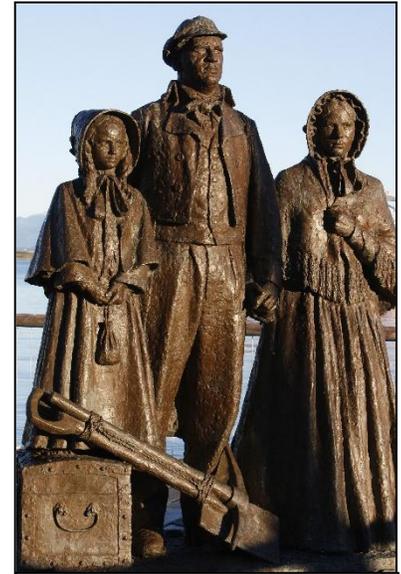




**New Zealand Society of
Genealogists
NELSON BRANCH
est. 1973
October 2014 newsletter**



Early Settlers - Port Nelson
Photo courtesy of The Nelson Mail

Our monthly meetings are at Smith's Hall, corner Waimea & Quarantine Roads Annesbrook on the 4th Monday of the month February to November at 7.30pm. Door charge GOLD COIN DONATION.

Our postal address is NZSG Nelson Branch, P O Box 1879, NELSON 7140

Our e-mail address is nelsonbranch_nzsg@hotmail.com

Our Branch Library Ancestors Attic is at 67 Trafalgar Street opposite Trailways

Next Meeting: Websites 03 - Library records available through the NZSG website

The 2014/2015 NZSG Nelson Branch committee is:

Please contact any of the committee for questions & suggestions

Acting Convenor	John BETHWAITE		03 547 6634	j.bethwaite@xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Robyn MARSHALL		03 744 3170	taylor55@xnet.co.nz
Treasurer/Newsletter	Barbara WELLS		03 540 2741	pb-mthope@xtra.co.nz
Librarian	Cheryl CARNAHAN		03 544 7684	carahan@kinect.co.nz
Projects/Research	Cynthia STRATFORD		03 544 6647	cynth.s@live.com
	Cathy BARRETT		03 546 8174	kbarrett09@clear.net.nz
	Robyn CLIFF		03 544 1570	cliffie2@xtra.co.nz
	Judith FITCHETT		03 548 8819	fitchett@ts.co.nz
	Bob McFADDEN		03 9700029	bob.val@mcfadden.org.nz

From the Editor

Hi everyone

Two things for you to think about -

- The committee is looking for ideas and speakers for next year's meetings and would welcome input from the Branch's members. Contact a committee member if you have a suggestion or know of someone who may be interested in being a guest speaker at a meeting.
- Christmas meeting - our November meeting is to be a tour of Fairfield Cemetery (one of the earliest Nelson cemeteries) taken by Debbie Daniell-Smith followed by afternoon tea at Melrose House just across the road. Debbie is the NCC's Arts and Heritage adviser and also one of our members. Afternoon tea at Melrose House will be a Devonshire tea (date or cheese scone with jam and cream and a cup of tea or coffee). There will be a charge of \$10 per person for afternoon tea. They also have a cabinet full of other goodies if you are especially hungry at additional cost. As we need to confirm numbers with Melrose House at least a week beforehand can you please let me know if you wish to attend by 14 November. Payment in advance would also be appreciated if possible.

Regards

Barbara

Programme for 2014

October 27

Sunday November 23
1.30pm at Fairfield Cemetery

Websites 03 - Library records available through the NZSG website.

Tour of Fairfield Cemetery - Debbie Daniell-Smith Arts & Heritage advisor for the NCC followed by Devonshire Tea at Melrose House.

Ancestors Attic, Duty Roster

Sunday Afternoons 2 - 4 pm

October 19 Gordon McInroe

October 26 Bob McFadden

November 2 Barbara Wells

November 9 TBA

November 16 TBA

November 23 **Closed for Cemetery tour**

November 30 Barbara Wells

December 7 Denis Bush-King

Mondays 1am - 4pm

Cheryl Carnahan

Thursday 10am - 4pm

Cynthia Stratford's Team

Subscriptions 2014 - 2015 Reminder

Subscriptions for the Nelson Branch for the year 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015 are due by the 30 October. Subs are the same as last year and the forms have been sent out by e-mail or by post. If you are on the Family Tree Magazine Round Robin it is also due. As postage has risen again the Committee would appreciate it if you could include a book of stamps with your subscription if you want the newsletter posted. To date we have received 45 subscriptions from our current membership of around 110. Remember you can pay online, or at the Attic or at the next meeting as well as through the post.

Library - Ancestors Attic

The Library is open

Sundays 2 - 4

Mondays 1 - 4

Thursdays 10 - 4

Acquisitions for September 2014

Poor Law Union Records, South East England & East Anglia by Jeremy Gibson Colin Rogers & Cliff Webb, 1993. Reference. Bookcase 12.

Classification **UK.AID.POOR**

Wills From 1858 by McLaughlin Eva. Reference. Bookcase 12.

Classification **UK.AID.PROB**

Journal of the New Zealand Genealogists' Magazine August 2014. Loan. Bookcase 01

Family Tree Harald Kleiven Reference. Box 03.

The Dead Horse Investigation by Fitzpatrick Colleen. 2008. Loan. Bookcase 05. Classification **AID**

The New Zealand Genealogists Family Historian editor Stedman Richard. 2005. Loan. Bookcase 05.

Classification **NZ.AID**

Family Tree magazine May 2014, June 2014



Research online (from a Family Tree Magazine newsletter)

Pay genealogy sites

The most popular sites for research in the UK and Ireland are:

- [Ancestry](#)
- [Findmypast.co.uk](#) and [Findmypast.ie](#)
- [TheGenealogist](#)
- [BMDRegisters](#)
- [Genes Reunited](#)
- [FamilyRelatives](#)
- [ScotlandsPeople](#)
- [Origins.net](#)
- [RootsIreland](#)

- [Deceased Online](#)

They're all worth investigating for their different record collections. Even with those that overlap, such as the 1911 Census records for England and Wales are worth a 'play' as each will have been transcribed differently, so a missing ancestor may turn up on one after disappearing without trace on another. Several of the sites offer free trials, although be aware you may have to give credit card details so you should cancel before the trial ends if you don't wish to continue your subscription. They sometimes have free weekends so it is worthwhile registering for a site and getting on their newsletter list even if you don't take out a subscription.

Free genealogy sites

There are endless great free websites out there to aid your research. They may not be as attractive as the commercial websites aesthetically-speaking, but you will find many of them enormously useful - and they won't cost you a penny. Here are some favourites:

www.freebmd.org.uk

A searchable index to birth, marriage and death records for England and Wales. You'll need the reference number from here to order your ancestors' [BMD certificates](#) via the General Register Office. FreeBMD is an ongoing volunteer project, part of FreeUKGen initiative, so keep checking back if you can't find your ancestors listed.

www.freecen.org.uk

Sister site to FreeBMD aimed at making 19th-century census records free online. Part of the FreeUKGen project, along with www.freereg.org.uk (concentrating on [parish registers](#)).

www.familysearch.org

The world's largest, free, genealogy site with billions of searchable historical records and research guidance via its Research Wiki, online courses and more. Provided by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (also known as the Mormon church).

www.onlineparishclerks.org.uk

An umbrella site for a collection of websites run by volunteers who collect genealogical information about a specific parish and answer email enquiries for free. 11 counties are covered by individual sites, which can contain a vast amount of parish information.

www.genuki.org.uk

The UK and Ireland Genealogical Information Service is a virtual reference library of genealogical data, with links to all the county record offices in the UK, family history societies and much more.

www.londonlives.org

Delve into the lives of 18th-century Londoners on this fantastic, fully searchable site, run by the universities of Sheffield and Hertfordshire. Featuring manuscripts from eight archives, and giving access to 3.35 million names, its sister site www.oldbaileyonline.org is equally fascinating, detailing almost 200,000 criminal trials of ordinary folk at the Old Bailey 1674-1913.

www.cyndislist.com

This remarkable site, a labour of love by American Cyndi Howells, is an enormous, constantly updated, categorised index of more than 325,300 genealogical links worldwide. So whether you're tracing American or Scandinavian ancestry, or anything else in-between, this is a great jumping off point.

www.UKBMD.org

Full of useful information and a great base for exploring the records for England and Wales. The site provides more than 2,300 links to websites that offer online transcriptions of UK births, marriages, deaths and censuses, plus a wide range of other indexes and transcriptions, from parish records to monumental inscriptions.

www.visionofbritain.org.uk

Not such an obvious one perhaps, but this website is just brilliant for anyone researching ancestors from 1801 onwards. It's a national online library for local history and includes everything from historical maps to census reports and travel writing. A feast for the mind. Its free sister maps site, www.oldmapsonline.org, is equally a must.

www.historicaldirectories.org

Another university-run project, this site is a digital library of local and trade directories for England and Wales, 1750-1919. These rare books are essential for filling in details of your families' lives in-between the 10-yearly censuses. Scottish Post Office directories 1773-1911, meanwhile, can be searched at digital.nls.uk/directories.

<http://gbnames.publicprofiler.org>

Family names profiling website based at the University of London that is investigating the distribution of surnames in Great Britain. For world family names maps, visit <http://worldnames.publicprofiler.org>.

www.census.nationalarchives.ie

The National Archives of Ireland free Census of Ireland search site: note only 1901 and 1911 censuses are available.

And last but not least... www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives website for the UK is chock-a-block with advice, blogs, podcasts and even online courses as well as digitised records - some freely downloadable, some for a small fee.

No single commercial website is best for your research - they all offer something different, so try them all for size, but spend your money wisely.

Don't forget, there is an enormous amount of free genealogy data on the web too - ignore the free sites at your peril!

DNA Testing for Family History

© [Gail Riddell](mailto:gailriddell@gmail.com) 2014

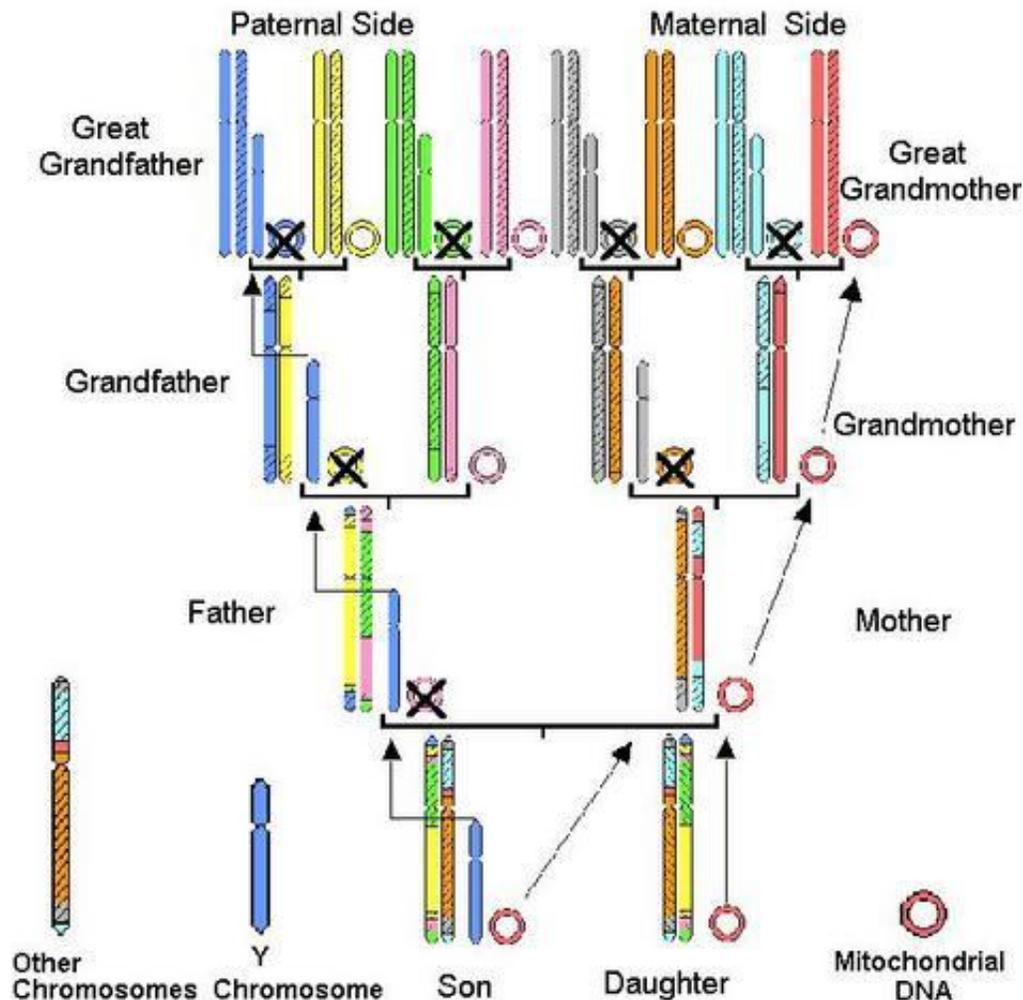


Part 7. Your Autosomal DNA test

This is the 7th in a series of 12 articles by Gail Riddell (a popular and renowned DNA presenter in New Zealand) on the subject of DNA testing for genealogy purposes. For further information, please contact her directly at riddellDNA@gmail.com

In the 6th article for this newsletter, I finished off by stating I would write about autosomal testing. So here we go! (As in keeping with my previous articles, this is aimed at the non versed tester and not to the scientific community, thus I am attempting to use layman's wording and examples, wherever possible, in spite of the shortcomings of same).

All human beings carry autosomes – these are chromosomes 1 to 22 inherited from their parents. (The X chromosome will be excluded from this article because this is a whole separate study – it does not behave like the chromosomes 1-22). The X does not combine in the same way as do the other chromosomes 1-22, meaning females inherit two X chromosomes – one from mother and one from father – and males inherit just one X which comes from their mother. This means a male will never inherit an X chromosome from his father nor from his DIRECT paternal ancestors. This also means that the X does not recombine in the male. Because the female gets one from each of her parents in the same way as she inherits a strand of autosomes from each of her parents, then it will recombine in her. This graphic gives an exceedingly simple and well drawn example as to who inherits what and from whom.



Your father will give you about 50% of his autosomes – as will your mother. BUT these autosomes then combine in you (during gestation) to make you who you are – genetically speaking. These therefore consist of segments from every one of your parents, your grandparents, your great grandparents and so on back through each generation. So by the time that muddled up and mixed up recombined set of segments arrives in tiny little you, your GGGGG grandmother (or GGGGG grandfather) on any of those lines may be so small that such a segment may not easily be detectable as having come from your GGGGG grandparent. And remember, at this level, you have 64 individuals on your mother’s side and 64 on your father’s side. Additionally, remember that every single set of their children and their children’s children and their children’s children children etc. will carry aspects of the same segments that you are carrying. Please do not underestimate just how large the number of people becomes who will carry a genetic connection with you. (This is an important principal to understand when it comes time to compare your matches.)

In other words, at every generation, if each set of grandparents has 8 living and healthy children who all marry and reproduce their own children, this can, if they too have 8 healthy and reproductive children, can mushroom out to 512 distant cousins who also carry your autosomes. They and their spouses may well have each had 8 healthy living children who also each reproduced 8 children. So, just one generation closer to you, there will be 4,096 men and women carrying segments of your autosomes. You will NOT know their surnames. How could you possibly know them all?

Nevertheless, your autosomal DNA tells the story. So, if you have tested and contact another person said to be matching you PLEASE do not state (nor accept someone else stating the same to you) that since you cannot find the person concerned in your tree, you are not a member of their family. I bring this up because too often I have people coming to me stating that the testing firm MUST have got their results wrong – simply because they have contacted (or been contacted by) a 3rd or a 4th cousin and they cannot find that surname in their tree.

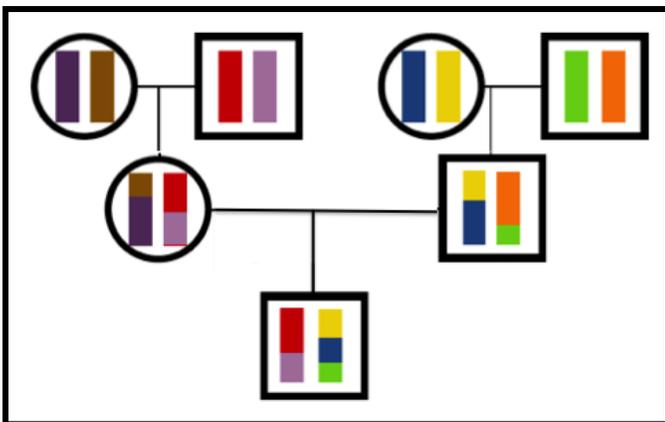
What do surnames mean?

They are only an effort towards identification. The surname means very little. It frequently changes. But because the person receiving your enquiry does not recognise the surname, the common response is “I have a very large tree and because your name is not on it, you have got it wrong”! No. The recipient has got it wrong. He or she is misunderstanding the power of DNA to reach across the families around the world. Meaning he or she has little idea as to how the recombination of autosomes works.

The autosomal test is all encompassing – cutting right across the paternal line and the maternal line, but the outcome of the size of the segments frequently misses a generation. Merely as an example, I was fortunate to get a very distant cousin to test and I was amazed to learn my son had a closer match than I did with that very distant cousin. Luckily, I had already proven the result via Y-DNA matching. So the lesson here was, do NOT rely on one test of your family alone – seek further afield as far as your pocket will allow. Additionally, if you are going to get involved with autosomal testing you will need your siblings’ results to aid you. In this way, you can increase your chances of finding those cousins simply because of the totally unpredictable way in which those pesky chromosomes recombine.

Another example: A brother of mine has many more matches than I have. Our sister has the least of the three of us. And all three of us have matches that the other does NOT have, yet we are most definitely full siblings.

Here is a simple graphic presentation of how just the autosomes work. It is over-simplified.



Place yourself in the bottom square (whether you are male or female). In the left hand circles, we see your paternal line and in the right hand squares we see your maternal line. The colour bars are indicative of how the chromosomes shown are passed down to you. According to this, you have nothing of the orange from your maternal grandmother but about the same amount of green as your mother received from her. (This, of course is not actual, it is merely to give you an indication). Neither does there appear to be anything of your paternal grandfather to have reached you, in spite of your father having received segments. But plenty have come through to you from his wife.

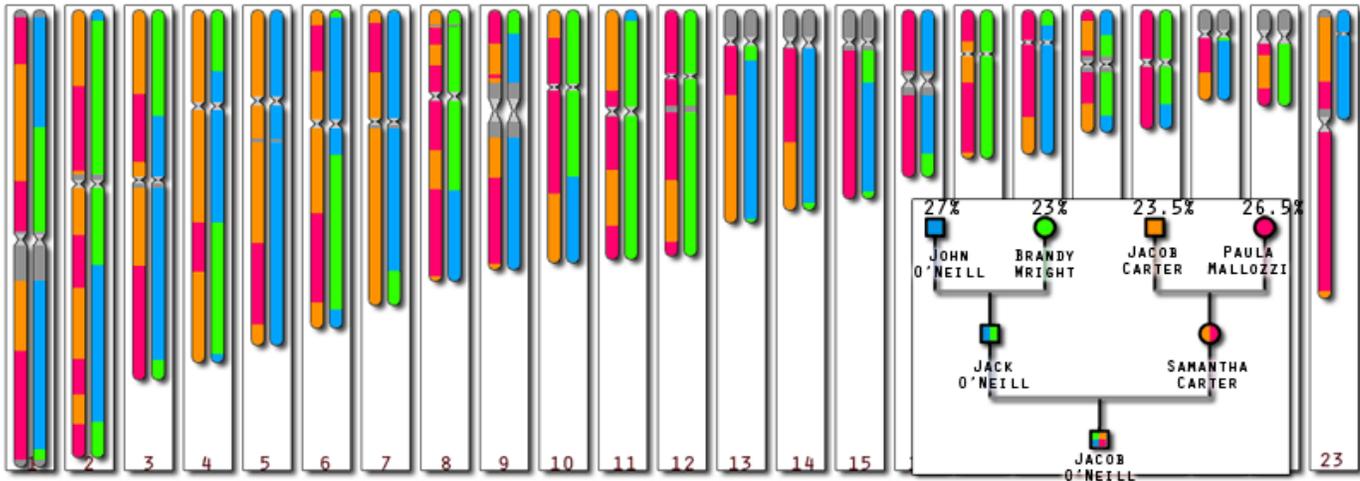
But this is not possible. You will have segments from your paternal grandfather. It is just because they have become too small or have been overwhelmed by others that they are not reported to you. But believe me, they are there. (If you are struggling with this, please

contact me).

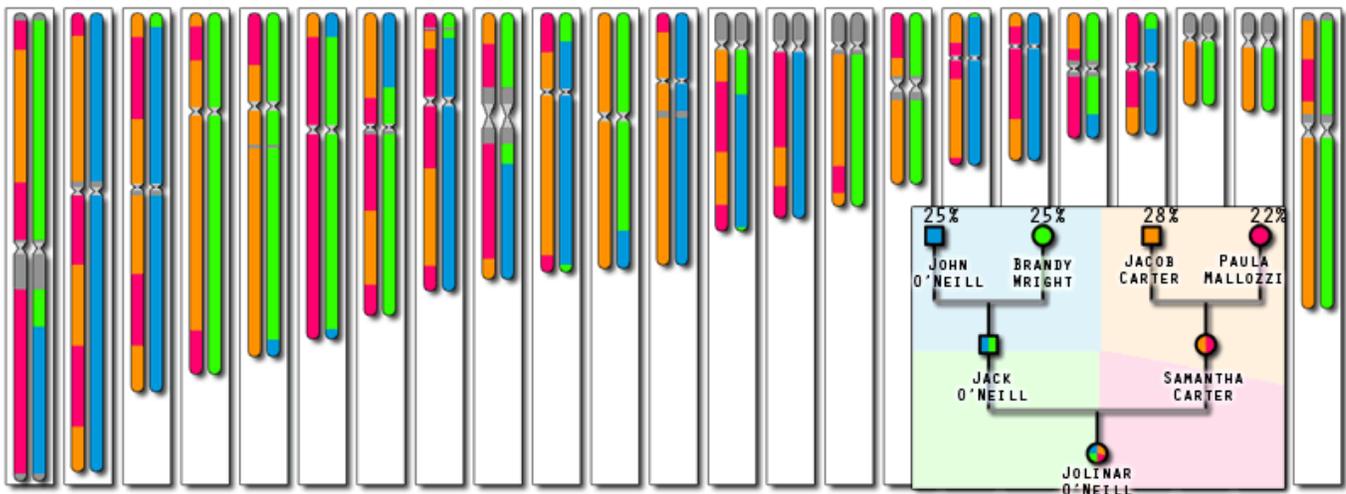
The outcome of any autosomal test will be a little like a lottery. Therefore, to increase your odds, you also need to ask your siblings to test.

Here is yet another graphic – more sophisticated – showing all the chromosomes in their pairs – with grateful thanks to Angela Cone, a fellow Administrator of FTDNA.

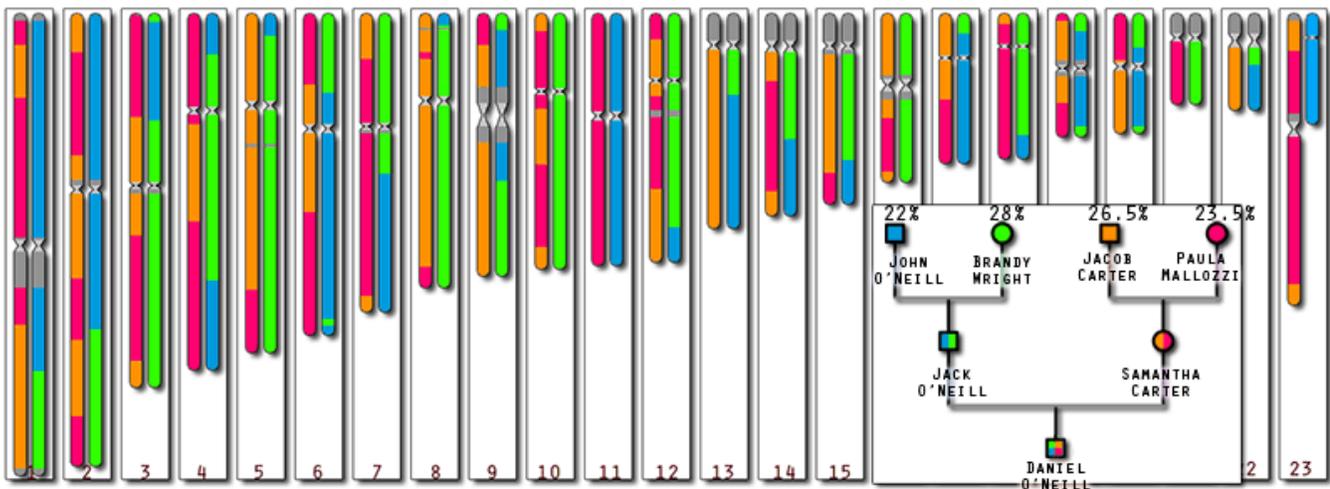
This first one is a male child



Now look at the differences between the first and his sister.



And yet another sibling – this one also male. More differences!



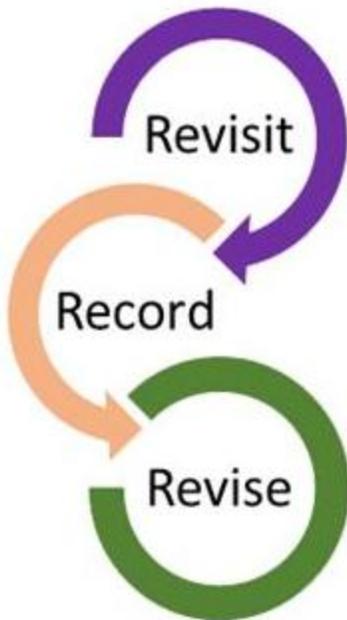
Note that the 23rd chromosome on the far right hand side has an X and a Y for the males, but the middle graphic is that of a female - 2 X chromosomes are displayed.

Every one of these siblings has inherited something different from each of their parents. And as each sibling reproduces, everything in that next generation of children is again mixed and muddled. These differences are normal – even identical twins have differences. And these differences become invaluable to those of us researching our families. But we have to learn how to “read” the language of autosomal DNA tests. Luckily (and sensibly), FTDNA does it to a reasonably high level for us – even to the point of enabling us to

look at each match on each chromosome. From here we can see the start and end segments of those with whom we compare ourselves. (This is not the end of the story, but it is where I am ending this article). I shall attempt to cover more on this aspect in the 10th article called “Understanding your Autosomal Results”. The 8th article will be on “Understanding your Paternal Results”. The 9th article is planned to be about “Understanding your Maternal Results”. I originally planned the 11th article as “Hints and Tips” with the final article being about “Websites and Blogs and Forums for DNA”. But perhaps there are some special requests or specific questions which could take the place of these? Just email me at riddelldna@gmail.com

My Three Rs of Genealogy Research (from Famnet’s September newsletter)

Reprinted from [My three Rs of Genealogy Research](#)



As family historians we need the traditional three Rs of reading, ‘riting and ‘rithmetic, after all how else to locate our families’ records, write their stories and calculate and cross-check their ages, dates of births, deaths and shotgun marriages. But today I’m going to propose that another three Rs are also needed for our family history research.

Revisit

Traditional wisdom suggests we maintain a research register/spreadsheet which documents every record set and document we’ve checked in the course of our research, either online or offline. This practice, or some variation of it, is certainly helpful to ensure we don’t waste valuable research time searching the same records again and again.

However, I’d argue there’s a benefit to visiting at least some of the records more than once. Certainly we should revisit those documents we’ve stored in our files, databases or trees.

Why?

Because I firmly believe that research findings, and our perception and understanding of them, are not static. The documents themselves will not change but the research “glasses” we’re wearing will certainly change how we see the detail on them.

What we know of our history changes over time, either incrementally or in large leaps forward. Things we haven’t noticed about a record will suddenly leap out at us as having a new or additional meaning. The significance of names will become clearer as in the interim we’ve learned of family connections. If we only look at the record the first time we find it, and don’t squeeze it for every single drop, we run the risk of missing the key to a brick-wall breakthrough.

And then there’s the one-time search of a particular record set, especially online. I’m sure we’ve all had searches that we’ve rejected as unsuccessful on one occasion, only to revisit the search and see, with those new glasses on, something important that turns it into a relevant record for our research.

And what of looking at adjoining pages to see who’s living nearby? We used to do this automatically when searching offline but the downside of an online search is that it takes us straight to our ancestor’s document and tempts us just to exit to the next search without checking out the broader context.

Record

Each of us has our own way of recording our family history. Most will keep at least key information in family history programs or trees, either online or offline. Others have their own family websites. Others again will publish the family’s story in a book. It’s probably a fair bet that some are writing their family history online i.e. writing a genealogy blog. I’ve noticed that when we say “blog” people sometimes conclude we’re just playing around on the internet, telling others what we had for breakfast etc. Blogging is a great option for recording our family’s history and revealing the grassroots of history by contextualising it within the broader framework of traditional history.

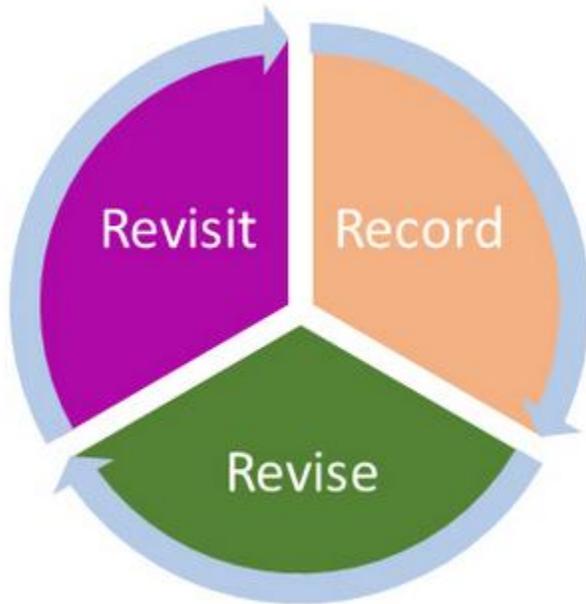
I feel sure that the centenary of World War I will produce many micro-stories of the impact of war on families and communities as well as the contributions made by individuals on both sides of the military fence. This reveals a more nuanced tapestry of history than the big-picture, important-people version that we all learnt at school. It also exposes the sheer scale of war’s impact at the grassroots level. We can do the same for so many aspects of our family history by revealing more about a community, which in turn might lead to a One Place Study.

Blogging also provides a less threatening way of starting to document a family history rather than the daunting prospect of writing a book.

Revise

Having identified and documented your research findings, do you look at what you've actually written or recorded? Do you check you've not leapt to conclusions and blipped over an assumption you've made? You know what they say about assumptions...

RECAP



Of course with so many records coming online it's tempting to just keep searching for new and fascinating tidbits about our families. Still we'd be wise to stop every now and then, and revisit what we've written or recorded in our family trees.

Revisit those documents we have stored, look again at that photo we've been mystified by, and assess whether there are certificates we need to purchase, microfilms to be ordered in or another avenue of research to be explored.

Record each new discovery and assess what its impact is on the discoveries we've made before.

Revise our assumptions and family links. There is a constant flow between revisiting, recording and revision.

WEBSITES for British and Worldwide Research

www.railwaysarchive.co.uk

This is the website for British Railway History from its beginnings right up to the present day with around 9,000 accident reports and 4,000 other documents.

www.gravestonephotos.com

This worldwide website relies on volunteers to take photos and compile indexes of the names on them. A small image of each headstone is able to be viewed and downloaded from the site but a high quality digital image can be requested free. Coverage in New Zealand is best for Auckland and Marlborough. For Australia most graves are in South Australia, Queensland and Victoria. Edinburgh is well covered.

Website of the Month

www.historyofwar.org

This site contains a huge amount of information about battles and wars from the earliest times right up to the present day. Has about 5,000 articles and 2,000 pictures. Useful for WWI battles.