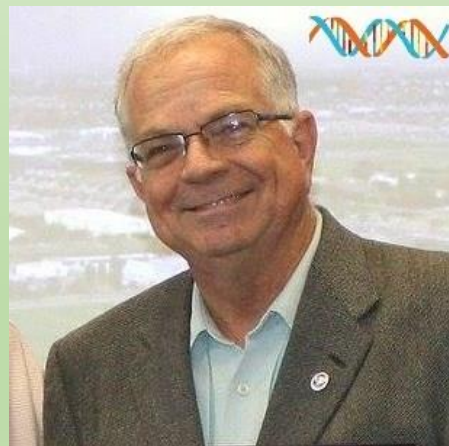




Strategies For Working With Ancestry Tag Groups



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All slides and handouts can be found at:

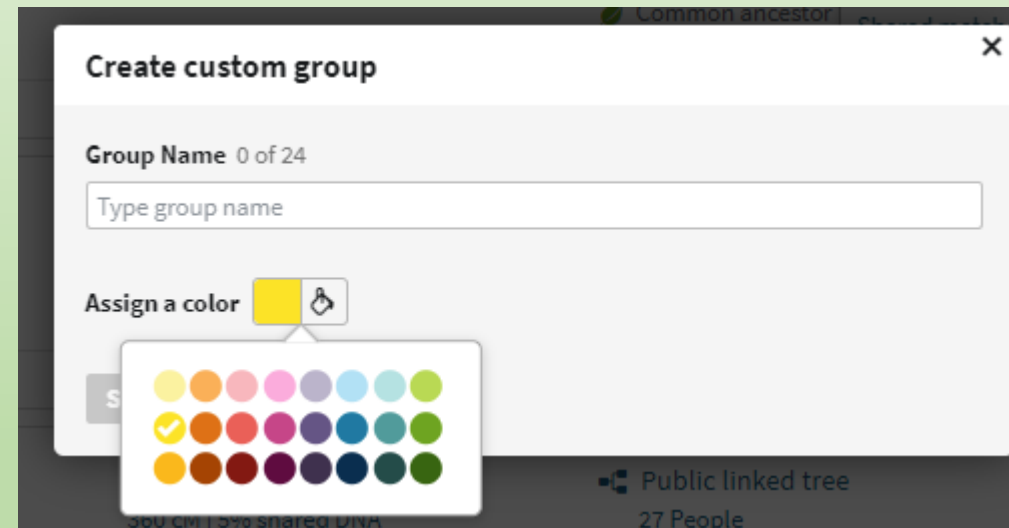
<http://www.familytreeaz.com/Presentations/>

Ancestry Tag Groups

- This presentation goes beyond the mechanics (e.g., how to assign groups) but really touches on how to build a working strategy to best use them
- I will present a standard strategy, one that will be useful for many situations
- I will also touch briefly on specialized strategies

Introducing Ancestry Tag Groups (aka, “dots”)

- Ancestry allows DNA kit owners to assign DNA matches to different groups
- Each group is denoted with a “dot”
- There are 24 available groups (or “dots”) (plus a special “starred” group)
- DNA matches can be added to more than one group, as desired
- Users can elect to see only one tag group at a time



Why Use Tag Groups?

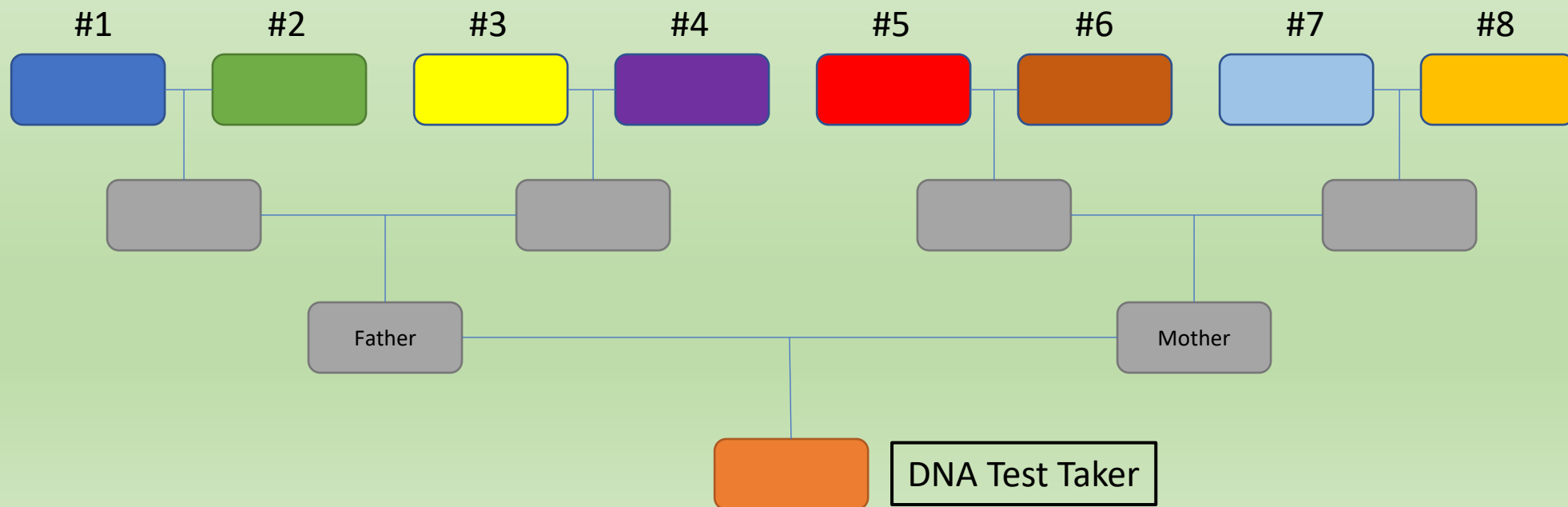
- Greatly eases the process of sorting DNA matches into common groups, most notably family lines
- Eases the process of working with “DNA Islands”
 - Once a DNA Island has been solved (i.e., you know how the DNA test taker is connected to them) then you can change all the dots to the appropriate family line and reuse the tag group for another DNA Island
- Works well with other filtering capabilities now on Ancestry
 - Filtering by centiMorgan ranges
 - Sorting by date of match

Have a Strategy

- Before doing anything else, come up with a strategy
- I have a default strategy that I use for many cases
- Some special situations may warrant a special strategy so the default strategy may not be ideal for all situations
- Of course --- these are just suggestions --- you can try any strategy you like!

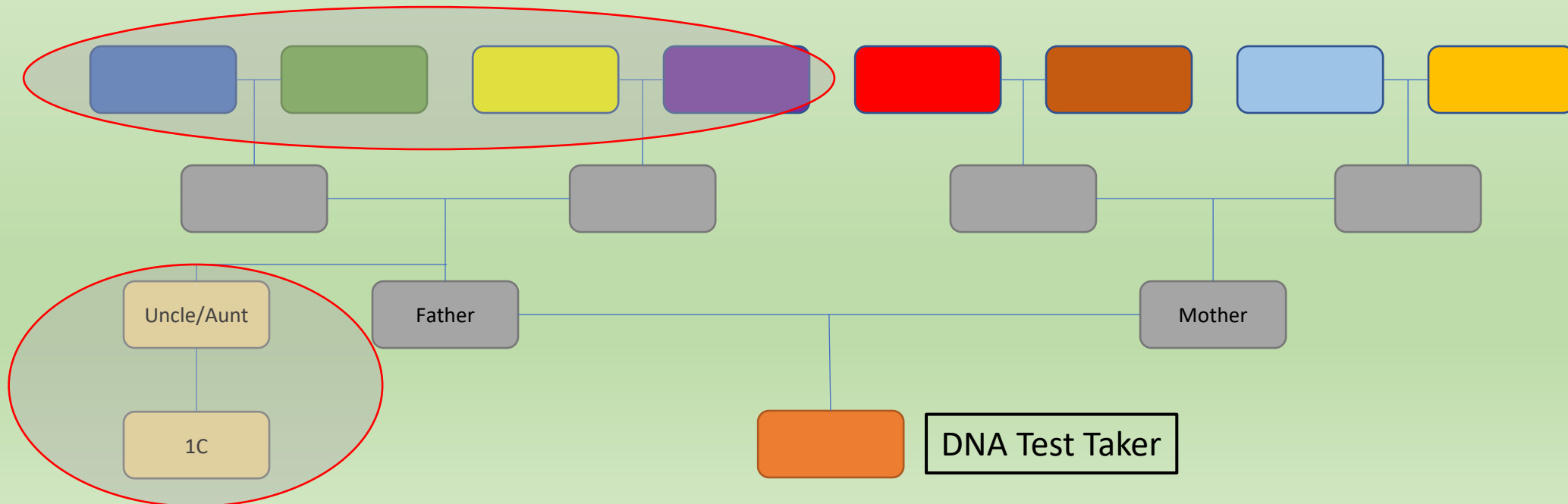
My Default Strategy

- Number the first 8 groups and name them for each great-grandparent line
- Most matches will fall under 1 of these groups



My Default Strategy

- Add single group for:
 - Close relatives (typically 1C or closer)
 - These will share multiple lines and so are not really useful in working on identifying individual lines up the tree
 - Note that full 1st cousins will share *4* of these lines



My Default Strategy

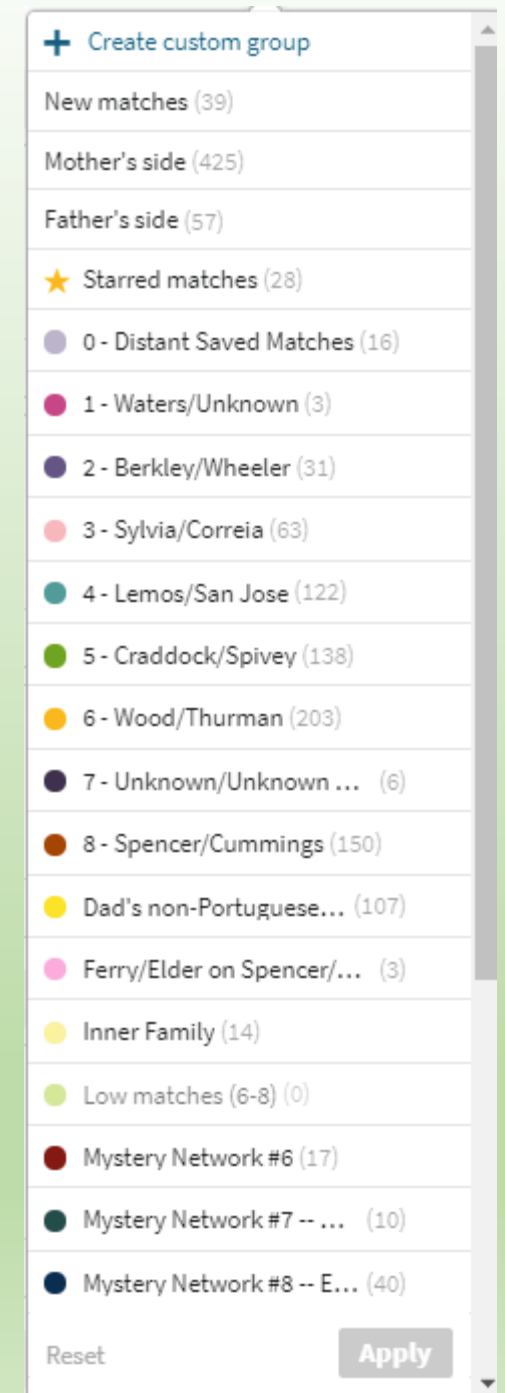
- Add single group for:
 - No shares – DNA matches that have no common shares
 - Matches that only share very close relatives (e.g., parent/child, siblings, aunt/uncle/niece/nephew, 1Cs) provide no benefit to the share as they do not limit down to a line --- so I include them in this group of no shares

Ken Waters does not yet have any matches in common with Brandi Nolan.

[View all your matches](#)

My Default Strategy

- Add single group for:
 - Random shares – DNA matches that have shared matches but do not seem to fall into any specific line
- You've now used 11 of the 24 groups so 13 are available
 - 8 great-grandparent lines
 - 1 for close relatives
 - 1 for no shares
 - 1 for random shares
- So, you have a category for every match here as everyone falls into at least one of these categories




New Matches

- With each new match I always:
 - Select the appropriate tag group
- The advantage is it's very easy to see what ancestral line any new match is in if it has multiple shares with just one line
- For example in this case, a new 20 cM only shares with a 22 cM match who has no shares
- So, I mark him in no share group

The screenshot displays a match page on AncestryDNA. At the top, it shows a comparison between 'You' and another user, identifying them as '5th - 8th Cousin' with '< 1% shared DNA: 20 cM across 1 segments'. Below this, there are buttons for 'Add relationship' and 'Message'. A dropdown menu is open, listing various tag groups for categorizing the match. The 'No idea---no shares' option is selected with a green checkmark. Other options include 'Dad's non-Portuguese ...', 'Ferry/Elder on Spencer...', 'Inner Family', 'Low matches (6-8)', 'Mystery Network #6', 'Mystery Network #7-- ...', 'Mystery Network #8-- ...', 'Mystery Shipp Network', 'UNKNOWN #9 Mom's S...', 'Unknown -- Mom's side', 'Unknown Mom's Side', 'Unknown Orphan Clus...', and 'Waters/Wheeler-Trish ...'. The background shows a 'Distant Family' section with a match card for 'E...' (4th - 6th Cousin, 22 cM, < 1% shared DNA) and a 'No shared matches' notification. At the bottom, there are links for 'Support Center', 'Ancestry Blog', 'Site Map', and 'Gift Memberships', along with a copyright notice for 1997-2021 Ancestry.

Search for those Direct Ancestor Hints for 4th and 5th Cousins

- These are especially valuable
- The ideal is to have at least one for each of your great-grandparent lines
- They help validate shared matches
- In this case a 22 cM match has a tree (private but still searchable) that intersects with my tree
- Anyone who is a shared match to him can *usually* be assigned to that same ancestral line



Th [REDACTED]

4th cousin 2x removed
22 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Mother's side

Private linked tree
46 People
Common ancestor

[View match](#)

4C2R Willett/Foster. Corresponded years ago. 22 cM.

My Default Strategy

- Some matches will not fit into any of the 11 groups already set up
 - They will have shared matches, but not to one of the 8 family lines
 - Their shared matches will be a identifiable group, i.e., relate to each other
- For the remaining 13 groups, use these for what I call “DNA Islands”
 - Mystery groups that can not be linked to one of the 8 primary groups
 - I like to number these (“Island #1”, etc.) and if I see a predominant surname I will add that as well
 - My experience has been that most often these matches have less than 30 cMs in common with the test taker
 - This makes them less likely to align nicely with one of the 8 family groups

DNA Islands

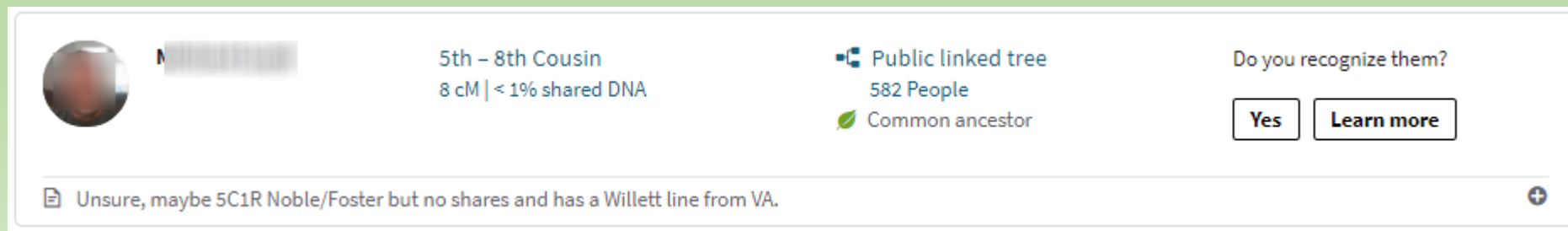
- Groups of matches who share a common ancestral line with the test taker but you do not know how that line fits into the test taker's tree



- HOPEFULLY – Eventually you'll be able to link each of these DNA islands to the appropriate ancestral great-grandparent line (1-8)

Be Careful with Small cM Matches

- Sometimes you will have very small segments (8 cMs in this case) and Ancestry determines you have a common ancestor based on tree analysis
- I NEVER accept these as common ancestors without some sort of corroborating evidence such as (a) shared matches to the same line, or (b) really strong tree evidence
- Too often what I find is they might be from another line and that can be determined from shared matches



The screenshot shows a match card from AncestryDNA. On the left is a profile picture of a person with a blurred name. To the right of the name, it says "5th - 8th Cousin" and "8 cM | < 1% shared DNA". Further right, there are two icons: a public tree icon labeled "Public linked tree" with "582 People" below it, and a leaf icon labeled "Common ancestor". On the far right, there is a question "Do you recognize them?" with two buttons: "Yes" and "Learn more". At the bottom of the card, there is a note: "Unsure, maybe 5C1R Noble/Foster but no shares and has a Willett line from VA." with a plus sign icon to its right.

Is This Strategy Perfect for All Test Takers?

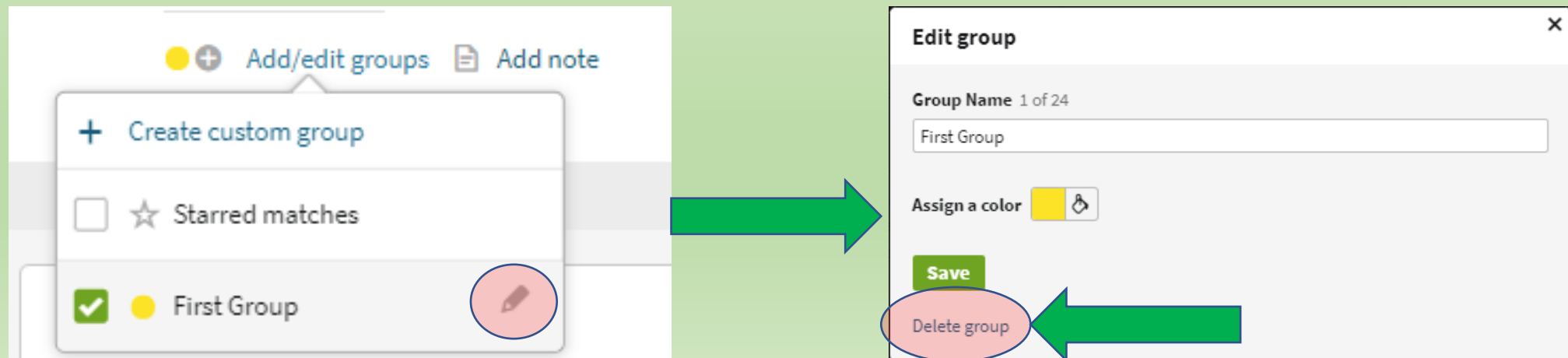
- It may be useful for most however it certainly isn't the only one to consider
- For instance, perhaps most of the person's tree is well documented with the exception of, say, a grandfather
- In that case your emphasis should be on finding that one grandfather line so perhaps you can use something like this:
 - Group 1: all matches from the other 3 grandparent lines
 - Groups 2-24: each individual DNA Island group
- Then, work to find intersections between these different DNA Island groups to identify common ancestral lines

Unknown Parentage Cases

- What if neither parent is known?
- Start slow and easy by grouping into two main groups (particularly with the larger matches, e.g. 50-1000 cMs)
- Ultimate goal is to start by breaking the matches into one paternal and one maternal line
- Eventually you can work to expand those 2 into 4 grandparent lines and then 8 great-grandparent lines

Lastly...

- What if I've made a mess of things and want to start over?
- EASY
 - Just delete each tag group that you created

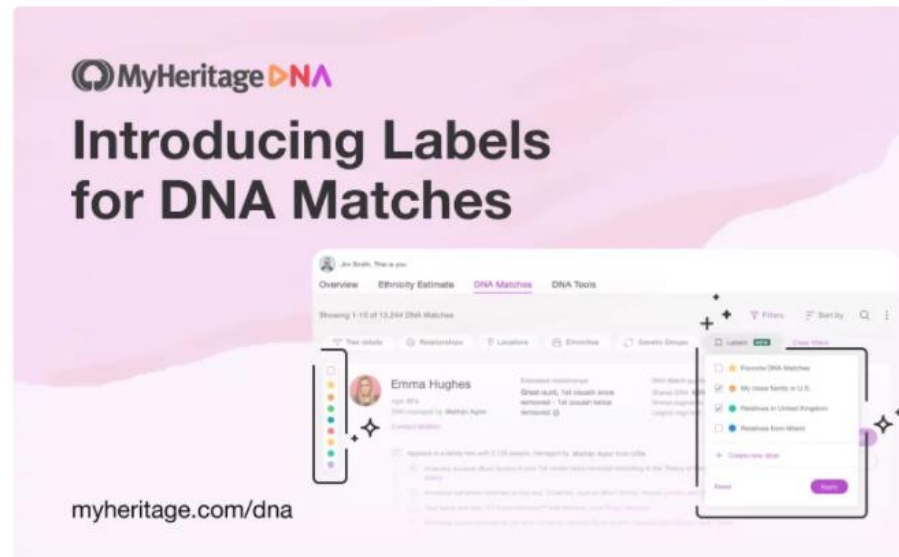


HOT OFF THE PRESS -- MyHeritage

Introducing Labels for DNA Matches on MyHeritage

By Esther • November 18, 2021

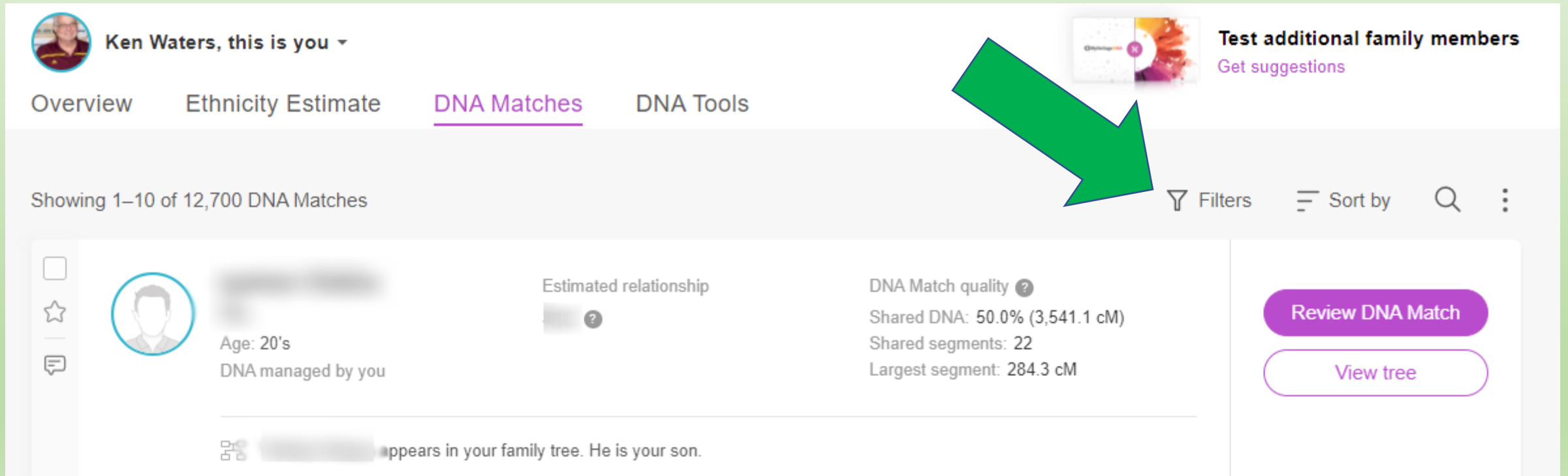
SHARE



We are excited to introduce labels for your DNA Matches, a convenient way of organizing your DNA Matches into groups. As more people test their DNA with MyHeritage or upload their DNA data, the MyHeritage DNA database continues to grow by leaps and bounds. The growing list of your newfound DNA Matches can be overwhelming. The handy new color-coded labels feature comes to your aid! Labels are a free feature that doesn't require a subscription.

MyHeritage -- Labels

- Found under Filters



The screenshot shows the MyHeritage DNA Matches interface for user Ken Waters. The 'DNA Matches' tab is selected. A green arrow points to the 'Filters' button in the top right corner of the match list area. The match list shows a match with an estimated relationship of 'son', 50.0% shared DNA (3,541.1 cM), and 22 shared segments. The match is managed by the user and appears in their family tree.

Ken Waters, this is you ▾

Overview Ethnicity Estimate DNA Matches DNA Tools

Showing 1–10 of 12,700 DNA Matches

Filters Sort by Search

Test additional family members
Get suggestions

Review DNA Match

View tree

Estimated relationship: [Progress bar] ?

DNA Match quality ?

Shared DNA: 50.0% (3,541.1 cM)

Shared segments: 22

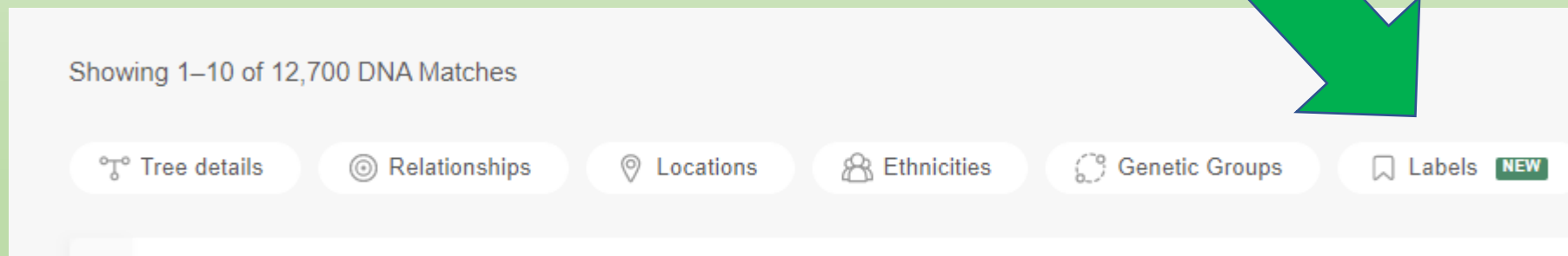
Largest segment: 284.3 cM

Age: 20's
DNA managed by you

appears in your family tree. He is your son.

MyHeritage -- Labels

- Found under Filters
- Click Labels



Setting up a Label


- 30 Labels to choose from
- Simply choose a color and give it a name
- Then go through your matches to apply labels

×

Create new label

Label name 0 / 100

Label color:



The color selection interface displays 30 circular swatches arranged in three rows. The first row contains 10 swatches: dark red, red, orange, yellow, light green, green, teal, blue, purple, and black. The second row contains 10 swatches: red, orange, light orange, light green, green, cyan, purple, dark blue, pink, and peach. The third row contains 10 swatches: yellow, light green, light green, cyan, blue, and light purple. The first swatch in the first row (dark red) has a white checkmark inside it, indicating it is the selected color.

Cancel Save

Viewing All Matches With a Label

The screenshot shows a DNA match interface with the following elements:

- Header: "Showing 1-2 of 2 DNA Matches" with "Filters", "Sort by", and search icons.
- Filter tabs: "Tree details", "Relationships", "Locations", "Ethnicities", "Genetic Groups", and "Labels" (highlighted with a red circle and a green arrow).
- Match card 1: Includes a profile picture (circled in red), a star icon, a blue dot, and a message icon (all with green arrows pointing to them). The match details are: "Estimated relationships: 2nd cousin - 2nd cousin once removed", "DNA Match quality: Shared DNA: 1.6% (113.3 cM), Shared segments: 7, Largest segment: 24.8 cM". It also includes a "Review DNA Match" button and a "View tree" button.
- Match card 2: Similar layout to the first match card.



Deleting Labels....??

MyHeritage Blog

Hover over a label name to reveal the clickable “edit” and “delete” icons. Editing a label allows you to change its name or its color. Deleting a label will remove it, and will remove the label association from any DNA Matches associated with it.

Manage labels

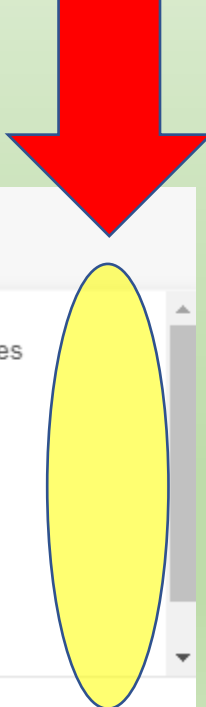
Label 2 DNA Matches as:

- Bryan
- Connelly**  
- Germany

Editing or deleting a label

- However, this does not seem to work for me; I can find no option to delete --- needs to be addressed

Nothing appears here for me



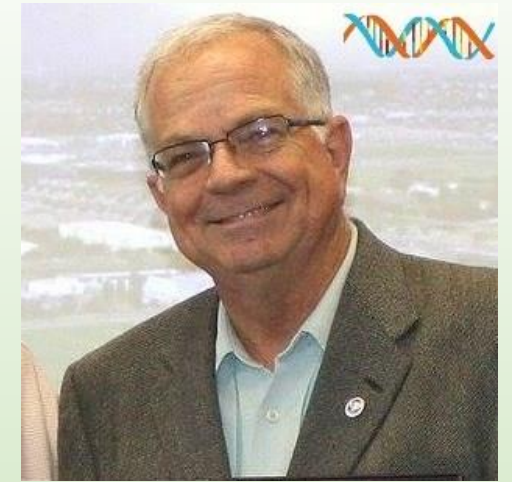
Labels **NEW**

- ★ Favorite DNA Matches
- Craddock
- Lemos
- Some value
- Waters Irish

+ Create new label



Questions?



- Contact:

- Ken Waters
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- Twitter: [@familytreeaz](https://twitter.com/familytreeaz)
- Slide Presentations: <http://familytreeaz.com/Presentations>

