Welcome to the Global Adoptee Genealogy Project

Recently FTDNA added administrators to this project, prior to which, there was no contact information for any of its members. We are slowly putting in place additional information to help you in your searches. All of the co-administrators are well versed in DNA and hopefully we will be able to bring better understanding to what you see with your results.

A few recommendations / questions to organize your search and information:

1. Put together a file with all the information you have on your birth and adoption, including copies of any birth or adoption documents that you may have and keep some kind of journal to record any progress.

2. Have you or are you working with anyone else to help them find your families? Occasionally we find that some adoptees have contacted other search angels who already have done some work. This prevents duplication of efforts.

3. Do you have non-identifying information provided by an agency? If not, it is one of the first things you should try and get, if available. If you are unsure as to how to do that, we can help.

4. Are you registered with any state adoption registries? Have you posted your search to any online adoption registries or databases?

5. Depending on which state you were born and/or adopted in, you may already be eligible for original birth certificates or other information. About 20 states do have some records open, either complete or partial. A list of those can be found at http://www.dnaadoption.org/index.php?page=states-with-open-records

We also recommend you join the Google group DNAAdoption at https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/DNAAdoption/join. This group is extremely active with experts in all areas of DNA and adoptee searches.

Although not as active, another group that specializes in "Unknown Fathers" is UnknownFathersDNA https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/UnknownFathersDNA/info.

Additional information and instructions can be found at http://www.dnaadoption.org.

What DNA tests should you do?

For males start with at least Y-DNA37 to help identify a surname. Males should have done at least Y-DNA37 unless they only have a few matches at a lower level. If you already have done Y-DNA12 or Y-DNA25 and you have a number of matches, you should upgrade to at least Y-DNA37. You may need to upgrade to Y-DNA67 if you still find too many different surnames at Y-DNA37. Males should also do their autosomal DNA ("atDNA") (Family Finder).
Females should have their atDNA done (Family Finder).

For both males and females, we have found that Mitochondrial DNA is not real helpful because it's usually much too far back (1,000s of years). For adoptees, it will be rare to find a match to your biological family in recent generations using only mtDNA. If you wish to have your mtDNA done you should have the Full mitochondrial sequence ("FMS") done.

If you have known living biological ancestors (such as you know your mother, but not your father) additional DNA tests should be done on those biological family members to help in possible phasing of your data (analyzing and recognizing the segments that are maternal vs. paternal) and possibly see other matches based on the randomness of DNA.

Once your test results are posted, there are a number of utilities and websites that are free for you to use in order to help analyze and better understand your results. Just ask at https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/DNAAdoption/join

We also provide classes in working with your DNA results and have a successful methodology to help in identifying unknown ancestors. More info can be found at http://www.dnaadoption.org/index.php?page=online-classes

Suggested Reading:
Richard Hill, one of our administrators, tells the story of his decades-long search for biological family and the innovative use of genetic genealogy DNA tests to identify his birth father. http://www.FindingFamilyBook.com

Genetic Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond by Emily D. Aulicino

We are all members and contributors to https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/DNAAdoption/join, join us there if you have any questions. And check out http://www.dnaadoption.org for additional information.

A Beginners Guide for those new to DNA testing authored by someone who knew nothing about DNA 3 years ago and has since found both her birth parents can be found here: http://www.dnaadoption.org/index.php?page=guide-for-beginners

Regards,
Administrators of the GAGP

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