



DNA for your ONS: Project Management, Part Two

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Search Family Tree DNA

In the last issue we briefly covered the information you can uncover from the Project Search at Family Tree DNA. This tool has two primary functions. The search is used to determine how many have tested with your surname and if a project exists. This is the first step for those that want a DNA Project.

The Project Search then has an ongoing role when you have a DNA project. It enables you to determine how many with a surname have tested, and you subtract how many with the surname are in your project. The result is how many are in the main database and not in your project. Every six months you can prepare an invitation for those in the database who have tested to invite them to join your project.

Increase your Project participants with Invitations to Join Your Project

It is usually easier to get people already tested to join your project, than recruiting people to test.

The invitation step is easy, and I am always surprised when I search on a Guild registered surname, to see many more in the database than are in a project, yet I haven't received an Invitation from the project administrator. These persons in the database and not in the project are participants that are usually easy to secure and help you grow your project.

How Project Search Works

Based on questions received this quarter, the Project Search is often confusing. Therefore, in this article we will cover the search in more detail with examples, so the information can be properly interpreted. Then you can easily determine when you need to send an Invite to get people in the database to join your project.

Here is the URL where you search. Use the search box on the right labeled Project Search. The Search box at the top of the page is different.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/surname-search-results.aspx?>

In Figure 1 we show the results for a search on the surname Brockett. The search results says that there are thirty-five persons with the Brockett surname in the database, and the Brockett surname is included in the Brockett DNA Project. This project has twenty-seven members.

In most cases there should only be one Surname Project listed.

A project gets listed if the surname being searched is in the Project Profile for the project. The Project Profile is where you list all the surnames included in the project. The projects are

Surname Search Results

THE FOLLOWING NAMES MATCHED YOUR SEARCH REQUEST:

NAME	COUNT
Brockett	35

Surname Project Matches

There is a Surname Project associated with your last name, and we recommend that you join it! By joining your surname project, you will be able to verify if you connect to one of the existing lines.

Click on the surname for project details or to join the project.

Project	Members	Description
Brockett Guild	27	The Brockett DNA Project welcomes all participants. We...

Fig.1. Search results for Brockett

listed because the surname is in the Project Profile, regardless of whether anyone with the surname has tested and is in the project. This distinction is important.

The number tested and in the database, thirty-five, may be male or female. Historically, most participants were male taking a Y-DNA test, and some females taking an mtDNA test. The female component of the database was significantly smaller than the male component of the database. With the advent of the Family Finder autosomal test, many more females are taking this test and are in the database. These females, if they have your surname of interest, would have acquired it from birth or marriage. Therefore the females have value to help you reach out to a male to test Y-DNA for your Surname Project.

We can't assume that the twenty-seven members in the Brockett Project have the Brockett surname. Most likely they wouldn't all have the surname, and some will have a variant surname(s). In addition, some members could be females who did a Family Finder test and have a Brockett in their tree. The project may also have some guests, such as friends or relatives with other surnames who tested.

The next step is to determine the surnames of participants in the Brockett project. This is done by looking at the Member Information report, found under the Member Reports selection on the menu bar in the project management system (GAP). Only the project administrator(s) can access this page.

If you are not the project administrator, and you want a rough idea of the number tested with the surname in a project, your best approach is to look at the Y-DNA results page and mtDNA results page, and count up the surnames. Most projects display the surname. Some projects may not display the mtDNA results. Family Finder results do not display.

Adrian Brockett is the Guild member with the Brockett surname registered, and he is the Project Administrator of the Brockett Surname Project. He provided access to his project for this article.

In another month, Adrian is due to send out another Invitation to join his project. You repeat this process every six months because there are new persons in the main database, and not everyone will respond to an Invitation. Some many never respond. Some may not get the email. Some need multiple contacts to take action.

Determining the count for an Invitation

On the Member Information report, counting up the participants by surname shows:

Brockett	24
Brocket	1
Brackett	1
Other	1
Total	27

The total of twenty-seven matches the count for participants provided by Family Tree DNA with the Project Search, so we have confirmed the accuracy of our surname count.

The surnames in the Brockett DNA Project are: Brocket, Brockett, and Brockette.

Therefore:

Line 2 of the chart says that there thirty-five Brockett in the database and twenty-four Brockett in the project. Therefore, there are eleven Brocketts who have tested who are not in the project. It is important to get them to join the project, to have access to their results and family tree information. For the females, they can help recruit a male from their family tree for a Y-DNA test. These females have taken a DNA test, so they can help erase any fears a prospective participant may have.

A sample invitation and the process to submit it is in your Getting Started email, step 7. It is also covered in the Journal issue for April 2016, on page 7.

Every six months, do the exercise to determine the count of those in the main database with your surname(s) and compare this to the surname count in your DNA Project. If there are any in the main database who are not in your project, prepare the Invitation, and send it to me. This is a special service from Family Tree DNA for Guild members only.

If Adrian is successful in getting these twelve persons to join his project, he has increased his participants by 44%. And depending on what trees they represent, there could be some interesting discoveries. All without convincing someone to test - they already have tested!

Search Results Examples

In Figure 2, only one person with the surname has tested, and no projects exist for the surname at the time this screen shot was taken.

In Figure 3, all three sections of the search results page has data. The top section is those that have tested with the surname, the second section is Projects for the surname. These

are usually Y-DNA projects. The third section is other projects that exist for the surname, such as geographical projects.



Surname Search Results

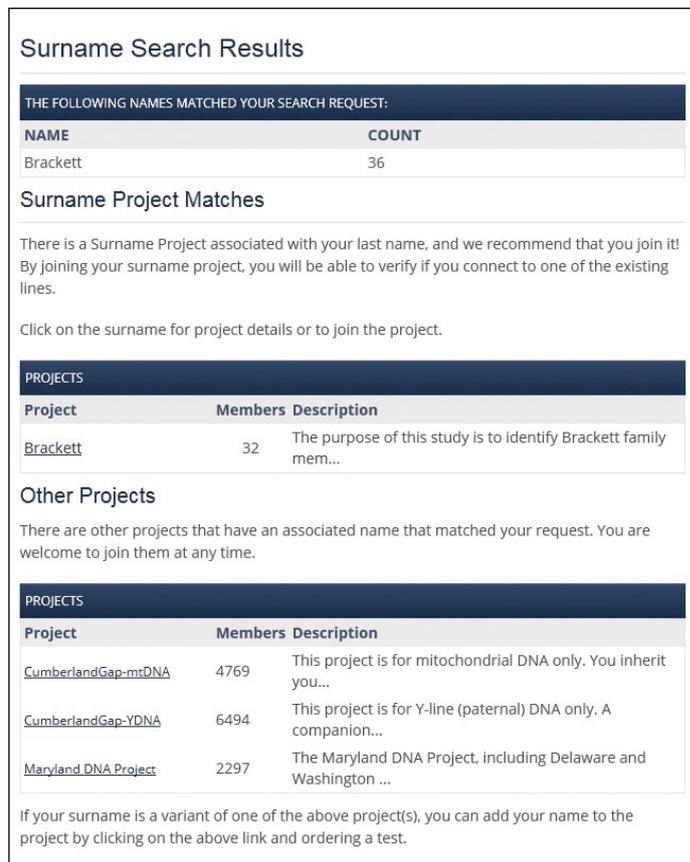
THE FOLLOWING NAMES MATCHED YOUR SEARCH REQUEST:

NAME	COUNT
Bazzoni	1

» [Place An Order](#)

You can add your name to the database by [ordering](#) a test today.

Fig.2. Search results for Bazzoni



Surname Search Results

THE FOLLOWING NAMES MATCHED YOUR SEARCH REQUEST:

NAME	COUNT
Brackett	36

Surname Project Matches

There is a Surname Project associated with your last name, and we recommend that you join it! By joining your surname project, you will be able to verify if you connect to one of the existing lines.

Click on the surname for project details or to join the project.

Project	Members	Description
Brackett	32	The purpose of this study is to identify Brackett family mem...

Other Projects

There are other projects that have an associated name that matched your request. You are welcome to join them at any time.

Project	Members	Description
CumberlandGap-mtDNA	4769	This project is for mitochondrial DNA only. You inherit you...
CumberlandGap-YDNA	6494	This project is for Y-line (paternal) DNA only. A companion...
Maryland DNA Project	2297	The Maryland DNA Project, including Delaware and Washington ...

If your surname is a variant of one of the above project(s), you can add your name to the project by clicking on the above link and ordering a test.

Fig.3. Search results for Brackett

Tips

It is a good idea when you have a new result in your project is to see if you can discover any unknown variants or suspected variants. If your participants are set to search only in the Project, which minimizes match emails which aren't relevant, just toggle the search to the database and review the matches. For example, a Brockett result came back from the lab and matched a Brackett. The Brackett was then invited to join the project. Once you have a match, the email address of the participant is available.

If you have people join your Surname Project who have taken Family Finder only, and are not a candidate for a Y-DNA test, since they are either female, or a male with your surname of interest further back in their tree, you may, after a while, want a separate project for the Family Finder and mtDNA persons who are not part of your Y-DNA project. These projects are quick and easy to set up and move people, and can be made invisible. ■