How to Find Duplicate Ancestors Using the Free WikiTree Fan Chart
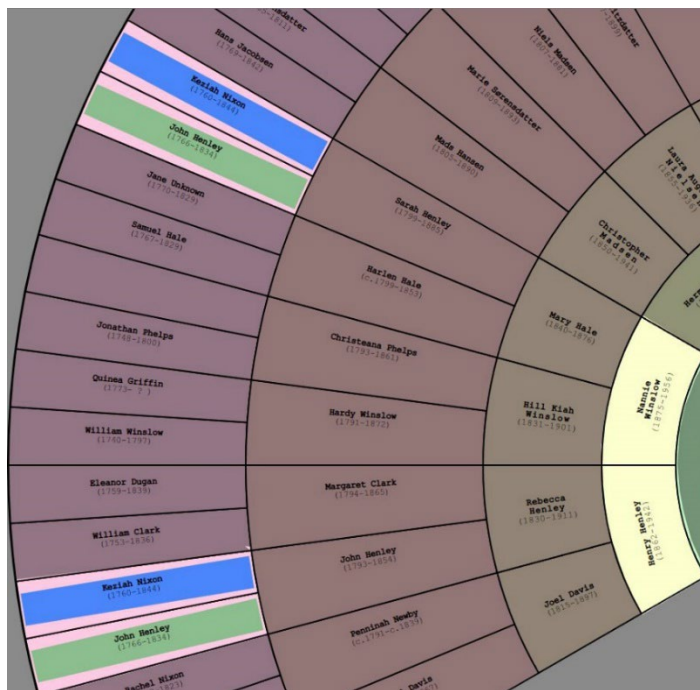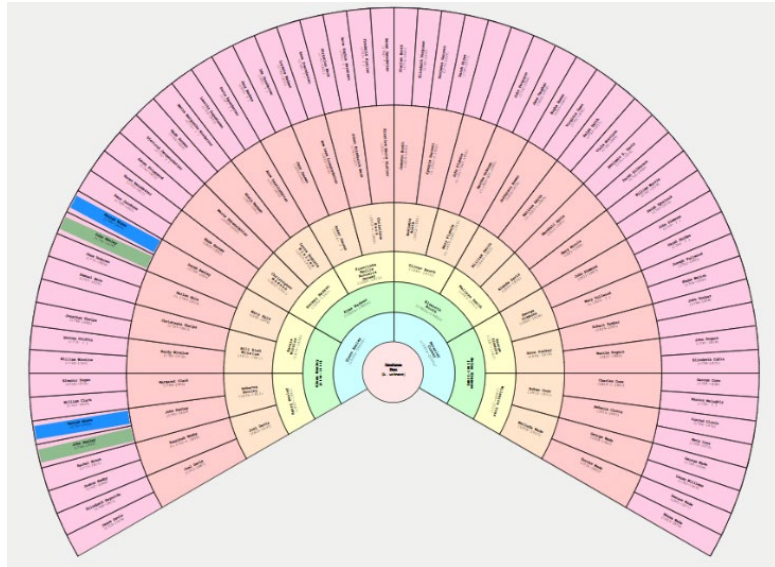
How can you find if you have the same ancestor or ancestral couple appearing twice in two different lines in your tree? The WikiTree fan chart is the only website I have found that shows this so simply.

The image (on the right) shows (in blue & green) where the same ancestors appear twice in my tree.

As you can see in the image (below) Keziah Nixon and John Henley appear in two branches of my family tree. These are not duplicated profiles, but the same ancestral couple whom I have in two lines of my tree.

Looking closer, that made Henry Henley and Nannie Winslow second cousins when they married, because (Keziah Nixon and John Henley's are their great grandparents). I wonder if they knew it. Humm…

Tip: Remember my G-Rule. Count the G's. <u>G</u>reat and <u>G</u>randparents equals two G's Thus, the great grandchildren (Henry and Nannie) are 2nd cousins.

You can use the same rule when trying to figure out how a 2nd DNA cousin is related to you, you theoretically would share great grandparents (if there are no half relationships in there).

Finding the Fan Chart

This fan chart is one of the coolest features on WikiTree. They have a ton of different ways to colorize them.

The fan chart on WikiTree is not so easy to find (I wish they would move it to the home page). Here is how you get to the fan chart. You'll need a free account and agree to the honor code. Then add your ancestors and or connect to the WikiTree (it's a collaborative tree, like FamilySearch). Once you have your ancestors in there, here's what you need to do next...
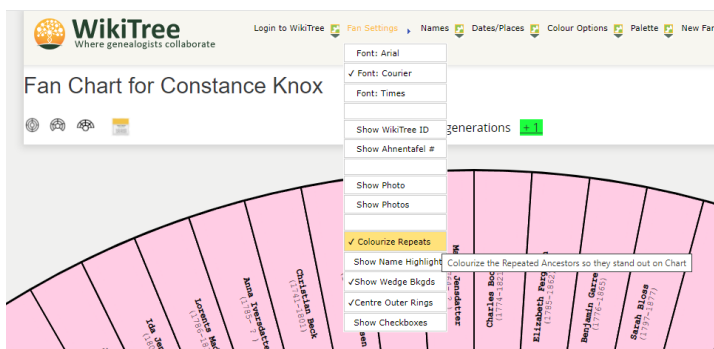
Steps to Finding the Fan Chart

1) **Login**
2) Hover over **your account name** and a drop-down menu will appear.
3) Click **Family Tree & Tools** (you'll get a pedigree view).
4) Just above the pedigree chart there are four tabs. Click the one that says **Genealogy Research**.
5) Scroll down until you see the **Fan Chart**, click it.
6) You can add generations with the + link just above the chart. In my case, I had to go to 7 generations before I saw the repeated ancestors.

Colorize the Chart

7) Go to the **Palette** menu at the top of the screen. I like Pastels.
8) Then under the **Colour Options (**at the top) you can change what is colorized . In my view, I like "Generations."

Find The Duplicated Ancestors

9) To see the duplicated ancestors (if you have them) you can colorize the people in more than one branch by clicking on **Fan Settings** and choosing "**Colourize Repeats**."
10) If you don't see any repeats, either you don't have any or you need to increase the number of generations.

Using this chart is a great way to help tell the family story visually.

Here is an episode I did with Mindy Silva (of WikiTree fame) about how to use WikiTree.