

# FINDING FAYETTE'S FATHER: AUTOSOMAL DNA REVEALS MISATTRIBUTED PATERNITY

Jennifer Zinck, CG® | [jenzinck@gmail.com](mailto:jenzinck@gmail.com)

Sponsored by the Board for Certification of Genealogists®

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

16 August 2022



## RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

Identify the father of Fayette Madeline Driscoll born to Addie May Collier on 8 April 1914 in New Haven, Connecticut.

## SEVERAL SOURCES CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT PROVIDES DIRECT EVIDENCE WITH NO CONFLICTS

<b>Birth Record</b> 	<b>Source:</b> New Haven, Connecticut, Certificate of Birth, Fayette Madeline Driscoll, 8 April 1914, New Haven, Connecticut; Department of Vital Statistics, New Haven.
<b>Marriage Record</b> 	<b>Source:</b> Brooklyn, New York, Marriage License, Franklin Dolan and Fayette Madeline Driscoll, 25 August 1934; Division of Vital Statistics, New York Department of Health, Borough of Brooklyn, New York.
<b>Death Record</b> 	<b>Source:</b> Florida Department of Health, Certificate of Death, Fayette M. Dolan, local file no. 6097-8589, 5 September 1997; Office of Vital Statistics, Florida Department of Health, Jacksonville.
<b>Divorce Record</b> 	<b>Source:</b> New Haven, Connecticut, Judicial Department, Superior Court, Addie C. Driscoll v. William H. Driscoll, Judgement File no. 10838; New Haven County Civil Judgements, 1900-1944, box 46, Connecticut State Library, Hartford.
<b>Probate Record</b> 	<b>Source:</b> Cheshire, Connecticut, Probate District, William H. Driscoll, Application for Administration, vol. 38, p.461, file no. 739; Southington-Cheshire Probate District, Cheshire.

## SOURCES OF INDIRECT EVIDENCE

- ❖ DNA Tool Outputs
- ❖ Land Records
- ❖ Interviews and Oral histories
- ❖ Photographs



*Fayette Driscoll c. 1917, photo from personal collection.*

## STRATEGIES

- ❖ Find the intersections of trees of matches to identify common ancestors.
- ❖ Which of their descendants could have been in the right place at the right time?
- ❖ Are there living people who could have potential clues?



*Mildred, Fayette, and Tom Driscoll c. 1916, photo from personal collection.*

## ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS RESEARCH

Will this research impact living people and if so, how?

Are potential “new” relatives willing to DNA test and sign consent forms? If not, what provisions can be made to maintain their privacy?

Are there individuals who object to this research? Have their positions been considered?

## RELATIONSHIPS

FAYETTE HAD THREE FATHERS

*Legal*

William was the person who Fayette believed to be her father. All of her legal documentation contained information that identified him as her father.

*Social*

Joseph married Fayette's mother when Fayette was one year old. Joseph helped raise Fayette and filled the role of father in her day-to-day life. He served as grandparent to her children.

*Biological*

Alfred was Fayette's biological father. Although she likely never knew him to be her father, he is the person who contributed his DNA to her.

### RELATIONSHIP CHART

Self	Parent	Grandparent	Great-grandparent	Great-great-grandparent
Parent	sibling	aunt/uncle niece/nephew	Great aunt/uncle Great niece/nephew	Great-great-aunt/uncle Great-great-niece/nephew
Grandparent	aunt/uncle niece/nephew	1 <sup>st</sup> cousin	1 <sup>st</sup> cousin once removed (1C1R)	1 <sup>st</sup> cousin twice removed (1C2R)
Great-grandparent	great aunt/uncle great niece/nephew	1 <sup>st</sup> cousin once removed (1C1R)	2 <sup>nd</sup> cousin	2 <sup>nd</sup> cousin once removed (2C1R)
Great-great-grandparent	Great aunt/uncle Great niece/nephew	1 <sup>st</sup> cousin twice removed (1C2R)	2 <sup>nd</sup> cousin once removed (2C1R)	3 <sup>rd</sup> cousin

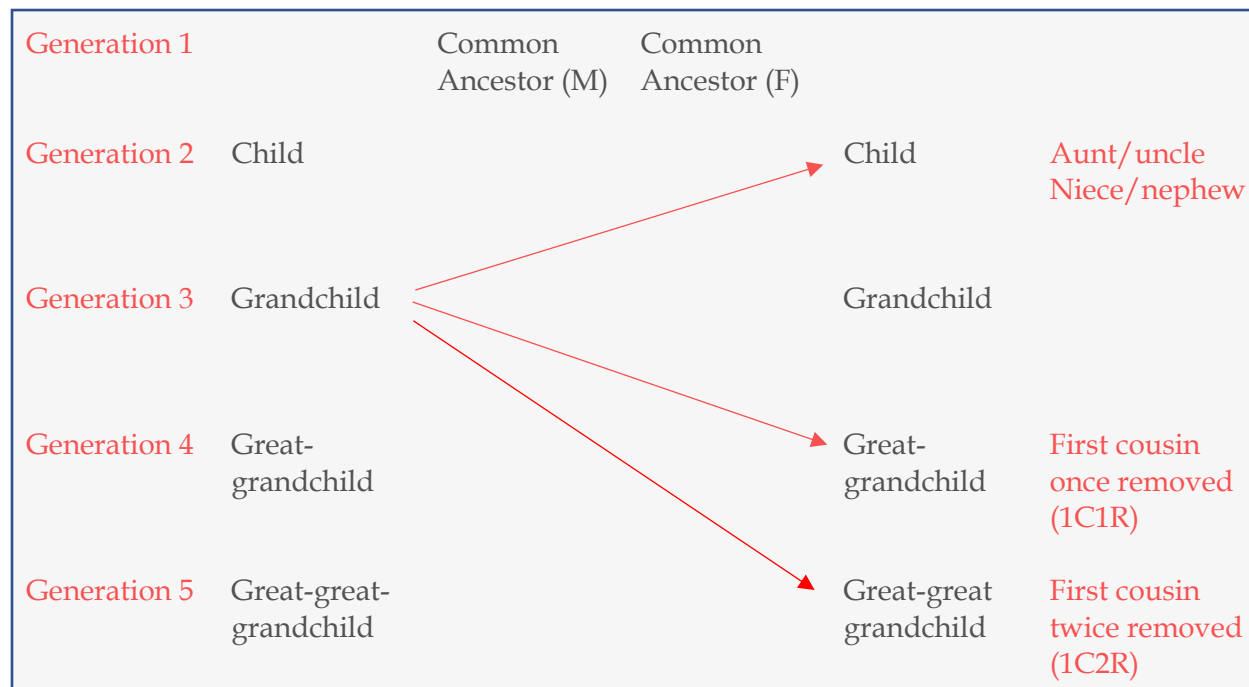
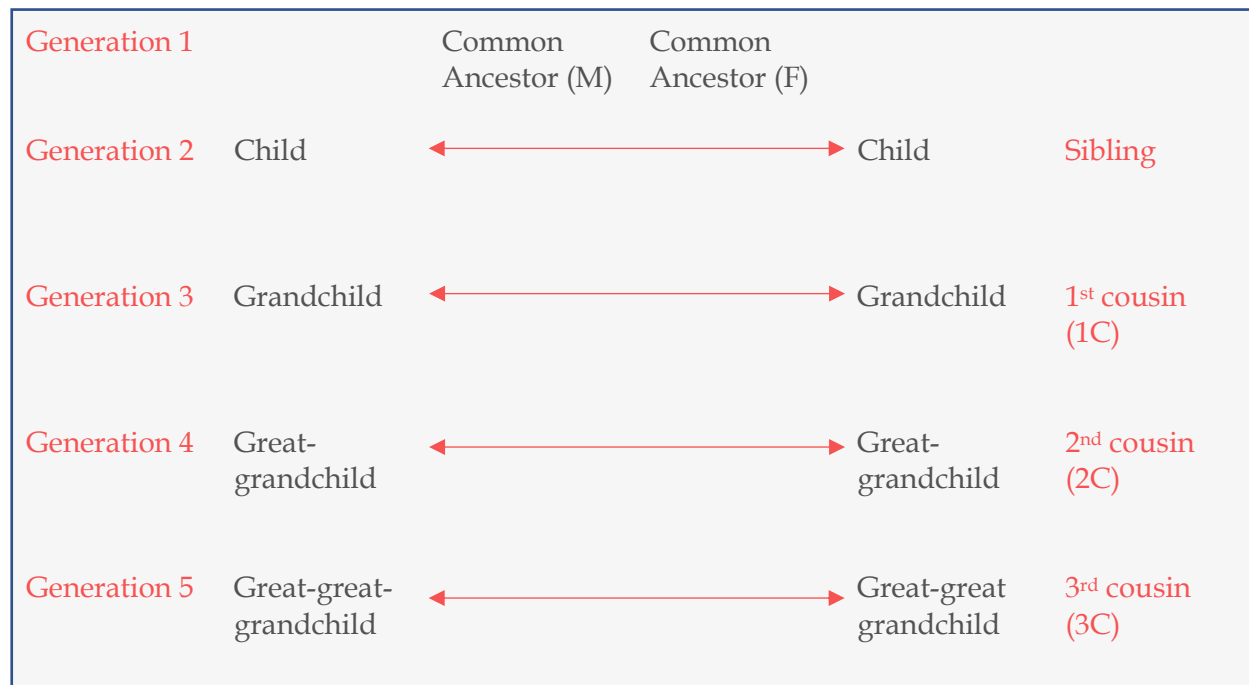
### CLUES TO HELP NARROW RELATIONSHIP POSSIBILITIES

*What are the ages of the individuals?* Individuals of the same generation can be born many years apart, so be careful about assumptions!

*Do they share a full or half relationship?* If individuals share only one common ancestor rather than two, the amount of shared DNA will be about half of what it would be if they shared both common ancestors.

*Has the accuracy, completeness, and depth of each pedigree been included in the analysis?* These factors can have a significant impact on potential outcomes.

## QUICK CALCULATIONS



## EXAMPLES OF COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS

1<sup>st</sup> cousin (1C)

1<sup>st</sup> cousin once removed (1C1R)

half-1<sup>st</sup> cousin twice removed (half 1C2R)

half-2<sup>nd</sup> cousin twice removed (half 2C2R)

## DNA TESTS AND TOOLS

### DNA TESTING COMPANIES USED IN THIS RESEARCH

*Be sure to read the Terms of Service and encourage others to read them, as well!*

23andMe [www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com)

Ancestry [www.ancestry.com/DNA](http://www.ancestry.com/DNA)

Family Tree DNA [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)

MyHeritage [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)

### THIRD-PARTY DNA TOOLS USED IN THIS RESEARCH

*DNA Painter Shared cM Tool v. 4* <https://www.dnainter.com>

Shared cM Tool v. 4 is often the first tool genealogists access to learn more about potential relationships based on the amount of shared DNA between two test-takers.

*DNA Painter What Are the Odds? v2 beta*

The What Are the Odds? tool is commonly used to determine where a test taker fits in a tree in relation to other test takers. This version of the tool allows the user to import a GEDCOM file and select a person whose descendants will be loaded into a tree created by the tool. Next, the researcher identifies DNA matches in the tree by adding the amount of shared DNA. The tool calculates the probabilities that the test-taker fits in a certain space on the tree.

## SELECTED RESOURCES

### BLOGS

*Jonny Perl's blog: DNA Painter, 2017-2022.* <https://blog.dnainter.com> : 2022.

*Leah Larkin's blog: The DNA Geek, 2016-2022.* <http://www.thednageek.com> : 2022.

*Roberta Estes's blog: DNAeXplained, 2012-2022.* <https://www.dnaexplained.com> : 2022.

### BOOKS

Bettinger, Blaine. *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, second edition. Cincinnati: Family Tree Books, 2019.

Bettinger, Blaine T. and Debbie Parker Wayne. *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*. Arlington: National Genealogical Society, 2016.

Board for Certification of Genealogists. *Genealogy Standards*, second edition revised. Nashville: Ancestry.com, 2021.

Wayne, Debbie Parker. *Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies*. Cushing, Texas: Wayne Research, 2019.

### GENEALOGICAL JOURNAL ARTICLES

Eagleson, Pamela Stone. "Parents for Robert Walker of Rockingham County, North Carolina, and Orange County, Indiana." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102 (September 2013): 189-99.

Fein, Mara. "A Family for Melville Adolphus Fawcett." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 104 (June 2016): 107-24.



- Fox, Judy Kellar. "Documents and DNA Identify a Little-Known Lee Family in Virginia." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 99 (June 2011): 85-96.
- Garrett-Nelson, LaBrenda. "Parents for Isaac Garrett of Laurens County, South Carolina: DNA Corroborates Oral Tradition." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 108 (June 2020): 85-112. NGSQ Award of Excellence, 2021.
- Green, Shannon. "Connecting William W. Hawkins of Newark, New Jersey, and William Wallace Hawkins of New York City." *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 148 (October 2017): 265-77.
- Henningfield, Melinda. "A Family for Mary (Jones) Hobbs Clark of Carroll County, Arkansas." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 107 (March 2019): 5-30. NGSQ Award of Excellence, 2020.
- Hobbs, Patricia L. "DNA Identifies a Father for Rachel, Wife of James Lee of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 105 (March 2017): 43-56.
- Hollister, Morna Lahnice. "Goggins and Goggans of South Carolina: DNA Helps Document the Basis of an Emancipated Family's Surname." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102 (September 2014): 165-76. NGSQ Award of Excellence, 2015.
- Jones, Thomas W. "Too Few Sources to Solve a Family Mystery? Some Greenfields in Central and Western New York." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 103 (June 2015): 85-103.
- Mills, Elizabeth Shown. "Testing the FAN Principle against DNA: Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey of Georgia and Mississippi." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102 (June 2014): 129-52. For the eight underlying reports, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, Historic Pathways (<http://www.historicpathways.com>), "Research" tab, "Genealogical Reports: Cooksey."
- Morelli, Jill. "DNA Helps Identify 'Molly' (Frisch/Lancour) Morelli's Father." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 106 (December 2018): 293-306.
- Posz, Darcie Hind. "Reexamining the Parentage of Anderson Boon of Lincoln, Marshall, and Obion Counties, Tennessee." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 107 (September 2019): 201-17.
- Raymont, Ann. "A Father for Walter Griffith of Tuscarawas County, Ohio." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 108 (September 2020): 165-82.
- Stanbary, Karen. "Rafael Arriaga, a Mexican Father in Michigan: Autosomal DNA Helps Identify Paternity." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 104 (June 2016): 85-98. NGSQ Award of Excellence, 2016.

## WIKIS

FamilySearch Wiki

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki>

International Society of Genetic Genealogists (ISOGG) Wiki

[https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki\\_Welcome\\_Page](https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page)