

John R Carpenter genetic genealogist

John R. Carpenter is a North American genealogist with significant expertise in **genetic genealogy**, particularly involving individuals with the surname **Carpenter** and its variants (such as Carpender, Carpentier, Charpentier, and Zimmerman). He is based in La Mesa, California, and is a member (No. 8001) of the **Guild of One-Name Studies**^{[1] [2]}. Carpenter's genealogical work focuses especially on the research and documentation of the Carpenter surname and related lines, using both traditional research and DNA analysis.

Key points regarding John R. Carpenter:

- He is the **founder and administrator of the Carpenter Cousins Project**, which originated in the 1990s as the Carpenter CD Project and expanded to include genetic genealogy through the **Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project**, started in 2002^{[2] [1]}.
- The **Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project** is open to male descendants with the surnames Carpenter, Zimmerman(n), Charpentier, Carpentier, and related variants. The project is notable for organizing participants into genetic groups, using Y-DNA test results, and has more than 400 tested members as of January 2023^{[3] [1]}.
- **John R. Carpenter has been actively involved in genealogy since 1976**, has taught classes in genealogy, family history, and genetic DNA analysis for more than twelve years, and previously served as a shift supervisor at a local Family History Center^{[2] [4]}.
- His research efforts have contributed significant corrections and clarifications to various Carpenter family lines, through a combination of rigorous genealogical research and **genetic triangulation** (the comparison of DNA results to validate relationships between lines)^[2].
- He has published genealogical material, including a two-CD set of Carpenter family data, managed community forums, and contributed to online genealogical resources such as Wikitree and Geni^{[2] [4] [5]}.
- The reach of his projects includes supporting and collaborating with other researchers, such as the **Carpenter Sketches** (related to the William Carpenter lines of Rehoboth, MA, and Providence, RI), and providing support for surname research in both North America and Europe^{[4] [1]}.

In addition to his genealogical endeavors, **John R. Carpenter** is a former US Army veteran and a retired peace officer from San Diego County^[2].

For those with interest in researching Carpenter family origins using both traditional records and DNA, John R. Carpenter and the **Carpenter Cousins Project** are widely recognized as authoritative sources^{[2] [1] [3]}.

What are the main goals of the Carpenter Cousins Project led by John R. Carpenter

The main goals of the **Carpenter Cousins Project** led by John R. Carpenter are:

- **To support genealogical research, DNA testing, and documentation** for individuals with the surname Carpenter and its variants (such as Carpentier, Charpentier, and Zimmerman), especially aiming to connect family lines and clarify ancestry using both traditional records and genetic genealogy methods^{[6] [7] [8] [9]}.
- **To build and expand a comprehensive surname project** through collaboration and data sharing, including a **Y-DNA project** that organizes participants into genetic groups based on DNA marker similarities and shared ancestry^{[10] [11] [12] [7]}.
- **To resolve genealogical uncertainties and make corrections to existing lineages** by integrating robust research, documentation, and genetic triangulation, particularly focusing on linking unconnected or uncertain family branches^{[7] [8] [9]}.
- **To provide support, educational resources, and a cooperative environment** for families researching their Carpenter ancestry, including leveraging online platforms, social media, and participation in organizations such as the Guild of One-Name Studies^{[6] [7]}.
- **To encourage participation** by inviting more Carpenters to submit their genealogical information and Y-DNA results, helping to grow the project and enhance its genealogical accuracy and depth^{[11] [8]}.

These goals collectively aim to advance knowledge and correct errors in Carpenter family history through the integration of genetic evidence and traditional genealogical practices.



How has John R. Carpenter contributed to genetic genealogy research in North America

John R. Carpenter has made substantial contributions to **genetic genealogy research in North America** by founding and leading the **Carpenter Cousins Project**, which focuses on the use of Y-DNA and genetic analysis for surname-based genealogical research^{[13] [14] [15]}.

His key contributions include:

- **Establishing the Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project:** Launched in 2002, this project invites male descendants with surnames like Carpenter, Carpentier, Charpentier, and Zimmerman to participate in Y-DNA testing. It combines **genetic data with traditional genealogical records** to clarify and connect family lines, especially those whose histories have become unclear or entwined after immigration and name changes^{[13] [14] [15]}.
- **Pioneering error correction and validation:** The project has played a significant role in identifying mistakes and misattributed family branches in prior genealogies by using DNA evidence and "genetic genealogy triangulation"—the cross-referencing of DNA results among participants to confirm or disprove paper-trail connections^{[13] [16]}. This method has

led to corrected lineages and deeper insight into the origins and migration of Carpenter families in North America.

- **Educational and outreach efforts:** John R. Carpenter has spent over a dozen years teaching classes in genealogy, family history, and genetic genealogy, both in-person and online^{[13] [17]}. These efforts have educated both novices and experienced researchers on the practical application of DNA analysis for genealogy.
- **Collaboration and support:** Through the Carpenter Cousins Project, he has fostered a collaborative environment for sharing genetic data, genealogical records, and research strategies, benefiting a wide network of Carpenter descendants. He also supports and works alongside other leading researchers and projects—such as the Carpenter Sketches—to ensure consistent standards of documentation and accuracy^{[18] [16]}.
- **Published resources and data compilation:** Carpenter has produced comprehensive resources (such as CDs, databases, and online repositories) that aggregate genetic and genealogical information for Carpenter descendants, providing a continually updated foundation for ongoing research^{[13] [16]}.

Collectively, his work has advanced **surname-oriented genetic genealogy** in North America, served as a model for similar projects, and contributed to the greater accuracy and collaboration within the genealogical community^{[13] [14] [16]}.



1. https://one-name.org/name_profile/carpenter/
2. <https://www.carpentercousins.com/G.pdf>
3. https://isogg.org/wiki/Carpenter_Cousins_Y-DNA_Project
4. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Carpenter-3828>
5. <https://www.geni.com/people/John-Carpenter/319030516010004718>
6. https://isogg.org/wiki/Free_DNA_tests/Carpenter_Cousins
7. <https://www.carpentercousins.com/G.pdf>
8. <https://carpentercousins.com>
9. https://one-name.org/name_profile/carpenter/
10. https://isogg.org/wiki/Carpenter_Cousins_Y-DNA_Project
11. <https://carpentercousins.com/carpdna.htm>
12. <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/carpenter-cousins-dna/about>
13. <https://www.carpentercousins.com/G.pdf>
14. https://isogg.org/wiki/Carpenter_Cousins_Y-DNA_Project
15. https://one-name.org/name_profile/carpenter/
16. https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Repository:Carpenters'_Encyclopedia_of_Carpenters
17. <https://www.geneamusing.com/2007/11/sdgs-program-on-1010-john-carpenter-on.html>
18. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Carpenter-3828>

