

Family History Happenings

LVFSL

March 2020

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Las Vegas FamilySearch Library
Hours: 9 – 5 M, F 9 – 8 T, W, Th 9 – 3 Sa



Directors' Message by Ken and Charlotte Openshaw

100 Billion

Demographers estimate that a total of approximately 100 Billion people have lived on the earth. It should not have been a surprise therefore that the FamilySearch programmers were told to make the worldwide tree large enough to hold 100 billion individuals. Was this hyperbole, unrealistic expectation a joke or a clear vision of the future? You decide.

Most of us have seen incredible changes in the world of genealogy. Just in our Library we replaced Microfilm and Microfiche with online computer search capability. We have access to the top 16 genealogy sites for free. Audio and Video files can be digitized along with slides, photographs and documents. In summary, we are able to research and record family records as never before.

The next leap forward appears to be the marrying of DNA identification to family trees. Currently in its infancy, the ability to link DNA matches to family trees provides an effective vehicle for overcoming road blocks in traditional research. As DNA databases grow, this ability will expand the strictly regional research focus we now have to one that is global. A global perspective is where worldwide gene pools can be linked by DNA matches to local family trees. [Come to the March Third Saturday Event, All Things DNA, an introduction to DNA and genealogy and learn more.]

There have been dramatic changes in our personal lives as well. Although we all feel the intensity of our busy lives, home devices and better employment provide more discretionary time for us than at any other point in the history of the earth. This time, coupled with the accessibility of education, means that the earth, unlike at any previous time, is now populated with more people who are both available and capable of taking advantage of these incredible breakthroughs in genealogy.

As always, what happens next, depends on us. What are we willing to do with this family history opportunity? Fortunately, we are not left alone. Temple and Family History Consultants in our ward, stake and here in the Library are happily available to work one-on-one with us. They will help us get started or keep the ball rolling. In addition to individual assistance, you can attend one of the Library's classes. They range from using certain software to research techniques. Help is easy and readily available. The more difficult decision is, "How much of our time are we willing to commit to regularly seeking out our ancestors?" Make the decision, even if it is only a few minutes a day, and you will be blessed in every aspect of your life.

Feb 26-29, 2020

RootTech 2020 — Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City Utah. Select Sessions will be available via live stream here at the Family Search Library
<http://rootstech.org><http://agenealogy.org>

Just a Reminder!

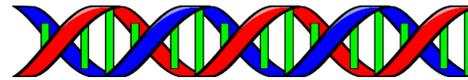
Third Saturday Events

On the Third Saturday of every month, the Library will feature a special Family History event focused on your needs and personal interests.

This month we will be featuring All Things DNA

Third Saturday at the FamilySearch Library

All Things DNA
Saturday, March 21
10:00 to 1:00



Special Guest Speakers from RootsTech and FamilySearch
Interactive DNA Activities
Three DNA Workshops to answer your questions about DNA Basics, Privacy, Testing, Matches & Thrulines.

Touching the Heart with your DNA Connection

Bob showed up as a DNA connection on my mother's line but his tree was skimpy. He knew his biological mother and her parents but longed to know more. His wife has spent years on genealogy research and contacted me because of the DNA match. We exchanged email addresses so I could send snips of family information which included showing Bob his maternal line going back to Scotland. Here's the response I got, which he titled **Being Scottish**.

"My dear Linda, I can't thank you enough for the info on the link back to Scotland. I wish I had known this years ago. I got married to a beautiful lass from Inverness Cape Breton Nova Scotia, Canada. I was 19. We met in Boston while I was in the Coast Guard. We went back to Iowa when I was discharged. But Cape Bretoners are like salmon who have to return home. So we loaded up the VW bus with three cats, a German Shepherd, and the three kids and set off for Inverness. Her family were Gaelic speakers and clanish as all get out. But after awhile they had me cussing in Gaelic, as well as the polite phrases too. My mother in law was delighted and always told my wife, "There's some Scottish in that boy." Little did we know.

Touching the Heart with your DNA Connection Cont..

I feel like I lived in Scotland after that. I enjoyed the Ceilidhs (Scottish social events with traditional music and dance) with her sister playing the pipes and the old timers speaking Gaelic. I was a journeyman millwright when I got there, but there was no call for that trade. So I did everything but work in the coal mines. I cut wood, gardened, was a commercial fisherman and attended agricultural college and became a certified herdsman. We lived on 15 acres just 1/8 of a mile from the beach. Got to watch the seals have their pups out on the ice and watch my border collies go out and play with them. It wasn't an easy life. Always wood to cut and hay to make, but I was never happier." In February, Lee Nishimoto gave a class on Scotland and when I related this story to her and another volunteer after class, Lee reminded us that Nova Scotia means *New Scotland*.

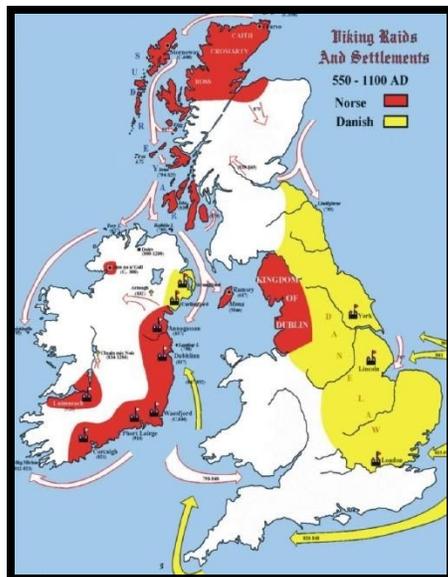
DNA by Lee Nishimoto

A number of people have come to me over the last few years wondering why their DNA results were not quite what we expected. One person had 9% Scandinavian, but all of her extensive genealogy charts only had English families. Another person could not understand why her DNA had not indicated any Native American when at least one of her early ancestors was listed in record as Cherokee.

History holds the answer in both cases. The settlement of the Scandinavians in British Isles is little noted in history today but was very extensive before the time of William the Conqueror. The Danes and the Norse not only raided England but liked the English climate and settled there in significant numbers.

In the second case, by the fifth or sixth generation from that native-American the DNA may be too minute for detection. In the late 1800s people on the Indian reservations were declared 100% native by the government, but in fact very,

very few were. Secondly, not all tribes have been recognized and included in the DNA research pool. Also, different DNA companies use different DNA pools from which to draw their results. DNA has opened new possibilities and a lot of interesting questions. Good Hunting.



LVFSL Training

March Classes—The LVFSL provides daily classes on essential Family History topics. The class schedule accompanies emailed newsletters and can be obtained at the LVFS Library or by downloading it from the FamilySearch website: <http://www.lvfamilysearchlibrary.org>

Groups—What is required to bring your group to the Library? Just a simple telephone call to the Library: 702-382-9695. You will be attended to by one of our friendly Consultants who will reserve a date and time and get you all set up for a wonderful experience. It's Easy. Just give it a try.

Tips – Tricks – What's New

Adding an Un-Connected Person to Family Tree!

Situation: Your friend died and you want to add him to FamilySearch FamilyTree.

Situation: You have found some records of persons with a probable relationship to you but not verified.

HOW to add an un-connected person/family.

Sign in to FamilySearch.

Click on *Family Tree*.

Click on *Tree*

Click on *Recents*.

Drop down box – Click on *Add Unconnected Person*.

Attach other known parents or spouse or child.

Remember the PID # for your future reference.

Why DNA? By Richard and Marilyn Haynes

A year ago, we couldn't even spell DNA. In 2019, Marilyn's family tree was miraculously impacted by this technology. For most of the nearly 80 years since Marilyn's paternal grandfather, William S. Wagner, died in 1940, we had searched for his parents. In all of his documents, he consistently gave his birthday and birthplace as 26 March 1879 or 1880, in Windsor CT. Years of searching for "Wagner" in books, by a personal family visit to CT, and in expanding online sources led to a few possibilities, all flawed failures. The common nature of both "William" and "Wagner" names muddied everything. The earliest document for him included his signature on a 1911 Arkansas marriage certificate, "William A. Sadd Wagner." It was the only time he ever signed with that name.

Early in 2019, the Wagner family chose to fast, collect some money, and hire a certified DNA research genealogist. The results were quick and sensational! Within a few weeks, DNA technology had shattered the 80 year brick wall. William S. Wagner was an assumed name, to hide his identity from family support issues in CT. His real name was Arthur Wells Sadd. He had left behind a first wife and two children, living with her parents in CT. Arthur also left behind any future obligations to them by changing his name. Marilyn's brother's DNA sample connected with a Sadd family member who put her DNA results into Ancestry's database just nine months earlier. That connection replaced a truncated pie chart for the "Wagner" line, with generations of Sadds back to British Colonial America.

Learning to spell DNA leads us to some awesome technology. The deoxyribonucleic acid molecule "looks like an architecturally implausible stairway to heaven....Scaled up to the width of a spiral staircase in a medieval turret...the DNA from the nucleus of a single cell would stretch for ...eight times the distance to the dark side of the moon." (Gareth Williams, *Unravelling the Double Helix*, 4-5). Wow!

DNA is today's technology for tomorrow's family history, a 100 billion person family tree (Elder Bednar, RootsTech, London 2019). Just a few of the possible benefits of DNA searches are: identifying unknown war dead; matching family trees with "lost" emigrants and immigrants; clarifying nativity origins for slave ancestry; documenting the undocumented; and breaking "brick walls" like our family example above. **Who knows what is yet to come!**