

## Genogram Paper

Upon reviewing my family history for this project, I discovered many shared characteristics as a result of both nature and nurture. The characteristics involving medical issues, such as cancer or other conditions and disorders are a result of nature and biology where as long term marriages is an example of nurture, given a particular environment. Musical talents and abilities would fall in between both nature and nurture which I will explain later. I found the characteristic patterns interesting in the way that they laid throughout the generations and the certain sides in which they happened to manifest themselves. The more naturalistic characteristics are of course unpredictable, but those characterized by nurturing environmental influences are not as dispersed and more predictable. Characteristics of both nature and nurture become less predictable as families grow and expand. Nature more so because of the fusion of genetic in reproduction that occurs when families expand.

The characteristics that exist within my family that a result of nature are: Heart Disease, Diabetes, Gallbladder issues, Blue eyes, girls, Factor Five (blood disorder), and height. Heart disease has been on my dad's side of the family since my great grandmother died of a heart attack. My grandfather also had a heart attack but eventually passed away of cancer. My aunt followed this pattern with Heart disease and recently had a heart transplant. Diabetes also runs on that particular side of the family. My grandparents, both had cases of it which passed on to

more than one of their children and then eventually resulting in both of my sisters have mild forms of the disease. When it comes to the Gallbladder, I am referring to the need for its removal in several cases on my father's side as well. Initially my great grandfather had his Gallbladder burst. Then my grandfather had the same thing happen which then resulted in my father being forced to the point of having his removed in surgery. The blood disorder that comes from my mother's side of the family is called Factor Five. It is a blood disorder that does not allow our blood to thin out natural as it should. This particular disorder was not discovered to be in our family until about three years ago when my aunt almost died from a massive blood clot in her leg that travelled to her heart. At that point various family members began to get tested for this disorder only to discover that my grandfather, my mother, and my two sisters have acquired this very disorder as well.

Naturally, I am a tall female. One particular family member that I seem to share this with is my aunt. Her brother is also tall comparatively as well as my father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Another characteristic that is apparent in my family history is eye color. A dominant eye color is most definitely present in my family. Everyone in my immediate family, and even my sisters' daughters, have blue eyes. My grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles mostly all have blue eyes. This is definitely a characteristic/trait that exists, by nature, amongst several family members. The last characteristic in my project, which seems to be a result of nature, is the fact that we have so many girls! As I mentioned earlier, the more families expand by both marriage and the production of offspring, the less predictable certain characteristics are because of the presence of another genetic set of characteristics coming from another family. The sex of a baby is most definitely unpredictable but once it is known can most definitely prove to be the result of a pattern. In my family's case, we are good at having girls, and here recently cannot

seem to do anything other than just that. My dad had 4 sisters, but the more evident view is from my mother's side. My mother was one of two girls. Her sister had two girls and my mother had three. Even more recently is the fact that both of my sisters have had daughters in the last year, one being 11 months old and the other just 3 weeks. This fact still seems very interesting to me especially considering that both of my bother-in-laws are one of three boys in each of their families. But in each case of determination of the sex in nature, the female sex genes seem to be winning out more recently.

When it comes to characteristics of nurture, those in particular cannot be missed when looking at my genogram project. Some of these characteristics are origin of birth (Georgia) and religion (Christianity). All four of my great grandparents on my mother's side were born and raised in Northern Georgia where they raised their kids which was followed by my grandparents raising my mother and her sister there. My aunt eventually married and moved to North Carolina where she now raises her daughter, but my mother decided to stay and raise her family in the same area in which she was. My father's side of the family is the same way with the exception of my grandmother being born and raised in Newfoundland, Canada where she met my grandfather in World War II who brought her to Georgia to marry her. After settling back in Georgia, my grandparents grew their family by having six children, the youngest being my father. All six of their children raised each of their families in North Georgia as well, which leads to the reason that I was born and raised in North Georgia. My family, on both sides, has also been raised with purely Christian values, which has proved to have been carried on through several generations even further back than the four exemplified within this project. These characteristics mentioned above are a result of nurture because they were acquired given the

environmental influences in which each individual that makes up this large family was cultivated.

I have left the characteristic of music talents and abilities for last because, in my opinion, it is a result of both nature and nurture. Naturally, I believe, you have to be born with the ability to perform a specific instrument, including the voice. Once possessing this innate ability, it can be nurtured or cultivated in a particular environment, depending on what is taught and emphasized within the context of a family. Therefore, you can naturally possess the ability, but to use it to its full potential, it must be nurtured.

All in all, this project has enabled me to see wherein these patterns of characteristic lie within my family's history while, at the same time, being able to recognize how the role of environment has influenced my family.