

Smashing Brick Walls with Autosomal Results: Finding a Revolutionary Soldier – Handout

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DNA Tests to Take

- FTDNA Family Finder (Autosomal) -- \$99 – sometimes on sale
- Ancestry DNA – Autosomal - \$99, sometimes on sale for less
- My Heritage – Autosomal - \$69 (usually)
- 23 and Me – Autosomal - - \$99 (for genealogy purposes only—not medical)

Definition of Scores

Relationship	Range of Scores	“Expected” (Average) Score
1 st Cousin	548-1139	888
1 st Cousin Once Removed	220-638	444
2 nd Cousin	86-426	222
2 nd Cousin Once Removed	19-147	111
3 rd Cousin	16-111	55
3 rd Cousin Once Removed	0-99	27
4 th Cousin	0-54	13

Project #1 – Confirming Elijah Ellifritz as an Ancestor

- Our target person was Elijah Ellifritz. I looked at all the paper trail and Autosomal DNA results we had for him
- I wanted to find Ellifritz matches with POSTED TREES and good DNA scores.
- I would use the SURNAME SELECTION option and the DNA Circles (now THRU LINES) to find candidate matches.
- SUCCESS: I found 6 matches with good scores and good POSTED TREES, all going back to Elijah.
- As of Feb 2021, I have found 31 matches going back to Elijah – this is SUCCESS.

Side Note: Devise a system to keep track of your matches; also, it may help to use a special computer file to keep track of your analysis for a special branch of the family.

Project #2 – Finding Kin/Parents for Elijah

- Then, I considered Elijah’s possible parents, unknown at this time
- I looked at a lot of collected paper trail data that showed who might be a candidate to be a parent for Elijah
- We next looked at Ancestry DNA and used the SURNAME SELECTION feature to find matches who had the Ellifritz surname in their family tree.
- I then looked at four possible High and Good rated matches for persons with this family surname in its family tree.

- I analyzed their SCORES and their POSTED TREES.
- Five DNA result candidates had family trees that went back to Elijah's generation, with each showing one of Elijah's siblings (rather than Elijah)
- Each of five separate POSTED TREES went back a generation earlier to include parents of Elijah's possible siblings
- The five DNA scores were high enough that it is likely that we have a common ancestor; and, their POSTED TREES looked reasonable. The fact that five different matches were found strengthened the case. It is likely that my family is the same family as that of the five matches, and Elijah is part of that family
- It is almost certain that I share a common ancestor with those five matching people

Analyzing Five Matches to Learn More About Elijah's Origins

Tree	Key Ancestor	Scores	Comments
Samuel	Samuel Ellifritz, b.1795	cM = 22, High	Samuel's parents = Johannes George Ellifritz, Keturah Clark
Sarah	Sarah Ellifritz, b. 1803	cM = 14, High	Sarah has same parents as Samuel
Permelia	Permelia Ellifritz, b. 1821	cM = 8, Good	Permelia has a different mother, Permelia Jarvis
Solomon	Solomon Ellefritz, b. 1801	cM = 8, Good	Solomon has same parents as Samuel and Sarah
Phoebe	Phoebe Ellifritz, b. 1806	cM = 14, High	Phoebe has same parents

- I posted my new data, and Ancestry DNA then gave me a DNA Circle (now Thru Lines).
- Then, using the DNA CIRCLE and SURNAME option, I found 6 more promising matches with more good scores and POSTED TREES.
- The number of matches going to Elijah's parents has now risen to over 100 in Feb 2021..

Project #3 – Defining Elijah's Grandfather

- Based on solid paper trail evidence, I added a GF for Elijah, Johann George Ilgenfritz (1728-1810)
- Data was solid connecting Elijah's likely father to his GF; PA church records
- Using the SURNAME SELECTION option on Ancestry DNA, I identified about 24 potential matches in that line
- We will be looking for a 5th cousin. Remember, on average a 5th cousin will score 3.5, not even enough to make the cut – but some matches will score higher than expected.
- These matches were evaluated individually
- I found 26 matches on Ancestry who had POSTED THEIR TREES and claimed descent from my target person.
- I found more good matches on FTDNA and My Heritage.
- I posted my data, and again, Ancestry gave me a DNA Circle with even more matches.
- As of Feb 2021, there are 167 matches in the pertinent Thru Line location.

- Remember the matches who didn't post their data – we can place them using the SHARED MATCH option.
- As a result of all this analysis, I have successfully expanded my family tree and have placed many Ellifritz ancestors.

Top 10 Take-Aways:

- **1. DNA Tests to Take: Autosomal (Family Finder) for FTDNA, Ancestry DNA, My Heritage, and 23 and Me**
- **2. Scores and Their Meaning: 30 cM or more means there is a 95% likelihood you and your match share a common ancestor within 5-6 generations**
- **3. Some variation, but good comparability among each testing company**
- **4. FTDNA gives estimated scores for different cousins**
- **5. Ancestry DNA considers cM = 30 or more virtually 99% solid**
- **6. Ancestry DNA: Features include Search Match; Posted Trees; Shared Matches**
- **7. Ancestry DNA: Features include Search Match to find matches with selected surnames in their trees**
- **8. Re-Shuffling concept needs to be understood; variable scores expected**
- **9. Case studies show that you can define ancestors for at least the 6th generation**
- **10. You can use DNA results to add to your family tree!!!**