

The Family Tree and Preventing Hereditary Cancer

Genealogy, genetics, and hereditary cancer awareness and prevention are actually intertwined.

1 in 279 people are born with a genetic mutation that increases their risk of cancer. A mutation that has often been passed down for generations, sometimes centuries. Many close and distant genetic relatives might share the same mutation.

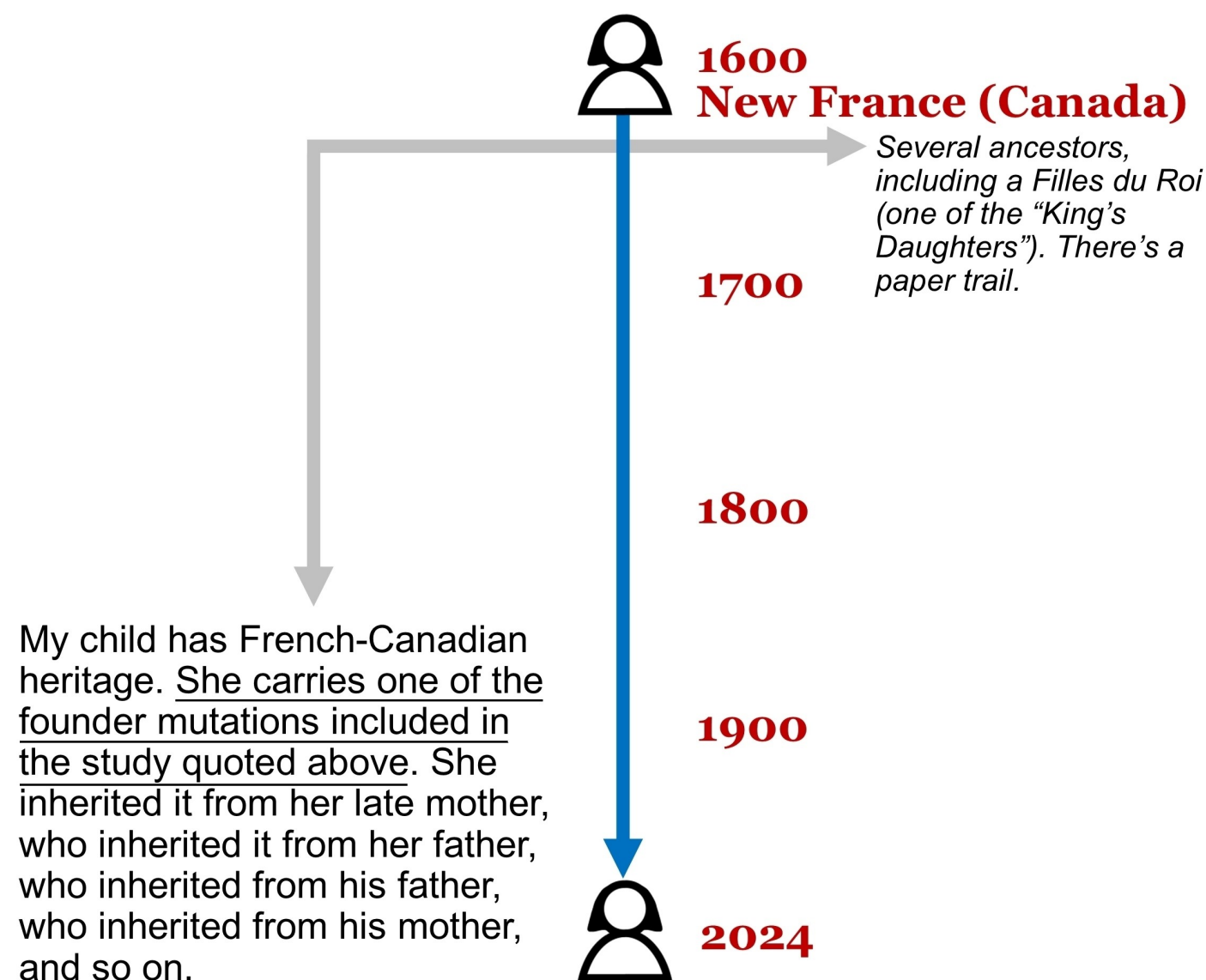
Genealogy not only helps you learn about your family's origins; it can also help you grow your family tree and connect with other relatives who might have important information regarding your family's health history. Knowing and sharing family health history is important for everyone.

If there already is a history of cancer in the family or if you discover cancer history in your family tree, learn more about the importance of genetic counseling and testing.

Right page: How a BRCA2 mutation was passed down for centuries.

"Through rapid expansion and isolation since immigration in the early 17th century French Canadians are a relatively genetically homogenous founder population and therefore represent a unique demographic for genetic contributions to disease. To date, twenty variants in **BRCA1**, **BRCA2**, and **PALB2** that predispose families to breast and ovarian cancer have been identified as recurring in the French-Canadian founder population."

*Excerpt from
Nature Scientific Report
www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-63100-w*



By Mark A. Hicks, www.genetionary.org

For resources and more information about hereditary cancer prevention and genetic counseling and testing, go to genetionary.org/more