

# Ancestry Dna Matches

How your cousins' DNA can help you with your research.

PAGE 1

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Today's Plan

- cM (centimorgan) Briefly
- Navigating the DNA Match Screen
- Creating Groups
- Getting the Most out of Shared Matches
- Case Study

PAGE 2

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## cM Centimorgan Briefly

- Centimorgan is a unit to measure genetic linkage. It tells you how much DNA you share with your match.
- Sharing a larger segment of DNA indicates a closer match.
- Fewer, smaller segments indicates a more distant match.
- Want to learn more about genetic DNA? Visit Blaine Bettinger's site <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/>
- Blaine's Shared cM project graphic. <https://d.docs.live.net/1b97747af1f13cd/Desktop/centimorgan-chart-pdf.pdf>

Parent/Child

thegenlib      Father  
3,421 cM | 50% shared DNA  
Father's side

3

---

---

---

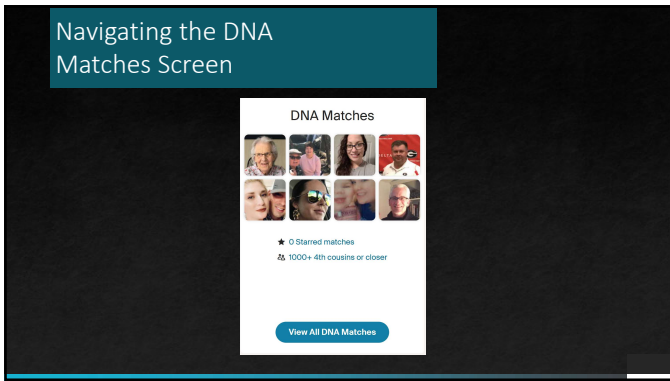
---

---

---

---

---



4

---

---

---

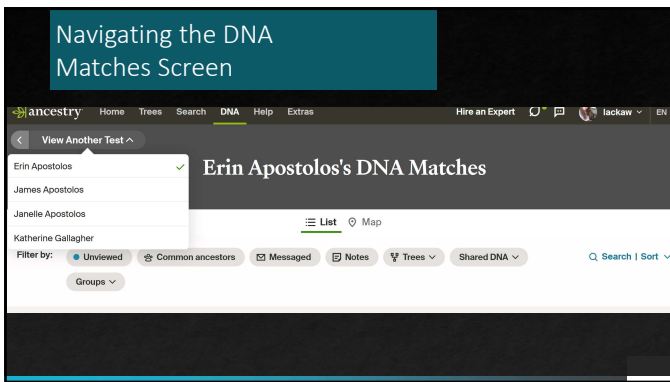
---

---

---

---

---



5

---

---

---

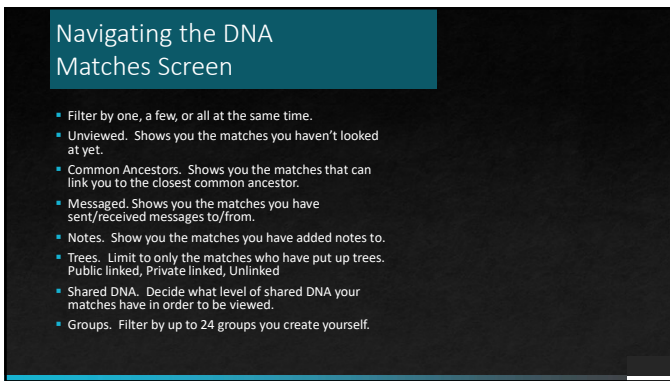
---

---

---

---

---



6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Navigating the DNA Matches Screen

2nd - 3rd Cousin  
128 cM | 2% shared DNA

Public Linked tree  
500 People  
Common ancestor

Do you recognize them?  
Yes Learn more

How do we estimate DNA relationships?

**Possible DNA relationships**  
This table shows the percentage of the time people sharing 128 cM have the following relationship.

Percent	Relationship
50%	2nd cousin 1x removed Half 2nd cousin 1st cousin 3x removed Half 1st cousin 2x removed
31%	2nd cousin 1st cousin 2x removed Half 1st cousin 1x removed Half great-granduncle/grandnephew Half great-grandniece/grandnephew

**Common Ancestors**  
According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and Michael Brown. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you.  
Michael Brown could be your 3rd cousin through:

- Timothy Hopkins  
2nd great-grandfather  
1838-1908  
View Relationship
- Honor Ryan  
2nd great-grandmother  
1842-  
View Relationship

- 2nd Cousin 1x Removed
- 50% Half 2nd Cousin
- 50% 1st Cousin 3x Removed
- 50% Half 1st Cousin 2x Removed
- 31% 2nd Cousin
- 31% 1st Cousin 2x Removed
- 31% Half 1st Cousin 1x Removed
- 31% Half Great-granduncle
- 31% Half Great-grandnephew
- 19% 3rd Cousin

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Navigating the DNA Matches Screen

- Public Linked Tree with 3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin. Our shared ancestors are in green. We share Great-Great-Grandparents. His Great-Grandmother Margaret Hopkins Brown is sisters with my Great-Grandmother Mary Hopkins McGrath.

Michael Hopkins

Timothy Hopkins

Joseph Jennings

Mary Jennings

Ann Farrel

Margaret E Brown

Thomas Ryan

Honora Ryan

Honore Murphy

8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Navigating the DNA Matches Screen

Filter by: Unviewed Common ancestors Messaged Notes Trees Shared DNA

Groups Reset filters

Match name: [First name, last name or username] Surname in matcher's trees: [Surname in matcher's trees] Birth location in matcher's trees: [Birth location in matcher's trees] Search Cancel

Include similar surnames

Filter by: Unviewed Common ancestors Messaged Notes Trees Shared DNA

Groups Reset filters

Relationship: Close to distant ✓  
Date: Newest to oldest

9

---

---

---

---

---

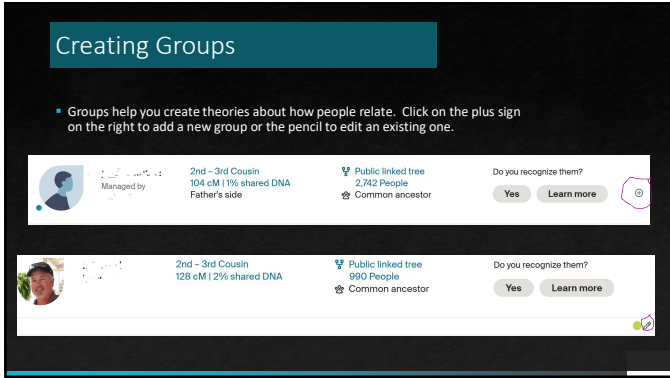
---

---

---

---

---



10

---

---

---

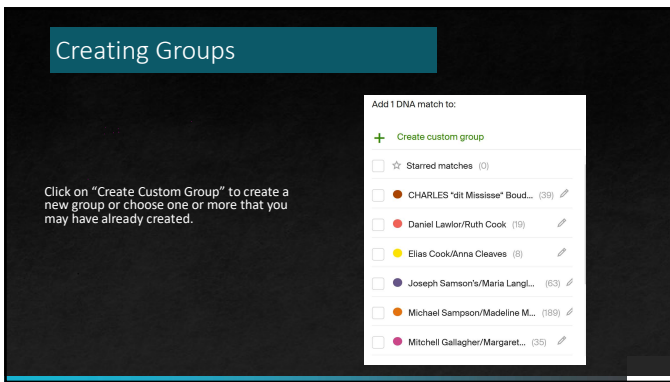
---

---

---

---

---



11

---

---

---

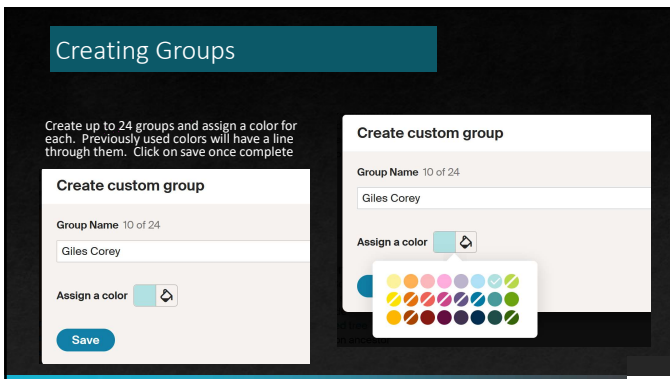
---

---

---

---

---



12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Creating Groups

Once you've put a number of shared matches into a group, you can filter by them.

- Joseph Samson's/Maria L... (63)
- Michael Sampson/Madel... (189)
- Mitchell Gallagher/Margar... (35)
- Patrick McGarr Descendants (7)
- Timothy Hopkins/Hanora... (48) ✓
- William Gallagher/Jane Do... (18)

Reset Apply

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Getting the Most Out of Shared DNA

Look for a close match with a Public Linked tree with a good amount of people in it. Click on their name (whited out below) to see how you match.

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Getting the Most Out of Shared DNA

From this screen you can add a relationship, message the person, add or edit the group, add a note about them, view your shared ethnicity and your shared matches. If they have a public tree, you can view it, and if there is a common ancestor, you can see it here.

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Getting the Most Out of Shared DNA

From this screen you can add a relationship, message the person and view previous messages, add or edit the group, add a note about them, view your shared ethnicity and your shared matches. If they have a public tree, you can view it, and if there is a common ancestor, you can see it here. Shared ancestor last names and shared ancestor birth locations are also on this screen.

**Notes**

Michael told me that his great-grandfather and mine were both in the British Army and best friends. They married sisters Margaret and Mary. This explained why his G. Grandfather's name was similar to mine. He was a witness on Thomas McGrath's naturalization.

240 characters remaining

[Save](#) [Cancel](#)

Who is Mrs Michael McGrath on Timothy Hopkins death certificate? I guess it cannot be Mary if she is married to Thomas at the time.

04:32 PM

05:12 PM

Hmmm...good point! 58 Nahant street was the address of Thomas and Mary. I'm not sure who Michael was. Thomas died about two weeks after Timothy. Maybe a typo? I'll have to look into it further. I'm not sure why I hadn't caught that before.

16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Getting the Most Out of Shared DNA

Ethnicity estimates can help you figure out which part of your family an unknown ethnicity might come from. Remember these estimates are constantly being updated and what might be here today could be gone tomorrow. So take them with a grain of salt.

**Ethnicity Estimates**

You		Michael Brown
83%	Ireland	48%
19%	Scotland	0%
2%	Norway	0%
0%	Eastern Europe & Russia	43%
0%	Baltics	8%
0%	Wales	2%
0%	European British	0%

17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Getting the Most Out of Shared DNA

Shared matches can help you understand how you relate to an unknown relative. It limits family members that you both match. It can help you fill in the gaps in your family tree.

2nd - 3rd Cousin  
325 cM | 5% shared DNA

Public linked tree  
65 People

Do you recognize them?  
[Yes](#) [Learn more](#)

2nd - 3rd Cousin  
159 cM | 2% shared DNA

Unlinked Tree

Do you recognize them?  
[Yes](#) [Learn more](#)

2nd - 3rd Cousin  
111 cM | 2% shared DNA

Public linked tree  
830 People  
Common ancestor

Do you recognize them?  
[Yes](#) [Learn more](#)

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

### Case Study

One day I found a surprise DNA Match. I messaged him as there aren't a lot of close relatives on my mother's side of the tree. He said his father had been illegitimate and never knew his father.



**GEORGE**

2nd cousin  
378 cM | 15% shared DNA  
Mother's side

Public linked tree  
6 People

[View match](#)

George is likely my second cousin, grandson of my maternal grandmother Margaret McGarr McGrath's brother John H. McGarr, who lived in Rochester, NY at the same time George's father was conceived, who was born in Rochester, NY. George comes up as a closer match than that. Our shared matches indicate that we also connect distantly on my paternal grandmother's French-Canadian line.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

19

### Case Study

Shared matches between George and me. These are second cousins known to me who also hit as second cousins with similar cM on George's matches. Jane, Maureen and I share common great-grandparents and our grandparents were McGarr siblings.




**Jane**

2nd cousin  
244 cM | 3% shared DNA  
Mother's side

Public linked tree  
7 People  
Common ancestor

[View match](#)



**Maureen**

2nd cousin  
215 cM | 3% shared DNA  
Mother's side

Public linked tree  
67 People  
Common ancestor

[View match](#)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

20

### Case Study

George's father was born in Rochester, NY 19 Nov 1920. My maternal grandmother had one sibling who lived in Rochester, NY at the time of George's father's birth and conception. He lived there from at least 1915 until his death in 1965 except for serving during WWI. According to the 1920 Census, George's father's mother, Anna, was married in 1920, living in Rochester, NY and estranged from her husband. She would have been pregnant with George's father at the time of the census but did not list her husband as the father on the birth certificate. Anna and John McGarr lived only a few minutes from each other according to their addresses in the 1920 census.

Though John's occupation is listed as clerk in a cigar store in 1920, my mother told me that he "been run out of town as a bootlegger" and I found five newspaper articles reporting his arrest due to handling illegal liquor. He worked as a bartender prior to prohibition, so it would seem Mom was right about that.

If John worked at a speakeasy, it could be that Anna met him there, or some place else in the neighborhood. John never married or had any (known) children.

**Liquor Handlers Fined**

Fines of \$300 were imposed on Simplicio di Berardino and John H. McGarr, both of Rochester, following pleas of guilty to possession of liquor. Charles Winters,

**IN FIVE RAIDS BY DRY AGENTS**

rels of beer; 485 Main Street East. John McGarr, whiskey, gin and two half-barrels of beer.

**Wet Goods Seized By Agents in Raids**

prietary. A second raid on a speakeasy at 97 Bain Street resulted in the arrest of John McGarr and the seizure of half a barrel of beer.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

21

### Case Study

- There were three other McGarr brothers. One was killed in action in France, one had left home in Woburn, MA for Chicago and one married, moved to Beverly, MA. Two of his descendants are the second cousins that both George and I match. Though it could be that the brother in Chicago visited Rochester long enough to conceive George's father, it isn't likely. It is likely that John McGarr is George's grandfather.

22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Case Study

- To further confuse matters, George and I also match on my father's side. Our shared matches show that it is distantly on my paternal grandmother's French-Canadian line, but I haven't found our common ancestor on that side yet. Due to this "double match", our shared cM is higher than just second cousin, and was causing me some confusion at first.

atarseneault	4th - 6th Cousin 41 cM   < 1% shared DNA Father's side	No Trees	Do you recognize them? <input type="button" value="Yes"/> <input type="button" value="Learn more"/>
Alana Hall	4th - 6th Cousin 39 cM   < 1% shared DNA Father's side	No Trees	Do you recognize them? <input type="button" value="Yes"/> <input type="button" value="Learn more"/>

23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---