

How and Why to Make a Floating Tree at Ancestry

What is a floating tree - - A floating tree is an unlinked tree within your main research tree at Ancestry. You create a floating person, connect that person to someone in your main Ancestry tree, then disconnect the floating person. You can add records and ancestors to your floating person, thereby creating a floating tree.

Why should you make a floating tree - - A floating tree enables you to research and trace someone who you believe may be related to you or your ancestor in some way, but you are not yet sure how that person is connected. Maybe it is someone whose name keeps popping up as you research records related to your ancestor. Maybe it is someone in your ancestor's FAN club (Friends, Associates and Neighbors). Perhaps it is a DNA match for whom you have not yet found the common ancestral couple. A floating tree is especially useful for tracking DNA matches.

A floating tree can help you tie records together, and it can help to confirm connections. When you learn where the key person in your floating tree connects to your main family tree, you can easily attach that floating person and floating tree to your main tree. This is much more efficient than having numerous separate research trees.

Make a floating tree in three steps - - First, create a new person; maybe it's one of your DNA matches (this is the floating person). Attach the floating person to anyone in your main tree (it doesn't matter who you choose, because you will immediately disconnect the floating person from whoever you attach the floater to). Disconnect the floating person from the person in your main tree.

How-to specifics - - Go to the profile view of an existing person in your main Ancestry tree, then click on "add family" (found below the list of your ancestor's children, on the right side of your ancestor's profile view). You can select any relationship; it doesn't matter which category of relationship you choose because you are going to detach your floating person. For example, you can add a son or daughter to your ancestor, named as your floating person of interest, such as a DNA match.

Next, click on the floating person's name to bring up the profile view for that new person; click on the "edit" tab in the upper right corner of the profile view; then click on "edit relationships." If you have added a floating person as a child of your ancestor, the floating person will initially show as a biological child of that ancestor and his or her spouse. Disconnect the floating person by clicking on the "x" next to both parents' names to delete the connection.

How to find the floating tree - - To find the floating tree, go to the tree view for your main tree and go to the "find in tree" tab on the upper right, and enter the name of the primary floating person in your floating tree. To get back to your main tree view, go to the "find in tree" tab and click on "home person." This step assumes you have established a home person (probably yourself) in your main tree.

Add web links to make it simple - - Go to your floating person's profile and copy the URL for that person. Return to the person in your main tree to whom you originally attached the floating person, and click on "add web link" (found below the series of records in the center column of your ancestor's profile). Paste the copied URL for your floating person there, and enter the floating person's name in the box for "link name."

Then copy the URL for your ancestor to whom you attached the floating person, and go to the floating person's profile. On your floating person's profile page, click on "add web link" and paste the copied URL for your ancestor there, and enter your ancestor's name as the "link name." This will enable you easily to go back and forth between your main tree and the floating tree.

By adding named web links, you can easily see the names of your floating trees. Or you may want to keep a master document list of names for your floating trees and which ancestor(s) to whom you attached them. If you delete your floating person or floating tree, be sure to also delete the web links you have created.

Use tree tags to make it simple - - On the profile page of your floating person, click on the "tag" icon right under the summary at the top of your floating person's profile page. Go to "custom tags" in the drop-down menu and create a "floating tree" tag and apply that custom tag to your floating person. To see all the floating trees, go to your main tree view and click on "tree search." In the drop-down menu, click on "filters," then "tree tags." Click on "floating trees" and all the floating trees you have tagged will show up on the list.

How to connect a floating tree to your main tree - - Go to the primary floating person in your floating tree. Select the person in your main tree to whom you want to connect the floating person. Add a mother or a father by entering the name of the person in your main tree to connect to the floating person. Do not add the parent as a new person; rather select a person who is already entered on your main tree by typing the name of that person in the “select someone in your tree” box, and click on “save.” After connecting the floating tree, you can delete the web links and/or tree tags related to the floating tree.

Merging duplicates - - Research may indicate that the floating person you added is actually someone already in your tree under a different name. To merge the floating person (who is now attached to your main tree) with the previously-existing person, go to the “tools” tab in the profile view of the person in your tree with whom you wish to merge the floating person, and click on “merge with duplicate.” Compare the details for each entry and select the details that you want to keep, then click on “merge.”

How to delete a floating tree - - You can delete a floating tree merely by deleting the primary floating person in your floating tree.

Helpful video - - I found easy-to-understand explanations of floating trees and how to make them at the Genealogy TV YouTube channel, presented by Connie Knox. I just googled “how to make a floating tree at ancestry” and “how to connect a floating tree to your main tree.”

[https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+make+a+floating+tree+in+ancestry&og=&gs\\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqCQgCECMYJxjqAjIJCAAQIxgnGOoCMgkIARAJGCcY6gIyCQgCECMYJxjqAjIJCAMQIxgnGOoCMg8IBBAuGCcYrwEYxwEY6gIyCQgFECMYJxjqAjIJCAyQIxgnGOoCMgkIBxAjGCcY6gLSAQkxNzk5ajBqMTWoAgiwAgE&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=I've&vld=cid:a18b6eb3,vid:9PPaHCZjqIQ,st:0](https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+make+a+floating+tree+in+ancestry&og=&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqCQgCECMYJxjqAjIJCAAQIxgnGOoCMgkIARAJGCcY6gIyCQgCECMYJxjqAjIJCAMQIxgnGOoCMg8IBBAuGCcYrwEYxwEY6gIyCQgFECMYJxjqAjIJCAyQIxgnGOoCMgkIBxAjGCcY6gLSAQkxNzk5ajBqMTWoAgiwAgE&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=I've&vld=cid:a18b6eb3,vid:9PPaHCZjqIQ,st:0)

There are several helpful Connie Knox videos on YouTube about floating trees.