

How to Use Member Connect on Ancestry

About Member Connect

Member Connect on Ancestry.com is a great way to connect with other Ancestry members who are working on the same ancestors. Keep in mind, Member Connect will only show you members with public trees.

Member Connect is often overlooked, but it gives you an opportunity to reach out to others to collaborate on the same lines of your family.

Find Member Connect

From Ancestors Profile Page

There are two ways to get to member connect. The first way is through the Tools icon in the upper right corner drop down to member connect.

The second way is from the “Research Tools” bar under the top banner.

The screenshot shows the Ancestry profile page for Henry Walter KNOX. The profile card includes a photo, name, birth date (15 MAR 1879), death date (25 NOV 1932), and location (Tarboro, Edgecombe, North Carolina, USA). The 'Member Connect' button is highlighted with a red box. A dropdown menu is open from the 'Tools' icon in the top right, with 'Member Connect' also highlighted in red. A red arrow points from the 'Member Connect' button in the dropdown to the 'Member Connect' button on the profile card. Another red arrow points from the 'Member Connect' button in the dropdown to the 'Show Research Tools' checkbox, which is checked. The profile card includes sections for Facts, Sources, and Family.

If you are not seeing the Research Tools bar on the profile page, you can turn it on as shown.



Three Member Connect Tabs

Suggested Connections Tab

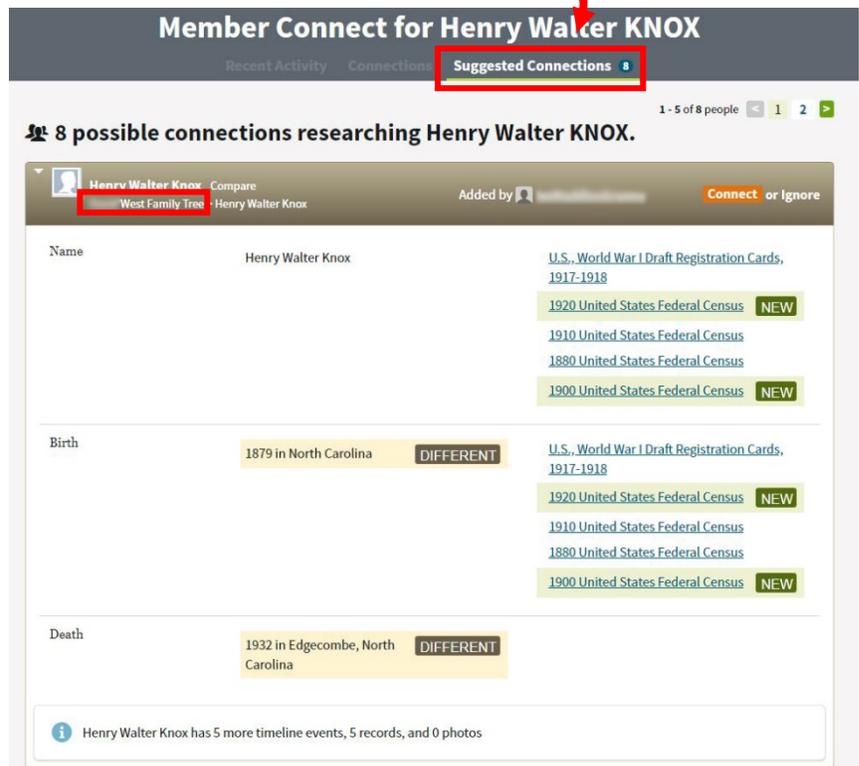
If you have not been to Member Connect before (for a specific ancestor), then Suggested Connections is the only tab you will have access to until you connect with other members. 

You can click on the member family tree to explore their tree to see how you both might be connected to this ancestor, research the records they've attached to the ancestor, and even import the records.

Reviewing this example, you can see what records other members have discovered labeled as "New" or see data that they show as "Different." This information may or may not be accurate, but it might provide clues for your own research.

Make sure you evaluate each document and its data for confirmation that it matches your ancestors, before importing it to your tree.

Tip: Once you have clicked through to a member's public tree, use the Tree Search tool in the upper right corner (in the tree view) to search the ancestors in their tree. Pay attention to whose tree you are viewing as it may look similar to your own tree.



Member Connect for Henry Walter KNOX

Recent Activity | Connections | **Suggested Connections**

1 - 5 of 8 people < 1 2 >

8 possible connections researching Henry Walter KNOX.

Henry Walter Knox Compare
West Family Tree Henry Walter Knox Added by  **Connect** or **Ignore**

Name	Henry Walter Knox	U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918
		1920 United States Federal Census NEW
		1910 United States Federal Census
		1880 United States Federal Census
		1900 United States Federal Census NEW
Birth	1879 in North Carolina DIFFERENT	U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918
		1920 United States Federal Census NEW
		1910 United States Federal Census
		1880 United States Federal Census
		1900 United States Federal Census NEW
Death	1932 in Edgecombe, North Carolina DIFFERENT	

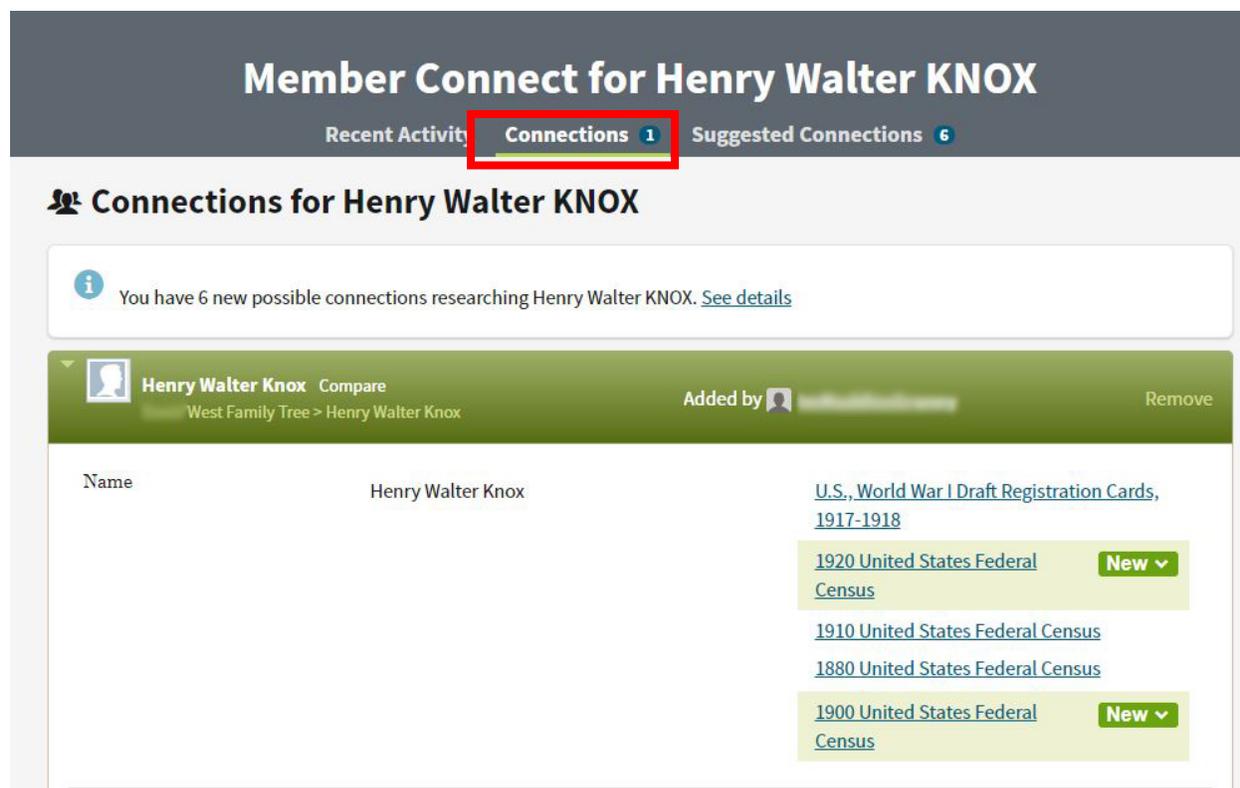
 Henry Walter Knox has 5 more timeline events, 5 records, and 0 photos



Connections Tab

Making Connections is easy. Just click the Orange “Connect” button on the Suggested Connections screen (shown on the previous page) and you will be instantly connected. They can now be found in the Connections Tab shown below.

The member will not know that you have connected with them unless you reach out to them through the messaging center. However, this does allow you to watch for changes they make to that specific ancestor. Think of “Member Connect” as “Member Follow” instead, as you are following their research for that ancestor.



Member Connect for Henry Walter KNOX

Recent Activity **Connections 1** Suggested Connections 6

Connections for Henry Walter KNOX

i You have 6 new possible connections researching Henry Walter KNOX. [See details](#)

Henry Walter Knox Compare
West Family Tree > Henry Walter Knox Added by Remove

Name	Henry Walter Knox	
		U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918
		1920 United States Federal Census New ▾
		1910 United States Federal Census
		1880 United States Federal Census
		1900 United States Federal Census New ▾

Once you have connected with them, you can return to the Connections tab again to keep track of those you are connected.

Recent Activity Tab

On the Recent Activities Tab, you can review all the recent activity from the collective group of members you have added to your Connections Tab.



Member Connect for Henry Walter KNOX

Recent Activity Connections 1 Suggested Connections 6



Warnings and Recommendations

If you “Remove” someone from your Connections list, there is no way to recover them. It is not recommended that you remove them without careful consideration.

Likewise, if you Ignore a Suggested Connection from the Suggested Connections tab, they are not easily recovered. You may find them by going back to the same ancestor profile, choose hints, choose Ancestry Member Trees (if shown) and choose Review to see if they’re in the list. This does not restore them to your Suggested Connections tab, however.

To avoid losing potential member connections and clues, do not Ignore or Remove Connections.

Bonus Tip!

When connecting with members, drill into the members name to view their profile. There you can see how active the member is on Ancestry by looking at the last time they signed on to their account.

This also provides another way to message them if you wish to connect.

It may also be a clue if you message them and they do not respond. There are lots of reasons why members might not respond...

- They may not have notifications turned on.
- They are not interested.
- They are concerned about responding to a stranger.
- They may not be active on Ancestry anymore.
- They may have died.

