

Newsletter

Vol. 3 No. 8 December 2010

From the Director - 'Tis the season for DNA sales!

The season for holiday sales actually began on October 20th with Family Tree DNA's Family Finder bundle promotion. A Family Finder test with a basic Y-chromosome or mitochondrial DNA test can be ordered for just \$10 more than the regular cost of the Family Finder test. In addition, Family Tree DNA followed that with a Thanksgiving week upgrade sale and their [annual holiday sale](#). And they didn't stop there! Family Tree DNA recently launched [a new Facebook page](#) and had a weeklong promotion reducing the price on the basic Y-DNA and mtDNA tests by \$20 if you clicked the "Like" button. And while this isn't a sale, they held a drawing for FREE kits as well! Both of these Facebook promotions have ended, but join their site to catch the next one.

23andMe started out with a Black Friday-only sale, which was then extended to Cyber Monday and then morphed into their [holiday sale](#). In the history of the company, this is the third best sale pricing they have ever had. The cost works out to \$159 (plus shipping) for one million SNPs tested.

GeneTree is another genetic genealogy company that is offering [holiday sale](#) pricing from December 3rd thru the 25th. \$129 for their top of the line mtDNA or Y-DNA package.

So for the time of the year when most people have the largest out-flow of cash, it is the best time of year to save on DNA testing. DNA is at the top of my gift list!

-Katherine Borges
ISOGG Director

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is a letter from Dr. Tim Janzen regarding last month's editorial "[In Search of: Native American DNA - Part 2](#)". Tim rightly called attention to the fact that a living descendant of Pocahontas could *possibly* still possess some of her autosomal DNA and it *may* be detected by a DNA test. I might have caught this before I wrote my article if I had stopped to look up Pocahontas' birth date which I did AFTER receiving Tim's letter. Not only is he right, but he provided such an interesting example to support it, I requested permission to share his letter.

(Reprinted in entirety)

Dear Katherine,

I would have written this section somewhat differently: "One caveat of autosomal testing is that this type of testing is effective for more recent generations, i.e: great-grandparents range, possibly a little farther back. If you're looking to uncover Pocahontas' DNA in your tree, its not going to show."

I descend from Tarhe (1742-1818), a Wyandot Indian chief. I am 1/256 Wyandot Indian. Thus, my mom is 1/128 Wyandot. My mom and her 2 brothers and my mom's two first cousins each have between 4-6 Native American segments in their DNA results from 23andMe, which almost certainly came from Tarhe. One of my mom's 2nd cousins doesn't have any Native American segments currently showing in her 23andMe results. Let's for discussion sake apply my family's results to the Pocahontas situation and assume that the person being tested theoretically has 1/2048 of Pocahontas' DNA in them (four generations earlier than Tarhe). Let's assume that at the 1/128 level that the average descendent has readily identifiable 4 autosomal segments from that ancestor. Applying this to the 1/2048 level, then we can assume that person has a 25% chance that their 23andMe results will reveal a Native American autosomal segment. Thus, I would have written your comments as follows: "One caveat of autosomal testing is that this type of testing is effective for more recent generations, i.e: great grandparents range and somewhat farther back. If you're looking to uncover Pocahontas' DNA in your tree, it could show up, but is somewhat unlikely to show up."

Thanks for all you do for ISOGG and for the leadership you provide.

Sincerely,

Tim Janzen



DNA in the Mainstream

recognition and sightings

National Geographic Channel's "Explorer: Born to Rage?" airs Tues, Dec 14 @ 10 pm ET/ 7 pm PT

What promises to be a riveting show, "[Born to Rage](#)" explores whether some of us are born with a so-called "Warrior Gene". The "Warrior Gene" is a version of the MAOA gene, which codes for the enzyme [monoamine oxidase A](#) and men can discover whether they have it or not by [ordering a test through Family Tree DNA](#).

Family Tree DNA is now developing a new STR based protocol to allow women to test and see if they have one or two copies of the variant. Presuming that this is of enough interest, the company may offer this test to the public with the caveat that it would be based upon zero academic data since women were never tested for the scientific studies. [Contact Family Tree DNA](#) if you are a female interested in ordering this test.



(Photo from Family Tree DNA homepage)

Second season of U.S. version of "Who Do You Think You Are?" to premiere January

Mark your calendars now to tune in for the second season of the popular television series, "*Who Do You Think You Are?*" debuts on [January 21 @ 8-7 p.m. CT on NBC](#).

Coming in February 2011, on the side of the Atlantic where it all started, the *Who Do You Think You Are? - LIVE!* conference will be hosted in Olympia, London on 25-27 Feb. The conference hosts [the largest DNA venue](#) in the UK. If you are planning to attend and would like to meet up with other ISOGG members there, please [send us an e-mail](#) for more information.



Family Finder Success for the Family of North Dakota's First Democrat Senator

by Joe Fox

For years, I've been trying to trace the ancestry of my all-female line great grandmother, Anne Euphemia Roach. All I had was some 1860 census data for Washington, DC, that seemed to identify her family with Edward as the father but

gave only the first name for the mother. I had posted this information on Rootsweb but had gotten no replies.

Then, a month ago, I was contacted by a projected 5th cousin in Family Finder. The match was 11.5 cM on the longest block but we had several surnames in common. Turns out that the match is probably in our Cooper ancestry back in Ireland before 1745 – at least 6 generations back. His Coopers had come over later but there were given names and wives surnames that matched.

But, in addition, he had already noted that he had several matches with people who gave Roach as one of their family surnames – even though he had not yet identified a Roach ancestor for himself. So he had been tracing the Roach family back in St. Mary's County, MD, and in Washington, DC, and was able to give me the name of Edward Roach's wife, which was Catherine Manning, from Loudoun County, VA. A little snooping around on Google led me to a posting on Ancestry.com that described what appeared to be the same family. This, in turn led me to look up William Nathaniel Roach, US Senator from North Dakota from 1893 to 1899, who turned out to be Anne Euphemia Roach's brother. I went back to the Ancestry.com posting, contacted the sender, and now have access to the Manning family tree – which is quite impressive. I've also taken my all-female line back another 2 generations to Euphemia Lacy Manning of Paeonian Springs, Loudoun County, VA.

The lesson I get from this is that it pays to follow up on some of these more remote surname connections. No telling what might develop. I also learned why my great aunt, who was my mother's family genealogist, had failed to document her own mother's family tree. It seems that William Nathaniel Roach, her uncle, was once the cashier of a bank in Virginia whose funds he was diverting into the stock market for himself. He was rescued by family connections who paid off his losses and he then moved out to North Dakota to start a new life – successful enough to become the first Democrat elected senator from that state.

For more DNA success stories or to submit yours, visit:

<http://www.isogg.org/successstories.htm>

What's *NEW* in ISOQG



DNA in the News

[SVC students unveil genealogy project](#) - Bennington Banner - 8 Dec 2010

[DNA tracks us back to the stone age](#) - Adelaide Now - 6 Dec 2010

For more articles:

<http://www.isogg.org/newsarchives.htm>

ISOQG Facebook "Likes" and Spencer Wells

The [ISOQG Facebook Group](#) was established in 2008 before Facebook came out with "Fan" pages which were then transformed into "Like" pages. That is why the ISOQG Facebook Group does not have a "Like" button on its page and the only way to add one is if Facebook does it. That said, ISOQG can add the "Like" button to its own webpages and such as at the [top of this newsletter](#)! We've also added the "Like" buttons to the ISOQG homepage and to all [ISOQG Wiki](#) pages. So please click our "Like" buttons to share ISOQG with your friends and family on Facebook.

"Like" Dr. Spencer Wells' (of the Genographic Project) new Facebook page:



URL: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Spencer-Wells/151911074850583>

The ISOGG newsletter is a membership benefit of the world's first society founded for the promotion and education of genetic genealogy, ISOGG - The International Society of Genetic Genealogy. Membership is FREE! Members automatically receive the newsletter to share the latest news and happenings in the world of genetic genealogy.

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