Genealogy

Hints & Clues on Ancestry

<u>VIDEO HERE</u> There are many different types of hints on Ancestry. Here are just a few of the ones I found that you should be watching for when researching your ancestors.

 From the Ancestor Profile – Hints tab. This is likely the one you use the most. This provides hints specific to that ancestor and his/her immediate family.



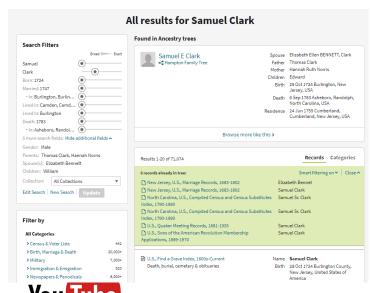
2. **Leafy Hint** from the **Ancestry Tree**. Again, a very common hint feature on Ancestry that provides hits specific to this ancestor. Clicking this leaf takes you to the same list of hints as those shown in the profile from #1.

3. **ThruLines** from the mini profile in the tree view. Believe it or not, ThruLines is another form of a hint. Clicking this will take you to ThruLines for this ancestor (if you have taken a DNA test and there are potential matches).



4. Search Records from the Profile of an

Ancestor. While technically this brings up all records, they are hinting you with possible matches to your ancestor. There are many different hints within just the Search Results page listed next.





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- On the Search Results Page there are family trees listing possible matches to the search criteria.
- 6. **"Browse More Like This"** under the Family Trees... is another clue that there might be more family trees with your ancestors.
- 7. Results 1-20 of 71,074 more manageable list.



Results that are too large might be a clue that you need to filter your results to a

8. Smart Filters On/Off – Smart Filtering on the Search Results page

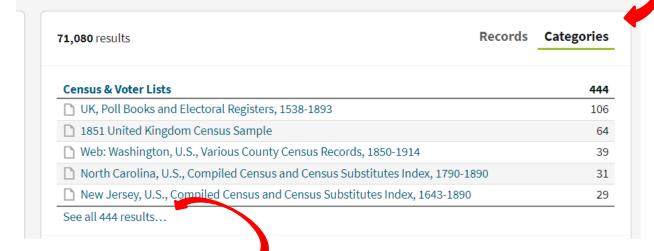


automatically are turned on. They show what you already have in your tree, but also show that Smart Filtering is turned on. This will prevent any more hints from being delivered from the same record set.

- a. For example, if the ancestor you are searching already has a record from the U.S. Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935 in his/her profile, with Smart Filters turned on, it will not show any additional record hints from the U.S. Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935 record set. It is common for Quaker ancestors to appear in these records multiple times throughout their life, so I would not want to miss one of these valuable records.
- b. Turning off Smart Filtering will allow *all* hints from relavant record sets to be delivered in Search.

9. Clicking **Categories** (in the Search Results Page) can help you focus on the part of the timeline you are missing for your ancestor. It is a clue to look at things differently.

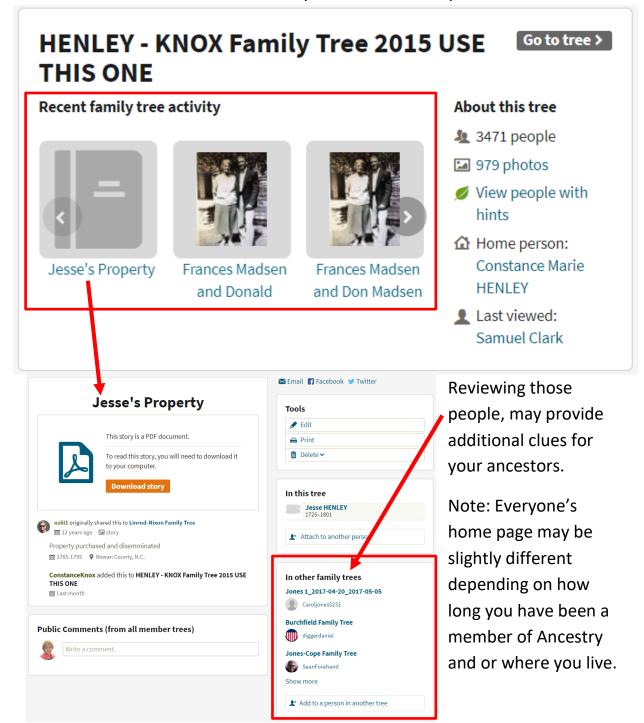
All results for Samuel Clark



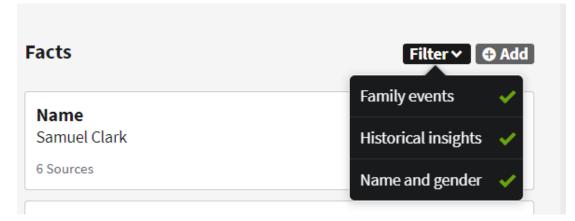
- 10. Be sure to click on **See All xxx Results** too. This is another hint Ancestry is giving you that there is more to see here.
- 11. When viewing a record, look for the "Make a Connection" link. This will take you a list of member trees who may have the same ancestor. Who knows, they may be your cousin. Right-click and "open in a new tab" will help, so you don't lose your place in your research process.



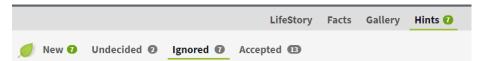
12. On the **Home Page** at Ancestry, you *may* have a box that looks like this. Here you have several hints about **Recent Activity** in related to your active tree. Clicking through to one of the activities, may provide a list of others who have downloaded the record you shared and maybe related.



13. Turn on **Family Events** in the ancestor's profile will give you hints and clues as to what was happening in your ancestor's life during his/her lifetime.



- 14. Also turn on **Historical Insights** to help understand what was happening regionally where your ancestor lived. This may provide clues as to why someone moved to a new location.
- 15. Review **Ignored Hints** from time to time. What did not seem relevant in



past searches, may in fact be relevant today now that you have done more research.

16. See the **Source Information** for where to find the **original records**. This can be a game changer when you can review the actual record. You will see things you cannot see online, like faded handwriting, markings, notations on the envelope, etc.

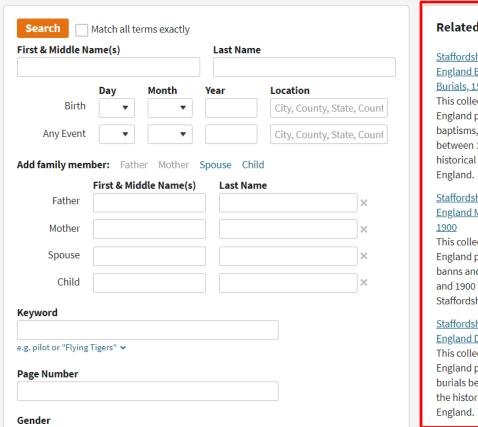
Source Information

Ancestry.com. *Kentucky, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1774-1989* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015.

Original data: Kentucky County, District and Probate Courts.

17.In the Card Catalog (from search tab, drop down to card catalog), Ancestry provides several hints to other related data collections.

Staffordshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1900



Related data collections

<u>Staffordshire, England, Church of</u> <u>England Baptisms, Marriages and</u> <u>Burials, 1538-1812</u>

This collection includes Church of England parish indexes of registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials between 1538 and 1812 from the historical county of Staffordshire, England.

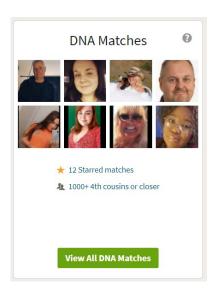
<u>Staffordshire</u>, <u>England</u>, <u>Church of</u> <u>England Marriages and Banns</u>, <u>1754-1900</u>

This collection includes Church of England parish indexes of registers of banns and marriages between 1754 and 1900 from the historical county of Staffordshire, England.

Staffordshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1900

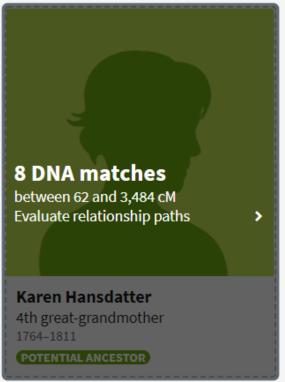
This collection includes Church of England parish indexes of registers of burials between 1813 and 1900 from the historical county of Staffordshire, England.

18. **DNA Match Images** – Instead of clicking on the green "View All DNA Matches" button, you can **click on the images** to see how you compare with the people shown in the images. When clicking on these images, all of them were at least 4th cousins to 6th cousins.



19. In ThruLines, when scrolling down, Ancestry provides Potential Ancestors for your review that are based on the trees of your DNA matches. They will have a dashed line around the outside of the box. Hovering over one will highlight the number of DNA matches you have that show this ancestor and the cM range (shown on the right).





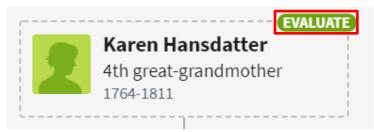
20. Drilling into one of your

ThruLines will show you the

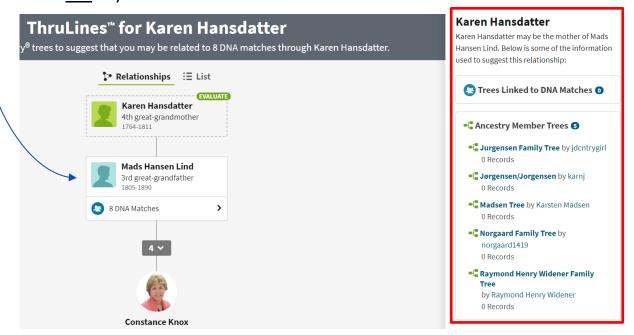
potential path to your

potential ancestor. Ancestry

provides an Evaluate hint



that will open a side panel with additional hints and family trees that may provide the clues you need. Note the dashed line above means this person is not in your tree.



This only scratches the surface of the hints and clues Ancestry provides throughout its platform. Be on the lookout for side panels, original sources, and other members who may be researching the same family lines.

Bonus Tips!

From the **ancestor's profile view**, click on **Tools**, drop down and choose **Member Connect**. This will provide you with clues as to what other members in your previously connected network are doing.

Plus! It will provide you with **Suggested Connections** of other members you did not know where researching the same people.

- 1. Click the **Connect** button to add them to your connections tab.
 - a. They will not know you have added them to your connections, but it makes it easier to track any new records they add, that you might not have, and it is easier to find them and message them for possible collaborations when they are in your connections list.
 - b. Once you click "Connect," that person will move from the Suggested tab to the Connections tab, where you can find them again.
- Look for New Records (as shown below) that you do not have in yourancestor's profile.

№ 3 possible connections researching Oliver B BOOTH. Oliver B Booth Compare Emerson_McFarland_McCoy_Olmsted_Kenish Tree Branches > Oliver B Added by or Ignore Name Oliver B Booth 1880 United States Federal Census 1900 United States Federal Census 1930 United States Federal Census 1910 United States Federal Census U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1920 United States Federal Census Ohio, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, <u>1774-1973</u> Ohio, U.S., County Marriage NEW Records, 1774-1993 West Virginia, U.S., Births Index, 1804-1938