



DNA Bootcamp

With Michelle Leonard

We hope you enjoyed the final follow-up sessions and the DNA Bootcamp as a whole.

All three of the follow-up sessions are available to view on your DNA Bootcamp hub page:

<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/information/dna-bootcamp>

If you have time we'd recommend viewing all three, as they do cover many different questions.

DNA Bootcamp tasks – CHECK LIST

This is a summary of the tasks from the third and final webinar (held on 11th March), to help you to keep track of your progress.

- Task 1. Compare matches across sibling test results (if you have access to sibling tests).
- Task 2. Create your own target testing wish lists.
- Task 3. Send out some feeler messages.
- Task 4. Seek out your highest 'no tree' matches and target them for research.
- Task 5. Try out the chromosome browser tasks (if you have access to non-Ancestry tests).
- Task 6. Create your own X-DNA inheritance chart.

Remember, all of this is **optional**, so, no pressure and enjoy! 😊

Michelle began the follow-up sessions by announcing that Ancestry is currently rolling out a new layout for their DNA match list which differs from the layout used in her previous Bootcamp webinar slides. The key differences are that the amount of DNA shared is now displayed in both cMs and percentages, the notes are now visible underneath the match as opposed to on the right-hand side and the ability to bulk upload matches to a particular colour-coded group has been added. It may take some time to get used to the new layout but everything covered is still there and the new bulk upload capability is an excellent addition!

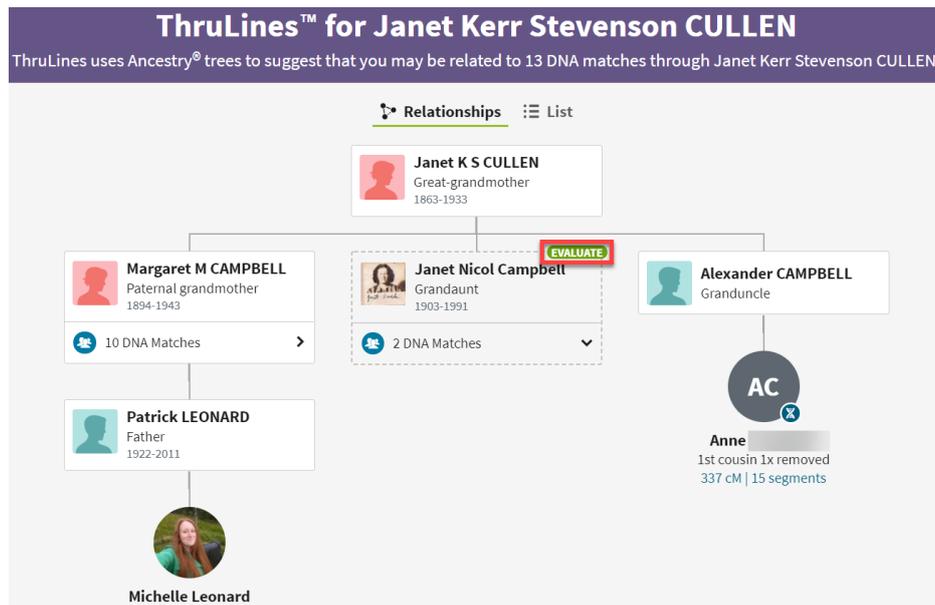
Useful questions & points

There were a few other queries and points raised from the follow-up sessions, and Michelle has summarised answers below.

QUESTION: "What does 'Evaluate' mean on ThruLines?"

When you click on a ThruLines hint, you may notice 'Evaluate' written next to the ancestors of some of the matches highlighted on that ThruLines hint but not others. Whenever you see 'Evaluate' it means that this relation is not yet on your own tree and Ancestry is prompting you to carefully evaluate the information to corroborate if it's correct or not. If you find it is correct then you can follow up by adding it to your tree after which ThruLines will update and 'Evaluate' will no longer

appear (i.e. in the example below my grand uncle Alexander Campbell is on my DNA tree but my grand aunt Janet Nicol Campbell is not at this point – this is simply so I can demonstrate this tool).



QUESTION: “What are the most important basic DNA applications on GEDMatch?”

GEDMatch’s list of DNA applications is long and can be overwhelming at times so I just wanted to point out the most important basic facilities and how they correspond to the tools we’ve been learning about on the Bootcamp!

1. *One-to-many DNA comparison tool:* this is the equivalent of the main match list at the testing sites
2. *One-to-one autosomal DNA comparison and X-DNA comparison tools:* these are more equivalent to the individual match pages and provide segment data information in the form of a table and chromosome browser (there are separate tools for autosomal and X-DNA).
3. *People who match both, or 1 of 2 kits:* while not the most intuitive of names, this is GEDMatch’s equivalent to a shared match list where you can compare two kits and see all the other kits who match both.

QUESTION: “What’s the difference between FTDNA’s Y-DNA tests and the Y-DNA information provided by 23andMe and LivingDNA tests?”

Clients often contact me having taken 23andMe or LivingDNA tests thinking they have ‘Y-DNA results’ that can be used for genealogical purposes. Unfortunately that’s not the case. 23andMe and LivingDNA essentially offer autosomal DNA tests but include basic Y-DNA and Mitochondrial DNA haplogroup designations as an added bonus. FTDNA’s Y-DNA STR marker tests and mitochondrial full sequence tests, however, offer Y-DNA and MtDNA databases and these are the essential component for genealogy. Basically, to use these tests for genealogical purposes, you have to be able to match against others in a database. Haplogroup designations provide basic information on the ancient origins of direct paternal and maternal lines but this is for thousands of years back in time so it’s not within a genealogical timeframe and, therefore, not information that can be used in a practical way. The FTDNA tests are much more detailed and useful genealogically if you are lucky enough to receive decent matches.

To learn more about Y-DNA please do read the Y-DNA chapters in the book I’ve co-authored.

QUESTION: “Where can I learn about my unusual haplogroup?”

Search the ISOGG Wiki and join your haplogroup project at FTDNA - over 10,000 volunteer-run projects are facilitated there:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/group-project-search?browse=true>

QUESTION: “What happens to our online DNA tests when we become ancestors?”

This is a sensitive but hugely important question – we have to think about whom we would want to manage our DNA after we are no longer here. Currently when someone who has taken a DNA test passes away, their DNA simply remains on the sites and their matches will see the match but, unless they undertake research and find out the match has passed away or the person in charge of the kit has updated it, the fact they are deceased will not be noted. I have identified many elderly matches who have passed away since testing on the many thousands of kits I’ve worked on.

As things stand only one company has an official beneficiary system and that’s FTDNA – if you log into your FTDNA account and navigate to ‘Account Settings’, you will find a section entitled ‘Beneficiary Information’ where you can input the details of your beneficiary.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION GENEALOGY PRIVACY & SHARING PROJECT PREFERENCES NOTIFICATION PREFERENCES

Contact Information Password **Beneficiary Information**

A beneficiary contact is someone you choose to manage your account, including your kit and any remaining DNA sample, after you pass away.

Name * This field is required.

Phone

Email *

SAVE

Hopefully, in time, the other sites will offer similar but for now I strongly advise including DNA testing information in your will and bequeathing your results to whomever you would wish to manage them after your death. If you become a beneficiary for a relative who passes away, it’s helpful to go into their test and list them as deceased so their matches are aware of this fact.

Final Tip: using emojis to create colour-coded groups on 23andMe

If you want to organise your 23andMe list into groups, you can use the notes facility to do so and then filter via the ‘Search Keywords’ function.

First source coloured emojis at <https://emojis.wiki/> - simply type in whichever colour you want followed by ‘circle’ (e.g. ‘green circle’ will yield this result <https://emojis.wiki/green-circle>). Then create a list of group names and pick a colour for each group – use the same groups and colours as

Ancestry if possible. You can then add the chosen group name and emoji to the notes area for matches you can identify from that group and their shared matches:

Notes

🟢 P1G Lennon-Kelly

P2C1R

MRCAs: my ggps/his 2nd ggps Patrick Lennon/Bridget Kelly via son Thomas Leonard

Then just use the search box to search by emoji!

Filters

Search keywords

Reset

The system will filter by that coloured dot and only display the matches for whom you've added a note containing that emoji.

Final Round-up of Links

Imputation: <https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Imputation>

Whole Genome Sequencing: <https://www.yourdnaguide.com/ydgblog/2019/11/7/whole-genome-sequencing-wgs-should-you-do-it>

DNA2Tree app (apple only): <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/dna2tree/id1458545344>

DNA2Tree Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dna2tree>

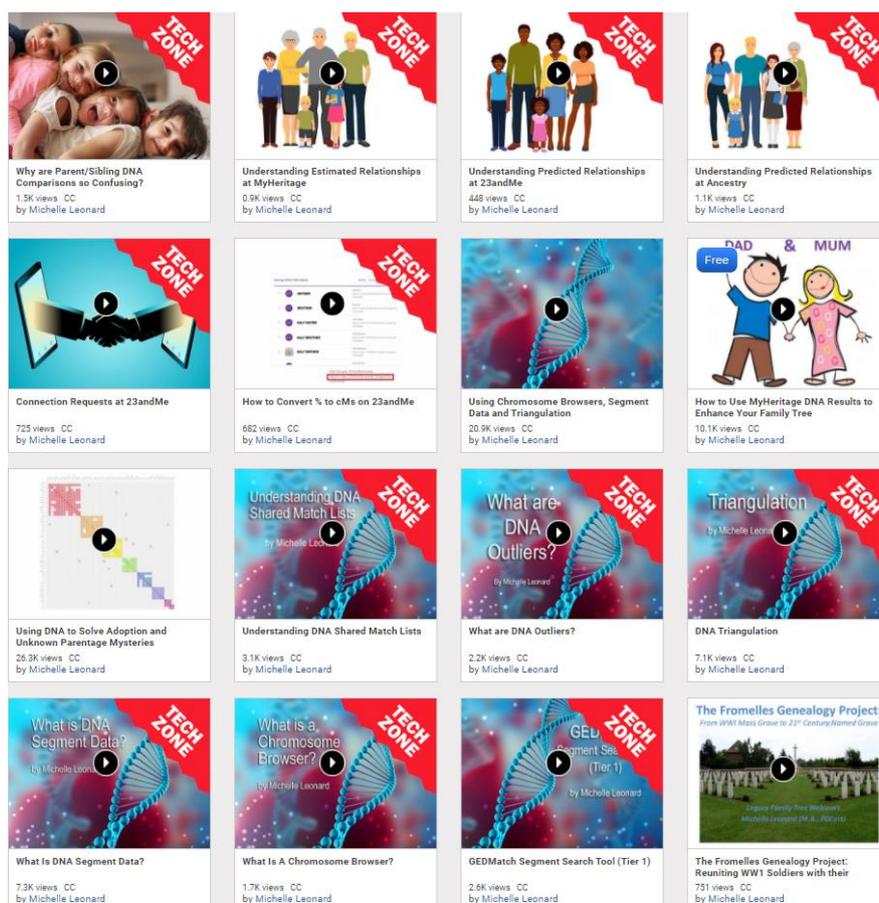
GDAT user guide: <https://sites.google.com/view/genealogical-dna-analysis-tool/home?authuser=1>

Don't forget the link to **Michelle's X-Chromosome presentation** is available free online for the coming year: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/session/understanding-x-chromosome-dna-matching>

Michelle's RootsTech Connect X-DNA Handout:

<https://familysearch.brightspotcdn.com/cf/af/d8364c3f48fbaefdb484d94da0be/471443-understanding-x-chromosome-dna-matching-syllabus-michelle-leonard.pdf>

Michelle's Legacy Webinars: <https://familytreewebinars.com/michelleleonard>



Many thanks for all your questions and engagement over the weeks of the DNA Bootcamp. It's been so enjoyable working with so many DNA Students and we wish you well with your DNA discoveries. Your DNA Bootcamp page will remain live until 18th June and now contains a questionnaire we'd love you to fill out about your experiences. We have plans in the pipeline for future DNA courses, and we would love you to join us then. To keep up-to-date with future courses and events make sure you follow both Michelle and Family Tree on social media. If you have further DNA queries, Michelle's professional services include 1-2-1 consultations and personal DNA coaching sessions (please contact Michelle for further details). 🌱

About Michelle

Contact & Social Media Links:

Email: michelle@genesandgenealogy.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/genesandgenealogy

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LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michelleleonardgenealogist>

APG: <https://www.apgen.org/profiles/michelle-leonard>

Ancestry Hour: <http://www.ancestryhour.co.uk/michelle-leonard.html>



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