

All slides and handouts can be found at:

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



QR Code: take photo to
open to presentations

Background

- This presentation is all about identifying and working on an unknown DNA match in order to learn how the person is related to you
 - NOTE:
 - this approach is from the standpoint of just one match
 - In other presentations I cover related topics such as use of tag groups (colored dots) and shared matches
- Examples will be from Ancestry.com DNA tests



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

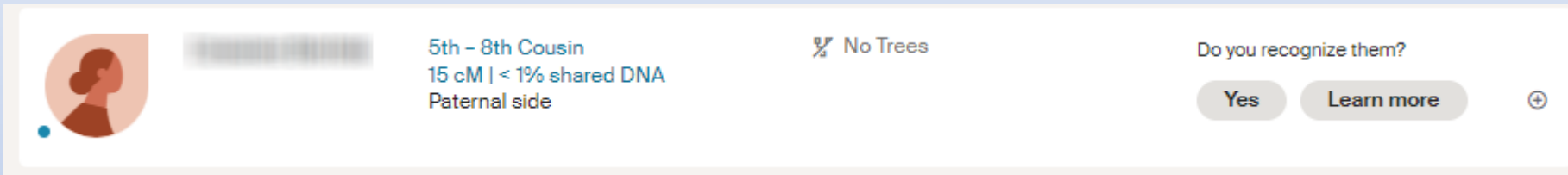
 Public linked tree
164 People
 Common ancestor

ALWAYS VERIFY THOUGH!

- And, of course, you personally can identify the person!

Starting with a Mystery Match

- Who is this person?



A screenshot of a DNA match card. On the left is a circular profile picture of a woman with dark hair. To its right is a blurred name. Further right, the text reads: "5th - 8th Cousin", "15 cM | < 1% shared DNA", and "Paternal side". To the right of this text is a crossed-out tree icon followed by "No Trees". On the far right, the question "Do you recognize them?" is displayed above two buttons: "Yes" and "Learn more". A small plus icon is located to the right of the "Learn more" button.

- Who are their relatives?
- How could I be related to them?

3-Step Process

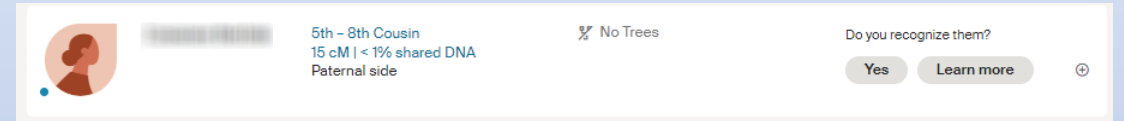
I - Identify

B - Build [tree]

C - Connect

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)

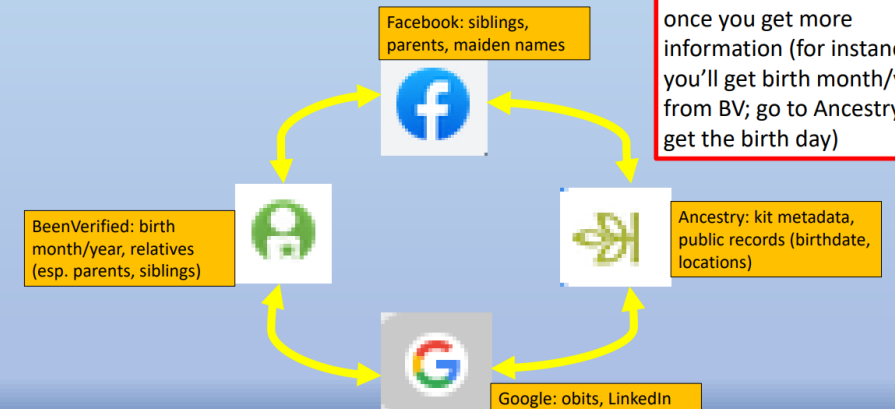


- Generally we need:
 - Date of birth
 - Birth location
 - Current or recent location(s)
- Also, very useful:
 - Relatives, especially parents or grandparents

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

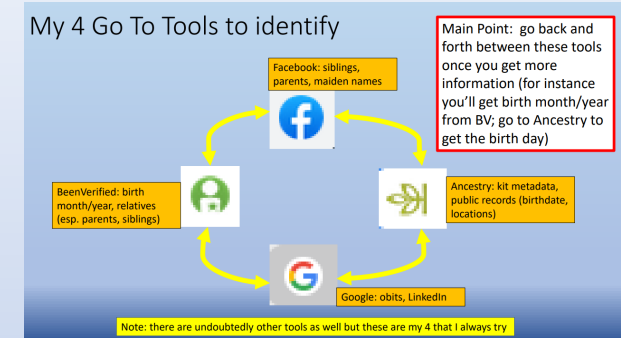


Main Point: go back and forth between these tools once you get more information (for instance you'll get birth month/year from BV; go to Ancestry to get the birth day)

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

Step 1 - Identify

- 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 [redacted]

Madeleine [redacted] 69

Candler, NC

Born Feb 1954

Aliases Roosevelt [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] +5 more

Relatives Eileen E. [redacted]

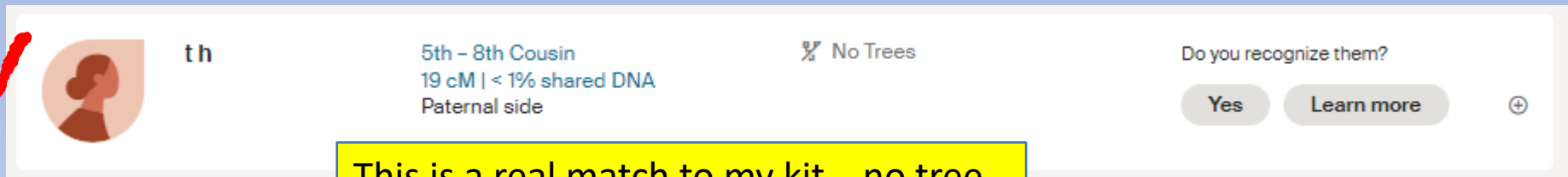
Known locations Candler, NC • Asheville, NC • Key West, FL • +1 more

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

Step 1 - Identify

- **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
 - 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

??!



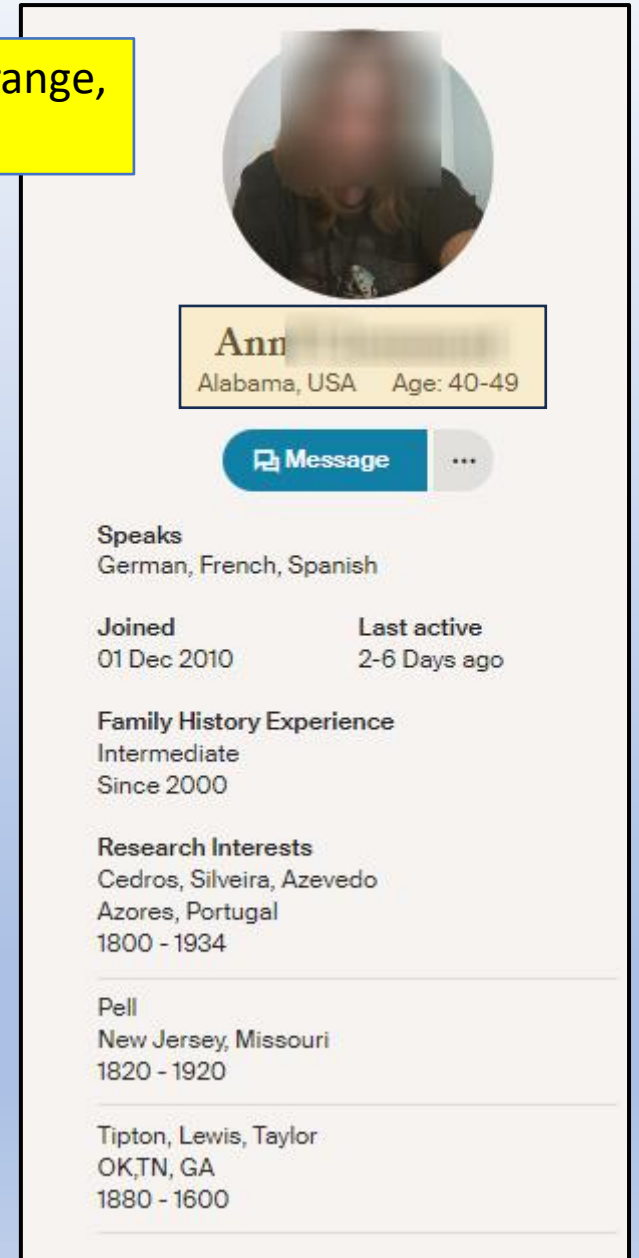
The screenshot shows a DNA match card. On the left is a profile picture of a woman with dark hair. To its right are the initials 't h'. Further right, the relationship is listed as '5th - 8th Cousin' with '19 cM | < 1% shared DNA' and 'Paternal side'. To the right of this is a crossed-out tree icon and the text 'No Trees'. On the far right, there is a question 'Do you recognize them?' with two buttons: 'Yes' and 'Learn more', followed by a plus sign icon.

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

Step 1 - Identify

First name, last name, state, age range, even surnames of interest!

- TIP: don't forget to check Ancestry's metadata for the match
- Probably only about 10% of Ancestry DNA matches have this information but when they do it can be invaluable for identifying them!



The screenshot shows a profile for a user named Ann. The profile includes a circular profile picture, a name tag with the name 'Ann' and a blurred last name, and location/age information: 'Alabama, USA' and 'Age: 40-49'. Below this is a blue 'Message' button and a grey menu button with three dots. The profile lists 'Speaks' as German, French, and Spanish. It also shows 'Joined' on 01 Dec 2010 and 'Last active' 2-6 Days ago. Under 'Family History Experience', it is listed as 'Intermediate Since 2000'. 'Research Interests' include 'Cedros, Silveira, Azevedo', 'Azores, Portugal', and '1800 - 1934'. There are two sections of surnames: 'Pell' with 'New Jersey, Missouri' and '1820 - 1920', and 'Tipton, Lewis, Taylor' with 'OK,TN, GA' and '1880 - 1600'.

Ann
Alabama, USA Age: 40-49

[Message](#) ...

Speaks
German, French, Spanish

Joined 01 Dec 2010 **Last active** 2-6 Days ago

Family History Experience
Intermediate
Since 2000

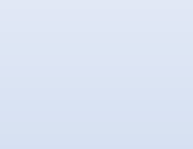
Research Interests
Cedros, Silveira, Azevedo
Azores, Portugal
1800 - 1934

Pell
New Jersey, Missouri
1820 - 1920

Tipton, Lewis, Taylor
OK,TN, GA
1880 - 1600

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)
- On to Step 2

Joseph James Smith

B: 29 Feb 1953, Dallas TX

F: Charles Smith (24 Sep 1925 - 2013)

M: Madeleine Roosevelt (24 Oct 1929 - 2020)

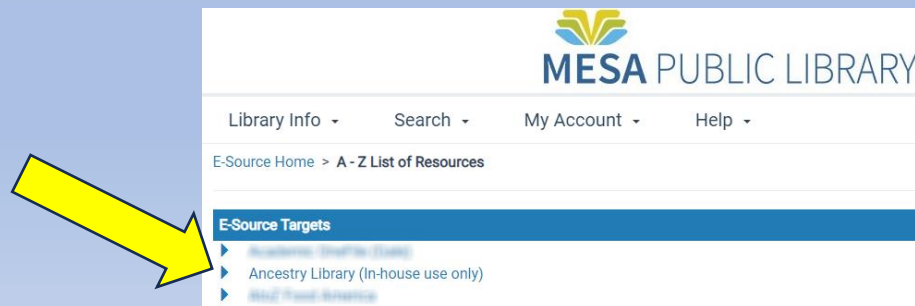
Step 2 – Build (a tree)

- 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

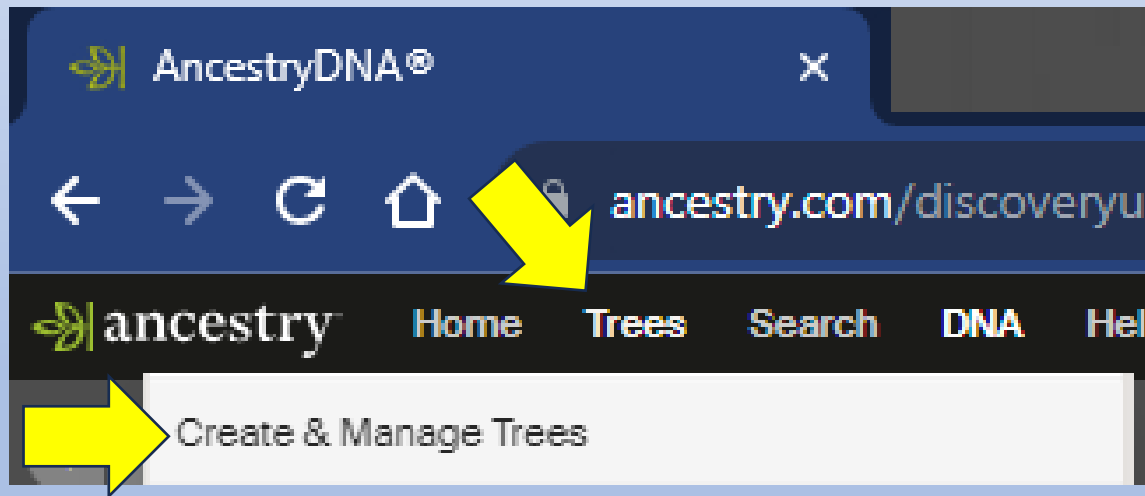


I have a U.S. paid subscription to Ancestry. When I need to do international searches I go use the library's access!



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)

- 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!

Tree settings

Tree Info **Privacy Settings** Invitations

i 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](#).

Public Tree

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.

Public trees benefit you and the community

- 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.

All personal information is protected

- 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.

Private Tree

This setting allows you to control who can view your tree. Only you and users you invite can view the contents of your tree.

What does "private" mean?

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.*

Also prevent your tree from being found in searches.

Note: Although your privacy setting will change immediately, it may take some time for this change to be reflected in the search index.

PRIVATE

UNSEARCHABLE

Save Changes

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

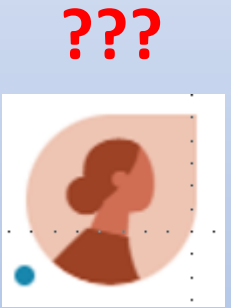
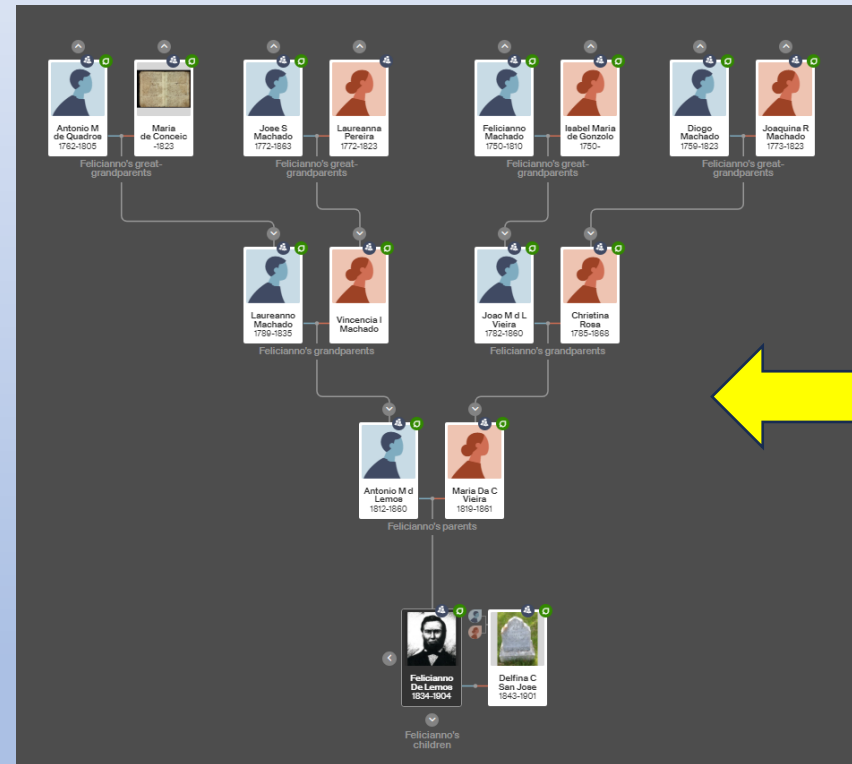
Step 2 – Build (a tree)

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



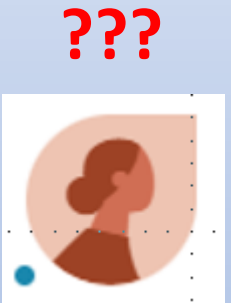
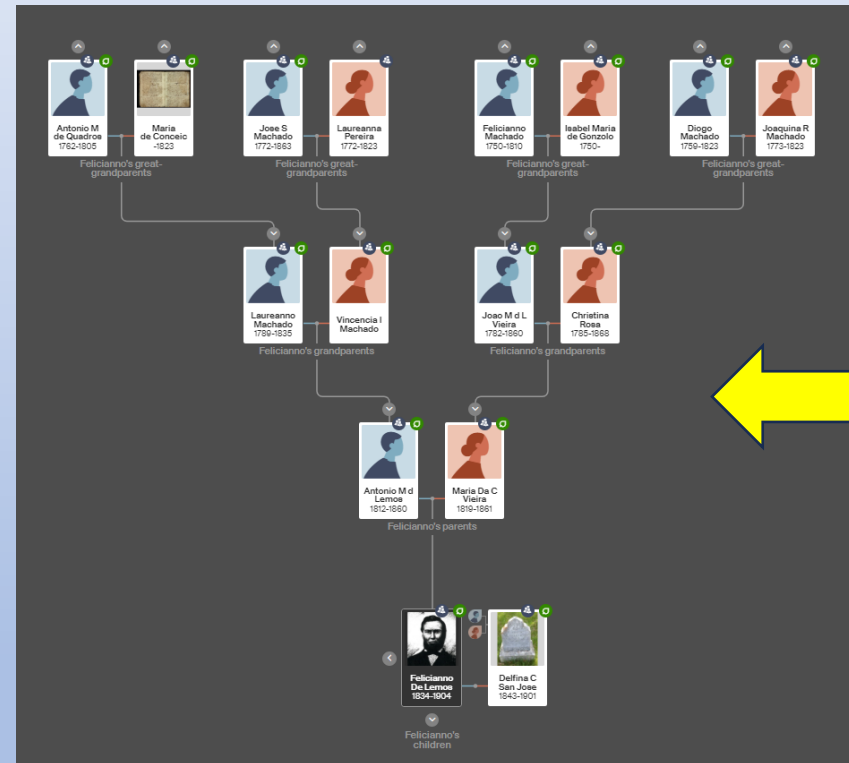
Step 3 - Connect

- 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

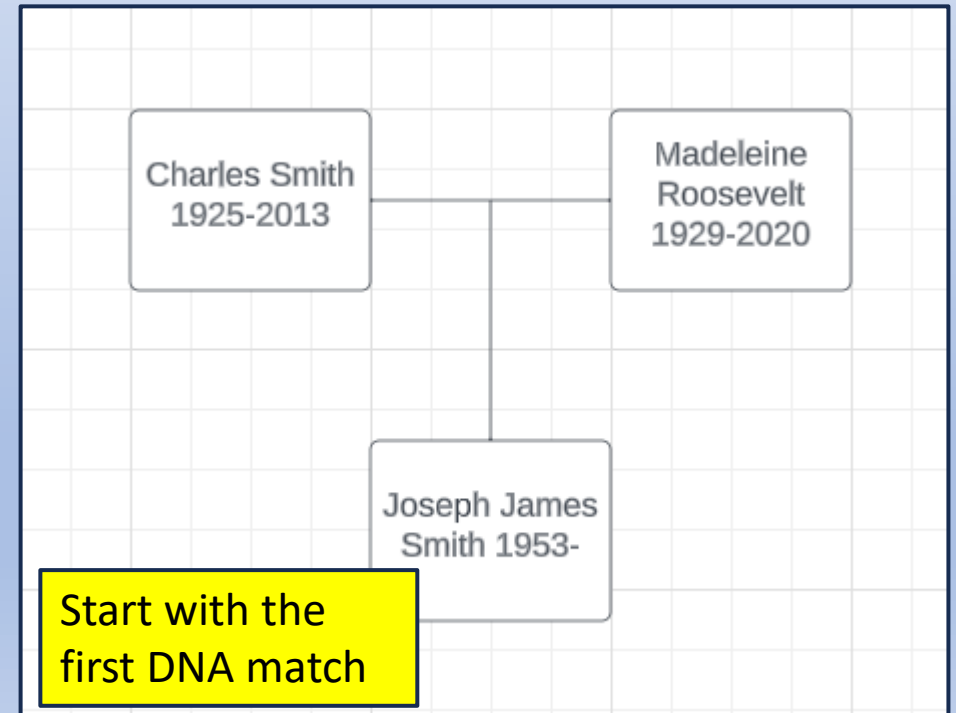
- Make use of Ancestry's Shared Matches
 - Arguably the most useful tool working with Ancestry DNA matches
 - I like to build a diagram showing how the shared matches relate to each other
 - As part of the tree building step you hopefully were able to build a number of ancestral lines back in time for the DNA match

The screenshot displays a list of DNA matches categorized under 'CLOSE FAMILY'. Each match entry includes a star icon, a profile picture, a name, a relationship description, a 'Possible range' of relationships, a 'Confidence' level (Extremely High), a 'Last logged in' date, and a 'View Match' button. The matches are as follows:

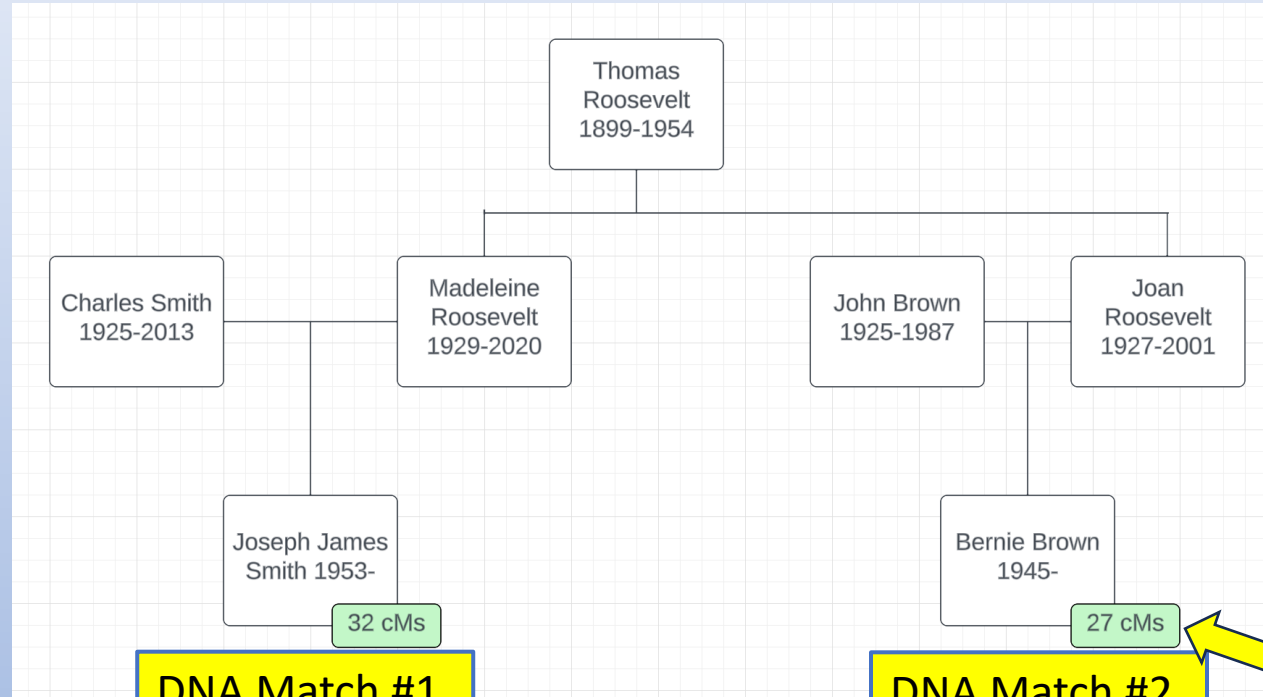
- Match 1:** Granddaughter, 1952/40. Possible range: Close family - 1st cousins. Confidence: Extremely High. 1,255 people. View Match.
- Match 2:** Grandson, 1879/41. Possible range: Close family - 1st cousins. Confidence: Extremely High. 1,255 people. View Match.
- Section Header: 1ST COUSIN**
- Match 3:** (managed by [redacted]) Joan's 1st cousin, son of her aunt Laverne Craddock. 812/38. Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins. Confidence: Extremely High. 4,499 people. View Match.
- Section Header: 2ND COUSIN**
- Match 4:** 1C1R, 443/16. Granddaughter of Walter Craddock, Joan's uncle. Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins. Confidence: Extremely High. No family tree. Last logged in 2 days ago. View Match.
- Match 5:** Joan's 1st cousin 1x removed, grandson of her aunt Laverne. 429/25. Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins. Confidence: Extremely High. 5 people. Last logged in Aug 27, 2017. View Match.
- Match 6:** 354/21, 1C1R, grandson of her Aunt [redacted]. Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins. Confidence: Extremely High. No family tree. Last logged in Aug 17, 2017. View Match.
- Match 7:** Craddock 278 cM, 14 segs. Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins. Confidence: Extremely High. No family tree. Last logged in Sep 28, 2017. View Match.
- Match 8:** (managed by [redacted]) 263/17. 1C1R granddaughter of Joan's Aunt Laverne. Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins. Confidence: Extremely High. 4,499 people. Last logged in Aug 2, 2018. View Match.
- Match 9:** 205/12. 1C2R, grandson of Beverly Auld, great-grandson of Joan's Aunt Laverne. Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins. Confidence: Extremely High. No family tree. Last logged in Aug 4, 2018. View 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



Step 3 - Connect



Continue adding DNA matches to the diagram as you CONNECT them

DNA Match #1

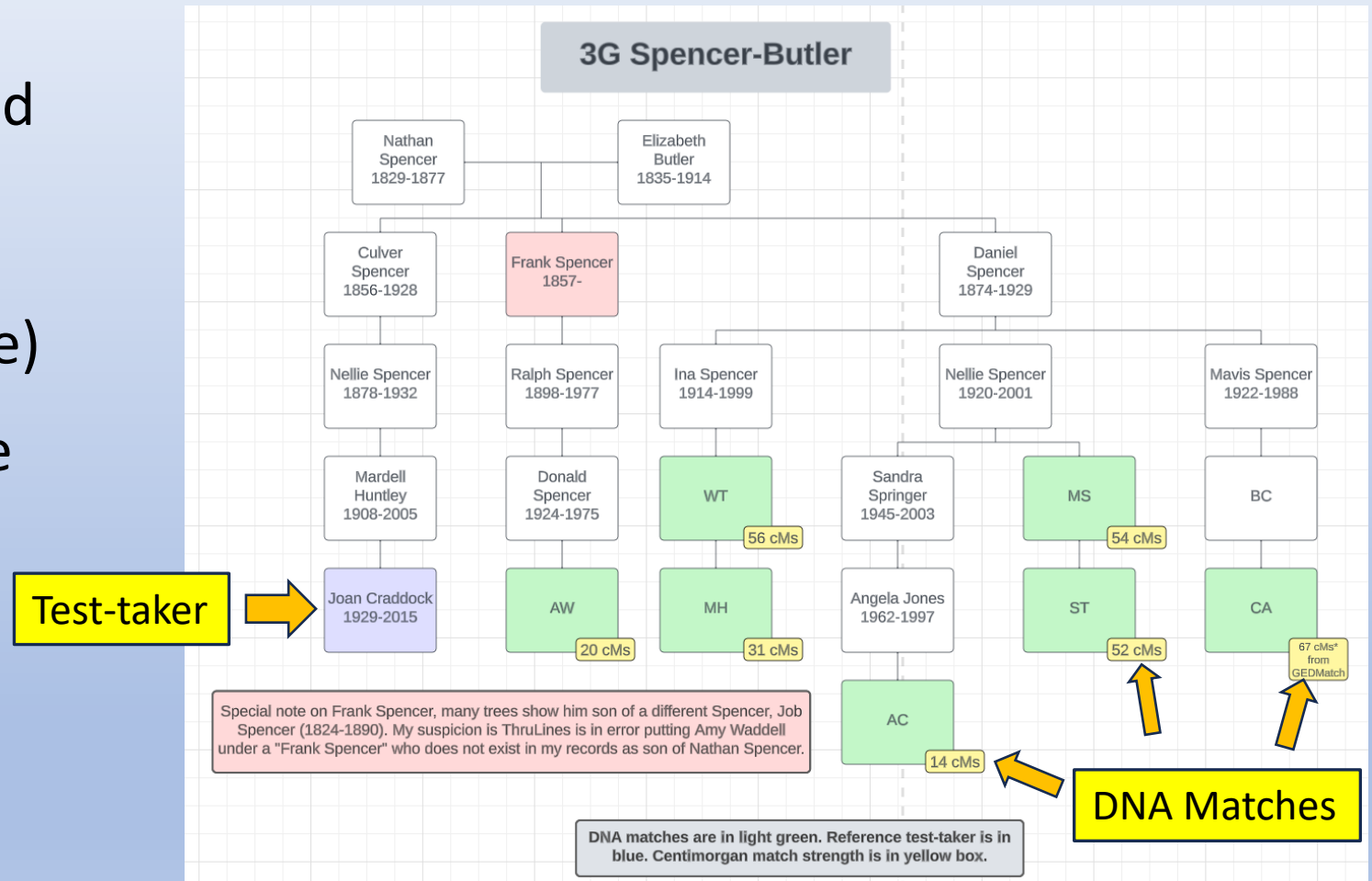
DNA Match #2

Add match strength (centiMorgans) to each DNA match in the diagram

First cousins to each other

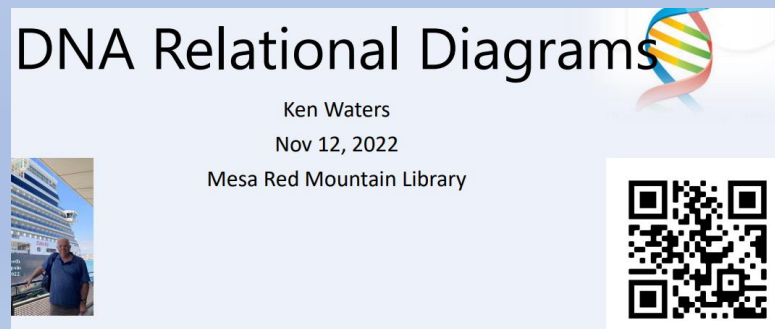
Step 3 - Connect

- An example of a completed DNA relational diagram
- This shows descendency from a 3rd great-grandparent couple (to me) 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



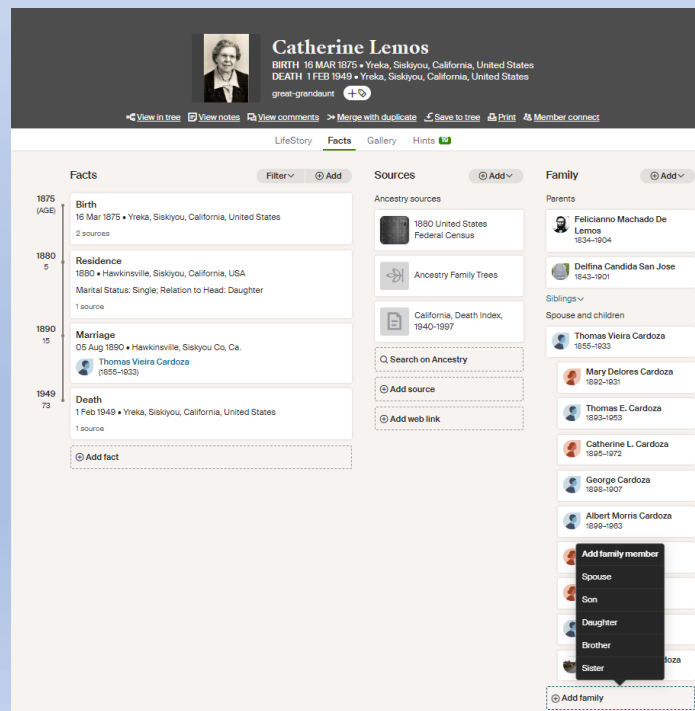
Step 3 - Connect

- 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

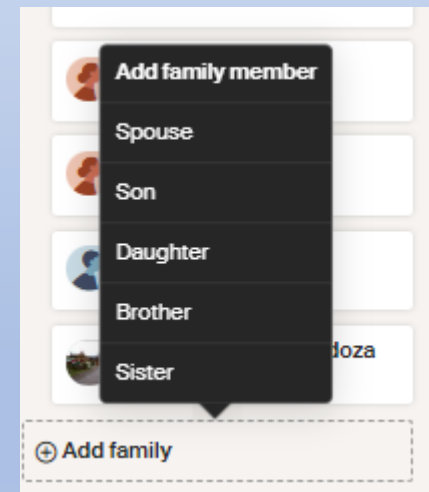


Step 3 - Connect

- Final Step:
 - Add the newly-placed DNA match into your active (public, linked, searchable) tree



The screenshot shows a genealogy profile for Catherine Lemos. The profile includes a photo, name, birth date (16 Mar 1875), birth location (Yreka, Siskiyou, California, United States), and death date (1 Feb 1949). Below the profile information are sections for Facts, Sources, and Family. The Family section is open, showing a list of family members with a dropdown menu for adding a new member. The dropdown menu options are Spouse, Son, Daughter, Brother, and Sister. The Family list includes Thomas Vieira Cardoza (1855-1933), Mary Dolores Cardoza (1892-1931), Thomas E. Cardoza (1893-1953), Catherine L. Cardoza (1895-1972), George Cardoza (1898-1907), and Albert Morris Cardoza (1899-1953). There is also an "Add family member" button at the bottom of the Family list.



A close-up of the "Add family member" dropdown menu. The menu is open, showing the following options: Spouse, Son, Daughter, Brother, and Sister. Below the menu is a dashed box containing the text "Add family".

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

+ Create custom group
New matches (39)
Mother's side (425)
Father's side (57)
★ Starred matches (28)
0 - Distant Saved Matches (16)
1 - Waters/Unknown (3)
2 - Berkley/Wheeler (31)
3 - Sylvia/Correia (63)
4 - Lemos/San Jose (122)
5 - Craddock/Spivey (138)
6 - Wood/Thurman (203)
7 - Unknown/Unknown ... (6)
8 - Spencer/Cummings (150)
Dad's non-Portuguese... (107)
Ferry/Elder on Spencer/... (3)
Inner Family (14)
Low matches (6-8) (0)
Mystery Network #6 (17)
Mystery Network #7 -- ... (10)
Mystery Network #8 -- E... (40)

Tag Groups

CLOSE FAMILY	
★ [Profile] Granddaughter, 1952/40 Possible range: Close family - 1st cousins Confidence: Extremely High	1,255 people View Match
★ [Profile] Grandson, 1879/41 Possible range: Close family - 1st cousins Confidence: Extremely High	1,255 people View Match
1ST COUSIN	
★ [Profile] (managed by [Profile]) Joan's 1st cousin, son of her aunt Laverne Craddock, 012/38. Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins Confidence: Extremely High	4,499 people View Match
2ND COUSIN	
★ [Profile] (IC1R, 448) [Profile] Granddaughter of Walter Craddock, Joan's uncle. Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins Confidence: Extremely High Last logged in 2 days ago	No family tree View Match
★ [Profile] (IC1R, 448) [Profile] Joan's 1st cousin 1x removed, grandson of her aunt Laverne, 429/25. Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins Confidence: Extremely High Last logged in Aug 27, 2017	5 people View Match
★ [Profile] (IC1R, 448) [Profile] Joan's 1st cousin 1x removed, grandson of her aunt Laverne, 429/25. Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins Confidence: Extremely High Last logged in Aug 17, 2017	No family tree View Match
★ [Profile] (IC1R, 448) [Profile] Craddock 278 ch, 14 seps. Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins Confidence: Extremely High Last logged in Sep 26, 2017	No family tree View Match
★ [Profile] (managed by [Profile]) [Profile] 263/17, IC1R granddaughter of Joan's Aunt Laverne. Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins Confidence: Extremely High Last logged in Aug 2, 2018	4,499 people View Match
★ [Profile] (IC1R, 448) [Profile] 205/12, IC2R, grandson of Beverly Auld, great-grandson of Joan's Aunt Laverne. Possible range: 2nd - 3rd cousins Confidence: Extremely High Last logged in Aug 4, 2018	No family tree View Match

Shared Matches

Quote of the Day

“DNA doesn't lie. But it sure can be misinterpreted.”

– Ken Waters

Upcoming Classes/Presentations

Tuesday, Oct 10, 6 pm

Title: All About CentiMorgans

Description: What exactly is a centiMorgan and why is it so important for DNA work?

Saturday, Nov 18, 3 pm

Title: DNA Mysteries

Description: What sort of surprises might I find when I take a DNA test? We'll cover some typical surprises that can happen including some examples of my own testing experience.



All library classes that are highlighted in blue 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>



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 [U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-2016](#)
School lists & yearbooks



Name	Ken Waters
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