

YOUR HERITAGE AND FAMILY HISTORY



Genealogy

John Beaumont



WE WILL COVER



PURPOSE



APPROACH



TAKE STOCK



PRESERVE



RESEARCH



SEARCH STRATEGY



DEVIL IN THE DETAILS



DNA



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



SOFTWARE





PURPOSE



WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE



Solve Family Mysteries

Genealogy is a powerful tool for uncovering missing ancestors, resolving long-standing questions, and piecing together broken family lines.



Preserve Family Stories

Genealogy allows families to pass down meaningful stories, traditions, and values to future generations. It helps ensure that ancestors are remembered and that their lives are not lost to time.



Discover Your Roots and Identity

Many people want to understand where they come from geographically, culturally, and genetically. Tracing family history helps them feel connected to their ancestors and can provide a stronger sense of identity.

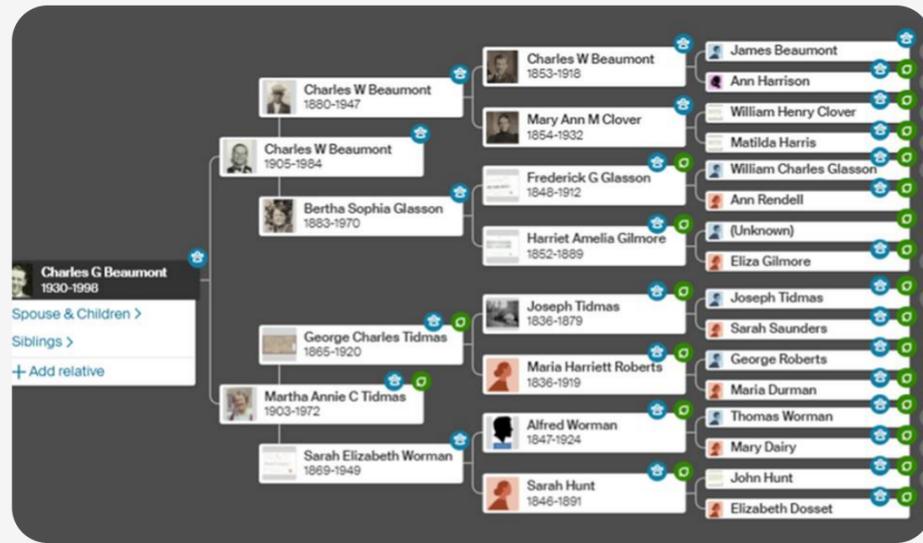


APPROACH



DIFFERENT APPROACHES

There are different ways that you can focus on your family story



Lineage

- Follows direct family lines
- Uses birth, marriage, death records
- Focuses on names and dates
- Prioritizes pedigree charts
- Often light on context



Family History

- Tells how ancestors lived
- Adds photos, wills, maps, etc.
- Uses forensic tools (e.g., photo analysis)
- Builds narrative-rich trees
- Emphasizes personal stories

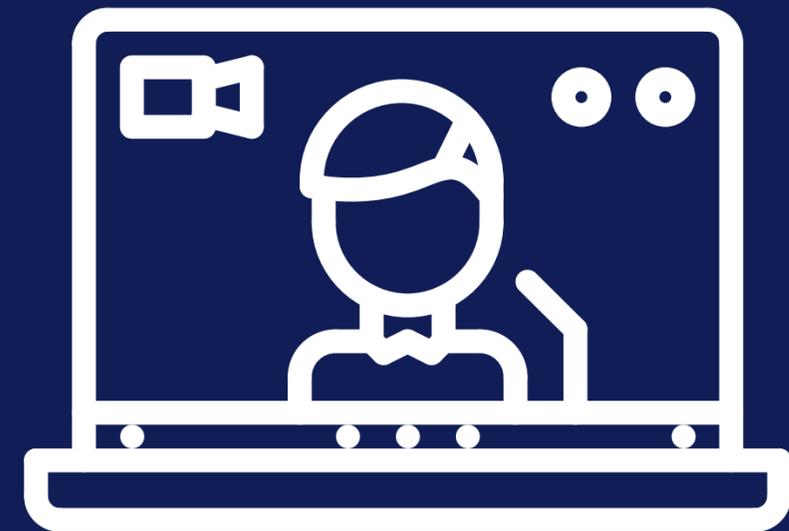


Social History

- Adds community and context
- Includes jobs, housing, and neighbors
- Uses local histories and newspapers
- Applies the FAN method
- Adds historical notes to the tree



TAKE STOCK



TAKE STOCK

What does your family have that will help your research?

Gather What's Already in the Family

Before diving into online research, take a look at what your family already has. Old photos, letters, family Bibles, and personal items can offer valuable clues. Wills, deeds, and newspaper clippings may reveal names, places, and stories you won't find anywhere else. Even casual family stories can open unexpected doors.



Talk with Relatives While You Can

Your oldest relatives are living libraries. Take time to talk with them — and if they're comfortable, record the conversation or take notes. Be gentle with sensitive topics, and remember that memories aren't always exact, but they can point you in the right direction.





PRESERVE



CATALOG & DOCUMENT

Preserve What You've Found

Document the Details

Photograph heirlooms, records, and memorabilia in good lighting. Include labels or digital notes that describe what each item is, who it belonged to, and when or where it was used. For example, "Grandpa's WWII medal, awarded 1944, France"



LOSS OF GREENOCK-BUILT STEAMER AND ALL HANDS.

All hope for the safety of the steamer Falls of Inversnaid has been abandoned, and the vessel may now be looked upon as lost with all on board. She sailed from Newport News for St Lucia and Buenos Ayres, with a cargo of coal, on the 4th of October. Not having been heard of since that date, she was yesterday posted at Lloyd's as missing. The Falls of Inversnaid was a steel screw-steamer of 2,669 tons gross, owned in Glasgow by Messrs Wright, Graham & Co., and commanded by Captain Smith. She was built at Greenock in 1888 by Messrs Russell & Co., and engined by Messrs Rankin & Blackmore.

"LOSS OF GREENOCK-BUILT STEAMER AND ALL HANDS", Greenock Telegraph and Clyde Shipping Gazette, Pub, Thursday 20 December 1900, page 2, col 3,

Capture the Story

Go beyond the item itself. Write down or record the story behind it—how it was used, passed down, or discovered. These stories give context and emotional connection that dates and names alone can't capture.



FILE, SHARE, AND PROTECT

Organize for the Future



Organize and Back Up

Create a system that works for you—digital folders by surname, physical binders by record type, or a mix. Always keep backup copies of digital files (cloud + external drive) and protect paper documents in acid-free sleeves or boxes.



Share and Preserve

Don't keep it all to yourself—share heirloom photos and stories with family or upload them to genealogy sites. Add “heirloom notes” to your tree so future generations know the significance of each item.



EXAMPLE

Basic Documentation – File/folder names

Registration District Sculcoates

Sub-District Drypool

19 05. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of Drypool in the County of Kingston upon Hull

Columns:—										
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
44	Twenty eighth November 1905 3 Walter's Avenue Danson Lane No. 21	Beatrice	Girl	Stephen Bousfield	Amelia Bousfield late Cook formerly Worley	Smith's Striker	Ch. Bousfield mother 3 Walter's Avenue Danson Lane Hull	28th January 1905	Geo. Glasby Registrar	

GRO Reference Information							
Year	Qtr	District	Vol	Page	Reg	Ent no	DOR
1905	Mar	Sculcoates	9d	199			

John Beaumont – Feb 2021

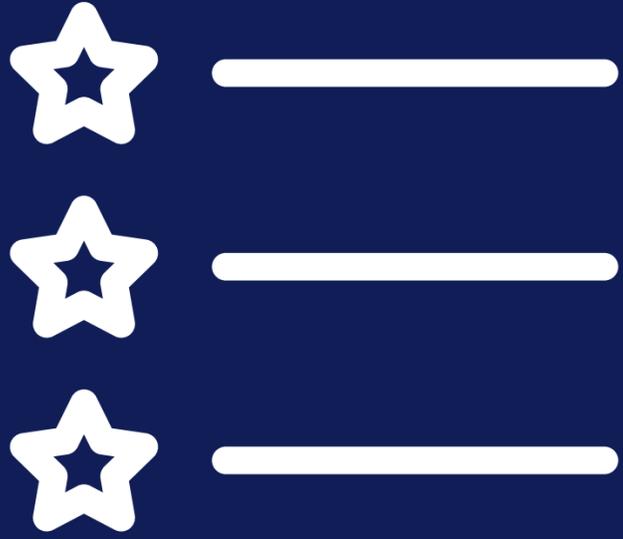
Think about the file name (and folder structure):

Bousfield_Beatrice_BC_28Nov1905

Genealogists always use
this day, month, year format



RESEARCH PLAN

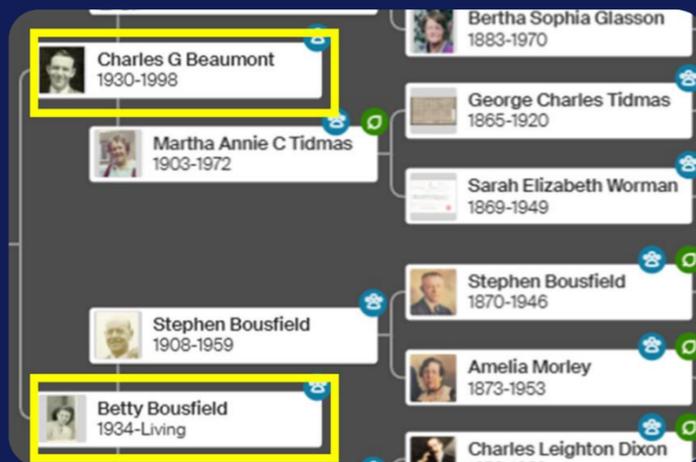


PEOPLE YOU KNOW OF



It Starts With You

- You are the first twig in your tree
- Begin with your full name, birthdate, and place
- Add what you know—photos, stories, important life events
- This simple start will quickly branch into a larger tree



Add Immediate Family

- Include your parents, siblings, aunts, and uncles
- Record key facts: names, birthplaces, occupations
- Ask questions and compare notes with relatives
- Choose to follow either your maternal or paternal line first



Expand to Extended Family

- Add grandparents, cousins, great-aunts, and uncles
- Look for clues in census records, obituaries, and photos
- Connect families through marriage records and children
- Watch your tree grow as patterns and stories emerge

STEPPING BACK IN TIME



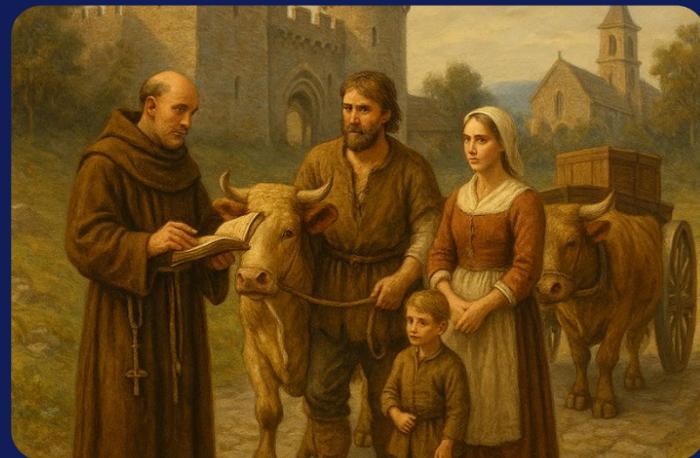
Near Ancestors (Up to 200 Years Ago)

- Trace back to great-grandparents and their parents
- Use censuses, wills, church, and land records
- Pay attention to maiden names and family migrations
- Start identifying patterns in names, locations, and occupations



Far Ancestors (200–400 Years Ago)

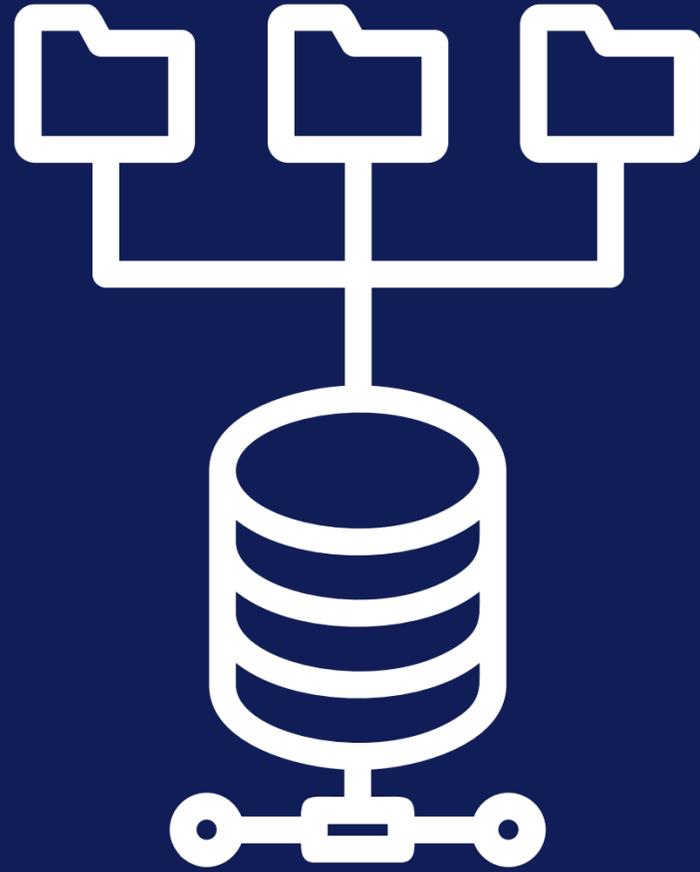
- Work into the 1600s and 1800s, often pre-census
- Focus on parish records, tax rolls, and early military records
- Be alert for spelling changes and shifting borders
- Link families through community ties and historical events



Distant Ancestors (Over 400 Years Ago)

- Enter the era of early written records—scarce and hard to find
- Use probate files, land grants, and manorial records
- Understand social class: fewer records exist for common folk
- Be cautious—many trees at this level rely on assumptions

SEARCH STRATEGY



SEARCH STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES



- **Start with broad search, then “focus in,” using more parameters.**
- **Be careful with “exact” searches (most searches default to “similar” or “sounds like”).**
- **Use wildcards. Typically, “*” for multiple characters, “?” for single characters.**
- **Use nicknames, married names, and abbreviated names.**
- **If you can’t find someone, try looking for their family or relatives (FAN Network).**



VARIATIONS AND NAME CHANGES



- **Some children are given their stepfather's last name while in his household and revert to their given name later.**
- **Families often reused the names of children who died.**
- **Naming conventions often lead to multiple people with the same name (later slide).**
- **Check phonetic spellings – reading and writing skills lead to misspellings**
- **Look for native language translations and translation variations**
- **Consider cultural or religious naming patterns (Christian first names)**
- **Consider social “renaming” – anglicizing immigrants' names.**

INACCURACIES AND ESTIMATES

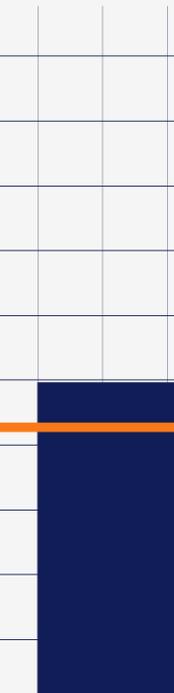


- **Document the facts you know are accurate and will assist your search.**
- **Some parameters may be estimates, perhaps a date range for birth or death, a state rather than a city.**
- **There are errors, omissions, lies, and guesses in numerous “official” records.**
- **Many family trees online are incorrect. As a rule, the more people in the tree, the less accurate it is.**
- **Family lore (e.g., great-grandfather was at the Alamo) often turns out to be incorrect.**
- **Watch out for intentional inaccuracies.**
- **Understand primary and secondary sources**

DATE FORMATS AND RECORD HANDLING



- **The dates of 10/12/1845 are 10th December in Europe and 12th October in the USA.**
- **To avoid confusion, the genealogical convention for recording dates is dd mmm yyyy (12 Oct 1845).**
- **The baptism date may not have any bearing on the birth date.**
- **UK and US calendars changed in 1752**
- **Dates were not that important in many people's lives**
- **Some records deliberately round up or round down**



DEVIL IN THE DETAILS



THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

- **Examine every document carefully** — names, dates, places, and margins may all hold clues.
- **Ask: Is this an original, a copy, or someone's interpretation?** — that affects reliability
- **Evaluate source quality** — is the information firsthand, secondhand, or unknown?
- **Don't assume, verify** — check transcriptions, spellings, and place names for accuracy.
- **Understand what you're reading** — some terms or legal phrases may not mean what we think.
- **A single overlooked detail can shift the entire story** — take your time and dig deep.
- **Think outside the box and be curious.**

EXAMPLE

Would the information be first-hand, second-hand, or unknown?



Someone Tells You Their Birthday



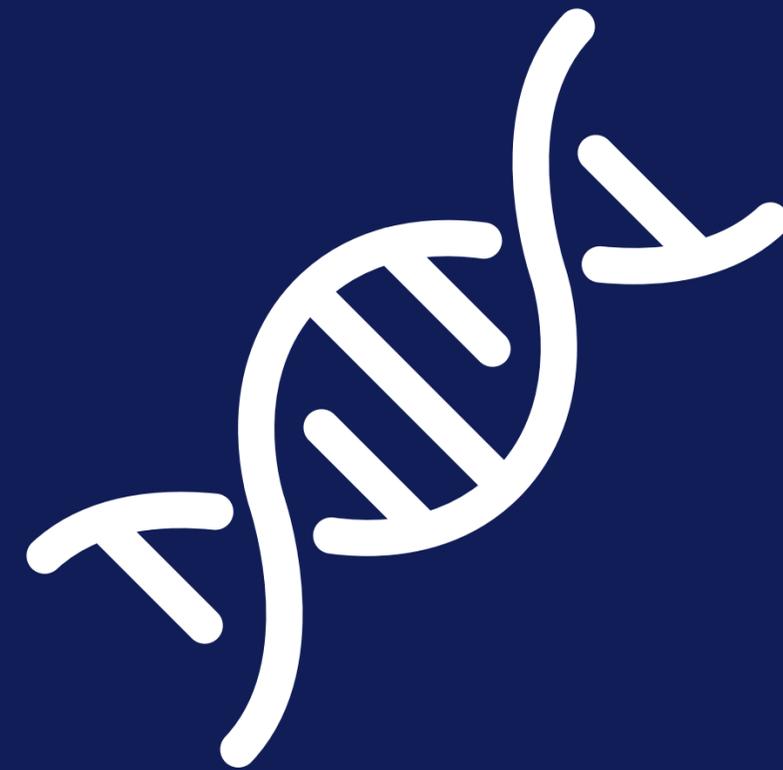
Information on a Gravestone

PLACE OF DEATH: Indiana State Board of Health. Board Number: _____
County of Delaware Township of Delaware City of Delaware No. 527 St. W Full Name Anna M. Reed
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS: Sex F Color W Date of Death Oct 25 1905
Single Married Married Name of Husband or Wife Edward
Date of Birth Apr 18 1866 Age 37 years 6 months 0 days
Occupation House work Birthplace Clark Co. Mo.
Place of Death Home Name of Father John M. Reed Birthplace of Father So. Carolina
Maiden Name of Mother Wanda Russell Birthplace of Mother Brookville Ind.
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH: I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from Oct 18 1905 to Oct 25 1905 that I last saw her alive on Oct 18 1905 and that death occurred on the date stated above. To the best of my knowledge and belief the cause of death was as follows:
Chief Cause Pulmonary tuberculosis
Immediate Cause Dissection
Duration about 6 months
Special Information Only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents:
Former or usual Residence _____ How long at Place of death _____ Days _____
Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? _____
Place of Burial or Removal _____ Proposed date of Burial _____
Underlain by _____ Address _____
Filed Oct 27 1905 (Address) W. R. Combs (Address) TERRE HAUTE
MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING. SUGGESTIONS TO PHYSICIANS RELATIVE TO STATEMENT OF CAUSES OF DEATH. This entire original to be mailed DIRECT to State Board of Health, at Indianapolis, not later than the 4th of each month. Write plainly with attaching ink.

Details on a Death Certificate



DNA



DNA TEST REPORT



For personal knowledge only

Selected	MOTHER Jane	CHILD Potter	FATHER Tom
Locus	Allele Sizes	Allele Sizes	Allele Sizes
D8S1179	10, 15	10, 15	10, 15
D21S11	21, 24	21, 24	21, 24
D7S820	1, 11	1, 11	1, 11
CSF1PO	10, 12	10, 12	10, 12
D3S1338	13, 18	13, 18	13, 18
TH01	7, 9	7, 9	7, 9
D13S317	11, 13	11, 13	11, 13
D16S1338	12, 15	12, 15	12, 15
vWA	17, 19	17, 19	17, 19
TPOX	8, 11	8, 11	8, 11
D18S51	14, 16	14, 16	14, 16
D5S818	11, 12	11, 12	11, 12
FGA	23, 24	23, 24	23, 24
D21S11	11, 12	11, 12	11, 12
D7S820	1, 11	1, 11	1, 11
Amelogenin	X	X	Y

Probably Paternity 99.9999%

ROLE OF DNA

! WARNING

Understand
Ethical Issues
Before Testing



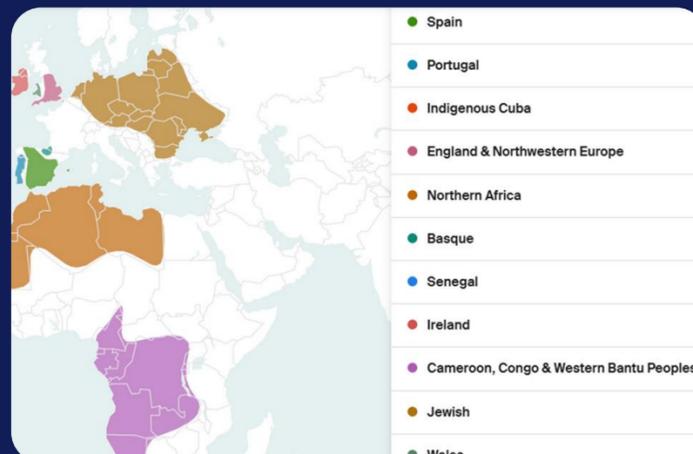
DNA Matching

Connects you with relatives who have also taken DNA tests, revealing shared ancestry and potential new family branches



Lineage Tracking

Analyzes Y-DNA (father to son) and mitochondrial DNA (mother to all children) to trace direct paternal and maternal lines across generations



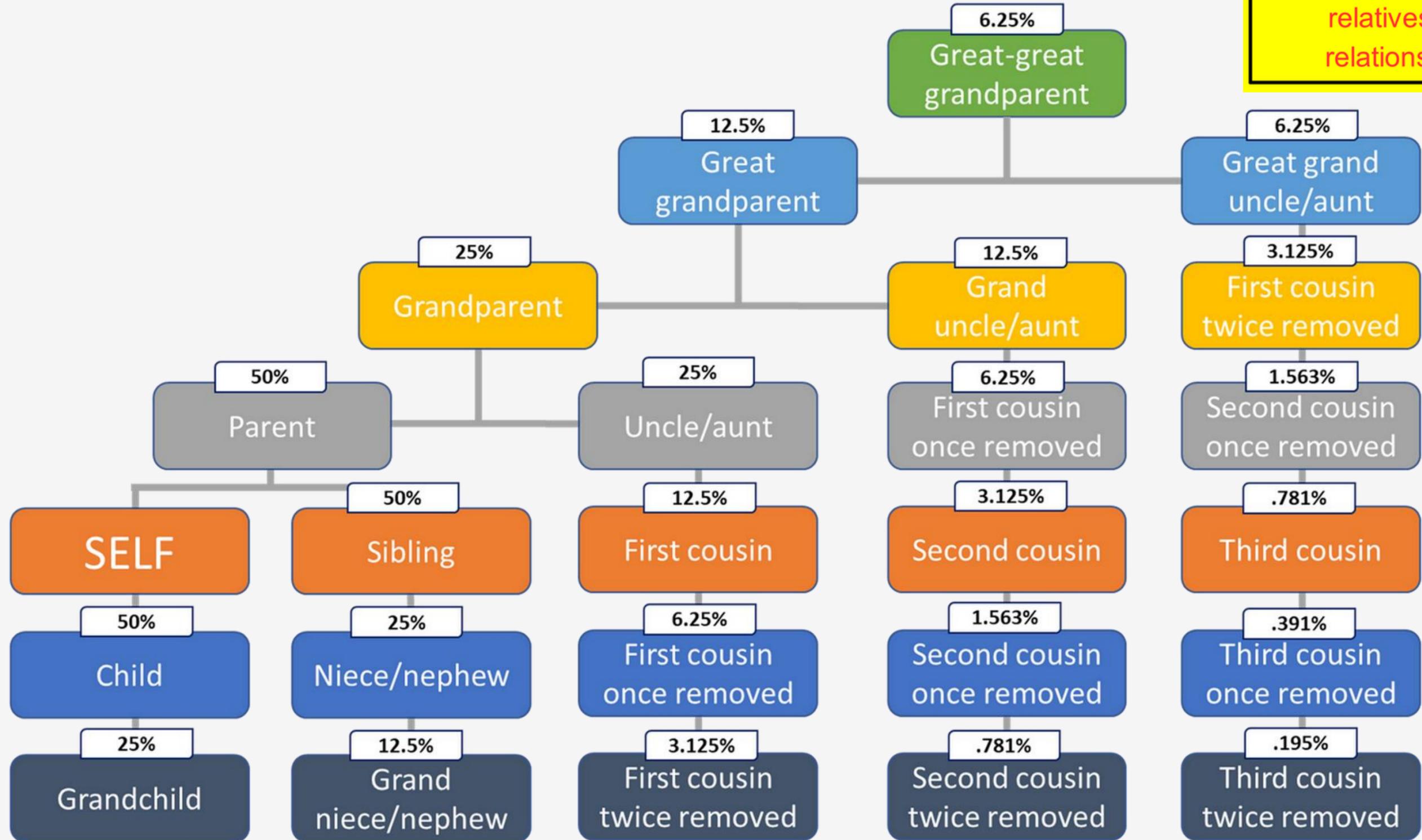
Ethnicity Estimate

Provides percentages of your ancestry from various global regions, helping you understand your ethnic background.



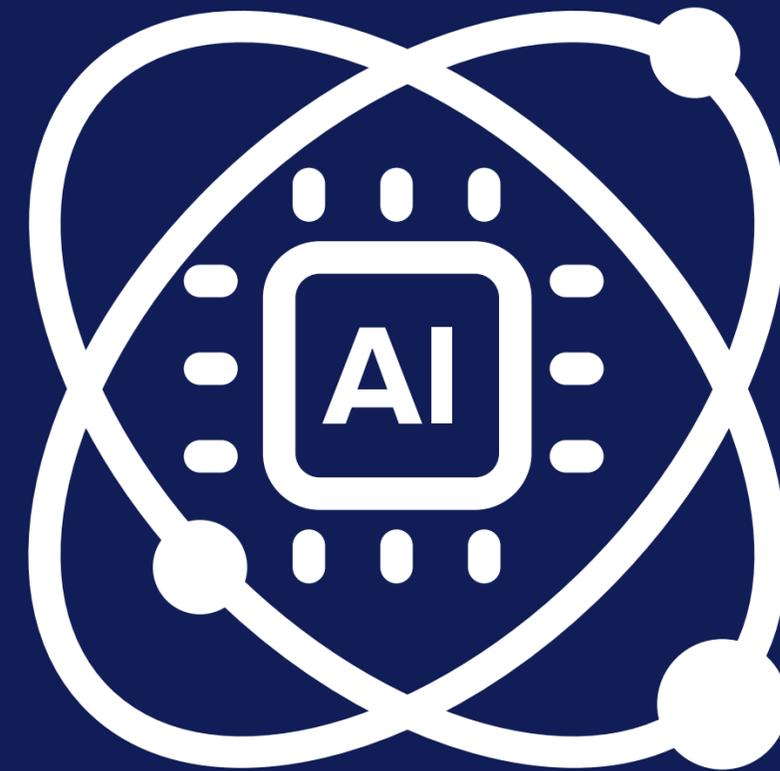
DNA MATCHING

⚠ WARNING
DNA identifies relatives, not relationships.





ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



THE INCREASING ROLE OF AI

- **Data Analysis & Interpretation:** Spot patterns, timelines, and inconsistencies in your research
- **Image Analysis & Photo Dating:** Examine clothing, context, or photo type to estimate dates
- **Translation & Transcription:** Read old handwriting and translate foreign-language records
- **Report Writing & Editing:** Turn notes into polished reports, narratives, or summaries
- **Research Validation:** Cross-check facts, sources, and logic for accuracy
- **Virtual Research Assistant:** Brainstorm next steps, identify sources, and fill in gaps



SOFTWARE



TYPES OF SOFTWARE & TOOLS

- **DNA Testing & Analysis:** Used to uncover genetic relationships and ethnicity estimates (Ancestry, MyHeritage...)
- **Genealogy Research:** Access vast databases of records, trees, and user-submitted content (Ancestry, FamilySearch...)
- **Family Tree Builders:** Software for creating and managing your family tree (RootsMagic, Legacy...)
- **Collaborative Platforms:** Enable shared editing and coordination with relatives or researchers (WikiTree, Geni...)
- **Specialist Research Sites & Societies:** Specialized access to digitized historical documents and archives (National Archives etc)
- **Social Sites:** Connect with other researchers, join groups, and ask questions (Facebook, Reddit...)

AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY

Ancestry Library Edition



Billions of records in census data, vital records, military records, directories, photos, and more powered by Ancestry.com.
In-Library Use Only

HeritageHub



Explore your family history with this collection of U.S. obituaries and death notices, 1704 – today.

[HeritageHub tutorial](#)

MyHeritage



Genealogy information including family trees, photos, and altogether more than 6 billion exclusive records from all over the world.

Fold3



Premier collections of original military records including the stories, photos, and personal documents of those who served.

FamilySearch



HCPLC is an affiliate library providing access to digital genealogical collections that are otherwise accessible only through a FamilySearch center. Create an account to access these collections from the library.

[FamilySearch Tips and Tricks](#)

Genealogy & History



African American Heritage

FIND A GRAVE

Find a Grave



JSTOR Ireland Collection
In-Library Use Only



Gale Directory Library
Biography & Genealogy Master Index



Ellis Island Passenger Search

Cyndi's List

Cyndi's List



Black Freedom Struggle

At the library, you can access free versions of genealogy research tools as well as links to dozens of specialty research sites. The Florida History & Genealogy Library is located at the **John F. Germany Public Library**. The **Robert W. Saunders Sr. Library** specializes in African American history and genealogy.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Keep a Backup Copy of Your Tree: Always maintain a backup of your family tree data to prevent loss due to computer issues or data corruption

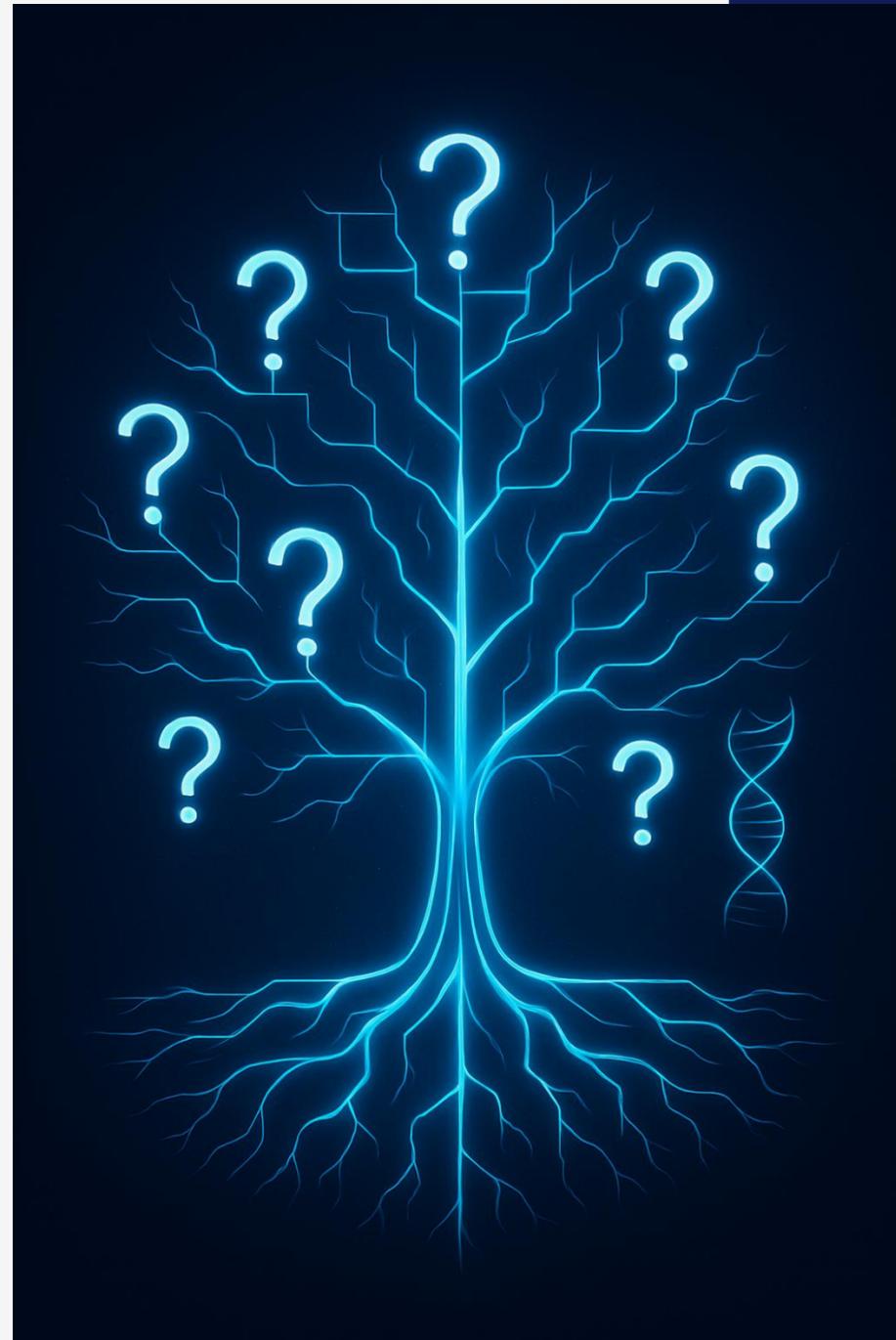
Cite Your Sources: Accurately record where each piece of information came from. This will be invaluable for verifying data and for future research by you or others.

Never Copy Anyone Else's Research: While it's tempting to take shortcuts, ensure you verify any research before incorporating it into your own.

A Single Source is Not Proof: Always seek multiple sources to confirm any findings. Relying on only one source can lead to errors and inaccuracies in your family tree.

Our Ancestors Were Not Always Truthful: Be aware that historical records often contain inaccuracies, either due to human error or intentional falsehoods.

ANY QUESTIONS



My YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@Beaumont-Genealogy/videos>

My Genealogy Website: For This Presentation

<https://www.beaumont-genealogy.com/classes>

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