

# The Leeds Method Exercise

Based on The Leeds Method by Dana Leeds  
Link to Dana's Blog Post > [The Leeds Method](#)

The purpose of this exercise is two-fold.

Fold 1: To learn how to create a Leeds Chart using the Ancestry Dot System.

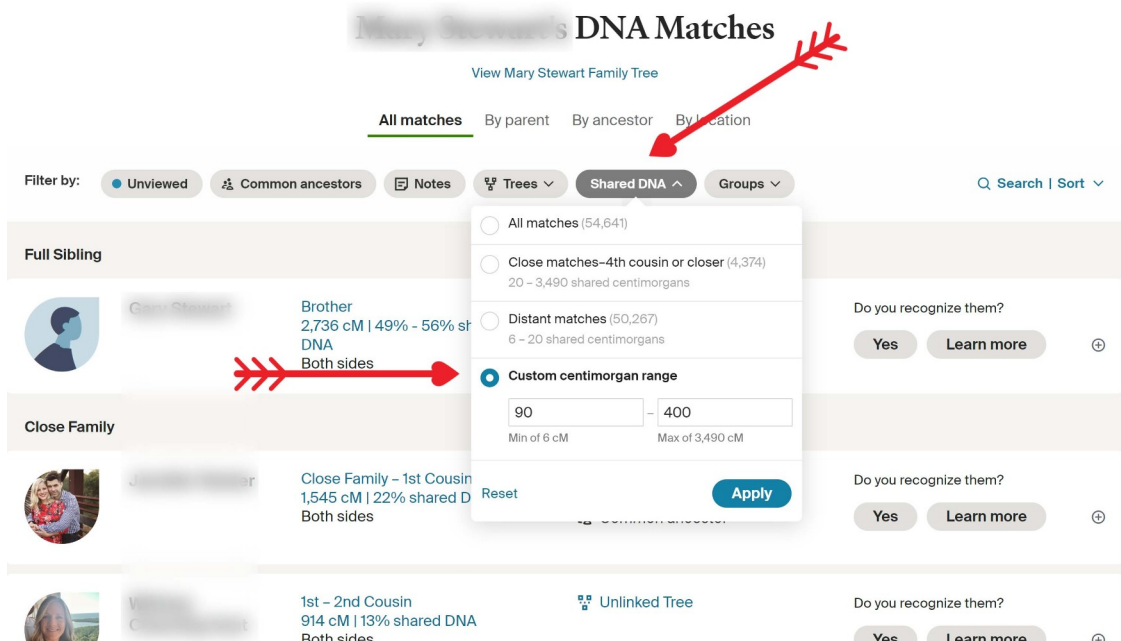
Fold 2: To learn how to use the Ancestry Dot System to create Genetic Groups.

Go to your DNA Matches page on Ancestry.

Click the Shared DNA Filter, select Custom centimorgan range.

Enter 90 in Min and 400 in Max.

Click the Apply button.



This Filters your DNA Matches to only display matches in the 90-400 cM range.  
This is the range suggested by Dana for The Leeds Method.

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You are now ready to create your first genetic group of DNA Matches. This group will be Leeds Group A.

Go to the first name in your Filtered DNA Matches list. The shared DNA should be 400 or less cM. If not, redo Page 1

The screenshot shows the 'All matches' section of an AncestryDNA profile. At the top, there are filter tabs: 'Unviewed', 'Common ancestors', 'Notes', 'Trees', '90 - 400 cM', and 'Groups'. Below this is a 'Close Family' section with three match entries. Each entry includes a profile picture, a relationship label (e.g., '1st - 2nd Cousin'), shared DNA information (e.g., '362 cM | 5% shared DNA'), and a 'Do you recognize them?' section with 'Yes' and 'Learn more' buttons. Red arrows point to the 'Unviewed' filter, the 'Common ancestors' filter, the '90 - 400 cM' filter, and the 'Learn more' button for the first match.

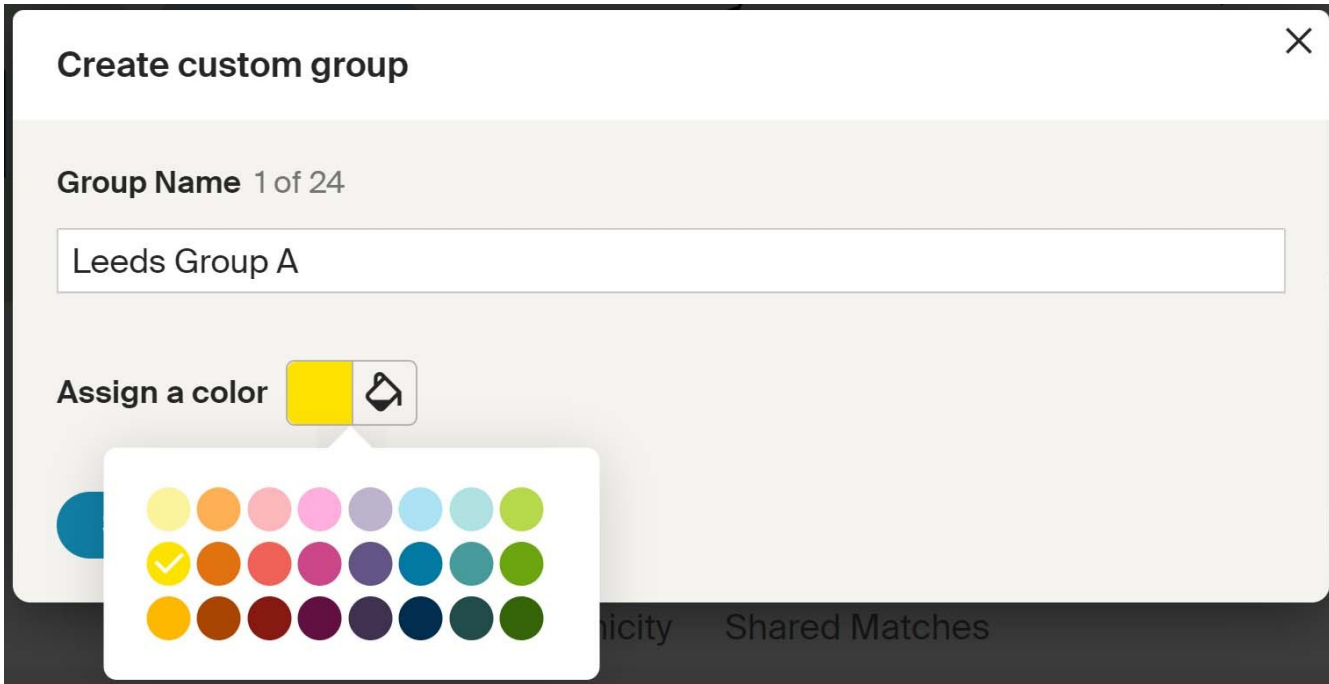
Click on Add to group then click Create custom group.

The screenshot shows the details for a specific DNA match. At the top, it displays '5% shared DNA: 362 cM across 16 segments'. Below this are buttons for 'Connect to tree', 'Message', and 'Edit Relationship'. A red arrow points to the 'Add to group' button, which has opened a dropdown menu with the option 'Create custom group'. Below the match details, there are two side-by-side panels: 'How are Mary Stewart and J.F. related?' and 'J.F.'s Linked Tree'.

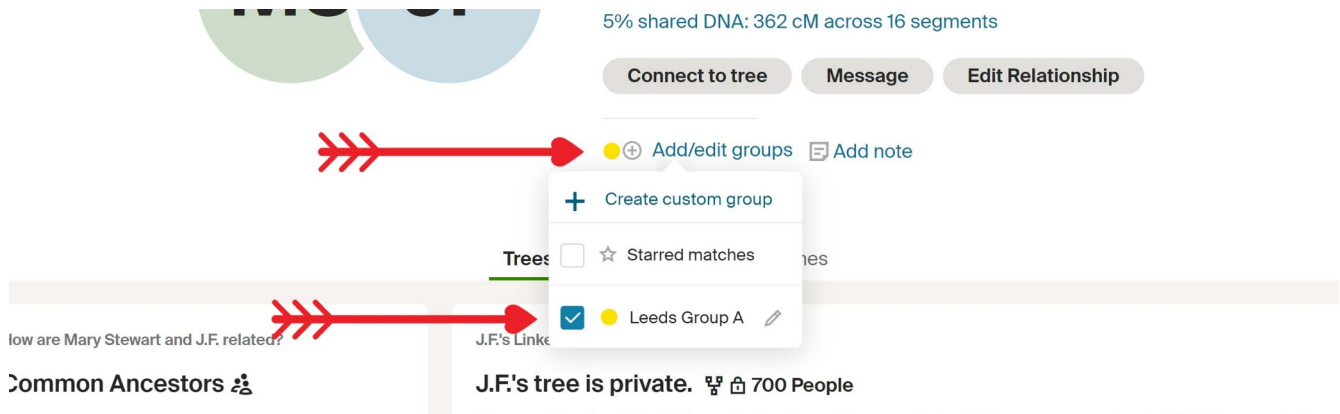
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Name the group Leeds Group A, Assign a color, and click the Save button.



Now click on Add/edit groups, click the Leeds Group A checkbox, then click Add note (to the right of Add/edit groups.)



# The Leeds Method Exercise

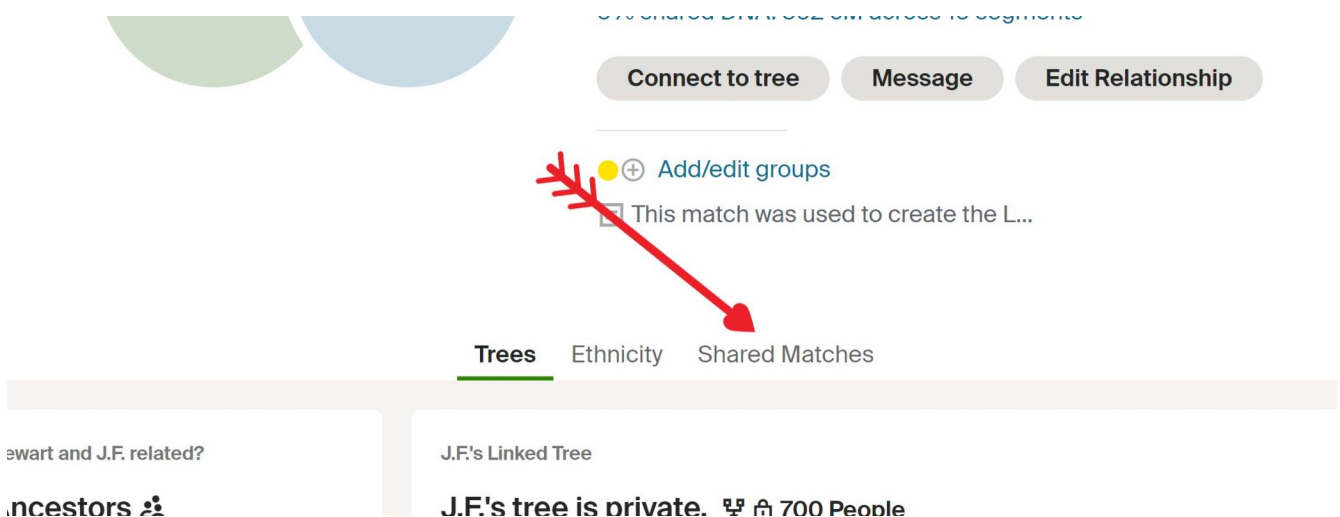
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Add a note to this match since it is being used to create the Leeds Group A Genetic Group. Click the Save button



The screenshot shows a DNA match profile for "Mary Stewart and J.F.". On the left, there are two overlapping circles, one green with "MS" and one blue with "JF". The match name "Mary Stewart and J.F." is highlighted with a red arrow pointing to the right. Below the name, it says "J.F.'s test is managed by: bachgirl314", "1st - 2nd Cousin | Maternal side", and "5% shared DNA: 362 cM across 16 segments". There are buttons for "Connect to tree", "Message", and "Edit Relationship". Below these are "Add/edit groups" and "Add note". A red arrow points from the "Add note" button to the right, and another red arrow points from the "Add note" button to the left. On the right side, there is a "Notes" section with a text box containing "This match was used to create the Leeds Group A group."

Click on Shared Matches.



The screenshot shows the "Shared Matches" tab selected in a DNA match profile. At the top, there are two overlapping semi-circles, one green and one blue. Below them, it says "5% shared DNA: 362 cM across 16 segments". There are buttons for "Connect to tree", "Message", and "Edit Relationship". Below these are "Add/edit groups" and a checkbox labeled "This match was used to create the L...". A red arrow points from the checkbox down to the "Shared Matches" tab. Below the tabs, there is a section titled "Trees" with a sub-section "J.F.'s Linked Tree" which says "J.F.'s tree is private. 700 People".

This will show a list of DNA Matches that share DNA with you and the selected match. This list is not Filtered by the 90 - 400 cM range.

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Scroll down to the first DNA Match at or below 400 cM.  
Click the circled + on beside that DNA Match.

Filter by:  Unviewed  Common ancestors  Notes  Trees  Groups

	1st - 2nd Cousin 413 cM   6% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 31 People Common ancestor	Do you recognize them? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Learn more
	1st - 2nd Cousin 341 cM   5% shared DNA Maternal side	Unlinked Tree	Do you recognize them? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Learn more
	2nd - 3rd Cousin 243 cM   3% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 399 People Common ancestor	Do you recognize them? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Learn more
	2nd - 3rd Cousin 224 cM   3% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 539 People	Do you recognize them? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Learn more

Click the checkbox to the left of Leeds Group A.  
Do not click the Add to group button!!!

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		1st - 2nd Cousin 341 cM   5% shared DNA Maternal side	Unlinked Tree	Do you recognize them? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Learn more
<input type="checkbox"/>		2nd - 3rd Cousin 243 cM   3% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 399 People Common ancestor	Do you recognize them? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Learn more
<input type="checkbox"/>		2nd - 3rd Cousin 224 cM   3% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 539 People	Do you recognize them? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Learn more

Starred matches (0)  
 Leeds Group A (0)

**Add to group**

**Do not click this button.**

# The Leeds Method Exercise

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Scroll down the page and click every checkbox to the right of a DNA Match name. Only click on DNA Matches that have Shared DNA range of 90 – 400 cM.

The screenshot shows a DNA match list with the following columns: a checkbox, a profile picture, relationship and shared DNA information, tree information, and a 'Do you recognize them?' section with 'Yes' and 'Learn more' buttons. On the right, there is a sidebar for adding matches to a group, including a 'Leeds Group A' and an 'Add to group' button. Red arrows point to the checkboxes in the first two rows and the 'Add to group' button.

Filter by:	Unviewed	Common ancestors	Notes	Trees	Groups	Search   Sort
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		1st - 2nd Cousin 341 cM   5% shared DNA Maternal side	Unlinked Tree	Do you recognize them? Yes Learn more	Add 5 DNA matches to: + Create custom group <input type="checkbox"/> Starred matches (0) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leeds Group A (0) <b>Add to group</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2nd - 3rd Cousin 243 cM   3% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 399 People Common ancestor	Do you recognize them? Yes Learn more		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2nd - 3rd Cousin 224 cM   3% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 539 People	Do you recognize them? Yes Learn more		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2nd - 3rd Cousin 219 cM   3% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 143 People Common ancestor	Do you recognize them? Yes Learn more		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2nd - 3rd Cousin 214 cM   3% shared DNA Maternal side	No Trees	Do you recognize them? Yes Learn more		

When you have clicked all checkboxes, click the Add to group button.

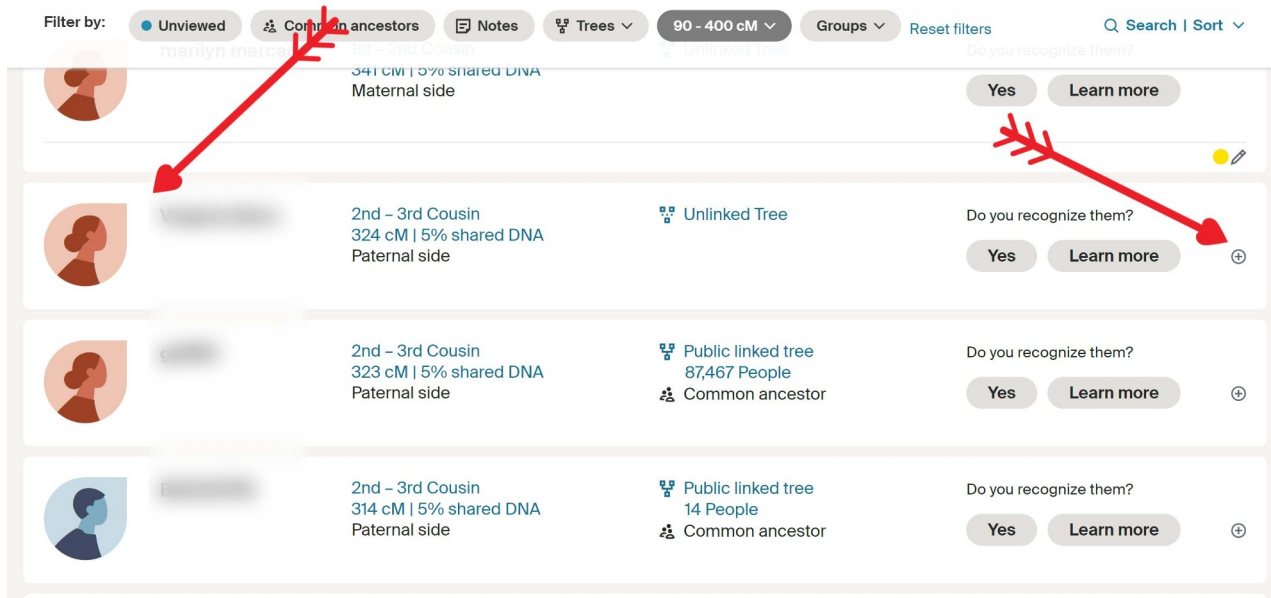
You have just created your first group of Genetically Connected DNA Matches for the Leeds Method Exercise.

# The Leeds Method Exercise

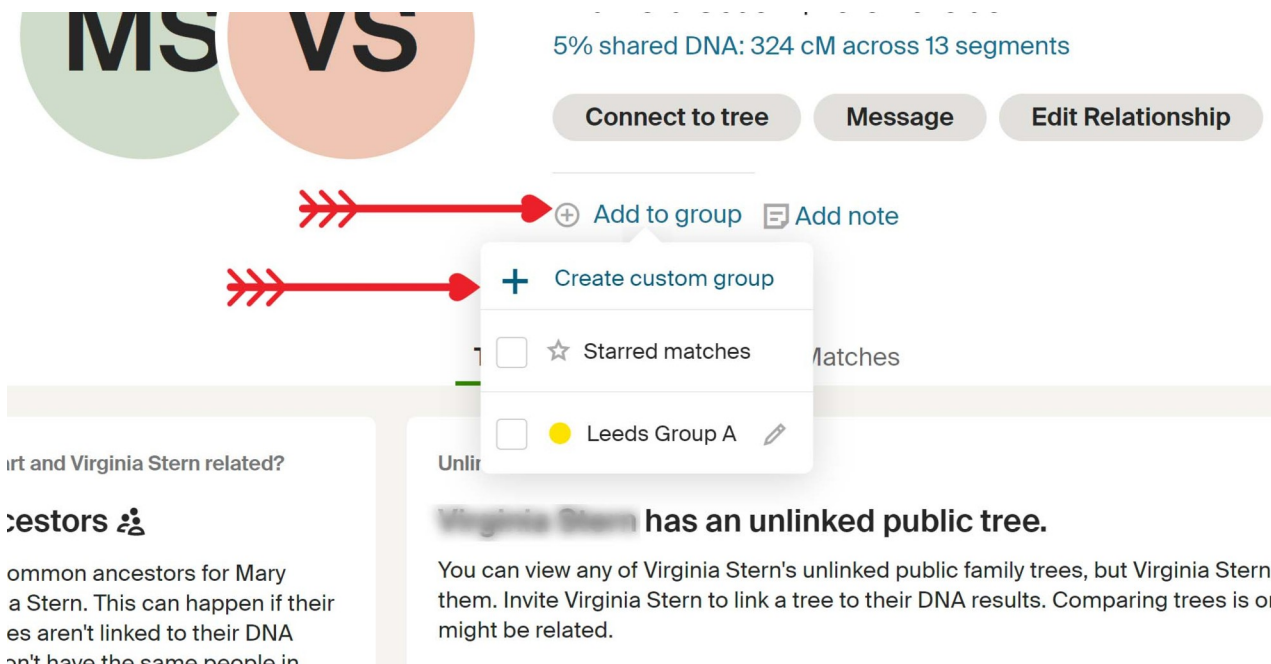
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Now we will step through creating the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leeds Method group.  
Go back to your main DNA Matches page and reload it.  
Make sure that the 90-400 centimorgan range is still selected.

Scroll down to the first DNA Match in the 90-400 cM range that does not have a dot.  
Click on the match name.



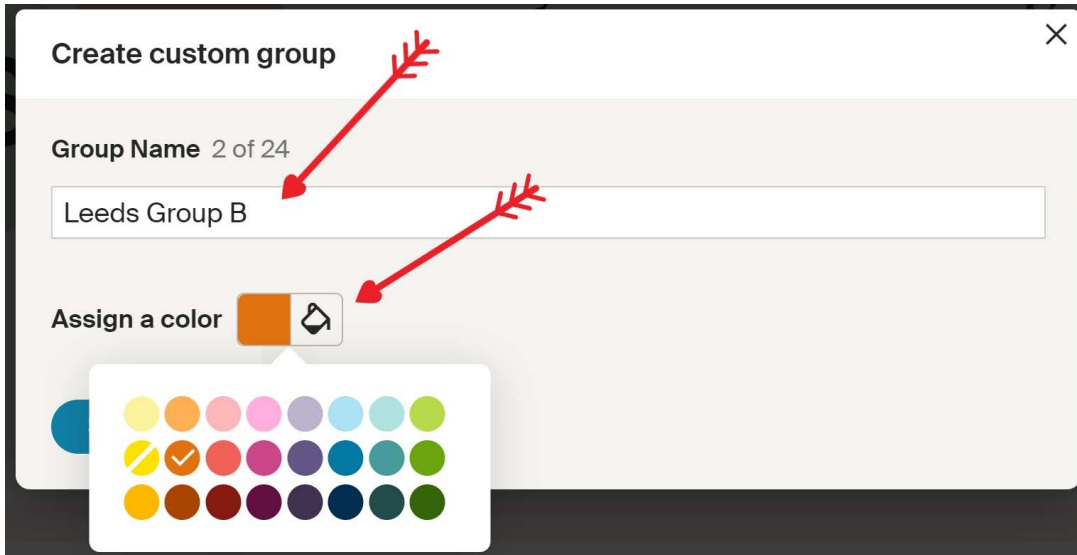
On the next screen click on Add/edit groups then click the Create custom group.



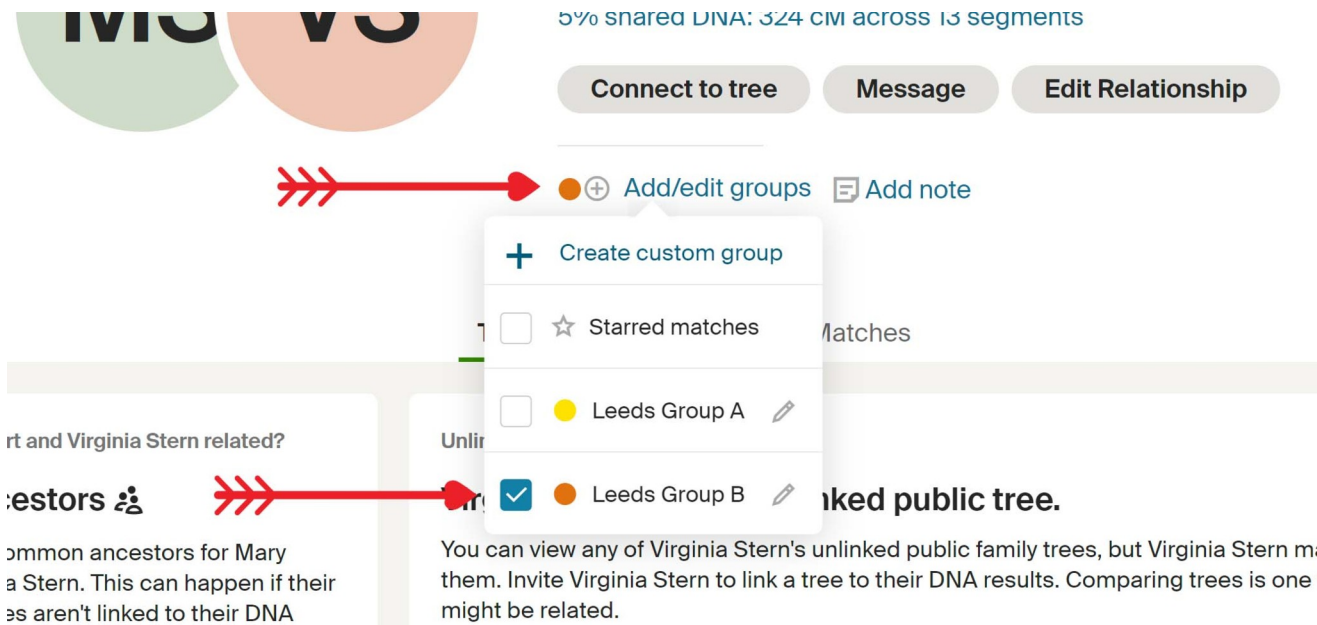
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Add a Note that you are using this match to gather the Leeds Group B DNA Matches  
Enter a Group Name: Leeds Group B, select a color, then click Save button.



Click Add/edit groups, click the Leeds Group B checkbox, then click Shared Matches.



We will now add DNA Matches to this new group.



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The DNA Matches list at this point will not be restricted to 90-400 centimorgans. You will need to scroll down to the start of the 400 or less cM matches. Look for the first match with no dot. Click on the + circle.

The screenshot shows a list of DNA matches with the following details:

Match	Relationship	Shared DNA	Tree	Recognize?
1st - 2nd Cousin	469 cM   7% shared DNA	Paternal side	Public linked tree 7 People	Yes Learn more
1st - 2nd Cousin	429 cM   6% shared DNA	Paternal side	Public linked tree 410 People	Yes Learn more
2nd - 3rd Cousin	323 cM   5% shared DNA	Paternal side	Public linked tree 87,477 People Common ancestor	Yes Learn more
2nd - 3rd Cousin	314 cM   5% shared DNA	Paternal side	Public linked tree 14 People Common ancestor	Yes Learn more

Red arrows point to the 323 cM match and its 'Learn more' button.

Click the checkbox next to Leeds Group B. Do not click the Add to group button. Scroll down and click every checkbox to the left of a DNA Match, even if already have a dot. Only click on DNA Matches in the 90-400 cM range. When you have clicked all the Match checkboxes, then click the Add to group button.

The screenshot shows the same DNA matches list with checkboxes added to the left of each match. A sidebar on the right shows the group creation process:

- Filter by: Unviewed, Common ancestors, Notes, Trees, Groups
- Search | Sort
- 429 cM | 6% shared DNA (Paternal side) - 410 People
- 323 cM | 5% shared DNA (Paternal side) - 87,477 People (Common ancestor)
- 314 cM | 5% shared DNA (Paternal side) - 14 People (Common ancestor)
- 312 cM | 4% shared DNA (Paternal side) - 2 People
- 310 cM | 4% shared DNA (Paternal side) - 4 People (Common ancestor)

Red arrows point to the checkboxes and the 'Add to group' button.

**Do not click this button until you have clicked every checkboxes in the 90 - 400 centimorgan range.**

**Then you can click the Add to group button.**

You have now created your second group of genetically connected DNA Matches.

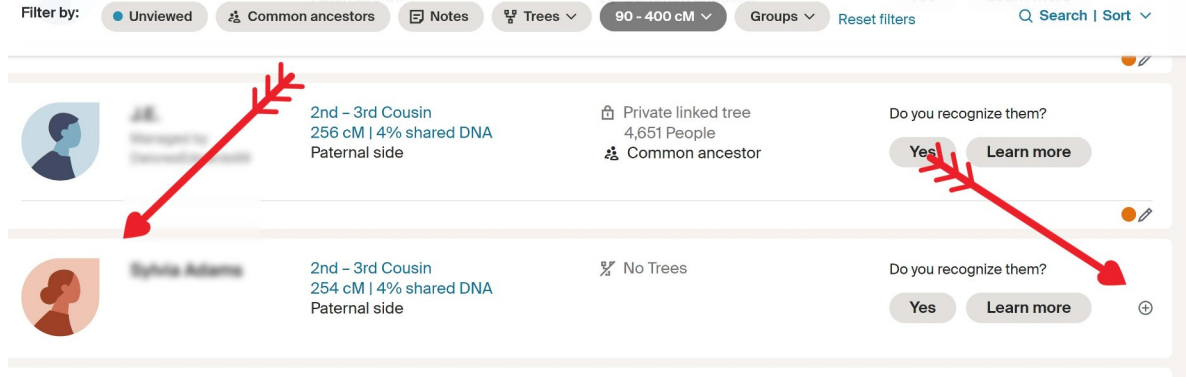
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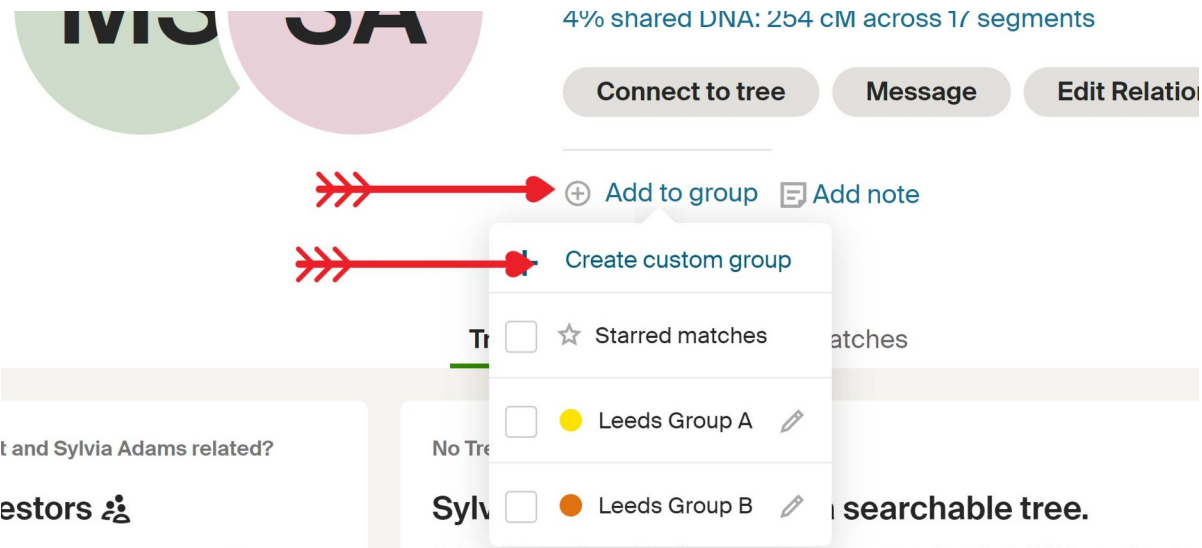
Gathering DNA Matches for Leeds Group C.

You should be getting used to this by now so I am going to describe less.

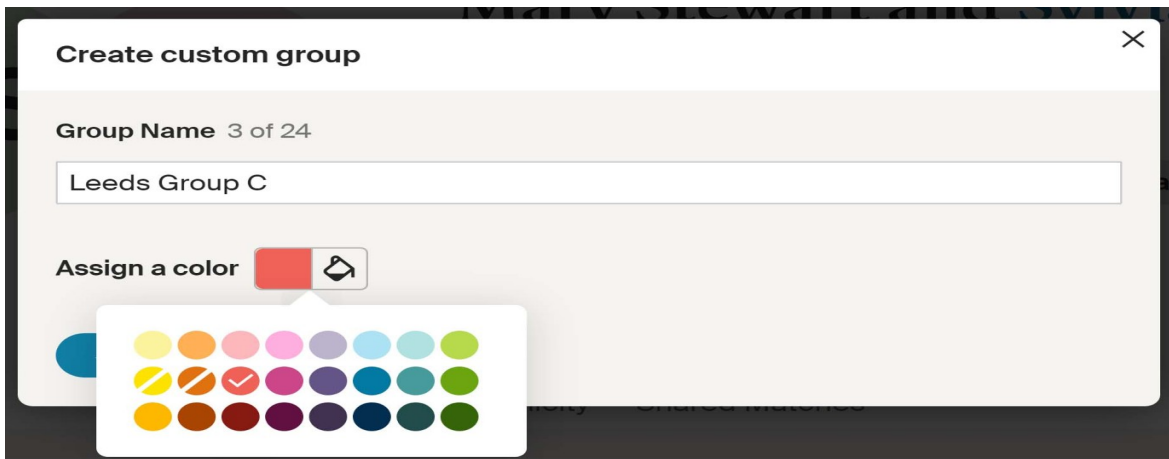
Go to your main DNA Matches Page. Find next DNA Match to start Leeds Group C.



Click on the DNA Match. Create custom group.



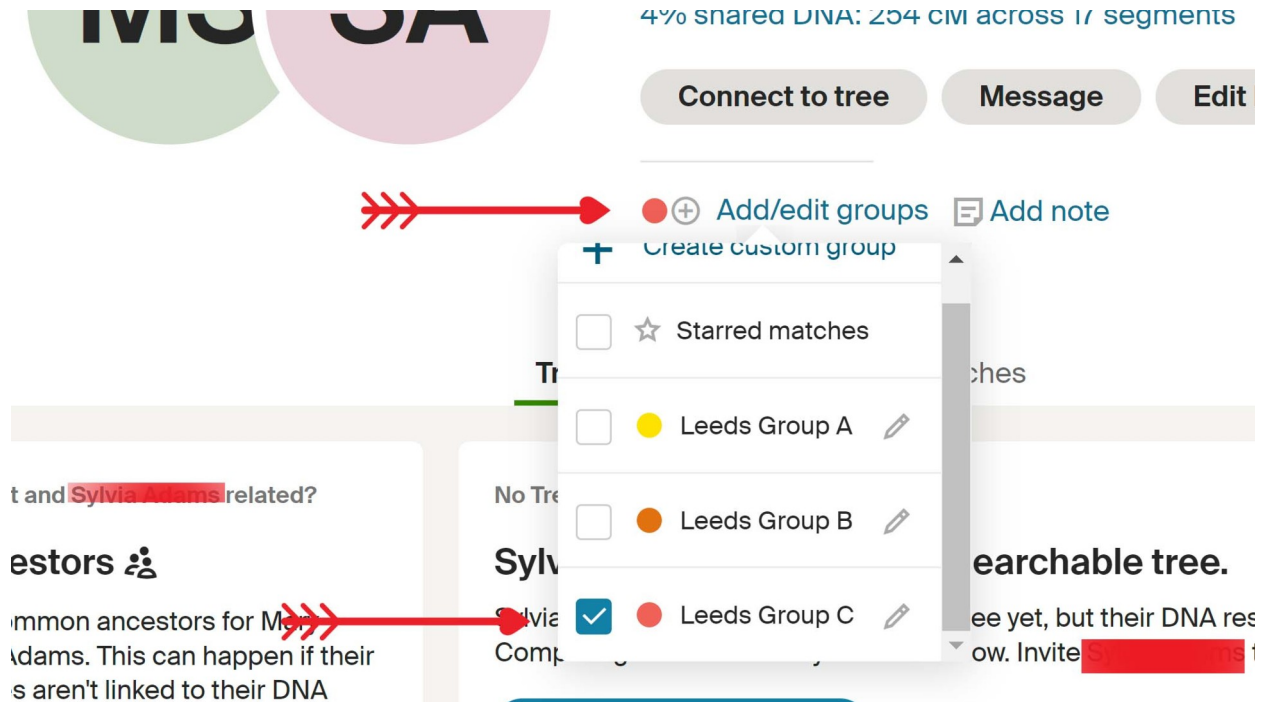
Type in the Group Name, select a color and Save.



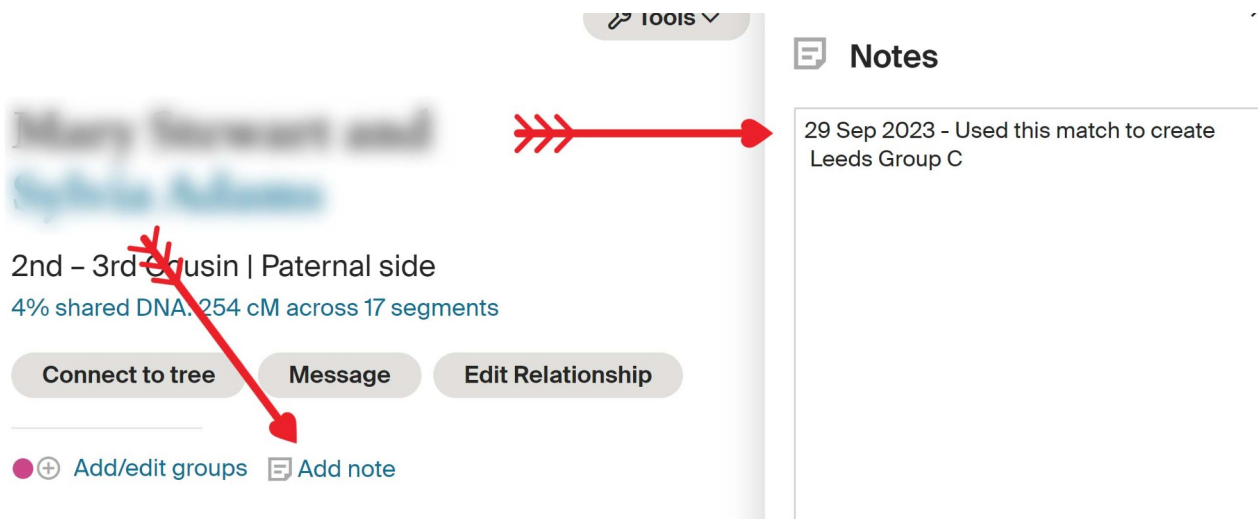
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Add this match to Leeds Group C that you just created.



Add a note that you used this match to start Leeds Group C.

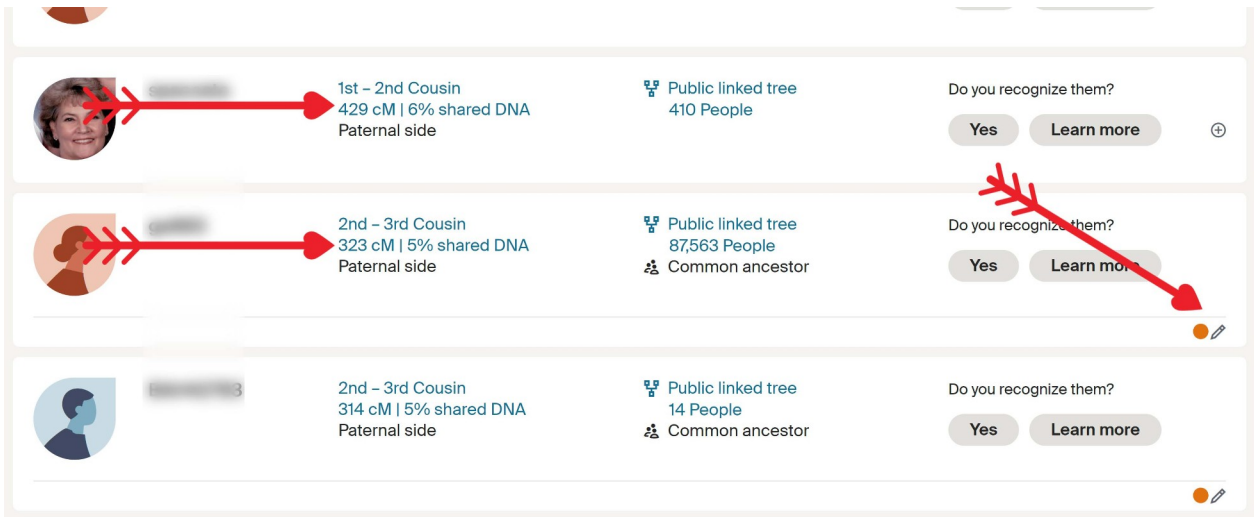


Click Shared Matches.

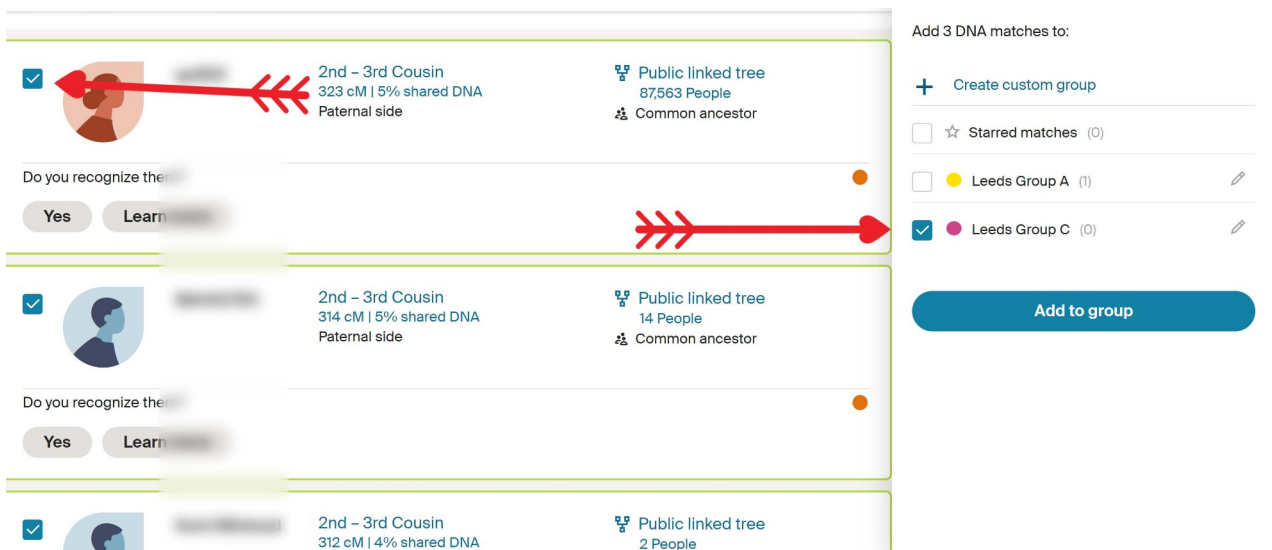
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Scroll down the Shared Matches list and find the first DNA Match at 400 cM or less. Click the + circle or the pencil icon if that match already has a dot. You will be adding every DNA Match in this list that are in the 90-400 range even if they already have a dot.



Click beside Leeds Group C, then click check boxes beside every match in the 90-400 cM range, even if they already have a dot.



When you have clicked all the check boxes, click the Save to group button. You have now gathered DNA Matches for Leeds Group C. Next we will gather DNA Matches for Leeds Group D.

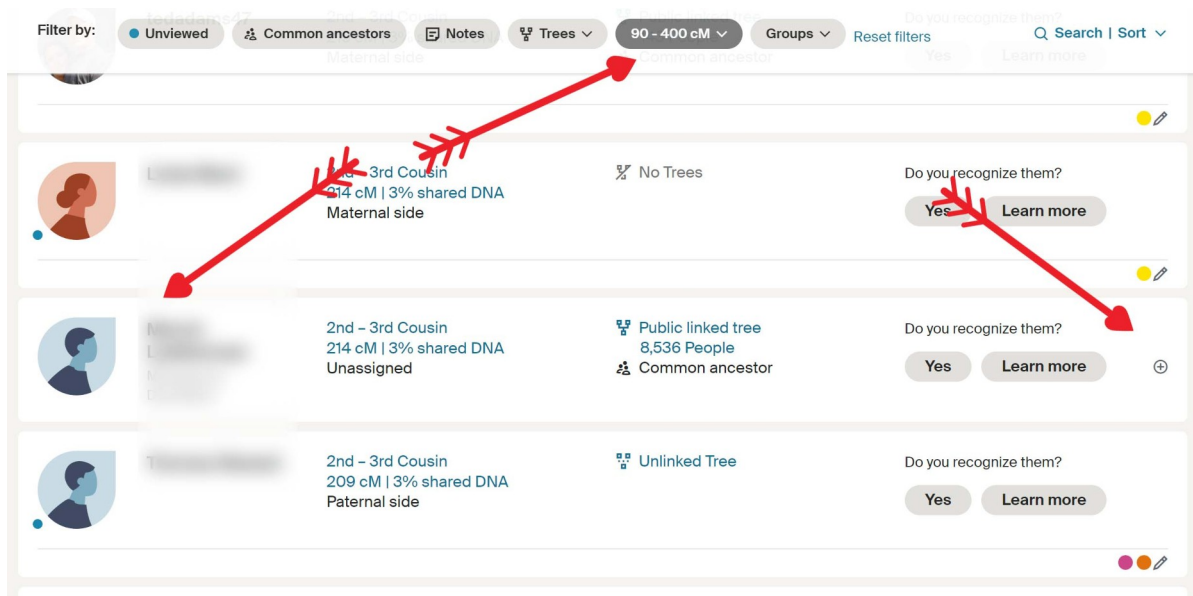
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Gathering DNA Matches for Leeds Group D.

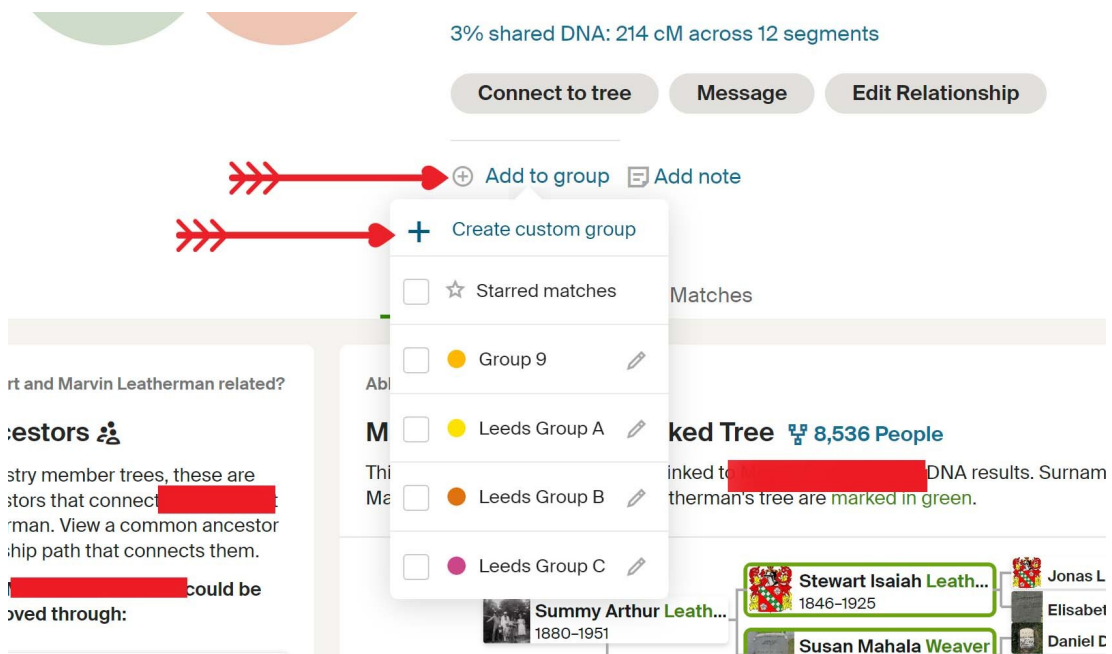
You should be getting used to this by now so I am going to describe less.

Go to your main DNA Matches Page. Find next DNA Match to start Leeds Group D.



Click on the match name.

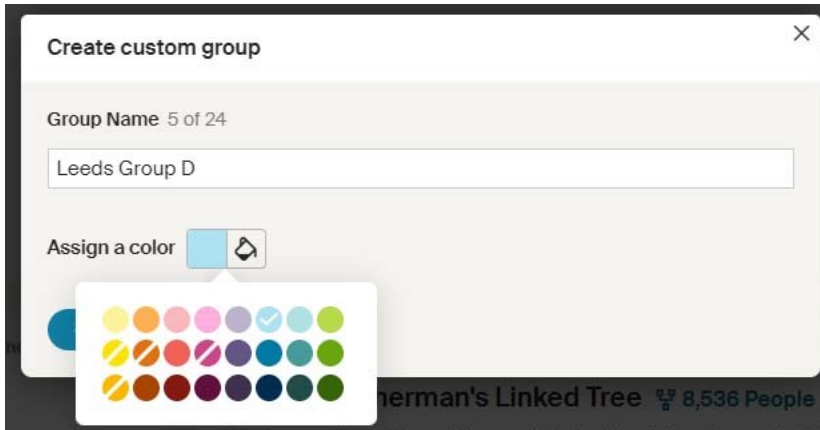
Click Add to group and then click Create custom group.



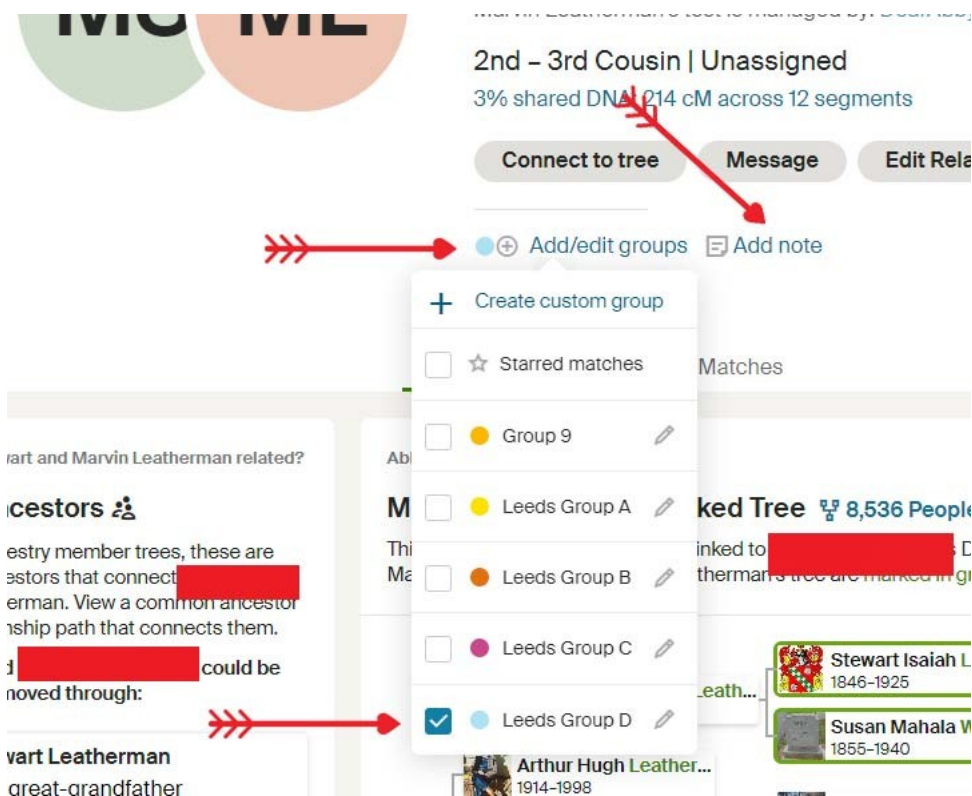
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Name the group Leeds Group D, Assign a color, and click Save.



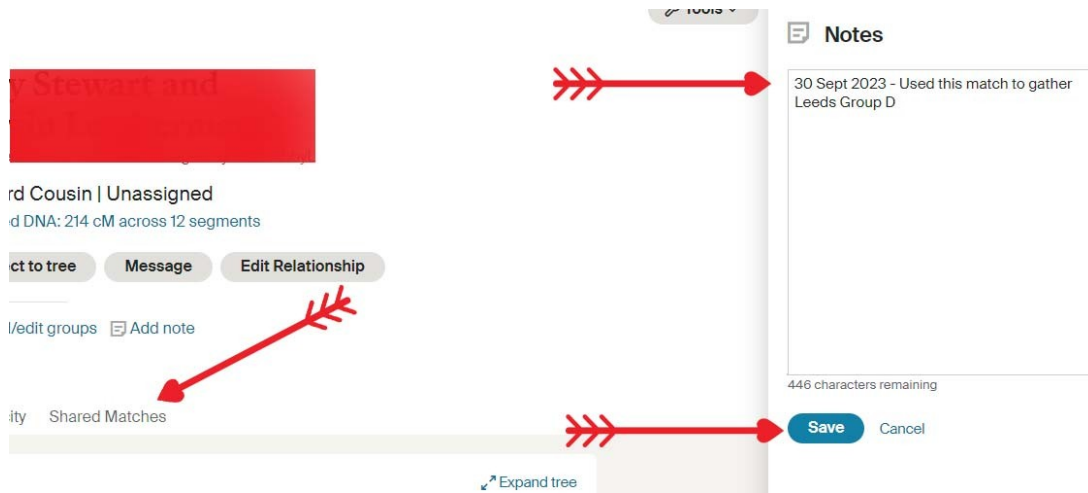
Add this match to Leeds Group D and then click Add Note.



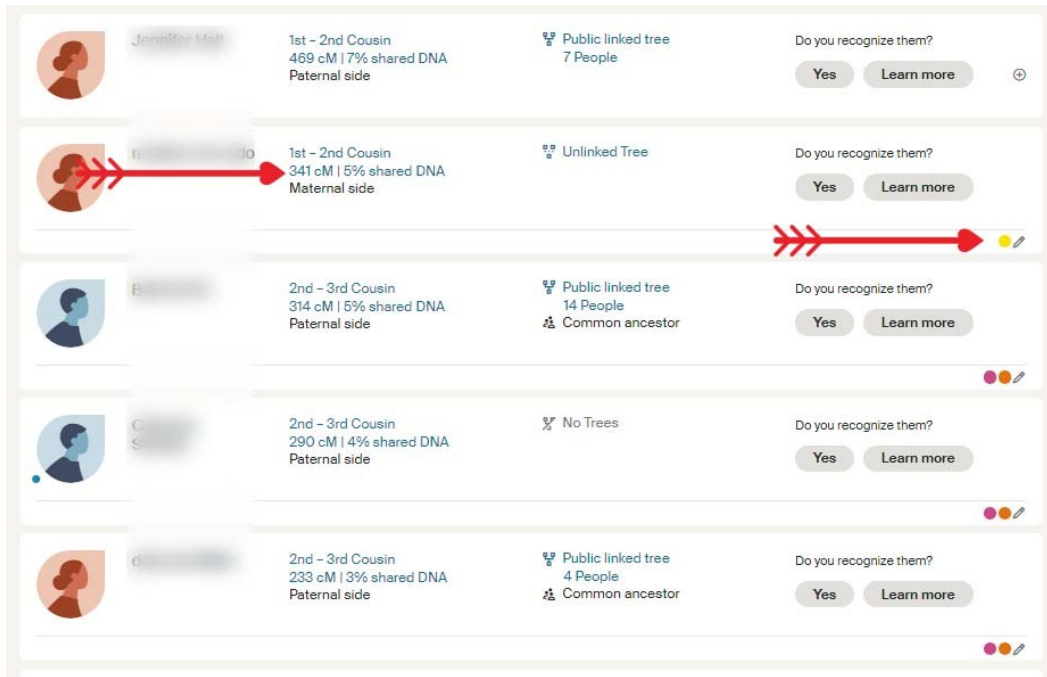
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Add a note that you used this match to gather Leeds Group D then click Save.



Click Shared Matches and scroll down to the first match with less than 400 cM.

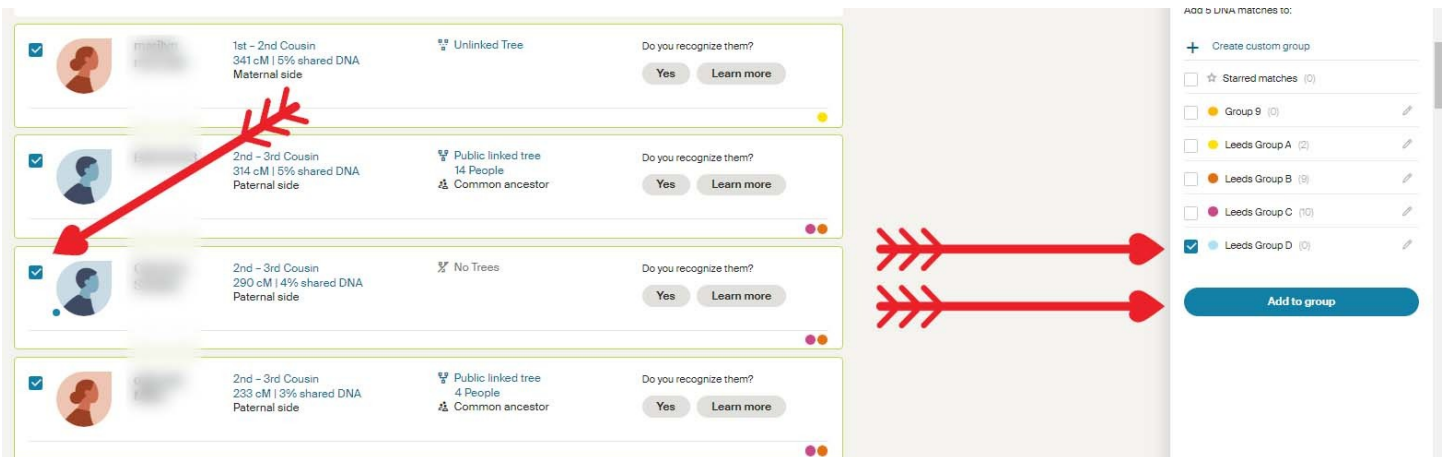


Click the + circle or pencil icon.

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Scroll down and click every check box to the left of a match, even if they already have a dot. Only click matches in the 90-400 cM range. After clicking all matches, click Add to group



You have now gathered DNA Matches for Leeds Group D.

Check your main DNA Matches list with Shared DNA set to 90 – 400 cM.  
If there are no DNA Matches without a Dot, you have completed this exercise.

If you see DNA Matches without a Dot, repeat the process to gather another Leeds Group x and assign the next letter for x such as E, F, G, etc.

You should be comfortable now with gathering DNA Matches into Genetic Groups and also with how to use the Ancestry Dot System to label these groups.

These two skills are necessary when you are working on solving Brick Wall problems.