



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-37

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<http://torontofhc.blogspot.ca/>

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- **The Forum** – One new question, suggestions for one question
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### What's New

**FamilySearch** has updated or added to the following collections:

- Nicaragua Civil Registration 1809-2013 – (Nearly one million indexed records)
- Brazil Sao Paulo Immigration Cards 1902-1980 – (2.6 million indexed records)
- Missouri County Marriage, Naturalization & Court Records 1800-1991 – (500,000 records)
- Germany, Prussia, Brandenburg & Posen Church Book duplicates 1794-1874 – Updated (Nearly two million records)
- Spain, Province of Barcelona Municipal Records 1387-1986 – (900,000 records)
- France Dordogne Census 1876 – (500,000 records)

**Ancestry's** updates or additions include:

- Many new collections of German records
  - o Some birth, marriage & death records for Berlin, Worms, Hamburg, Speyer, Ludwigshafen, Mainz, Rostock, etc. – New (Millions of records)
  - o German Phone Directories for Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Leipzig & Munich 1915-1981 – New (two million records)
  - o East Frisia (sic), Germany Fire insurance Registration 1768-1937 – New (700,000 records)
  - o Germany & Austria Directories of Military & Marine Officers 1600-1918 – New (Nearly 6 million records)
- Romania Vital Records 1607-1914 – Updated (1.7 million records)
- Minnesota Willi & Probate 1801-1925 – New (700,000 records)
- Delaware Land Records 1677-1947 – New (Two million records)
- New Jersey Wills & Probate 1785-1924 – New (386,000 records)
- Australian records
  - o Western Australia Public Service Lists 1871-1905 – New (44,000 records)
  - o Victoria Rate Books 1855-1963 – New (Nearly 4 million records)
  - o Camberwell & Waverley Rate Books 1857-1927 – New (Nearly 300,000 records)

**FindMyPast** has added the following datasets

- New York State – Baptisms 1661-1862, Marriages 1639-1900, Deaths & Burials 1758-1862 (a small number of New York State records)
- Dulwich College, London Register 1619-1926 – New (18,000 records of boys attending the College)
- Lansing College, Sussex Register 1901-1954 - New
- Eton College Register 1441-1698 – New (4,000 records of names of Old Etonians, birth year, father's name)

See [FindMyPast Record Sets](#) for the complete description of the new records.

[ScotlandsPeople](#) has added the Valuation Rolls for 1855. Valuation rolls attempt to give information on almost all buildings and other properties in a particular place, including those which do not appear on census records (because no one was living there). Over one million indexed names and addresses for every owner, tenant and occupier of property in Scotland in 1855 are now available to search for FREE until 13 October 2015. After that an index search will cost 1 credit per page of 25 results. Images can be viewed for 2 credits per page. Valuation rolls are now available from 1855 to 1925 in more or less ten year increments.

#### **The Forum:**

##### **Questions.**

##### **Q2015/37/01. Coroner's Reports – England**

I recently received the death certificate of my gg-grandfather. He died on February 3, 1838 of **poison**. He was 61 years old and was a schoolmaster at Solihull Grammar School, a well-known school established in the 1500s. The informant is a coroner, John Welchman, of Wheatley and the death was registered on February 5<sup>th</sup>. I have searched for any coroner's inquests being reported in local newspapers and found no reports, although a couple of papers report my gg-grandfather's death. I would have thought that a schoolmaster's death by poison was newsworthy but perhaps it is possible that the school hushed up the death, as it might create a scandal. It is also surprising that the coroner came from another county and a town more than 60 miles away. Does anyone have suggestions where I might find the coroner's report?

##### **Suggestions.**

##### **Q2015/35/01. Middle Names.**

Steve Low sent in the following suggestion for the Bulletin reader wondering what "Pudor" as a middle name meant. "The name Pudor is indeed puzzling, for the Latin word can be both positive and negative. I quote the positive from the Oxford Latin Dictionary, Glare et al.:

"Pudor ... consciousness of what is seemly, sense of propriety or restraint, decency, scrupulousness; regard for the decencies in sexual behaviour, dress, language, demeanour; etc, modesty; chastity; shyness, reserve; one's honour, self-respect"

Unfortunately, the word often refers to a person's awareness of having breached that propriety, etc., and of other people's attitude towards that breach, both rather like our word shame. I hope that it was simply someone's attempt to render the name Chastity (Latin castitas) in a different way, rather like Honour, or Virtue.

#### **Were You Aware...**

##### **DNA Testing – Do It!**

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Roberta Estes in her blog [DNAExplained – Genetic Genealogy](#) writes [Genetic Genealogy Comes of Age](#). She says that the evidence of this is that genetic genealogists were well represented in the winner's circle of John Reid's Rockstar Genealogists on his blog, [Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections](#). In fact the Superstar Rockstar in three categories (International, USA, & Genetic Genealogy) was CeCe Moore, a full time professional genetic genealogist working on the TV program, *Finding Your Roots*. Roberta writes that of the more than 2,000 people who voted in John Reid's poll this year, 57% of them listed themselves as genetic genealogists. Roberta goes on to quote Judy Russell from her article, [DNA: Coming on strong](#), as saying, DNA testing "is part and parcel of what **every** genealogist should be doing".

#### **What Tests are There? Where to Test?**

There are three types of test: Y-DNA is for those with a Y-chromosome (males only), and traces back on one's direct paternal line (your father's father's father's, etc. line); mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA) traces back on one's mother's mother's mother's etc. line; and autosomal DNA looks at the 22 other chromosomes and the x-chromosome and the unique mixture of genes that you have received from all your ancestors.

**MtDNA** is not terribly useful for genealogical results because mitochondrial DNA changes very slowly and surnames change with each generation. This test is not generally recommended for genealogists looking for connections to cousins. FamilyTreeDNA ([FTDNA](#)) offers the full mtDNA test for \$199USD.

**Y-DNA** tests (males only) are useful if you wish to track your surname back, or perhaps find your male line if it is unclear, as for an adoptee. One can test at different levels and the cost increases as more Y-markers are tested. [FamilyTreeDNA](#) has the largest database of Y-DNA tests and they also have many Surname Projects that may help find cousins, possibly quite distant, on the male line. Y-DNA tests at FamilyTreeDNA are \$169USD for 37 markers, \$268USD for 67 markers, and \$359USD for 111 markers.

**Autosomal DNA** tests are designed to find relatives on **all** your ancestral lines within the last five generations. **This is the test all genealogists should take.** [AncestryDNA](#) is an autosomal DNA test offered by Ancestry; in Canada it costs \$149CDN, although the same test is in the US \$99 and in the UK £99. [FamilyTreeDNA](#)'s autosomal test is called Family Finder and costs \$99USD. 23andme offers an autosomal test with health testing (in Canada but not in the US) for \$199CDN. I am uncomfortable with health testing.

### How is the DNA Collected?

For FamilyTreeDNA, you send in two samples of cheek scrapings, done well after consuming food or drink and on two successive days. The cheeks are scraped with a flat hard paper brush for about one minute – you are not required to draw blood! If you do one FTDNA test (like the autosomal test) and then wish to do a Y-DNA test later, FTDNA keeps the samples on file and you do not need to do another cheek scraping. Ancestry DNA tests require one to spit into a small test tube using a funnel. The 98-year-old father of my third cousin had a hard time getting a good spit sample and my third cousin read that it may have been because he wears false teeth; but the third attempt was successful.

### Choosing a Company for your Autosomal Test

AncestryDNA matches your DNA with the over one million kits they have in their database, and produces a list of matches with a range of relationship (eg. *Possible range: 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> cousin*) and their confidence level (eg. *Extremely high*), as well as when the kit administrator last logged in. I have 15 matches before I hit the “possible” range of 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> cousin; I doubt that I will be able to match anyone beyond the range of 5<sup>th</sup> cousin, so those others on my list are labelled as “improbable” by me. AncestryDNA allows you to contact matches only through their system; for those matches who do not log in after your enquiry you will not be able to make contact. AncestryDNA will give you hints to matches based on connections on your Ancestry family tree with those of your matches. I have no Ancestry tree and so no hints. Ancestry has only started offering DNA testing outside the US in the last year and a large majority of the kits, so far, are from people living in the States. Hopefully this will change.

FamilyTreeDNA's **Family Finder** test matches your DNA with all the autosomal kits they have (the number is not readily available but is less than Ancestry's). I far prefer the way FTDNA presents the results; you can contact matches directly through their email address. I will now make those who know me smile – I feel that I have more control over my FTDNA results and I like control. With Ancestry I feel like they want to spoon-feed me the information they think I want. I like seeing my matches and any trees and ancestral names they may have entered. I like seeing the matches to me on the chromosome browser and being able to change the level of matching in centiMorgans. It is also useful to be able to download excel spreadsheets of the matches.

These autosomal tests will give you your ethnic makeup, called *MyOrigins* on FTDNA and *Ethnicity Estimate* on AncestryDNA. I think that the *MyOrigins* results are a bit more sophisticated but both companies will probably improve those estimates as time passes. One third cousin who can only find ancestors in England and Ireland was taken aback to find that her ethnicity was Western European and Scandinavian, with a small part British. Were her ancestors Vikings and Normans? These ethnic estimates for the distribution of our ancestors are further back in time than most of us can trace our families.

### Cost/Benefits

If you can only afford one autosomal DNA test, FTDNA's Family Finder is probably the best at \$99USD. If you have an extensive tree on Ancestry or cousins who have tested there, you may be better off doing the AncestryDNA test. The best is to test with both companies: the cheapest way to do this is to test with AncestryDNA and then download your raw data and upload it to FTDNA; they will do a complete analysis of the data for a mere \$39USD. So for about \$200CDN you will have tested at both companies. Once you upload your data to FTDNA they say it will take a couple of days for the results to appear; the results for my third cousin once removed were analyzed in just a few hours.

Linda Reid would probably beg to differ about testing on Ancestry and then uploading to FTDNA; she would say spend the money to test another person. Of course, she is correct. You will find it much more useful (and fun) if you can test others – particularly parents, aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins, etc. Expect and offer to pay for these tests unless your relative is also a family historian. With FTDNA (but not AncestryDNA), you can select both yourself and a relative and see who matches both you and that relative (Matches in Common With). This will help you narrow down which line the matches are on. When I look at matches in common with my third cousins and me, I know that those matches are connected to our common great great grandparents, eliminating lines connected with the other 14 great great grandparents.

But the biggest bargain is GEDmatch. GEDmatch is FREE! But you must do one of the above autosomal tests first. Once you have your autosomal results from any of the three services you can download the raw data and then upload it to

GEDmatch. This will further increase your chances of finding a cousin. GEDmatch has lots of utilities to help you, but you will need to spend time working on this. They also have various fun, but not particularly useful, tests for ethnic background. I am apparently a hunter/gatherer.

Watch for sales! FamilyTreeDNA offers specials several times a year. They usually drop the price of the Family Finder Test by about \$10, and more for the Y-DNA tests. Perhaps the next sale will be Thanksgiving or Christmas, traditionally times families get together.

### **You Are Waiting for your Results; What Should You be Doing?**

Reading! Trying to understand a little bit about DNA. A good place to start is the International Society of Genetic Genealogists Wiki, [ISOGG WIKI](#) or the [Autosomal WIKI page](#). Read blogs (more about this in another Bulletin). It usually takes six to eight weeks for the lab results to arrive; you have lots of time to acquire a bit more knowledge about DNA testing, which will help you when the results come in. Create a family tree and ancestral names on FTDNA. You are much more likely to be contacted by a potential cousin if they can see a tree with a name or locality they recognize. [I have not contacted any matches whose entire family tree is in Virginia or North Carolina, going back to 1600.]

### **Interpreting Your Results**

Go back to the ISOGG wiki page and do more reading. Talk to others who have done DNA testing. Linda Reid in the Toronto FHC is happy to help people interpret their results and decide where to go next. Re-examine your family tree to see if you can find connections to the closest matches on your results page. Go to genetic genealogy lectures and workshops. Then think about contacting your new relatives, who have surnames or places that you recognize, and match you at a level higher than 5<sup>th</sup> cousin..

### **Take a DNA test! Do this for me. You might be my cousin!**

Toronto Family History Centre Current Opening Hours:

**(Always phone us if you do not have a booking to ensure that we are open.)**

Tuesday 9:30 am to 2 pm (Linda)

Wednesday 9:30 am to 3:45 pm (Ann, Joe am, Helen & Leslie pm); 6:30pm to 9:30pm (Helen)

Thursday 9:30am to noon (Don & Roberta); 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm (Don & Roberta)

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> of each month, 10am to 1pm (Grace & Charlene) For Chinese research

**For a copy of a searchable listing of all films, fiche, CDs and books held at the Toronto Family History Centre in pdf format, click [here](#).**

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