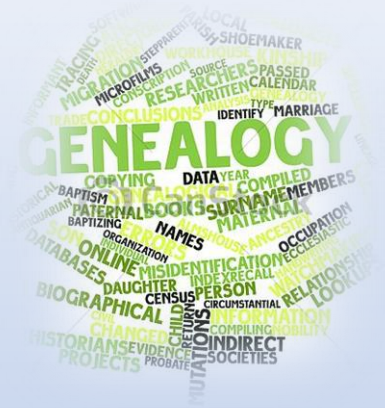
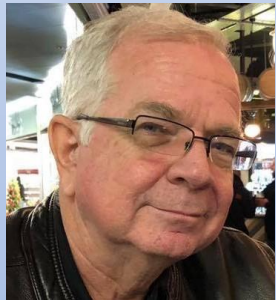


# Working With Family Trees



Oct 30, 2025

Red Mountain Mesa Library



Ken waters

<http://familytreeaz.com/presentations>

Satwatcher.gen@gmail.com



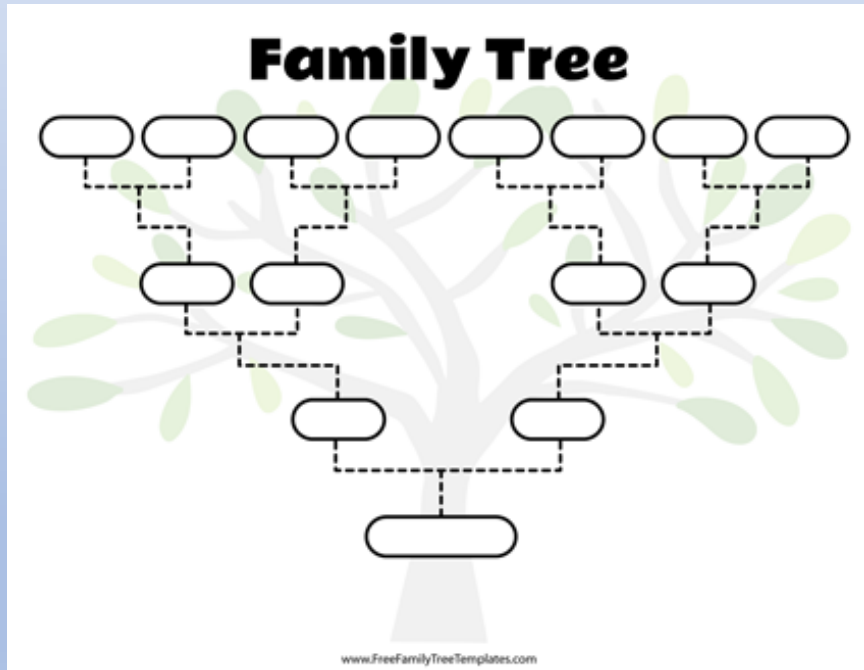
All slides and handouts can be found at:  
<http://www.familytreeaz.com/Presentations/>

Special note: I'm currently in the process of transitioning to a new hosting company so it's possible some links may not be working --- check back soon (~mid November)



QR Code: take photo to open to presentations

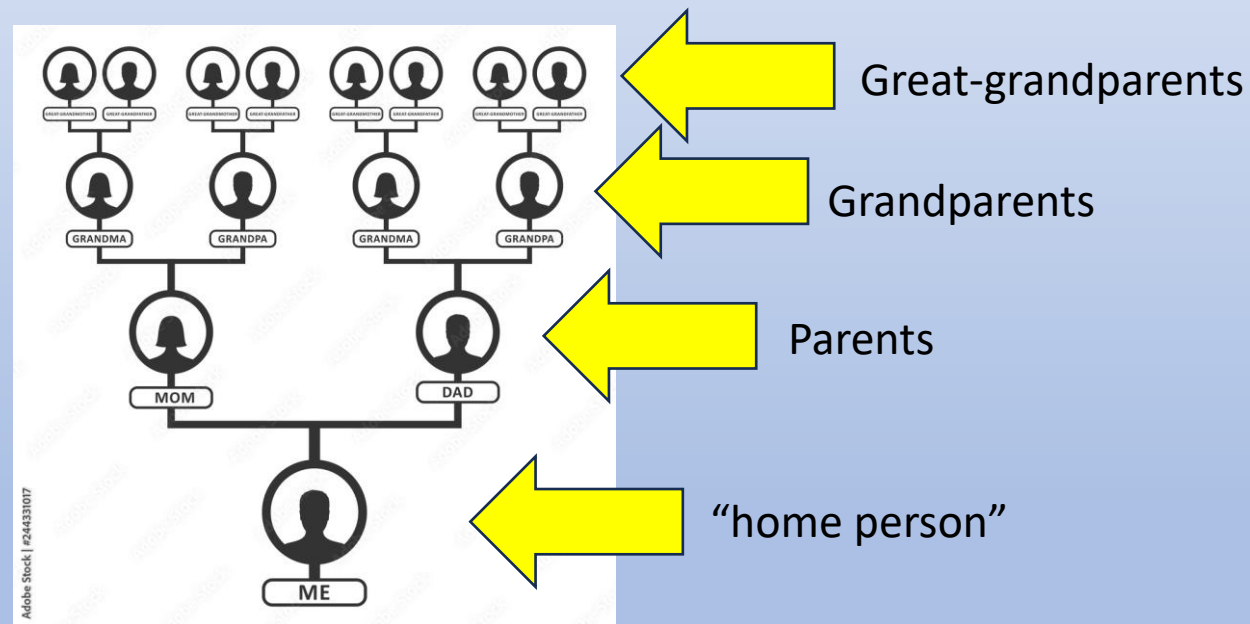
# The Family Tree is one of two primary components of genealogy



**Combined Together --- A greater chance of success to solve your family tree mysteries.**

# What is a Family Tree?

- An essential part of working family history (also known as genealogy)



Standard convention is to put the male (father) to the left for each couple but this is certainly not required

# Ways to Create a Family Tree

	Local (family tree software)	Online (Ancestry, MyHeritage, WikiLinks)	FamilySearch (one world tree)
Safe storage (can't be deleted or altered by another company)	X		
Ability to use to link to DNA matches		X (Ancestry, MyHeritage)	
Tools to check tree quality	X	X (Ancestry ProTools)	
Export to GEDCOM to share	X	X	
Connect to other persons' trees		X	X (one world tree in this case)

# Personal Software

- Usually purchased for a personal computer
- A good practice to keep a full family tree on the computer as insurance in case the online trees are removed, company goes down, etc.
- These are probably the two most common but there are more (I personally use RootsMagic)

*mackiev.com* Support Where to Buy Store

Family Tree Maker The Print Shop KID PIX WORLD BOOK 3D Weather Globe HyperStudio Mavis Beacon ClueFinders Edmark

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**Genealogy Software**

RootsMagic 11	Free Trial	Buy
---------------	------------	-----

**Story Writing Software**

Personal Historian 3	Free Trial	Buy
----------------------	------------	-----

**Mapping Software**


Family Atlas		Buy
--------------	--	-----

what's new Download free trial U



# Online Family Trees

- Ancestry, MyHeritage, WikiTree, FamilySearch, Geneanet

**WikiTree**  
Where genealogists collaborate

## WikiTree

Where advanced genealogists and casual family historians collaborate on a global family tree for our cousins and descendants to enjoy **for free, forever.**




## Start a new tree.

 + Add home person

 Father

 Mother

 Home Family tree

### Create online family tree

This page helps you add a new family tree to your site.

**Me**

☒ Male ☐ Female

Ken Waters

1956 Birth place

Year of birth

**My father**

First name Last name


Email address

**My mother**

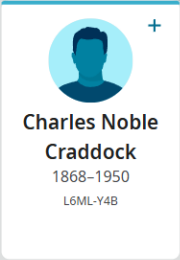
First name Maiden name

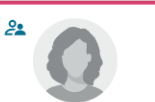
Email address


GO

 Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Ac

Overview **Tree** Recents Find Following Person List My Contribut

**Charles Noble Craddock**  
1868-1950  
L6ML-Y4B

 ADD SPOUSE

**Edward Craddock**  
1899-Deceased  
GFL8-SDV



# Good Practices

- Enter date/location of birth/marriage/death as much as possible using **known and reliable sources**
  - Birth certificates or birth indices, Social Security Index \*not\* other people's trees
- Use biological birth names and individuals (not adopted parents, etc.)

This is my grandmother's data on my primary family tree in Ancestry (public for all to see)

The screenshot shows the Ancestry profile for Mardell Lillian Huntley. At the top, there is a photo of an elderly woman and her name. Below the name, her birth and death information are listed: BIRTH 2 FEB 1908 • Clinton, Clinton, Iowa, USA and DEATH 28 AUG 2005 • Las Vegas, Clark, Nevada. A tag 'maternal grandmother' is visible. Navigation links include Notes/comments, Merge with duplicate, Print, Member connect, Check for errors, Charts & reports, and Add tags. The main content area is divided into three sections: Timeline, Sources, and Relationships. The Timeline section shows a vertical timeline of events from 1908 to 1938, including Birth, Residence, and Marriage. The Sources section lists various records such as the 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, and 1950 United States Federal Censuses, California County Birth, Marriage, and Death Records, and California Voter Registrations. The Relationships section shows parents (Add father, Nellie Julia Spencer), spouse and children (Charles Noble Craddock, Joan Anita Craddock), and a network section with a 'Create Network' button.

**Mardell Lillian Huntley** ☆

BIRTH 2 FEB 1908 • Clinton, Clinton, Iowa, USA  
DEATH 28 AUG 2005 • Las Vegas, Clark, Nevada  
maternal grandmother Add tags

Notes/comments Merge with duplicate Print Member connect Check for errors PRO Charts & reports PRO

Facts Hints 1 Gallery LifeStory Explore

**SOURCES**

**Timeline** Filter Add

1908 (AGE) Birth  
2 Feb 1908 • Clinton, Clinton, Iowa, USA  
20 sources Explore

1910 2 Residence  
1910 • Colorado Springs Ward 2, El Paso, Colorado, USA  
Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Granddaughter  
1 source Explore

1920 12 Residence  
1920 • Denver, Denver, Colorado, USA  
Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Granddaughter  
1 source Explore

1930 22 Residence  
1930 • Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California  
Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Roomer  
2 sources Explore

1931 23 Marriage  
10 Dec 1931 • Los Angeles, California, USA  
Charles Noble Craddock 1905-1963  
1 source Explore

1932 24 Residence  
1932 • Los Angeles, California, USA  
1 source Explore

1935 27 Residence  
1935 • Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California  
1 source Explore

1936 28 Residence  
1936 • Los Angeles, California, USA  
1 source Explore

1937 29 Residence  
1937 • Los Angeles, California, USA  
3 sources Explore

1938 Residence

**Relationships** Add

Parents  
Add father  
Nellie Julia Spencer 1878-1932

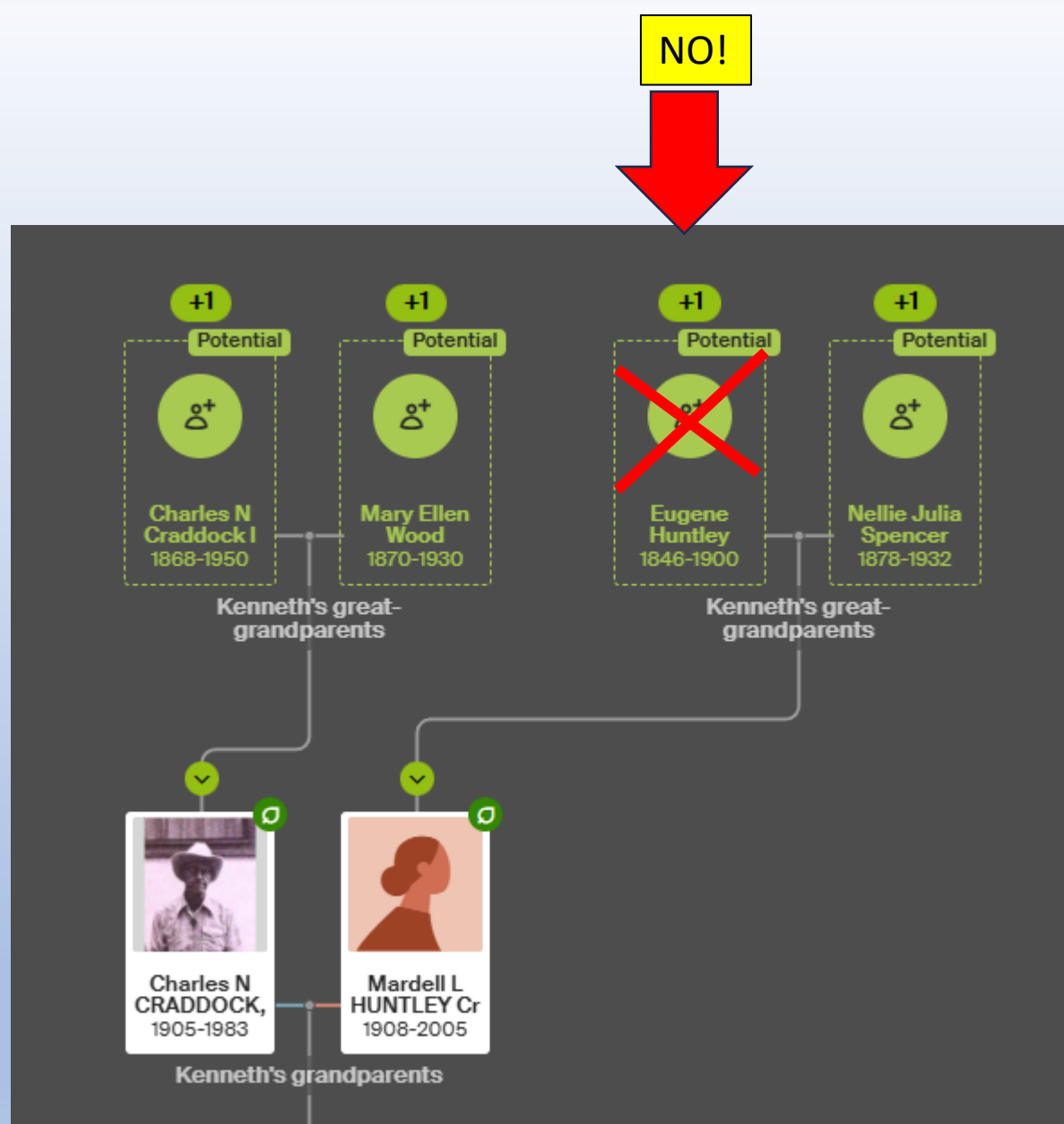
Spouse and children  
Charles Noble Craddock 1905-1963  
Joan Anita Craddock 1929-2015  
Add family

Networks BETA  
Build a fuller picture of this person's life using Networks.  
Create Network

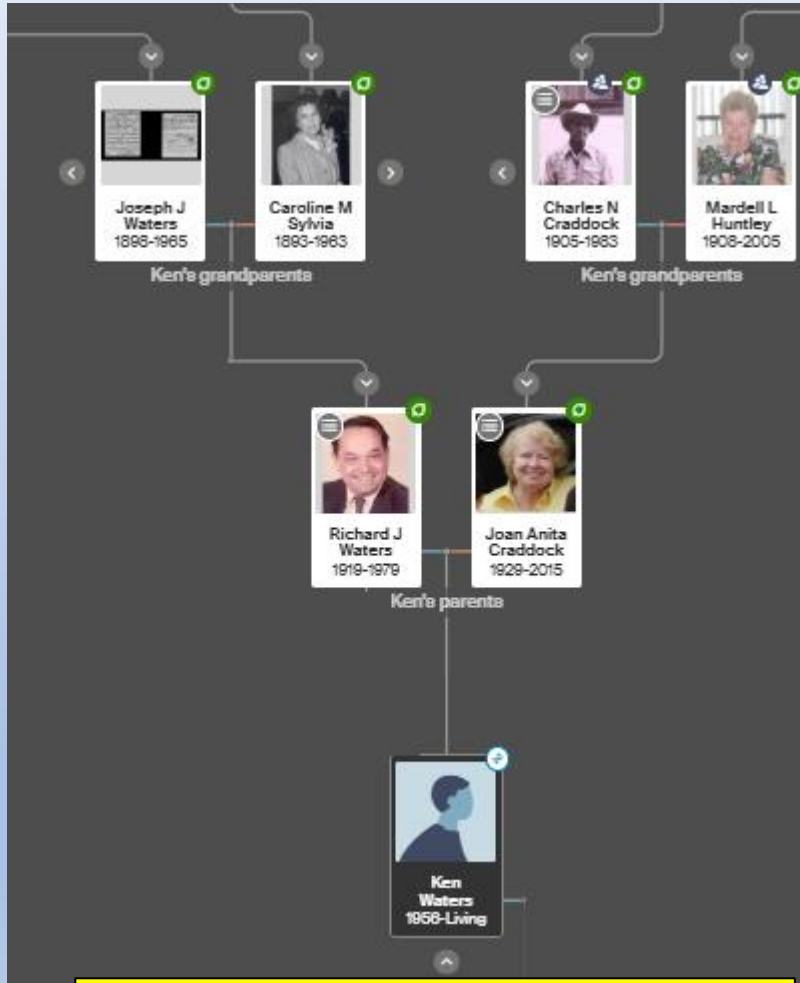


# Caution

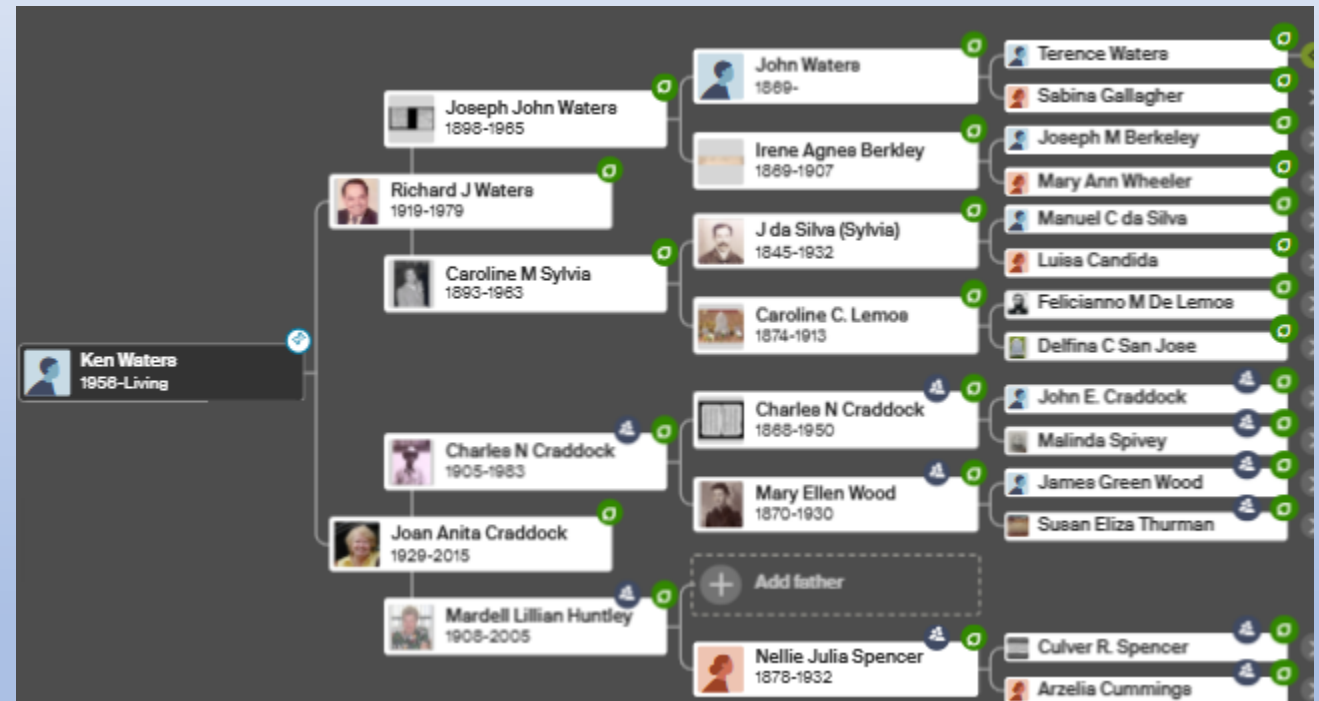
- Be careful with automated “hints” which may be incorrect
- This is what Ancestry tries to hint at being my grandmother’s father (she was born in 1908, he died in 1900!)
- Ancestry clearly is not checking dates on hints to prevent impossible relationships



# Family Tree (vertical) vs. Pedigree (horizontal)



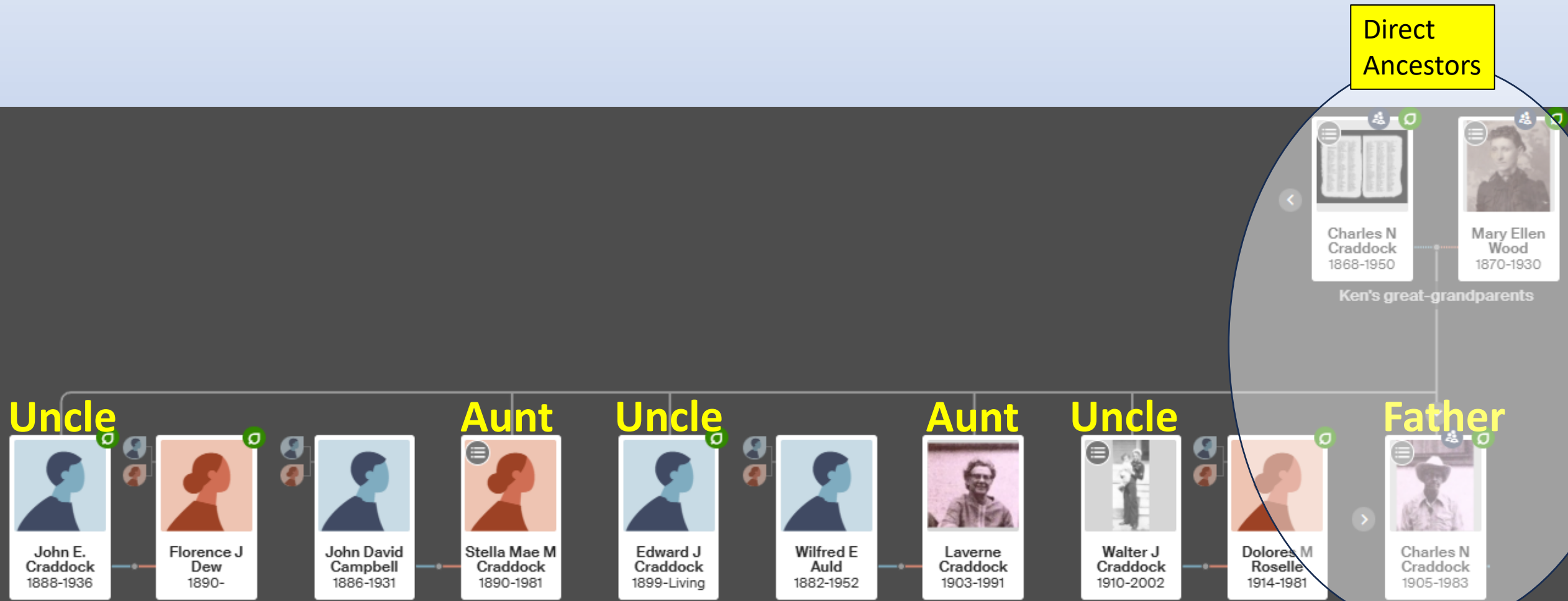
Note: this view often shows persons beyond direct ancestors



## Pedigree

Note: this view shows only direct ancestors from the "home person"

# Example of family tree showing siblings of a direct ancestor (father in this case)



# What is a GEDCOM?

- A common format to save and/or share a family tree
- Plain text format

GEDCOM, an acronym for **GE**nealogical **D**ata **C**ommunication, is a standardized file format for exchanging family tree information between different genealogy software and websites. It acts as a universal language for family history data, allowing users to export their research from one program and import it into another, and is widely supported across the industry. This ensures family history isn't locked into a single program and can be backed up and shared.

1 Marriage date: 27 May 1888 Marriage place: South Ca.  
 2 SDRB 05-190602470  
 3 MOPS <http://www.familysearch.org/71?i=100&cc=137&cat=1003404&st=1&url=/i1003404?i=1003404&st=1>  
 3 001A  
 4 1888 Residence date: 31 May 1888 Residence place: Portland,  
 5 Maine, United States  
 6 SDRB 05-190602470  
 7 MOPS 1-1378-1504045  
 8 SDRB 05-190602470  
 9 MOPS 1-1378-1504045  
 10 SDRB 05-190602470  
 11 SDRB 05-190602470  
 12 SDRB 05-190602470  
 13 SDRB 05-190602470  
 14 SDRB 05-190602470  
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 100 SDRB 05-190602470

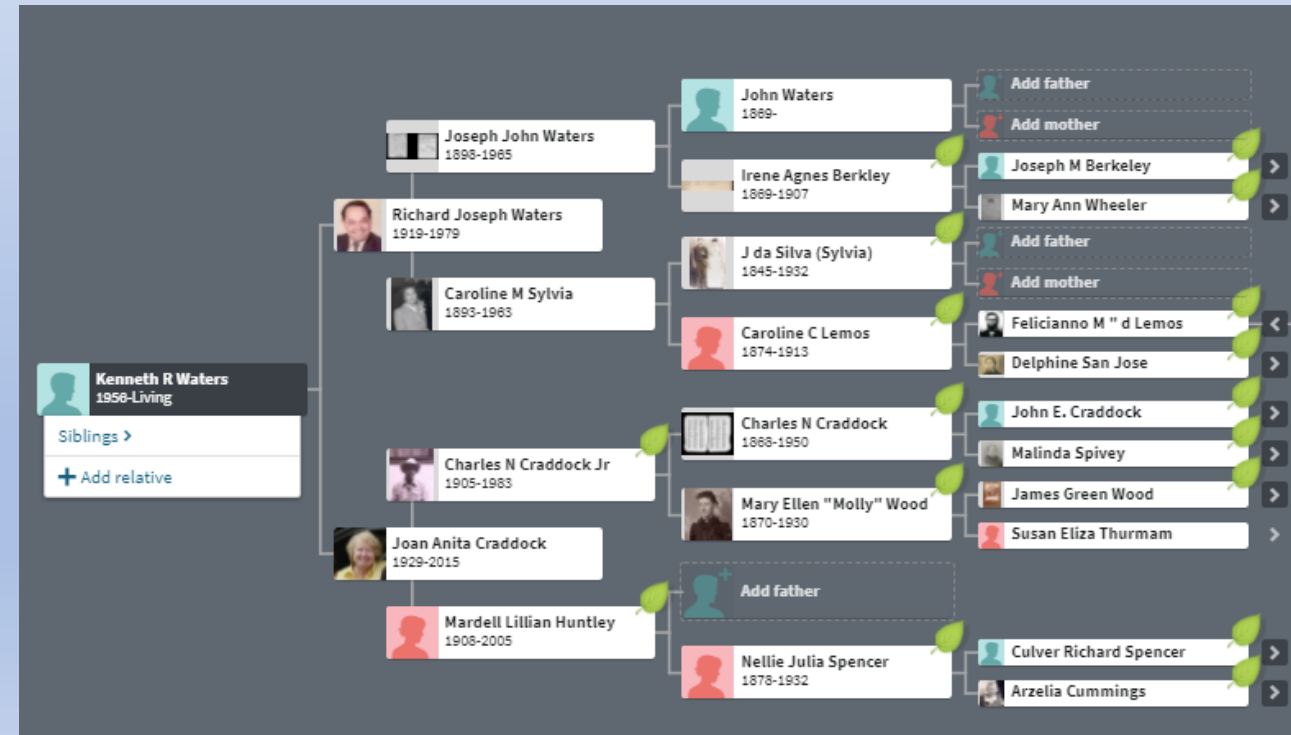
# Inside a GEDCOM

- Full name
- BMD (birth, marriage, death) records
- Standardized format
- Can be exported and imported by:
  - WikiTree
  - Ancestry
  - MyHeritage
  - RootsMagic
  - FamilyTreeMaker

```
1 NAME Kenneth /Waters/
2 GIVN Kenneth
2 SURN Waters
1 SEX M
1 FAMC @F2@
1 BIRT
2 DATE 1956
0 @I362714388214@ INDI
1 NAME Richard /Waters/
2 GIVN Richard
2 SURN Waters
1 SEX M
1 FAMC @F1@
1 FAMS @F2@
1 BIRT
2 DATE 1919
1 DEAT
2 DATE 1979
0 @I362714388255@ INDI
1 NAME Joan /Craddock/
2 GIVN Joan
2 SURN Craddock
1 SEX F
1 FAMC @F3@
1 FAMS @F2@
1 BIRT
2 DATE 1929
2 PLAC Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA
1 DEAT
2 DATE 2015
2 PLAC Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona, USA
0 @I362714388266@ INDI
1 NAME Joseph John /Waters/
2 GIVN Joseph John
2 SURN Waters
```

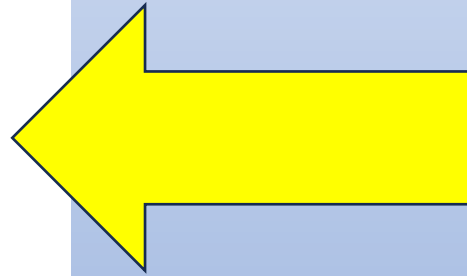
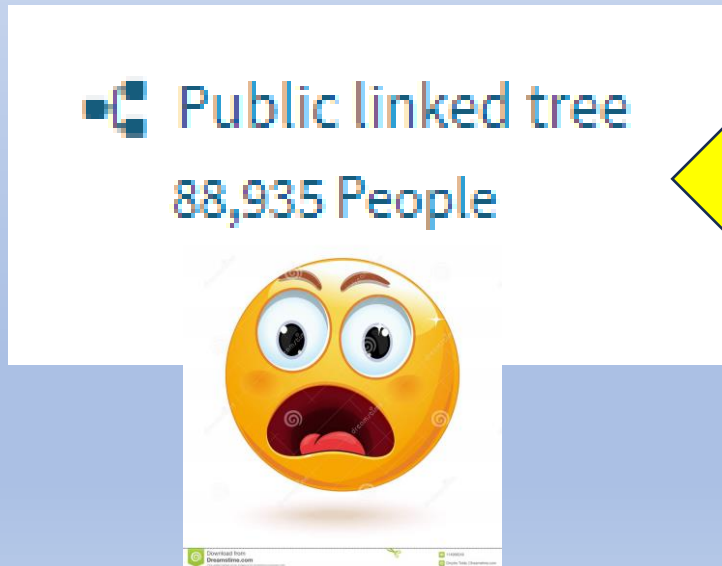
# For persons taking DNA tests --- some suggestions

- Be sure to always have a good tree, 5+ generations if possible
- On Ancestry, keep it **public** and attached to your DNA kit (you can always have other trees private)
- Backup your tree (store on local software)
- Export your tree in GEDCOM format
- Upload your tree (GEDCOM file) to GedMatch and WikiTree



# Don't copy other person's tree unless you've thoroughly verified it

- This is a common problem on Ancestry and possibly other services in an effort to “grow” one's tree easily and quickly
  - There will often be errors in other people's trees and you're just multiplying to the problem by blindly copying



Has the owner of this tree actually carefully researched and documented all 88,935 persons in it?!



# Good Practice

- Keep names in your trees to just their names---avoid other qualifiers such as “great grandpa”, “royal blood”, etc.



**THOMAS PARHAM** royal  
blood ☆

B: 1665 Charles City, Virginia, USA  
D: 14 May 1717 Prince George, Prince George,  
Virginia, USA

Profile

Search

Hints

...

This one amused me a bit; I wasn't aware Johnny Depp had passed away



**John Christopher Depp**

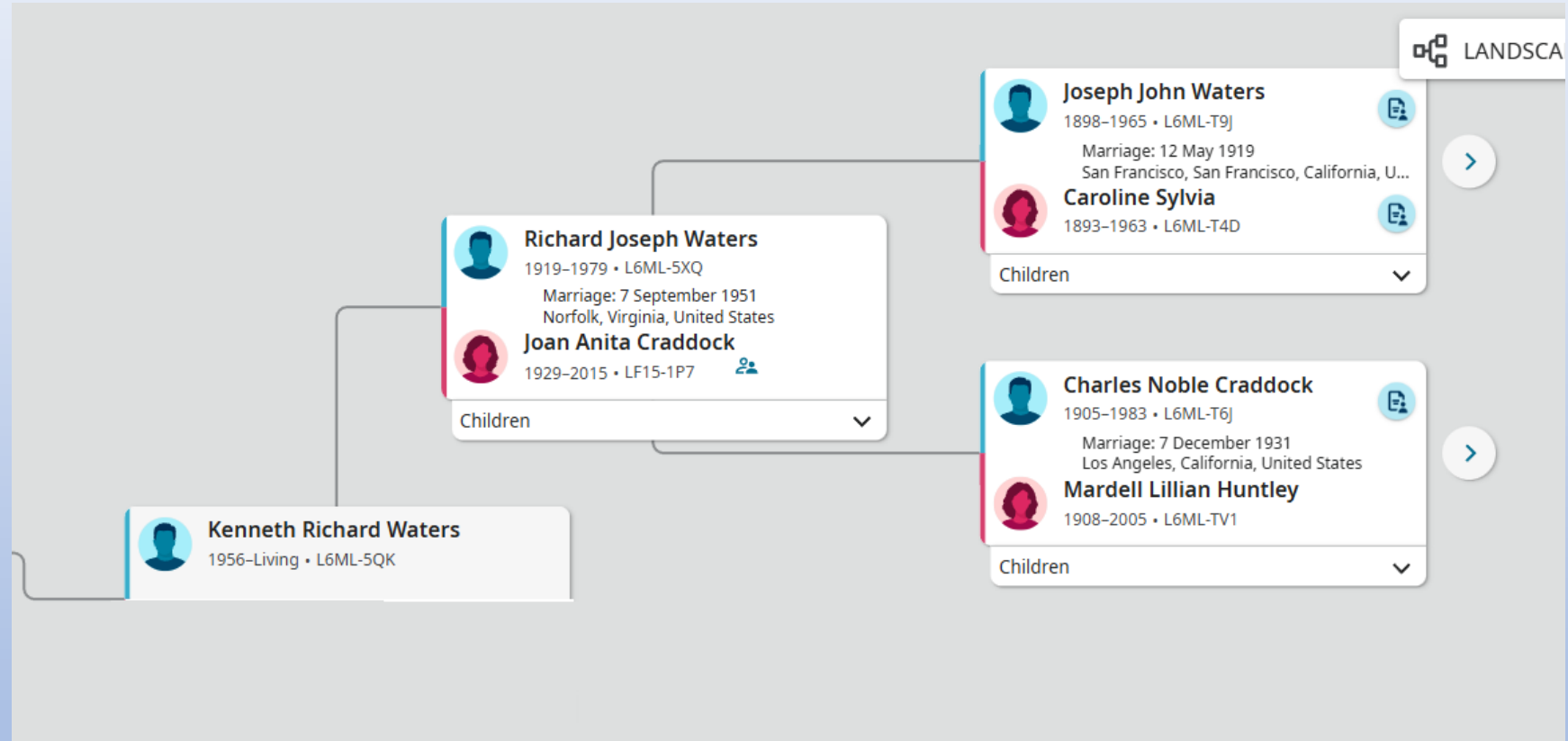
BIRTH 9 JUN 1963 • Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH AFT JULY 11, 2013



# FamilySearch Tree

- Different concept--- individual enters tree information but this is then incorporated into a single world tree



# FamilySearch Tree

- Contributions made by one person can be edited by others (for better or worse)

This is an example of someone whom I do not know and am not related to who merged two individuals into one---in this case the husband of a grand-aunt of mine.




Changes to People You Follow

Search by Name

FOLLOWING (16)


⚙️ OPTIONS

Following Suggestions:  [SEE LIST](#)

Name	Changes	Date
<div>Public Person</div> <div><b>Angeline Sylvia</b><div>⋮</div><div>1910-2010 • LRD7-F2Q</div></div>	<div>Child Merged</div> <div>Surviving</div> <div> Warren Odell Rumsey 1936-Deceased • PQ51-117</div> <div>Deleted</div> <div> Warren Rumsey 1936-Deceased • PSY2-LQW</div>	<div>September 1, 2025</div> <div><div>R</div> Ratna Rajah Lingam</div> <div>CHANGES (1)</div>


# FamilySearch Tree


- Other people unknowingly making significant changes to people in my tree!
- My experience has been poor in this regard as others made changes that were not correct
  - Examples: changing the father (currently unknown) of my grandmother to match her given birth name (!!!)
  - Changing my mother’s surname because her birth certificate indicated her surname to her mother’s name because her parents were not married at the time (!!!)




Mardell Lillian Huntley

2 February 1908 – 28 August 2005 • L6ML-TV1

 VIEW TREE

 VIEW RELATIONSHIP

 FOLLOWING

About

Details

Sources (12)


Collaborate (1)

Notes


+ ADD NOTE

Eugene was not father to Mardell

Please do not add Eugene Huntley, Frank Pohlmann, or anyone else as father to my grandmother Mardell Huntley. Eugene passed in 1900 and Mardell was born in 1908. Frank was Nellie's second husband and so was a step-father to Mardell.

Last Changed: February 28, 2024  Ken Waters\_1

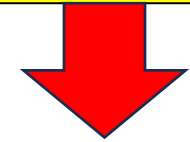
My grand-uncle was erroneously deleted by someone

Name	Change	Date
<div> Edward Craddock</div> <div>1899-Deceased • GFL8-SDV</div>	Person Restored	March 8, 2024

# FamilySearch Tree

- Each of these errors I had to correct manually

People unrelated to me making erroneous changes to my tree contributions, often based on inaccurate sources (e.g. wrong census name or date of birth)



≡ OPTIONS

## Sources (12)

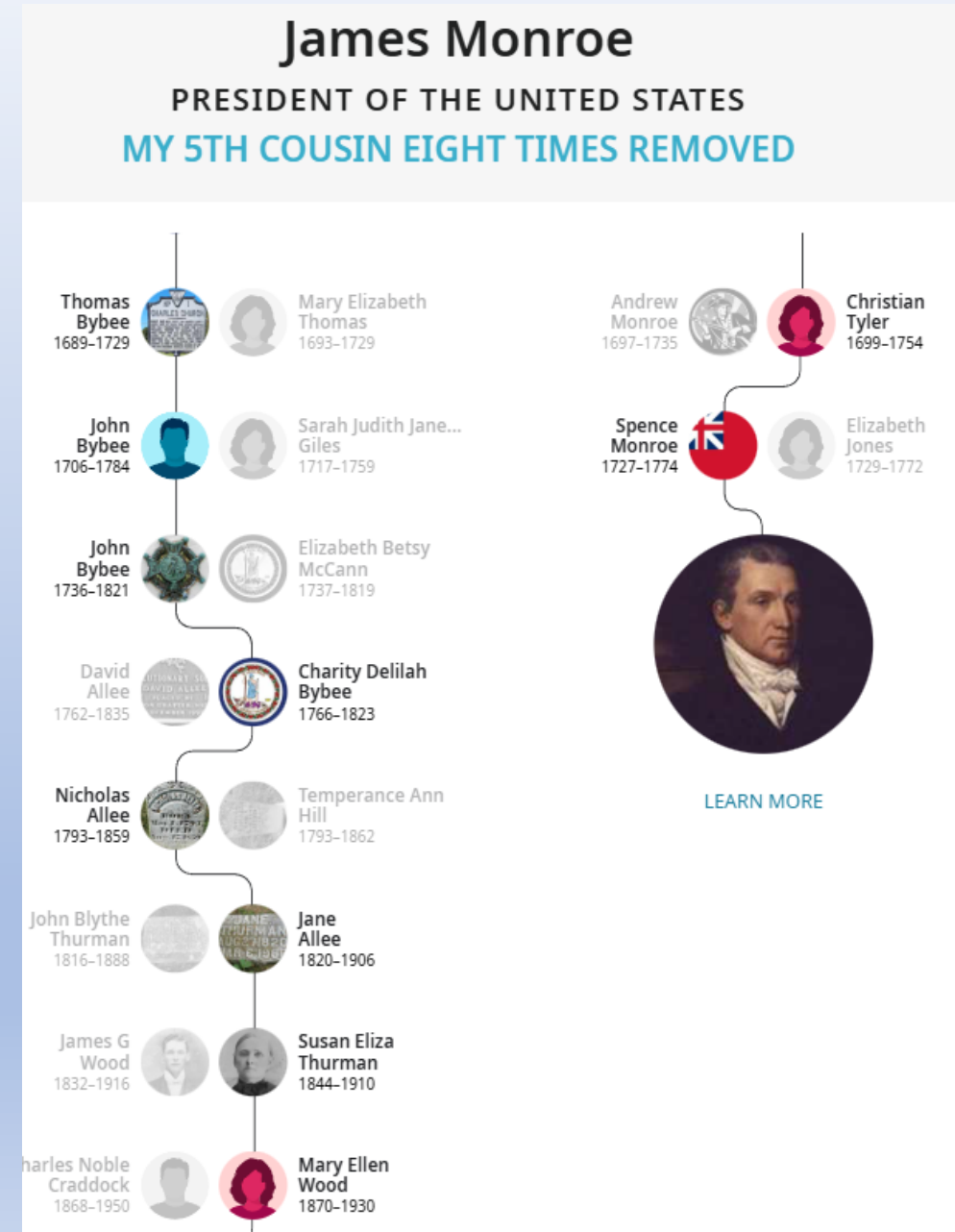
☐ Detail View [+ ADD SOURCE](#)

	Date	Title	Created	
	1910	Mardell Huntley, "United States, Census, 1910"	December 2, 2014  La 	▼
	1920	Mardel Huntley, "United States, Census, 1920"	December 2, 2014  La 	▼
	1929	Mardell Lillian Huntley, "California, County Birth and Death Records, 1800-1994"	June 9, 2018  R 	▼
	1929	Huntley, "California, Birth Index, 1905-1995"	June 28, 2019  R 	▼
	1930	Mardell Huntley, "United States, Census, 1930"	December 2, 2014  L 	▼

# One Last Thing on FamilySearch Trees

- The site uses this one world tree to imply relationships to famous people
  - While fascinating and fun, proper vigilance needs to be taken as there are many errors in that tree
  - When I try to verify a relationship I'm often left with an impossible ancestor in the connecting path

Always carefully verify these relationships to ensure the ancestral line is correct and is possible.




# WikiTree

- Completely free with a good carefully sourced reputation
- Strongly recommend uploading a copy of your tree here

## How does WikiTree work?

1 Collaboration on modern family history is [private](#) and tightly-controlled through [Trusted Lists](#). Non-genealogist family members you [invite](#) probably won't move beyond this level.

2 Collaboration on deeper ancestry is between genealogists who are committed to accuracy and cite [sources](#). We trust each other to abide by a special [Honor Code](#).

It all comes together as one on our [single family tree](#). See our [Help Pages](#)  for more information. There are also [tutorials for new members](#) and lots of help in the community.



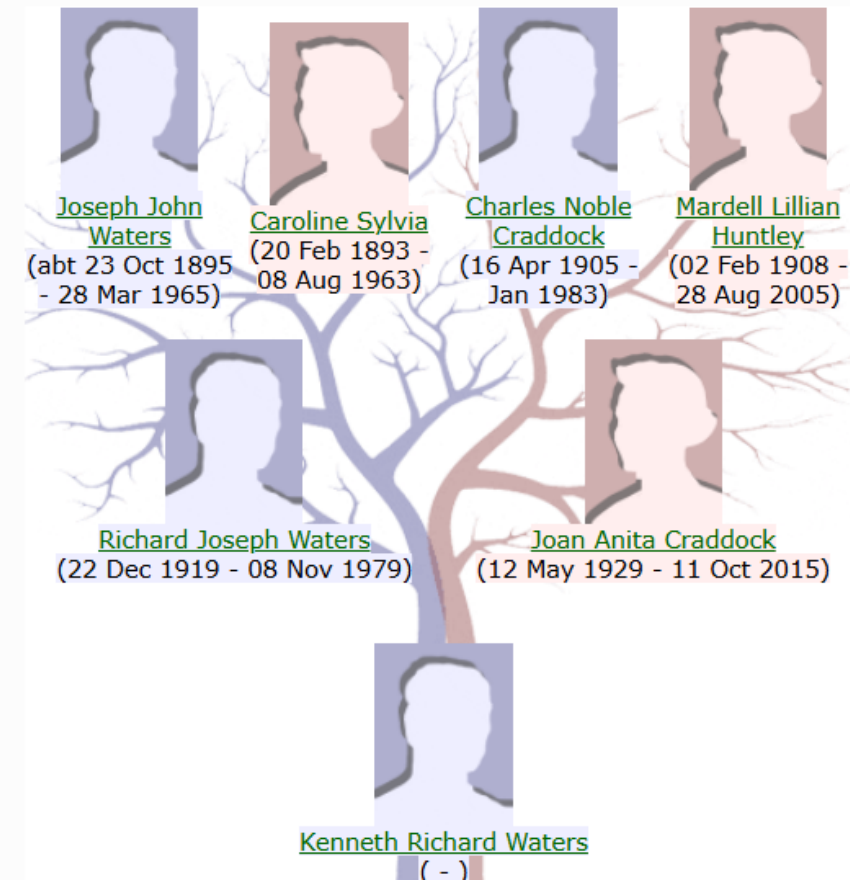
**WikiTree**  
Where genealogists collaborate

Ken Waters

## My WikiTree: Navigation Home

[↑](#) [↓](#) [Tree](#) [Badges](#) [Intro](#) [Scratch](#) [Activity](#) [Thanks](#)


You can [cust](#)






# WikiTree



- This is the entry for my maternal grandmother; most of the information and sources were entered by myself
- Note the father information is not entered as his identity is unknown






 **WikiTree**  
Where genealogists collaborate




Mardell (Huntley) Craddock ▾ Add ▾ Find ▾ He ▾





## Mardell Lillian (Huntley) Craddock

Born 2 Feb 1908 in Clinton, Clinton, Iowa, United States   
Died 28 Aug 2005 at age 97 in Las Vegas, Clark, Nevada, United States 


     [Biography](#) [Sources](#) [Photos: 0](#) [DNA: 1](#) [Comments: 0](#) [Matches](#)


[Family](#)  [Ancestors](#)  [Descendants](#) 

Mardell Lillian [Craddock](#) formerly [Huntley](#) 

Daughter of [\[father?\]](#) and [Nellie Julia \(Spencer\) Pohlmann](#) 

[\[brothers or sisters?\]](#)

Wife of [Charles Noble Craddock](#) — married [\[marriage date?\]](#) [\[marriage location?\]](#) 

Mother of [Joan Craddock](#) 

### Biography

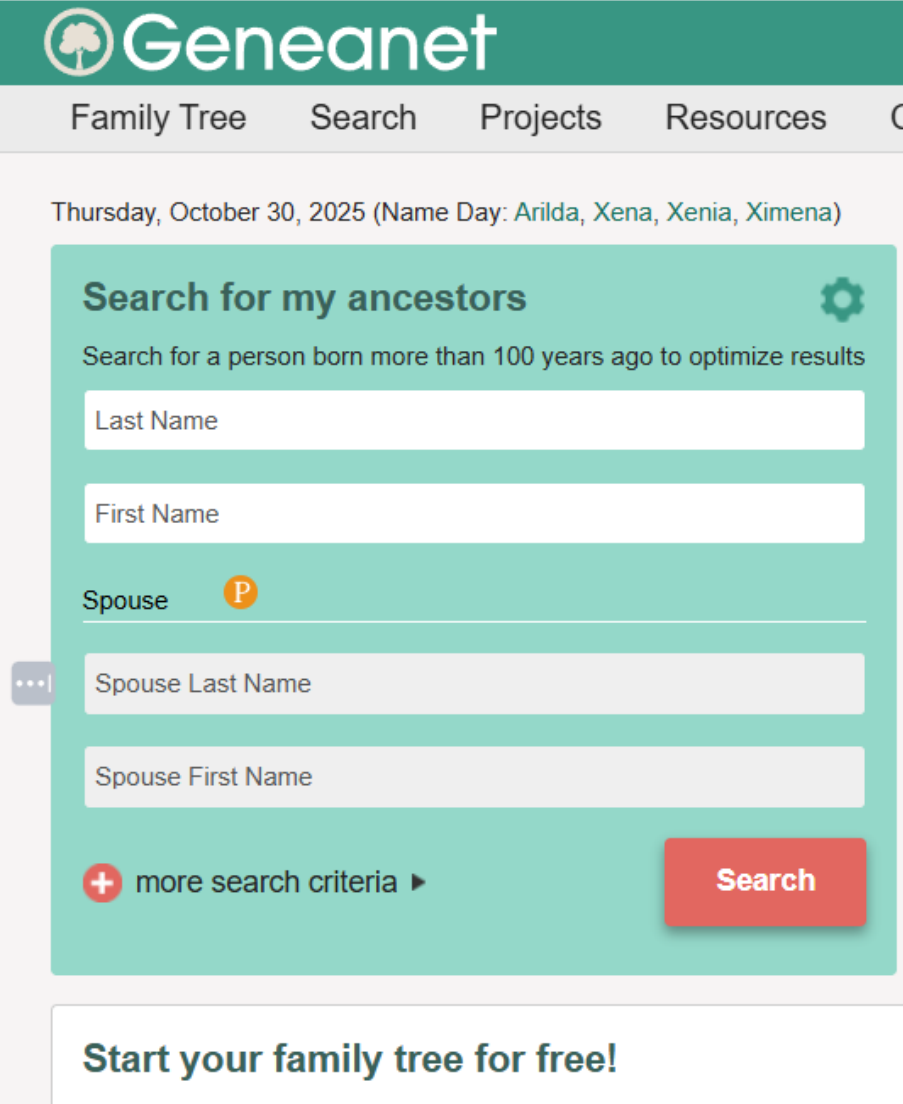
Mardell Lillian Huntley was born 2 February 1908 in Clinton, Iowa. She passed away 28 August 2005 in Las Vegas, Nevada.<sup>[1]</sup>

[Problems or Questions?](#)

# One more out there -- Geneanet

- Free to enter a tree but does have a premium (\$\$) aspect to it

- 



The screenshot displays the Geneanet website interface. At the top, the Geneanet logo is visible, followed by navigation links: Family Tree, Search, Projects, Resources, and a partially visible 'C'. Below the navigation bar, the date 'Thursday, October 30, 2025' is shown, along with 'Name Day' suggestions: Arilda, Xena, Xenia, and Ximena. The main section is titled 'Search for my ancestors' and includes a subtext: 'Search for a person born more than 100 years ago to optimize results'. The search form contains several input fields: 'Last Name', 'First Name', 'Spouse' (with a premium 'P' icon), 'Spouse Last Name', and 'Spouse First Name'. A red button with a plus icon and the text 'more search criteria' is located below the spouse fields. A prominent red 'Search' button is positioned at the bottom right of the search section. At the very bottom of the page, a banner reads 'Start your family tree for free!'.



Presentations:

<http://familytreeaz.com/Presentations>



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