

# Newsletter

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## From the Director - African DNA Primer for Black History Month

Have you seen the PBS show [African American Lives](#) hosted by Dr. Henry Louis Gates? The show profiles many famous African Americans like Oprah, Maya Angelou, and Quincy Jones among others. Nearly all those profiled were DNA tested and their ancestral origins were shared. Most led back to Africa with matches to genetic cousins in different tribes. However, matches with tribal names does not necessarily mean that the person testing is from that tribe, it just means they have genetic cousins in that tribe. This is due to intermarriage among tribes. Think about it, if you are from Peoria, do you think everyone in Peoria has only married other Peorians?

The haplogroups identified as originating in Africa on the Y-chromosome are A, B, and some branches of E, particularly subclades E1a, and E1b1a. For mitochondrial DNA, haplogroup L primarily signifies African DNA. On occasion, some people are surprised when European DNA results are revealed. This was exactly the case for Dr. Gates; he has European DNA on both his Y-chromosome and mitochondrial lines. Testing his relatives may reveal African DNA origins on his mother's paternal line or his father's maternal line. Dr. Gates had such a positive experience with hosting "[African American Lives 1 & 2](#)" that he decided to launch his own DNA company, AfricanDNA.com, which is the [first of its kind](#) to offer DNA testing and genealogical research services for African Americans.

-Katherine Borges  
ISOGG Director



*DNA in the Mainstream*  
*recognition and sightings*

## U.S. version of "Who Do You Think You Are" to premiere April 20

The widely popular United Kingdom television series, "[Who Do You Think You Are?](#)" is coming to the states on [April 20 @ 8-9 p.m. on NBC](#). While the series has aired in Britain for several years, with different versions airing in Ireland and Wales, it is brand new to the U.S. "Friends" star, Lisa Kudrow, bought the U.S. rights to the show. Like its UK counterpart, the US version will undoubtedly use DNA to inform celebrities about their genetic heritage.

Meanwhile, 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 27 Feb to 1 Mar. This year's conference will host [the largest DNA venue](#) to ever debut in the UK.



## Bl-askowski DNA Success Story

By Marvin Blaski

Since the late 1880s, there were two Bl-askowski families living in Chicago. Both families had come from the Kaszubi section of northern Poland and apparently lived within 30 miles of each other according to different records. Both families were very close in Chicago. My ancestral family records are in the Parchowo church records. Their records came from an old family bible.

I decided to have my DNA and the DNA from a male member of the other family tested by Family Tree DNA. Our 37-marker test results were identical. I added the 67-marker test which resulted in one small difference. My 67th marker had one more repeat than that with the other family.

Then, I decided to ask the President of the PGS-CA to review my family history book and data to see what I should do. After reviewing the data, she recommended getting the civil death record of the grandfather in the other family. I only had the obituary from the Polish language newspaper. The informant for the civil death record said that his father, Bernard, was born in the same Polish town that my grandfather was born in and was born on the same day as the next younger brother of my grandfather. My grandfather had six brothers and one sister. Two died in Poland and, besides my grandfather, four came to the U.S. in 1887. The one remaining brother, the next younger brother of my grandfather, disappeared - no record.

It appears that the next younger brother changed his given name from Stephen Augustine to Bernard and left Poland in 1885, two years before the rest of the family. Why did he leave in a hurry? Stephen was 20 years old and probably the invading Prussian Army wanted to draft him so he changed his given name and took the next ship to the U.S., two years before the rest of the family. There is other data to support this conclusion.

*This is an update to the [Blaski DNA success story](#) first published in 2007 on ISOGG's DNA Success Stories page.*

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

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

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# What's NEW in ISOGG



## DNA in the News

[Get the pictures out](#) - Lake County News-Sun - 14 Feb 2009

[Genealogy helps uncover truths passed down the generations](#) - nj.com - 12 Feb 2009

[Neanderthal genome will unlock secrets of human evolution](#) - Times Online - 12 Feb 2009

[DNA-onderzoek helpt de genealogie](#) - Ed.nl - 3 Feb 2009

For more articles:

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

## NEW ISOGG page - DNA Testing Surprises

<http://www.isogg.org/ts.htm><sup>{link removed}</sup>

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