

# Quick & Dirty (QD) Trees and Floating Trees

## Creating & Connecting them

By Marty Brady, 16 November 2024

### Quick and Dirty (QD) Trees

When you discover a person in your family history research (maybe someone on your DNA match list) but you're not sure how they fit into your tree, you have a few options to try to determine the relationship. One of those options is to create a Quick & Dirty (QD) Tree. This is a private, unsearchable tree that can act as your personal sandbox to "play" with genealogical information without disturbing your main tree. Once you determine how they are related, you may be able to add them and their families to your main tree.

#### Steps to Create a QD tree.

On the Home page click on "Trees" in the menu bar. From the dropdown menu, select "Create & Manage Trees." At the bottom of the new page select "Create a new tree." When the "Start a new tree" screen appears, click on "Add home person." In the "Add new person" window, de-select "I am starting with myself," then add name of home person, select "Gender" and "Status" and then click on "Continue." When the Start a new tree window appears, select "Add father" or "Add mother." In the window that appears, enter the name, Gender and Status of that person. When the "Save Your Tree" window appears, add "QD" to the beginning of the tree name, then de-select the Allow-others-to-view-tree button and click "Save tree."

In the new tree window finalize the tree settings by clicking on the 3 dots on the left and selecting "Tree settings" from the dropdown menu. Enter a tree description if desired, allow for automatic story building and then select "Privacy Settings." On the Privacy-Settings page be sure to check the "Private Tree" button and the Prevent-tree-from-being-found-in-searches button. Then click "Save Changes." You now have a QD tree to play with.

#### Steps to Connect QD tree to another tree.

I use Family Tree Maker (FTM) software to do this. The feature may be available on other software, but I don't know if it is. Make sure both trees you want to merge are loaded into FTM from Ancestry. Backup those two trees. In FTM, open the tree you are going to Merge into. In the upper left corner click on "File" in the menu bar. From the dropdown menu select "Merge." If you've already done a backup of your tree, click on "Merge Now" in the window that appears. When the Merge Wizard window appears, check your desired options such as "Merge matching individuals" and "Include all individuals from import file." Also make sure the correct trees are listed as "Host file" and "Import file." Then click "Next."

On the next window, make sure the correct person to be merged is selected and that "Merge all records as indicated," and "Merge record as indicated" or whatever other

options you desire are selected. The click “Continue.” Select the tree file to be imported from the list of files and then click “Next.” In the next screen, you will see the import file has merged into the host file on FTM. To sync the newly merged host file to Ancestry, with the QD Kinevey Tree open in FTM, click on the “Sync” button in the upper righthand corner of the FTM tree page. From the dropdown menu select “Sync Now.” If the Sync Weather Report window is green, click on the “Continue” button. After the time necessary to sync is done, the “Sync Change Log” appears. If the number of changes indicated is consistent with the tree merger, select the “Continue” button. If you now examine the host tree on Ancestry, you should see the merged tree embedded within it.

## **Floating Trees**

A Floating Tree is a tree that is part of an Original Tree with no clear connections to the Original Tree, so it just kind of floats within the Original Tree. It is a way to create a tentative tree around a Targeted Person and then easily reconnect that tentative tree to the Original Tree when the connection of the Targeted Person is determined.

### **Creating a Floating Tree**

First, you add the Targeted Person. You can add a daughter (or son) to a person in the Original Tree. Make sure you **add a new person** as opposed to **someone from the Original Tree**. Then connect the daughter (or son) to the parent in the Original Tree through a URL weblink. Next disconnect the Targeted Person from the original tree by deleting/removing their new “added” parent(s) in the “Edit relationships” field from the Profile page of the Targeted Person. Next, create a custom tag called “Floating Tree” for the Targeted Person to make it easier to find that person. You now have a Floating Tree consisting of only the Targeted Person with several ways to locate that person. You can now expand your Floating Tree as you desire.

### **Reconnecting a Floating Tree**

After you have determined how the Targeted Person fits in your Original Tree you can reconnect the Floating Tree to the Original Tree. To reconnect the Floating Tree, you need to re-add the parent(s) of the Targeted Person that you had previously deleted/removed when you created the Floating Tree. Make sure you use **“Choose someone from your tree”** instead of the **“Add new person”** option. The Floating Tree should now be re-connected to the Original Tree.

If you have questions about this technique, there are many Youtube videos on the subject for your review. I’ve listed one possible video below.

Connecting Floating Trees

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9X\\_2t0aZ2Y&t=610s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9X_2t0aZ2Y&t=610s)