



**CHULA VISTA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
FAMILY HISTORY GAZETTE**



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CVGS Web Site: <https://chulavistagenealogysociety.wildapricot.org/>
CVGS Blog: <http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>

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Happy Holidays From CVGS!!

See You in 2021!

GENEALOGY DAYS IN CHULA VISTA

- **Wednesday, December 9, 12 noon – Research Group Meeting**, in a Zoom video meeting
- **Wednesday, December 16, 12 noon – DNA Interest Group Meeting**, in a Zoom video meeting
- **Wednesday, December 30, 12 noon – No General Meeting – Happy Holidays!!**
- **Wednesday, January 13, 12 noon – Research Group Meeting**, in a Zoom video meeting
- **Wednesday, January 20, 12 noon – DNA Interest Group Meeting**, in a Zoom video meeting
- **Wednesday, January 27, 12 noon – General Meeting: Diane Gould Hall on “My Trip to Scotland – What I Did Wrong and What I Did Right”** in a Zoom video meeting
- **Wednesday, February 10, 12 noon – Research Group Meeting**, in a Zoom video meeting
- **Wednesday, February 17, 12 noon – DNA Interest Group Meeting**, in a Zoom video meeting
- **Wednesday, February 24, 12 noon – General Meeting: John Finch on “DNA Dynamics”** in a Zoom video meeting

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All CVGS Meetings are held in online Zoom video meetings unless otherwise noted.
Please register on the CVGS website.
Contact Virginia Taylor (irishdoll@cox.net) for program details.

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President's Message – by Karen Smith



I just revisited my December message from 2019 and saw my reminder about the CVGS Christmas party. It brought home to me what losses we have suffered through this pandemic. Before that, I heard Governor Newsom announce a stay at home order for most areas of our state. Based on intensive care unit capacity, the order will be invoked when our hospitals reach 85% of capacity.

I surely miss seeing our society members at our meetings, annual picnic, and Christmas luncheon. Each of you must be feeling some losses, too – missing family, friends, events – and if you are like me, the sense of living in a bunker.

I honestly want to wish each of you a safe and healthy Christmas or holiday season. I pray that none of you fall ill and that you are able to enjoy at least a small semblance of joy in the hopefulness of this season. I look forward to the time (hopefully several months hence) when we can meet in person.

Be well ---

Please Note: All CVGS Events at Chula Vista Library Are Canceled Until Further Notice!

The Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library and the other branches of the library are closed until the embargo on meetings of groups of people and distancing from others are lifted.

Consequently, all CVGS in-person meetings are canceled. We will try to have Zoom online video conferencing meetings for the Board of Directors, the Research Group, the DNA Interest Group, and the General Meetings with a speaker. See page 3 of the June Newsletter for Zoom program details, or contact Randy Seaver (email randy.seaver@gmail.com).

Because of the pandemic, there will be no Holiday Luncheon this year. The Society will make a donation to Salvation Army in lieu of donating toys and food for them.

Fun Quote of the Month: “Life is Short – Do Genealogy First!” by Geoff Rasmussen

Stay up-to-date on CVGS Activities

Visit the CVGS Website: <https://chulavistagenealogysociety.wildapricot.org/>

Visit the Chula Vista Genealogy Cafe blog: <http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>

The Board Meeting minutes and General Meeting minutes are now posted on the CVGS website. Check them out at <https://cvgenealogy.org> on the “Members” tab.

My "Where I'm From" Poem, by Randy Seaver

I am from an all grown up small town,
My San Diego is sun, streets, beaches and canyons,
From jacaranda trees with purple flowers,
To sunburn, body surfing and sand castles.

I am from a Victorian house with gingerbread and big porches,
With angled walls, big windows and secret places,
I remember sliding down a rear stair bannister,
To a backyard with boysenberry and raspberry bushes.

I am from Rice Krispies, scrambled eggs, bacon, toast and vermicelli,
Hamburgers and hot dogs on the backyard grill,
Yummy doughnuts from the bakery on Saturday morning,
Running to get ice cream cones at the corner drug store.

I am from wonderful teachers at Brooklyn school, on the school safety patrol,
At Roosevelt Junior and San Diego High for Latin, Calculus, Physics and History,
And San Diego State for a degree in Aerospace Engineering.
Then a career in Aerospace at Rohr and Goodrich, seeing the world.

I am from Cavemen, Aztecs, Chargers and Padres - my teams!
Football in the street, baseball in the park, basketball on the patio.
Bicycles, flexies and scooters, forts in the park, newspaper routes,
Berry sales, Piggly Wiggly and five-and-dime stores.

I am from Seavers, Richmonds, Hildreths, Whites and Smiths,
Carringers, Spanglers, Vauxes, Aubles and Kemps,
Hard working, shrewd, fair-minded, home building, successful people,
Trying, laughing, learning, teaching, caring, loving.

I am from Chula Vista, Leominster, Hilperton, South Petherton, Delhi,
Concordia, McCook, Oak Grove, Sandy Lake, Aurora,
Glocester, Killingly, Eastham, Woodbridge, Terre Haute, New England,
New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ontario, Wiltshire, Somerset and California!

I am from the snake oil salesman, the blacksmith, the carder,
The house painter, the many farmers, the patriot soldiers, the mechanic,
The carpenter, the wheelwright, the shoemaker, the preacher,
And all of the dear mothers – bakers, weavers and homemakers.

I am from Episcopalians, agnostics, Quakers, Lutherans,
Baptists, Methodists, Congregationalists and Pilgrims,
and turned into a Presbyterian.
I am a child of God.

(continued on page 6)

November 18th DNA Interest Group Review

The November 18th DNA Interest Group meeting on Zoom had 19 in attendance. In the first hour, Randy discussed:

- What are AncestryDNA “ThruLines and MyHeritageDNA “Theory of Family Relativity?” They are attempts by Ancestry and MyHeritage to determine common ancestors of your DNA matches.
- He demonstrated how he uses AncestryDNA's ThruLines – going to “DNA” then “DNA Matches” and clicking on “Shared DNA” and noting how many “All Matches” and “Close matches” he has. He looks at “Groups” and “New Matches” and looks for the “Common Ancestor” indicator.
- For a match with a “Common Ancestor,” he writes a Note for the DNA match person that lists the relationship, the shared cM and number of segments, and the names of the common ancestor(s).
- The “DNA” menu has a “ThruLines” tab that opens with the list of your ancestors, (from your Ancestry Member Tree) back through your 5th great-grandparents. You can see how many DNA matches you share for each of your ancestors on the list.
- When you click on one of your Ancestors, you can see all of the “ThruLines” that AncestryDNA has found who are descended from that ancestor.
- If the line from the “Common Ancestor” to the “DNA Match” is well-defined, and sources are available, he adds the DNA Match's line to his RootsMagic database which is synced to his Ancestry Member Tree.

In the second hour, the attendees shared some of their DNA-related activities, and asked questions.

- Ray asked what records might be used to find earlier ancestors of his DNA matches that don't have a big tree – the group suggested Google, public records collections, Facebook, obituaries, marriage announcements, vital record indexes and certificates, and other trees.
- Paul suggested doing “Floater” or “Quick and Dirty” trees by adding grandparents or great-grandparents of a DNA match to an Ancestry tree, and then searching back in time.
- Judy is doing Descendants research, and has found that some Ancestry trees have wrong information.



In December, we will look at the MyHeritageDNA “Theory of Family Relativity” and how to use MyHeritage family trees of our matches to try to find common ancestors.

The next DNA Interest Group meeting will be on Wednesday, 16 December at 12 noon in a Zoom online video conference hosted by Randy Seaver. An invitation to CVGS members will go out on 14 December.

Spotlight on Karen Christina Smith, CVGS Researcher and Story Teller, **by Patricia Diane Godinez**

Karen is great about sharing snippets of her life in the monthly President's Message.

Her parents, Kendall and Dorothy Smith, came from a long line of American-born folks. Her mother's family was from Western Pennsylvania (since about 1760) and her father's family was all in Virginia (by the mid-1600's). Karen was the youngest of their three children who were born in Phoenix, Arizona.

On a blind date, Karen met a fellow graduate of the University of Arizona. They married a year later, moved to Northern California, and had three children. One of their daughters practices law for Native American tribes, while the other daughter is in technology. Their son is a project manager for a large national defense contractor.



In the late 1970's, an aunt died and left Karen everything. "In her storage room were three trunks and some contained hundreds of letters and pictures, some dating back to the late 1800's." That sparked Karen's interest in the family ancestry. "I had to put it on hold because I began to teach full time with three young children, but came back to it when I retired."

Karen was an elementary school teacher with the Coronado Unified School District where she taught at the Village Elementary School and the Silver Strand Elementary School for 20 years. The other 13 years of her teaching career was in different areas and involved moving because of her husband's employment. Karen said, "One of my best blessings in life is that I absolutely loved my job and could not wait to get to work each day." She added, "There is nothing more inspiring and beautiful than the honesty and curiosity of children."

Karen and her second husband came to Chula Vista in 1993 when he got a job here. She joined the CVGS in late 2012 and was the Membership Chairman for two terms, Besides serving on several committees, Karen was elected President in 2018 and is currently at the end of her first term.

The research focus for Karen is on understanding the historical context of her ancestors, "such as why they migrated, what events influenced their lives, and how they shaped the evolution of my family." So far, the most interesting things she has learned have been about "the Wild West cattle ranching innovated by a 2nd great grandfather and the incredible number of maternal ancestors, who though poor farmers and coal miners, served bravely in every war, from the American Revolution to World War II."

Do You Have a Research Story to Share?

Because we are sending email newsletters, we are not limited to 10 pages. If you have a research or family story about an ancestor or your genealogy research, please send it to the editor as a PDF file and we will be happy to publish it. If you have a photograph or document image, that can be published too! This month, I added one of my recent blog posts to page 11!

Upcoming Family Tree Webinars

These webinars are sponsored by Legacy Family Tree, and are FREE to watch live, and are FREE for a week after the live event. You must register to view them live at www.familytreewebinars.com. A membership of \$49.95 per year enables the member to view any of the over 1,400 webinars at any time.

- Tuesday, 8 December, 11 a.m.: [Find a Boatload of Passenger Lists on MyHeritage](#), by Sharon Monson
- Wednesday, 9 December, 5 p.m.: [The Most Prominent Citizens: Using County Histories](#), by Cari Taplin
- Tuesday, 15 December, 5 p.m.: [From the 18th to the 21st: The Records of Prohibition](#), by Judy G. Russell
- Wednesday, 16 December, 11 a.m.: [Ten Best Sources for Determining Your Immigrant Ancestor's Town of Origin](#), by Lisa Alzo
- Wednesday, 30 December, 11 a.m.: [Ten Databases You Need to Know About](#), by Shannon Combs-Bennett
- Tuesday, 12 January, 11 a.m.: [MyHeritage Mobile App: All New Features From 2020](#), by Daniel Horowitz

“Where I’m From” Poem (Concluded)

I am from a family of encouragers
Of triers, inventors and second place winners.
Believing in "never give up," "do your best"
and striving for "well done, you tried hard."

I am from folks in faded and crumbling black and white pictures,
who built and lived in sod houses, farms and salt boxes,
From fireplaces, wood stoves and straw beds with ropes,
With buckets, wells, tubs, outhouses and honey pots.

I am from sailing ships, steamships, and cruise ships,
Horse-drawn buggies, sleighs, and wagon trails;
Trains, freeways, buses, bicycles, trolleys and automobiles,
Airplanes, amusement parks, roller coasters and imagination.

I am from towns built in the wilderness six miles apart
And now a large modern city with palm trees and traffic.
From families sewn together by hardship, energy and unfailing love
Displaying the indomitable human spirit.

Where are you from? Each of us is unique and have had unique lives, as did each of our ancestors. Write about your place, and your ancestors' places, in human history. Pass it on to your children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews and cousins. Please submit it as an article to this newsletter!

Fun Quote of the Month: “Genealogy is like a scavenger hunt and a jigsaw puzzle all rolled into one.”
by Dolores J. Rush

November 25th General Program Review

The speaker for the November 25th CVGS General Meeting was Ray Raser, who told the 1620 Mayflower Story and its' impact on history. We had 28 in attendance, including 4 from out of San Diego County.

Ray is the current Governor of The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California that currently has approximately 3,000 members. He also represents California as Assistant General to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants based in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

In his presentation in appropriate Plymouth costume, he discussed the English origins of the passengers, the religious struggles in England and Holland, sailing from Holland to England in 1620, and then to America and landing on Cape Cod and then settling in Plymouth, Mass. He described the ship, the 102 passengers, the Mayflower Compact, the hardships of the first winter, the 1621 Thanksgiving, and Mayflower resources.



The General Society of Mayflower Descendants website is www.themayflowersociety.org, and the California colony website is at www.camayflower.org. The San Diego chapter website is www.mayflowersandiego.org.

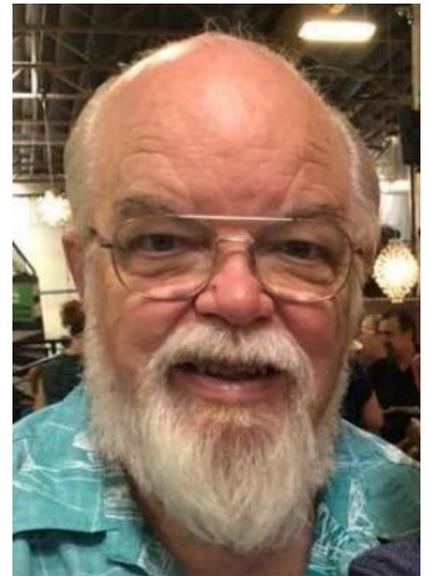
There was no handout, but the video recording of this program is in the Members section of the CVGS website under "Recorded Zoom Meetings" – <https://chulavistagenealogysociety.wildapricot.org/page-18155>.

NOTE: Handouts and video recordings for the Hal Bookbinder, Colin Whitney, and Marshall Clow programs are also available on the website link, if you missed seeing them when originally presented.

November 11th Research Group Review

The November 11th Research Group meeting on Zoom had 15 in attendance. In the first hour, Randy discussed:

- RootsTech Connect 2021 Virtual Conference is coming on 25 to 27 February – it will be in online webinars and FREE to attend. You have to register at www.rootstech.org.
- Family Tree Maker 2019 had an upgrade offer for users with earlier versions. See www.familytreemaker.com.
- Lisa Louise Cooke had an interesting video of “10 Surprising Things at Google Books” - see <https://lisalouisecooke.com/2020/10/26/10-surprising-things-google-books/>
- Ancestry added Anglican baptisms, marriages and burials for Wales, 1594-1900s recently.
- Randy wrote about “Mining the Newspapers.com Obituaries on Ancestry.com” in <https://www.geneamusings.com/2020/11/mining-newspaperscom-obituary-index.html>



In the second hour, the attendees shared their recent research and asked questions.

The next Research Group meeting will be on Wednesday, 9 December at 12 noon in a Zoom online video conference hosted by Randy Seaver. An invitation to CVGS members will go out on 7 December.

Want Up-To-Date Genealogy News?

Randy Seaver publishes “Genealogy News Bytes” every Tuesday and Friday with links to genealogy news articles, new or updated online record collections, genealogy education opportunities (conferences, webinars, podcasts, video), DNA success stories, and more. See an example at https://www.geneamusings.com/2020/12/genealogy-news-and-education-bytes_4.html

Dick Eastman publishes genealogy news and technology articles daily on his Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter – check for updates at <https://eogn.com/page-18080> (his new website!)

Here are some of the significant November genealogy news items:

- [MyHeritage In Color™ Just Got Better](#)
- [Ancestry.com Hit With Litigation Over California Yearbooks](#)
- [New Randy Majors' Tool shows Civil Townships on Google Maps](#)
- [Ancestors of Biden, Obama, JFK, Reagan left Ireland ‘within some 10 years of each other’](#)
- [MyHeritage Helps Man Track Down a Family’s Descendant to Discuss the Past](#)
- [My Family Tree—and How I Found the Stories Behind the Names](#)
- [Vivid-Pix Helps Family & Friends Safely Celebrate the Holidays and Create Holiday Time Capsules](#)
- [RootsTech Connect 2021 Announces First of Keynote Speakers](#)

NOTE: Randy Seaver also writes a weekly “Best of the Genea-Blogs” post every Sunday – see an example in <https://www.geneamusings.com/2020/11/best-of-genea-blogs-week-of-22-to-28.html>.

Finding Family During the Pandemic of 2020 **& How DNA Made The Difference, by Patricia Diane Godinez**

Once upon a time there were two half brothers who shared the same father but had different mothers. Both knew their father as Jerry James and looked for him to no avail. In his twenties, Jerry was in a road local in the Midwest that moved him around to many states. It's hard to find a person whose name is an alias and who moves frequently, while not leaving a forwarding address. No one was able to find Jerry for decades.

But the younger of the two half brothers decided to give Ancestry DNA a try, in the beginning of 2020. Scott Eicher of Tipton, Iowa, was looking for his father and did not realize he would find numerous close family members in Florida. One of his first cousins was Cindy, who also had done a DNA test with Ancestry. She asked her mother Cathy, who was this new person, when Scott's name come up as a possible cousin? Cindy's Aunt Sharon had also tested with Ancestry and the three women decided to check with Diane Godinez, all the way across the country in San Diego, California. Diane had been working on their Mudgett Family History for years.

Diane is the mother of the elder half brother, Daniel Godinez, and she knows lots. Connecting the dots, on Friday, April 4th, Diane reached out to Scott in a phone call. She explained that she was the first wife of Jerry, but that after their divorce in 1970 she did not know where he was. However, she did have Jerry's older sister's contact information. That was Charlene and she was in Texas. Luckily, Charlene had her brother Jerry's phone number, and after she talked to Scott she phoned Jerry, who was in Arizona. Then Jerry made a call to his son whom he had not seen since the early 1970's.

Diane put her son Danny, who was born in 1967, in Lompoc, California, in touch with Scott, who was born in 1972. Those two fellows, now in middle age, had a lot in common. They also looked so much like each other, especially with their blue eyes. Seven months later on 3 November, Scott boarded a plane and flew out to San Diego, to meet his older brother Danny, and to share some happy times together. One day was set aside for Scott to meet his "stepmother" Diane. Along with Diane's husband Felipe, Scott visited the Imperial Beach Pier, saw the Pacific Ocean, on which a few surfers were hitting the waves, and shopped in Gonzalez Brothers Mexican grocery for a lunch of carnitas, rice, beans, salsa, and tortillas. Later Scott and Diane played cards while Diane told him things about his dad Jerry. The game she taught him was Crazy Eight even though the card game that she used to play with Jerry and their friends in Aurora, Illinois, was Euchre.

Scott, with Diane's help, is learning about other family members. There are another two siblings in Arizona that Scott has not yet met. More recently, Scott has learned more about four step siblings, whose father, Abraham M. Eicher, adopted Scott. One of those step siblings was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, where it is assumed Mr. Eicher served during his USAF career.

Scott, in this great year of ups and downs, now knows that he and Danny, through their maternal grandmother, Ella Katherine Schultz, have an ancestor who came on the Mayflower in 1620. Yes, Samuel Fuller was a Church Deacon and doctor aboard the ship and in Plymouth Colony. Thus these two, Danny and Scott, have come full circle with help from their DNA.



Welcome New Members

Current Membership (as of 12/1): 70

New Members: Judy Leiser

Karyn's Caring Corner

Cards were sent to:

Meeting Host Volunteers

TBD

We Need a Hospitality Chair!
Please volunteer!

Telephone Tree Volunteers

Ana Castro
Carrie Holleron
Carole Sobke

CVGS Society Officers

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| President: | Karen Smith |
| First Vice-President, Programs | Virginia Taylor |
| Second Vice-President, Membership | Carrie Holleron |
| Treasurer | Karen Polk |
| Secretary | Ana Castro |

Committee Chairs

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Education | Susi Pentico |
| Historian | Susan Zimmer |
| Hospitality | Open |
| Librarian | Open |
| Newsletter Editor | Randy Seaver |
| Research Group/DNA Group/Queries | Randy Seaver |
| Ways and Means | Carole Sobke |
| Webmaster | Gary Brock |

San Diego Genealogy Events

San Diego Genealogical Society
(www.casdgs.org)
All Meetings on Zoom

Monthly Program

Saturday, 9 January, 10 a.m.
Speaker: **Diahan Southard** on
"Organizing Your DNA Results" and
"Ask the Wife! A DNA Analysis
Strategy"

FREE!!!

(SDGS Invites CVGS Members –
see future email to register)

North San Diego County Genealogical
Society (www.nsdccgs.org)
All Meetings on GoToWebinar

Monthly Program

Tuesday, 26 January, 9:30 a.m.
Speaker: **Colleen Fitzpatrick** on
"Holocaust Survivor Max Kurzem,
The Mascot Documentary"

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Upcoming Conferences

RootsTech Connect 2021

25 - 27 February 2021

Virtual – Worldwide – FREE

Registration:

<https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

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Why Do I Have So Few Known Common Ancestors in my DNA Matches? by Randy Seaver

1) The Answer Is:

- * The main reason is that most of your DNA matches don't have big enough online family trees that might show a common ancestor with you. And many of your matches have no tree at all.
- * Another reason is that the family trees your matches have may be wrong - they may have added the wrong parents of one or more ancestors to their tree due to bad information or bad decisions, or they may have one or more NPE (not parent expected) due to adoption or an out-of-wedlock child birth.
- * One more reason - your own family tree may be wrong! You may have one or more NPE events in your ancestry and not know it, or may have made a bad decision on the parents of an ancestor.

2) Look at Your DNA Matches. Here's the summary of my results:

- * I have 34,475 DNA matches on AncestryDNA, with 1,537 matches with 20 centiMorgans (cM) or more. All of those above 20 cM should be real DNA cousins according to the experts, unless there is endogamy in my ancestry (of which I have little known, if any). I have about 410 ThruLines (where Ancestry shows me a common ancestor, the line to me, and the line to my DNA match), so that is about 1.2% of my total matches. Some of those ThruLine matches share less than 20 cM with me, but my paper trail and the DNA match's paper trail shows a common ancestor.
- * It's even worse on MyHeritage - I have 8,949 DNA matches there, and only 8 "Theory of Family Relativity" matches. These also show show a known common ancestor based on my tree, the DNA match's tree, and other trees or records. So that's only 0.1% of my total matches.
- * However, even those ThruLines and Theory of Family Relativity lines may not be correct - I have several "Potential Ancestors" on my ThruLines which don't make much sense, but there is an Ancestry tree out there that Ancestry used to create it. Or my research is wrong...it could be!
- * In short - not every person who ever lived since, say, 1750 - picked because that's about the limit for the birth date of most common ancestors of my 65^h cousin DNA matches - is in an online family tree. There are over 7.5 billion living people now, and almost all of them are not in anyone's public online tree because of privacy reasons. Not every person who ever died is in an online family tree - I find persons in my own research who are not in any other online family tree until I add them.

3) Now - what can you do about it?

- * According to the Shared cM Tool on DNAPainter, 229 cM is the average match value for a second cousin (common great-grandparents), with a range of 41 to 592 cM. 73 cM is the average match for a third cousin (common second great-grandparents, with a range of 0 to 234. 35 cM is the average match for a 4th cousin (common third great-grandparents), with a range of 0 to 139. Some other relationships with a once- or twice-removed cousin relationship, or with a half-cousin relationship, changes the cM numbers. Not every match has cM numbers consistent with the average, some have more, some have less, and by the time you get down to 3rd cousins not every 3rd cousin is your DNA match because of the randomness of DNA recombination generation by generation.

(continued on page 12)

Why Do I Have So Few Known Common Ancestors in my DNA Matches?

by Randy Seaver (concluded)

- * There are some possibilities, especially for matches with more than 20 cM. For those with significant tree people (say 100 profiles or more), you can search their trees for known surnames – Ancestry.com and MyHeritage.com actually do it for you. If you're lucky, their tree might get back to 4th or 5th great-grandparents, or provide enough information for you to try to go back one or two more generations.
- * You can try to contact your DNA Match with no tree, or a small tree, and see if they have a more fully-leafed tree that is not on Ancestry or MyHeritage. You can use the message systems on Ancestry and MyHeritage to contact them. My experience is that most of the Matches do not respond. The ones that might respond are those that have logged into Ancestry or MyHeritage in the past week or month. You might try to find the DNA Match on Facebook and contact them that way.
- * You can take the known ancestors of your DNA match and see if their grandparents or great-grandparents are in another Ancestry or MyHeritage tree, or in the WikiTree, Geni, or FamilySearch Family Tree with more ancestors back in time, and search for your known ancestors there. I've tried this numerous times, and have had some success.
- * If you know the real name of your DNA match, you can search Google, the People Finder websites, the [MyHeritage Public Records site](#), the online record collection websites, the online Newspaper websites ([www.Newspapers.com](#), [www.GenealogyBank.com](#), [www.NewspaperArchive.com](#)) to find mention of the DNA match's name in records, news articles, obituaries, marriage announcements, or in online records. One of those may provide parents names, and then do it again for the parents names to find grandparents names. I've tried this several times and have had some success.
- * You can take the ancestors of your DNA Match who has a tiny or small tree (say with deceased grandparents or great-grandparents) and make your own tree on Ancestry or MyHeritage, then use their Record Hints and Record Matches, and see if you can research your way back to one of your known ancestral families. I have what I called a "Skeleton Tree" on Ancestry that I use for this type of analysis - it includes only ancestors, and is private and not searchable. I put my own ancestors back to 5th great-grandparents in this tree. Then I add my DNA Match name and their known ancestors. Other researchers have called this type of analysis a "Mirror tree," a "Quick-and-Dirty tree," or a "Floater tree." I've had some success with this - I have found a common ancestor for about 30 to 40% of the DNA matches that I've used it for.
- * You can add descendants of your 4th and 5th great-grandparents to your tree that is connected to your DNA test by doing additional research on siblings of your ancestors. By extending your tree down to more recent times, you may find - and Ancestry and MyHeritage may find, using their ThruLines and Theory of Family Relativity technology - the grandparents or great-grandparents of your DNA matches. Every week I add more descendants of my 4th great-grandparents to my family tree and upload them to my Ancestry Member Tree.
- * Some of your DNA matches may "cluster" together using the [Genetic Affairs](#) website or a similar technology. Unfortunately, this doesn't work any longer for AncestryDNA, so you will have to use "Shared Matches" to identify clusters. There may be trees in a cluster that have an obvious connection with a specific surname in a specific place. You could research, say, a 4th great-grandparent from one of those trees for descendants and perhaps find one of your known ancestors in the process.

Never give up.