

Hello there DiNAs,

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April, our DNA Support group meeting was broadcast using Zoom. Below is an outline of the topics we covered.

### *Last Meeting's Topics*

- Our Facebook Page;
- Matches with Small Trees;
- mtDNA ethnicity;
- Ancestry's Coloured Dots;
- Next Meeting.

Our group has a closed [Facebook](#) page which can only be accessed by invitation. We find it the easiest way of offering items from the DNA world to each other. One of the great benefits is that anyone in the group can post articles of interest or ask and answer questions.

If you are on Facebook and wish to join us, then simply make a request on the [home page](#). It is a private place to ask questions as well as to read about the latest happenings in DNA genealogy.

This newsletter starts as usual by discussing items from our Facebook page and include some links you may find useful.

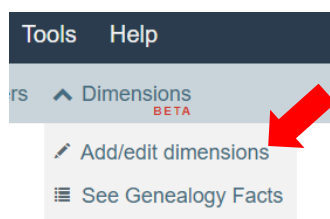
### *Our Facebook Page: From March 22<sup>nd</sup>*

- 🧬 It was the start of Family History Down Under and other webinars such as the 24-Hour Genealogy Marathon;

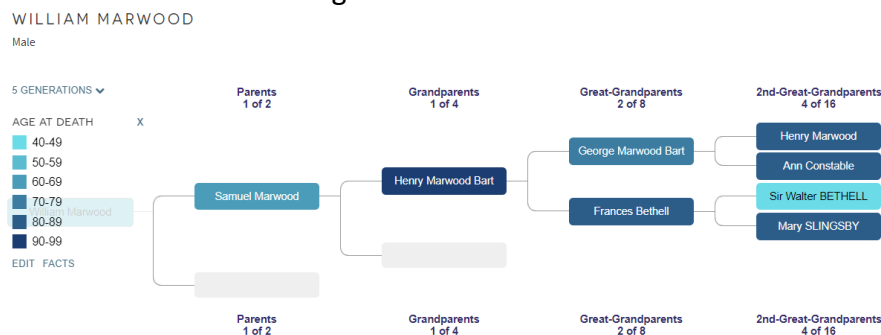
- 🧬 “We are in the midst of an ancient DNA revolution,” according to the article [A scientist on the great responsibility of using ancient DNA to rewrite human history](#).
- 🧬 There were plenty of DNA kit sales over the Easter period;
- 🧬 An article from the DNA Geek – Leah Larkin – called [Quick Tip: Color Code Your Matches—Fast!](#) Using the coloured circles provided by AncestryDNA.



- 🧬 Like reading genealogy crime mystery books? Try [Nathan Dylan Goodwin’s](#) offerings;
- 🧬 Researchers in Denmark have discovered an ancient piece of “chewing gum” still containing the full human genome of its chewer. Remarkably, that ancient gum was last chewed [5,700 years ago](#);
- 🧬 A blog from Jonny Perl titled: [DNA Painter Dimensions: a new way to showcase your ancestral line](#). Dimensions lets the user extract and visualise a direct family line in a tree, fan chart and text pedigree, all within one searchable page. Simply log on to DNA Painter and at the dashboard choose Ancestral Trees. If you have



made or uploaded a family tree you will be able to choose which one to view. Under the Dimensions tab, choose Add/edit dimensions. Then choose which Dimension data you require – age at death; birth century or country of birth and click on that particular “Build Dimension” button. For example Age at Death will show like this:



- 🧬 Other tools have been added to DNAPainter such as [“Common Segment Generator”](#) and may be discussed in a future DNA Support Group meeting.
- 🧬 And finally –



## Matches with Small Trees

This month I had a look at one of the banes of genealogical life: matches with small trees (ok, worse are those that have NO trees). What it really means is that we need to do the hard work and build up a tree for those matches we deem to be worthwhile.

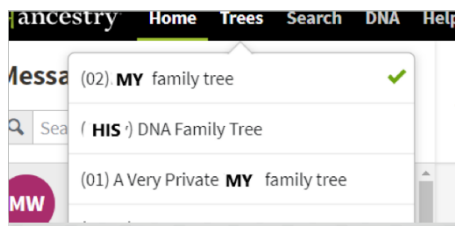


Figure 1 List of trees on Ancestry

To make things easier and stop the proliferation of family trees, I now like to download a copy my major tree on Ancestry as a GEDCOM file (myfamilytree.ged) and then upload it again, this time saving it as an unsearchable and private tree such as: **(01) A Very Private (your surname goes**

**here) family tree.** I have discovered that when I put brackets around the name or number, that puts the tree at the top of my tree list. Over the years I have built many unofficial trees and one of the tasks I have set myself is to consolidate them into a few private trees.

The reason I make the new tree unsearchable and private is that I am going to use it to make a Quick & Dirty (Q&D) tree and I don't want to mislead others into simply copying and pasting family members who might be unverified or simply conjecture. Q&D trees are all those things we have been implored not to do – copy names and details from other trees without necessarily doing any fact-checking. The idea is to try to find a surname or location that is known and then find the most common recent ancestor (MCRA) between you and your match. Once this is achieved, we can then verify the line and copy it over to our official Ancestry tree.

I gave this example at the last DNA meeting.

**alisonb** ancestry

4th – 6th Cousin

38 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Unlinked Tree

**Webb Family Tree** alisonb

George Arthur Webb

Private Living

Lila Edith Jays

Alison is shown as a 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> cousin match to me. As you can see (left), she has an unlinked tree on Ancestry with 3 people in it. Because this is a UK match, and Jays a reasonably unusual surname, I was able to find the

Surname	First name(s)	Spouse	District	Vol	Page
<b>Marriages Mar 1952 (&gt;99%)</b>					
Jays	Lila E	Webb	<a href="#">Luton</a>	4a	344
Webb	George A R	Jays	<a href="#">Luton</a>	4a	344

marriage of her parents on [FreeBMD](#). Webb was the surname of my paternal grandmother who was born in Gloucestershire and so I chose to look at this line to follow. George Webb was born in the adjoining county of Worcestershire. Using the Q&D method I was able to take Alison's tree back 5 generations to a Webb born in Gloucestershire but have yet to find a common ancestor. Checking with the Shared cM

Project suggests that the MRCA could be as far back as an 8<sup>th</sup> G grandparent – or it could be on a different line and surname completely. Lots more work to do on this one.

## mtDNA ethnicity

Mitochondrial DNA is often the poor cousin when compared to the number of matches received by autosomal DNA tests and the surname consistency of Y-DNA. One of the benefits of Y testing is that because males usually retain their surname, it may be possible to prove, or at least put into doubt, a paternal lineage. Not so, mtDNA. Changing names and slow mutation rates quite often mean that a match could be hundreds of years if not millennia in the past. But there are some things we are able to determine from our mitochondrial line and one is the location of our matches' ancestors. Along with names, locations can also help authenticate a DNA match. The only place to take a mtDNA test is at FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA). They also supply a number of tools to track the locations of our matches as well as a video showing the travels of our maternal line out of Africa. Unfortunately not everyone who takes the

Anna Kijek, 1616, Drawsko, Poland
Michael McCarty b. c1720 Cork, Ireland (d 1780 SC)
JOAN MACKAY
Sara E Williams, b. 1853 and d. 1927
Viljandimaa, Estonia

Figure 2 Providing the names, details and locations of our earliest maternal ancestor at FTDNA.

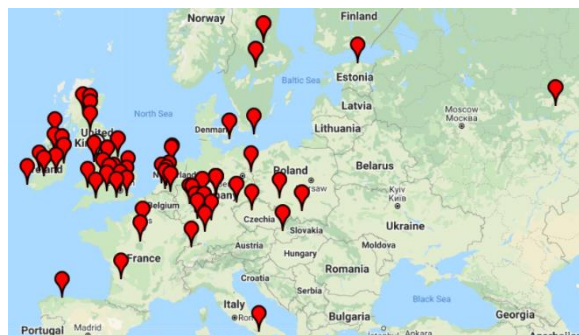


Figure 3 Some of my mtDNA matches' oldest ancestors spread out across Europe and beyond.

test bothers to add their most distant ancestor on their maternal line, but those of us that do offer a wonderful trail to follow.







Figure 4 Haplogroup H mutated in what is now Turkey and my matriarchal line moved into Europe and Scandinavia over a period of about 25,000 years.

## Further information about mtDNA:




From the pen of Roberta Estes:

-  [Four Quick Tips to Make Your Mitochondrial DNA Results More Useful](#)
-  [Search Techniques for Y and Mitochondrial DNA Test Candidates](#)
-  [Want Ancestor-Specific Ethnicity? Test Mitochondrial DNA](#)
-  ...and one that I found particularly interesting: [442 Ancient Viking Skeletons Hold DNA Surprises – Does Your Y or Mitochondrial DNA Match?](#)



...and yes it does!! My mtDNA haplogroup is H2a2a1 and it matches with 3 of the skeletons. Unfortunately, my Y-DNA does not! So, my gran was a Viking – that's gotta be worth a t-shirt!



-  Does it also show me as Irish? [Ancient Ireland's Y and Mitochondrial DNA – Do You Match???](#), well I certainly haven't been kissing the Blarney Stone, 'cos unfortunately no matches for me!










-  A video from Andy Lee: [What is Mitochondrial DNA? Should you take the mtDNA test?](#)
-  Another video, this time by Diahn Southard: [Understanding Mitochondrial DNA](#)

## *Ancestry's Coloured Dots*

Pauline Every gave a presentation and held a discussion about Ancestry's coloured dots.

Some links are:

-  Roberta again: [Using Ancestry's New Match Grouping Dots aka "MyMatchDots"](#);
-  From Ancestry: [Grouping and Filtering AncestryDNA® Matches](#);
-  Dana Leeds: [The Leeds Method with Ancestry.com's Colored Dots](#);
-  A video by Diahn Southard: [AncestryDNA's Dot System: An Introduction](#);
-  A Family History Fanatics video: [Color Code Ancestry DNA Matches Using Your Surname Table](#).

## *Looking for cheapest prices for Ancestry DNA kits?*

As you are aware, the major DNA testing companies regularly reduce their prices for certain events such as Christmas, Easter, St. Patricks Day or simply because it's Tuesday. It is worth joining the Facebook group [Using DNA for Genealogy - Australia & NZ](#) not only for its interesting DNA information but also to find the cheapest prices for DNA kits. The page is administered by the well-known Australian genetic genealogist Louise Coakley.



**Discounts  
DNA Tests &  
Subscriptions**

Under the banner of *Announcements* at the top of their page, is a graphic called "Discounts: DNA Tests & Subscriptions". Whenever the group becomes aware of any discount links, they will share them.

The regular price for an AncestryDNA kit in Australia is A\$129 + \$30 shipping. At the time of writing (18/5/21) the discount price shown on the site for an AncestryDNA kit is A\$85 + \$30 shipping (shipping includes a return-paid satchel). Looking for a bargain? It is certainly worth visiting this site regularly.

## *And Finally:*

Don't forget, if you find something of interest then let the rest of us know too, either by sending me an [email](#), bringing it up at the next meeting or posting it onto our [Facebook page](#). If you want us to discuss a particular DNA subject let me or Pauline know and we can chat about it at one of our future meetings.

**Next Meeting:** Pauline and Ken will be convening our next DNA Support meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May between 1030am – 1230pm via Zoom. Our usual Zoom Meeting ID is [REDACTED] and the Passcode is [REDACTED]

See you there and stay safe.