



Techniques for Integrating Documentary and Genetic Information in a Research Report

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BCG Legacy Webinar Series

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The Disclaimer

I am an elected Trustee for the Board for Certification of Genealogists. I chair the DNA Committee for that organization. I chaired the committee originally tasked with drafting the new DNA-related standards. I was involved in the ad-hoc committee charged with the revision of the DNA-related standards after the public comment period. Nonetheless, my opinions are my own and DO NOT REPRESENT THE POSITION OF THE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF GENEALOGISTS. No individual under any circumstances speaks for BCG, except for the President with the endorsement of the full board.

Research Reports Incorporating DNA Test Results

Research reports incorporating DNA evidence are no different than traditional genealogy research reports. A research report provides a detailed account of your search and findings within restricted parameters. Beginning with a clearly defined research question, the report identifies the best available sources to answer the research question and specifies the selected sources used. The report details the findings extracted from the selected sources and then provides a written analysis of the findings as applied to the research question. This includes your professional opinion of the significance of the findings. Some research reports include a chronological report of examined sources and the information notes, extracts, etc. The written conclusion either answers the research question, by meeting the Genealogical Proof Standard, or summarizes the progress and makes recommendations for continuing research.

Be Kind to Your Reader

Genetic information used as evidence can be dense, full of jargon, and number heavy. Edit your report with your reader in mind. Provide basic education about DNA inheritance to help your reader follow your logic. Write your analysis incorporating a clear, easy-to-follow rationale. This is not the place to demonstrate your command of complicated jargon and scientific terms. If your word choice includes terminology unfamiliar to your “Uncle Joe,” then define those terms.

An “Executive Summary” or “Significant Findings” before the presentation of detailed findings helps provide the framework for your report. This summarizes the most important findings including whether or not you met the research objective.

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Subject headings break up the report into digestible components. Comparative tables depicting correlation of documentary evidence and numerical data are often easier to understand than complicated narratives. Figures depicting visual representation of hypotheses clearly communicate a targeted testing strategy. It is wise to include an expansive descendant tree displaying how all the selected test takers fit into the picture.

Ten Essential Parts

Genealogy Standards, 2nd edition details “at least ten parts or characteristics” of a genealogical research report,¹ adding one more to the prior list in the 2014 edition:

- “Explanation of the deficiencies when research is insufficient to meet a conclusion.”

If the DNA evidence suggests a hypothesis, but the group of test takers is not sufficiently expansive to fully test the hypothesis, then the research report must make the deficiencies clear, with recommendations for additional targeted testing.

Consider Standard 56:

“Conclusions about genetic relationships. Conclusions about genetic relationships require a combination of both DNA evidence and documentary evidence. Genealogists declare that a relationship is genetic only when their evidence supports a genetic relationship. If DNA evidence could overturn a conclusion, genealogists explain that limitation.”²

Consider Standard 63:

Honesty. All genealogical writings present evidence objectively and without bias or preconception. They do not distort, mask, *overlay* [emphasis added], or underplay evidence.³

If the research report only includes documentary evidence for a relationship, it is wise to include a caveat stating the conclusion is based solely on documentary evidence and does not imply a biological relationship. It is wise practice to clearly state DNA testing could reveal the traced relationship (based on research in documents) is not identical to the biological relationship.

BCG applicants or renewals planning to submit the “Research Report Prepared for Another Person” will be evaluated for inclusion of these ten unique elements detailed in Standard 74. Additionally, the work sample will be evaluated based on many other standards for documenting,

¹ Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG), “Reports,” Standard 74, *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd ed. (Nashville, Tenn.: Ancestry.com, 2019), 40–42.

² BCG, *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd ed., Standard 56, “Conclusions about Genetic Relationships,” 32.

³ BCG, *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd ed., Standard 63, “Honesty,” 36.

researching, reasoning and writing. The standards are identified in the established rubrics⁴ and are more fully described in *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd ed.

Sample Research Report Excerpts

Depending on the research question, I choose to integrate information mined from both documentary and genetic sources into one section categorized by individual. Here are some excerpts for one client who sought information about his patrilineal line ancestors. Note: this is not a complete report.

PROOF OF PARENTAGE— [CLIENT] TO [CLIENT’S FATHER] (SUBJECT)

Client-provided source: [Name of Client] is the recipient of this report and identifies his father Rafael Rubio Rodríguez.

Genetic source:

Source: “One-to-one compare,” *GEDmatch* (www.gedmatch.com : accessed 12 August 2018), comparing kits AXXXXXX (name) and AXXXXXX (Rafael), 3,577 cM shared atDNA on 25 matching segments.

[Client] shares 3,577.6 cM autosomal DNA with Rafael Rubio Rodríguez.

Comment: This amount of shared DNA is consistent with a biological parent-child relationship.

PROOF OF PARENTAGE—RAFAEL RUBIO LÓPEZ TO INOCENTE RUBIO ESCUDERO

Documentary sources:

Source: **Attachment VIII.** Hidalgo de Parral, Chihuahua, Nacimientos (births) 5, p. 218 , no. 465, Jesús José Rubio, image, *Family Search*, “Mexico, Chihuahua, Civil Registration, 1861–1997” (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004865183?i=1013&cc=1922462> : accessed 12 November 2018), digital folder 004865183, image 1014.

Jesús José Rubio was born 20 October 1867 in the “ranchito” of Hidalgo de Parral, Chihuahua. Neither parent presented the child nor appeared in the civil registration office. Antonio Holguín registered the birth. Holguín stated the infant was the legitimate son of Licenciado Ynocente Rubio and Sra. Doña Concepción López.

Comment: The term “licenciado” identifies an individual who holds a master’s degree. In this case, it implies Inocente held a master’s degree in law and was a lawyer. The terms “Don” and “Doña” are titles of respect prefixed to Christian names. Prior to 1832, this usually referred to nobility, political, or ecclesiastical

⁴ BCG, “Rubrics for Evaluating New Applications for BCG Certification,” revised 15 May 2019, *Board for Certification of Genealogists* (<https://bcgcertification.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/BCG-New-Application-Rubrics-2019.pdf>), accessed 25 September 2019.

office holders. Inocente Rubio was a political office-holder in Parral, Chihuahua (see Genealogical Summary for details).

Source: Attachment IX. San José Catholic Church (Parral, Chihuahua), Bautismos [baptisms], XLVI (46), fo. 27, no. 10230, Jesús José Feliciano Rafael Rubio López, image, *Family Search*, “Mexico, Chihuahua Catholic Church Records, 1632–1958,” (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004023611?i=731&cc=1521780> : accessed 12 November 2018), digital folder 004023611, image 722.

Don Inocente Rubio and his wife Doña Concepción López are the named parents of Jesús José Feliciano Rafael Rubio López who was born on 20 October 1867 in the Ranchito de Guadalupe in Parral, Chihuahua. The infant was baptized three days later at San José Catholic Church in Parral. The priest recorded the names of the child’s grandparents—Don Máximo Rubio and Doña Ysidra “Horrante” (paternal) and Doña Rosalia López (maternal).

Comment: Rafael is the infant’s call name. The surname “Horrante” is likely a spelling variant of Orrantía. Godmother Doña Rosalia López is likely the child’s maternal grandmother.

The information reported in Rafael Rubio’s baptism record is correlated with information from the above-cited other documentary sources.

Correlation of Information	Baptism	Civil birth	Civil Marriage	Death
Name	Jesús José Feliciano Rafael Rubio López	Jesús José Rubio	Rafael Rubio	Rafael Rubio
Date of birth	20 October 1867	20 October 1867	Age 30 on 25 February 1897	Age 67 on 14 December 1932
Birthplace	Ranchito Guadalupe, Parral, Chihuahua	“ranchito,”Parral, Chihuahua	Parral, Chihuahua	Parral, Chihuahua
Date of death				14 December 1932
Father	Lic. Ynocente Rubio	Don Inocente Rubio	Ynocente Rubio	José Inocencio Rubio
Father’s age			deceased	
Father’s birthplace				
Mother	Dña. Concepción Lopez	Dña. Concepción Lopez	Ma. Concepción Lopes	Concepción Lopez
Mother’s age			46 as of 25 February 1897	
Mother’s birthplace			Durango	

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Address			Avino	
Marriage date			25 February 1897	
Marriage place			Pánuco de Coronado, Durango	
Spouse			Belén Pérez	
Spouse's age			Age 25 on 25 February 1897	
Spouse's birthplace			Avino, Durango	
Spouse's father			Jesús Pérez, deceased	
Spouse's mother			María Josefa Zañudo, age 60	
Spouse's address			Pánuco de Coronado, Durango	
Grandparents	Don Máximo Rubio and Doña Ysidra "Horrante" (paternal) and Doña Rosalia López (maternal).			

Genetic Sources:

See footnotes for details of genetic sources and pedigrees. The following is my analysis.

Genetic Match—Rafael Rubio and Match 1

Rafael Rubio shares 107.2 cM atDNA with Match 1 (AXXXXXX).⁵ Match 1 agreed to collaborate with this research project by providing details of his pedigree. He identified his biological father—[father's name] whose pedigree is detailed in the *Family Search* online tree.⁶ Match 1's paternal line is Mexican. His paternal pedigree is complete back to his great-grandparents. One set of second great-grandparents (the parents of Soledad Azor) are not identified. Soledad was born about 1825 in Puebla, Mexico (approximately 120 miles distant). Rafael Rubio has no known ancestors living in Puebla during this time period, and thus is unlikely to be related through Soledad's parents' ancestral lines. Match 1's Rubio line is the only line of his paternal lines whose

⁵ "One-to-one compare," *GEDmatch* (www.gedmatch.com : accessed 18 November 2018), comparing kits AXXXXXX (Rafael) and AXXXXXX (Match 1), 107.2 cM shared atDNA on 4 matching segments.

⁶ *FamilySearch* Family Tree, entry for Match 1, [identification number], (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/> : accessed 18 November 2018), view tree, landscape.

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ancestors resided in Durango or Chihuahua in the predicted timeframe for the common ancestor.

Match 1's maternal line provides ancestral locations of Utah, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Germany, and Switzerland. The line that crossed with his Rubio line included members of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints (LDS) and lived for two generations in a religious community in Chihuahua.

Therefore, the most likely common ancestral couple for Match 1 and Rafael Rubio is on the Rubio line. Match 1's pedigree is source-cited, providing source citations and links to multiple independent sources for each parent-child connection. I verified the parent-child connections in the documentary records on his Rubio line. Match 1 provides source citations and links to multiple independent sources for each parent-child connection.

Match 1's tree details the following ancestral line from the test taker to the most recent common ancestral couple with Rafael Rubio:

Match 1⁷ < [Match 1's father⁸ < Lucrecia Lucina Rubio Sequeyro⁹ < Justino Dionicio Julio Rubio Salazar¹⁰ < José Inocencio Manuel de Jesús Rubio Orrantía [and first wife]¹¹ < Máximo Rubio Escudero and María Ysidra Asención Orrantía Gallegos.

By comparison, Rafael Rubio's ancestral line is as follows¹²:

Rafael Rubio < Gustavo Rubio Pérez < Rafael Rubio López < José Inocencio Manuel de Jesús Rubio Orrantía [and second wife] < Máximo Rubio Escudero and María Ysidra Asención Orrantía Gallegos.

Genetic Match—Rafael Rubio and Match 1 to Match 2

Rafael Rubio and Match 1 share atDNA segments with another significant Rubio line match—

⁷ For Match 1 n to his father [name], see Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, birth certificate, issued [date], for birth of Match 1, [date of birth] to parents [names]; citing Mexican Mission register, record of baptisms and confirmations, [year], p. [page number], line [line number], entered in record [date].

⁸ For [Match 1's father] to his mother Lucrecia Lucina Rubio Sequeyro, see "México, Distrito Federal, Registro Civil, 1832-2005," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QG4D-GFV7> : 14 November 2018), Match 1's father, 1908.

⁹ For Lucrecia Rubio Sequeyro to her father Justino Rubio, see "México, Distrito Federal, Registro Civil, 1832-2005," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGCQ-HGR4> : 14 November 2018), Lucrecia Lucina Rubio Cequeira, 1881. "

¹⁰ For Justino Rubio to his father Inocente Rubio, see San José Catholic Church (Parral, Chihuahua), Bautismos [baptisms] 34, fo. 252 verso, Justino Dionicio Julio Rubio, image, *Family Search*, "Mexico, Chihuahua Catholic Church Records, 1632-1958" (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DY7P-GN?i=266&cc=1521780&cat=176380> : accessed 26 November 2018), digital folder 004369045, image 267.

¹¹ For Inocente Rubio to his father Máximo Rubio, see Sagrario [Catholic Church], Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Bautismos 3, folio 175 verso, José Ynocencio Manuel de Jesús María y José Rubio Orrantía, "Mexico, Chihuahua Catholic Church Records, 1632-1958," *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1521780> : accessed 1 October 2018), digital folder 004369008, image 610.

¹² For each parent-child linkage, see this report.

Match 2 (managed by name).¹³ Match 2 is a straight patrilineal line descendant of José Jesús Rubio.

Match 2¹⁴ < Match 2's father¹⁵ < Jesús José Rubio¹⁶ < Rafaela Rubio¹⁷ < Inocente Rubio and Coleta Salazar

¹³ Rafael Rubio, match list, *AncestryDNA* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 November 2018), Rafael Rubio, as compared to Match 2, 142 cM across 8 segments. Match 1, email to author, 20 November 2018. Match 1 reports he shares 34 cM of DNA with Match 2.

¹⁴ (son of Match 2), email to author, 20 November 2018. He states Match 2. is his biological father. He names his mother [name]. He identifies his father's mother as Asuncion Piñon. This information is confirmed, see "Texas, Select County Marriage Records, 1837–2015," database, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 November 2018), El Paso, Texas, [names], 30 November 1967. For Match 2 to his father Manuel Rubio García, "Texas, Birth Index, 1903–1997," *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 November 2018), El Paso County, Match 2, born [date] to Manuel G. Rubio and Asuncion Pinon; citing Texas Department of State Health Services, microfiche 1944, no. 0009

¹⁵ For Manuel Rubio García to his father José Jesús Rubio, see Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Defunciones 94, [1926–1927,] fo. 498, no. 498, Jesús José Rubio, image, "Mexico, Chihuahua, Civil Registration, 1861–1997," *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-95H8-9K4Q?i=78&wc=MKC5-ZNP%3A1021828401%2C1021927701&cc=1922462&cat=644057> : accessed 25 November 2018), digital folder 004865686, images 79–80. Jesús José Rubio's widow and surviving children are named: Concepción García (widow), and Jesús José, Carlos, and Manuel, (sons); and Guadalupe, Concepción, and Dolores (daughters). These names correlate with the El Paso 1930 census household headed by eldest son Jesús José Rubio with mother Concepción García and siblings Carlos, Concepcion, Manuel and Dolores Rubio. 1930 U.S. census, El Paso, El Paso, Texas, population schedule, Enumeration District (ED) 71-53, sheet 25-B, dwelling 328, family 527, Jesus J. Rubio household; NARA microfilm publication T626.

¹⁶ For Jesús José Rubio to his mother Rafaela Rubio, see Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Matrimonios 63, fo. 338–39, no. 22, Jesús José Rubio and Concepción García, 12 January 1920, image, "Mexico, Chihuahua, Civil Registration, 1861–1997" *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-95H4-87L?i=191&wc=MKCL-929%3A1021828401%2C1021914001&cc=1922462&cat=644057> : accessed 25 November 2018), digital folder 004865223, image 192. Jesús José Rubio, age 48, a native of Parral, is named the "hijo natural" [illegitimate—the parents could be married in the church, but were not] of the deceased Rafaela Rubio. Also, Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Defunciones, 4th volume of 1889, no. 780, Rafaela Rubio, image, "Mexico, Chihuahua, Civil Registration, 1861–1997," *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-95HF-WKX?i=661&wc=MKCY-C68%3A1021828401%2C1021924501%3Fcc%3D1922462&cc=1922462&cat=644057> : accessed 22 November 2018), digital folder 004865653, image 662. Rafaela Rubio, widow of Tomás Gonzalez, has two surviving sons—Jesús José and José Antonio Pedro. Neither a birth nor baptismal record can be located for Jesús José. However, see San José [Catholic Church], Hidalgo de Parral, Chihuahua, Bautismos 51, fo. 135 verso, no. 6061, José Pedro Antonio Rubio, image, "Mexico, Chihuahua, Catholic Church Records, 1632–1958," *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-61KW-V4?i=270&cc=1521780> : accessed 25 November 2018), digital folder 4023609, image 271. José Pedro Antonio Rubio, born 3 December 1879, is identified as the "hijo natural" of Rafaela Rubio. His maternal grandparents are named—Lic. Inocente Rubio and Doña Coleta Salazar.

¹⁷ Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Defunciones, 4th volume of 1889, no. 780, Rafaela Rubio, image "Mexico, Chihuahua, Civil Registration, 1861–1997," *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-95HF-WKX?i=661&wc=MKCY-C68%3A1021828401%2C1021924501%3Fcc%3D1922462&cc=1922462&cat=644057> : accessed 22 November 2018), digital folder 004865653, image 662. Also, San Jose (Hidalgo de Parral, Chihuahua), Bautismos 33, fo. 53, Ma. Ursula de la Luz Rafaela Rubio, image *Family Search*, "Mexico, Chihuahua, Catholic Church Records, 1632–1958," (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-65HG-BW?i=771&wc=3VMQ-SP8%3A69037701%2C69037102%2C70018801&cc=1521780> : accessed 25 November 2018), digital folder 004369115, image 772.

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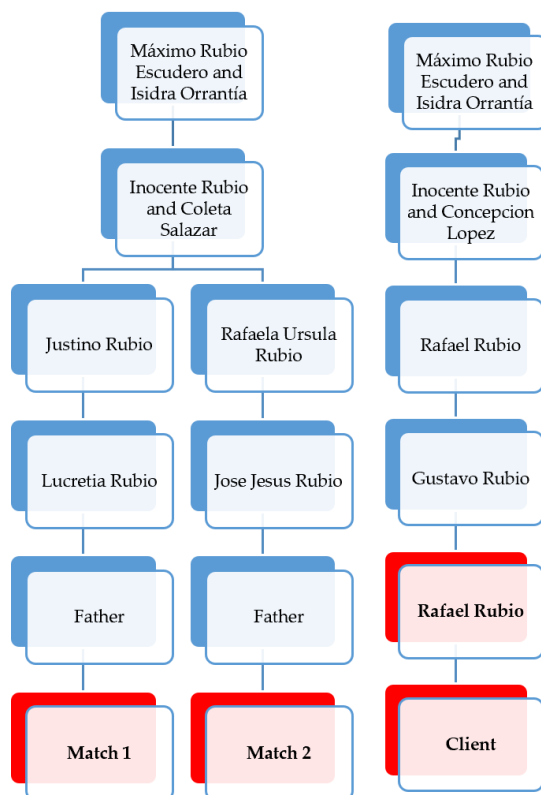
(first wife).

Figure 1 depicts the descent.

Conclusion: Rafael Rubio López was born 20 October 1867 in a small ranch known as Guadalupe outside the town of Parral, Chihuahua. He was the son of Don Inocente Rubio Orrantía and Concepción López. Multiple sources, including genetic sources, confirm the relationship of Rafael to his father Inocente Rubio Orrantía and his biological paternal grandfather Máximo Rubio Escudero.

The only conflicting evidentiary item is the given name Rafael he used throughout his life. His civil registration names him Jesús José. However, his full set of given names at baptism— Jesús José Feliciano Rafael—includes the name Rafael. Multiple points of correlation among the records confirm that Jesús José and Rafael are the same individual.

FIGURE 1 Descents of Genetic Matches from Máximo Rubio Escudero and Isidra Orrantía
Traced descents detailed through Inocente Rubio and his two wives. Genetic matches are indicated by **bold-face type and red bubble**.



Crafting a Research Report: My Process

1. Open my template and fill in the basic information, including
 - a. Client
 - b. Subject
 - c. Restrictions
 - d. Research question
 - e. Background information
 - f. Base test takers, types of DNA tests, companies, logon information, GEDmatch kit numbers
 - g. Notes about living people's written authorizations
2. Detail my research plan in the "Sources Examined" section. Update as the research progresses.
3. Create the "Significant Findings" section. Complete upon conclusion of the research block.
4. Report both documentary and genetic findings per generation, including my analysis and comments, indented and in italic font. Each source is fully-cited.

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5. If the report is about a brick wall, the research will include development of theories and hypotheses. Inherent in this process is a focal study group. Details of shared DNA, markers, mutations, etc. are included in the “Research Notes” section. My comments explaining the data and its significance are indented and in italic font. For atDNA, I correlate the amounts of shared DNA and the corresponding predicted relationship with the actual traced relationship. I also correlate the amount of shared atDNA between members of the focal study group.
6. If parentage is unknown, include documentary research about the time and place of conception.
7. Pedigree evaluation is essential. This is included in the “Research Notes” section detailing documentary sources and analysis. Elimination of competing ancestral lines is often accomplished with detailed reasoning, targeted testing, additional documentary research or other strategies.
8. Document each parent-child relationship in all studied lines of descent.
9. Correlate documentary and genetic evidence and reach a conclusion; or, make recommendations for continued research. If conclusion is reached, include an expansive descendant tree incorporating all the base test takers and the focal study group of significant matches.
10. Complete the significant findings section of the report.
11. Proofread, re-organize, edit and polish.