

Dear family members:

Two days ago, I sent you a [link to a story](#) describing the results of Al's and my DNA tests. I sent this story to you as a circular letter rather than by writing a news article about it, because the story contained multiple pictures. I haven't figured out yet how to include multiple pictures in news articles posted on MyHeritage.

Yet, the story is still incomplete. The saga continues. The [Family Tree DNA](#) software found yet another match: **Ramondino**. Ramondino was a Sicilian who emigrated at some point in his life to the United States. When he died, his family wanted to get in touch with their relatives in Italy ... and found out that they couldn't. When their father came to the U.S., he seems to have changed his family name, and not only did his children not have a valid address for his relatives in Italy; they even didn't know their names. Thus, they decided to join *Family Tree DNA* in the hope of finding their relatives in this fashion.

Their quest was unsuccessful until now. All they found is us. Ramondino turned out to be a fairly close match to the four of us, i.e., to Al, Nicolas Junod, Schiffley, and myself. Hence the five of us must have had a common progenitor in historic times.

Since Ramondino was only tested on 37 alleles, I had to compare the four of us with him on a reduced subset of alleles. The results of the comparison are given below:

Distances						DYS	CDY	CDY	DYS									
Alfred Cellier	François Cellier	Junod	Schiffley	Ramondino														
0	4	1	3	9	Alfred Cellier	9	11	32	17	18	10	18	17	20	31	34	11	
4	0	3	3	11	François Cellier	8	11	32	17	18	10	18	18	21	32	34	11	
1	3	0	2	7	Junod	9	11	32	17	18	10	18	18	20	31	34	11	
3	3	2	0	10	Schiffley	9	11	32	17	18	10	19	18	21	31	34	11	
9	11	7	10	0	Ramondino	9	12	31	16	17	9	17	18	20	31	33	12	
Sums:	17	21	13	18	37													

Comparing the four of us among each other on 37 alleles, we find that the closest match is now between Al and Nicolas Junod, who exhibit a relative genetic distance of 1. The largest distance is once again between Al and myself. On 37 alleles, we exhibit a relative genetic distance of 4.

Ramondino is a close match, but his distance to any of us four is considerably larger than that between any pair of the four of us. His shortest genetic distance is to Nicolas Junod. The distance is 7. This is not surprising, because we already established that Nicolas Junod's Y-chromosome is the one that is closest to that of our common progenitor, i.e., his genes are the "oldest" among those of the four of us. In contrast, the largest distance is between Ramondino and myself. The relative genetic distance between us is 11.

Looking at the sums of distances, Junod exhibits once again the smallest number (13), whereas Ramondino exhibits by far the largest (37).

Although Ramondino is still a pretty close match, he is 2-3 times farther away from any of us than we are among each other. This means that, whereas the common progenitor of the four of us from Nods has lived 550 years ago, the common progenitor of the five of us must have lived 1100 – 1600 years ago (!!)

What does this mean?

It could mean that a male ancestor of the common progenitor of the four of us has immigrated to Nods from Italy sometime before the year 1450. It could also mean that a Roman soldier, during the period of the Roman occupation of Switzerland, got a Swiss girl pregnant, and we all are the result of this lovers' hour. In either case, our forebears are likely to have been ... *Italians*.

Whereas church records are able to point out our immediate ancestors, bio-genealogical research looks at much larger time intervals. Unless we find an almost perfect match, we may be looking at the migration of an entire people.

Greetings from your unexpectedly Italianized cousin

Cordiali saluti!

François