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DNA experiences

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DNA experiences

In SAG 4/2014 the readers were encouraged to share their DNA stories, and here are some

Karna Olsson of Belfast, Maine, wrote:

Received the copy of SAG last week and as always I enjoyed it very much Again and again I say how delighted I am it is still in business.... In answer to the question of yours on the last page I did have my DNA done through a firm called "23 and me".... then I paid to have Chris have his done because the female can only receive her mother's DNA and so now I have both my father's and my mother's What is interesting to me is that my mother's line is predominantly Scandinavian with some northern European ... and that includes Basques and Saami (of course my grandfather, *morfar*, was of a Walloon family and so the Basque makes sense).

My father's was very, very little Scandinavian, predominantly Irish, and French and Spanish If Father were alive he would be quite puzzled by all this.

I had this done four years ago For me this is fascinating.

[**Ed:s note:** Karna's father was the well-known immigration historian Nils William Olsson, founder of SAG. Karna's brother Chris is SAG's invaluable proof-reader.]

Brian Samuelson of Sun City West, Arizona, wrote:

I am the son of Swedish immigrants who became interested in learning about the family histories of both sides of my family once I had retired from a 33-year teaching career.

This one discovery has to do with a great-great-grandfather of mine who led a rather shady life in Sweden. I lost track of him after he got out of prison for desertion and biga-

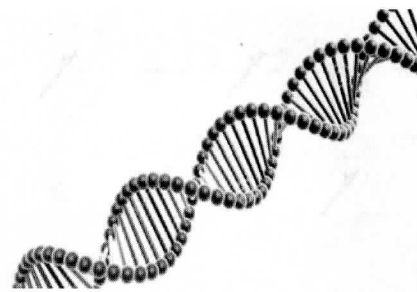
my and was sent to Stockholm. The year is 1864/65. I have a great deal of information about him from his birth on 3 April 1827 until that time. Research here uncovered a man of the same name as being buried in Crystal Lake Cemetery in Minneapolis. His death certificate indicates the same date of birth! No other information is given as to place of birth, parents, etc. My feeling is that, if this is my gggrandfather, he preferred to leave his Swedish history behind him.

Continued research over here led me to a young man who is a direct descendant of the man buried in Minneapolis. He and I tried, through various means, to see if this man and my gggrandfather are one and the same. We finally did DNA testing through Ancestry.com. The results showed us to be cousins in the 3rd to 4th level which turns out to be about right when you plot it out on paper. I feel pretty confident that those results along with that common date of birth lend some credence to the Swede and the American to being one and the same. We would still like to find any definitive records to prove that to be the case.

George H. Minkler of Waukegan, Illinois, wrote:

I have been wanting to express my opinions on DNA in genealogy for some time but haven't found anyone willing to listen.

I've been doing research since the late 1970's, but have had success with only one line and that is my *morfar* going back to the late 1700's in Håslöv, Kristianstad län. Thinking that the DNA thing might be of some help, I joined Ancestry and sent in my sample, full of high expectations.



My *morfar* and *mormor* were born in Skåne near Helsingborg. *Farmor* was the daughter of immigrants from Prussia (mid 1800's) which at that time covered over 50% of Europe.

Farfar's family probably came to the U.S.A. before 1800. Most of his family names that I know are of English origin. My mother told me my father was German, English, Irish, and Welsh. (Minkler is a German name).

The results from Ancestry were quite (to me) surprising.

Scandinavian 48%
West Europe 14%
Irish 12%
East Europe 9%
Iberian Pen. 8%
Italy/Greece 1%
Finland/
NW Russia 1%

They have given me a list of 92 people and their trees, from second cousins (which are actually first cousins, once removed) to fourth/sixth cousins. I have looked at roughly half of these trees and am amazed that I have found roughly a half dozen family names with which I can identify.

I am highly skeptical of these results as I am of Ancestry (which I have grown to dislike). Have been to Sweden three times, twice on my own, once with *The American Union of Swedish Singers* and love the place. (Have cousins in Helsingborg and Höganäs).

I have had no luck in tracing my *oäkta mormor*. SVAR thought they had found her, but my further research through Gencode (before Ancestry swallowed them) I found that their Alma Nilsson was still in Sweden, while my Alma Nilsson was marrying *morfar* right here in Waukegan, Illinois, U.S.A.