



GRAY REED

23 & ME – THE DOWNSIDE OF SHARING YOUR DNA

2022 STANLEY M. JOHANSON ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP

December 2, 2022 ■ DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Austin ■ Austin, Texas

PRESENTED BY GREG SAMPSON

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

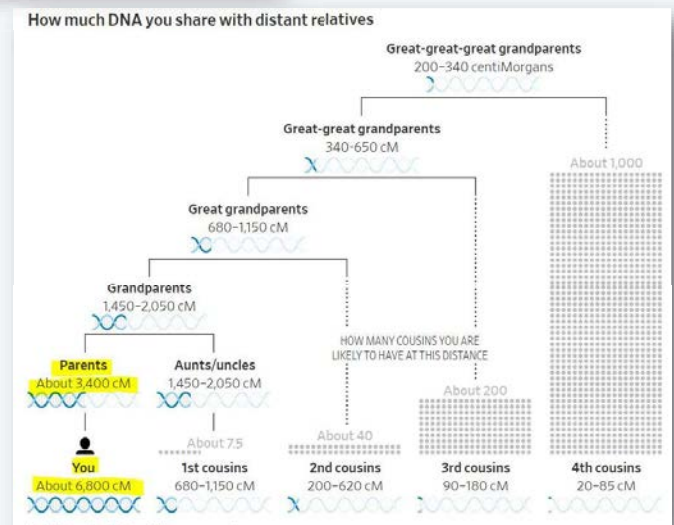
- Baby Boomers - born 1944 – 1964 – will transfer \$30 trillion in wealth to beneficiaries
- Unlike prior generations –
 - Claims of children born out of wedlock to their parent’s estates are increasing
 - Social media sites enable discovery of lost family members and can attract potential claimants to pools of wealth
 - Genetic testing to prove parentage is now imbedded in our Estates Code
 - Ancestry search sites and Direct-to-Consumer (DTC) testing sites make locating “lost parents” easier than ever before
- **And YOU are the first line of defense**

SHARING YOUR DNA DATA

- Typical Individual:
 - Around 200 third cousins.
 - Upwards of 1,000 fourth cousins.
 - 5,000 to 15,000 fifth cousins.
- Direct to Consumer Testing:
 - 21 million AncestryDNA.
 - 12 million 23andMe.
 - 5.6 million MyHeritage.
 - 1.7 million FamilyTreeDNA.



- A 1980s Eugene, Oregon serial killer was identified using DNA evidence.
- A distant cousin discovered one great-great-grandfather in her family tree wasn't biologically related. By identifying distant cousins with whom she shared DNA, she found that she and these new cousins were all descended from a different man: a soldier who spent a month in the same county as her great-great-grandmother in 1862 during the Civil War, about nine months before a child was born.
- There is really only one thing that this Civil War soldier, the woman he briefly met in 1862, and serial killer all have in common: They never submitted their DNA to a testing site. It didn't matter.



IN THE NEWS



THE EXPLOITS OF DESIRÉ ONENIGHT – CLAIMING TO BE MARY GOODBLOOD’S SISTER

Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](https://utcle.org/elibrary)

Title search: 23 & Me: The Downside of Sharing Your DNA

Also available as part of the eCourse

[Hooked on CLE: April 2023](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
2022 Stanley M. Johanson Estate Planning Workshop session
"23 & Me: The Downside of Sharing Your DNA"