



# New Match Methodology

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

- Examples in this presentation came from AncestryDNA however the principles and steps largely apply to all of the DNA testing companies

# Why Do We Care...?

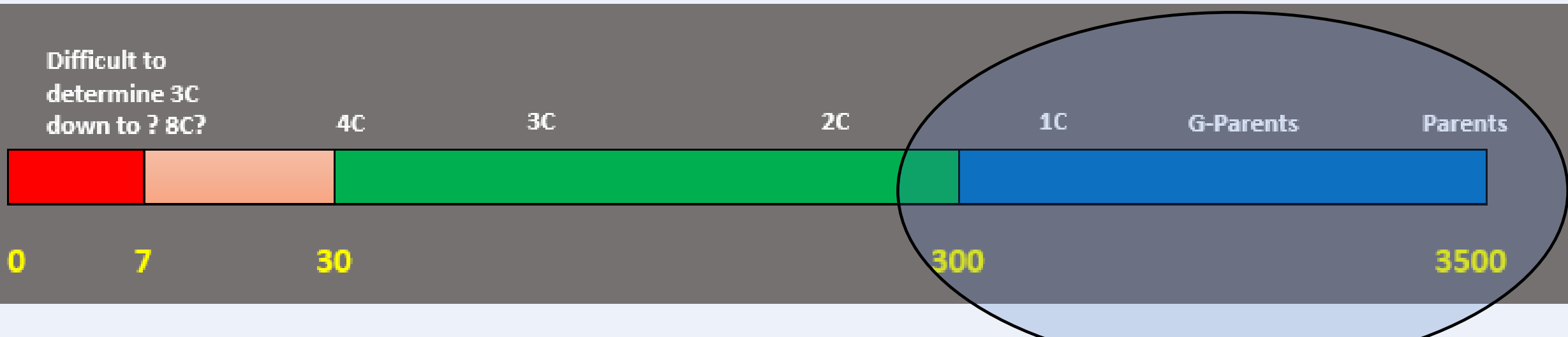
- A new match could open up a new branch in your family tree
- Break that “brick wall”
- Make a new contact who could:
  - Provide information about your kin
  - Maybe provide a treasured photo
    - Note: I have several special examples of this



4-generation matrilineal photo shared with me by a cousin met on Ancestry

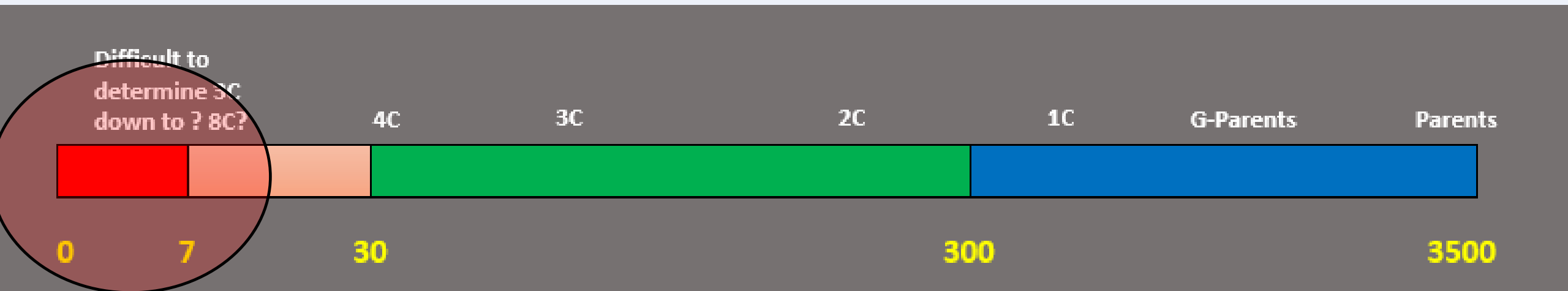
# First, a Review of CentiMorgans

- Range from 0 (no shared DNA) to ~3500 cMs (parent-child)
- From 300 up to 3500 cMs you'll most likely know them already



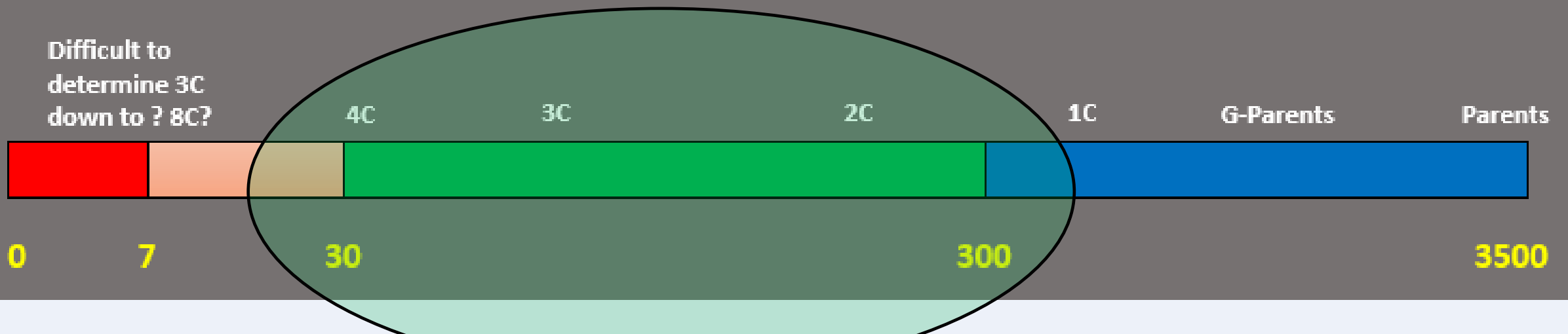
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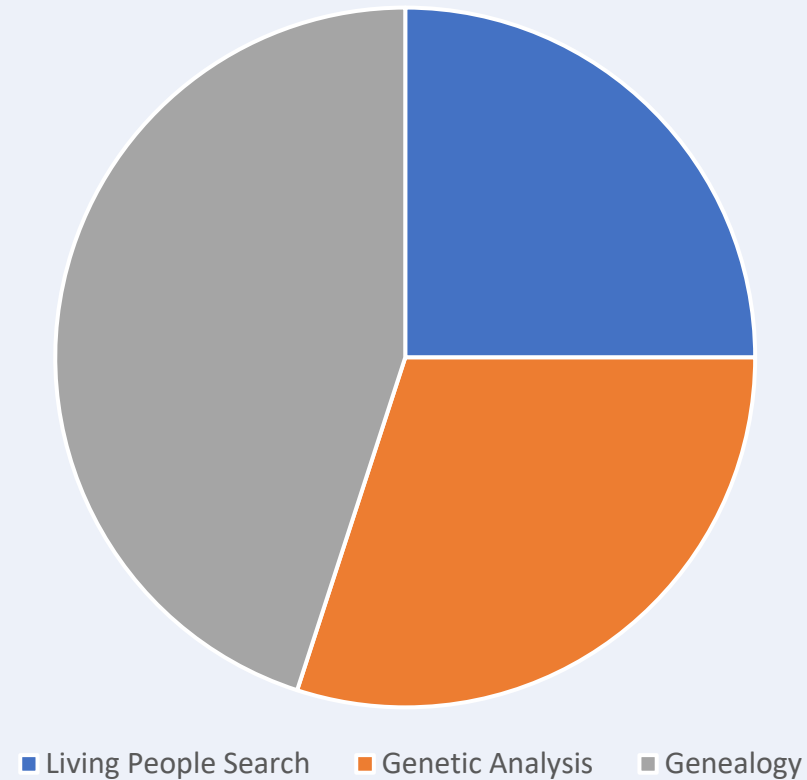
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- Below 7 cMs, high likelihood of a false match
- 30 to 300 cMs are my “green” zone – these are the matches I work with most often and are more likely to be able to be identified



# An Iterative Process Among 3 Independent Functions

- It occurred to me that I actually follow a process whenever I encounter a new match
- The process falls into 3 distinct functions:
  - Identifying living people
  - Analyzing the DNA
  - Analyzing the genealogical records

Typical Work Breakdown

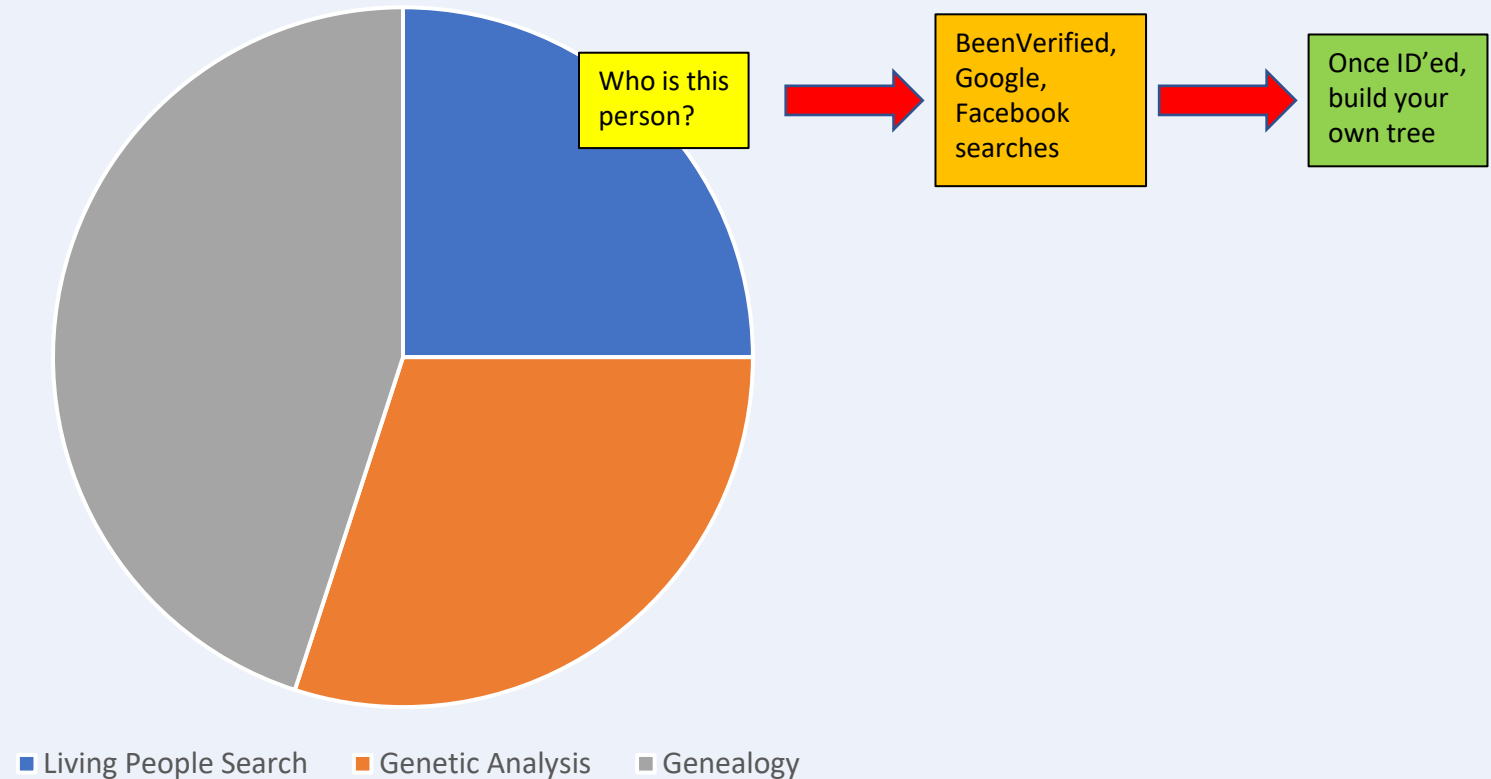


# An Iterative Process Among 3 Independent Functions:

Functions:

## (1) Identify Person

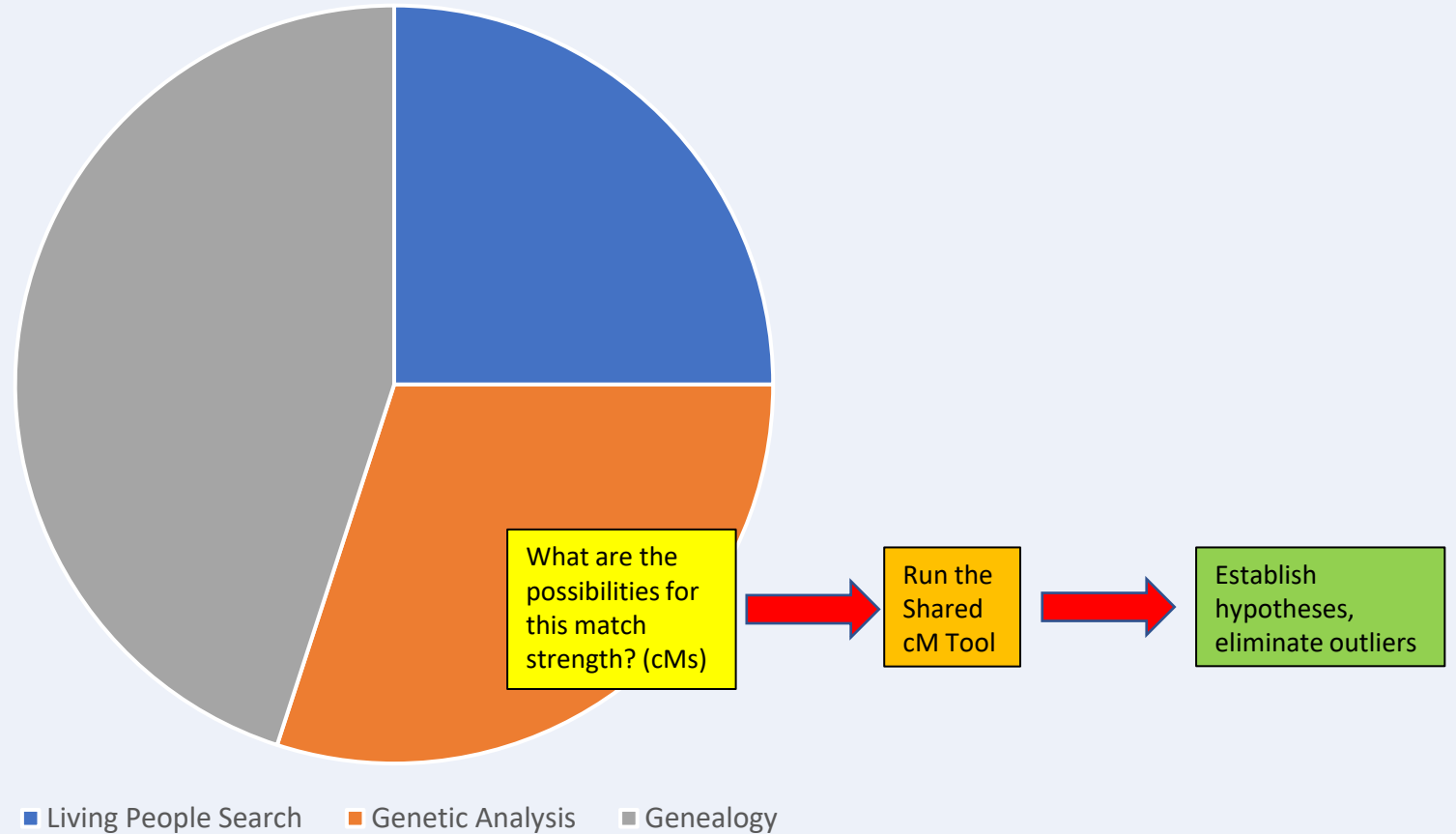
Typical Work Breakdown





# An Iterative Process Among 3 Independent Functions:

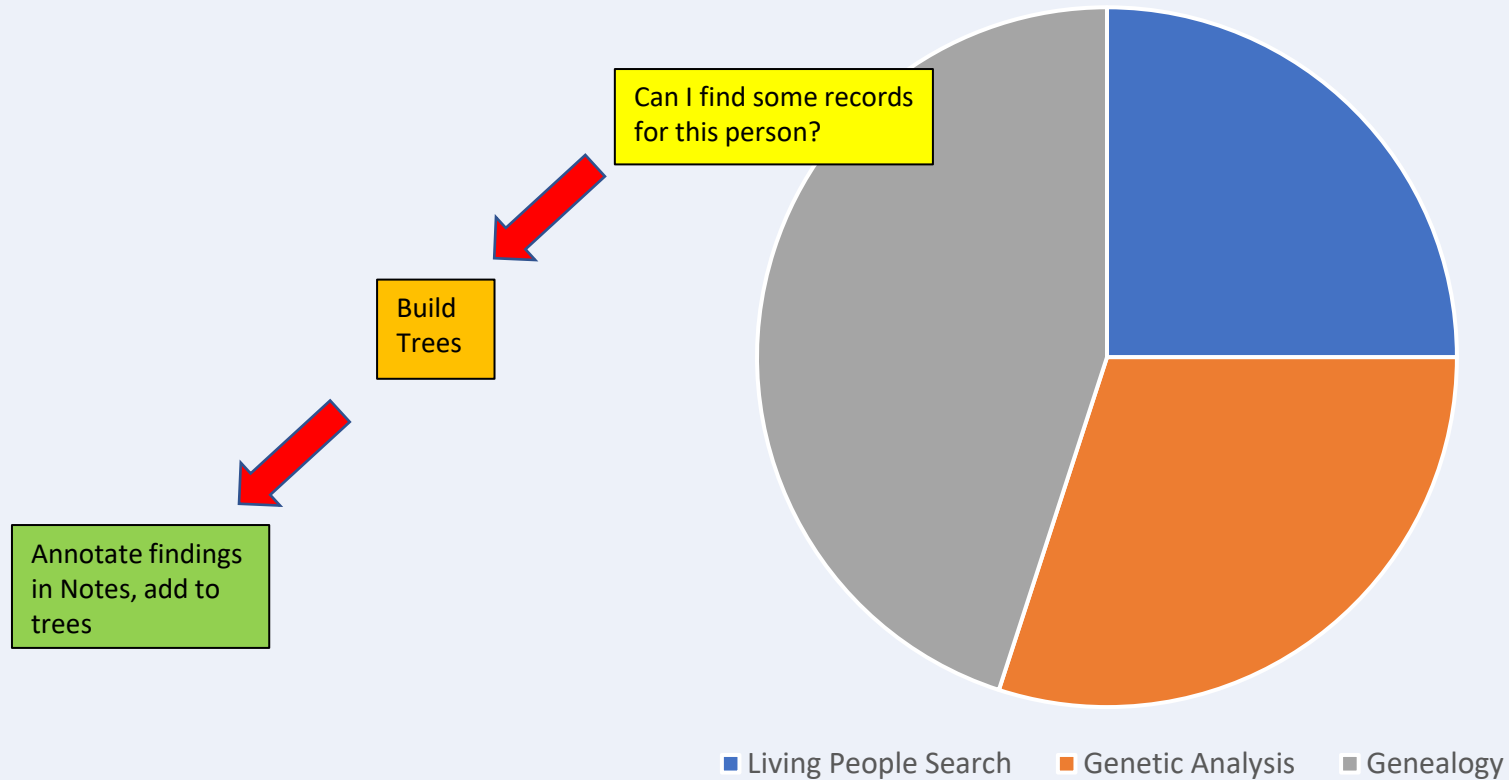
## (2) Analyze genetic relationships



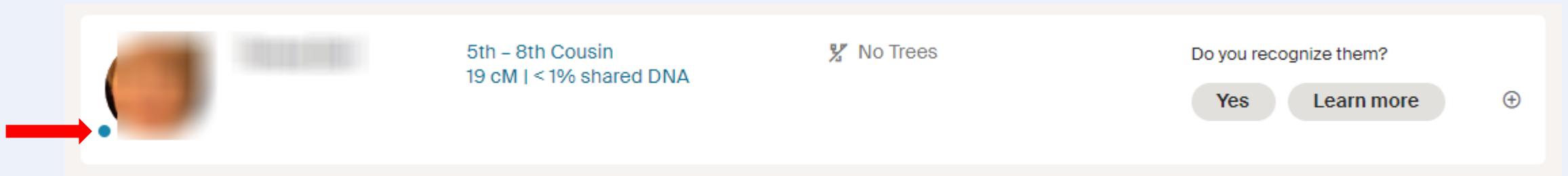
# An Iterative Process Among 3 Independent Functions:

## (3) Search Genealogy Records

Typical Work Breakdown



# Start with that new match...

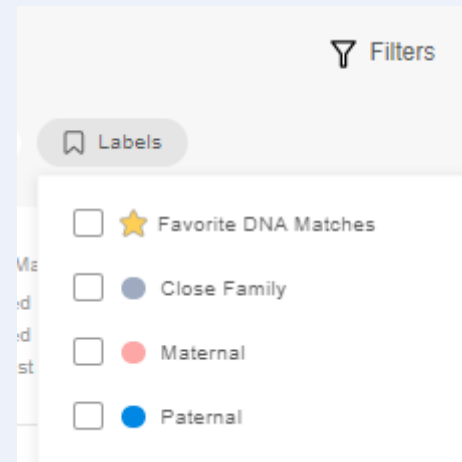
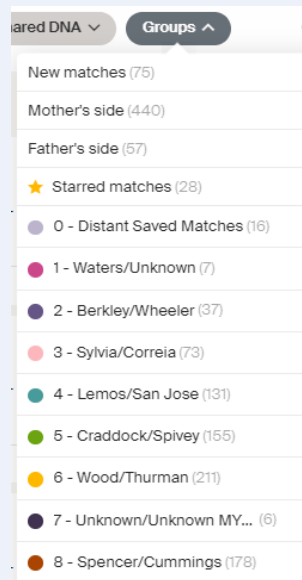
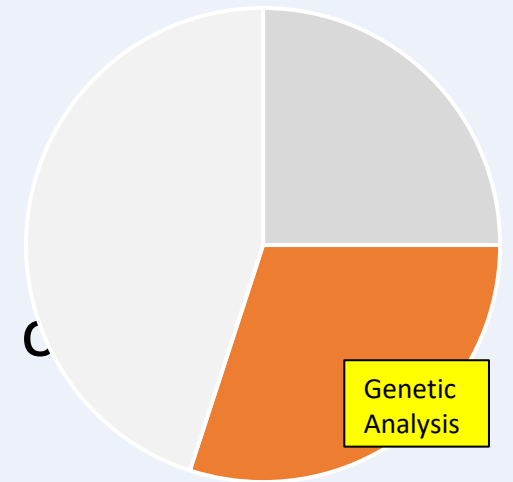


A screenshot of a match card from AncestryDNA. The card is white with a light beige border. On the left, there is a circular profile picture of a person with dark hair, which is blurred. A small blue dot is positioned at the bottom-left corner of the profile picture. A red arrow points from the left edge of the image towards this blue dot. To the right of the profile picture, the text reads "5th - 8th Cousin" in blue, followed by "19 cM | < 1% shared DNA" in a smaller font. Further right, there is a scissors icon followed by the text "No Trees". On the far right, the question "Do you recognize them?" is displayed above two buttons: "Yes" and "Learn more". A plus sign icon is located to the right of the "Learn more" button.

- Blue dot indicates an “unviewed” match in Ancestry

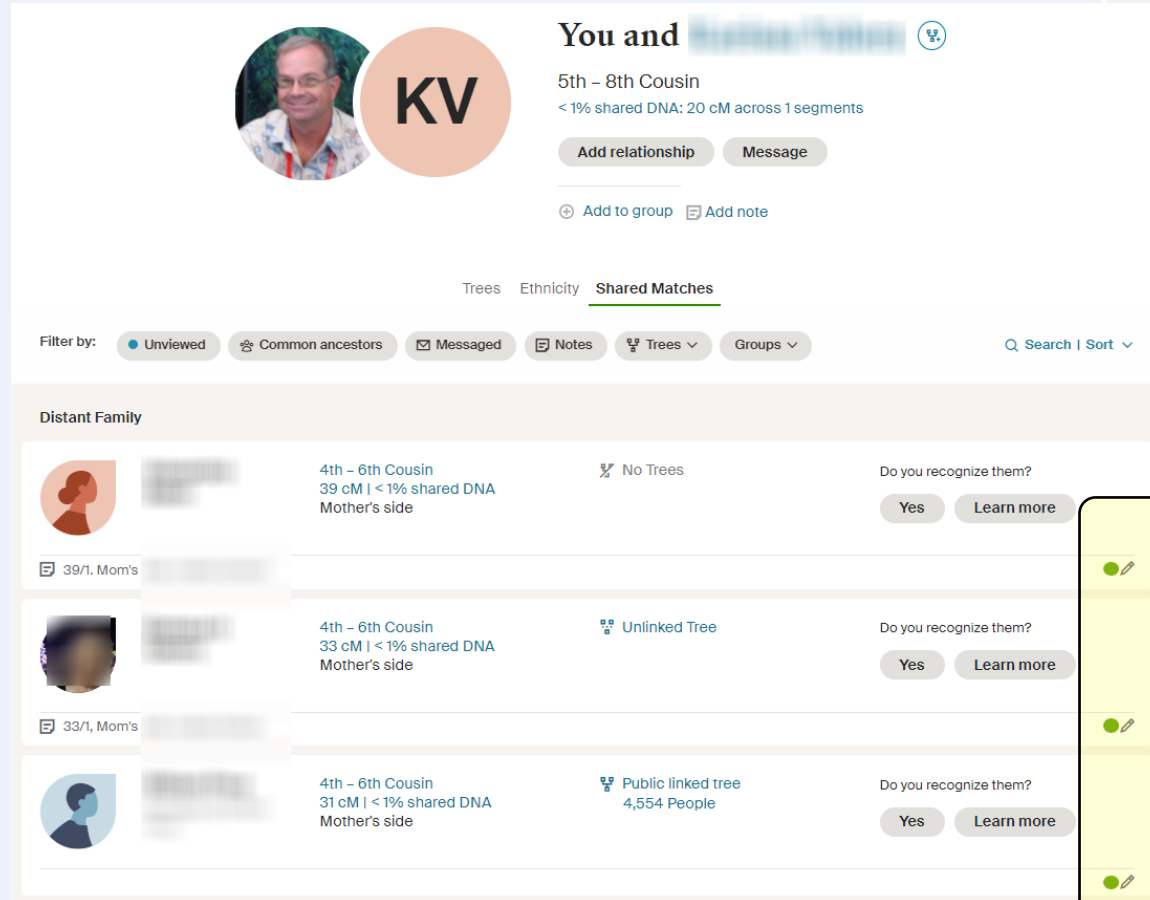
# Step 1: Identify Genetic Network

- Use built-in grouping tools such as Ancestry's Tag Groups or MyHeritage's Labels

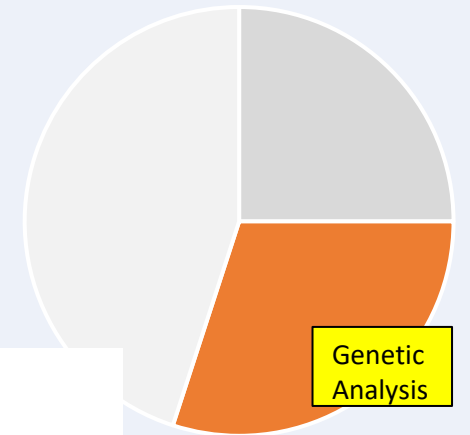


# Step 1: Identify Genetic Network

- Isolating the match to a line on your family tree will help later to identify the person in your family tree
- If you've sorted your matches by common family lines this will be easy
- For example, this 20 cM match was quickly aligned to a 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandmother Spivey line

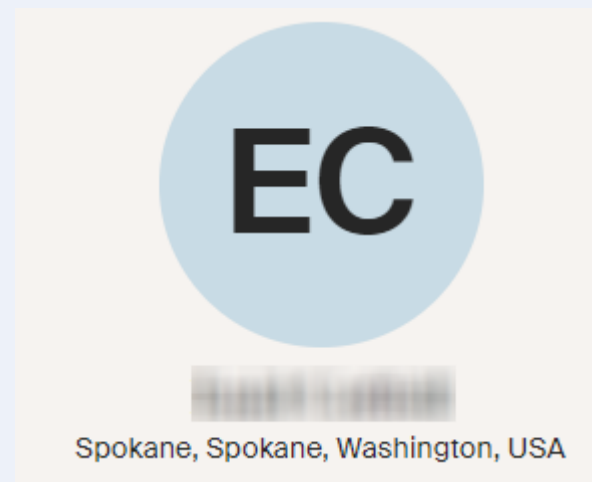
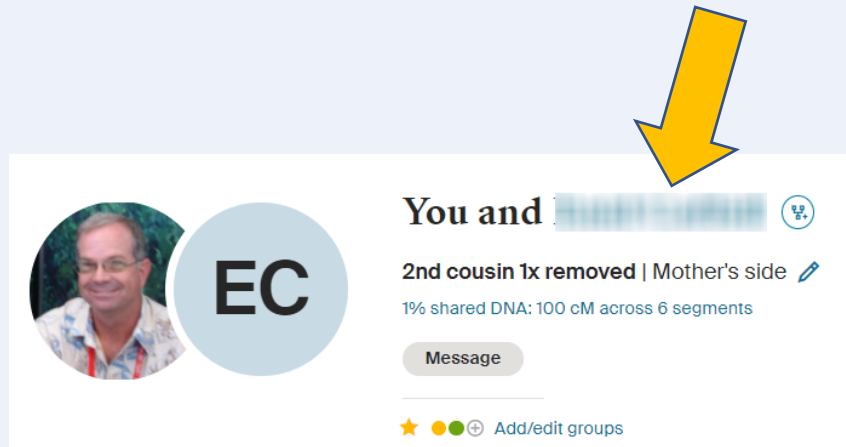
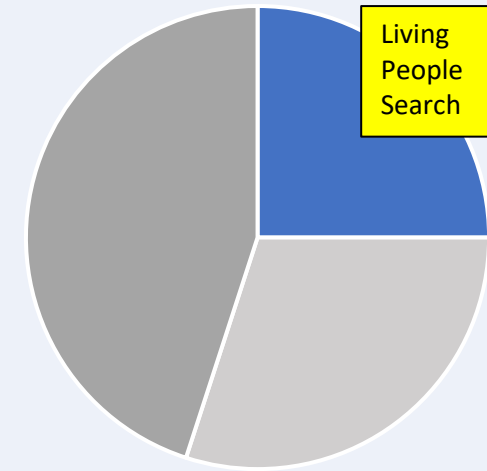


The screenshot displays a genetic matching interface. At the top, it shows a match with a profile picture and a circular icon containing the letters 'KV'. The match is identified as a '5th - 8th Cousin' with '< 1% shared DNA: 20 cM across 1 segments'. Below this, there are buttons for 'Add relationship', 'Message', 'Add to group', and 'Add note'. The interface is divided into sections: 'Trees', 'Ethnicity', and 'Shared Matches'. The 'Shared Matches' section is active, showing a list of 'Distant Family' members. Each entry includes a profile picture, a relationship label (e.g., '4th - 6th Cousin'), shared DNA information (e.g., '39 cM | < 1% shared DNA'), and a 'Do you recognize them?' prompt with 'Yes' and 'Learn more' buttons. A yellow vertical bar on the right side of the list contains green checkmarks and pencil icons, indicating that the matches have been reviewed or confirmed.



# Step 2: Identify the Person

- Check for “metadata” on the match
- In Ancestry, click on the profile link for the match

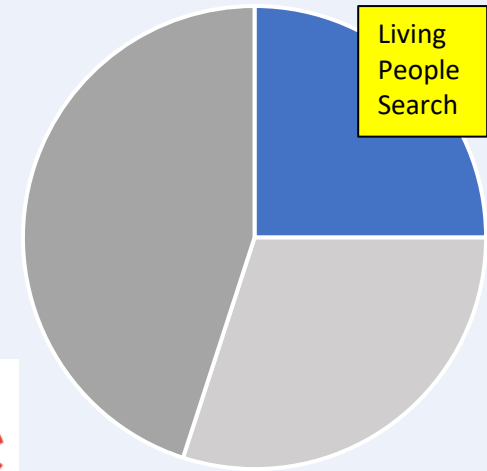


Now, with a full name and city chances are excellent

# Step 2: Identify the Person

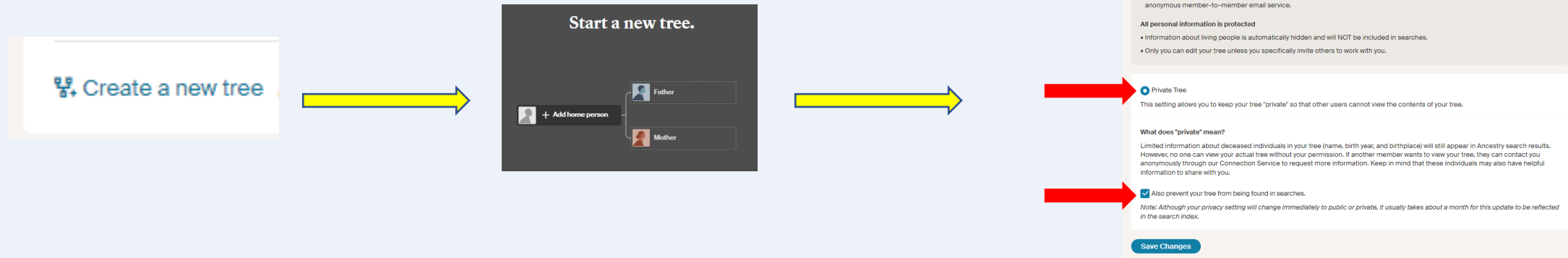
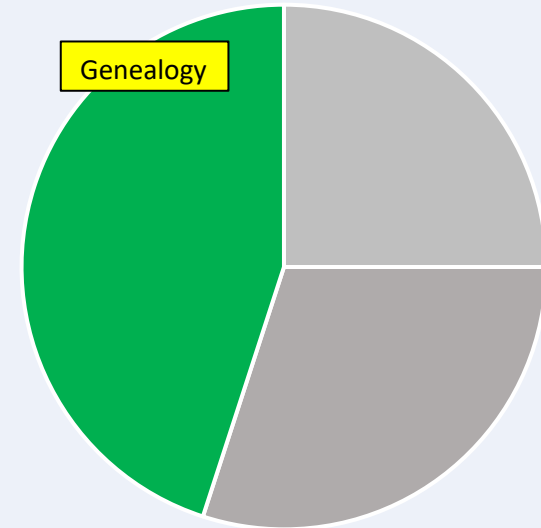
- Iterate through a variety of web tools:
  - Google (links to LinkedIn, obituaries)
  - BeenVerified (\$\$)
    - Most important: “Relatives” list
      - Look here for family members who might connect to your tree
    - Month and Year of birth
  - Ancestry public records
    - Yes, this works well for living people searches, often supplying birth dates
  - Facebook
    - Get creative here—remember to search for close relatives as well as your target

**Tip: For more on these methods please see my previous presentations on this topic**



# Step 3: Build a Tree

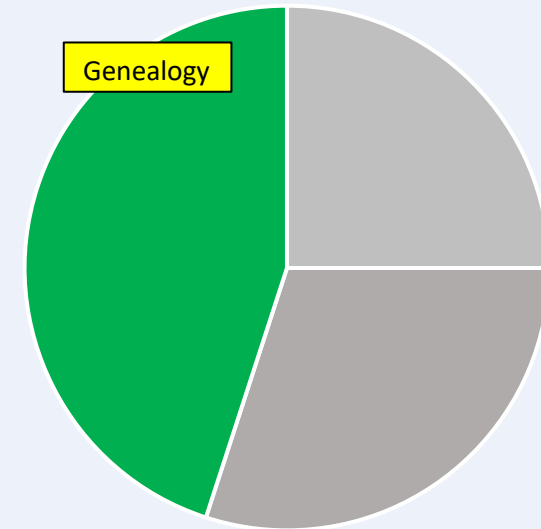
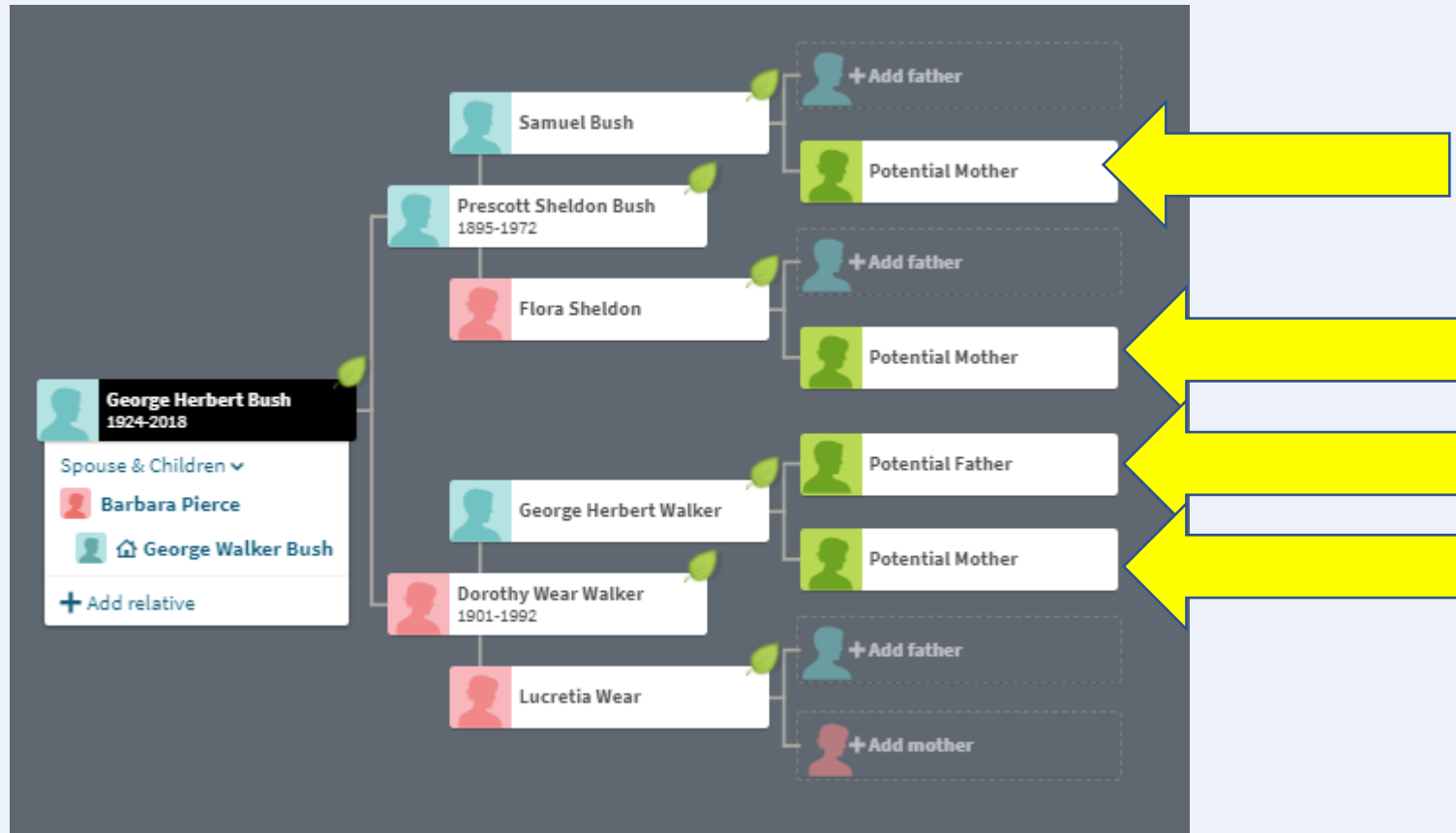
- Now that you have identified the person you need to try to fit into your tree
- This is where you switch to traditional genealogy (records)
- Start (in Ancestry) by building a private unsearchable tree





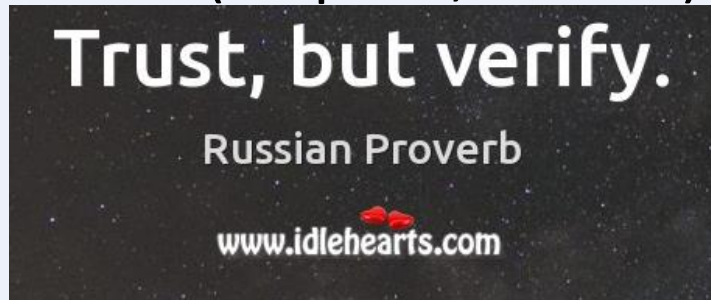
# Step 3: Build a Tree

- Build the tree using “Quick and Dirty Tree” methods

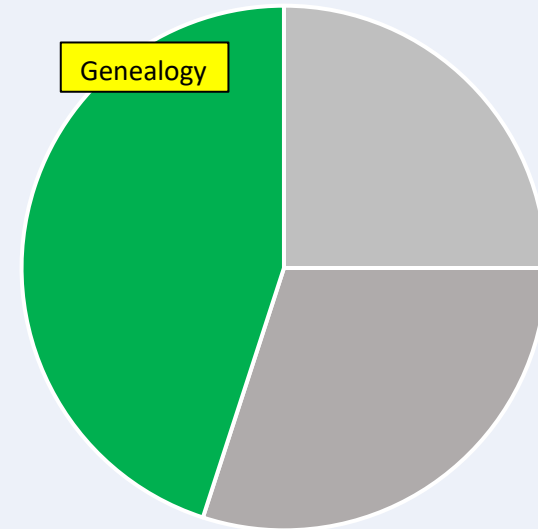


# Step 3: Build a Tree

- Question: Why build a tree for someone who already has a tree?
- Answer 1: Trust but verify---some trees may have faulty information (surprise, huh??!)

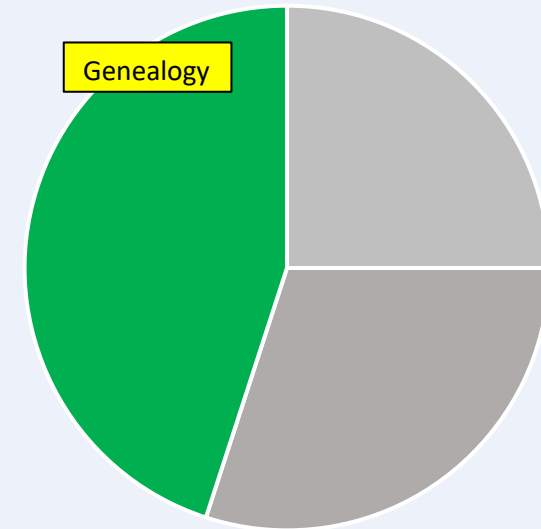


- Answer 2: By building your own tree that you admin you'll see source hints show up that will help validate the private tree you have built



# Step 3: Build a Tree

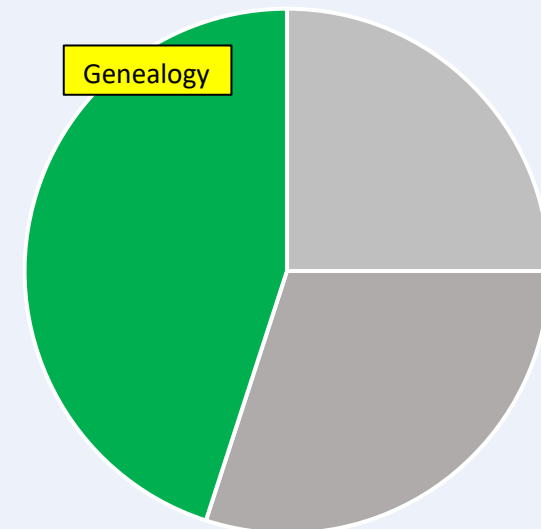
- If you have successfully:
  - Identified the person
  - Identified the line to Most Recent Common Ancestor
- Feel free to add to your tree
  - Has the advantage of building your ThruLines






**Tip: For more on these building a “Quick and Dirty tree” please see my previous presentations on this topic**

# Step 4: Annotate Surnames in Notes



- Once I have a set of surnames, say maybe 8 great-grandparents, I'll go back to the match and annotate the Notes field




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

 Public linked tree  
211 People

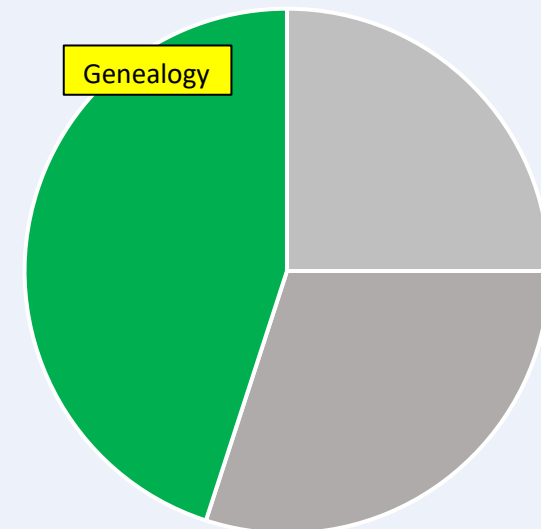
Do you recognize them?  
[Yes](#) [Learn more](#)

 Morehouse, Kellogg, Brigham, Hardy, Wright, Townsend, Layton, Hall 



# Step 4: Annotate Surnames in Notes

- If you've been 100% successful you have not only identified the person and identified the common line, but have been able to place the person in your tree.
- In that event I will annotate the Notes field showing the relationship and the common surnames



The screenshot shows a DNA relationship card. On the left are two circular profile pictures: one of a man with glasses and a patterned shirt, and one of a woman with dark hair. To the right of the pictures, the text reads: 'You and [Name]' with a family icon. Below that, it says '4th cousin 1x removed | Mother's side' with an edit icon. Underneath is '< 1% shared DNA: 36 cM across 3 segments'. There is a 'Message' button. At the bottom, there are two options: 'Add/edit groups' with a plus icon and '4C1R Butler/Davis' with a document icon. A yellow arrow points from the '4C1R Butler/Davis' option towards the right.

Hint: "4C1R"  
represents a 4<sup>th</sup>  
cousin, once removed



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Presentations:

<http://familytreeaz.com/Presentations>



Me with my paternal uncle,  
Kenny Waters, 1929-2022