

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Courtesy of The Arlington Times
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What/Who/Where of DNA Testing

Sue McNeil

In the last newsletter, we discussed reasons why you should consider DNA testing. If you are going to test, you will need to decide what type of test, who to test and where to take it. If your main goal is to help your genealogy, it is not necessary to learn all the science to have success (unless you want to). Below are some things to consider. There are three types of tests:

- Autosomal (atDNA): This is the test taken most often and is the most affordable. It can be used for both sides of your family (maternal and paternal), anyone can take it and it is generally helpful back 5-6 generations, sometimes further. You will receive a list of other people that have tested at the same site and share common DNA with you, and it will give an estimated relationship between the two of you. Some of the testing companies also include medical information.
- Y-DNA: This test is for your direct paternal line only (father's father's father, etc.) and follows the top line of your pedigree chart. In most cultures, this will be your surname. Since only males carry Y-DNA, females cannot take this test. However, your father, brother, paternal uncle, or one of their male descendants can test for you. There are different levels of this test with varying costs and matching precision.
- Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA): This test is for your direct maternal line (mother's mother's mother, etc.) and follows the bottom line of your pedigree chart. Both males and females inherit mitochondrial DNA, so anyone can take this test. Because this type of DNA does not mutate (change) as often, it is an indicator of deep ancestry going back thousands of years. Whom you test will depend on the availability of relatives to test and your main goal for testing. If you want an all-around test for researching all parts of your family tree, go with an autosomal test. If possible, testing an older generation will be extremely helpful. They have more of your ancestor's DNA than you do, and the results will reach back an additional generation for matches. This is the order I prioritize testing:
 1. Grandparent(s) - if not available, their sibling
 2. Parent(s) - if not available, their siblings
 3. You and your sibling(s) – each of you inherit a random 50% of your mother's and your father's DNA; meaning your siblings will carry some DNA that you do not.



4. Known 2nd cousin(s) - immensely helpful for grouping your matches into smaller subsets (since you share a set of great-grandparents, it points you to a portion of your family tree) It will be easier to get someone else to test if you offer to pay for it. The more people you test, the more cousin matches you will receive. More cousin matches should lead to more answers..

Below are four major testing companies to consider with pros and cons for each. They all provide autosomal testing, cousin matching (lists of testers with shared DNA), ability to connect to a family tree and ethnicity estimates.

- AncestryDNA: I recommend testing here first. They have the largest number of testers by far for cousin matching and the most family trees. This is a spit test. Ancestry does NOT accept transfers of DNA tests from other testing companies. You will need a membership to see public family trees of your matches.

- 23andMe: This testing company started with medical testing and has branched out into genealogy. They also attempt to automatically build a genetic family tree for you, placing your matches where they calculate they belong (only genetics are used; no genealogical information is used). This is also a spit test. 23andMe does NOT accept transfers of DNA tests from other testing companies.

- MyHeritage: They have a growing number of testers and seem to have more global reach, especially for those of European and Jewish descent. This is a cheek swab test. In 2019 they started offering a separate health test. MyHeritage does accept transfers of DNA tests from other testing companies for free. A one-time fee of \$29 will unlock additional DNA tools.

- FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA): This company provides autosomal DNA tests, and they are the only one of these four companies to provide Y-DNA and mtDNA tests. This is also a cheek swab test. FTDNA does accept transfers of your DNA from other testing companies for free. A one-time fee of \$39 will unlock additional DNA tools. The type of test you should take and who you test really depends on the question you are trying to answer. Where you take the test depends on the availability, cost, features, and the emphasis of each company. At a minimum I recommend taking an autosomal test at Ancestry and/or 23andMe. Then transfer your results to MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA for free. Time really is of the essence when testing DNA, so what are you waiting for? Get started!

Mystery of the Death of Stanley Wallace Gardiner (1859-1901)

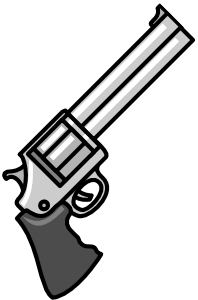


Gerri Gilpin



My dad and his two brothers asked me to see what I could find out about their grandfather's brother, Stanley Gardiner. Isn't this how some of us get into genealogy in the first place? According to the story handed down, Stanley was the oldest child of William & Sarah [Armstrong] Gardiner. He was engaged to be married, but the Alaska Gold rush attracted his attention, so he left his 'intended' and went with other local men to Alaska; but when he returned, he found she had married another - so he hung himself. His parents found him in his closet. This story sounded credible, but with a little more searching I found information that contradicted the story we had heard. But let's start at the beginning of our search for the truth. A quick check of the 1870 Census in NY seems to corroborate the first 'fact' that Stanley was the oldest – living with his parents and three maiden sisters, and my dad's grandfather, Langdon, in NY. In the 1880 Census, Stanley is now 18, a student, and still living at home with his parents and siblings. His Certificate and Record of Death from State of New York, Bureau of Vital Statistics in 1901 recorded both of his parents' names, and as well as the following: Stanley Wallace Gardiner, died June 11, 1901 at 11:30p.m. due to laceration of the brain - gunshot wound. This last fact came as a surprise to us. We checked location newspapers around Westchester County, NY, but no other information was found. This is where the story ended for us, until I signed up for a subscription to Newspapers.com. With my new subscription, I searched Newspapers.com and finally found the front page story about Stanley's death, but no obituary, in the New York Tribune, dated June 13, 1901. I am going to paraphrase, so I stay out of 'copyright infringement territory'. Stanley apparently returned from prospecting for gold in the Klondike about 1900, after 2 years in the Alaska.

He had borrowed money from his father, and with 30 others, went in search of gold. All but two gave up shortly after arriving in Alaska, but Stanley and another man stayed for two hard years, straining their health and going broke. The article noted that Stanley wanted to go back to the Klondike area, but his father would not give him the money, and Stanley threatened on several occasions to end his life, since he felt he was a failure. On Tuesday, Jun 11th, shortly after midnight, Stanley stood on his parents' front porch and shot himself in the head. The headlines stated: 'BLEW HIS BRAINS OUT'. The article made no mention of a fiancé, but it did quote his last conversation with his brother, Langdon, who was just 18. The article gives graphic details about the body, the milkman who found him, as well as his parents' reactions to the whole affair. Apparently, they heard the shot, thought Stanley was drunk and trying to scare them, so they went back to bed without checking further. The Judge Marshall woke them the next morning with the news and recovered the body. My dad did not live to know the final outcome of my searches, but he did know that his grand-uncle had shot himself rather than hanged himself. Family stories like this one, have some nuggets of truth, but some things are changed, and we may never really know why. Perhaps hanging was considered more respectful than shooting oneself; perhaps being a jilted lover was more romantic than the truth. In the end, we found the full story - we thought the looking for gold in Alaska was going to be the part that was not true – and the truths revealed were not at all what we expected. Contributed by: Gerri Gardiner Gilpin, great-granddaughter of Langdon Gardiner, brother of Stanley Wallace Gardiner.



Special Treasures from "Babcia"

Michele Cozad

She was my Polish Grandmother born in Suwalki, Poland in 1883 as Ludovica Krowcowna but we knew her as Babcia (pronounced Bub-cha). I have never been able to find out how she got to Pennsylvania where she married my Grandpa in 1903. He was a coal miner. I remember Babcia coming to Seattle to visit in the mid 1950's and I asked my Mother "How come Babcia doesn't talk like us?" – I remember my Mothers' reply to this day "She's from the Old Country and we don't talk about that." – The book was closed on that subject. After my Mother passed I moved an old black trunk from "The Old Country" into my storage loft. A quick peek inside revealed old baby clothes, blankets and my Dads' high school sweater – hardly recognizable. I didn't look any further and forgot about the trunk. Last summer I finally got around to serious decluttering. What a special treasure I found at the bottom of the old black trunk. Wrapped up in brown sacks and tissue paper were tarnished items – my Mothers' inheritance from Babcia. A big round beautiful silver tray (trademarked 1883 from Rodgers Silver Co.) and a set of womens' dresser items which included 2 small glass and silver trinket boxes, 2 larger ones (1 with a circular opening at the top – what for?) a fancy silver "dress-up" handbag, a clothes brush and a "jewelry casket" to top it off there was a big heavily silvered fancy hand mirror (in perfect condition) with her initials engraved! These items were trademarked "WB Mfg. 1907" "Quadruple Plated"... a search revealed this was a UK company. What a heirloom I had and didn't know...more questions came up. How did a very poor woman who raised 5 kids on a coal miners salary (he made 67c an hour when he died in 1937) come into these gorgeous silver items? How many times did she look into that silver mirror and hope for a better life – or did she...what was life like back in the "Old Country"...I'll never know because I didn't ask the questions when I was a girl but I can dream and imagine and have something very special to pass on to my granddaughters.



Coming Events-Zoom

Tuesday, March 9th at 1:00

Thomas MacEntee

How to Deal With Other Genealogists Without Going Crazy

Thomas MacEntee is a professional genealogist specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogical research and a means of interacting with others in the family history community.

Description: Genealogy is all about connecting with your ancestors. As part of this process, we often need to connect with other genealogists and share research. It isn't always as easy as it seems!

Learn the best ways to connect with other family historians and share resources including research, documents, and research strategies. discover the various methods of locating other researchers and the best practices to ensure that your work is shared and credited in a responsible manner.

Tuesday, April 13th at 1:00

Laura Hedgecock

Writing Your Family and Ancestor's Stories

Description: Learn why family stories belong on the family tree and how the family historian can connect future generations to their family history through narratives. In this session by author and storyteller Laura Hedgecock, we'll discuss what makes stories compelling, how to write about facts AND circumstances, and go over some practical and effective storytelling tips.

Send us your submissions!

If you have a story that our readers might enjoy, please send it to us!

Newsletter submissions for the **May/June** issue should be sent
to newsletter@stillygen.org by **Monday, April 12th**.



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