www.YourFamilyHistoryProject.com

Family History Research • DNA Analysis • Live Presentations & Lectures

Janet Hall Werner, J.D.

The Adoption Case of Amy G.
Presented Via Zoom
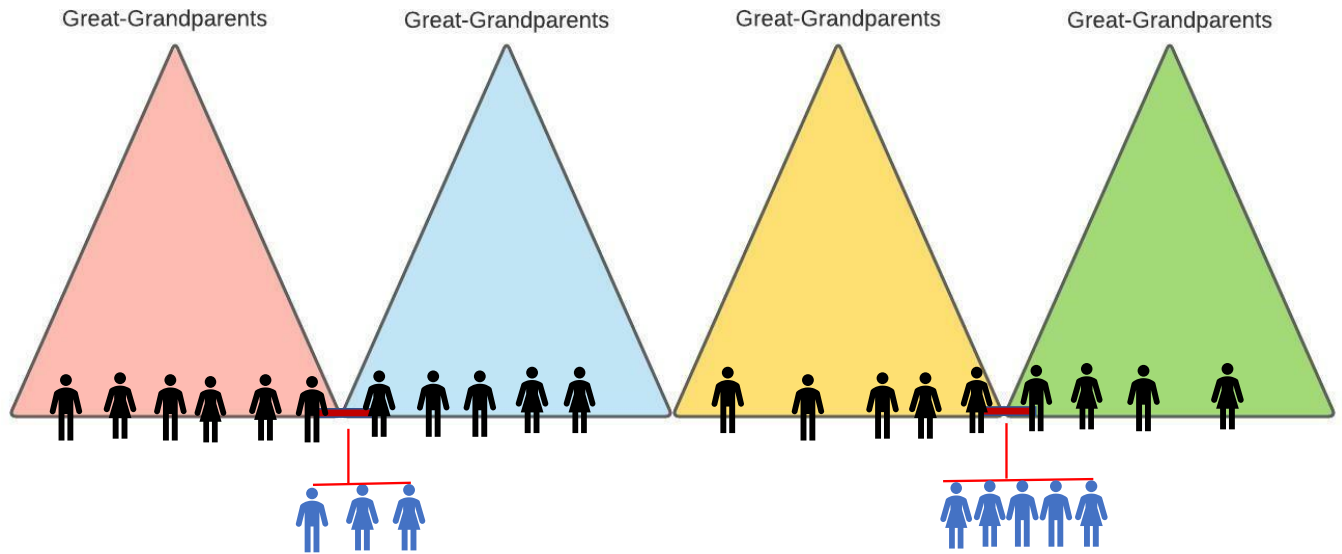by Janet Hall Werner, J.D.
To
The Baltimore Genealogy Society
Oct. 23, 2022

Steps for Solving an Adoption with a Close Match
- Determine strength of match in centimorgans
- Use DNA Painter Shared cM Project to determine likely relationships -- https://dnapainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4
- Determine age of Adoptee for best guess at generation
- Believe what you see
- Narrow potential parent of Adoptee down to a set of siblings (usually brothers) by finding matches with spouses of GRANDPARENT of Adoptee
- *** If you are working with someone YOU match, you will need to get more match data from the adoptee than you will be able to see on your own match list
- ****** Adoptee should make contact – If you're helping someone, don't poke around unless you absolutely HAVE to, and then, only if you have it narrowed down to siblings

Solving a Hard Case
- Closest matches – 2nd Cousins (229), 2C1R (122), 3rd Cousins (73)
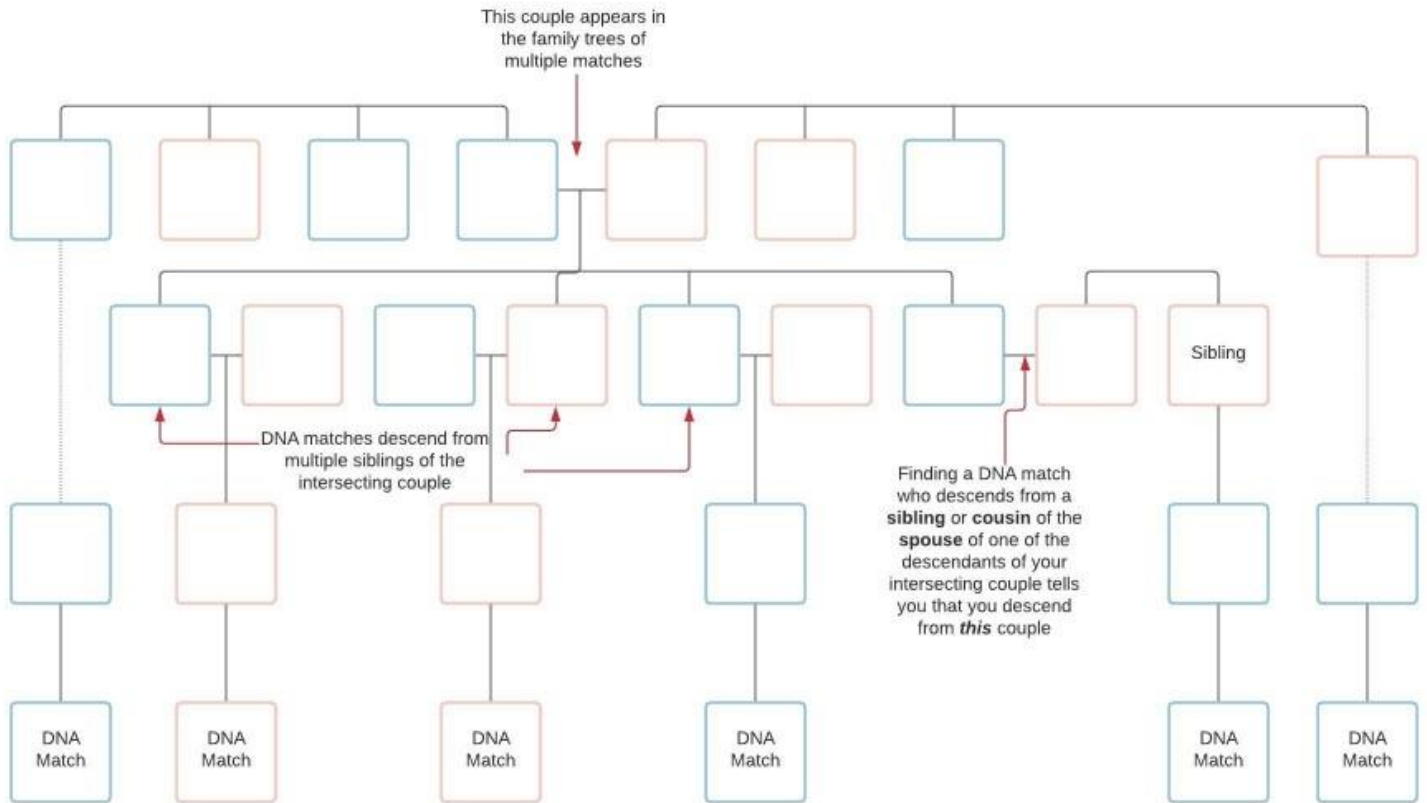- Know the age of the Adoptee
- Start clustering the matches

Solving a Hard Adoption Case
- You're looking for the adoptee's grandparents, by finding the adoptee's great-grandparents
- Clustering the matches
- Look through the trees of the matches of your strongest match (even if the strongest match doesn't have a tree)
- Look for common surnames and start to build trees for your matches
- Find the "intersecting couple" who should be the adoptee's great-grandparents

Intersecting Couples
- If you find a couple in multiple matches' trees where the adoptee's matches descend from different siblings of the couple, it is an indication that the adoptee descends from that couple as well

This couple appears in the family trees of multiple matches

DNA matches descend from multiple siblings of the intersecting couple

Finding a DNA match who descends from a **sibling** or **cousin** of the **spouse** of one of the descendants of your intersecting couple tells you that you descend from *this* couple

Sibling

DNA Match

DNA Match

DNA Match

DNA Match

DNA Match

DNA Match

Solving a Hard Adoption Case
- Start clustering the matches
- Start with the strongest match
- Repeat with the next strongest cluster
- Repeat with the next strongest cluster
- Repeat again – ideally you'll have 4 clusters
- Find the child of the great-grandparents who married a child of another set of great-grandparents
- Those are two of the adoptee's grandparents – one of their children is the adoptee's parent
- Repeat for the other two sets of great-grandparents to find the other parent of the adoptee

Questions?

Contact me at:

Email: janetfamhist@gmail.com
Cell: 703-906-9901