

Colonial Origins and DNA

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Please contact me! I'd be happy to talk with you.

Recommended Reading

Bettinger, Blaine T. *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*. Family Tree Books, 2019.

Bettinger, Blaine T., and Debbie Parker Wayne. *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*. Arlington: National Genealogical Society, 2016.

More Tips:

Breaking down brick walls is one part science and one part mysticism. Here are some tips that have worked for me when DNA wasn't enough:

- Talk with everyone who might know something. I can't tell you how many times I've worked on an unknown parentage case, solved it, and then found out that the only person in the entire family, church, or town who didn't know was the person and their younger siblings. Whatever the mystery is that you have, somebody knows something.
- Start over again.
- Reach out to other people who may be researching the same person.
- Go back and look at the records again, even if you've looked at them for decades. Keep your mind open to the possibility that your ancestor might have gotten married for a third time at 72 years old.
- Get off the internet and go to the library/local history center (or find someone to do it for you). Read old maps, letters, newspapers, letters, journal entries, city directories, gazetteers, tax rolls, and school files.
- Go there. Walk around in the neighborhood where your people lived. Sit in the cemetery. Go to your ancestor's church, school, place of work, fraternal order, etc.
- Befriend the church historian. They know everything about the people who have been part of the church, and if they don't know it off-hand, they can look it up.
- If you're lucky enough be from a small town, talk to the local funeral home. I've heard more candid stories about long-deceased people from small-town funeral directors - they know the REAL family drama.
- Find out about the person's neighbors, social groups, church, and school. Look for information about their in-laws. Once, I found an answer to a big question about my ancestor in his son-in-law's Gazetteer article.
- Notate everything. There's nothing worse than reading something, thinking it's inconsequential, putting it aside, and then not being able to find it when you need it.
- Google every combination of keywords that you can think of.
- Set everything aside and start over again.

Do you have mystery matches? Use the attached worksheet to help you solve their mystery.

Match Identification Sheet



DNAngels is a nonprofit whose mission is to identify birth parents at no cost to the person seeking. We also offer paid services to find a grandparent or great-grandparent, break down a brick wall, build trees, or write reports.

Estimated Relationship:

Shared cM :

AncestryDNA
23 & Me
MyHeritage
FTDNA

Screen Name:

Screen Name Fragment Possibilities:

Photo

Reverse Image Search

Clues in Photo

Employer:

Hobbies:

Interest Groups:

Places/Location:

MRCA Group:

Contact Information:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Initials:

First Name:

Alias/Nickname:

Former Surname:

Current Surname:

Spouse Name:

Age:

Birth Date:

Birth Place:

Father's Name:

Birth Date:

Birth Place:

Death Date:

Death Place:

Mother's Name:

Birth Date:

Birth Place:

Death Date:

Death Place:

Grandfather Info:

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Grandmother Info:

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Grandfather Info:

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Grandmother Info:

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Notes: