Ancestry DNA Topics

April 2024
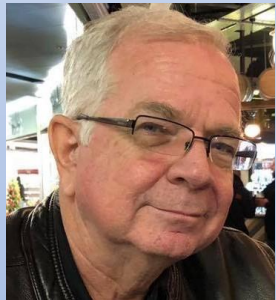
Sunland Springs Genealogy

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All slides and handouts can be found at:
http://www.familytreeaz.com/Presentations/
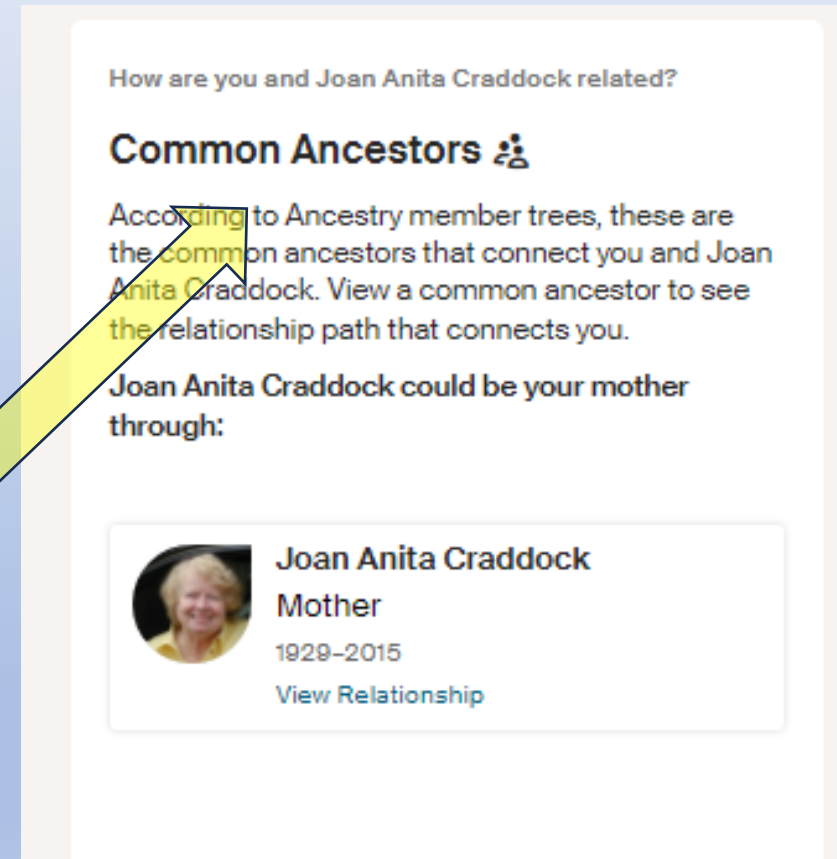
QR Code: take photo to open to presentations

Topics --- All AncestryDNA

- Linking tree to Ancestry DNA kit
- ThruLines
- Ancestry Tag Groups
- Ancestry SideView
- Ethnicity Estimates
- Downloading a List of Matches from Ancestry

Linking Family Tree to DNA Kit

Linking Your Family Tree to Your DNA Kit

- Linking your tree properly is very important to get the most out of discovering how you are related to your DNA matches (and vice versa)

- It's a simple process and only takes a couple of minutes

- Linking enables others to get Shared Ancestor Hints to you

- Linking also allows proper display of your tree to other matches

How are you and Joan Anita Craddock related?

Common Ancestors

According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and Joan Anita Craddock. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you.
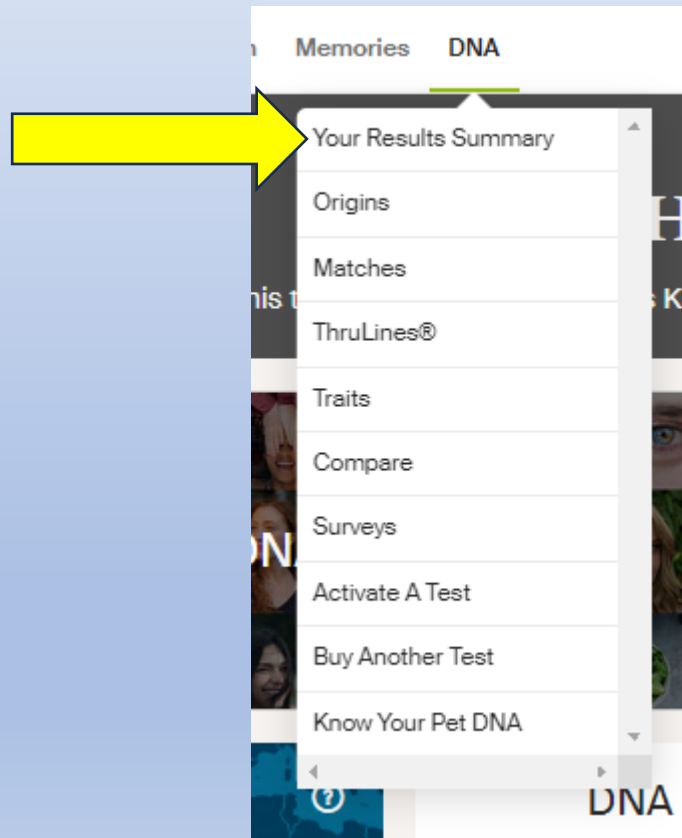
Joan Anita Craddock could be your mother through:

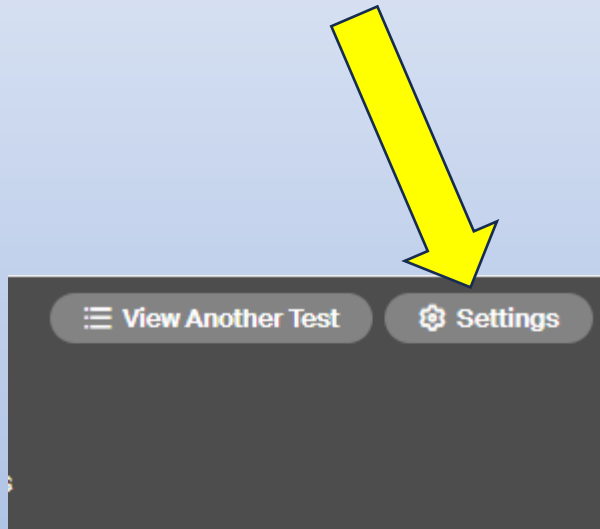**Joan Anita Craddock**
Mother
1929–2015
View Relationship

Linking Your Family Tree to Your DNA Kit

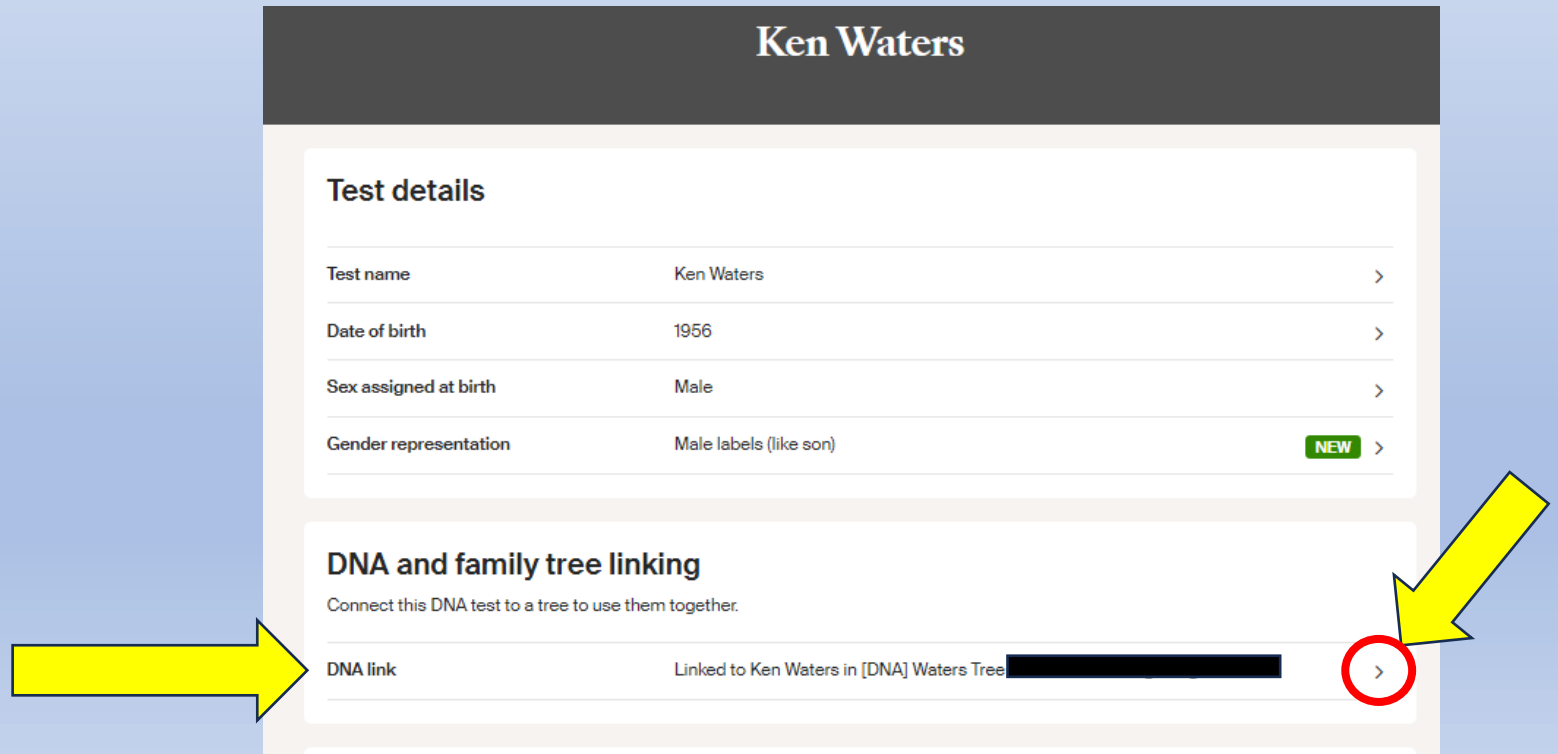- First step, open Ancestry DNA and click on "Your Results Summary"

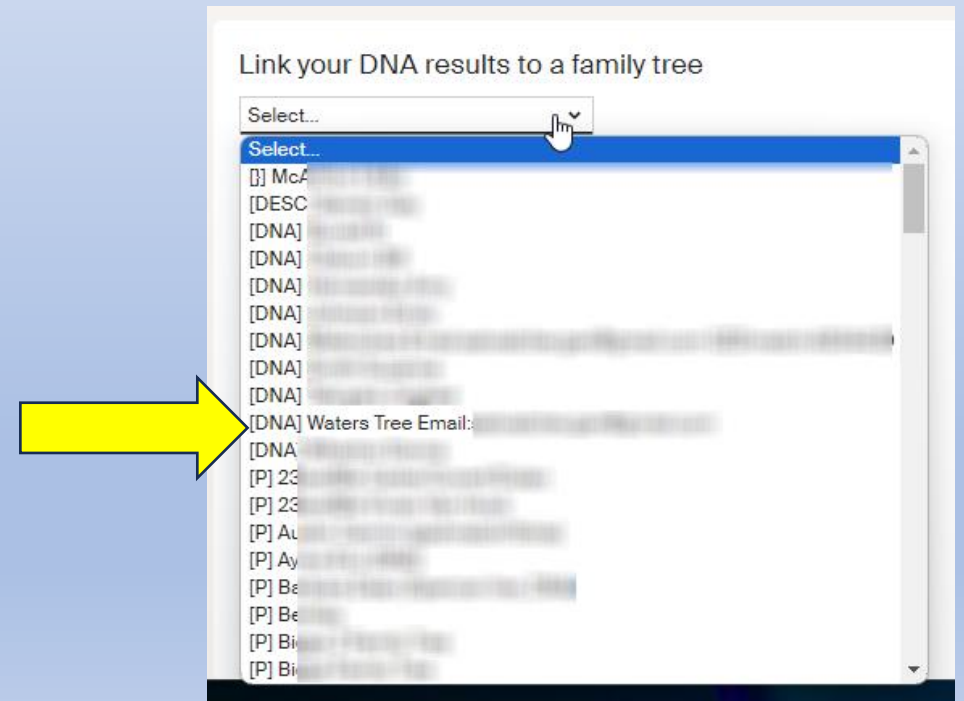# Linking Your Family Tree to Your DNA Kit
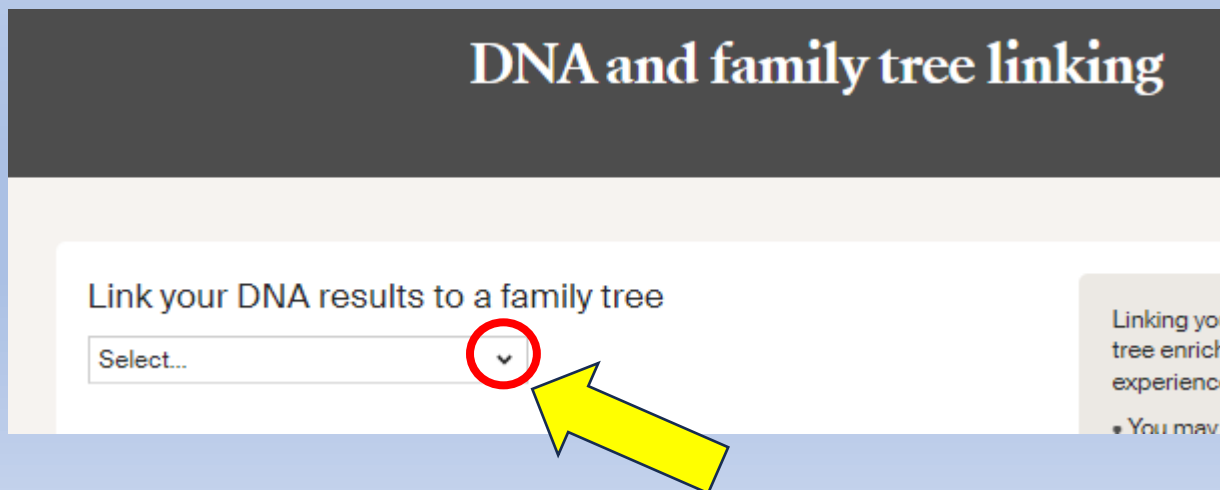
- Click on "Settings"

- Scroll down a bit to "DNA and family tree linking" and click on the right pointer

Linking Your Family Tree to Your DNA Kit

- Drop down the selection box to select the proper family tree to link to the test---MAKE SURE the test taker is included in the family tree!

- Scroll down a bit to "DNA and family tree linking" and click on the right pointer

Linking Your Family Tree to Your DNA Kit

- Enter enough details in first and last name to see the name of the tester and select that person

- Click Link "DNA results"

ThruLines

ThruLines

AncestryDNA® ThruLines®

ThruLines® shows you how you may be related to your DNA matches. ThruLines are based on information from family trees they don't change the information in trees. If there's inaccurate information in your tree, you may receive inaccurate ThruLines. Only you and anyone you've invited to view your DNA results can see your ThruLines.
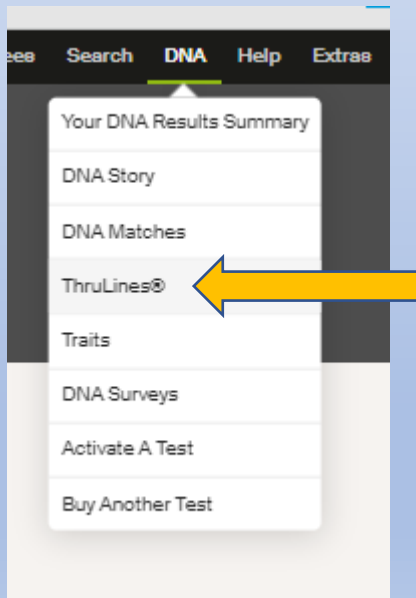
We use the family tree linked to your test to find people who are in your tree and are also in your matches's linked trees. If your tree is private and not searchable, you won't be able to see ThruLines, and information from your matches' trees that are private and not searchable won't be available to you. DNA matches may appear in more than one of your ThruLines.

ThruLines are available for ancestors through 5th great-grandparents. ThruLines won't appear for 6th great-grandparents and beyond.

You must have a public tree (or private but searchable) and have it linked to your DNA kit in order to see any ThruLines.

ThruLines

- Starting with parents
- Goes down to 5th great-grandparents

In your tree

Not in your tree

Look at quantity (and *quality* of those DNA matches)

Susan Eliza Thurman
2nd great-grandmother
1844-1910

18 DNA matches
between 9 and 3,474 cM
Evaluate relationship paths
Susan Eliza Thurman
2nd great-grandmother
1844-1910
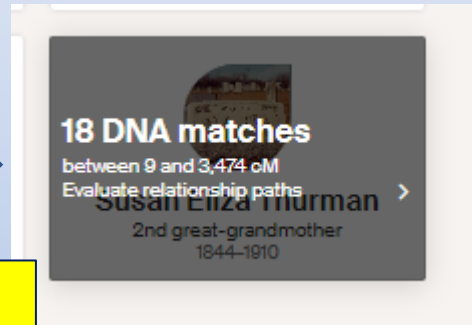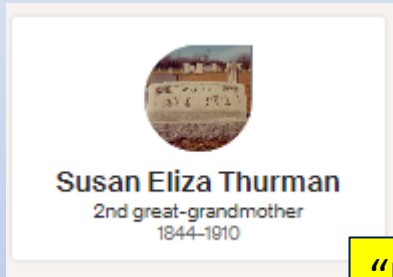
"Mousing" over a name can reveal the number of DNA matches Ancestry finds

Be careful: having a lot of DNA matches may simply be because of your close tested matches

You need "breadth" of matches from other matches outside your close family

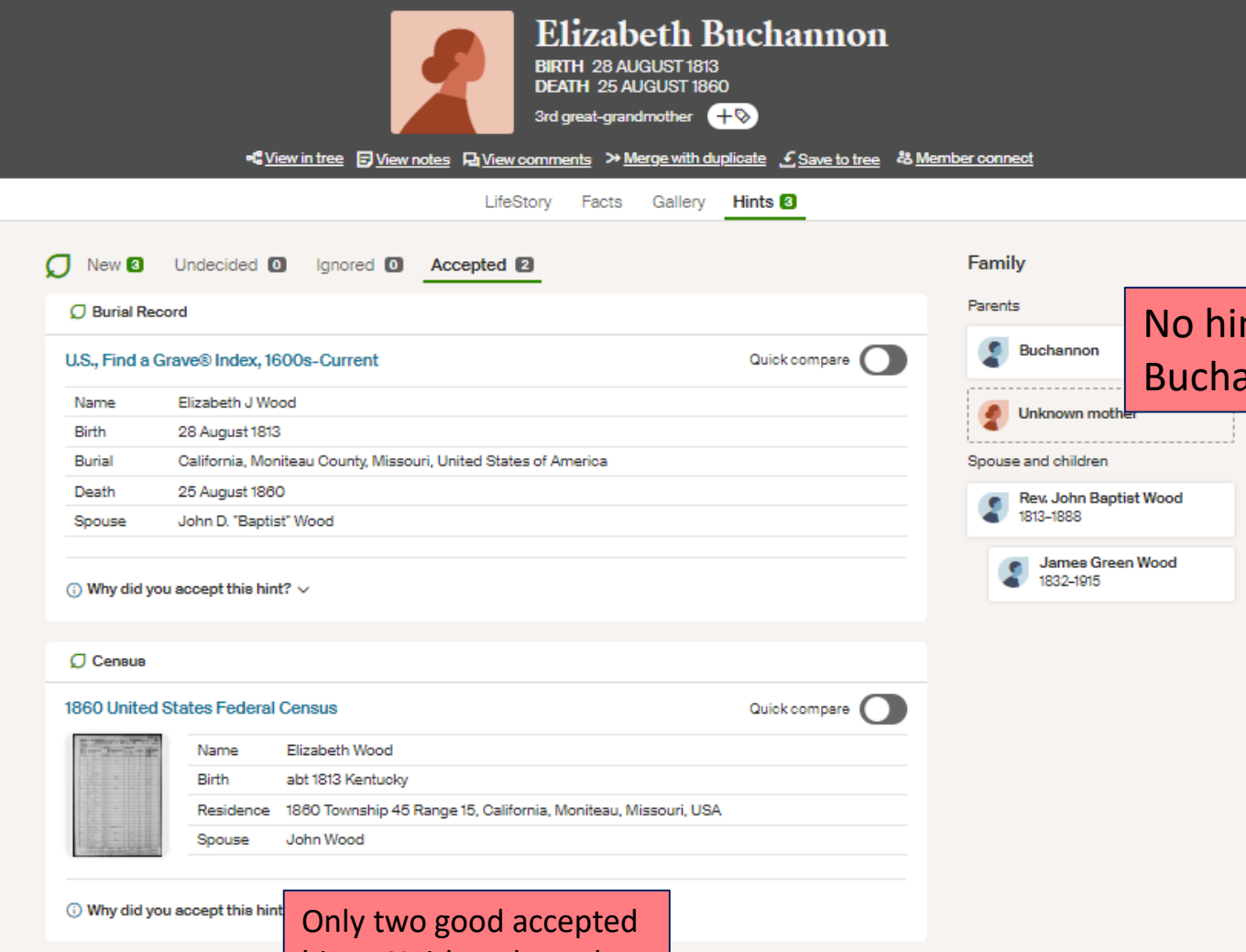TIP: Try moving the mouse over each person. When you see lots of matches that is an indication that the person in the tree may be properly placed.

My 3rd Great-grandmother

- This was entered as found from one of my known cousin's tree

- Only a couple of sources with none showing birth surname

Elizabeth Buchannon
BIRTH 28 AUGUST 1813
DEATH 25 AUGUST 1860

3rd great-grandmother

View in tree   View notes   View comments   Merge with duplicate   Save to tree   Member connect

LifeStory   Facts   Gallery   Hints 3

New 3   Undecided 0   Ignored 0   Accepted 2

Burial Record

U.S., Find a Grave® Index, 1600s–Current   Quick compare

Name	Elizabeth J Wood
Birth	28 August 1813
Burial	California, Moniteau County, Missouri, United States of America
Death	25 August 1860
Spouse	John D. "Baptist" Wood

Why did you accept this hint? ⌄

Census

1860 United States Federal Census   Quick compare

Name	Elizabeth Wood
Birth	abt 1813 Kentucky
Residence	1860 Township 45 Range 15, California, Moniteau, Missouri, USA
Spouse	John Wood

Why did you accept this hint

Family

Parents

Buchannon

Unknown mother

Spouse and children

Rev. John Baptist Wood
1813–1888

James Green Wood
1832–1915

No hints for father Buchannon

Only two good accepted hints. Neither shows her surname as Buchannon

Surprise DNA Matches when opening ThruLines

ThruLines® for Thomas Drury Sanders

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that Joan Anita Craddock may be related to 44 DNA matches through Thomas Drury Sanders.
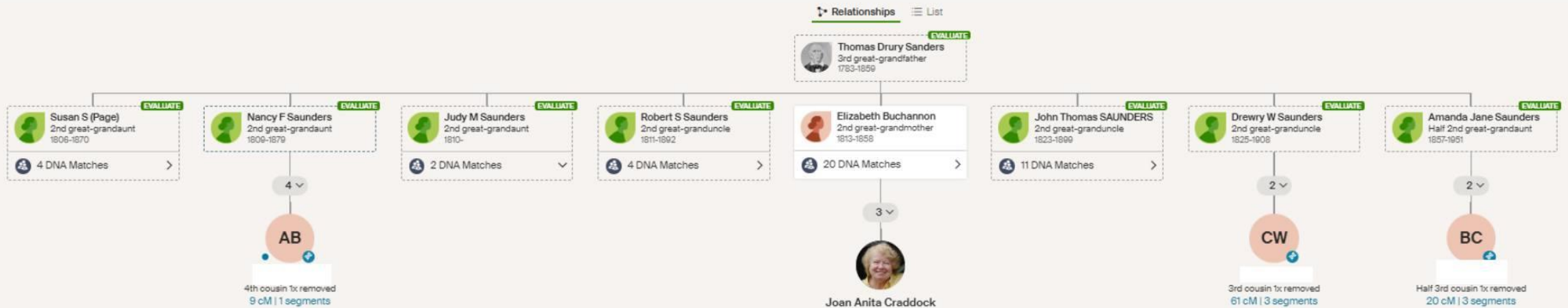
Ancestry found many matches shown as descending from Elizabeth Buchannon's siblings

61 cMs, strong match!

Surprise DNA Matches

Note the breadth of matches from so many siblings! Very good sign of validation

Surprise DNA Matches

ThruLines® for Thomas Drury Sanders

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that Joan Anita Craddock may be related to 44 DNA matches through Thomas Drury Sanders.
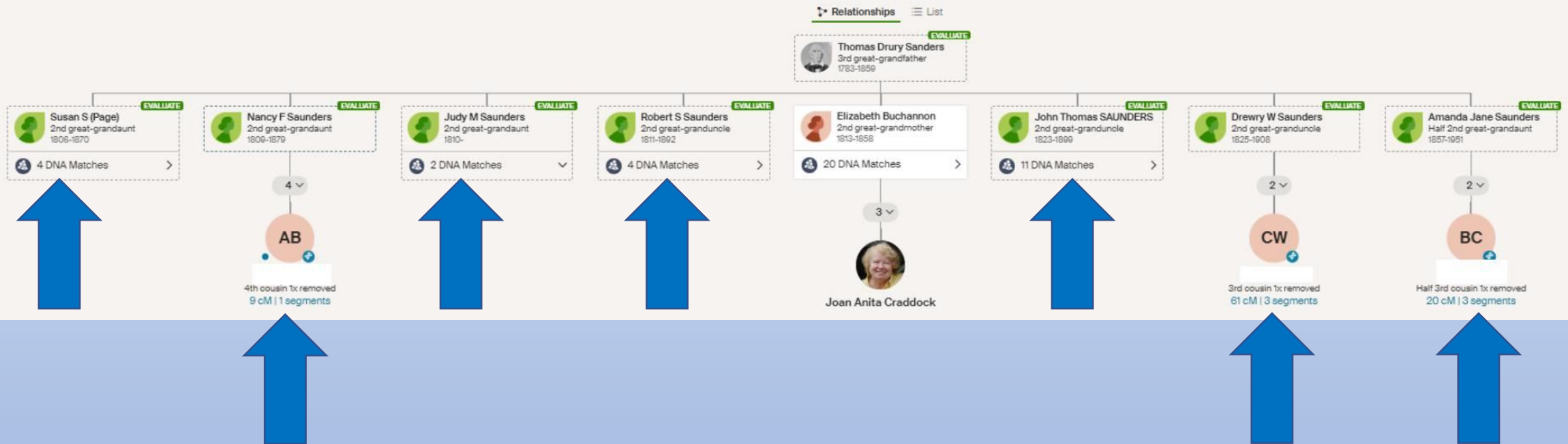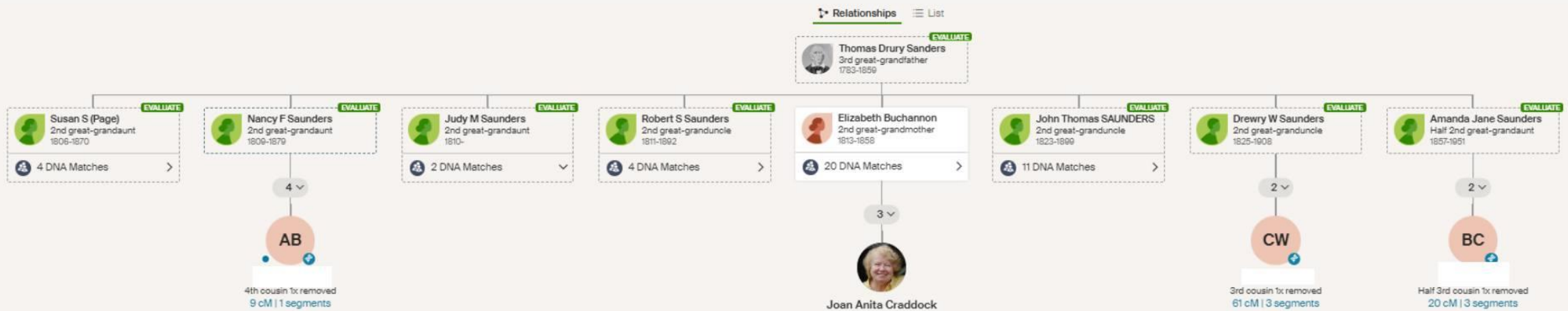
What does this mean??

Likely that "Buchannon" is not Elizabeth's actual surname but it may be Saunders/Sanders instead

The large number of DNA matches that descend from the other Saunders siblings seems to indicate this!

Need to dig deep: look at public trees of these siblings

Build Q&D trees for this line to look for confirmatory sources

A limitation: These people were all born a few decades before the 1850 census

Be Careful

- This is an example of a possible connection to my 5th Great-Grandfather
  - Two red flags here:
    - William Allee is shown as born to father Buford Allee when Buford was 70 years old (yes….it's possible….but….!)
    - The match is only 7 cMs which could very well be a false match

- In my opinion, I would disregard this match entirely!
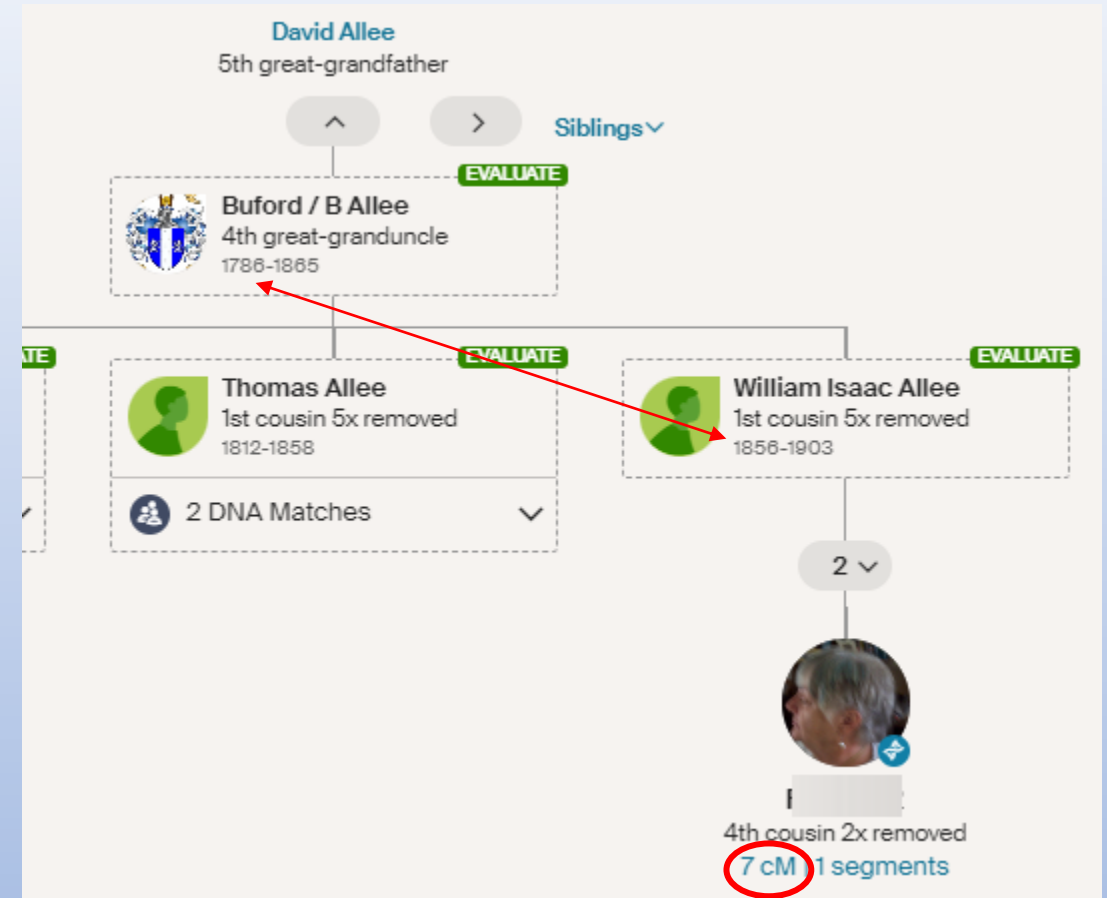
ThruLines -- Verify

- Check each person in the descendancy line
  - Make sure none are born after the parent died
  - Make sure none show a parent > 100 years when they were born
- Be very skeptical of any suggestions of DNA matches 10 cMs or less
- Be suspicious of a wide date range of sibling births
- Be suspicious of any alleged line that only has one DNA match (could indicate a number of issues including, possibly, with your tree)

ThruLines – Bottom Line

- Works only off of existing family trees: YOURS and others
- **If there are errors in others' family trees that can lead to errors in ThruLines**
- My experience is that most ThruLines hints are good, maybe 80-90%

- **ALWAYS VERIFY**

- Once I've verified the ThruLines hint is valid I may want to go into my own linked tree and add this person (and his/her line) into my tree
- I also like to use the MyTreeTag feature for the DNA link
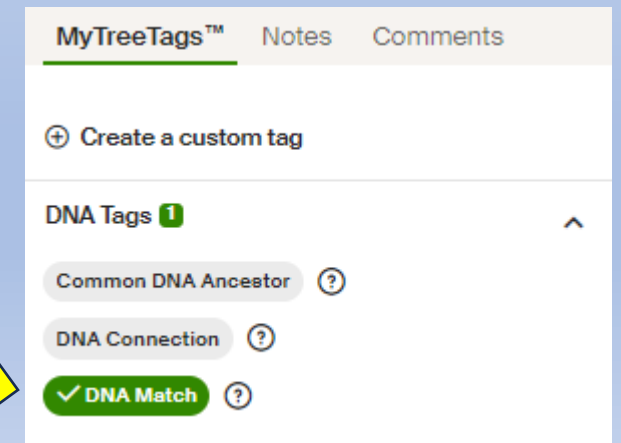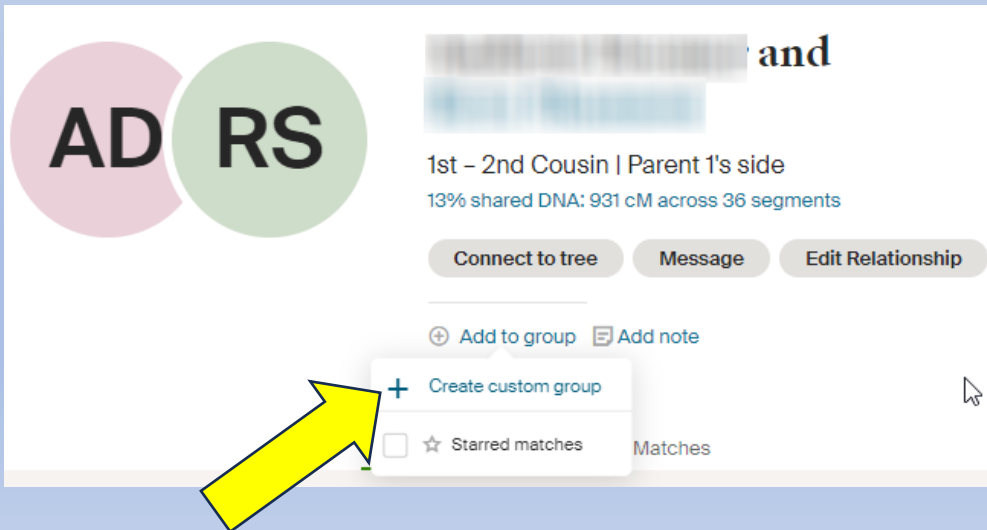
Tag Groups

Tag Groups

- Ancestry has a great feature called Tag Groups
- 24 colored dots that can be used to sort your matches
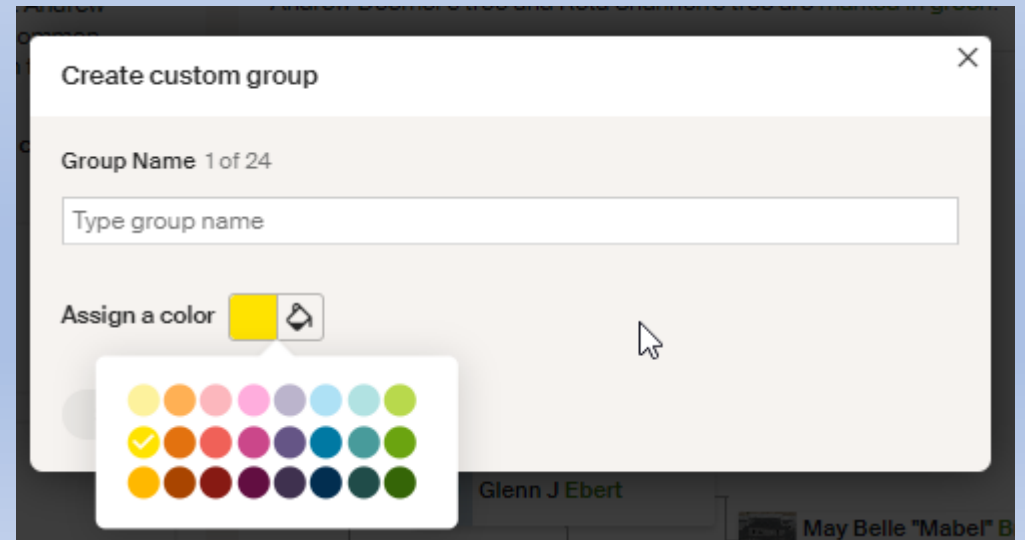- Typical use would be to sort along ancestral lines

Tag Groups

- Getting Started:
  - Start at the top with stronger matches and, one by one, create new tag groups
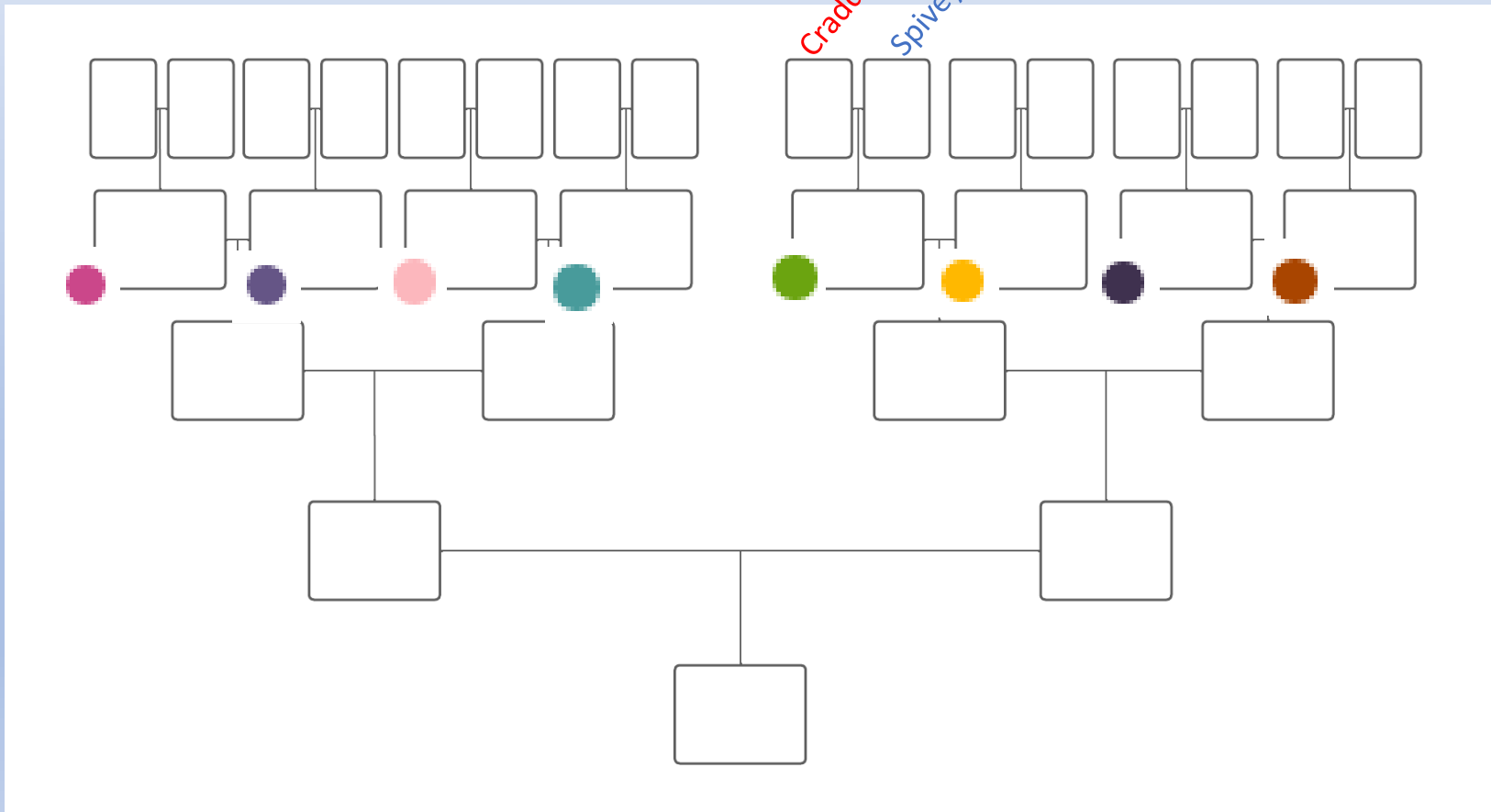 - Click "Create custom group"

- Choose the name and color

Tag Groups

- Suggested Strategy: Assign a different color to each of your 8 great-grandparent lines

TIP: I like to include both surnames of the parents in the name

☐ ● 1 - Waters/Unknown (40)

☐ ● 2 - Berkley/Wheeler (38)

☐ ● 3 - Sylvia/Correia (90)

☐ ● 4 - Lemos/San Jose (154)

☐ ● 5 - Craddock/Spivey (186)

☐ ● 6 - Wood/Thurman (262)

☐ ● 7 - Unknown/Unknown MYSTERY (9)

☐ ● 8 - Spencer/Cummings (208)

Tag Groups

- Once you've set up groups for each of the 8 great-grandparent lines it becomes much easier to add other (or new) matches into the group!

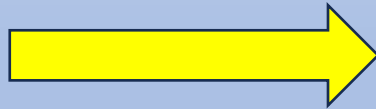- Here I am looking a list of matches all sharing with each other in my maternal great-grandmother's line

Tag Groups

- Since I have 24 "dots" available to use and I only have 8 great-grandparents, I still have 16 left to use

- I like to use the remainder for various things including:
  - Mystery genetic networks (I call these "DNA Islands")
  - Matches with no shared matches
  - Matches with various shared matches not showing a pattern
  - Sub-lines, for instance maybe 2a with would be a great-great-grandparent line
  - Very close matches such as 1st cousins which would otherwise share 4 of the 8 great-grandparent dots

Gets tiresome and somewhat pointless to keep adding close relatives and clicking so many colored dots!

Tag Groups

- One last point:

- In February 2024 Ancestry announced they will be offering 64 tag groups (versus the current 24) sometime in the next few months (not yet available as of 3/26/2024)

- To get the increased number, however, one will have to upgrade to the DNA Tools feature ($10/month)

SideView

SideView

- SideView was implemented recently, around 2022

- In a nutshell, it's an attempt to organize as many of your matches as possible into two different parental lines

- At first, they will only be labeled as "Parent1" and "Parent2" because Ancestry can't tell which is paternal or maternal
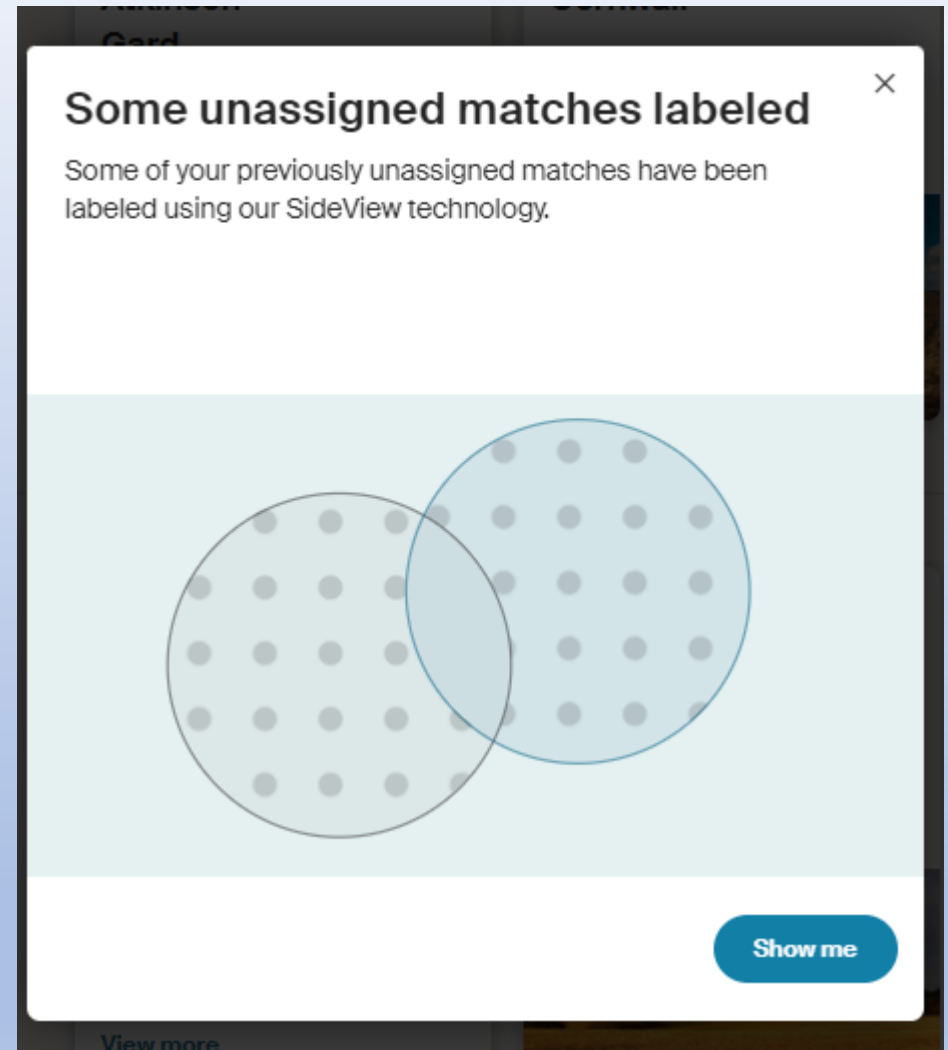
SideView

- This is an example
- AncestryDNA has sorted over 13,000 matches for this person into 2 parental groups and even collected a list of surnames common to each group
- This is for a tester who was born in Cornwall, England

SideView

- When AncestryDNA can't figure out which side a match belongs on they'll just assign an "Unassigned" label to it

- This will be most common for the more distant matches, i.e., ones with lower centiMorgan values

SideView

- There's one other category that is possible for a match: "Both Sides"

- This one, in my opinion, is often the most interesting one

- Why?
  - Because it can indicate the possibility of multiple relationships where the test taker is related to the match on both the mother's side and the father's side

An interesting challenge: using the DNA matches try to figure out which two lines the match may be related to the test taker!

SideView

- When does SideView work well?
  - When the paternal and maternal sides are well-separated from each other

- When does SideView not work well?
  - Pedigree Collapse
  - **Especially in cases of endogamy**

This is an example of a test taker who was identified as 100% Ashkenazi Jewish, a population well-known for endogamy.

Note the **HUGE** number of Unassigned matches; in fact the majority were Unassigned.

Also: note there are nearly 200,000 matches. Much more than most people.

Ethnicity Estimates

What About Ethnicity Estimates?

- These are purely estimates and should not be relied on to any great extent

- May be interesting to view but of limited use for genealogy

- **Wide** variation between companies

- Frequent updates can lead to confusing results
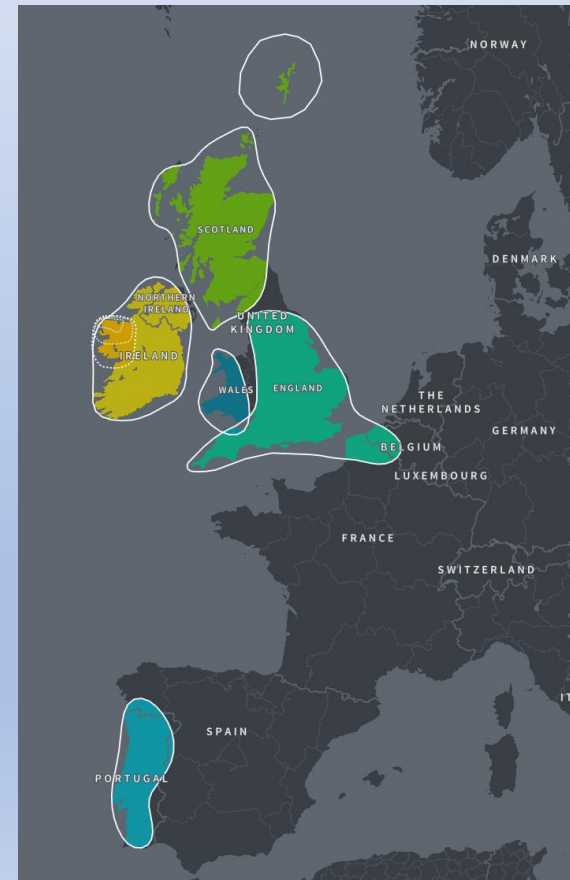
Ethnicity Estimates

- Why all the differences?
  - Each company uses a different "sample panel" of tested people
  - Each company uses its own algorithms (methods) for determining how related a test taker is to this panel of people
  - Each company uses different "geographical" extents or groups to compare test takers from (e.g., what may be "UK" to one company may be English, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh to another company)
  - Also, some population groups are significantly undercounted, or underrepresented in the sample panels as well as in the company's testing population (e.g., American Indian, Inuit, Eskimo, etc.)

Ethnicity Estimates

- Often the testing companies will change the ancestry results --- not always for the better!

March 2022

Ireland	36%

Your community with a connection to this ethnicity region ⓘ
- Connacht, Ireland
  - North Connacht
  - North Mayo

Scotland	33%
England & Northwestern Europe	18%
Portugal	9%
Wales	4%

April 2024

Ireland	33%

Your community with a connection to this ethnicity region ⓘ
- Connacht, Ireland
  - North Connacht
  - North Mayo
  - North East Mayo & North West Sligo

Scotland	29%
Portugal	17%
England & Northwestern Europe	17%
Wales	4%

In this case, for me, the estimates seem more accurate. I know that I am 25% Portuguese and it went from 9% up to 17%.

Ancestry DNA estimates for me

What About Ethnicity Estimates?

MyHeritage

EUROPE

● Irish, Scottish, and Welsh	55.6%
○ UK and Ireland	
● Iberian	25.9%
● Scandinavian	18.5%

Nice sub-county detail!

Ancestry

● Ireland	36% ⟩

Your community with a connection to this ethnicity region ⓘ

☀ Connacht, Ireland	⟩
☀ North Connacht	
☀ North Mayo	
● Scotland	33% ⟩
● England & Northwestern Europe	18% ⟩
● Portugal	9% ⟩
● Wales	4% ⟩

LivingDNA

● Europe (North and West)	62.8%
● France	56.9% ⟩
● South Germanic	5.9% ⟩

French??!!

● Great Britain and Ireland	30.9%
● Ireland	9.2% ⟩
● Devon	6.6% ⟩
● South Central England	4.5% ⟩
● Northern Ireland and Southwest Scotland	3.2% ⟩
● Southeast England	2.3% ⟩
● South Wales Border	1.5% ⟩
● Aberdeenshire	1.3% ⟩
● Northwest England	1.2% ⟩
● Cornwall	1.1% ⟩
● Europe (South)	6.3%
● West Iberia	6.3% ⟩

23andMe

European	**99.7%**
● Northwestern European	85.1% ⌄
● British & Irish	85.1% ⟩
County Mayo, Ireland	
Greater London, United Kingdom	
+18 regions	
● Southern European	14.5% ⌄
● Spanish & Portuguese	13.7% ⟩
Azores, Portugal	
+3 regions	
● Sardinian	0.6% ⟩
● Broadly Southern European	0.2% ⌄
● Broadly European	0.1% ⌄
Trace Ancestry	0.3% ⌄

FTDNA

Europe	97%
Western Europe	
● England, Wales, and Scotland	50%
● Ireland	41%
Eastern Europe	
● West Slavic	3%
Southern Europe	
● Iberian Peninsula	3%
Middle East & North Africa	<3%
Middle East	
● Sephardic Jewish ⓘ	<3%

These are the ethnicity estimates for me as collected, March 16, 2022

Ethnicity Estimates

- Can be useful in some cases to give clues about ancestral lines
- But MANY caveats:
  - Estimates are often updated with wide-changing results
  - Some areas very difficult to discriminate from, especially western Europe such as German vs. French (remember---populations move over time!)
  - These are all estimates using statistics --- they can provide HINTS but rarely PROOF of ancestry

Downloading List of Matches from Ancestry

Downloading List of Matches from Ancestry

- This can be problematic now due to:
  - The recent security incident with 23andMe in October 2023 increasing concerns with all the companies on downloading information from their website
  - Concerns about the amount of computing resources required by the company's servers

- There have been some methods developed but they are highly subject to change

- Ancestry has a history of blocking a number of apps which have tried to download matches (!!!)

Downloading List of Matches from Ancestry

- My best recommendation is to use a tool called DNAGedcom which does have a cost of $5/month

- Worked well up until Oct 2023

- Now, it's kind of "hit or miss", mostly miss

- Just tried today, 4/1/2024, and was unable to initiate a working download

DNAGedcom

- Snapshot of my match database, captured Sept 30, 2023 shortly before all the security concerns from October 2023
- This gives you an idea of what it can provide when it works

Upcoming Classes/Presentations

Date: Sat, Apr 13, 1 pm

Location: Red Mountain Library
Topic: Genetic Networks
Description: What are Genetic Networks and why are they important to me? Let's learn all about them and how they can help with my family tree.

Date: Sat, May 4, 1 pm

Location: Red Mountain Library
Topic: WATO (What Are The Odds)
Description: What is WATO and how can I use it?

All library classes are free to attend and require no registration and held at the Red Mountain Mesa Public Library at 635 N Power Rd in Mesa (unless otherwise noted above).

FamilyTreeAZ.com

Presentations:
http://familytreeaz.com/Presentations

📄 U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-2016
School lists & yearbooks

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