1C 874 553 – 1225	2c 233 46 – 515
Half 2c1R 73 0 – 341	Half 1C1R 226 57 – 530	Half Niece/Nephew 891 500 – 1446	Niece/Nephew 1750 1349 – 2175	Child 3487 3330 – 3720	1C1R 439 141 – 851	2c1R 123 0 – 316
Half 2c2R 61 0 – 353	Half 1C2R 145 37 – 360	Half Great Niece/Nephew 432 125 – 765	Great Niece/Nephew 910 251 – 2108	Grandchild 1766 1156 – 2311	1C2R 229 43 – 531	2c2R 74 0 – 261
Half 2c3R	Half 1C3R 87 0 – 191	Half GG Niece/Nephew 187 12 – 383	Great-Great Niece/Nephew 427 191 – 885	Great-Grandchild 881 464 – 1486	1C3R 123 0 – 283	2c3R 57 0 – 139

44

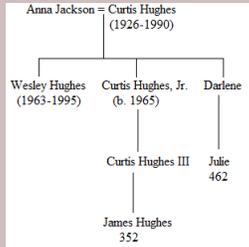
Comparing Ethnicities

- Katie is 41% west African, 59% European
- Amanda has no west African DNA, and neither do any of her other close matches

45

Julie's number and Katie's match

- Julie was too low to be a match at the first cousin level
- Julie and Katie both have to be paternal matches (and close ones), but they are not related to one another



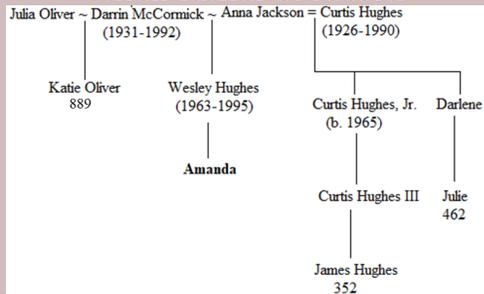
46

Tip

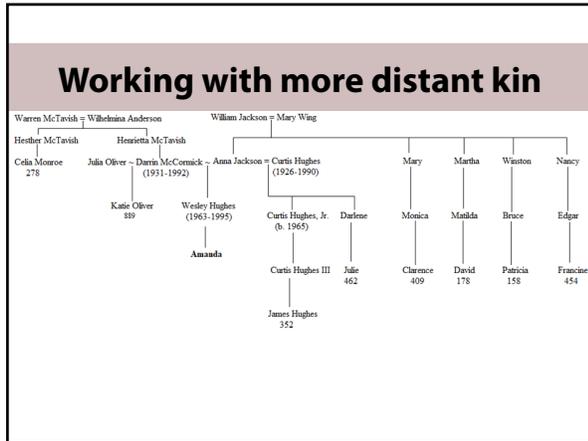
Always consider the "half" kinship

47

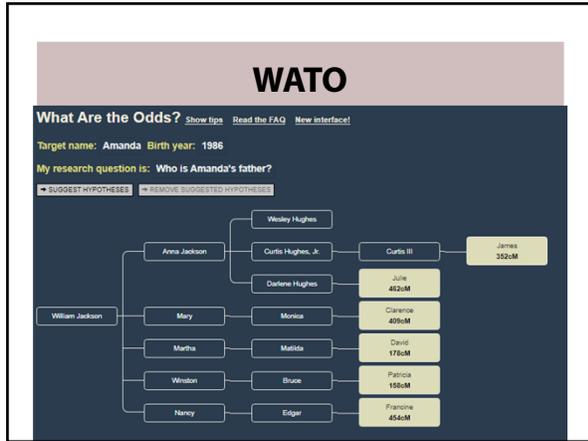
Consider a person not the child of their father of record



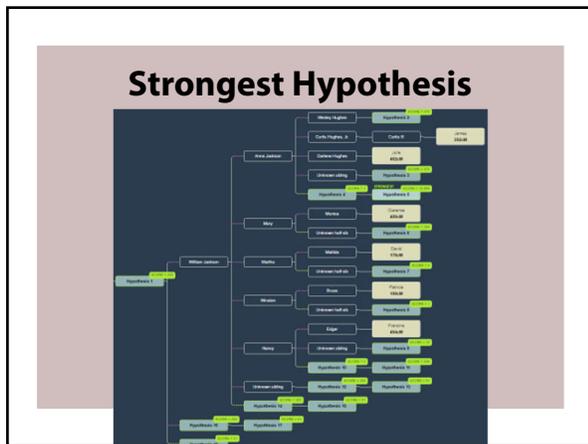
48



49



50



51

Tip

You may find other close matches also looking for answers

52

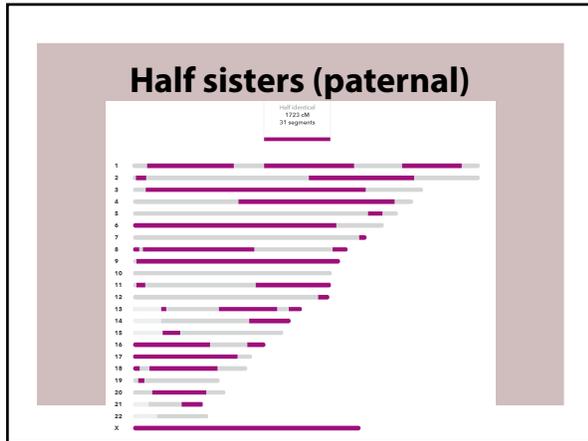
Using Y, mt, and X with autosomal half-siblings

- Paternal half-sisters share a perfect X Chromosome half and have a different mtDNA
- Paternal half-brothers share a perfect Y Chromosome and have a different mtDNA
- Paternal half-siblings of different sexes would share some x chromosome and have a different mtDNA
- Maternal half-sisters share some x chromosome and have the same mtDNA
- Maternal half-brothers share some x chromosome and have the same mtDNA
- Maternal half-siblings of different sexes would share some x chromosome and have the same mtDNA

53

Going back to the X-Chromosome

54



55

John, Samantha, and Laura

- All raised by parents in different states from one another
- All born in New York City in the 1970s
- They learn from their parents that they were all conceived via artificial insemination. John, Samantha, and Laura all share the same biological father.

56

Finding the biological father

- Testing with Ancestry, 23andme
- Uploading onto GEDmatch, FamilyTreeDNA, MyHeritage
- John taking a Y-DNA test

57

Tip

Increased generations
=
Decreased "certainty"

58

Going Through the shared Matches

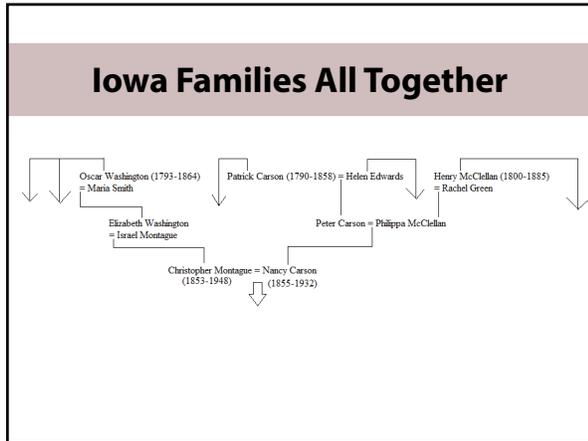
- Closest common matches are predicted to be third cousins
- Sorting out shared matches who match to other shared matches and those that don't
- Three regional areas: Iowa, Manitoba, Belgium

59

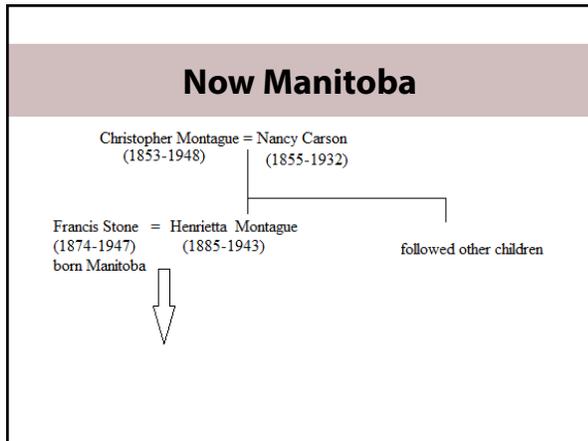
Putting the Families Together

- Matching a common Washington family several of the Iowa matches
- Matching a common McClellan family (recently from Ireland) also in Iowa, that does not match the Washingtons
- Finding a way the Washington and McClellan family link!

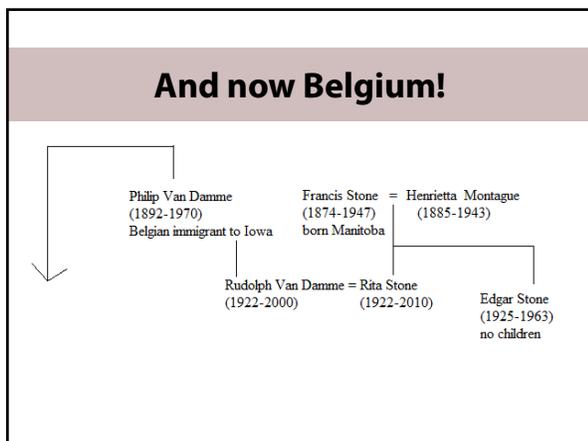
60



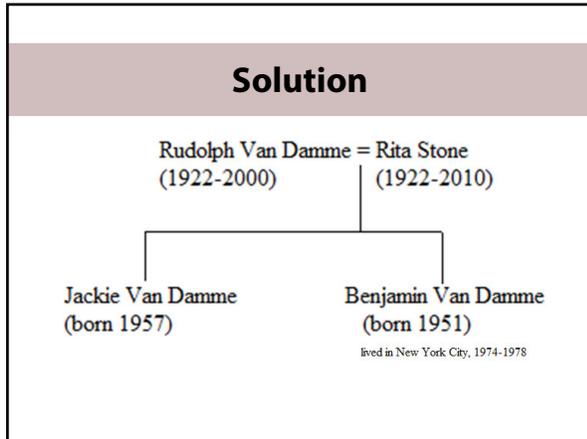
61



62



63



64

Tip

Not every genetic relative is inclined toward a reunion

65

Reaching out to matches

- See if they are “active” on their account; if they are inactive, can you contact them another way?
- A match may be in touch with a biological parent; reaching out to the match may help or hinder your prospects of communicating with a biological parent
- Provide enough needed information and be specific on how they can help you
- There is no “one size fits all” response

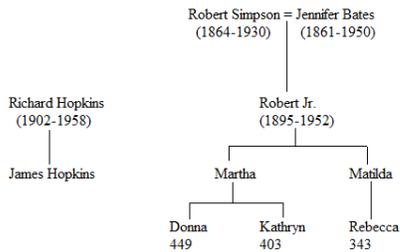
66

Son of an adopted "foundling"

- James's father Richard was found in front of a police station in Boston in January 1902
- Richard dies in 1958
- No paper clues on biological heritage
- Richard's only son James take a DNA test with Ancestry

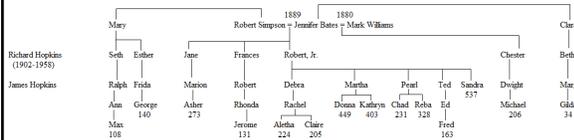
67

Simpson family of Framingham, MA

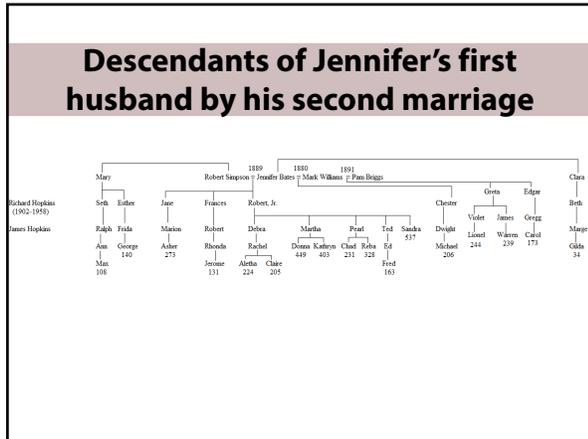


68

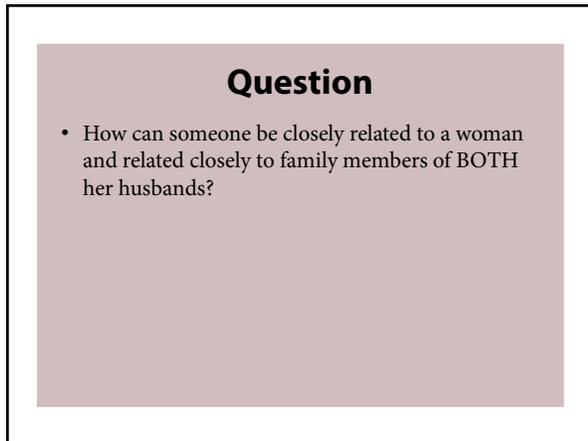
Charting out the matches further



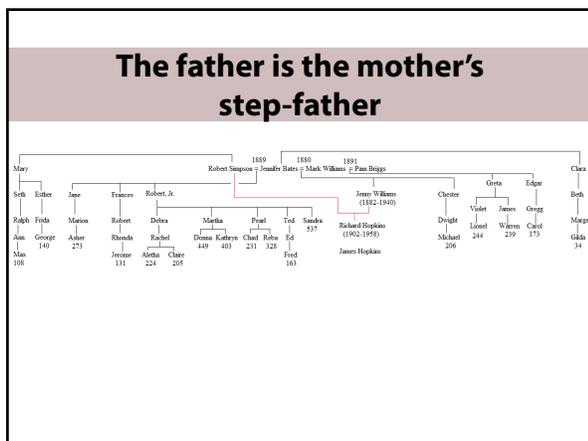
69



70



71



72

Tip
 Do not assume to know the will of the genetic and natural parents and expect unusual circumstances

73

QUESTIONS?

74

Solving an adoption from 1914

- Jeff's grandmother was born in Kansas in 1914
- Adoption records identify mother, no father listed
- Grandmother deceased, but her son is still living
- Son takes test from Ancestry



75

Identifying the matches

The screenshot shows a list of DNA matches under the heading "My Cousin". Each match entry includes a profile picture, a star icon, a name, a relationship suggestion, a confidence level, and a "View Match" button. The matches listed are:

- Michael Ford**: Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins, Confidence: Extremely High, Last logged in: Jul 28, 2019, +2 family tree.
- Annabelle Harris**: Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins, Confidence: Extremely High, Last logged in: Dec 21, 2017, +481 people.
- Patricia**: Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins, Confidence: Extremely High, Last logged in: Mar 18, 2019, No family tree.
- Richard**: Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins, Confidence: Extremely High, Last logged in: 1 day ago, +2 454 people.
- Deborah**: Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins, Confidence: Extremely High, Last logged in: Mar 30, 2019, +21 people.
- Jason Mitchell**: Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins, Confidence: Extremely High, Last logged in: Jul 8, 2019, +21,479 people.

76

Group One – The Youngs (2)

The screenshot shows a list of DNA matches under the heading "Group One – The Youngs (2)". The matches listed are:

- Patricia**: Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins, Confidence: Extremely High, Last logged in: Mar 18, 2019, No family tree.
- Deborah**: Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins, Confidence: Extremely High, Last logged in: Mar 30, 2019, +21 people.

77

Group Two – The Records (1)

The screenshot shows a list of DNA matches under the heading "Group Two – The Records (1)". The match listed is:

- Richard**: Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins, Confidence: Extremely High, Last logged in: 3 days ago, +2 454 people.

78

Group 3 – The Unknowns

2ND COUSIN

- 
Managed by **Michael Ford**
No family tree
[View Match](#)

Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins
Confidence: Extremely High
Last logged in Jul 26, 2018
- 
Managed by **Annabelle Harris**
481 people
[View Match](#)

Possible range: 2nd - 2nd cousins
Confidence: Extremely High
Last logged in Dec 31, 2017
- 
Managed by **Jason Mitchell**
7,629 people
[View Match](#)

Possible range: 2nd - 2nd cousins
Confidence: Extremely High
Last logged in Jul 6, 2018

79

Highest Match – no linked tree, but reasonable identifiers

M.F.
Managed by **Deborah Ford**
Member since 2017, last logged in Jul 26, 2018

Predicted relationship: 2nd Cousins
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins | [What does this mean?](#)
Confidence: Extremely High

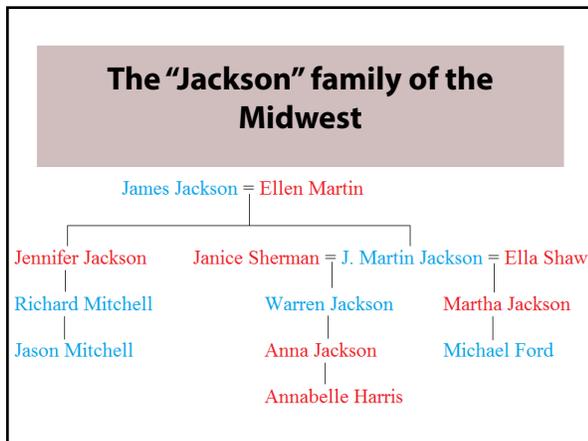
Ethnicity
Regions: Great Britain, Europe West, Scandinavia
Tribe Regions: Europe South, Iberian Peninsula, European Ancestry, Asia East, Ireland/Scotland/Wales

Amount of Shared DNA
2nd cousins (shared across 17 DNA segments)

Deborah Ford
In the meantime, you can review any public family trees that this member has posted on Ancestry. And keep in mind, the "Home Person" specified for each public tree may or may not be the same person that your DNA test has matched you with—something to remember as you are investigating. Good luck!

Select a tree to preview:
 Family Tree
 Family Tree

80



81

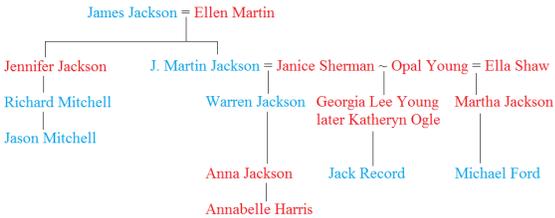
J. Martin Jackson

- From a state bordering Kansas, hundreds of miles away
- Father died young, had one full sister, and three younger half brothers (too young to father children)
- Divorced, lived in El Dorado, KS from 1911 to 1918 where he met his second wife in 1917 and returned to his home state by 1920



82

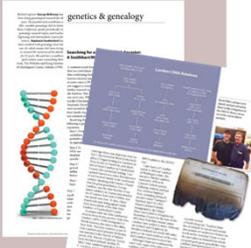
“clean” conclusion



83

More Case Studies!

- American Ancestors Magazine
- Vita Brevis blog
- The Genetic Genealogist
- Your Genetic Genealogist



84

Review

1. DNA testing makes the most sense if you or a parent is adopted or you have an unknown parent or grandparent and the likely ancestry is within the United States
2. Generations further back and in other geographical areas are not impossible, but may require more patience

85

Review

1. Get your most senior generation to test
2. Test known parts of the family to rule matches out (if a second-generation adoption or more)
3. Try to have results in all DNA databases
4. Go through shared matches and sort possible ancestral couples
5. Patience, patience, patience

86

Final Thoughts

- Likelihood of finding biological family in the United States is much greater today based on the number tested participants
- Some people only learn they are adopted or have a misattributed parentage from these tests
- Finding a relative you knew that was given up for adoption can be more challenging

87



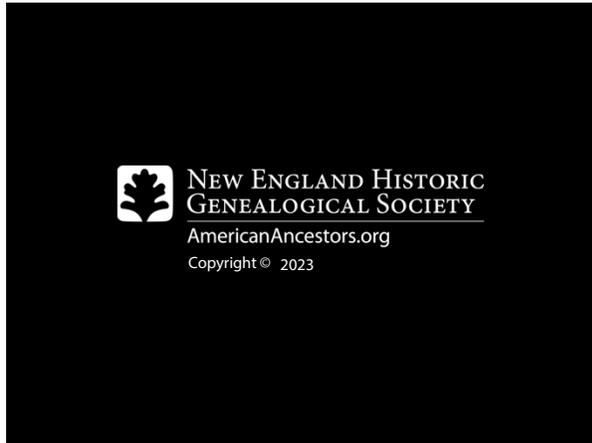
88



89



90



91