

Bridging Generations - Connecting with Living Relatives Through MyHeritage

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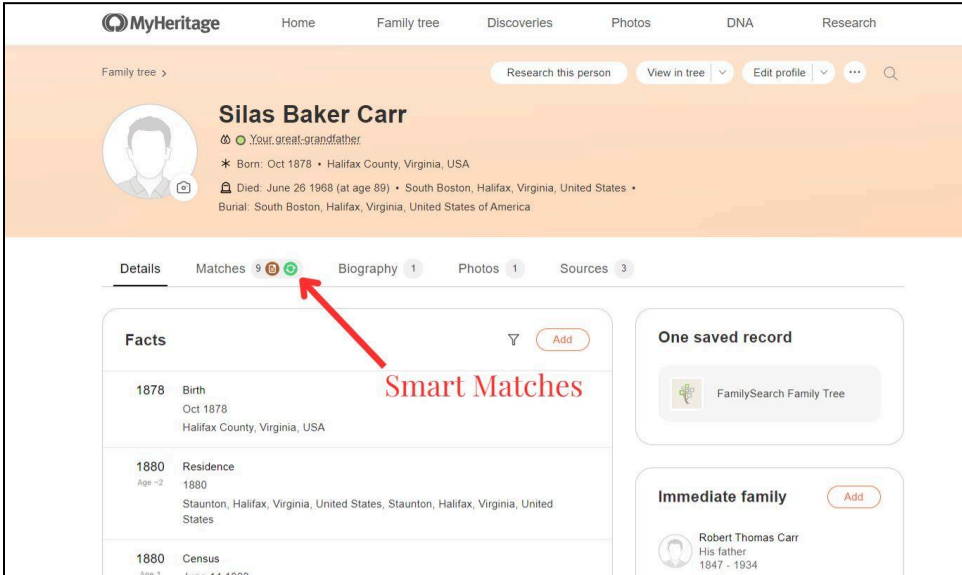
In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to lose touch with relatives, especially those who live far away or belong to branches of the family that have drifted apart over time. By connecting (or reconnecting) with living relatives, we can bridge the gap between generations, preserving the past while building a stronger, more connected future.

These personal connections offer a wealth of stories and important research insights that simply cannot be found in documents or records.

[MyHeritage](#) provides a suite of tools to help you reconnect with these living links to your past.

Finding Connections with Smart Matches

Smart Matching™ technology automatically compares individuals in your family tree with those in millions of other family trees created by MyHeritage users worldwide. This sophisticated algorithm analyzes names, facts, and relationships, identifying potential matches even when there are variations in spelling or relationships.



The screenshot shows the MyHeritage profile for Silas Baker Carr. The profile includes a search bar, navigation tabs (Home, Family tree, Discoveries, Photos, DNA, Research), and a search bar. The profile details for Silas Baker Carr are as follows:

- Name:** Silas Baker Carr
- Relationship:** Your great-grandfather
- Birth:** Oct 1878, Halifax County, Virginia, USA
- Died:** June 26 1968 (at age 89), South Boston, Halifax, Virginia, United States
- Burial:** South Boston, Halifax, Virginia, United States of America

The profile has 9 matches, 1 biography, 1 photo, and 3 sources. A red arrow points to the 'Smart Matches' icon in the 'Matches' tab. The 'Facts' section shows:

Year	Event	Details
1878	Birth	Oct 1878 Halifax County, Virginia, USA
1880	Residence	Age ~2 1880 Staunton, Halifax, Virginia, United States, Staunton, Halifax, Virginia, United States
1880	Census	Age 1 June 14 1880

The 'One saved record' section shows a record from FamilySearch Family Tree. The 'Immediate family' section shows Robert Thomas Carr, His father, 1847 - 1934.

When a Smart Match is found, it indicates that another user has added the same person to their family tree, potentially providing new insights. This could include additional details such as birth dates, locations, family members, or even photographs that you may not have in your records. Each person you add to your tree increases the chances of discovering new connections and expanding your family history.

With over 102 million users globally, MyHeritage Smart Matches can help you connect with relatives you may not have known existed. This is particularly beneficial for individuals researching families from regions where obtaining records is challenging, as contacting these potential relatives can lead to new research opportunities.

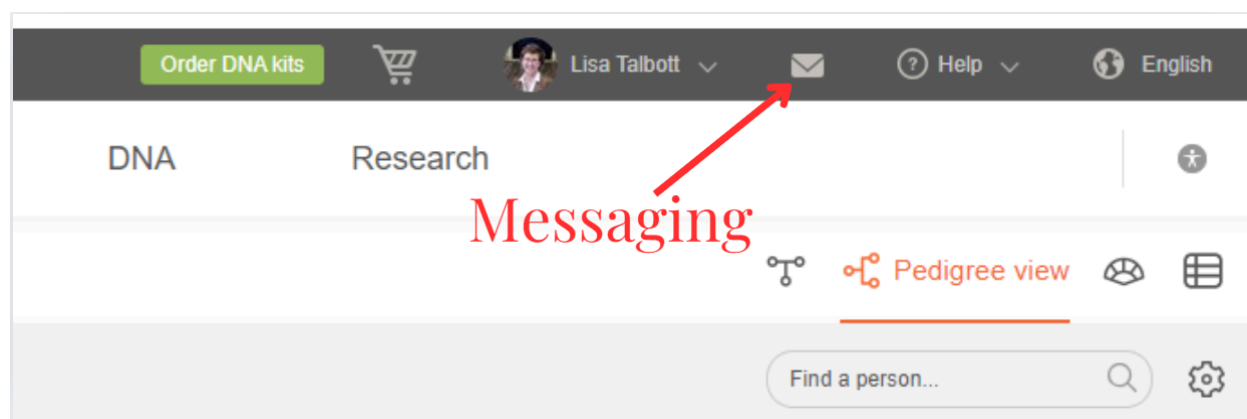
Finding Connections with DNA

MyHeritage's *DNA Matches* feature identifies individuals who share DNA segments with you, indicating a likely common ancestor. This tool helps users discover new relatives, such as cousins, who can provide additional family history insights.

MyHeritage's *Theory of Family Relativity* offers valuable insights into your DNA matches by generating potential relationship paths. This tool analyzes your family tree and DNA data to provide plausible theories about how you and your matches are connected.

How To Reach Out To New-To-You Relatives

Once you've found new relatives to connect with, reach out using the MyHeritage messaging system.



The excitement of finding and reaching out to new relatives can quickly turn to disappointment when your messages go unanswered. Messages go unanswered for a variety of reasons:

1. **Lack of Interest** - Many people who take DNA tests are not deeply interested in genealogy. DNA kits are frequently marketed as gifts, and recipients may not engage

with the results beyond the initial curiosity. If they are not passionate about family history, they might ignore messages from matches.

2. **Unexpected Results** - Some individuals may receive surprising or distressing DNA results, such as discovering unknown relatives or unexpected ancestry. This can lead to reluctance in engaging with matches as they process the information.
3. **Privacy Concerns** - Privacy is a significant concern for many users. They may be hesitant to share personal information with strangers, even if they are potential relatives.
4. **Account Inactivity** - Some users may have inactive accounts due to lapsed memberships or simply not logging in regularly. This can result in messages going unnoticed.
5. **Deceased Matches** - In some cases, the person associated with a DNA match may have passed away, and their account remains active without anyone managing it

Increase the chances of getting a reply to your message with these tips:

1. **Personalize Your Message** - Start with a friendly greeting and introduce yourself clearly. Mention your connection to the match, such as shared ancestors or DNA segments, to establish relevance and context. Personal touches can make your message feel more genuine and inviting.
2. **Be Clear and Concise** - Clearly state the purpose of your message and what you hope to achieve. Whether you're seeking information about a specific ancestor or looking to collaborate on family history research, a straightforward request can encourage a response.
3. **Follow Up** - If you don't receive a response after a reasonable time (e.g., a few weeks), consider sending a polite follow-up message. This shows your continued interest and can prompt a response from those who may have missed your initial message.
4. **Offer Information** - Provide some information or insights that may pique their interest. For example, mention specific details about shared ancestors or family stories that could encourage them to engage in a conversation.
5. **Utilize Subject Lines Effectively** - Use clear and informative subject lines when sending emails. For example, "DNA Match Inquiry: [Your Name] - Shared Ancestor" can help the recipient quickly identify the purpose of your message.

Sample Email for Reaching Out To a Smart Match, DNA Match or Other Researcher

Subject Line: DNA Match Inquiry: [Your Name] - Shared Ancestor

Hi [Recipient's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I recently discovered that we are DNA matches on MyHeritage, connected through the [Talbot] side of our family. I am excited about the possibility of connecting with you to explore our shared ancestry further.

I have gathered a substantial amount of information about the Talbot family, including both historical records and oral history passed down through generations. I believe that by working together, we can enrich our family trees and uncover even more about our shared heritage.

If you're interested, I would love to share what I have and learn more about any information or stories you might have about the Talbot family. Please let me know if you're open to collaborating, and we can discuss the best way to exchange information.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Warm regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

Plan a Virtual Family Reunion

Given that many relatives may be scattered across the globe, virtual reunions via Zoom or other platforms offer a fantastic way to connect and collaborate. To make the most of your reunion, encourage participants to share old photos, family stories, and cherished recipes.

These shared experiences can deepen family bonds and create lasting memories. Consider designating someone to take notes during the reunion to capture important details and stories for everyone to enjoy.