



**MTGS Messenger**  
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**January 2026**  
**Shannon Yeatman, Editor**

## **MTGS Jan 17, 2026 1pm–3pm CST MTGS Regular Meeting: Ancestors, Antiques and Artifacts**

It's time for our annual show-and-tell meeting: "Ancestors, Antiques and Artifacts." Everyone who has an interest in family history is welcome, whether a member or not.

Attend in-person or virtually, and see how some of our members became interested in genealogy. Share your own family history by sharing photos, artifacts, or heirlooms from your ancestors. We enjoy seeing photographs, clothing, jewelry, family history books or other books that talk about your family history.

We kindly ask that you select just 1 or 2 items to share, and try not to exceed 5 minutes, just to allow time for everyone to participate.

### **Location:**

Tennessee Library and Archives  
1001 Rep. John Lewis Way  
Nashville, TN 37219

Here is the zoom information if you chose to attend virtually.

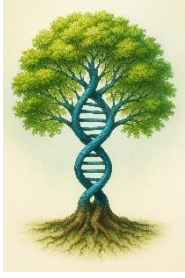
Topic: January MTGS General Meeting

Time: Jan 17, 2026 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81284540051>

Meeting ID: 812 8454 0051



## How to get the best out of your DNA results on AncestryDNA.com

### 1. Link your DNA to your family tree

- **On Ancestry:** Go to your DNA results, click "Settings," and find the "DNA and family tree linking" section to choose or start a tree and link it to your DNA test.
- **In your tree:** Build your tree to include at least four generations, including full names, birth, and death dates.

### 2. Identify and analyze DNA matches

- **Review your matches:** Look at your DNA match list, which is typically sorted by predicted relationship and the amount of DNA you share.
- **Look for shared matches:** Find matches that you both share. This is a powerful way to confirm a relationship to an ancestor in common.
- **Compare surnames and locations:** Look for shared surnames and locations between your known relatives and your DNA matches, which can help identify common ancestors.
- **Contact your matches:** Reach out to close matches to compare family trees, exchange research details, and work together to find shared ancestors.

### 3. Verify and organize your tree

- **Confirm connections:** Use the information gathered from matches to confirm relationships you have on your tree. DNA can help prove or disprove theories.
- **Update your tree:** Connect specific DNA matches to people in your tree to provide a genetic link.
- **Document your findings:** Add notes to your family tree to clarify that a connection was confirmed with DNA, distinguishing it from traditional research.



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Tim Pauley in West Virginia found a letter dated Oct 23, 1943 from Staff Sgt. L.R. Waggoner to his sister Mrs. F.A. Marlin of Springfield TN. He signed the letter Lew. He is trying to find a family member that may want the letter. If you are a family member or know a family member, you can reach Tim at [tim.a.pauley@wv.gov](mailto:tim.a.pauley@wv.gov).

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## How to create Family Groups on Familysearch.org

1. **Sign In:** Log into your [FamilySearch account](#).
2. **Navigate:** Click on **Family Tree**, then select **Family Groups** from the dropdown menu, or click your name in the corner and choose **Family Groups**.
3. **Start Creation:** Click the **Create Group** button.
4. **Enter Details:**
  1. **Name:** Provide a recognizable name for the group (required).
  2. **Photo/Description:** Optionally add a photo and description/rules.
5. **Set Up Tree (Optional):** Check the box to "Allow this group to work together in a family group tree".
6. **Create:** Click the **Create Group** button and follow prompts to select and copy living relatives from your private tree into the group's tree.
7. **Invite Members:** Go to the group, find the invite option (often under "Manage Group" or "Members"), and invite family via email or by copying a link.

### Key Things to Know

- **Limits:** You can create or join up to 10 groups.
- **Privacy:** Family group trees are private and only show living individuals you add.
- **Collaboration:** Members can view, add, and edit information in the shared tree.
- **Mobile App:** You can create groups on iOS, but it's recommended to use the website for shared family group trees for now.