

# Ken's DNA Tips and Tricks

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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

The image shows a screenshot of the Ancestry DNA matches page for Joan Anita Craddock. The page title is "Joan Anita Craddock's DNA Matches". Below the title, there are several filter buttons: "Unviewed", "Common ancestors", "Messaged", "Notes", "Trees", and "Close matches—4th cousin or closer". A green arrow points to the "Unviewed" filter, and another green arrow points to the "Close matches—4th cousin or closer" filter. A yellow arrow points from the filter area down to a browser address bar. The address bar contains the URL: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-matches/match-list/79ca2bb7-7a41-4f18-b474-29e8b2c8f531?notviewed=true&closematches=true>. To the right of the address bar, there is a "DNA Kits" dropdown menu with four options: KW, JW, EW, and AM. A yellow arrow points from the address bar up to the "DNA Kits" menu.

# #1b: Archive those new matches

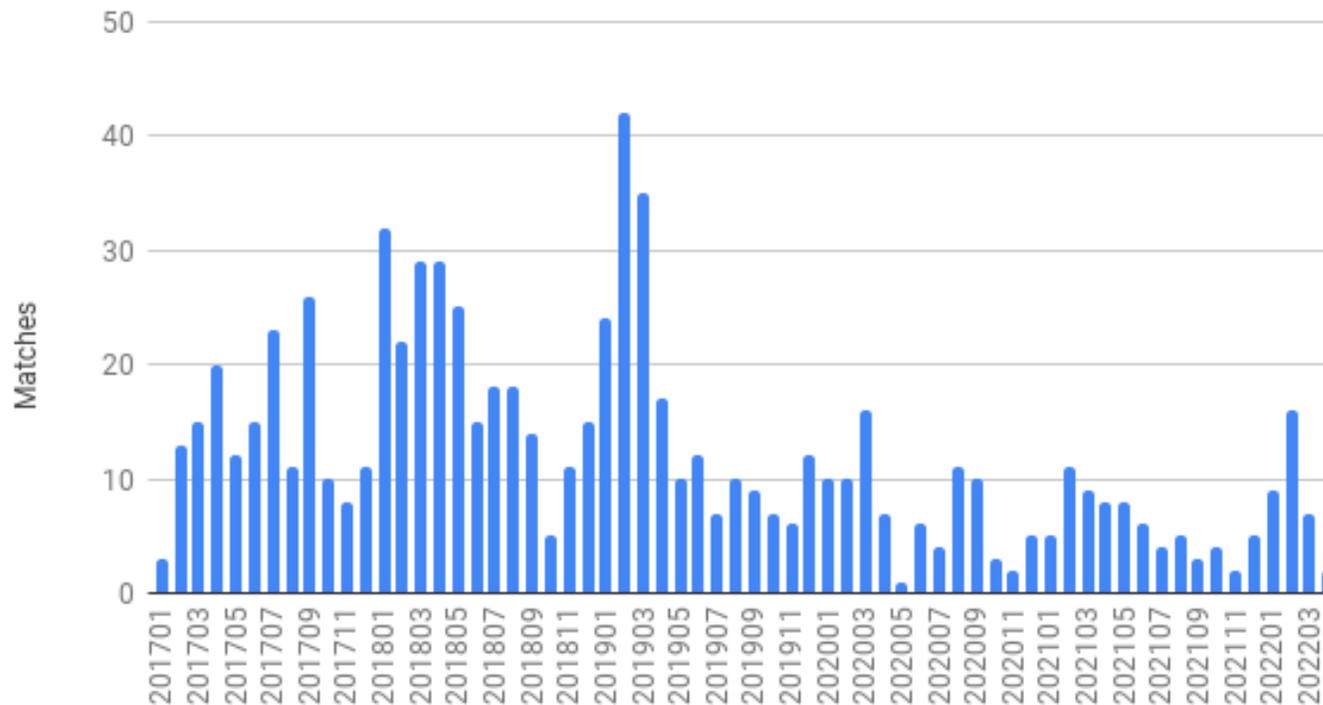
- ▶ Have been archiving all new matches 20+ cMs since Jan 2017!
- ▶ Taking screenshots saves your own copy in the event a kit is removed

The screenshot shows the Google Drive interface. At the top left is the Drive logo. Below it is a 'New' button with a plus sign icon. On the left sidebar, there are navigation options: 'My Drive', 'Computers', 'Shared with me', and 'Recent'. The main area shows the path 'My Drive > New Matches'. Below the path, there is a search bar and a menu icon. The 'Folders' section displays a grid of folders for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 (two instances), 2020 (two instances), 2021, and 2022. A 'Name' column header with an upward arrow is visible on the right side of the folder grid.

# #1b: Archive those new matches

- ▶ Allows interesting analysis of trends

New Matches 20+ cMs



# #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

Settings

## Test Management

### Notification Preferences

#### Notifications

Manage which notifications you receive from us.

[Change >](#)

### Actions

#### Download DNA Data

[Close ^](#)

Please enter your Ancestry account password. You'll receive a confirmation email and download instructions at the email address associated with your Ancestry account.

Password [Forgot Password?](#)

I understand that after my DNA data is downloaded, the downloaded copy will not be protected by AncestryDNA's security measures. When I download my DNA data, I assume all risk of storing, securing, and protecting my downloaded data.

The downloaded data is subject to the [AncestryDNA Terms and Conditions](#) and [AncestryDNA Privacy Statement](#).

[Confirm](#)

[Delete DNA Test Results And Revoke Consent to Processing](#)

[Delete v](#)

You will need to enter your password to delete your DNA test results.



# #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

**MyHeritage** Home Family tree Discoveries Photos **DNA** Research

## Upload DNA data

If you or your family members have already taken a DNA test with another provider, you can upload the DNA data to MyHeritage and receive DNA Matches for FREE\*.

[Start](#)

Haven't tested your DNA yet? [Order your DNA kit](#)

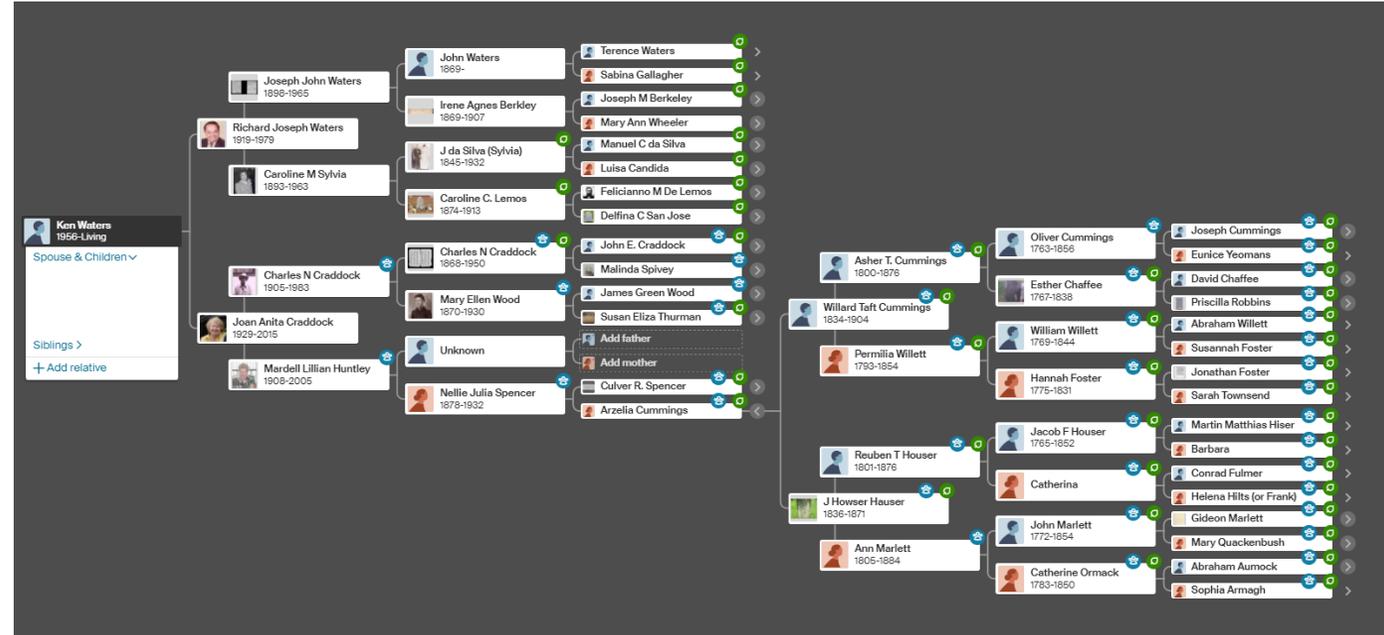
\* Receiving DNA Matches and contacting them is free and unlimited. Unlocking additional DNA features (Chromosome Browser, Ethnicity Estimate, Shared ancestral places, and more) costs an extra fee.

Questions? Call Us!  
**1-844-994-1888**  
Mon-Sat 24 hrs

DNA data uploaded to MyHeritage is completely private and secure. Only you can see the DNA data you upload.

# #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

 [Home](#) [Upload DNA](#) [Free Tools](#) [GEDmatch Forum](#)



## Are Your Parents Related?

Since you inherit half of your DNA from each of your parents, it stands to reason that large blocks of SNPs where both alleles are the same are called 'Runs of Homozygosity' (ROH). There are other utilities available that look for ROH for other purposes, but this analysis is specifically for endogamy.

Enter your kit number below, and click on 'Submit'.

Kit number of child:

Show graphic bar/numeric positions for each Chromosome?  
 Graphics and Positions  
 Position Only

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.**

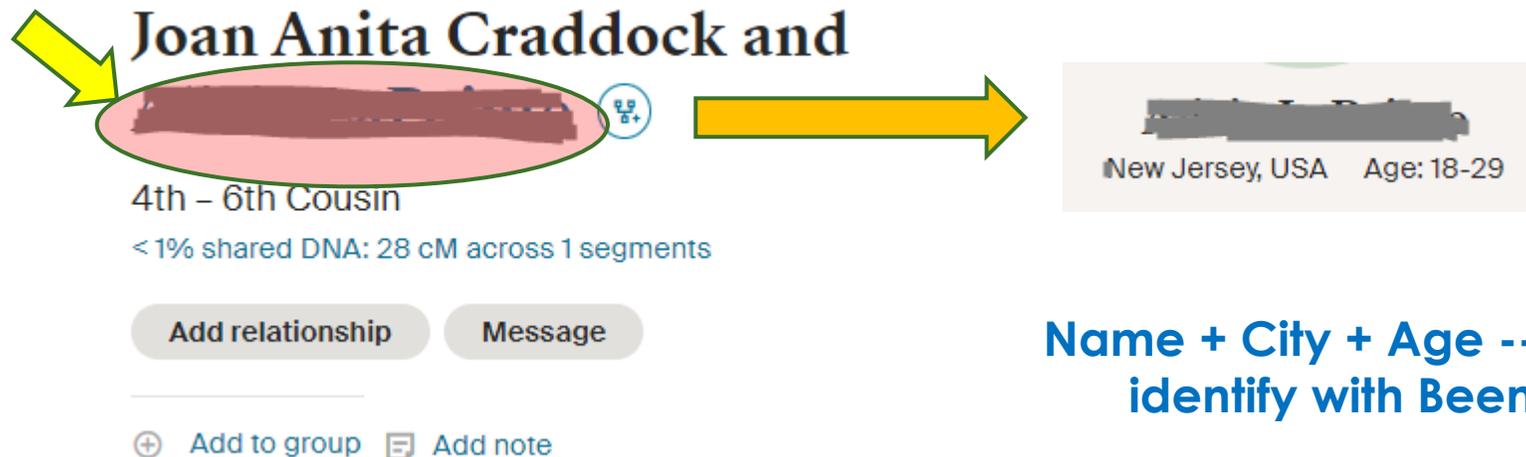
Kitty Cooper has a blog article on this program: [When the DNA says your parents are related](#)

Comparison took 0.19952 seconds.

Report generated 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



**Joan Anita Craddock and**  
[redacted]

4th - 6th Cousin  
< 1% shared DNA: 28 cM across 1 segments

[Add relationship](#) [Message](#)

[Add to group](#) [Add note](#)

**New Jersey, USA Age: 18-29**

**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



DNA TESTING

## The Beginner's Guide To DNA Testing For Genealogy



Michelle Leonard

Wed, Apr 6, 2022: 11:00 AM MST

[Register for free](#)

# #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

Create a new tree



### Tree Settings

Tree Info Privacy Settings Invite

*i* 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 their relatives, and they can get in touch with you using our anonymous member-to-member email service.

**All personal information is protected**

- Information about living people is automatically hidden and will NOT be included in 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 the contents of your tree.

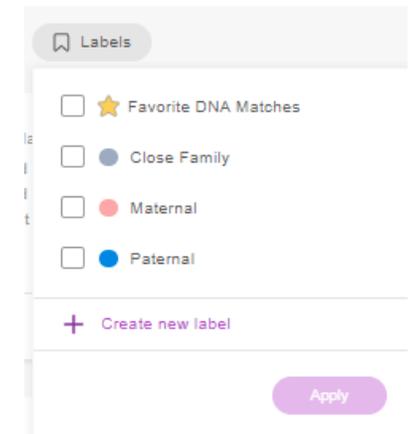
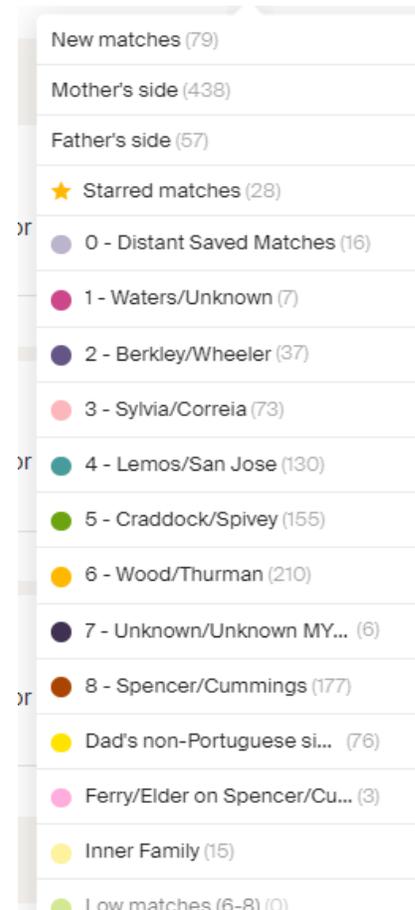
**What does "private" mean?**  
Limited information about deceased individuals in your tree (name, birth year, and birthplace) will still appear in Ancestry search results. However, no one can view your actual tree without your permission. If another member wants to view your tree, they can contact you anonymously through our Connection Service to request more information. Keep in mind that these individuals may also have helpful information to share with you.

Also prevent your tree from being found in searches.  
*Note: Although your privacy setting will change immediately to public or private, it usually takes about a month for this update to be reflected in the search index.*

Save Changes

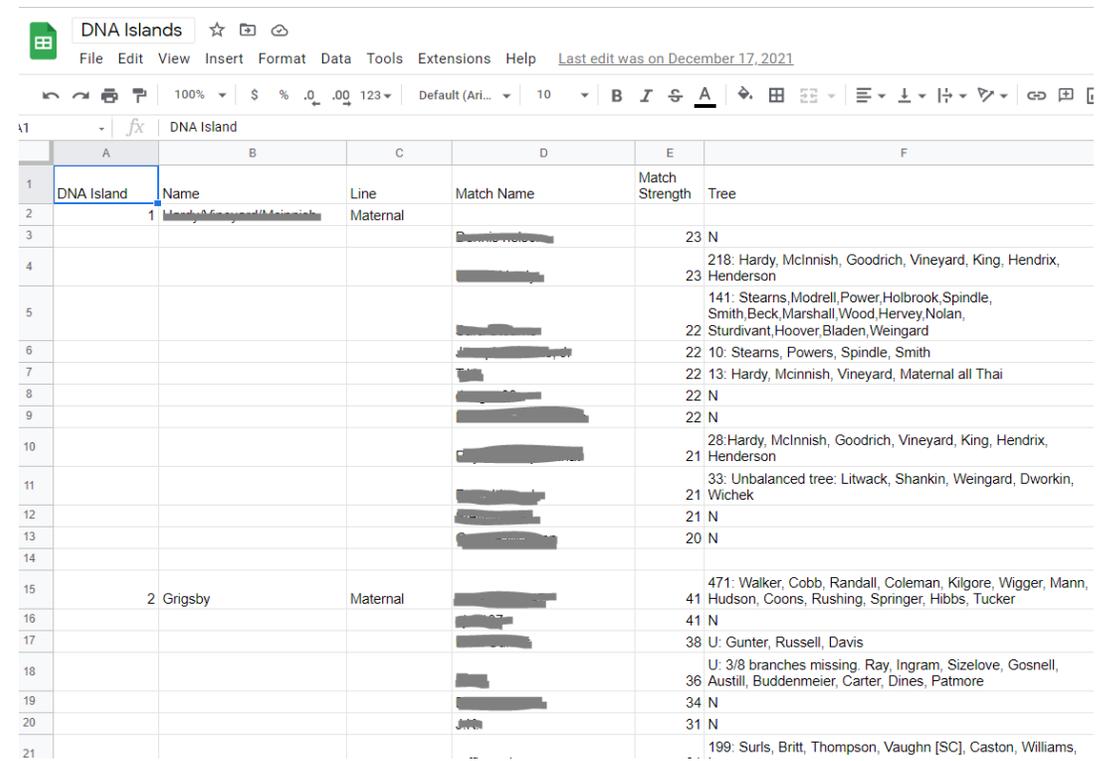
# #8: Get familiar with Ancestry and MyHeritage Tag Dots

- ▶ 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)



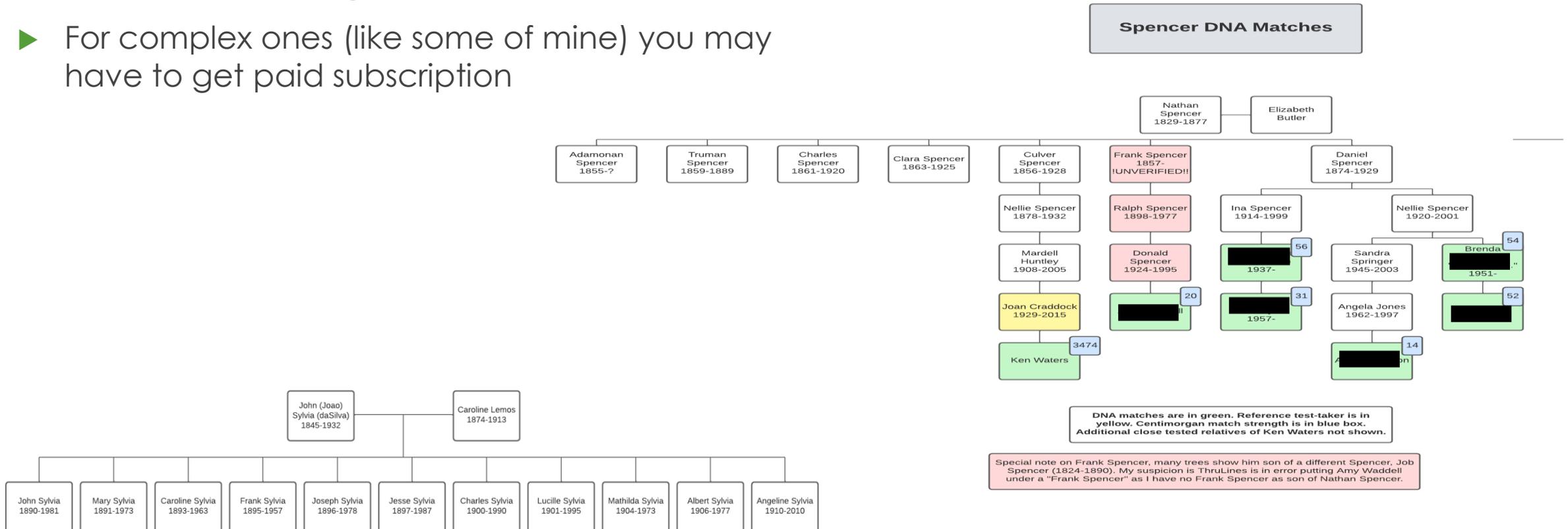
The screenshot shows a Google Sheet titled "DNA Islands" with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Data, Tools, Extensions, Help) and a toolbar. The spreadsheet has columns A through F. Column A is labeled "DNA Island", B is "Name", C is "Line", D is "Match Name", E is "Match Strength", and F is "Tree". The data is organized into two main sections, one for "1" and one for "2".

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

Ken Waters

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