

FAQ #4 - Why Should I Obtain a Genetic Genealogy Test ?

Until a little over ten years ago, genealogists (amateurs and professionals) depended upon family stories, official documents, and secondary sources to compile the genealogy and family history for a family member or their client. In 2001, genetic genealogy testing became commercially available and at a reasonable cost. The testing of our genes and our mitochondrial DNA is for the purpose of assisting our genealogical research (not always a silver bullet, but an important new research tool). We can now establish and prove genealogies that couldn't be proven in any other way, due to the lack of documentation that has been lost or destroyed over the years or documentation that was never created in the first place.

For less than the cost of a weekend trip to the libraries, court houses, and cemeteries in a neighboring state, we can establish the DNA profiles for many of our ancestors. These DNA profiles can be used to: 1) establish proof of our descent from ancestors who lived hundreds of years ago, who had no documents created for any activity during their lifetime; 2) for proof of Native American Ancestry or other specific ethnicity; and 3) for the identification of your immediate ancestors and cousins who you never met or even knew about, because of an adoption or other life changing experience that resulted in no family history documentation available to you.

Let me put this way; "Your descendants, fifty to one hundred years from now will find your birth, marriage and death certificates, your census entries, perhaps your family history research notes, but they will be very disappointed if they don't find your genetic genealogy test results." After the fantastic advances in genetic testing introduced over the last decade, we can't even imagine what information we will be able to learn from our genes in the future. Bottom line - if you are the least bit interested in genealogy - get tested yourself and have many of your relatives tested as well; ASAP.

Many people ask, "Is it really necessary to get tested, if I have already proven my genealogy?" My answer is, "If you haven't been tested, you have not proven your genealogy! Besides, everyone has some brick walls in their genealogy that test results may break down." You just don't know what you will learn from your genetic genealogy tests until you get the results. Of course, if you don't want to know the answer, don't ask the question!