## Talk 1:  Mirror Trees

Uses of Mirror Trees

1.  Determine how your matches are related
    a.  To you
    b.  To each other
2.  Applications:
    a.  Unknown parentage
    b.  Breaking down brick walls in your family tree

Mirror Tree Definition

1.  Tree based on a match's tree
2.  Can be called a duplicate tree or other name
3.  Needs to be done on AncestryDNA.com
    a.  Takes advantage of Shared Ancestor Hints

Mirror Trees Use Autosomal DNA

1.  General Rule:  The more autosomal DNA you share, the closer the match
2.  See the following handouts.
    a.  "**DNA Detectives Autosomal Statistics Chart**" has information on how much DNA is shared with various relationships.
    b.  "**How to Determine How Much Autosomal DNA You Share**" has information for each DNA testing company on how to see how much DNA you share.

Mirror Tree Steps

1.  Find match of interest to mirror
    a.  Who?
        i.  Unknown parentage – start w/ closest match
        ii.  Brick wall – "relevant match"
        iii.  Match can be from AncestryDNA, FTDNA, 23andMe, Gedmatch, or MyHeritage
    b.  Ideally match has a tree
    c.  If not, look at their Shared Matches
        i.  Or build one for them

2.  Reproduce their tree
    a.  New tree
        i.  Name It:  "Experimental Tree" or "Test Tree"
        ii.  *Make the tree private & unsearchable*
    b.  Also can add to your tree
        i.  For testing theories & breaking down brick walls
        ii.  During your test, *make the tree private & unsearchable*

    c. Mirror Tree Specifics on How to Build It
- i. Copy what's in match's tree
    1. Build back further with Tree Hints
- ii. Add only direct ancestors of match
    1. Quick & dirty
    2. Use Family Tree Hints
        a. Top ones have most sources/records
        b. Do they agree?
        c. Does only 1 have parents? That's OK!
- iii. You can always source it later

    d. Mirror Tree Recommendations
- i. Try to go back
    1. at least 5 generations
    2. the same amount on all lines
- ii. "Sweet spot" – people born 1775-1800
- iii. Remember – There are many situations where there were few families who intermarried.
    1. Everyone's related to the founders.
    2. Result: You're related to your matches on multiple lines, which isn't helpful.

3. Attach your DNA to that match
   a. In DNA pull-down menu, select View Another Test (if you administer more than one kit)
   b. Pick the right test taker (if you administer more than one kit)
   c. Click on Settings
   d. Scroll down to Family Tree Linking
      - i. Pick the right tree & person (the match on which you based your Mirror Tree)

4. Wait for Shared Ancestor Hints (SAHs)
   a. SAHs take hours or days (and can slowly arrive)
   b. SAHs require that your DNA matches another person + that person has the same (that is, shared) ancestor(s)
   c. Thus, SAHs require a tree (your Mirror Tree) & your DNA attached to it
   d. SAHs can be accessed from several places
      - i. DNA home page
      - ii. Genetic Families (a new feature)
      - iii. Your match list
      - iv. *SAHs are indicated by a green leaf.*
      - v. SAH even work if the tree is locked.
          1. If it's locked, see if they have Shared Matches whom you know
      - vi. Click on a match with a SAH
          1. This will show you your shared ancestor(s) & how you both descend from them
              a. How you descend will assume that you're the person to whom you attached your DNA

       b.   SAH shows you an ancestor/ancestors that are shared by two of your matches.

       c.   This indicates that these are also your ancestors.

5. Determine most likely relationship to match
   a. How many centiMorgans (or %) do you share?
   b. Companies relationship predictions aren't accurate
   c. DIY
   d. *See the 2 handouts listed above under* <u>*Mirror Trees Use Autosomal DNA*</u>

6. Build tree *forward*
   a. For unknown parentage work
      i. Need to find
      ii. Right person
      iii. Right place
      iv. Right time
   b. Detective work (next talk)

7. Examples
   a. Breaking Down Brick Walls
      i. Holes in your tree
      ii. Theory?
      iii. Yes, then in your tree:
         1. Add that person & their ancestors
         2. Wait for SAHs
      iv. No, then look for matches fitting the bill
         1. Ethnicities & Locations
         2. Then build a mirror tree for the match

## Talk 2: Best Tools for Researching Difficult DNA Matches

Great DNA Match, But . . .

1. No name
2. No tree
3. 1 Consideration:
    a. new DNA testers sometimes just need time to post their tree
4. If they don't, then here are ideas, tips, and tools

Who, Where, & More

1. Ask your match
2. Websites
    a. Free
    b. Subscription-based
3. What to do with that information
    a. Contacting them
    b. Building their tree
4. Examples

Asking Your Match

1. Here's what to say:
    a. Tell them who <u>you</u> are (name, location, your parents—but don't overwhelm them).
    b. Tell them whose kit you match.
    c. Say how you think you're related.
    d. Tell them where they can find <u>your</u> tree.
    e. Ask them
        i. if they have a family tree or
        ii. a specific question.

Websites

1. Ancestry
    a. Shared Matches
        i. Pull up one match
        ii. Click on Shared Matches (SMs)
        iii. Do you known their SMs?
    b. 23andMe tells you who your matches match also
    c. FamilyTreeDNA does too (in-common-with)
    d. Profiles:
        i. Click on their (or their administrator's) link to get their <u>profile</u>
        ii. Sometimes lots of information is in profile
        iii. Use **orange** button for sending messages
    e. Hidden Trees
        i. Click on one match

   ii.   Look down page for "Select a Tree to Preview" pull-down menu

2. Other DNA Testing Sites
   a. Gedmatch & FamilyTreeDNA – provides email addresses
   b. 23andMe – their messaging system

3. Free Websites
   a. Google & other search engines
   b. Search Websites:
        i.   Pipl.com (good for aliases)
        ii.  Whitepages.com
        iii. Spokeo
   c. NewspaperArchive – free through libraries
   d. LinkedIn, FaceBook

4. Paid Websites
   a. BeenVerified.com (my favorite)
        i.  Good for contact info, oftentimes provides parents
   b. Spokeo & other's paid version
   c. GenealogyBank.com
        i.  Good for obituaries, articles about ancestors

5. What to Do With That Information
   a. Contacting them
        i.   See information under "Asking Your Match"
        ii.  Don't tell them too much
        iii. Adoption/unknown parentage situations might require more delicacy.
             1.  Leah LaPerl Larkin's form letter
                 (http://thednageek.com/letter-to-a-birth-parent/)
   b. Building their tree
        i.   Adding it to your tree
        ii.  Starting a new tree or unconnected branch
        iii. (Back to Mirror Trees)

**Resources (General):**

- International Society of Genetic Genealogy – isogg.org

- Glossary of Terms - http://isogg.org/wiki/Genetics_Glossary

- International Society of Genetic Genealogy's Autosomal DNA Statistics - http://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_statistics

- DNA Detectives FaceBook Group - https://www.facebook.com/groups/DNADetectives/

- Short videos on genetic genealogy - http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/basics/molgen/

- Types of cousins explanation - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cousin

**Resources (Mirror Trees):**

- Blog Born in New Orleans has videos and blog posts about Mirror Trees; put mirror tree in the search box.  http://www.borninneworleans.com

- DNA Detectives FaceBook Group - https://www.facebook.com/groups/DNADetectives/ - has a file, "CREATING-YOUR-MIRROR-TREES.docx.  You need to join this group to see the file.

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*Try the **Possible Relationship Calculator** at http://dnahunters.com/possible-relationships-calculator/.  Input the shared centiMorgans (cM) (or % shared DNA) for a DNA match, and get the possible relationships to that match.*

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