

All slides and handouts can be found at:

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



QR Code: take photo to
open to presentations

Assumptions

- Purchased and completed a DNA test from Ancestry
- Have access to your account with DNA matches

A Warning....

- What it MAY do:
 - **WARNING!!!!**
 - Uncover dark secret(s) that may or may not greatly upset your family

This could include discovering:

- **A presumed parent is not your biological parent**
- **A sibling may only be a half-sibling**
- **A parent's parent (your grandparent) is not who you were expecting**



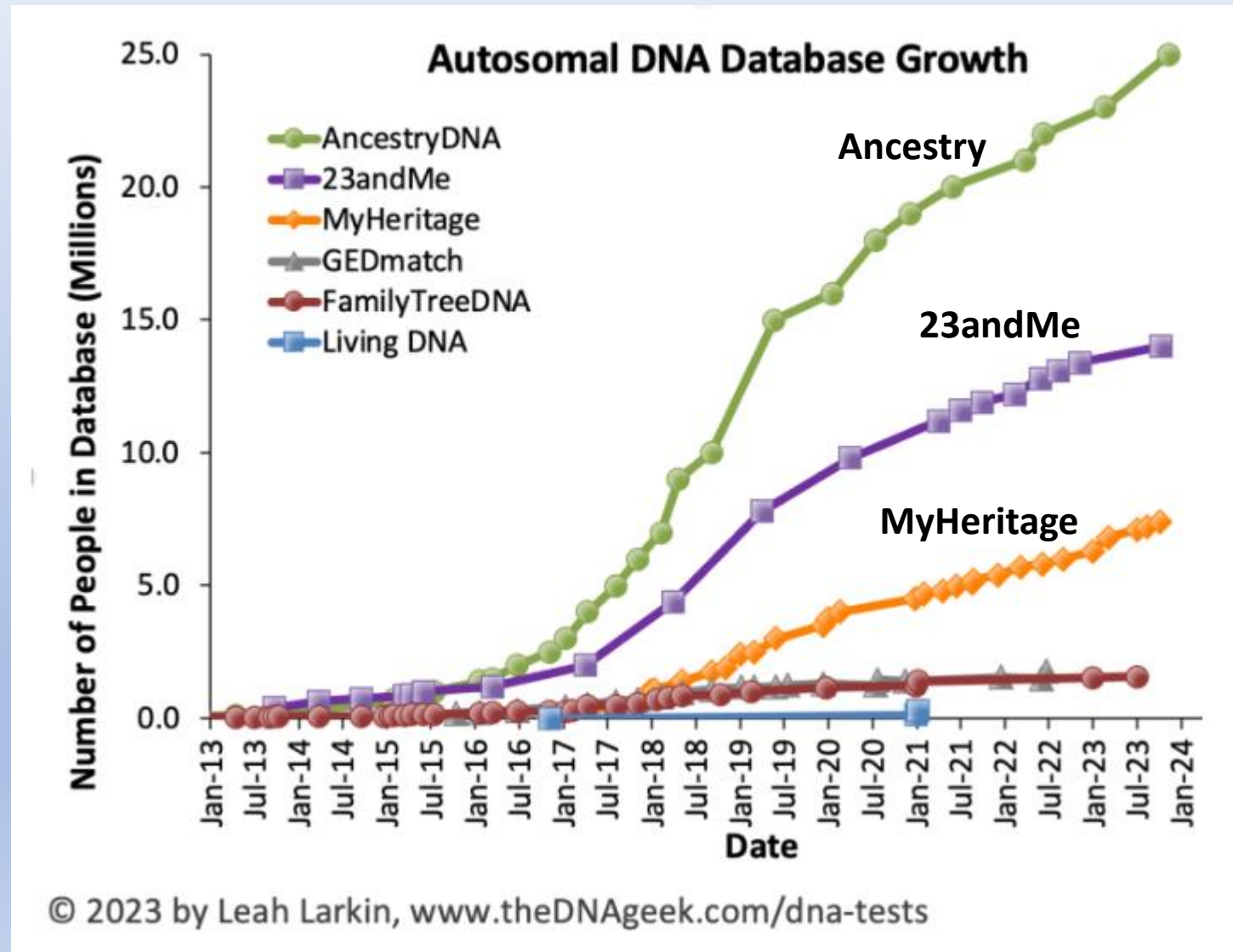
Ancestry DNA

- Has the most DNA-tested persons of all testing companies
- Largely US-centric database (plus Canada)
- Testers outside the US/Canada region are limited

Comparative Database Sizes (autosomal kits)

- This chart shows the change over time of the number of DNA kits with each service
- The top 2 services do **not** allow uploads of kits from the other companies

TIP: your chances of finding matches will increase with companies that have more matches



Good Practices

#1: Good Practices -- Trees

- Build a family tree in Ancestry
 - When possible include dates of birth/death, locations
 - Keep the tree PUBLIC
 - Feel free to keep other trees with perhaps more documents private if you like
 - Focus primarily on direct lines (i.e., your pedigree line)
 - LINK the tree to your DNA kit (very important)
 - Once Linked, be sure to properly assign the “home” person as the test-taker
 - Add sources (e.g., census, city directories, public records)



Public linked tree

2,687 People



Trees – Things to Avoid

- If you don't know a date then leave that blank (don't put "unknown")
- Only put names in names fields (e.g., things that only apply to the test taker such as "3rd great grandfather", married names, nicknames, and superfluous comments such as "Mayflower")

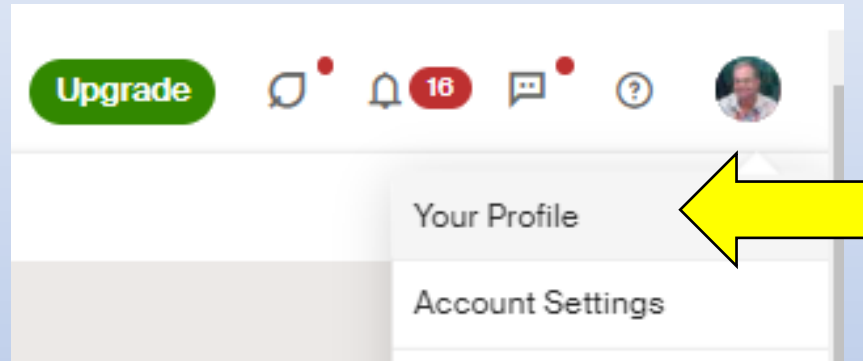


The image shows a screenshot of an Ancestry.com profile for Capt. Peregrine White Sr. White of Marshfield. On the left is a small map of the Mayflower voyage route. The main text reads: **Capt. Peregrine White Sr. White of Marshfield**, BIRTH 20 NOVEMBER 1620 • Aboard the Mayflower, Provincetown Harbor, Massachusetts, USA, DEATH 20 JUL 1704 • Marshfield, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, United States of America. Below this is a button that says "Actively Researching".

- ONLY use biological line for direct ancestors
- Don't use all-caps for surnames
- Don't copy other trees into yours !!!!

#2 – Add “meta” information for the test-taker

- Suggest adding:
- City location
- Age range
- Description expressing your interests and possibly your research interests such as relevant surnames

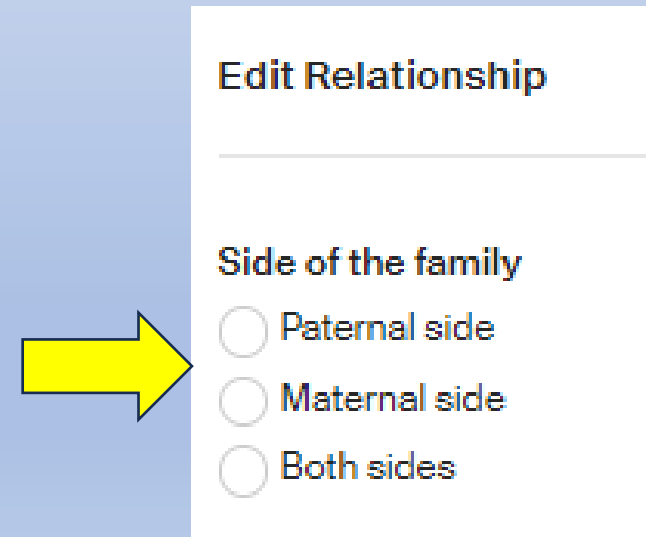
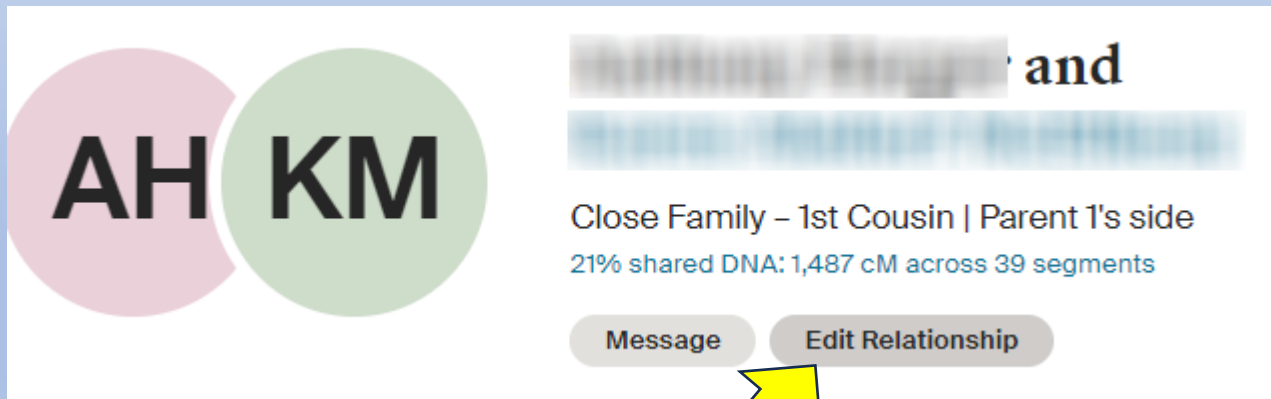


Genetic genealogist who teaches classes on DNA and consulting by helping others understand DNA results. Ancestral lines include Azores (Lemos, daSilva, Machado, Bettencourt, Candida), Colonial New England (Spencer, Gould, Butler, Larkin, Hauser, Cummings, Chaffee), Colonial mid-Atlantic (Berkley, Bolling, Randolph), Ireland (Waters, Wheeler), Colonial south (Craddock, Spivey, Cross), central US (Wood, Thurman, Saunders, Allee, Bybee). email: satwatcher_gen@gmail.com.

A full screenshot of a user's profile page. At the top, a dark blue header contains a person icon and the text 'Personal profile' with a dropdown arrow. Below the header is a circular profile picture of a man with glasses and a white shirt. Underneath the photo, the name 'KEN WATERS' is displayed in bold, followed by 'Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona, USA' and 'Age: 60+'. There are two buttons: a blue 'Edit' button with a pencil icon and a grey 'Settings' button with a gear icon. Below these is a bio: 'Genetic genealogist who teaches classes on DNA and consulting by helping others understand DNA results. Ancestral lines include Azores (Lemos, daSilva, Machado, Bettencourt, Candida), Colonial New England (Spencer, Gould, Butler, Larkin, Hauser, Cummings, Chaffee), Colonial mid-Atlantic (Berkley, Bolling, Randolph), Ireland (Waters, Wheeler), Colonial south (Craddock, Spivey, Cross), central US (Wood, Thurman, Saunders, Allee, Bybee). email: satwatcher_gen@gmail.com.' Below the bio is a 'Speaks' section with '(edit)' and 'English'. There are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. At the bottom, there are two columns: 'Joined 31 May 2002' and 'Last active Today'. The final section is 'Family History Experience (edit)' with 'Advanced Since 1999' and 'Researches almost every day'.

#3 – Set parent relationship

- Ancestry by default will try to separate your matches into “Parent1” and “Parent2” groups
- Pick a top (close) match and “Edit Relationship” and select if that person is Paternal or Maternal

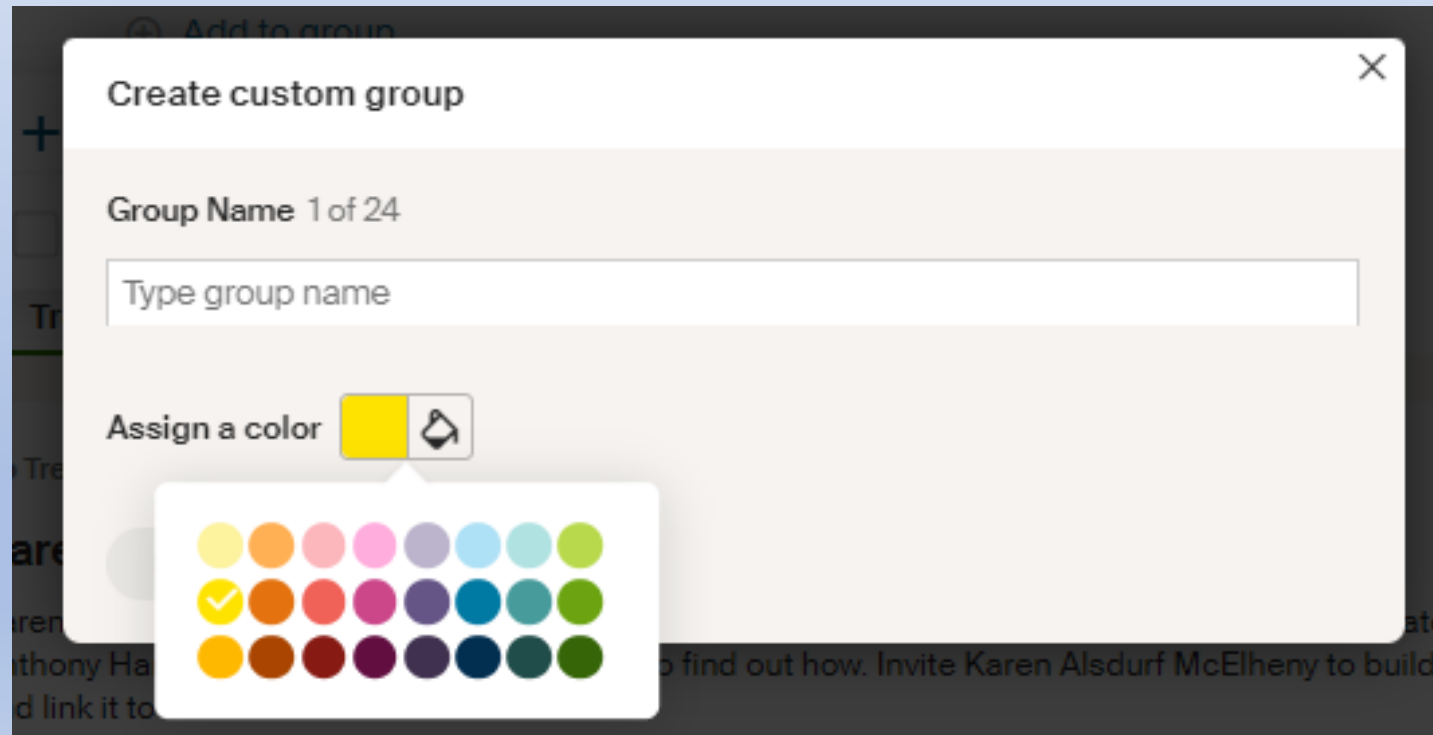


#4 – Set up tag groups

- Ancestry has an extremely useful tool that allows “tagging” matches with one or more colored dot tags
- Start with the closest matches

Tag Groups

- Choose a descriptive name for the group name
- 24 colors to choose from



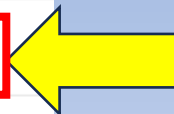
#4 – Set up tag groups

- Have a strategy
 - I like to have 8 tags for each great-grandparent and number them: #1 for paternal great-grandfather, #2 for paternal great-grandmother, etc.
 - Set up special tag groups for (a) close relatives, (b) no shared matches, (c) random shares, etc.
 - Use the rest for genetic networks that you have that aren't currently attached to your tree (“mystery networks” or what I call “DNA Islands”)

Tag Groups

- One Example I use:
- Note the 1-8 great-grandparents
- Note the Inner Family (generally reserved for 1st cousins and closer)
- Note the mystery genetic networks
- Also, note the useful count of how many are in each group

<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Waters/Unknown (40)
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Berkley/Wheeler (38)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Sylvia/Correia (89)
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Lemos/San Jose (153)



<input type="checkbox"/>	☆ Starred matches (30)
<input type="checkbox"/>	0 - Distant Saved Matches (16)
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Waters/Unknown (40)
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Berkley/Wheeler (38)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Sylvia/Correia (89)
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 - Craddock/Spivey (181)
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 - Wood/Thurman (259)
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 - Unknown/Unknown MYSTERY (7)
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 - Spencer/Cummings (208)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Berkley/Berkeley line from DC (42)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dad's non-Portuguese side (... (68)
<input type="checkbox"/>	DI -- Mom's side (14)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ferry/Elder on Spencer/Cumm... (3)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inner Family (15)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low matches (6-8) (0)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mystery Network #6 (20)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mystery Network #7 -- Mom's... (11)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mystery Shipp Network (44)
<input type="checkbox"/>	No idea---no useful shares (20)
<input type="checkbox"/>	UNKNOWN #9 Mom's Side (6)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown Mom's Side (1)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown Orphan Cluster (14)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown WBW Stanfield/Ziegl... (4)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Waters - Trish Brown Irish (16)

#5 – Add Notes

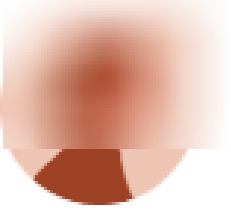

- Each DNA match has a note field --- USE IT!!
- Suggestions:
 - If known relationship, state what it is and from which line(s)
 - If a tree is attached then list surnames
 - If identified show complete name, date of birth, location

The screenshot displays a list of five DNA matches, each with a checkbox, a profile picture, relationship information, shared DNA statistics, and tree links. The notes field is highlighted for each match.


Match	Relationship	Shared DNA	Tree Type	Note
1	2nd cousin 1x removed	77 cM 1% shared DNA Paternal side	Public linked tree 172 People Common ancestor	2C1R. 87 cMs. Azores, from Rose Lemos. 77 cM, 5 segs.
2	2nd cousin 1x removed	73 cM 1% shared DNA Paternal side	Private linked tree 4 People Common ancestor	2C1R, this is Chuck Noya (lawyer in ABQ) from Lemos side.
3	3rd cousin 1x removed	65 cM < 1% shared DNA Paternal side	Unlinked Tree	3C1R Lemos 22 Oct 1963, lives in Merced CA. Poultry farmer. Great-grandma Mary was sister to my 2GGF Felicianno
4	3rd cousin 1x removed	65 cM < 1% shared DNA Paternal side	Public linked tree 285 People Common ancestor	65/5, 3C1R, Philomena Lemos
5	2nd cousin 1x removed	63 cM < 1% shared DNA Paternal side	Public linked tree 18 People Common ancestor	63/8, 2C1R from Jesse Lemos. Messaged 3/12/2019.


Notes

- Surnames as noted in the linked tree

4th – 6th Cousin
33 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

 Public linked tree
1,926 People

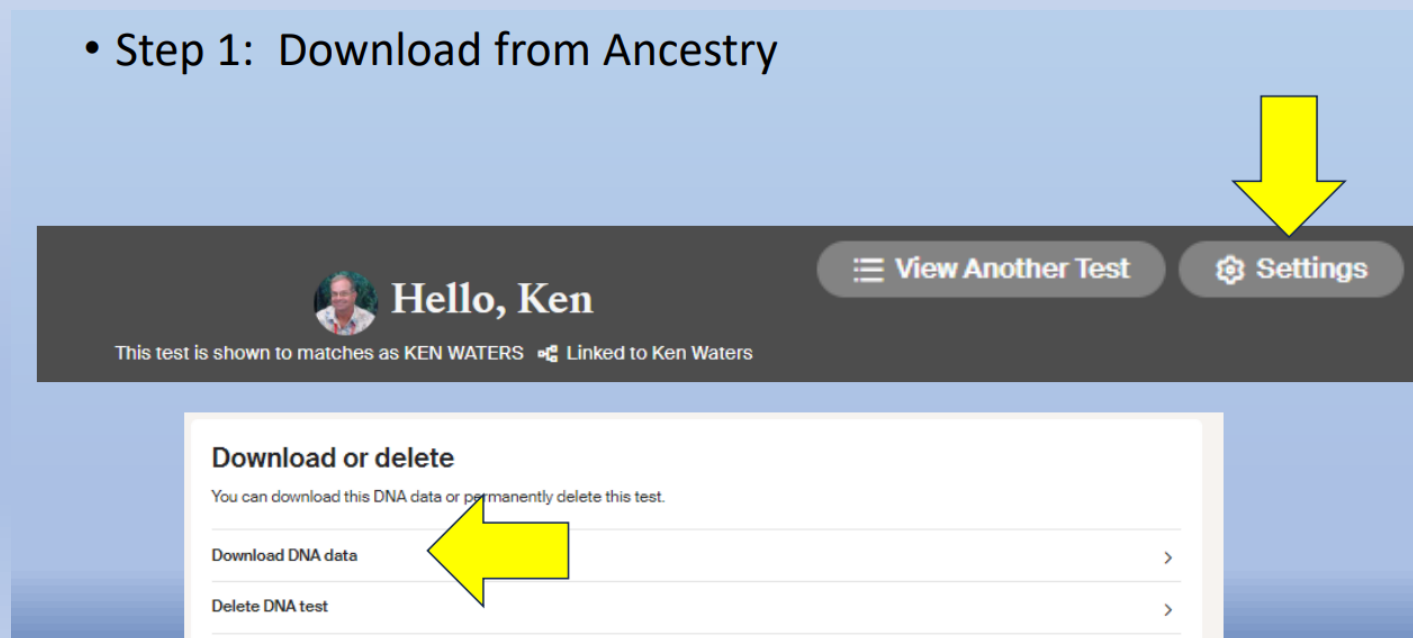
 Has Mehitable Robbins in tree. Soules, Dodson, Volkov, Chebanova, Durant, Ludwig, Ferry, Elder, Lucas, Leach, Drageiu, Crampton, Pace, Fenno, Benner

#6 -- Download Your DNA Data

- See my Feb 2024 presentation with all the details and why this is good:

https://www.familytreeaz.com/Presentations/Sharing_DNA_2024feb.pdf

- Step 1: Download from Ancestry



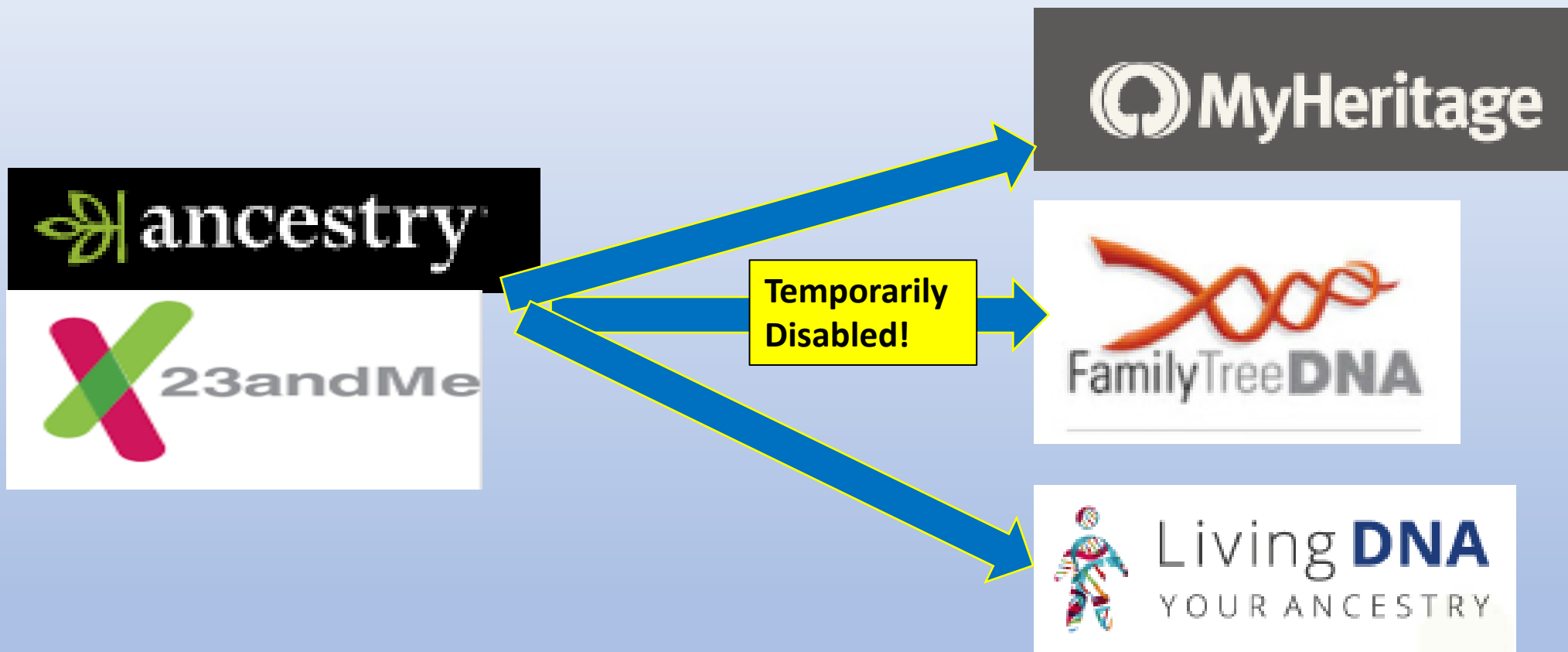
The screenshot shows the Ancestry DNA test settings page for a user named Ken. At the top, there is a dark grey header with a profile picture and the text "Hello, Ken". Below this, it says "This test is shown to matches as KEN WATERS" and "Linked to Ken Waters". There are two buttons: "View Another Test" and "Settings". A large yellow arrow points down to the "Settings" button. Below the header is a white box titled "Download or delete" with the text "You can download this DNA data or permanently delete this test." Below this text are two menu items: "Download DNA data" and "Delete DNA test". A large yellow arrow points left to the "Download DNA data" option.

#7 – Upload Your DNA

- Upload your DNA to other services to:
 - Find more cousins
 - Use other tools such as chromosome browsers that are not in Ancestry

- As of Feb 2024 you can upload to:
 - MyHeritage
 - LivingDNA
 - GEDMatch (not a testing site)
- Temporarily disabled on FamilyTree DNA

3 of the 5 testing companies allow uploading



Allows you to use test results from one company to compare to other databases --- more matches!

FREE to upload (nominal cost to use extra analysis tools)

#8 – Try to Identify DNA Matches of Interest

- Especially if you want to build a tree for the match
- Use a variety of sources to identify people
- See:
https://www.familytreeaz.com/Presentations/IDing_Matches_2024jan.pdf
- Looking for
 - Full names
 - Date of birth
 - Current location

#9 – Build Research Trees to Identify Relationships

- These are hypothetical, “what-if” trees
- Always make sure these are set to Private and Unsearchable
- Build them back in time, in search of a common ancestral line to your tree

#10 – Examine ThruLines Suggestions

- ThruLines can sometimes help identify DNA match relationships
- Be careful --- always verify as these are based on other persons trees and could be subject to errors!

The screenshot displays the ThruLines interface, which shows a family tree of ancestors. The interface is organized into several sections, each representing a different generation of ancestors. The top section is labeled "Parents" and contains two entries: Richard Joseph Waters (Father, 1919-1979) and Joan Anita Craddock (Mother, 1929-2015). The next section is "Grandparents" and contains four entries: Joseph John Waters (Paternal grandfather, 1898-1965), Caroline Margaret Sylvia (Paternal grandmother, 1893-1963), Charles Noble Craddock (Maternal grandfather, 1905-1963), and Mardell Lillian Huntley (Maternal grandmother, 1908-2005). The "Great Grandparents" section contains eight entries: John Waters (Great-grandfather, 1869-), Irene Agnes Berkeley (Great-grandmother, 1869-1907), Joao John da Silva (Sylvia) (Great-grandfather, 1846-1932), Caroline C. Lemos (Great-grandmother, 1874-1913), Charles Noble Craddock (Great-grandfather, 1858-1950), Mary Ellen Wood (Great-grandmother, 1870-1930), and Nellie Julia Spencer (Great-grandmother, 1875-1932). The "2nd Great Grandparents" section contains eight entries: Terence Waters (2nd great-grandfather, 1825-1902), Sabina Gallagher (2nd great-grandmother, 1830-1901), Joseph Mortimer Berkeley (2nd great-grandfather, 1846-1880), Mary Ann Wheeler (2nd great-grandmother, 1848-1913), Manuel Correia da Silva (2nd great-grandfather), Luisa Candida (2nd great-grandmother), Feliciano Machado De Lemos (2nd great-grandfather, 1834-1904), and Delfina Candida San Jose (2nd great-grandmother, 1843-1901). Each entry includes a small profile picture and the person's name, relationship, and dates.

Filters v

ThruLines®

ThruLines shows you how you may be related to your DNA matches through ancestors you share. You get ThruLines when ancestors from your tree are also in a match's tree. Pick an ancestor to see which matches descend from them. [Learn more about ThruLines.](#)

Parents

Richard Joseph Waters
Father
1919-1979

Joan Anita Craddock
Mother
1929-2015

Grandparents

Joseph John Waters
Paternal grandfather
1898-1965

Caroline Margaret Sylvia
Paternal grandmother
1893-1963

Charles Noble Craddock
Maternal grandfather
1905-1963

Mardell Lillian Huntley
Maternal grandmother
1908-2005

Great Grandparents

John Waters
Great-grandfather
1869-

Irene Agnes Berkeley
Great-grandmother
1869-1907

Joao John da Silva
(Sylvia)
Great-grandfather
1846-1932

Caroline C. Lemos
Great-grandmother
1874-1913

Charles Noble Craddock
Great-grandfather
1858-1950

Mary Ellen Wood
Great-grandmother
1870-1930

Nellie Julia Spencer
Great-grandmother
1875-1932

2nd Great Grandparents

Terence Waters
2nd great-grandfather
1825-1902

Sabina Gallagher
2nd great-grandmother
1830-1901

Joseph Mortimer
Berkeley
2nd great-grandfather
1846-1880

Mary Ann Wheeler
2nd great-grandmother
1848-1913

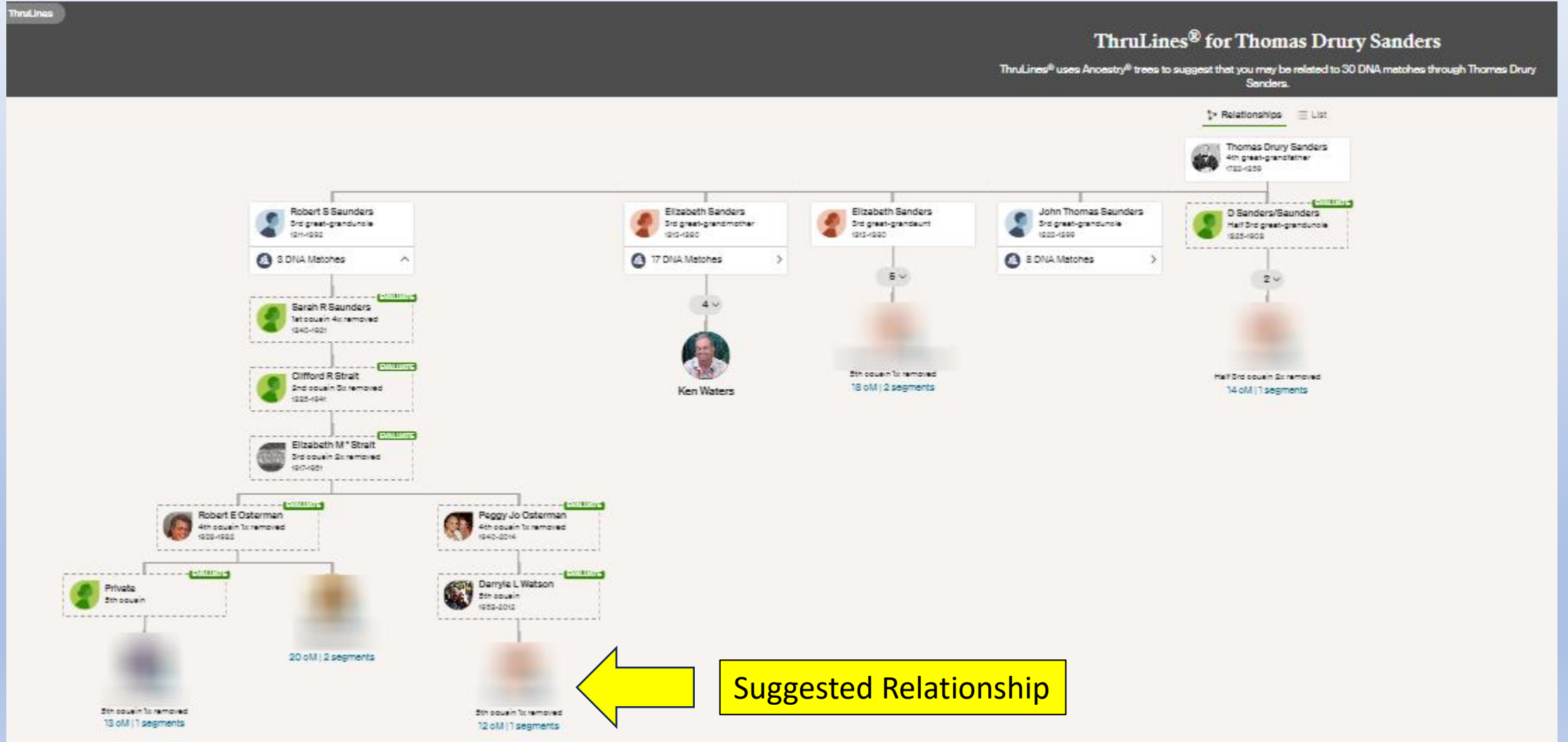
Manuel Correia da Silva
2nd great-grandfather

Luisa Candida
2nd great-grandmother

Feliciano Machado De
Lemos
2nd great-grandfather
1834-1904

Delfina Candida San
Jose
2nd great-grandmother
1843-1901

ThruLines Example



#11 – Save your bioancestry estimates

- Also sometimes known erroneously as “ethnicity”
- These periodically change without notice and can in some cases result in loss of valuable ancestry location estimates
- Take screen shots and save so that you can go back and review



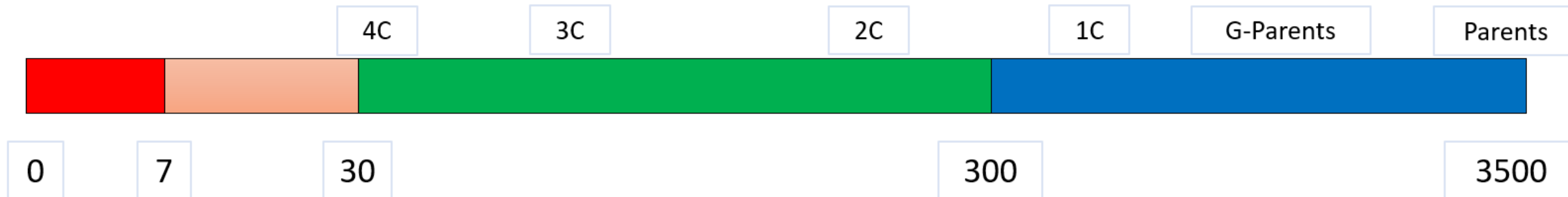
#12 – Understand centiMorgans

- centiMorgans are the primary measuring stick to express “relatedness” – how closely am I related to this DNA match?
- Use the Shared cM tool to evaluate the possibilities

First of all --- What is a “CentiMorgan”??

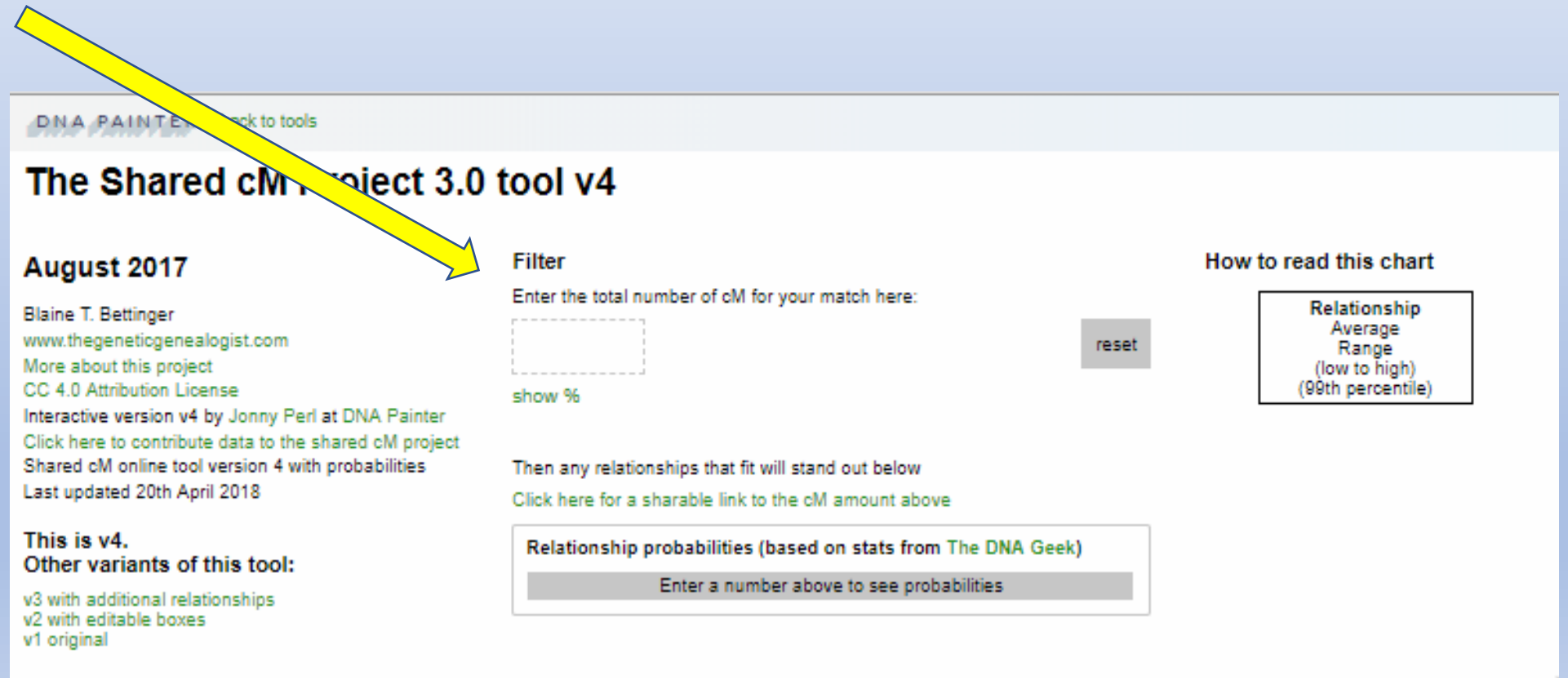
- Numeric measure of “relatedness”
- From 0 to 3500
- 3500 indicates parent/child
- 0 indicates no DNA shared

TIP: Just because you may not share any DNA with someone does not necessarily mean you are not related



Dnapainter's shared cm project

- Enter cM value
- See all the possibilities



DNA PAINTER [back to tools](#)

The Shared cM Project 3.0 tool v4

August 2017

Blaine T. Bettinger
www.thegeneticgenealogist.com
[More about this project](#)
[CC 4.0 Attribution License](#)
[Interactive version v4 by Jonny Perl at DNA Painter](#)
[Click here to contribute data to the shared cM project](#)
Shared cM online tool version 4 with probabilities
Last updated 20th April 2018

This is v4.
Other variants of this tool:
v3 with additional relationships
v2 with editable boxes
v1 original

Filter
Enter the total number of cM for your match here:

[show %](#)

Then any relationships that fit will stand out below
[Click here for a sharable link to the cM amount above](#)

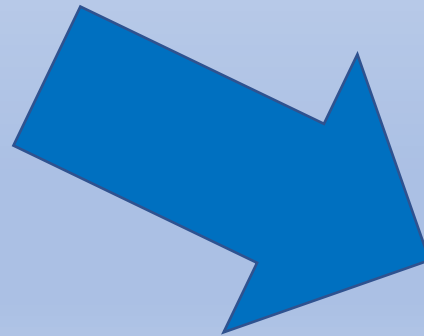
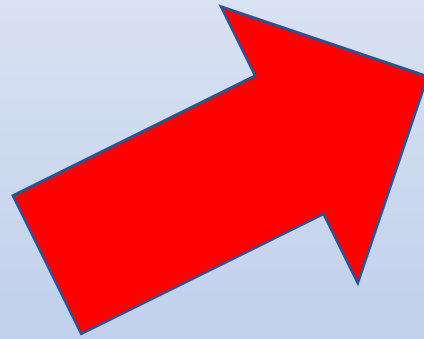
Relationship probabilities (based on stats from [The DNA Geek](#))
Enter a number above to see probabilities

How to read this chart

Relationship Average Range (low to high) (99th percentile)
--

#13 – Work those shared matches

The goal: sort your matches into common groups



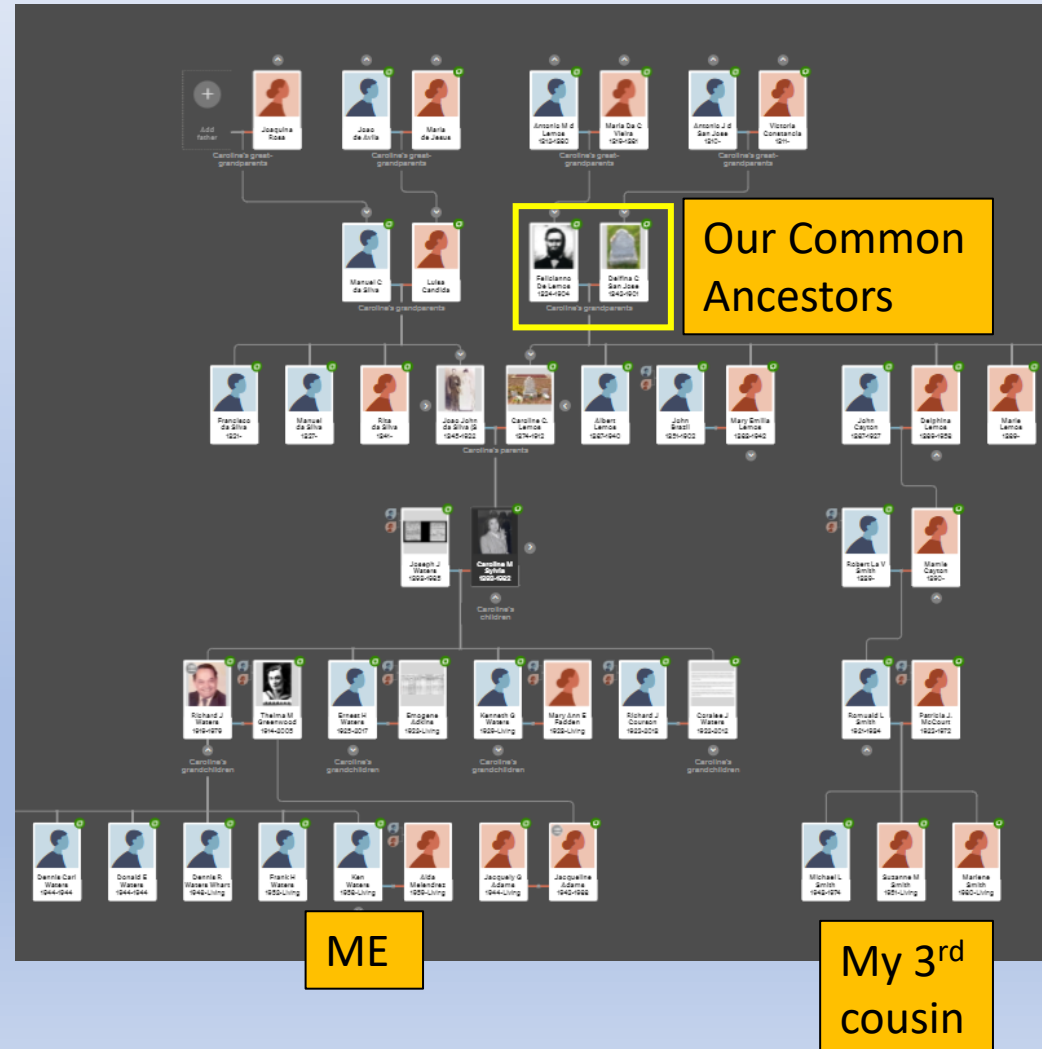
Divide and conquer

- On Ancestry, Using Tag Groups in combination with Notes and Shared Matches:
 - Group your matches by dividing them
 - First, Paternal vs. Maternal side
 - Then, work on Grandparents
 - Continue to divide matches

★ Starred matches (1)
● 0 - Distant Saved Matc... (17)
● 1 - Waters/Unknown (3)
● 2 - Berkley/Wheeler (25)
● 3 - Sylvia/Correia (48)
● 4 - Lemos/San Jose (112)
● 5 - Craddock/Spivey (122)
● 6 - Wood/Thurman (170)
● 7 - Unknown/Unknown ... (6)
● 8 - Spencer/Cummings (126)
● Dad's non-Portuguese... (98)
● Inner Family (14)
● Low matches (6-8) (0)
● Mystery Network #6 (17)
● Mystery Network #7 -- ... (10)
● Mystery Network #8 -- ... (35)

Goal: Find the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA)

- Finding common ancestors allows determination of exact relationship
- Once this is found then we can compare to other matches to help see how they are related as well



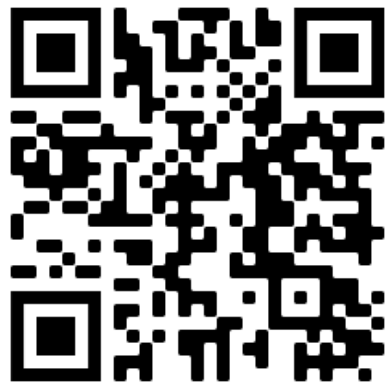
#14 – Have Fun!

FamilyTreeAZ.com



Presentations:

<http://familytreeaz.com/Presentations>



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