

Personal History Narrative

Wilford Miranda

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Abstract

Every story has a beginning. The question is: where exactly does one begin in the first place? The National Geographic allows us to go deep in the past by analyzing deep ancestry, regional ancestry, and take a glance of genius matches. The results demonstrated heavy roots in native population, both north and south American. It also showed migration patterns and possible explanation of how my family got to Ecuador.

“Genes are like the story, and DNA is the language that the story is written” – Sam Kean. Despite not being able to speak, DNA can voice once forgotten stories. The National Geographic DNA results revealed information about genius matches, regional ancestry, and deep ancestry. The DNA results from the National Geographic show a rich history of ancestry, such as sharing 1.4% of Neanderthal DNA.

The “Genius Matches” determined matches using mtDNA (maternal) or Y-chromosome (paternal) DNA to famous individuals. While there are several the most notable are maternal and paternal links to Abraham Lincoln, Nicolas Copernicus, Charles Darwin about 45,000 years ago. The Nicolas Copernicus reveal was particularly entertaining because last summer for SI training I pretended to be Copernicus to show new SI leaders how to hold sessions. Another distinguished match 65,000 years ago is a paternal match to Genghis Khan, which 1 in 200 men have some connection to him. A match establishes 120,000 years ago is a link to Napoleon, where people still study his military strategies to this day. This revelation has inspired me to make more Waterloo memes. Not more information is given relating to the connection to past famous figures. However, what is mentioned that there is no recent (12,000 years) connection to prominent people.

The “Regional Ancestry” illustrated connection to North American/Andes (48%) and Southwestern Europe (23%). This is not much of a surprise since most of my family history has belonged to Ecuador. I have also been told stories of a distant ancestor from Spain, who was a detective who came to Ecuador to solve a case but got married here and stayed. This information is indicative that at one point I come from lineage from Native South American and confirms stories that most of my family is from Ecuador. Other regions include North Africa, South America/Amazon, Western Africa, West Mediterranean, and Northwestern Europe but those

percentages are averaged at 5% each. Much of the genealogy records of Ecuador, particularly Guayaquil, is incomplete or not available, making it impossible to find more information past word of mouth details from family.

The two haplogroup demonstrated in the DNA results is a B2 maternal line and Q-M3 paternal line. The of the B2 line starts at East Africa with migration to West Asia and eventually to the Americas. The heatmap displays that 80% concentration of this haplogroup is concentrated in Ecuador and the West of the U.S. It is difficult to pinpoint the migratory patterns, but one thing is for, I am distantly related to these individuals around this area. The paternal Q-M3 line also starts African and migration patterns show movement to central Asia. The branch before M3 is L54, where research and migration patterns are still being research today. The M3 branch birth lineage is not clear but what is known is that they settled in North America and then rapidly dispersed along the Andes to South America. Much like the heat map for the maternal line, there is not a fully understood concept of all migration patterns within the haplogroup. What is given is that there is 80% concentration of these haplogroup within natives in South and North America.

The DNA tests told us the story of how I got to Ecuador. The story of how my family got to the United States is relatively simple. My grandmother's sister Ines came to the U.S as a tourist and got married. This allowed her to start a chain reaction of migration requests: Ines requested my grandmother and she requested my mother. Once my mother got married, she requested my dad and me. All the stories I collected from family members are much less migration stories and more love stories of how the couples met, the most important one however, is how my father and mother meet. Per request of my mother, she does not want the love stories

to be published on paper for the general audience however she was convinced to allow me to talk about it in a presentation.