

Connecting Floating Trees on Ancestry

[VIDEO LINK](#)

What is a Floating Tree?

Floating trees, ancestors, or floating branches are people or branches that are disconnected from anyone else in your main tree.

This strategy has its advantages when you are not sure about how someone is related or if they are part of the F.A.N. Club (Friends, Associates, and Neighbors). This comes in handy if you find a record that you're not sure if the person is related to you or not, or you have DNA matches where they show potential ancestors in their trees.

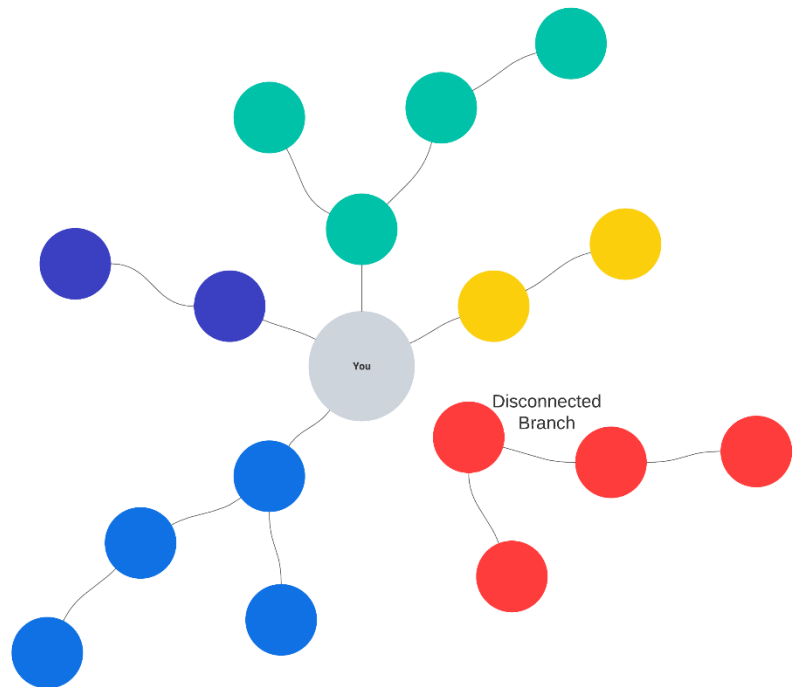
By adding "Floaters" to your main tree you can use the Ancestry.com algorithm to help you find records, connect to your DNA tests, and connect with others who are researching the same person.

If you had created a separate tree for these floating ancestors or branches, the disadvantage of using a separate tree is that you can't use DNA matches (if the DNA kit is connected to your main tree). Additionally, if you do figure out that this floater is related to you, it is harder to import them into your main tree. Thus, having them in your main tree, but disconnected, has huge advantages.

If you have floaters in your tree, you will not be able to find them again unless you use one of the strategies below or do a simple search for their name in the tree search. If (sometime later) you forgot who the floaters are, then you're up a creek without a paddle... unless you use hyperlink or the MyTreeTags[®] on Ancestry. More on that below.

Getting Oriented – Set Yourself as the Home Person

Because it is easy to get lost in your family tree, use yourself as the Home Person in your tree. Then all you have to do is click the home icon on the left side in the tree view to reorient yourself in the tree view. You likely did this when you first set up your tree. If not, there are instructions below on how to set yourself as the home person.



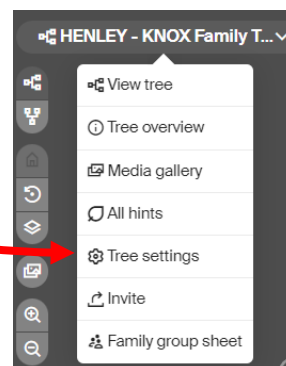
GenealogyTV.org



YouTube.com/GenealogyTV

How to Set Yourself as the Home Person

- To set yourself as the Home Person in your tree, you'll first need to login and **go to the tree** you wish to set yourself as the Home Person. If you only have one tree then go to the next step.
- In the Tree View, click the down arrow to the right of your tree name and go to **Tree Settings**.
- On the upper right side, **Set or Change the Home Person**.
- Browse a list of everyone in your tree to **find yourself**.
- Check the box that says **"I have selected myself as the Home Person."**
- Click **Select** and you're done.



How to Create A Floater

Creating the Floating Persons Profile

- First add the person as any relationship to anyone, because you're going to disconnect them immediately to make them float by themselves.
- From the profile view of a person in your tree, click the **+ Add** button in the upper right column.
- Add the information about the floating person you want to create.
- **Pay attention to the parents radio buttons** so you know who he is connecting to so you know who you will disconnect in the next step, then hit **save**.
- Next you'll want to **disconnect all relationships** so that newly created person floats alone.

Disconnecting the Floater Profile From Everyone Else

- Click into the newly created **Floater Profile**.
- In the upper right corner, click on **Edit**, then **Edit Relationships**.
- Click the **X** to the right of any name that is connected to this person so they are not connected to anyone, and **confirm by clicking Remove**. You're not removing the person from the tree, just the relationship to the profile person.

How to Create Hyperlinks

- Before leaving the Floaters profile, **copy the URL** in the address bar so you can create a hyperlink with it.
- Flip back to the original person you think has a relationship with the Floater and add a weblink in the Sources column.
 - Click on the **+ Add** button in the **Sources column** and choose **Add Weblink**.
 - Enter the **URL and a Name** that identifies the person and what it is (i.e. a DNA Match, or Possible Mother, etc.)
- Remember to repeat this process in the opposite direction adding a Weblink in the Floaters profile back to the original person's profile.

Finding Floaters

There are three ways to find your floaters within your tree.

- **Create Hyperlinks** (as described in the previous section).
- **Search by name in the tree view.** (But what if you forget who you created as floaters?)
- Use **Custom Tree Tags** (best solution). I find this to be the best option, but you need to remember to add the Tree Tags when you create the floater.

How to Use MyTreeTags® for Floaters

- Click into the Floating Ancestors Profile
- Under the profile name, birth and death info at the top of the screen, there is a tag icon.
- Click on the **tree tag icon** and it will open a side panel on the right.
- **Create Custom Tag called Floater, or Floating Tree.**

The screenshot shows the MyTreeTags interface for a profile named Wilhelm Jensen. At the top, there is a tag icon (a plus sign in a circle) next to the birth and death information. A red arrow points from this icon to a side panel on the right. The side panel shows a list of custom tags, including 'Biological Line', 'Civil War', 'FAN Club See Web Links', 'Floating Tree', 'SEE COMMENTS', and 'Weak link to his father'. The 'Floating Tree' tag is highlighted with a green checkmark and a red circle, and a red arrow points to it from the tag icon on the profile.

- Then **label all Floaters** with the Floater tree tag and you'll have a nice neat list of the floating ancestors in your tree.

To see the Floaters List

- Go to your **tree view**.
- Click **Search** (upper right)
- Click **Filters**
- Click **Custom Tags**
- **Create a Floating Tree tag**

The screenshot shows the Tree Search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Type in a name or select a filter to search'. Below the search bar, there is a filter button labeled 'Floating Tree X'. Underneath, there is a 'Filters' button with a green checkmark. The search results are displayed in a list format, showing 'Fritz E. Glenewinkle 1912 -' and 'Wilhelm Jensen 1873 -'.

How to Connect Floaters to Your Main Tree

So, now you have floaters in your tree and doing further research you discover how this person is related to you. How do you connect them to your main tree? (The one that is your “go to” primary tree).

To add a floater to your main tree is rather simple since you already have their profile created in the tree, they’re just disconnected.

- Find the floater by either **searching** for them in the **tree view**, find them using the previously created **hyperlinks**, or find them by filter to the **tree tags** as described in the previous steps.
- **Click into their Profile View.**
- **Add a Person** From your main tree to the Floaters Profile - Instead of adding them as a new person you want to add them as **“someone already in your tree.”**
- Next **search for the person you are connecting to** that is in the main tree. In this example, we’re connecting the floater Wilhelm Jensen to Christiane Beck (below).
- Repeat this for other parents or other relationships you wish to connect to this previous floating person.
- Keep in mind that if you had a floating branch and connected just one person in that branch the entire branch is now connected to the main tree (for all ancestors that were connected to that one branch).

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Add a mother for Wilhelm Jensen". On the left, there is a search bar with the text "Select someone in your tree" and a red box around it. Below the search bar is a red arrow pointing to the "Add new person" button. On the right, there is a form for "Add new person" with fields for "First and middle name", "Maiden name", and "Suffix". Below these are radio buttons for "Gender" (Male, Female, Unknown) and "Status" (Deceased, Living). There are also fields for "Birth date" and "Birthplace", and "Death date" and "Death place". At the bottom are "Save" and "Cancel" buttons.

The screenshot shows the profile view for Wilhelm Jensen. The "Facts" tab is selected. A dialog box titled "Add a mother for Wilhelm Jensen" is open. On the left, there is a search bar with the text "Select someone in your tree" and a red box around it. Below the search bar is a red arrow pointing to the search results. On the right, there is a search bar with the text "Select someone in your tree" and a list of search results. The first result is "Johanne Christiane 1821 -" and the second result is "Christiane F. Beck 1843 - 1888", which is highlighted in a red box.

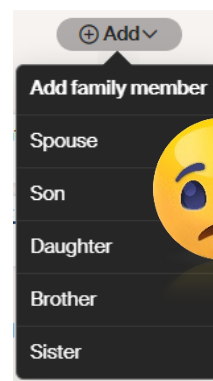
Editing the Relationships

If you want to edit the relationships as I did in the video where Wilhelm had two fathers (1 biological and 1 step father), here is how you connect both types of relationships.

Ancestry does not give you an option to add another father from the Add drop down menu if you already have a father listed. So how do you add a step father?

To add any alternate parent do the following:

- In the **Profile View** for the person you want to add the alternate parent for and click on **Edit** in the upper right corner.
- Click **Edit Relationships**.
- Click **+ Add Alternate Father**
- Search for someone already in your tree or add a new person.
- Save
- Modify the relationship with the drop down menu on the right side. In my case, we changed Anker Lorentzen Jensen to be a Step father.



Edit relationships for Karl Wilhelm Heinrich Schröder ✕

Father ⊕ Add alternate father

Carl Frederik Heinrich Julius Schröder
1851-1878 Biological ▾ ✕

Anker Lorentzen Jensen
1856-1939 Step ▾ ✕
Make preferred

Mother ⊕ Add alternate mother

Christiane F. Beck
1843-1888 Biological ▾ ✕

Spouse

⊕ Add spouse

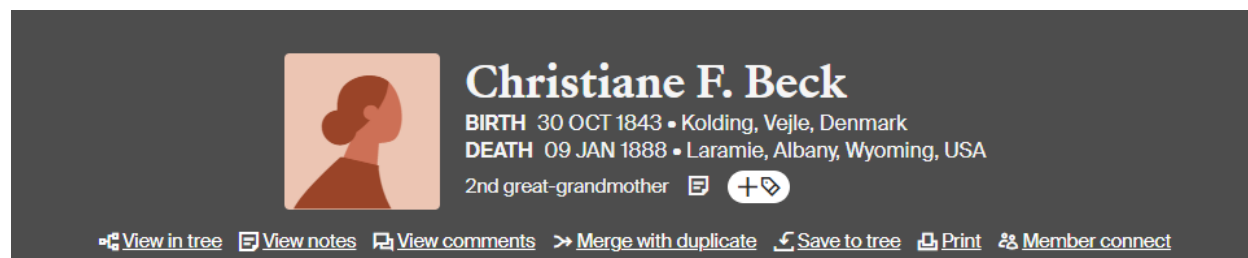
Children of Karl Wilhelm Heinrich Schröder and Unknown spouse

⊕ Add child

- The Preferred parent will be shown in the tree view.
- I made Anker Jensen (the step father) the Preferred because I descend from him, just FYI.

Noteworthy

When looking at the profile view of person with two spouses and when you have labeled a child with different relationships with the two spouses (in my case one father was biological and one was a step father), then you will see the same child listed twice in the mothers view. That does not mean the child is in the tree twice, but has an identified relationship with both fathers.



Christiane F. Beck
 BIRTH 30 OCT 1843 • Kolding, Vejle, Denmark
 DEATH 09 JAN 1888 • Laramie, Albany, Wyoming, USA
 2nd great-grandmother

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

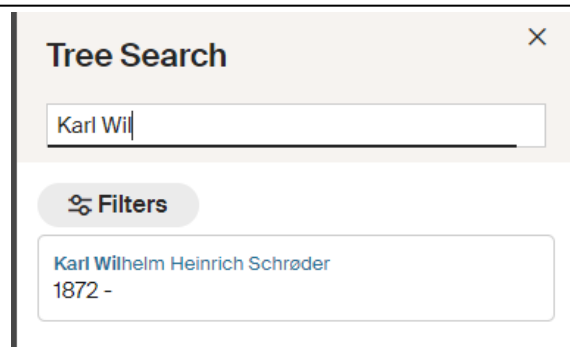
As seen here, Karl Wilhelm Heinrich Schrøder is shown twice.

It is because we identified his biological father to be Carl Frederik Heinrich Julius Schrøder and...

... his step father as Anker Lorentzen Jensen.

Thus he is shown twice.

We can confirm that Karl Wilhelm Heinrich Schrøder is only in the tree once by going to the tree view and searching for him.



Tree Search X

Karl Wil

Filters

Karl Wilhelm Heinrich Schrøder
1872 -

Spouse and children

Carl Frederik Heinrich Julius Schrøder
1851-1878

Elisabeth Vilhelmine Augusta Schrøder
1871-1957

Karl Wilhelm Heinrich Schrøder
1872-

Alma Kristine Marie Schrøder
1874-

Hermann Frans Christian Schrøder
1876-

Spouse and children

Anker Lorentzen Jensen
1856-1939

Karl Wilhelm Heinrich Schrøder
1872-

Anker Martin Søren Jensen
1879-1880

Franciska Emilie Kornelia Jensen
1880-1972

Anker Lawrence Jensen
1885-1924