

[ Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project. (Accessed Feb. 16, 2022). Bacharach Origins. Bacharach DNA. Reproduced for educational purposes only. Fair Use relied upon. Source: <https://www.bacharachdna.com/bacharach-background/> ]

# Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project

[Home](#)[Bacharach Origins](#)[Maps](#)[Families](#)[DNA](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Resources](#)[Blog](#)[Contact](#)

## Bacharach Origins

The name, which is spelled a variety of ways (Bacharach, Bachrach, Bacherach, Backerach, etc.) is presumed to come from the town of Bacharach, on the Rhine in Germany. For the purposes of this article, I will standardize on the Bacharach spelling, but I mean to include all spelling variations.

Since more than one Jewish family could have originated in Bacharach at the time surnames were adopted in the early 1800s in Germany, it's possible that multiple unrelated families who were originally from there could have taken the surname in other parts of Germany. This is likely to be the case for lots of toponyms (names taken from geographic locations). For example, every family who became Berliner probably once lived in Berlin, but not every Jewish family from Berlin was necessarily descended from the same male ancestor. For more on how surnames were adopted, see the [JewishGen Name FAQ](#) and the [JewishGen InfoFile](#) on the subject.

Lars Menk's book [A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames](#), which is invaluable for doing serious research, lists dozens of locations where he found the name, at least half of which are prior to the mass adoption of surnames across western Europe. Because the Bacharach name was in use as early as the 1400s and widely dispersed by the 1600s, there may be reason to believe there are connections among the different families who carry the name. It was exceedingly unusual at that time for Jews to pass a surname down from generation to generation, unless it showed a connection to a famous rabbi or a distinguished lineage of some other sort. There were a few semi-famous rabbis who had the Bacharach surname and possibly originated in the Rhine area around the town of Bacharach. One was Rabbi Abraham Samuel Bacharach (ca 1575-1615) (see his [Wikipedia entry](#)) who married the granddaughter of the famous chief rabbi of Prague, Judah Loew ben Bezalel and was the rabbi of Worms. His grandson, Rabbi Yair Chayim Bacharach (1639-1702) (see his

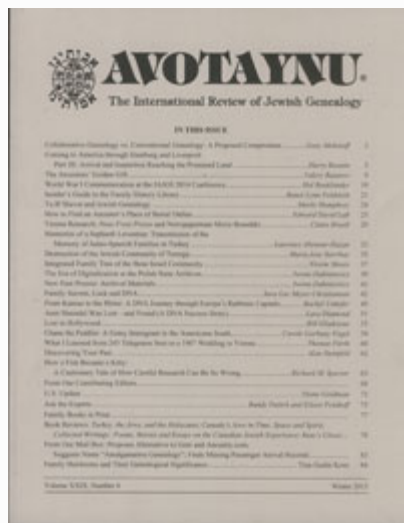
[Wikipedia entry](#)) was also well-known. It's possible that the various branches of their families carried on the surname because of the connection to this illustrious family.

From [Lars Menk's book](#), in the section entitled "Historical Development of the Concentration of Surnames in Some Areas":

*Thus, the surname BACHARACH (Bacherach; Bachrach) that indicates an origin in the town of the same name situated on the Rhine River was originally adopted in the cities of Worms (1449), Mainz (1455) and Frankfurt am Main (1516). Then, carried by a rabbinical dynasty, it spread to numerous locations in central and eastern Europe. Later, in the early 17th century, it appeared in and around Göttingen (then a southern part of the Duchy of Braunschweig). In the middle of the 17th century, this surname could be found in and around Kassel in the county of Hesse-Kassel (today in Northern Hesse).*

*From [A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames](#), Copyright 2005 by Lars Menk, excerpted by permission of Lars Menk*

Follow @bacharachdna



Read more about the project in [Avotaynu Magazine](#).

## Search

## News

[First Ever Worldwide Bacharach Gathering](#)

[From Kansas to the Rhine: A DNA Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals](#)

[Phylogenetic Trees: A Snapshot of the Genetic Relationships](#)

[Chart Your Place in a Big Family Tree](#)

[Bacharachs and the Early Frankfurt Jewish Communities](#)

[Sale Prices on DNA Tests Until the End of December](#)

[Linking up with the WIRTH Project](#)

[June Special on DNA Testing Prices](#)

[Puzzlement and Unexpected Results](#)

[New DNA Comparison Chart](#)

## Archives

[July 2015](#)

[March 2014](#)

[June 2013](#)

[November 2012](#)

[June 2012](#)

[December 2010](#)

[November 2010](#)

[June 2010](#)

[May 2010](#)

[April 2010](#)

[February 2010](#)

[January 2010](#)

[December 2009](#)

[November 2009](#)

[September 2009](#)

[August 2009](#)

## Blogroll

[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach and WIRTH Projects](#)

[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach Project: "From Kansas to the Rhine: A Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals"](#)

[Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree \(J-Y13373\)](#)

[Bacharach Project Y-DNA Results Page](#)

[Contribute to the Testing Fund](#)

[Jews of Frankfurt Project Y-Trees for Bacharach](#)

[Join the Bacharach DNA Project](#)

[Map of Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree Branches](#)

## Social Media



Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project, © 2022

A SiteOrigin Theme

## From Kansas to the Rhine: A DNA Journey through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals

by Rachel Unkefer

Way back when, starting out as genealogists researching Jewish ancestry, we probably all had the experience at least once of being chastened by a more seasoned researcher when we asked if our ancestor from, say, Poland could be related to his or her ancestor with the same surname from, say, the west bank of the Rhine. Surnames, we were told, came with Napoleon or later and were adopted independently, coincidentally, by multiple families; only newbies would presume a connection between families from different geographical areas because of a shared surname. The Bacharach DNA Study is yielding results that challenge this conventional wisdom. The paper trails and the genetic markers on the Y-chromosome for this far-flung extended family show that the probability of males with certain surnames sharing a common ancestor is higher than we might have expected.

### Background

In 2001, I was one of the first customers of Family Tree DNA, ordering two kits to compare my husband's Y-DNA with that of another man who shared his surname. They turned out not to be related. As the prices of tests decreased over the years, I began to consider preserving genetic information about other ancestors I had been researching. Because Y-DNA is passed only from father to son, my husband's 2001 test results represented only one lineage, the one that carries his surname. In order to find out more about other grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on, I would need to locate living male cousins descended patrilineally from each ancestor. Convincing third or fourth cousins to scrape the insides of their cheeks purely to satisfy my curiosity was going to be a hard sell. As a test case, I looked for one of my husband's lines that might be suitable for a larger study, a surname that was not too uncommon and might yield information of larger historical significance.

My husband's grandmother was born in 1888 in rural Kansas, a third-generation American and the daughter of not one but two descendants of the Bacharach family of Fellheim, in Bavarian Swabia near the Swiss border. We had inherited a large family tree from the early 20th century that did not include the famous Bacharachs (e.g., Burt Bacharach the musician, the Bachrach photography family, and Harry Bacharach a former mayor of Atlantic City), and I had come across the name somewhat frequently, so I

thought there might be enough other descendants to create a project. I also knew that the Bacharachs in Fellheim had a surname as early as the 17th century, which was quite unusual, so I thought there was a chance that an early surname could have persisted over time and spread widely.

For the purposes of this article I use the original German spelling, *Bacharach*, although there are a number of known variants, including *Bachrach*, *Bikrach*, *Bacherach*, *Bacher* and others. See Lars Menk for more information.<sup>1</sup>

In 2009, I created the Bacharach DNA project at Family Tree DNA and set out to recruit participants. At first, I planned to focus exclusively on Germany, but fortunately I rejected that strategy. I approached my husband's third cousin (whom I had only recently located) who agreed, after a few e-mails, to be the DNA proxy for all the descendants of Simon Bacharach of Fellheim. Janet Akaha referred another Bachrach from the German-Jewish DNA project, and then there were two.

I set about e-mailing people from the JewishGen Family Finder, posted messages on the JewishGen mailing lists, and contacted people on Geni, Ancestry and Facebook. By the fall of 2009, four more men had sent their DNA samples to the lab, and we waited for results. These individuals included another man whose Bacharachs also were from Fellheim, although no paper trail linked him to my husband's family; two men documented back to the 1700s in Kestrich (Hesse, Germany); one man from nearby Hattenbach (Hesse, Germany); and one from Slonim (Belarus). Based on what I thought I knew about Jewish genealogy, I expected the DNA results to show two or three distinct clusters of related individuals in tight geographical groups and unconnected to one another.

One surreal evening the first results were posted while I watched, refreshing my screen every few seconds. Match. Match. Match. All the Germans, whether from Hesse or southern Bavaria (more than 400 kilometers apart) descended from a common ancestor. A couple of weeks later, the DNA from the man whose ancestor was in Belarus in the early 19th century also was a match at 12 out of 12 markers. As more markers were tested, the participants continued to match closely. The Family Tree DNA relationship predictor at that point showed a range of 12 to 20 generations to a common ancestor (potentially somewhere in the 14th to 16th centuries).

*The paper trails and the genetic markers on the Y-chromosome for this far-flung extended family show that the probability of males with certain surnames sharing a common ancestor is higher than we might have expected.*

At that time, all the men in the project were assigned to the Y-DNA haplogroup J2 (later J2a4b1). About 15 to 23 percent of Ashkenazi Jews are in the J2 group, which is thought to have originated in the Middle East.<sup>2</sup> While six individuals admittedly is a small sample, it seemed unreasonable to believe that all these men belonged to the same DNA haplogroup and had the same surname purely by coincidence. Between early 2010 and 2013, eight more Bacharachs whose 18th- or 19th-century ancestors lived in Belarus, France, Germany and Poland all matched the original six, most at 35 or 36 markers out of 37. They shared a common male ancestor, but **who was he?**

When I first began the project, my ambitions were small. I had no thought of trying to trace all the Bacharachs in the world to a common ancestor. These DNA results, along with information about the Bacharach surname from Lars Menk's book and other sources, convinced me to try.

### WIRTH and Frankfurt Projects

As it turns out, I was not the only DNA project administrator interested in these results. The late Herbert Huebscher of the WIRTH project (also in the J2 haplogroup, but a small and closely-related subgroup with significant differences from others who are J2) had noticed that men from his group closely matched many of the Bacharachs, especially in one interesting genetic location. A marker called DYS-464 usually has numbers for the STRs (single tandem repeats) in four positions, labeled 464a, b, c and d. The WIRTH project group is partially defined by a rare mutation: two extra sets of STRs, DYS-464e and f, for a total of six instead of four. All but one of the Bacharachs share this rare mutation. This made it even more unlikely statistically that the shared DNA and shared surname were coincidence—and now we learned that the Bacharachs share a common male ancestor with the WIRTH group.

Huebscher and I joined forces to convince some of the Bacharachs to join the WIRTH project and to upgrade to the maximum available number of markers. In a large project like the WIRTH project, where all the participants are already confirmed to have a common ancestor, increasing the number of markers allows for more accurate statistical estimates of the degree of common ancestry within the group. Janet Akaha's Frankfurt research eventually led to the discovery of a possible common ancestor for the Bacharachs and the others in the WIRTH project around the 11th century (possibly Moshe ben Yehuda Treves, Baal Hatossafot).<sup>3</sup>

### Rabbinic Yichus

In the meantime, I had begun to do background research. The name Bacharach is presumed to have come from the **town of Bacharach on the Rhine**. Transliteration from German to Yiddish (in Hebrew letters without vowels) and sometimes Cyrillic and then back to Roman letters results in a number of spelling variants, the most common of which seems to be Bachrach. From Lars Menk:

Thus, the surname Bacharach (Bacherach; Bachrach) that

indicates an origin in the town of the same name situated on the Rhine River was originally adopted in the cities of Worms (1449), Mainz (1455) and Frankfurt am Main (1516). Then, carried by a **rabbinical dynasty**, it spread to numerous locations in Central and Eastern Europe.

Never having studied European rabbinic history, I was surprised to find that the online *Jewish Encyclopedia* and other sources were full of accounts of the *yichus* (distinguished ancestry) associated with this name. Except for one man whose family tree traced back to the famous Rabbi Tuvia Bacharach, the martyr of Ruzhany (Belarus) murdered in 1659, nobody in the project was aware of descent from rabbinic dynasties. Not even the conservative rabbi who had convinced her brother to contribute his DNA knew of the **famous Bacharach rabbis**. Across Europe, from the Middle Ages to the 19th century, the name had been associated with respected scholarship and community leadership, although succeeding generations seem to have declined to follow their forefathers into the rabbinate.

This explained the early surname and the geographical dispersion of the DNA matches. From the Middle Ages onward, rabbis and Talmudic scholars traveled widely throughout Europe, summoned to the pulpits and *batei din* (Jewish courts) of Frankfurt, Krakow, Posen, Prague and elsewhere. Some sources assert family relationships among the famous Bacharach rabbis and refute others. For example, 1906 *Jewish Encyclopedia* writes:

From the end of the sixteenth century the name Bacharach occurs more frequently in western Germany. In Frankfurt there is a Mendel, son of Isaac Bacharach, who died there Aug. 23, 1599. His son Moses, a prominent member of the congregation, died there Sept. 11, 1620. Moses' son, Issachar Baer Gans Bacharach, a member of the rabbinate, died Aug. 24, 1678. Issachar's son, Naphtali Herz Gans Bacharach, endorses the Responsa of Jair Hayyim Bacharach, but does not mention that they are related, which goes to prove that, though bearing the same name, they were not of the same family.

If we can find more documented descendants to give DNA samples, we might be able to prove the connections.

In 2011, at the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) conference in Washington, DC, Janet Akaha spoke to me of her interest in the early Jewish families of Frankfurt, Germany. By the Middle Ages, they all had adopted surnames, some based on house signs, others after German cities from which they apparently had come. Unlike Jews in most of Europe, these families tended to retain fixed surnames over the generations. Sources such as *Ele Toldot* contain cemetery and other genealogical records for Frankfurt going back to 1241. Akaha realized that gathering Y-DNA samples and documented family trees representing each of these lines (which include such illustrious names as Bacharach, Guggenheim, Oppenheim, Rothschild and Weil), would allow other researchers with shorter documented pedigrees who matched genetically to jump back several hundred years, albeit missing some intervening generations. Thus, the Frankfurt Jewish DNA



Project, of which the Bacharach project is a part, was born.

### **Bacharachs by Any Other Name**

Along the way, I noticed close DNA matches between men in the Bacharach project and others in the Family Tree DNA database with different surnames (some of whom also are in the WIRTH project). I asked these men to join my project, so that their marker values could be compared with the documented Bacharachs. Even though they had no known ties to the Bacharach family, their DNA showed a common ancestor, some within the past 200 years. So far, all of these “possible-Bacharachs” have oldest known ancestors in Eastern European locations where Bacharach rabbis are known to have lived.

We have a number of possible explanations for this phenomenon. First, although the Bacharach surname was in use as long ago as the 12th century (though some sources point only to the 14th century), as family members dispersed throughout Europe, some descendants may have abandoned the name—especially if fixed, inherited surnames were not customary in the area. Perhaps younger sons, who would otherwise have to move elsewhere in order to marry, changed their names as a way around laws governing inheritance of letters of protection (*schutzbriefe*), and the descendants eventually lost track of the original name. Secondly, in some cases a man may have taken his wife’s surname in homage to a distinguished father-in-law. This does not seem to have been the case, however, for the men whom we have identified in our project. Finally, undocumented adoptions, infidelity and births registered by the authorities as illegitimate because the parents had only a religious marriage and not a civil one, may account for the mismatch of DNA and paternal pedigree in some cases.

### **Samson Wertheimer Connection**

One tantalizing DNA match is with a documented descendant of Rabbi Samson Wertheimer (1658–1724), arguably one of the most famous European Jews of his time. As of December 2013, we have a second DNA match to a Wertheimer descendant, albeit one with a short paper trail back to Hungary.

The DNA shows that these Wertheimers share a common ancestor with the Bacharach family. The TMRCA (time to most recent common ancestor) between the closer of the two Wertheimers and the majority of the Bacharachs is estimated to be in the range of 300–400 years, sometime in the 17th century. Because DNA mutates randomly, it’s not possible to pinpoint the exact generation when the branch of the family carrying the surname Wertheimer connects to the Bacharach line, but the paper trail suggests a few possibilities. The two most compelling:

- A family tree in the possession of a Samson Wertheimer descendant shows the Wertheimer name passing twice through daughters (Samson’s paternal grandmother and great-grandmother), both of their husbands using the Wertheimer surname. It’s possible the husbands were cousins

or that they adopted the Wertheimer surname and passed it to future generations, even though they were genetically Bacharachs. One problem with this scenario is that in the time period in question, the Bacharach name was presumably better known in Frankfurt and Worms, and would not likely be abandoned by a husband at the time of a marriage.

- Another scenario would be a Bacharach male returning to Frankfurt or Worms from Wertheim whose family took the name Wertheimer in order to distinguish themselves from the other related Bacharach lines. Legal documents in the Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg show a Rabbi Izak (no surname) living in Wertheim in 1626. Samson Wertheimer’s father Josel was born in 1626, but we do not know where. Josel’s father was also a Rabbi Isaac.

Further historical research and the acquisition of Y-DNA samples from more Wertheimer and Bacharach descendants are needed to solve the puzzle of this connection.

### **Family Tree Research**

As of December 2013, the Bacharach project had 24 members, both with and without the surname. One goal of the project is to construct as complete a documented family tree as possible for each member. This way, each man whose Y-DNA has been tested can be a proxy for dozens of other Bacharach descendants who do not have a close living male relative with the Bacharach Y-DNA but whose paper trail connects to his. Unfortunately, only a few individuals in the Bacharach project have documented family trees that extend further back than the 18th century. Records in Frankfurt, Worms and elsewhere document various Bacharach families from the 13th century onward, but they often lack evidence of connections between them and/or paper trails forward to living descendants. I have accumulated a database of nearly 8,000 Bacharach descendants, some living but the majority deceased, some belonging to long trees and others to small, unattached twigs. Occasionally, I have been able to connect distant cousins using the information collected.

My research has been done in the usual ways: online databases such as Hassia-Judaica, the Steinheim Institut’s gravestone inscriptions, JewishGen’s Jewish Online World Burial Registry (JOWBR) and Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP); help from researchers in Germany; old articles and books about Frankfurt and Prague; and other genealogists who have shared pieces of their trees.

Researchers I contact for help finding living descendants with the Bacharach Y-DNA are often skeptical about connections among the different families, particularly when their name is spelled without a letter *a* in the middle or their relatives were from a town 25 kilometers distant from the one I mention. This lack of knowledge and understanding of Jewish history can keep researchers from seeing connections.

### **Geography**

On the project website, [bacharachdna.com](http://bacharachdna.com), I have links

to Google maps of three regions that had concentrations in the 17th to 19th centuries of Bacharachs: Frankfurt/Hesse/Thuringia, Bohemia/Moravia/ Austria and Poland/Belarus/ Lithuania.

Frankfurt and the small villages of Hesse had a large concentration of Bacharachs in the 18th century. Digging deep into the relationships among families from towns like Bebra, Hattenbach Kestrich, Mansbach, Neukirchen and Stadtlengsfeld, we find close links both genetically and on paper. We suspect that more are waiting to be discovered.

The second regional focus of research has been Belarus/Poland/Lithuania. We find written accounts of Bacharachs, primarily rabbis or descendants of rabbis, as far back as the 1600s. Comparison of the Y-DNA markers suggests a close connection among families from Brest, Ruzhany (this family later moved to Tykocin), Sierpe and Slonim. Using the JRI-Poland database, the All-Lithuania Database, Landsmen, Ancestry.com and the Ellis Island database, I have been trying to construct a comprehensive family tree for the Eastern European branches of the Bacharach family.

The third regional focus is Austria/Bohemia/Moravia/Slovakia. One famous rabbi, Jair Chaim Bacharach, was born in Lipnik in 1638. His father, Moses Samson Bacharach, had been a rabbi in Prague and several other towns in the area before becoming rabbi of Worms in 1650. Jair Chaim's grandfather also had been rabbi in Worms and in what is now the Czech Republic. Yakov Bacharach, known in Vienna as "The Krakower Rabbi," went to Trebic after the Jews were expelled from Vienna in 1670. He and his descendants are buried in the Trebic cemetery. Currently, we have some family trees from this region, but we have not been able to bridge the gap between them, and so far no one has tested their Y-DNA.

## DNA Results

In December 2013, our first non-matching result was returned. A man whose Bacharach ancestor lived in Mikulov, Czech Republic (also known as Nikolsburg) at the beginning of the 19th century was shown to belong to the R1b1a2 haplogroup rather than J2a4b1 like the rest. This could be due to the Bacharach name being adopted through the maternal line, especially if these are descendants of the important rabbi **Jair Chaim Bacharach (1638–1701)** who

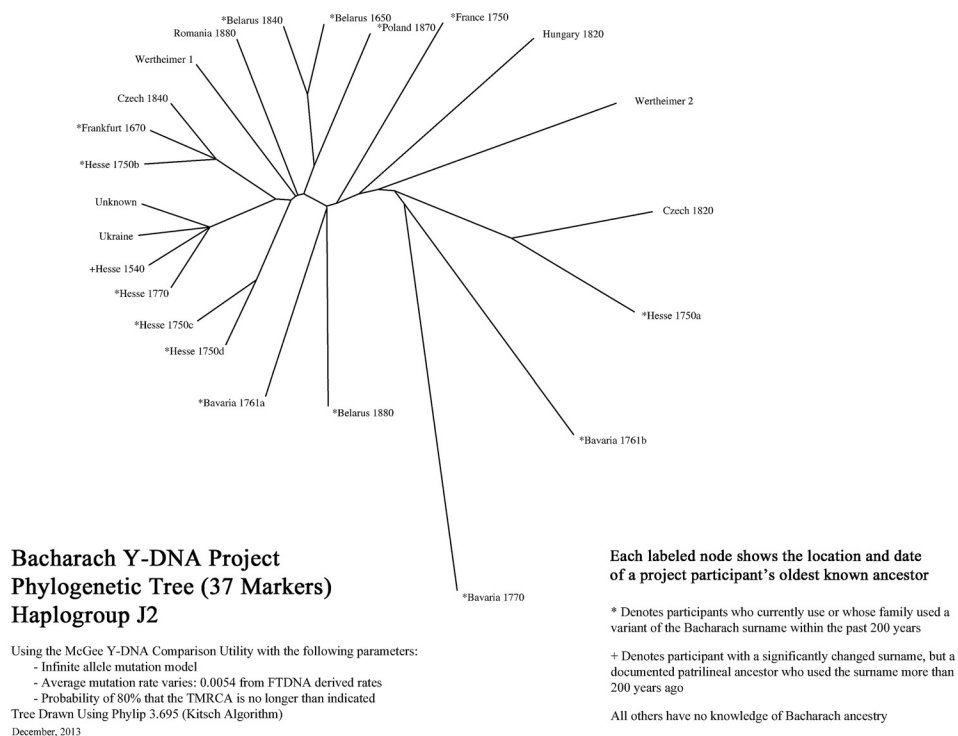


Figure 1. Phenogram of Bacharach Y-DNA Project 37-marker results

are known to have lived in that area. It could also indicate that there is another unrelated Bacharach family after all, and this is the first of their descendants to be tested. More data is needed to explain this anomalous result. The explanations of the figures accompanying this article exclude this R1b1a2 sample.

Since the men in the project have tested different numbers of markers, I can compare apples to apples only at 37 markers. This is a fairly crude comparison, given that some men have tested 67 or 111 markers. Estimates of degree of relatedness are presumed to be more accurate the greater the number of markers tested and compared.

Figure 1 illustrates a phylogenetic tree, a visual representation of the number of differences between each pair of men in the 37-marker test. This diagram does not reflect which particular markers differ between participants; it shows only the degree of genetic distance between the participants based on the number of markers that differ out of the 37. The diagram is not a family tree, but a graphic representation of how closely their Y-DNA matches. Because mutations are random, we cannot be certain when a particular marker changed. The nodes where lines converge represent the likely common ancestors for those particular lines. The common ancestor of the entire group should be somewhere toward the middle of the tree.

As shown in Figure 2, the Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor (TMRCA) varies widely. The closest are estimated to share a common male ancestor within the four previous generations (a 37/37 marker match) or approxi-



ID	Bavaria 1761a	Bavaria 1761b	Poland 1870	Belarus 1650	Belarus 1840	Belarus 1880	Bavaria 1770	France 1750	Hesse 1750a	Frankfurt 1670	Hesse 1750b	Hesse 1540	Hesse 1770	Hesse 1750c	Hesse 1750d	Czech 1820	Romania 1880	Czech 1840	Unknown	Ukraine	Hungary 1820	Wertheimer 2	Wertheimer 1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Bavaria 1761a	-	11	11	8	8	11	17	17	18	14	14	11	11	14	14	21	14	14	11	11	17	20	14
Bavaria 1761b	11	-	17	14	14	11	24	24	21	20	20	17	17	20	20	25	20	20	17	17	17	27	20
Poland 1870	11	17	-	8	8	11	24	17	18	8	8	11	11	14	14	21	14	8	11	11	17	14	14
Belarus 1650	8	14	8	-	4	8	20	14	14	11	11	8	11	11	18	11	11	8	14	17	11	11	11
Belarus 1840	8	14	8	4	-	8	20	14	14	11	11	8	11	11	18	11	11	8	14	17	11	11	11
Belarus 1880	11	11	11	8	8	-	24	17	18	14	14	11	11	14	14	21	14	14	11	11	20	14	14
Bavaria 1770	17	24	24	20	20	24	-	17	25	20	20	17	17	14	14	28	20	20	17	17	24	27	20
France 1750	17	24	17	14	14	17	17	-	18	14	14	11	11	8	8	21	14	14	11	11	17	20	14
Hesse 1750a	18	21	18	14	14	18	25	18	-	14	14	11	11	14	14	8	14	14	11	11	14	21	14
Frankfurt 1670	14	20	8	11	11	14	20	14	14	-	4	8	11	11	18	11	4	8	14	11	11	11	11
Hesse 1750b	14	20	8	11	11	14	20	14	14	4	-	8	11	11	18	11	4	8	14	11	11	11	11
Hesse 1540	11	17	11	8	8	11	17	11	11	8	8	-	4	8	8	14	8	8	4	11	14	8	8
Hesse 1770	11	17	11	8	8	11	17	11	11	8	8	4	-	8	8	14	8	8	4	11	14	8	8
Hesse 1750c	14	20	14	11	11	14	14	8	14	11	11	8	8	-	4	18	11	11	8	8	14	17	11
Hesse 1750d	14	20	14	11	11	14	14	8	14	11	11	8	8	4	-	18	11	11	8	8	14	17	11
Czech 1820	21	25	21	18	18	21	28	21	8	18	18	14	14	18	18	-	18	18	14	14	18	25	18
Romania 1880	14	20	14	11	11	14	20	14	14	11	11	8	11	11	18	-	11	8	8	14	17	11	11
Czech 1840	14	20	8	11	11	14	20	14	14	4	-	8	11	11	18	11	-	8	14	11	11	11	11
Unknown	11	17	11	8	8	11	17	11	11	8	8	4	4	8	8	14	8	8	-	4	11	14	8
Ukraine	11	17	11	8	8	11	17	11	11	8	8	4	4	8	8	14	8	8	4	-	11	14	8
Hungary 1820	17	11	17	14	14	11	24	17	14	14	11	11	14	14	14	11	14	14	11	11	-	20	14
Wertheimer 2	20	27	14	17	17	20	27	20	21	11	11	14	14	17	17	25	17	11	14	14	20	-	11
Wertheimer 1	14	20	14	11	11	14	20	14	14	11	11	8	8	11	11	18	11	11	8	8	14	11	-

Figure 2. Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor (Generations)

mately 100 years. The farthest pair is estimated to descend from an ancestor in the past 28 generations (a 31/37 marker match), which would put the entire group's common ancestor in about the 13th century, close to the first historical mentions of Bacharach as a surname. From the *Jewish Encyclopedia*:

The first mention of any Bacharach is that of Samuel Bacharach (טײַר) in 1175 (Solomon Luria, Responsa, No. 29; Heilprin, "Seder ha-Dorot," ed. Maskileison, p. 211, Warsaw, 1878), but it is questionable whether the reading in this case is correct, as the words of Luria may mean, "Samuel in the city כרך of טײַר."

The TMRCA for the Belarus clusters is consistent with their common ancestor being a descendant of Rabbi Tuvia Bacharach (17th century). Although we have documentation back to Tuvia Bacharach for only one of them, the DNA and the geography suggest their family trees merge in the range of four to eight generations before the present. Some of the Hessian clusters also are closely related, with a common ancestor in the 18th century or more recently.

Most of the larger clusters on the phylogenetic tree have a TMRCA that indicates branching at around 11 generations, which would be in the range of late 16th to early 17th centuries. We hope eventually to identify possible ancestors for these different branching points.

I often try to infer the common ancestor for each branch by analyzing the frequency of recurring first names. Nearly all Bacharach families show the same first names throughout the centuries: Simon/Samson, Samuel, Isaac. Several branches have the recurring names Naftali and Yehuda, which do not appear in all the other branches. While these are all common Hebrew names, naming patterns often may provide clues to common ancestors, which can be con-

firmed or refuted by DNA.

## Why Should You Care?

You may be thinking that you are not a Bacharach descendant and that this kind of project is useful only for those who come from famous German families. Why should you do a Y-DNA test (or ask someone in your family to do one)? The answer is simple. You just might hit the jackpot and match with a well-documented lineage. As the science and the historical research progress and the number of families represented in the DNA databases increases, the likelihood of finding a match to a well-documented pedigree increases.

## Next Steps

Whether you are a Bacharach (or Wertheimer) descendant or not, you may have information, connections or resources that will advance this project or others like it. Connecting Y-DNA, history and paper trails can be a model for many future surname/lineage studies and illuminate areas of Jewish history that academics are not pursuing. Contribute to groundbreaking research by doing any of the following:

- If you are male, join as many Y-DNA projects for which you are eligible; if you are female, ask a male relative to do it.
- Supply funding for Y-DNA tests for your distant cousins who can be your proxies in DNA projects.
- Help find more families from the Czech Republic and Slovakia to do the DNA test. Our hypothesis is that many families from these areas originally had the Bacharach surname or one of the other original Frankfurt names.
- Be on the lookout for family trees and other records. If you have any Bacharach (or Wertheimer) data, or data relating to one of the other Frankfurt names, even fragments of trees or sources of records, please forward your material to me.

More information is available at Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach DNA Project: <http://bacharachdna.com>; Frankfurt Jewish DNA Project: <http://jewsoffrankfurt.com>.

## Conclusion

From rural Kansas to the European capitals of Jewish scholarship, this journey seems to lengthen with every step. In the past year, I have learned that the Bacharach DNA may connect to a rabbi in the 11th century. It may be impossible to prove the genealogies of all the living Bacharach descendants, but their Y-DNA (so far) shows that all but one belong to one family. Regardless of surname or European provenance, anyone who is a close DNA match (or anyone whose family member is a match) is probably a descendant of this once-revered scholarly family. By broadening your research geographically and incorporating Y-DNA from as many branches of your tree as possible, you might also discover links in your own ancestry to pedigrees going back to the Middle Ages.

## References

JewishEncyclopedia.com: The unedited full text of the

1906 Jewish Encyclopedia. "Bacharach" <http://jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/2297-bacharach>

Jewish Virtual Library: A Division of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise. "Bacharach." [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud\\_0002\\_0003\\_001812.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0003_001812.html)

Leo Baeck Institute. "Ele Toldot." [www.lbi.org/digi-baeck/results/?qtype=pid&term=258967](http://www.lbi.org/digi-baeck/results/?qtype=pid&term=258967)

Menk, Lars. *A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames*. New Jersey: Avotaynu, 2005.

Nuhn, Heinrich. "Hassia Judaica-Juedisches Kleinstadt- und Landleben in Hessen." <http://ancestry.hassia-judaica.de>

Steinheim Institut. "epidat-epigraphische Datenbank." <http://www.steinheim-institut.de:50580/cgi-bin/epidat>

Wikipedia. "Haplogroup J2." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup\\_J2\\_\(Y-DNA\)Landsmen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_J2_(Y-DNA)Landsmen). A journal published by the The Suwalk-Lomza Interest Group for Jewish Genealogists. Marlene Silverman, ed.

#### Notes

1. Menk, Lars. *A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames*. New Jersey: Avotaynu, 2005.

2. The Jews of Frankfurt DNA Project, <http://jewsof-frankfurt.com>, uses sources dating to the late Middle Ages to create "Y Charts" for the families of Frankfurt, Worms, Mainz, and related communities with the goal of locating documented living descendants whose Y DNA can be tested. When these families' DNA "signatures" are established, others whose Y DNA matches closely with these established lines will know they share a common ancestor, even if they don't have a paper trail all the way back to the Middle Ages.

3. *Schutzbriefe* (letters of protection) were documents purchased from local rulers giving Jewish families permission to settle in their lands. Often these permissions could be inherited by only the eldest son, which necessitated relocation of younger sons in order to marry and set up their own households.

**Rachel Unkefer** has been a genealogist for 30 years, specializing in German-Jewish immigrants to the United States before 1880. She is the founder of JewishGen's Early American SIG, administrator of the Bacharach DNA Project, and co-administrator of the Frankfurt Jewish DNA Project and the Suwalki-Lomza Jewish DNA Project. When not doing genealogy research, she writes fiction and runs a nonprofit community writing center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

## Do You Subscribe to Nu? What's New?

Do you subscribe to Avotaynu's Internet magazine, *Nu? What's New?* Published weekly it provides subscribers with recent-breaking news of interest to Jewish genealogists. It supplements AVOTAYNU by giving advance information of what will become feature articles in AVOTAYNU, as well as smaller items that might not make the quarterly.

Subscribing is easy. Just go on the Internet to <http://www.avotaynu.com/SubscribeNWN.htm>. It is \$12/year (that's only \$1/month!).

## Handbook of Ashkenazic Given Names and Their Variants by Alexander Beider

A subset of Dr. Beider's *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names: Their Origins, Structure, Pronunciation and Migrations*, this book provides the description of the origin and evolution of 735 root masculine and feminine Ashkenazic given names and a tree-like structure of all the name variants—15,000 in all—which shows how they were derived from the root name. An index to these 15,000 names is in three sections: names as they appeared in the Latin alphabet, names in the Cyrillic alphabet and those in the Hebrew alphabet.

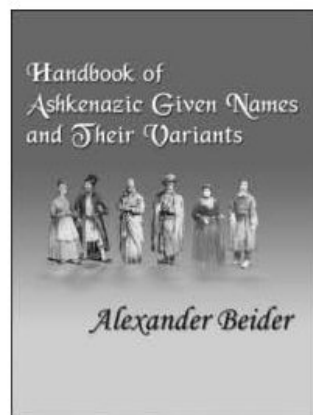
A list of all the names and an example of a typical entry (the given name Yentl) can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Handbook.htm>

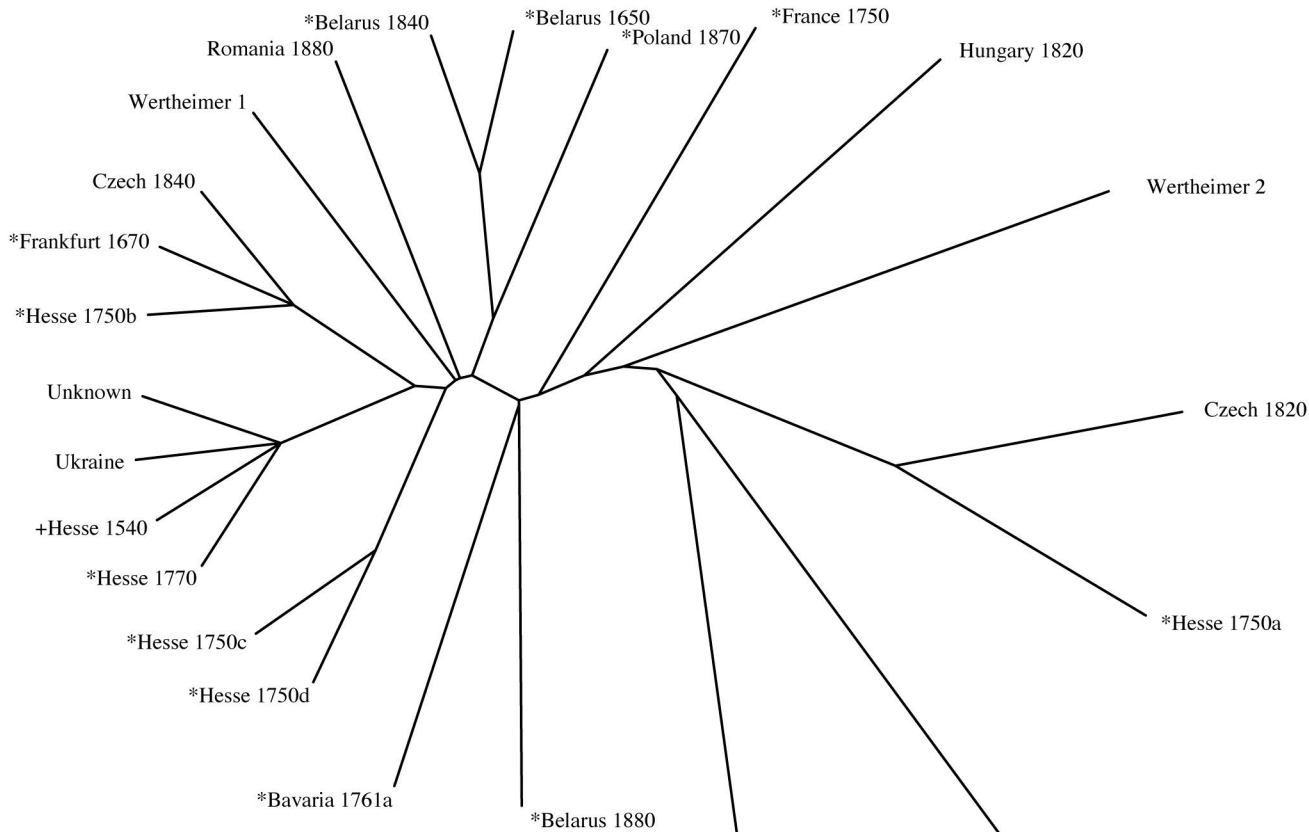
8½" x 11" 232 pp. softcover \$29.00 + shipping

Order on the Internet at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Handbook.htm>  
or call 1-800-AVOTAYNU (1-800-286-8296)

or mail check or money order to: Avotaynu, 794 Edgewood Ave., New Haven, CT 06515

**Order now!**





## Phylogenetic Tree of Bacharach Y-DNA Project 37 Marker Results

Using the McGee Y-DNA Comparison Utility  
with the following parameters:

- Infinite allele mutation model
- Average mutation rate varies: 0.0054 to 0.0054,  
from FTDNA derived rates
- Probability of 80% that the TMRCA is no longer  
than indicated

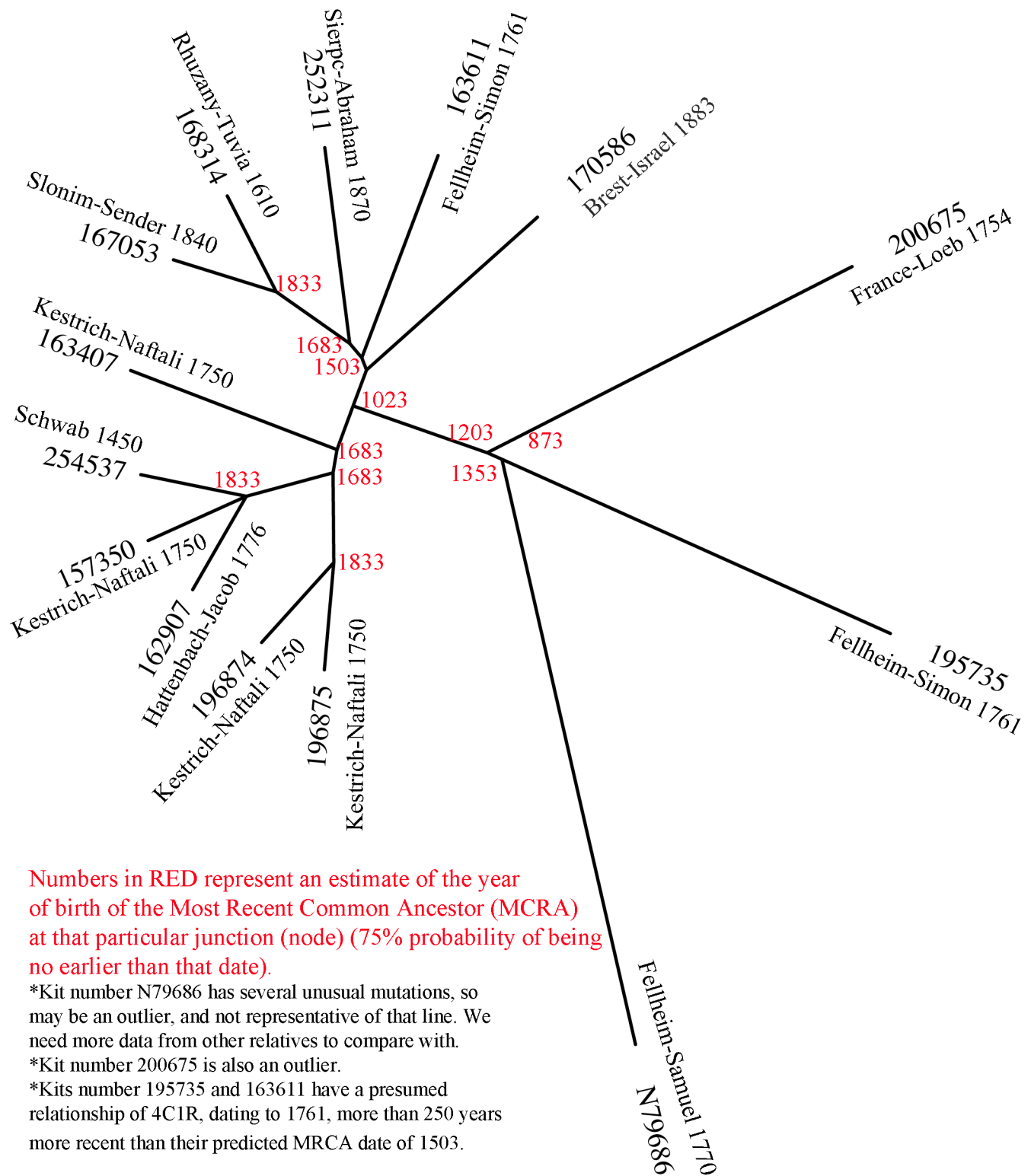
Tree Drawn Using Phylip 3.695 (Kitsch Algorithm)

December 3, 2013

\* Denotes participants  
who currently use or whose family  
used a variant of the Bacharach  
surname within the past 200 years

+ Denotes participant with  
a significantly changed surname,  
but a documented patrilineal  
ancestor who used the surname  
more than 200 years ago

\*Bavaria 1770



# Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project

[Home](#)[Bacharach Origins](#)[Maps](#)[Families](#)[DNA](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Resources](#)[Blog](#)[Contact](#)

## Bacharachs and the Early Frankfurt Jewish Communities

Posted on June 4, 2012 by BacharachDNA

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference 2012 is in Paris in July. I'll be there, along with co-researcher Janet Akaha who will be making a presentation about the Frankfurt Jewish DNA project. The project traces the paper trail of the Jewish families of Frankfurt from the middle ages and connects the DNA connections between these families.

Bacharach is one of those early families. So far in our Frankfurt or Bacharach projects we don't have any participants who can trace their ancestry to medieval Frankfurt. Janet and I are actively seeking males with that DNA (last name Bacharach/Bachrach or variants with a family tree back to Frankfurt). If we can find someone, we can establish whether the other Bacharach families from all over Europe have a common ancestor with the documented families from Frankfurt. This would be a very exciting development.

After the conference, I'll post more here about the Frankfurt project and what it means to the modern-day Bacharachs and their possible connection to very old rabbinic dynasties.

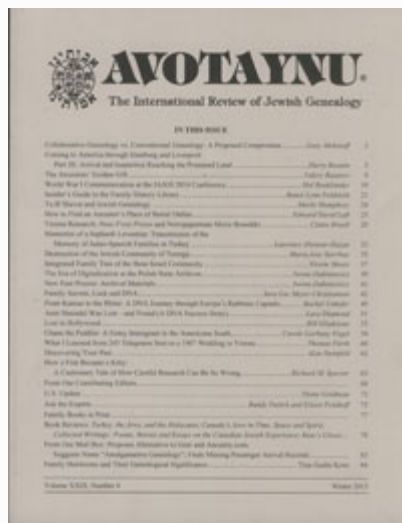
Posted in [Uncategorized](#).

---

[← Sale Prices on DNA Tests...](#)

## Chart Your Place in a Big Family Tree →

Follow @bacharachdna



Read more about the project in [Avotaynu Magazine](#).

## Search

## News

[First Ever Worldwide Bacharach Gathering](#)

[From Kansas to the Rhine: A DNA Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals](#)

[Phylogenetic Trees: A Snapshot of the Genetic Relationships](#)

[Chart Your Place in a Big Family Tree](#)

[Bacharachs and the Early Frankfurt Jewish Communities](#)

[Sale Prices on DNA Tests Until the End of December](#)

[Linking up with the WIRTH Project](#)

[June Special on DNA Testing Prices](#)

[Puzzlement and Unexpected Results](#)

[New DNA Comparison Chart](#)

## Archives

[July 2015](#)



[March 2014](#)[June 2013](#)[November 2012](#)[June 2012](#)[December 2010](#)[November 2010](#)[June 2010](#)[May 2010](#)[April 2010](#)[February 2010](#)[January 2010](#)[December 2009](#)[November 2009](#)[September 2009](#)[August 2009](#)

## Blogroll

[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach and WIRTH Projects](#)[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach Project: "From Kansas to the Rhine: A Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals"](#)[Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree \(J-Y13373\)](#)[Bacharach Project Y-DNA Results Page](#)[Contribute to the Testing Fund](#)[Jews of Frankfurt Project Y-Trees for Bacharach](#)[Join the Bacharach DNA Project](#)[Map of Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree Branches](#)

## Social Media



Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project, © 2022

# Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project

[Home](#)[Bacharach Origins](#)[Maps](#)[Families](#)[DNA](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Resources](#)[Blog](#)[Contact](#)

## Chart Your Place in a Big Family Tree

Posted on November 28, 2012 by BacharachDNA

The WIRTH project, which is a group of researchers and their relatives whose Y-DNA belongs to the J2a4 haplogroup, is about to construct a [phylogenetic tree](#) of all the men in the project, showing how they are related to each other, and more important, when the different branches of the tree split off.

We know that all the men in the Bacharach and WIRTH projects are related to each other. We think their shared common male ancestor lived some time in the middle ages. However, some people are more closely related. Their common ancestor might have lived in the 1600s or even more recently. This is what the tree will show in a graphic representation.

We all know that DNA mutates from time to time. The mutations occur randomly, but there are statistical models for how frequently this happens, so a geneticist can take a large group of data and construct a model showing the likely times of the various mutations. This helps show who is most closely related to whom.

Here's a super-simplified example: If your great-great-grandfather had four sons, they all inherited his Y-DNA. Because of random mutations, one or more of them could have a slight difference from their father and their brothers. Let's use colors to illustrate this. Suppose one's Y-DNA consisted of four colors, and your great-great-grandfather had a pattern of RED-RED-GREEN-GREEN-BLUE-PURPLE (not exactly how this works, but just a simple analogy). All four of his sons would inherit the same pattern, unless, randomly, one changed (not a frequent occurrence, but random). Suppose Son#1 had a mutation so that his pattern was RED-RED-GREEN-BLUE-BLUE-PURPLE but the other three sons had the original pattern. From that point forward, all male descendants of Son#1 would have the new pattern, with 2 blues instead of 2 greens. They're all still descendants of the

great-great-grandfather, but their DNA has a slight difference. Because of where the difference occurs and how great the difference is, a geneticist can make an estimate of which generation that mutation occurred in. If we compare two descendants from two different branches in a later generation, even if we have no paper trail, we can look at which mutations they share and which mutations they don't share and estimate how long ago their most recent common ancestor (MRCA) lived. This is especially useful for those who don't have a very long paper trail.

To summarize:

1. All the men in the Bacharach/Bachrach project share a common male ancestor with all the men in the WIRTH project
2. A geneticist is about to create a chart of all the members of the WIRTH project and how they are related
3. Any Bacharach/Bachrach project member who wants to be part of this chart should join the WIRTH project ASAP
4. Any Bacharach/Bachrach descendant, with the surname, who has not been tested should order a test while [FamilyTree DNA](#) is running a special (get 67 markers and then we'll need an upgrade to 111). If you need financial help to afford the test, please [contact us](#).

Posted in [Uncategorized](#).

← **Bacharachs and the Early Frankfurt...**

**Phylogenetic Trees: A Snapshot of...** →

Follow [@bacharachdna](#)

Read more about the project in [Avotaynu Magazine](#).

**Search**

AVOTAYNU®	
The International Review of Jewish Genealogy	
IN THIS ISSUE	
Confirmation (Continued) on "Constitutional Lawmaker" A Proposed Correction	David Hershkovitz
Coming to America Through Hamburg and Lüneburg	Sherry Rosen
Part 10: Jewish and Christian Reaching the Promised Land	Sherry Rosen
The "Immigrant" Tradition	Sherry Rosen
World War I Commemorations at the JAHG 10th Anniversary	Sherry Rosen
Number 1 Guide to the Family History Library	David L. Friedman
Y. H. Rosen and Jewish Genealogy	David Hershkovitz
How to Find an Ancestor's Place of Birth (Web)	David Hershkovitz
Yiddish Research: How to Find Jewish and Non-Jewish Records	David Hershkovitz
Memories of a Highland Journey: Transcriptions of the	David Hershkovitz
History of Ashkenazi Families in Turkey	David Hershkovitz
Memories of the Jewish Community of Lüneburg	David Hershkovitz
Immigrant Family: The Case of the Rosen Family	David Hershkovitz
The Use of Emigration to the United States Archives	David Hershkovitz
New York Jewish Archives	David Hershkovitz
Family Search, Link and DNA	David Hershkovitz
From Russia to the West: A Jewish Journey Through Europe's	David Hershkovitz
Great Migration (Web)	David Hershkovitz
Love in Lüneburg	David Hershkovitz
Chase the Family: A Jewish Journey to the American South	David Hershkovitz
What I Learned from 100 Years of Jewish History in Lüneburg	David Hershkovitz
Remembering Your Past	David Hershkovitz
How a Fish Became a Bird	David Hershkovitz
A Century's Tale of How Jewish Research Can Be So Wrong	David Hershkovitz
From the Lüneburg Library	David Hershkovitz
E. H. Kaplan	David Hershkovitz
And the Winner	David Hershkovitz
Family Search in Lüneburg	David Hershkovitz
Book Reviews: Turkey, the Jews, and the Holocaust: Can't It Be in There, There and Everywhere?	David Hershkovitz
Editorial: Writings, Poems, Stories and Songs on the Jewish Jewish Experience: How to Find	David Hershkovitz
From the Mail Bag: Research Information on Genealogy.com	David Hershkovitz
Suggestive Note "Ancestry.com" - A Day Making Research: Jewish Research	David Hershkovitz
Family Research and Their Historical Significance	David Hershkovitz
Volume 10, Number 1	Winter 2011

## News

[First Ever Worldwide Bacharach Gathering](#)

[From Kansas to the Rhine: A DNA Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals](#)

[Phylogenetic Trees: A Snapshot of the Genetic Relationships](#)

[Chart Your Place in a Big Family Tree](#)

[Bacharachs and the Early Frankfurt Jewish Communities](#)

[Sale Prices on DNA Tests Until the End of December](#)

[Linking up with the WIRTH Project](#)

[June Special on DNA Testing Prices](#)

[Puzzlement and Unexpected Results](#)

[New DNA Comparison Chart](#)

## Archives

[July 2015](#)

[March 2014](#)

[June 2013](#)

[November 2012](#)

[June 2012](#)

[December 2010](#)

[November 2010](#)

[June 2010](#)

[May 2010](#)[April 2010](#)[February 2010](#)[January 2010](#)[December 2009](#)[November 2009](#)[September 2009](#)[August 2009](#)

## Blogroll

[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach and WIRTH Projects](#)[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach Project: "From Kansas to the Rhine: A Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals"](#)[Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree \(J-Y13373\)](#)[Bacharach Project Y-DNA Results Page](#)[Contribute to the Testing Fund](#)[Jews of Frankfurt Project Y-Trees for Bacharach](#)[Join the Bacharach DNA Project](#)[Map of Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree Branches](#)

## Social Media



Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project, © 2022

A SiteOrigin Theme

[Home](#)[Bacharach Origins](#)[Maps](#)[Families](#)[DNA](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Resources](#)[Blog](#)[Contact](#)

## Surname DNA Project



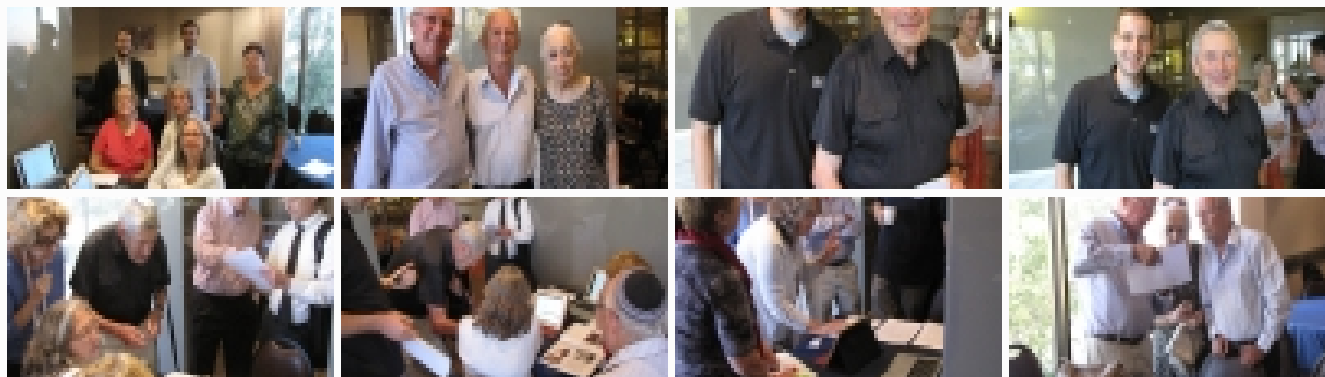
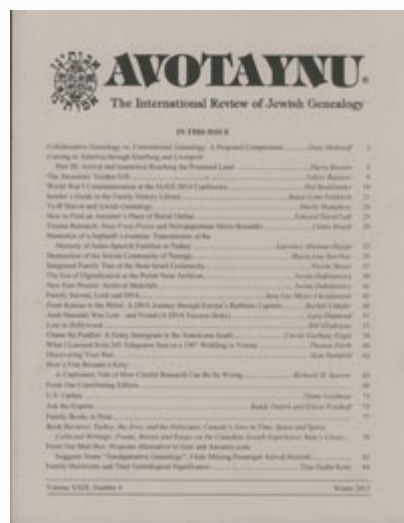
### First Ever Worldwide Bacharach Gathering

Posted on July 19, 2015 by BacharachDNA

On July 7, 2015, Bacharach descendants gathered in Jerusalem to meet each other and reconnect branches that have been separated for 500 years or more. Descendants of several of the lines for which we have Y-DNA represented in the project and a couple of lines for which we don't have DNA were in attendance. Everyone was eager to figure out how they were related to each other, but we had only one new set of close cousins, two descendants of Jacob Bachrach of Hattenbach, Hesse, Germany (1775) met for the first time and discovered they are 3rd cousins once removed!

We had attendees whose oldest known Bacharach ancestors lived in: Hattenbach, Hesse, Germany; Mansbach, Hesse, Germany; Fellheim, Bavarian Swabia, Germany; Ruzhany, Belarus; Slonim,



[Home](#)[Bacharach Origins](#)[Maps](#)[Families](#)[DNA](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Resources](#)[Blog](#)[Contact](#)Posted in [Uncategorized](#).[← From Kansas to the Rhine:...](#)Follow [@bacharachdr](#)Read more about the project in [Avotaynu Magazine](#).**Search**

Search

[Home](#)[Bacharach Origins](#)[Maps](#)[Families](#)[DNA](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Resources](#)[Blog](#)[Contact](#)[Chart Your Place in a Big Family Tree](#)[Bacharachs and the Early Frankfurt Jewish Communities](#)[Sale Prices on DNA Tests Until the End of December](#)[Linking up with the WIRTH Project](#)[June Special on DNA Testing Prices](#)[Puzzlement and Unexpected Results](#)[New DNA Comparison Chart](#)

## Archives

[July 2015](#)[March 2014](#)[June 2013](#)[November 2012](#)[June 2012](#)[December 2010](#)[November 2010](#)[June 2010](#)[May 2010](#)[April 2010](#)[February 2010](#)[January 2010](#)[December 2009](#)[November 2009](#)[September 2009](#)[August 2009](#)

## Blogroll

[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach and WIRTH Projects](#)

[Home](#)

[Bacharach Origins](#)

[Maps](#)

[Families](#)

[DNA](#)

[Photo Gallery](#)



[Resources](#)

[Blog](#)

[Contact](#)

[Contribute to the Testing Fund](#)

[Jews of Frankfurt Project Y-Trees for Bacharach](#)

[Join the Bacharach DNA Project](#)

[Map of Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree Branches](#)

## Social Media



Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project, © 2022

A SiteOrigin Theme

# Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project

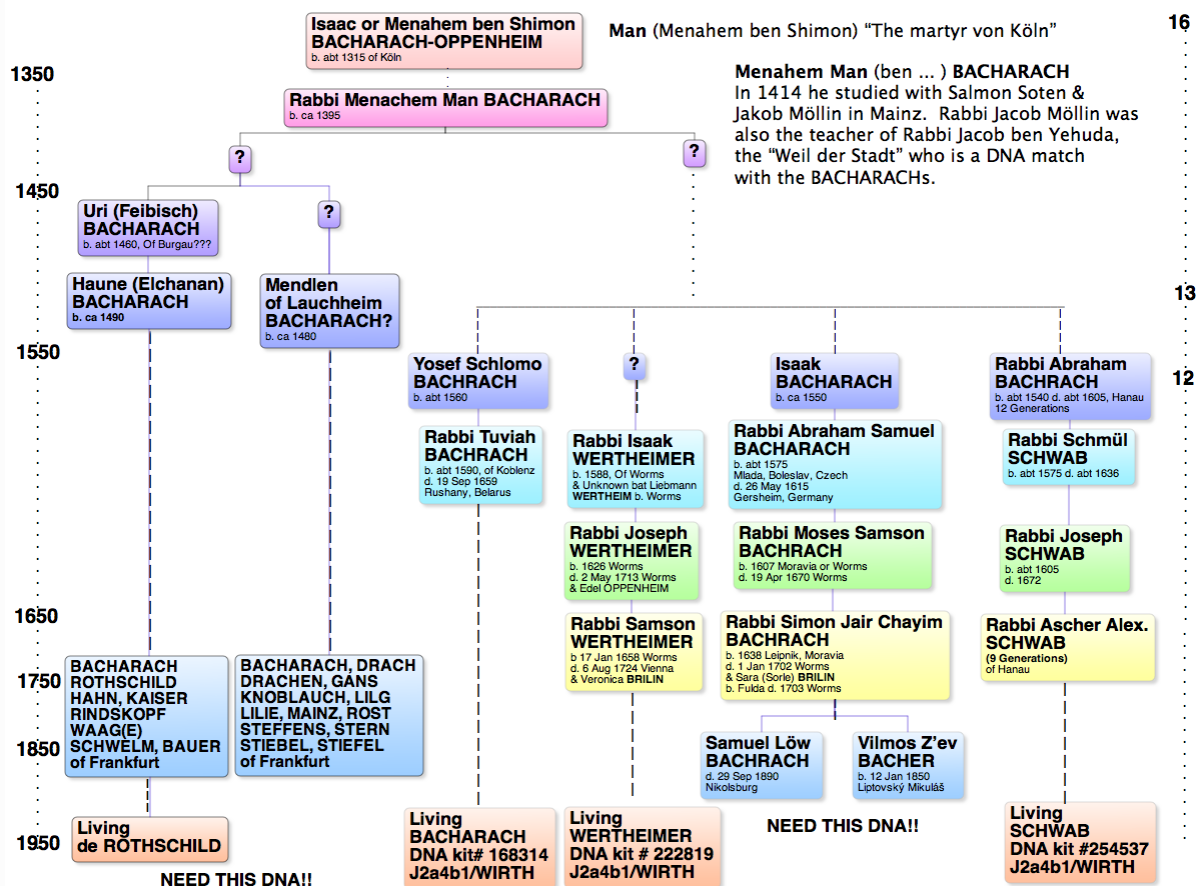
[Home](#)[Bacharach Origins](#)[Maps](#)[Families](#)[DNA](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Resources](#)[Blog](#)[Contact](#)

## Frankfurt Project

The [Jews of Frankfurt Project](#) seeks to connect the early families of Frankfurt documented in Ele Toldot and the DNA of their descendants. The chart below is an overview of what we believe to be the earliest history of the Bachrach family.

# BACHARACH, SCHWAB & WERTHEIMER

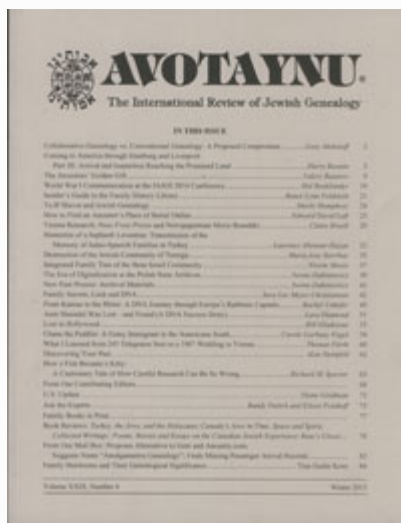
Generations



Follow @bacharachdna

Read more about the project in [Avotaynu Magazine](#).

Search



Search

## News

[First Ever Worldwide Bacharach Gathering](#)

[From Kansas to the Rhine: A DNA Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals](#)

[Phylogenetic Trees: A Snapshot of the Genetic Relationships](#)

[Chart Your Place in a Big Family Tree](#)

[Bacharachs and the Early Frankfurt Jewish Communities](#)

[Sale Prices on DNA Tests Until the End of December](#)

[Linking up with the WIRTH Project](#)

[June Special on DNA Testing Prices](#)

[Puzzlement and Unexpected Results](#)

[New DNA Comparison Chart](#)

## Archives

[July 2015](#)

[March 2014](#)

[June 2013](#)

[November 2012](#)

[June 2012](#)

[December 2010](#)

[November 2010](#)

[June 2010](#)

[May 2010](#)

[April 2010](#)

[February 2010](#)

[January 2010](#)

[December 2009](#)

[November 2009](#)

[September 2009](#)

[August 2009](#)

## Blogroll

[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach and WIRTH Projects](#)



[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach Project: "From Kansas to the Rhine: A Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals"](#)

[Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree \(J-Y13373\)](#)

[Bacharach Project Y-DNA Results Page](#)

[Contribute to the Testing Fund](#)

[Jews of Frankfurt Project Y-Trees for Bacharach](#)

[Join the Bacharach DNA Project](#)

[Map of Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree Branches](#)

## Social Media

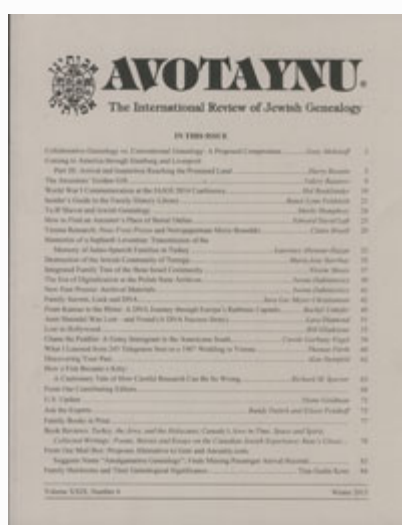


Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project, © 2022

A SiteOrigin Theme

[Home](#)[Bacharach Origins](#)[Maps](#)[Families](#)[DNA](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Resources](#)[Blog](#)[Contact](#)

# Surname DNA Project



## From Kansas to the Rhine: A DNA Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals

Posted on March 4, 2014 by BacharachDNA

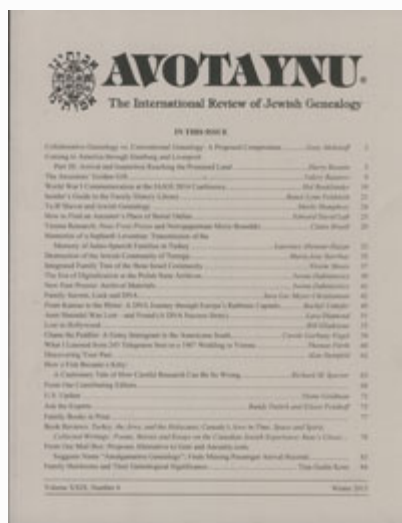
For the Winter 2014 issue of [Avotaynu Magazine](#), I wrote an article explaining the Bacharach DNA project. You can [download a PDF copy of the article here](#).

Posted in [Uncategorized](#).

← [Phylogenetic Trees: A Snapshot of...](#)

[Home](#)[Bacharach Origins](#)[Maps](#)[Families](#)[DNA](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Resources](#)[Blog](#)[Contact](#)

Follow @bacharachdna

Read more about the project in [Avotaynu Magazine](#).

## Search

## News

[First Ever Worldwide Bacharach Gathering](#)[From Kansas to the Rhine: A DNA Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals](#)[Phylogenetic Trees: A Snapshot of the Genetic Relationships](#)[Chart Your Place in a Big Family Tree](#)[Bacharachs and the Early Frankfurt Jewish Communities](#)[Sale Prices on DNA Tests Until the End of December](#)[Linking up with the WIRTH Project](#)[June Special on DNA Testing Prices](#)[Puzzlement and Unexpected Results](#)[New DNA Comparison Chart](#)

## Archives

[July 2015](#)

[March 2014](#)[Home](#)  
[June 2013](#)[November 2012](#)[June 2012](#)[December 2010](#)[November 2010](#)[June 2010](#)[May 2010](#)[April 2010](#)[February 2010](#)[January 2010](#)[December 2009](#)[November 2009](#)[September 2009](#)[August 2009](#)

## Blogroll

[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach and WIRTH Projects](#)[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach Project: "From Kansas to the Rhine: A Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals"](#)[Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree \(J-Y13373\)](#)[Bacharach Project Y-DNA Results Page](#)[Contribute to the Testing Fund](#)[Jews of Frankfurt Project Y-Trees for Bacharach](#)[Join the Bacharach DNA Project](#)[Map of Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree Branches](#)

## Social Media



Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project, © 2022





# Jews of Frankfurt

Jews of Frankfurt

## The Jews of Frankfurt DNA Project

Because Frankfurt was home to a well-documented Jewish population with somewhat stable surnames as early as the Middle Ages, it's good place to begin a study of the ancestry of the modern Ashkenazi population. Using Y-DNA test results from men who have documented lineages back to Frankfurt or Worms in the 16th century or earlier, we hope to discover the DNA "signatures" for the corresponding surnames, enabling those with the surname and matching DNA who don't have documentation to connect to their deeper pedigrees.

This is both a regional and a surname Y-DNA project. The goal is to determine the Y-DNA markers of the more than 40 families of the Judengasse whose family trees can be traced back at least to the 16th Century. Many of these families are also related to the rabbinical and merchant families of Hesse, Prague, Vienna, and elsewhere in Europe. As most Jews hit a brick wall in their genealogy in the 18th-19th centuries, a match with any of these families will help them connect to ancestors born 200-300 years earlier than their oldest known ancestor. While the paper trail may be missing a few generations, a close Y-DNA match is proof of a connection.

In order to participate, you must:

- Be male
- Have one of the surnames found in Frankfurt/Worms in the 16th century (or know that your patrilineal surname was changed from one of those names).
- Have a documented pedigree back to a male ancestor in the 16th century or earlier living in Frankfurt, Worms, Mainz, Alsace, Prague, Vienna or another major Jewish center
- Do a Y DNA test at [Family Tree DNA](#). We recommend the 37 marker kit. This ONLY tests the direct male line (to your father, paternal grandfather, etc). It can't tell you about any other line in your pedigree. You will need to find male cousins to help document other lines.

If you qualify, and you have already done Y-DNA testing at Family Tree DNA, you will need to first log in to your FTDNA account, click on this link to our [project join page](#) and tell us about your "Y" (direct male) lineage. If you do not have a kit, please [contact us](#) first so we can provide more assistance in determining if you are eligible for our project, getting the best test price, or even helping you locate a relative to test if you don't have the surname Y-DNA for your ancestral line.



Our project includes the following surnames (there may be alternate spellings or additional families not included here):

Adler, Ammersweiler, Amorsweiler, Aschaffenburg, Auerbach, Bacharach, Bachrach, Bikrach, Bakhrach, Bacher, Ballin, Bamberger, Bauer, Beer, Beifus, Beyfus, Bing, Bingen, Birnbaum, Bischofsheim, Blun, Bonn, Boppard, Borgenicht, Brandeis, Brill, Brillin, Bruell, Buchsbaum, Cahen, Cahn, Dann, Dannhausen, de Vries, Deutz, Doctor, Drach, Dreher, Dreyfus, Elissen, Emden, Eppstein, Epstein, Eskeles, Ettingen, Falcke, Flasche, Flersheim, Flesche, Floersheim, Florsheim, Flursheim, Fraenkel, Frankel, Frankfurt, Frankfurter, Fuld, Fulda, Fuldauer, Gans, Geismar, Gelhausen, Gelhauser, Gelnhausen, Getz, Gotz, Gunz, Ginz, Goldschmidt, Goldsmith, Gradwohl, Grotwohl, Gruenhut, Grunhut, Grunebaum, Gugenheimer, Guggenheim, Guggenheimer, Gumpertz, Gunzburg, Haas, Hahn, Hammel, Hameln, Heilbronn, Heimendinger, Heimerdinger, Hemedinger, Hemmerdinger, Hildesheim, Hirsch, Hochberg, Homburg, Honig, Horovice, Horovitz, Horowitz, Isserles, Kaiser, Kann, Katz, Katzenellenbogen, Katzenellenpogen, Kayn, Kulp, Landau, Leiter, Linz, Loans, Lorie, Löwe, Lorie, Luria, Lurie, Maas, Mainz, Meise, Merton, Metz, Moses, Nassau, Neugass, Ochs, Oppenheim, Oppenheimer, Ottingen, Rapp, Rappen, Reis, Reiss, Reuss, Rindskopf, Rost, Rothschild, Sacke, Schames, Scheuer, Schiff, Schloss, Schnapper, Schuh, Schuster, Schwab, Schwarzschild, Schwelm, Shapiro, Sichel, Spanier, Speyer, Spier, Stern, Spira, Spiro, Stiebel, Stiefel, Straus, Strauss, Spiegel, Trenel, Treves, Trier, Ulm, Waage, Wachenheim, Wage, Wahl, Warburg, Weil, Weill, Wertheim, Wertheimber, Wertheimer, Wetzlar, Wimphen, Windmuhle, Windmuller, Winig, Wohl, Woog, Worms, Wormser, Zak, Zinz, Zonz, Zunz





[Home](#)[Bacharach Origins](#)[Maps](#)[Families](#)[DNA](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Resources](#)[Blog](#)[Contact](#)

did not fill in all the dates at the nodes. But here is a link to a [table of probable TMRCA](#) (Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor) to help you interpret the data.

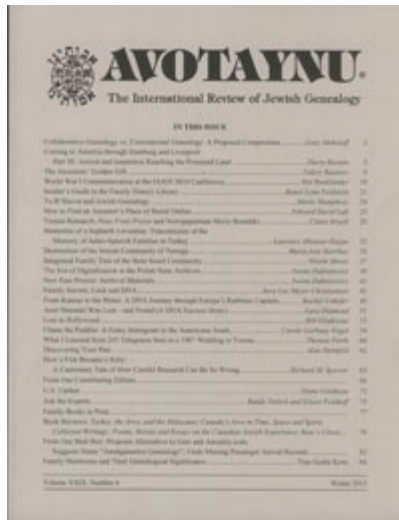


Tree of only the participants who are documented Bach(a)rachs (PDF)

Follow [@bacharachdr](#)

Read more about the project in [Avotaynu Magazine](#).

Search



Search

News

[First Ever Worldwide Bacharach Gathering](#)

[From Kansas to the Rhine: A DNA Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals](#)

[Phylogenetic Trees: A Snapshot of the Genetic Relationships](#)

[Chart Your Place in a Big Family Tree](#)

[Bacharachs and the Early Frankfurt Jewish Communities](#)

[Sale Prices on DNA Tests Until the End of December](#)

[Linking up with the WIRTH Project](#)

[June Special on DNA Testing Prices](#)

[Puzzlement and Unexpected Results](#)

[New DNA Comparison Chart](#)

## Archives

[July 2015](#)

[March 2014](#)

[June 2013](#)

[November 2012](#)

[June 2012](#)

[December 2010](#)

[November 2010](#)

[June 2010](#)

[May 2010](#)

[April 2010](#)

[February 2010](#)

[January 2010](#)

[December 2009](#)

[November 2009](#)

[September 2009](#)

[August 2009](#)

## Blogroll

[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach and WIRTH Projects](#)

[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach Project: "From Kansas to the Rhine: A Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals"](#)

[Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree \(J-Y13373\)](#)

[Bacharach Project Y-DNA Results Page](#)

[Home](#) [Bacharach Origins](#)

[Contribute to the Testing Fund](#)

[Jews of Frankfurt Project Y-Trees for Bacharach](#)

[Join the Bacharach DNA Project](#) [Resources](#)

[Map of Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree Branches](#)

# Bacharach/Bachrach/Bacherach Surname DNA Project

[Home](#)[Bacharach Origins](#)[Maps](#)[Families](#)[DNA](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Resources](#)[Blog](#)[Contact](#)

## Phylogenetic Trees: A Snapshot of the Genetic Relationships

Posted on June 18, 2013 by BacharachDNA

I recently discovered a very helpful utility at [mymcgee.com](http://mymcgee.com) that helps interpretation of Y-DNA data. I've created a couple of trees and posted them to a new page [here](#).


Posted in [Uncategorized](#).

[← Chart Your Place in a Big Family Tree](#)[From Kansas to the Rhine:... →](#)

Follow [@bacharachdna](#)

Read more about the project in [Avotaynu Magazine](#).

**Search**

		<h1>AVOTAYNU®</h1>
<h2>The International Review of Jewish Genealogy</h2>		
<p><b>IN THIS ISSUE</b></p>		
<p><i>Editorial: Genealogy vs. Environmental History: A Proposed Compromise</i> <span style="float:right">1</span>  <i>Editorial: An Israeli Genealogical and Linguistic</i> <span style="float:right">2</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors: Sharing the Pastoral Land</i> <span style="float:right">3</span>  <i>The Immigrant: Toward Zion</i> <span style="float:right">4</span>  <i>World War I Conference on the Jewish World Conference</i> <span style="float:right">5</span>  <i>Israel's Legacy to the Jewish People: A Letter</i> <span style="float:right">6</span>  <i>To All Jews and Israeli Citizens</i> <span style="float:right">7</span>  <i>How to Find an Ancestor in a Place of Jewish Origin</i> <span style="float:right">8</span>  <i>Recent Research: From Past, Present and Nostalgic Jewish History</i> <span style="float:right">9</span>  <i>Historical of a Jewish Landmark: Transmigration of the</i> <span style="float:right">10</span>  <i>Ministry of Ashkenazi Landmark in Turkey</i> <span style="float:right">11</span>  <i>Democracy of the Jewish Community of Turkey</i> <span style="float:right">12</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors: The Jewish People</i> <span style="float:right">13</span>  <i>The Use of Significance in the Public Jewish Archives</i> <span style="float:right">14</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">15</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">16</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">17</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">18</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">19</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">20</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">21</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">22</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">23</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">24</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">25</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">26</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">27</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">28</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">29</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">30</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">31</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">32</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">33</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">34</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">35</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">36</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">37</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">38</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">39</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">40</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">41</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">42</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">43</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">44</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">45</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">46</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">47</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">48</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">49</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">50</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">51</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">52</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">53</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">54</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">55</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">56</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">57</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">58</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">59</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">60</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">61</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">62</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">63</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">64</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">65</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">66</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">67</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">68</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">69</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">70</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">71</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">72</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">73</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">74</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">75</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">76</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">77</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">78</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">79</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">80</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">81</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">82</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">83</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">84</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">85</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">86</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">87</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">88</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">89</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">90</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">91</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">92</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">93</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">94</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">95</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">96</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">97</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">98</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">99</span>  <i>From the Editor and Co-Editors</i> <span style="float:right">100</span></p>		
<p>AVOTAYNU, Volume 9, Number 3, Winter 2003</p>		

Search

## News

## First Ever Worldwide Bacharach Gathering

## From Kansas to the Rhine: A DNA Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals

## Phylogenetic Trees: A Snapshot of the Genetic Relationships

## Chart Your Place in a Big Family Tree

## Bacharachs and the Early Frankfurt Jewish Communities

## Sale Prices on DNA Tests Until the End of December

## Linking up with the WIRTH Project

## June Special on DNA Testing Prices

## Puzzlement and Unexpected Results

## New DNA Comparison Chart

## Archives

July 2015

March 2014

June 2013

November 2012

June 2012

December 2010

November 2010

June 2010

[May 2010](#)

[April 2010](#)

[February 2010](#)

[January 2010](#)

[December 2009](#)

[November 2009](#)

[September 2009](#)

[August 2009](#)

## **Blogroll**

[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach and WIRTH Projects](#)

[Avotaynu Magazine Article about the Bacharach Project: "From Kansas to the Rhine: A Journey Through Europe's Rabbinic Capitals"](#)

[Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree \(J-Y13373\)](#)

[Bacharach Project Y-DNA Results Page](#)

[Contribute to the Testing Fund](#)

[Jews of Frankfurt Project Y-Trees for Bacharach](#)

[Join the Bacharach DNA Project](#)

[Map of Bacharach Phylogenetic Tree Branches](#)

Reproduced for educational purposes only. Fair Use relied upon.