

WHO WAS HARVEY KELLEY?

USING DNA TO DEFINE AND VERIFY FAMILY LINES AND CONNECTIONS
WITH NANCY CUSTER

Monday, March 15, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Admission is \$5

In the mid 1980's DNA profiling made a highly publicized and controversial entrée into the forensic and legal worlds. Over time, DNA analysis has matured and its validity has been confirmed. It is now accepted as a valuable tool by police and court systems. The entertainment industry has launched DNA testing into public awareness with movies, books and television shows that showcase its crime solving powers.

This talk will focus on direct to the consumer Y-chromosome DNA tests used by genealogists and local historians to define and verify their connections not only to each other but even to the long dead.

There are currently over 5,000 DNA-based projects designed to study the origins and histories of as many different surnames. Using data and examples from the 100-member Dorsey DNA Project that she organized and manages, Nancy will illustrate the variety of questions DNA testing can and cannot answer. She will describe how her family used DNA testing to discover the true identity of her great-great grandfather, Harvey Kelley, only to find out that Harvey's great-great grandfather wasn't who he said he was either.

For those considering using DNA as a personal ancestral tool, Nancy will talk about the DNA tests

available to the public and what kind of answers each can (and cannot) be expected to provide. She will also address advertising policies of companies offering such tests and make some recommendations about how to evaluate their claims.

The US military is using mitochondrial DNA profiling to account for Americans missing as a result of past conflicts and how audience members may be able to help with that project.

DNA testing is being used to trace human migratory patterns out of Africa and the rest of the world and the re-expansion of early man into Europe following the last glacial maximum. The National Geographic Project, a massive effort by the National Geographic Society and IBM, collects and analyzes historical patterns in DNA from participants around the world to better understand our human genetic roots. That project is open to public participation and Nancy will explain what is involved in participation and what one can learn by participating.

Nancy will also talk about some of the controversies surrounding direct to the consumer DNA testing - some of which are real concerns and others which are the results of poor understanding of the issues involved.



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- ❖ Like to be in charge? Gualala Arts is looking for a V.I.P. (Volunteer Important Person) to be in charge of our Recycle Sales Event. Have fun, meet new people and help raise funds for Gualala Arts. Win, win, win. The next one is scheduled for October 9.
- ❖ Want to be in the know? Can you type? Do feel comfortable on the computer? We are looking for someone who would like to enter our calendar data for KZYX each month. Be the source for the event news.