



DNA Matches

HOW DO I USE THEM?

*Especially in Family History, you
don't know what you don't know
until you find it.*

THEN YOU PROVE OR DISPROVE IT.

DNA Match List



Home Trees Search Memories DNA

Identify everyone you know on your first page (you can use the drop down at the bottom of the page to increase the list to 50).

You may want to use the **Filter** at the right to limit the display by maternal/paternal side if you have a lot of close matches. There are other options as well, use what works best for you.

If there are close matches that you don't recognize we will discuss them later.

Filter + Create group Search Sort

- Parent
- Your Labels
- ☒ All matches
 - ☐ Maternal
 - ☐ Paternal
 - ☐ Both sides
- Ancestry labels
- ☐ Maternal
 - ☐ Paternal
 - ☐ Both sides
 - ☐ Unassigned

How To: Update Relationships

Update Relationships: click on the +Add button on the far right, then add/edit relationships.

Then, verify Maternal or Paternal, and chose the appropriate relationship. In this case 1/2 Neice.

Add/edit relationship

Add/edit groups

Add/edit note

+ Add

1st cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin

Paternal side

578 cM | 8% shared DNA

1/2 niece

How To: Attach Known Matches

Attach known matches to people that are already in your tree.

You and E

Brother | Both sides

48% - 55% shared DNA: 2,697 cM across 53 segments

Connect to tree Message Edit Relationship

Search for and connect

The correct person.

Search for E in Hoskins / Taylor / Roebuck / Henderson

Select the person in your tree that you would like to connect to your DNA match, Edsel154.

E

E Hoskins
1926 - 1950

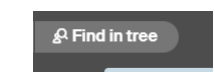
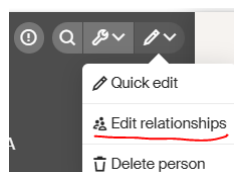
E Hoskins
1952 - Living

How To: Connect an unrelated person

Elton Robuck ☆

BIRTH 19 DEC 1890 • Altus, Franklin, Arkansas, USA
DEATH 3 MAR 1961 • Carlsbad, Eddy, New Mexico, USA

granduncle **Add tags**



Find in tree

Name

Filters

MyTreeTags™

Show tag definitions

Custom Tags

Create a child or spouse to any person on your tree. Then use

“Add tags” to create a tag you can use to filter unconnected people. You can use a preexisting tag or create a “custom tag”.

Then **immediately** edit the relationship for that person, removing all relationships. This will leave them in your tree but not connected to anyone.

To find them again at the top next to your tree name click on “Find in tree” Then choose “filters” scroll down until you find the tag you used and click on that to get a list of everyone you assigned that tag to.

Make sure you enter the information you need from the matches tree so you can use Ancestry to search for records to fill out the tree until you locate a common ancestor.

MyTreeTags™ Notes

⊕ Create a custom tag

Custom Tags

DNA Tags

Life Experience Tags

Relationships Tags

Research Status Tags

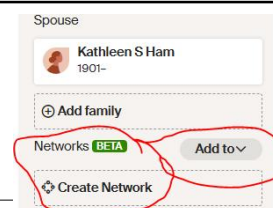
Actively Researching ⓘ

Brick Wall ⓘ

Complete ⓘ

Hypothesis ⓘ

Another Option for unknown related person



Another option for a DNA match that you do not know the relationship for is to add them to a **“Network”** or create a network for a group (or a Cluster) of people who match each other but you are unsure how they match you. Ancestry has put the search function in networks and it does allow you to attach sources and media.

Networks are a new ProTool that is still in Beta testing. If you have ProTools you can find “Networks” on any [profile fact page](#) below the family members or on your Ancestry “Home” page on the right side under ProTools.

When using these tools it is most helpful if you have more than one monitor, split screen, or just paper and pencil handy. That way you are not constantly switching back and forth between tabs to double check your information.

The Notes field

You will use the notes field to note how you are related

If possible you want to identify down to several of your 2nd cousins. You can work with 1st cousins but it is easier to identify great-grand parents with 2nd cousins.

I find it helpful to use a standard notation (1c1r Backus/Jutzluff; or 2c Backus/Koerbitz 123cM),

After you have identified and noted all you can to include 2nd cousin matches you will use those 2nd cousin matches to group all of your matches

NOTE: You can use matches that have a Common Ancestor indicated to help identify your relationship. But be skeptical when looking at these.



Identifying Your Matches

Common Ancestors: This is a great **Hint**, Remember unless you have every person already in your tree and verified with records it is just a Hint. **

Unlinked tree: They have a public tree but it is not linked to them. You may still be able to identify the match if the tree is robust.

Public linked tree: This also indicates the number of people in the tree and may provide enough information for you to identify.

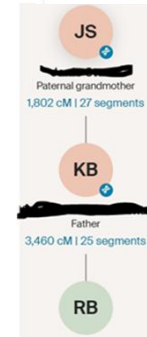
Private linked tree: the tree is private and you must ask/receive permission to view the tree. However, if it shows a Common Ancestor connection you can click on the match and the Common Ancestor will show.

** Clicking on View Relationship in a Common Ancestor will take you to a version of Thrulines to show the connection hint.

Common Ancestors

According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect [redacted] Backus and [redacted] Stuart. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects them.

[redacted] Backus and [redacted] Stuart could be paternal grandmother through:



- ☒ No trees
- ☐ Unlinked tree
- ☐ Private linked tree
- ☐ Public linked tree
- ☐ Common ancestor

Preparing to Group your matches

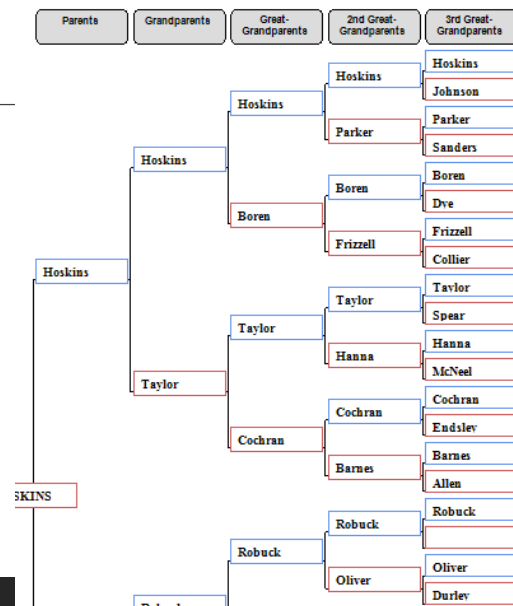
You have 4 grand parents(GP), 8 great-GP (GGP), 16 great-GGP (GGGP), etc....

1st cousins share 1 set of GP (Hoskins/Taylor)

2nd cousins share 1 set of GGP (Hoskins/Boren or Taylor/Cochran) 4 groups

3rd cousins share one set of GGGP (Hoskins/Parker, Boren/Frizzell, Taylor/Hanna, or Cochran/Barnes) 8 groups

4th cousins share one set of GGGGP (Hoskins/Johnson, Parker/Sanders, Boren/Dye....) 16 groups



Grouping – Option One

1/2 grand aunt – Dauphinee

2c Moore/Woltzen

Locate your best known 2nd cousin match (this is your 2c with the highest cM that you know how they are related, half relations will work also). Most useful are usually 2c or farther between 400cM to 90cM.

Click on the **+ Add** button and use the **Add/edit Groups** option to create your group. **Note**, the first character will be in the square color block. You may want to use a number to represent the generation, a letter for a surname, or whatever works best,

Grouping cont.

Once you have created a group label you will use that match to create your group. Click on Shared Matches.

Add each of the shared matches to the group you created.

You will repeat this step with each of your best known matches. Ideally you will end up with at 4 groups. One for each Grandparent (or GGP couple)

If your best know match is at the 3rd cousin level then your Most Recent Comon Ancestor (MRDA) is a Great-grandparent (or GGGP couple)

2nd cousin or half 1st cousin 1x removed | Maternal side
5% shared DNA: 339 cM across 16 segments

Connect to tree Message Edit Relationship

Add to group Add note

Trees Origins **Shared Matches** PRO

C. B. family tree

C. B. Linked Tree 458 People

Grouping using Clusters

Ancestry has introduced several tools for DNA Matching, including “By Cluster” as a **Pro tool**

If you have **Pro Tools** Ancestry will cluster your matches and if you scroll down the page you will see those cluster listed in groups,

You can use know people In these groups to help Identify others and create Groups.

Summary Origins **Matches** Traits

All matches By parent By ancestor **By cluster** Pro By location

View matches shared with: Select a match in this cluster

2nd cousin
Paternal side
139 cM | 2% shared DNA
Public | 31,161 p
Comm

2nd cousin
2nd cousin 1x removed or half 2nd cousin
Paternal side
136 cM | 2% shared DNA
Unlink

2nd cousin 1x removed
Paternal side
93 cM | 1% shared DNA
Public | 146 p
Comm

2nd cousin
Paternal side
91 cM | 1% shared DNA
Public | 6 p
Comm

8 matches
Paternal

5 matches
Paternal

4 matches
Paternal

You can use the Leed's Method instead of Ancestry's clusters

If you search YouTube for “[Dana Leeds](#)” you will find numerous short videos on different aspects of the Leed's Method of clustering your matches. Each of these videos is 8 to 20 minutes and easy to understand. It is well worth your time to watch them.

Work through your matches.

As you work through your matches make sure you are using the note filed to make meaningful relationship notes. By using groups and making notes it makes it much easier to see how each new person might be related.

As you figure out how a match is related next is to put that person in your tree. Remember Ancestry **PRIVATIZES** anyone less than 120 years old who doesn't have a death date, So even if your tree is public living people are listed as private



The screenshot shows a match card for a 2nd cousin on the paternal side. The match is 577 cM with 8% shared DNA. The match is public and linked to 32 people. The match is common. The match is a 2c Taylor/Cochran, through MaryJane d of Uncle Fred. [son is home pers...]

Now You Do Genealogy

Work with one specific group at a time.

Look for matches with

- Common Ancestors
- Trees with at least 3 or 4 generations
- Surnames in common
- Locations that make sense

Even if you don't recognize any of the surnames if there are surnames in common then you need to consider that common surname belongs to your family even if you have never seen it before.

With ProTools, you can look at the 'shared matches' and sort by how those shared matches are related to your match rather than to you. This may lead you to closer matches to your match which in turn can provide clues to how you are all related

[show match of [1/2 niece](#) with her 1/2 nephews]