Ken's DNA Tips and Tricks

April 7, 2022
Phoenix East Valley DNA Interest Group

KEN WATERS

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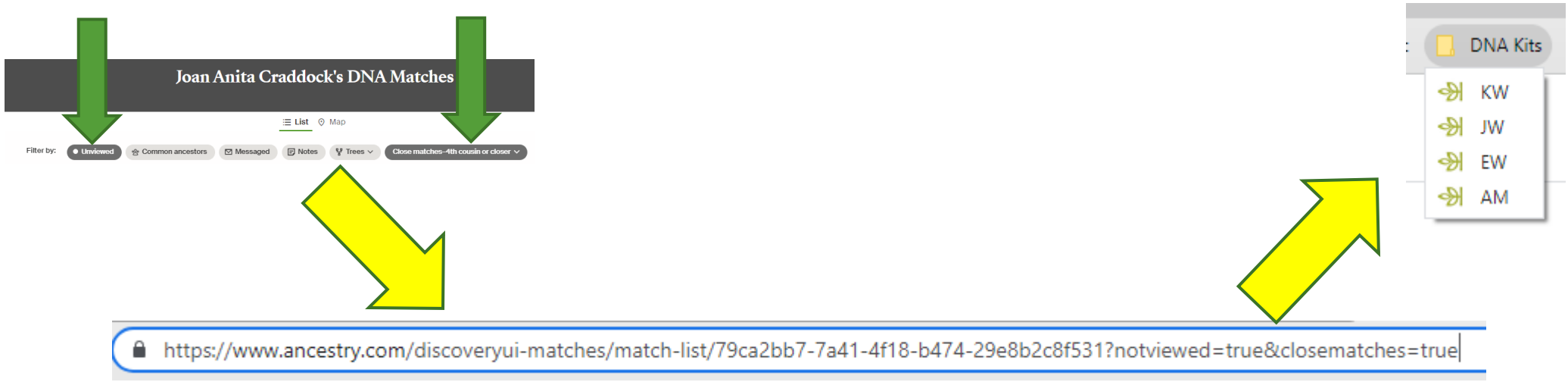
All slides and handouts can be found at:
http://www.familytreeaz.com/Presentations/

Caveat

- These are just some things and ideas that have worked for me; "Your Mileage May Vary"
- You all undoubtedly have other tips and I hope this helps spur on the conversation and I encourage you to share **your** best tips

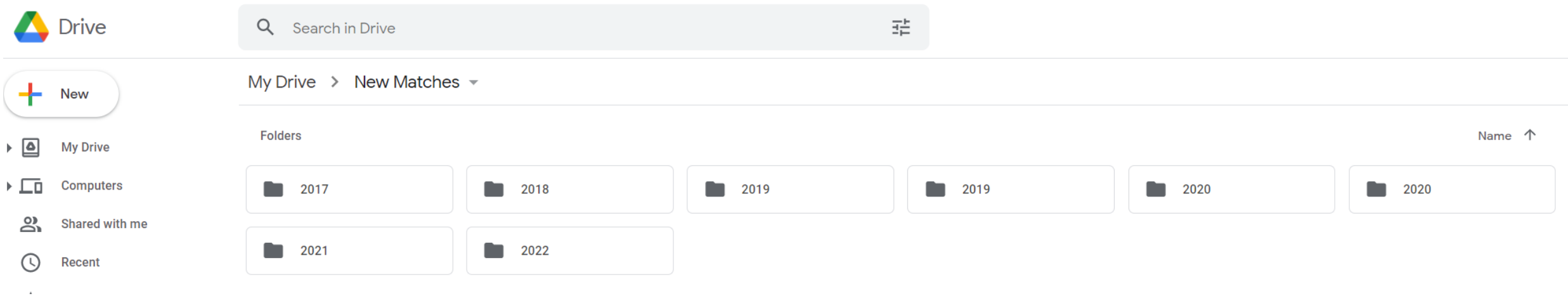
#1a: Check New Matches Regularly

- Go to your matches and set filters for “unviewed” and “20+ cMs” and then “copy” the URL
- I then paste the URL into a new bookmark in Chrome
- Easily allows me to look for new matches for multiple kits, often in just seconds



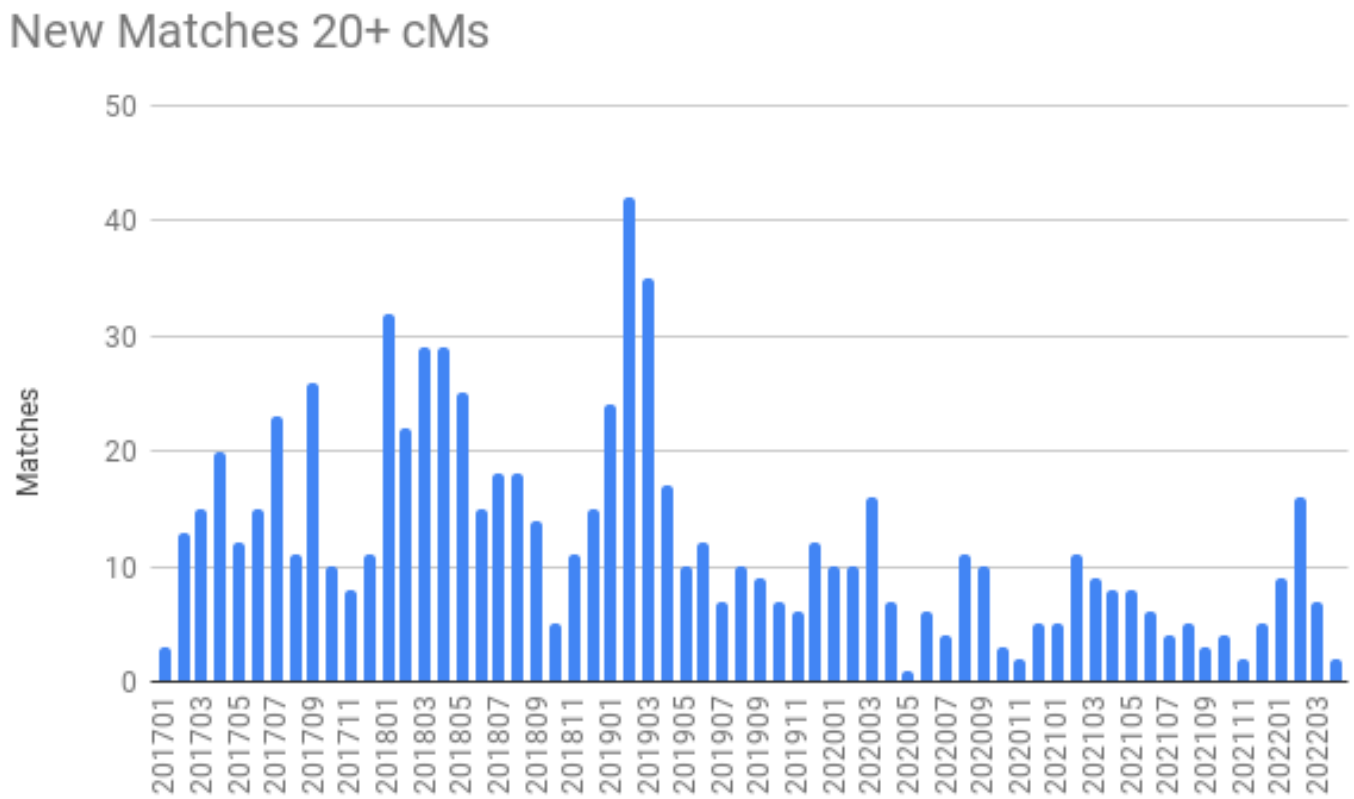
#1b: Archive those new matches

- Have been archiving all new matches 20+ cMs since Jan 2017!
- Taking screenshots saves your own copy in the event a kit is removed



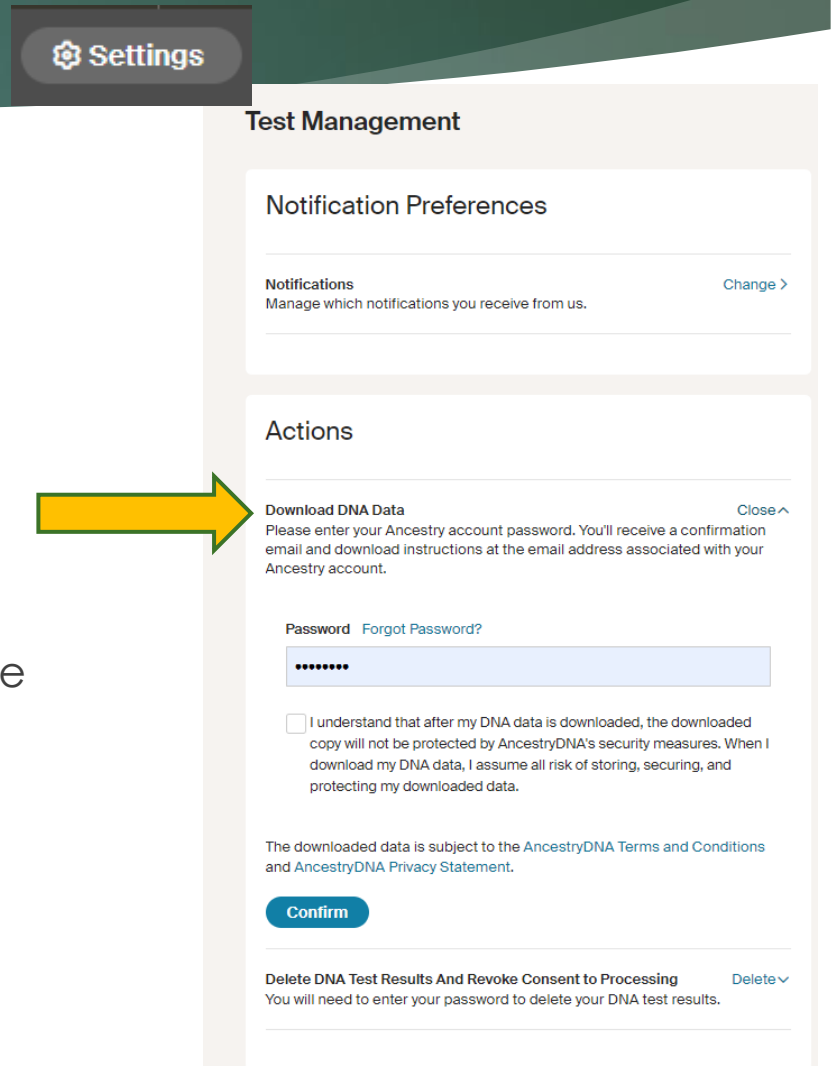
#1b: Archive those new matches

- Allows interesting analysis of trends



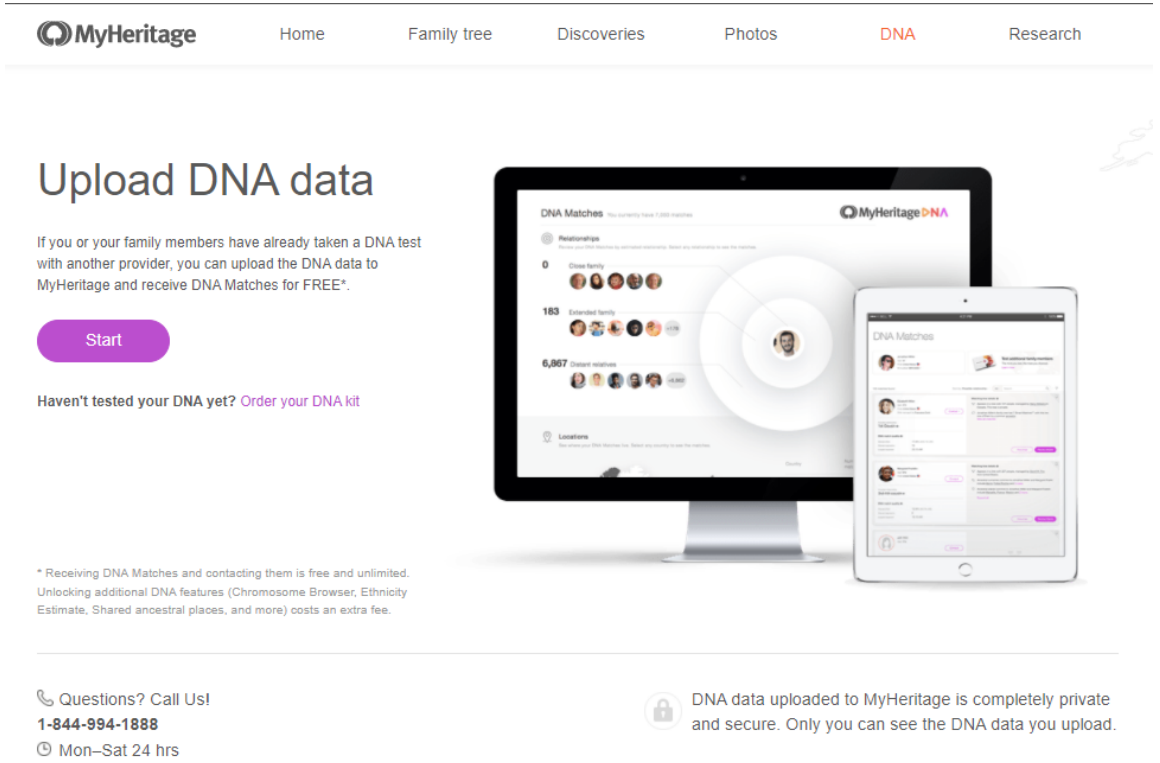
#2a: Download your DNA

- It's free!
- All 5 testing companies allow it
- Take note of where on your computer it gets saved (my preference is the desktop because it's less likely to get lost)
- Process is different for each testing company
  - If you need help with this just go to YouTube and you're sure to find a tutorial



#2b: Upload Your DNA

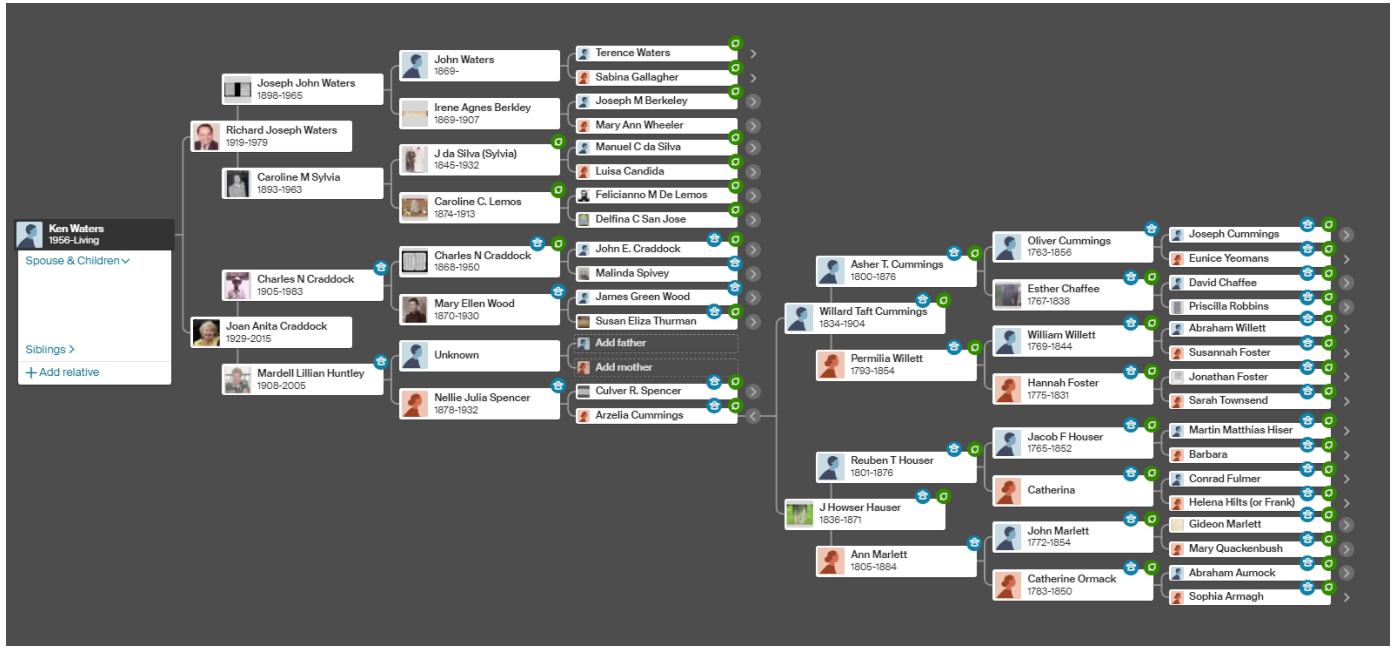
- Also, free!
- Don't worry---it's not your entire DNA so nobody can clone you with the file
- 3 of the 5 testing companies allow uploading (FamilyTreeDNA, MyHeritage, and Living DNA)
- PLUS – GEDMatch has free accounts for uploading DNA



#3: Build a Good Tree for Matching

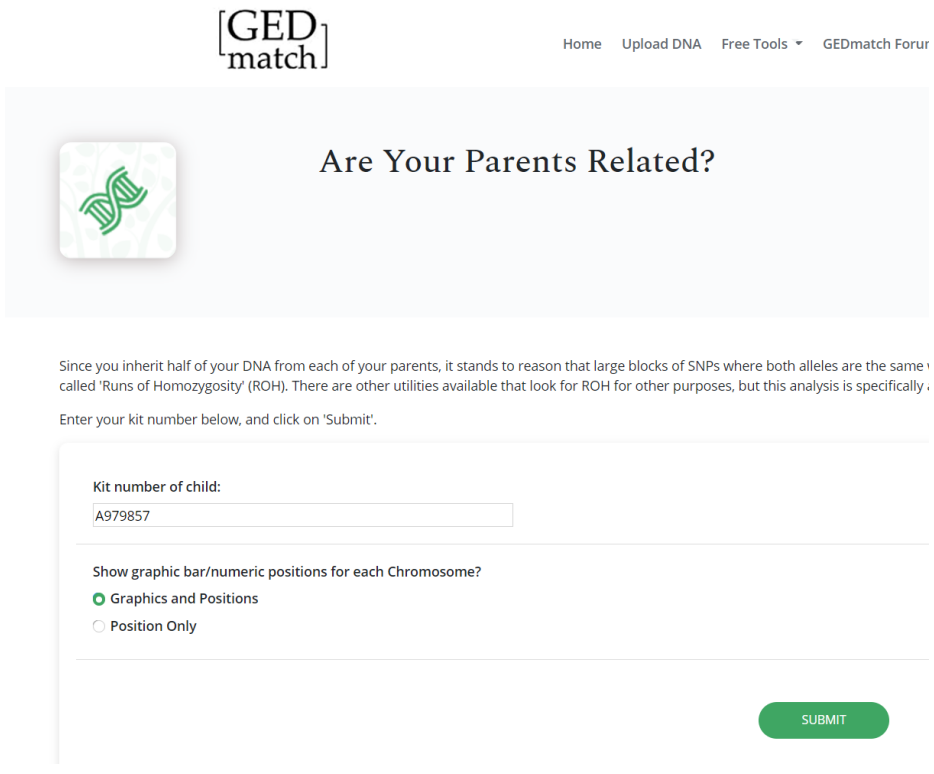
- One tree just for DNA matches
- Take it out at least 5-6 generations
- Include BMD (birth, marriage, death) information
- Only use biological relations for your DNA tree
- Use maiden names for females

- Including BMD (dates and locations) and full names will maximize matching with other test-takers



#4: Use the "Are My Parents Related" Tool with Each New DNA kit

- Get a heads up on endogamy or pedigree collapse



Largest segment = 0 cM
Total of segments > 7 cM = 0 cM

No shared DNA segments found

This analysis indicates that your parents are probably not related within recent generations.

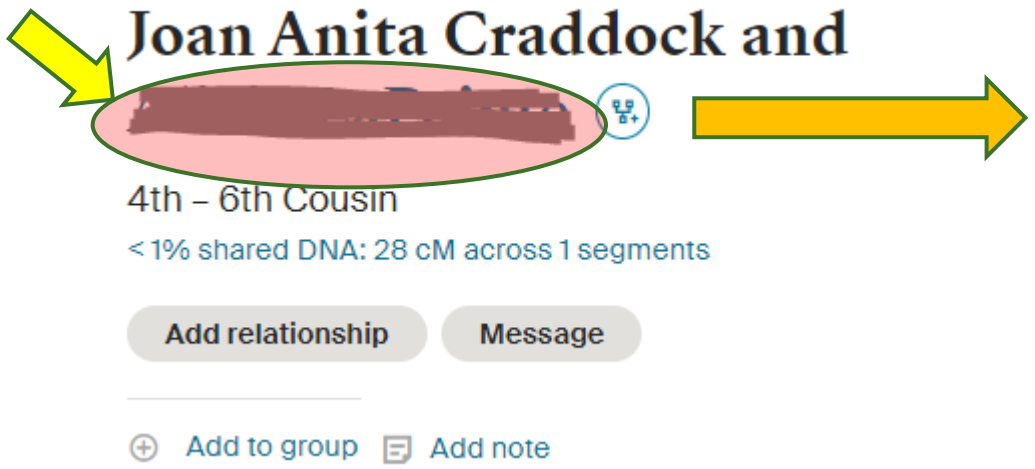
Kitty Cooper has a blog article on this program: When the DNA says your parents are related

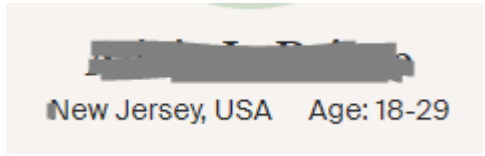
Comparison took 0.19952 seconds.

Report genereated on Mon Apr 4 04:09:04

#5: On Ancestry, don't forget to check the metadata for matches

- Click on match's name to see metadata
- Can be very helpful to help identifying the match
- Also, can often be link to other trees that can be useful and do not show up in the normal trees listing





Name + City + Age --- Much easier to identify with BeenVerified, etc.

#6: Register for free Legacy Family Tree webinars

- Great topics from great speakers
- Free for a week
- Paid membership ($50/yr, sometimes as low as $25/yr) gives access to all webinars

LEGACY FAMILY TREE WEBINARS

#7: Build private trees to ID your matches

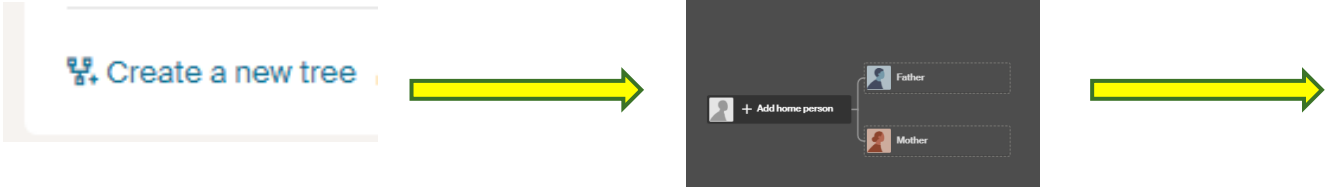
- In my opinion, Blaine Bettinger is 100% correct with this:

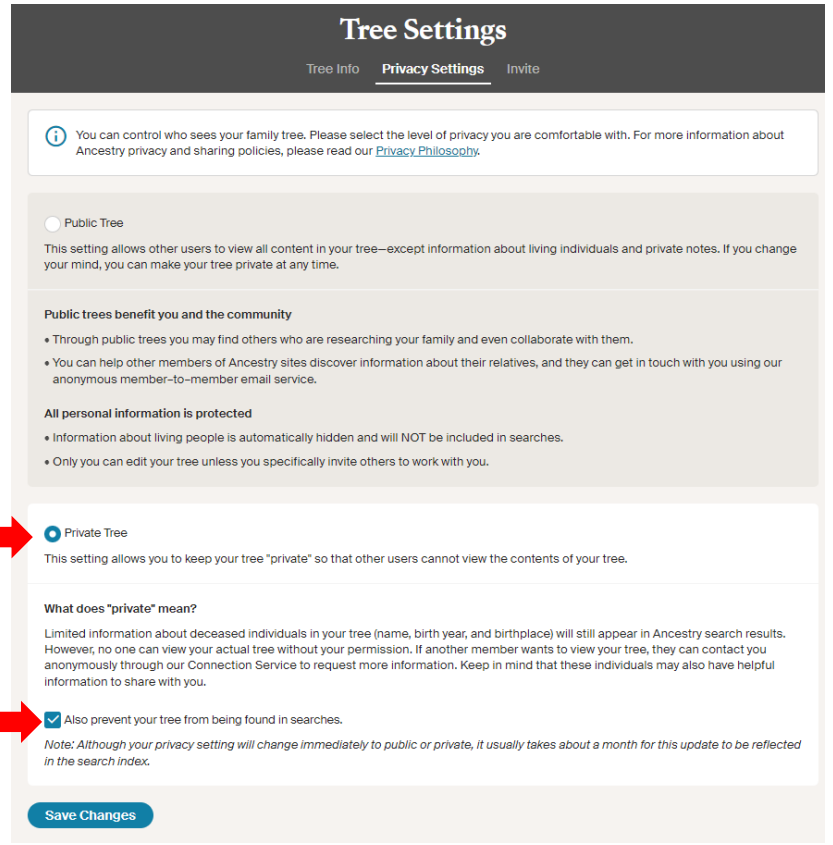
(paraphrased because I can't find the recent original quote in Facebook Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques group)

  - **90% of genetic genealogy work is building trees of matches**
- Don't rely on other persons' trees, especially if they look "suspect"

#7: Build private trees to ID your matches

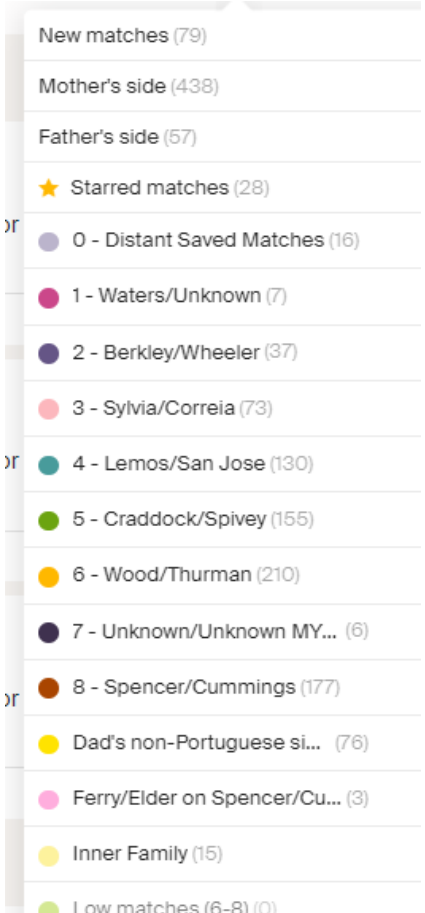
- Build it for them
  - Start by ID'ing the person using Google, FB, BV, match metadata, etc.
  - Start a new private, unsearchable tree and let Ancestry do the rest to build a Q&D tree

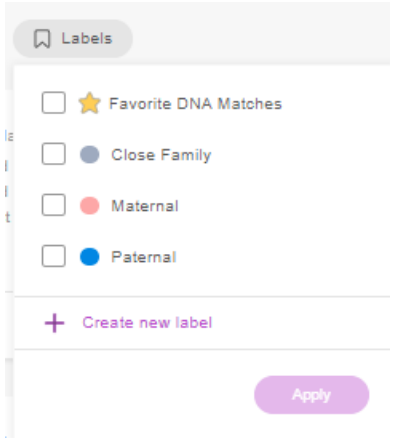




#8: Get familiar with Ancestry and MyHeritage Tag Dots

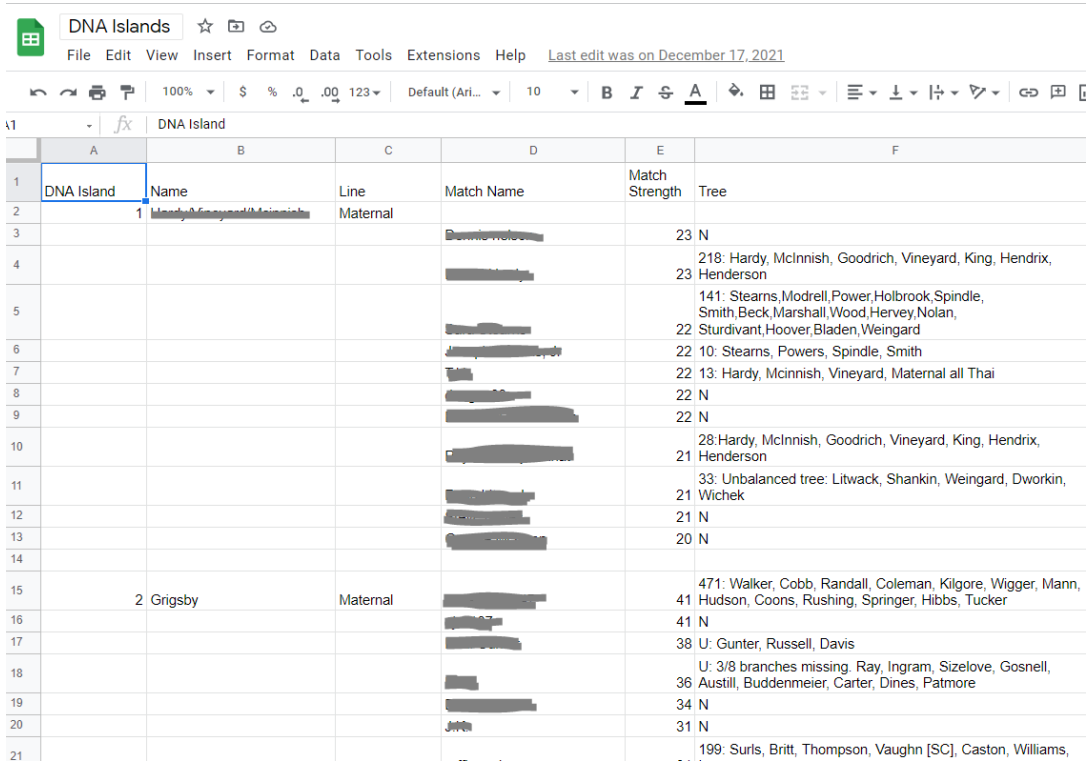
- Build groups based on your goals (have a strategy)
- For example, you can start by setting 4 groups, one for each grandparent
- Then, when they get large and you can identify them further try subdividing





#9: Learn to use spreadsheets

- Either Microsoft's Excel --- or --- Google's Sheets
- Very useful for organizing tabular data such as DNA matches
  - E.g., Leeds Method
- Some services (e.g., FTDNA) can easily export a .CSV to bring into a spreadsheet program
  - Okay….what's a .CSV…?? Simply a text file that of rows and columns that's easily imported into a spreadsheet
- Learn how to sort, move rows & columns, hide columns, and set up filters
- Lots of free resources to learn (YouTube, Lynda.com through libraries)


DNA Islands

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help Last edit was on December 17, 2021

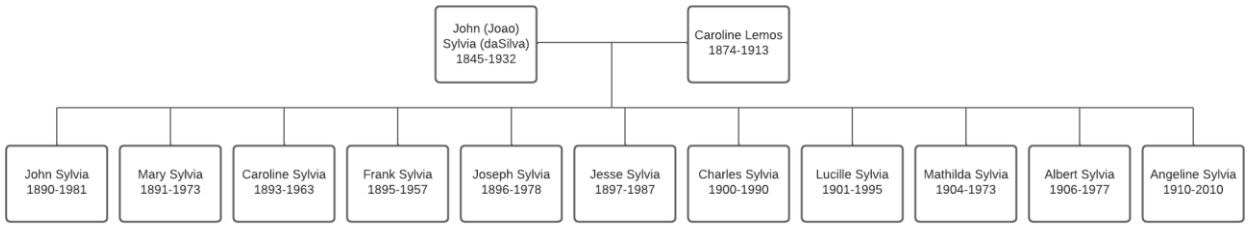
DNA Island

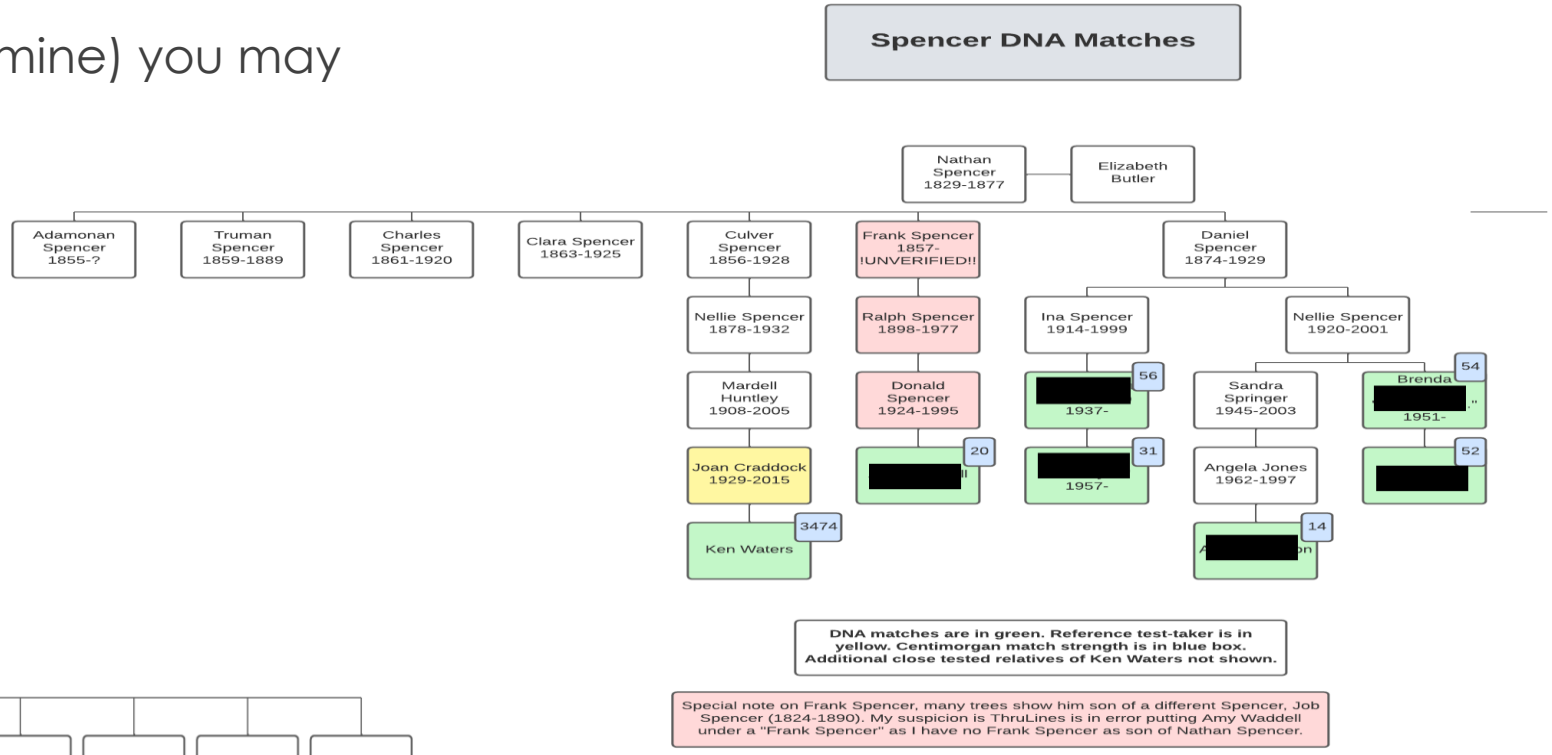
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	DNA Island	Name	Line	Match Name	Match Strength	Tree
2	1	[redacted]	Maternal			
3				[redacted]	23	N
4				[redacted]	23	218: Hardy, McInnish, Goodrich, Vineyard, King, Hendrix, Henderson
5				[redacted]	22	141: Stearns,Modrell,Power,Holbrook,Spindle, Smith,Beck,Marshall,Wood,Hervey,Nolan, Sturdivant,Hoover,Bladen,Weingard
6				[redacted]	22	10: Stearns, Powers, Spindle, Smith
7				[redacted]	22	13: Hardy, Mcinnish, Vineyard, Maternal all Thai
8				[redacted]	22	N
9				[redacted]	22	N
10				[redacted]	21	28:Hardy, McInnish, Goodrich, Vineyard, King, Hendrix, Henderson
11				[redacted]	21	33: Unbalanced tree: Litwack, Shankin, Weingard, Dworkin, Wichek
12				[redacted]	21	N
13				[redacted]	20	N
14						
15	2	Grigsby	Maternal	[redacted]	41	471: Walker, Cobb, Randall, Coleman, Kilgore, Wigger, Mann, Hudson, Coons, Rushing, Springer, Hibbs, Tucker
16				[redacted]	41	N
17				[redacted]	38	U: Gunter, Russell, Davis
18				[redacted]	36	U: 3/8 branches missing. Ray, Ingram, Sizelove, Gosnell, Austill, Buddenmeier, Carter, Dines, Patmore
19				[redacted]	34	N
20				[redacted]	31	N
21				[redacted]		199: Surls, Britt, Thompson, Vaughn [SC], Caston, Williams,

Just one example: documenting my "DNA Islands"

#10: Make clean diagrams with LucidChart

- Free for simple diagrams
- For complex ones (like some of mine) you may have to get paid subscription



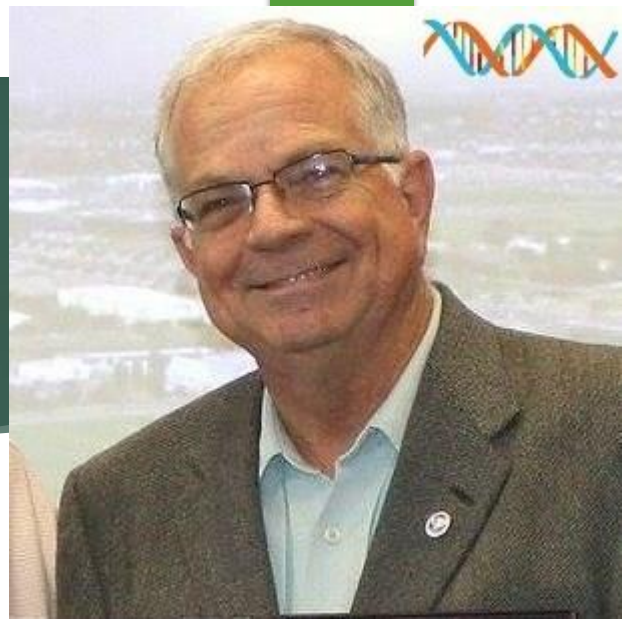


Quote of the Day

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

– Ken Waters

Questions?



- Contact:

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