

DNA Results Available On-Line for John Kuzmich, Jr. Ancestry

Sometimes, records and oral histories aren't enough. Every genealogist smacks into brick walls, feels the chill of a paper trail gone cold, frustratingly fails to prove family fables of famous lineages. Many of us wonder about cousins out there we haven't yet encountered, and may never get to. But these traditional roadblocks don't have to bring your research to a standstill anymore. Family history researchers everywhere are exploring a new frontier that's brimming with answers: genetic genealogy.

By examining genes, scientists can tell whether one person shares an ancestor with another, about how long ago that common ancestor lived, and even where his ancient homeland is.

"DNA is a record of who we are and how we're related to each other," says Scott Woodward, who started the ambitious Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation (SMGF)

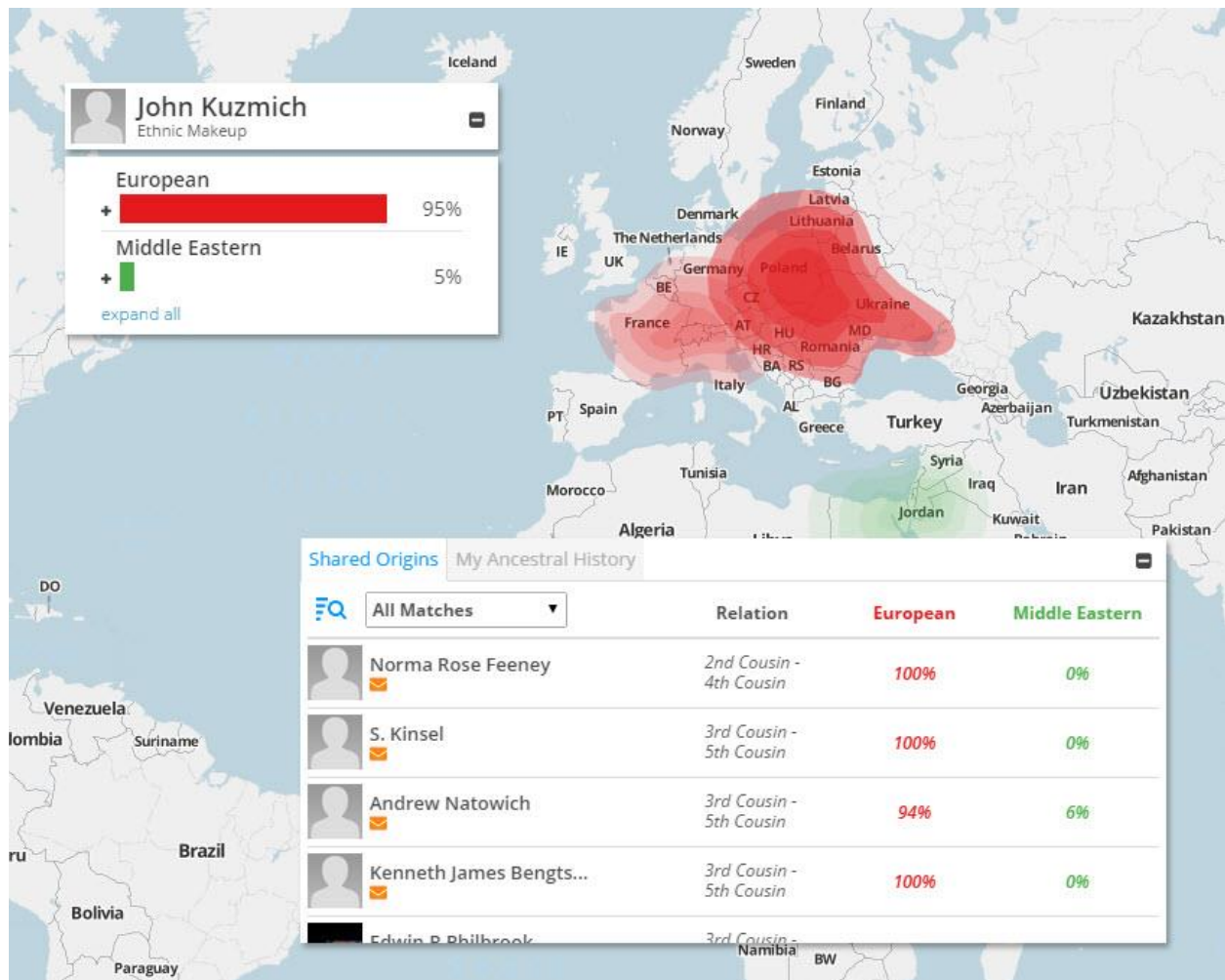
<www.smgf.org> beginning at the turn of the last century. "DNA can identify an individual, link him to a family and identify extended family groups." Its accuracy in determining family relationships is unparalleled, and researchers are building global genetic-genealogy databases as you read this.

The Internet was the first revolution in genealogy, and DNA is the second. Both make it faster and easier to find distant cousins, and genetalogy allows you to peer deeply into the past. Plus, it's amazingly effective in steering your research in the right direction and telling you which paths to avoid. Used properly, it can shave years off traditional research efforts.

Recently, I contacted FamilyTreeDNA.org for both paternal (Y-DNA67) and the maternal (**Mitochondrial**) genetic tests as well as the newest Autosomal DNA test that covers both the paternal and the maternal lines. If you think that you might be related to me, consider contacting me so we can share test results. Everybody agrees — or at least seems to agree — that DNA is mainstream now. That it's a cool tool for resolving issues of proof and relationship that can't be solved in any other way.

In myOrigin chart below you can see the influence that my maternal Eastern European ancestors have had on my overall DNA). Namely, from Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. In October, I will have my paternal family lines analyzed from a Y-DNA67 marker test. Together I should have a better understanding of my genetic roots by viewing my genetic test results along with the paper trail that I have established for each family line on my family history blog: <http://kuzmichgenealogy.blogspot.com>. Here are specific citations for my Eastern European family history paper trail.

- The [Kuzmich/Basalyga Family Lines](#) originating from Snietnica and Stawisha, Poland
- [Meet the Turk/Gazvoda, Golobic, Zupancic and Hrovatic Family Lines](#) originating from Novo Mesto, Slovenia
- [Meet the Galinak, Surma and Kucala Family Lines](#) originating in Krempachy, Szaflary, and Nowa Biala, Poland
- [Meet the Extended Kucala Family Lines](#) originating from Nowa Biala and Krempachy, Poland
- [Meet the Bochnovich Family Lines](#) originating from Stawisha, Poland



Y-DNA

Because surnames, like Y-chromosomes, are passed from father to son, a Y-DNA test can be a useful tool in determining whether families with the same last name are related—but it can't pinpoint the common ancestor. Information from a Y-DNA test relates to your paternal line, with no influence of any females along that line, so it won't help if you want to know whether you're related to someone through, say, your father's mother. This test also can be used to determine a haplogroup for your male line. Since only males receive the Y-chromosome, only men can take this test. Females who want to find out more about their paternal line need to have a male relative from that line tested. A haplogroup is a deep ancestral group that describes the early origins of your paternal (YDNA) or maternal (mtDNA) line

Mitochondrial DNA

Somewhat like the feminine version (with a few differences) of the Y-DNA test, a mitochondrial (mt) DNA test will tell you about your female line with no influence of any males along that line. Because mtDNA doesn't mutate much over time, this test is best for telling you about your "deep" maternal-line ancestry—you'll be assigned to a haplogroup, often described as your branch of the world family tree. If your mtDNA test results match someone else's, there's a good bet you're related, but it'll be hard to tell how long ago your common ancestor lived. MtDNA is passed from mother to both sons and daughters, so men and women can take this test. You can't get the direct paternal answers from mitochondrial DNA because that gives me your

mother's mother's mother's info⁶... so even if I had a direct unbroken female family surname line, but it will never connect you to your direct paternal surname family lines.

Ethnic

To discover your ethnic ancestry, you'll need to take a standard Y-DNA or mtDNA test you'll have to be mindful about choosing the correct family member to test. If you think your mother's father was American Indian, for example, don't test yourself—your mother didn't get Y-DNA or mtDNA from him, and neither did you. Instead, have her brother take a Y-DNA test.

You can also explore your ethnic origins with the Autosomal DNA test to determine your genetic heritage among various groups that are defined a bit differently by each company. Diahan Southard of Your DNA Guide reminds us to use these results with caution as “Your genetic pedigree is not the same as your genealogical pedigree. This means that you may find that the admixture results don't entirely represent what you know about your family history- and that is ok.”

Suggestions

For those who are interested in understanding DNA testing results more, consider going to <http://yourdnaguide.com/for-sale/>. There are three quick guides and soon there will be a fourth one which is a good starting to understanding DNA. And are very inexpensive and reliable.