

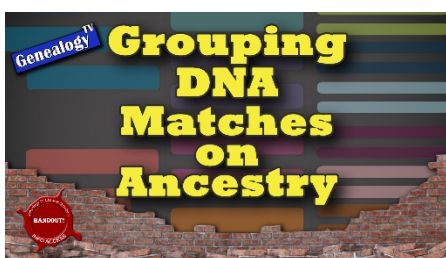
## Digging Deeper in AncestryDNA® Cousin Matches

Video Link to Digging Deeper in AncestryDNA Cousin Matches

### Before You Start

If you're not familiar with how to group your DNA cousin matches, then I suggest you watch these other two episodes first. Click the images to take you to those episodes.

Watching these two episodes will give you a better understanding of how to group your DNA matches along family branches and set you up for this **Digging Deeper in AncestryDNA Cousin Matches** episode to help you further your genealogical research.



### Getting Started

Go to [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) > DNA > Cousin Matches to get started.

In looking at your DNA matches you'll discover that you have some cousins who have **Public Link Trees**, **Unlinked Trees**, or **No Tree** at all.

Keep in mind everyone in the DNA Cousin List took a DNA test. You will not see Ancestry members who did *not* take a DNA test. All people in your DNA Cousin Match List have at least 8 cM or more with you.

<b>Public Linked Trees</b>	Linked Their DNA Test to Themselves within Their Own Tree
<b>Unlinked Trees</b>	Has a Tree, Did Not Link Themselves within Their Own Tree
<b>No Tree</b>	Does Not Have a Tree
<b>Private Tree</b>	Tree is Private but Searchable
<b>Common Ancestor</b>	Both you and your DNA Cousin have same Ancestors in both trees.



[GenealogyTV.org](https://www.GenealogyTV.org)



[YouTube.com/GenealogyTV](https://www.YouTube.com/GenealogyTV)

## Note About Filtering DNA Cousin Matches

No matter how you filter the DNA Cousin Match List, you have DNA in common with these DNA Cousins, it just depends on which branch of the family they came from. That's why learning the filtering can help you figure out which lines they in common with you.

Also know that DNA Cousin Matches who have Private Trees, but allowed them to be searchable, can give you a glimpse at what might be in their private tree.

## Recap Grouping Your DNA Cousins

Starting with your "Best Known [DNA Cousin] Match" (that is someone you know and what side or branch of the family tree they came from) and giving them a color is your first step in grouping your DNA Cousins.

The next step is to click on the that "Best Known Match" to get a screen that looks like this.

The screenshot displays the Ancestry DNA match page for 'You and E.P.'. At the top, there are profile pictures and a circular icon with 'EP'. Below this, the relationship is identified as '4th - 6th Cousin' with '< 1% shared DNA: 55 cM across 5 segments'. Action buttons for 'Add relationship' and 'Message' are visible. A section titled 'How are you and E.P. related?' shows 'Common Ancestors' with a red box highlighting two individuals: Robert S. Dunbar (3rd great-grandfather, 1810-1897) and Martha Jane Rogers (3rd great-grandmother, 1825-1900). To the right, 'E.P.'s Linked Tree' is shown as private, with 4,603 people listed. A 'Contact uaogal' button is present. Navigation tabs for 'Trees', 'Ethnicity', and 'Shared' are at the bottom.

In this example above, EP and I share 55 cM DNA. It also shows E.P. has a private tree with 4,603 people in it, and that we have common ancestors in Robert Dunbar and Martha Jane Rogers (red box) giving me a peek at what might be in that private tree. Even though this cousin's tree is private there are things to explore.

1. You can View the Relationship between you and the cousin.
2. You can look at the shared ethnicity.
3. You can see all DNA cousins that you both have in common using the Shared Matches Tool
4. You can contact them through the Ancestry messaging system.

Before contacting the DNA Cousin, let's see what we can learn first before reaching out to them.

Clicking on **View Relationship** (just under one of the Common Ancestors shown on the previous page) takes us to the ThruLines® view on Ancestry.

Here we can see how we might be related.

Remember the ThruLines® is using other people's trees to build this potential relationship, so if other trees are wrong, the ThruLines® view might not be accurate. Think of ThruLines as a hint feature to be evaluated just like any record hint.

- The Solid Lined People (in this view) are in my tree.
- The Dashed Line People are *not* and the records should be evaluated before adding them.

Clicking on the **Evaluate Button** on any Dashed Line People will pop out a **side panel member trees containing records**.

Review the records.

I recommend looking at the trees (with the most records) to evaluate...

- ... records...
- ...and relationships to see if they look accurate.

If you find you want to add that new person to your tree, you can do so right from the right-side panel (if you have drilled into the records).

Just click on the green button "Add to tree" and work through the wizard carefully.

**Relationship to E.P.**  
You may be related to E.P. through Robert S. Dunbar

**Robert S. Dunbar**  
3rd great-grandfather  
1819-1897  
View ThruLines®

**Anna E Dunbar**  
2nd great-grandmother  
1847-1919

**Olive Dunbar**  
2nd great-grandaunt  
1871-

**George Edgar Simmons**  
Great-grandfather  
1887-1963

**Donald Dunbar Priest** **EVALUATE**  
1st cousin 3x removed  
1898-1969

**Helen Marie SIMMONS**  
Maternal grandmother  
1909-1980

**E.P.**  
2nd cousin 2x removed  
55 cm | 5 segments

**Beverley K Conway**  
Mother  
1934-2002

**Constance Knox**

**Donald Dunbar Priest**  
Donald Dunbar Priest may be the son of Olive Dunbar. Below is some of the information used to suggest this relationship:

**Trees Linked to DNA Matches**

- Private Tree linked to E.P. 0 Records
- Ancestry Member Trees 27
- Cross Family Tree by oxinditch06 15 Records
- Oregon Families by Linda Morley 12 Records
- Sheltowee by Dan Rogers 11 Records
- Sturmer-Repas Family Tree by BSturmerRepas

**U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014**

**Web: Oregon, Find A Grave Index, 1819-2012**

**Photos**

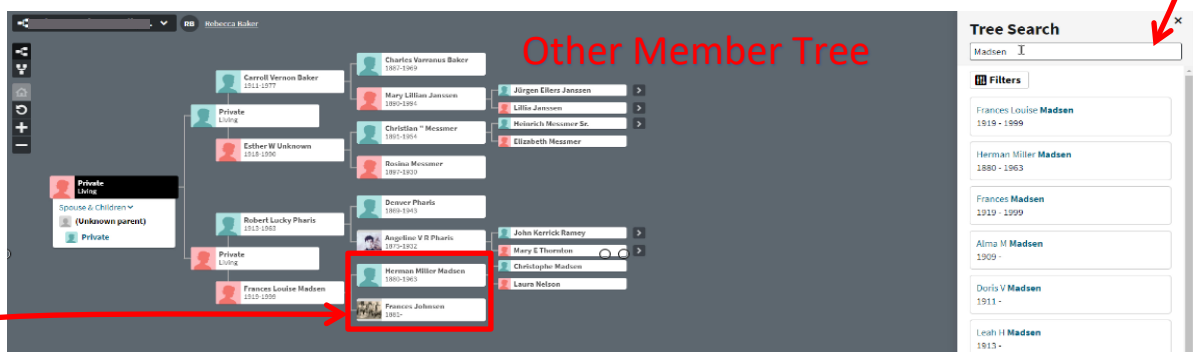
**Add Donald Dunbar Priest to your tree from oxinditch06's tree?**

**Add to tree**

## Unlinked Trees

You can search Unlinked Trees. Some may not have many people in them, but you won't know until you click on the cousin match with the Unlinked Tree.

When you drill into the cousin match tree to the point that you see a tree view, pay attention to whose tree you are looking at (in the upper left corner) if it looks like yours. Similar looking trees to your own can be confusing. You can open both their tree and yours in separate windows to compare trees, if it helps. You can then search for ancestors in other member trees (if they are public) by using the Search button in the upper right corner. It will pop out a side panel like this one.



Even though this DNA cousin did not show me a "Common Ancestor" (in the Relationship view with this cousin), I can see that we do have common ancestors after all, in the Madsen/Johnson couple. It was just spelled differently, which is why it was not showing as a Common Ancestor.

**Lesson Learned Here:** Always dig into those Unlinked Trees for those DNA branches you are actively researching.

## Filtering DNA Matches

You can filter by a variety of ways.

- **Unviewed** - You can filter by cousin matches you have not looked at (represented by the blue dot next to their name).
- **Common Ancestors** – Showing in both your tree and their tree.
- **Messaged** – DNA Cousins that you have messaged.
- **Notes** – People you have made private notes within the DNA Cousin List.
- **Trees** – This dropdown filter allows you to filter to those who have Private Linked Trees, Public Linked Trees, and Unlinked Public Trees.
- **Shared DNA** – This allows for Close Matches (4<sup>th</sup> Cousins or Closer – I recommend), Distant matches, and a Custom cM range. Stick with 4<sup>th</sup> cousins or closer if possible. The DNA is more reliable, and it's less to research.
- **Groups** – These are the groups that you have created.
- **Search** – Don't forget the Search filter. While it looks different you can filter by Match name, Surname in Matches' Trees, and Birth Location in Matches' Trees.

## Combining Filters

You can also combine filters to help narrow your results. When you do so they are acting as an **AND** function.

For example. If you filter by **“Private Linked Trees” AND “Common Ancestors” AND “Unviewed”** matches, then you are getting a list of cousin matches that are Unviewed, with Common Ancestors AND have Private Linked Trees. This is *not* an OR function. All those functions that must be true, to be found in the results, when combined.

**Constance Knox's DNA Matches**

Filter by: **Unviewed** **Common ancestors** **Message** **Notes** **Private linked trees** **Shared DNA** **Search** | **Sort**

**Distant Family**

4th - 6th Cousin  
51 cM | <1% shared DNA  
Private linked tree  
1,649 People  
Common ancestor  
Do you recognize them?  
**Yes** **Learn more**

4th - 6th Cousin  
48 cM | <1% shared DNA  
Private linked tree  
377 People  
Common ancestor  
Do you recognize them?  
**Yes** **Learn more**

4th - 6th Cousin  
42 cM | <1% shared DNA

**You and**  
4th - 6th Cousin  
<1% shared DNA: 51 cM across 4 segments  
**Add relationship** **Message**

**Create custom group**

- Starred matches
- Booth - Simmons
- Booth - Swift
- Davis - Hesley
- Henley - Winslow
- Madsen - Jensen
- Simmons - Coss
- Simmons - Dunbar

**Common Ancestors**

**Jameson Wesley Booth**  
3rd great-grandfather  
1820 - 1896  
[View Relationship](#)

**Syntha Ann Garrett**  
3rd great-grandmother  
1823 - 1963  
[View Relationship](#)

## Adding a DNA Cousin to Your DNA Groups

From the relationship screen, you can add a DNA Cousin to one of your groups (and or create a new group) as you discover DNA Cousins who have common ancestors in their trees.

## Using 4<sup>th</sup> Cousins or Closer

You want to use your closest matches whenever possible for researching your family tree because it's a lot less work. For example, if you are looking at a 4<sup>th</sup> cousin, you will share a Great Great Great Grandparent in Common with that cousin.

As you research, you'll want to discover all the descendants you can in the lines you are focused on. Why? Because records, photos, artifacts, stories, and family lore get handed down to the descendants. They may have clues to help you with your family history.

Researching all the descendants of a 3X Great Grandparent is going to take more time than researching the descendants of a Great Grandparent.

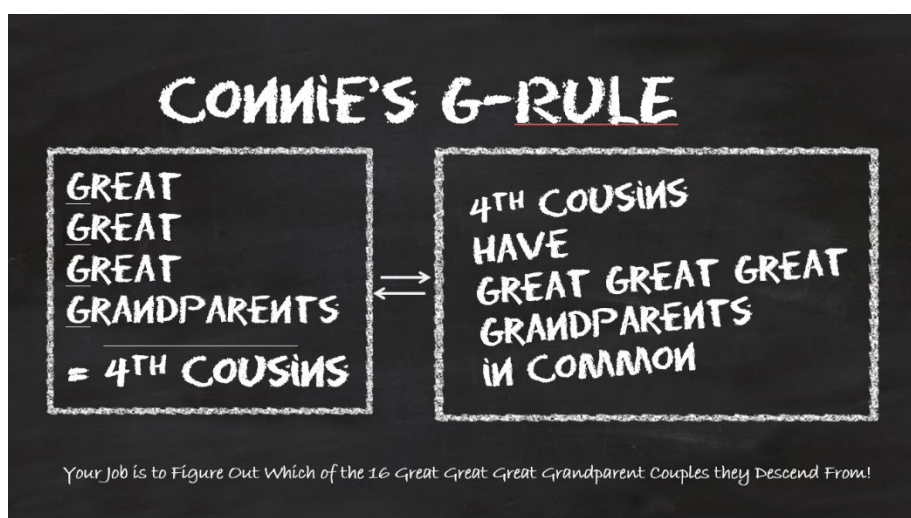
## Connie's G-Rule

An easy way to remember how to figure out the possible relationship between you and say a 4<sup>th</sup> cousin, is to count the "G"s.

You and a 4<sup>th</sup> cousin (assuming there are no half relationships), are going to have Great Great Great Grandparents in common.

Four "G"s = 4<sup>th</sup> Cousins.

Your job is to figure out which of your 16 couples of 3X Great Grandparents you have in common.

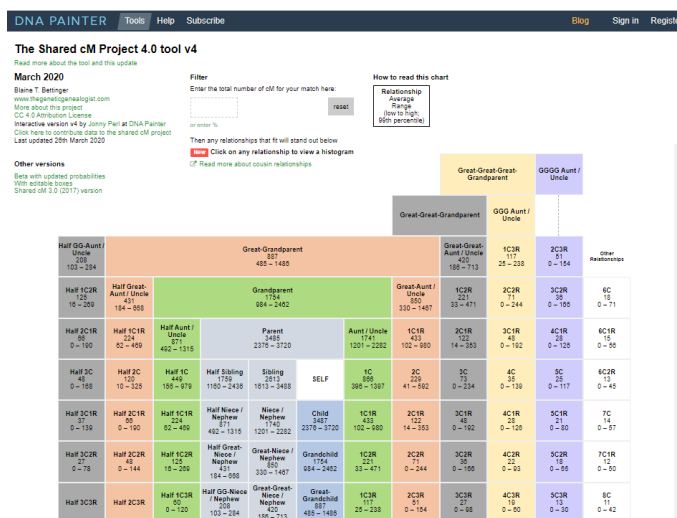


## DNA PAINTER

The [Shared cM Project](#) (created by Blain Bettinger, PhD) on [DNA Painter](#) (created by Jonny Perl) is a great tool for figuring out all possible relationships between DNA Cousins using cM's.

Looking closer you can see that the cM ranges overlap through the various cousins. This is why Ancestry and others give you a range of possible relationships, such as 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Cousins.

Identifying your relationship to them, in Ancestry, will help everyone over time.





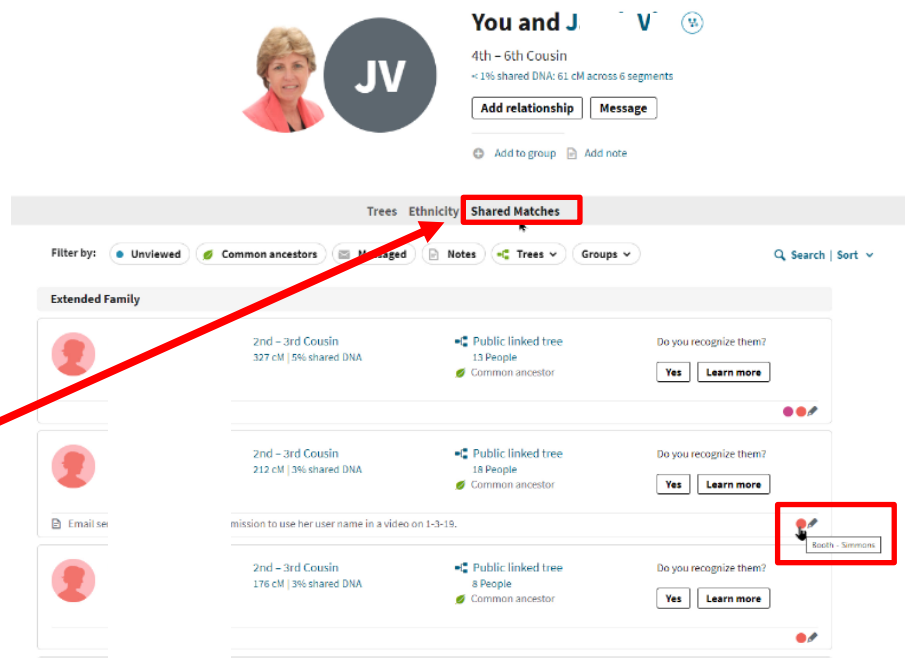
## Understanding How a DNA Cousin, Without a Tree... Fits in Your Tree Branches

You might be able to figure out how an unknown or unidentified DNA Cousin, even if he/she does not have a tree on Ancestry, can fit within the branches of your tree. For this to work, you need to have previously grouped some of your DNA matches.

Here's how:

- 1) In your DNA Match list, **find a DNA Cousin you don't recognize**. Perhaps this is a new-to-you cousin that just showed up in your list.
- 2) **Click on the at DNA match** to get to the screen where it shows you the "You and (DNA Cousin)" screen. On this image it is me and JV.
- 3) Click on the **Shared Matches** tab.

Everyone in that list shares DNA with you AND with the other DNA Cousin. For example, everyone in the list (in the image) share DNA with me and with JV. We're all genetic cousins.



- 4) Because everyone in the filtered list is showing my previous groupings of the Booth – Simmons line, this person (JV) must also be in the same branch of the family because we all share a part of our DNA with each other.
- 5) Mark that DNA cousin with the same color as the rest of the group. In my case, the Booth – Simmons ancestral couple.
- 6) Research those shared DNA cousin trees for records and clues to help confirm your connections.

Note: JV in my DNA Cousin matches, might descend from high up the tree from the Booth-Simmons couple, but until I figure that out, he'll remain marked as coming through that ancestral couple. In other words, it's a "thruLine" similar to Ancestry's product "ThruLines®."