Finding Relationships to Your Matches

Question: Many of my matches have private trees, unlinked trees, undeveloped trees, or no trees. How can I determine the most recent common ancestors shared by me and my DNA matches?

Methods:

▶ Scan unlinked trees for clues

▶ Messaging

▶ ThruLines

▶ Extending Trees

▶ Dot System

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12/16/2023

Method 1 : Messaging

Use the Ancestry.com messaging system to contact your match and request information on their lineage.

Often matches do not respond

- ▶ Your matches may not receive the message or notice the icon that shows they have a message.

- ▶ They may not regularly visit Ancestry.

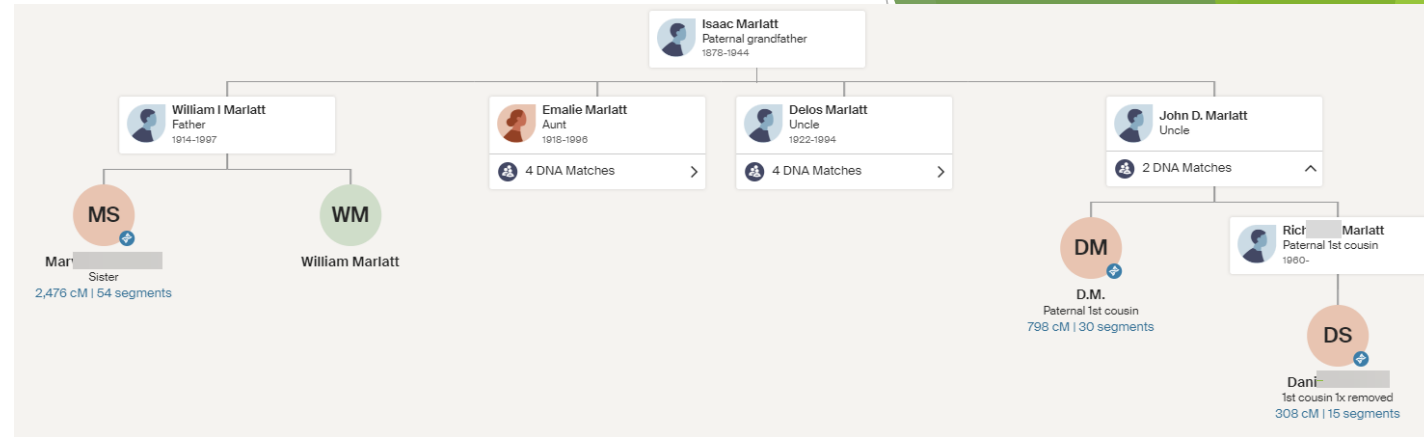- ▶ They may be working on other priorities.

If they don't respond:

- ▶ Google their username. Search FaceBook, LinkedIn, etc.

- ▶ If they have a GEDmatch account, check for an email address.

- ▶ Find their postal/email address in FamilyTreeNow.com.

You and Mar░░░░░░

Sister | Both sides

44% - 51% shared DNA: 2,476 cM across 54 segments

Connect to tree   Message   Edit Relationship

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Method 2: ThruLines

▶ Set up ThruLines and use it to identify you and your matches' relationships and common ancestors.

▶ Click here for ThruLines set up Instructions

▶ For ThruLines to work, you must link your family tree to your DNA test, and ensure that your linked tree is public or private but searchable.

▶ ThruLines will not work for matches with unlinked trees, trees that are private and not searchable, and with no trees.
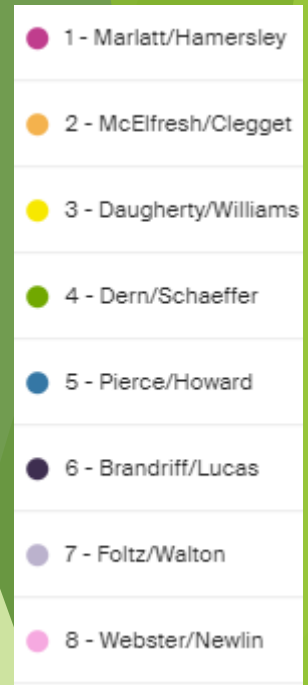
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Method 3: Extending Trees

▶ Extend your match's small Public Tree or Unlinked Tree back to your ancestors using genealogy. Obituaries can be helpful in identifying family groups.

▶ Some Public Trees only include privatized individuals. Also, private trees are inaccessible.

▶ It may be difficult to identify where your match fits into Unlinked Trees. Your match may not be the person at the base of the tree.

▶ Building a tree from a few known family members, can be difficult. Use the "Search on Ancestry" button for help in extending a lineage. Review member trees with extensive sources.

Emalie Marlatt
BIRTH 02 NOV 1918 • Jasper County, Indiana, USA
DEATH 24 MAY 1996 • West Columbia, Brazoria, Texas, USA
aunt

View in tree   View notes   View comments   Merge with duplicate   Save to tree   Print   Member connect

LifeStory   **Facts**   Gallery   Hints 18   Explore

Filter   ⊕ Add   **Sources**   ⊕ Add∨   **Family**   ⊕ Add∨

Jasper County, Indiana, USA

Q Search on Ancestry

Parents

Isaac Marlatt

Method 4: Dot System

- Assign a color to each Ancestral couple back to the 2nd great grandparents or further.

- Use ThruLines to find known ancestral couples for your DNA matches.

- Use the Add/Edit Button to add the color groups relating to the most recent ancestral couples of your matches.

- Click on the Shared Matches Button of known matches and tag shared matches with the same dot color as held by the known match.

- Pull up your match with the unknown lineage from your match list. Click on the Shared Matches Button. Scan the dot colors of the shared matches. This will give clues on who is your most recent shared common ancestral couple.

- Endogamy and pedigree collapse create difficulty in colorizing your matches.

1 - Marlatt/Hamersley
2 - McElfresh/Clegget
3 - Daugherty/Williams
4 - Dern/Schaeffer
5 - Pierce/Howard
6 - Brandriff/Lucas
7 - Foltz/Walton
8 - Webster/Newlin

You and Mar⬛⬛⬛

Sister | Both sides

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⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤ ⊕ Add/edit groups ⊟ Add note

Trees   Ethnicity   Shared Matches

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For Further Information

1. Don Worth, Why Doesn't My Match Have a Public Tree????, Ancestry DNA Tips, 31 March, 2019

2. Ancestry.com, AncestryDNA® ThruLines®, https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/AncestryDNA-ThruLines?language=en_US

3. Diahan Southard, AncestryDNA Dot System: How to Use It!, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRrEEDziYAs&ab_channel=YourDNAGuide

4. Ancestry.com, AncestryDNA® Shared Matches, https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/AncestryDNA-Shared-Matches?language=en_US

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