

When the DNA Roads Led Me Home to Iowa

A Case Study: The Murder of Sylvia Quayle

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Introduction

- My fascination with DNA & family history
- An interruption to my retirement: The DNADoeProject.org came calling
- My “pitch” to Mitch Morrissey, founder UnitedDataConnect.com
- Partnership with Metro Denver Crime Stoppers

What is all this DNA talk?

- Why the interest in using DNA?
- CODIS vs Investigative Genetic Genealogy
- What is GEDmatch.com
- Funding the projects

Case Study: The Murder of Sylvia Quayle

The Process: Case Review and Background

- Quality Check of DNA; DNA Was from a Single Source
- Verification No Match Existed in CODIS
- Excellent Results from Genotyping at DNASolutions

Genealogy Begins

- Who are we looking for? A White Guy
- Several “Ok” matches in the 3rd to 4th cousin range
 - A 3rd cousin shares a g-g-grandparent with you
 - A 4th cousin shares a g-g-g-grandparent with you
 - How much of YOUR ancestral pedigree can you identify?
- Our Top Match had an Unknown Parentage in Appanoose County, Iowa
- Other matches were identified with roots in Polk, Tama, Lucas, and Warren Counties
- The Goal: Find a Common Ancestor Among the Matches and identify a “union couple”
- The Most Helpful Tool: What Are The Odds?
- Newspaper Articles Focus My Attention on One Particular Family
- A Bit of Miscommunication!

We Have an Investigative Lead! But Who’s His Daddy?

- Identification of the Suspect’s Immediate Family
- COVID Interference
- Law Enforcement Resources Disappear

- Months go by . . .WHERE is His Dad?

What Am I Doing Wrong? Nothing, The Wheels of Justice Turn Slowly

- Surreptitious DNA Collection in Colorado
- Criminal Background Checks
- Right Age / Right Place
- Immediate Family Member Moves Back To Iowa
- More Months go by . . .
- United Data Connect Sends Detective to Cozad, Nebraska
- Surreptitious DNA is Collected and Compared to Evidence
- IT'S A MATCH!
- Affidavit Written
- Arrest
- Press Conference
- Currently Awaiting Trial

Resources:

- Genetic Genealogy in Practice by Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne
- Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies by Debbie Parker Wayne
- The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy by Blaine T. Bettinger
- Evidence Explained: History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace 3rd Edition Revised by Elizabeth Shown Mills
- Genealogy Standards: 50th Anniversary Edition by Board for Certification of Genealogists
- The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy: Trace Your Roots, Share Your History, and Create Your Family Tree by Kimberly Powell
- Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards by Elizabeth Shown Mills
- Mastering Genealogical Documentation by Thomas W. Jones
- The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy. 4th Edition by Val D Greenwood
- FamilyHistoryFanatics.com
- FamilyTreeWebinars.com

Need an overview of the process? Give us a call!

Thinking of building an in-house Investigative Genetic Genealogy Unit? We now offer a weeklong intensive training on administering and researching a case from beginning to end.