

# CVGS DNA INTEREST GROUP NOTES – 16 February 2022

## 1) CVGS NOTES

- \* CVGS General Meeting – Wednesday, 23 February, 12 noon PST. Program speaker is Cheri Hudson Passey on “Analyzing Probate Records.” Register on CVGS website – <https://chulavistagenealogysociety.wildapricot.org/event-4692544>.
- \* CVGS Research Group Meeting – Wednesday, 9 March, 12 noon PST.
- \* SDGS DNA Group – Saturday, 5 March, 10:30 a.m. PST. Contact Colin Whitney for link ([cwhitaz05@hotmail.com](mailto:cwhitaz05@hotmail.com)) or register on SDGS ([www.casdgs.org](http://www.casdgs.org)) DNA Group page.

## 2) DNA NEWS

- \* 2021 RootsTech Presentations still available (FREE) at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/search/results?category=00000175-8a3d-d198-ad77-de3ff7780000>.
- \* 2022 RootsTech Presentations not yet listed but there should be many of them. Register for RootsTech Connect 2022 FREE VIRTUAL Conference at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/>.
- \* RootsTech 2022 will have a virtual Exhibit Hall – DNA companies will probably have show specials for DNA test kits at \$39 to \$59 (depending on company).

## 3) WHAT ARE THE ODDS (WATO)

- \* Created by Leah Larkin and Jonny Perl. See <https://dnainter.com/tools/probability>.
- \* Watch FREE video “What are the Odds?” An online tool that can help solve DNA puzzles“ by Jonny Perl at <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/what-are-the-odds-an-online-tool-that-can-help-solve-dna-puzzles/>

## 4) DNA MATCH LIST ANALYSIS Step-by-Step (on AncestryDNA):

- \* Find your DNA Match List – “DNA” on Ancestry top menu, choose “DNA Matches”
- \* Listed by Centi-Morgan value down to 8 cM. Provides user name, cM number, number of segments, relationship estimate, tree availability, Note capability, color dot capability, “Common Ancestor.”
- \* User can add notes, color dots, known relationship, etc.
- \* Filter matches by Unviewed, Common Ancestors, Messaged, Notes, Trees, Shared DNA, Groups (New, mother’s side, father’s side, color dots)
- \* Has search capability in “Search” – search by match name, surname in match trees, location in match trees.
- \* In “Shared Matches,” “Close ancestors” are those with 20 cM match or more – almost 100% surety they are related to you – somehow.

- \* Clicking on a DNA match shows you the relationship, cM value, number of segments, color dots, note, family tree (only 5 generations, can expand the tree), ethnicity comparison, shared matches, and common ancestor (only if a ThruLine).
- \* “Shared matches” show you who else you and your DNA match match with. The matches may have better trees, or be matches with known common ancestors. You can use them to group unknown matches with your known common ancestor matches. Not always correct, but very useful.
- \* “Common Ancestors” are from Ancestry algorithm to find your ancestors in your matches trees. Works for private and public trees. May use several trees to connect you to a DNA match through a common ancestor. LOW HANGING FRUIT – these help you find other matches that may share DNA with you.
- \* “ThruLines” (“DNA” > “ThruLines”) show you how you and your matches relate to each other through the common ancestor based on each of your ancestors down to 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents.

## 5) HOW TO FIND COMMON ANCESTORS

a) Read *The Chester Creek Murders* by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

- <https://www.amazon.com/Chester-Creek-Murders-Venator-Cold-ebook/dp/B08PFYYW3J/> (\$12.99 paperback, \$5.49 Kindle). The book provides a how-to recipe to succeed in solving genetic genealogy problems. Oriented to forensic genealogy problems – catch a criminal who left DNA.

\* With a DNA sample, estimate relationship of a match using cM values and the Shared cM Tool at DNA Painter - <https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>

\* Try to fill out the DNA match's family tree – starting with known info (name, location, age group, email, social media, etc.). Do ancestor genealogy for your DNA match. Work backwards in time to get to 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents. Build a family tree – they use a private Ancestry.com tree and use Hints (trees, records, photos, stories) (anywhere) to substantiate conclusions.

\* From the found ancestors of the DNA match, you then do Descendant Genealogy research. Who were the children, who did they marry, where did they live, who were their children, etc., generation by generation. Eventually, they find descendants of an ancestral couple that fits the profile.

\* The DNA Match information gives you clues. Then you DO GENEALOGY research.

b) I only want to find Common Ancestors with my DNA matches.

\* Many DNA matches have no family tree, a small family tree, or a private family tree. My “Do Genealogy” process for a DNA match without a tree or with a small tree is:

\* Check if the match has an unlinked Ancestry Member Tree (but not an AncestryDNA profile). If so, check it out. Do you see a surname of one of your ancestors?

\* Search Facebook for a profile to find family names (spouse, parents, children, location).

\* Google the name and location (if known). Obituaries or blog posts may be found.

\* Search Spokeo, BeenVerified, WhitePages, etc. for contact information and family information.

- \* **Contact the DNA Match (on Ancestry, Facebook or email), share information, and ask questions. That doesn't always work.**
- \* **Start a private Ancestry Member Tree "bush" for your DNA match. I have one AMT for all of them – I start a new bush when I have at least a parent.**
- \* **Search Ancestry trees, MyHeritage trees, FamilySearch Family Tree, WikiTree, etc. for deceased parents and grandparents names. Add to the bush.**
- \* **Search MyHeritage Public Records or FamilyTreeNow.com collection for match, parents, grandparents. MH and FTN shows families, not just individuals. Add to the bush.**
- \* **Search Ancestry record collections for each person in your bush. Attach records to person profiles. Investigate "Suggested Records" and "Record Hints." You can search from the profile in the AMT bush.**
- \* **Search FamilySearch, MyHeritage, Find a Grave, Findmypast, American Ancestors, and any other genealogy record provider. Attach records to person profiles in your AMT.**
- \* **Search newspaper sites for obituaries, marriages, articles that mention the DNA match, or their deceased parents and grandparents if known. Add to the bush.**
- \* **Eventually, you might find a common ancestor. It may be further back than you think. You may run out of records for recent immigrants, or unknown surname people, or name changers and have an end-of-line person.**
- \* **The DNA match's tree may be wrong which may lead you astray. Ancestry's "Potential Ancestor" hint may be wrong.**
- \* **Your tree may be wrong – or you don't have the Common Ancestor with your DNA match in your tree yet.**
- \* **Use every clue and evidence record you can find and try to build a Family Tree for your DNA Match and find the common ancestor(s).**
- \* **Critically evaluate each conclusion you make (especially for parents of a person) in the bush based on record hints, source citations, and search results.**
- \* **Apply the Genealogical Proof Standard to each person and relationship if possible.**
- \* **Using this process, I've been successful for about 30% to 50% of the DNA matches I've used it for.**

### **c) Do Descendant Genealogy**

- \* **Help yourself and others – DO DESCENDANT GENEALOGY.**
- \* **I am adding descendants of my 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents to my family tree in RootsMagic.**
- \* **I sync my RootsMagic tree to my Ancestry Member Tree. That generates Record Hints to improve my tree profiles.**

- \* It also adds content to the Ancestry tree database that Ancestry uses to find ThruLines.
- \* Living people are the biggest challenge because online trees hide them.

## **6) DNA RELATED BLOG POSTS**

- \* [Chromosome Mapping and Endogamy](#) by Lara Diamond on [DNA Painter Blog](#).
- \* [My Recent Talk on BioAncestry](#) by Kitty Cooper on [Kitty Cooper's Blog](#).
- \* [Save Time in Your DNA Research with AutoTree](#) by Robin Wirthlin on [Family Locket](#).