

# *The North of Ireland DNA Project*



## **Your DNA Family Tree**

One of the main aims for most of us in the North of Ireland DNA Project is to find the most recent common ancestor for as many of our autosomal matches as possible. To help us to do this we should have a well maintained tree on FamilytreeDNA.

Think of your FTDNA tree as a “DNA tree” - this is where you will link to matches. So, you just need to start with profiles of your direct ancestors. When you find a common ancestor for one of your matches, you can then build out the relevant line of your tree to include and link that match.

There are a few little tips to adding profiles to your tree on FTDNA that some may be unaware of.

Remember, that any match looking at your tree will not see exactly what you see. For example, if you do not tick the deceased box in the profile, it will show as Private to others. Even if you don't know the date of death, make sure you tick the deceased box if appropriate.

The “Birth Surname” field is not visible on your tree. So, always enter the birth surname of a female in the “Last Surname” field. It is much more helpful for others (and yourself) to see this in your tree.

When entering the location of a birth or death, give as much information as possible. You can search your matches by location as well as name, so make sure people can find your profiles when they do this. People from other countries may not recognise an abbreviation that is familiar to you so write out the location in full. Be careful about using selections from the drop down box for locations when entering births and deaths. Belfast shows as “Belfast, UK” in the drop down menu. Someone searching for Ireland will not see any results for Belfast if this is used.

Remember that you can search your matches for other members in the North of Ireland DNA Project. To find matches within the Project, use the Advanced Matches Tool on your Homepage. If they have taken the time to join this Project, they may also be more willing to collaborate with you in finding your most recent common ancestor.

We should take a little time to make sure our trees are the best they can be so we can all be more successful in finding the links to our matches.

Good luck and have fun!

More DNA Information: <https://www.nifhs.org/dna/>

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