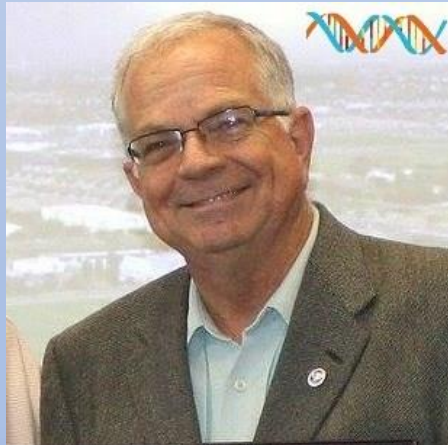


Identifying Your DNA Matches



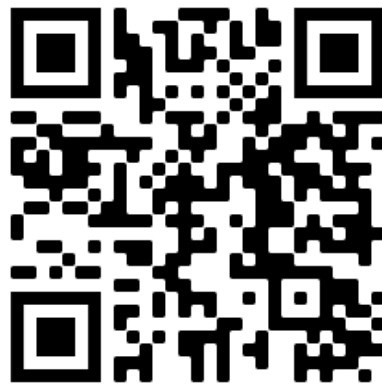
Ken waters
@familytreeaz

<http://familytreeaz.com/presentations>



January 2024

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



QR Code: take photo to
open to presentations

3-Step Process

This presentation covers step
#1 – Identifying Matches

I

- Identify

B

- Build [tree]

C

- Connect

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



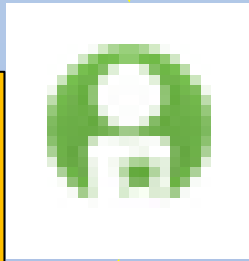
My 4 Go To Tools to identify

Facebook: siblings,
parents, maiden names

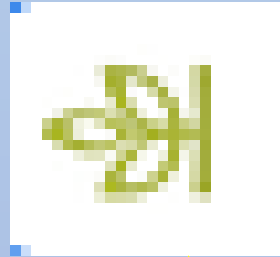


Main Point: go back and forth between these tools once you get more information (for instance you'll get birth month/year from BV; go to Ancestry to get the birth day)

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

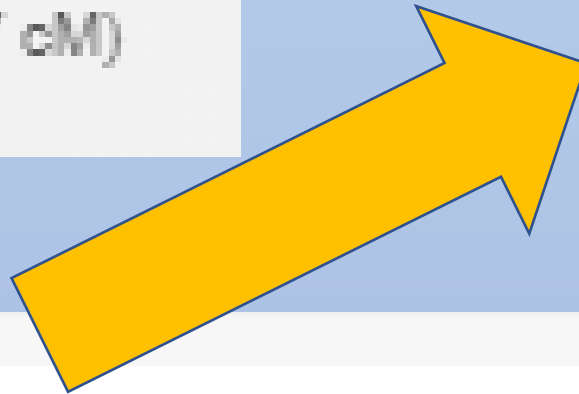


Dna Test

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](#)

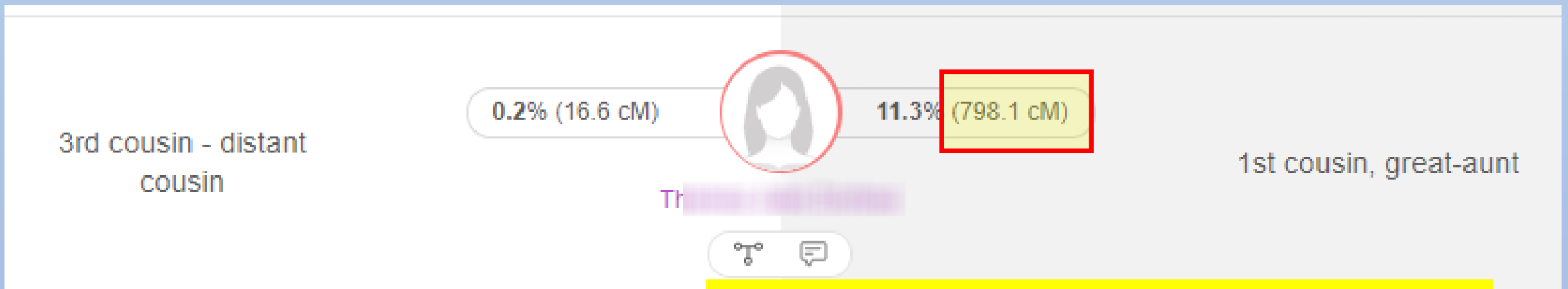
[View tree](#)



Appears in a family tree with 4 people that she manages

Example of a MyHeritage DNA Match with Close Shared Match

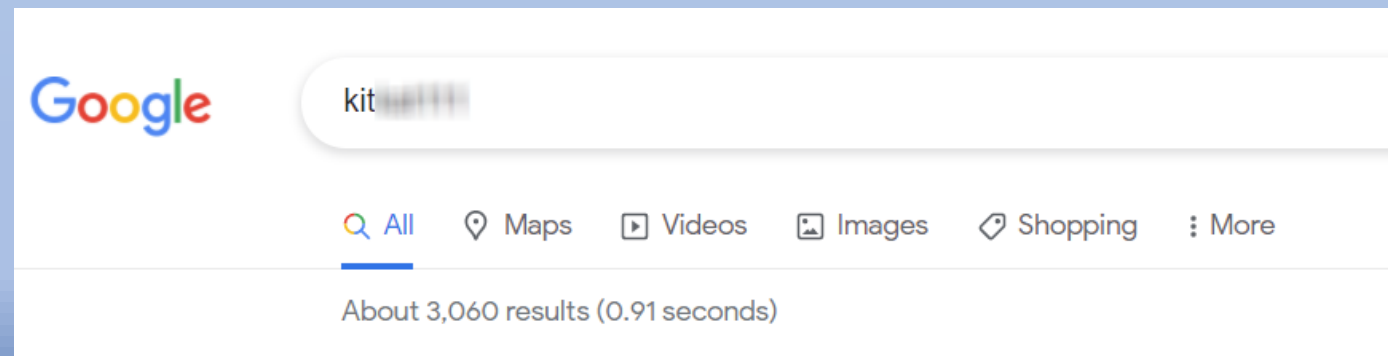
- This match, 798.1 cM indicates that the two shared matches are very closely related



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)

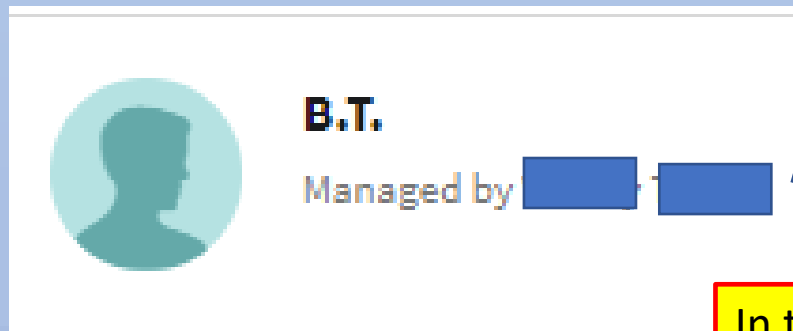


For Kits Managed by Administrators

- In Ancestry kits identified only by initials are typically kits managed by someone else, often a family member

Note: this is especially common with kits tested several years ago when it was easier to administer a kit on Ancestry

- 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

People Search Phone Search Property Search Email Search Social Media Search Business Search Dashboard Menu

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

C. [Redacted]

Age 64 years old

Born September 1956

Location Thief River Falls, MN

Aliases Ca [Redacted] View 6 more

Thief River Falls, MN 56701 View 12 more

(218) [Redacted] View 4 more

View 3 more

View relatives

0 criminal traffic records identified Learn more

2 social media profiles identified View details

He [Redacted]


Deceased at age ~79 on Sep 2001


Lived in [Redacted]




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 

 **2C2R Wilma** 2nd cousin 2x removed
46 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Mother's side



 No Trees [View match](#)

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

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

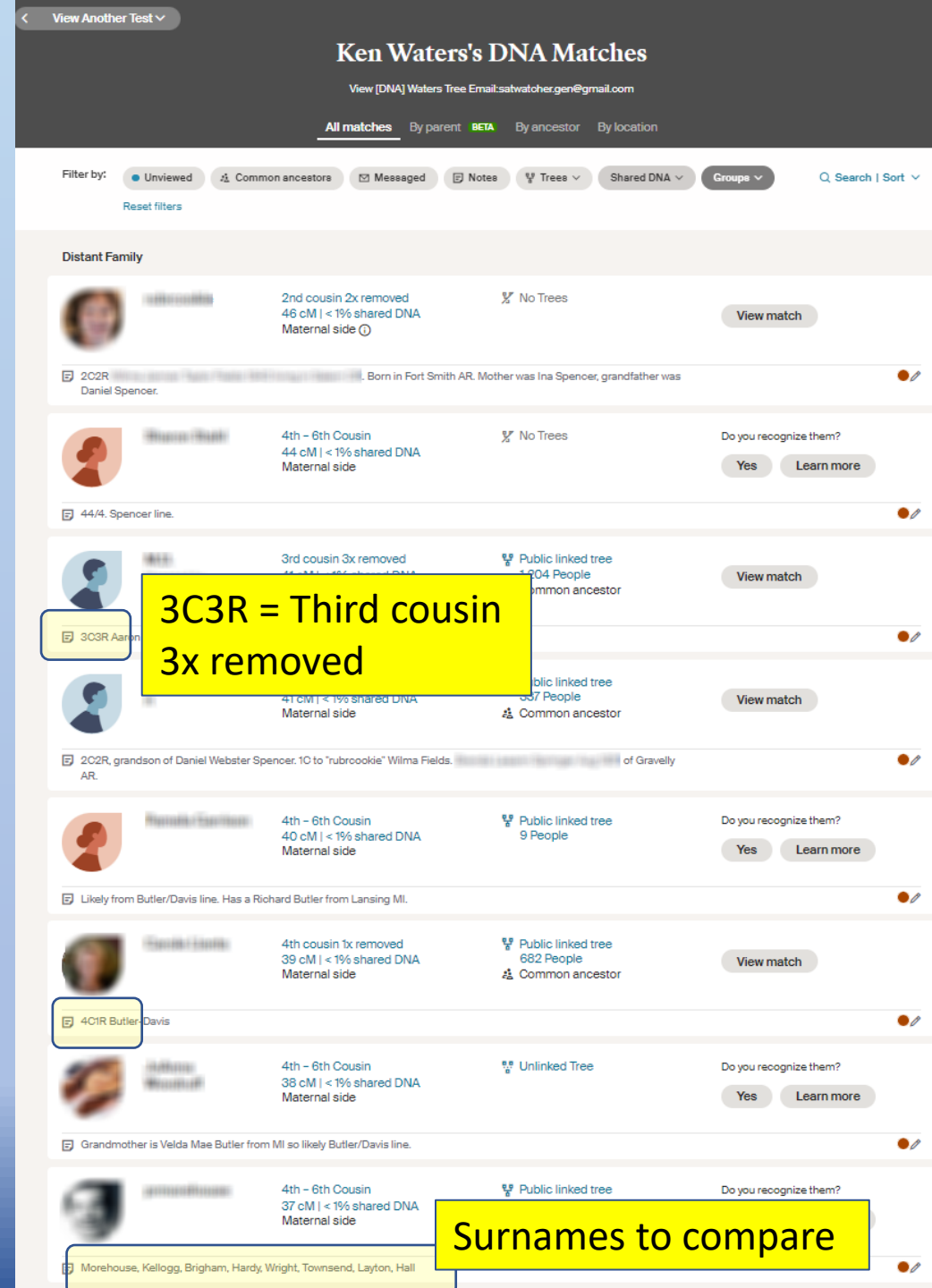
 Public linked tree
7 People

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

 28.7/2. Likely Spencer line. This appears to be actress Gath  (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



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!

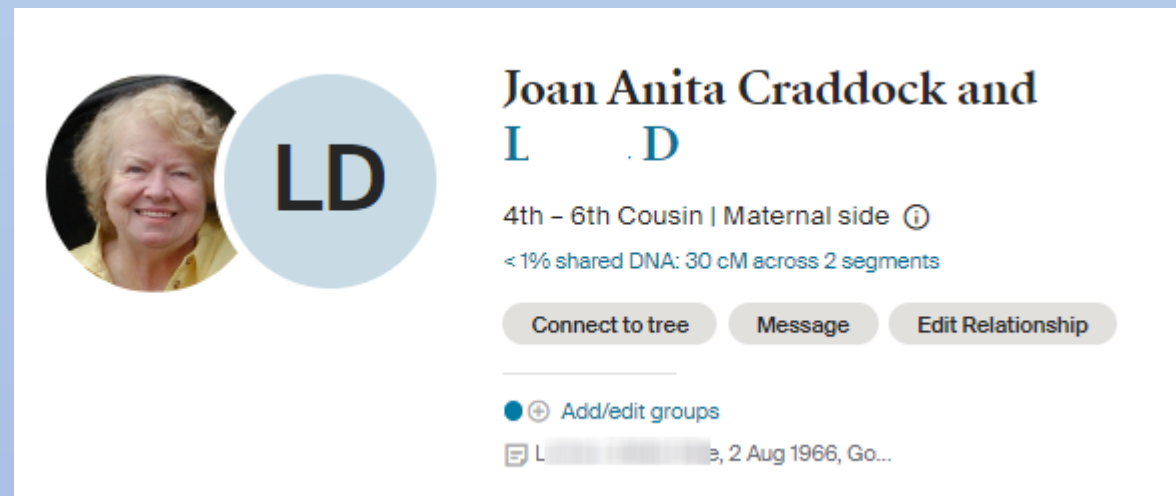


You can do it too!

Real Example

Real Example: 1/13/2023

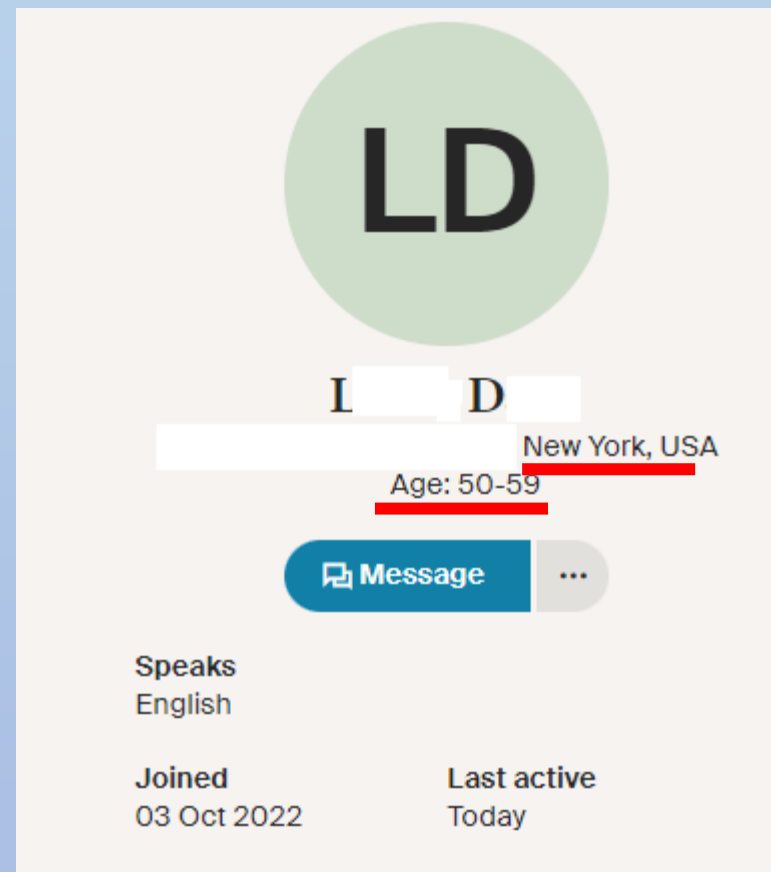
- From my Mom's DNA kit
- New match: real first name, real last name [I'm abbreviating to LD for privacy]
- 30 cMs



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 dark blue 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 bio snippet starting with 'L...', '2 Aug 1966, Go...'. The background of the screenshot is white.

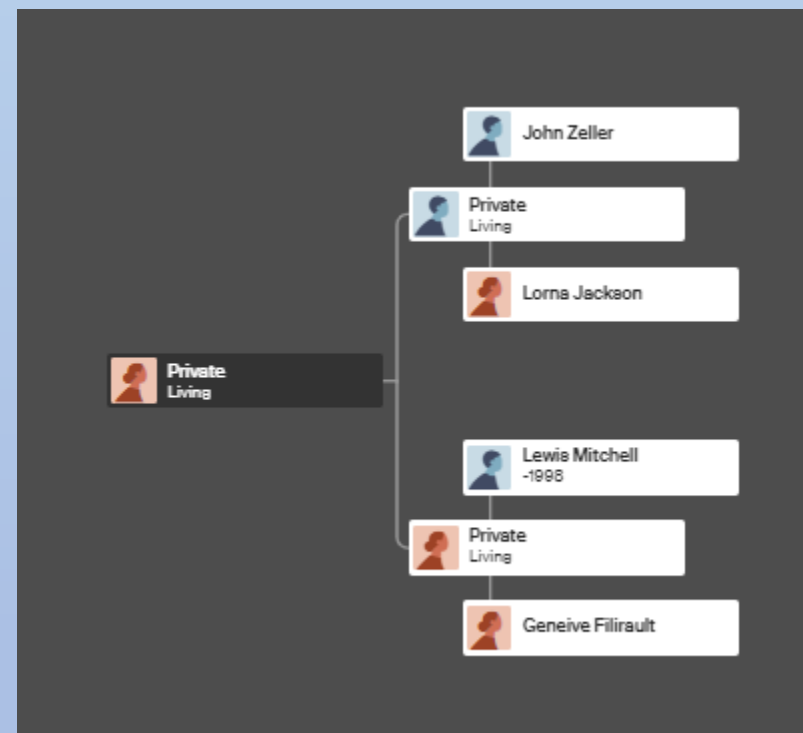
Real Example: 1/13/2023

- 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)




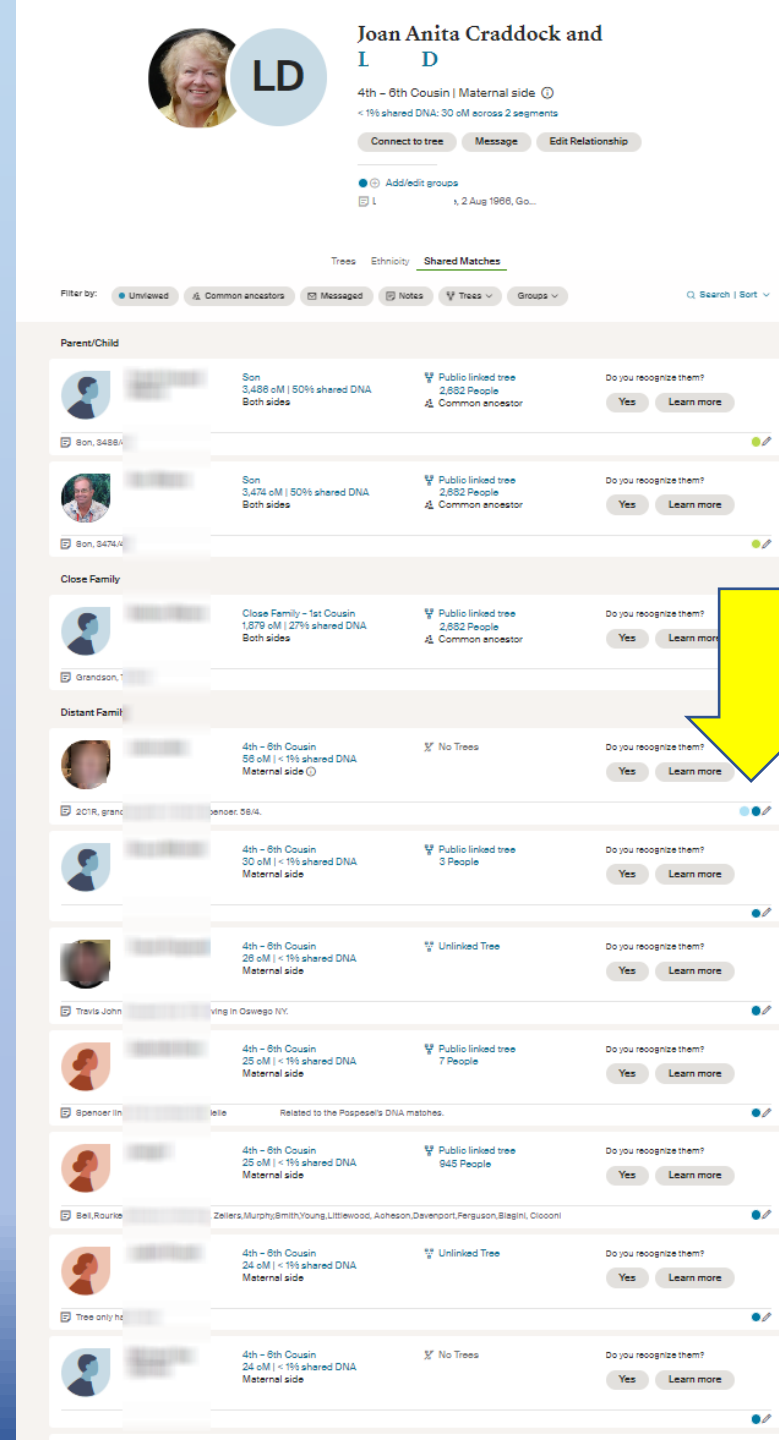
Real Example: 1/13/2023

- 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 LD

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

Connect to tree Message Edit Relationship

Add/edit groups

1, 2 Aug 1998, Go...

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

Parent/Child

Relationship	Shared DNA	Tree	People	Recognize?
Son	3,488 cM 50% shared DNA Both sides	Public linked tree	2,882 People	Yes Learn more
Son	3,474 cM 50% shared DNA Both sides	Public linked tree	2,882 People	Yes Learn more

Close Family

Relationship	Shared DNA	Tree	People	Recognize?
Close Family – 1st Cousin	1,079 cM 27% shared DNA Both sides	Public linked tree	2,882 People	Yes Learn more

Distant Family

Relationship	Shared DNA	Tree	People	Recognize?
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 displays a user profile on the BeenVerified platform. 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), Criminal or Traffic (★), Bankruptcies (★), Jobs & Education (0), Social Media (2), Assets (1), 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 name is partially obscured by a grey box. Key information is highlighted with yellow boxes: 'Age 56 years old', 'Born August 1966', 'Location [redacted], NY', and 'Aliases Lc [redacted], Lc' with a 'View 8 more' link. A green 'Add to Address Book' button is also present.

A 'High Confidence Data Only' toggle is turned on. Below are several data sections, each with a 'View [count] more' link: a home address section with a house icon, a phone number section with a phone icon, an email address section with an envelope icon, and a relatives section with a heart icon and a note: 'NOTE: Spouses may appear as relatives'. Other sections include 'Check for Criminal or Traffic records' with a 'Learn more' link, '1 social network identified' with a 'View details' link, and 'No photos found' with a camera icon.

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. Age 80. Lives in [Redacted], NY. May also go by [Redacted].

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. Deceased at age ~47 on Mar 2009. Lives in [Redacted], NY. May also go by [Redacted].

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

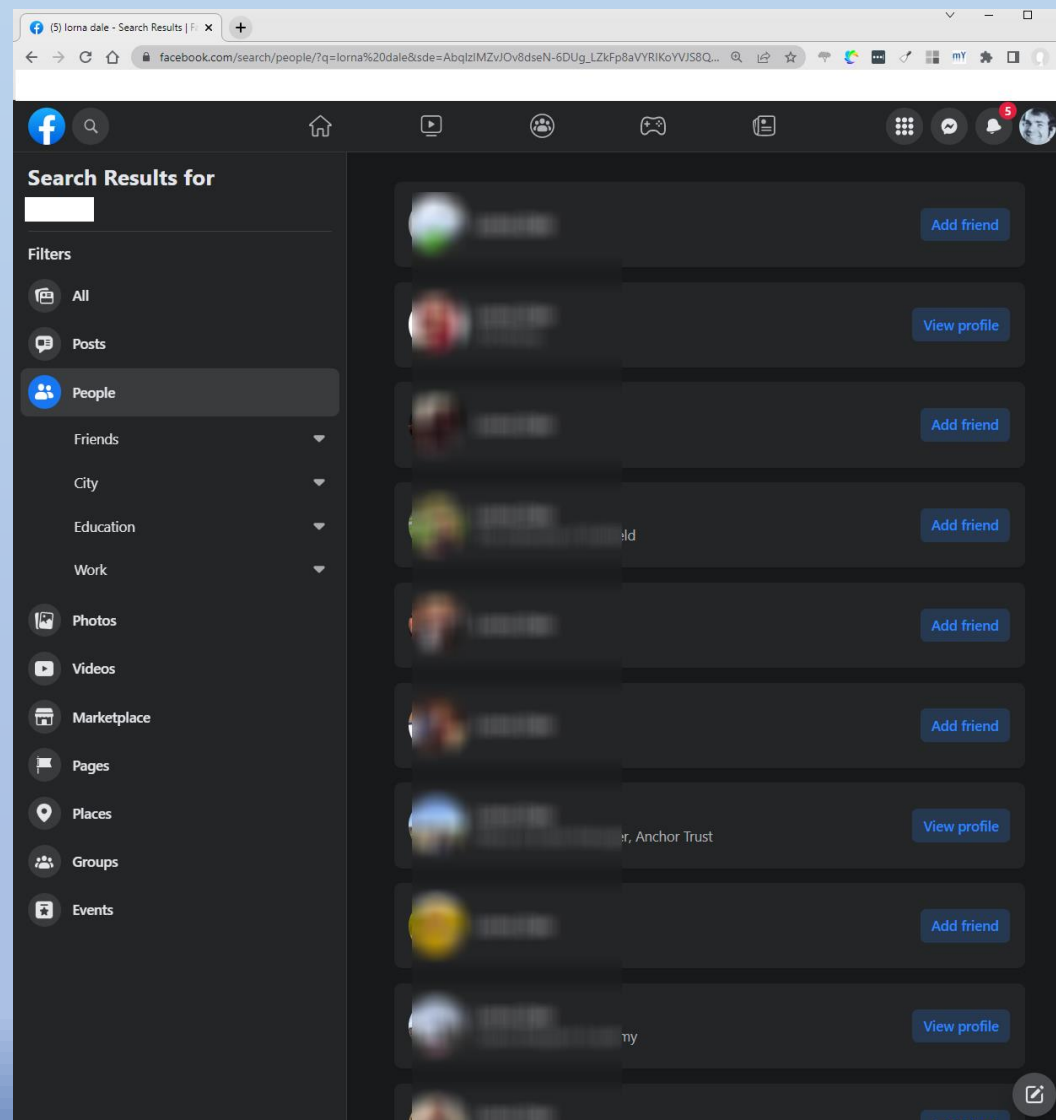
Birth Date 2 Aug 1966

“Aug 1966” becomes “2 Aug 1966”

Close Remove

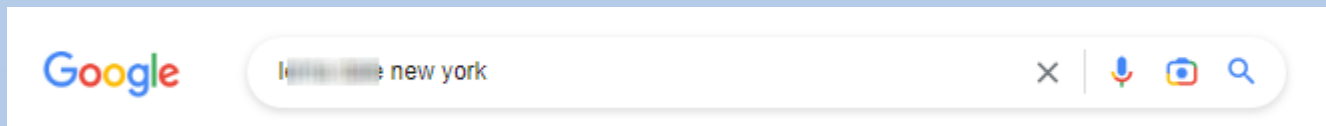
Real Example: 1/13/2023

- 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 page header includes navigation links for "Home / Daira", "Dangelo / Dale", and "Lorna Dale". The search results show "Showing 1 to 4 of 4 results". The report content includes a paragraph about her occupation and a list of possible connections via phone numbers and main address. The "Main Address" section lists "3 Seward Rd, Gouverneur, NY 13642" and provides details about the property, including lot size, floor size, and parcel ID. The "Historical Addresses" section lists several previous addresses in Gouverneur, NY. The "Phones" section lists several phone numbers and provides possible connections via phone numbers. The "PO Box" section lists "PO Box 265, Gouverneur, NY 13648-0265". The "Emails" section lists "lorna@yaho.com, lorna@yaho.com" and provides possible connections via email.

Real Example: 1/13/2023

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



Upcoming Classes/Presentations

Sat, Jan 6, 2 pm

Topic: Should I Take a DNA Test?

Sat , Feb 3, 3 pm

Topic: Sharing Your DNA Results with Other Services



Presentations:

<http://familytreeaz.com/Presentations>



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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