



CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.charinghistory.co.uk

CDLHS In Our Historic Times edition 7 July 10th, 2020 Don't Over Do It!

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Continuing our series

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Hello, and welcome to another little mixture.

Many thanks to all who have contributed.

The next edition will be at the beginning of August, and then, hopefully, one each month, until CDLHS meetings resume.

Any articles, 'little snippets', facts, possibilities, ideas, jokes, quiz questions etc., would be great (no need to format or find pictures etc., we can do that).

Please send to newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk

Charing C of E Primary School.

Extracts from The Headmaster's Log Book

Jan 1873 to Oct 1905

The Log Book was used to record matters which the Headmaster considered noteworthy. Some entries are very striking to a modern reader. Rather than select extracts at random, I have grouped related ones together.

School was frequently affected by illnesses.

July 24th 1874. Whooping cough spreading rapidly.

December 4th 1874. Measles spreading rapidly. Infant school closed – rooms to be fumigated.

March 19th 1875. Sent home 2 boys whose sister has scarlet fever.

December 21st 1877. Nearly half school away with mumps.

October 2nd 1882. School re-opened – closed for 13 weeks. 5 weeks for measles and 8 weeks for harvest and hopping.

June 30th 1883. School closed till September 15th. Measles.

October 28th 1887. Scarlet fever broken out in village.

July 22nd 1888. “Boy away on Monday and Tuesday. He complains of pains in his head which the doctor attributes to over-study. I don't think his mental work sufficient to injure him in any way.”

April 15th 1889. 22 children away with mumps. Sent round to say “They must come next week mumps and all.”

January 15th 1892. Attendance almost as bad as it can possibly be. Whole families down with influenza.

December 9th 1892. 2 families away with scarlet fever.

January 20th 1893. Unable to open school this week partly because of weather partly because school was being disinfected.

January and February 1894. Mentions throughout of whooping cough and scarlet fever and “much sickness in parish.”

December 9th 1895. “Today the Medical Officer of Health ordered the schools to be closed on account of 2 or 3 cases of diphtheria in the parish.”

December 11th 1895. Elsie Darlington, Standard 2, died of diphtheria. (She was the Headmaster's daughter).

March 15th 1900. Measles are spreading rapidly and it has therefore been decided to close the school for 3 weeks.

June 3rd 1901. “A sad accident during the holidays has resulted in the death of (name given) who was accidentally shot by his brother. He was a boy with whom I had seldom to find fault, and had a decided talent for music.”

February 28th 1902. Another boy (name given) died of pneumonia and pleurisy. Praised by Headmaster.

January 23rd 1903. Sudden outbreak of scarlet fever. School closed for 3 weeks.

June 16th 1905. Death of (name given) aged 10, who died from inflammation of the brain.

Dorothy Burdick

People of Charing

The Wheler Family part 2

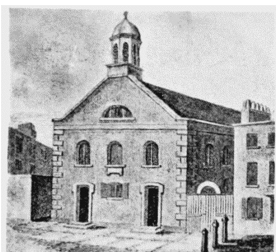
Granville Wheler 1701-1770

Granville Wheler was the youngest and only surviving son of Sir George Wheler (clergyman, travel writer and botanist) mentioned in the last issue. He graduated from Cambridge. Like his father from Middle Temple and was elected fellow of the Royal Society in 1728. In obedience to a desire expressed in his Father's will, he too took holy orders.



Granville Wheler's portrait at Otterden

In 1727 he bought Otterden Place from Anne, the widow of his older brother Thomas, who had died of smallpox in 1716. He married Lady Catherine Hastings and together they had seven children. After her death he married Mary Dove.



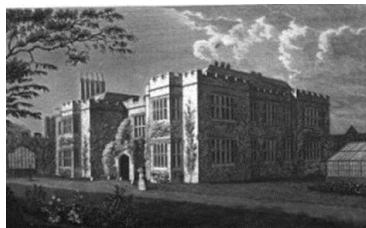
later rebuilt again and known as St Mary's Spital Square

Granville had a monument built to his father in Durham Cathedral and kept his father's wish to build a permanent chapel in Spitalfields; it was known as Sir George Wheler's chapel. (Incidentally, I've found the name "Spitalfields" is derived from two words; 'hospital' and 'fields'. A hospital was on the site for 400 years until 1540. This accounts for the spelling.)

In 1759 Granville finished rebuilding the medieval church at Otterden, very probably to his own design. Austere, and rather box-like from the outside, the interior is elegant and airy, in C18 style. Blending old and new craftsmanship, the monuments and brasses from the medieval church, were very carefully moved and incorporated with fashionable fine Chinese Chippendale benches and marble font. The seating arrangement was described "as assembled as one family, to make no distinction of persons". Now, although a private chapel for Otterden Place, apparently public worship still takes place there, normally in the form of Evensong on the first Sunday of each month from April to September.



exterior and interior of St Lawrence Church, Otterden



Otterden House (in 1832)

Granville Wheler was friends with amateur scientist Stephen Gray, son of a dyer in Canterbury. For many centuries it had been known that amber rubbed with fur 'attracted' light objects, like feathers, however Gray was the first to methodically experiment with different materials over varying distances. Granville Wheler was also interested, and invited Gray to come to Otterden House to continue his experiments.

Together with other friends, they investigated the phenomena of electricity; discovering, what was then, the ground-breaking identification of conductors and insulators of current. Gray wrote "*With the apt method Mr. Wheler contrived, and with the great pains he took himself, and the assistance of his servants, we succeeded far beyond our expectations,*"

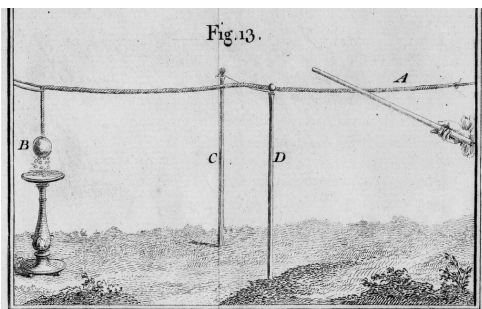
Wheler and Gray were curious to see just how far the electric current (Electrick Vertue' as they called it) could travel. Initially they used a vertical thread, and were able to attract a brass leaf from below when a glass tube was rubbed against the thread. Gradually they increased the distance, until eventually they found the attraction worked right from the top of the tower to the ground.

Grenville Wheler 1701-1770 *continued* Investigations at Otterden

By 1729 Otterden Place had become the talk of the village; *“When any of Mr. Wheler’s scientific friends visited him, it was given out by the neighbours that “Some conjurations were carrying on in the tower!”*

Gray and Wheler carefully drew and documented their investigations.

This is a drawing one of their experiments in the conductance of ‘Electrick Vertue’, performed in 1729 at Otterden. Gardens.



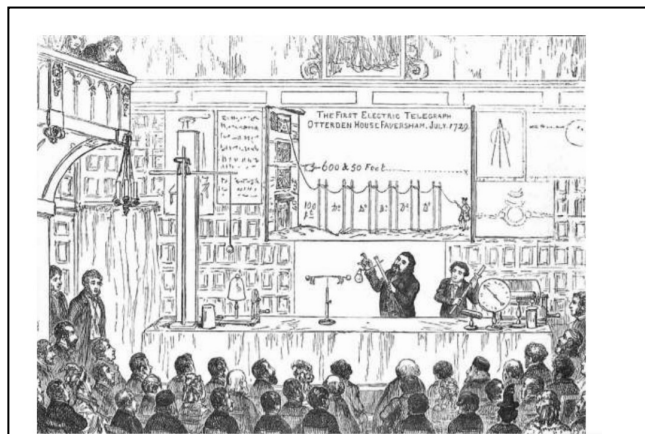
‘A’ is oiled, wet thread, supported on silk strands that run between poles C and D. The ‘Vertue’ (current) is communicated to the thread by charged glass rod A; small flakes of brass then rise to meet ivory ball B.

They went on to make more electrical discoveries, the most noticeable being electrical induction (creating an electrical charge in a suspended object without contact). One of their experiments was widely celebrated around Europe as the famous "Flying Boy" demonstration. Here described by Gray:

“Mr. Wheler procured silk lines strong enough to bear the weight of his footboy, a good stout lad; then, having suspended him upon the lines, the



Unable to go any higher, Wheler suggested they try horizontally. The Long Gallery provided a long run of eighty feet; when this succeeded, they moved to the Great Barn, several hundred feet in extent. Finally, they ran the thread out of the Long Gallery window and into the garden to an extent of 860 feet.



Demonstrating to Royal Academy the experiments with a soap bubble at Otterden Place.

*On the wall behind, can be seen the heading :
THE FIRST ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH OTTERDEN HOUSE,
FAVERSHAM, JULY 1729*

pic fom Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society

tube being applied near to his feet and hands, and [another’s] finger held near his hands or face, he found himself pricked or burned as it were by a spark of fire, and the snapping noise was heard at the same time.”

They showed that without touching, a body could be charged to (electrostatically) attract small objects like brass flakes, paper and chaff.

After Gray died in 1736, Wheler went on to demonstrate further to the Royal Academy and publish his book on their electrical experiments, ‘Philosophical Transactions’ in 1739. Their work had great impact, and they paved the way for later and more spectacular experiments by others. It could be said they invented electrical communications, but they have received little recognition.

Valerie Yeeles

'The History Behind Charing Road Names and Places': 'E – H'

Many thanks to all those who've contributed

Ellen Close named after John Ellen, one of a family who farmed at Wickens for fifty years. John 'Ellen "worked tirelessly" for the village, for which he received a community award (particularly for the playing fields, where there is a commemorative bench to him).

Haffenden Meadow the houses here were thought to have been built in the 1960s.



Haffenden coat of arms

Haffenden is the name of a very powerful and influential family known to live in Tenterden probably from Norman times. A James Haffenden built Homewood House in 1766 which became the family' seat', now Homewood School). His relative, (brother?) '**John Haffenden of Charing**' (d1769), and his wife Amy Haffenden, and their daughter, also Amy, are buried in Charing churchyard.



Crest of a bird

Hart Hill not known yet. Hart is an old word for stag. Could this have been the siting of 1 or more stags once upon a time? A good place for hunting?

High Street "High" comes from the Old English word "heah", meaning both 'most important' and 'elevated'. Our High Street is one of 3,000 High Streets in the UK today, and it is the third most popular road name in England and Wales.

Hitherfield is the name of the original field: 'Hither Purlands', on which the houses were built in about 1964. Originally there was 'Farther Purlands', 'Middle Purlands', 'Hither Purlands' & 'Little Meadow' - which was opposite 'Blackberry Lane' before the railway came in the 1880s.

Hook Lane There's a very noticeable almost right angle bend in the road. Hook Farm is one of the few places marked nearby on the 1789 map.

If you have any other ideas, or extra information, or if you've noticed any errors or omissions in the above, I'd be grateful if you'd let us know, so that our information can be corrected and updated. Many thanks, Valerie

newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk

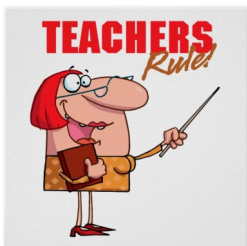
Laugh or Groan?

Q Why did Arthur have a round table?

A So no one could corner him.

Q Why did the Romans build straight roads?

A So their soldiers didn't go around the bend!



Q Students asked their history teacher what would be on the exam

A The past!

Florence Nightingale and Fort Pitt

When the first NHS Nightingale hospital opened its doors to treat Covid-19 patients in April 2020 it followed in the legacy of its namesake Florence Nightingale. In her career she experienced many challenges, but it was at Fort Pitt, Chatham, that Florence Nightingale set up one of her first training schools.

Fort Pitt, part of the defences overlooking the River Medway and named after Prime Minister William Pitt, was originally constructed between 1805 and 1819.

Also Fort Clarence, Fort Amherst and the Great Lines provided a defensive ring to protect Chatham Dockyard. Strangely my parents rented rooms at Fort Clarence when they were first married in 1952. But that is another story.

When the threat of foreign invasion from France passed with the exile of Napoleon, in 1832 Fort Pitt took on a new role as an "invalid hospital". It was close to the docks and the River Medway, meaning injured troops could be easily transported there for treatment.



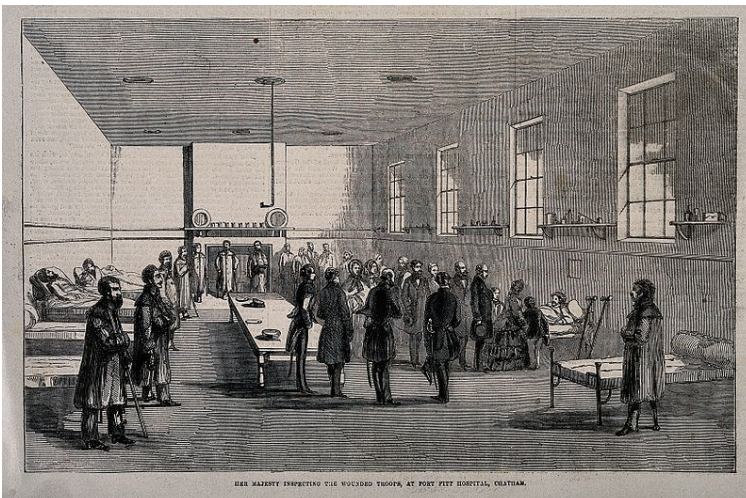
*Invalided soldiers in the Fort Pitt Hospital garden,
c 1855*

Built in the shape of an "H", it contained nine large wards capable of accommodating 200 patients at a time – compared to the 4,000 beds at the current Nightingale Hospital at the Excel.

An "asylum for insane soldiers" was added in 1847. By the 1850s, Fort Pitt was a major military hospital, with most of the soldiers invalided to Britain from abroad assessed there prior to their discharge.

Sir James McGrigor, Director General of Army Medical Services opened a museum with anatomical, anthropological, botanical and pathological sections. The artefacts are said to have been moved to the Natural History Museum!

In 1855 Queen Victoria visited soldiers wounded in the Crimea on three separate occasions at Fort Pitt.



*Queen Victoria with her entourage
visiting invalided soldiers at Fort Pitt
Hospital, Chatham. Wood engraving,
1855.*

(Photo : Wellcome Images)

Continued on next page

Florence Nightingale and Fort Pitt continued

In 1860 Florence Nightingale earmarked the Fort to become the site of the first Army Medical School.

She pleaded with the Government to do something about the appalling conditions faced by injured British soldiers in the Crimea that she had witnessed first hand in Turkey and the school was later opened on the recommendation of the Royal Commission. Prior to this most army doctors would be posted directly to their units and regiments, often with little or no military training.

The Army Medical School at Fort Pitt lasted three years before more suitable premises were found at Netley in Southampton.

The school may have only been at Fort Pitt for three years – but we can assume that Florence was often there during that time.

In 1910 the original tower was demolished and a new west wing was built.

Fort Pitt remained a garrison hospital throughout WW1. King George V and Queen Mary visited, meeting servicemen wounded in the First World War, including five German Naval officers held in a separate ward. At least seventy German prisoners were treated at the Fort.

One of the wards at Fort Pitt Military Hospital

(Photo: Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre/
Cindy O'Halloran)



The medical team at Fort Pitt Military Hospital

Photo: Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre/
Cindy O'Halloran)

*The new ward block at the Fort Pitt Military Hospital
which had just been completed
at the start of 1914*

(Photo: MALSC Cindy O'Halloran)



Florence Nightingale and Fort Pitt continued

Fort Pitt finally closed its doors as a hospital in 1919.

In 1929 the Chatham Education Board bought the vacant Fort Pitt from the War Office for £6,000 and the site was converted into the first Technical School for Girls epitomising social change in the Post war years and the need for girls to be trained for clerical duties! At that time, school dinners cost 6d (two and a half pence), and if you brought a packed lunch you were still charged a small fee.



Fort Pitt Hospital was demolished in part to make way for the Girls School

(Photo: Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre / April Lambourne)

During WW2 its previous fortress status was once more modified underground to provide an air raid shelter.

The war years brought bomb damage but it was in 1973 a fire that destroyed the hall, dining room, classrooms, staff room and head teacher's office.

In 1984 the school became Fort Pitt Grammar School.

The neighbouring University for the Creative Arts building occupies the old blockhouse site and some of the original brickwork remains visible at the sides of the building.

In 2019 a two storey science building with 9 dedicated classrooms housing state-of-the-art equipment and resources was opened.

The site continues to be of national historical significance.

The Music House (the former 'insane asylum'), a cast-iron water pump in the school grounds and the "Crimea Wing", which is still a teaching block, are all Grade 2 listed. Some of the old hospital ward numbers are still visible on the Crimea Wing's walls along with skylights for the historic operating theatre.

And finally

When I took the 11 plus in 1965 I really wanted to go to Fort Pitt school. I thought that the pink checked uniform was the best! I ended up with a plain white blouse and an awful velour hat at the local Grammar School. My sister got to wear the pink blouse when she went there in 1976.

I believe it is still part of the uniform today.

My sister (Liz) remembers

"The old asylum was a cookery room. You had to walk across a courtyard and the buildings were in a sort of u- shape. The darkroom of the art block was the old morgue. There was a concrete floor with a gully all around the edge and a stone table with a hole in it. Rooms had rounded corners between walls and ceiling and floor so they were easy to keep clean when used as hospital wards.

We used to go under the ramparts, out of bounds of course, and if you scratched around in the dirt, very unladylike, you could sometimes find bullets and other relics. And lastly, that is where you would sneak off to meet the boys!"

Acknowledgements :Liz Challis, Medway City Ark, Kent on Line, Fort Pitt Grammar School website.

By Sylvia Beck

Continuing our series..... **1970**

50 years ago - Life in black and white

50 years ago most of us were still had black and white televisions. Colour tv first appeared on Sat 1st July 1967 2pm with live transmission on BBC2 from the Wimbledon tennis championships. David Attenborough, then controller of BBC2, was monitoring the reactions of viewers. One person remarked “Do you know you can see whether they are having lemonade or orangeade when they drink?!” Others were stunned by the greenness of the grass. However, Attenborough was not convinced that people would take to watching in colour, and commissioned ‘Civilisation’, a 13 part series documenting the history of mankind, to show its worth.

However, he was also aware that sport was an excellent showcase for colour, and in 1969 commissioned ‘Pot Black’ which brought snooker to the nation’s attention. Aware that very few viewers had the advantage of watching in colour, commentator Ted Lowe made the famous comment ‘and for those of you who are watching in black and white, the pink is next to the green’.



The 1967 test card featuring Carole Hearsee, daughter of BBC engineer George Hearsee.

This card was aired from 1967 to 1998 for a total of 70,000 hours; making Carole’s the most aired face in British TV history.

The UK was the first European country to have colour tv. Initially it could only be seen in 1,500 homes; the rest of us had to stare in amazement through the windows of tv shops - assuming it was available in our area. New transmitters were required which meant that colour transmission was phased to different regions over 3 years. The concept had been around since 1928, when John Logie Baird conducted his first tests. The US had colour tv from 1954, but initially it was quite erratic. They used a system known by the acronym NTSC – which became known, unkindly as ‘Never Twice the Same Colour’. This had conformed to a 405 line standard. The UK went for a much more stable system developed in Germany by tv engineer Walter Bruch: the Phased Alternation Line (PAL). They also adopted 625 line transmission; this combination offered both a more detailed picture and greater colour stability than NTSC.

The other technological development of that era was the use of satellites for trans-Atlantic transmission, starting with the launch of Telstar in 1962. In March 1969 there were 200,000 colour tvs in the UK. This had grown to 1,600,000 by 1972. By 1976 colour sets outsold black and white. What seems amazing now in the information age is that there are no figures available to show how many were bought/rented to watch the 1970 World Cup: this was both the first available in colour and the first transmitted live by satellite to Europe from Mexico.

Kate McIver

DNA testing and family history.

You will all have seen adverts for DNA tests for genealogy purposes. But what are they and what are they for and what should you be aware of? This note is just about “autosomal DNA tests” which is what you will see advertised in magazines and on maybe on television. Testing Y DNA, which comes down the male line, or Mitochondrial DNA are different and not covered here. Some autosomal DNA tests also produce medical results. Make sure you know whether they do before you take the test as you have to be sure whether that’s what you want to know about.

First the party game.

Many people buy DNA tests as presents for a bit of fun. They think they will find out if they are Vikings or prove that granny was a long-lost Irish princess. They are then often disappointed that the test doesn’t award them a helmet with horns (I know Vikings didn’t wear them) or a crown.

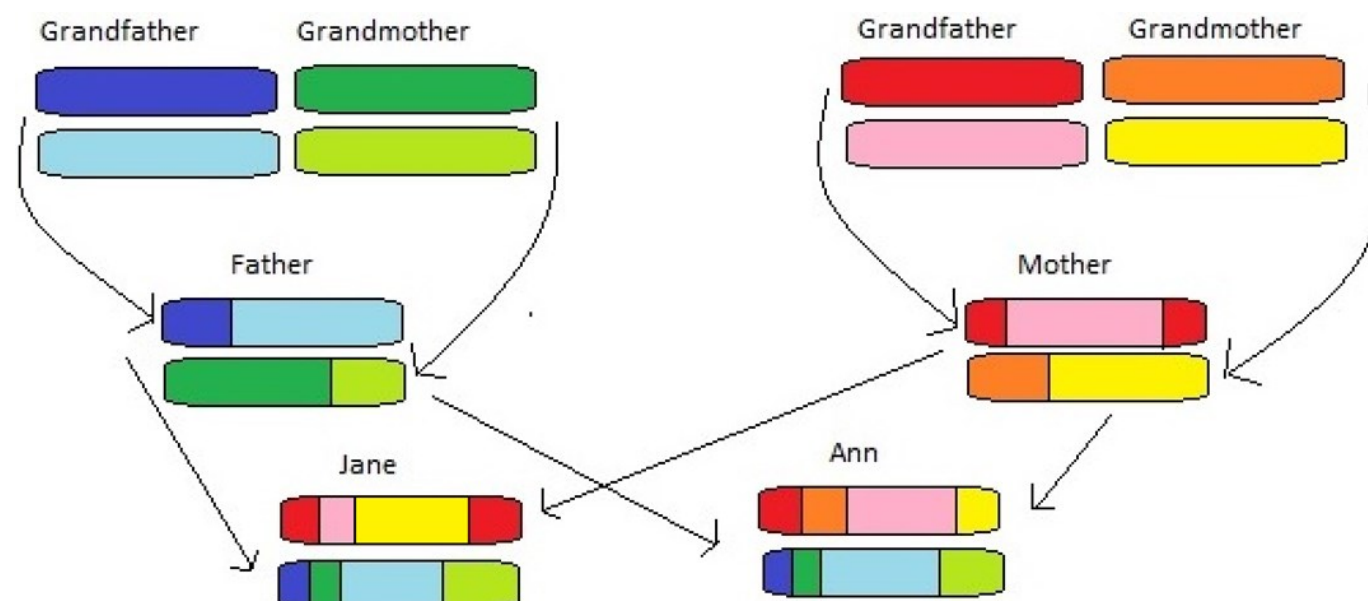
DNA tests are still not accurate enough to prove beyond doubt you have certain ethnic origins. The companies use reference groups of people whose DNA they have recorded and who they know are strongly associated with a particular ethnic or geographical group. They then compare your DNA to see how it matches each group. The larger the number of groups and more specific they are, the more “accurate” the result **may** be. This is why tests are updated and more refined answers given from time to time. But remember they are not testing your full DNA, the reference people may include people who do not belong purely to that reference group, you may not have inherited traceable bits of DNA from your Viking ancestors and so on. The accuracy is getting better, but it isn’t perfect.

The ethnic results give you a general idea about where a proportion of your distant ancestors came from, but some matches may suggest an origin that isn’t quite true. Also, it won’t show where **all** your ancestors came from. To understand this last point, you need to know about autosomal DNA and what we inherit.

Inheriting Autosomal DNA

We all have 23 pairs of chromosomes of DNA. One half of each chromosome pair comes from our mother (one set of 22 chromosomes and an X chromosome) and one half from our father (a set of 22 chromosomes and an X chromosome (girls) or a Y chromosome (boys)). **But** we don’t get just a copy of one half of, say our father’s Chromosome 1; we get mix of each half of his Chromosome 1. Therefore, we and our siblings get 50% from each parent, but it’s a pick and mix. What each child gets will be slightly different to its siblings. I hope this diagram shows a simplified version of what I mean.

Inheritance of, for example Chromosome 1



DNA testing and family history *continued*

The colours represent the DNA which each person contributes. Of course, this is simplified as the grandparents in this diagram won't have just two "colours" of Chromosome 1 as they in turn inherited half from each of their parents, and so on. Therefore, you can see that the further back you go the less likely you are to still have DNA from any one particular ancestors. Hence you will share more matchable DNA with siblings than cousins and so on.

On "average" you will get a ¼ of your DNA on each chromosome from each grandparent, but only **on average**. As you can see in the illustration though Jane and Ann happen to have inherited the same mix of Chromosome 1 DNA from their father but the bits, they inherited from their mother are, by chance, different. Further Jane didn't inherit any of the "Orange" bit of DNA on Chromosome 1 which came from her maternal grandmother. Ann on the other hand has got that "Orange" bit. So, although Ann and Jane's DNA don't match completely they are still full sisters because they have the same parents.

Take it a step further; Jane and Ann both do a DNA test and look at the results. It doesn't show a DNA match between Jane and her 3rd cousin George, a cousin on her maternal grandmother's side, in this case it's because Jane didn't inherit that Orange bit of Chromosome 1 from her grandmother. However, the test does show a match between Ann and George because she and George both inherited the Orange bit of DNA from Ann's maternal grandmother's family. In fact, of course Ann and Jane are still both 3rd cousins to George, but the DNA match doesn't prove it in Jane's case.

So, what is the use of Autosomal DNA in family history.

It can add proof to paper trails
It can suggest new lines of research
It can help get beyond brick walls.
It is exciting!

Basically, DNA test results are a tool for genealogists but not a solution in themselves. Just like any tool if you don't know how to use it you don't get the full benefit and can end up blaming the tool for not getting the result you want.

DNA testing is not a substitute for paper research and objective analysis. Each helps the other prove a theory. However, DNA testing doesn't (or at least, subject to a couple of caveats), doesn't lie. The more DNA you share in common with someone the more likely it is that you are related to your DNA match. Paper records are more prone to inaccuracy.

Therefore, if DNA results are consistent with the answers suggested by paper records, then you can be more certain your research is right. Where paper records are ambiguous or missing then DNA results can help show which line is right or suggest ways of getting around the problem.

For genealogist the principle reason for testing is to help breakdown brick walls. Those points on your tree where you don't know who someone's parents were. For example, you might have two couples who are the possible parents of an ancestor. Finding a group of people who are related to you and known cousins who relate to an ancestor of one of those couples may strongly suggest which line to follow.

Of course, as well as proving a theory, DNA testing can prove something isn't true. That can be devastating if it shows someone isn't your child or parent. For many people that sort of revelation confirms a suspicion but for others it is a life altering shock. If the DNA test result shows this information about someone else e.g. your parent or sibling or cousin, that also raises the dilemma of what you say to them and how you handle the responsibility.

So overall DNA testing is a powerful tool for family history research but as with all powerful tools you have to be careful how you use them.

All this is just a brief look at what DNA testing means and what it can and can't do. It's not always easy or straightforward so our family history group often discuss queries we have. If you are interested come along to a meeting and join in the chat.

Kirsten Moon

1

Quiz

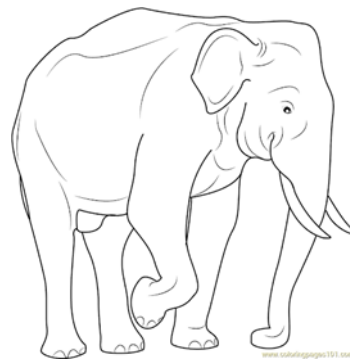


- A Who was she?
- B What is her connection to us?

2 A Who were John Ward, Jack Ward, Birdy, Sharky, Yusuf Raïs ?

B What was the connection to Kent?

3 What are the connections between Maidstone and elephants?



Sources Haffenden: mytenterden.co.uk, KAS Charing monuments 114 and 115

Wheler and Otterden House

Wikipedia and <http://www.bsks.org.uk/otterden-place-faversham-kent>

<https://favershamlife.org/st-lawrence-otterden/>

Gentlemans magazine vol 151 p394 (found after finishing article, but proves Gray earns the title; 'Father of Electricity').



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We do not share the information with third parties.

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