

## THE OPPORTUNITY OF DNA IN OUR RESEARCH

We are devoting this special page on our website to try and convince our family members and their interested relatives of the opportunity that DNA analysis now offers in guiding family history research as well as breaking through roadblocks to our continuing success.

The dedicated Atfield researchers have individually and collectively achieved amazing results using almost all available means: the world-wide-web, family history centres, community archives and museums, whether at the country, country, provincial, state, municipal levels. Most of us got started in our research simply by chatting to those members of our immediate family who remember amazing facts and detail. **Lets not stop now.**

But while we can hone our present knowledge with improved detail, interesting stories, occupations and imagery, we eventually hit that barricade which will not less us pass. DNA is one tool that MAY help get over that hurdle but yes, there is no guarantee. Is this not the case every time you pursue a hint or a theory in your research? Have you ever left the archive or museum and felt that you were not successful? Probably not but often have discovered different facts that encourage you to go back time and time again.

Individually, why have we taken on this research? Interest in delving as deeply as possible into our families, certainly. Why do we continue? In hopes of going that one small step further. Will it change our lives to find that next piece of interesting history? Not likely, **but isn't it exciting.**

Several of us are convinced that DNA analysis amongst and between Atfield researchers is the logical next step in moving forward, to open new vistas of research never before considered. And yes, there are cost considerations. Nervousness is understandable but unjustified. We are not forensic scientists hunting criminals. And, we are confident that there are too few test markers analyzed in the suggested test for detail forensic searches. The worst that can happen is that we discover no clear links today. But the opportunity of sharing our DNA with others under the worldwide Family History banner could lead to improved links in the future. But the promise of widespread testing is that we will find evidence for family links that were previously only surmised or perhaps not even noticed.

Cost is easiest to overcome. What is the relative cost to your other investments in family research: the software, the computer tools, the travel to and from sites, visiting distant relatives, memberships etc. If it gets us that one step further is it not a small additional cost? Let us know at the contact address on the Welcome page if this is a concern.

So, next time you are at your web browser, type in GENEALOGY RESEARCH DNA or other combinations of related words, and begin to review the sites offering to sell you research support, but mainly read what some of the authors and genetic researchers who have documented the findings and opportunities have to say. Spend a day or two and convince yourself of what this might do to aid your personal as well as our collective research.

You have read that some of the contributors to this website have already, using ancestry.com, taken the tests. We strongly encourage the Y46 level of testing for compatibility with existing results. None of us has experienced anything negative from having done

so but sadly, our sample of contributors is too low to achieve the levels of research support anticipated.

Can we encourage you NOW to go to <http://dna.ancestry.com/welcomeRedirect.aspx> read what they have to offer and digest the experience of others. Sign up is free then you can visit the Atfield Group directly. And request the swab package to take the Y46 test as your fellow Atfield researchers. Unfortunately, you will have read that males providing this result produces the links we seek. Women, in spite of not carrying a Y-chromosome, can still trace their paternal lineage. Using a DNA sample provided by a brother, father, or another paternal relative (for example, a male cousin) a woman can treat these Y results as if they were her own.

**Lets get our joint project solidly back on the rails and accelerating forward.**