

Introduction to Ancestry.com's ThruLines

Presented by Rick Leonard, author of An American Ancestry
blog

To the Kenosha County Genealogy Society

June 10, 2019



What is ThruLines?

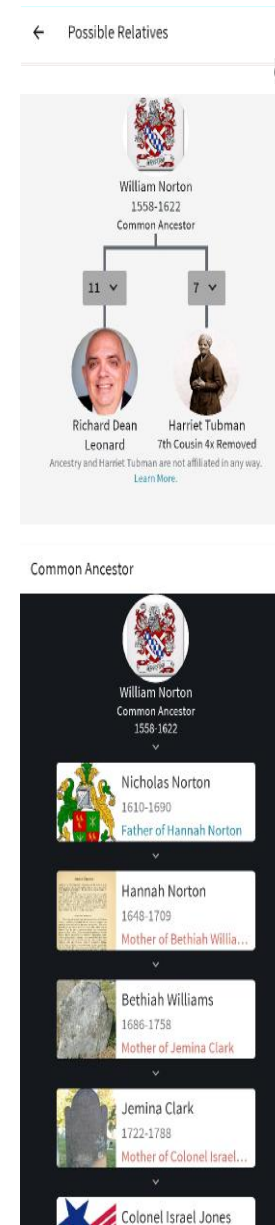
The screenshot shows the Ancestry DNA profile for James Leonard. The interface includes a navigation bar at the top with links for Home, Trees, Search, DNA, Help, and Extras. The user's name, James Leonard, is prominently displayed, along with a note that the test is shown to matches as J. L. and is linked to James Steffen Leonard. The main content area is divided into three panels:

- DNA Story:** Features an "Ethnicity Estimate" pie chart showing 43% Ireland and Scotland, 39% England, Wales, and Northwestern Europe, and 3 Other regions. A button "Discover Your DNA Story" is at the bottom.
- DNA Matches:** Displays a grid of match photos and statistics: 94 Shared Ancestor Hints, 25 Starred matches, and 1000+ 4th cousins or closer. A button "View All DNA Matches" is at the bottom.
- ThruLines™ BETA:** Shows a diagram of a family tree with a central node labeled "JL". Text explains that ThruLines uses Ancestry trees to suggest how James Leonard may be related to their DNA matches through common ancestors. It notes that access to ThruLines™ Beta is available to customers without an Ancestry subscription for a limited time. A button "Explore ThruLines" is at the bottom.

What is ThruLines? (cont.)

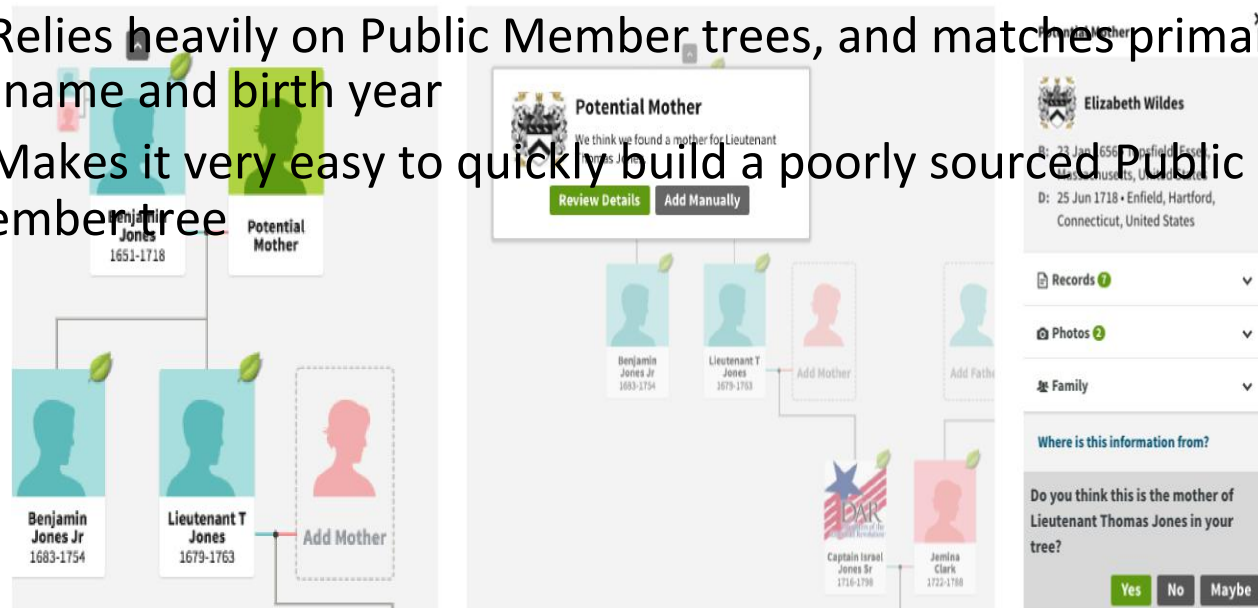
- [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)'s latest advance in predictive

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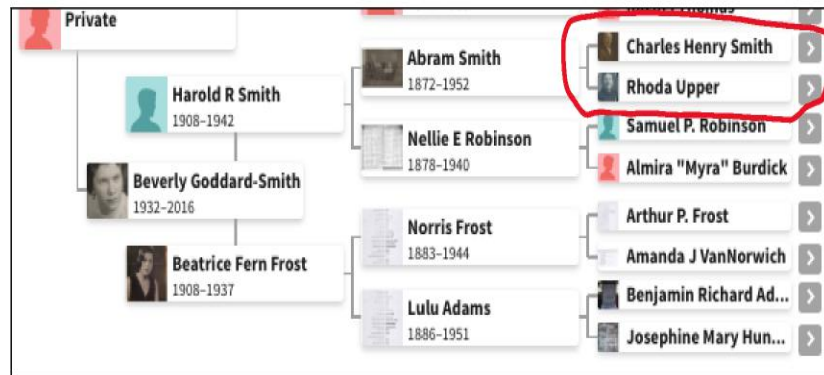
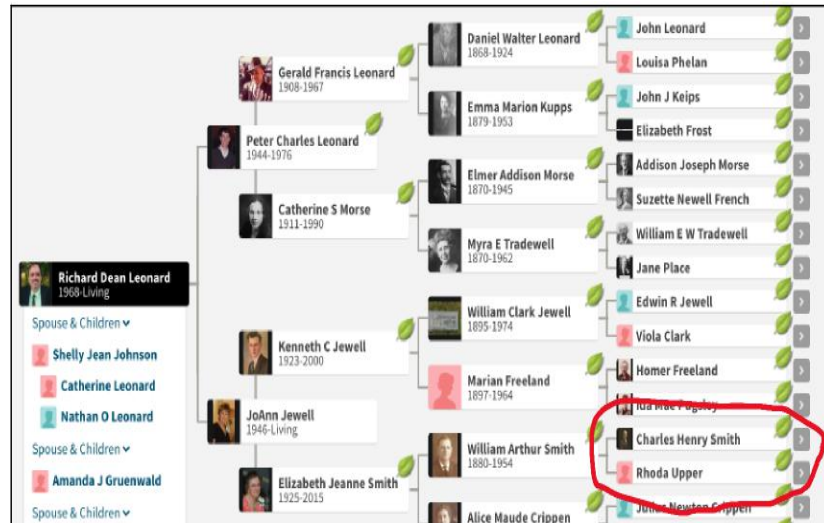
What is ThruLines? (cont.)

- [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)'s latest advance in predictive technology (cont.)
 - They took another step with “Potential Ancestor”
 - Potential Ancestor predicts unidentified ancestors in our trees, and offers them as hints
 - Relies heavily on Public Member trees, and matches primarily by name and birth year
 - Makes it very easy to quickly build a poorly sourced Public Member tree



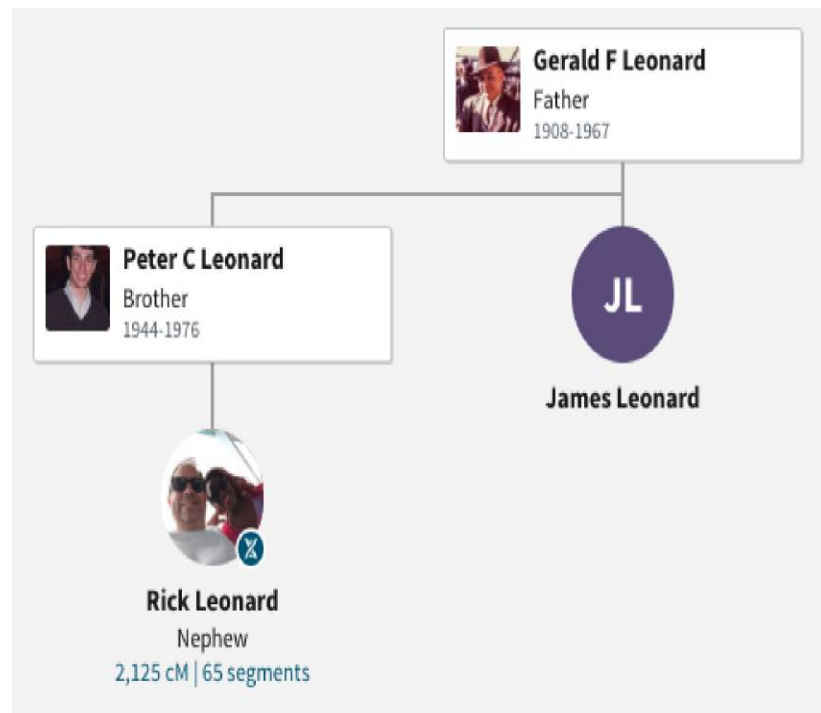
How does ThruLines work?

- Begins with DNA matches and member trees
- Traditionally, to build a DNA match we'd have our trees built as far back, and as wide as we could
- A small percentage of our matches would do the same thing, and we'd identify our Most Recent Common Ancestor!
- <1% of our matches
- More of our matches would have solid



How does ThruLines work? (cont.)

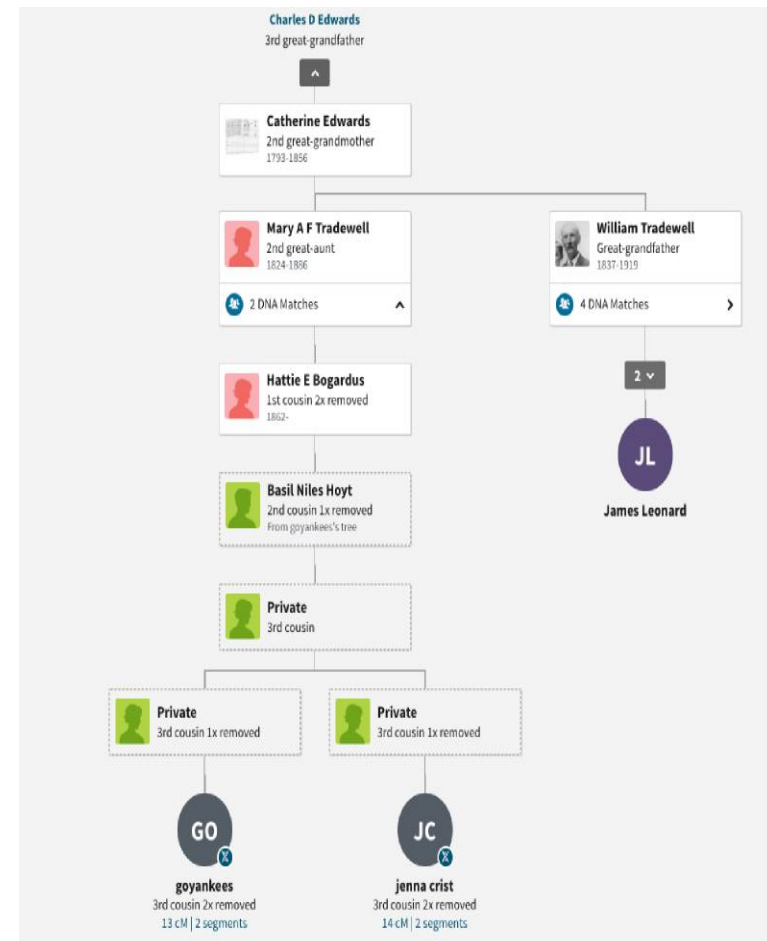
- ThruLines uses Artificial Intelligence/advanced algorithms to stitch together multiple Member trees to build a likely path between you and your DNA match
 - Public, Private (Indexed), and Unattached trees are used to build the potential path
 - Based on the simple



How does ThruLines work? (cont.)

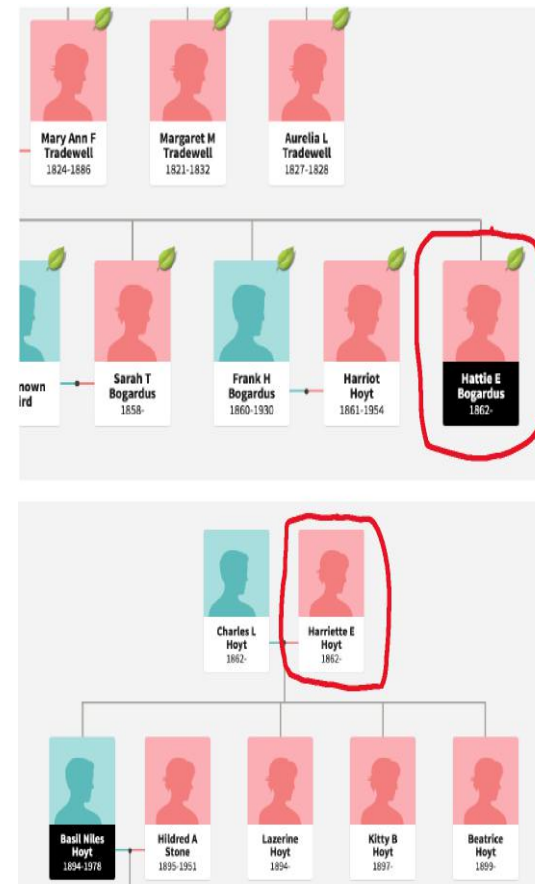
- Example 1: Catherine (Edwards) Tradewell
 - ThruLines connects two trees:

Mine and “goyankees”
Public Tree,
which match at Hattie E
Bogardus



How does ThruLines work? (cont.)

- Example 1:
Tradewells (cont.)
- However our two trees don't have an obvious match
- In my tree I have her maiden name and approximate birth year
- “goyankees” tree only has her married name, and approximate birth year



How does ThruLines work? (cont.)

- Example 1: Tradewells (cont.)
 - Despite there being no direct match between the two trees, ThruLines makes the match
 - ThruLines AI/algorithm “knows” there’s a document that ties together Hattie’s maiden name, married name, and the son who is in

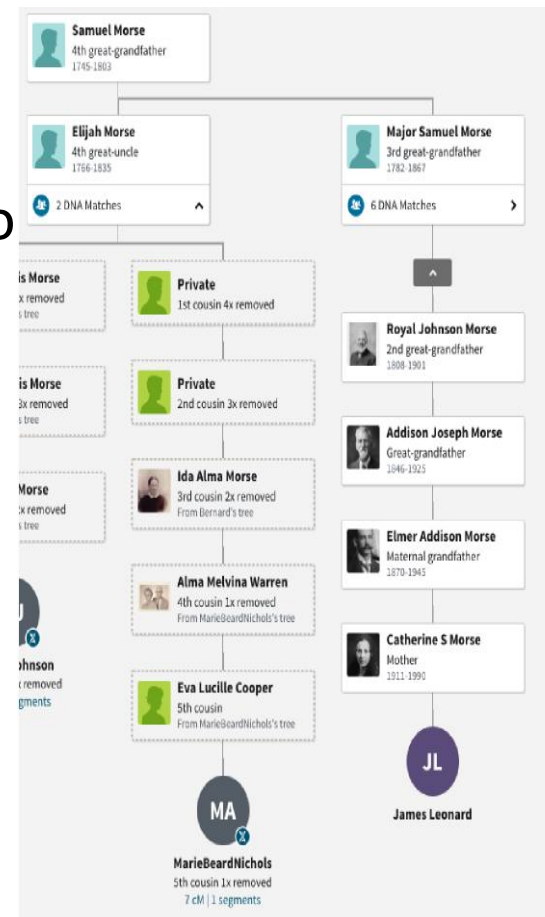
The image displays two family trees and a comparison table. The left tree shows Margaret M. Tradewell (1821-1832) and Aurelia L. Tradewell (1827-1828) as parents of Frank H. Bogardus (1860-1930), Harriot Hoyt (1861-1954), and Hattie E. Bogardus (1862-). The right tree shows Charles L. Hoyt (1862-) and Harriette E. Hoyt (1862-) as parents of Basil Niles Hoyt (1894-1978), Hildred A. Stone (1895-1951), Lazerine Hoyt (1894-), and Kit H. (18). The table below compares a record from the New York, County Marriage Records (1847-1849, 1907-1936) with the existing tree data.

New York, County Marriage Records, 1847-1849, 1907-1936			Source Info
Birth, Marriage & Death			
	In This Record		In Your Tree
Name	Hallie E Bogastis	Different	Hattie E Bogardus
Spouse	Charles Hoyt	New	-
Children	Basil N Hoyt	New	-

Review Ignore

How does ThruLines work? (cont.)

- Example 2:
Samuel Morse
- Very small DNA match (7cM) to
“MarieBeardNichols”
- My tree has Elijah Morse, but
none of his decedents
- Prior to ThruLines, it’s highly
unlikely this link would have
ever
been established



How does ThruLines work? (cont.)

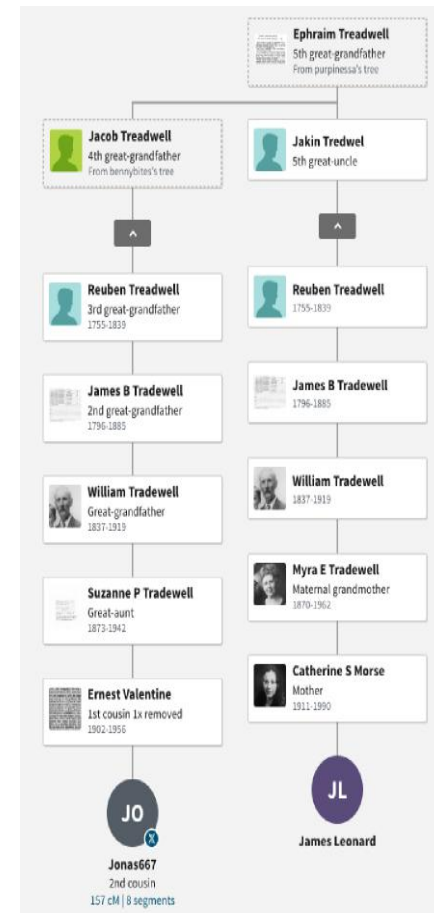
- Example 2: Samuel Morse (cont.)
- ThruLines built the match using 4



- My tree to Elijah Morse
- A Private Tree that has 2 descendants of Elijah's...which are

Tips for using ThruLines

- ThruLines is only as good as your data
 - Be as complete as possible
 - “Shrub” your tree by building as far back as you can, and build out and down as many siblings in each generation as you can
 - The wider net you cast, the more likely you are to catch something!
 - Remember ThruLines are only hints
 - Ancestry Member trees are notoriously



Tips for using ThruLines (cont.)

- ThruLines is only as good as your

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Tips for using ThruLines (cont.)

- Be careful with your Private trees

- Best practice is to keep speculative trees Private until you prove them out
 - Unproven theories made available Publicly can confuse other genealogists and be repeated for a long time...even if it's incorrect
- Private trees that are indexed will now be used by ThruLines
 - Disable Indexing of Private trees to keep

Private Tree

This setting allows you to keep your tree "private" so that other users

What does "private" mean?

Limited information about deceased individuals in your tree (name, b
However, no one can view your actual tree without your permission. I
anonymously through our Connection Service to request more inform
information to share with you.

☒ Also prevent your tree from being found in searches.

*Note: Although your privacy setting will change immediately to public a
reflected in the search index.*

Questions?