



The Stillaguamish Star

The Official Newsletter of The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society

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Newsletter@stillygen.org

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Shared cM Project Tool

By Sue McNeil



The Shared cM Project Tool is described as:

“Enter the number of cMs of DNA you share with a match and the shared cM tool will help you consider possible relationships”

This online tool is very easy to use. I use it for two purposes: validating known DNA matches share an appropriate amount of DNA *or* identifying possible relationships with unknown matches.

At www.dnainter.com, click ‘Visit the Shared cM Tool’.

If there is a beta version available in the left column, click on that to get the most up-to-date calculations (‘Beta with updated probabilities’).

Choose a known match from your DNA Match List (you know how you are related to this person) and enter the amount of DNA cMs you share with them. A table will display with the list of possible relationships and their probability (for example, 32% chance). In the example below, I entered 150 cM and there are several relationships with a 46% or 44% chance, a few at 8% and many with a very low probability. Since you entered shared DNA cMs with a known match, do you see the relationship you expected in the table? What is the probability that this the correct relationship?

Notice the same data displayed differently in a chart of 70+ relationships with the range of expected shared cMs for each one. The bold relationships are genetically possible with the amount of DNA you entered, and the dim relationships are not genetically possible.

Filter

Enter the total number of cM for your match here:

150

reset

or enter %

Then any relationships that fit will stand out below

Click here for a shareable link to the cM amount above

Most distant common ancestors

Assuming no [pedigree collapse](#) or [endogamy](#), and that you're related in just one way, the **furthest** back you might need to go to find common ancestors for a match of 150cM is **3rd-Great-Grandparent level** or generation 6 on your pedigree chart.

The connection may be closer.

Relationship probabilities (based on stats from [The DNA Geek](#))

View these relationships in a tree

46%	Half GG-Aunt / Uncle 2C Half 1C1R 1C2R Half GG-Niece / Nephew
44%	Half 2C 2C1R Half 1C2R 1C3R
8%	Half 1C3R † 3C Half 2C1R 2C2R
1%	Great-Great-Aunt / Uncle † Great-Great-Niece / Nephew † Half Great-Aunt / Uncle † Half Great-Niece / Nephew † Half 1C † 1C1R
0.75%	Half 2C2R † Half 3C 3C1R 2C3R
~ 0%	** 3C2R

** this set of relationships is just within the threshold for 150cM, but has a zero probability in the [DNA Geek's](#) table of probabilities

† this relationship has a positive probability for 150cM in the [DNA Geek's](#) table of probabilities, but falls outside the bounds of the recorded cM range (99th percentile)



This tool can also be used for an unknown match (you do not know how you are related). The steps are the same as above to see POSSIBLE relationships. The smaller the amount of shared DNA, the more relationships are possible between you and the match. Estimating the age/birth year of the unknown match will help you eliminate some of the genetically possible relationships. Are they likely in your generation or an earlier or later generation? If you do not know their age and they have a public tree, look for the birthyear of one of their parents or grandparents and assume 30 years for each generation. On Ancestry you can check their user profile to see if they have included an age range (and possibly residence). Obviously, if the person is likely 20 years younger than you, then you can eliminate half GG-Aunt/Uncle in the example shown. You can also eliminate 1C3R (first cousin, three times removed)

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Now I Know Your Name!

By Michele Cozad



This is my Sicilian Great Grandfather (Ignazio Vaccaro) on the right who immigrated in 1893. He left his wife and two sons back in the old country and became a “bird of passage” working in the coal mines of Pennsylvania and going back to Sicily and finally returning in 1905 with his wife (whom he married in 1884) and sons. This drawing was made just prior to them leaving Sicily for the last time.

Ignazio passed away in 1921 and I had only his death certificate as my clue to search for his parents when I began my quest to start a Family Tree about 10 years ago. . It wasn’t much and to my disappointment under parents it stated “not know” for his Mother (they didn’t speak English). Thanks to an Ancestry DNA test I found a second cousin who told me that civil records from Ignazios’ ethnic village had now been scanned and how to find it on Family Tree. Here is how I did it...Signed in (it’s FREE) and went to search then catalogues. Type in the name of the town and hit “Civil Registration”. Next chose the option “Registri dello stata civile de Campo” and chose the option “Tribunal” (court documents) it appeared in red. Next I hit “browse” (don’t let the number of images scare you because they include other villages in the area). I hit the town I wanted then went to the thumbnails (under the +/- mark).

Browsing thru images on the thumbnails (I knew when he married) I found his “Matrimoni” record. He was a contadino (peasant farmer) when he married – Giacoma Rinella! I found her name and can now fill in that blank!

Reminder

*In 2022 you can send us your
newsletter submissions anytime
at your convenience, just email
them to:*

newsletter@stillygen.org

*The deadline for the
March/April 2022 edition is
February 24th*

Place Names

Alabama

By Sue McNeil

Virginia

My mom is Ella Rhea, named after her mom, Ella Mae.

Ella Mae was named after her grandmother (my 2x great-grandmother), Ella A. Greening. I was asking my grandma about her family not too long before she passed in 1993. She told me Ella A. was Ella Alabama Greening. What a strange middle name! Over the years, I discovered Ella Alabama had two sisters, Sarah Louisiana, and Virginia. These were all states where the Greening family had lived. You might think Ella Alabama was born in Alabama, but you would be wrong. Ella Alabama was born in Louisiana. Sarah Louisiana was born in Alabama. Virginia was born in South Carolina. I am convinced there must be another unknown daughter named Carolina.

It was not just my mom's maternal family that used place names as given names. Her paternal grandmother was named Richmond Cincinnati Hasty. She went by a much shorter name that fit her extremely small stature, Nattie. It appears she was named after her Uncle Richmond and Aunt Cincinnati. As far as I know, Nattie or her parents were never in Richmond or Cincinnati.

Louisiana

The Chester Creek Murders

By Nathan Dylan Goodwin

This book is a fictional account of using genetic genealogy to identify a serial killer, 37 years after he murdered 3 young women. It was a topic of discussion at a recent Thursday morning RugRats meeting.

The murders occurred in 1982 and 1983. The women were caucasian between 17 and 19 years of age. All the victims were molested and strangled. Their bodies were all dumped into Chester Creek in Pennsylvania. DNA evidence had been collected from each victim. Unfortunately the killers DNA profile was not found in CODIS (a national DNA database) at the time of the murders.

Nathan walks the reader through the many steps that were used by detectives to identify the killer. Along the way, he references multiple websites that were used, including FTDNA, Gedmatch, Find-A-Grave, Family Search and others. Family trees were built and descendant/reverse genealogy was done to locate possible suspects.

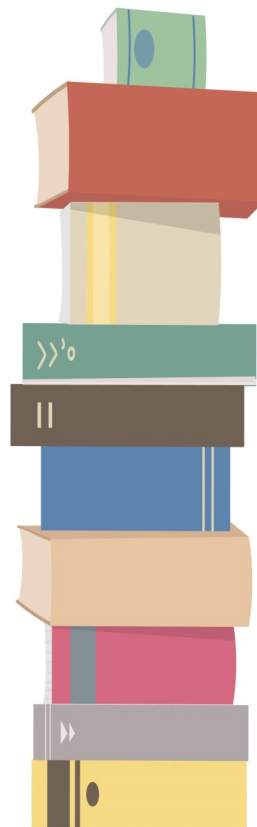
Reading the book and following the steps can be used as a guide to identify someone using only their DNA results.

Nathan has also written other genealogically based books. Many are available at your local Sno-Isle Library branch.

For those who enjoy reading genealogical mystery novels, you might want to check out the new Facebook group, Genealogical Crime Mystery Book Club. It can be accessed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/902684053599239>

Book Review



"Designed by rawpixel.com / Freepik"

This book review is based on notes provided by local genealogists.

SVGS Positions to Fill in 2022

The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society, like so many organizations and businesses at this time, finds itself in search of people willing to fill a few very important positions for our society.

The following positions are currently open:

(Please note: this is just an overview of duties and more details are available in SVGS Bylaws)

- Vice President of the Library: This individual is the Director of our Library. They help guide our book retention policy and oversee the scheduling of our Librarians, among other duties.
- Publicity Chair: This individual Chairs the Publicity Committee and works with outside entities to get our Society recognition in an effort to make our existence and events known to the public.
- Education Chair: This individual is responsible for securing monthly speakers to present lectures of interest to our membership. Currently, these presentations are being provided via Zoom and Presenters are not required to be in person.
- Newsletter Editor: This individual compiles stories provided by members, (and others), which pertain to genealogy and items of heritage interests for publication in our newsletter. The Bi-monthly newsletter is produced by this person in their preferred format which can then be printed for mailing as well as sent by email in a digital format.

If you are interested in helping fill any of these positions please contact:

SVGS President, Ruth Caesar at info@stillygen.org

With Gratitude

The Society would like to acknowledge the following individuals who have so generously made financial contributions to SVGS over the last 12 months. Whether your donations have been large or small they have meant a great deal to our organization.

W Anthony, J Austin, S Baylor, N Binder, M Buzzell, D Carney, M Cave, S Case, M Cozad, K Crabtree, E Dalton, M Engeldes, S Erickson, A Gibson, A Grimm, L Holland, F Kennedy, L Kind, E King, J Koch, D Kruse, K Looney, A Loy, D Perrigue, M Royston, R Sailer, R Schei, M Swartzen, S Sweet, T Webster, J Wetmore, K White, B Wood

Please note: Additional individuals have donated who wish to remain anonymous.

Coming Events

coming events

The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society holds it's General Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month which may include a presentation via Zoom. The Society is located at 6111 188th Place NE, Arlington, WA. Phone 360-435-4838. The library is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can also participate in our special interest group which meets on Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Zoom. This groups helps each other to solve research issues and share information. For more information: www.stillygen.org

RootsTech Connect Virtual Conference, March 3-5, 2022. Registration is free.
For more information: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021>

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, May 24-28, 2022, Sacramento, CA.
For more information: <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

The Whatcom Genealogical Society meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m., except January, July and August at Pioneer Pavilion, 2007 Cherry ST , Ferndale, WA.

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society meets 2nd Saturday of each month except July, August, and December at 12:45 p.m. at the Burlington Public Library, 820 E. Washington Avenue, Burlington.
For more information: www.skagitvalleygenealogy.com

The Seattle Genealogical Society is located at the Good Shepherd Center in Suite 302 at 4649 Sunnyside Avenue N., Seattle, WA in the Wallingford area. Phone 206-522-8658. Their Society recently moved to this new location and is open on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Sno-Isle Genealogical Society is open by appointment on Tuesday and from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday. They are located in the vintage Humble House at 19827 Poplar Way, Lynnwood, WA. Phone 425-775-6267.

For a list of genealogy events both live and virtual go to <https://conferencekeeper.org/> This free website provides a huge number of events all in one place.



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