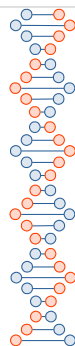


Reverse Genealogy

Identifying and Organizing Your Ancestry DNA Matches

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Results of Reverse Genealogy

- Identified about 8,000 descendants of David & Harriet Farr, plus thousands of spouses and other (non-Farr) ancestors of our DNA matches
- Verified 350 DNA Matches who are descendants of David & Harriet
- Identified 5 hypothetical siblings of David – Margaret, Penelope, Jane, Samuel, and Henry – verified by 89 DNA matches



Why Reverse Genealogy?

- Most of us built our family trees from the present to the past, striving to go as far back in time as possible. That's still our goal, but:
- Our DNA matches are (mostly) living people
- Reverse genealogy means tracing the descendants of an ancestral couple forward to the present day

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Groups

- Ancestry has very recently begun to identify every test taker's maternal and paternal matches even if
 - Parents haven't tested
 - Test taker hasn't identified maternal or paternal matches
- Corresponding options have been added to the group selections

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Garland's DNA Matches

23andMe

Filter by: Unassigned Common ancestors Messages Notes Trees Shared DNA Groups Search & Sort

Close Family

Cheryl Chasin Niece 1598 cM / 23% shared DNA Both sides Public linked tree 248 People Common ancestor

Neelam Nephew 1598 cM / 23% shared DNA Both sides Unlinked Tree

Grandmother 1712 cM / 18% shared DNA Both sides No Trees

1st cousin 7x removed 700 cM / 10% shared DNA Paternal side Unlinked Tree

Customize

By parent

All matches

Paternal

Maternal

Both sides

Unassigned

Custom labeled maternal side

Custom labeled paternal side

Custom labeled both sides

Custom groups

New matches (24)

Shared matches with mother? Buy kit

Shared matches with father? Buy kit

Using Custom Groups

- Just like regular genealogy, start with what you know
- In most cases, a different dot for each set of great-grandparents will work well to start.
- If you have any first cousins (or 1C1R etc) who have tested, tag them first. They'll each get two dots.
- Next, identify descendants of your great-grandparents. This is where many of us will need to add to our family trees.

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Garland's DNA Matches

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Customize

Custom labeled both sides

Custom groups

New matches (24)

Shared matches (1)

Run Project (2)

Garland's Family (1)

Rick Mitchell (1)

Rogers/Pear (2)

Helen (2)

Modern matches (1)

Shared matches with mother? Buy kit

Shared matches with father? Buy kit

Why Not Group by Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA)?

- Unless your tree is already very well developed, you probably won't know who the MRCA is. That's what we're trying to figure out.
- Eventually, you'll run out of colored dots
- If you know the MRCA, put it in the Note as the first thing, like this: Smith/Jones

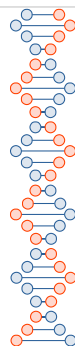
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Why Not Start With Distant Matches?

- You can't trust other people's trees
- Absent other information, how do you know which family they belong to?
- Identifying your closest matches makes it easier to:
 - Identify more distant ones accurately
 - Spot errors in ThruLines

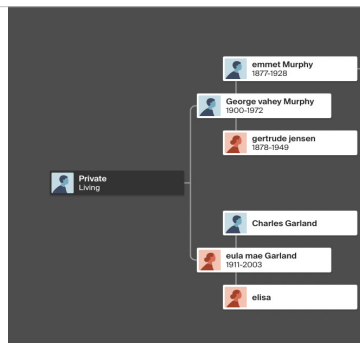
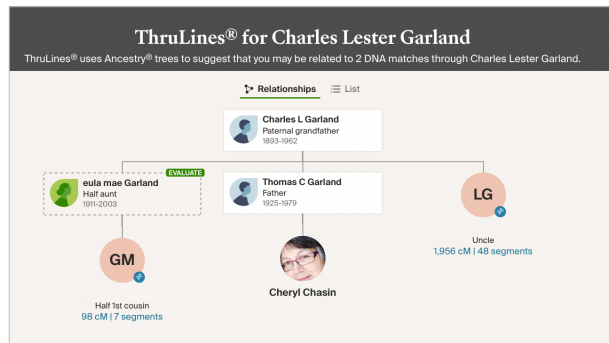
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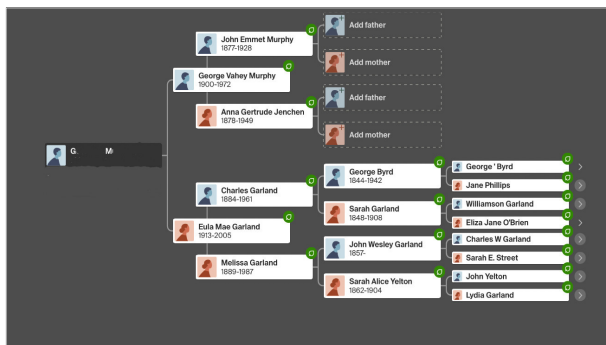
Why Not Just Rely on ThruLines?

- ThruLines is based on two things:
 - DNA matches
 - Family trees on Ancestry
- DNA doesn't lie
- But other people's family trees . . .

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Common Problems

- Pedigree collapse
 - Multiple lines of descent from the same ancestral couple
 - Not a result of incest - 2nd and 3rd cousin marriages are very common
 - Will affect amount of shared DNA
- Endogamy
 - Everyone really is related to everybody else
 - In multiple ways
 - Over many generations

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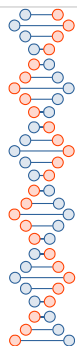


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Solutions

- Thorough genealogical research
- Careful review of shared matches
- Look for the ones who left

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Practical Tips

- Availability of official records varies enormously by state and type of record. Ancestry has marriage records for Virginia through 2014. Through 1995, digital images of the marriage license and return are available.
- Newspapers frequently announce:
 - Births
 - Engagements and marriages
 - Divorces
 - Deaths
 - Other events

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Finding Newspapers

- Subscription sites
 - Newspapers.com
 - GenealogyBank
- Libraries
 - Library of Congress *Chronicling America*
 - State libraries, archives
 - Public libraries
 - University libraries and archives

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Obituaries

- Newspaper obits are expensive, \$400 - \$500
- DignityMemorial.com, Legacy.com, TributeArchive.com can be useful
- Local funeral home websites are the best
- FindAGrave (use with caution)
 - Edited obituaries
 - Unreliable information

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Other Sources

- FamilyTreeNow and its competitors
- County government websites, like Buncombe County's Register of Deeds
- Google
- Facebook
- Heritage books

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Where Did They Go?

- Just like backtracking your family and not knowing where they came from, you'll have to figure out where they went
- Learn about common migrations in your area and families of interest
- Common migration paths varied over time, such as 19th century movement from WNC to Texas, Kansas, and points west

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Modern (20th century) Migrations

- To Gastonia or Spartanburg to work in the textile mills
- To the Pacific Northwest to work in the logging industry after the forests here were logged out
- Smaller groups -
 - From Madison County to Nottoway County, Virginia
 - From Mitchell County to southern PA, northern MD
 - From Graham County to the area around Eatonton, GA

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Reverse Genealogy in Practice

The Farr Project

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A Little Background

- David Farr was born about 1800, supposedly in Tennessee
- David married Harriet Mackey 31 Aug 1820 in Blount County, TN
- David & Harriet had 5 sons and 4 daughters
- David died between 1850 and 1860, and Harriet is listed as a widow in the 1860 Census for Cherokee County, NC with (now Graham County) her two unmarried daughters



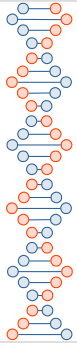
Who was David's Father???

- **NOT** Ephraim Farr of Mecklenburg County, NC, who left a will in 1785 naming a son, David
- We aren't ignoring Harriet; we already know who her parents were



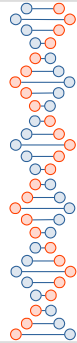
What We Knew When We Started

- Many DNA matches with descendants of David and Harriet
- Also some DNA matches with descendants of Farris other than David
- Other trees can be missing, incomplete, or just plain wrong, like all the trees that identify our David as David Dickson Farr, son of Ephraim Farr or that identify Margaret Farr Morton of Blount County, TN as Ephraim's daughter



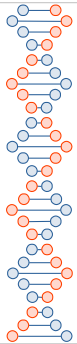
We Decided To:

- Trace as many descendants of David and Harriet as possible
- Identify those who are DNA matches to our kits
- Identify and verify the matches we believe to be descended from other Farris
- Identify candidates for possible Y testing (or perhaps individuals who have already tested)



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New DNA!

- Always test the earliest generation you can
- Test at Ancestry first, then upload to other sites