

All slides and handouts can be found at:

<http://www.familytreeaz.com/Presentations/>



QR Code: take photo to
open to presentations

A thought

- We will discuss a useful methodology for working your DNA matches starting with the basics and then digging deeper into ways to improve your Ancestry DNA efforts. This will include using Tag Groups, shared matches, and identifying those matches in order to add to your family tree.
- Note, this same process still largely applies to DNA matches from other testing companies as well

The Goal

Design a systematic
process for
dealing with DNA
matches

Distant Family

 **Ma** 

5th - 8th Cousin
20 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Paternal side

 Public linked tree
6 People

Do you recognize them?

[Yes](#) [Learn more](#) 

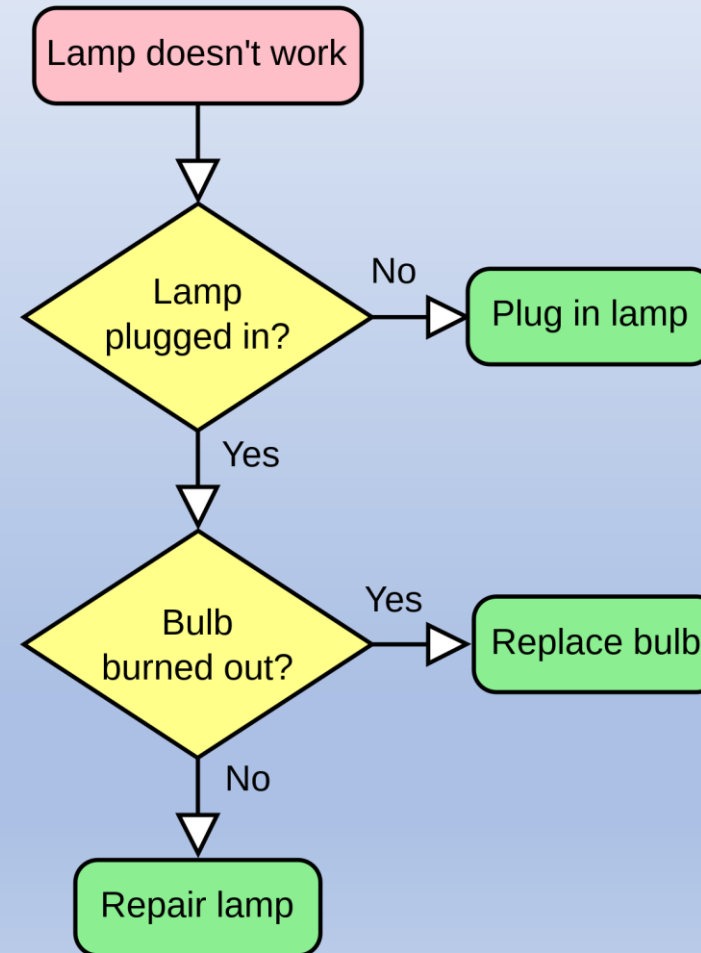


Sub-Goals

1. Identify what ancestral line the DNA match shares with you
2. Identify who the match is
3. Determine the exact relationship

Analogy: computer flowchart

- A flowchart documents a process to be carried out
- Has a “start”
- Has one or more “ends”
- Includes a series of questions with yes or no results



A flowchart for DNA Matches

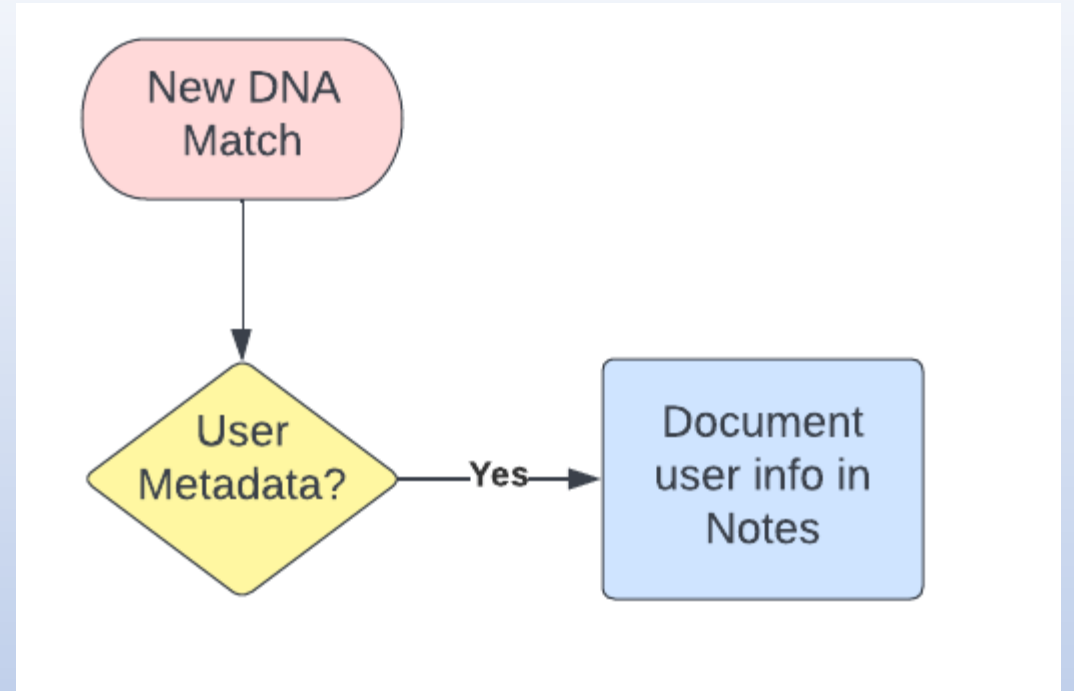
- It occurred to me that when I have a new match I am actually following a process similar to a flowchart
- I built a flowchart to describe each step I take
- Let's go through it, one step at a time



https://assets.ltkcontent.com/images/44558/using-psychology_0e931e7794.jpg

Let's get started!

- First step, look and see if the match has “metadata”
- Metadata in Ancestry is information about the match that may have been provided
 - Location
 - Age or birthdate
- Most do not have it but if they do, it can be helpful to identify

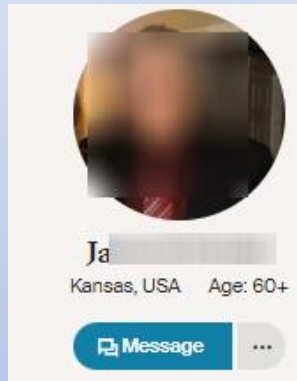


Metadata Example

- Click on match name

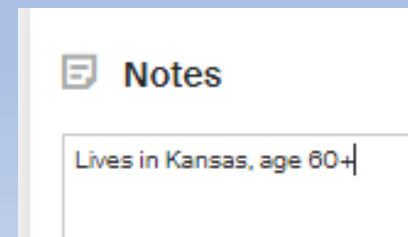
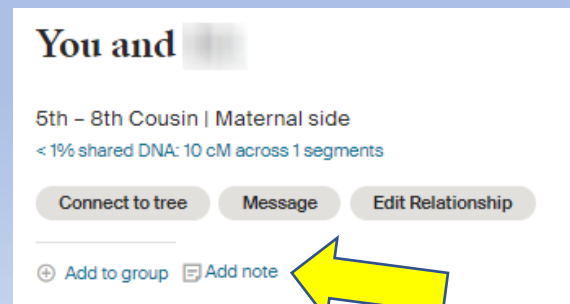


TIP: always remember to click on the match name



In this case, yields home state, and age range


Enter the information in Notes



Metadata Example

- Save information in Notes

Enter the information
in Notes


You and 

5th - 8th Cousin | Maternal side
< 1% shared DNA: 10 cM across 1 segments

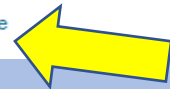
[Connect to tree](#) [Message](#) [Edit Relationship](#)

[+](#) Add to group [📝 Add note](#)



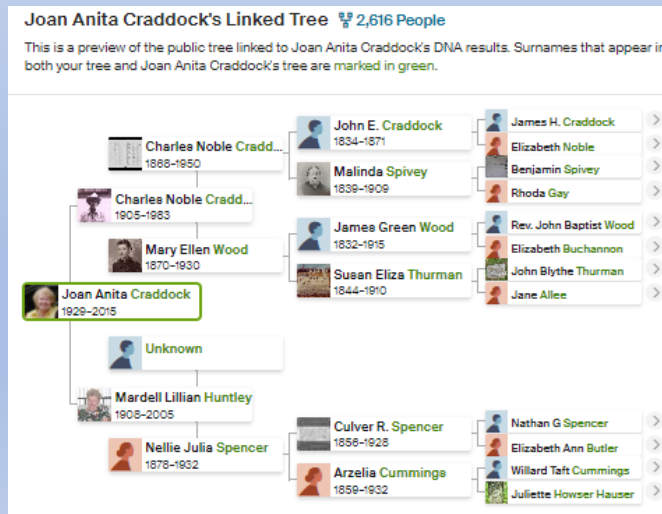
 **Notes**

Lives in Kansas, age 60+



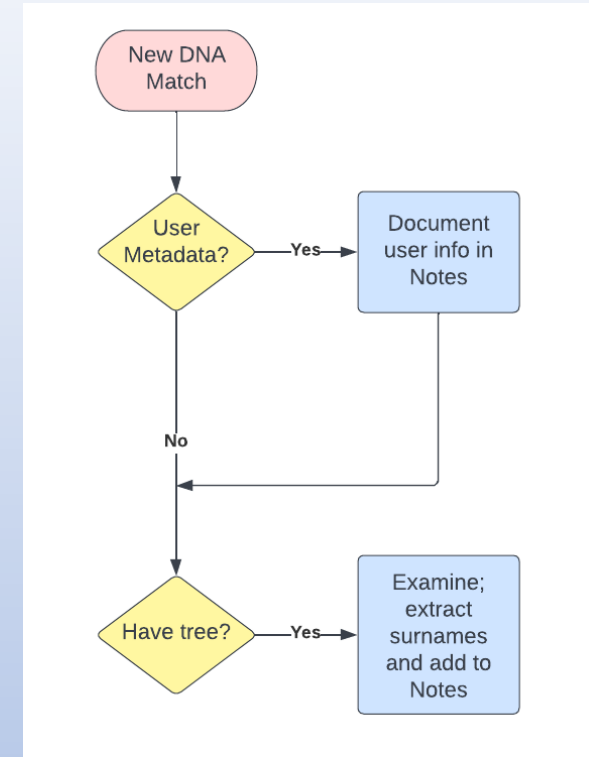
Goal #1: Ancestral Line

- If the match has a tree, examine it
- Look for information on parents
- If that information exists then add it to the Notes



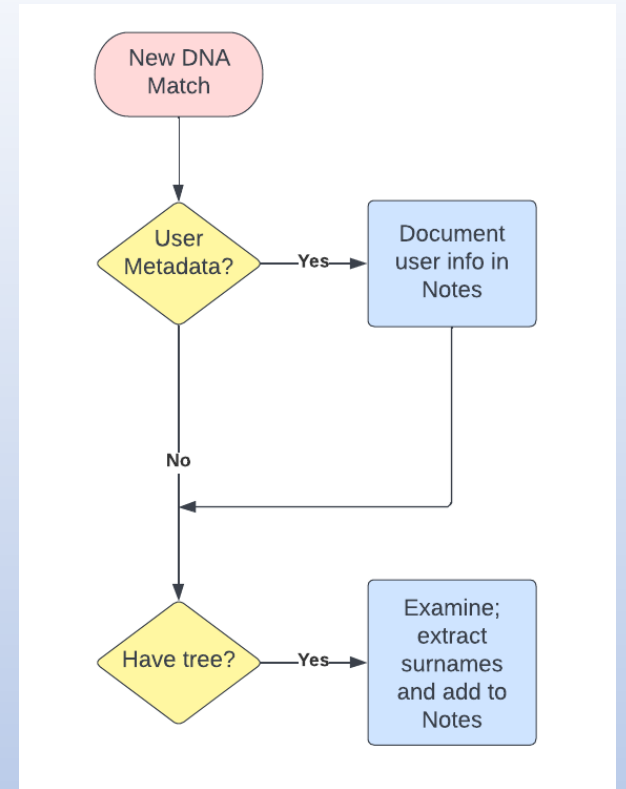
Notes

Craddock, Spivey, Wood, Thurman, Spencer, Cummings, Noble, Gay, Buchannon, Allee, Butler, Hauser



Goal #1: Ancestral Line

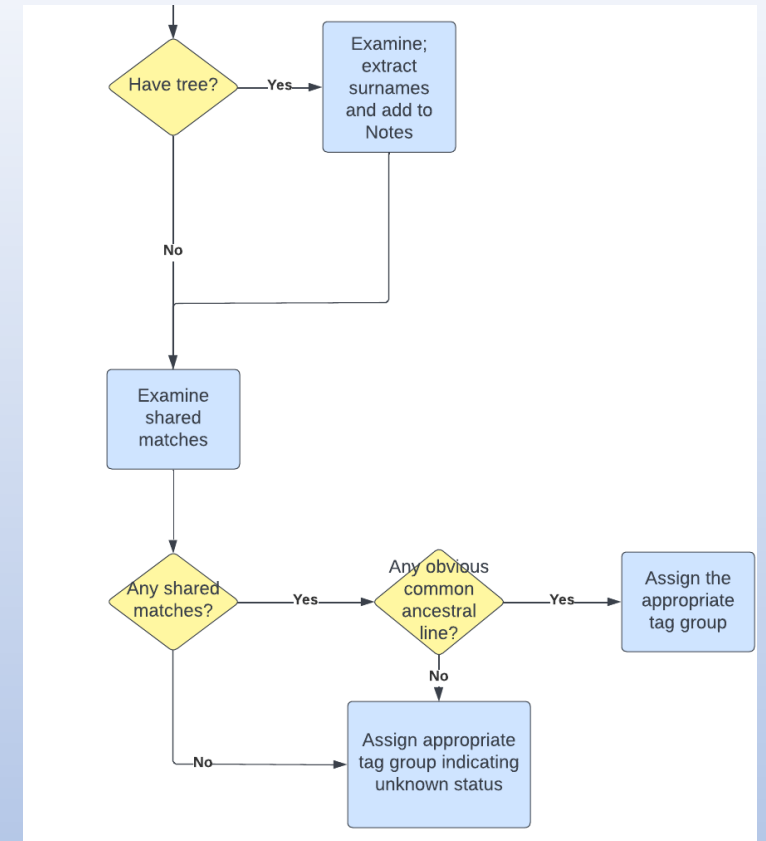
- Consider building your own private, unsearchable tree for the match – even if there already is a tree there
 - You can start with information that may be in the match's tree
- In some cases after you've completed some of the next steps and were able to identify the person then you might want to build a tree just to look for source hints
- Sometimes other trees may have erroneous information or do not make good use of source hints so ---- can be useful to do it yourself



Goal #1: Ancestral Line

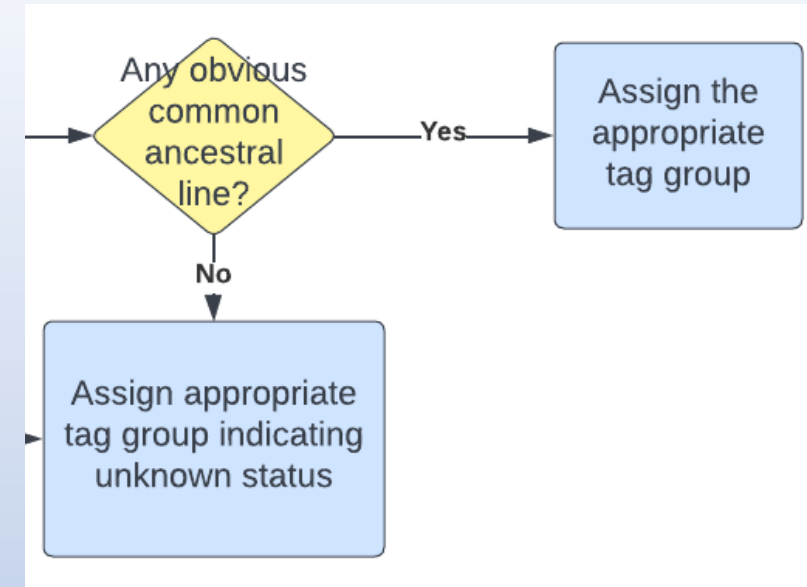
- Look at shared matches

The screenshot shows a DNA match profile. On the left is a circular profile picture of a man and a pink circle with the letters 'NV'. To the right, the text reads: 'You and N', '4th - 6th Cousin | Maternal side', '< 1% shared DNA: 43 cM across 1 segments'. Below this are three buttons: 'Connect to tree', 'Message', and 'Edit Relationship'. Further down is a green plus icon and the text 'Add/edit groups', and a note '43/2. Mom's side, maybe Spivey?'. At the bottom, there are three tabs: 'Trees', 'Ethnicity', and 'Shared Matches'. The 'Shared Matches' tab is highlighted with a yellow box and a yellow arrow points to it from the bottom left.



Goal #1: Ancestral Line

- Hopefully, you'll see a pattern with the same tag group colors, indicating the ancestral line



The screenshot shows a "Distant Family" page with four entries. Each entry includes a profile picture, relationship information (e.g., "4th - 6th Cousin", "60 cM | < 1% shared DNA", "Maternal side"), a "Public linked tree" with a person count, and a "Do you recognize them?" section with "Yes" and "Learn more" buttons. A vertical blue bar on the right side of the page contains a green dot and a pencil icon for each entry. A large yellow arrow points from the top of this bar down to the first entry.

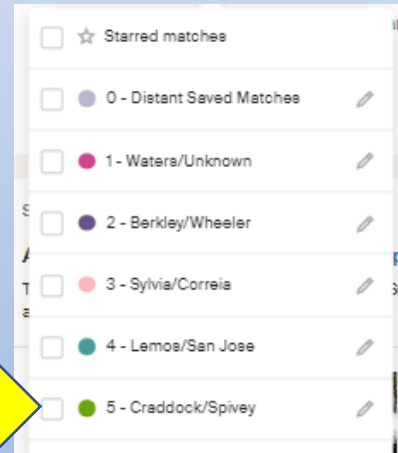
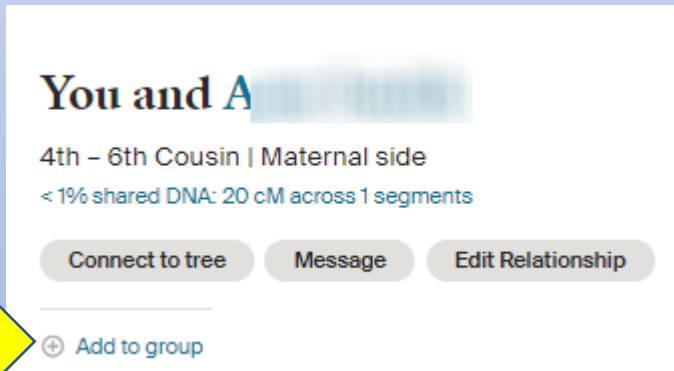
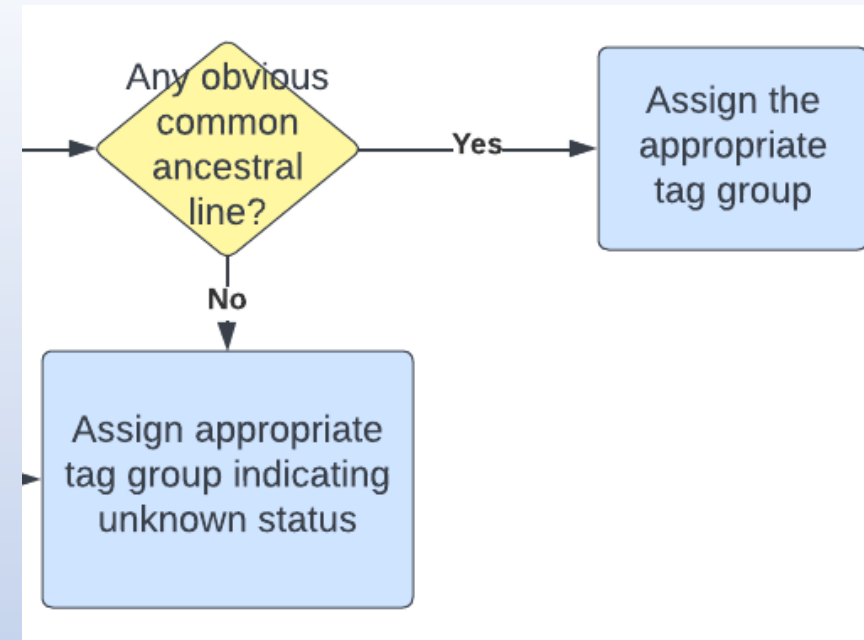
A close-up of the tag group selection menu. It shows three options, each with a colored circle, a checkbox, and a pencil icon:

- 4 - Lemos/San Jose
- 5 - Craddock/Spivey
- 6 - Wood/Thurman

A large yellow arrow points from the left towards the menu.

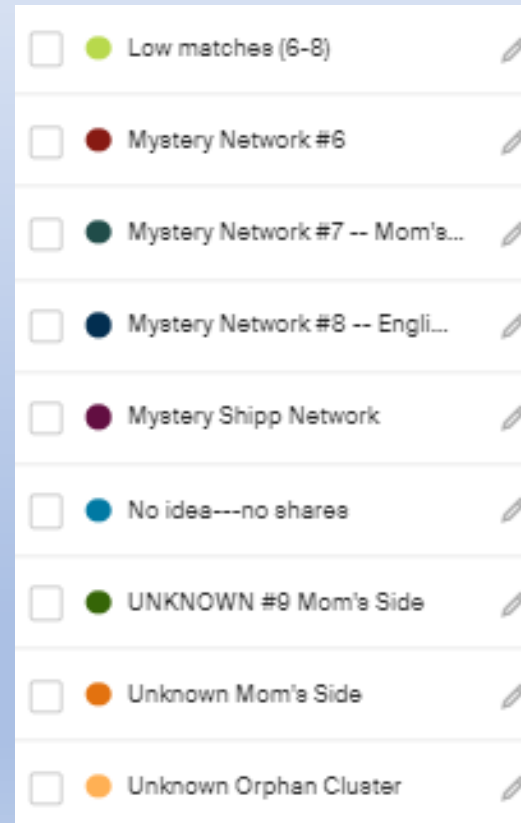
Goal #1: Ancestral Line

- If there's an obvious ancestral line indicated then assign the tag group to the match



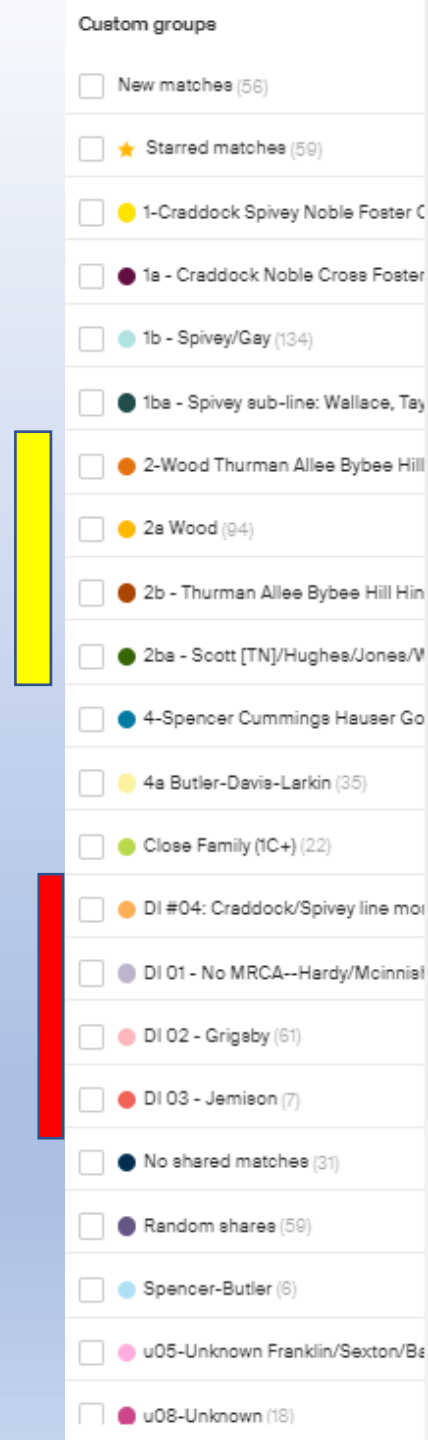
Goal #1: Ancestral Line

- No obvious ancestral line?
 - Use an appropriate tag group to indicate that
 - For example, maybe no shared matches at all
 - Or, random matches showing no discernible ancestral line



Goal #1: Ancestral Line

- Helpful to have a strategy for tag groups
- For example:
 - 8 tag groups for each great-grandparent (or 4 for each grandparent)
 - Subdivide some if desired
 - 1 tag group for “no shares”
 - 1 tag group for “random shares”
 - Use the remaining colors to identify unknown genetic networks (what I call “DNA Islands”)

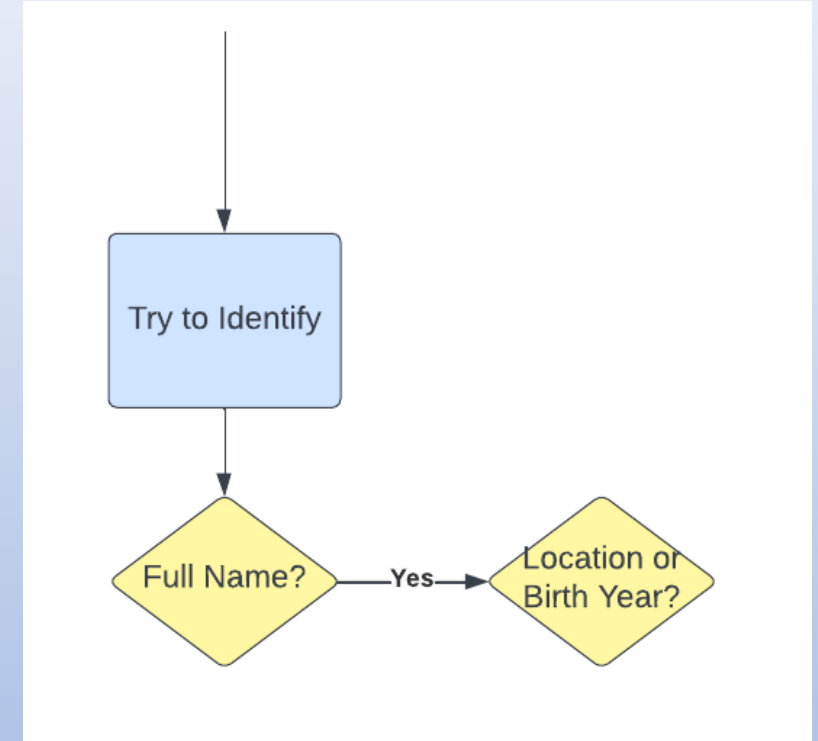


Here I have 2 representing paternal grandmother; then subdivide further up the tree

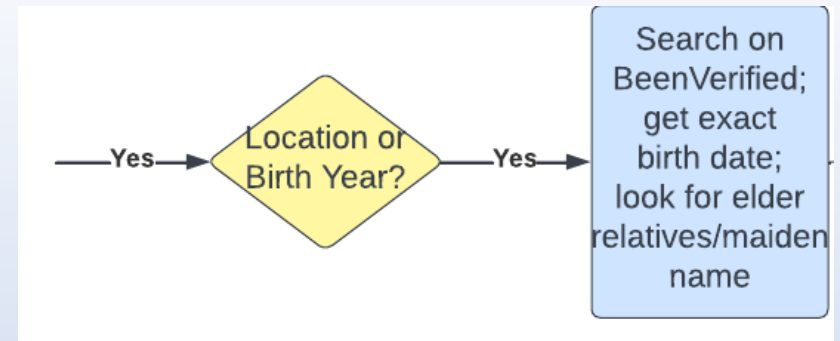
DI = “DNA Island” --- a group of related matches in a genetic network that is unplaced in the tree

Goal #2: Identify the match

- Is the match name a full name?
- If yes, was there a location and/or birth year or age range in the metadata?



Goal #2: Identify the match



- If you have enough unique information such as location or age range then do a person search
- I use BeenVerified (paid ver\$ion)
- Please be aware that if you don't have enough information then the search will likely be futile, yielding too many results

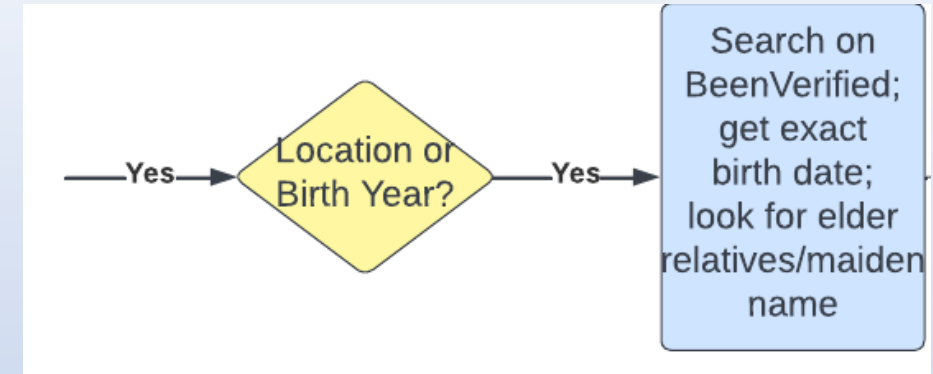
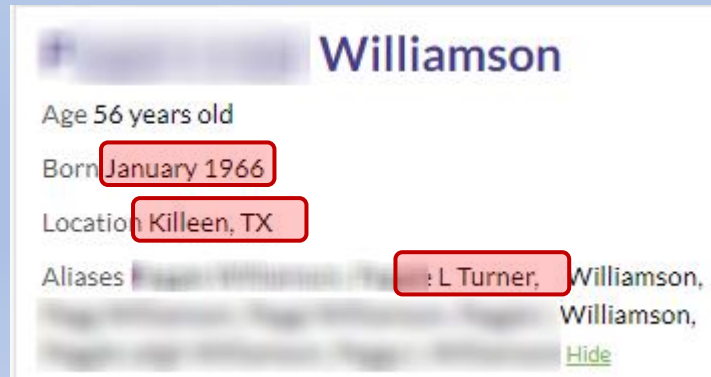
Search By People Phone Property Email Username Vehicle

Search by Name Search by Address

First Name	M.I.	Last Name (required)	City	State	Age	
<input type="text" value="Marvin"/>	<input type="text" value="M"/>	<input type="text" value="Williams"/>	<input type="text" value="City"/>	<input type="text" value="KS"/>	<input type="text" value="65"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>

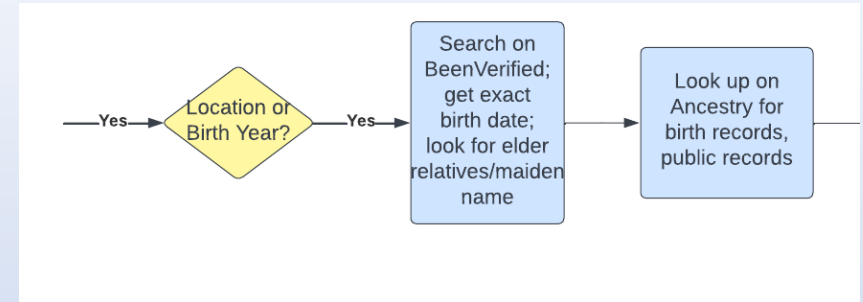
Goal #2: Identify the match

- BeenVerified produces a couple of very useful pieces of information
 - Birth month and year
 - Location
 - Under “Relatives” you can often find parents, even if deceased
 - For females you can also often get maiden names!



Goal #2: Identify the match

- Next, search on Ancestry
 - Birth records, public records (address, birth dates)



Search

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Exact... Exact...

Quick Fill Suggestions [DNA] Waters Tree Email:satwatcher.gen@gmail.com

Place your ancestor might have lived Birth Year

Exact to... Exact +/-...

Show fewer options ^ Match all terms exactly

Joan Anita Craddock

in the California Birth Index, 1905-1995

Detail	Source
Name:	Joan Anita Craddock
Birth Date:	12 May 1929
Gender:	Female
Mother's Maiden Name:	Huntley
Birth County:	Los Angeles

Joan A Waters

in the U.S., Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1

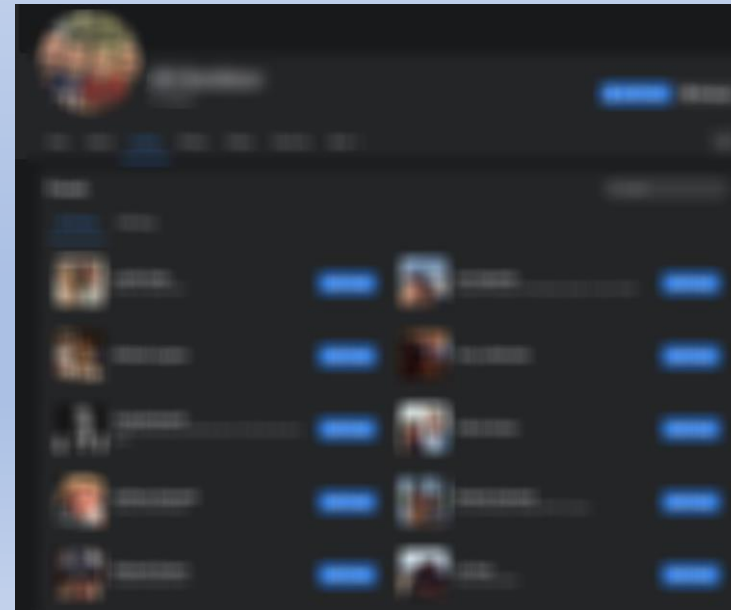
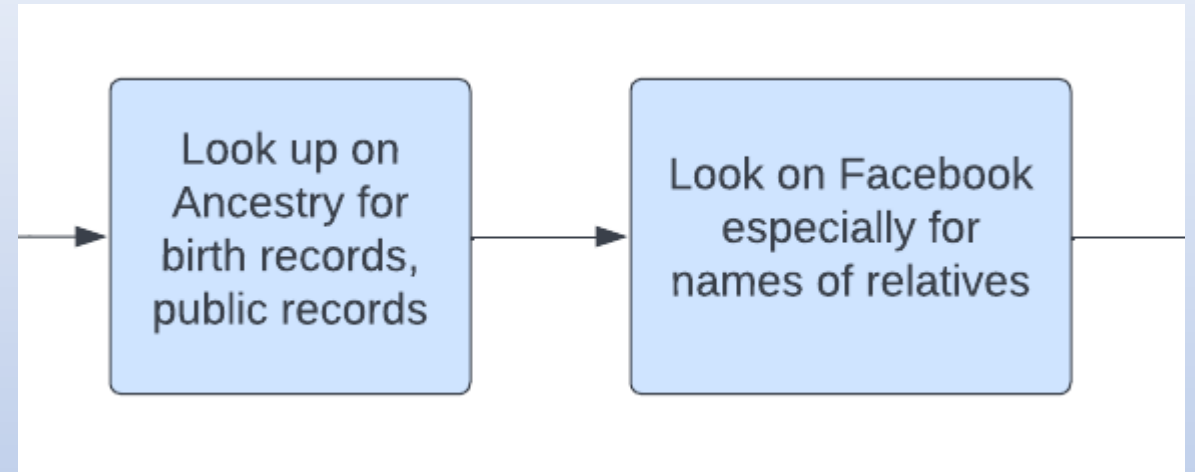
Detail	Source
Name:	Joan A Waters [Joan Waters] [Joann Hoffman]
Residence Date:	1996
Phone Number:	788-7438
Address:	PO Box 2685
Residence:	Fallon, NV
Postal Code:	89407-2685

Goal #2: Identify the match

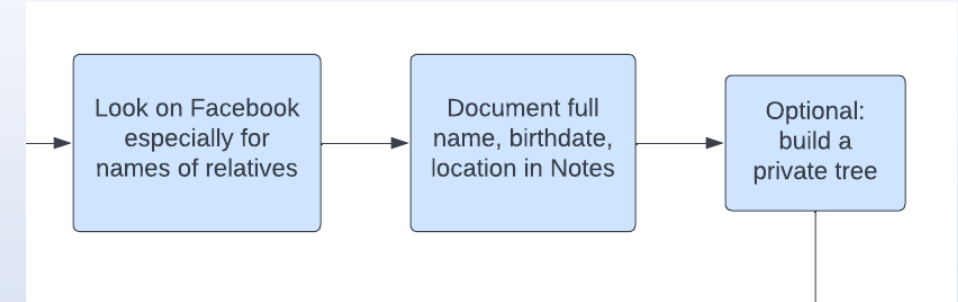
- Facebook

- Sometimes this can yield relative information
 - Look at friends of the person (same surname)
 - For females you may be able to harvest the maiden name from friends list (e.g., brother, sister, or mother)

TIP: once you found your target you may want to look at friends of the target --- they may have a more open profile



Goal #2: Identify the match



- In some cases you may want to build a private, unsearchable tree in Ancestry
 - Note: this can be time-consuming but can often pick up valuable source hints that you may have missed



Tree settings

Tree Info **Privacy Settings** Invitations

You can control who sees your family tree. Please select the level of privacy you are comfortable with. For more information about Ancestry privacy and sharing policies, please read our [Privacy Philosophy](#).

Public Tree

This setting allows other users to view all content in your tree—except information about living individuals and private notes. If you change your mind, you can make your tree private at any time.

Public trees benefit you and the community

- Through public trees you may find others who are researching your family and even collaborate with them.
- You can help other members of Ancestry sites discover information about the anonymous member-to-member email service.

All personal information is protected

- Information about living people is automatically hidden and will NOT be included in public searches.
- Only you can edit your tree unless you specifically invite others to work with you.

Private Tree

This setting allows you to keep your tree "private" so that other users cannot view it.

What does "private" mean?

Limited information about deceased individuals in your tree (name, birth year, a photo, and location) is visible to other users. However, no one can view your actual tree without your permission. If another user requests information about you, you can share it anonymously through our Connection Service to request more information. Keep your information private.

Also prevent your tree from being found in searches.

Note: Although your privacy setting will change immediately to public or private, it will not be reflected in the search index.

[Save Changes](#)

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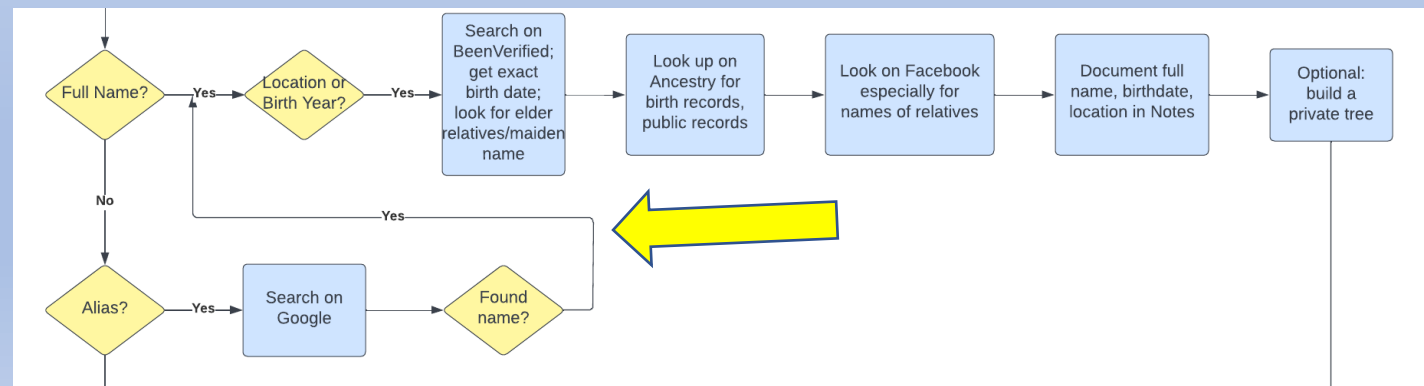
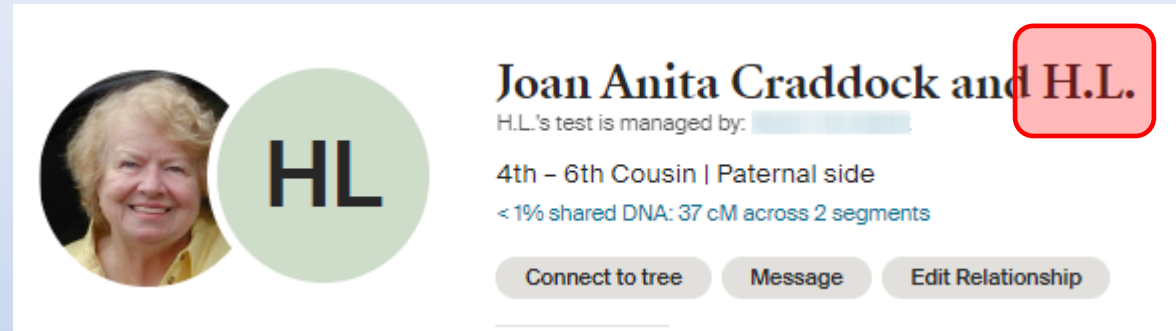
Goal #2: Identify the match

- What about no name?
- Is there an alias?
 - If so, do a Google search and you may get lucky and find the person uses the alias in other places (you'll be surprised how common that is)

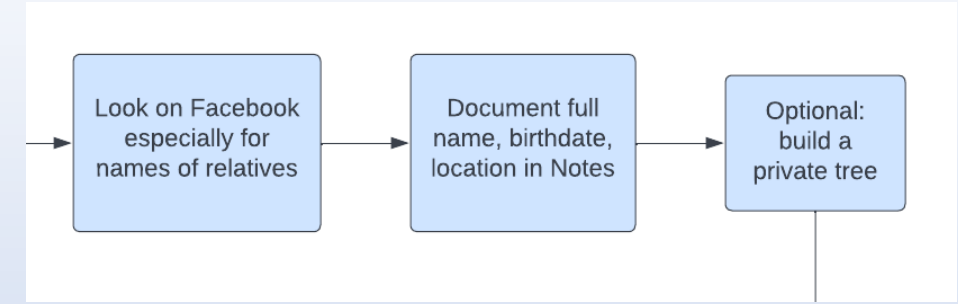


Goal #2: Identify the match

- One last thing to try:
 - Sometimes the match will be identified with just initials
 - I've had some success with using the first letter of the last name along with careful examination of the shared matches I may be able to deduce the last name (not always successful but it's worth a try)
- If you were successful here then be sure to go back up in the flowchart to do a thorough ID search



Goal #2: Identify the match



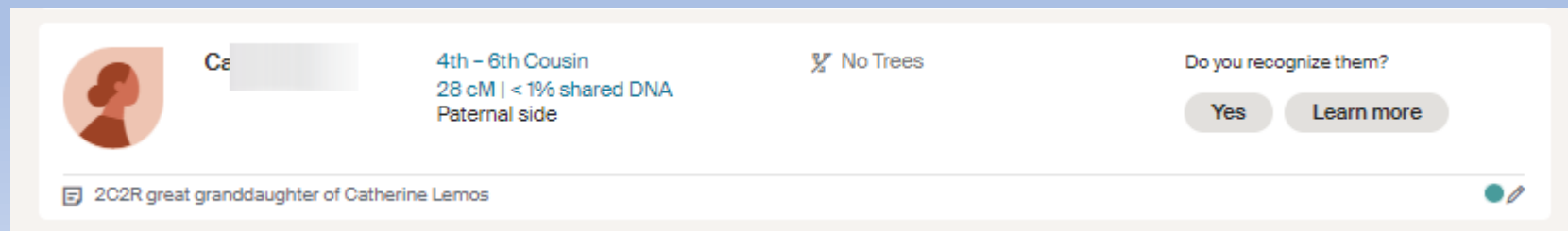
- Lastly, be sure to put whatever you found in the Notes field on Ancestry

Tim **REDACTED** 4th - 6th Cousin 30 cM | < 1% shared DNA Maternal side Public linked tree 35 People Do you recognize them? Yes Learn more

Yorktown IN, 50s. Unknown on Mom's side. This is probably **REDACTED** from Downers Grove IL.

Goal #3: Identify the relationship

- Certainly you will not always be able to do this but if it's going well so far:
 - You've identified the ancestral line
 - You've identified the match including full name, date of birth, location, maybe parents names
- If you have intersection with your primary DNA tree (i.e., common ancestor(s) have been confirmed) then:
 - Enter full information into Notes:
 - I like to identify exact relationship (e.g., 3C1R on Spencer/Cummings line)



Goal #3: Identify the relationship

- Last step, add the newly identified match and relationship to your active DNA-linked tree!

Permilia Willett
BIRTH 1793 • New York
DEATH 1854 • Onondaga County, New York, USA
4th great-grandmother

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

LifeStory | **Facts** | Gallery | Hints 2

Facts | Filter | Add | Sources | Add | Family | Add

1793 (AGE)
Birth
1793 • New York
1 source

Possible marriage records | Search

1850 57
Residence
1850 • Onondaga, Onondaga, New York, USA
1 source

1854 61
Death
1854 • Onondaga County, New York, USA
Add fact

Sources

Ancestry sources

- 1850 United States Federal Census
- Michigan, Death Records, 1867-1950
- Michigan, Death Records, 1897-1920

Search on Ancestry | Add source | Add web link

Family

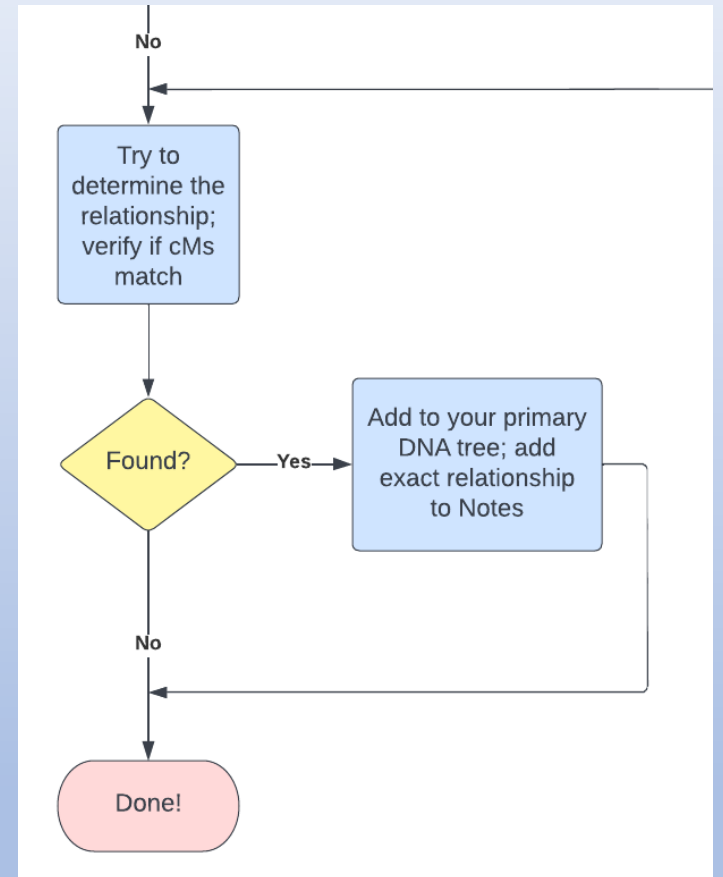
Parents

- William Willett 1769-1844
- Hannah Foster 1775-1831

Spouse and children

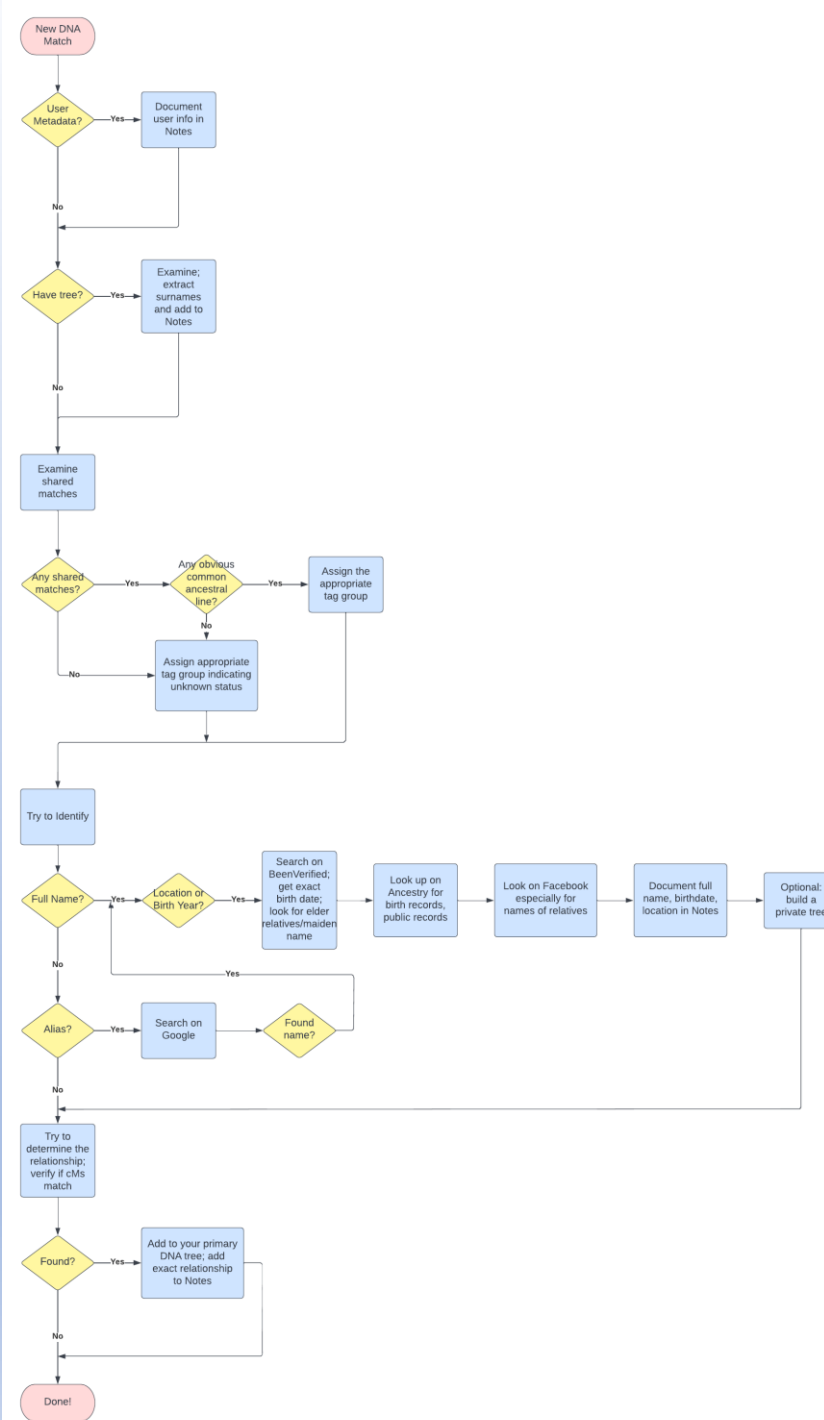
- Asher T. Cummings 1800-1876
- George G Cummings 1828-1905
- Willard Taft Cummings 1834-1904

Add family



The Entire Flowchart

- If you want to download a copy of the flowchart you can find it here:
- http://familytreeazcom.ipage.com/Presentations/Ancstry_Process.png



Quote of the Day

“DNA doesn't lie. But it sure can be misinterpreted.”

– Ken Waters

Upcoming Classes/Presentations

Sat, Jan 14, 2 pm

Topic: Identifying Your DNA Matches

Description: One of the primary steps in working with your DNA match list is identifying the matches so that you can work them into your family tree. Sometimes it's easy or you can communicate with the match. But, more often, that is not the case and so a series of steps may be required in order to identify them

Wed, Feb 1, 7 pm (Private Group—contact Ken for information)

Topic: Working with DNA Matches

Sat, Feb 4, 2 pm – 3:30 pm

Topic: Solve Your DNA Mysteries

Description: This will be an open session where you can bring your DNA mysteries in to solve together. If you have questions or need help analyzing your DNA matches then please bring them in for today's session. Let's solve them together!



All library classes (highlighted blue) are free to attend and require no registration. Classes are 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>



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