



## A Guide To DNA Painter Tools

By Michelle Leonard M.A. PgCert

Third party tools provide an excellent complement to the native tools available on the DNA testing sites. It's NOT essential to use them in order to successfully identify DNA matches but they can provide additional options and DNA Painter is one of the very best third party tool sites available.

### *DNA Painter Links*

- Jonny Perl, the developer behind DNA Painter, has created not one but several incredible sets of tools that I would recommend to anyone interested in getting more out of their DNA results. You can visit the main site here: <https://dnapainter.com>
- Check out all of the different tools on offer here: <https://dnapainter.com/tools>
- You can register for an account for free and, while you don't need an account for some of the tools, I would recommend doing this so you can make best use of the site
- Like several of the third party sites DNA Painter is free to use but also offers a subscription option for power users (i.e. if you want to have more than one profile (up to 50) or use the bulk upload tools). The current cost is \$55 for 12 months as of June 2021 but you can \$5 off if you sign up to the monthly tips email
- I recommend bookmarking and using the DNA Painter Shared cM Project tool as your go-to tool for working out relationships and probabilities on any site other than Ancestry (which has its own on-site probability tables): <https://dnapainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4-beta>
- Use the 'Beta Probabilities' option on the tool as that provides the most up-to-date data
- Play around with the editable boxes tool as you try to eliminate possibilities
- DNA Painter's "What Are The Odds?" (WATO) tool is extremely helpful if you have developed several hypotheses and you need help working out which is the most likely. It is especially useful for unknown parentage and unknown ancestor cases:
- <https://dnapainter.com/tools/wato>
- DNA Painter's original tool is its wonderful chromosome mapping facility – if you want to start mapping your DNA back to your ancestors, this is the best tool for the job: <https://dnapainter.com/blog/why-map-your-chromosomes>
- There are a large number of articles, blog posts and resources that can be accessed here: <https://dnapainter.com/help/articles>
- I also recommend the DNA Painter Facebook Group if you have queries: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dnapainter>  
There is also a DNA Painter: What Are the Odds? (WATO) Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/244344539465504>

## *The Shared cM Project*

- The Shared cM Project is a crowdsourced data project run by Dr Blaine Bettinger which collates genuine user-submitted results from known relationships
- At the time of the last update in March 2020 there were over 60,000 submissions
- To learn more about the project read this blog post on the latest update:  
<https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2020/03/27/version-4-0-march-2020-update-to-the-shared-cm-project>
- It is also worth downloading and reading the full PDF:  
<https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Shared-cM-Project-Version-4.pdf>

## *Additional Links*

If you watched this presentation and felt it was too advanced for you but you'd like to learn more about the basics of using DNA for family history then my popular DNA Bootcamp run in conjunction with Family Tree Magazine may be just what you need. Starting on 29<sup>th</sup> September this 8-week course will provide you with practical information to help you learn how to use DNA effectively in your family history research.

For further details and booking information please visit the Bootcamp page at the Family Tree Magazine website:



<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/webinars/webinar-course-learn-about-dna-for-family-history-on-the-dna-bootcamp>

Additionally, in the lead-up to my Bootcamp I will be giving a standalone 'DNA Absolute Beginners' webinar, again for Family Tree Magazine, on 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm BST. This is the webinar for you if you want to start right at the beginning and get a grounding on using DNA for family history from a beginner perspective. It will provide a good lead-in to the Bootcamp as well.



<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/webinar-dna-absolute-beginners>

Now for something a little more advanced – one of my favourite DNA Painter tools is the ‘Inferred Segment Generator’ and I didn’t have enough time to really do it justice in this presentation but I will be giving an entire presentation on inferred matching which will contain information on using the tool as part of Legacy Family Tree Webinars fantastic Webtember event!

An advertisement for Legacy Family Tree Webinars. It features the Legacy Family Tree Webinars logo in the top left. The main text reads 'Webtember: All Genealogy. All September Long.' Below this, it says 'Join live for all four Fridays in September. 30 live and pre-recorded FREE webinars in all.' There is a red 'Register now' button. The background is orange and white with icons of a DNA helix, a portrait of a woman, a portrait of a man, a family tree diagram, and a document. The MyHeritage logo is in the bottom right corner.

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[www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com/webtember](http://www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com/webtember)

MyHeritage

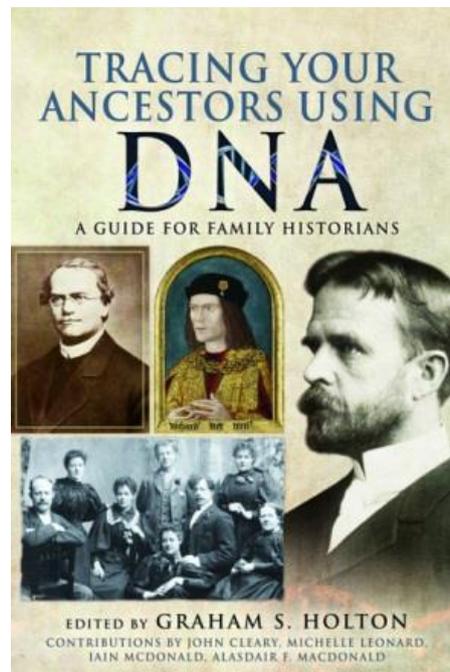
<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/webtember-all-genealogy-all-september-long>

If you enjoyed my presentation and would like to hear more I have a number of other long-form webinar and short form TechZone presentations in the Legacy Family Tree Webinars library.

If you have a Legacy subscription, you can check them all out here:

<https://familytreewebinars.com/michelleleonard>

Finally the book I have co-authored on using DNA for family history, "[Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA: A Guide For Family Historians](#)", was published by Pen & Sword Books in June 2019 and is available for purchase:



(Pen & Sword, 2019, ISBN: 1526733099  
available both in paperback and Kindle formats)

As the official genetic genealogist of #AncestryHour I am on hand most weeks to answer #DNA queries during #AncestryHour's live Twitter chats each Tuesday evening 7-8pm (GMT)

#### Contact & Social Media Links:

Email: [michelle@genesandgenealogy.com](mailto:michelle@genesandgenealogy.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/genesandgenealogy](http://www.facebook.com/genesandgenealogy)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/genealogylass](http://www.twitter.com/genealogylass)  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michelleleonardgenealogist>  
APG: <https://www.apgen.org/profiles/michelle-leonard>  
Ancestry Hour: <http://www.ancestryhour.co.uk/michelle-leonard.html>

