



(Photo courtesy of Bronwen Casey taken at family reunion April 2018')

Welcome to this first edition of our Solomon Family Newsletter.

Our aim in this newsletter is to keep us all in touch, whilst at the same time informing you of our latest developments in our family history research.

To make it easier for you, we have divided the newsletter into several sections, with each section easily and separately accessible by clicking on each of the following links:

- [The Ongoing Mystery of Mordecai Solomon](#)
- [The Case For Mordecai Solomon & Abraham Solomon Being the Same Person](#)
- [Yet More Myer Solomons](#)
- [A Family History – Anthony Scott-Norman](#)
- [Techniques to Consider When Analysing DNA Matches](#)
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- [Feedback](#)

As well, throughout the newsletter, we have links to each of our family branches. Simply click on these to read the relevant family history

The Ongoing Mystery of Mordecai Solomon

(By Adrian Paul)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Ballantyne-Russell)

Most of us who are receiving this newsletter are descendants of Mordecai Solomon (1800 – 1883) but although members of our family have been researching him for well over forty years, we are still not much closer to solving the mystery of his background.

Let's start at the end. Mordecai is buried in an unpretentious grave, with a crumbling sandstone headstone. It certainly doesn't exude wealth and prominence in the community as do the nearby graves of his son Henry and his son-in-law George Myers.

From this headstone and from his death certificate we know that he was 83 years old when he died in 1883, he was born in London, he had been in the colony for 65 years (thus indicating an 1818 arrival) and that his father's name was Meir.

It is part of our family folklore (undoubtedly passed down by Mordecai himself) that his father was Myer Solomon, a wealthy philanthropist & antiquarian in London in the early 19th century, a member of the Leadenhall Street Synagogue & founder of the Western Synagogue, of which he became President.

I'll come back to this later.

On 16 April 1817, a young lad by the name of Mordecai Solomon (aged 17) was convicted in the Old Bailey of stealing 10 live tame rabbits to the value of ten shillings and was sentenced to be confined for six months in the Clerkenwell House of Correction. Thus he would have gained his release in October 1817.

It is part of Mordecai's oral history that he arrived in the colony on 30th April 1818 as a free settler aboard the convict vessel the Lady Castlereagh. As this vessel did not depart England

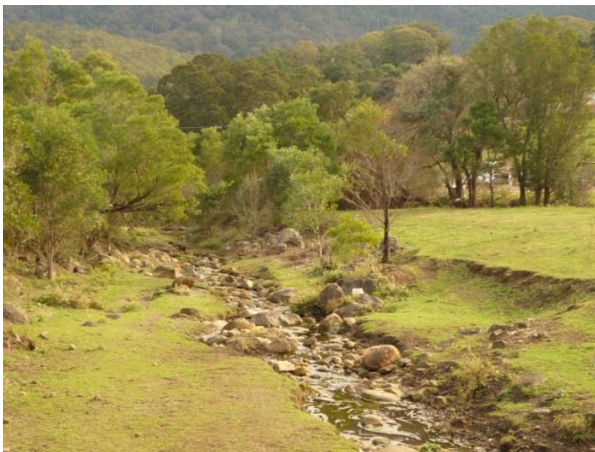
until December 1817, two months after Mordecai's release from Clerkenwell Prison, it would certainly have been quite feasible that he could have been on board.

However, as seems to have happened so much in Mordecai's life, although strict records were maintained of the 300 convicts on the vessel, if there were other passengers on board, no names were recorded and hence we cannot confirm that Mordecai was on board at all.

In fact the name Mordecai Solomon does not appear on the 1828 or 1841 censuses (despite the fact that by 1841 he had a wife and four children), nor does it appear in the Colonial Secretary's papers of any land record maintained at the time.

It is not until 1835, seventeen years after his arrival that we first hear of 'our' Mordecai in the colony when, at the age of 35 he applied to the Bridge Street synagogue to marry [Elizabeth Haines](#), the daughter of a London shop-keeper. Apparently he was waiting for her when she arrived in Sydney in October 1834 aboard the all-female bounty ship 'David Scott'.

As with most things concerning Mordecai, no records exist of this marriage, either in the NSW State Archives or in those of the Sydney Synagogue. However we do know that the marriage was performed in Dapto by 'a Baptist Minister under Jewish rites.' Not unusual for those times, where the nearest and only synagogue was in Sydney.



Solomons Creek 2018



The Farm and Fig Tree 2018

Also, as with many things Mordecai, no records have yet been found of the farm that Mordecai established on Solomon's Creek, Dapto, but Nick Solomon remembers being taken to the site as a child, on a family holiday, so at least we do know that it existed and also its location. He remembers there being the remains of a hut under a large fig tree but this hut has long gone.

It was here at Dapto, that three of Mordecai and Elizabeth's children were born: [Sarah \(1836\)](#), [Myer \(1837\)](#) and [Jane \(1838\)](#).

Sometime around 1939 - 40, the family moved to Sydney where the rest of the children were born: [Henry \(1840\)](#), [Ellen \(1842\)](#), [Joseph \(1844\)](#), [Catherine \(1847\)](#) and [Lewis Solomon \(1848\)](#) but it is not known where they lived or what Mordecai did for a living upon moving to Sydney.

However, we do know that in 1843, he was on a handwritten list of members of the Bridge Street Synagogue; in 1848 he was arrested on a "Breach of the Peace" charge, but case dismissed - presumably in Sydney & in 1852 his address on Elizabeth's death certificate was given as "Lower Pitt Street",

Then in 1855, at the marriage of his eldest daughter, Sarah to George Myers, the family was living at Strawberry Hills, near what is now Central Station.

In August 1856 Mordecai purchased 7 properties in Yurong Street for 5,582 pounds. It appears that he may have had some money to put into this purchase, but maybe the balance was via a short-term personal loan, because in November 1857 Mordecai took out a mortgage for 3,000 pounds over portions of the Riley Estate on the East side of Yurong St (68 – 72) , Wollomooloo. He was described as a freeholder and he signed by 'making his mark', which is interesting as it could possibly indicate that he was illiterate.

Where did the money come from for this original purchase?

We believe that it is likely that the money came from the sale of the timber (cedar) that was on his farm in Dapto. He did not own the land, but was a clearer of the land and we understand that he had permission to use and gain the proceeds from anything he cleared. This idea comes from the memory of Ian Ballantyne-Russell (the Great Grandson of Mordecai's son, Henry) who recalls that as being the general understanding of his family.



It was here, in Yurong Street where the family lived from 1857 through to at least 1865.

Then, once again all trace of Mordecai disappears until his death at Eglinton, the home of his daughter Sarah, on 9 March 1883. There was no obituary published upon his death, as you would expect for someone who had gained prominence in the

community and the final mystery of Mordecai's life is that he died without leaving a will.

There is a line of thinking that someone, perhaps a former convict, actually created both the persona of Mordecai and his supposed illustrious London ancestry, in order to hide his dark past and help establish his family within the Sydney Jewish society free of the stain of a convict background.

So who could this person have been?

The Case For Mordecai Solomon & Abraham Solomon Being the Same Person (By John Shrimski)

Introduction

Several years ago when I began investigating the Mordecai Solomon family, one of the first family trees I saw mentioned that it was thought that Mordecai came to Australia on the "Lady Castlereagh" in 1818. There was no source quoted for this information. Being an "amateur sleuth" I immediately looked up the convict list for the "Lady Castlereagh" but found no matching entry. Knowing that my grandfather, Mordecai Shrimski was more commonly called "Mark", I looked for Mark Solomon in the convict register and found an entry, but soon determined that it couldn't be him.

Having read that the earliest date for the arrival of free Jewish settlers in Australia was thought to be 1821, I had assumed that our Mordecai had arrived as a convict. I then decided to look further in the "Lady Castlereagh" register but could find no list of non-convict crew or passengers. I admit that I have always been sceptical of Mordecai arriving free and to date have absolutely no evidence that he in fact did so.

I noticed several years ago whilst looking for evidence of Mordecai living in Dapto that he did not appear in either the 1828 or 1841 census. By 1840 it was thought that he had moved to Sydney, however there was an 1841 census return for an Abraham Solomon, living in Dapto. Recently I investigated this census return further and as far as could be determined, I discovered that he had an identical family mix to Mordecai (based on religion, gender and age range). I have noticed that at least 2 other people (one as far back as 1979) have also taken notice of this specific census return, but I may be the first to compare the family composition.

The aim of this short article is to trace Abraham Solomon(s) life, look at what we know about Mordecai, then see if we can overlap this information into one person's life without causing any factual conflicts.

Abraham Solomon(s)

I felt that two Solomon families, both living in Dapto at almost the same time, with the same family mix was somewhat co-incidental, especially as both families were Jewish. I decided my first task was to try to determine which Abraham Solomon was the one in the census return.

The Census Form (completed 13-3-1841, in Dapto, Dwelling owned by Gerard Gerard)

The information in the 1841 census form indicated that Abraham was married, had 4 children, was a free man but had arrived in Australia as a convict. Details of my findings were :-

- 1 married man (aged 21 - 45), arrived as a convict but now free, Jewish, farmer ... except for the arriving as a convict, this could be **Mordecai**
- 1 married woman (aged 21 - 45), arrived free, Jewish, no occupation ... this could be **Elizabeth**
- 1 male child under 2yrs, born in Colony, Jewish ... this could be **Henry**
- 1 male child and 2 female children between 2 -7yr born in Colony, Jewish these could be **Myer, Sarah and Jane**
- 2 single men (aged 21 – 45), born in the Colony, 1 Roman Catholic, the other C of E, farmers These could be 2 helpers on the farm
- 1 single female (aged 21 – 45), arrived free, Roman Catholic, no occupation a helper

I then tried to locate all the Abraham Solomon(s) living in the Colony at the time period.

- one arrived on the “Shiplely” in 1818 as a convict... and I’ll give some more details about him later
- the other arrived on the “Lady Kennaway” in 1836 and not married until 1850’s Clearly wrong time frame
- I can find no Abraham Solomon (or variations of name) who either married or had an “application to marry” in the right time frame
- there were no children born in NSW to a father with the name Abraham Solomon (or variations of name), in the right time frame
- there are no “Family notices” in Trove that may be relevant to Abraham Solomon(s) having children during 1830's and 40's

Other points to note in my proposition are :-

- The Census form was completed on 13th March 1841 but we have always felt that the family moved to Sydney around 1839/40. This date of moving to Sydney has always been based around the date and location of Henry’s birth.
- Henry's birth certificate states that he was born on 18th Sept 1840 in Sydney, but the BDM registry themselves say that information at that time was somewhat unreliable. In those days people didn't register births per se. They maybe went to a church,

synagogue etc. to name their child, then that information was collated by the church and sent on to the registry. So whilst it would have been nice for Henry to have been shown to be born in Dapto, the fact that he wasn't doesn't blow the case out of the water. It is interesting to note that 3 of Mordecai's 8 children didn't have their births registered at all. Since the original writing of this document I have come across a published obituary for Henry Solomon where it states that he was born in Dapto.

- Abraham is shown as arriving in Australia as a convict (or more precisely "other free person" i.e., not born in Colony and didn't arrive free, therefore he was an emancipist).
- Abraham Solomon has signed the form. Given that many years later Mordecai was known to have put his "mark" on mortgage documents when he bought properties in Yurong Street, I have doubts that Mordecai could write, but it could have been signed by anyone, maybe Elizabeth.

Electoral Roll

- the Electoral Roll for Macquarie Ward for 1849-50 shows Abraham Solomon (dwelling house Pitt Street)
- the Electoral Roll for Macquarie Ward for 1851-52 shows Mordecai A. Solomon (dwelling house Pitt Street)
- In 1855 in the Waugh and Coxes Directory of Sydney, Mordecai Abraham Solomon is noted as a General Dealer operating from at 241 Pitt Street

I can find no other Mordecai Solomon in Sydney in the right time-frame, so I find this information very strong supporting evidence that Abraham Solomon and Mordecai Abraham Solomon are one and the same.

Bridge Street Synagogue records (1835 (hard to read) to 1843)

Both Mordecai Solomon and Abraham Solomon are on a hand-written list of members of the synagogue. But I would say that the Abraham Solomon on this list is the one who came in 1836 on the Lady Kennaway. He died in 1864 and had 6 children, but none before 1850. Also this Abraham Solomon is a dealer registered as living in Castlereagh St. (There are several Trove references to him)

Family Trees

I could find no family trees that claim Abraham Solomon (arrived 1818 on the "Shipley") as an ancestor. This is odd to say the least, especially if there were several children.

Some history of Abraham Solomon

The following information relating to Abraham Solomon is freely available and I believe is not in dispute.

- arrived in NSW on the "Shipley" in Nov 1818. Sentenced in Surrey for 7 years. Noted that he received 35 lashes for riotous and disorderly conduct during the voyage.
- 6th Nov 1823 his name appears in a list of "Runaways". Described as
 - coming from London via "Shipley"
 - 5ft 3", blue eye, flaxen hair, fair ruddy complexion
 - last seen - Emu Plains
- and in the same year (1823) he appears in a population list, residence Liverpool, NSW
- 10-5-1825 gained Certificate of Freedom ... details below
 - no. 32/3655
 - arrived on "Shipley(2)" in 1818
 - convicted at Surrey Assize on 13-4-1818, term 7 years
 - occupation - Farrier, native place - London
 - age 25yr, 5ft 3", sallow complexion, black hair, dark eyes (this is a completely different hair and eye colour from the entry above but just means that one of the entries is wrong)
 - remarks - sent to Port Macquarie on 7-11-1823 for the remainder of original sentence (as a runaway)

(gap from 1825 - 1834, but a lot better than a gap from 1818 to 1843 that we have for Mordecai)

- 1-4-1834 (Sydney Gazette) there is a request to the Governor from Land Holders and Free Settlers of Illawarra to provide support for land development. Abraham is a signatory.
- 1837 Abraham Solomon applied to buy 100 acres of land in the Dapto area but well away from where Mordecai lived. This application is documented and noted by Rabbi John Levi in his book, "These are the names". After an examination of the relevant documentation on microfilm at the Lands Office, I determined that in fact the sale did not go through i.e., the Colonial Secretary blocked the sale because he claimed that they hadn't determined how to break the land up. It's interesting to note that Abraham must have had access to about 500 pounds to contemplate this purchase. Abraham's return address on his purchase application is noted as "Osborne's Farm". It is interesting to note that Henry Osborne was the owner of the piece of land that Mordecai farmed.
- 1841 census - living in Dapto on farm owned by Gerard Gerard
- 1849-50 is in a voters' list, residing in Pitt St, Sydney

Gerard Gerard

Gerard Gerard was noted as the owner of the dwelling in Dapto that Abraham Solomon and family were living in 1841. A detailed look at the 1841 census shows that Gerard Gerard owned several dwellings in the Illawarra at that time at Dunlop Vale (later to become Kembla Grange) but only one in Dapto, which would have been the one that Abraham was living in 1841.

I have located the "memoria" relating to Gerard's purchase of Dunlop Vale, but no record of his purchase of any other land in Dapto in the right time frame. Location of such a document could confirm where this farm was located.

It was interesting to find that one of the other families living at Dunlop Vale in one of Gerard's dwellings (in 1841) was Elizabeth Solomon's brother, Isaac Hains.

He had married Rosetta Nathan on 2-4-1840 in Shoalhaven and was living not far from the Abraham Solomons' family. I have a copy of Isaac and Rosetta's marriage certificate hoping to find that Elizabeth and/or Mordecai were witnesses at their wedding. Unfortunately no witnesses were listed.

Ownership

To date I have found no documents that support that Abraham/Mordecai ever actually owned any land in the Dapto region. I recently met a descendant of Mordecai (via Henry's line) and the oral history in their family was that Mordecai was granted the right to clear the land in Dapto and could keep the proceeds of the sale of any of the timber on the land. It was felt that this was how he accumulated the funds to make a start in Sydney.

The relevance of this is that it appears he would not have been dependant on receiving an inheritance to make his way in the world.

Conclusions

Whilst I am strongly suggesting that Mordecai Solomon and Abraham Solomons were the same person, this proposition has no bearing on whether or not he is the son of Myer Solomon or on anything about his family. It does however fill in a considerable number of gaps. It does not alter when he came to Australia but does suggest a different ship and that he came as a convict rather than a free man.

My proposition is going to be much easier to "shoot down in flames" than prove. It would only take a single birth, marriage or death in Australia with Abraham Solomons named and in the right time period for my argument to be seriously challenged. I put the challenge out there for someone to prove me wrong.

(please note that no quoted documents has been attached to this article, however they are all available on request)



Yet More Myer Solomons!

(By John Shrimski)

For many decades, members of our family have expressed some doubts concerning Mordecai's origins. The oral history is that his father was the well-known Myer Solomon of Pall. There seems to be no questioning that his father's name was "Meir" (the Hebrew for Myer). After all it is on his grave.

Were there other Myer Solomons in London in the right time frame and might one of these well be Mordecai's father? It should be noted that Myer Solomon of Pall Mall's Hebrew name was Meir ben Solomon – from page 77 of the "Western Synagogue through Two Centuries" by Arthur Barnett.

The following is a discussion of our continuing search for the answer to this question, using DNA analysis and good old "hard slog" genealogy. This is just one lead that we are following.

Is Rebecca Elizabeth Solomon the Missing Link?

A couple of months ago Adrian found, through Ancestry DNA, a Mary Ellen Winn, whose Ancestry account is administered by her daughter, Kirsten Bishop. Mary Ellen has the match level of being a potential third cousin.

However, most importantly she is **not** in the same line as Mordecai/Abraham.

Of course there is nothing unusual about this level of match but we have found via Ancestry and Gedmatch that at least six others in our Solomon line also share a close genetic link (possibly around the 4th cousin level) with Mary Ellen.

A word of caution is required here. Once you get to more distant relationships the accuracy of 'one-to-one' DNA matching is less reliable and is really only an indication of what is possible. The matching of several members from the same family is much more reliable.

The details of these matches have been loaded into DNAPainter and analysis of a chromosome map have confirmed that there is some likelihood that Mary Ellen fits into our family somewhere.

However, when we looked at her ancestral tree, to our amazement Kirsten had traced her family line back through her second Great Grandmother, Rebecca Elizabeth Solomon (1802 – 1878) to a Myer Solomon from London.

What is particularly interesting is Mary Ellen's direct ancestral lineage (below it is shown from oldest to most recent):

Pinchas Zelig Solomon m Rose Asher
Myer Solomon m Sarah Cohen
Isaac Symons m Rebecca Elizabeth Solomon (1802 – 1878)
Jacob Moses m **Sarah Symons**
John Moss m Mary Carter
Rostyn A Winn m **Ruth Moss**
Mary Ellen m Colin Henry Bishop

On the surface it looks as though we may have struck gold i.e., generally many of our family have an approximate 4th cousin link to Mary Ellen and she has a Myer Solomon as a 2nd great grandfather. So DNA and genealogy match up rather nicely.

So, to put in simple terms, considering the facts that several of us in different branches of our Mordecai/Abraham tree have genetic links to this tree; this Myer Solomon was living in London in the same time frame as 'ours' and Rebecca Elizabeth was born only two years after Mordecai/Abraham, it is tempting to say the Rebecca Elizabeth and Mordecai must be siblings and Myer is their father. It all fits.

However, when we took a rather more critical look at this tree we found certain issues:

1. Mary Ellen has found no verifiable link between her grandfather, John Moss and her great-grandfather, Jacob Moses (m Sarah Symons). Although Jacob and Sarah did have a son called Isaac Moses, (aka John Moss), whose death certificate verifies that Jacob and Sarah were his parents, it is definitely a different John Moss to the one in Mary Ellen's lineage. So whilst this doesn't mean that this link in the tree is invalid, it just means we consider it unlikely.
2. Mary Ellen's tree from John Moss down is very well researched. However, from Jacob Moses and Sarah Symons up to Pinchas Solomon it is based on other people's published trees and generally whilst much of it is verifiable, some of it isn't.
3. I also believe there is an issue with Myer (son of Pinchas) being Rebecca Elizabeth's father. Pinchas Zelig Solomon and Rose Asher had several children one of whom was Myer. It is very tempting to assume that this Myer is Mordecai's father because it would correlate nicely with Mordecai having named his first 2 children Sarah and Myer (in the tradition of Ashkenazi Jews of naming children after departed relatives that they wished to honour). Whether his parents had died by then we don't know.

But here's the problem. If you go to the synagoguescribes.com web site and do a search for Jewish marriages in London where the father's Hebrew name is "Zelig" you are presented with a list, some of whom are for the marriage of Pinchas and Rose's children.

One of these is the entry for Myer Solomon m Sarah Cohen in 1797. So far so good. If you skip forward a generation and look for the marriage of Myer's (supposed daughter) Rebecca Elizabeth to Isaac Symons, you can find the entry in Synagoguescribes in 1836, and it shows her father's Hebrew name as

Father's Hebrew Name	Meir b. (adj. Abraham)
Mother's Family Name	

i.e., Her father is not Meir or Meir ben Zelig, but Meir son of Abraham. It may well be that the entry has been adjusted to reflect that this is not Meir ben Zelig. **I think this is a critical piece of evidence** and may mean that we now have 3 Myers i.e.,

- Meir ben Zalman (Solomon)
- Meir ben Zelig (Pinchas)
- Meir ben Avraham (Abraham)

If Mordecai's father was Myer son of Abraham (Meir ben Avraham) then our other discussions regarding Mordecai and Abraham being the same person have a nice feel to them. Mordecai was born circa 1800, Myer's father, Abraham, may have died by then and what would have been more natural that to name your son Abraham (later to become Mordecai), to honour your dear departed father?

Other Possibilities

Whilst one can find holes in Mary Ellen's family tree it is undeniable that a strong DNA connection exists to her. We then set about trying to locate other descendants of Rebecca Elizabeth against whom we could test our DNA.

One person we found on Gedmatch was Gary Luke who descends from Rebecca Elizabeth's 3rd daughter, Rachael Symons. Gary has been known to us for some time and is a keen genealogist and his tree is totally verifiable from Rebecca Elizabeth down to himself. Our DNA tests against him also revealed potential 4th cousin links with us.

The other thing of interest that Gary has in his family tree the identity of Rebecca Elizabeth's father –

Name	Rebecca Elizabeth SOLOMONS	
Born	Abt 1802	London, ENGLAND ^P
Gender	Female	
Immigration	Abt 1850	Sydney, NSW ^P
Hebrew Name	Rivka bat Meir ben Avraham	
Source note	Death: 1184*	
Source note	Sources: Gt.Synagogue mfilm.	
Source note	Sources: smh: 10 June 1878	
Died	8 Jun 1878	Sydney, NSW ^P
Person ID	I31	MyGenealogy
Last Modified	25 Apr 2017	

He shows Rebecca's Hebrew name as Rivka bat Meir ben Avraham, which translates to Rebecca, daughter of Myer the son of Abraham. His source is shown as The Great Synagogue microfilm. Gary has informed me that his source for "son of Abraham" is from Synagoguescribes which comes from the original marriage register. So now we have 2 descendants from Rebecca Elizabeth which makes our connection to her even more likely.

We should note at this time that Adrian (and other descendants in both the Myers and Solomon lines) has a known blood connection to Rebecca Elizabeth via her father, Isaac Symon's line. This could account for his somewhat closer DNA link to Mary Ellen Bishop and Gary Luke.

As far as Gary's link with Mordecai is concerned, he has not found any record that connects any of his ancestral family with Mordecai Solomon's family although they were in the colony across the same decades and died within five years of each other.

Evidence of the Death of the Relevant Myer Solomons

In Mary Ellen's tree the death date for Myer Solomon (son of Pinchas) is given as 1862. When I checked this on UK BDM I found that it related to a 3 year old child. I then thought I should look for the death of a Myer (son of Abraham).

I had been trying to work out when the 2 different Myer Solomons died and was running out of candidates, so I decided to search on Synagoguescribes for Solomons with Hebrew name = Meir. This brought up a few Michael Solomons and one which took my interest is below.

His Hebrew name is Meir and his father's name is Abraham Shemaiah (Shemaiah is an honorific meaning "prophet"). Hopefully this is an avenue of research we can take further.



Anthony Scott-Norman's Family History

(By Anthony Scott-Norman)



Anthony is descended from Mordecai Solomon through the marriage of his eldest son, Myer to Julia Rebecca Barnett. The following is a brief family history.

I was born in 1949 in London with one sister Alix Marilyn and my parents were Harold Montagu and Joan Rosemary. My father and his brother, Uncle Sydney were born in London in 1906 and 1904 respectively and my paternal grandparents were both born in Sydney, Australia.

My Australian grandfather, Hyam Scott's ancestors' former name was Schottlander, my great grandfather's being Abraham Schottlander born in Breslau, Prussia (now Wroclaw Poland) and he migrated to Birmingham and then Sydney.

My paternal grandmother was Jane Solomon descended from Mordecai Solomon, whose father was Myer Solomon an antiques dealer, synagogue administrator and Mohel (circumciser).

Myer's father was Rabbi Solomon of Rheinbach in the German Rhineland. Mordecai's migration story is well known to you, the readers. He landed in Sydney from London in 1818.

My maternal grandmother was Julia Wolffe, nee Lang, descended from Jules Lang who brought to England his glass business from Durmenach in Alsace, France and that family intermarried with a famous Anglo Jewish family namely, the Samuels of Liverpool and then London (famous jewellers and including a famous politician, Lord Herbert Samuel, Liberal Home Secretary and last Governor of the British Mandate of Palestine).

My mother's line had marriage connections with many famous people including top lawyers, politicians and city mayors – big part of UK establishment. I am related on my paternal side to the Rantzen family (Esther Rantzen, TV personality and charity campaigner).

I have discovered many interesting family connections in central and western Europe to Franz Kafka, Karl Marx and Gustav Mahler, to name a few. My Sephardi connections are very internationally spread out for example Montefiore, originating from Italy and now in England, Australia and North America.

Another such family is Henriques, originating in Portugal, then migrated West to the Caribbean and North and West to England, The Netherlands and Scandinavia. Interestingly, from the De Sola family an ancestor of mine was a Rabbi in Manchester and then Montreal.

The De Sola line starts on my tree in the 13 Century. In the UK although most of my ancestors were rooted in London many also settled in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and Newcastle.

I have also discovered a Rothschild connection spanning England, France, Germany, Austria and Italy. In the UK there were Rothschild banking sides of their business in Manchester and London, mainly the latter. Also in Manchester I have textile industry connections with the Behrend and Sichel families.

My tree is online on My Heritage with approximately 12,500 names on it and growing.

Some Techniques to Consider when Analysing your DNA Matches

(By John Shrimski)

This following few paragraphs could well be a summary of your experience with DNA. You've just heard back from one of the well-known testing labs that your DNA sample has finally been analysed and the results are available to you on their web site. So full of anticipation you sign in and immediately you see that you have pages of matches.

The matches are presented to you in descending order of the closeness of the match, measured in centimorgans (cM) or as a percentage. The first 5 or 6 names listed may well be familiar to you as they could be known cousins. As you go further down the list and then look at page after page of names that you've never heard of, you are starting to think that this is all too hard.

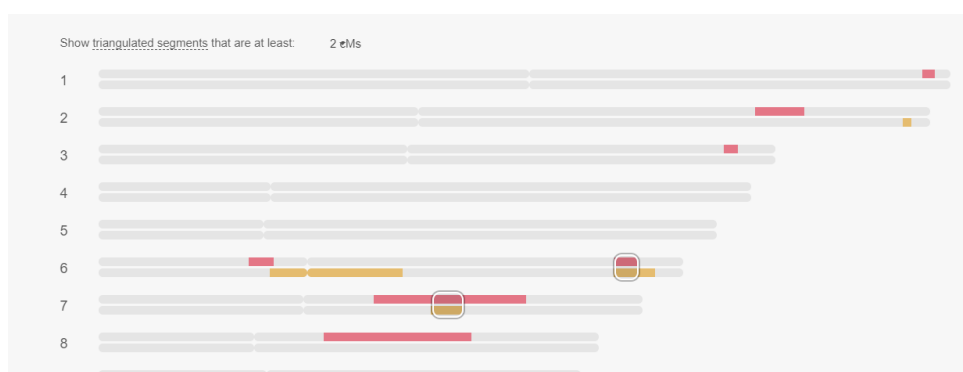
On some sites the person you match might be tied to a family tree and those with surnames in common with you may be highlighted in some way. Your next step could be to make contact with some of the likely looking matches (via email or a messaging system tied to the site) and if you are lucky, you might receive a reply from a few people. You could give each other access to your family trees and begin the hunt for a common ancestor.

The above describes a totally reasonable process but one which can be tedious and often not very productive. At this stage many people lose interest, but this need not be so. The first thing to do (if you haven't already done so) is to gain some understanding of the terminology associated DNA. We have an [article](#) on our web site that may help with this. The same article also gives a reference for further reading.

I ran the above Auto Cluster process for my own DNA at Myheritage where, in my case, they automatically set the thresholds at 90cM to 350cM to obtain 99 matches. They also automatically excluded matches that did not share at least 50cM (against each other). The resulting chart was not as neat as the one above but it seemed to work out some likely family groups.

Whilst the above gives you suggested groups of people to look at, it is still speculative and in no way confirms that the people in the group have a common ancestor, but it is a good start and a major time saver.

Triangulation is a somewhat different technique where chromosome number and position within chromosome are taken into account. To give an example, below is part of a chromosome map produced at Myheritage.



The coloured horizontal lines show where the two people (one is red and the other person orange) match me. The interesting thing is that in chromosome 6 and 7 they match me in the same overlapping position and are highlighted accordingly.

This commonality is called triangulation and the theory is that people who triangulate are part of the same family group i.e., have a common ancestor. In fact in this example all 3 people are great-great grandchildren of Mordecai and Elizabeth Solomon. Running Triangulation is often as a result of having obtained some outputs from Clustering.

There are several companies that provide these type of tools but the problem I have encountered is that the matches you are interested in might be spread over several different testing companies. Ideally if you could have all your matches (with associated raw DNA data) in the one location then comparative analysis would be much simpler.

Given that one of the most popular testing labs is Ancestry, it would seem a good idea to import other test results to this one site. Alas, Ancestry provides no functionality to import "foreign" DNA raw data files. However, there is a site called [Gedmatch](#) which can be used for this purpose. This is a free service provided by an organisation that does not actually do any DNA testing themselves. Therefore to use their services you need to export your raw DNA file from the company where you did your DNA test and then import it into the Gedmatch database.

Whilst the free services of Gedmatch are excellent, they also have what they call “tier 1 services” for which you pay a minimal monthly fee. Clustering and Triangulation tools are made available as part of “tier 1 services”. Clustering at a simpler level can be done using the free version of Gedmatch. It is reasonably straightforward to export your own DNA results from any of the well-known testing sites and import them in to Gedmatch. Having said that, it is somewhat more difficult to actually get people to do it.

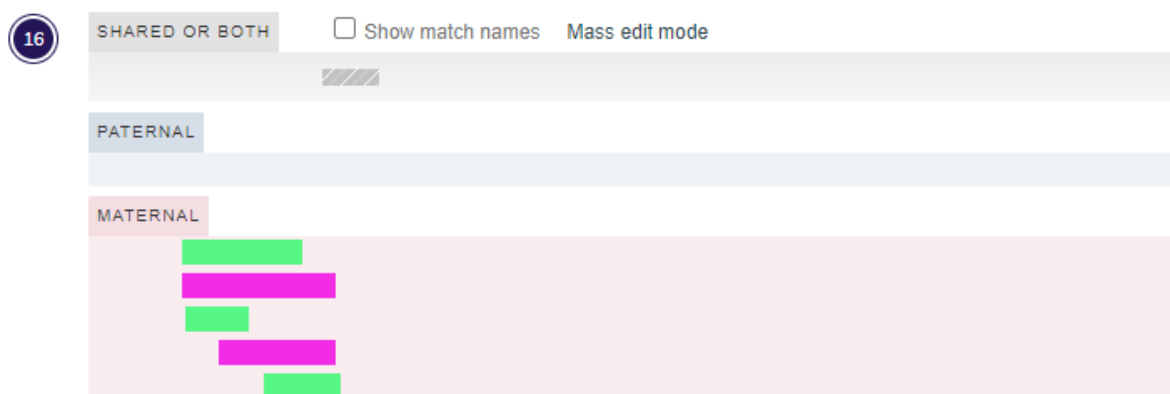
Besides providing a very convenient way of having all your DNA in the same location, Gedmatch also has a very flexible way in which the analysis is performed. Generally, at any of the testing sites, you are always looking at matches with respect to your own DNA i.e., you are the primary tester. At Gedmatch you can make any test kit at all the primary tester.

This then gives you a totally different way of looking at the available matches. Also there is excellent flexibility in the way all their tools work. The downside of Gedmatch is that the site navigation and use of the tools is not particularly user friendly which means you have to work at it a bit harder.

We have recently been looking at where some other family groups might fit in to our Solomon family. The triangulation facility gives us an excellent overview of what’s going on. However, to overcome the problem of not having all test results in the one location I decided to look at using [DNApainter](#). It has a great chromosome mapping function which is where triangulation will show up.

This is a free site with payment required for the more fully featured version. With the free version you can set up a chromosome map for a single person and then as a result of importing matching results from other sites (at a chromosome level) you can see how the various people match against this one person. This is called a profile.

In the free version only one profile is allowed but in the “premium” (paid for) version many profiles can exist and they also provide for the bulk import of segment matching data. . The matching against a primary person can be shown by groups or individuals. The example below is shown just for chromosome 16, with the colours indicating individual family groups and each horizontal line representing a different person. The overlap (triangulation) is hopefully indicating that the two family groups are related.



Sites such as Gedmatch, FTDNA and Myheritage allow you to export the details of an individual match at a chromosome (segment) level. This means that results from these sites are easily imported into DNAPainter. Unfortunately Ancestry and Geni have no such export facility. This means that if your results are spread over Gedmatch, FTDNA and Myheritage you can manually bring them together at DNAPainter. Those held at Ancestry and Geni simply miss out.

Given that DNAPainter does not store the raw DNA results, if you change certain threshold parameters you will need to re-import results and this can be a very tedious process especially in the free version.

I have found Gedmatch and DNAPainter to be very useful DNA analysis sites with both having excellent tools which include Clustering and Triangulation. The selection of which site to use is somewhat determined by where your matching DNA data is stored and how easy it is to migrate this to the new location.



Feedback

We trust you have enjoyed this first edition of our family newsletter and welcome your feedback. Please send any comments and/or suggestions to solomonnewsletter@chaiholdings.com.au

Our next newsletter will be published in early December. If you have something you would like to contribute, please email within the next three months.

In the meantime if you are willing, you can best help our family history research by having your DNA tested, submitting your results to a site such as [Gedmatch](#) and advising us that you have done so.

Is there another family reunion planned? Yes but at the moment it's way over the horizon (both in a time and distance sense). That'll keep you guessing.

If you would like to unsubscribe from future newsletters, please send an email to us and simply type UNSUBSCRIBE into the first line.

Best wishes to you all and stay safe.

Adrian Paul and John Shrimski