

Discovering My Paternal Family Using DNA Tools

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My DNA Research Journey

12 July 2012 – The results from my DNA test at FamilyTreeDNA (Family Finder autosomal) were available. I tested my uncle John and my two sisters, Brenda and Cindy. Cindy matched me with 1,791 shared Centimorgans (cMs), Brenda with 1,601 cMs, and my uncle with 1,776 cMs. I totally ignored the fact that Brenda and Cindy were identified as Half Sister, even though some of their matches closer than 3rd cousins didn't match me.

2 Apr 2016 – Ann Broadbent and I held their first meeting of the OBCGS DNA Working/Interest Group.

23 Sep 2017 – While preparing for the DNA Panel at the OBCGS Annual Workshop, it was pointed out to me that my match to my sisters was that of a half-sibling! That began my search for my paternal father and his family. I had to lop off half of my genealogical tree.

22 Sep 2018 – At the Annual Workshop, I presented “Am I my Father's Daughter?” about how I'd found out who my biological father must have been. I'll never know the circumstances, but I am not a Welch. Biologically, I am a Rector.

3 Oct 2020 – Gave a talk on “Clusters, ThruLines™, Charts and Reports” for the DNA Group. References for Clusters, Charts and Reports are included in the Resource section. For the talk, I researched my DNA matches hypothesized as descending from my 2nd great-grandparents Joseph William Rector and Ann Etta Cooper. I connected with DNA cousins and discovered some interesting stories. I even discovered a book at <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books> that was free, online and includes my Rector line down to my bio dad and his brother!

- Rector line traced back to Hans Richter (10th great grandfather) born about 1550 in Saxony, Germany.
- My 6th great grandfather Hans/John Jacob Richter/Rector was among a dozen families of skilled iron workers who were recruited to immigrate in 1714 from Trupbach, Siegen-Wittgenstein, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, to Virginia to teach the English how to build a blast furnace and work in iron.

1 May 2021 – Gary Muffley agreed to share his research of his daughter-in-law's DNA. He'd found two triangulations on Chromosome 18. He'd tracked them back to brothers Aquilla and William Sherrill. Out of curiosity, I checked to see if I had anyone with the Sherrill surname in my tree. Sure enough, I did. Capt. William Sherrill appears to be my 5th great-grandfather! Although I did not match with Amy, I did share DNA with 2 of the 4 people who are these triangulated matches. In fact, I have over 200 DNA matches through WILLIAM SHERRILL. Problem: Sherrill is on my paternal side; most DNA matches are on my maternal side.

Some Resources

- <https://www.ancestry.com/>
- <https://www.familytreedna.com/>
- <https://23andme.com>
- <https://myheritage.com>
- <https://familysearch.org/>
- <https://www.gedmatch.com>
- <https://dnapainter.com> (DNA Painter won the grand prize in the DNA Innovation contest at RootsTech 2018 in Salt Lake City, UT.)
 - The Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4 (<https://dnapainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>)
- Family Tree Maker software – download at <https://mackiev.com/ftm/>
 - Publish Charts and Reports as well as Books
 - Join the OBCGS Writers Group for more information
- Leeds method of Clustering (<https://www.danaleeds.com/dna-color-clustering-the-leeds-method-for-easily-visualizing-matches>)
- 2 pm on 24 May 2021 – Roberta Estes Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/myheritage>
 - [FREE LIVE Presentation: Turning AutoClusters into Solutions at MyHeritage](#)
- <https://familytreewebinars.com/>