3-Steps for New Matches

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Encore Genealogy

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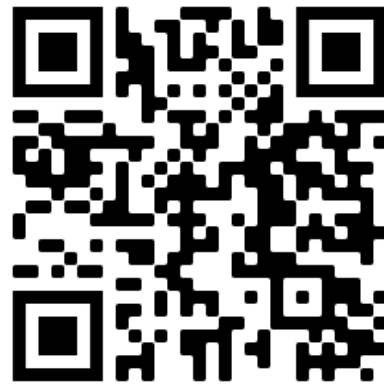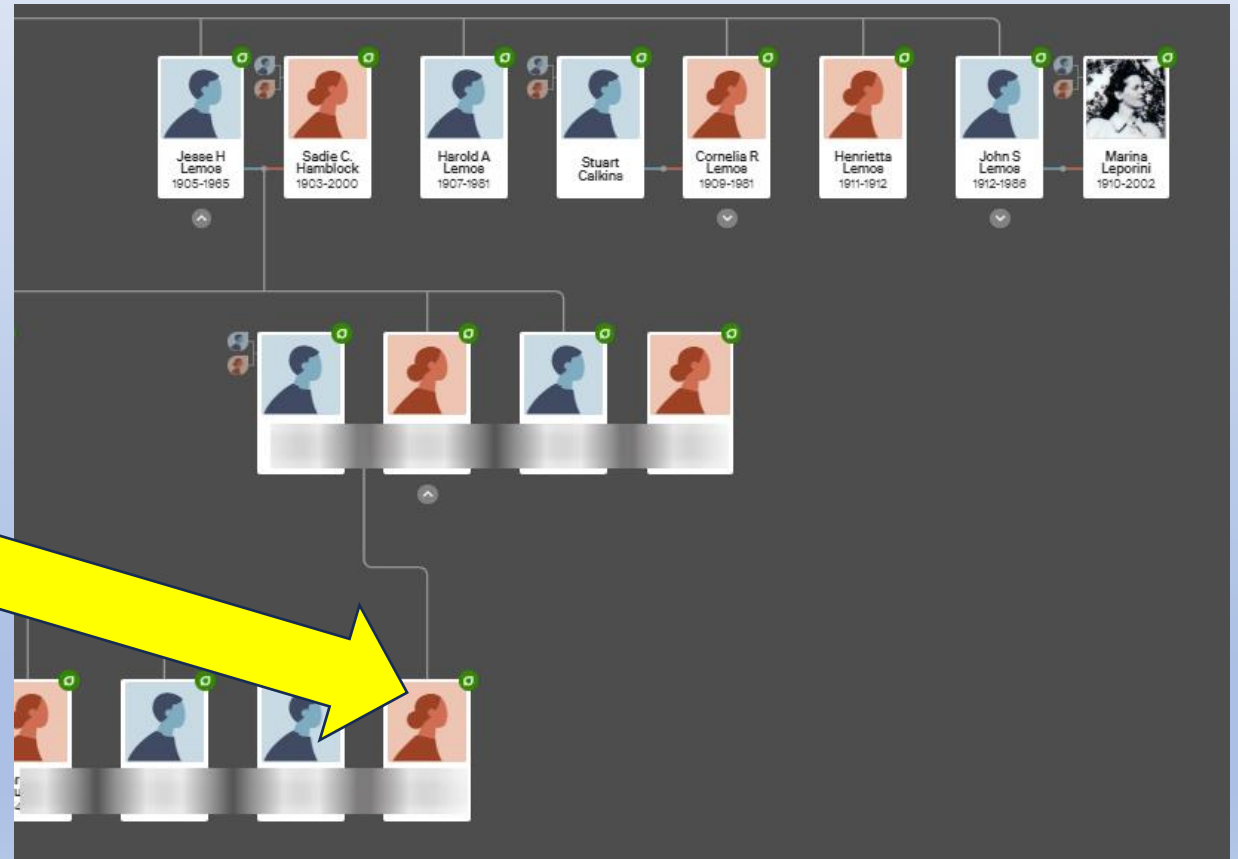
All slides and handouts can be found at:
http://www.familytreeaz.com/Presentations/

QR Code: take photo to open to presentations

Process

- Start with an unknown match
- End with a new person on your tree

5th – 8th Cousin
15 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Paternal side

3-Step Process

I - Identify

B - Build [tree]

C - Connect

Why Go to the Effort?

- Could help break down that brick wall in your family tree

- Identifying how you are related to this person can help connect other DNA matches using shared matches

NOTE: This may not be necessary for some matches

- Match may already have a tree that has a surname you recognize from your family

  Public linked tree
  99 People

- Ancestry may have identified the match as having a possible Common Ancestor

  Public linked tree
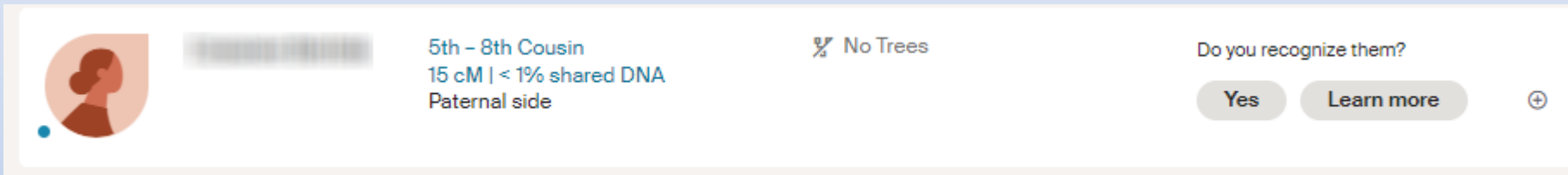 164 People
  Common ancestor

  ALWAYS VERIFY THOUGH!

- And, of course, you personally can identify the person!
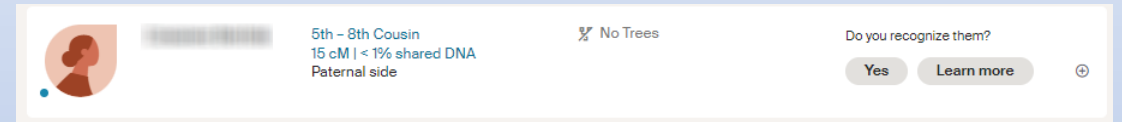
Starting with a Mystery Match

- Who is this person?

5th – 8th Cousin
15 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Paternal side

No Trees

Do you recognize them?

Yes   Learn more   ⊕

- Who are their relatives?

- How could I be related to them?

Step 1 - Identify

- Why do I need to identify this person??
  - This is required in order to go on to Step 2 (you can't build a tree without a starting point, an identified person)
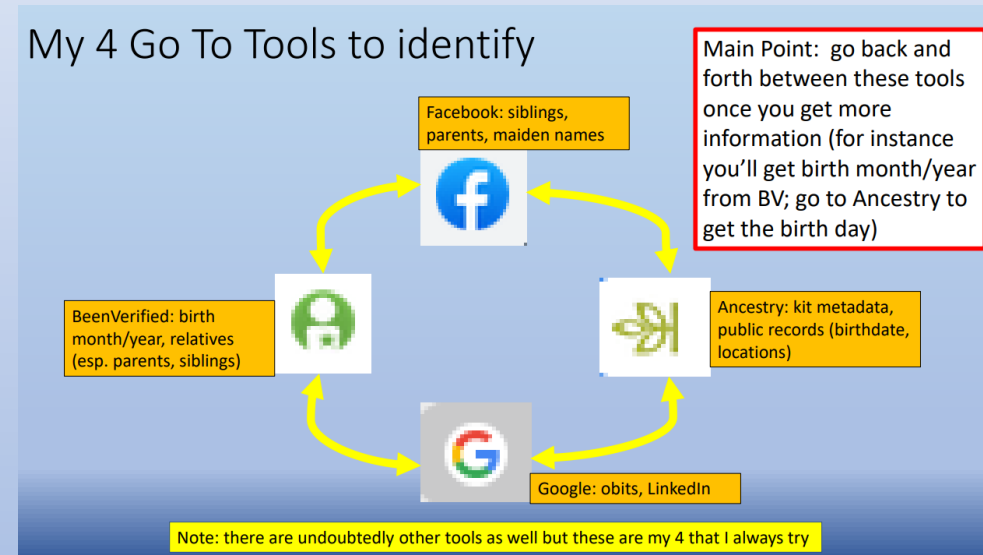

- Generally we need:
  - Date of birth
  - Birth location
  - Current or recent location(s)

- Also, very useful:
  - Relatives, especially parents or grandparents

Special Note: in some cases it may not always be necessary to identify exactly who the match is when you have both parents (or all 4 grandparents identified)--- you can always just put the person in the tree with what information you have from the match

Step 1 - Identify

- How do we do this?
  - People finding sites (e.g., BeenVerified, Spokeo)
  - Facebook
  - Google searches (especially for LinkedIn profiles and obituaries)
  - Ancestry
    - public records searches
    - Ancestry birth index records for certain states (e.g., CA, TX, OH, OR)

My 4 Go To Tools to identify

Main Point: go back and forth between these tools once you get more information (for instance you'll get birth month/year from BV; go to Ancestry to get the birth day)

Facebook: siblings, parents, maiden names

BeenVerified: birth month/year, relatives (esp. parents, siblings)

Ancestry: kit metadata, public records (birthdate, locations)

Google: obits, LinkedIn

Note: there are undoubtedly other tools as well but these are my 4 that I always try

Step 1 - Identify

My 4 Go To Tools to identify

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Google: obits, LinkedIn

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- Often it requires going back and forth between these sources to get what we need

  - As an example, I'll often use BeenVerified first to get location, middle name, birth month and year and then go to Ancestry to get exact birth date through public records
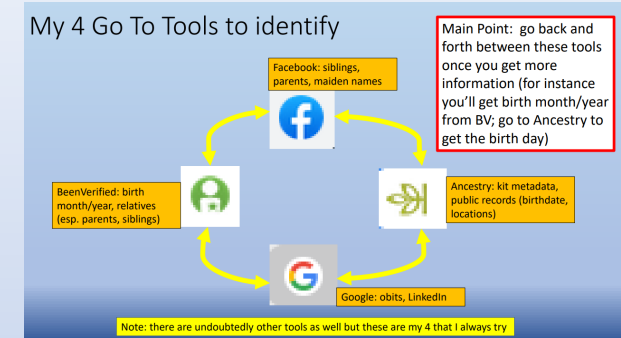
1 result for Madeleine

Madeleine ███████ ████████, 69

Candler, NC

Born Feb 1954

Aliases Roosev███ ██████ █████, ████████ ████, ████████, ████████ ████████ ██ █████ +5 more

Relatives Eileen E ███████

Known locations Candler, NC • Asheville, NC • Key West, FL • +1 more

From the BeenVerified search I get the birth month and birth date for the DNA match

Step 1 - Identify
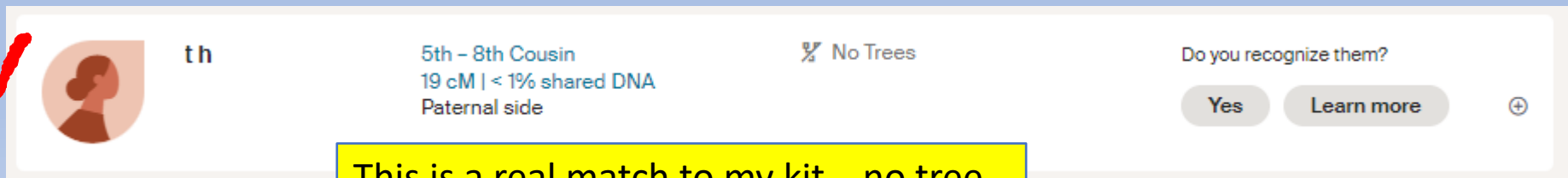
- May be an iterative process, adding one fact at a time
- An example:

| Last Name | → | First + Last Name | → | First + Last Name + Year of Birth | → | First + Last Name + Date of Birth | → | First + Middle Name + Last Name + Date of Birth |

| Brown | William Brown | William Brown 1950 | William Brown 4/1/1950 | William James Brown 4/1/1950 |

| Match Name | Facebook | BeenVerified | California Birth Index from Ancestry | Public Records from Ancestry |
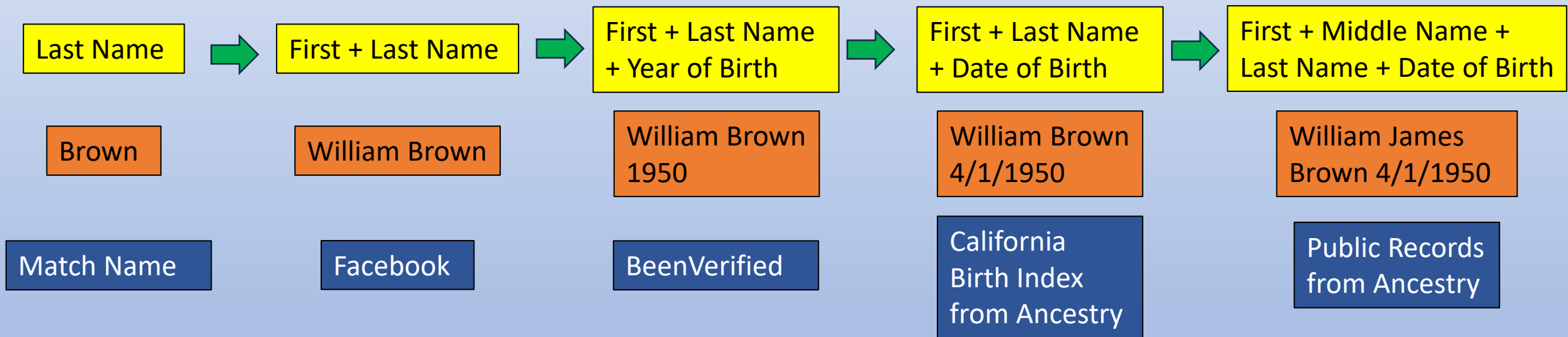
Step 1 - Identify

- WARNING – There will be times when you simply can't identify the person; my personal experience has been this only happens maybe 5-10% of the time
  - No tree or unusable tree (private, 1-person, all private, obviously wrong
  - Typically the kit has an unique alias that doesn't come up in searches
  - Kit name may be just initials (although sometimes you can crack these by looking at shared matches)
  - Very common name with no other information

??!

| t h | 5th – 8th Cousin
19 cM \| < 1% shared DNA
Paternal side | ✂ No Trees | Do you recognize them?
Yes   Learn more   ⊕ |

This is a real match to my kit---no tree, initials only, no way to identify

Step 1 - Identify

- TIP: don't forget to check Ancestry's metadata for the match
  - Always check the metadata by clicking on the match's name

- Probably only about 10% of Ancestry DNA matches have this information but when they do it can be invaluable for identifying them!

Step 1 - Identify

- There are many techniques to identify people

- I've only briefly covered them here but covered this aspect in much more detail in previous classes

- Most of the time if you're lucky this step can be done in only 5 to 10 minutes

- For more, see my presentation on how to identify matches:
  - https://www.familytreeaz.com/Presentations/IDing_Matches_2023jan.pdf
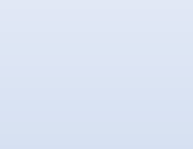
Get the Individual Clues from Different Sources and then Build on them – "Re-"search

As you get new pieces of the puzzle, go back and search again

Step 1 is complete

- We have full name (first-middle-last)
- We have identified location(s)
- We have a full birth date (month-day-year) and maybe a birth location

- Hopefully you also were able to identify one or both parents (e.g., BeenVerified's "Relatives" section)
  - This can be very useful in Step 2

- On to Step 2 (Build a tree)

Joseph James Smith
B: 29 Feb 1953, Dallas TX
F: Charles Smith (24 Sep 1925 - 2013)
M: Madeleine Roosevelt (24 Oct 1929 - 2020)

Note: this is a fictitious person just for an example

Step 2 – Build (a tree)

- We will let Ancestry do most of the work here

- NOTE: this does require an active (paid) subscription to Ancestry

    - Or, maybe you can use Ancestry for free at your public library

MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Info ▾   Search ▾   My Account ▾   Help ▾

E-Source Home > A - Z List of Resources

E-Source Targets

▸ Ancestry Library (In-house use only)
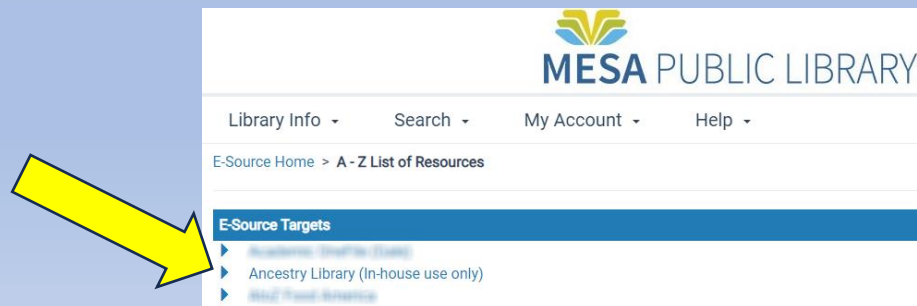
I have a U.S. paid subscription to Ancestry. When I need to do international searches I go use the library's access!

Step 2 – Build (a tree)

- We will build a new family tree in Ancestry starting with the DNA match
- From Ancestry select Trees and then Create & Manage Trees
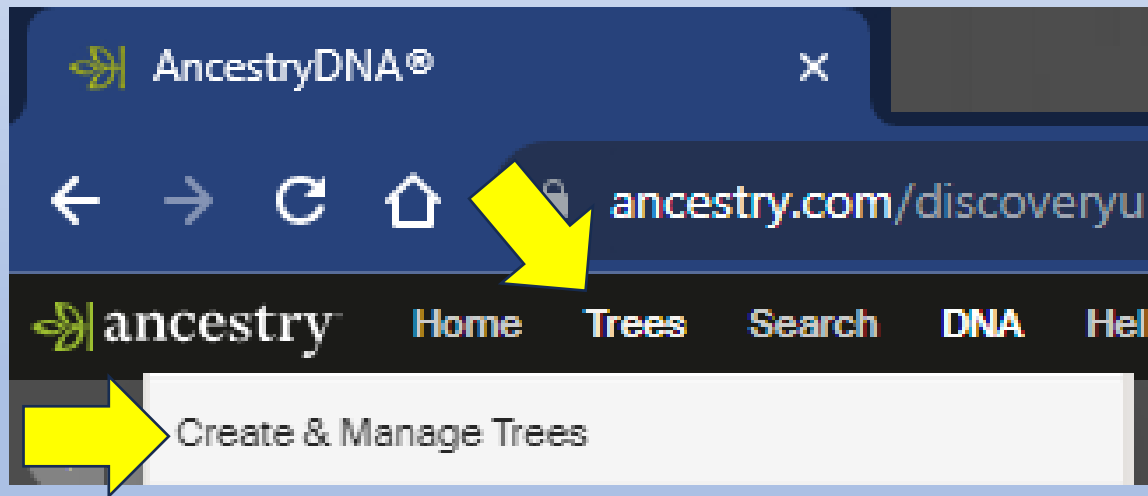
Step 2 – Build (a tree)

- Enter the new-found information for the person you identified in Step 1 (full name, birth date, birth location—if known)

Step 2 – Build (a tree)

PRIVATE

UNSEARCHABLE

- This tree will be for our purposes only for research; it is *not* meant for others to see and/or use
- Therefore, we need to ensure it is both private and unsearchable

IMPORTANT!

Step 2 – Build (a tree)

- Build the tree back in time, following up the family tree
- This can often be done quickly thanks to Ancestry's hints (just be careful to make sure the hints make sense --- watch those birth/death dates)

Suggested parents. If the information "seems" acceptable (watch dates carefully!) I accept it. Remember, this is a private unsearchable tree and so is used only for the purpose of getting hints and gaining possible sources

Step 2 – Build (a tree)

- For more on this step see:
    - https://www.familytreeaz.com/Presentations/ResearchTrees.pdf

Step 3 - Connect

- This is usually the most difficult step and may require substantial effort
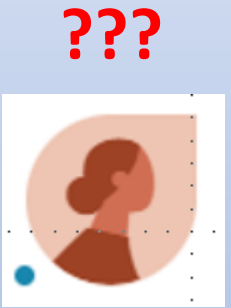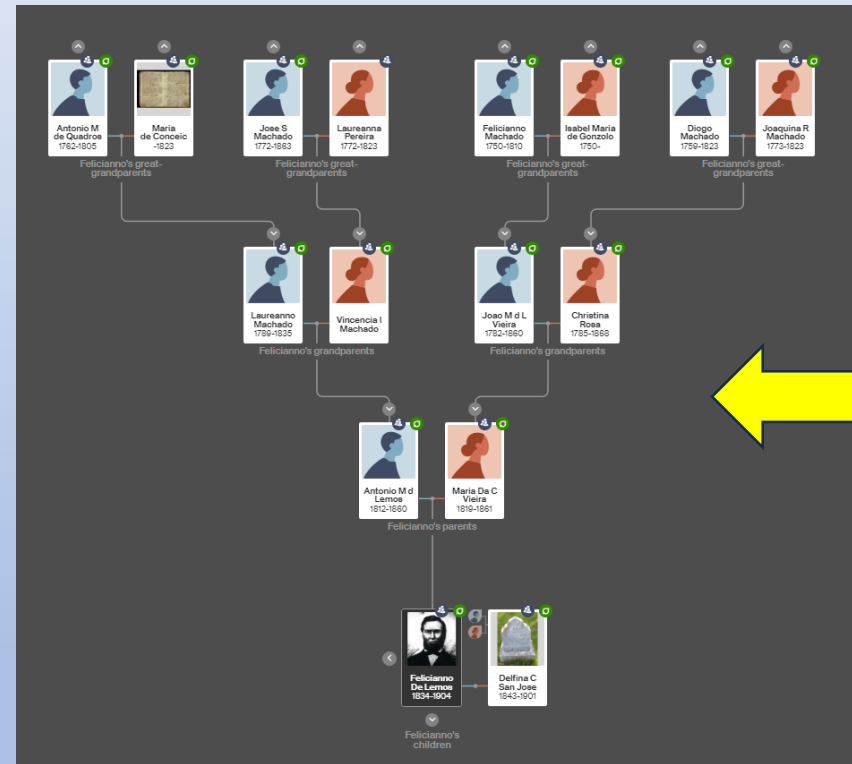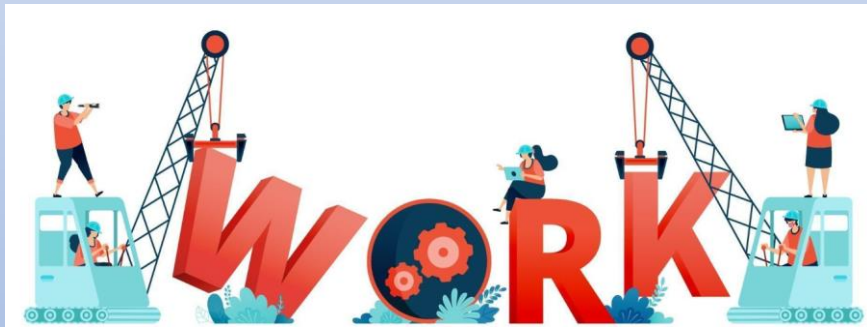
Step 3 - Connect

- Also, you ultimately may not be successful

  - If that's the case then at least you have built a case for this person and the work involved may be useful when attempting the same thing for a shared match to the person
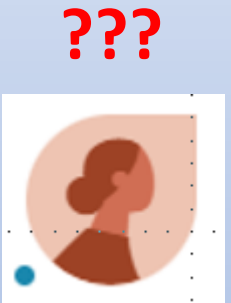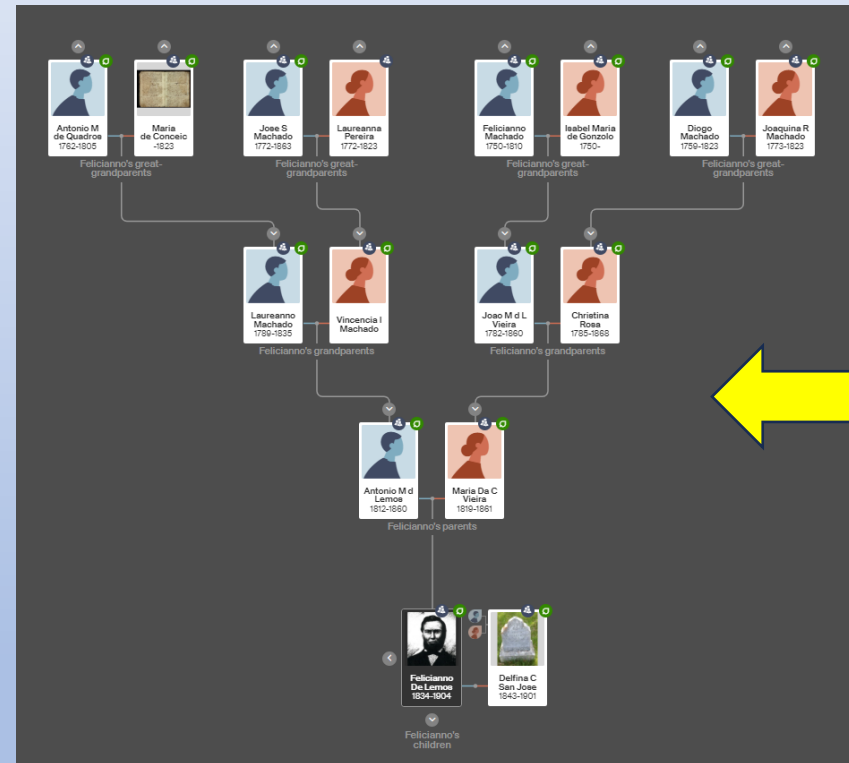
Step 3 - Connect

- Make use of Ancestry's Shared Matches

  - Arguably the most useful tool working with Ancestry DNA matches

  - I like to build a diagram showing how the shared matches relate to each other

  - As part of the tree building step you hopefully were able to build a number of ancestral lines back in time for the DNA match

Step 3 - Connect

- At some point you will want to connect other shared matches to this person as they might be related (close, 1C, 2C, etc.)
  - We sometimes call this building a genetic network

- I really like using LucidChart for this purpose
  - Has the flexibility I need to select only the relatives I need

- With LucidChart I create a DNA relational diagram that shows how DNA matches are related to each other and, ultimately/hopefully, how they are related to me
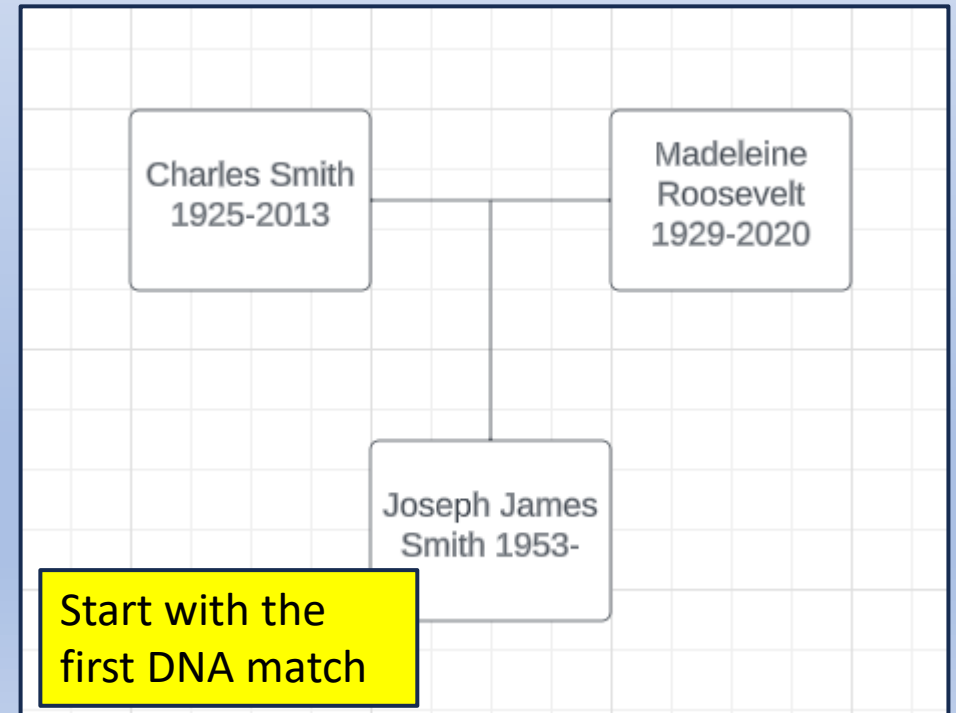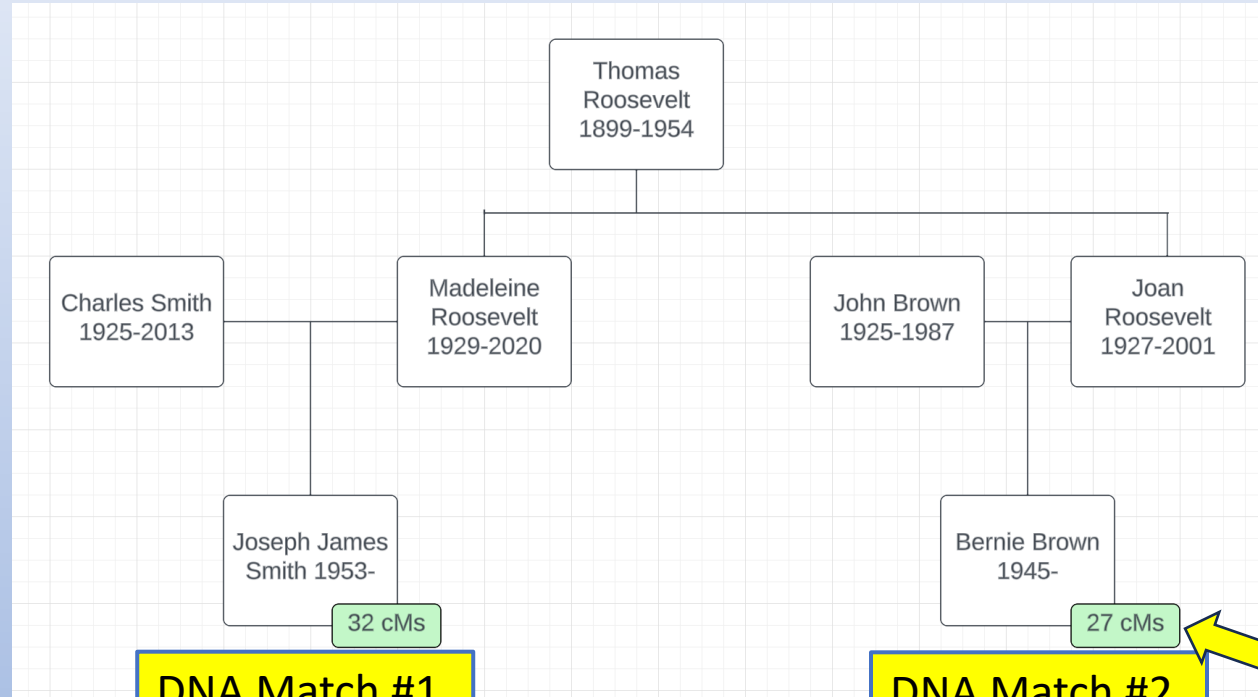
Charles Smith 1925-2013

Madeleine Roosevelt 1929-2020

Joseph James Smith 1953-

Start with the first DNA match

Step 3 - Connect

Step 3 - Connect

- An example of a completed DNA relational diagram

- This shows descendancy from a 3rd great-grandparent couple (to me, with my mother as the home tester) with all identified DNA matches and how they are related to each other (living people names are abbreviated for privacy)

- It's easy to add new DNA matches that are later identified and connected
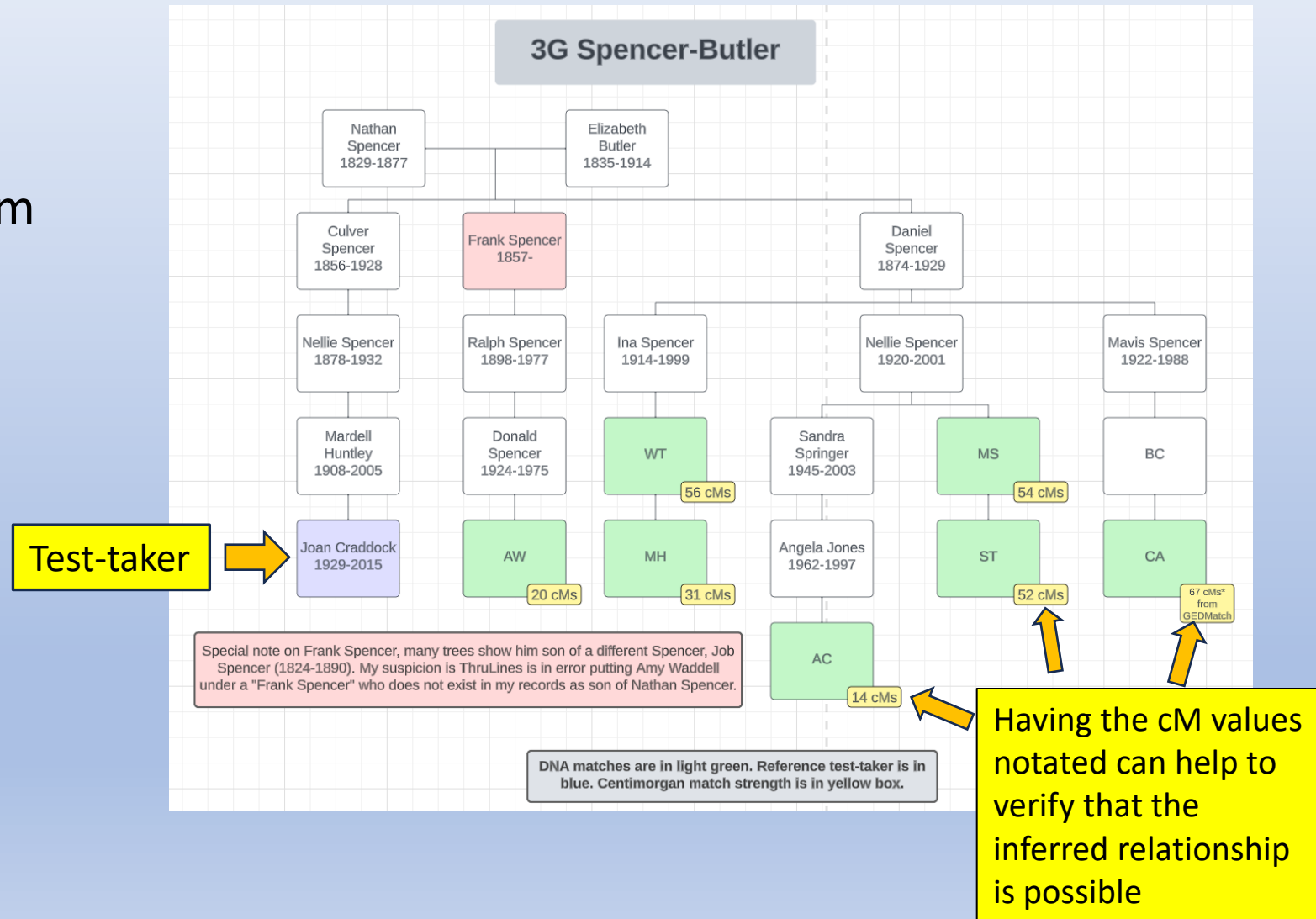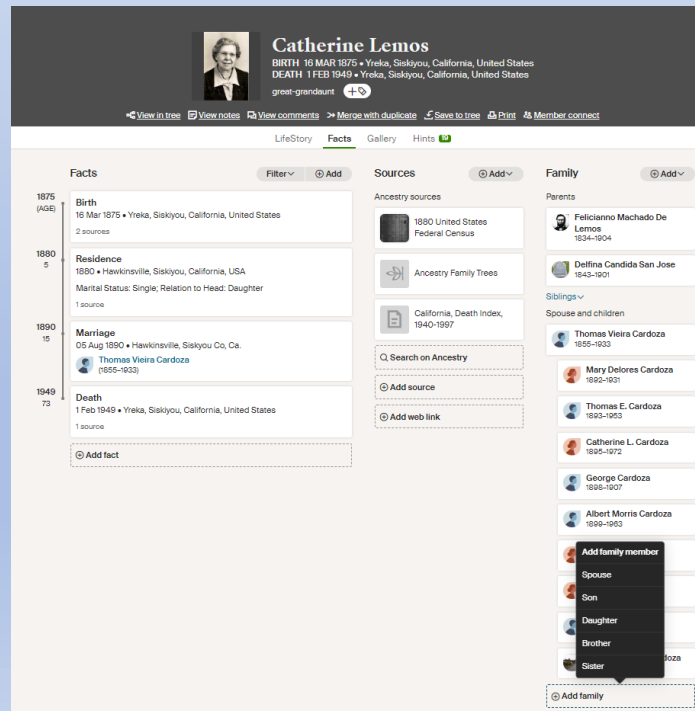
Step 3 - Connect

- For more on LucidChart go to https://www.lucidchart.com/pages/ (basic account is free)

- Also, see my presentation on building DNA relational diagrams https://www.familytreeaz.com/Presentations/DNA_Relational_Diagrams_2022nov.pdf
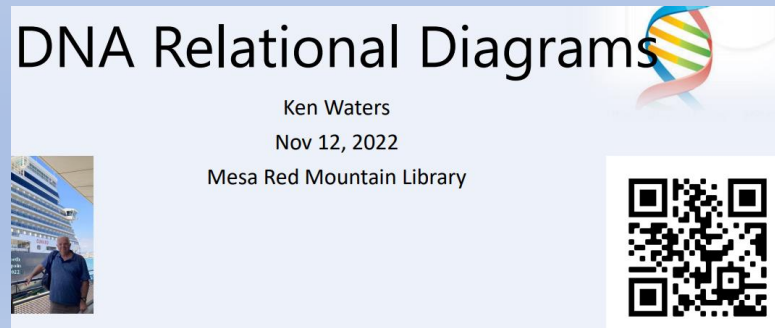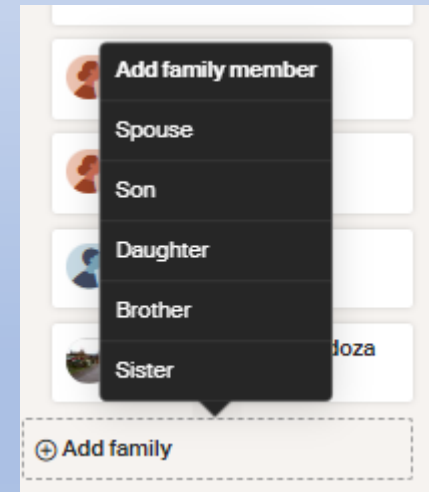
Step 3 - Connect

- Final Step:

  - Add the newly-placed DNA match into your active (public, linked, searchable) tree
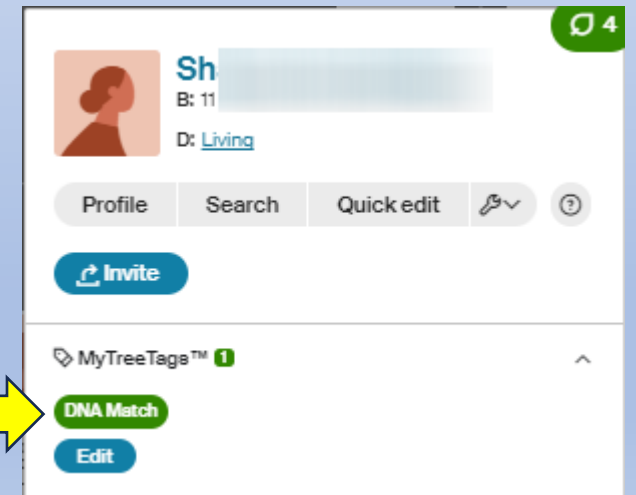
Step 3 - Connect
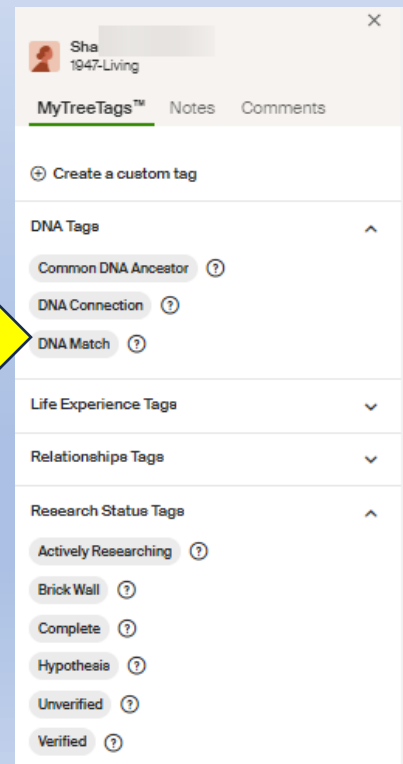
- Final Step:
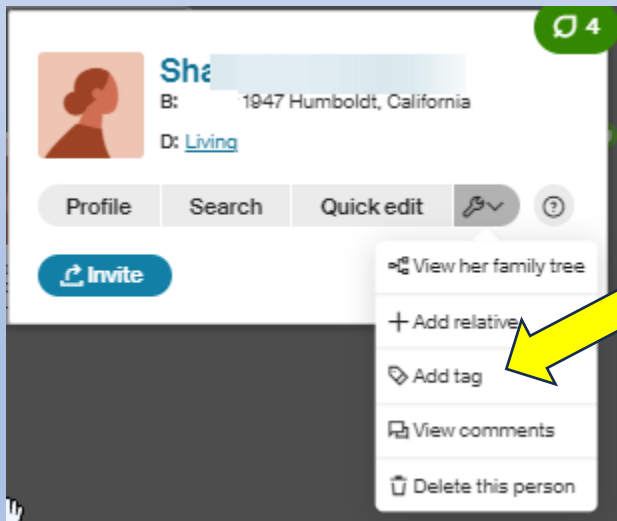
    - I like to use Ancestry's DNA MyTag function so that it will show a confirmed DNA match within the tree

3-Step Process: IBC

I - Identify

B - Build [tree]

C - Connect

Part of a Unified Process to Work with DNA Matches

I - Identify
B - Build [tree]
C - Connect

IBC

Tag Groups

Shared Matches

How Can I Use the centiMorgan Values?

- centiMorgan values indicates how closely related a match is to the test taker

- The "go-to" tool is the Shared centiMorgan Project, located at https://dnapainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4

DNA PAINTER   Tools   Help   Subscribe

The Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4

Read more about the tool and this update
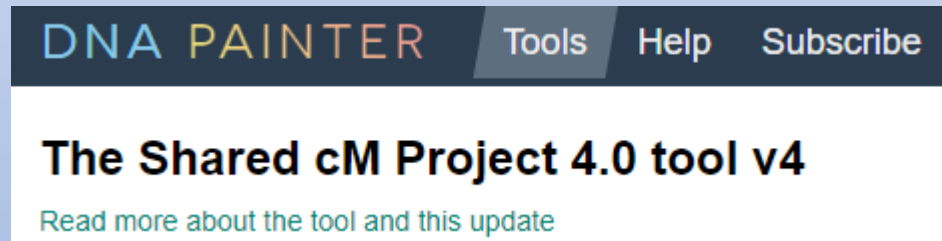
Shared centiMorgan Project

- Given a cM value, let's say 125 cMs, what are the possibilities?

Enter the total number of cM for your match:

125

Most distant common ancestors
Assuming no pedigree collapse or endogamy, and that you're related in just one way, the **furthest** back you might need to go to find common ancestors for a match of 125cM is **4th-Great-Grandparent level** or generation 7 on your pedigree chart.
The connection may be closer.

Relationship probabilities (based on stats from The DNA Geek)
👆 Click on any relationship to view a histogram
New: View these relationships in a tree

47%	Half 2C 2C1R Half 1C2R 1C3R
26%	Half 1C3R † 3C Half 2C1R 2C2R
13%	Half GG-Aunt / Uncle 2C Half 1C1R 1C2R Half GG-Niece / Nephew
11%	Half 3C 3C1R Half 2C2R 2C3R
3%	4C Half 3C1R 3C2R
~ 0%	** 1C1R
~ 0%	** 4C1R

These are the most likely possible relationships for a 125 cM match---not PROOF but more likely

Upcoming Classes/Presentations

Date: Sat, Apr 13, 1 pm
> **Location: Red Mountain Library**
> **Topic: Genetic Networks**
> **Description: What are Genetic Networks and why are they important to me? Let's learn all about them and how they can help with my family tree.**

Date: Sat, May 4, 1 pm
> **Location: Red Mountain Library**
> **Topic: WATO (What Are The Odds)**
> **Description: What is WATO and how can I use it?**

All library classes are free to attend and require no registration and held at the Red Mountain Mesa Public Library at 635 N Power Rd in Mesa (unless otherwise noted above).

Presentations:
http://familytreeaz.com/Presentations

U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-2016
School lists & yearbooks

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