

# Finding Your Elusive Female Ancestors, Part 2: Utilizing DNA and Searching Her FAN Club

By Julie Stoddard, MSc, AG<sup>®</sup>



# Why are women harder to find in the records?

In the early history of some countries, women were covered under the legal status of their husbands.

This means married women were not always recorded in the records.

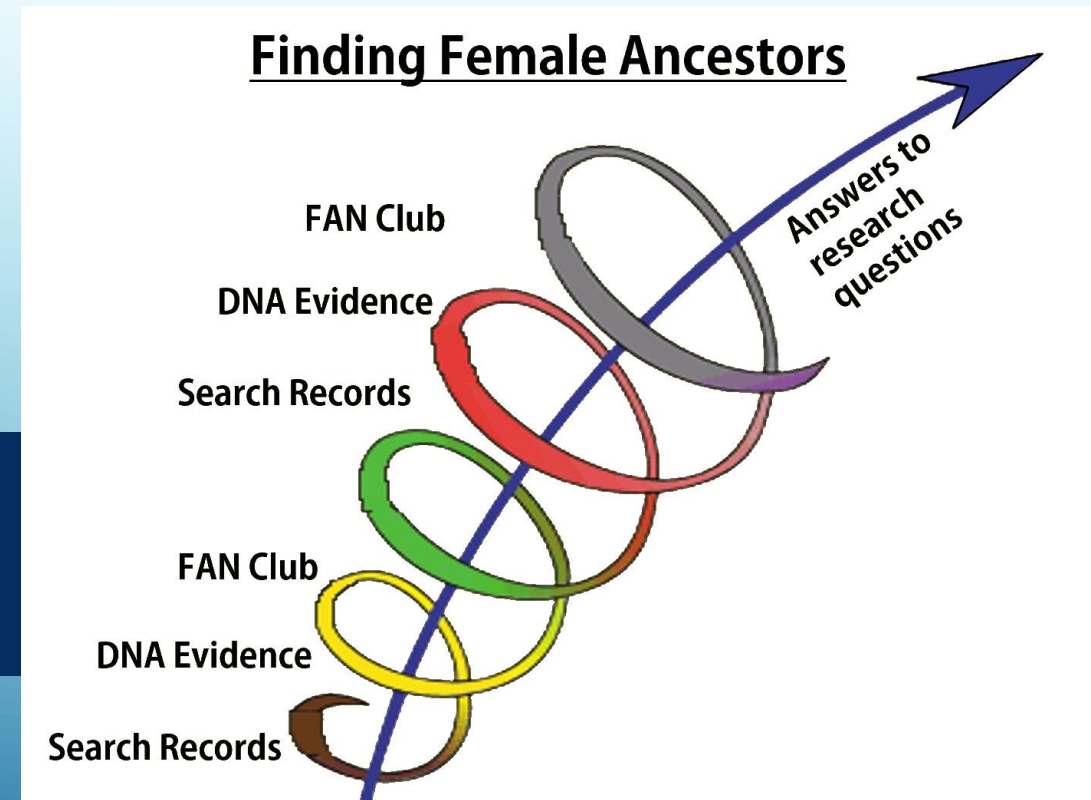
For most of her life, the records were not listed under her maiden name.



# Interweave three strategies to successfully find records for women:

1. Search the correct records
2. Utilize DNA evidence
3. Research her FAN Club

The slides and handout are available on [ConnectTheBranch.com/presentations](https://ConnectTheBranch.com/presentations)



# Recap of Part 1: Records most likely to name women

“Which records are most likely to be successful due to the record content and ease of access?”

## Best records to search first:

Vital Records

Census Records

Family Trees

Cemetery Records

Probate Records

Social Security

DNA Testing



# Recap of Part 1: Records most likely to name women

## Best records to search second:

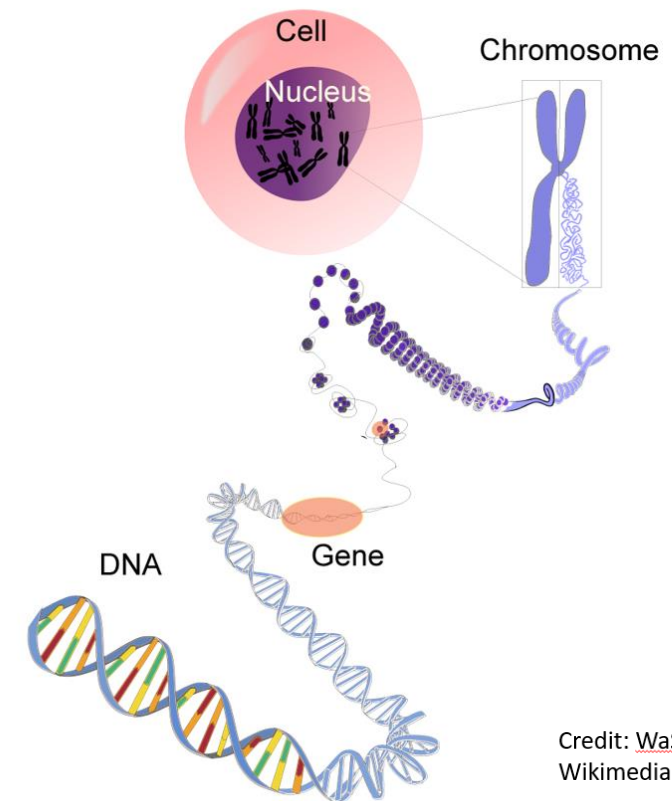
- Obituaries
- Land Records
- Military Records
- Newspapers
- Perform a Google Search
- Church Records
- City Directories
- Local & Country Histories
- Immigration or Naturalization
- Bible Records
- Court Records

# Utilizing DNA to identify your Female Ancestors

## DNA learning outcomes:

- All four types of DNA can be used to research women.
- Five DNA strategies to find more records/evidence for researching female ancestors.

## DeoxyriboNucleic Acid (DNA)



Credit: [WaSu-Bio](#), CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

# Resources for Understanding DNA

## Websites & Blogs:

- ▶ [DNA Explained](#) by Roberta Estes
- ▶ [The Genetic Genealogist](#) by Blaine Bettinger
- ▶ [Your DNA Guide](#) by Diahan Southard
- ▶ [International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki](#)

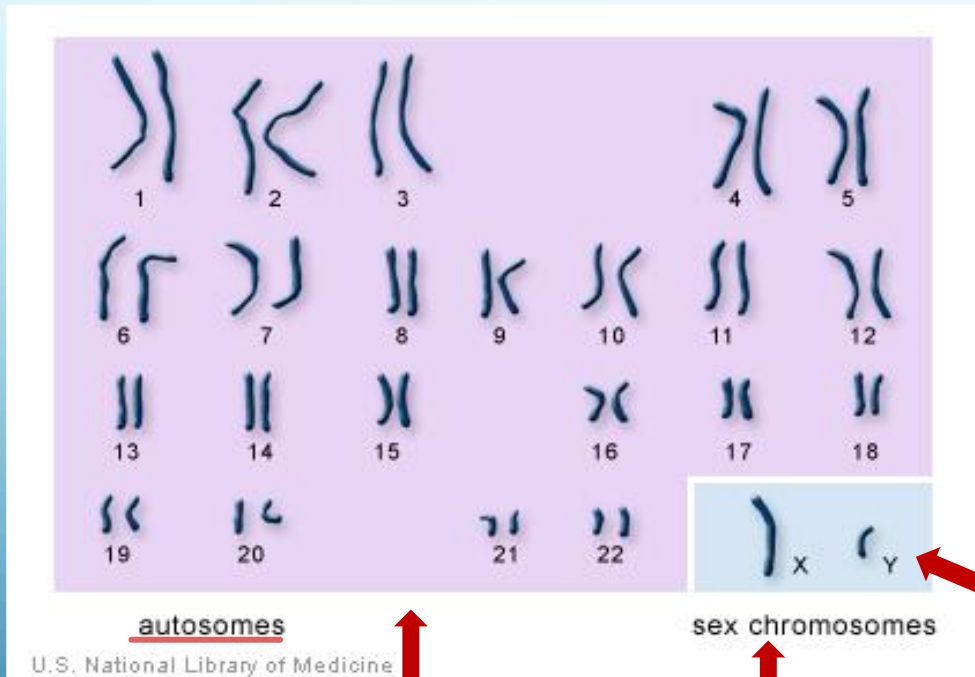
## DNA Classes and Webinars:

- ▶ [RootsTech](#)
- ▶ [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

**Julie's "Beginning DNA" handout and slides:**  
[ConnectTheBranch.com/presentations](https://ConnectTheBranch.com/presentations)

# Types of DNA

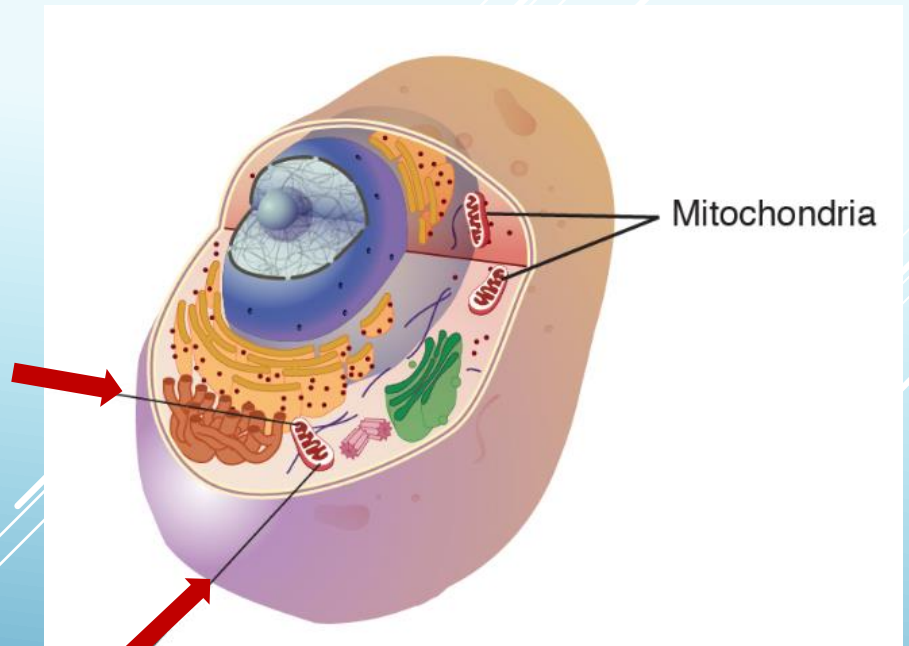
Four types of DNA, each with a unique inheritance pattern and each can help when researching women.



1) autosomal DNA

2) X DNA

3) Y DNA



4) Mitochondrial DNA



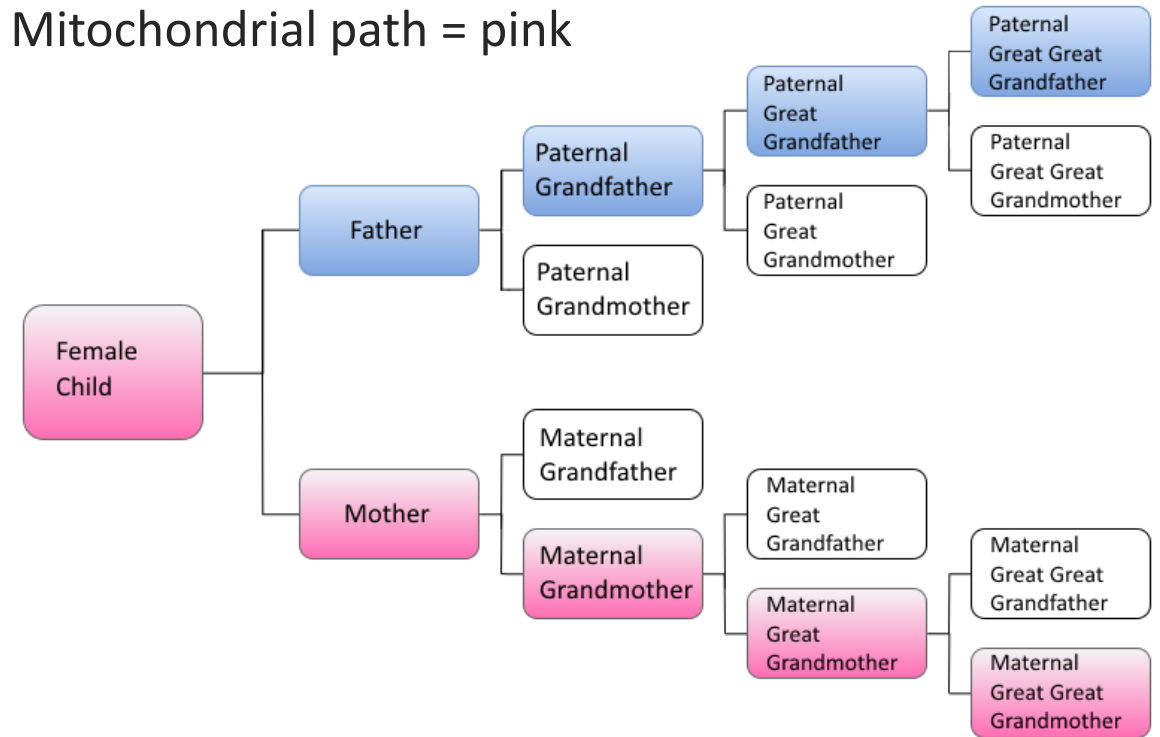
# Mitochondrial Inheritance

A mother passes mitochondrial DNA to all her children, but only daughters pass it on.

The closeness of DNA matches is based on how many mutations occurred.

Target test female-to-female lines of descent to research various lines.

Mitochondrial path = pink



"Paths of DNA Inheritance," *The International Society of Genetic Genealogy*  
([https://isogg.org/wiki/Paths\\_of\\_DNA\\_inheritance](https://isogg.org/wiki/Paths_of_DNA_inheritance) : accessed 27 June 2020.)

# X-DNA Inheritance

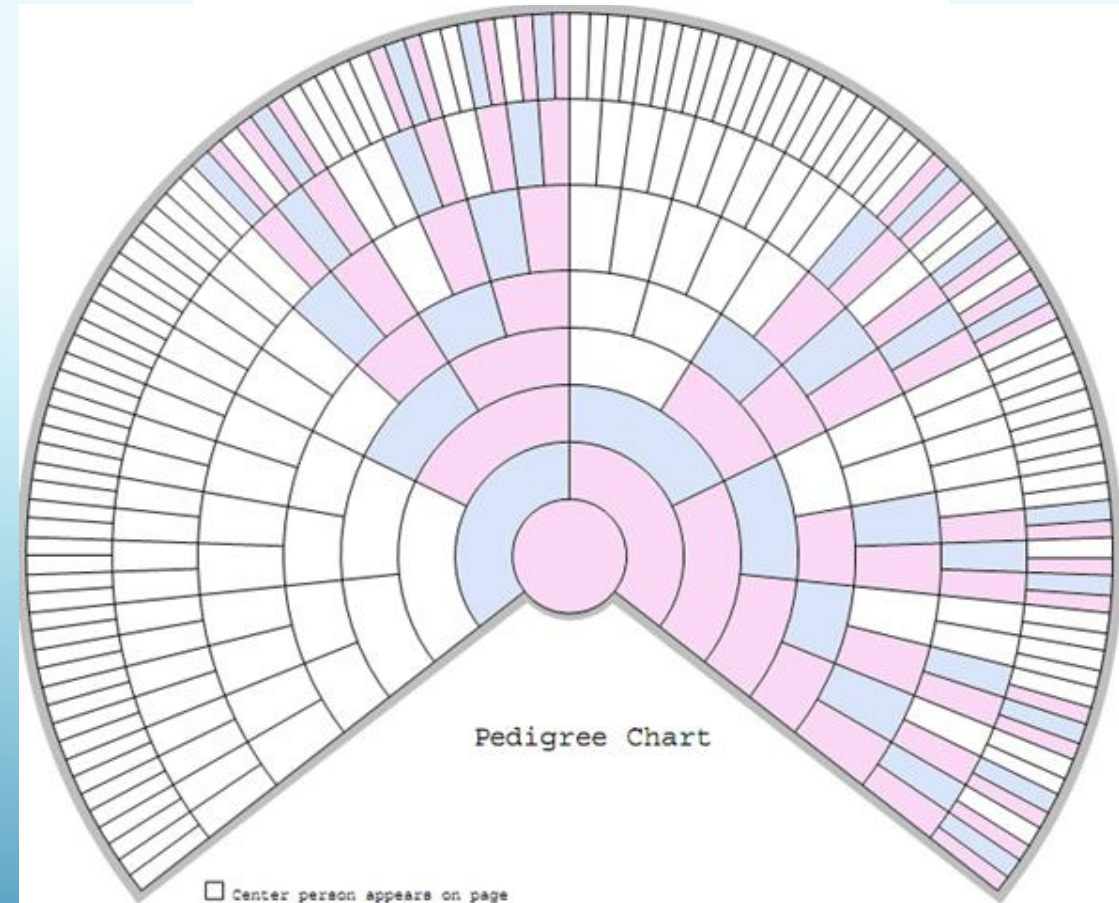
Women inherit the X chromosome from both parents.

Males only inherit the X chromosome from their mother.

The unique inheritance path can be helpful in solving research problems.

The X cM counts are different than autosomal cM counts.

Female X Inheritance Chart

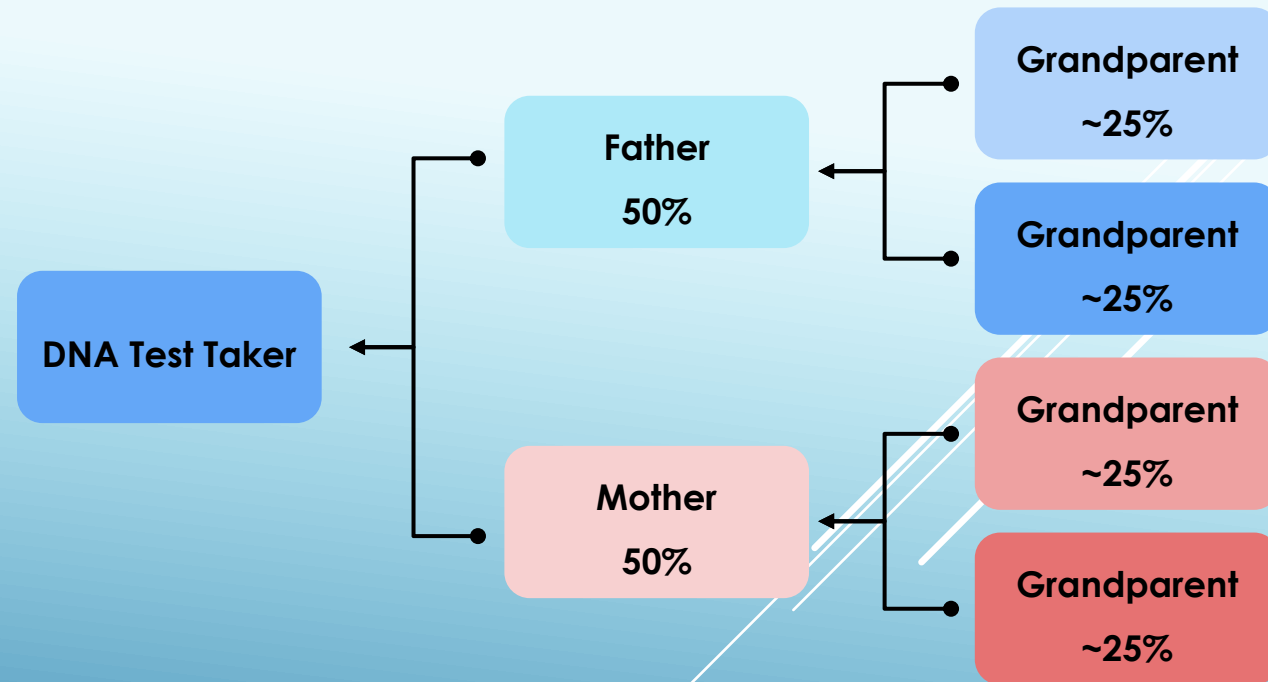


Blaine Bettinger, "Unlocking the Genealogical Secrets of the X Chromosome," 21 December 2008, *The Genetic Genealogist* (<https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2008/12/21/unlocking-the-genealogical-secrets-of-the-x-chromosome/> : accessed 27 June 2020.)



# Autosomal Inheritance

A person inherits about 25% from each grandparent and 12.5% from each great-grandparent, etc.

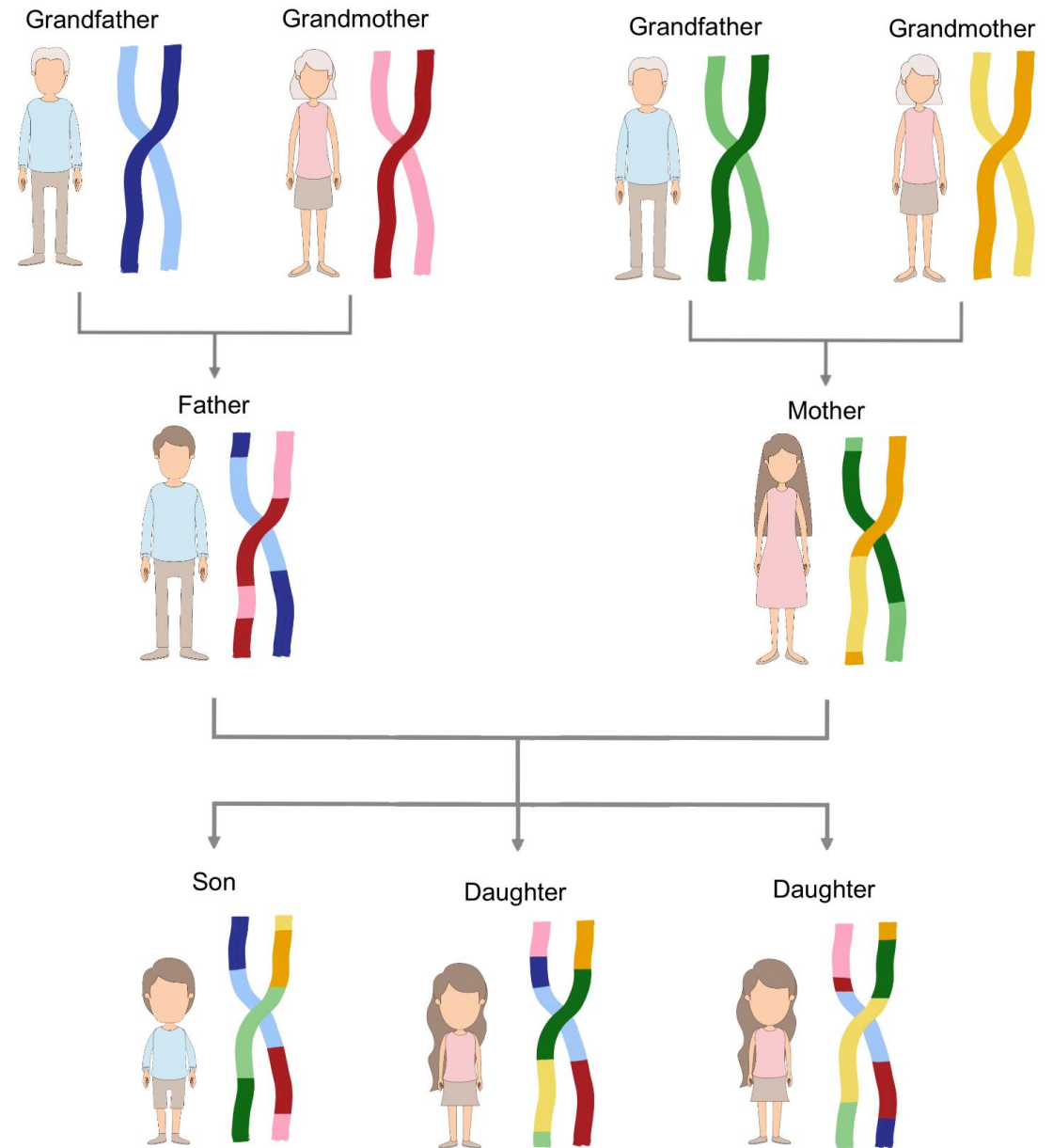


Not all your distant cousins will share autosomal DNA with you.

# Recombination

Autosomal DNA  
*recombines* (shuffles)  
each time a child is  
created.

*Recombination* is an  
exchange of DNA  
segments between the  
maternal and paternal  
chromosomes.



# Where Do I Test?

TIP: Test your oldest possible relatives.

Company	AncestryDNA	23andMe	MyHeritage	Family Tree DNA
Type of DNA test	Autosomal	Autosomal X-DNA	Autosomal	Autosomal X-DNA Y-DNA Mitochondrial
People with atDNA tests (March 2023)	23,000,000 people	13,400,000 people	6,800,000 people	1,520,000 people
Upload DNA from other companies?	No	No	Yes	Yes

# Fish in all ponds

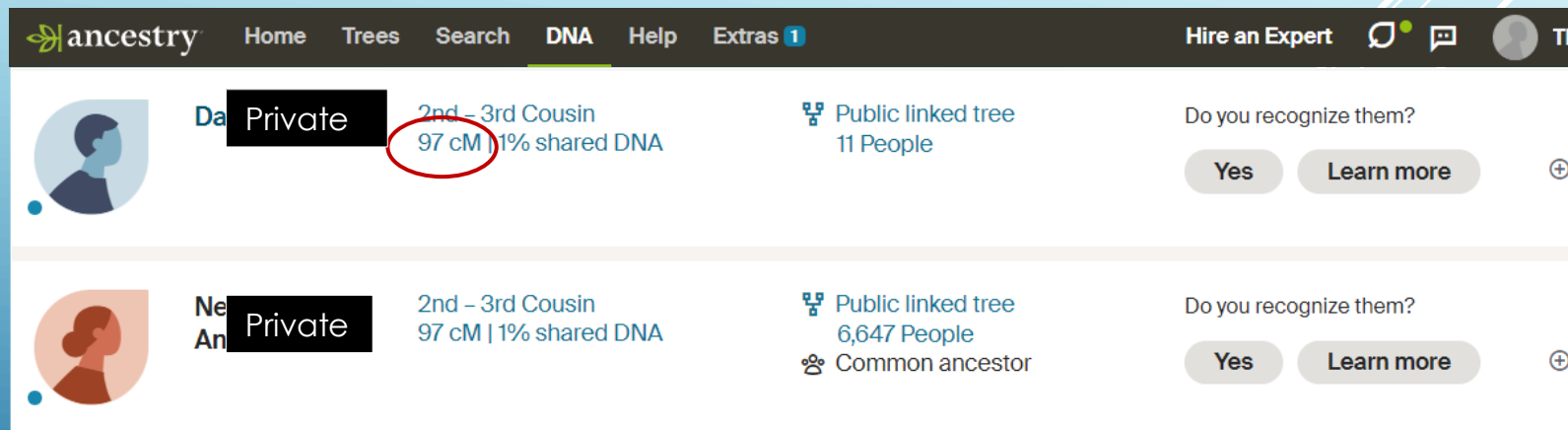
Transfer your autosomal DNA to other databases that allow it.



# Centimorgans

Segments of DNA are often measured in centimorgans (cM).

- cM is not a measurement of length.
- cM is a measurement of genetic distance.



The screenshot shows the Ancestry DNA interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'ancestry' logo and links for Home, Trees, Search, DNA, Help, and Extras. Below the navigation bar, there are two match cards. The first card shows a profile picture of a man, a name partially redacted as 'Da Private', a relationship of '2nd - 3rd Cousin', and '97 cM | 1% shared DNA'. The second card shows a profile picture of a woman, a name partially redacted as 'Ne An Private', a relationship of '2nd - 3rd Cousin', and '97 cM | 1% shared DNA'. Both cards also show 'Public linked tree' information and a 'Do you recognize them?' section with 'Yes' and 'Learn more' buttons. The '97 cM' value in the first card is circled in red.

Match Name	Relationship	Shared DNA	Public linked tree	Do you recognize them?
Da Private	2nd - 3rd Cousin	97 cM   1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 11 People	Yes   Learn more
Ne An Private	2nd - 3rd Cousin	97 cM   1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 6,647 People Common ancestor	Yes   Learn more

Living DNA test takers shown in this presentation consented to their data being shown or their names are changed/redacted.



# Autosomal DNA Evidence

## Principle #1:

The more cM a person shares with a DNA match, the closer the relationship.

The Shared cM Project on DNA Painter shows possible relationships.

DNA PAINTER [Tools](#) [Help](#) [Subscribe](#)

The Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4

Average cM → 1754  
984 – 2462 ← Range of cM

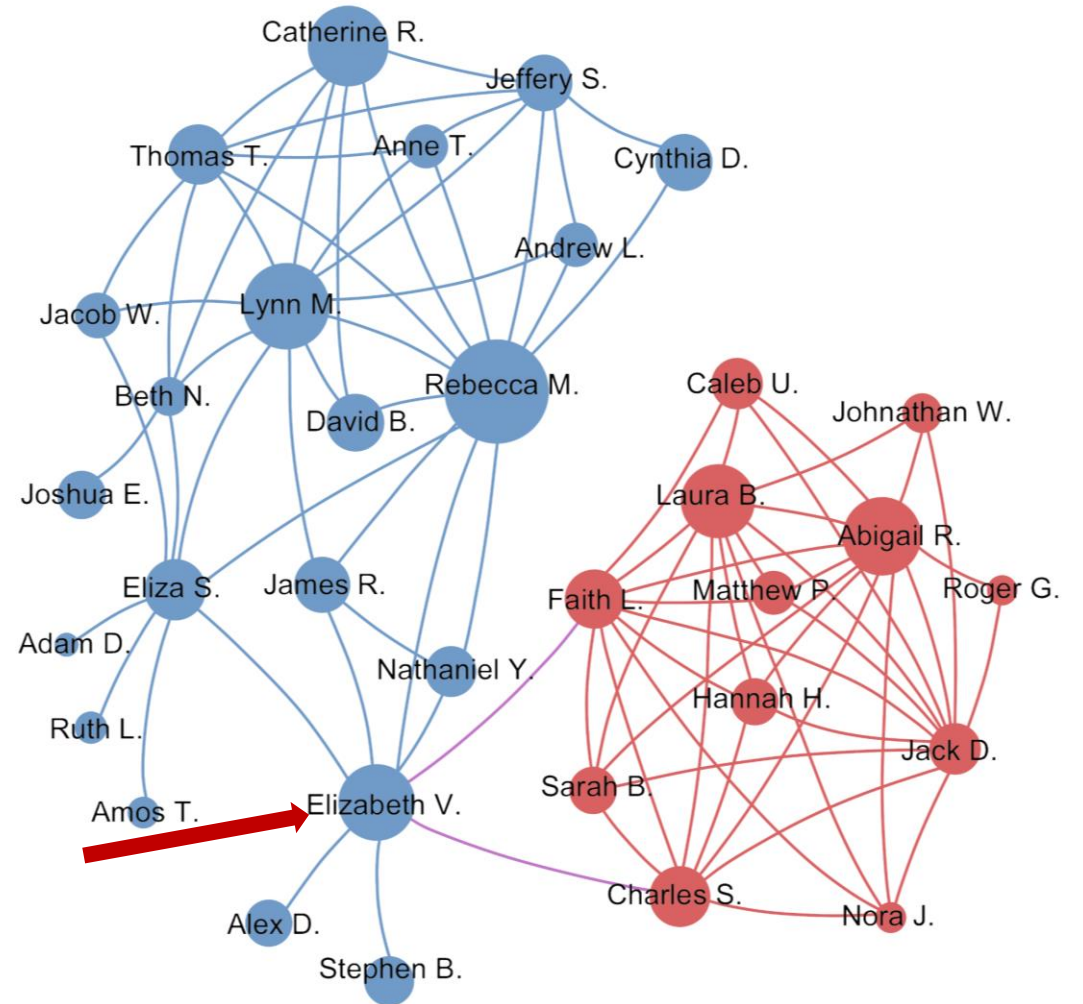
Half Aunt / Uncle 871 492 – 1315	Parent 3485 2376 – 3720			Aunt / Uncle 1741 1201 – 2282
Half 1C 449 156 – 979	Half Sibling 1759 1160 – 2436	Sibling 2613 1613 – 3488	SELF	1C 866 396 – 1397
Half 1C1R 224 62 – 469	Half Niece / Nephew 871 492 – 1315	Niece / Nephew 1740 1201 – 2282	Child 3487 2376 – 3720	1C1R 433 102 – 980
Half 1C2R 125 16 – 269	Half Great-Niece / Nephew 431 184 – 668	Great-Niece / Nephew 850 330 – 1467	Grandchild 1754 984 – 2462	1C2R 221 33 – 471
Half 1C3R 60 0 – 120	Half GG-Niece / Nephew 208 103 – 284	Great-Great-Niece / Nephew 420 186 – 713	Great-Grandchild 887 485 – 1486	1C3R 117 25 – 238

# Autosomal DNA Evidence

**Principle #2:** A genetic network is also called a DNA Shared Match Group. The evidence is that they share a Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA).

Larger genetic networks equal stronger evidence.

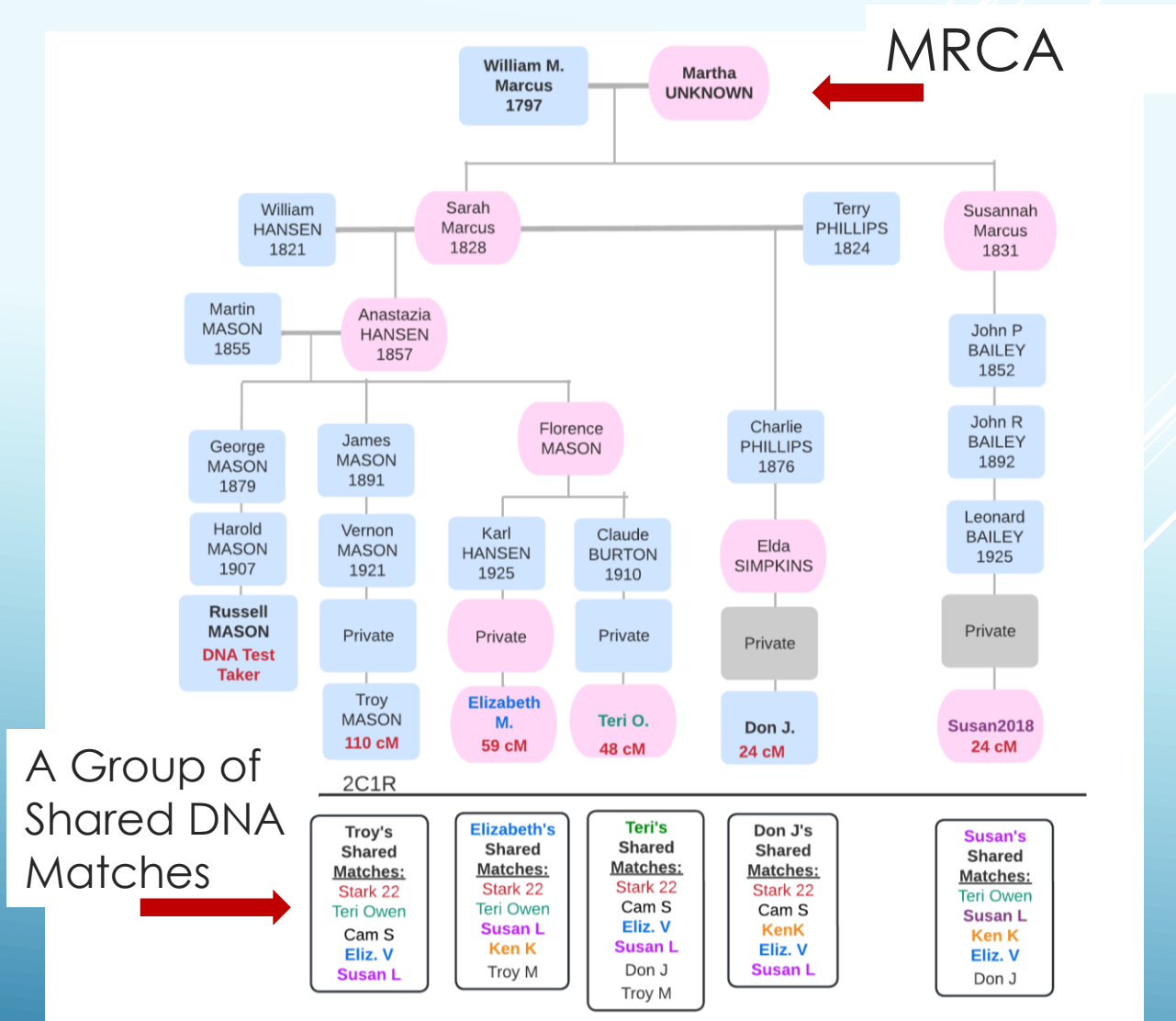
## Genetic Network



# Autosomal DNA Evidence

DNA Shared Match Group = Genetic Network

The Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) has been identified for this Shared Match Group.



A Group of Shared DNA Matches →

# What you should come away with: 5 DNA strategies to find more records/evidence.

1. **Proving a hypothesis for a maiden name:** search your DNA match list for those with that maiden name in their trees.
2. **An unknown maiden name:** Ancestry's ThruLines or MyHeritage's Theory of Family Relativity can suggest the maiden name for an ancestor.
3. **Not certain if documents found for a family relate to your ancestor:** confirm the records with DNA matches who descend from siblings in that family.
4. **An unknown parent/ancestor:** building up trees for a Shared Match Group can lead to records or locations to focus research on first.
5. **An unknown parent/ancestor:** The Most Recent Common Ancestor of a Shared Match Group could be the unknown ancestor.

# DNA Strategy #1

Proving a hypothesis for a maiden name: search your DNA match list for those with that maiden name in their trees, especially if it is not a common surname.

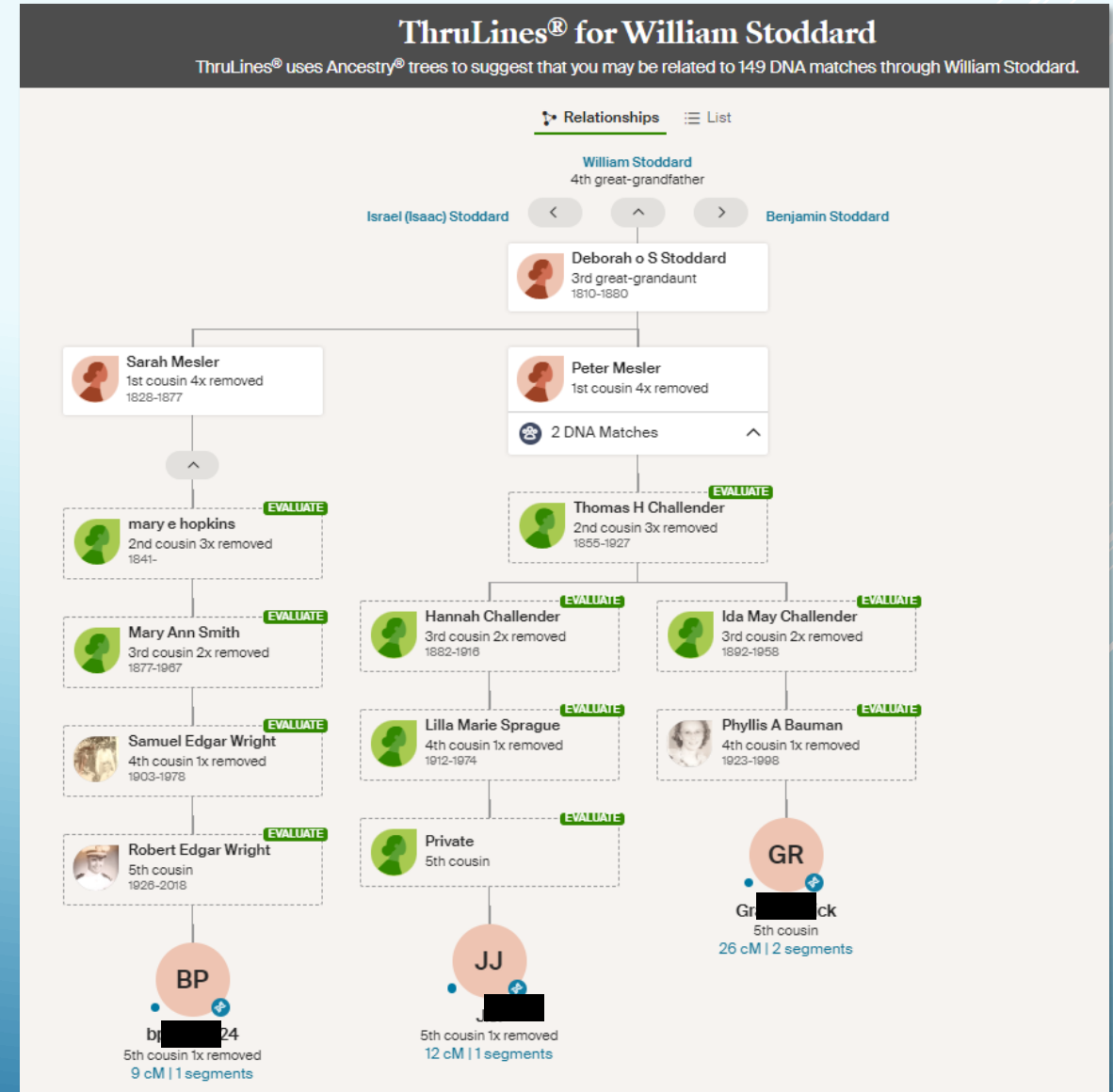
The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com interface for 'Theron Stoddard's DNA Matches'. The navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Trees', 'Search', 'DNA', 'Help', and 'Extras'. The user's name 'Theron Stoddard' is visible in the top right. Below the title, there are tabs for 'List' and 'Map'. A filter bar contains options: 'Unviewed', 'Common ancestors', 'Messaged', 'Notes', 'Trees', 'Shared DNA', and 'Groups'. A search bar is on the right with a magnifying glass icon and a red arrow pointing to it. Below the filter bar, there are three search input fields: 'Match name' (placeholder: 'First name, last name or username'), 'Surname in matches' trees' (containing 'Hultz'), and 'Birth location in matches' trees' (placeholder: 'Birth location in matches' trees'). A checkbox for 'Include similar surnames' is checked. A 'Search' button and a 'Cancel' button are on the right. The results list shows two matches:

Profile Picture	Name	Relationship	Shared DNA	Tree Type	Tree Size	Do you recognize them?
	[Redacted] Hulse III	4th - 6th Cousin	27 cM   < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree	143 People	Yes Learn more
	c [Redacted] 1	4th - 6th Cousin	27 cM   < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree Common ancestor	134 People	Yes Learn more

# DNA Strategy #2\*

**An unknown maiden name:**  
Ancestry's ThruLines or MyHeritage's Theory of Family Relativity can suggest the maiden name for an ancestor.

Remember they both suggest possible relationships – verify everything!

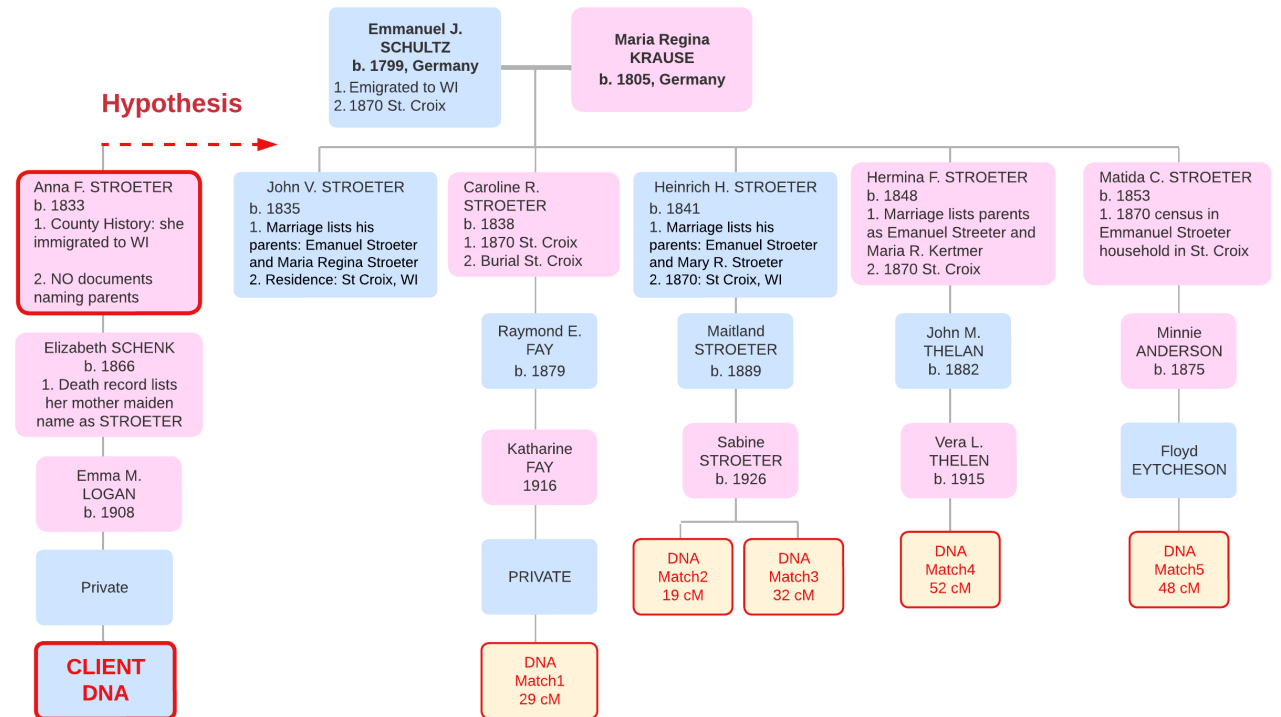


# DNA Strategy #3

**Not certain if documents found for a family relate to your ancestor:** confirm the records with DNA matches who descend from siblings in that family.

Documents confirmed everyone but Anna.  
DNA confirmed Anna.

## Research Question: Who are Anna Stroeter's Parents

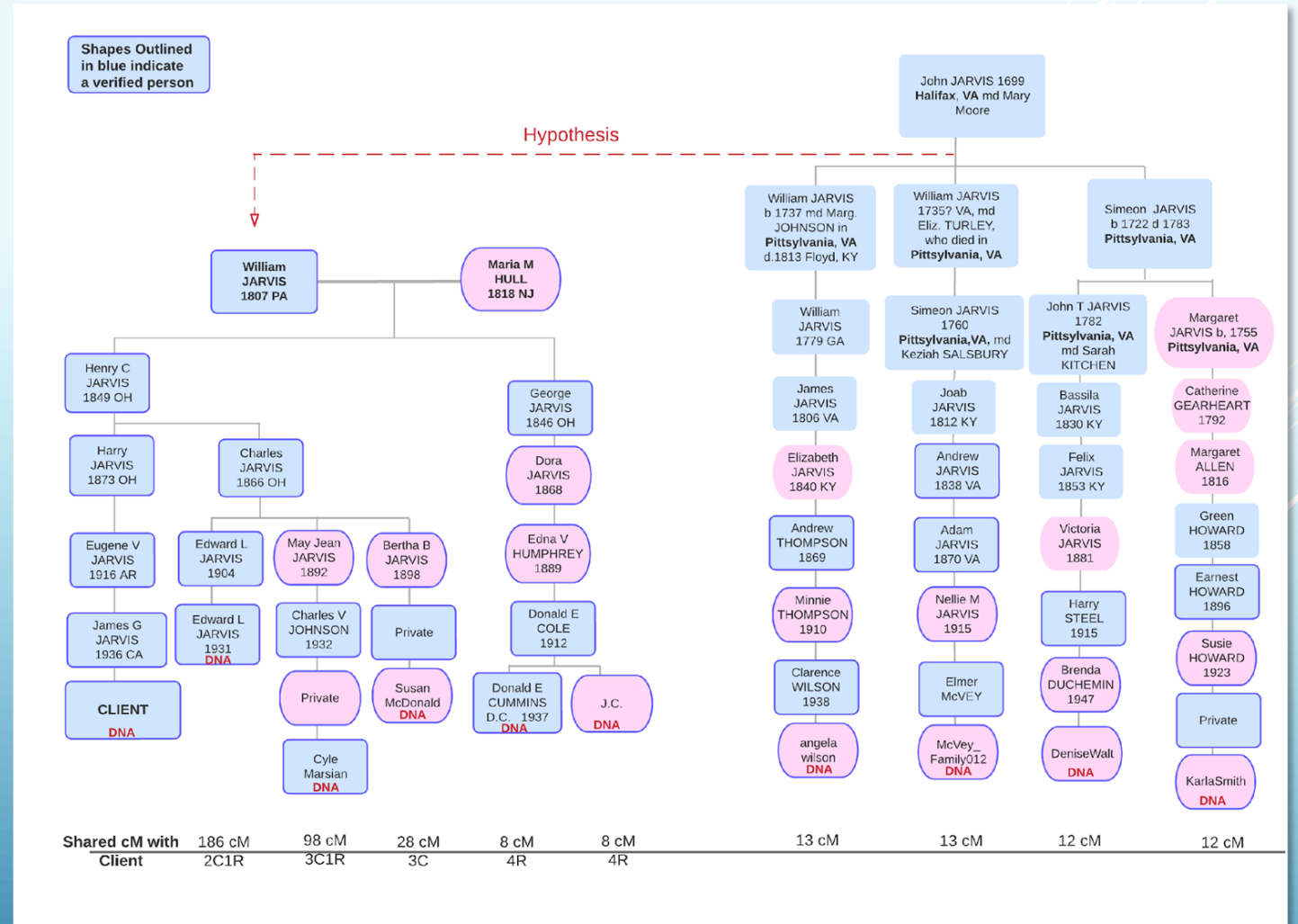


**Research Answer:** There are 8+ strong DNA matches to the client who form a DNA Shared Match Group. Anna is related to this family.

# DNA Strategy #4

An unknown parent/ancestor: building up trees for a Shared Match Group can lead to records or locations to focus research on first.

Watch for unique surnames or locations.





# DNA Strategy #5

**An unknown parent/ancestor:**  
The Most Recent Common Ancestor of a Shared Match Group could be the unknown ancestor.

Documents found for Susannah Marcus named her parents.

DNA can lead to more documents to research!



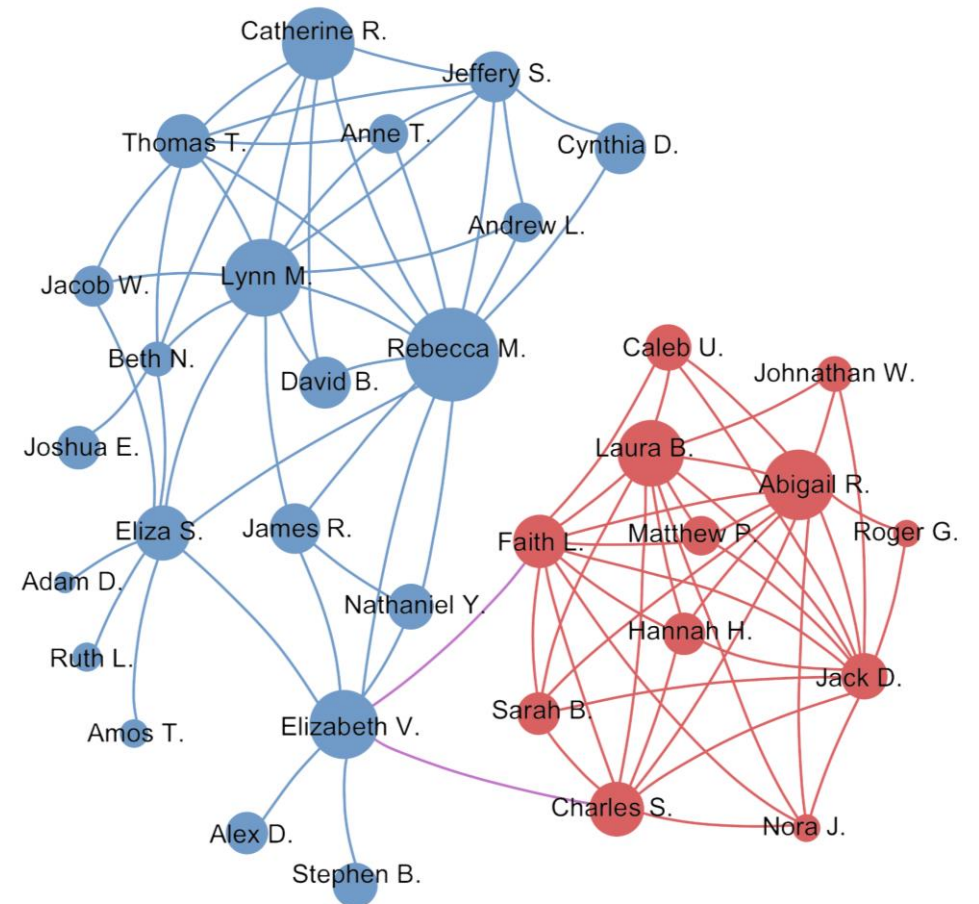
# Summary: DNA Evidence

## Principle #1:

The more cM a person shares with a DNA match, the closer the relationship.

**Principle #2:** A DNA Shared Match Group shares a Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA).

## Genetic Network



# Searching Your Female Ancestors' Family, Associates and Neighbors (The FAN Club)

Also referred to  
as cluster research

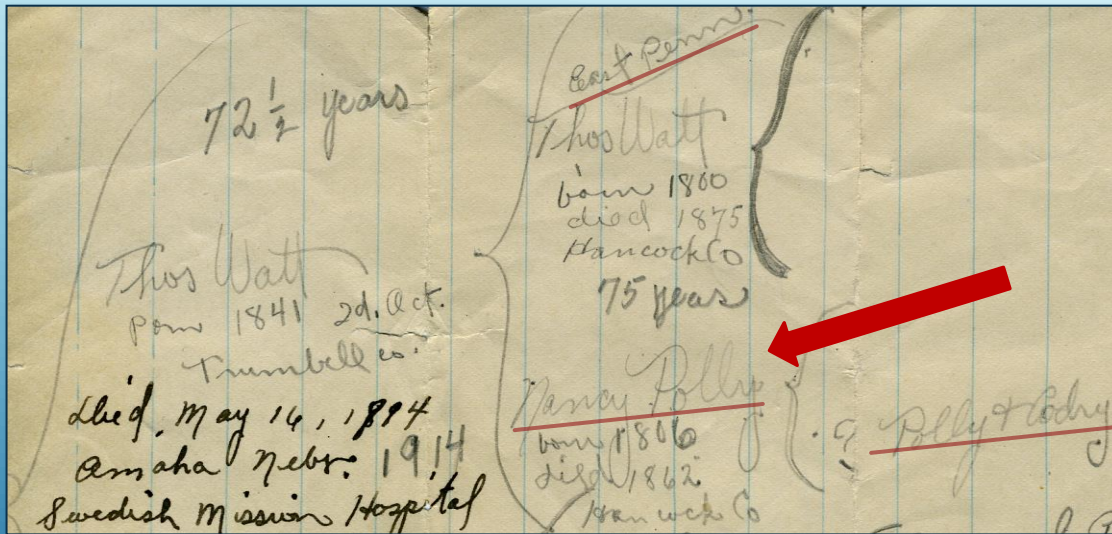
Elizabeth Shown Mills created the acronym, FAN Club.  
QuickSheet: *The Historical Biographer's Guide to Cluster Research (the FAN Principle)*, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2012.)



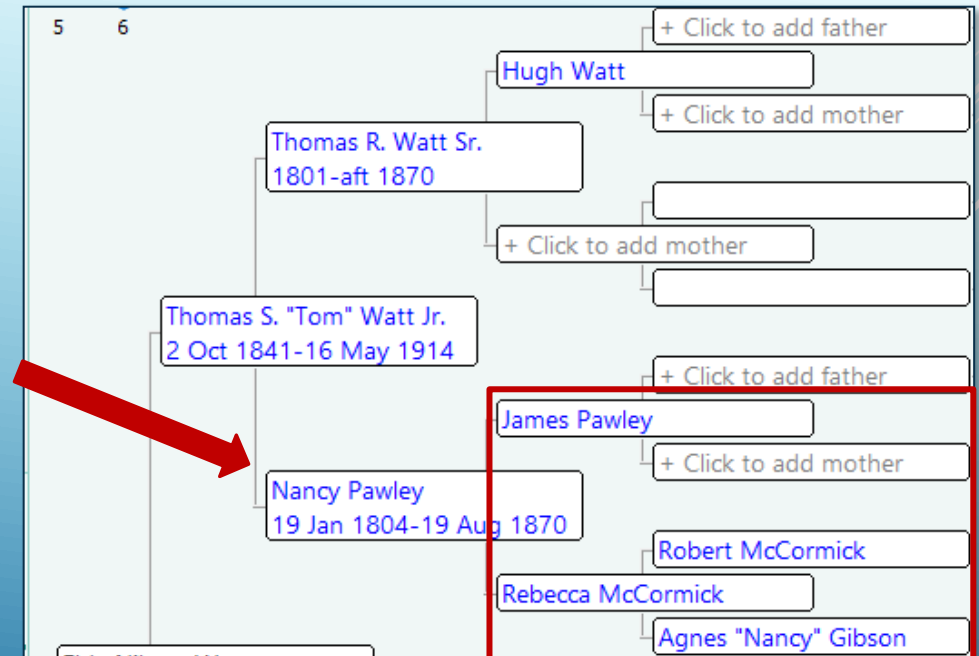
# Example for FAN Club research

**Focused Research Question:** Who was Nancy Polly's mother?

**What I started with**



**End result after Fan Club research**





# Who is in the FAN Club? Family

- Immediate family
- Extended family
- Others of the same surname in the same location



168 Miller Martin	211 Skilman Benjamin	254 Wagoner John	17 Bughette John	54 Kramlich Adam	96
169 Muck Lewis William	212 Snyder Nicholas	255 Wagoner George	18 Bughette Solomon	55 Kramer Jacob	97
170 Muck Nicholas	213 Stoll Nicholas	256 Wirtinbager Daniel	19 Bughette John Jr	56 Lantz Christopher	98
171 McCormick Widow	214 Stewart David	257 Wise George	20 Ballander Stephen	57 Lilla John	99
172 Moly Michael	215 Skull Philip	258 Wise John	21 Clellan James	58 Lehman Jacob	100
173 Moly John	216 Shaver Andrew	259 Wise Henry	22 Clellan Nathaniel	59 McCormick James	101
174 Moyer Sebastian	217 Starn Christian	260 Wise David	23 Clellan Robert	60 McCormick William	102
175 Moyer Jacob George	218 Stone Christian	261 Wise Martin	24 Clellan Arthur Jr	61 McCormick John	103
176 Moyer Thomas	219 Stober Jacob Jr	262 Weaver Michael	25 Duglafs John	62 Mernney John	104
177 Moyer George	220 Stover Jacob Sr	263 Weaver David	26 Hattle Vallantine	63 Myer Henry	105
178 Moyer George	221 Stober Jacob Jr	264 Weaver John	27 S. Lys John	64 Miles James	106
179 McCormick Robert	222 Stober Adam	265 Weaver John	28 Gobhart Michael	65 Mills Widow	107
180 Moyer Philip	223 Stober John	266 Wolf George	29 George John	66 Marty George	108
181 Moyer Michael	224 Stober Soudrick	267 Weaver Michael Jr	30 Just Nicholas	67 Miles Samuel	109
182 Mark David	225 Stober Vallantine	268 Weaver John - wasser	31 Grouse Soudrick	68 Moore James	110
183 Mefena Leagon	226 Stober Soudrick	269 Wolf George Junr	32 Guelty Thomas	69 Moore John	111
184 McCormick Robert	227 Stober Adam Junr	270 Wolf Michael		70 Moore Patrick	
185 Nidigh Adam	228 Shes George	271 Winckler John			
186 Nidigh John	229 Stephans Leonard	272 Wise Henry			

"Pennsylvania Septennial Census, 1779-1863," Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed July 2016) database with images, entry for Widow McCormick.

# Who is in the FAN Club? Associates

- Witnesses, informants, or who paid bond
- Executors and others listed in probate records, such as whom debts were paid to
- Signers of affidavits for military pensions, etc.

NAMES of PARTIES	DATE of BOND	NAMES of SURETIES
ADAMS, James Housman, Elizabeth	19 Dec 1803	Owen Adkins
ADAIR, John Gwin, Patsey	27 Aug 1804	John Gwin

# Who is in the FAN Club? Neighbors

- Those who lived nearby in census and land records.
- In earlier times, people would often migrate in groups.
- They may turn out to be extended family.

RESIDENTS OF CENTRE, HAINES, AND MILES TOWNSHIPS.		41
Kreamer, Daniel.	Stover, Adam, Sr.	<i>Single Men.</i> Dunkle, Jacob. Dunkle, Henry. Ewing, John. Gerhard, Stophel. Harper, John. Hauck, George. Hess, Francis. Hess, John. Hubler, Henry. Isenlach, Frederick. Kremer, Ludwig. Kurtz, Nicholas. McBeth, Andrew. McBeth, John. McCormick, Robert. <u>Paley, Elijah.</u> <u>Paley, James.</u> <u>Paley, Michael.</u> Rishel, Jacob. Rishel, John. Ross, James. Row, Peter. Shook, Charles. Speis, George. Strohe, Nicholas. Stover, John. Wise, David. Wise, Martin.
Kreamer, Michael (saddler).	Stover, Adam, Jr.	
Kreamer, John (carpenter).	Stover, Frederick.	
Krep, Christian (tanner).	Stover, Jacob, Sr.	
Kreighbaum, John (grist-and saw-mill).	Stover, Jacob, Jr.	
Kreighbaum, William.	Stover, John.	
Kritzer, John (house and lot).	Strow, Frederick (house and lot).	
Kryder, Jacob.	Swartz, George.	
Leiser, Matthias.	Trautner, Jeremiah.	
Lewis, Thomas (miller at Cook's).	Treaster, Martin.	
Lilly, George (tanner).	Voneida, Henry.	
Lutz, Widow (oil-mill).	Wagner, John.	
Lutz, John.	Waltberger, Daniel.	
McBeth, John.	Weis, George.	
McCleary, Thomas (cooper).	Weis, John.	
<u>McCormick, Agnes (widow).</u>	Weaver, Adam.	
McElwee, William.	Weaver, David.	
Merks, David.	Weaver, Jacob.	
Merks, Rudolph.	Weaver, John.	
Miller, Abraham.	Weaver, Michael, Sr.	
Miller, David.	Weaver, Michael, Jr.	
Miller, Daniel.	Wileman, John.	
Miller, Jacob.	Wileman, Leonard.	
Miller, Martin.	Winkert, John (house and lot).	
Minnich, George.	Wise, Henry (house and lot).	
Mitchell, John (house and lot).	Wolf, George.	
Mickel, Nicholas.	Wolf, Michael.	
	Young, John (house and lot).	

Miles township, besides its present territory, included that part of Gregg between Brush and Nitany Mountains which is east of the head of Penn's Creek, all of Logan, and the southwestern portion of Greene townships (now in Clinton); the northeastern portion of Greene (now) was annexed to Miles township from Lycoming County March 23, 1818.

The inhabitants of Miles township in 1801 were :

*History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Pennsylvania, by John Blair Linn, 1883, p. 40-41*



# Organizing FAN Club Records

1. Use an organization system for your digital files
  - Find one that works with how you think.
  - By naming individual files as shown, the files are organized by year like a timeline.

**Folder Levels:** Alphabet>Surnames>Individuals (females under maiden name)

**Individual File Label:** surname, given name, (birth year), year of event, event

Name	Individual File Label
McCormick, Agnes 1819-1894	
McCormick, James H. 1822-1882	
McCormick, John Sr. 1790-1834	
McCormick, Mary Ann 1781-	
McCormick, Nancy 1774-1841	
McCormick, Rebecca 1783-1862	
<u>McCormick, Robert 1730-bef 1790</u>	<u>McCormick, Robert (1730) FAN Club Research</u>
McCormick, Robert 1785-	1-McCormick, Robert (1730) Research Log
McCormick, Thomas 1778-	1-McCormick, Robert (1730) Timeline
	McCormick, Robert (1730) 1776 Residence Potter Twp
	McCormick, Robert (1730) 1778 PA Frontier Rangers
	McCormick, Robert (1730) 1789 Tax List Potter Twp
	McCormick, Robert (1730) 1790 Census, his widow is listed

# Organizing FAN Club Records

2. Keep a research log- it saves time in the long run

Research Goal (Family): Robert McCormick & Agnes Gibson		Locality: Penn's Valley, Centre, Pennsylvania	
Date	Repository/ Call #	Source Description	Results/Comments
4 January 2014	Ancestry	1790 U.S. Census of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, p. 96, digital image, <i>Ancestry</i> ( <a href="https://ancestry.com">https://ancestry.com</a> : accessed 4 January 2014), entry for Agness McCormick. ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	<b>1790 Northumberland, Agness McCormick</b> Free White Males 16+: 1 Free White Males under 16: 3 Free White Females: 4 <b>George McCormick</b> Free White Males 16+: 2 Free White Males under 16: 2 Free White Females: 4
4 February 2014	The Newberry Library	"Atlas of Historical County Boundaries," <i>The Newberry Library</i> ( <a href="https://www.newberry.org">https://www.newberry.org</a> : accessed 4 February 2014. ( <a href="#">Link</a> ))	1772 - Northumberland County formed 1789 Mifflin County from Northumberland 1800 Centre County from Mifflin and Northumberland
5 June 2014	Archive.org	John Blair Linn, History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883.) 19; digital images, <i>Archive.org</i> ( <a href="https://archive.org">https://archive.org</a> : accessed 5 June 2014.) ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	<b>1774 Potter Township</b> George McCormick, but no Robert <b>1778 Potter Twp</b> The following names, being additional residents of Potter Township: Robert McCormick, 100 acres, 10 improved, 2 horses, 2 cattle. Single Men: John McCormick & Samuel McCormick

# Organizing FAN Club Records

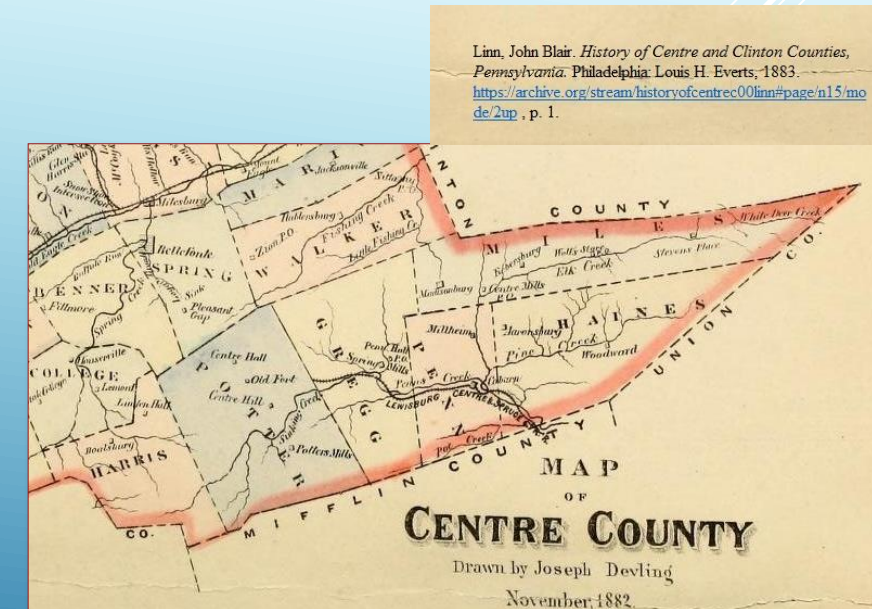
- Timelines are especially critical for FAN Club research to facilitate analysis and sorting.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	<b>Timeline of Robert McCormick, who married Agnes Gibson</b>										
2	<b>Family, Associates, and Neighbors</b>										
3	<b>Year</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>Immediate Family of Robert &amp;</b>	<b>Known Extended Family</b>	<b>Possible Extended Family</b>	<b>Associates &amp; Neighbors</b>	<b>Role in Document</b>	<b>Source</b>
4	1772	PA	Northumb.		Northumberland County Formed						"Atlas of Historical County Boundaries," The Newberry Library ( <a href="https://www.newberry.org/">https://www.newberry.org/</a> : accessed 4 February 2014.
5	1773	PA	Northumb.	Penn's Creek	Land deed			George McCormick (Robert's brother?) buys 1,059 acres land - Penns Crk Valley from Reuben Haines		Grantee	Pennsylvania. Northumberland County. "Deeds, 1770-1866; index, 1772-1914," 3 April 1773, entry for George McCormick, FHL microfilm 961190, p. 198, Family History Library, Salt Lake, UT.
6	1774	PA	Northumb.	Potter Twp.	Potter Township Created						John Blair Linn, <i>History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Pennsylvania</i> (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883.) 19; digital images, <i>Archive.org</i> ( <a href="https://archive.org">https://archive.org</a> : accessed June 2014.)
7	1778	PA	Northumb.	Potter Twp.	1778 Tax list of Potter Township	Robert 100 Acres, 20 improved		George McCormick Samuel McCormick John McCormick (singlemen)	John Watt in 1786 James Watt in 1787	Tax payer	John Blair Linn, <i>History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Pennsylvania</i> (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883.) 19; digital images, <i>Archive.org</i> ( <a href="https://archive.org">https://archive.org</a> : accessed June 2014.)
8	1778	PA	Northumb.		Pennsylvania Frontier Rangers	Robert McCormick in Capt. Henry Bowman's Company		George McCormick Alex. Gibson Both in same company as Robert	John Watt, same company James Watt	Soldier	"List of Soldiers who served as Rangers on the Frontiers. 1778-1783," digital image, <i>Fold3</i> ( <a href="http://www.fold3.com">http://www.fold3.com</a> : accessed 6 May 2014), Pennsylvania Archives, Series 3, Vol. 23, p. 340, entry for Robert McCormick.

# The FAN Club Process

## Step 1. Understand the locations and jurisdictions where your ancestor lived.

- Find maps relating to that time period.
  - Google: Trumbull, Ohio Map 1830s or “historic maps.”
- For U.S. locations, check Newberry Library’s “Atlas of Historical County Boundaries.”



# The FAN Club Process

## Step 2. Add everyone from your ancestor's records to the timeline.

- Include all details – they may help you make connections
- Include their role in the document

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Year	State	County	Township	EVENT	McCormick, Robert/Agnes	George or his Children	Other FAN Research	Source
1									
2	1772	PA	Northumb.		Northumberland Co. Formed				
3	1773	PA	Northumb.	Penn's Creek	Land		George buys land		Pennsylvania. Northumberland County. Deeds, 1770-1866; in 1914, FHL microfilm 961190. Family History Library, Salt La
4	1774	PA	Northumb.	Potter Twp.	Potter Twp. Created				
5	1774	PA	Northumb.	Potter	1774 Tax Assess		George moves to Spring Mills		<a href="#">Linn. John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties. Pen 1883.) p 15.</a>
6	1776	PA	Northumb.	Potter	1776 Petition for arms & ammunition	Robert	George & John-possible son?	Samuel McCormick	<a href="#">Linn. John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties. Pen 1883.) p 17.</a>
7	1778	PA	Northumb.	Potter	1778 Tax-Additional Residents of Potter Twp	Robert 100 Acres, 20 improved	John McCormick (singlemen)- a son?	Samuel McCormick (Singlemen)	<a href="#">Linn. John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties. Pen 1883.) p. 19. https://archive.org/stream/historyofcentre00linn</a>
8	1778	PA	Northumb.		PA Rangers	Robert	George	John & James Watt, Alex. Gibson	<a href="#">"List of Soldiers who served as Rangers on the Frontiers. 1774-1783. Vol. 23, p. 340. http://www.fold3.com/image/1/3082198/"</a>
9	1783	PA	Northumb.	Penn's Valley	Birth of Rebecca McCormick				
10	1786	PA	Northumb.	Potter	1786 Tax Assessment	No Robert Listed here	George McCormick & John in Potter; also a John McCormick non-resident of Bald Eagle Twp. - Whose son?	James Gibson	<a href="#">Linn. John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties. Pen 1883.) p. 23.</a>
11	1789	PA	Northumb.	Potter	1789 Tax for Potter Twp. that remained in Northumberland Co.	Robert	George & John-possible son?	James Gibson and John Watt	<a href="#">Linn. John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties. Pen 1883.) p. 25.</a>
12	1789 or 1790	PA	Northumb.		Death of Robert Carson				
13	1790	PA	Northumb.	Haines Twp.	Haines Twp. Created				
14	1790	PA	Northumb.		Birth of John McCormick				Copper, Ellen, Dorothy Bordner & Edward Keller, <i>The Cemet Pennsylvania</i> , State College, Pennsylvania: Centre County Ge
15	1790	PA	Northumb.	Potter Twp.	1790 Tax List	A robert is listed with no land	George owned 150 acre		Spangler
16	1790	PA	Northumb.	None listed	1790 US Census	Agness McCormick	George & John-possible son?	James Gibson, and James & John Watt Hugh Watt on other pg & Mifflin Co.	Ancestry.com. 1790 United States Federal Census; Ance reproduced by FamilySearch; Census Place: Northumber 9; Page: 96; Image: 306; Family History Library Film: 05

# The FAN Club Process

## Step 3. Create a prioritized FAN research list using this criteria:

A. Strength of the connection  
Ex. A marriage witness is more likely to be related than the judge.

B. Frequency of connections  
Who shows up most often in the records?

C. The quality of the source  
How reliable is the information?

(See Elizabeth Shown Mills, *QuickSheet: The Historical Biographer's Guide to Cluster Research (the FAN Principle)*)

Prioritized List of Robert & Agnes McCormick's FAN Club			
Name of FAN Club member	Named in Which Records	Role in Record	Relationship/ Association, if any
1. George McCormick	1778 Tax List Potter Twp., PA	Taxpayer in same township	Possible brother to Robert
	1778 Pennsylvania Rangers	Soldier in the same company	
	1789 List of Residents in Potter Twp.	Resident in same township	
	1790 U.S. Census Northumberland County, PA	Neighbor, two pages later	
2. Thomas Pauley	1793 Tax List Haines Twp., PA	Taxpayer in same township	Possible father-in-law to Robert's daughter, Rebecca McCormick, who married James Pauley and then Erastus Cowdery
	1801 Tax List for Haines Twp., PA	Taxpayer in same township [Also James Pauley]	
3. John Watt	1778 Tax List Potter Twp., PA	Taxpayer in same township	Possible relative of Rebecca McCormick's daughter, Nancy
	1789 Tax List for Potter Twp., PA	Taxpayer in same township	

# The FAN Club Process

Step 4. Research the prioritized list from Step 3 and revise the priorities as evidence is analyzed

Coitsville (33)  
Proprietors Names

Proprietors Names	2 <sup>d</sup> Rate	3 <sup>d</sup> Rate	Lot	Town	Range	County	Dollars	Cents
Amount bt. Over								
Potter John		100	18	2	1	Trumbull	1	
Pool Bazel		165	16	2	1		1	65
<u>Polly Rebecca</u>		72	15	2	1			72
Polly Thomas		72	15	2	1			72
Robison Joseph		262	33	13	8	Galipolia	2	62

# Examples of FAN Club research to identify a maiden name

1. In an ancestor's census household, research people with a different surname.
2. Check censuses for nearby families with a female age 15-29 with the right first name. Did she disappear from the census about the time of marriage?
3. If a land deed is for a small amount of money or a token (ear of corn) from someone with a different surname, that may have been a member of his wife's family.
4. Cemetery records that show plot layouts can provide FAN names because family members were often buried near each other.
5. If a woman was single or widowed, a male relative may have appeared for her in court as a witness or in another role.



# THE FAN CLUB PROCESS

**TIP:** FAN Club research is often based on indirect evidence –

- Direct evidence states the information outright, such as a death date on a death certificate.
- Indirect evidence is information combined together to support a conclusion.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
BUREAU OF HEALTH - DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS  
Do not write in this space  
3329

**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

1. PLACE OF DEATH  
County Fillmore  
Township Genera  
City Genera No. \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Genera

2. FULL NAME Patta N. Stannard  
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution give its NAME instead of street and number)

Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 1 yr. 7 mo. \_\_\_\_\_ da. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth \_\_\_\_\_ yr. \_\_\_\_\_ mo. \_\_\_\_\_ da.

**PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS**

3. SEX female 4. COLOR or RACE white 5. Single \_\_\_\_\_ Married married (Write the word)  
Widowed \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_

6. If married, widowed or divorced  
HUSBAND of U. F. Stannard  
or  
WIFE of U. F. Stannard

7. DATE OF BIRTH (mo.) Oct (day) 10 (yr.) 1879  
8. Age Years 49 Months 4 Days 20 If less than 1 day \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. \_\_\_\_\_ min.

9. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED  
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work. Invalid  
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed.  
(c) Name of employer \_\_\_\_\_

10. Birthplace { City or town Head Grafton and State or country W. Va.

11. Name of Father T. Watt  
12. Birthplace of Father { City or town Hancock Co. and State or country Ohio

13. Maiden name of Mother Elizabeth Gerby  
14. Birthplace of Mother { City or town Hancock Co. and State or country Ohio

15. Informant U. F. Stannard  
Address Genera W. Va.

16. Filed May 9, 1929 S. E. Relating  
Registrar Frank W. Hooback Genera

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

17. DATE OF DEATH May 5 1929  
(Month) (Day) (Year)  
17. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from July 29, 1928 to May 5, 1929 that I last saw her alive on March 5, 1929 and that death occurred on the date above stated, at 34 M.

CAUSE OF DEATH (Deaths from violence, give names and nature of injury, whether accidental, suicidal, or homicidal.)  
Heart paralysis of the heart.

CONTRIBUTORY Heart paralysis of the heart -  
card degeneration

18. Where was disease contracted? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not at place of death? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did an operation precede death? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of \_\_\_\_\_ Cause \_\_\_\_\_

Was there an autopsy? no  
What test confirmed diagnosis? element  
(Sign) [Signature] M. D.  
3/6/29 (Address) Genera W. Va.  
(Date of burial) 3/6/29  
Grafton W. Va.

19. Undertaker \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
20. Undertaker \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

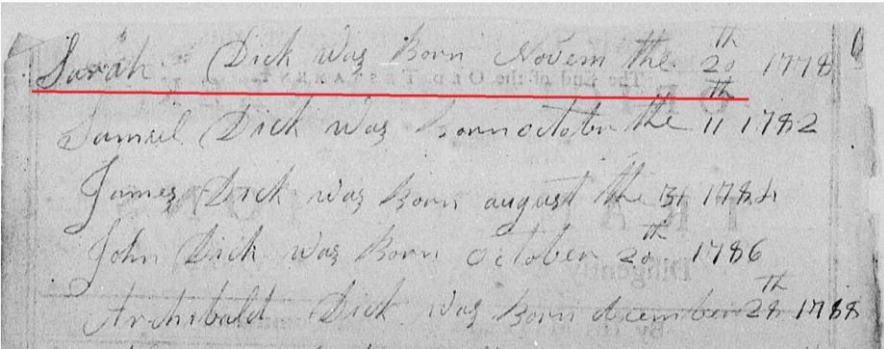
Original Certificate in speaker's possession

**Research Question:** An 1844 will in Pulaski County, KY, for Samuel Combest lists his wife as Sarah. **Who were Sarah's parents?**

- Pulaski County 1803 tax list: Samuel Combest and **John Dick** both lived on Fishing Creek.
- Pulaski County 1841 pension file: **Margaret** Dick, widow of **John** Dick, lists Sarah's birth in 1778 in Chester County, South Carolina.
- *The Descendants of Samuel Combest* states that Samuel lived in Pulaski County, but was born in Chester County, South Carolina.

Samuel and Sarah Combest had ten children. Three of them were named as follows:

- **John** Combest
- **Margaret** Combest
- Samuel **Dick** Combest



Handwritten document snippet showing birth dates for Sarah Dick, Samuel Dick, James Dick, John Dick, and Archibald Dick. The text is written in cursive and includes the following entries:

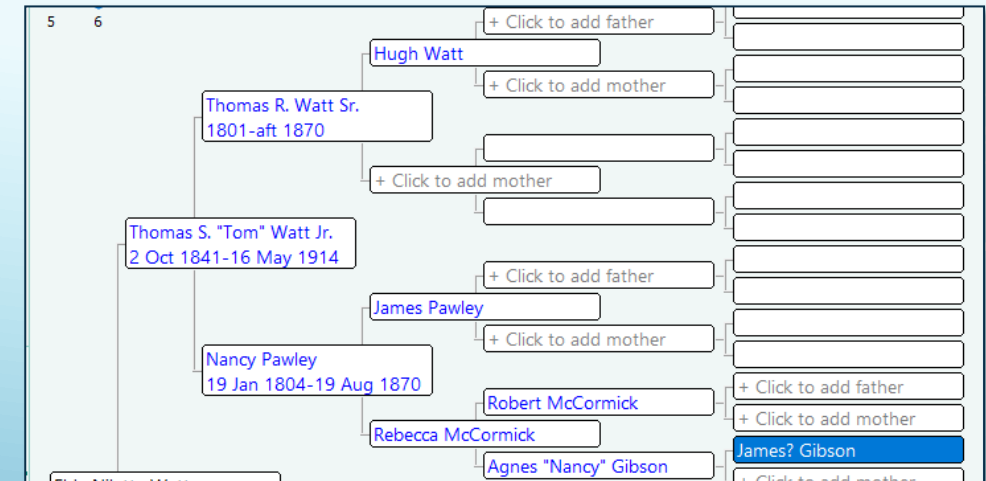
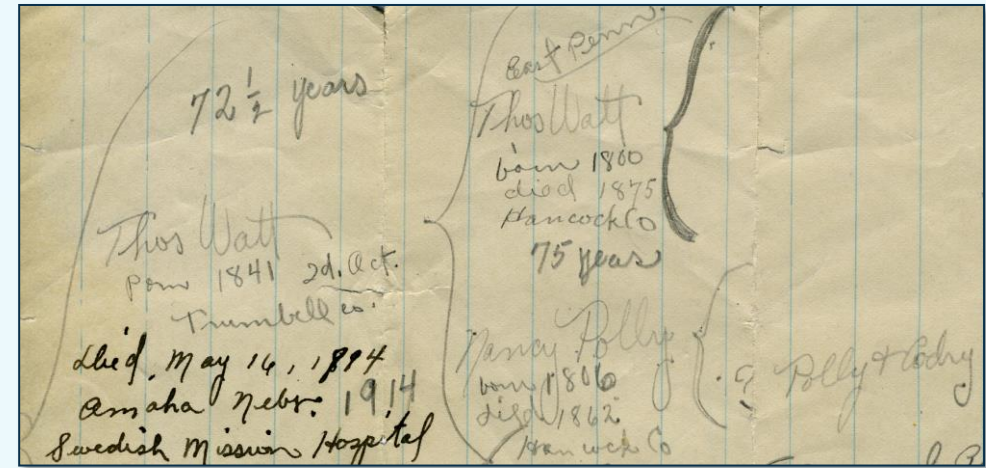
- Sarah Dick was born Novem<sup>r</sup> the 29<sup>th</sup> 1778
- Samuel Dick was born Octob<sup>r</sup> the 11 1792
- James Dick was born August the 15<sup>th</sup> 1794
- John Dick was born October 20<sup>th</sup> 1796
- Archibald Dick was born December 24<sup>th</sup> 1798

# FAN Club Summary

By researching the FAN club of Nancy Pawley in Ohio, I was able to identify her mother and grandparents in Pennsylvania.

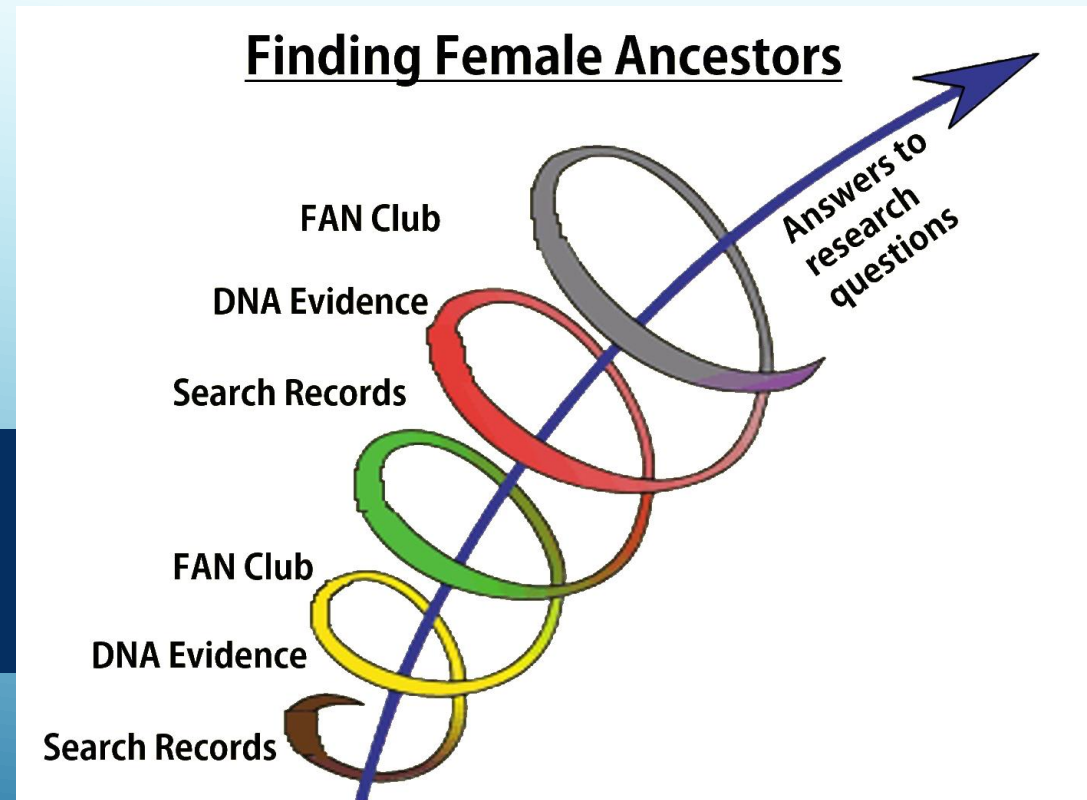
## Steps to FAN Club Research

1. Understand the localities.
2. Add everyone in the records to the timeline.
3. Prioritize who in the FAN Club to search first.
4. Research the prioritized list and revise the priorities as evidence is analyzed.



# Interweave three strategies to successfully find records for women:

1. Search the correct records
2. Utilize DNA evidence
3. Research her FAN Club



# Questions?

See slides & handout at  
[ConnectTheBranch.com/presentations](https://ConnectTheBranch.com/presentations)

