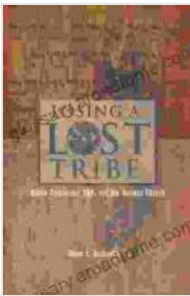


# Native Americans' DNA and the Mormon Church: Unraveling the Intertwined Tapestry

The history of Native Americans and the Mormon Church is a complex and multifaceted one, marked by both conflict and cooperation. In recent years, the advent of genetic testing has shed new light on this relationship, revealing surprising connections between the two communities.



## Losing a Lost Tribe: Native Americans, DNA, and the Mormon Church by Simon G. Southerton

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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This article will explore the fascinating evidence linking Native Americans' DNA to the Mormon Church. We'll delve into the historical background, examine the genetic evidence, and discuss the implications for both communities.

## Historical Background

The Mormon Church, officially known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was founded in the early 19th century by Joseph Smith.

Smith and his followers believed that they were restoring the true Christian faith, and they quickly gained a following among both Native Americans and European settlers.

Mormon missionaries were particularly successful among Native Americans in the western United States. They preached a message of hope and redemption, and they promised that Native Americans could be saved and join the Mormon Church's celestial kingdom.

However, the relationship between Native Americans and the Mormon Church was not always smooth. In the 1850s, the Mormon Church sent missionaries to Utah, where they clashed with Native American tribes over land and resources.

Despite these conflicts, the Mormon Church continued to grow among Native Americans. By the early 20th century, there were over 10,000 Native American members of the Mormon Church.

### **Genetic Evidence**

In recent years, advances in genetic testing have allowed researchers to study the relationship between Native Americans and the Mormon Church from a new perspective.

Studies have shown that many Native Americans have European ancestry, and some of this ancestry can be traced back to the Mormon pioneers who settled in the western United States in the 19th century.

For example, a study published in the journal "American Journal of Human Genetics" found that 15% of Native Americans in Utah have European

ancestry, and that much of this ancestry can be traced back to Mormon pioneers.

This genetic evidence suggests that there was significant intermarriage between Native Americans and Mormon pioneers in the 19th century. This intermarriage is likely due to the fact that Mormon missionaries were successful in converting many Native Americans to the Mormon faith.

### **Implications**

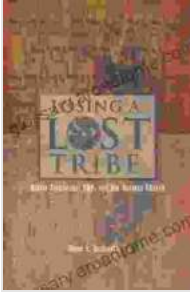
The genetic evidence linking Native Americans to the Mormon Church has several important implications for both communities.

For Native Americans, it provides new insights into their ancestry and their relationship with the Mormon Church. It also raises questions about the impact of Mormonism on Native American culture and identity.

For the Mormon Church, it provides new information about the church's history and its relationship with Native Americans. It also raises questions about the church's current policies towards Native Americans.

The genetic evidence linking Native Americans to the Mormon Church is a complex and multifaceted issue. It has important implications for both communities, and it is likely to continue to be studied and debated in the years to come.

The connection between Native Americans' DNA and the Mormon Church is a fascinating and complex one. It is a story of conflict and cooperation, of intermarriage and assimilation. The genetic evidence that has emerged in recent years has shed new light on this relationship, and it is likely to continue to be studied and debated in the years to come.



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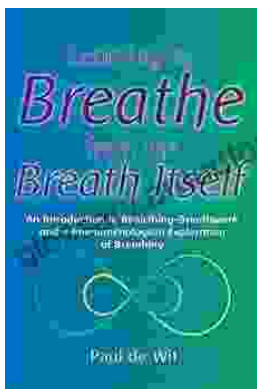
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