Got DNA? Using DNA to Further Your Family Research
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DNA Tests		
Step 1	Order DNA tests from Ancestry and 23 and Me.	Ancestry and 23 and Me will not accept DNA uploads.
Step 2	Build or upload family tree on DNA sites while waiting for results.	
Step 3	When DNA results are in, upload results to My Heritage and FTDNA. Attach DNA results to family tree on each site.	The upload is free but there is an unlock fee to access DNA tools. My Heritage is $29, FTDNA is $19, LivingDNA $28.
Results are in. Now What??		
Step 4	Review top matches on each site identifying known individuals. Create four custom groups representing 4 great grandparent couples. Assign a color to each couple.	Each DNA testing site has different features allowing grouping of matches. Not all test takers are on the same sites which is why having DNA on multiple sites is recommended. "Fishing in a bigger pond".
Step 5	Start with the first known individual.	
Step 6	Go to "shared matches" and assign each match in the group the same color assigned to their common ancestor. If unknown, create an unknown group.	My Heritage uses the term custom labels. FTDNA uses "In Common With" but does not have identifying labels. Comments can be added for each match. My Heritage provides information on how shared matches match each other.
Step 7	Repeat steps 5 & 6 for matches from 400 cM down to 90 cM. This should divide your matches into 4 distinct groups.	
Step 8	Repeat this process on each DNA site.	
Match Identification		
Step 9	Review matches with trees to determine how they fit into your tree. IF properly sourced and confident on how they fit, add them to your tree and identify them as a DNA match. Ancestry and FTDNA both have these features.	Use the Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4 on DNAPainter.com or My Heritage cM Explainer to identify potential relationships.
Step 10	Reach out to matches on those lines to determine if there is more information they can share regarding your common ancestor. Be willing to share your information.	When reaching out to DNA matches, be sure to include your name and the name of your match. Many individuals manage multiple kits. Include as much information as possible including relationship possibilities and ancestral names.