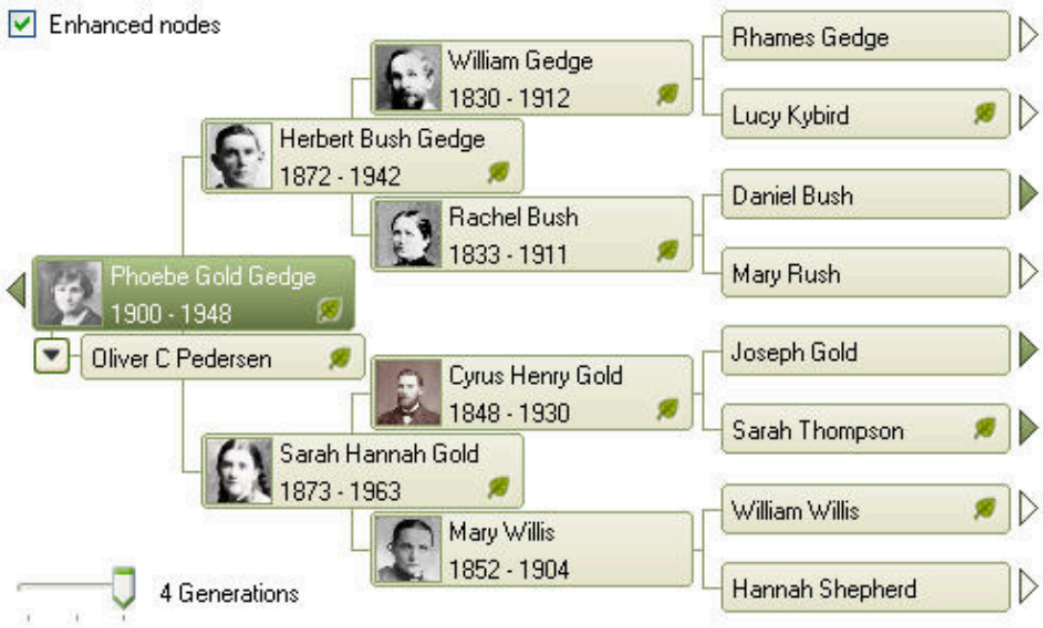
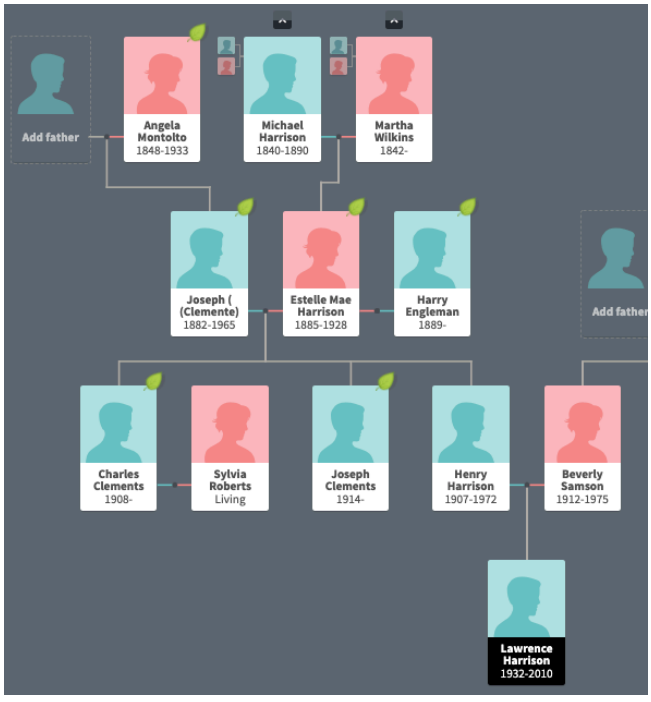
How to Create a Pedigree Tree for Genetic Genealogy

A **Pedigree tree** looks like this:

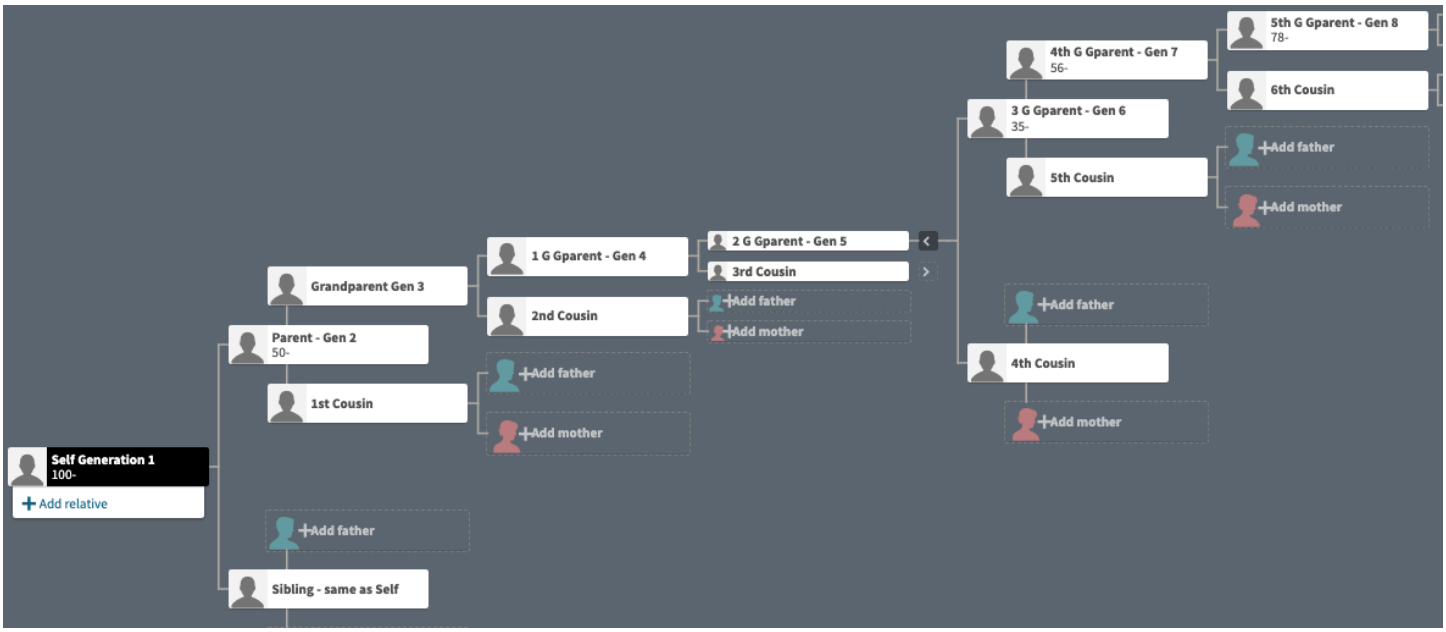


A **Family View tree** looks like this -This tree includes: all ancestors and descendants - parents/grandparents, siblings, all uncle/aunts, all cousins.



One description of a pedigree family tree is “you, your parents, grandparents, and all other generations from whom you are directly descended.”

- *An important concept in DNA matching is the: Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) - Genetic Genealogy Basics: What does MRCA stand for? FHF, May 13, 2020*
- *The ISOGG wiki defines the MRCA as In genetic genealogy, the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) of any set of individuals is the most recent individual from which all the people in the group are directly descended.*
- *The Pedigree tree shows you and all your generational ancestors. This shoulda/woulda/coulda be the place where you find the MRCA with your “target matches.”*



- *Some genetic genealogists create a separate Pedigree Family Tree for DNA Purposes. This tree will look like the above example - with no siblings, cousins, uncles, aunts, etc. This tree should be built as a separate tree (wherever you build you trees - Ancestry, Geni, MyHeritage - but NOT FamilySearch.org).*

To build a Pedigree Family Tree:

1. *Start a new tree with you (or your target) as the 1st generation.*
2. *Add parents, grandparent, great grandparents, etc for as many generations as you have info for*
3. *Add birth & death dates and places - be as accurate as you can - use estimates using 25-30 years for a generation. Be as accurate as you can with places (Russia is a BIG place!)*
4. *Your various lines will probably have different generations. Remember atDNA will only get you back 5-7 generations.*

Once you have created a Pedigree Family Tree, convert into a GEDcom and download and upload to all necessary sites - Ancestry, FamilySearch, FtDNA, Geni, MyHeritage, WikiTree, JewishGen, etc.

Confused?
If you are confused by the whole - generation vs grandparent vs cousin arrangement take a look at the tree, I created on Ancestry, to give a visual view: **1-DNA - Gen - Cousin Tree**. This tree describes relationships only out to 9 generation = 6th great grandparents = 7th cousins. Autosomal DNA at this point is 0.38% total DNA inherited from 10 generation. The most likely that are IBD will occur at the 5-6th generation level = 3-4th cousins! What is IBS vs IBD?

***Diahan Southard has another view**, that you should review. If you have a tree that goes wide (I don't) you may want to present a tree like this. This is True especially in the tree you attach to you DNA in the primary place you tested and keep you "primary" Tree (probably either Ancestry or MyHeritage). At AncestryDNA, this will allow Ancestry to use "Thru-lines" feature to bring possible matches to you. As you know, all trees not under your direct control (and yours too!) are suspect, until proven accurate!*

Read the article here: ***Best Family Tree for DNA Matches***

1. **Focus on biological branches.**
2. **2. A wide tree is usually better than a tall tree.**
3. **3. Come as close to the ground as possible.**