

# How to Build Quick Trees

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## OBJECTIVES

This guide will introduce you to Quick Trees for genetic matches.

Specifically, this guide will help you:

- Understand what a Quick Tree is
- Learn how to build Quick Trees
- Learn tips and tricks to identify DNA matches that have no trees
- Identify living individuals and more recent generations

## QUICK TREES

Quick Trees will help you:

- Identify the pedigree of a genetic match
- Verify a match's tree
- Identify the most recent common ancestor
- Identify where a match meets your own tree

## WHAT IS A QUICK TREE?

- Occurs after you have clustered your DNA matches; to learn more about clustering, watch "Grouping DNA matches" from the 2022 DNA Day at <https://www.facebook.com/familysearchlibrary/videos/532133501637148/>
- A Quick Tree is your workshop space, a tree that is currently in process
- Not necessarily well-researched or complete
- May contain errors
- Created on Ancestry.com

## STARTING THE TREE

- Add the name of the match and their parents, if this information is known.
- The more information added, the greater the likelihood of hints.
- Next, make the tree private and unsearchable to prevent others from finding your research; in your tree settings, choose privacy settings and select the options "private" and "also prevent your tree from being found in searches."

- Once you have created your private, unsearchable tree, use a match's tree as a starting point (but do not assume the match's tree is correct).
- Verify each generation with at least two sources to help ensure each relationship is correct.

## **HOW TO**

- Take advantage of the suggested hints. Use these as suggestions for your research. Do not assume a hint is correct until you have correlated the hint with research. Be sure to move beyond suggested hints. Add your known information to the general search and evaluate the results.
- Use online trees like Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage for hints. Make sure to evaluate the sources within these online trees.
- Do not add individuals solely because they are suggested. Suggested individuals may be wrong.
- Avoid adding pictures, as adding pictures tags your account and renders it no longer unsearchable and lets others see the name of your tree, as well as your profile.

## **TIPS AND TRICKS FOR SUCCESS**

- Pay attention to the locations of the individuals. Follow the locality of interest. For example, if you have a German research problem, do not follow an Italian line.
- Is your research problem paternal or maternal? Ancestry.com shows you whether the match is maternal or paternal. Ignore the maternal matches if you have a paternal research problem. Don't ignore the unassigned matches; these indicate the computer was unable to identify whether the match was paternal or maternal, but these matches are still helpful for your research.

## **IDENTIFYING MATCHES WITH NO TREES**

### **HINTS FROM MATCHES**

- Profile photo
- Manager of the DNA match
- Username/name of DNA match

### **ACCOUNT PROFILE**

- Location of individual
- Profile photo
- Age
- Surnames of interest
- Areas of interest
- Other trees

### **ANCESTRY PRO TOOLS**

- See how much DNA your matches share and their predicted relationships to each other

- Look for a high number of cM (typically 400 cM or more) shared between an unknown match and one of your shared matches. The higher the number of cM, the closer the common ancestor and the higher the likelihood of knowing each other. Once a match has been located, use their tree, social media, etc., to identify your unknown match.

## IDENTIFYING LIVING INDIVIDUALS AND RECENT GENERATIONS

### NEWSPAPERS

- Google News <https://news.google.com/newspapers>
- Google
  - Search examples:
    - Newspapers: Googling city or county, followed by the phrase newspaper archive, such as: Salt Lake City newspaper archive
    - The person's name and date of death, such as: Lucy Smith died on 1 January 2024
    - Adding the place of death to the name and date of death, such as: Lucy Smith died on 1 January 2024 in New York City
    - If looking for deceased relatives of a living individual, use the phrase "survived by" in quotation marks, followed by the name, such as: "survived by" Carol Adams Smith
- Newspapers.com
- Newspaper Archive

### SOCIAL MEDIA

- Instagram: followers, following, bio
- Facebook: likes, comments, "about" section, friends
- Pinterest: following, followers
- LinkedIn

### PUBLIC RECORDS

- BeenVerified
- PeopleFinders