

Hi DiNAs and welcome to the latest in a series of weekly blogs about things DNA while we are in lockdown.

Decimal Points on AncestryDNA

So that we can correctly identify those low cM matches, AncestryDNA has started including decimal points. Instead of rounding up or down – a 7.8cM used to become 8cM whilst 7.3cM was shown as a 7cM match – Ancestry will now identify the matches more fully. If we had ignored “dotting” all of our 8cM matches because we had thought that they wouldn’t be touched in the purge, we would have lost all of those matches that had been rounded up.

Unfortunately Ancestry still won’t let us search on the decimal point. As can be seen in this pic, if I try to enter 7.9 into the search requirements, I end up with 79cM – not what I want. In essence, it’s back to the hard match by match slog. I still need to search up to the 8cM range and then ignore all of

my true 8cM matches.

Further reading and information

Blogs: DNAExplained – Genetic Genealogy: Roberta Estes – [Ancestry to Remove DNA Matches Soon – Preservation Strategies with Detailed Instructions](#)
 Contagious Genealogy: A Pandemic: Kira D. Foltz - [Take Action Before AncestryDNA’s Changes in August 2020!](#)
 The Genetic Genealogist: Blaine Bettinger – [Losing Distant Matches at AncestryDNA](#)

More About Geneanet

Last week I signed up to Geneanet and uploaded my AncestryDNA. A few days later, I

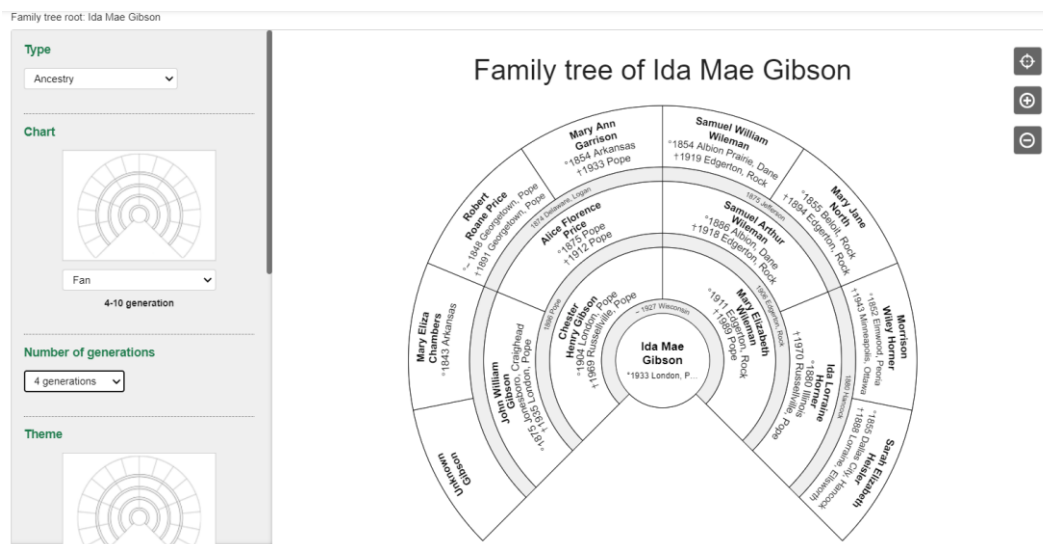
Accuracy	Individual	Relationship	Shared DNA
5 results			Sort: Relationship range ▼
●		✖ Distant relationship	0.19 % ⓘ 14 cM
●		✖ Distant relationship	0.19 % ⓘ 14 cM
●	view their family tree	✖ Distant relationship	0.18 % ⓘ 13.2 cM
●		✖ Distant relationship	0.17 % ⓘ 12.8 cM
●		✖ Distant relationship	0.17 % ⓘ 12.7 cM

received 5 small matches ranging from 14-12.7cM. Only one of these matches has a family tree. I’m not going to complain about the lack of family trees because I have not yet uploaded one myself.

I did have a look at the one with the tree but, although large, it was one of those that had yet to go back far enough get out of the USA. What I did find disconcerting was that it showed the names of living relatives but without any details such as birth dates and places.

I would suggest that if you are going to upload a GEDCOM tree to this site, then leaving out any living relatives would be my option.

It does give a number of options for the shape of the tree and the ability to download as a PDF file. You can choose the person (root) that you wish to start the tree from and also the number of generations – up to 10.



Further reading and information

Blogs: [Advertising medium](#) from Geneanet

Living DNA

On a similar note to Geneanet, a DNA site called [Living DNA](#) previewed at New Scientist Live, London in 2016. Started originally as a health service, in 2018 it began its first DNA matching service forming a partnership with the genealogy database FindmyPast. Like Geneanet, Living DNA invites those of us who have previously taken a DNA test to upload the raw data to their database. The benefits are that many of those that test and upload will be from the UK and Europe. The downside is that their database is quite small – according to Marc McDermott's July 2020 article [Best DNA Test Kits](#) written for the blogsite *Smarter hobby* their database size is "None" – but I am starting to get a few matches from them. The same article suggests that the site is the "Best ethnicity test for regions of the British Isles". Living DNA doesn't have a chromosome browser but on the upside it does offer low level Y and mitochondrial DNA haplogroups. By "low level" I mean the haplogroup shown is basic and not the in-depth levels that you would get from testing at FamilyTreeDNA.

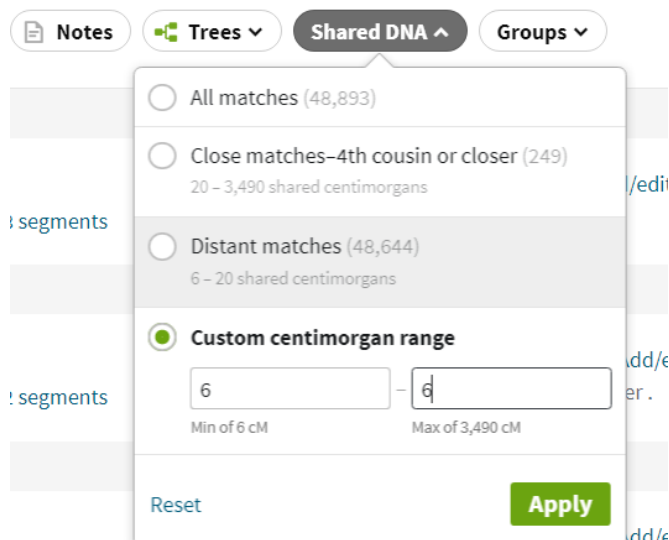
FamilyTreeDNA Sale

...and speaking of which, FTDNA is having a [summer sale](#) until the end of this month, which I've taken advantage of to upgrade my father-in-law's Y chromosome test to the Big Y 700.

Automated Dotting

Well it worked for me!! I've had a couple of goes at the automated – i.e. JavaScript – method of “dotting” my low cM matches. The first attempt worked (well almost) but I think I made a mistake in choosing which matches I wanted dotting and included a lot that were wrong. Why? Well what I initially did was this.

I pulled up a list of my AncestryDNA matches and went into the “Shared DNA” pulldown menu. I then entered the 6cM range in the “Custom centimorgan range” area, clicking on the “Apply” green button when I was ready.



I then decided that I wanted to “star” all these matches and choose those with a tree. Unfortunately, the first time around I must not have applied the correct search parameters as I managed to star all of my 6cM matches including those with no tree and trees that were private (locked). So back to the drawing board.

The second time I chose the 7cm range and ensured that all the correct parameters were met, inserted the JavaScript, hit Enter and away it went. For the 7cM range I decided against starring them and settled for an unique coloured dot that I called “Small cM Keepers”. I also decided to use Microsoft Edge as the web browser of choice instead of my usual Chrome.

Things went beautifully at first, dotting about 38 matches per minute – estimated as about 2,000 each hour. It started tagging the 7.9cM matches and crashed part way through tagging the 7.5 – at 867 matches. I eventually closed Edge and decided to continue by using Chrome. I copied and pasted the script again and off it went, looking for the first un-dotted match. I thought that I had crashed it again, but when I jiggled the mouse, it came back as a



full screen and went right through to the end of the 7cM – for a total of another 2,572 matches.

I'm not going to recount here the methodology for doing the auto tagging as others have already done the job.

Margaret O'Brien sent me a [link](#) to the JavaScript to download our small matches. She has also made a 10 minute video showing exactly how to use this script – see her link below.

Roberta Estes has written a [set of instructions](#) which I printed out and followed. In her blog (*August Hot News* shown below) she provides the same link as Margaret O'Brien to Roger Frøysaa's script.

Very happy, now to do the same for the other kits I manage. If you do try it, let the rest of us know how you got on.

Further reading and information

- Blogs: Roberta Estes – DNAExplained – Genetic Genealogy - [August Hot News: Ancestry Match Tagging Script, DNA Sales, DNAPainter Newsletter & More](#)
Part of Roberta Estes' blog: [Ancestry Autotagger Script Instructions](#)
- Video: This is the video that Margaret O'Brien made: [Using Roger Froysaa's method to preserve low matches](#)

DNA Support Group on Zoom

Pauline Every and I are putting together a virtual DNA Support Group get together for the end of this month using Zoom. At this stage we are looking at meeting on Monday 24th August between the usual hours of 1 to 3pm. I will email you all with the Zoom details a few days before.

If you are somewhat daunted by the thought of using virtual meeting software, Brian Panisset has kindly offered to run a Zoom support group for our FHS members on how to use it. To attend, simply send an email request to our [Secretary, Jennifer Mullin](#).

Y-DNA Zoom talk

And talking of Zoom, a couple of us are making arrangements with a speaker to present a Zoom talk about the benefits of using Y chromosome testing. We are tentatively looking at an evening in September for an hour. Stay tuned.

Members' Tips & Tricks



This is an area for you to tell us something that you have discovered – a tip, a hint, a suggestion, some advice or recommendation that has helped you and that you would like to pass on to our members. Email your MT²s to [me](#).