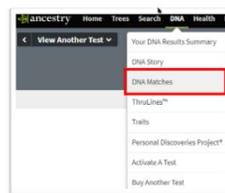
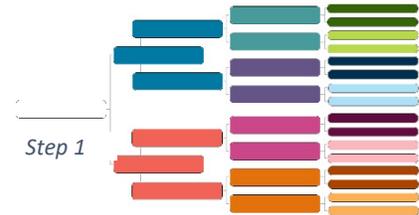


## Grouping DNA Cousin Matches at AncestryDNA®

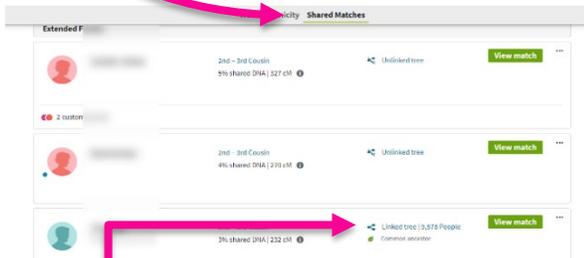
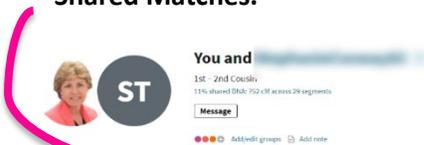
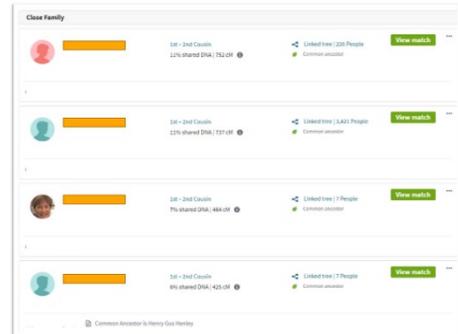
Using a targeted method (I like to call it the *method to my madness*), we can better focus our research and not get overwhelmed by the number of DNA Cousins that we have at Ancestry.com. Especially when we are trying to discover the next ancestors in our family tree, this method can be particularly helpful.

### Steps to Grouping Your DNA Cousins

1. **Select colors for your family tree branches.** You will eventually assign these colors to your DNA Cousins that descend from those ancestral couples as you discover them.
2. Decide what ancestors you want to target for research.
3. Looking at your **DNA match list** (unfiltered), find your **“Best-Known DNA match”** on that side of the family where you are targeting your research. This is one that you know descends from the line you are researching. **Give them a color** that corresponds with that branch of the tree.
4. **Click on that Best-Known DNA Cousin Match.**
5. In the view with you your Best-Known DNA Cousin, **click on Shared Matches.**



Step 3



As you work your way back in the tree, your DNA Cousins might have multiple colors.

7. **Click into these DNA cousin trees for clues to more ancestors & records.**
8. **Verify ancestors and records, so that you are confident in your tree.**

Once you have clicked on Shared Matches, everyone in that list, shares DNA with you and that Best-Known DNA Cousin. They descend from the same ancestral couple in the family tree, as you and your Best-Known Match.



