Founded in 1960

New Mexico Genealogist

The Journal of the New Mexico Genealogical Society
My Sánchez DNA Story
by George A. Sánchez

with contributions by Miguel Tórrez and Henrietta M. Christmas

In the last few years I have heard many lectures given by the New Mexico DNA project administrator, Angel Cervantes. In one lecture he stated that most New Mexicans whose ancestry goes back many generations in New Mexico have a “Pueblo” Native American DNA. I knew then I needed to learn more about DNA and have attended many other lectures on the subject and have asked quite a few questions. Before, I just was not interested in knowing that I matched DNA with someone from Europe or Asia or that I was descended from some lady that lived in Africa hundreds of thousands of years ago!

Over time, though, I’ve become more interested in testing my Y-DNA (my male line) and my mtDNA (my female line). I knew that my third great-grandfather Gaspar Gurule was married to Maria Altaracra Gurulé de Trujillo who descends from a Native American criada of Antonio Gurulé. So, I wanted to know what Native American DNA I had and who I matched.

My Y-DNA

I consulted with Miguel Tórrez, the New Mexico Genealogical Society DNA project administrator, and he suggested I could do both a basic 12 Marker Y-DNA and an mtDNA Plus test. He also had to explain to me again that the Y-DNA traces a direct male line from sons to their fathers. I also learned that mtDNA goes back from daughters to their mothers. These two types of tests would show genetic links on the two extreme sides of my pedigree chart. Thus, I was not going to find out anything about the DNA of my third great-grandfather Gaspar nor his wife Maria Altaracra! They are in the middle of my pedigree chart.

After getting back my Y-DNA results I was designated Q-M242 which is typically the haplogroup for those who came to the Americas via what is now Alaska ten thousand to thirty thousand years ago. In other words, a Native American FamilyTree DNA defines Q this way: “Haplogroup Q is the lineage that links Asia and the Americas. This lineage is found in North and Central Asian populations, as well as Native Americans. Among European populations, haplogroup Q is most frequently found in Eastern Europe and Scandinavia. This lineage is believed to have originated in Central Asia and migrated through the Altai/Baikal region of northern Eurasia into the Americas.” European populations with Q subclades include Jewish, Middle Eastern, and Scandinavian.

Although the haplogroup appeared to be a Native American sequence, I had matches with a few men whose names appeared to be European, but not of Spanish descent. The problem is that I have a well-established paper trail to my seventeenth century male Spanish ancestors. Another problem is that Miguel Tórrez has helped other Sánchez men with the same ancestors, but they don’t have the same haplogroup designation as me. The other Sánchez men with the same paternal ancestry as mine belong to haplogroup J-M267. Miguel had me upgrade to the Y-DNA 37 marker test to see if any matches showed at the higher level. After the upgrade, I still only matched with two Europeans, one at a genetic distance of 3, and the other at a genetic distance of 4. Miguel concludes that the ancestral connections might be slightly prior to the 1600s. Miguel was able to contact one of the men with whom I matched and learned that his paternal line migrated from France to Germany in the late 1700s, giving more evidence to a likely connection in the Iberian region.

The persons matching my Y-DNA definitely had Eastern European surnames which is consistent with the above findings. Q-M242 is a subclade, a branch within the Q Haplogroup. Among New Mexican Y-DNA results, the frequency of Q-M242 is highest among lineages linking to Native Americans while only others
are suspected to link to European lineages.

Miguel consulted two other DNA experts about my strange result and they advised him that I should do "SNP" tests. The first SNP was L54, the second L940, and the third M346. All came back negative. The purpose in doing these SNP tests was to try distinguishing where my lineage may fit within the Q-M242 haplogroup and possibly narrow down my ancestral origins. The results and matches from the SNPs seem to point in the direction of my descent from a European Q sequence as opposed to a Native American line.

I have since found a son of my first cousin who has the same Y-DNA as me, my brother Herman, and his son Herman Jr. Our genealogies match only as far as our grandfather Felipe Sánchez. Miguel tells me we really need the Y-DNA of more Sánchez males who can trace their lines back to many generations as possible. Until we get the Y-DNA of distantly related Sánchez men we won't have any clarity. If I am of a Native American Y-DNA line, the only way that I can see that having happened is somewhere between me and my seventh great-grandfather Jacinto Sánchez de Íñigo.

**My Paternal Sánchez Lineage**

| Jacinto Sánchez de Íñigo (b. 1634) and Maria de Rodarte de Castro Zabalera (b. 1678), m. 30 March 1696 |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Francisco Sánchez de Íñigo and Josefa Duran y Chávez (b. 1708), m. 30 November 1725 |
| Juan Cristobal Sánchez (b. 1726) and Juana Tomas Duran y Chávez (b. 1737), m. 1758 |
| Gregorio Sánchez (b. 1777) and Maria Rita Baca, m. 5 June 1805 |
| Mauricio Sánchez (b. 1820) and Jesusita Gonzales (b. 1826), m. 2 June 1843 |
| Estolano Sánchez (b. 1847) and Corinela Pacheco (b. 1857), m. 21 July 1871 |
| Felipe Sánchez (b. 1874) and Candalaria Padilla (b. 1879) |
| Private Sánchez |
| George A. Sánchez |

**My mtDNA**

My mtDNA results are a completely different story! I had already decided after talking with many people who had already tested that my maternal DNA results would likely be Native American. I wasn't wrong; my results came back as haplogroup A. I checked to see who my matches were and out came a list of about twenty-five other testers. I know close to half of these people, among them Miguel Tórrez! I also matched Patricia Rau, an excellent genealogist from Colorado, who once helped me with my maternal ancestry. With Miguel's help and two articles, one written by Henrietta M. Christmas, the NMGS President, entitled

---

1 Fray Ángelico Chávez, *New Mexico Roots, Ltd.: A Demographic Perspective from Genealogical, Historical and Geographic Data Found in the Diligencias Matrimoniales*, vol. 9 (Santa Fe: typescript, 1982), 1696.
2 Fray Ángelico Chávez, "New Mexico Roots, Ltd., an Addendum, part IV," vol. 49 (December 2010), *New Mexico Genealogist*, 189.
4 Ibid., 527. Also, Chávez, *New Mexico Roots, Ltd.*, vol. 9, p. 1711.

167
"Bernardina Vasquez and Her New DNA Cousins" and another article written by Patricia Rau entitled "Who is the Father of Miguel de San Juan? Discrepancies in Genealogy," I was able to complete my mtDNA paper trail to my (Mexican Indian) haplogroup A! So, I was able to fix my brick wall and also connect to many people I know.

**My Maternal Lineage**

| Maria de la Cruz and Juan Perez de Bustillo |
| Unknown Woman and Francisco Vasquez |
| Bernardina Vasquez and Diego Marquez |
| Catalina Vasquez and Diego de Trujillo |
| Ana Moreno de Lara Trujillo and Cristobal Baca |
| Juana Baca (La Vieja) |
| Juana Baca (the Younger) and Francisco Xavier Duran y Chávez, m. 15 May 1713 |
| Josefa Duran y Chávez and Antonio Sandoval, m. 29 June 1728 |
| Maria Rosa Sandoval and Jose Antonio Alari (b. 1763), m. 5 November 1782 |
| Maria de la Cruz Alarid and Juan Luis de Jesus Ortiz (b. 1787), m. 1 May 1810 |
| Maria Dolores Ortiz (b. 1818) and Miguel Trujillo (b. 1810), m. 2 December 1837 |
| Maria Bartola Trujillo (b. 1858) and Roman Aragon (b. 1851) |
| Luisa Aragon (b. 1893) and Juan Gurule (b. 1890) |

Private

George A. Sánchez

María de la Cruz was the daughter of a Central Mexico-Native American female, and we don't know the names of her parents. María de la Cruz and her husband Juan Perez de Bustillo had seven daughters who married Spanish soldiers when they all came to New Mexico in 1598 with Don Juan de Oñate. That is why María de la Cruz and her daughters and granddaughters left many descendents in New Mexico who are Haplogroup A or A2a, including me.

I've shared all this information with my family. It has been a journey and I've enjoyed working with all the people who have made all this possible, including getting this article written. Having done genealogy for

---

8 Henrietta M. Chrestmas, "Bernardina Vasquez and Her New DNA Cousins," vol. 21 (October 2013), Herencia, 4.
9 Patricia Rau, "Who is the Father of Miguel de San Juan? Discrepancies in Genealogy," vol. 18 (January 2010), Herencia, 1.
11 Ibid., 112.
12 Ibid., 69.
13 Ibid., 107.
14 Ibid., 10.
17 Chávez, "New Mexico Roots, Ltd., an Addendum, part IV," 189.
19 Ibid., 80.
20 Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Church (Pojoaque, New Mexico), Marriages 1774-1853, p. 35; FHL microfilm 16,470.
many years, at least a decade or two, I think DNA testing has helped me to clear up some of my brick walls and it has also confirmed that my paper trails were correct. Yes, it was a good audit of my past work and now I need to find people who can test the middle of my chart, so I can get to the Gurulé family!

About the Author: George A. Sánchez is a retired math teacher and his hobby is doing genealogy. He and his wife Kila Evans, a retired nurse, live in El Paso, Texas, but are native New Mexicans. They belong to several genealogical and historical societies: two in San Antonio and San Elizario, Texas; two in Albuquerque, New Mexico; one in California; and one in Pueblo, Colorado.

Want to learn more about the New Mexico Genealogical Society DNA Project? Visit the NMGS website:
http://www.nmgs.org/dna
Also visit the NMGS DNA project page at FamilyTreeDNA:
www.familytreedna.com/public/NMGSGeneticDNA/

Book Review
by Mary Penner

Rowland Willard, a young Missouri doctor, kept a diary of his nearly three-year adventure practicing medicine in New Mexico and in Chihuahua. His diary entries have been transcribed and annotated in this book which offers an interesting glimpse into life in New Mexico and Mexico in the 1820s.

Willard lived in Taos for a few months before heading south. He mentions some of his social activities and offers details on some of his patients. He also comments on the climate and the terrain. Like so many diarists of that era, when reading Willard's entries, we wish he had written more.

On one occasion he noted that he visited the "Chief of the Taos tribe" who was ill with dropsey. His grateful patient offered Willard a meal of soup, meat, bread, corn cakes, raspberries, and other items.


Joy Poole, New Mexico's Deputy State Librarian, has deftly annotated Willard's diary so that we understand some of the archaic medical terminology that he uses. She also identifies most of the people Willard mentions.

The book is divided into two parts; the first is the diary and the second is the autobiography that Willard wrote many years after his western adventure. The narrative of the autobiography closely follows the diary, although there is some new information and some expanded details. The book includes an index, and some maps and photographs.

Doctors in New Mexico and northern Mexico were rare during this time. Over the Santa Fe Trail to Mexico provides readers a unique perspective of medical practices, and of everyday life in the 1820s.