Wellington Branch

OCTOBER 2023

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING MEETINGS: THE HUB, 33 JOHNSONVILLE RD, 7 FOR 7:30 PM

Wednesday 18 October	Wednesday 15 November	Wednesday 21 February 2024
Filling the gaps in Family History using newspapers Sarah Hewitt	**CHRISTMAS PARTY MIX & MINGLE**	*TOKENS OF LOVE/ MEMORABILIA OF LOVE* Show and Tell

Kia ora koutou

This month's newsletter is focused on DNA. I know we have members who have used DNA a lot, others have not found the need to investigate DNA, and some are confused by it. I'm just a beginner and so it has been helpful to attend Ann and Kaye's FHM talk about what to do when you have done your DNA test. Unfortunately, this is not yet online at the National Library, but hopefully it will be soon. We will let you know when it comes up. Ann provided a summary of that talk in September's newsletter. In addition, Christine and Ann have written an explanation of DNA and DNA testing for this newsletter. And Kaye has written a detailed summary of the September branch talk. It helps to be able to read and absorb the information about this topic.

I am looking forward to hearing Sarah Hewitt at our next branch meeting. She is a lively speaker. I have asked her to start with a summary of how we in Wellington can make best use of NZSG resources given the library and most of the team are based in Auckland. I'm still finding things on the NZSG website, so am hoping I can pick up some useful tips.

Our committee has been busy reviewing our current services (and discontinuing a couple that have outlasted their usefulness) and identifying new ones. We are going to stay with our current venue for the foreseeable future. Robin has offered to identify a possible indexing project for our branch. We have sent out the library catalogue via email and will do that every month for a while to try to use this resource more. We plan on ensuring we have several more interactive branch meetings each year to enable people to make more connections with others with similar interests. Our Christmas function will be the next of these. Also please see the Branch News for an idea about an addition to our meetings.

I am still keen to meet members over a coffee to pick up ideas for what you would like to see more of.

Geraldine Needham-Girven, Convenor, Wellington Branch

In this Newsletter

SEPTEMBER'S TALK

Finding Ancestors through Collaboration and DNA *by Alison Howell and Kaye Batchelor*

Searching for the Origins of **John Howell**

Problem: **John** and **Ann Howell** left England before the 1841 census and died before parents' details were put on NZ death certificates. Stories have been passed down to descendants (such as Ann sat on Pipitea Point Beach and cried when they disembarked the 'Lord William Bentinck' on 22 May 1841) but nothing has survived about their origins. Note: **John Howell** went to NZ; **JOHN HOWELL** is his father; and **JOHN HOWELL**, his grandfather

Alison Howell, née Godinagh, is researching on behalf of her husband *Jim Howell* (3X great-grandson of **John Howell**). Alison has done extensive research into her Polish ancestors and used DNA to supplement paper research.

Kaye Batchelor started researching her adopted family for a school project, and has carried on, adding her birth family after the Adult Adoption Information Act was passed in the 1980s. Kaye is descended from **John Howell** (4X great-grandfather) and has made extensive use of DNA in researching her families.

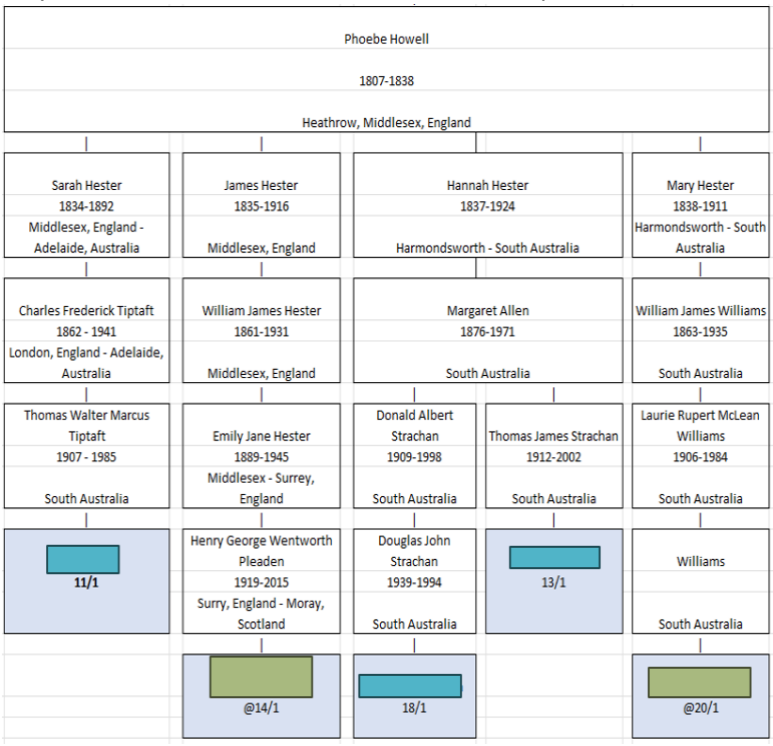
A third researcher, *Linda Hansen,* née Howell, collaborates via email from Switzerland and has been using traditional methods rather than DNA to research the Howell family for decades (2X great-granddaughter of **John Howell**).

Another problem: Many on-line trees have perpetuated dubious information from earlier researchers who often did not cite evidence. Some of these cited only IGI records (International Genealogical Index) from FamilySearch. Many of these entries do not have sources. 'John Howell' is a common name, with a number of possible variant spellings, and various researchers ascribed various parents, baptisms, and birth places to our ancestor **John Howell**. We were dissatisfied with the previous research.

So where to start? We established that **John Howell** and **Ann Cordery** married in Teddington, Middlesex, in 1829. **John** was a shepherd and agricultural labourer on the Ham House estate in Surrey from at least 1829, and the first 2 of their children were baptised at All Saints, Kingston Upon Thames, and then 3 more at St Andrews, Ham, Surrey (the church was established in 1832). Rough distance as the crow flies between Teddington and Ham is 2-3 km. So initial research focused on Middlesex and Surrey. There were 98 parishes in Middlesex alone, and between Linda and Alison, most were checked.

Linda identified many Howell families in parishes around Teddington and Ham over decades, often visiting record offices to consult microfiche or microfilm. As more records became available on the internet, target candidates for our **John Howell** could be discounted, as death, burial, marriage, or census records established that these were not the **John Howell** that came to New Zealand. Ancestry trees appeared with our **John Howell** – so each had to be investigated and none proved conclusive. We had gone as far as we could and had to wait for DNA.

Kaye found she had DNA matches to several possible Howell families and started collaborating with Alison, using Jim's DNA as well as Kaye's half-sister's DNA, to see if any of these matches were common to all three.

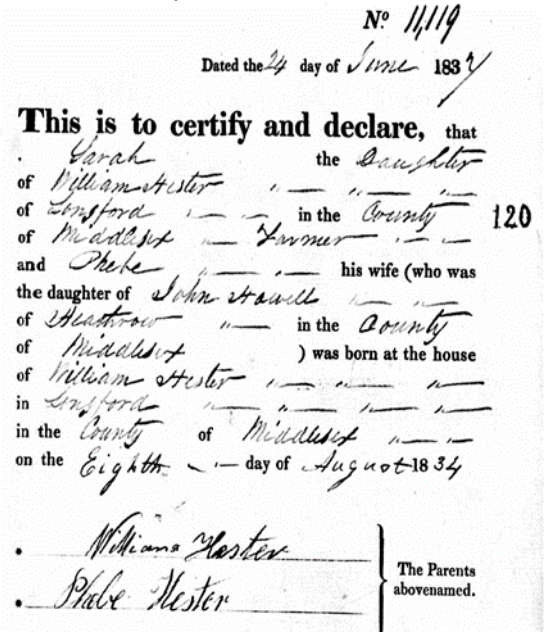


The first thing to do is identify DNA matches that look like they are on the target line you are researching. This can be done through examining shared matches and grouping your matches by grandparent or great-grandparent lines. Ancestry now divides matches into paternal and maternal, which is a welcome advance, but Kaye did her matching before this, and before coloured dots, using the Leeds method. See www.danaleeds.com for information on the Leeds method.

5 DNA matches could be traced back to the children of **Phoebe Howell**, who married William Hester on 11 Nov 1833, in the parish of St George Hanover Square, Middlesex. You can see the tracing back from the DNA matches in the diagram – blue is a match to Kaye, green a match to Jim.

The numbers refer to the centimorgans shared (@ means a match to Jim rather than Kaye).

Kaye found that all four of **Phoebe Howell Hester**'s children were baptised in Longford, and they were non-conformist baptisms that named **Phoebe**'s father as **JOHN HOWELL of Heathrow**. (See **Sarah Hester**'s baptism record to the right.) Heathrow was not a parish – it was a hamlet in the parish of Harmondsworth, Middlesex, about 9km to the west and north from Ham.



No. 11119

Dated the 24 day of June 1837

This is to certify and declare, that

Sarah the Daughter
of William Hester
of Longford in the County 120
of Middlesex Farmer
and Phebe his wife (who was
the daughter of John Howell
of Heathrow in the County
of Middlesex) was born at the house
of William Hester
in Longford
in the County of Middlesex
on the Eighth day of August 1834

William Hester
Phebe Hester
} The Parents abovenamed.

Now we had a placename to investigate further. Linda extracted all the **Harmondsworth Howell** records and built family trees. She also looked at census records and wills to trace these Howells to at least the 1850s. Two records proved crucial: the marriage of **JOHN HOWELL** to **JANE NORRIS KENT** in 1798 at St Marys, Harmondsworth, and the will of Samuel Kent, made in 1842. This confirmed the **HOWELL/KENT** link, names & relationships of many in the Kent family, and led to Linda finding siblings of **Phoebe** in census records (names are given below).

Phoebe's husband, William Hester, was born in Harmondsworth, and William Little, a witness at the marriage, was the son of a **Harmondsworth Howell**. William Little married his cousin, **Jane Howell,** who was **Phoebe**'s sister. So, it looked like we were right to focus on Harmondsworth Howells.

More DNA matches turned up. Now that we had possible parents for our **John Howell**, namely **JOHN HOWELL** and **JANE NORRIS KENT**, we looked for matches that might go back to the Kent family. Jim had 4 matches we could trace to 2 siblings of **JANE NORRIS KENT**, and Kaye had a different match to a descendent of one of these siblings.

Another set of DNA matches, shared by Jim, Kaye, and her sister, led to a **Mary Ann Howell** born in 1828 at St Benet Pauls Wharf, London. Her parents were **William Howell**/Hoell and Elizabeth Cole/Coll, and **William**'s census and death records indicated that he was likely a brother of **JOHN HOWELL of Heathrow**, born in 1789 to **JOHN HOWELL** and **RACHEL HAYNES** (parents of **JOHN HOWELL of Heathrow)**. This is still being researched.

In summary: we found the first 2 children of **JOHN HOWELL of Heathrow** and **JANE NORRIS KENT** were baptised at St Mary's, Stanwell: **Isaac** in 1798 and **Mary** in 1800. Linda had also identified 3 children born much later: **Sarah** (c1813), **David** (c1815) and **William** (c1821), who all gave their birthplace as Heathrow in at least one later census. Plus, **Phoebe** was born around 1807. That left **Jane**, who we think was born in 1802, and our **John Howell** who came to NZ, born in 1804, which would be consistent with his age on the records we do have and would fit into a gap in the known children of **JOHN HOWELL of Heathrow**. It is still a mystery as to where the rest of **JOHN HOWELL of Heathrow**'s children were baptised, and if there are any more. Further research into non-conformist records may provide a clue. **JOHN HOWELL of Heathrow** died between 1821 and 1831, and **JANE NORRIS KENT HOWELL** married John's first cousin, James Eldridge in 1831, and died in 1861.

Where is Heathrow today? Underneath Terminal 3 of Heathrow airport!

Final twist(s) to the tale:

Alison continued to research Jim's DNA matches and found that while his grandmother Ella Clunie was descended from **John Howell** and **Ann Cordery**, his father, thought to be a great-grandson of **John** and **Ann**, was actually the son of the boarder!

Linda finally did her DNA test, and found that her father was not the son of her (supposed) Howell grandfather, so she had no **Howell** or **Cordery** DNA.

You may get unexpected results when you add DNA to your toolbox, but also it can be the only way to find your elusive ancestors!

Our process was:

1. Look in the nearest geographic area to where your target ancestor was known to be and make a list of possible families in the surrounding parishes.
2. Research these families and use a wide range of records to eliminate those targets that cannot be your ancestor.
3. Identify DNA matches that match you on the right side or line that could lead back to your target ancestor.
4. Build back these matches' family trees to see if a common name or place appears.
5. Check if other descendants have these matches – collaborate.

6. Ask other descendants if they will check their match lists or allow you to view their DNA matches yourself to check them.
7. Build back these target matches as well – ideally you will find they link to the families you have already identified through your own matches.

Some techniques we used were:

- Wild card searching to identify name variants
- Use a distinctive name in the tree (such as Phoebe or Lucy) you are building to research further – it may provide a will or other record that leads you to other relatives.
- Collaborate – work with as many people as possible and their DNA kits.
- Ignore other people's trees – build your own.
- Or use other people's trees to eliminate possibilities.
- Don't forget to investigate witnesses on marriage records as they may be related.

Kaye Batchelor

TALKING ABOUT BOOKS

Book review: *The Third Man of the Double Helix: The Autobiography of Maurice Wilkins*, by Maurice Wilkins (Oxford University Press, 2003). Available from the Wellington City Library (off-site storage) and for purchase through Amazon and other online sites (expensive!). Reviewed by Christine Franzen.

I chose this book because this newsletter focuses on DNA, and I knew Maurice Wilkins was a New Zealander who shared a Nobel Prize with Francis Crick and James Watson for the discovery of the structure of DNA. I also knew there was controversy about how the credit for the discovery was allocated. That's about all I knew. This book is quite accessible to a layperson and I enjoyed it.

Wilkins wrote this book when he was 89, marking the 50th anniversary of the discovery. He was born in 1916 in Pongoroa and died in 2004 in London. After six happy years in NZ, his family returned to UK permanently. In 1938 he finished a Physics degree at Cambridge. It doesn't take much to realize the significance of that date. From early on he had a strong social conscience and was involved with anti-war groups.

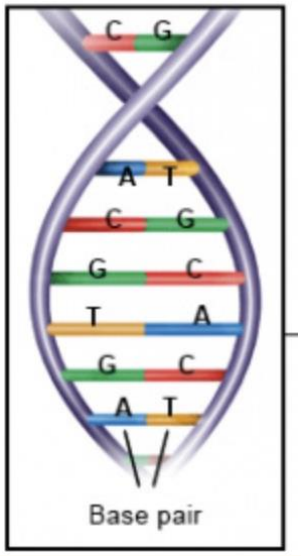
Most scientists in England were reserved for war research, a decision Wilkins calls 'indispensable for winning the war' (p. 61). First he worked on radar, and in 1944 he joined one of the teams working on the atomic bomb. After the war he much regretted the development of the bomb and became a life-long pacificist.

After the war Wilkins decided to work in biophysics, studying DNA, at a time when almost no one thought DNA might be of genetic interest. At King's College London he worked with a team that soon made it clear that it was. But what was its structure? They tried X-ray diffraction analysis and polarizing microscopes. Rosalind Franklin joined the team, an X-ray expert. Wilkins and Franklin's working relationship was strained at best, non-existent at worst. Some blame Wilkins or a prejudice against women scientists. Wilkins says their personalities clashed: she was brittle and prone to outbursts. Wilkins, the pacifist, avoided conflicts and instead of discussing their differences and sharing their results, they hardly collaborated at all. Meanwhile in Cambridge, two brilliant scientists, Francis Crick and James Watson, took an unconventional approach: building on experimental research, published works, and talks given by others (as scientists have always done), they decided to try to build a model. Their close collaboration resulted in the now famous Double Helix in 1953. In the aftermath, an enduring controversary arose over the how credit was allocated. Some say that a photograph taken by Franklin was shown to Crick by Wilkins and was crucial to the development of the Crick & Watson double helix, and that Franklin's contribution to the final result was never properly acknowledged. Franklin's 'supporters' believe the importance of Wilkins' role has been exaggerated. But from the beginning Wilkins was named as a contributor and Franklin was not. The 1962 Nobel Prize was awarded to Crick, Watson, and Wilkins. Franklin could not have been included regardless of the controversary: she had died in 1958, aged 37, and Nobel Prizes are never awarded posthumously.

Most people know and can recognize the double helix, and probably most would identify it with Crick & Watson. Wilkins has always been 'the third man', his name known by few. But his work contributed a great deal to the discovery, as did Franklin's, and that of many other scientists. Wilkins final plea is for 'open dialogue' in science and in human relations in general.

The discovery of the structure of DNA gave rise to modern molecular biology. The rest, as they say, is history.

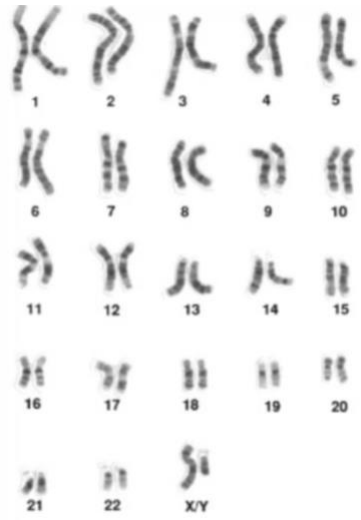
EXPLAINING DNA AND DNA TESTING. The last two meetings have both featured DNA techniques. See the September newsletter, 'What do you do when you've done your DNA' and Kaye's talk on p. 2 of this newsletter. Some members might find discussions about DNA and the jargon used a bit daunting. We have written the following to try to explain what DNA and DNA testing are as simply as possible. Most of the first section was written by Christine, a retired medievalist with absolutely no scientific qualifications, to help her understand it for herself. Hence it is ridiculously oversimplified. Most of the rest was written by Ann, who is on a journey trying to understand how DNA can help with genealogy, with lots more to learn.



https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK541156/

WHAT IS DNA? According to Wikipedia, '**D**eoxyribo**n**ucleic **a**cid is a polymer composed of two polynucleotide chains that coil around each other to form a double helix.' That didn't really help me much, to be honest.

A **DNA** molecule carries all your genetic information, the biological instructions to make you what you are. (It carries other things as well, not all of which are understood.) The base pairs (labelled C, G, A, and T) in the picture are the crucial building blocks, and the sequence in which they occur determines 'you'. It's like an alphabet of four letters, but in the case of DNA the 'word' is over 6 billion letters long. Or as Ann says, 'Think of it as an incredibly long barcode.' These bases have a special property: A only joins with T and C only joins with G.



ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK22266/

The nucleus of almost every cell in your body contains DNA. When cells divide (which they do all the time), the nucleus divides as well and the special structure of DNA (the Double Helix) allows it to split lengthwise into two strands between the base pairs (that is, between A and T and between C and G) and replicate itself. One DNA Double Helix becomes two identical DNA Double Helixes. This replication exactly reproduces a sequence of over 6 billion letters (bases). Very, very occasionally an error is made (and not corrected), and this results in a 'mutation', a change in the sequence, which is then passed down. In a very rapidly reproducing organism like bacteria, mutations may lead to drug resistance. It is also how COVID variants arise. In human beings mutations can cause cancer. Or they might make you more resistant to a certain disease. A loss of just two letters in one place in the sequence causes cystic fibrosis. Sometimes a mutation may have no effect at all. But mutations also lead to genetic variation and evolution.

In the nucleus of a cell, DNA is 'packaged' into **chromosomes**. Each cell contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, one of each pair from each parent, making 46 in all (see left). The 23rd pair determines sex: a woman has XX and a man has XY. Chromosome pairs 1-22 are the same (autosomes), and they carry the genetic material. Chromosome 1 is the largest and 22 is the smallest. Each chromosome has a distinct banding pattern (vaguely visible in the picture), and each band is numbered by scientists to help identify a particular region of a chromosome. **Genes** are units of chromosomal DNA found together in a region and they have the ability to code for a characteristic or a trait. (Many traits are the interaction of more than one gene.) Chromosome 1, for example, contains over 3000 genes. Because we have two of each chromosome, we have two copies of every gene, one from each parent. Almost all of these paired genes are identical but a very few differ. These differences are what make you what you are. For example, in **Ann's chart to the left**, showing part of chromosome 1, the first column of letters comes from one parent and the second from the other. Note: letters 7 and 8 (counting down) are not the same. Who knows what difference that made to Ann?

Ann's DNA test results, beginning of chromosome 1

1	693625	T	T
1	752721	G	G
1	768448	G	G
1	787173	G	G
1	800007	C	C
1	830181	A	A
1	838555	A	C
1	840753	T	C
1	843405	A	A
1	846808	C	C
1	852875	T	T
1	852964	G	G
1	854250	A	A
1	858801	G	G
1	873558	T	T
1	879317	C	C
1	882033	G	G
1	883091	0	0

During reproduction, this genetic information is passed from parents to their offspring. Creating the fertilized egg involves a process which I am tempted to call 'MAGIC' but is actually 'meiosis recombination'. The egg and the sperm each have to start with 23 chromosomes in order to create a cell with 46 chromosomes. That means the egg and the sperm **each** have to **combine** their 46 chromosomes (the original 2 copies, one from each parent) into 23. This process involves the crossing over and transfer of genetic material, combining what was originally 2 chromosomes into one and reshuffling genes into unique combinations. In other words, it reduces the amount of DNA from each parent by half and **mixes the DNA up**. This is an amazingly ingenious way to increase the genetic variations in offspring. (If this mixing did not happen, the egg, for example, could have all its mother's

genetic material just from one chromosome of each pair and none from the other. This would completely eliminate one grandparent's genetic material. The same thing could happen with the sperm. This would profoundly change our genetic make-up.) This mixing up or recombination explains the differences between siblings, for example. (www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/208-meiosis-inheritance-and-variation)

DNA TESTING

WHY TAKE A DNA TEST: It is a useful tool to help with your genealogical research. It can confirm your research and help to break down brick walls. We can find out how much DNA we share with other people, and if we are related to them and how. And sometimes it can produce unexpected results (see Jim Howell and Linda Hansen, p. 3 above).

DNA testing: Most DNA tests (Ancestry, 23andMe, MyHeritage, etc) are interested in chromosomes 1-22, the autosomes, and they are sometimes called **autosomal tests**. They will identify matches on both sides of your family. None of them could possibly look at all 6 billion letters in your DNA, most of which have nothing to do with your genetic make-up.

The testing companies are looking for places where your genetic 'barcode' matches someone else's. Where they find a piece of barcode that matches, it is called a **segment**. The beginning of the segment is where the barcode starts to match yours, and the end is where the barcode stops matching yours. Segments are measured in **centiMorgans (cMs**). The more closely you are related to someone the fewer variants will be found, the longer the matching segments will be, and the higher the cM count will be. You are also likely to match on more segments and on more chromosomes.

The testing companies add up all the matching segments to get the total length of all of the 'barcodes'. Often there is only one or two segments. You should be very wary of a match that is 20cMs and made up of 4 or 5 segments whereas you could have more confidence in a match that is 20cMs and one segment. Ancestry gives the total length of the barcode and how many segments it contains. In MyHeritage you can easily see how long the longest segment is; in Ancestry you have to click on the amount you share with someone to find out how long the longest segment is.

When you get your results back you will be given a list of people who are your DNA matches. You are (probably) related somehow to most of these people. You may recognise some of the names. If not, you should try to work out how you are related to them. The testing company will try and estimate your relationship with each match based on how many cMs you share with each one.

Common ancestors & Thrulines/Theory of Relativity: Both Ancestry and MyHeritage use DNA matches and any trees they have access to in order to try to work out how you are related to your matches. Ancestry calls these Common ancestors, and how you match, it calls Thrulines. MyHeritage calls them Theories of Relativity. These can be very helpful but they may also be wrong. As with anything tree-based on a site, treat these with caution.

For example, in a perfect world, we would get roughly 50% of our DNA from each parent; 25% from each grandparent; 12.5% from each great-grandparent; 6.25% from each 2X great-grandparent; 3.125% from each 3X great-grandparent; 1.625% from each 4X great-grandparent; 0.8125% from each 5X great-grandparent; and 0.4% from each 6X great-grandparent (you have 256 of these). In fact these figures can vary **a lot**. We are now back 8 generations and the amount of DNA you might expect to come down to you from (at least some of) your ancestors at this point is almost negligible, and it may well be **none at all**. This is why DNA tests are sometimes said to be accurate back about 200 years: it assumes a generation is about 25 years, so 200 years is 8 generations. (But some of Christine's ancestors back 200 years are only 5 generations ago.)

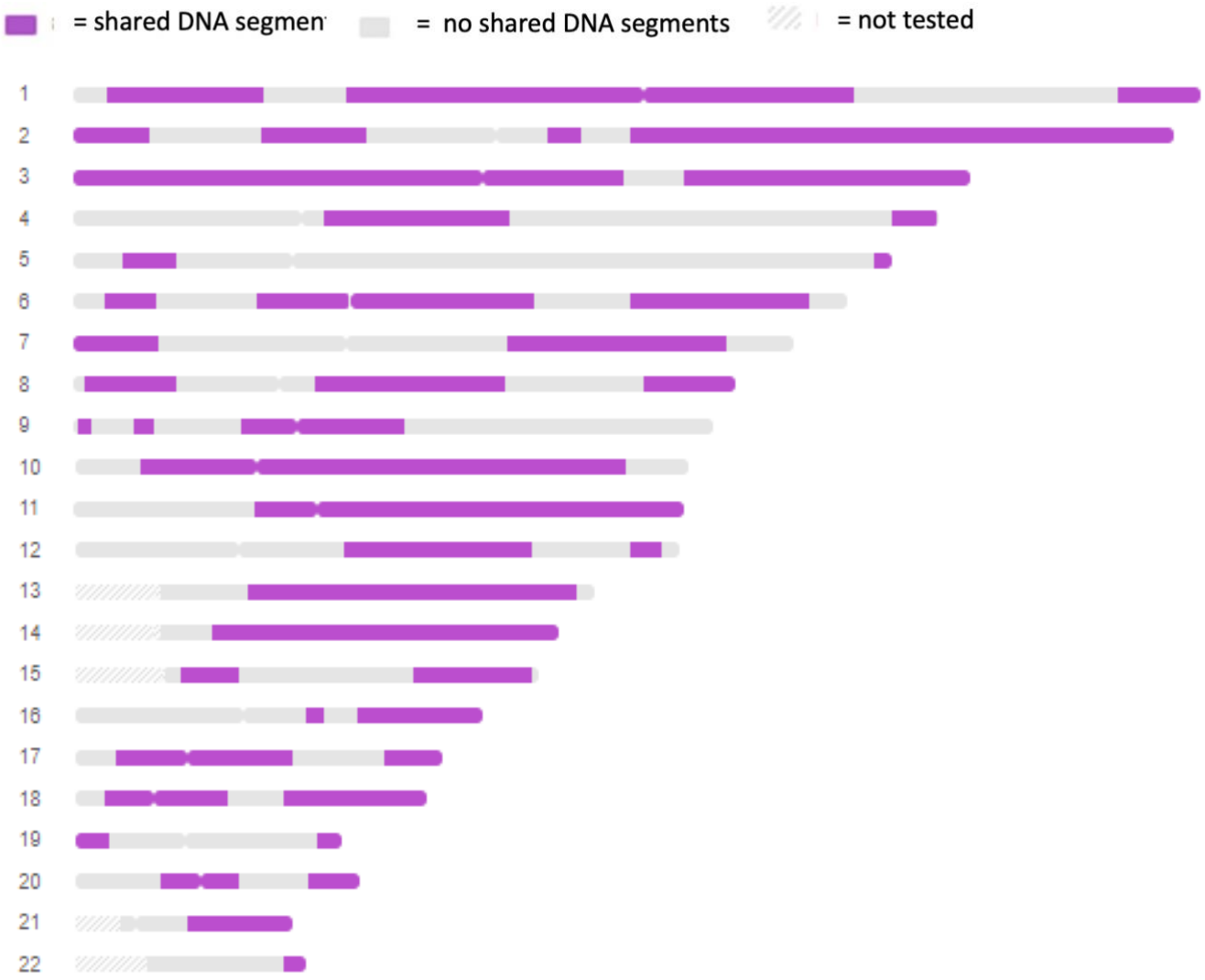
In fact, the accuracy of matching declines very quickly the more distant the relation. According to 23andMe, the probability of detecting a 3rd cousin is 90%, but a 4th cousin is about 45%, a 5th cousin is 15%, and a 6th cousin is 5%. 'The more distant the relationship, the less likely it is that a genetic relationship will be detected. Distant relatives are less likely to be detected because fewer of them share DNA segments long enough to meet our threshold.' (customercare.23andme.com/hc/en-us/articles/212170958-DNA-Relatives-Detecting-Relatives-and-Predicting-Relationships). AncestryDNA claims to be able to detect a higher percentage, but still a 6th cousin is only 11% likely to be detected. With distant relations, this means you may get, just by coincidence, a 'false positive', a DNA match with

someone to whom you are unrelated, especially if the segment lengths are very small. But you may also get a 'false negative' (my term, not theirs), an **undetected relation**. In other words, there may well be people in your tree on paper, say a 4th cousin (that is, someone you share 3x great-grandparents with), someone you know is related to you and has taken a DNA test, but does not show up as a DNA match simply because **you share so little DNA that the test cannot detect it**. A great deal of caution needs to be exercised in interpreting DNA results.

You will have lots of matches with distant relations, 4-6th cousins and higher. (Estimates of how many 6th cousins a person might be expected to have include figures like 174,000, but obviously only a small proportion of them will have taken a DNA test.) With distant relations you may share a very small number of cMs. Be very wary of matches with a length of less than 10 cMs. Focus on the matches with the biggest length first. But very occasionally, a small match may be extremely valuable. Christine has an Ancestry DNA match with 'Shari' of 7 cMs on 1 segment. This match confirmed an otherwise unconfirmed great-great-grandfather. Christine's great-grandfather is the half-brother of Shari's great-great-grandfather, which makes them half third cousins once removed. Shari's records filled in a gap and joined Christine's tree with hers. The combination of paper research and DNA worked brilliantly in this case. The DNA estimate of their relationship was all over the place but Thrulines, using their trees, matched them perfectly.

Blaine Bettinger has used the data in the Shared cM Project to predict what the relationships are likely to be for the number of cMs you share with a match. The testing companies use this tool to predict the relationship. MyHeritage has a tool (cM Estimator) that you can use to predict the relationship but you need to be a subscriber to use this. DNA Painter has a similar tool that you can use for free.

For an example of a match with a very close relation, below is a map of where Ann's DNA overlaps her maternal aunt's on all 22 chromosomes. They share 26.9 percent made up of 1908 cMs over 44 segments.



Shared matches: Shared matches are matches that you share with other people. If you have three DNA matches (A, B, and C) and you look at A to see who you share matches with, if B is in that list that means you and A share a match with B. This means you are related in some way, perhaps very distantly, to both A and B. You are also related in some way to C but it will be on a different line to A and B.

While you can see DNA matches down to 8cMs, frustratingly Ancestry only shows you shared matches that are 20 cMs or more. MyHeritage seems to show smaller shared matches. Ancestry says they do this to limit the number of false positives you see.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF DNA TESTS: As well as the **autosomal** type, using chromosomes 1-22, as described above, there are **Mitochondrial DNA** tests and **Y DNA** tests. These are specialised (expensive) tests run by Family Tree DNA. We get Y DNA from our fathers. A Y DNA tests must be done by a male, and will trace back his father, father's father, and so on. It will not follow back any other line. **Mitochondrial DNA** (mt-DNA) comes from our mothers. An mt-DNA test can be done by a female and finds out about her mother, her mother's mother and so on. These can both go back many, many generations.

USEFUL WEBSITES: New techniques are being developed all the time. Below are a list of websites that you can use to find out more and keep up to date with new techniques.

	Link	**Cost**
Ancestry	www.ancestry.com.au	$$$ some tools free
My Heritage	www.myheritage.com	$$$ some tools free
NZSG	https://genealogy.org.nz	$$ for membership and bootcamp
Cyndi's list	https://www.cyndislist.com/dna/	Free
DNA Painter	www.dnapainter.com	Some tools free more advanced $
GEDmatch	https://www.gedmatch.com/	Some tools free more advanced $
Lost Cousins	https://www.lostcousins.com/	Free for newsletter
Leeds method	Danaleeds.com	free
Legacy Family Tree webinars	https://familytreewebinars.com/	$NZ80 for 1 year
Rootstech	https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech	Free but need to register
Jim Bartlett	https://segmentology.org/	Free
Blaine Bettinger: The Genetic Genealogist	https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/	Blog free
Louise Coakley (Australian)	https://genie1.au	Blog free, services $$
Kitty Cooper's Blog	https://blog.kittycooper.com/	Blog free
DNA Weekly	https://www.dnaweekly.com/	Blog free
Roberta Estes	https://dna-explained.com/	Blog free
Maurice Gleeson	https://dnaandfamilytreeresearch.blogspot.com/	Blog free
Leah Larkin	https://thednageek.com/blog/	Blog free
Michelle Patient	https://patientgenie.blogspot.com/	Blog spot
Diahan Southard: courses, newsletter, book	www.yourdnaguide.com	Some free, most $
Family Tree Magazine	https://www.family-tree.co.uk/	$$
Who do you think you are TV series	https://www.youtube.com/user/OfficialWDYTYA	Free
Who do you think you are magazine	www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com	$$

Ann Ball and Christine Franzen

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

November's Meeting (**15 November**) will be our **CHRISTMAS PARTY MIX & MINGLE**. This year's raffle prize is particularly good: a year's subscription to Ancestry's UK Heritage Plus, which includes access to key Australian, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and Irish records. There will also be food, activities, and games with genealogical content.

November's Newsletter will feature **FAMILY CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS**. I'm looking for Christmas-related material of any kind: photos, recipes, cards, memories, etc. Everyone has something that falls into at least one of those categories. For example, what memories do you have of Christmas celebrations when you were a child? Such as:

> Where were you? Who was usually there with you (for example: grandparents, aunts/uncles, cousins)? Who was the most memorable? What was the best part as far as you were concerned? What food was traditionally served, and how did you feel about it? Best present you ever received? Was there any religious element? Did you play games, and if so, which ones? Any single particularly memorable event, good or awful? Best Christmas ever? What, if anything, have you carried down into your present-day Christmas celebrations (even if it is just family china that is only used on special occasions)?

Please send contributions, suggestions, questions, etc, to wellington@genealogy.org.nz **by WED 25 OCTOBER**.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

Our first meeting will be on **Wednesday 21 February** on the theme of '**TOKENS OF LOVE/MEMORABILIA OF LOVE**'. Ann Ball is looking for 5 or 6 people to bring in and talk about items that may fall into this category: letters, ribbons, rings and other pieces of jewellery, locks of hair, signed photos, gifts, items of clothing, etc. You may wish to interpret this as something made with love and bake a cake from a family recipe or bring a sampler or embroidery made by a family member or the first birthday card your first-born made for you, aged 5, etc. Please contact Ann.

TIPS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

CARRYING ON WITH THE DNA THEME:

Really Useful Bulletin, no 37, September 2023, has two articles on DNA. 'Harnessing the Full Potential of DNA', by Martin McDowell, is excellent on Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA tests**. The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show**, 17-18 November is online again this year. https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/

Jonathan Scott (author of *A Dictionary of Family History)*, recommends websites for getting started with DNA research: www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/getting-started/the-14-best-websites-for-dna-family-history-research/ (from Palmerston North Branch Newsletter, Sept 2023)

Reminder: NZSG members may wish to join the **NEW ONLINE DNA INFORMAL INTEREST GROUP**. Meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month. To sign up, email education@genealogy.org.nz.eKit.

"You don't look anything like the long haired, skinny kid I married 25 years ago. I need a DNA sample to make sure it's still you."

OTHER TIPS

The Irish Interest Group is holding an Education Day on Sat Oct 28, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, at the Johnsonville Hub. Speakers are Kathryn Patterson and Maggie Gaffney. See www.trybooking.com/nz/eventlist/irish

NZSG website now has a **Pacific Islands Research Resource:** genealogy.org.nz/Pacific-Islands/11368/ (from NZSG e-KIT 213)

TVNZ 'My Family Mystery' is inviting people to audition: 'Do you have a Family Mystery you want help with to solve? Or perhaps you have heard a family story and just want to find out if it is true or not. Or you have found an item that has a mysterious past and you want to know where it came from and how it came into your family. Or perhaps you have a lost family connection? If so, join Sonia Gray and experts on a journey of discovery as she helps solve your mystery.' See https://www.tvnz.co.nz/what-to-watch/news-feed/apply-to-mfm (from Wairarapa Branch and Papakura Branch Newsletters)

I've frequently used '**FreeReg**' (www.freereg.org.uk) for English and Welsh parish registers but not **'FreeCen'** (www.freecen.org.uk/) for census records, or '**FreeBDM**' (www.freebmd.org.uk). The records are transcribed by volunteers and access is free. (from New Plymouth Branch Newsletter, Oct 2023)

WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWS

I've taken a risk with this newsletter; some may find it incomprehensible and too much of one thing. My apologies if that is the case. I promise the next newsletter will be A LOT OF FUN and have no DNA at all. DNA has been much discussed in meetings recently, and not everyone has found it easy to follow. I'm sure that a lot of what I have said here trying to explain DNA is not right or helpful, and we welcome corrections, additions, suggestions from those more knowledgeable. We also welcome questions from those who are still dazed.

We have discussed in our Branch Committee meetings various services we could offer our members. Are there topics you would like discussed? Would you like some meetings to be more interactive, with more of a chance for questions and discussion? Would you like some workshops—perhaps as a start, a help desk available at meetings from 7-7:30 so you can ask specific questions about problems you are having?

We know we have a wide range of skills among our members and matching up people with questions with people with answers is something we should be trying to do more. We will circulate a sheet at the next meeting for people to sign: 'I am having trouble with…/I would like help with…' and 'I have experience with (Scottish records, MyHeritage, searching newspapers, passenger lists, whatever…)? Or you could send such items to us at wellington@genealogy.org.nz? And we should be doing more to connect people with similar interests.

Christine Franzen, Newsletter Editor

DIRECTORY

Committee

Convenor	Geraldine Needham-Girven	021 180 5166
Secretary	Robin Mossman	021 1587848
Treasurer	Barbara Marriott	021 756 860
Minute Secretary	Kaye Batchelor	027 2276734
Membership Secretary	Robin Mossman	021 1587848
Speakers' Program	Ann Ball	027 6410646
Newsletter Editor	Christine Franzen	021 1129730
	Prue Theobald	04 232 0241
Library Liaison	Sallie Hill	04 232 4622

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER **MHAIRI THOMPSON**

I am a new joiner to the NZSG Wellington branch. I had worked out the first part of my family tree while I was at school - in the days of microfiche etc in the 80s - but have just recently taken it up again, and am amazed at the new technology and systems. My mother's English/Welsh forebears all arrived in New Zealand in the early/mid 19th century and I've recently uncovered some convict ancestors who were transported to Tasmania. My father arrived in NZ in 1972, so I've been tracking his Scottish family as well - more complex with surnames like Thompson and McKenzie! I'd love to learn more about methods to capture research from different sources and how to display the output to share with family, outside of the Ancestry universe. I live in Churton Park with my cat Ringo, and work as a data manager at a professional services firm in the Wellington CBD.

Thanks to everyone for your kind welcome so far, and I look forward to learning more from you all!

POSTAL ADDRESS

9 Cashmere Ave

Khandallah 6035

EVENING MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of the month

February through November

7:00 for 7:30 pm start

Collective Community Hub
33 Johnsonville Road

Committee Contact
wellington@genealogy.org.nz
Branch Website
genealogy.org.nz/Branch-details/11084-s1100084/
Facebook Page
Facebook.com/NZSGWellington

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH?

KILBIRNIE	PORIRUA	HUTT VALLEY	KAPITI
Thursday 2 Nov, 9 for 10 am	**Wednesday 18 Oct, 7 for 7:30**	**Thursday 19 October , 7 for 7:30**	**Tuesday 24 October, 7:30**
Gábor Tóth *History of Restaurants in Wellington* Matairangi Room, Ākau Tangi Sports Centre, 72 Kemp St	Special General Meeting & Curly Questions Helen Smith Room Pataka Art + Museum, Porirua	Cathy Clarke *Using Newspapers to Trace a Black Sheep* The Masonic Centre, 65 Udy St, Petone	Special General Meeting. Members' contributions: Shipping records, emigration & immigration Coast Community Church, 57 Hinemoa St, Paraparaumu