

Project, you are making an investment in research that should pay dividends either immediately, or you may have to wait, perhaps several years, as was the case with Joy Moore on the previous page. As genetic genealogy becomes more popular, and more people test with your surname, it will only be a matter of time.

If you have a high frequency surname, such as Winn/Wynn, which has multiple points of origin, it is impossible to predict if you will have a match right away. Perhaps your family tree did not proliferate, so there is only a small population descended from the progenitor who adopted the surname. In this case, perhaps no one has tested yet from this tree, and you would be the first. On the other hand, there could already be matches in the vendor's database waiting for you.

Moore's success with her Walker surname involved a high frequency surname. Based on frequency of occurrence alone, Walker would be a surname with multiple points of origin. For some Walker lines, the origin is most likely from a medieval occupation. A fuller in the cloth trade was known as a walker in parts of England, especially in the north.

The surname frequency is one factor that can influence the results of a DNA Project, and impact whether you have immediate discoveries when you receive your test results.

### The Davenport DNA Project

The Davenport DNA Project now has 101 members. William Davenport, the Project Administrator, reports, "I have had people tell me that we have advanced Davenport genealogy more in the last four years than in the previous 150. So yes, DNA testing has been worth it."

A few of the accomplishments by the Davenport DNA Project are:

- More than a dozen individuals of "unknown" ancestry found a new home based on their Y-DNA test results. Once they discovered

which line they belonged to, they had a place to focus their research. Several have gone on to pinpoint their connection.

- The project helped a few individuals discover that they were

The Davenport DNA Project's website, [www.davenportdna.com](http://www.davenportdna.com)

researching the wrong line. Family rumor told them they belong to Line A, while DNA testing tells them they descend from Line B. After several years of research, they discover why they haven't been able to find a connection.

- Y-DNA results also disproved some long held theories. Some researchers believed all Davenports around the world were related. They went as far as creating elaborate family trees showing how everything comes together as part of the ancient Davenport lines of Cheshire, England. We now know there are at least a dozen different lines, plus several more "unknowns".

- William Davenport reports that the greatest discovery for the project occurred last year. For more than 150 years it was believed that the five Davenports living in Boston during the early 1600s were all related in some way. And these Davenports were somehow connected to the "original" Davenport in Cheshire — Ormus Davenport (modern spelling) who lived around 1086AD.

So far, DNA testing has shown that two of the lines are connected and one is not. These two lines unexpectedly matched another group in North Carolina. This group of three lines also match several Davenports in England.

Then, last year, a member of the Bromley-Davenport family of Cheshire was recruited to test. This is the branch that is documented back to Ormus. A lot of people were anxiously waiting for those results. Would the Boston/North Carolina group match the Bromley-Davenports and therefore trace back to Ormus? Yes, it did. There was great relief. So now the Davenport DNA Project is actively recruiting Davenports from all over England, especially Cheshire, with the hope of some day figuring out how everything fits together.

### Conclusion

Genetic genealogy may initially appear to be complicated, though this isn't the case. Learning about DNA

testing is no different than learning about the various records available about your ancestors.

Taking a DNA test is an opportunity to learn more about your direct male or direct female ancestor, and an opportunity for discovery. Each day, more and more genealogists are turning to this new and powerful tool, to make discoveries that aren't in the paper records.

### Useful Links

- Family Tree DNA [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)
- DNA Heritage [www.dnaheritage.com](http://www.dnaheritage.com)
- Relative Genetics [www.relativegenetics.com](http://www.relativegenetics.com)
- Family Tree free newsletter [www.familytreedna.com/fgregister.asp](http://www.familytreedna.com/fgregister.asp)

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Susan Meates is an experienced genealogist who has been working on a global one-name study for over a decade.

Susan also started, and manages, a DNA Project, with over 220 participants in 15 countries.