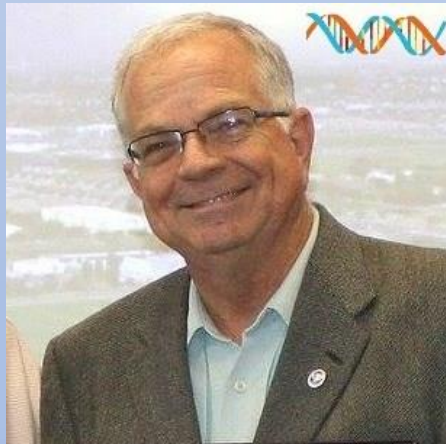


Identifying Your DNA Matches



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<http://familytreeaz.com/presentations>



January 2023

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



QR Code: take photo to
open to presentations

A Caveat (...or two)

- Your DNA matches are presumed to be still living

Thus, this presentation will focus on methods rather than specific examples in order to protect their privacy

*****This presentation will cover one actual example but that person's identity has been "masked"*****

- This presentation is focusing on GENEALOGY

How can identifying your matches improve your family tree? (e.g., not stalking or investigating people)

The Ultimate Goal....

Identify the DNA match in order to find the common ancestor and determine the exact relationship

For example,

Go from Name → “2nd cousin, once removed on common ancestor line”

Overall Steps

1. Identify the match This is what this presentation will address
2. Build a tree for the match (can not do this until match is identified)
3. Extract direct ancestor surnames and enter into Notes fields for the match
4. Compare surnames with other shared matches' trees to begin to isolate possible common ancestors
5. Work a new family tree down from common ancestors to determine exact relationship to you You're finished!!

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



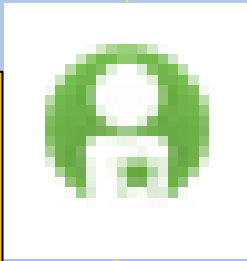
My 4 Go To Tools to identify

Facebook: siblings,
parents, maiden names

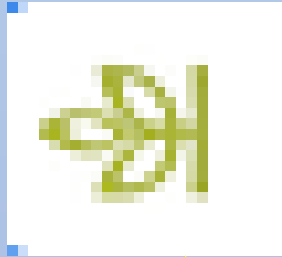


Main Point: go back and forth between these tools once you get more information (for instance you'll get birth month/year from BV; go to Ancestry to get the birth day)

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

Why Identify?

- 1) More context to determine if you should attempt to contact; for example, a close cousin who might be able to provide important information
- 2) **Start a research tree (“Quick and Dirty Tree”)**
 - Use to determine how you are related to the person (i.e., work their ancestral tree back in time to find a common ancestor)
- 3) Add the person to your tree



Key to Identifying --- Build Clues

- Locations
- Age
- Surname
- Siblings, Parents, other relatives
- Birth Date
- Birth Location

Some Matches You'll Never Be Able to ID

- No first or last name
- My experience:
 - ~10% can not be identified (initials only or very common name)
 - ~10% can be partially identified (e.g., narrowed down to 2 brothers)
 - ~80% are identifiable
- Of course, YMMV (Your Mileage May Vary)

Examples of Difficult ID's – Common Names

- Not a lot you can do as far as searching for this person but don't forget to check shared matches before you give up

Very common name with no other details



David Smith

Seemingly Difficult ID's can be made with shared matches

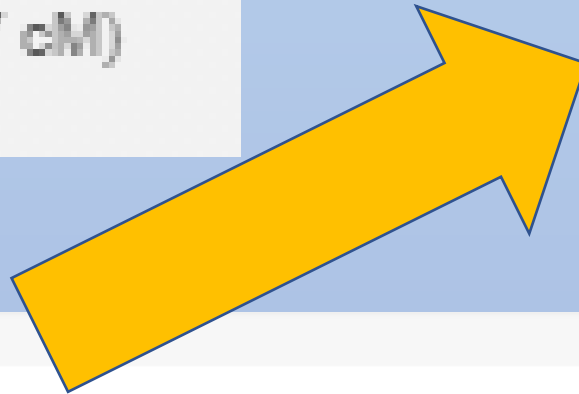


Dna Test

3rd - 4th cousin

Shared DNA: 1.0% (68.7 cM)

HOWEVER--- I believe I have identified her based SOLELY on a combination of match strength (68.7 cMs) and match strength of other shared matches (MyHeritage has that very useful feature).



Dna Test

From: USA

[Contact Dna Test](#)

Estimated relationships

3rd - 4th cousin

DNA Match quality

Shared DNA: 1.0% (68.7 cM)

Shared segments: 2

Largest segment: 59.3 cM

[Review DNA Match](#)

[View tree](#)

Appears in a family tree with 4 people that she manages








Shared Matches Can Reveal Clues

23andMe

- All DNA testing companies have some sort of shared match information
- MyHeritage and 23andMe have additional benefit of showing match strength (cMs) between shared matches

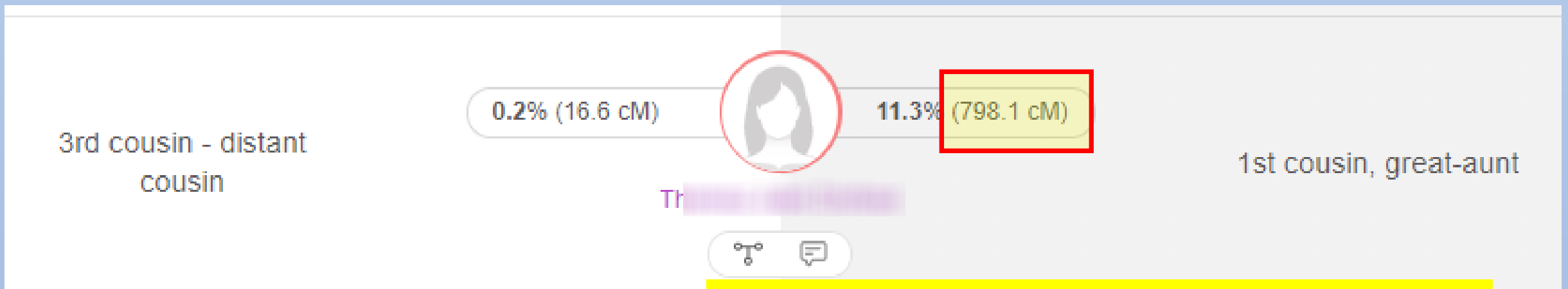
You have Relatives in Common

Each Relative in Common shares at least one small segment of DNA with Norman.

Relative in common	You	Norman	DNA Overlap
 Mic [blurred]	1st Cousin (12.88)	2nd Cousin (2.17)	Yes
 Mel [blurred]	1st Cousin, Once Removed (5.04)	3rd Cousin (0.62)	No
 Ter [blurred]	2nd Cousin (3.23)	2nd Cousin, Once Removed (3.12)	Yes
 Sus [blurred]	2nd Cousin (3.09)	2nd Cousin (2.12)	Yes
 Fran [blurred]	2nd Cousin (2.59)	1st Cousin (13.63)	Yes
 Har [blurred]	2nd Cousin (2.55)	2nd Cousin (1.68)	No
 Chr [blurred]	2nd Cousin, Once Removed (1.15)	4th Cousin (0.55)	No

Example of a MyHeritage DNA Match with Close Shared Match

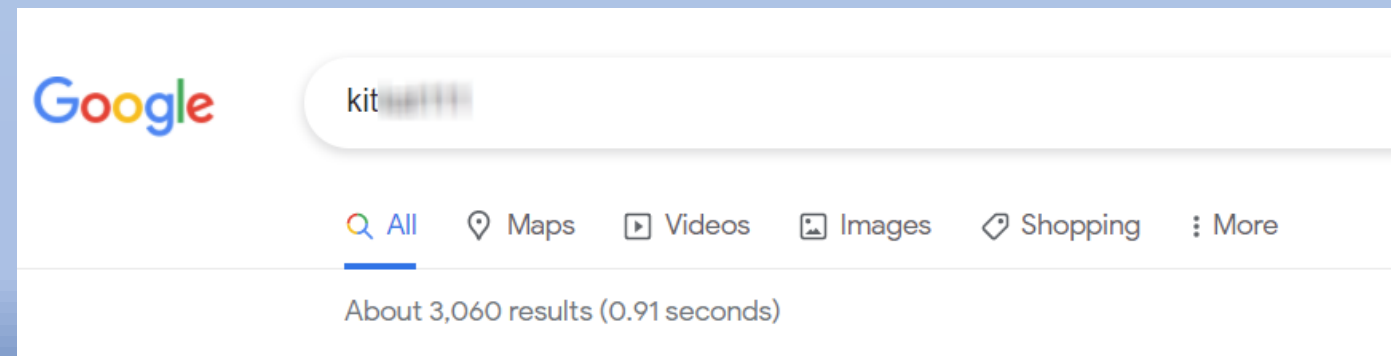
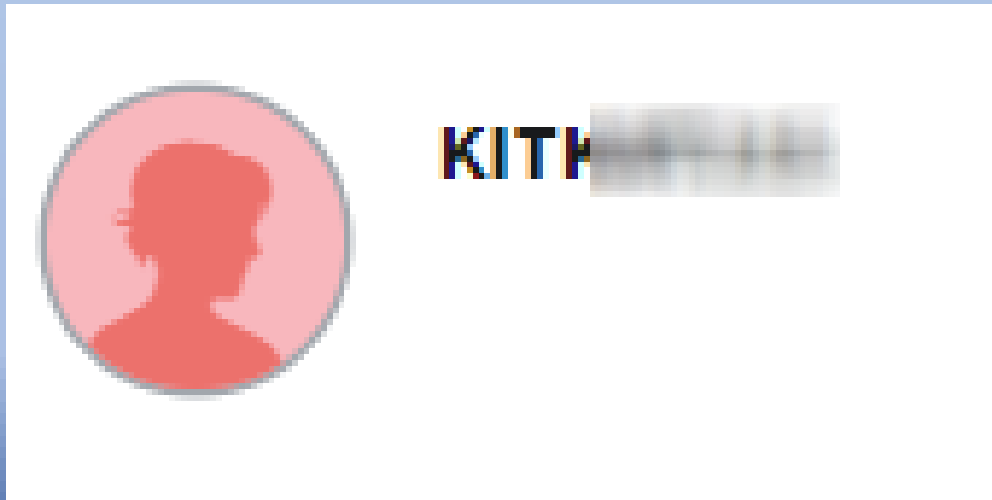
- This match, 798.1 cM indicates that the two shared matches are very closely related



Turns out this shared match was determined to be the 1st cousin of the mystery "DNA Test" match and used to solve the identity of the test-taker.

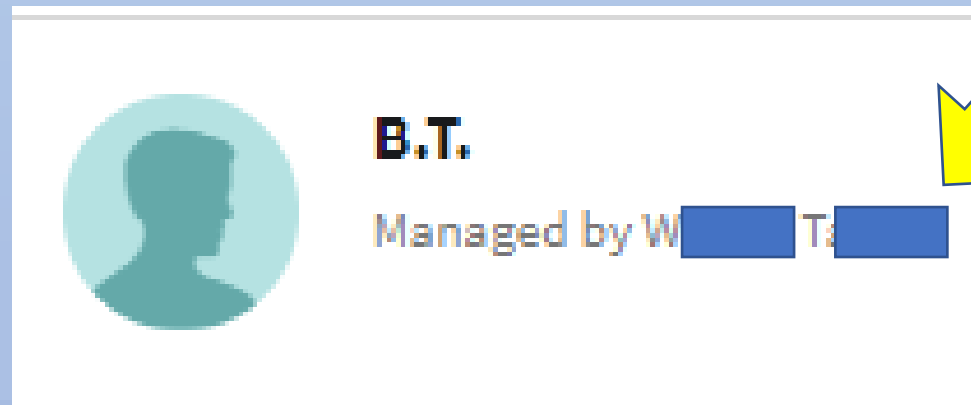
For Aliases --- Be sure to search for them on the web

- Some people love to use aliases
 - Often they will reuse those aliases across different types of accounts
 - When you see an alias be sure to search for it (e.g., try Google)



For Kits Managed by Administrators

- In Ancestry kits identified only by initials are typically kits managed by someone else, often a family member
- Sometimes that can be a useful hint as to the surname



In this case I was able to determine the surname of this match by using the name of the test administrator in combination with other shared matches.

Use BeenVerified or Other People Search Sites

- Free for simple information; pay site has more information

Ad <https://www.beenverified.com/> ▾

Don't Waste Your Money - Just Enter A Name & State

Our **People Search** Technology Makes It As Easy As Ever To Locate **People**, Try BeenVerified@!
Find Someone Confidentially & Fast. Phone, Address, Email, Social, Work...

Reverse Phone Lookup

Enter A Phone Number And Search
For Relevant Info About the Owner

Search Property Records

Search Real Estate Assets & Their
Potential Owners. Enter Address.

Ad <https://tracking.intelius.com/find/people> ▾

People Finder - Lookup Anyone · Search Someone By Name | Free

[1] Enter Any Name & City/ State [2] **Search** Phone, Address & Full Public Records Data Fast.
Confidential **People Search Engine**. **Search People**, Phone Number, Addresses, Age, DOB ...

Ad <https://www.top10.com/best/peoplesearch> ▾

10 Best People Search Sites - Just Released Jul 2021 Re...

Find The Best **Site** to Find Information About Someone. Private and Reliable. Review
The...

2021's Best Choice · Online Background Check · Criminal Background Check



Ad <https://www.peoplefinders.com/people-search> ▾

PeopleFinders.com - Official Site

It's easy! [1] Enter any name [2] See contact info, relatives, age, and more.

 **BeenVerified**.com

Sign in

Sign In

[Forgot your password?](#)

[Send a One Time Login Link](#)

[Unsure what email you used?](#)

Use BeenVerified or Other People Search Sites

- Has been invaluable in identifying:
 - Birth dates (Month + Year)
 - Siblings
 - Maiden Names (shows other names)
 - Locations
 - Relationships (especially likely parents)

BeenVerified

Overview

- Phone Numbers 4
- Email Addresses 3
- Address History 12
- Relatives 2
- Names & Ancestry
- Associates 4
- Neighbors 16
- Criminal or Traffic 0
- Bankruptcies 0
- Jobs & Education 10
- Social Media 3
- Assets 3
- Free Bonus Data ★
- Additional Details 0

Free Bonus Data

Report as PDF Monitoring Enabled Bonus Data

Age 64 years old

Born September 1956

Location Thief River Falls, MN

Aliases Ca... View 6 more

Thief River Falls, MN 56701 View 12 more

(218) ... View 4 more

... View 3 more

... View relatives

0 criminal traffic records identified Learn more

2 social media profiles identified View details

He ...


Deceased at age ~79 on Sep 2001


Lived in ...




Identified birth mother, death date, birth date



Don't Forget to Document


- In Ancestry, once I've ID'ed a match I always enter the information into the note field




 **Michelle** 2nd cousin 1x removed
152 cM | 2% shared DNA
Mother's side



 Unlinked Tree [View match](#)


 2C1R, great-granddaughter of , niece to 

  2nd cousin 2x removed
46 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Mother's side



 No Trees [View match](#)

 2C2R with  1940 living in Salem OR. Born in Fort Smith AR. Mother was  Spencer, grandfather was Daniel Spencer.

  4th - 6th Cousin
29 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Mother's side

 Public linked tree
7 People

Do you recognize them?
[Yes](#) [Learn more](#)

 28.7/2. Likely Spencer line. This appears to be actress Gat  (CABI: b. 1985)

The Value of Documenting the Notes

- I always fill the Notes field (at least for all 20+ cMs matches)
- Easily view surnames from their trees to compare and look for commonalities
- See confirmed matches to help associate what the common line(s) are

The screenshot shows a DNA match page for Ken Waters. The page title is "Ken Waters's DNA Matches" and it includes a link to "View [DNA] Waters Tree Email:satwatcher.gen@gmail.com". The page is filtered by "All matches" and shows a list of matches under the "Distant Family" category. Each match entry includes a profile picture, a relationship description, shared DNA information, and a "View match" button. Some matches also have a "Do you recognize them?" button with "Yes" and "Learn more" options. A yellow box highlights the text "3C3R = Third cousin 3x removed" next to a match entry. Another yellow box highlights the text "Surnames to compare" next to a match entry.

Match ID	Relationship	Shared DNA	Notes
2C2R	2nd cousin 2x removed	46 cM < 1% shared DNA	Maternal side
2C2R	4th - 6th Cousin	44 cM < 1% shared DNA	Maternal side
3C3R	3rd cousin 3x removed	41 cM < 1% shared DNA	Maternal side
4C1R	4th cousin 1x removed	39 cM < 1% shared DNA	Maternal side
4C1R	4th - 6th Cousin	38 cM < 1% shared DNA	Maternal side
4C1R	4th - 6th Cousin	37 cM < 1% shared DNA	Maternal side

Put the Puzzle Pieces Together

- Small Pieces
 - Location
 - Birth date (going from just year to year-month to year-month-day)
 - Birth location
 - Relatives
- Can allow putting the puzzle together!



You can do it too!

One Final Note About Contacting

- Don't try to contact the person until you've completed **a thorough search for records and identification**
- If you do attempt contact, put a few clues in the message to pique the person's interest (e.g., mention surnames from the suspected line)
- Whatever you do, don't:
 - Overwhelm with facts (e.g., chromosome matches, centiMorgans, etc.)
 - Add insensitive remarks before establishing good communications
 - "I believe you're the sister of my birth father"
 - "Are you adopted?"
- REMEMBER: you want this person to respond so be as respectful as possible, adding a few clues to get them interested without overwhelming them.



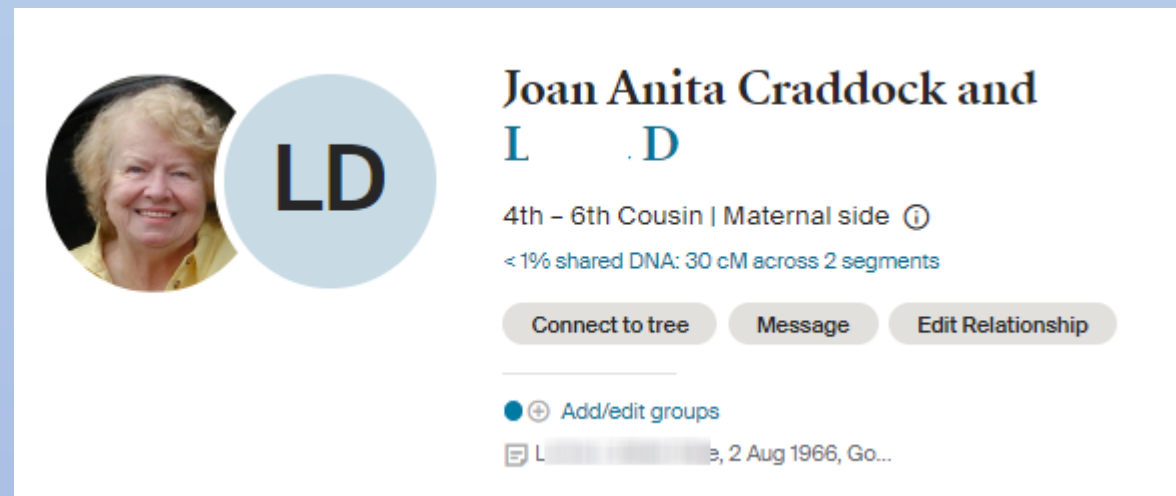
It looks like we may be related on my Spencer-Cummings line out of Michigan. My 3rd great-grandfather was Nathan Gould Spencer who lived in Eaton Rapids, MI



Real Example

Real Example: 1/13/2023

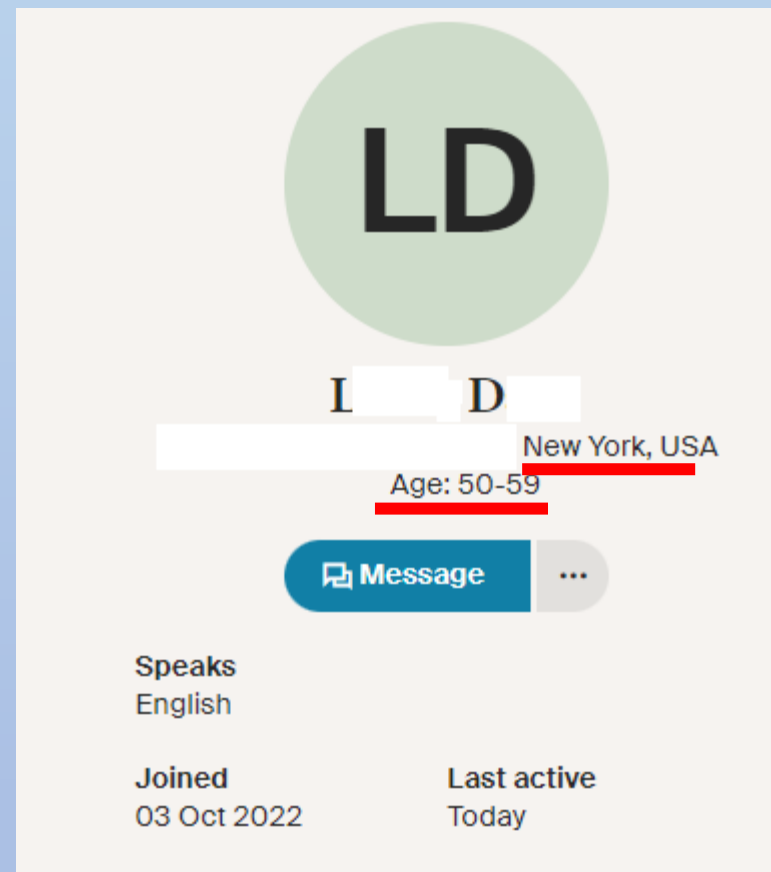
- From my Mom's DNA kit
- New match: real first name, real last name [I'm abbreviating to LD for privacy]
- 30 cMs



The screenshot shows a DNA match profile for a woman named Joan Anita Craddock and L. D. On the left is a circular profile picture of an elderly woman with short, curly blonde hair, wearing a yellow top. To the right of the photo is a light blue circle containing the letters 'LD' in black. The name 'Joan Anita Craddock and L. D.' is displayed in a bold, black font. Below the name, it indicates a relationship of '4th - 6th Cousin | Maternal side' with an information icon. Further down, it states '< 1% shared DNA: 30 cM across 2 segments'. At the bottom of the profile, there are three buttons: 'Connect to tree', 'Message', and 'Edit Relationship'. Below these buttons is a section for 'Add/edit groups' with a blue plus icon, and a small text snippet starting with 'L...', '2 Aug 1966, Go...'. The background of the screenshot is white.

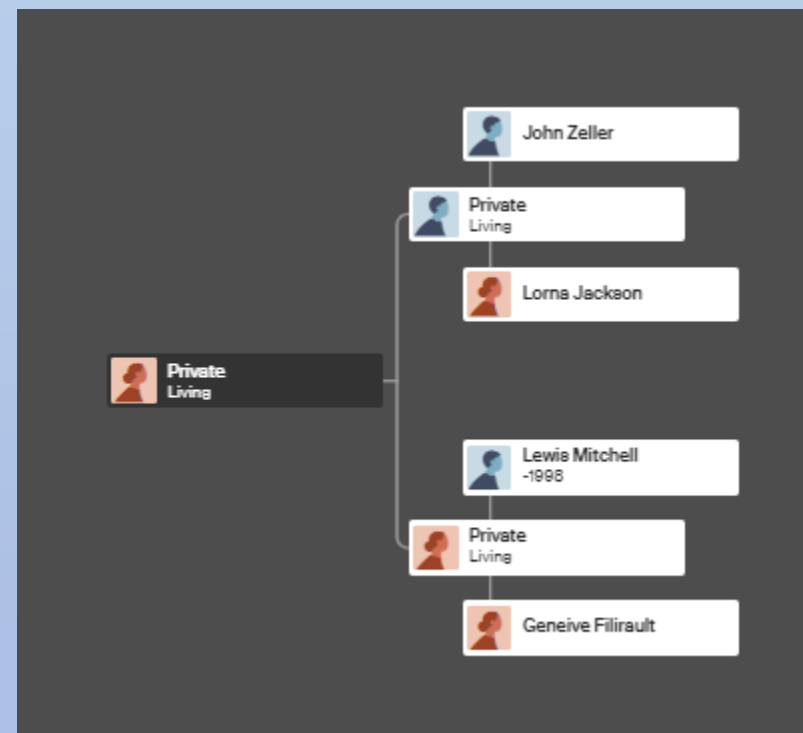
Real Example: 1/13/2023

- Check the metadata on Ancestry for the kit owner (click on kit name)
 - Most of the time this won't show anything but for about 10% you can find some valuable information
- In this case I got a city name and an age group (very useful---especially for common names)




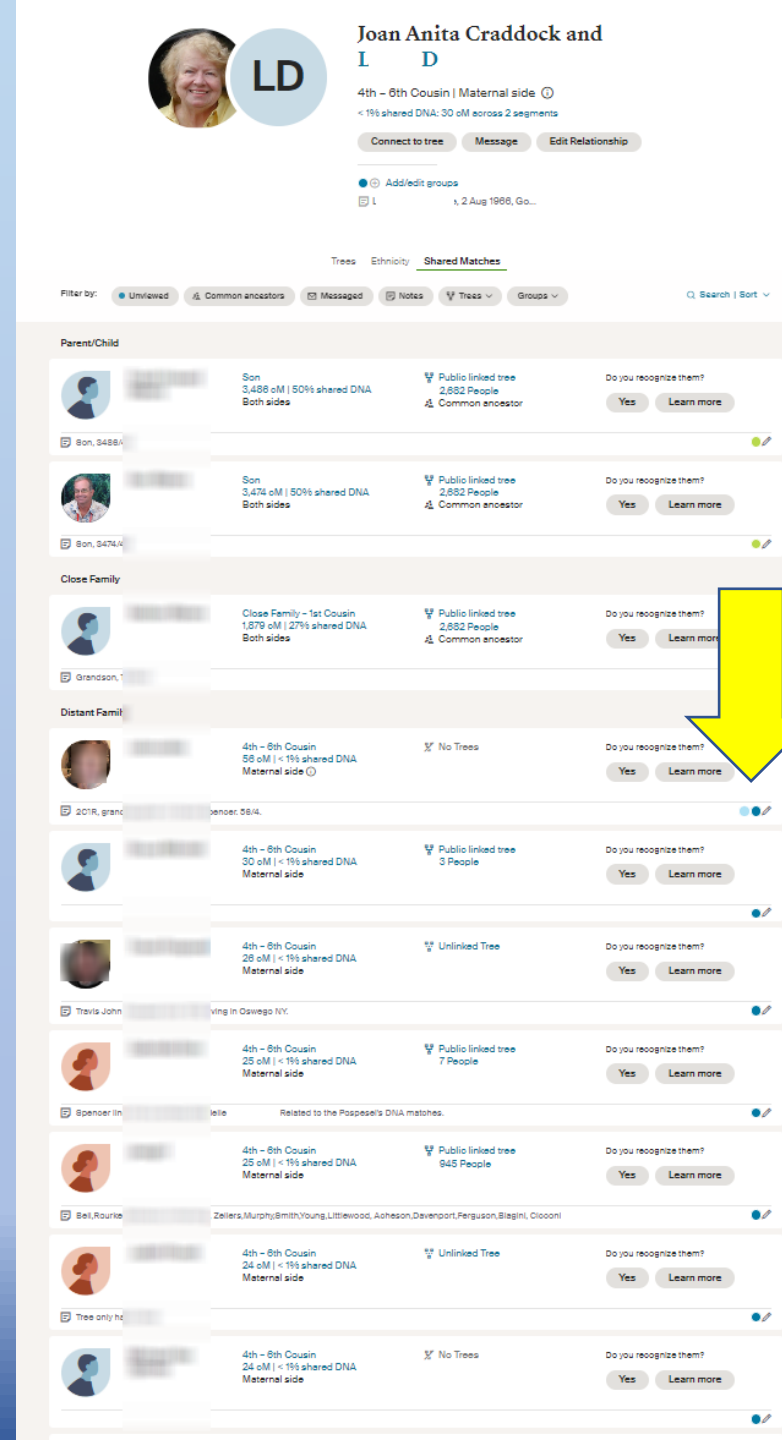
Real Example: 1/13/2023

- Unlinked tree:
 - 7 entries (out to grandparents)
 - 3 private (presumably due to Ancestry indicating they are living) but all 4 grandparents are shown
 - Grandparent names are a *GREAT* advantage



Real Example: 1/13/2023

- Shared matches indicate obvious connection to my maternal grandmother's New England heritage, especially New York
 - This is deduced by the other trees often showing common heritage to a couple of counties in NY
- I quickly “tag” the match as from my maternal Mom’s maternal grandmother side 



Joan Anita Craddock and I D

4th - 8th Cousin | Maternal side
< 1% shared DNA: 30 cM across 2 segments

Connect to tree Message Edit Relationship

Added/edited groups
1 1, 2 Aug 1998, Go...

Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

Filter by: Unviewed Common ancestors Messaged Notes Trees Groups Search | Sort

Parent/Child

Relationship	Shared DNA	Public tree	Do you recognize them?
Son	3,488 cM 50% shared DNA Both sides	Public linked tree 2,882 People Common ancestor	Yes Learn more
Son	3,474 cM 50% shared DNA Both sides	Public linked tree 2,882 People Common ancestor	Yes Learn more

Close Family

Relationship	Shared DNA	Public tree	Do you recognize them?
Close Family - 1st Cousin	1,679 cM 27% shared DNA Both sides	Public linked tree 2,882 People Common ancestor	Yes Learn more

Distant Famil

Relationship	Shared DNA	Public tree	Do you recognize them?
4th - 8th Cousin	58 cM < 1% shared DNA Maternal side	No Trees	Yes Learn more
4th - 8th Cousin	30 cM < 1% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 3 People	Yes Learn more
4th - 8th Cousin	28 cM < 1% shared DNA Maternal side	Unlinked Tree	Yes Learn more
4th - 8th Cousin	25 cM < 1% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 7 People	Yes Learn more
4th - 8th Cousin	25 cM < 1% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 945 People	Yes Learn more
4th - 8th Cousin	24 cM < 1% shared DNA Maternal side	Unlinked Tree	Yes Learn more
4th - 8th Cousin	24 cM < 1% shared DNA Maternal side	No Trees	Yes Learn more

Real Example: 1/13/2023

- Search the name in BeenVerified
- Yields her maiden name (under Aliases)
- Yields birth month, year
- Yields location, in NY

The screenshot shows a user profile on the BeenVerified website. On the left is a navigation menu with categories and counts: Overview (2), Phone Numbers (6), Email Addresses (10), Address History (20), Relatives (1), Names & Ancestry (7), Associates (4), Neighbors (★), Criminal or Traffic (★), Bankruptcies (0), Jobs & Education (2), Social Media (1), Assets (★), and Free Bonus Data (★). A yellow button labeled 'Free Bonus Data' is at the bottom of the menu.

The main profile area includes a top bar with 'Save', 'Monitor', 'PDF', 'List', and 'More' buttons. Below this is a notification box: 'Monitor this report to receive updates' with a bell icon and a green 'Turn monitoring on' button. The profile details are as follows:

- Age: 56 years old
- Born: August 1966
- Location: [redacted], NY
- Aliases: Lc [redacted], Lc [redacted] (with a 'View 8 more' link)
- Buttons: 'Add to Address Book' and 'High Confidence Data Only' (checked)
- Phone: [redacted] (with a 'View 10 more' link)
- Address: [redacted], NY 13642 (with a 'View 2 more' link)
- Email: [redacted] (with a 'View 6 more' link)
- Relatives: 15 relatives found (with a 'View relatives' link and a note: 'NOTE: Spouses may appear as relatives')
- Criminal/Traffic: Check for Criminal or Traffic records (with a 'Learn more' link)
- Social Media: 1 social network identified (with a 'View details' link)
- Photos: No photos found

Real Example: 1/13/2023

- BeenVerified, under “Relatives” I find:
 - Father (with birth month/year)
 - Deceased brother (birth and death month/year)

Father

Profile for [Redacted] Sr. View person report

Age 80
Lives in [Redacted], NY
May also go by [Redacted]
Show less contact info

Addresses	Dates seen
[Redacted]	Sep 2004 - Aug 2021
[Redacted]	Nov 1993 - Nov 2006
[Redacted]	Feb 1993 - Jan 2006

is this accurate?

Deceased Brother

Profile for [Redacted] Jr. View person report

Deceased at age ~47 on Mar 2009

Lived in [Redacted], NY
May also go by [Redacted]
Show less contact info

Addresses	Dates seen
[Redacted]	Oct 2017 - Oct 2017
[Redacted]	Nov 2007 - Jan 2016

is this accurate?

Real Example: 1/13/2023

- Back to Ancestry, let's find the exact birth date (we already have month/year from BeenVerified)
- Often easily found in public records

Why is this important??

Increases the chances of getting more source hints in the family tree

Source citation for U.S., Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1

U.S., Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1

View record

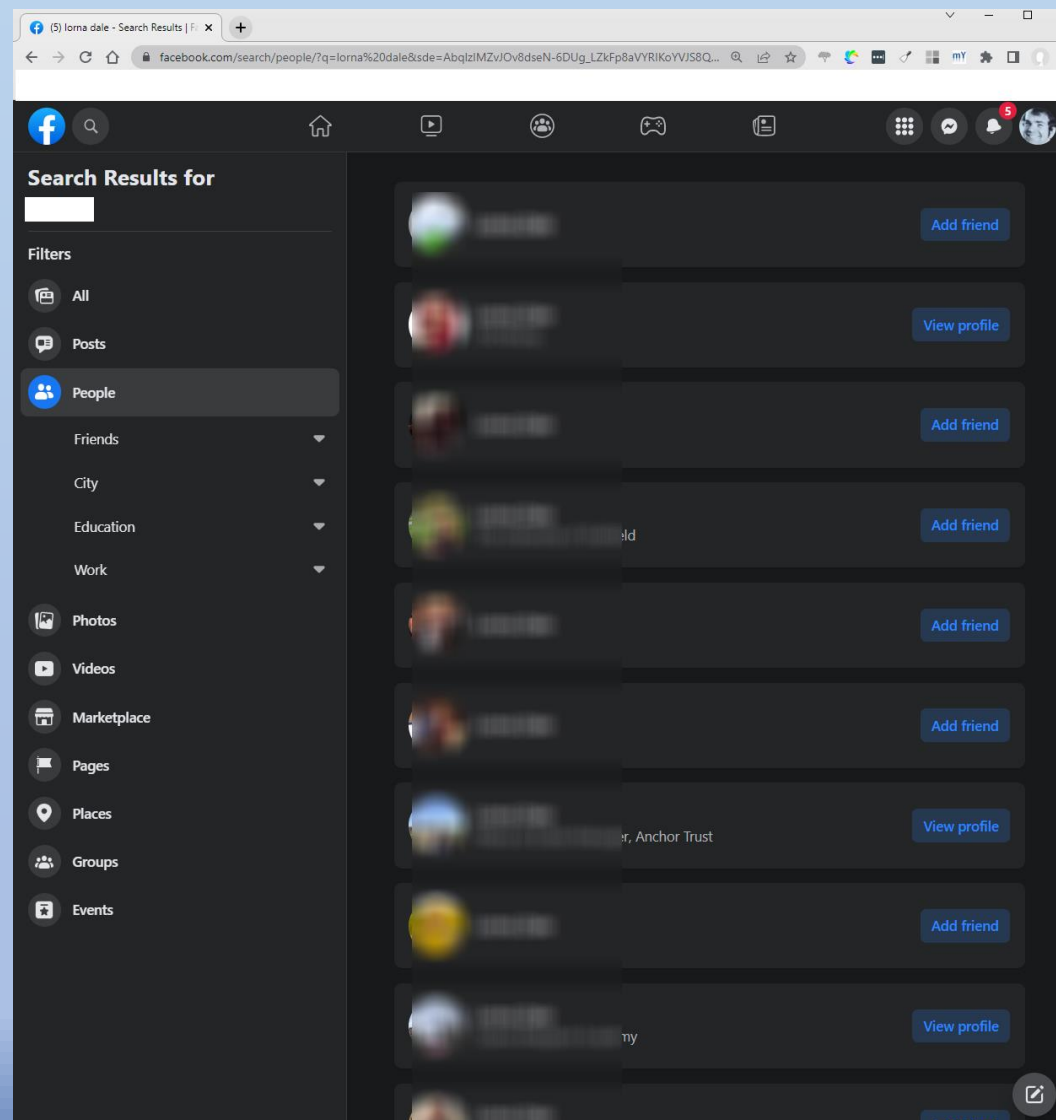
Birth Date 2 Aug 1966

“Aug 1966” becomes “2 Aug 1966”

Close Remove

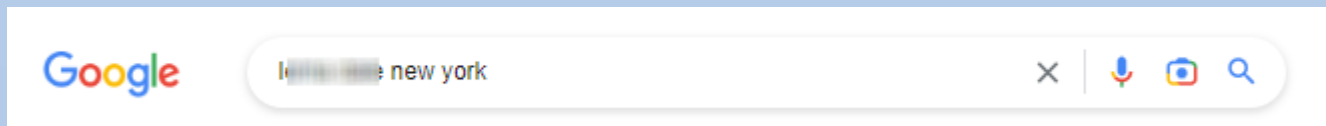
Real Example: 1/13/2023

- Always check Facebook
- In this case I did not find her
 - If I was more persistent I could very likely find her siblings or children from the BeenVerified results of Relatives



Real Example: 1/13/2023

- Google search



Oh my!!! I've never used this people search site before but it came up with a trove of information on my DNA match--- much more than I needed, really

A screenshot of the OfficialUSA website. The page displays a background report for Lorna Dale, NY. The report includes a summary of her current occupation as a Certified Nursing Aide, her age, and her birth date. It also lists her main address, phone numbers, and historical addresses. The report is titled "SEARCH BACKGROUND REPORT" and includes a "Sort Order" dropdown menu. The website header includes "OfficialUSA" and navigation links for "Slate Guides", "Legal Resources", "Education", "Chamber of Commerce", and "Airport". The page also shows a breadcrumb trail: "Home / Daleira — Dangelo / Dale — Dale / Lorna Dale".

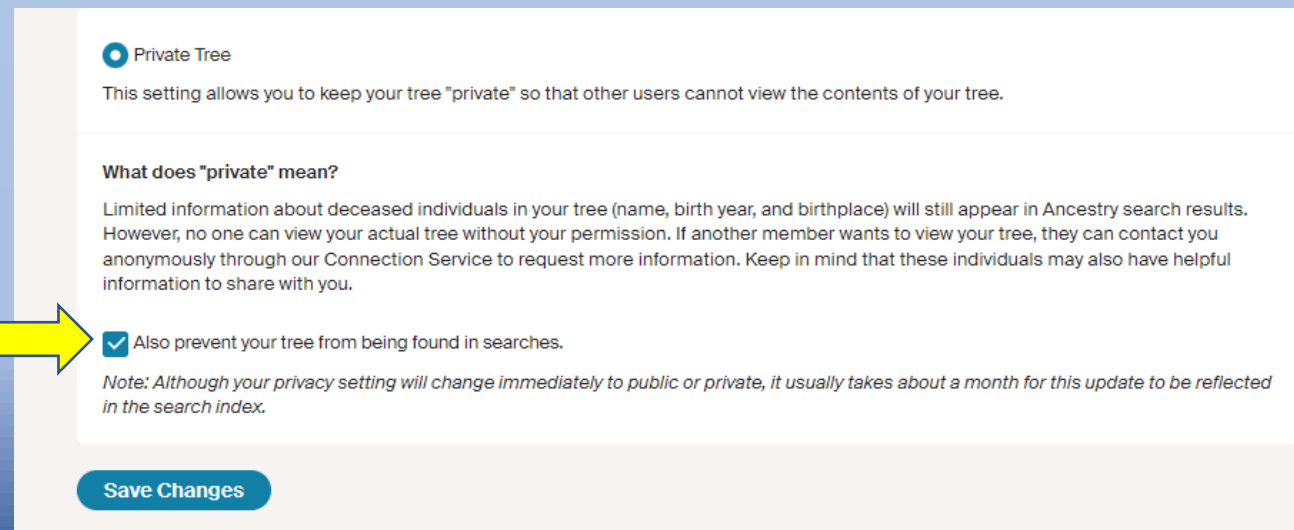
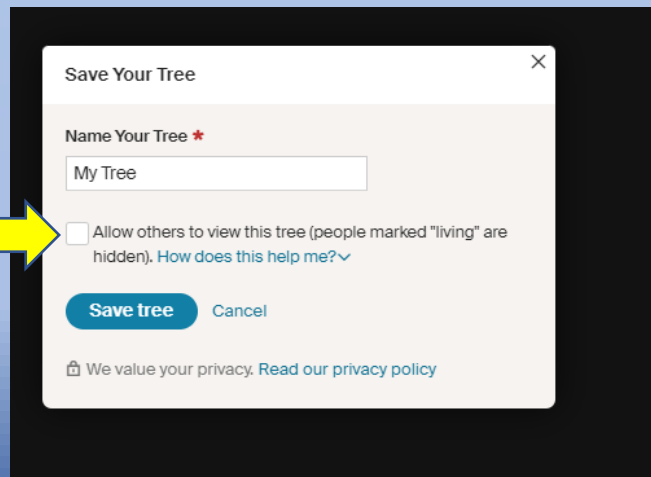
Real Example: 1/13/2023

- Full name
- Birth date (day, month, year)
- Location
- Parent's names and birth
- Next Step: build a tree



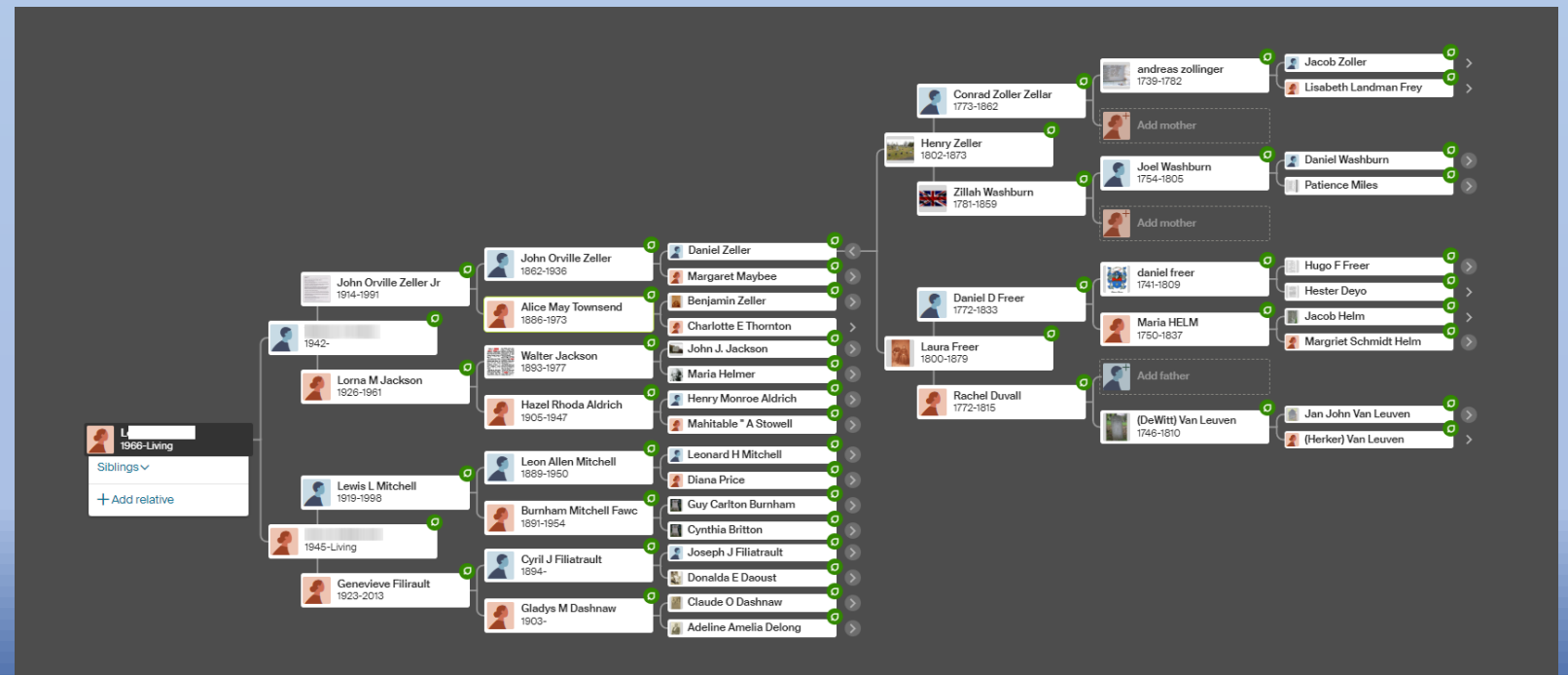
After Identification...Build a Tree!

- New tree on Ancestry
- Be sure to set to Private and Unsearchable



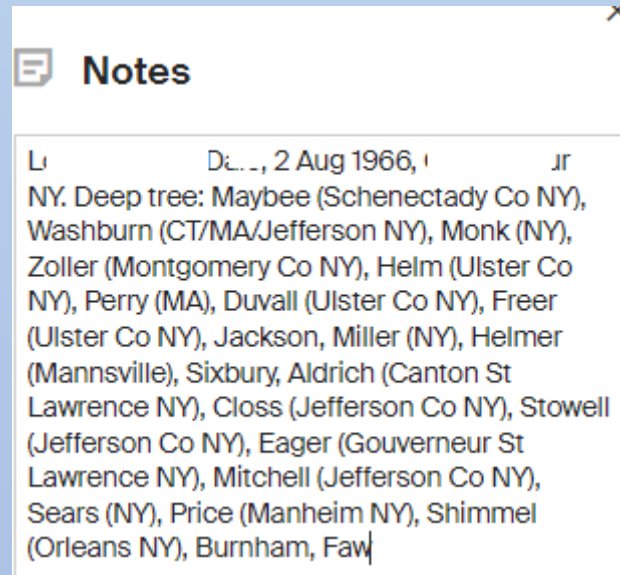
After about an hour's work....

- Remember: this is a “quick and dirty” tree
- For this tree:
 - Ancestors as far back as 1600s
 - Over 300 direct ancestors



Capture surnames from tree

- Go back to Shared Matches list where you can see all the other Notes that were entered for each match and look for any matching surnames
- Matching surnames are a great clue to be able to isolate who the common ancestors are



There were so many surnames to annotate that I ran out of character space in Ancestry's notes field!

Next Steps

1. Identify the match
2. Build a tree for the match (can not do this until match is identified)
3. Extract direct ancestor surnames and enter into Notes fields for the match
4. **Compare surnames with other shared matches' trees to begin to isolate possible common ancestors**
5. **Work a new family tree down from common ancestors to determine exact relationship to you**

Upcoming Classes/Presentations

Wed, Feb 1, 7 pm (Private Group—contact Ken for information)

Topic: Working with DNA Matches

Sat, Feb 4, 2 pm – 3:30 pm

Topic: Solve Your DNA Mysteries

Description: This will be an open session where you can bring your DNA mysteries in to solve together. If you have questions or need help analyzing your DNA matches then please bring them in for today's session. Let's solve them together!

Thu, Feb 9, 7:00 pm (Private Group—contact Ken for information)

Sat, Mar 18, 2 pm

Topic: Sorting DNA Matches with Ancestry Tag Groups



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

Remember---all presentations online

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



Genealogy Presentations

2023

[Identifying Your DNA Matches \(Jan 2023\)](#)

2022

[A Unified Process for DNA Matches \(Dec 2022\)](#)

[Intro to DNA \(Dec 2022\)](#)

[DNA Painter Dec 2022](#)

[GEDMatch \(Trilogy\)](#)

[DNA Relational Diagrams](#)

[First Look at Ancestry SideView Matching](#)

[Deep Dive into MyHeritage DNA Oct 2022](#)

[What Can DNA Do For You Sep 2022](#)

[New Match Methodology 2022](#)

[GEDMatch Apr 2022 Handout](#)

[DNA Tips & Tricks](#)

[Intro to DNA \(Mar 2022\)](#)

FamilyTreeAZ.com



Presentations:

<http://familytreeaz.com/Presentations>



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