Genealogy Project Results
September 2018
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Introduction

I've recently had my DNA tested recently via the National Geographic Society's Genographic Project (NGP), and I wanted to share my results. My specific results are linked here (brief overview): https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/results/infographic/235346f99cc129db237d3d3aafc33bed2660a0

According to the statistics my specific gene group called a haplogroup is shared by 0.6% of the 800,000 project participants on the paternal side and 0.3% on the maternal side. As of the end of 2016 the project has analyzed about 800,000 individuals. Although the NGP don't state the participant's countries of origin it is likely that many, if not most, are from the United States because the National Geographic Society is primarily American and English-language. Additionally the testing kit is somewhat expensive so participants would tend to be from groups of people with some extra income. We are not likely to see a large number of participants from other regions of the world.

Now, of course ½ of my genes come from my mother, and her side of the family is also entirely French Canadian. Her family has been in Canada for as many generations as my father's. The Genographic analysis includes both the maternal and paternal lines separately.

The Paternal Line

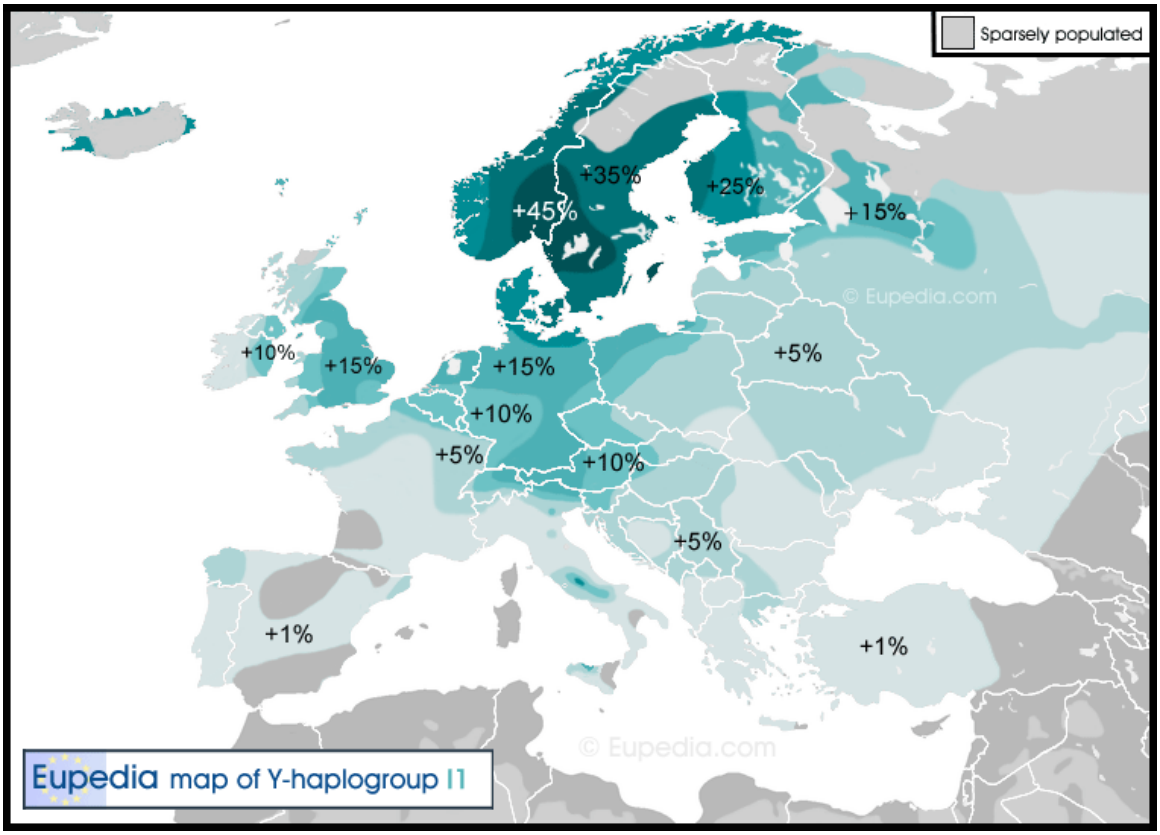
The paternal line is traced via the male-only "Y" chromosome. This chromosome is only obtained from the father so the genetic marker is directly related to a father-son lineage.

The project lists the origins of the genes from about 100,000 years ago to today. A map displays the migration route of the genes, statistically tracked backward through time. The reason they are capable of doing so is that the genes go through mutations and branch out over time and are handed down to the descendants, leaving a distinct marker that can be tracked over time. Subsequent mutations add more details and more migration route markers.

Haplogroup Y-HI1

My paternal line possesses the male marker called Haplogroup I1. The source of this Haplogroup was in the Middle East about 30,000 years ago and that population spread north and east. Evidence points to a serious decline in population carrying the I1 variant and the source of all of today's I1 are descendants of one individual that lived 8,000 to 10,000 years ago in north-central Europe, in the area of modern-day central Germany. Historically the I1 marker has not been very strongly presented; other genetic groups

are more frequently encountered in historical anthropological excavations. Human remains uncovered in Hungary have displayed a genetic Haplogroup I1marker in an individual that lived about 6500 years ago. Scientists suggest that individuals with the I1 marker moved to Scandinavia but some of the population remained in central Europe and some migrated eastward into eastern Russia. The Scandinavian population carrying the I1 was successful in the post-ice age culture of mixed agriculture and hunters, and became one of the dominant populations in the area.



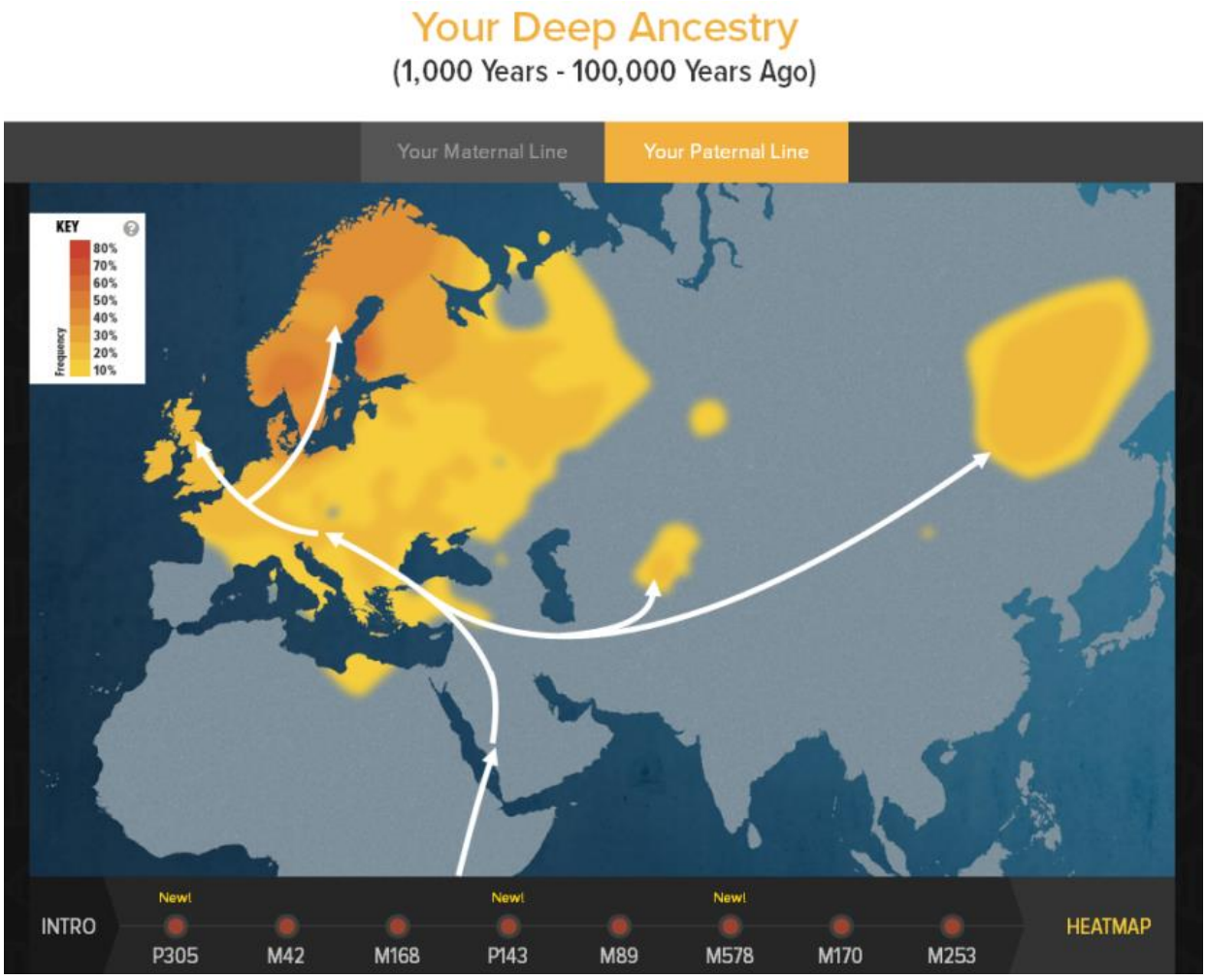
Modern Distribution of the Haplogroup I1

Haplotype I-M253

The Haplogroup I1 branched out to several Haplotypes including the one that I possess, M253. The latest studies (2015) have determined the M253 mutation originated in the Denmark area about 5,000 years ago, although they are still conducting studies on this. Of the nearly 1 million participants in the National Geographic Genome Project only 0.6% share this Haplogroup.

The M253 marker is most commonly shared with those of the Scandinavian countries. It is present in about 40% of western Finns (50% in SW Finland), and about 38% in Sweden (52% in central Sweden). There are other significant populations with this Haplotype such as Denmark at 33%.

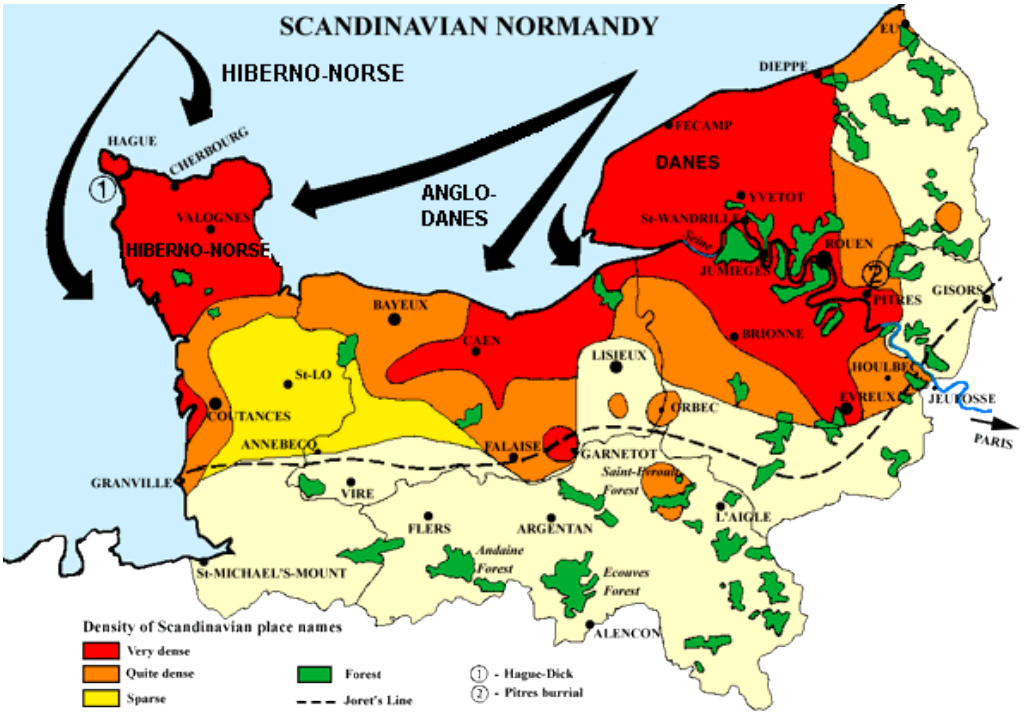
The Haplotype was present in what is considered the North Germanic Tribes including the Saxons, Jutes, Danes, Norwegians and Swedes. M253 is therefore commonly known as “The Viking Marker” and is frequently used to determine the degree of Viking settlement in conquered lands. For instance, Danish Vikings and Saxons have conquered Iceland where the M253 marker makes up about 40% of the population, northern France (Normandy) where it accounts for 17%, and both Germany and England at 15%. There is an important presence of the M253 in western Sicily at 8.2% whereas eastern Sicily is only 1.8%. The Norman Vikings had conquered the western area of Sicily in the 12th century, and their origin was the Normandy region of France. There are also M253 populations in Canada, Australia and the United States, presumably because immigrants to these countries came mostly from coastal cities in the same regions that had been dominated by the Vikings.



Heatmap from the Genographic site displaying the predominance of the M253 gene in areas of Europe.

Normandy

The northern coast of France attracted many populations over time. Initially occupied by the Celtic and Belgae people collectively known as the Gauls, it was conquered and controlled by the Romans over 2000 years ago. Adjacent Germanic tribes to the East maintained a difficult peace but by the 4th century the downfall of the Romans coincided with raids by the tribes. Normandy was invaded and settled by the Franks, a Germanic tribe that has its origins in the area of the Rhine, then by the Danish Saxons. Before the end of the first millennium Vikings began raiding the Normandy coast, and these incursions increased in frequency and depth. At first they limited their attacks to the summer months but eventually they began settling their families in the region. In the year 911 the ruler of the Vikings, Rollo, agreed to a peaceful settlement with Paris. In exchange for rule of Normandy he was to stop the Viking raids and be baptized into the Catholic Church. It is estimated at that time the population of Normandy constituted of approximately 15% Norsemen. Rollo and his successors, including William the Conqueror, consolidated and expanded the territory to the north. Eventually the Duchy of Normandy became part of a greater France in 1204.



The Viking invasion and settlement of Normandy 850-950. The last Gaudin ancestor came from the area of Dieppe near the top of this map

Our Haplotype M253 is common among the Normans but is uncommon among their traditional enemies including the Celts, Gauls, and Franks. It seems we are of early Scandinavian & Danish background, associated with the Vikings of the first millennium. Based on my research, although there is very limited data currently available, it seems that we are the descendants of the Norman invasions that occurred before the end of the first millennium. Our ancestors may have left southern Scandinavia or Holland likely between 851 and 920 AD and settled in Normandy, not far from the coast, although several Saxon fleets left southern England around the year 1000 to settle the area.

Godan and the Lombards

The Lombards are considered a Germanic tribe whose origins are southern Scandinavia from a small tribe called the Winnili. This area was just to the north of modern Uppsala, Sweden. This is an area with about 50% of the population carries the M253 Y-DNA.

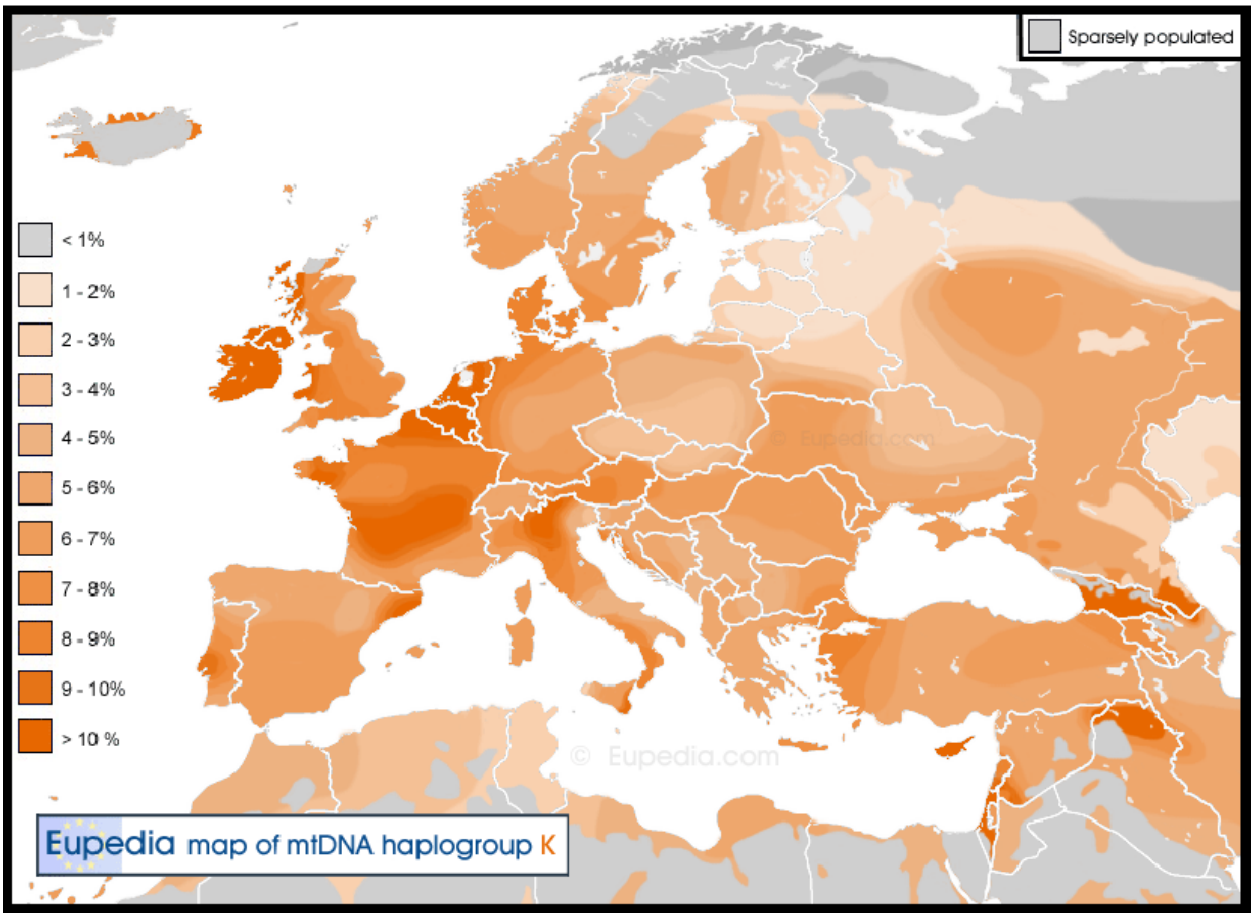
The Lombards, known as the Langobardi (long beards) by the Romans, were first encountered and written about between AD 9 and AD 16 by the Roman historian Paterculus. He stated that they were an agricultural tribe but were savage in battle. They were defeated by the Roman Calvary near the mouth of the Elbe River but continued to live under the rule of the Germanic tribes friendly to Rome. This tribe prayed to the god Odin, called Godan by the Lombards.

Their tribal area near Scania Sweden was becoming overpopulated so between 376 and 476 a large group left their tribe and proceeded southward to seek new land. The Lombards had uneasy truces with the other Germanic tribes in the area. Over several generations and as their population grew they continued a slow but determined migration southward. In 552 they reached the land of the Ostrogoths in NE Italy. Forming an alliance with the Byzantine Empire they defeated the Ostrogoths at the Battle of Taginae. This opened the land to settlement in northern Italy. There, the Lombards flourished, forming their own government in Lombardy and Duchies in NW Italy and Sicily. Although they had won against the Ostrogoths they fought for their land in Northern and Western Italy and eventually lost to the Franks who were backed by their former allies the Byzantines. Their populations assimilated into the greater Italian population.

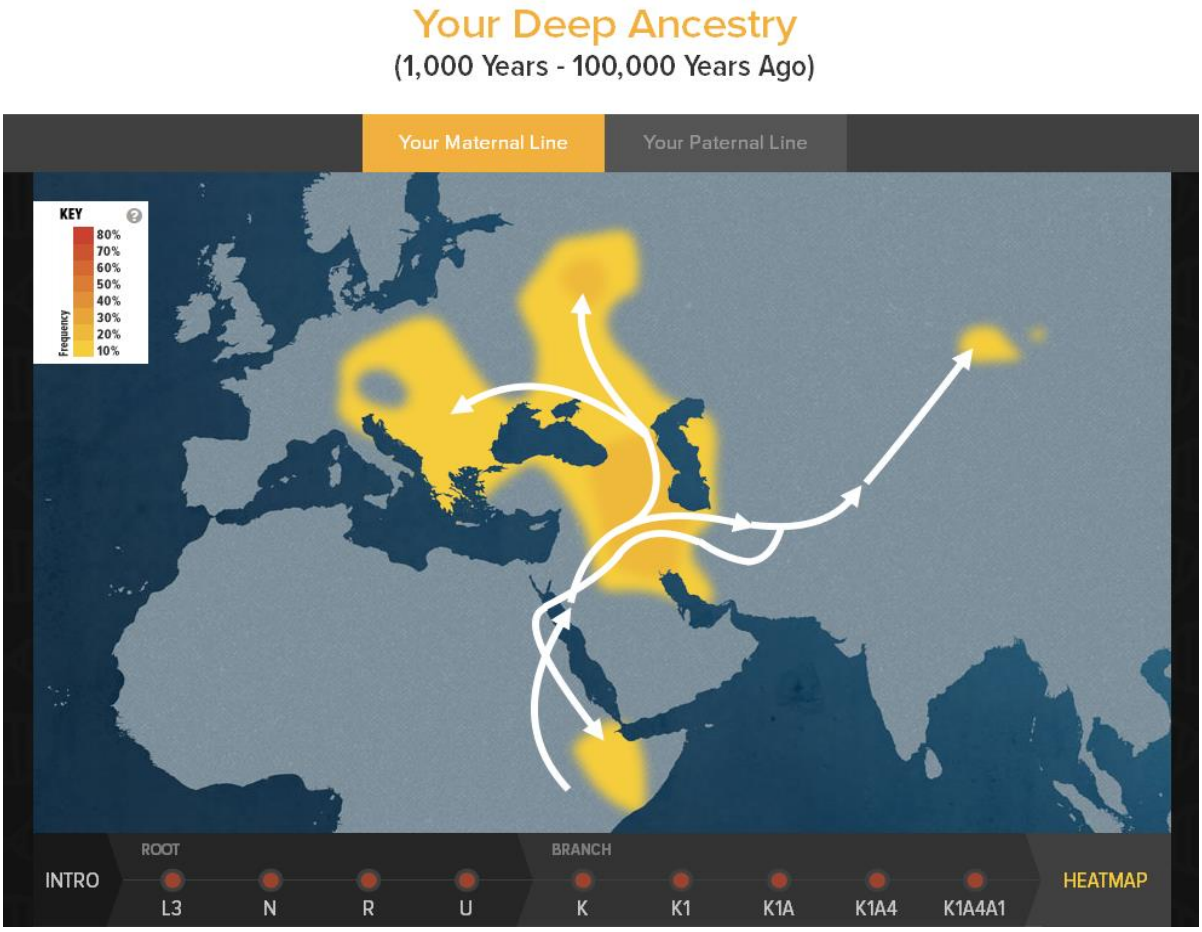
Movement of the Lombards between the years 376 and 522.

The Maternal Line

On the maternal side I am part of the Haplogroup K, Type K1a4a1. The origins of this are southeastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. It is somewhat common across a wide area of Europe including northern and central France, Belgium, Ireland, and the Netherlands. There is also a significant population in Lebanon, Cyprus, Georgia and Turkey.



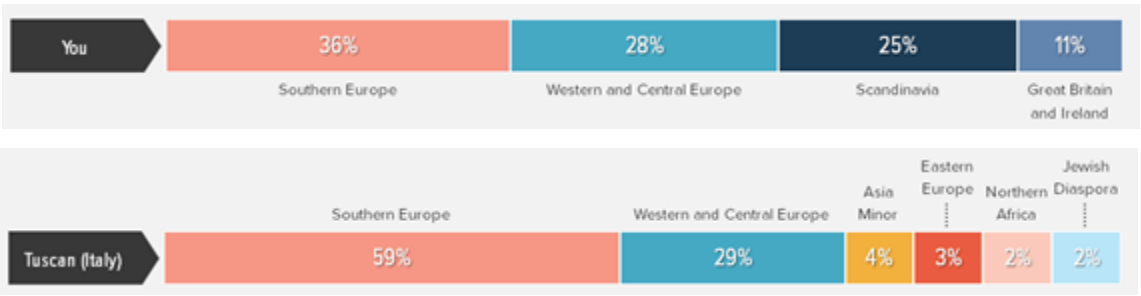
The K1A Haplotype originated between 19,000 and 22,000 years ago and is one of the most common throughout Europe. Our particular variant is most common in Croatia, Hungary and Ukraine.



Tuscany

It is interesting that the NGS states that we are genetically the most similar to people from Tuscany, Italy. Haplotype M253 is common in northern Italy but hardly present in other nearby areas, suggesting that we are related to the Lombards that had settled in the region. From my mother's side the origins are somewhat different. Combine the two and we seem Tuscan.

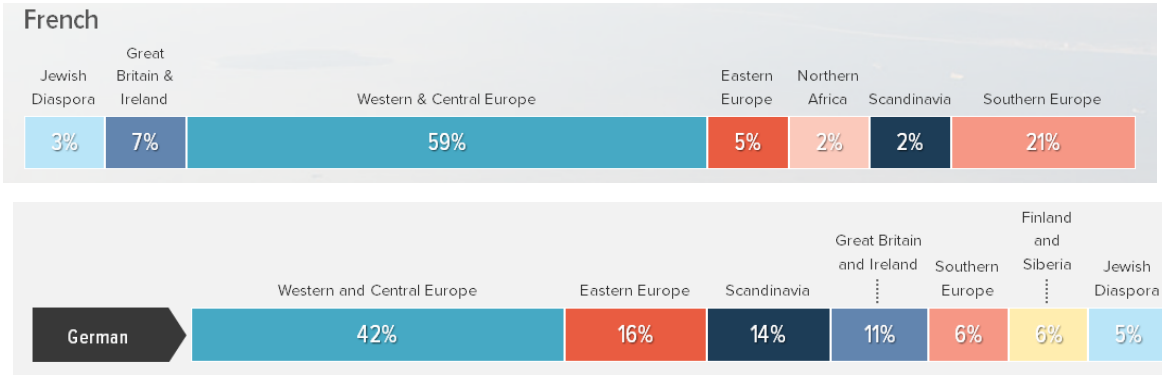
Note the population surveys indicated below are modern ones so they reflect a mix of immigrants:



From the National Genographic Project site:

"This reference population is based on Italians native to Tuscany, in north central Italy. The Southern and Central European percentages reflect the strong influence of agriculturalists from the Fertile Crescent in the Middle East, who arrived in Italy more than 7,000 years ago. The Eastern European component likely comes from the pre-agricultural population of Europe—the earliest settlers, who arrived in Europe more than 30,000 years ago during the Upper Paleolithic period—and was perhaps increased during the conquest of northern Italy by the Germanic Lombards in the sixth through eighth centuries. Today, the northern European component predominates in northern European populations, while the Mediterranean component is more common in southern Europe."

For reference here are some of the populations that appear the most similar to ours:



This is all for the most current information. As this is a fairly new science it is likely there will be more detailed and accurate information on our genetic ancestry in the future.

Paul Godin
September 2018