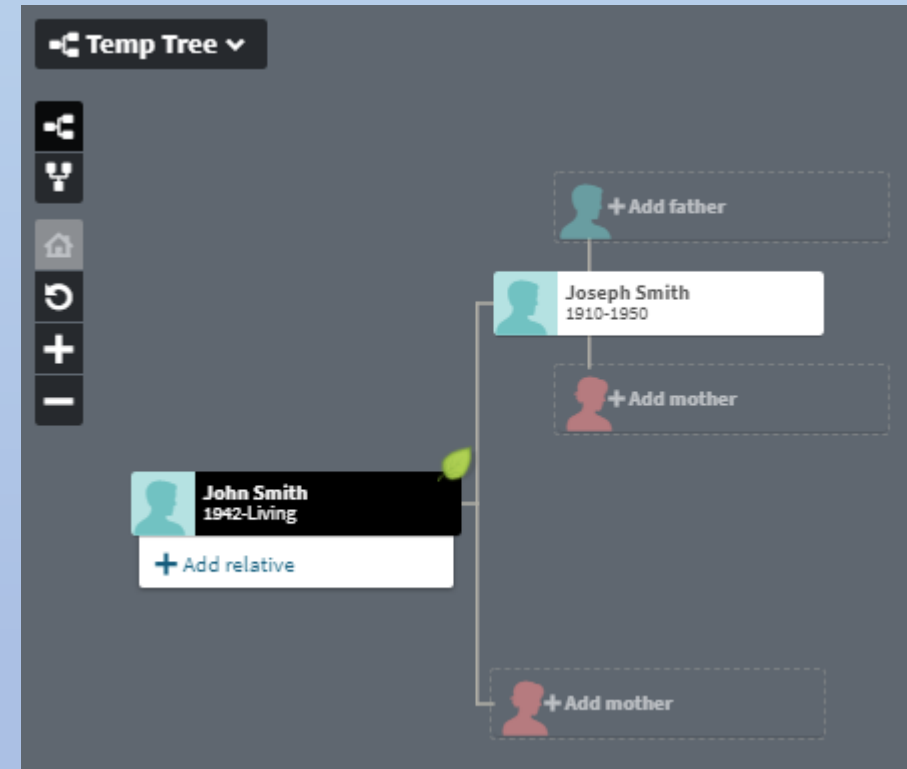


All slides and handouts can be found at:

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

What is a Research Tree ("Quick and Dirty Tree")

- A speculative family tree that may or may not be correct
- Used to test hypotheses
- Particularly useful in Ancestry as a tree can be used to pick up source hints
- Because it is speculative and may or may not be correct it is important to ***ALWAYS*** set a research tree as Private and unsearchable



Why Build Research Trees?

- Building a tree for a DNA match
 - Maybe they already have an existing tree
 - By building it you have control over what records to be sourced in the tree
 - May highlight possible issues with the DNA match's tree
 - No tree but use public records to start tree
 - Need to have full name
 - Use public records to get birth date
 - Use people finding sites (e.g., BeenVerified) to get relatives, especially parents names
- Testing a possible ancestor for a possible connection to your tree
- Guilty pleasure – building trees for famous people

Remember---These are Speculative Trees

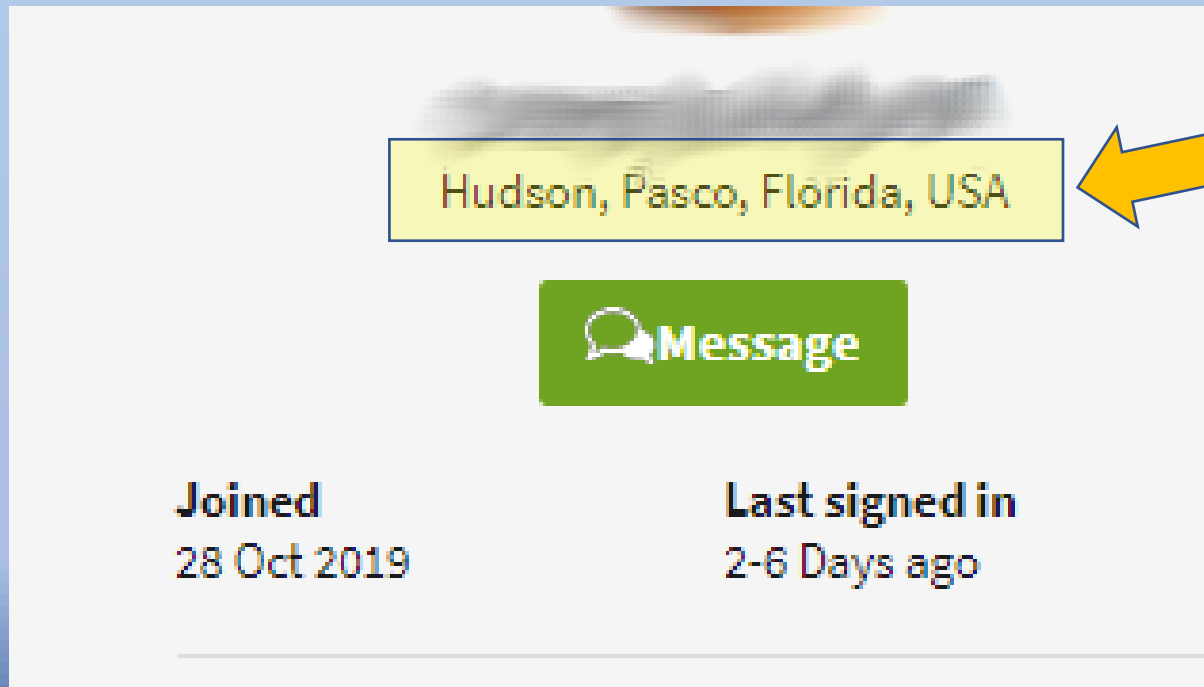
- You are building them to test hypotheses and to build sources to support your hypotheses
- Very Important – these need to be kept Private and Unsearchable in Ancestry
 - WHY?
 - **To prevent adding potentially incorrect details and incorrect trees that others might search for and assume are valid**

Starting with a DNA Match

- Do you have a name?
 - Yes
 - Search for the person in people finding sites like BeenVerified
 - If found, get the **birthdate**
 - Look for parents (also siblings which could yield parents)
 - Search for the person in Ancestry
 - Some public records may have birthdates
 - Search for the person on Facebook
 - Some people have “open” profiles that assist in identifying parents/children/siblings
 - Once you have full name, date of birth, and possible birth location: BUILD THE TREE

Tip: Check Account for Details

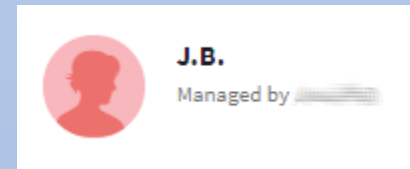
- Click on the match name to get account details
 - Sometimes you can get location and age range



Use this information to narrow down individual in people finding sites (e.g., BeenVerified) to get birth date and possible parents

Starting with a DNA Match

- Do you have a name?
 - No
 - Is the kit name an alias? If so, then search for it on Google
 - If the kit name is simply initials then it may be very difficult
 - Often a kit with initials is “admin’ed” by someone else --- this might help yield a last name
 - Before giving up---look at shared matches as you might get lucky to find a sibling or parent/child that does have full name
 - If all this fails then you might not be able to identify the mystery match



Process Note

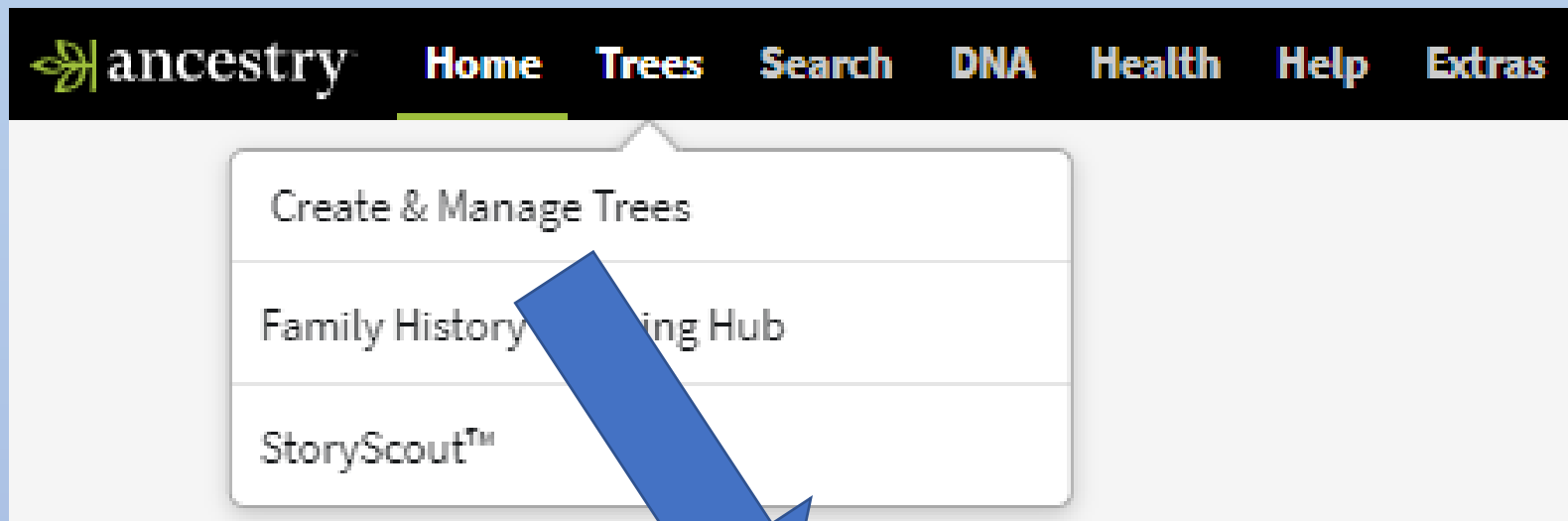
- I will focus on a historical example rather than a living person for privacy purposes

Working a Historical Case

- You may want to focus on a historical person, either someone generations back in your tree or possibly a famous person (curiosity or looking for a connection to your tree)
- Let's try an example: George H. W. Bush, 41st President of the U.S.

Start a new tree

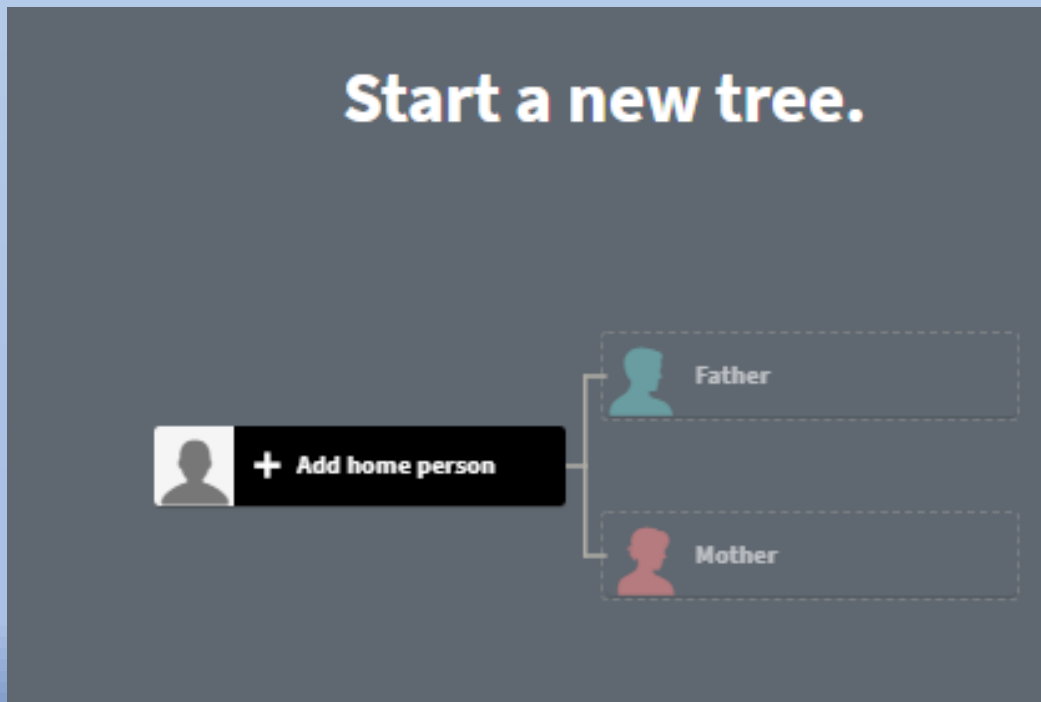
- Under Trees, select Create & Manage Trees



 Create a new tree  Upload a GEDCOM file

Home Person

- Enter details for the home person
 - Important: include as much as possible with full name, birth/death details



George Bush

- Look for facts that you can use to build the tree
 - Full name
 - Date, location of birth
 - Date, location of death

George H. 
W. Bush
41st U.S. President 

George Herbert Walker Bush was an American politician, diplomat, and businessman who served as the 41st president of the United States from 1989 to 1993. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: June 12, 1924, Milton, MA

Died: November 30, 2018, Houston, TX

Vice president: [Dan Quayle](#) (1989–1993)

Presidential term: January 20, 1989 – January 20, 1993

Buried: December 6, 2018, George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, College Station, TX


Children: [George W. Bush](#), [Jeb Bush](#), [Neil Bush](#), [Pauline Robinson Bush](#), [Dorothy Bush Koch](#), [Marvin Bush](#)

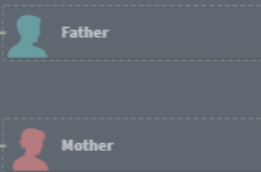
Source: Wikipedia

Start the Tree

 Create a new tree

Start a new tree.


 + Add home person



Add Yourself ✕

Add new person

I am starting with myself *(Why do we ask?)*

First and middle name ✓  **Last name** ✓ **Suffix**

Gender ✓

Male Female Unknown

Status ✓

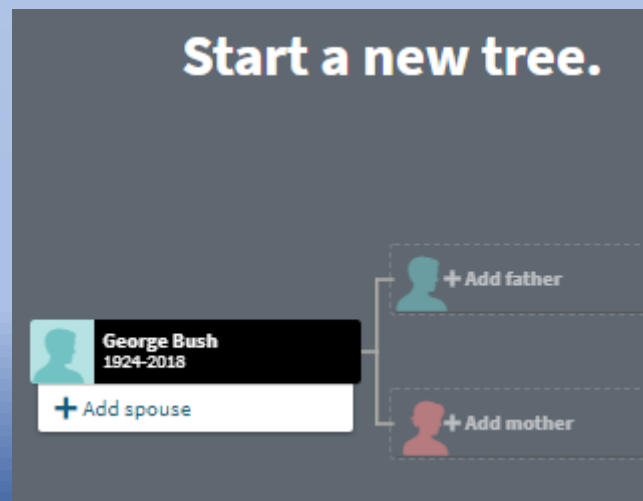
Deceased Living

Birth date ✓ **Birthplace**

Death date ✓ **Death place**

Next Person

- Ancestry wants you to add one more person before saving and naming a tree
- Just click “Add father” and click Save
 - We can worry about the details later
 - Of course we could always look up the father’s details but we’ll just let Ancestry find those for this example



The image shows a white form titled "Add a father" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The form is titled "Add new person" and contains the following fields:

- First and middle name:** A text input field with a small icon on the right.
- Last name:** A text input field containing "Bush".
- Suffix:** An empty text input field.
- Gender:** A section with a green checkmark, containing three radio buttons: "Male" (selected), "Female", and "Unknown".
- Status:** A section with a green checkmark, containing two radio buttons: "Deceased" (selected) and "Living".
- Birth date:** A text input field with the placeholder "DD MMM YYYY".
- Birthplace:** A text input field with the placeholder "City, County, State, Country".
- Death date:** A text input field with the placeholder "DD MMM YYYY".
- Death place:** A text input field with the placeholder "City, County, State, Country".

At the bottom of the form are two buttons: a green "Save" button and a grey "Cancel" button.

Name & Save

- Enter name
- Uncheck to make tree “Private”
- Click “Save tree”

Start a new tree.

George Bush
1924-2018
+ Add spouse

Bush

+ Add mother

Save Your Tree [X]

Name Your Tree *

Bush Family Tree

Allow others to view this tree (people marked "living" are hidden). [How does this help me?](#) ▾

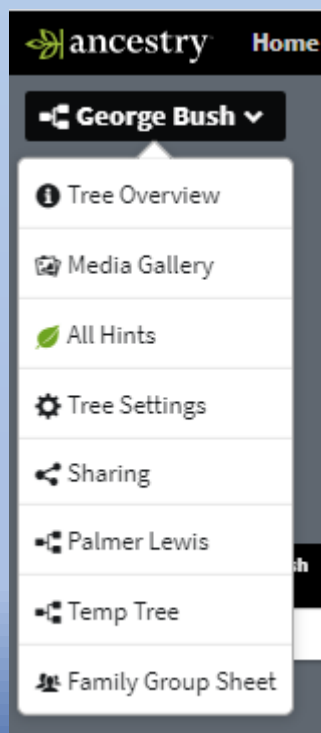
Save tree Cancel

We value your privacy. [Read our privacy policy](#)

Allow others to view this tree (people marked "living" are hidden). [How does this help me?](#) ▾

Making Tree Unsearchable

- Setting to Private is not enough --- you want the tree to also be unsearchable



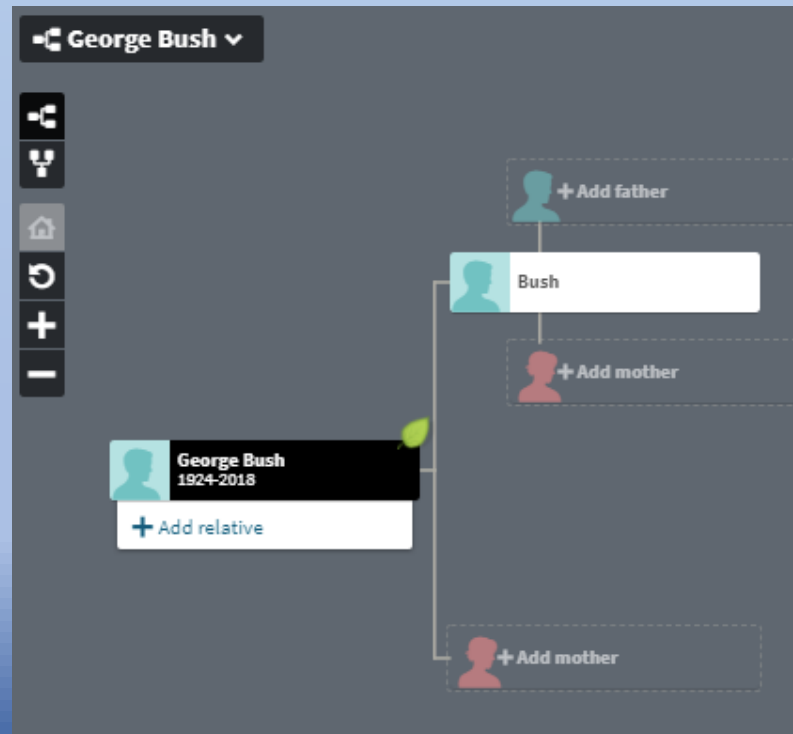
The image shows the 'Tree Settings' page for George Bush's tree. The page has tabs for 'Tree Info', 'Privacy Settings', and 'Sharing'. A yellow arrow points to the 'Tree Settings' tab. The page content includes:

- An information icon and text: "You can control who sees your family tree. Please select the level of privacy you are comfortable with. For more information about Ancestry privacy and sharing policies, please read our [Privacy Philosophy](#)."
- A radio button for 'Public Tree' with a description: "This setting allows other users to view all content in your tree—except information about living individuals and private notes. If you change your mind, you can make your tree private at any time."
- A section titled 'Public trees benefit you and the community' with two bullet points:
 - Through public trees you may find others who are researching your family and even collaborate with them.
 - You can help other members of Ancestry sites discover information about their relatives, and they can get in touch with you using our anonymous member-to-member email service.
- A section titled 'All personal information is protected' with two bullet points:
 - Information about living people is automatically hidden and will NOT be included in searches.
 - Only you can edit your tree unless you specifically invite others to work with you.
- A radio button for 'Private Tree' with a description: "This setting allows you to keep your tree "private" so that other users cannot view the contents of your tree."
- A section titled 'What does "private" mean?' with text: "Limited information about deceased individuals in your tree (name, birth year, and birthplace) will still appear in Ancestry search results. However, no one can view your actual tree without your permission. If another member wants to view your tree, they can contact you anonymously through our Connection Service to request more information. Keep in mind that these individuals may also have helpful information to share with you."
- A checked checkbox: "Also prevent your tree from being found in searches."
- A note: "Note: Although your privacy setting will change immediately to public or private, it usually takes about a month for this update to be reflected in the search."
- A 'Save Changes' button.

At the bottom right, there is a green checkmark icon followed by the text: "Also prevent your tree from being found in searches."

Work the Hints

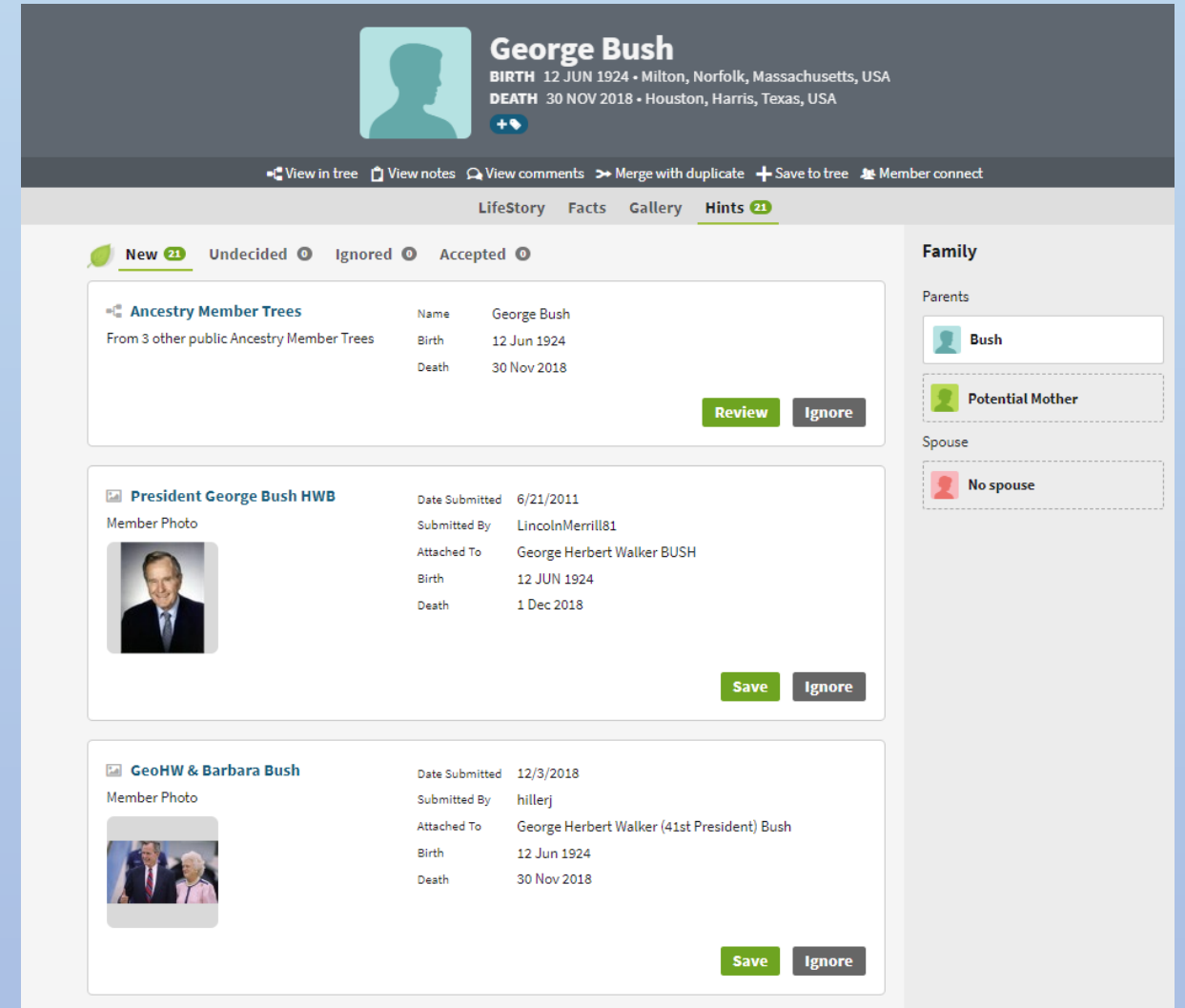
- Look for the green leaf indicating tree hints
- Click on the cell with the leaf hint and then on the link for ancestry hints



A screenshot of a person's profile page. At the top right, there is a blue badge that says "21 ANCESTRY HINTS" with a green leaf icon. A large yellow arrow points from the top right towards this badge. The profile information includes a teal silhouette icon, the name "George Bush", and the following details: "B: 12 Jun 1924 Milton, Norfolk, Massachusetts, USA" and "D: 30 Nov 2018 Houston, Harris, Texas, USA". At the bottom, there are three buttons: "Profile", "Search", and "Quick edit" with a dropdown arrow.



Review Hints

- For famous people it's typical to have a lot of hints
- I recommend just to look for standard good sources rather than things like Member Photos
 - U.S. Census
 - Public Records
 - Social Security Death Index



The screenshot shows the profile page for George Bush on Ancestry.com. At the top, there is a profile card with a silhouette icon, the name "George Bush", and birth/death information: "BIRTH 12 JUN 1924 • Milton, Norfolk, Massachusetts, USA" and "DEATH 30 NOV 2018 • Houston, Harris, Texas, USA". Below this is a navigation bar with options: "View in tree", "View notes", "View comments", "Merge with duplicate", "Save to tree", and "Member connect". The main content area is titled "Hints (21)" and has tabs for "New (21)", "Undecided (0)", "Ignored (0)", and "Accepted (0)".

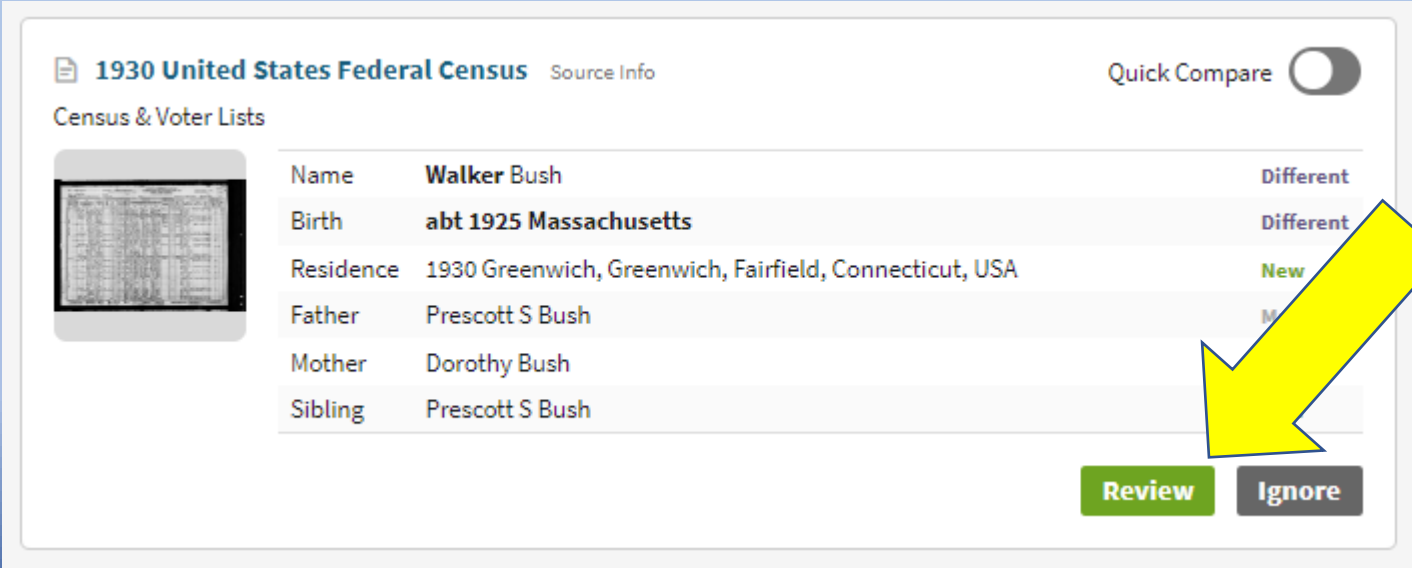
Three hints are listed:

- Ancestry Member Trees**: From 3 other public Ancestry Member Trees. Name: George Bush, Birth: 12 Jun 1924, Death: 30 Nov 2018. Buttons: Review, Ignore.
- President George Bush HWB**: Date Submitted: 6/21/2011, Submitted By: LincolnMerrill81, Attached To: George Herbert Walker BUSH. Member Photo: . Birth: 12 JUN 1924, Death: 1 Dec 2018. Buttons: Save, Ignore.
- GeoHW & Barbara Bush**: Date Submitted: 12/3/2018, Submitted By: hillerj, Attached To: George Herbert Walker (41st President) Bush. Member Photo: . Birth: 12 Jun 1924, Death: 30 Nov 2018. Buttons: Save, Ignore.

On the right side, there is a "Family" section with "Parents" (Bush), "Potential Mother", and "Spouse" (No spouse).


Add Good Sources

- US Census
 - Very useful to finding parents names and approximate birth dates
 - As always, make sure this record correctly matches the person in your tree
 - I like to add at least one source to every person, if possible
 - Click “Review”



1930 United States Federal Census Source Info Quick Compare

Census & Voter Lists

	Name	Walker Bush	Different
	Birth	abt 1925 Massachusetts	Different
	Residence	1930 Greenwich, Greenwich, Fairfield, Connecticut, USA	New
	Father	Prescott S Bush	M
	Mother	Dorothy Bush	
	Sibling	Prescott S Bush	

[Review](#) [Ignore](#)

Adding Sources

- Click “Yes” to add to the tree
- Note the new addition of George’s apparent parents, Prescott Bush and Dorothy Bush
- Pay CAREFUL attention to Step 2
 - You may see new information (check the box on the left side if you want to add it to the tree)

Step 1: Evaluate record

This record may contain relevant information for a person in your tree.

 Walker Bush in the 1930 United States Federal Census

Compare details

Name	Walker Bush
Birth Year	1925
Gender	Male
Race	White
Age in 1930	5
Birthplace	Massachusetts
Marital Status	Single
Relation to Head of House	Son
Home in 1930	Greenwich, Fairfield, Connecticut, USA
Map of Home	Greenwich, Fairfield, Connecticut
Street Address	Stanwich Road
House Number	auL.97-99
Dwelling Number	25
Family Number	29
Attended School	Yes
Father's Birthplace	Ohio
Mother's Birthplace	Maine


Household Members	Name	Age
	Prescott S Bush	34
	Dorothy Bush	28

Would you like to save this information to your tree?






Yes No Maybe

Step 2: Add facts

Select any facts about George Bush from this record that you would like to save to your tree.

 Walker Bush in the 1930 United States Federal Census


Edit all

Record details	Your tree details
Name <input type="checkbox"/> Walker Bush DIFFERENT	Name George Bush
Facts	
Birth <input type="checkbox"/> abt 1925 Massachusetts DIFFERENT	Birth 12 Jun 1924 Milton, Norfolk, Massachusetts, USA
Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1930 Greenwich, Greenwich, Fairfield, Connecticut, USA NEW	Residence 1930 Greenwich, Greenwich, Fairfield, Connecticut, USA
Parents and siblings	
Parents  Prescott S Bush  Dorothy Bush	Parents  Bush
Siblings  Prescott S Bush  Nancy Bush	

Cancel Next



Step 3: Add people

Add any people related to George Bush from this record that you would like to save to your tree.



 Walker Bush in the 1930 United States Federal Census

Edit all

Parents

-  Prescott S Bush
Father of Walker Bush
-  Dorothy Bush **NEW**
Mother of Walker Bush

Other children of Prescott S Bush and Dorothy Bush (siblings of George Bush)

-  Prescott S Bush **NEW**
Sibling of Walker Bush
-  Nancy Bush **NEW**
Sibling of Walker Bush

Cancel Save to tree

Adding Sources

- Be sure to click the check boxes for each of the persons who you want this source to show for
- In this case we'll just click on the parents and skip the siblings (Prescott Jr. and Nancy)
 - Depending on your goals with the tree you may want to include siblings

← Back

Step 3: Add people

Add any people related to **George Bush** from this record that you would like to save to your tree.

Walker Bush in the 1930 United States Federal Census

Parents

Prescott S Bush
Father of Walker Bush

Dorothy Bush NEW
Mother of Walker Bush

Other children of Prescott S Bush and Dorothy Bush (siblings of George Bush)

Prescott S Bush NEW
Sibling of Walker Bush

Nancy Bush NEW
Sibling of Walker Bush

Cancel Save to tree

Prescott S Bush
Father of Walker Bush

Record details	Your tree details
Name <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prescott S Bush DIFFERENT	Name First & middle Prescott S
	Last Bush
	Suffix
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cite source
	<input type="checkbox"/> Save as an alternate

Facts

Birth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abt 1896 Ohio NEW	Birth abt 1896 Ohio
Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1930 Greenwich, Greenwich, Fairfield, Connecticut, USA NEW	Residence 1930 Greenwich, Greenwich, Fairfield, Connecticut, USA

Dorothy Bush NEW
Mother of Walker Bush

Record details	Your tree details
Name <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dorothy Bush NEW	Name Dorothy Bush

Facts

Birth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abt 1902 Maine NEW	Birth abt 1902 Maine
Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1930 Greenwich, Greenwich, Fairfield, Connecticut, USA	Residence 1930 Greenwich, Greenwich, Fairfield, Connecticut, USA

Cancel Save to tree

Good Sources

- Public Records are also very useful and often yield birth dates

George H Bush
in the U.S., Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 2

Detail Source

Name: George H Bush

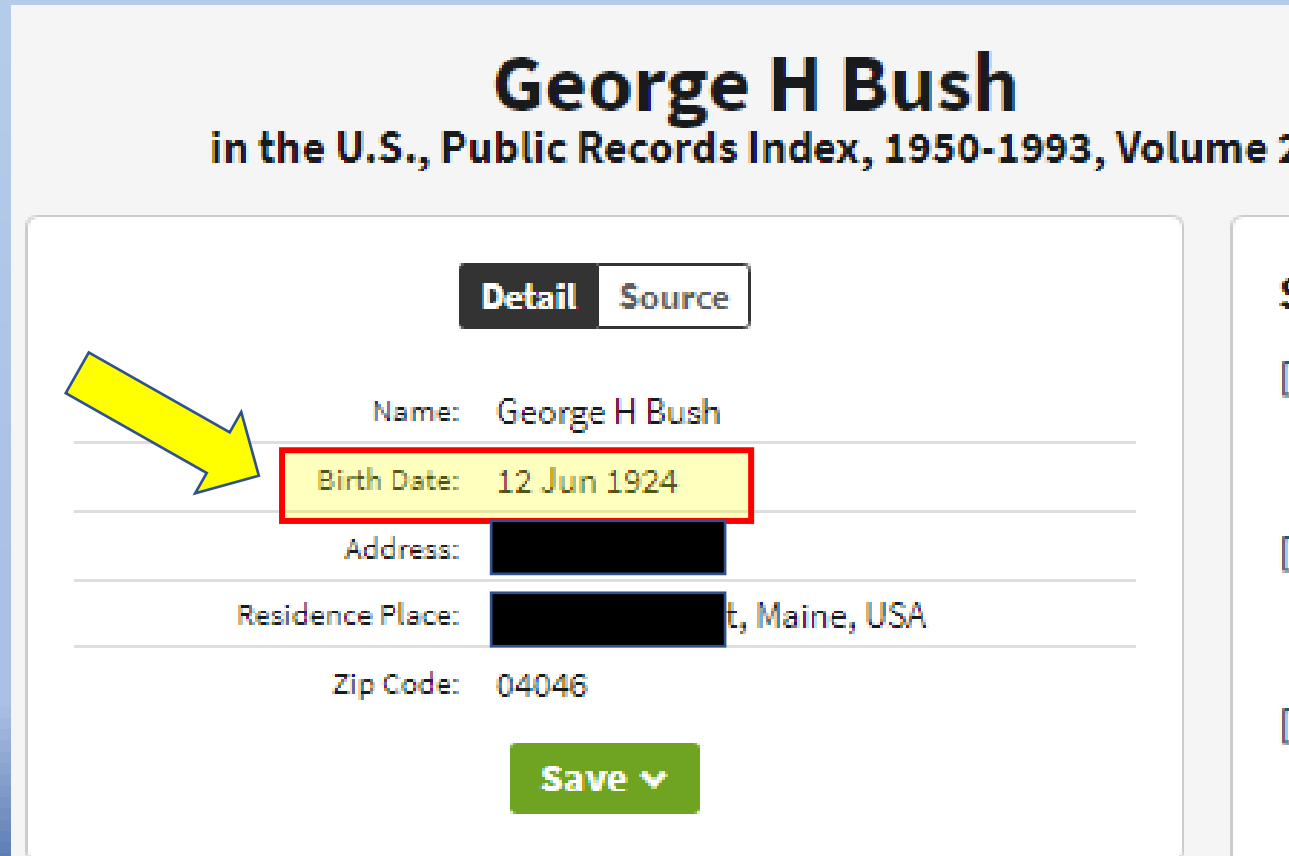
Birth Date: 12 Jun 1924

Address: [REDACTED]

Residence Place: [REDACTED] t, Maine, USA

Zip Code: 04046

Save ▾



Sources

- I like Find-A-Grave also....BUT
 - I always want to have supporting evidence before using information from it since it is “crowd-sourced” --- errors can be found
 - If the record is good it can yield very useful information birth/death, parents, etc.

George Herbert Walker Bush
in the U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current

✓ Saved to: Bush, George Herbert in tree "Bush Family Tree" [Remove](#)

Detail **Source**

Name: George Herbert Walker Bush

Gender: M (Male)

Birth Date: 12 Jun 1924

Birth Place: Milton, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, United States of America

Death Date: 30 Nov 2018

Death Place: Houston, Harris County, Texas, United States of America

Cemetery: George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Burial or Cremation Place: College Station, Brazos County, Texas, United States of America

Has Bio?: Y

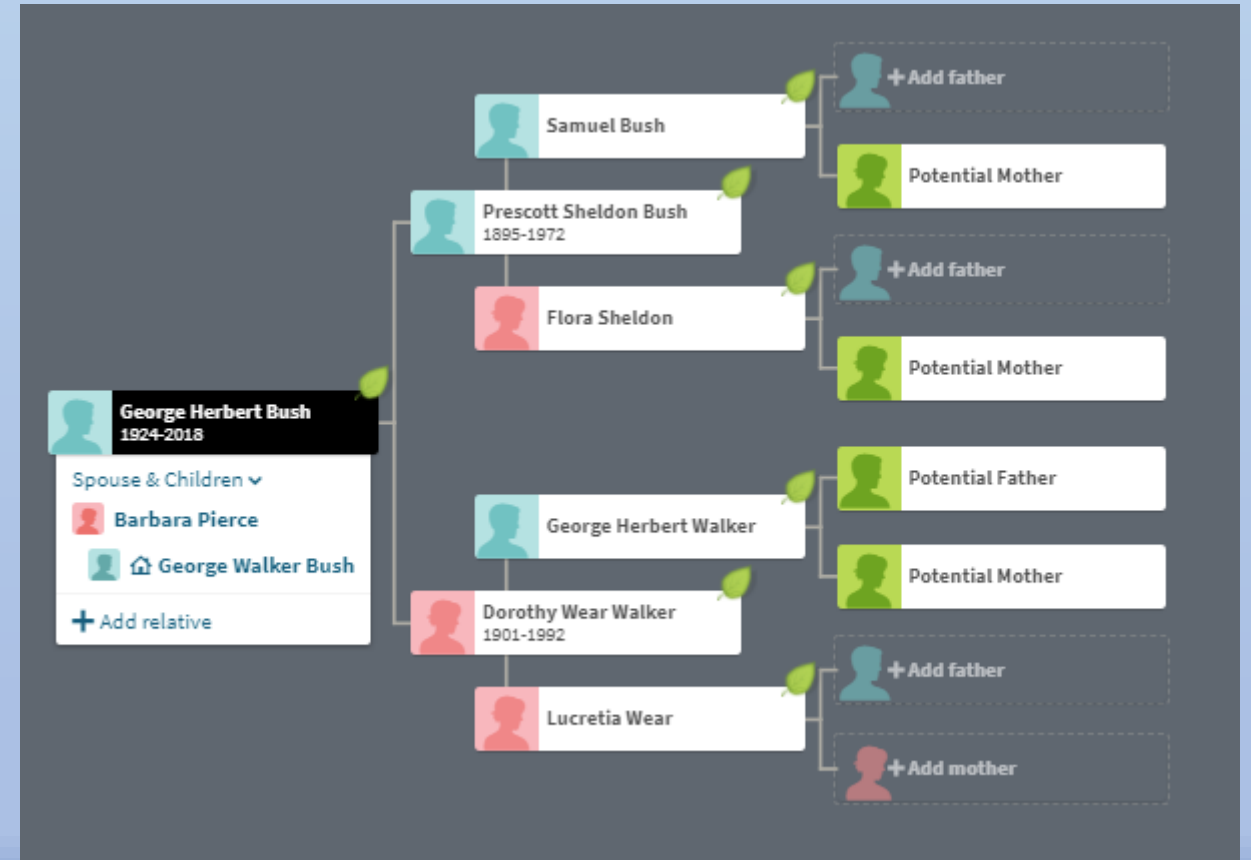
Father: Prescott Sheldon Bush

Mother: Dorothy Wear Bush

Spouse: Barbara Bush

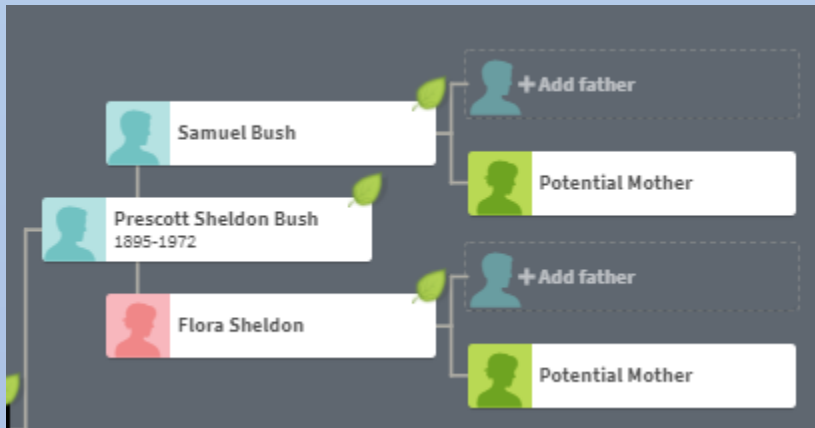
Continue to build back tree

- Enter dates for each person to enable more hints



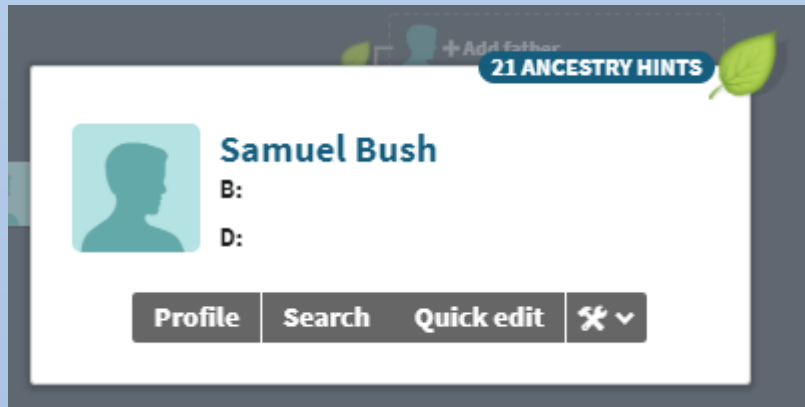
Enter details

- Note that Samuel Bush has no dates shown

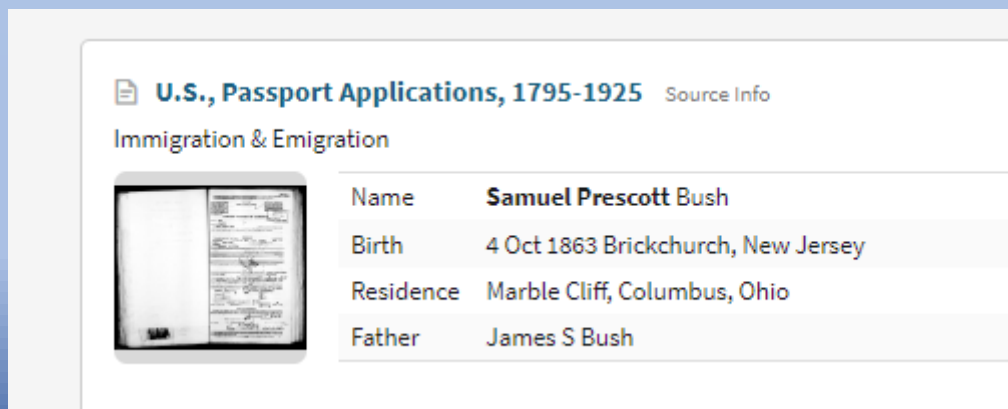


Enter details

- Use the Ancestry hints to get dates

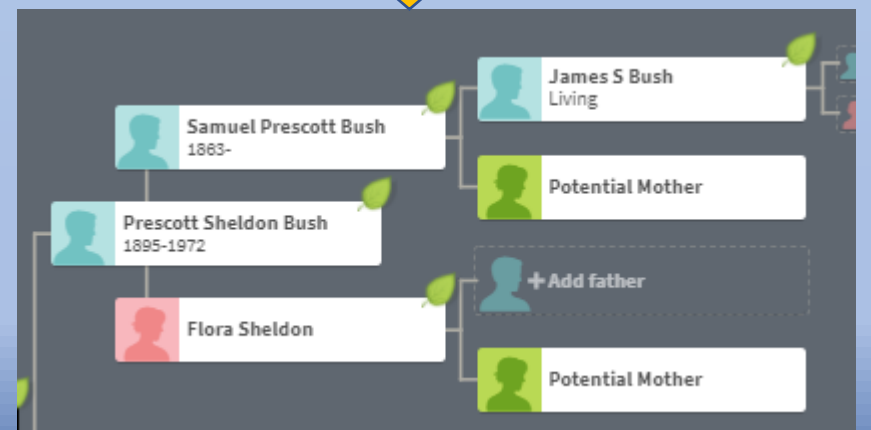
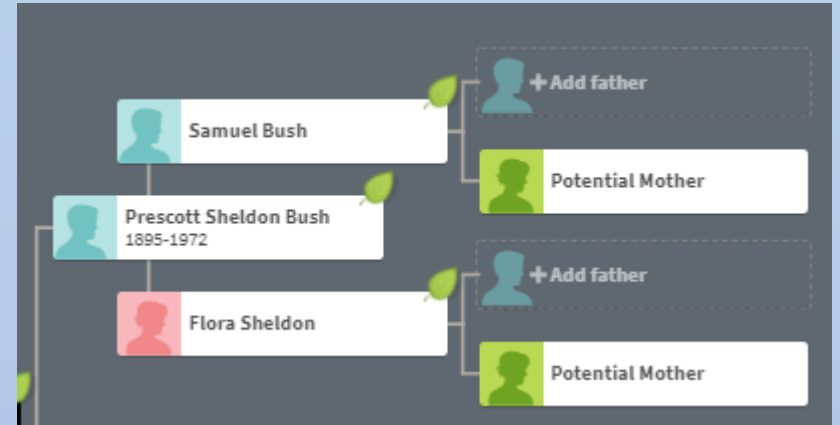


A screenshot of an Ancestry profile card for Samuel Bush. The card features a teal silhouette icon, the name "Samuel Bush", and fields for "B:" and "D:". A blue banner at the top right indicates "21 ANCESTRY HINTS". Below the profile information are buttons for "Profile", "Search", "Quick edit", and a dropdown menu.



A screenshot of a record from "U.S., Passport Applications, 1795-1925". The record is titled "Immigration & Emigration" and includes a thumbnail of a passport application. The details are as follows:

Name	Samuel Prescott Bush
Birth	4 Oct 1863 Brickchurch, New Jersey
Residence	Marble Cliff, Columbus, Ohio
Father	James S Bush



Add details

- Now, for Flora Sheldon

U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current Source Info

Birth, Marriage & Death

Name	Flora Bush
Birth	17 March 1872 Franklin County, Ohio, United States of America
Death	4 September 1920 Washington County, Rhode Island, United States of America
Burial	Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, United States of America
Spouse	Samuel Prescott Bush
Father	Robert Emmet Sheldon
Mother	Mary Elizabeth Sheldon
Children	

Quick edit **Flora Sheldon**

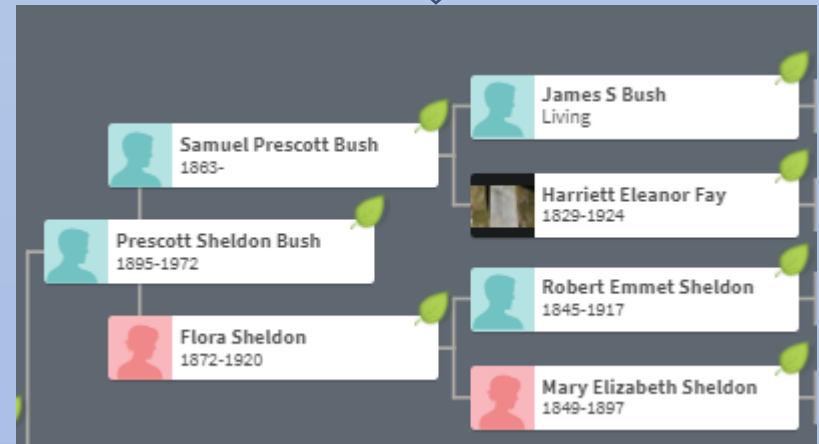
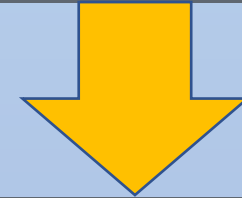
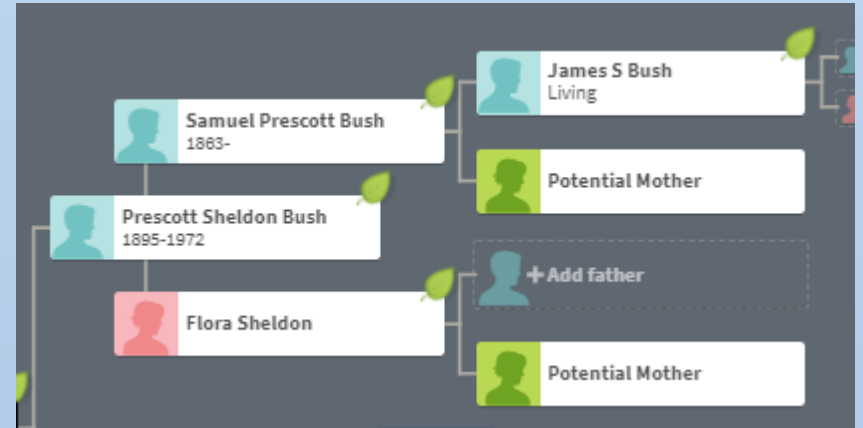
First and middle name ✓ Last name ✓ Suffix

Gender ✓ Male Female Unknown

Status ✓ Deceased Living

Birth date Birthplace

Death date Death place



In Summary

- Research trees can be extremely useful
- Keep the trees Private and Unsearchable
- Strive to use full names (maiden for women) with birth/death dates/locations to get more hint matches
- Use to help identify DNA matches



Questions?

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

