

Recording DNA Finds in Reunion

Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, October 2025

You have found that you and a cousin are DNA matches. Make sure that person is in your Reunion files. We will explore at least seven ways to use Reunion to show your DNA matches – including how to track your paper-documented Y-DNA & mtDNA relatives.

- *This won't help you *find* your DNA matches! Just like this group doesn't work with how to find your ancestors' birth records, we aren't going to investigate *finding* DNA matches. The ideas below will help you keep a record of the DNA information for an individual and note which people in your Reunion file are potential matches.
- * Directions for adding some of these features in Reunion have been covered in previous meetings. Links to those handouts with specific instructions are listed at the end of this document.

Do you have a big spreadsheet with lots of information about your DNA matches? Why not put some clues in your Reunion file to indicate what you have found! Once you have found a DNA match and know how you are related, there are at least seven ways to do that in Reunion. You choose the ones that work best for you.

Notes
Color Tags
DNA Icon
Facts
Marking
Connections
Flags

WALLACE, Living  665, 2, 855 	
1st Cousin	
Birth	Houston, Harris County, Texas 
DNA Match	725.6 cM at GedMatch, 733 at MyHeritage
Note	atDNA: 725.6 cM at GedMatch, 733 at MyHeritage, 685 at Ancestry, 682 at
No other spouses.	
Feasibility	
Flags	Clergy, YDNA, atDNA

On the family view, you can add visual reminders of these several ways that the DNA information can be recorded. You can choose which ones work best for you.

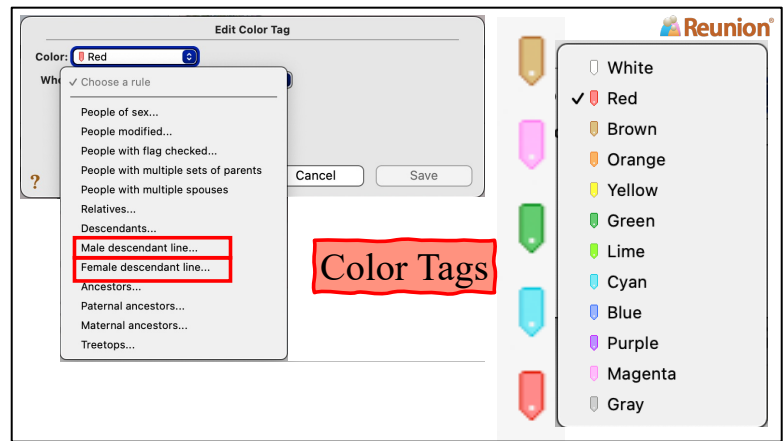
Notes The traditional place to record extra information beyond BMD would be in the notes section, the top of which can be seen on the family view screen (and can be scrollable).

Note	atDNA: 725.6 cM at GedMatch, 733 at MyHeritage, 685 at Ancestry, 682 at
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It's a good place to add your DNA notes.
When clicked on, it opens up to the Notes panel where you can record this and any other extra information like stories, research records and more, that you have gathered about the person. Whatever is at the top of the list is what shows up on the family view.

WALLACE, Living 	
Name 7 Events Facts Notes Flags	
Misc....	atDNA: 725.6 cM at GedMatch, 733 at MyHeritage, 685 at Ancestry, 682 at FTDNA Y-DNA: R-M269 mtDNA: H 2

Color Tags provide visual clues to distinguish different attributes or groups of people. Use them to tag such things as the descendants of an ancestor, multiple parents, or for Y-DNA or mtDNA. Color tags are "automatic" — that is, once a color tag is assigned to a particular attribute (or "rule") then anybody who meets that rule will automatically receive the appropriate color tag. There are 12 colors; you can also create rules for paternal and maternal branches of your family.



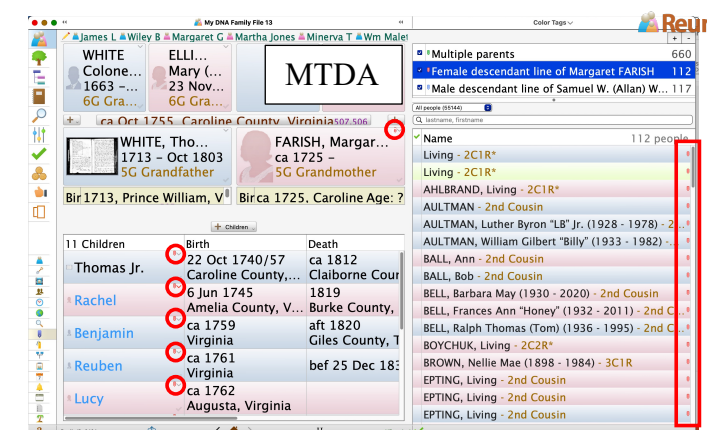
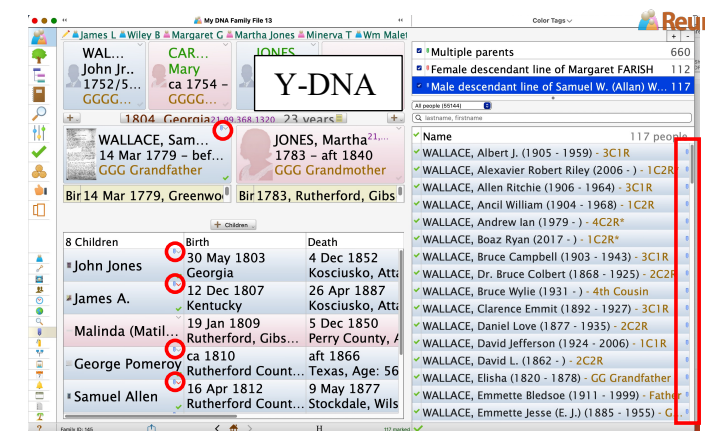
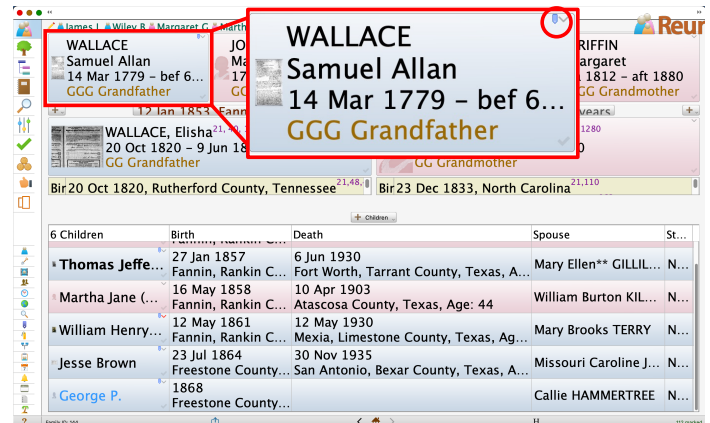
Y-DNA the Y-chromosome passes from father to son only. When *Male descendants line* is chosen for a color tag, only male children will be tagged. Trace back to the earliest documented male ancestor in your male line to set up the color tag. This will show the Y-DNA descendants for the all that you've found and added to your Reunion files. The tag doesn't mean that there is an actual DNA match, just that these men are potential because they are descendants (on paper) of the earliest documented ancestor. Choose a tag color (blue?).

The parent of the original ancestor would not have a tag if the relationship is tentative (or unknown). If you learn who that parent is, you would need to reassign him as the original designated person.

You can call up a list or make a chart of all people in your file that have that color tag. These are men you can ask to take a Y-DNA test if warranted.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is passed down from your earliest documented ancestor in your female line. It passes from mother to children of either sex, but then only from the daughters to their sons and daughters. When *Female descendants of a person* is chosen, both male and female children will be tagged, but the female descendant line continues only through the female.

Begin with earliest documented female ancestor in your maternal-maternal line and choose a color for the tag (red? All her children will be shown with red tags, male and female, but in the next generation, only the females will have passed it on to their children. This is automatic from the designated original person. If further children are added at any time at any generation, they will be marked with the tag. If you learn who the original ancestor's mother is, the tag would need to be reassigned to begin with her. By using Reunion's charting feature, you can show all the potential mtDNA matches from the female ancestor to yourself (or your brother).



Facts On the facts panel, specifics for an individual can be recorded, such as red hair, occupation, and religion. To add a DNA fact to the fact panel:

- Go to **Settings**, choose **Fields**.
- Select **Facts**.
- Below the list on the left, choose **Add Fact**.
- In the new list item, type a name for this new fact, such as DNA.

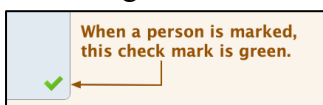
You can create other Fact lines for autosomal, mitochondrial, Y-DNA, company tested, or other family branches in order to record different types of DNA information.

Record the details of DNA results with **confirmed** relatives in the separate facts section that you have created. Using the Reunion search feature, you can call up a list to show all relatives who have tested at certain companies or with certain results recorded. This information can also be recorded in the notes section, but will take a little more scrolling and searching to find. Source citations can be added to these facts.

DNA Icon  Individually add an icon to each person that has tested, creating a great visual indicator. Use the DNA symbol only for people whose actual DNA results are matched to yours. Open the Name panel and paste the icon next to the person's name. This icon could be the visual clue to look at information in the facts section, which could be more specific about type and location of testing, as well as how many centimorgans or shared DNA segments. "Oh, this person has a DNA icon. I'll go look at their facts to find more information."

You can call up a list of everyone with a DNA icon to also see if they fall into your Y-DNA or mtDNA categories by seeing the color tag icon in the list.

Marking shows up as a green check mark in the bottom right corner of the person's button.



People can be marked for many things, such as selecting subgroups for charts and reports. There are at least 15 different check mark categories and you can create your own. Two categories are *Male descendants* and *Female descendants*, with the same rules used in color tags.

Because marking applies to only one feature at a time, and because it can be used often for many other features, this would be used for a specific DNA task, rather than the only way you mark DNA matches (unless saved in Results). When you see a check mark, it represents the last series marked, so it might be for some other characteristic, not DNA.

The color tag accomplishes the same thing and is relevant to the single feature associated with that color tag; multiple color tags are available.

Children	Birth	Death
Thomas Jr.	22 Oct 1740/57 Caroline County,...	ca 1812 Claiborne County, Mi
Rachel	6 Jun 1745 Amelia County, V...	1819 Burke County, North
Benjamin	ca 1759 Virginia	aft 1820 Giles County, Tennes
Reuben	ca 1761 Virginia	bef 25 Dec 1831, Ag
Lucy	ca 1762 Augusta, Virginia	

Connections in Reunion is for linking people to others in the tree. It's used to link unrelated or distantly related people (like a new distant DNA link) or to link people within a story. This is done on an *individual* basis; there is no color clue. Connection links are added in the notes section and a blue arrow icon shows in the person's button. A link could be set up to connect distant DNA matches. Using the Connections feature, you can find connected people quickly in your tree, especially distant or new relatives.

Flags have numerous possible uses. Many people use them to show military service, or an immigrant ancestor or having no issue. The same flag is shown for everyone to be checked or unchecked *individually* as appropriate. One use is to signify a DNA test or match. The flag could show under or in the person's button.

Conclusion Reunion for Mac is a powerful family tree software. There are always at least three ways to do things, and here we've seen six or seven different ways to work with noting and recording DNA matches and potential matches. You can choose the ones that work best for you.

My favorites are

- **Color tags** which automatically mark Y-DNA and Mito
- **DNA icons** which can signify that there is more to be learned, especially in the
- **Facts panel**

Links to handouts with specific instructions for the features covered (also at <https://www.svcgg.org>).

Notes <https://www.svcgg.org/documents/ClassHandouts/Reunion-NotesFeature-June2023.pdf>

Customizing the Family View <https://www.svcgg.org/documents/ClassHandouts/Reunion-CustomizingFamilyView-Aug2023.pdf>

Color Tags <https://www.svcgg.org/documents/ClassHandouts/ColorTags-Reunion-Aug2021.pdf>

Lists <https://www.svcgg.org/documents/ClassHandouts/ReunionLists-Oct2023.pdf>

Charts <https://www.svcgg.org/documents/ClassHandouts/ReunionCharts-Nov2024.pdf>

Marking <https://www.svcgg.org/documents/ClassHandouts/Marking-Reunion-Mar2024.pdf>

Connections/Flags <https://www.svcgg.org/documents/ClassHandouts/Reunion-ConnectionsFlags-Feb2024.pdf>

DNA Icon (copy and paste)

Icon list from Anne Alves of San Diego Genealogical Society

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| DNA | shhh-family secret | targeted match for DNA |
| image | LLPOF | wrong/disproven |
| speculative | key | umbrella island |
| probably not correct! | crystal ball | |
| sad | broken heart | |
| hmmm - very likely but not verified 100% | poss duplicate - need to research! | |