

## DNA INFORMATION FROM THE FAMILY TREE DNA SITE

There are three major DNA companies: [Ancestry](#); [23andMe](#); and [Family Tree DNA \(FTDNA\)](#). The basic information below is from the FTDNA site. If you are thinking about DNA testing and have questions, you can contact the Fairfield County Genealogy Society (FCGS) [DNA Committee Chair or DNA Committee member](#) and they will be happy to help you.

### Traditional Genealogy

Helpful webinar listed below:

[Introduction to Genealogy Research \(U.S.\)](#)

### History of Genetic Genealogy

- 1997      Geneticists Michael Hammer and Karl Skorecki used DNA testing to determine if Jewish men with a tradition of Cohen ancestry shared a common Y chromosome signature.
- 1999      Entrepreneur and genealogist Bennett Greenspan contacts Michael Hammer to inquire about using Y chromosome testing for genealogy – if it worked for the Cohanim, why not others?
- April 2000      Family Tree DNA was launched!

Helpful webinars listed below:

[Introduction to Family Tree DNA](#)

[myFTDNA: Managing Your Personal Account at Family Tree DNA](#)

[Feature Launch: Interactive Family Tree](#)

[Understanding DNA Results in the Context of Ashkenazi Ancestry](#)

### What is Genetic Genealogy Testing?

Genetic Genealogy Testing is....A cutting-edge tool that enables genealogists to use DNA technology to supplement our traditional genealogy research by identifying people (relatives!) who share our DNA.

### Genetic Testing IS NOT....

One-size-fits-all	Different types of DNA tests have different uses
Magic	Your DNA results won't provide your entire family tree
Health or Medical	Traditional genetic genealogy testing does not provide this information.

**Family Tree DNA has a number of free informational webinars and excellent tools to learn about DNA.**

### Types of DNA Tests

- Y Chromosome (**Y-DNA**)      Father's, father's, father's... father (Y-37 marker test is suggested)  
Surname studies from the beginning of surnames (ca. 1300's)  
For men only (only men have the "Y" Chromosome)

Helpful webinars listed below:

[A Selection of Y-DNA Success Stories at Family Tree DNA](#)

[Family Tree DNA Results Explained: Y-DNA Haplogroups & Deep Ancestry](#)

[Advanced Topics at Family Tree DNA, Part 1: Y-DNA](#)

[Advanced Topics at Family Tree DNA, Part 1 Continued: Y-DNA SNPs & Haplogroups](#)

[Family Tree DNA Product Launch: Getting to Know BIG Y Results](#)

[Family Tree DNA Feature Launch: Big Y Matching](#)

[Family Tree DNA Feature Launch: 2014 Y-DNA Haplotree](#)

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Mitochondrial (**mtDNA**)    Mother's, mother's, mother's... mother  
For men and women (however, only women pass down mtDNA)

Helpful webinars listed below:

[Family Tree DNA Results Explained: mtDNA Matching & Genealogy](#)

[Family Tree DNA Results Explained: mtDNA Haplogroups & Deep Ancestry](#)

[Advanced Topics at Family Tree DNA, Part 2: mtDNA](#)

Autosomal (**atDNA**)        Called Family Finder (FF) at FTDNA  
Identify close relatives, for all ancestral lines within the last five generations  
For men and women

Helpful webinars listed below:

[Brief Introduction to Family Finder](#)

[Family Tree DNA Results Explained: Family Finder Inheritance and Matching](#)

[Family Tree DNA Results Explained: Family Finder Match Comparison \(Using Common Matches, Matrix and Chromosome Browser\)](#)

[Family Tree DNA Results Explained: myOrigins](#)

[Family Tree DNA Feature Launch: X-Chromosome Matches in Family Finder](#)

[Family Tree DNA Feature Update: myOrigins \(Population Finder\)](#)

### **DNA Inheritance Summary**

Y-DNA	Father to son (no women) mostly in-tact Direct paternal line: father's father's father, etc.
mtDNA	Mother to child. Men do not pass down to children. Direct maternal line: mother's mother's mother, etc.
atDNA	Passed down equally to both men and women children from the parents. Diluted by 50% each generation.

### **Project Administrator or Co-Administrator**

Manages the DNA Projects  
Assist you in joining appropriate family or other projects like Fairfield Families Project  
Recommend additional DNA testing  
Assist you with uploading your family pedigree  
Assist your with uploading your picture(s)  
And more.....

Helpful webinars listed below:

[Mind the GAP: Beginner's Guide to the Group Administration Page at Family Tree DNA](#)

[GAP Tools: Managing and Analyzing Project Member Results](#)

[Advising Project Members on Y-DNA SNP Testing](#)