

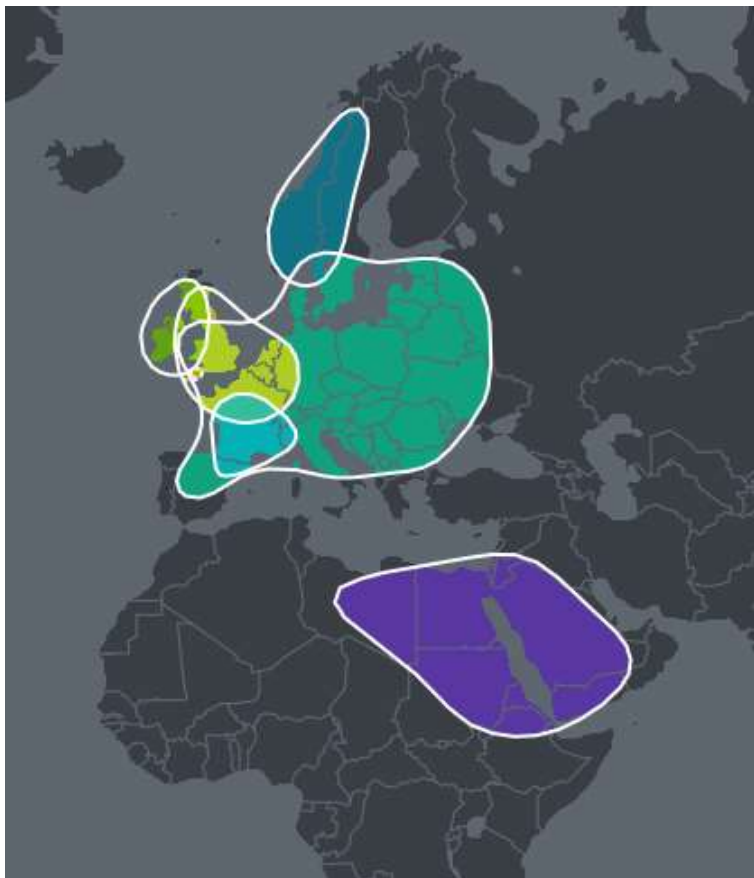
Julian Land's DNA report of 22 Jul 2019 by ancestry.com

Summary of report:

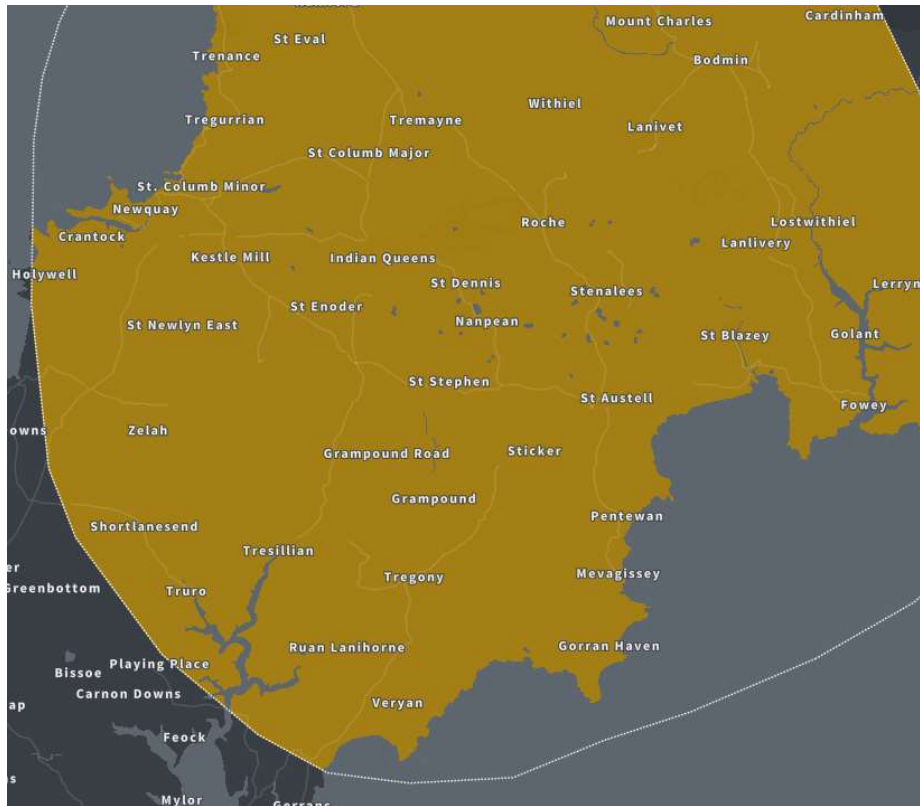
Here is the overall 'ethnicity' estimate:

● England, Wales & Northwestern Europe	62%	>
● Devon & Cornwall, England		>
● Devon		
● East Cornwall		
● Ireland and Scotland	27%	>
● European Jewish	7%	>
● France	2%	>
● Norway	1%	>
● Middle East	1%	>

This estimate is accompanied by the following map:



There is a mystery or two in the report, but one thing makes complete sense – as Gwen Truscott’s work makes clear I had a 100% Cornish grandparent, and this would provide 25% of my DNA. Interestingly, the ancestry.com report gives a generally accurate timeline of the Cornish travel to Australia, while the following map which is included is more or less centred on St Dennis, the Cornish region they came from:

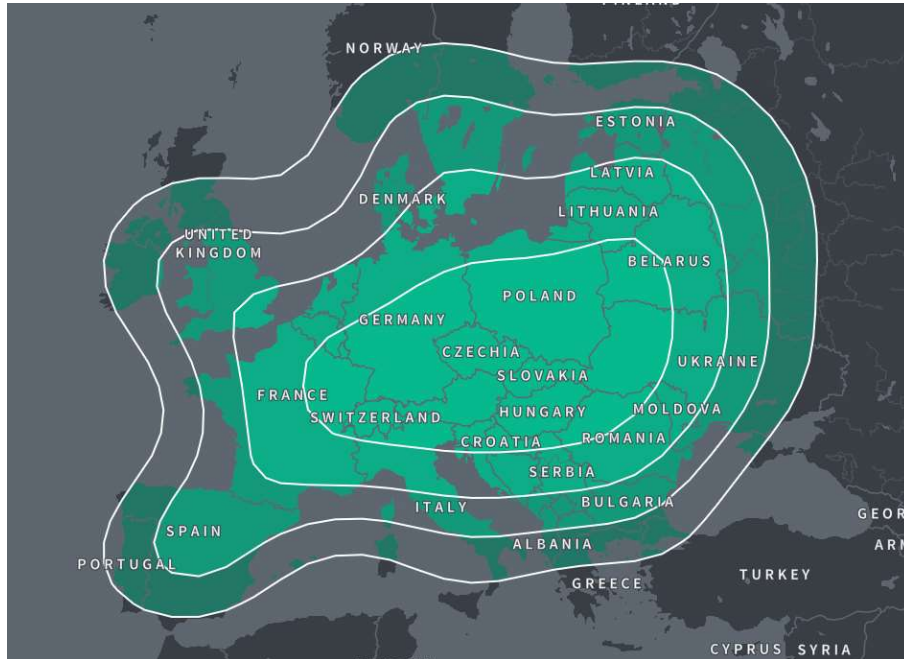


Discussion:

I expected 87.5% of my ancestry to be non-Jewish, as my Jewish ancestry came though only one great-grandfather so far as I knew. In Australia he married a Hall, daughter of an RN Captain, thereby diluting the Jewish ancestry to 50% with British ancestry possibly including other elements. My grandfather married the above-mentioned Cornish descendant, thereby diluting the Jewish ancestry to 25%. Then my mother married Bill Land, whose possibly miscellaneous British ancestry diluted my Jewish ancestry to 12.5%.

When we examine the Jewish ancestry, we see the above ‘ethnicity’ estimate gives 7% plus a 1% contribution from the Middle East. The ‘possible range’ given is 0-16% and 0-4% respectively. In a broad sense, this set of numbers is consistent with 12.5% and they suggest there was no other Jewish ancestry; for if the ethnicity estimate exceeded 12.5%, we would have needed to consider that possibility.

The map given to cover the European Jewish ancestry (the area in green in the first map above) is given in expanded form in the following map:



and the report seems to make it clear that it does not exclusively refer to Ashkenazi Jews. My general reading indicates similarity between Ashkenazi and Sephardic DNA, resulting from quite a lot of intermarriage over many centuries. Perhaps therefore it makes little sense to make a distinction, as I have tended to do.

Thus, my Jewish great-grandfather had one Baruch Lousada grandparent (Sephardic), 2 Barrow grandparents and 1 Lyon de Symons grandparent (Ashkenazi). For the sake of argument, if the Barrow ancestry (of the 2 Barrow grandparents Simon Barrow of Bath and his sister Bella) were 50/50 Ashkenazi/Sephardic, then my Jewish ancestry would have likewise been 50/50.

In www.barrow-lousada.org I noted that their father Jacob married Jael Nunes and their paternal grandfather married Bailah Montefiore; I surmised that their Ashkenazi great-grandfather Baruch had married a Sephardic wife in Livorno, and that Bailah Montefiore was Sephardic. In this event the ancestry of Jacob Barrow would have been 25% Ashkenazi and that of the siblings Simon and Bella only 12.5% assuming Jael Nunes was Sephardic.

The DNA report does not despite first appearances clash with this analysis. That is, in the absence of further information the report does not imply my Ashkenazi ancestry outweighs my Sephardic ancestry. Perhaps this is just as well! A discrepancy would lead to only 2 alternatives – either Jael Nunes was Ashkenazi, in which case the siblings would perforce have Ashkenazi ancestry in excess of 50%, or if Jael Nunes was Sephardic then both Livorno wives were Ashkenazi (ie both Bailah Montefiore and her mother-in-law) and my account of the high Sephardic ancestry of the Barrows would need to be revised!

Conclusion:

Nothing hugely clear or useful has emerged from the DNA data. However it is now clear that a settled view of the ancestry of Jael Nunes would be useful, as would further examination of whether the report implies anything about the size of the Ashkenazi and Sephardic contributions to my DNA.