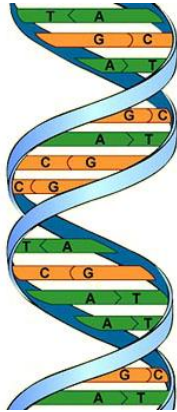
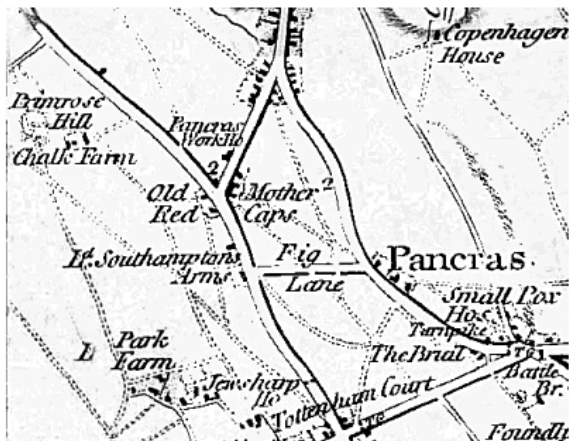


DNA and Me - a personal case study

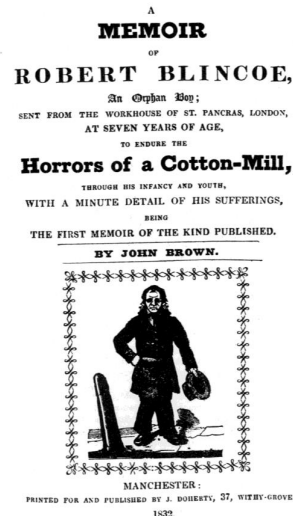


Alan Cooper
25 August 2021

ODFHS Zoom – 25 August 2021

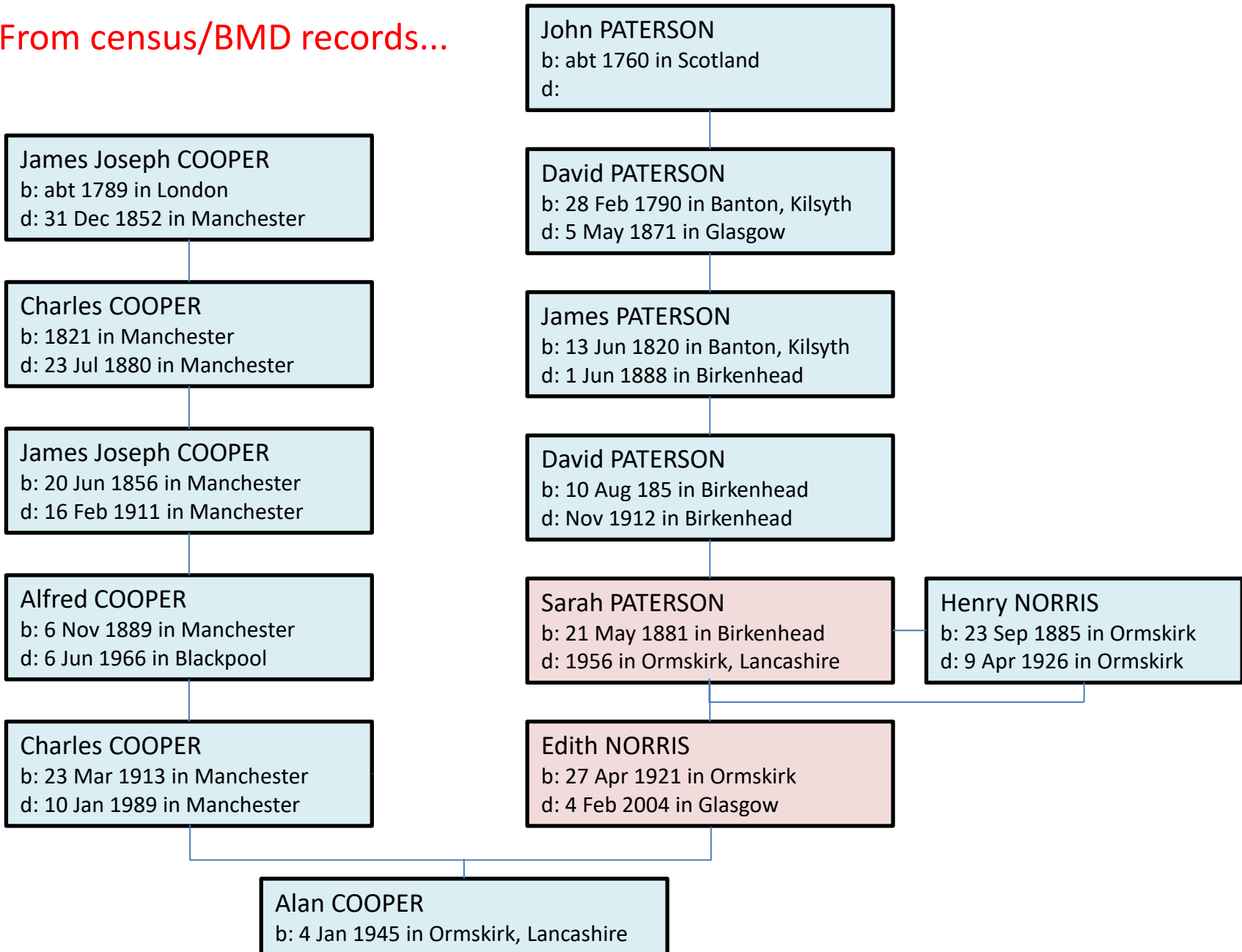


St Pancras workhouse site, 1786



Speke Hall

From census/BMD records...



From census/BMD records...

James Joseph COOPER
b: abt 1789 in London
d: 31 Dec 1852 in Manchester

Charles COOPER
b: 1821 in Manchester
d: 23 Jul 1880 in Manchester

James Joseph COOPER
b: 20 Jun 1856 in Manchester
d: 16 Feb 1911 in Manchester

Alfred COOPER
b: 6 Nov 1889 in Manchester
d: 6 Jun 1966 in Blackpool

Charles COOPER
b: 23 Mar 1913 in Manchester
d: 10 Jan 1989 in Manchester

Alan COOPER
b: 4 Jan 1945 in Ormskirk, Lancashire

John PATERSON
b: abt 1760 in Scotland
d:

David PATERSON
b: 28 Feb 1790 in Banton, Kilsyth
d: 5 May 1871 in Glasgow

James PATERSON
b: 13 Jun 1820 in Banton, Kilsyth
d: 1 Jun 1888 in Birkenhead

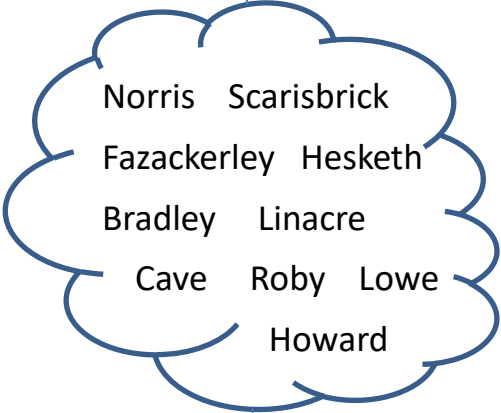
David PATERSON
b: 10 Aug 185 in Birkenhead
d: Nov 1912 in Birkenhead

Sarah PATERSON
b: 21 May 1881 in Birkenhead
d: 1956 in Ormskirk, Lancashire

Edith NORRIS
b: 27 Apr 1921 in Ormskirk
d: 4 Feb 2004 in Glasgow

13c Norris dynasty
Formby/Speke Hall?

Patrick NORRIS
1714-1763 Formby



Henry NORRIS
b: 23 Sep 1885 in Ormskirk
d: 9 Apr 1926 in Ormskirk

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d: 9 Apr 1926 in Ormskirk

Paternal line...

James Joseph Cooper – earliest census record...

Name	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
James Cooper	45	Green Grocer	Not born in county
Margaret Cooper	45		Not born in county
Elisha Cooper	24	Smith	b. county
Charles Cooper	21	Printer	b. county
Edwd. Cooper	16	Printer	b. county

1841 Census: Blossom Street, Manchester

James Cooper, age 45, Green Grocer (not born in county)

Margaret Cooper, age 45 (not born in county)

Elisha Cooper, age 24, Smith, b. county

Charles Cooper, age 21, Printer, b. county (*my gg-grandfather*).

Edwd. Cooper, age 16, Printer, b. county

1851 Census: 11 Blossom Street

James J. Cooper, age 60, Fruit Dealer, b. London

Margaret Cooper, age 60, Fruit Dealers Wife, b. London

Edward Cooper, Son, age 25, Gas Fitter, b. Manchester

So... my ggg-grandfather James (Joseph) Cooper was b. London ca. 1790, but moved to Manchester around 1816 or earlier. Why?

Might my DNA hold some clues?

Might my DNA hold some clues?

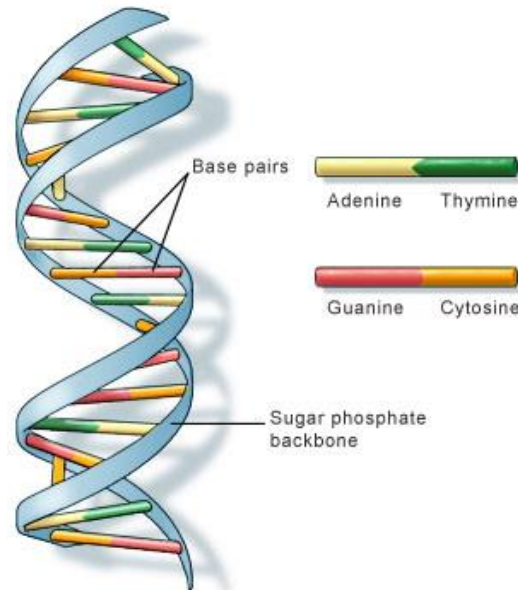
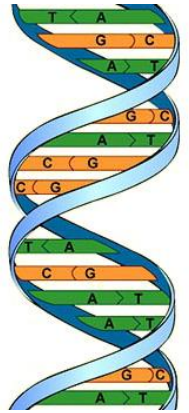


DNA stuff: a bluffer's guide...

The molecular biological recipe book/instruction manual...

...giving not only the list of ingredients, but also how to make them and how to assemble them into living organisms

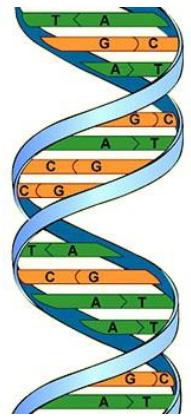
Human DNA contains about 3 billion base pairs (“letters” in the code*)



U.S. National Library of Medicine

* For comparison, there are about 1.5 million letters in Larousse Gastronomique, 3 million in the Bible

DNA stuff: a bluffer's guide...



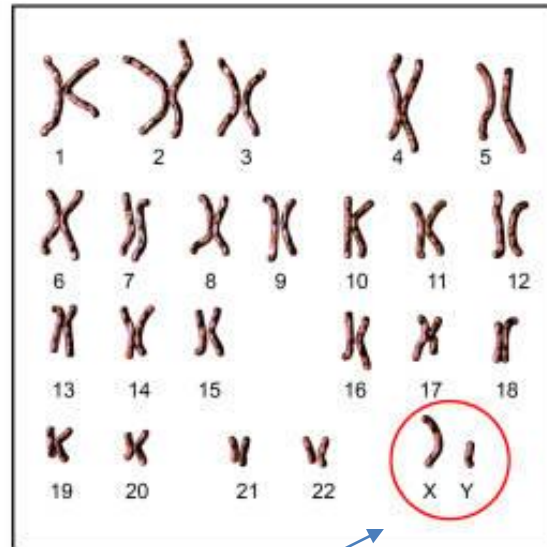
If stretched out, the DNA molecule from one cell would be 2 metres long



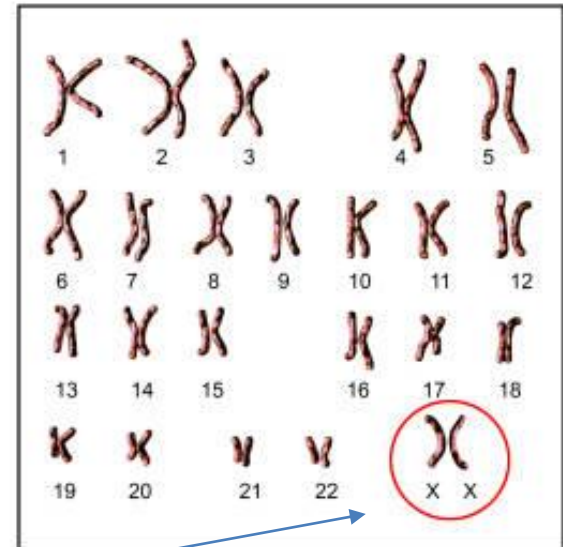
Packaged up into 23 chromosome pairs, each containing a mix of DNA from our parents



Male

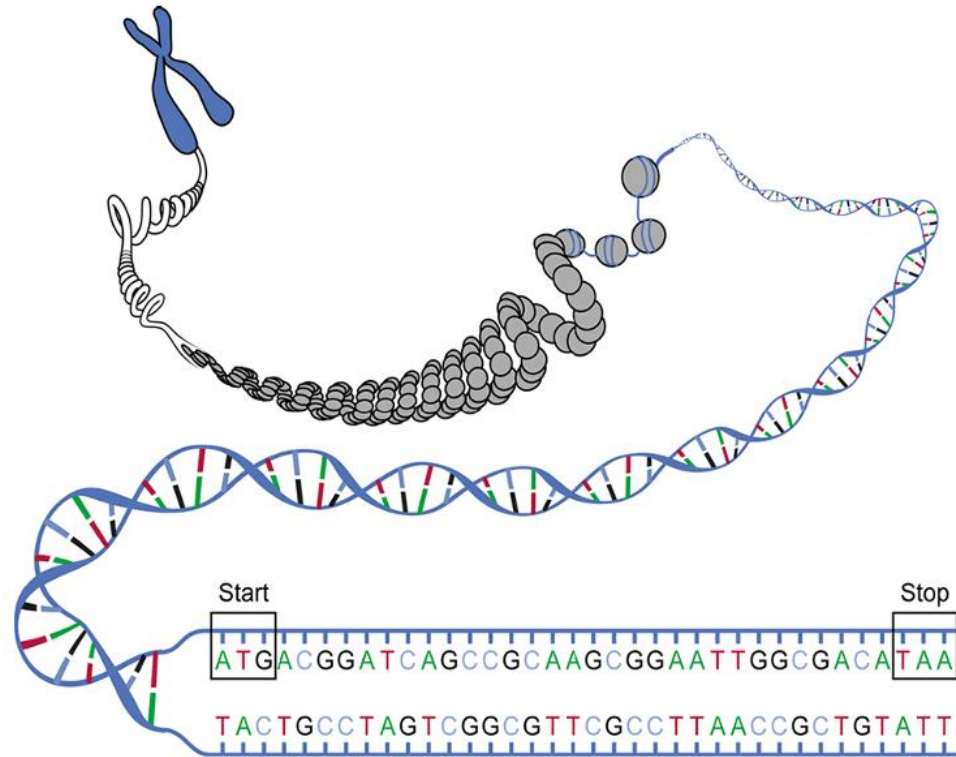


Female



Sex chromosomes

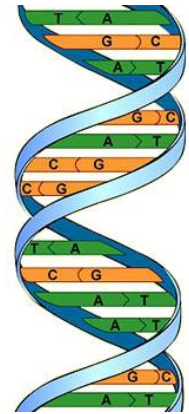
The rest are called “autosomal” pairs – one from each parent



©2018 Boston University School of Public Health
<https://sphweb.bumc.bu.edu/otlt/MPH-Modules/PH/DNA-Genetics/DNA-Genetics2.html>

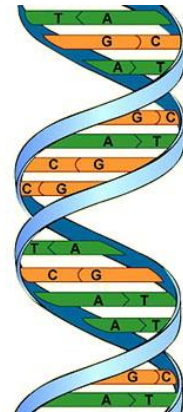
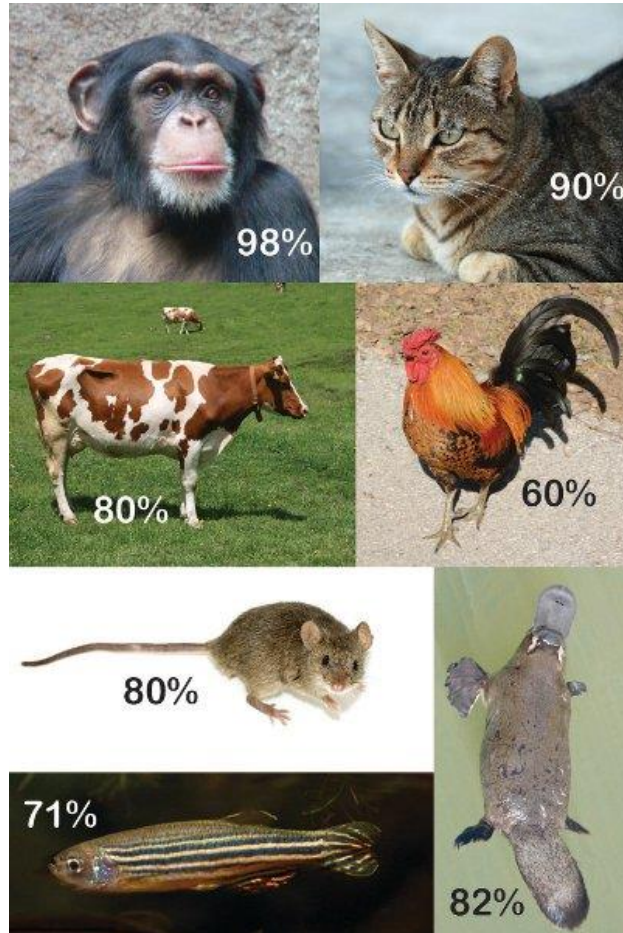
DNA stuff: a bluffer's guide...

My DNA is about 98% identical to that of a chimpanzee...



DNA stuff: a bluffer's guide...

My DNA is about 98.7% identical to that of a chimpanzee... **but so is yours!**

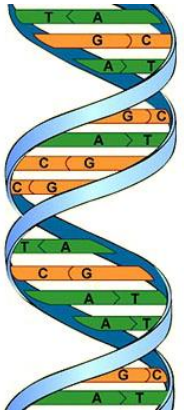


DNA stuff: a bluffer's guide...

My DNA is about 99.8% identical to yours

The remaining 0.2% (6 million base pairs) is what defines us as individuals

And this is where the DNA analysis companies look for differences (“SNPs”) at around 700,000 specific locations, using PCR and DNA-chip technology

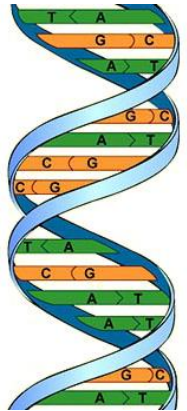


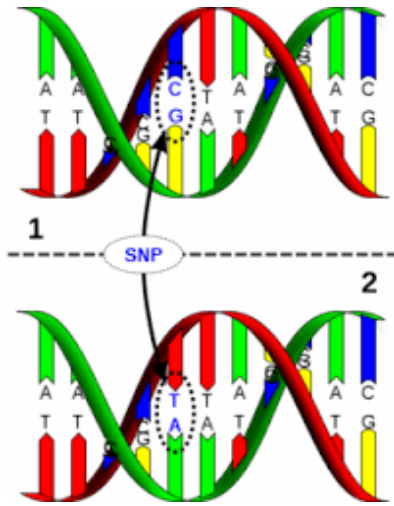
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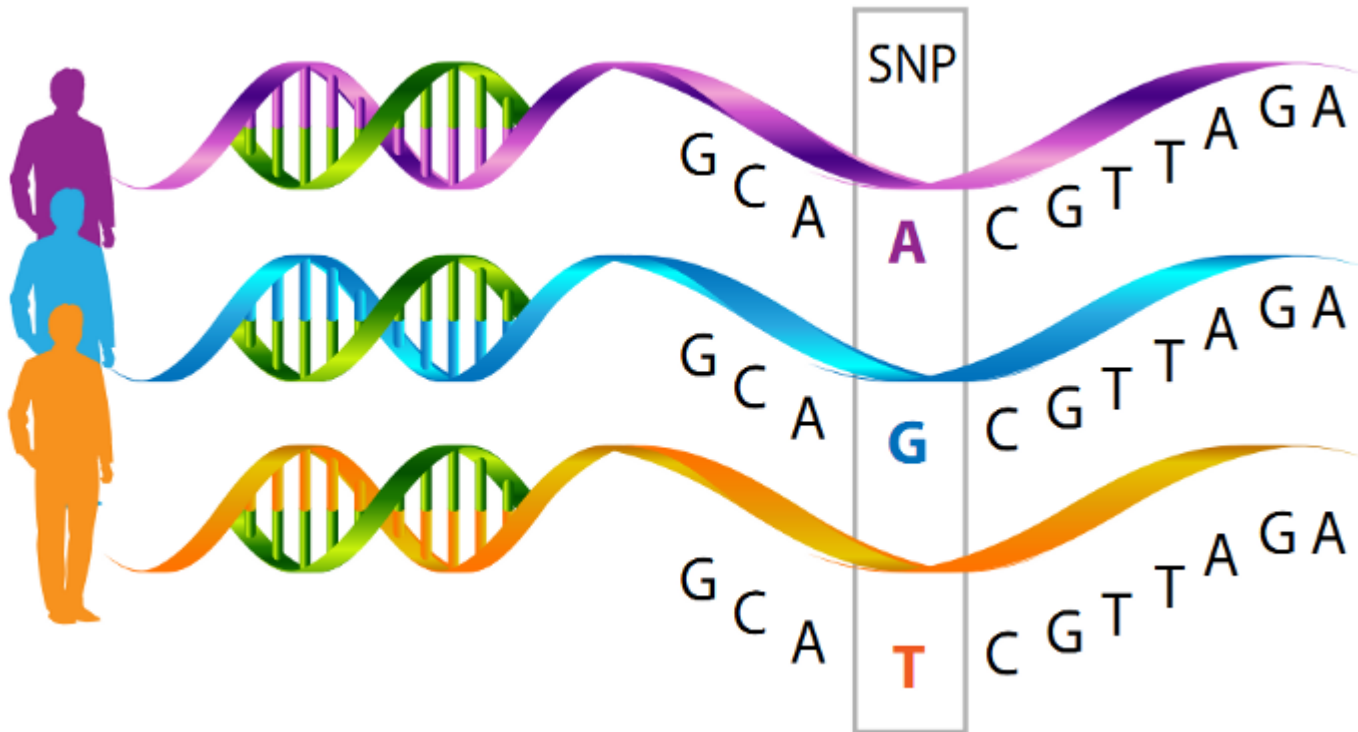
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SNP: single nucleotide polymorphism
(or “marker”)



What might DNA tell us about our origins?

Prehistoric

- the vast proportion of our DNA (99.8%) is the same for all of us
- relatively unchanged over many generations (1000s of years)
- cannot identify individuals but...
- by comparison with ancient DNA from remains at archeological sites...
- possible neanderthal remnants (ca. 40,000 yrs)
- other prehistoric (ca. 7000 yrs) – iron age, hunter-gatherers, etc...

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- by comparison with (living?) others in DNA database

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Recent

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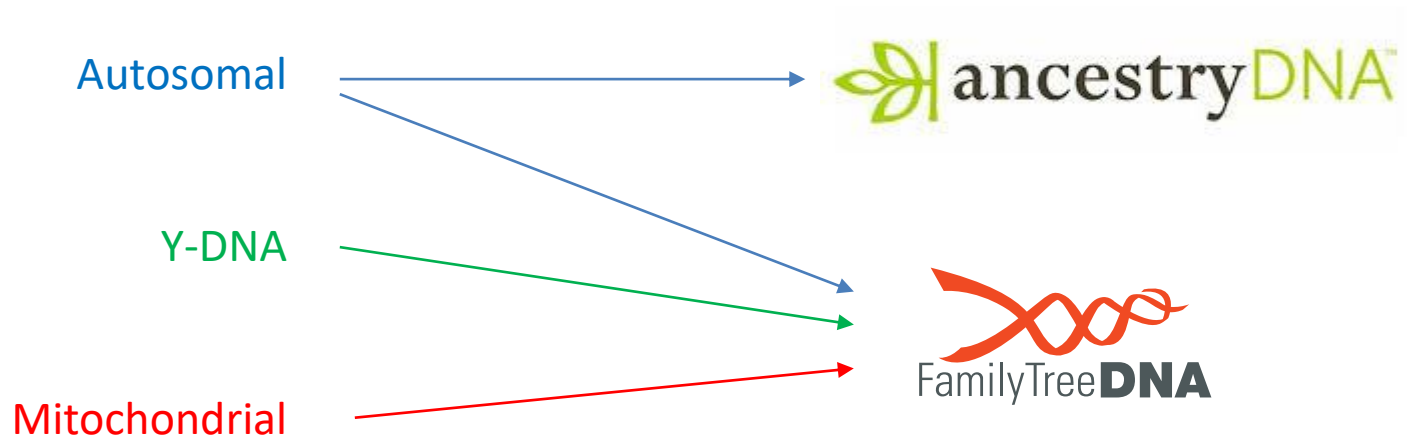
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Paternal/maternal lines

- Y-chromosome (males) – father to son
- Mitochondrial DNA – mother to child (male & female)

DNA analysis...

My results from tests using both Ancestry and Family Tree DNA



Due to COVID-19, shipping times may be affected.

Activate a Test

View Another Test Settings

Hello, Alan

This test is shown to matches as Alan Cooper Linked to Alan COOPER

DNA Story

Ethnicity Estimate

- 66% England & Northwestern Europe
- 12% Scotland
- 4 Other regions

Discover the places, history, and cultures that shaped who you are today—using just your DNA.

[Discover Your DNA Story](#)

DNA Matches

★ 3 Starred matches

437 4th cousins or closer

[View All DNA Matches](#)

ThruLines™

ThruLines uses Ancestry trees to suggest how you may be related to your DNA matches through common ancestors.

[Explore ThruLines](#)

Due to COVID-19, shipping times may be affected.

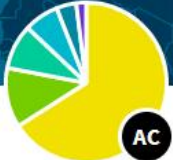
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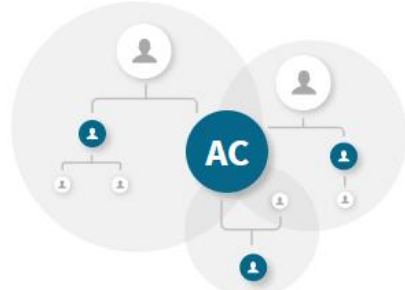


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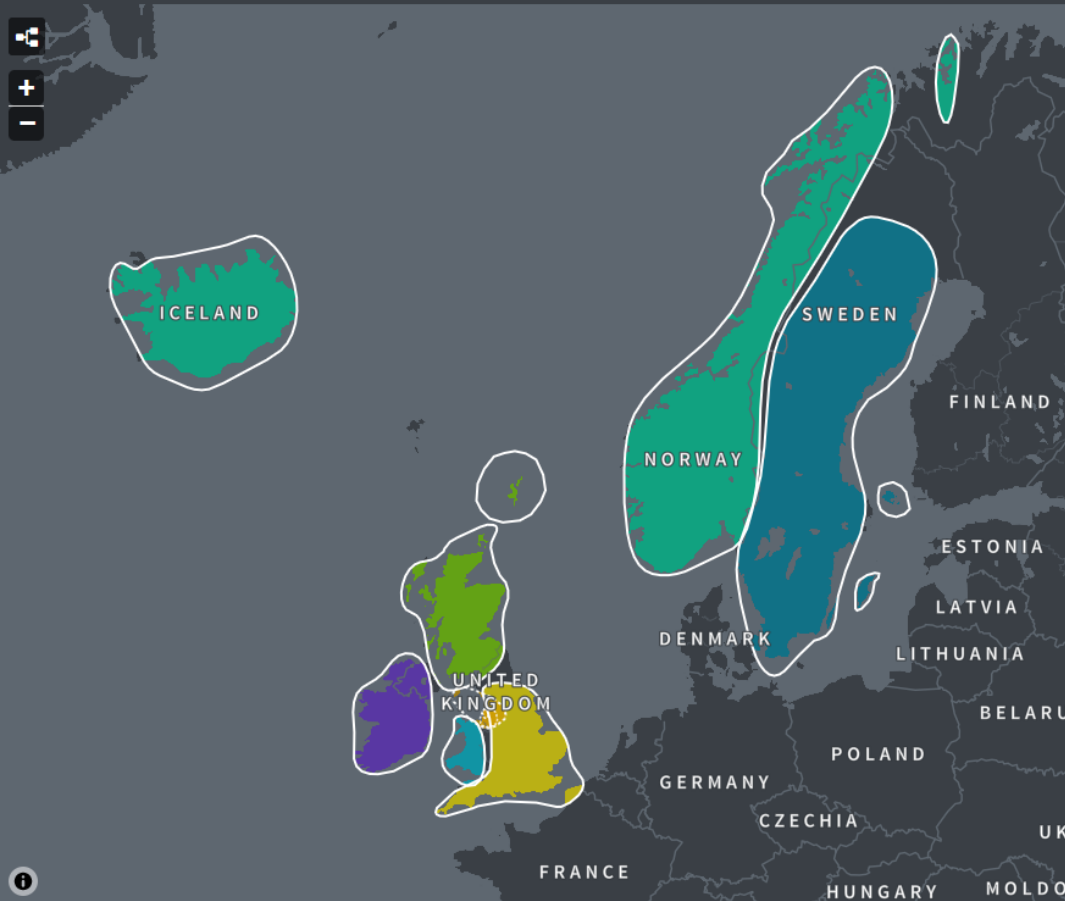
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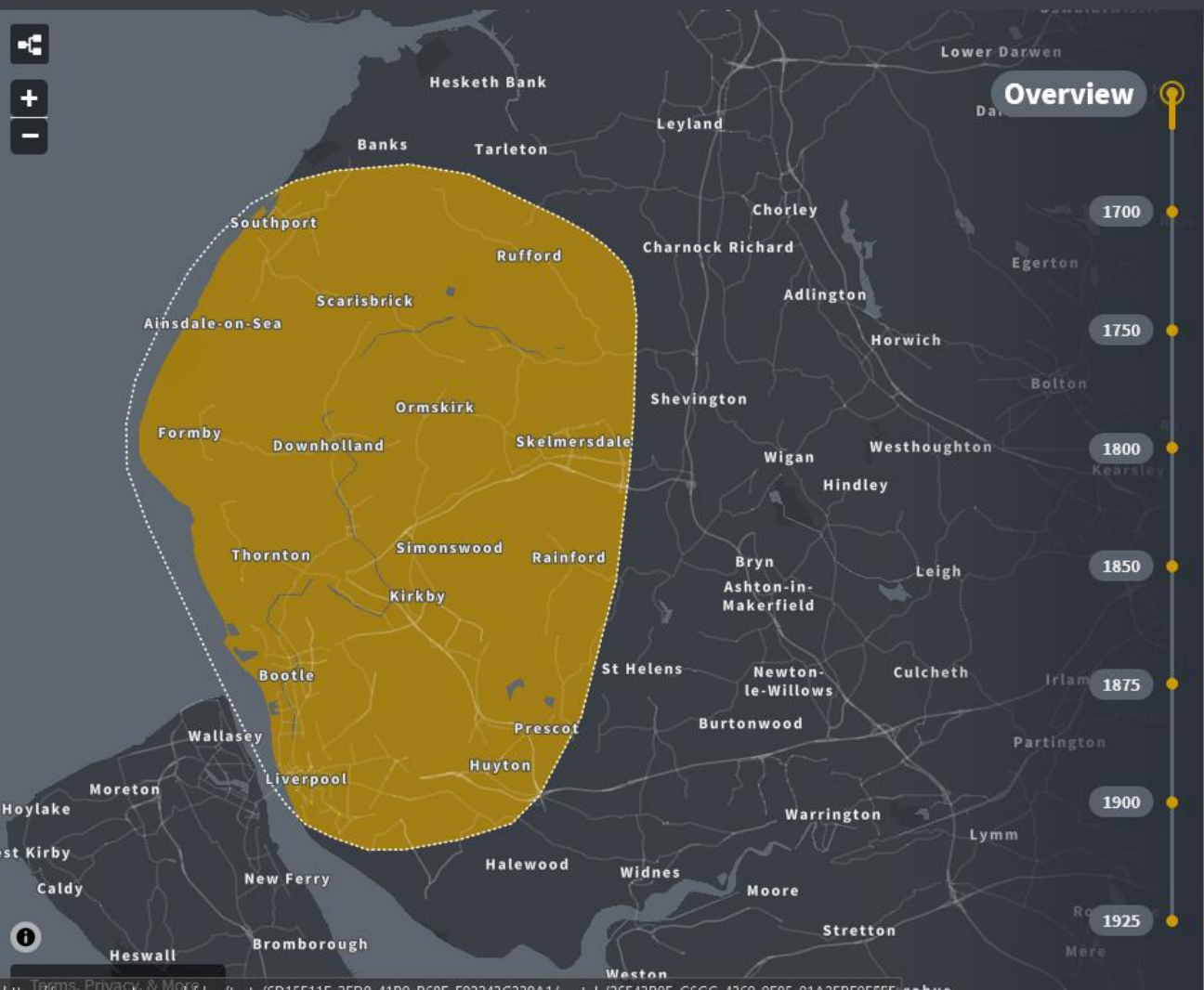


Ethnicity Estimate

● England & Northwestern Europe	66%	>
● North West England & the Isle of Man		>
● Cheshire, Merseyside & South Lancashire		
● Merseyside & South West Lancashire		
● Scotland	12%	>
● Norway	9%	>
● Wales	7%	>
● Sweden	4%	>
● Ireland	2%	>

[See other regions tested](#) 1,400+





Back to Ethnicity Estimate

COMMUNITY

North West England & the Isle of Man

318,995 AncestryDNA members

You, and all the members of this community, are linked through shared ancestors. You probably have family who lived in this area for years—and maybe still do.

The more specific places within this region where your family was likely from.

- Cheshire, Merseyside & South Lancashire
- Merseyside & South West Lancashire

Featured Matches

These are some of your matches who also belong to this community.

Amber Norris
2nd...

jkenyon2
4
3rd Cousin

John Oldfield
3rd Cousin

Due to COVID-19, shipping times may be affected.

Activate a Test

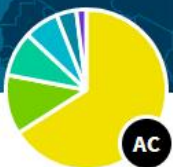
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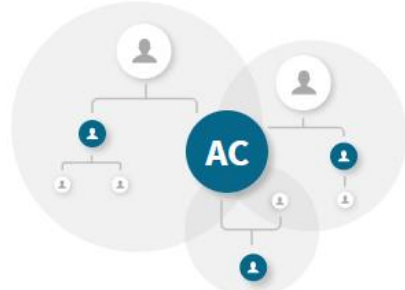


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View All DNA Matches

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Explore ThruLines



Close Family



Elizabeth Hawley

1st cousin 1x removed
556 cM | 8% shared DNA
Mother's side

Private unlinked Tree

[View match](#)



Amber Norris

1st cousin 1x removed
338 cM | 5% shared DNA
Mother's side

Public linked tree
1,203 People
 Common ancestor

[View match](#)



Kevin Moss

2nd – 3rd Cousin
285 cM | 4% shared DNA

No Trees

Do you recognize them?

[Yes](#)

[Learn more](#)



M.K.

Managed by jkenyon24

2nd – 3rd Cousin
238 cM | 3% shared DNA

Public linked tree
149 People

Do you recognize them?

[Yes](#)

[Learn more](#)



Sandra Bertrand

2nd – 3rd Cousin
214 cM | 3% shared DNA

Public linked tree
3 People

Do you recognize them?

[Yes](#)

[Learn more](#)



Tim Shepard

2nd – 3rd Cousin
213 cM | 3% shared DNA

No Trees

Do you recognize them?

[Yes](#)

[Learn more](#)



Extended Family



arthur Lewis

2nd – 3rd Cousin
175 cM | 3% shared DNA

Unlinked Tree

Do you recognize them?

Yes

Learn more



Susanne Wishart

2nd – 3rd Cousin
154 cM | 2% shared DNA

No Trees

Do you recognize them?

Yes

Learn more



jkenyon24

2nd – 3rd Cousin
151 cM | 2% shared DNA

Public linked tree
149 People
 Common ancestor

Do you recognize them?

Yes

Learn more



Sharon Kirby

2nd – 3rd Cousin
148 cM | 2% shared DNA

Unlinked Tree

Do you recognize them?

Yes

Learn more



Catherine Turner

2nd – 3rd Cousin
139 cM | 2% shared DNA

Private unlinked Tree

Do you recognize them?

Yes

Learn more



John Oldfield

2nd – 3rd Cousin
130 cM | 2% shared DNA

Tree unavailable

Do you recognize them?

Yes

Learn more



william murphy

2nd – 3rd Cousin
115 cM | 2% shared DNA

Public linked tree
507 People
 Common ancestor

Do you recognize them?

Yes

Learn more





How are you and william murphy related?

Common Ancestors


According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and william murphy. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you.

william murphy could be your 3rd cousin through:

 **James PATERSON**
2nd great-grandfather
1820–1888
[View Relationship](#)

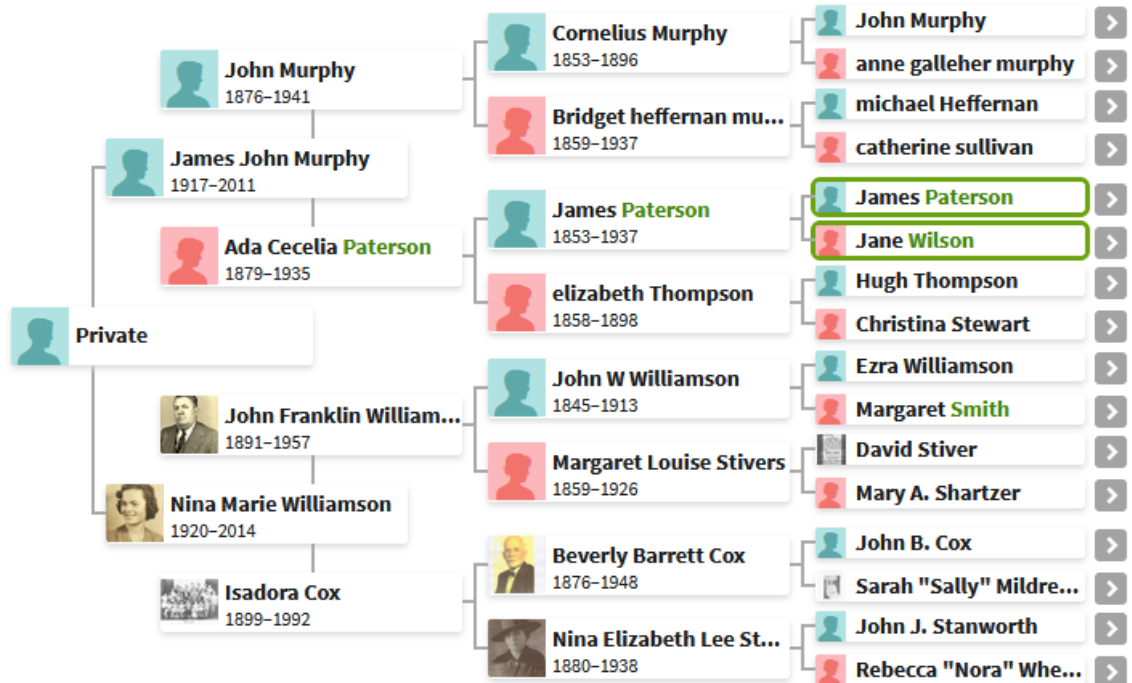
 **Jane WILSON**
2nd great-grandmother
1822–1890
[View Relationship](#)

William Murphy Family Tree

 Expand tree

william murphy's Linked Tree 507 People

This is a preview of the public tree linked to william murphy's DNA results. Surnames that appear in both your tree and william murphy's tree are **marked in green**.



DNA analysis...



Autosomal results:

- numerous matches to (distant) potential cousins
- mostly from my maternal line
- nothing immediately obvious from the paternal line
- similar results from FT-DNA autosomal data
- FT-DNA and AncestryDNA data essentially identical when compared using GEDmatch

Predicted ethnicity stuff (just for fun):

- 98% European hunter-gatherer/farmer class
- predominantly British (51%) with a large dose of Scandinavian (37%)
- clustering significantly in Lancashire/north-west England



But where's my father's DNA in all this?
Why is there no Manchester/London ethnicity cluster?



But where's my father's DNA in all this?

Why is there no Manchester/London ethnicity cluster?

How does Ancestry estimate "ethnicity"?

- ***"How do we come up with your estimate?"***
- *To figure out your ethnicity regions, we compare your DNA to [a reference panel](#) made up of DNA from groups of people who have deep roots in one region. We look at 1,001 sections of your DNA and assign each section to the ethnicity region it looks most like. Then we turn those results into the percentages you see in your estimate. Your genetic link to these ethnicities can go back hundreds of years or even more."*

www.ancestry.co.uk/dna/origins

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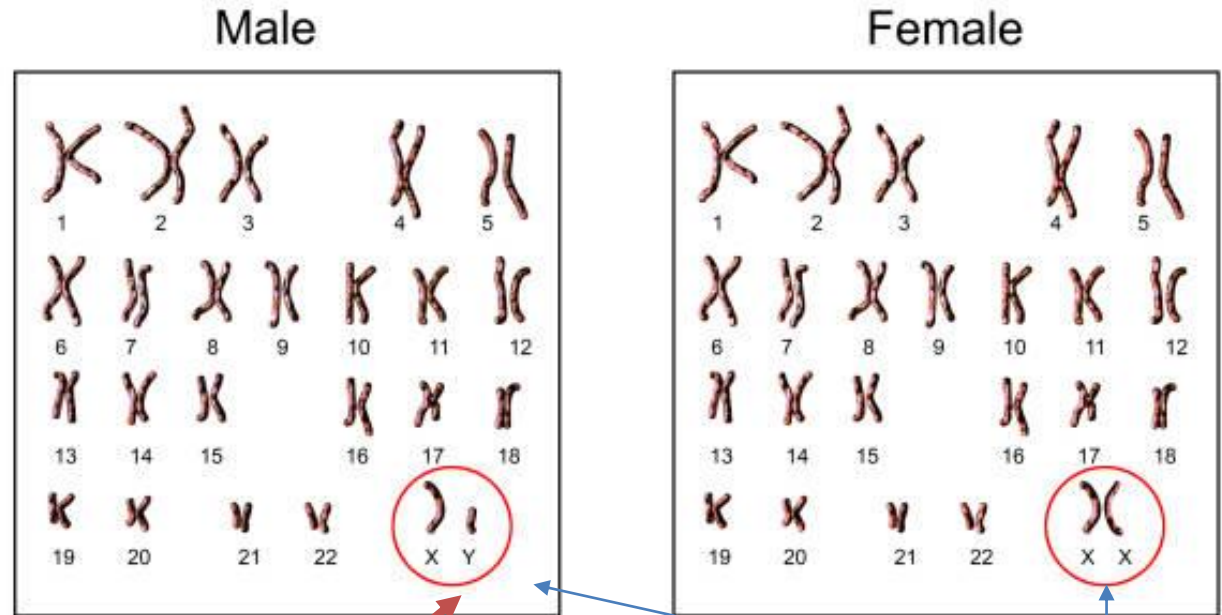
www.ancestry.co.uk/dna/origins

We don't inherit equal amounts of DNA from each parent, and it's often said that I take after my mother so maybe...

- My autosomal DNA is swamped by all those Norris's, or...
- The Coopers didn't breed as prolifically in one place, or...
- Is my father the father...?

Y-DNA ?

Y-DNA ?



Sex chromosomes

The male Y-chromosome passes specifically from father to son, and mutates relatively slowly, so should provide direct evidence for paternal lineage.

Y-DNA analysis...



Y-chromosome analysis from FT-DNA (Y-DNA37 & Y-DNA111)

Alan Cooper: **Paternal Ancestry** **R-M198**

37 MARKERS - 4 - MATCHES			
Genetic Distance ↑	Name	Earliest Known Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup
0	Richard Bingham Y-DNA37		R-M512
1	Logan Clarke Y-DNA37 FF		R-M198
1	Mr. Phillip Woodman Y-DNA67 FF	James Woodman b 1805 d.1872	R-M198
1	stephen Childs Y-DNA37	Samuel Childs (1787-1870)	R-M198

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Results indicate...

- at least 5 living males (me + 4 others) who share the same Y-DNA
- meaning we must be descended from a common male ancestor
- but we all have different surnames
- Hmm... who are these people?

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Stephen Childs...

- lives in Aberdeen, but originally from London
- direct descendant of Samuel Lea Child (1772-1830), cordwainer, London



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Logan Clarke...

- teenager - lives in USA
- descended from a travelling circus family appearing in London (and elsewhere) in 1800s
- the “Clarke Circus” family moved to the US in early 1900s (Barnum & Bailey)
- possible links to the Childs family when in London

Y-DNA analysis...



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Richard Bingham...

- sample actually from elderly cousin, Lawrence Roscoe Child
- of Salt Lake City, Utah – recently deceased
- a direct descendant in male line from Samuel Lea Childs, London



Y-DNA analysis...



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0	Richard Bingham Y-DNA37		R-M512
1	Logan Clarke Y-DNA37 FF		R-M198
1	Mr. Phillip Woodman Y-DNA67 FF	James Woodman b 1805 d.1872	R-M198
1	stephen Childs Y-DNA37	Samuel Childs (1787-1870)	R-M198

Phillip Woodman...

- lives in Australia
- Woodman/Childs connection probably arose circa 1680 in Kingston on Thames, London (*info from Stephen Childs*)
- Woodman family moved to Australia in 1840

Y-DNA conclusions...

- I share a common “non-parental” male ancestor with living males, all of whom can be traced back to the Childs/Woodman families in London in the 1700s
- no “Coopers” in their family trees...
- ...but is consistent with the “London” place of birth for my ancestor, James Joseph Cooper (JJC)
- so my Y-DNA comes from London via Manchester...
- ...and my father is my father!

Who is the common ancestor?

What are JJC’s London origins?

How/why did he get up north to Manchester?

- DNA won’t tell us this, but...
- a fortunate discovery in The National Archives, Kew...

Search for “James Joseph Cooper” in
The National Archives, online...

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

The National Archives (TNA) have five original handwritten documents from 1842, conserved and archived at Kew, comprising three letters from JJC in Manchester to the Poor Law Commissioners (Somerset House, London) and their two brief responses.

Folios 420-421. Letter from James Joseph Cooper to the Poor Law Commissioners, regarding...

Date: 1842 Mar 14 Reference: MH 12/6040/257

[Delete](#)

Folio 422. Draft letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, initialled by Edwin Chadwick,...

Date: 1842 Mar 17 Reference: MH 12/6040/258

[Delete](#)

Folios 430-432. Letter from James Joseph Cooper to the Poor Law Commissioners, describes...

Date: 1842 Mar 21 Reference: MH 12/6040/265

[Delete](#)

Folio 433. Draft letter from the Poor Law Commissioners to James Joseph Cooper,...

Date: 1842 Mar 30 Reference: MH 12/6040/266

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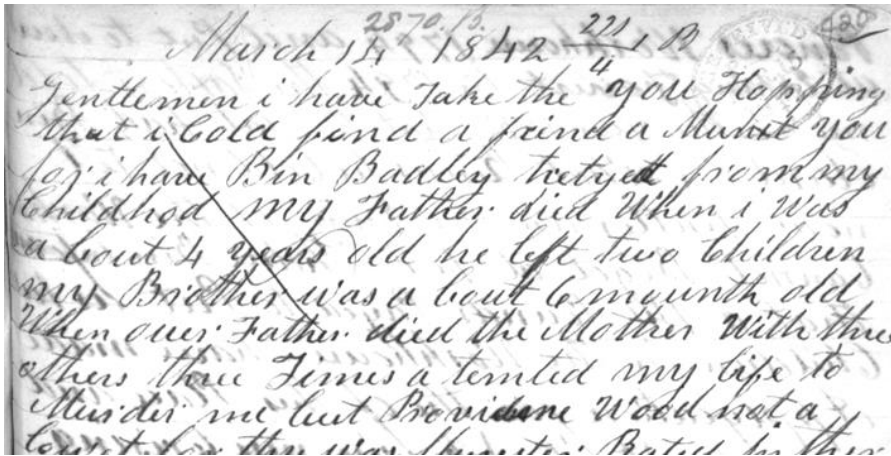
Folio 439. Letter from James Joseph Cooper to the Poor Law Commissioners, expressing his...

Date: 1842 April 9 Reference: MH 12/6040/270

[Delete](#)

(1) TNA Ref: MH 12/6040/257 Folios 420-421 Date: 14 March 1842

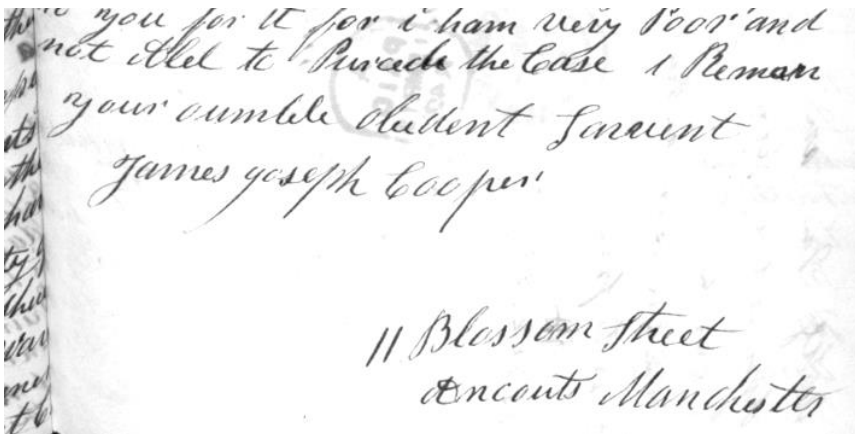
Letter from James Joseph Cooper to the Poor Law Commissioners, regarding his experiences of receiving poor relief, including at St Pancras in London, life with his stepfather at Kentish Town, his father's ownership of property, and burial at Bristol, while requesting assistance in attempting to trace records of his family.



March 14th 1842
Gentlemen I have take the ayon Hoping
that i could find a friend a Must you
for i have Bin Badley texted from my
Childhod my Father died When i was
a bout 4 years old he left two children
my Brother was a bout 6 month old
When our Father died the Mother with three
others three Times a tented my life to
kill me but Providence Wood not a
Court for then was the... But in the

Extracts (beginning and end)
from JJC letter, 14 March 1842

“My father died when I was about 4 years old. He left two children. My brother was about 6 months old when our father died. The mother, with three others, three times attempted my life to murder me, but providence would not allow it...”



you for it for i ham very poor and
not able to Purcace the Case i Reman
your oumble obedent Servant
James Joseph Cooper
11 Blossom Street
Ancouts Manchester

Same address on 1841/1851 census,
and on his death certificate

(2) TNA Ref: MH 12/6040/258 Folio 422 Date: 17 March 1842
Draft letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, initialled by Edwin Chadwick, to James Joseph Cooper, advising him that the Commissioners have no authority to interfere in the matter he has raised.

“Jas. Jos. Cooper: I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 14th Inst. And to inform you in reply that your case does not appear to be one in which they can have any authority to interfere. EC”

(3) TNA Ref: MH 12/6040/265 Folios 430-432 Date: 21 March 1842
Letter from James Joseph Cooper to the Poor Law Commissioners, describes property and local landmarks in and around Bristol and other places associated with his father and experiences following his father's death including settling in Manchester.

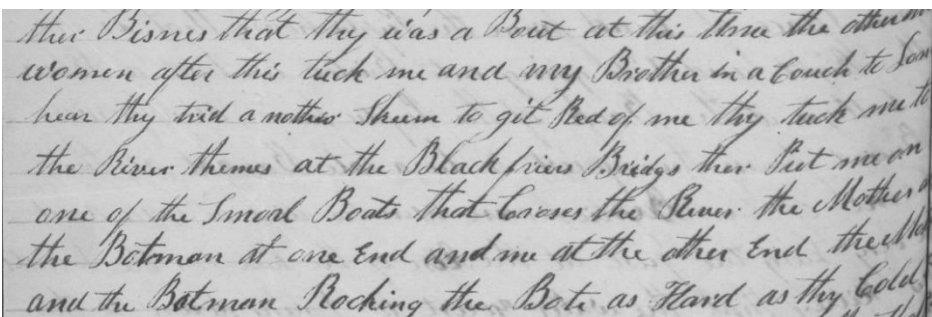
(4) TNA Ref: MH 12/6040/266 Folio 433 Date: 30 March 1842
Draft letter from the Poor Law Commissioners to James Joseph Cooper, acknowledging receipt of his letter and advising him that they have no power to assist him in the matter to which he refers

“Ackge. The case is one in which Poor Law have no power to assist him.”

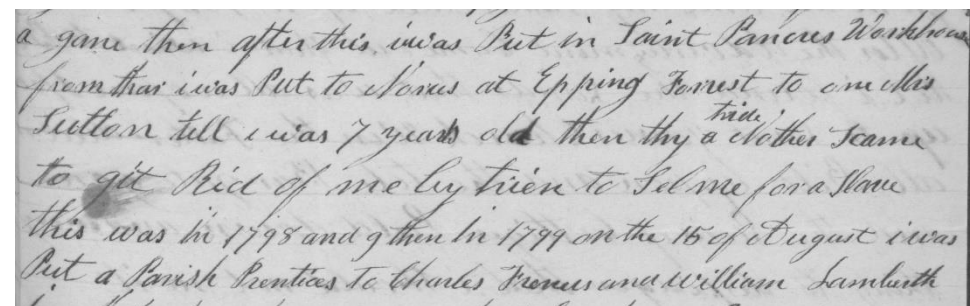
(5) TNA Ref: MH 12/6040/270 Folio 439 Date: 9 April 1842
Letter from James Joseph Cooper to the Poor Law Commissioners, expressing his surprise that the Commissioners have stated that they have no power to assist him in the matter he has raised with them.

From my transcript of the 1842 letters...

- He (JJC) was born in Kentish Town, London, in 1791 and christened the same year at St. Pancras Church in the name James Joseph Cooper.
- His father, John Cooper, died in Bristol in 1794 when he (JJC) was 3 or 4 years old, and was buried in the Brunswick Burial Ground in Bristol.
- JJC's younger brother, John, was 6 months old at the time, and the family lived in the Stoke's Croft area of the city at the time.
- In the days following his father's death he was punished for wandering out alone and losing his shoes in the mud. He recalls a meeting with four rather intimidating women, after which he and his brother were taken off by coach to London, accompanied by three of these women.
- Back in London, his mother (with others?) attempted to drown him or otherwise dispose of him on at least two occasions, including selling him as a slave.



the Bismar that they was a Boat at this time the other
women after this took me and my Brother in a Couch to
hear they had a nother shew to get rid of me they took me to
the River Thames at the Blackfriars Bridge then put me on
one of the Smoal Boats that crosses the River the Mother
the Boatman at one end and me at the other end the
and the Boatman Pocking the Boat as hard as they could



a game then after this i was put in Saint Pancras Workhouse
from there i was put to school at Epping Forest to one Mrs
Sutton till i was 7 years old then they a nother scame
to get rid of me by trying to sell me for a slave
this was in 1798 and then in 1799 on the 15 of August i was
put a Spanish Prentice to Charles Thomas and William Lambeth

- His mother re-marries to a Mr. Mansall/Monsall/Mensall of Kentish Town, who was possibly a churchwarden at St. Pancras Church.
- He claims that two aunts (Frances Puloston, Elizabeth Thornton) were being paid 10 shillings a week by step-father Mansall to hush things up and (maybe?) destroy records.
- Apparently abandoned by his mother and step-father, he was placed in the St. Pancras Workhouse
- In 1799 he was indentured as a Parish Apprentice and, on 15 August, along with a number of other children (14 boys and 15 girls) from the same workhouse, shipped off to work in the notorious Lowdham Mill in Nottingham, run by the Lambert brothers.
- Conditions there were harsh. He was forced to remain there until aged 21, when he moved to Manchester (presumably around 1812).

- In 1836 he sees a newspaper advert from solicitors in Cheadle (Staffs.) in relation to a legacy, looking for “...James Cooper, son of John Cooper... goldbeater... Stoke’s Croft Bristol...”. He visits the solicitors but, naturally, they want documents to establish any claim.

LEGATEE OF THOMAS COOPER WANTED.
If JAMES COOPER, Son of JOHN COOPER, deceased, and which said John Cooper was a Gold Beater, residing at Stoke's Croft, in the City of Bristol, will communicate to Messrs. **Brandon** and **Cattlow**, Solicitors, Cheadle, Staffordshire, his present place of abode, he will hear of something to his advantage.—All letters must be post paid.
Cheadle, August 31, 1836.

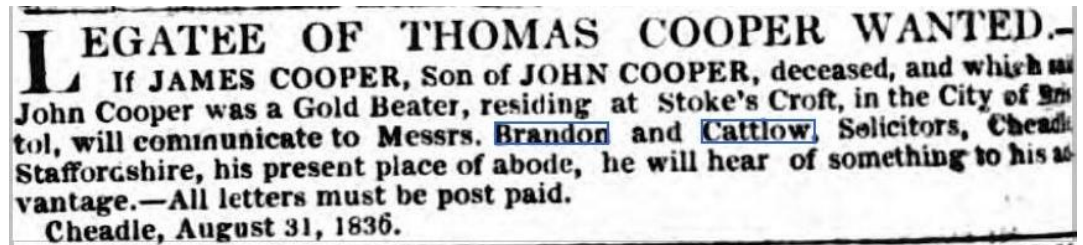
From Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chronicle, Sunday 18 September 1836; Bristol Mercury, Saturday 13 August 1836; and others (British Newspaper Archive)

- Following this (in 1837?) he went to Bristol to see if he can recognise the place, but the area has been redeveloped.
- He possibly visited St Pancras in 1824 to meet his step-father (Mansall) and to get to see workhouse records. But the account is garbled and hard to decipher.

A remarkably poignant story of pre-Victorian childhood deprivation...

- But how much (if any) of this is true?
- Is he perhaps just making up a story to try to claim an inheritance?
- If true, who is “The Mother”
- And where does his (my) Y-DNA come from?

Corroboration...?



LEGATEE OF THOMAS COOPER WANTED.
If JAMES COOPER, Son of JOHN COOPER, deceased, and which son John Cooper was a Gold Beater, residing at Stoke's Croft, in the City of Bristol, will communicate to Messrs. **Brandon** and **Cattlow**, Solicitors, Cheadle, Staffordshire, his present place of abode, he will hear of something to his advantage.—All letters must be post paid.
Cheadle, August 31, 1836.

Old maps show that his description of this area of Bristol is remarkably detailed and accurate – especially for a 5yr old? – so could easily be made up later.

But the London/St. Pancras details can be verified from various records...

London, Poor Law and Board of Guardian Records: Register of Apprentices, 1778-1801
St. Pancras Workhouse

Name of the Appr.	Age	Name of the Master	What Business	What place	What Parish	Date of the Indent
Thomas Morgan	11	Miss ^r Lambert	C. Hair Spinning ^r	St. Augustine	St. Mary St. Augustine	15 th August 1794
John Hatten	12	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Wm Bennett	11	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
John Price	9	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Francis Lovell	11	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Arthur Lindsay	10	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Robert Westcott	11	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
James Cooper	10	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
W. Kamsay	15	W. Colwell	Cordwainers	No 1 Pancras Place	St Pancras	2 ^d Decr. "
Elizabeth Oby	12	L. Br. Bond	Silk Weaver	No 10 King Street Spital Fields	St. Pancras	13 th April 1800

James
Cooper

The St. Pancras workhouse register of apprentices shows a James Cooper, age 10, as one of a cohort of children sent to the Lambert's Mill, Nottingham, on 15 August 1799 – the same date as in the JJC letters.

In the St Pancras record, there were 15 girls and 13 boys in this cohort (JJC has 15 girls, 14 boys).

Parish apprenticeships were used at that time as a means to relieve pressure on the workhouse system: *“In the late 18th and early 19th centuries large numbers of poor, orphaned or abandoned children in London and the south of England were sent by overseers of the poor to work as apprentices in the textile mills of the industrial north. From about 1786 children were sent to Lancashire, Cheshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and by 1805 to Glasgow, to work in the cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mill areas, often from the age of eight until they were 21.”*

Katrina Honeyman, *Child Workers in England, 1780-1820: Parish Apprentices and the Making of the Early Industrial Labour Force*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007, ISBN: 978-0-7546-6272-3.

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Parish,_Factory_and_Charity_Apprenticeships_in_England

St Pancras Register of Apprentices 1778-1801. P90/PANI/361 (London Metropolitan Archives)

London, Poor Law and Board of Guardian Records: Register of Apprentices, 1778-1801

Name of the Appr.	Age	Name of the Master or Mistress	What Business	What place	What Parish	Date of the Indent
Thomas Morgan	11	Mrs ^s Lumberb	Cotton Spinning &c	N ^o 1 Nottingham	S ^t . Mary N ^o 1 Nottingham	15 th August 1799
John Hatten	12	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Wm Bennett	11	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
John Price	9	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Richard Surott	11	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Arthur Lindsay	10	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Robert Westcott	11	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
James Cooper	10	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
W ^m Ramsay	13	N ^o 1 Colwell	Cordwainers	N ^o 1 Pancras Row	S ^t . Pancras	2 ^d Dec ^r ..
Elizabeth Peely	12	S ^t . St. Paul	Silk Weaver	N ^o 1 King Street Spital Fields	St. Andrew	13 th April 1800

James
Cooper

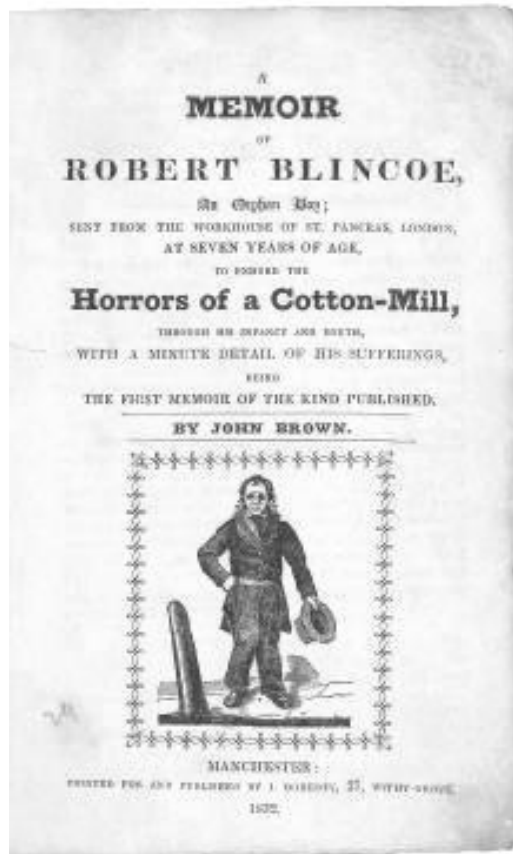
Name of the Appr.	Age	Name of the Master or Mistress	What Business	What place	What Parish	Date of the Indent
Jane Brewer	14	Mrs ^s Lumberb	Cotton Spinning &c	N ^o 1 Nottingham	S ^t . Mary N ^o 1 Nottingham	15 th August 1799
Wm ^o Simpson	12	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Martha Craddock	10	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
James N ^o 1 Nottingham	12	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Henry Savary	7	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Robt. Blincoe	7	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Charles Hunt	8	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
James Donnelly	8	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Thomas Mills	7	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Jane Smith	12	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do

In the same
cohort...

Robt. Blincoe

Memoir of Robert Blincoe, An Orphan Boy; Sent from the Workhouse of St. Pancras, London, at Seven Years of Age, to Endure the Horrors of a Cotton-Mill, Through His Infancy and Youth, With a Minute Detail of His Sufferings, Being the First Memoir of the Kind Published

John Brown (1832, Manchester)



hours from the dreadful effects of that accident. Here Blincoe stopped, stripping of cards, for eleven shillings per week, during several months, when, having saved a few pounds, he determined to try his fortune at Manchester, which celebrated town was only seven or eight miles distant. Of London, Blincoe retained only a faint recollection, and he thought Manchester the largest and the grandest place in all the world. He took lodgings in St. George's-road, being attracted by the residence of James Cooper, a parish apprentice from the same workhouse with himself, who had been so cruelly flogged at Litton Mill. By this young man, Blincoe was received in a friendly manner, and he lodged in his house near Shudehill. Blincoe arrived at Manchester at a bad time, just at the return of peace, and he had a difficulty of getting work. His first place was in the

ca. 1815 "He took lodgings in St. George's Road, being attracted by the residence of James Cooper, a parish apprentice from the same workhouse with himself, who had been so cruelly flogged at Litton Mill. By this young man, Blincoe was received in a friendly manner, and he lodged in his house near Shudehill".

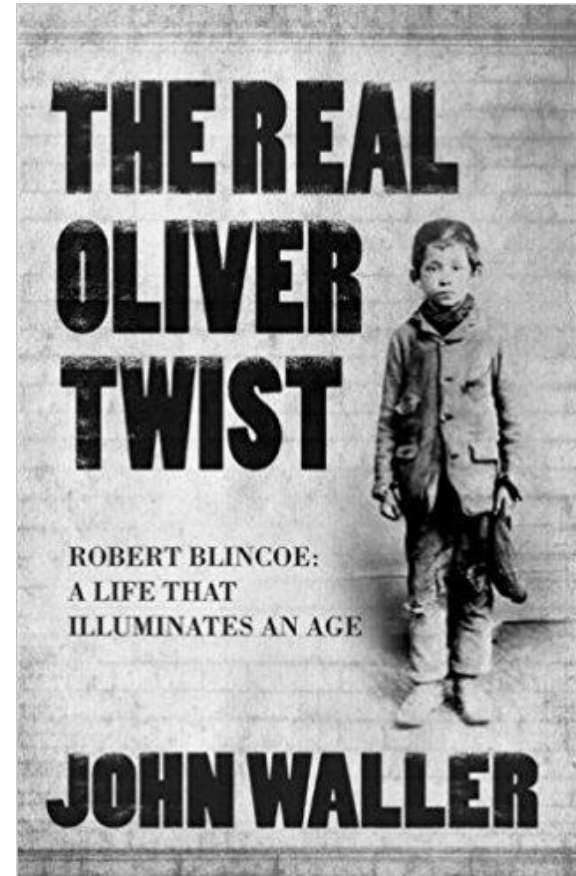
Manchester rate book records show a James Cooper in Shudehill in 1815.

A
MEMOIR
OF
ROBERT BLINCOE,
An Orphan Boy;
SENT FROM THE WORKHOUSE OF ST. PANCRAS, LONDON,
AT SEVEN YEARS OF AGE,
TO ENDURE THE
Horrors of a Cotton-Mill,
THROUGH HIS INFANCY AND YOUTH,
WITH A MINUTE DETAIL OF HIS SUFFERINGS,
BEING
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BY JOHN BROWN.

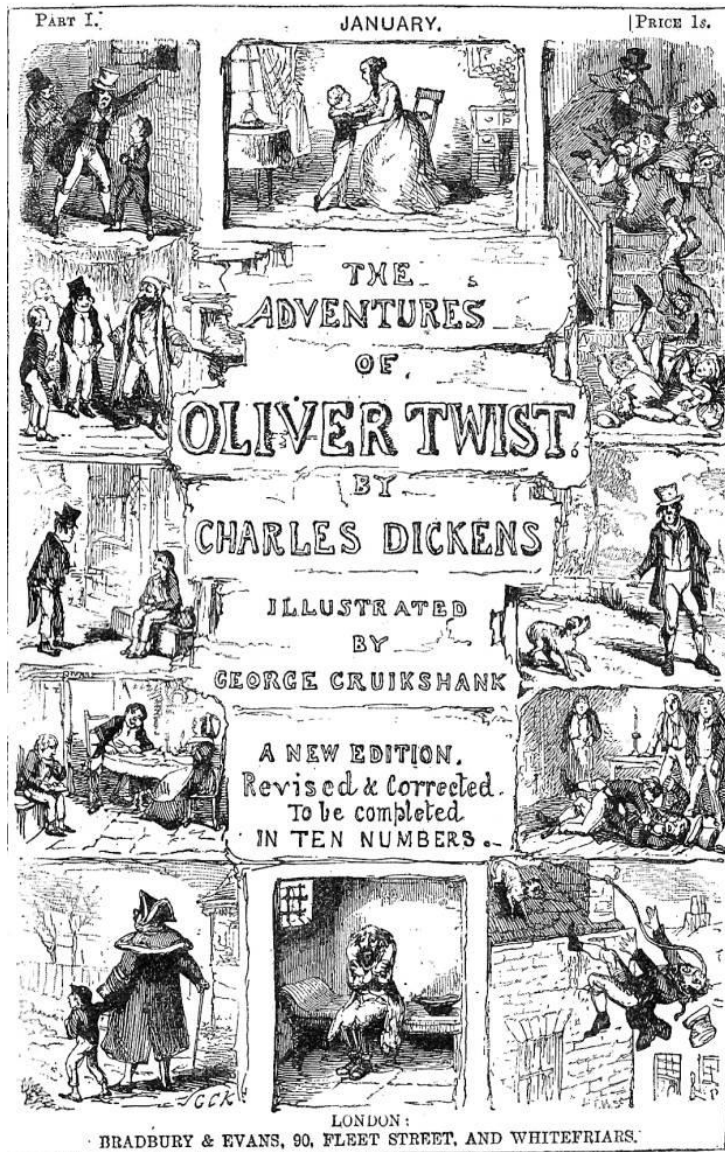


MANCHESTER:
PRINTED FOR AND PUBLISHED BY J. DOHERTY, 37, WITHY-GROVE.
1832.

“A Memoir of Robert Blincoe” by John Brown (of Little Bolton.), with Robert Blincoe (Publisher: J. Doherty, 1832). Originally published in pamphlet form in *The Lion* newspaper ca. 1828.



“The Real Oliver Twist”, by John Waller (Icon Books, 2005). ISBN 1 84046 542 5



Oliver Twist was the second novel by Charles Dickens.

It was initially published in monthly installments from February 1837 to April 1839.

What did James Joseph Cooper do next?

The Lowdham Mill closed in 1802 and the apprentices were moved to the equally bad Litton Mill in Derbyshire. JJC left the mill around 1812 when he reached age 21 and, like Blincoe, then moved a few miles north to Manchester.

In Manchester, JJC initially continued working in the cotton industry as a “carder”.

- Pigot & Slater's Directory of Manchester & Salford, 1841, gives "Cooper, James, carder, 11 Blossom St", with the same occupation appearing on parish records of his possible marriage to a Margaret Williams in Manchester on 28 November 1813.

From 1841 onwards he describes himself as a fruit dealer/greengrocer, possibly (understandably) as a means of escape from the mills. Living adjacent to the Shudehill/Smithfield market that was developing at that time, so most likely trading from a stall or handcart.

Learns to read & write. Acquires a middle name “Joseph”

- trying to move up in the world?

The (wicked?) “aunts” and (wicked?) step-father do exist...

...and lead to a possible Cooper connection

From JJC 1842 letter:

“Gentlemen, in May 1824 I came to London to see if I could get the entry of the workhouse that was gone in 1824 but I had been to the church before I went to the workhouse. The christening register was there on 22 of August this(?) my step father name Mansall was the church warden. He told me himself that he was. He give me the direction to women, one corld [called] Elizabeth Thornton. She lived in Charloter [Charlotte?] Street, Charloter Building, Old Street Road. Her name was formerly Cooper. Her sister Frances Puloston she lives in Sidney Street 15 Somertown. These two women received ten shillings a week each of Mansall to keep the secret from us two children. Puloston has been to Saint Pancras Church for my christening register and to the workhouse for the entry of that Pl[ace?] which she sent me word that she could not get the(re?). Monsall would not pay these women a pound a week for nothing.”

Parish and Township of <i>St Pancras</i>		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of <i>Manxlebore</i>		Town of		Village of	
No. of House, Shed, or Cottage	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	
					Males	Females			
<i>211</i>	<i>15 Sidney St</i>	<i>Impson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2 weeks</i>			<i>Medd: St Pancras</i>	
		<i>Frances Puleston</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>69</i>		<i>Proprietor of House</i>		<i>180</i>	<i>180</i>

Parish records show that a Roger Puleston (widower, b. 1767) marries Frances Cooper (spinster) on 13 October 1813 at the Parish Chapel, St Pancras. His widow, **Frances Puleston** (b. 1782?), appears in the 1841 and 1851 censuses at an address (15 Sidney Street) in the Somers Town district of St. Pancras - this address is exactly as given in the JJC letters

Andrew Mensal/Mansell/Monsal/etc... (1764-1841)

Newspaper death notice: Morning Post - Tuesday 16 February 1841

On Saturday last, in his 78th year, **Andrew Mensal**, Esq., of Kentish Town, many years Master of Gordon House Academy.

Will: "...pay to **Frances Puleston the daughter of my first wife** the sum of seven shillings per week..."

Gordon House Academy: *“An old establish'd Academy kept by Mr. Cooper, who died suddenly of Apoplexy in the year 1788 whilst sitting at his Desk giving Lessons to his Pupils; amongst the number was the Artist of this Sketch. His Successor was A. Mensal, esqre. from Aberdeen, who married the Widow.”*

Henry Cooper “Writing Master” [headmaster/proprietor of Gordon House Academy]

Marriage Date: 5 Jun 1765

Parish: St Pancras, Middlesex

Spouse's Name: Elizabeth Browne

Henry & Elizabeth had numerous children, including daughter Frances Cooper (i.e JJC’s “aunt” Frances Puleston).

Andrew Mensal was a young teacher in the school who, on the death of Henry Cooper, immediately married his widow and acquired ownership of the school. (He was age 24, she was about 50.)

Elizabeth (Cooper) Mensal died abt. 1797 without further children.

Andrew Mensal then married “Sarah” (1768-1831).

Is Sarah JJC’s mother??

Problems...

We don't know Sarah Mensal's maiden name.

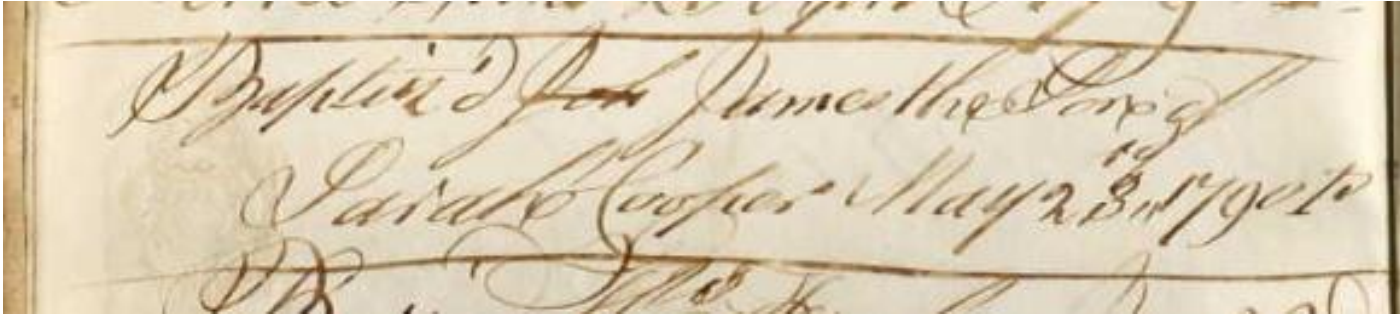
We can't find any record of the marriage of Sarah to Andrew Mensal

We can't find any record of JJC's birth (neither could he)
– despite archive searches by local London genealogist

So, finally reached the proverbial...??



Intriguingly...



Name:	John James Cooper
Event Type:	Baptism
Baptism Date:	23 May 1790
Baptism Place:	Morden, St Lawrence, Surrey, England
Mother:	Sarah Cooper

Plausible scenario.... ?



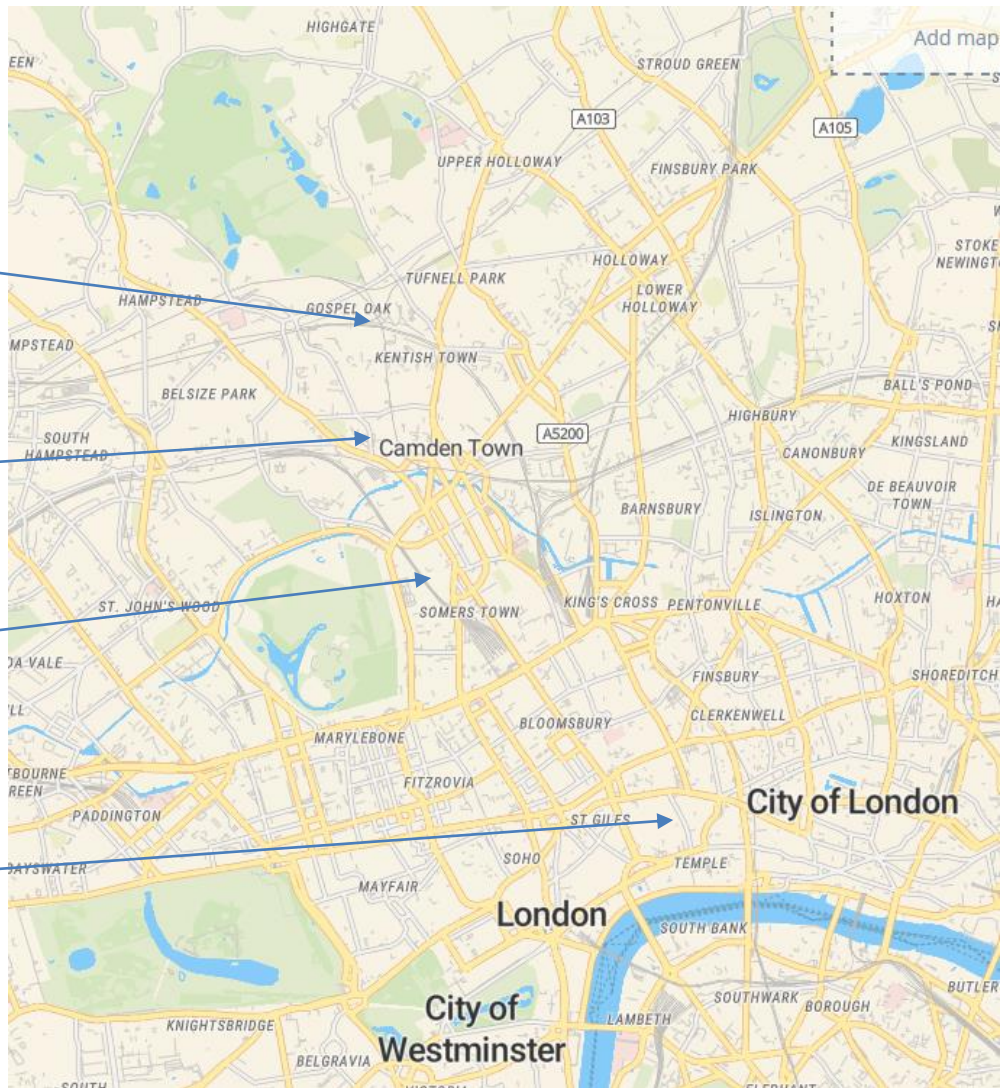
Hanky-panky in late-18th century London...

Henry Cooper's Academy

St Pancras Workhouse

Andrew Mensal & "aunts"

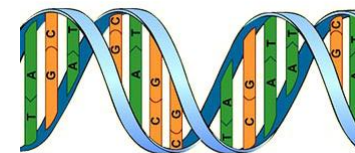
Samuel Lea Childs & family



3 miles



Late 1700s, London:
Childs family, wild oats, Y-DNA...



Sarah Cooper...

Possible errant daughter of Henry & Elizabeth

Gives birth to James Joseph Cooper, 1791, after non-parental event involving someone from the Childs dynasty

Abandons JJC to the St Pancras workhouse, 1795

Marries Andrew Mensal

Henry Cooper (schoolmaster)
& Andrew Mensal (schoolteacher/property speculator)

Henry Cooper dies 1788

His widow (Elizabeth) marries Andrew Mensal

She dies abt. 1797

Andrew Mensal marries (step-daughter?) Sarah (Cooper?)


Andrew & Sarah ("The Mother"), together with "aunts" Frances & Elizabeth, conspire to deprive JJC of his birthright?


DNA analysis...

Is it worth it?

- For me, yes – but don't expect too much...
- ...just do it for fun, and maybe get some surprises
- Probably won't add much if you already have a fully-documented family tree (or think you have), but who knows...?
- It can break down brick walls

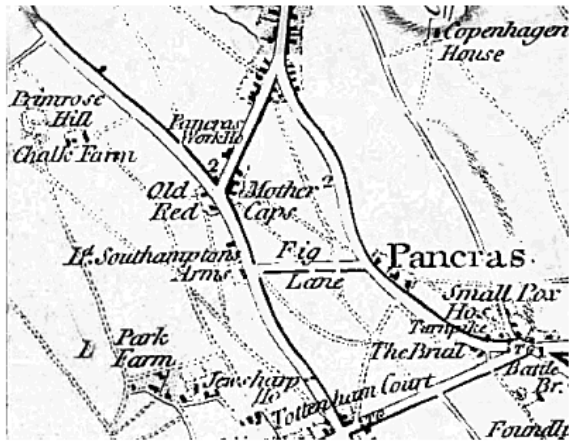
Where should I start?

- Autosomal DNA will likely give most matches
- Most companies use the same DNA chip technology, so little to choose...
- ...but  has (by far) the largest database of other users
- Works best when linked to an Ancestry family tree, and data can be downloaded to other comparison sites (GEDmatch, etc.)

- Use  for Y-DNA (paternal) or mtDNA (maternal) links

Cost?

- Usually around £79 plus Ancestry subscription (if you don't already have one)



St Pancras workhouse site, 1786

A
MEMOIR
OF
ROBERT BLINCOE,

An Orphan Boy;
SENT FROM THE WORKHOUSE OF ST. PANCRAS, LONDON,
AT SEVEN YEARS OF AGE,

TO ENDURE THE
Horrors of a Cotton-Mill,
THROUGH HIS INFANCY AND YOUTH,
WITH A MINUTE DETAIL OF HIS SUFFERINGS,
BEING
THE FIRST MEMOIR OF THE KIND PUBLISHED.

BY JOHN BROWN.



MANCHESTER:
PRINTED FOR AND PUBLISHED BY J. DOHERTY, 37, WHEAT-GROVE.
1832.



Speke Hall

"... accidents will occur in the best-regulated families ..."

(Charles Dickens: *David Copperfield*, 1850)

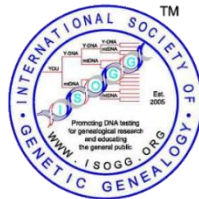
"... it is a wise child that knows his own father."

(Homer, *The Odyssey*, Scroll 1, 9th-8th century bc)

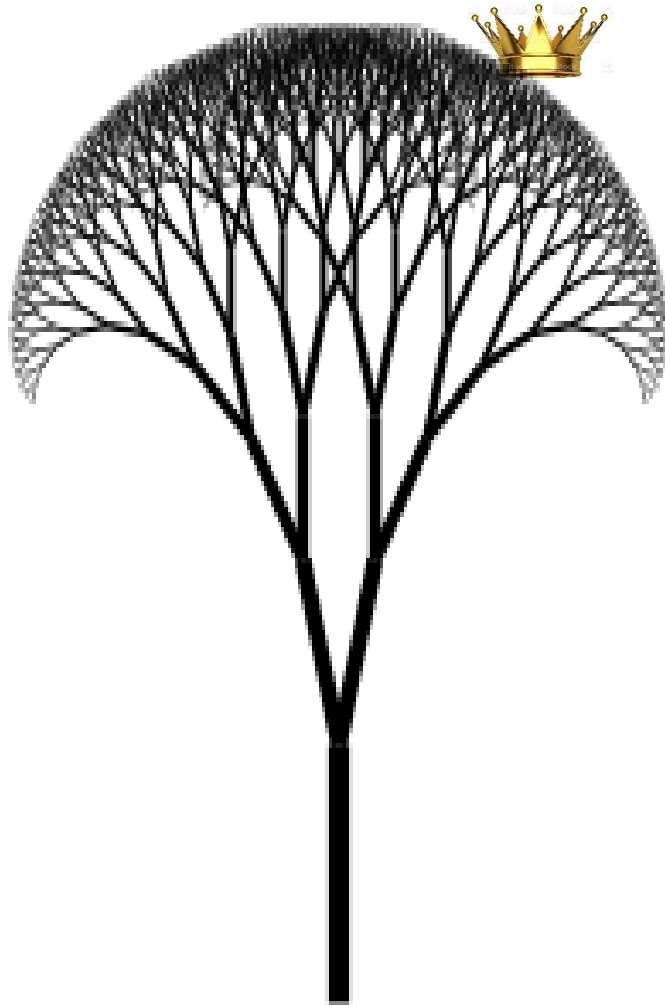
Resources...

ODFHS website “More...” page:

<http://www.odfhs.website/index.php/more>



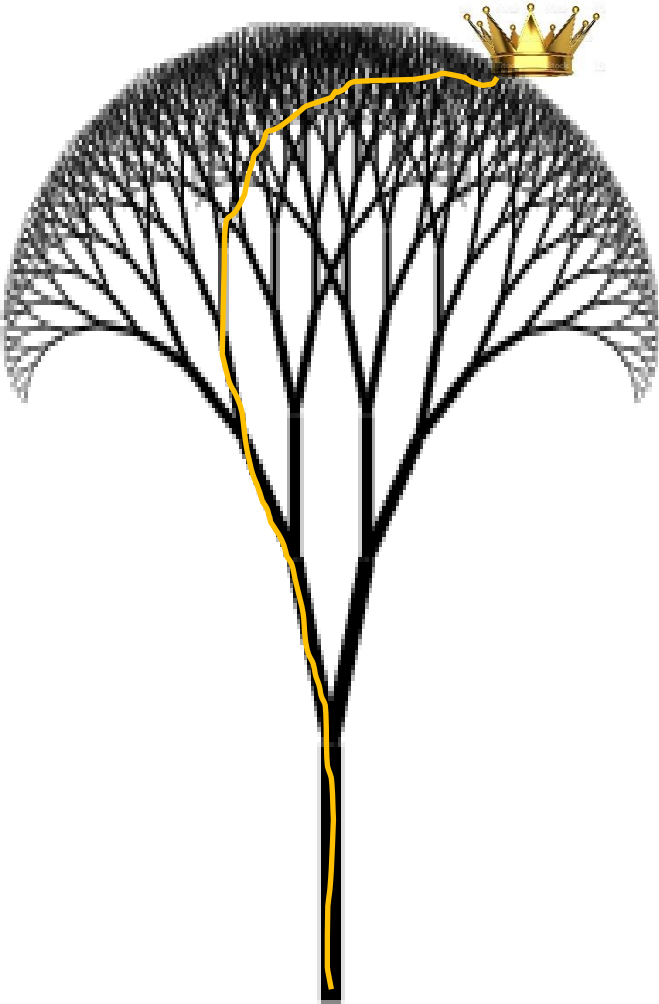
Are you descended from Royalty?



25	34 million *
20	1 million
5	32
4	16
3	8
2	4
1	2
Generation	Ancestors

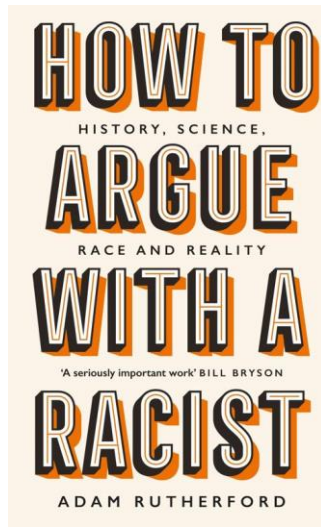
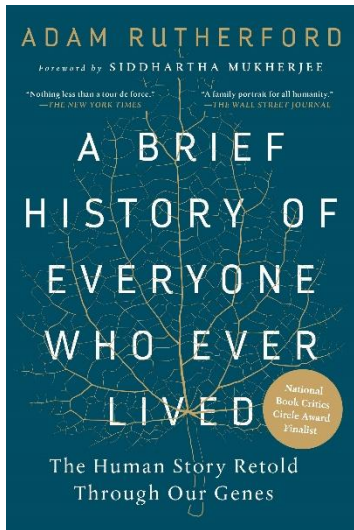
* Population of England in 1400: 2 million

Are you descended from Royalty?



.	.
25	34 million *
.	.
20	1 million
.	.
.	.
5	32
4	16
3	8
.	.
2	4
.	.
1	2
Generation	Ancestors

* Population of England in 1400: 2 million



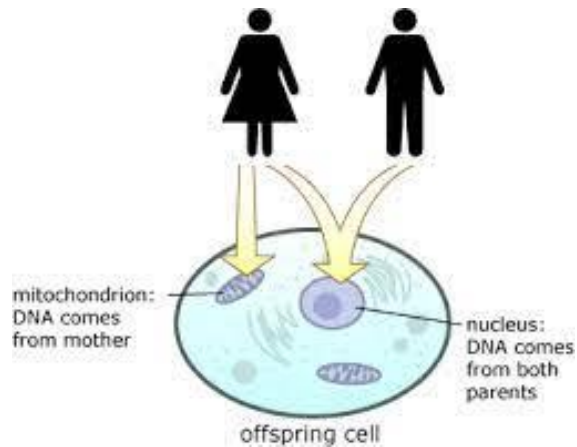
“You are of royal descent, because everyone is. You are of Viking descent, because everyone is.”

According to British geneticist Adam Rutherford, it is "virtually impossible" that a person with a predominantly British ancestry is not descended from Edward III. He has calculated that "almost every Briton" is "descended between 21 and 24 generations from Edward III"

*“The last common ancestor of all people with longstanding European ancestries lived only 600 years ago, in 1400. This long lost ancestor appears on every family’s tree. If you hoped for a royal connection then you won’t be disappointed: as Rutherford explains, **anyone alive today with a British ancestral lineage is almost certainly descended from Edward III, and all of his regal ancestors, including William the Conqueror...**”*

The Guardian (2020)

Mitochondrial DNA – the female line



Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is passed down almost unchanged from mother to child, so might be useful in tracing maternal ancestry



Not much help in my case:

- my mtDNA is from my mother – well established maternal line
- some matches, but limited database – mostly from USA
- James Joseph Cooper & wife Margaret had no female offspring
- so any “London” mtDNA is untraceable

