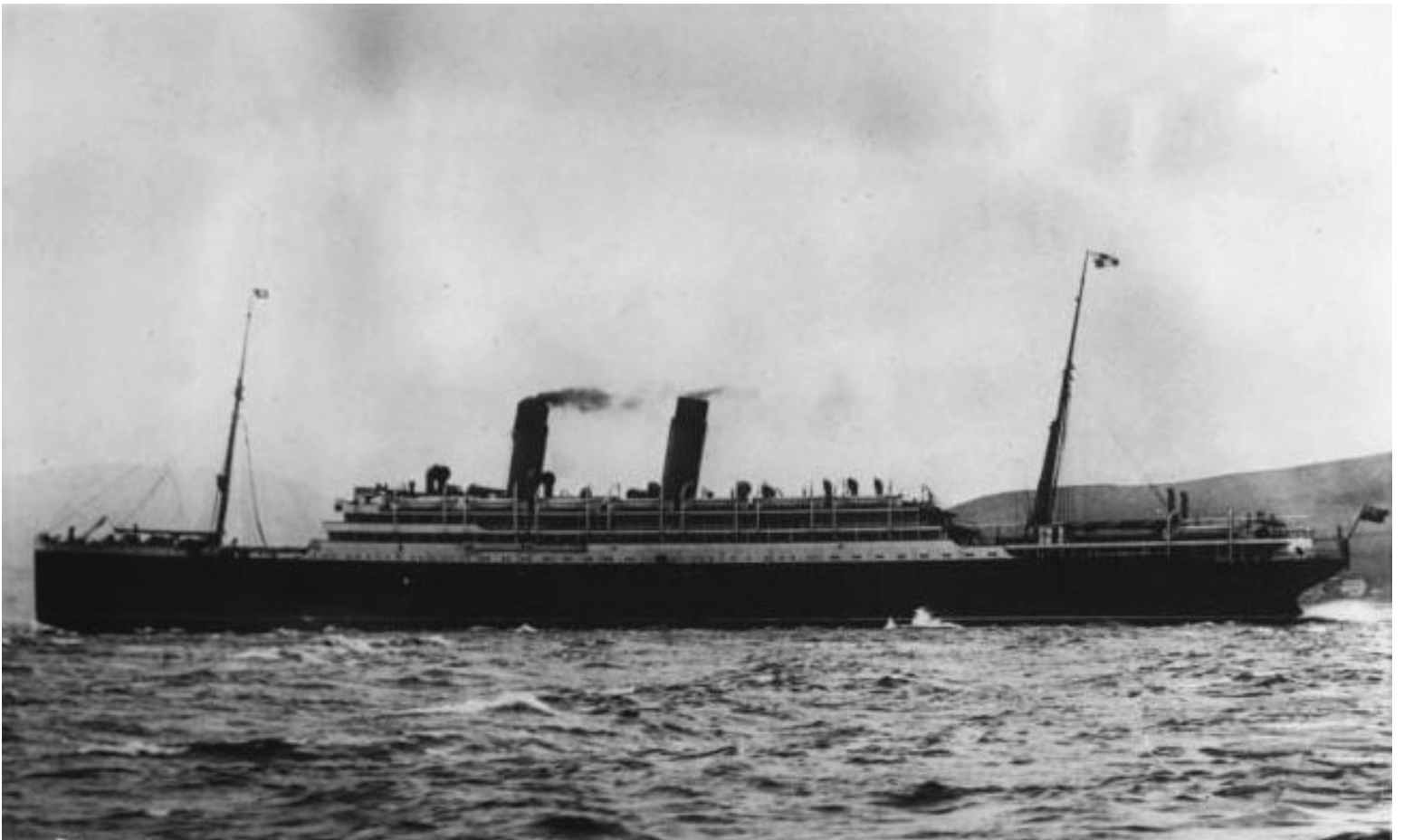




Minnesota  
**Genealogical**  
Society

# *Minnesota Genealogist*

Volume 45, No. 4 2014



# MGS Information



**MGS Library and Research Center**  
Suite 218  
1185 Concord St. N.  
South St. Paul, MN 55075

## Hours (effective 1 January, 2014)

Wednesday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

MGS and Branch volunteers staff the library and provide research help. To volunteer at the MGS Library and Research Center, call 651-455-9057, or email Kathy Lund at [mlund8307@yahoo.com](mailto:mlund8307@yahoo.com).

## New Address?

If you have moved or are planning to move, please advise us of your new postal address to assure that you continue to receive *Minnesota Genealogist*. Call MGS at 651-455-9057, send a note to MGS Membership, 1185 Concord St. N., Suite 218, South St. Paul, MN 55075, or email [Membership@mngs.org](mailto:Membership@mngs.org).

The monthly *Minnesota Families* newsletter is delivered digitally. Please make sure we have your current email address.

## Minnesota Genealogist

Quarterly Journal of the Minnesota Genealogical Society  
1185 Concord St. N., Suite 218, South St. Paul, MN 55075  
Website address: [www.mngs.org](http://www.mngs.org)

Managing Editor	J. H. Fonkert, CG
Associate Managing Editor	Elizabeth Gomoll
Copy Editors:	Rosemary Ruffenach Conrad de Fiebre
Design Editor	Dolly Fair-Holton
Proofreaders	Beverly Ophoven Ewing Sandy Stadtherr Melva Cain

*Minnesota Genealogist* is published four times a year. Postal delivery of *Minnesota Genealogist* is a benefit of membership in the Minnesota Genealogical Society. The subscription price for non-members is \$20 per year.

The Managing Editor invites readers to submit articles, including genealogy research articles, genealogical source guides, family history research experience stories, family history heritage travel stories, book reviews, and genealogy software and technology reviews. Research articles and family history research or travel stories should have some connection to Minnesota or the Upper Midwest. Preference is given to MGS members, but non-member submissions are welcome. Submit articles digitally in file formats readable in Microsoft Word. Complete guidelines for writers are available at [www.mngs.org](http://www.mngs.org).

## Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

Acting President	Valerie Morrison
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	vacant
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	vacant
Secretary	vacant
Treasurer	Valerie Morrison
Member at-large	J. H. Fonkert

**Directors:** Melva Cain, Thad Carlson, Kathy Deiss, Bergetta Monroe, Valerie Morrison, John Schade, Terry Kita (past-president), Pam Videen, and Cathi Weber.

Note: Directors and officers as of December 1, 2014.

# Table of Contents

Volume 45, No. 4 2014

- 5 *From the Editor's Desk*
- 7 *Across Wisconsin and Minnesota on Horseback, 1879*  
*Commentary and Transcription*  
*by Harold Henderson, CG*
- 10 *Tragedy in the Barr Family—Echoes of Death*  
*by Barbara A. Wilson*
- 16 *Liisa Pik and the Empress of Ireland*  
*by Barbara R. Wilson*
- 21 *Branches, Clusters, and FANs*  
*by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.*
- 25 *DNA for Genealogists: Another Piece of Problem-Solving Evidence*  
*by J. H. Fonkert, CG*
- 29 *About Our Authors*
- 31 *What Next?*

# William J. Hoffman Library and Research Center

at *Minnesota Genealogical Society*

**1185 Concord St. N. Suite 218, South St. Paul (MTC bus route #71)  
651-455-9057**

The William J. Hoffman Library and Research Center at the Minnesota Genealogical Society is your genealogy help place, providing a friendly environment for family history research and genealogy learning opportunities. The library features free access to Ancestry.com, Irish Origins and EmiWeb (Swedish records).

Admission is free to MGS members and members of MGS branches and affiliate organizations. MGS requests a \$10 admission donation from non-members. Free WiFi is available for laptop users.

## Hours

Wednesday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Check the MGS website ([www.mngs.org](http://www.mngs.org)) for scheduling updates. The library will close during severe weather events.



## **7th Annual Michael Clark Family History Writing Competition** ***Do you need an incentive to start writing your family history?***

Entries must be received by June 28, 2015, and will be judged on the basis of originality, writing quality, and evidence of family history research. Winners will be announced in Fall 2015. Winning entries will be published in *Minnesota Genealogist*. All entries receive judges' comments.

Contest rules are available at [www.mngs.org](http://www.mngs.org), or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: MGS Family History Writing Competition, 1185 Concord Street North, Suite 218, South St. Paul MN 55075

Be inspired by recent past winning entries in these issues of *Minnesota Genealogist*:

- 43:4 (2012), Pat Snodgrass, "The French-Canadian Paul Family of Minnesota"
- 43:4 (2012), Carol Doniere, "February 1945"
- 44:4 (2013), William Holmquist, "The Day Great Grandmother Caught the Thief in Church"
- 44:4 (2013), Leo J. Harris, "Great Grandfather, Where Are You?"
- 45:4 (2014), Barbara A. Wilson, "TB Consumes the Barr Family – Echoes of Death"
- 45:4 (2014), Barbara R. Wilson, "Liisa Pik and the Empress of Ireland"

# From the Editor's Desk

This issue of *Minnesota Genealogist* offers the editor a good opportunity to answer the question: why does MGS publish a quarterly journal?

MGS has been publishing *Minnesota Genealogist* for 45 years, but that isn't a good enough reason to publish volume 46 in 2015. However, we do have three good reasons for continuing to publish a journal-style publication.

First, and perhaps foremost, *Minnesota Genealogist* is one facet of the MGS genealogical education program. We seek to publish articles that teach readers about genealogical resources and research methods, as well as articles that demonstrate sound genealogical and family history research.

Second, *Minnesota Genealogist* gives MGS members a place to publish their family history findings. We find that our authors and their families appreciate seeing their work in print. While we gladly accept articles from both members and non-members, we especially want to reward MGS members for their work.

Third, *Minnesota Genealogist* strives to offer interesting reading for genealogy and family history buffs. As any researcher quickly learns, family history is full of interesting and sometimes stunning stories. These stories deserve to be told and preserved.

For all these reasons, MGS and the Yankee Genealogical Society co-sponsor the annual Michael Clark Family History Writing Competition. Because we encourage all kinds of genealogical and family history writing, we invite entries in two categories: family stories and problem-solving articles. The winners and their families will see their articles in print in our final issue each year.

This year's winners are Barbara A. Wilson and Barbara R. Wilson. The previous sentence contains no typos; in a completely blind judging process, two different Barbara Wilsons won in the two categories. A faint entry in a family Bible spurred Barbara R. to uncover the identity of a Finnish ancestor, Lisa Pik and the story of her fateful voyage on the *Empress of Ireland*. Having found her great-grandmother's family in the 1870 and 1880 censuses, Barbara A. Wilson discovered nine graves from a ten-year period in the Barr family plot in Michigan. The discovery drove her to find out why so many family members died in so short a time.

We are also happy to share Harold Henderson's commentary and transcription of letters and postcards describing the hardships of horse travel across Minnesota in 1872. The weather that spring was not what we hope for in May in Minnesota. In her regular column, Lois Mackin shows us the importance of exploring our ancestors' FAN clubs.

Now, it is your turn to contribute to *Minnesota Genealogist*. Send us your articles, or better yet, enter the 2015 writing competition. Entries are usually due about June 28. Watch the MGS website and newsletter for details.

J. H. Fonkert, CG  
Managing Editor

# MGS Spring Conference

## *Tracking Your Ancestors Through War and Peace*

featuring renowned genealogy educator

**Craig Robert Scott, CG, FUGA**

**April 24-25, 2015**

**Normandale Community College**

**9700 France Avenue South**

**Bloomington, Minnesota**

### **Friday evening dessert social**

Craig will take us on a tour of some of the fun and interesting things he's found in decades of research in military records.

### **Saturday plenary talks and breakouts**

Plenary lectures:

“Basic Military Research”

“Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestor”

“Pension Research: You Stopped too Soon”

Plus breakout sessions on Minnesota military records, lineage society applications, DNA, federal land records, American migration patterns, family history writing, and expanding your research beyond census and vital records.



An instructor at IGHR, SLIG and other leading genealogy institutes, Craig Scott is a leading expert on using military records for family history research. His humor-laced talks will open research doors you didn't know existed.

Come be inspired by two days of learning and networking with other genealogists.

Registration opens March 1st at [www.mnsgs.org](http://www.mnsgs.org)

# Across Wisconsin and Minnesota on Horseback, 1879

Commentary and Transcription by Harold Henderson, CG

In the spring of 1879, 28-year-old Samuel Mills Scholes left behind his 23-year-old wife Harriet Newell (Mozley) Scholes and 13-month-old daughter Nellie. He rode horseback the 430 miles from Port Hope (now Fort Winnebago), Columbia County, Wisconsin to Ortonville, Big Stone County, Minnesota. The journey took him through almost two weeks of jolting, rain, and “blizzard winds.” Today it’s a seven-hour drive.

Along the way he sent Harriet and Nellie seven post cards, and after his arrival three more letters, one of them recapitulating the trip.<sup>1</sup> The messages don’t identify the people he mentions, including his traveling companions. Nor do they explain why he made the trip in the first place. (There are hints: he uses his blacksmithing tools and he visits a land office.) Nor is it clear when he returned home. The writing is mostly mundane and matter-of-fact, with occasional flashes of deadpan humor.

One traveling companion may have been Harriet’s younger brother, William James Mozley (1858-1949), who later settled in North Dakota and Montana.<sup>2</sup> He and Sam may have been scouting out the prospects west of Wisconsin. William did purchase federal land near Ortonville, in Lac Qui Parle County, receiving the patent in 1882.<sup>3</sup> Sam mentions land twice, and his final sentence to Harriet may be asking what she thinks about relocating west (which they did not in fact do). Judging by his mentions of blacksmithing tools, he may also have been testing western Minnesota’s suitability for his line of work.

Whatever the trip’s purposes, the travelers chose economy over speed. Ortonville’s first buildings were erected in 1872, but even then there was a train as far as nearby Benson.<sup>4</sup>

I have combined information from the postcards and letters into a single narrative of the trip, using Samuel’s words and his informal spelling, but capitalizing the first word of each quotation. Passages in *italics* are postcard messages written at the time of the events; other passages are from the letters written

after he arrived in Ortonville. Items in [brackets] are my additions or suggestions.

Harriet and Nellie stayed much of this time with Sam’s unmarried sister Elizabeth in Port Hope, but early in May Harriet and Nellie returned to their home in Marquette, Green Lake County, Wisconsin.

**25 April.** Left Port Hope. “Start for Ironton at 8 oclock. got 10 miles the other side of Baraboo [both Sauk County, Wisconsin]. Camped by a school house. had a tough night.”

**26 April.** “Start again at 4 oclock got to Ironton at 11. found them well. stayed until sunday morn.”

**27 April.** “Started for Norwalk [Monroe County, Wisconsin]. got their at 9 PM. found mary in bed got them up got our supper and sent to bed.” [Sam did have an older sister, the widowed Mary Sherwin. The 1880 census finds her in Ridgeville Township, not in Norwalk itself.]

**28 April.** “Start for sparta [Monroe County, Wisconsin] to meet the Harris boys. overtook them the other sid of sparta. found Bill sick with the Measels. got our teams in a farmers barn. claimed Bill had a head ach which he did.”

**29 April.** “Bill no better. started for la cross [La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin]. got their at noon. did not have to wait a minute for the ferry. crossed on the steamer warsaw. [?] on the other side at Lacreson [La Crescent, Houston County, Minnesota] are now in Minn.” “[*Bill*] is very sick today though we keep going yet and Jim has not had them. expect to have a good time. it may be they will stop before long. I hope so if they are to be sick all the way. my apetite is not very good. Otherwise we are doing well.” “Bill getting worse st[arte]d and try to get him in a farm hous. go some miles finaly get him in. got a bed for him. he is Pretty sick. we stop till morn.”

**30 April.** “Bill no better. start off and left them. they are in good quarters. heavy frost last night though we sleep warm enough. shot some quails. fried them for dinner. they were nice -. we strike splendid contry as I ever saw.”

From Centerville [Winona County], Minnesota: "are well and camped for dinner. Cooked some game it made it seem like home. will get to Rochester May 1<sup>st</sup> if we have good luck. hope to hear from you their. we left the harris boys at a farm house 2 miles this side of Lacross. Bill was Pretty sick but we could not wait for them. I dont stand the ride very well. suppose I have not got used to it. WJan [William?] sleeps like a log. he is not much company nights."

**1 May.** "Stoped at a hotell. Paid 25 cents for our horses in barns. heavy frost again. it finds my Rheumatism. some 10 miles from Rochester [Olmsted County, Minnesota] camped for dinner. got our horses shod at R then went to see the Prime [?] Boys bill. Minnie homesick. her things was all right."

**2 May.** "went to Rochester [Olmsted County, Minnesota] with the boys. there I got your letter."

**3 May.** "rainy morn. start out at noon. get to Pine Island [Goodhue County, Minnesota]. here we cross the Zumbro River. we fall in with a Doctor going to Fargo with a horse and Bugey. we start before him. do not see him again till we get to Shakopee [Scott County, Minnesota]. noon a Blizard wind blowing 50 miles an hour. terrible. we keep right side up though."

"We are well[.] stoped at mennies [?] until today at noon on account of rain. drove through some rain this afternoon. got our horses in a hotel barn. it is a bad night. I wish we were through. heard yesterday that Ortonville was most of it burned up. you need not mind that you was [not] along with us. it is not a very desirable trip for anyone. if you saw the contry it would do you good. it is nice as a whole. got our horses in every night but the first one. did not cost us anything to stop a mines [?] it rested our horses a good deal. if you get this so you can write by the 6<sup>th</sup> [?] write to Benson if not at Ortonville. will drop you plenty of cards. Kiss Nellie for us both"

**4 May (Sunday).** "We got to Cannon falls [Goodhue County, Minnesota] a very Pretty town. falls of 30 ft good pwer. god head ach. feel miserable generally."

"Pretty well[.] traveld today because we lost so much time letting the horses rest at mimes and some bad wether. [Harriet's father was a Baptist minister.] it is raining now and did last night. feel very stiff all over. my head achs tonight. will be better in the morn if I can sleep a little. Will never ceases to move unless to get a fresh hold. shall be glad when we get through. expect to get through by the 10 or 12 certain. then I will write you account of our Journey in Detail. when you & our Nellie are well would like to see you. Passing through good country most al prarie. do not go home till I get through so I shall know where to write."

[to his sister Elizabeth] "Bess I have written to Hat. will write to the same dat[e] so you will some of you hear from us. we drove 30 miles today. had a Blizard wind this afternoon. it is cold. wear overcoat and mittens all the time. Just been looking at Harriet & Nellie's Photo. would like to be with them to. tis cold and dreary rainy and windy and we are far from home. my back achs very bad. I cannot stand it to ride very well. think Probly may get used to it in time. when I get through will write account of our Journey. see goo country and Plenty of it. hope you all are well under your Roof. . . . to thin[k] have had tea but once in 2 days."

**5 May.** "Start out cold winds weare overcoat and mittens all the time. noon 24 miles from Shakopee in good contry strike the Big woods at 3 PM get to spring lake. intended to stop for the night. see to many drunk so keep on for Shakopee. dark 6 miles yet to go. met a runaway team. they run into an ox team and we go on. get to town. find they had a cattle fair."

**6 May.** "Start out. camped for dinner. the Doct comes up with us. eat dinner and go on. the Doct is good Company. am feeling pretty well. arrive at Glenco [McLeod County, Minnesota]. stop over night. start out. this is the beginning of the great Plains. you may be glad you are not along."

"all pretty well. got our horses in. has not been so cold today thought chilly tonight. got through the big woods. am glad of it. now we strike the Plains. nothing but prairie before us now. hop[e] the wind wont blow. My head achs most of the time. we are traveling in



*company with a Doct from Rochester. he —ded in fod du Lac. have traveld since sunday morn. he has a horse and carriage. he goes to Fargo. hope you are well. would like to hear from home. kiss N. enjoy yourself best you can. be good to Nellie. love her fore me. this is nice contry now. Pass a great many going to Big stone [County]. guess my chance will be gone.”*

**7 May.** “Stopt tonight at sweed grove [Meeker County, Minnesota]. looks like rain & raines some. start at 7/30 the country looks new here. camp for dinner out of sight of timber. rid all the afternoon before we see timber again. look like the Plains. arrive at Benson [Swift County, Minnesota]. get our horses in barn & my Bellows are not here. we wait till 10 oclock. they do not come. go on to Appleton [Swift County, Minnesota]. get caught in a thunder showr. get our horses in a sod barn (for that is all you see in this country). start on again. get caught again. get in another sod barn. leaks as bad as outdoors. take them out and go on. the worst storm I was ever out in but we keep right side up. with care get to Appleton. cannot get our horses out of the storm. find a vacant stable. take it. the owner is away from home. rain and wind are fearful.”

From Grove city or Sweet Grove: *“all well. have good roads and fair wether. looks like rain tonight. hope it wont until we get through. expect to make Benson tomorrow Eve if fair wether. if it keeps fair will get through the 10 and all well. hope you are well. do you get to many cards? I have sent you several of them. Love to all. would like to see you & Nellie but am to near where the sun goes down for that.”*

**11 May.** From Ortonville, Big Stone County, Minnesota: *“Harriet we are through all safe and well.*

*got hear at half Past one o clock the 10th. fo[u]nd the town most of it burned out. it look very bad hear now though they are going to build it again.”*

**20 or 25 May.** From Montevideo, Chippewa County, Minnesota: *“I am in this Place after my tools. think now of going back to Ortonville to work. it makes a good deal of driving to get there but better do that than have them burned. stoped with Mr Davis Last night. Charley is here with me. they are all well. we are well but tired of riding. write to Ortonville as before. hop you are well an found things all right.”*

**Undated, possibly 26 May.** *“it is raining hard and very cold. we are most froze. is the wether cold their at this date 25 [?]. tell me if you have such wind this spring. it is very windy here most of the time with cold rain and haill 9 inche in circumference. that is some large. Aint it good. by Tuesday 27 are going to the land office this morn. rained all day yesterday. am Just about tired of this riding. hope you are well. take care of your self and Nell. heard from T. Brayton. he dont like very well where he is. write me a good letter just what you think.”*

#### **No Nellie & Harriet – from Sam**

No matter where I roam  
My heart is with my home  
That home that ever was so dear to me  
For many times a day my thoughts do fly away  
To that little humble home in Pnokeway [?]  
For My Wife and Child are their  
Alone with none to care  
For them while I'm so very far away|But we  
hope the time will come  
When to them I will return  
and never more from them to go astray

- 1 Cards and letters, Samuel Scholes to Harriet Scholes, 1879; Scholes family papers, in the author's possession, likely transferred from Harriet to their daughters, then to their son Samuel Ray, then to his daughter Ann (Scholes) Colvin, and finally to her brother, the author's father-in-law.
- 2 Jim Harrison, *Find A Grave* memorial no. 60,986,289, for William James Mozley 1858-1949, created 1 November 2010, digital image of grave marker, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=60986289> : viewed 3 April 2014), citing Mountain View Cemetery, Livingston, Park County, Montana. Middle name and quoted information (apparently from an obituary) are neither sourced nor derived from the grave marker. A family source puts his birth in 1857.
- 3 Bureau of Land Management, “Land Patent Search,” database, *General Land Office Records* (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch> : accessed 13 April 2014), entry for William J. Mozley, Lac Qui Parle County, Minnesota, no. 896, 2/1/1882. The land case file might reveal his whereabouts two or three years earlier; according to Wisconsin marriage indexes he married Alida C. Hamilton 22 January 1880 in Fond Du Lac County, Wisconsin.
- 4 “History,” *City of Ortonville* (<http://cityofortonville.com/history/> : viewed 3 April 2014).



# Tragedy in the Barr Family—Echoes of Death

by Barbara A. Wilson

*I remember my great-grandmother, Julia (Vanmeer) Wilson. We sat outside together on a glider swing on a warm summer day when I was 8 and she was 76. She appeared thin and strong, not frail. In her younger days, she had a reputation for being a good shot among the hunters in the family. She talked about the tragic deaths of her parents, the sadness from splitting up the siblings, and the poverty. She said that the same disease had taken the lives of her grandparents and many members of the family.*



Julia Barr Vanmeer with her hunting rifle.

## The Barr Family

Julia's mother, Margaret (Barr) Vanmeer, was born about 1855 in Michigan. Her parents were Minard Barr and Cornelia Patterson.<sup>1</sup> Minard Barr was born 1832 in Greenfield [Detroit], Michigan, son of Reuben and Margaret Barr.<sup>2</sup> Minard married Cornelia Patterson, born 1834 to John and Pamela (Hubbell) Patterson.<sup>3</sup> Minard Barr came to Detroit in 1845 and apprenticed for two years learning to be a cabinet maker.<sup>4</sup> Working in the trade until 1854, he left Detroit for two years of extensive travel throughout the states, arriving in Macomb County, Michigan in 1857. Along the way, Minard also must have learned masonry, because in 1880 he built the nave of the brick sanctuary of Zion Church at 68 New Street in Mt. Clemens. The church is registered as a historical site.<sup>5</sup>

In 1870, Margaret, 15, was the oldest of seven children. The other children included: Arthur, 13; Charles, 11; Ezra, 8; Roxanna, 5; Walter, 2, and Orrie, 9 months. By 1880, the family had moved to Mt. Clemens, Macomb County. At least two more children had been born to the family: Cornelia, about 1872 and Junetta, about 1874.<sup>6</sup>

## Family Deaths

Now comes the sadness. Markers in the Barr Family plot in the Clinton Grove Cemetery in Macomb County indicate nine family members died between 1886 and 1896: Minard Barr, Minnie Hanschaw Barr, Baby Clarence Barr, Charles H. Barr, June Barr, Eva Roxanna Barr, Orin A. Barr, Walter R. Barr, and Cornelia Mary Barr Perry.<sup>7</sup> My research was driven by my desire to know the reasons for the deaths.

All together, between 1886 and 1898, the family experienced eleven deaths. Cornelia Patterson Barr lost her husband, seven of her nine children, a

### Fourteen Chronological Barr Family Deaths with Age and Cause of Death

<i>Family Member</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>
Minard Barr	08 May 1886	54 yrs	Consumption-TB
Minnie Hanschaw Barr	17 Sept 1886	21 yrs	Childbirth
Baby Clarence Barr	06 Jan 1887	4 mos	Unknown
Charles H Barr	4 May 1887	27 yrs	Bright's Disease
June [Junetta] Barr	11 May 1889	15 yrs	Consumption-TB
Eva Roxana Barr	13 May 1889	23 yrs	Consumption-TB
Orin A Barr	12 Oct 1889	20 yrs	Suicide
Walter R Barr	5 Nov 1889	22 yrs	Consumption-TB
Margaret Barr Vanmeer	14 Mar 1893	36 yrs	Consumption-TB
Cornelia May Barr Perry	02 Jun 1896	24 yrs	Consumption-TB
Aaron Vanmeer	08 Oct 1898	70 yrs	Consumption-TB
Cornelia Barr (mother)	01 Jul 1904	70 yrs	Heart failure
Theron Ezra Barr	25 July 1910	49 yrs	Gangrene following amputation
Arthur Emerson Barr	June 1931	74 yrs	Acute dilation of heart

daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, and a grandson. The tragedy endured by this family, especially Cornelia, is almost beyond comprehension. Seven deaths were from consumption or tuberculosis (TB), which is a common, potentially lethal, infectious disease caused by strains of mycobacteria.<sup>8</sup>

The first to die was Minard Barr on 8 May 1886. He died of consumption, better known today as tuberculosis, or TB.<sup>9</sup> Minard's obituary stated that "Mr. Barr worked hard and through careful management had laid by enough for the comfort of his wife and children through the remainder of their days."<sup>10</sup> In grief and mourning, the widow, Cornelia, and her three children presumably had no money worries.

In the 1800s, nearly 25 percent of all deaths were caused by TB.<sup>11</sup> Symptoms of active TB include a chronic cough with blood-tinged sputum, fever, night sweats, and weight loss, which explains the use of the term *consumption* to explain cause of death during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century death records.<sup>12</sup>

Individuals with constant, continuous contact with others who are actively infected with TB, have a 22 percent chance of becoming infected.<sup>13</sup> However, my step-daughter, Dr. Susan Detmer, a pathologist at Saskatoon University, commented that age is a variable too, especially in small confined areas for a prolonged period of time. Immunization systems take time to mature; thus, younger persons are more at risk. They will more likely become infected, eventually showing symptoms of the active disease.

#### Recurring Tragedy

At the time of the 1880 Census, six children were still living at home (Arthur, Eva R, Walter R, Orin O, Cornelia, and Junetta); three had left the nest (Margaret [Maggie], Ezra and Charles).<sup>14</sup> Moreover, some children probably left between 1880 and 1886 as well. Thus, some children had more exposure to TB than others, some at a younger age.

The next to die was Charles' wife, Minnie Hanschaw Barr. She died tragically on 17 September 1886 from complications of child birth, just 18 days after the birth of her son, Clarence.<sup>15</sup> Baby Clarence Barr died 6 January 1887 at the age of 4 months; the cause of death is unknown.<sup>16</sup> Four months later,



Clinton Grove Cemetery, Macomb County, MI

Charles died 4 May 1887 from Bright's disease.<sup>17</sup> Symptoms are usually severe back pain, elevated blood pressure, vomiting, fever, edema, restricted breathing, and kidney stones. Most treatments for Bright's disease in this time period failed.<sup>18</sup> Charles Barr's obituary stated that he had been ailing all winter. Within months, the Charles Barr family was gone—mother, baby, and father.<sup>19</sup>

After four deaths in two years, the Barr family had a two-year reprieve. But, 1889, the worst year, brought four more deaths. Three were from tuberculosis: June, Eva, and Walter. They would have suffered active symptoms of the disease progressing to the acute stage, and finally death.<sup>20</sup> Robert Koch had discovered the bacteria responsible for TB in 1882, and had proved that the disease could be transmitted to others,<sup>21</sup> but, few patients received treatment in sanatoriums before 1900.<sup>22</sup>

Death notices for Eva and June appeared in the same "Personal Mention" column of the newspaper because they died within two days of each other, June on May 11 and Eva on May 13. "This makes six deaths in the family within three years. It is impossible to express in cold words the sympathy felt for the family in this double bereavement."<sup>23</sup>

Next, Orin committed suicide on 12 October 1889.<sup>24</sup> Orin's death record does not mention any illness. One can wonder if he was suffering from TB or if the burden of his sibling's deaths was too much. His obituary talks about death being a dark messenger, but it's especially dark when one takes his own life:

The household of Mrs. Minard Barr has been sorely afflicted by repeated deaths in the last few years, but when word came last Saturday that Orin had committed suicide by shooting, it seemed as if the dark messenger has taken on its most horrible aspect. At the

very time, another son, Walter, was lying sick and is not expected to survive but a few days.<sup>25</sup>

Walter died less than a month later on the 5 November 1889. This was the eighth family death in less than three and a half years: one from child birth, one from unknown causes, one suicide, and five from disease, (four from TB). Cornelia had lost her husband, five children, a daughter-in-law, and a grandchild. Four children remained: Arthur, Ezra, Margaret, and May. To endure this kind of tragedy, one can only wonder what gives survivors strength—faith, friends, remaining family members, values, attitude, strength of character — or do survivors become frozen in their grief?

TB was not done with the family. Four years later, Margaret (Barr) Vanmeer died of TB 14 March 1893, in St. Paul, Minnesota.<sup>26</sup> She was 36 years old, leaving her husband, Aaron, and five children: Ernest, Julia, Charles Milton, Neil, and Myrtle.<sup>27</sup> Five years later, Aaron, died of TB at the age of 70 in the City Hospital in St. Paul.<sup>28</sup> Margaret was buried in Oakland Cemetery (St. Paul) with no marker.<sup>29</sup> A funeral was held at the Baptist Immanuel Church on 7<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>30</sup> There was no obituary for Aaron, only a death notice stating that he died in City Hospital; his grave site is unknown.<sup>31</sup> Aaron was perhaps indigent and buried by the county. According to the Ramsey County Board of Control annual reports, there were five county burials in October of 1898.<sup>32</sup> Equally disheartening, Aaron spent four days in City Hospital, but had no visitors.<sup>33</sup>

During this time period, people avoided having contact with “consumptives,” which led to sanatoriums that provided isolation. Furthermore, according to genealogist Mary Bakeman, who has led the cemetery project in Minnesota, many who died from consumption were buried in remote parts of the cemetery with no marker. Because TB was known to be contagious, even the grave sites were isolated.

Also, during this era, people who died in public hospitals were often destitute. Medicine in the 1800s was not necessarily an honorable profession. Reports came out criticizing it as shabby. Hospitals did not have much to offer—no antibiotics, x-rays, blood products, or pain management. Many viewed hospitals as charitable institutions aiding the needy and destitute. Wealthy people were treated at home.<sup>34</sup>

The 1895 Minnesota State census shows that Aaron and Margaret (Barr) Vanmeer left four minor children: Earnest W., 15; Charlie M., 14; Nealis R., 10, and Mertil M., 5.<sup>35</sup> The 1900 U.S. census documents the whereabouts for three of the four surviving children: Neil, 15, was living in a boarding house.<sup>36</sup> Myrtle, 10, was staying with a step-sister in Ward 9 of St. Paul.<sup>37</sup> Milton Vanmeer, 18, was living with Julia (Vanmeer) and husband, Arthur Wilson.<sup>38</sup> Earnests whereabouts in 1900 is unknown, but he was living in Chicago in 1910.<sup>39</sup> Heartbreakingly, Neil Vanmeer was accused of stealing an overcoat valued at \$15 belonging to Alexander Micho on 29 November 1904.<sup>40</sup> Neil would have been 19 years old. Was he cold and poor? Desperate? Unlike Minard, who left his wife and children with financial means, Aaron left his children motherless, and probably penniless.

In 1896, Cornelia lost her last child to TB. Her daughter, Cornelia May (Barr) Perry, died at age 24.<sup>41</sup> Minard Barr’s widow, Cornelia, died at age 70 in 1904.<sup>42</sup> After eleven family deaths, including seven from TB and one from suicide, Cornelia was laid to rest. She was survived by two children, Ezra Theron and Arthur, and at least ten grandchildren: Cornelia Perry’s daughter Rachel,<sup>43</sup> Margaret (Barr) Vanmeer’s five children, and Ezra’s four children.<sup>44</sup> Ezra Theron and Arthur died from causes other than TB.<sup>45</sup>

### **Experiencing the Past through Family History**

Cornelia Barr’s losses over 12 years of sickness and death filled me with sadness. Mostly for Cornelia.

And, then again for Julia. Cornelia because she saw nine members of the Barr family buried in Clinton Grove Cemetery. Most suffered and declined, a burden to themselves and others. Julia because she was the oldest of five children living in poverty. She had to take on the role of her mother, only to lose

her father five years later, which left her minor aged siblings orphaned and separated.

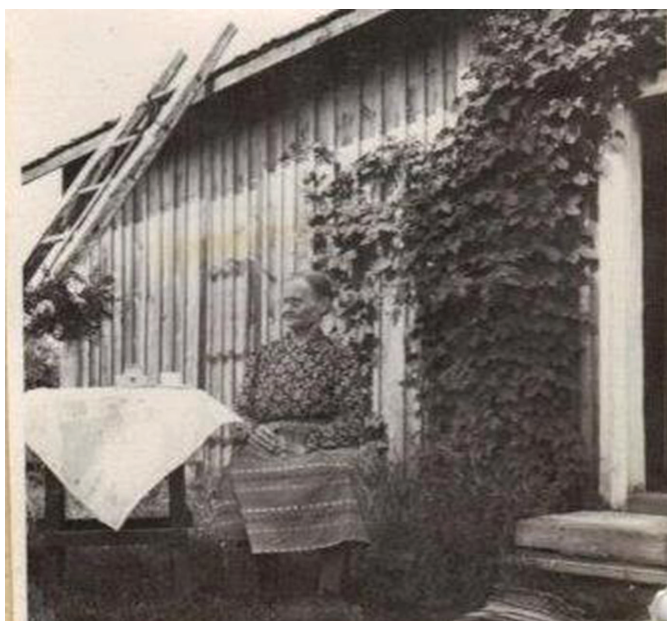
This chapter in the Barr family history demonstrates that, even though death signifies the end of life, that decades later the living can still experience death's echoes through family research.

- 1 1870 U.S. census, Macomb County, Michigan, population schedule, Warren, p. 135A, dwelling 301, family 301, Minard Barr and Cornelia (Margaret, line 12); digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com>: Accessed 10 October 2014; citing National Archives microfilm publication M593, roll 699).
- 2 "Death of Mr. Minard Barr," obituary, *Mount Clemens (Michigan) Press*, 13 May 1886, p. 1, col. 4.
- 3 Macomb County, Michigan, death record no. 68 (01 July 1904), Cornelia (Patterson) Barr; Macomb County Courthouse, Mt Clemens, Vol. B, p. 267. FHL microfilm 979575.
- 4 *History of Macomb County, Michigan*, (Chicago: M. A. Leeson & Co. 1882), p. 572.
- 5 Michigan Historical Markers, James Brennan, <http://michmarkers.com>, accessed 11 October 2014, Churches and Religious Buildings. Zion Church. Registered Historical Site L1251. Erected 1986. 68 New Street, Mount Clemens, Macomb Co., MI.
- 6 1880 U.S. census, Macomb County, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 203, Mt. Clemens, p. 383B, dwelling 219, family 231, Minard Barr and Cornelia, digital image, Ancestry.com.
- 7 Clinton Grove Cemetery Office (Clinton Township, Michigan). Cemetery Records, p. 17, Section B, Lot 105 (eleven burials). Letter, photocopies, and photographs, 15 August 2005, from Irene Gourneau of Mr. Clemens, MI, providing information on the Minard and Cornelia Barr Family.
- 8 Vinay Kumar, Abul K Abbas, Nelson Fausto, and Richard Mitchell. *Robbins Basic Pathology* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.), (Philadelphia: Saunders, 2007), pp. 516-522.
- 9 Macomb County, Michigan, death record no. 263 (08 May 1886), Minard Barr, Macomb County Courthouse, Mt Clemens, Vol. A, p. 261. FHL microfilm 979574.
- 10 "Death of Mr. Minard Barr," obituary, *Mount Clemens (Michigan) Press*, 13 May 1886, p. 1, col. 4.
- 11 Barry R. Bloom. *Tuberculosis: pathogenesis, protection, and control*. (Washington, D.C.: ASM Press, 1994), p. 72.
- 12 Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org>), "Tuberculosis," rev 10:44, 12 October 2014.
- 13 Vinay Kumar, Abul K. Abbas, Nelson Fausto, and Richard Mitchell. *Robbins Basic Pathology* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.), (Philadelphia: Saunders, 2007), pp. 516-522.
- 14 1880 U.S. census, Macomb County, pop. sch., ED 203, Mt. Clemens, p. 383B, dwell. 219, fam. 231, Minard Barr and Cornelia; 1870 U.S. census, Macomb Co., Michigan, pop. sch., Warren, p. 135A, dwell. 301, fam. 301, Margaret and Ezra Barr with Minard and Cornelia Barr; 1860 U.S. census, Macomb County, Michigan, population schedule, Sterling, p. 936, dwelling 892, family 829. Charles W. with Minor and Cornelia Barr; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com>: Accessed 16 October 2014; citing National Archives microfilm publication M653, roll 553).
- 15 Macomb County, Michigan, death record no. 264 (17 September 1886), Minne Henshaw Barr, Macomb County Courthouse, Mt Clemens, Vol. A, p. 261. FHL microfilm 979574; Macomb County, Michigan, birth record no. 648, (30 August 1886), Clarence H. Barr, Macomb County Courthouse, Mt. Clemens, Vol. C, p. 273. FHL microfilm 979564.
- 16 Clinton Grove Cemetery Office (Clinton Township, Mich.) from Irene Gourneau 15 August 2005.
- 17 Macomb County, Michigan, death record no. 307 (04 May 1887), Charles H. Barr, Macomb County Courthouse, Mt Clemens, Vol. A, p. 278. FHL microfilm 979574.
- 18 Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org>), "Brights disease," rev. 10:04, 12 October 2014.
- 19 "Chas. Barr died Wednesday morning," obituary, *Mount Clemens (Michigan) Press*, 05 May 1887, p. 1, C. 3.
- 20 Macomb County, Michigan, death record no. 349 (11 May 1889), June Barr, Macomb County Courthouse, Mt Clemens, Vol. B, p. 15. FHL #979574; death record no. 350 (13 May 1889), Eva Barr, Mt Clemens, Vol. B, p. 15; death record no. 352 (05 Nov 1889), Walter Barr, Mt. Clemens, Vol. B, p. 15.
- 21 Saskatchewan Lung Association (<http://www.lung.ca/tb/tbhistory/timeline/koch.html>), *Time Line of TB in Canada, 1882–Koch Discovers Tubercle Bacillus*, rev 10:57, 12 October 2014..
- 22 Stephen D Lawn and Alimuddin Zumla, "Tuberculosis." *Lancet* Vol. 378 (2 July 2011): 57-72, specifically 63.
- 23 "Died at the residence June E and Eva R," obituary, *Mount Clemens (Michigan) Press*, 16 May 1889, p. 1, col. 3.
- 24 County, Michigan, death record no. 351 (12 October 1889), Orin Barr, Macomb County Courthouse, Mt Clemens, Vol. B, p. 15. FHL microfilm 979575.
- 25 "A stricken family, Orin Barr Suicide," obituary, *Mount Clemens (Michigan) Press*, 17 Oct 1889, p. 1, col. 4.

- 26 Ramsey County, Minnesota, death certificate (no number), (1999), Margaret Van Meer, Ramsey County Department of Public Health, St. Paul.
- 27 1880 U.S. census, Macomb County, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 213, Mt. Clemens, p. 590B, dwelling 404, family 405, Aaron Vanveer and Maggie, digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com>: Accessed 13 October 2014; citing National Archives microfilm publication T9, roll 593; 1885 U.S. census, Ramsey County, Minnesota, populations schedule (state-level copy), Ward 6, p. 17, family number 48, Minnesota History Center microfilm 000565752, St. Paul.
- 28 Ramsey County, Minnesota, death certificate no. 984, (1999). Aaron Van Meer. Ramsey County Department of Public Health, St. Paul.
- 29 Oakland Cemetery record no. 11406. Margaret Vanmeer. (16 March 1893). Block 64, Lot 7, Location F3. St. Paul, MN., Vol 4, p. 29. Minnesota History Center. P812
- 30 "Died Van Meer," obituary for Margaret Vanmeer, *St. Paul Daily Globe*, 16 March 1893, p. 8, digital image 8, Chronicling America—Library of Congress, (<http://chronicalingamerica.loc.gov>) accessed 01/26/2011; citing Minnesota Histoical Society, St. Paul daily globe (Saint Paul, Minn.) 1884-1896.
- 31 "Deaths," death notice for Aaron Vanmeer, *St. Paul Daily Globe*, 11 October 1898, p. 8, digital image 8, Chronicling America—Library of Congress, (<http://chronicalingamerica.loc.gov>) accessed 01/26/2011; citing Minnesota Histoical Society, St. Paul daily globe (Saint Paul, Minn.) 1884-1896. The following St Paul cemeteries have been researched: Oakland, Elmhurst, Union, Roselawn, Forgotten Cemetery [Ramsey County Poor Farm], Forest Lawn, and Riverview.
- 32 Ramsey County, Minnesota Welfare Department, Annual Reports, 1885-1979, Board of Control (1885-1929), Annual Report for 1898. Minnesota History Society, 116.K.1 1B, St. Paul.
- 33 Ancker Hospital, Patient registers [general?], 1886-1932. Patient no. 17159, Aaron Van Meer. Minnesota Historical Society, 108.C.20.6, St. Paul; Ancker Hospital, Patient Records (1886-1932), Visitor Register (1898-1933), 108.G.16.7B.
- 34 Iric Nathanson and Thomas R. Mattison. Origins of a Modern Medical Center. *Minnesota History*, (Fall (2012)), pp. 114-123).
- 35 1895 U.S. census, Ramsey County, Minnesota, populations schedule (state-level copy), Ward 5, p. 29, family number 178, Minnesota History Center microfilm 000565800, St. Paul.
- 36 1900 U.S. census, Ramsey County, Minnesota, population schedule, St. Paul Ward 11, p. 6B, ED 0154, dwelling 96, family 102, Neal Van Meer, digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com>: Accessed 13 October 2014; citing National Archives microfilm publication T623, roll 786.
- 37 1900 U.S. census, Ramsey County, Minnesota, population schedule, St. Paul Ward 9, p. 10B, ED 0142, dwelling 583, famiily 197, Myrtle Vanmeer with Axel O. Alquist, digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com>: Accessed 13 October 2014; citing National Archives microfilm publication T623, roll 786.
- 38 1900 U.S. census, Dakota County, Minnesota, population schedule, Ninninger Township, p. 3A, ED 0028, dwelling 50, family 53, Milton VanMeer with A. W. Wilson. digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com>: Accessed 13 October 2014; citing National Archives microfilm publication T623, roll 761.
- 39 1910 U.S. census, Cook, County, Illinois, population schedule, Chicago Ward 23, p. 5A, ED 0975, dwelling 4118, family 95, Ernest Vanmeer, digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com>: Accessed 13 October 2014; citing National Archives microfilm publication T624, roll 266.
- 40 "Accused of Stealing Overcoat—Niel Vannmeer", *St. Paul Daily Globe*, 03 December 1904, p. 2, digital image 2, Chronicling America—Library of Congress, (<http://chronicalingamerica.loc.gov>) accessed 10/13/2014; citing Minnesota Histoical Society, St. Paul daily globe (Saint Paul, Minn.) 1896-1905.
- 41 Macomb County, Michigan death record no. 160. (02 Jun 1896), Cornelia May Barr Perry. Macomb County Courthouse, Mt Clemens, Vol. B, p. 106. FHC microfilm 979575.
- 42 Macomb County, Michigan, death record no. 168 (01 July 1904), Cornelia Barr. Macomb County Courthouse, Mt Clemens, Vol. B, p. 200. FHC microfilm 979575.
- 43 1900 U.S. census, Macomb County, population schedule, ED 0061, Mt. Clemens, Ward 2, p. 23A, dwelling 73, family 533, Rachel Perry listed with Louis Perry, digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com>: Accessed 10 October 2014; citing National Archives microfilm publication T623, roll 727.
- 44 1900 U.S. census, Macomb County, population schedule, ED 0053, Clinton, p. 12B, dwelling 246, family 247, Ezra Barr, digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com>: Accessed 10 October 2014; citing National Archives microfilm publication T623, roll 727.
- 45 Macomb County, Michigan, death certificate no. 86 (25 July 1910), Theron Ezia Barr. State of Michigan, Division of Vital Statistics, digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com>: Accessed 10 October 2014; citing the Library of Michigan, Lansing, Roll 145; Wentworth County, Ontario, Canada, death certificate no. 036128 (21 May 1931), Arthur Emerson, digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com>: Accessed 10 October 2014; citing Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938, Archives of Ontario, MS935, Reel 429.







With this information, I was able to trace five generations of Jacob's ancestors using the digital archives of the National Archives of Finland ([www.digi.narc.fi](http://www.digi.narc.fi)). However, Liisa's family history was more difficult to uncover and required help from Finland. Although the communion record I received from my cousin provided Liisa's birthplace and birthdate, further research showed that the birth year of 1856 was incorrect. Liisa was born in Vöyri, Finland, in 1846 and baptized as Elizabet Pik.<sup>1</sup> She was the youngest of seven children born to Johan and Anna Caisa.<sup>2</sup> I was certain this was her birth record from the name penciled in my baby book. Pik was included on some, but not all, of the family's baptismal records. Surnames were not in general use in western Finland at the time. Most families took their last name from the farm where they lived. When a family moved, their last name changed. Liisa's father's parish records included the patronymic name, Abramson, several farm names, and Pik (sometimes spelled Piik – probably a soldier name). Eventually Pik was retained as the family moved from farm to farm.

Liisa entered adulthood during a famine, known in Finland as the great hunger years. Beginning in 1862, Finland experienced several years with late

springs, cold, wet summers, and early frosts. By the fall of 1867, after years of poor harvests, food was scarce in much of Finland.<sup>3</sup> Liisa married in February of 1868 at the height of the famine.<sup>4</sup> In May, her twenty-four year old husband, Gustaf, decided to travel across Finland to Viipuri, which is now part of Russia, to secure food. While in Viipuri, Gustaf succumbed to one of the many illnesses associated with the famine. He died there, leaving Liisa a widow after just three months of marriage.<sup>5</sup>

A year and a half later, Liisa remarried.<sup>6</sup> Her second spouse, Matti, was a widower.<sup>7</sup> His first wife, like Lisa's first husband, had died during the famine, leaving him to raise two young daughters. Unfortunately, tragedy struck a second time. Matti died just seven months after he married Liisa. Somehow Liisa and her stepchildren survived. In 1872, Liisa married a third time, this time to my great grandfather Jacob.<sup>8</sup>

Although the famine had lifted, life remained difficult. Within two years of marriage, Jacob and Liisa had four children – two stepchildren and two of their own. Jacob was a tenant farmer who rented land and could be evicted without reason. By 1890, Liisa had moved five times and given birth to eight children. The birth records of Liisa and Jacob's children document the family's frequent moves. Their first two children were born in Vöyri, where both Jacob and Liisa had been born. The middle children were born in Helsinki, Ylistaro, and Vöyri. Only the youngest child was born in Isokyrö, the family's last parish.<sup>9</sup> Perhaps, the family's transience explains why my mother didn't know where her father had lived in Finland.

As Liisa and Jacob's children entered adulthood, they looked to America for the economic stability their family lacked in Finland. One after another, each of the children left Finland as young adults, hoping to improve their fortunes in America. In January of 1909, their youngest child, Ville, followed several of his older siblings to Minnesota's Iron Range.<sup>10</sup> By then, most of his emigrant siblings were committed to America, with jobs, farms, and spouses. Ville

crossed the Atlantic on a Canadian Pacific ship, *Empress of Ireland*. Like his older brothers, he began his life in America working in the iron mines.

Nine months after Ville left Finland, Liisa decided to visit her expatriated children. Following her son's example, she booked her passage on the *Empress of Ireland*.<sup>11</sup> The Canadian Pacific Railway advertised that their ships spent only four days on the open sea, which was considered the riskiest part of the trip.<sup>12</sup> The *Empress* departed from Liverpool, England and spent a day in Irish waters before crossing the North Atlantic. The ship then entered the coastal waters of Newfoundland and traveled up the St. Lawrence River to dock at Quebec City. In the ship's manifest,

Liisa stands out as a 63 year old traveling with much younger men and women. Liisa's journey continued to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, where she and many of the other third-class passengers entered the United States. Once across the border, Liisa headed to northern Minnesota where five of her six American children lived.

Two photographs document Liisa's trip. One, from my second cousin, shows a family gathering in the woods, perhaps for a picnic. A note on the back of the picture dates it to the summer of 1912, three years into Liisa's visit. Liisa is a short, serious-looking woman with her hair pulled back in a bun. Next to Liisa are two of her daughters, Anna and Lizzie,

# THE OLD POST

VIKKOLEHTI

Est. 1869      29. Toukokuuta 1914      Price 6d

## EMPRESS OF IRELAND UPPOSI!

### Kuolleita enemmän kuin Titanicissa!

**Laiva upposi 14 minuutissa! Kuolleita 1,012 joukossa 70 suomalaista.**

Kanadan merihistorian pahimmassa laivaturmassa menehtyi 1,012 ihmistä, joiden joukossa 70 suomalaista matkustajaa sekä 167 Kanadan Pelastusarmeijan jäsentä. 100-vuotis muistoesitelmässä kerrotaan laivaturman taustat sekä esitellään 3 Suomalaisistarinaa, joista yksi ennen julkaisematon selvityksistarina

**“Vesipallo nosti takaisin pintaan” Hilda kertoo ihmetarinansa**

Empress of Ireland 1914-2014

**Tule kuulemaan ennen julkaisematon Hildan tarina sekä esitelmä Empress of Irelandin turmasta keskiviikkona 28.5. klo 13.00 Kulttuuritalo Pokille. Tilaisuus on kaikille avoin ja maksuton. Tilaisuudessa palvelee kahvio. Osoite Keskustie 28, 61100 Peräseinäjoki. Tilaisuuden järjestää Suomen Siirtolaisuusmuseo.**

**Puh. 040-7748 577**



seven grandchildren, and Anna's husband. Her daughters wear American dresses, but Liisa wears Finnish-style clothing. After studying this picture, I realized I had seen an unlabeled photograph of Liisa in a family scrapbook. Liisa is the only person in this picture. She sits next to a small wooded table covered in a white tablecloth. The table is set with food and a vase filled with wildflowers. The occasion appears to be a celebration in Liisa's honor.

Liisa remained in Minnesota for almost five years. In those years, two sons were married, and several more grandchildren were born. However, in the spring of 1914, Liisa decided to return to Finland. Her oldest son, John, paid for her return passage on the same ship that brought her to America.<sup>13</sup> Liisa boarded the *Empress of Ireland* in Quebec City on May 28, 1914<sup>14</sup>. The largest group onboard that day was the Salvation Army of Canada. As the ship pulled away from the dock at 4:30 on a warm afternoon, the Salvation Army staff band played an impromptu concert.<sup>15</sup> After the concert, the passengers settled into their cabins. Liisa descended several flights of stairs to reach her third-class cabin deep within the ship. The third-class section was below not only the first- and second-class cabins, but also the crew's quarters.<sup>16</sup> Even in third class, the *Empress* was known for its clean cabins and ample, varied meals. Third-class passengers also had access to several public areas that provided relief from their small, shared cabins, including a sitting area, a children's play area, and considerable deck space.<sup>17</sup>

In the evening, the weather turned bitter. The temperature dropped to just above freezing. At about 1:15 a.m., the *Empress* dropped off the pilot who had safely directed the ship from the dock at Quebec City to the open waters near the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. Half an hour later, a dense fog descended on the river. Just before the fog enveloped the *Empress*, her crew sighted a freighter steaming upriver toward them. Surrounded by fog, the two ships exchanged fog signals. Despite the warning signals, just before 2:00 a.m., the freighter suddenly emerged from the fog, heading straight

toward the *Empress's* starboard side. A collision was unavoidable. The freighter's reinforced bow rammed the *Empress* between its smoke stacks, slashing a hole eighteen feet deep in her side.<sup>18</sup> Water gushed through the gaping hole with such force the crew could not close the *Empress's* water-tight doors.

The crew was immediately aware of the seriousness of the situation. The wireless operator clicked out SOS, and the captain ordered the launching of lifeboats. However, within minutes, the ship listed so severely that only three lifeboats could be launched. As water filled the ship, the engines stopped and the lights went out. Within minutes, the ship was lying on its side. Passengers struggled in the dark to escape the ship. Those who were strong enough pulled themselves up by the stair railings, only to discover they were then stranded on ship's side. The few successfully-launched lifeboats, filled mainly with crewmembers, had already rowed away.

Less than fifteen minutes after the collision, the *Empress of Ireland* sank into the St. Lawrence River. A few of the stronger passengers standing on the ship's side swam away as the ship's suction tried to pull them down into the frigid water. The fortunate ones were rescued by lifeboats from the freighter and two other ships responding to the SOS. Deep inside the *Empress*, Liisa never had a chance of surviving. Only forty-one of the 310 women onboard the ship were rescued.<sup>19</sup> In total, 1,012 people died, seventy-nine percent of the passengers, and forty-one percent of the crew.<sup>20</sup>

Liisa's adult life ended as it began: with tragedy. The farewells she had exchanged with her family were final. After the *Empress* sank, divers recovered the mail, the safe, and the silver the ship was carrying; however, the bodies of Liisa and many of her fellow passengers remain on board the wreck. Memorial ceremonies were held in several Canadian cities. Presidents, kings, queens, and the Kaiser sent their condolences. President Woodrow Wilson sent a message to the King of England offering his

sympathy for the accident that “brought bereavement to so many English homes.”<sup>21</sup> His message, ironically, ignored the families in the United States who had lost loved ones.

My family also forgot Liisa’s fate. Until this past year, our only memory was a story about a relative who died when a ship sank as it crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

The story was kept alive by a single document my mother inherited from her father. It confirmed the refund of the price of a trans-Atlantic ticket. Now on the centennial of Liisa’s death, our family knows the story behind the refund. As I reflect on the courage, strength, and acceptance my great-grandmother Liisa showed during her life, I am determined that her story will not be lost ever again.

- 1 Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church parish records, Vörå Parish baptism records, 1846, 247, <http://digi.narc.fi/digi/view.ka?kuid=8393052>.
- 2 Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church, baptism parish records, Jörala in Vörå Parish communion records 1841-1847, <http://digi.narc.fi/digi/view.ka?kuid=9707799>.
- 3 Levlín, Pär-Erik, “Genealogy Corner: The Great Famine of the 1860’s in Finland,” <http://www.genealogia.fi/emi/art/article06e.htm>.
- 4 Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church parish records, Vörå Parish marriage records, 200, <http://digi.narc.fi/digi/view.ka?kuid=9710709>.
- 5 Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church parish records, Palo in Isokyrö Parish death records, 500, [http://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/kirjat/Kirkonkirjat/isokyro/rippikirja\\_1865-1871\\_mko213-240/477.htm](http://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/kirjat/Kirkonkirjat/isokyro/rippikirja_1865-1871_mko213-240/477.htm).
- 6 Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church parish records, Ylihärmä Parish marriage record, 1823-1869, 64, [http://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/kirjat/Kirkonkirjat/yliharna/vihityt\\_1823-1869\\_uk39/37.htm](http://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/kirjat/Kirkonkirjat/yliharna/vihityt_1823-1869_uk39/37.htm).
- 7 Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church parish records, Ylihärmä Parish, 43, [http://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/kirjat/Kirkonkirjat/yliharna/muuttaneet\\_1856-1884\\_uk40/24.htm](http://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/kirjat/Kirkonkirjat/yliharna/muuttaneet_1856-1884_uk40/24.htm).
- 8 Finnish Lutheran Church parish records, Vörå Parish marriage records 1872, 246, <http://digi.narc.fi/digi/view.ka?kuid=9710731>.
- 9 Paula Luokula, summary of Isokyrö Parish communion records for the Murokytö family, Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church communion records, May 29, 2013.
- 10 “Border Crossings: From Canada to U.S., 1895-1956,” database, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 Dec 2014) entry for Wille Holmi, aboard *Empress of Ireland*, sailing from Liverpool, leaving 29 January 1909; citing National Archives publication M1464, roll 90.
- 11 “Border Crossings: From Canada to U.S., 1895-1956,” database, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 Dec 2014) entry for Liisa Holmi, aboard *Empress of Ireland*, sailing from Liverpool, leaving 10 September 1909; citing National Archives publication M1464, roll 105.
- 12 Anne Renauld, *Into the Mist, the Story of the Empress of Ireland*, Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2010, 34.
- 13 Family lore says that Liisa’s son, John, bought her ticket for the *Empress* because he later received compensation from the ship’s company.
- 14 “Deaths at sea, 1781-1968,” database, *Find My Past*, ([www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) : accessed 29 December 2014) entry for Liisa Holmi, aboard *Empress of Ireland*, 29 May 1914, citing The National Archives, London, England, *Register of Deceased Passengers*, p. 67.
- 15 Herbert Wood, *Till We Meet Again, The Sinking of the Empress of Ireland*, Toronto: Image Publishing Inc., 1982, 36.
- 16 Renauld, *Into the Mist*, 27.
- 17 Derek Grout, *RMS Empress of Ireland, Pride of the Canadian Pacific’s Atlantic Fleet*, Toronto: Dundurn, 2014, 14 & 55.
- 18 Wood, *Till We Meet Again*, 155.
- 19 Fifth Session of the Twelfth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada. Session 1915 Sessional Papers Volume 16. Sessional Paper 21b. “Report and Evidence of the Commission of Enquiry into the Loss of the British Steamship *Empress of Ireland* of Liverpool (0. No. 123972) through Collision with the Norwegian Steamship *Storstad*. Quebec, June, 1914.” The Internet Archive. Quoted in Wikipedia, *RMS Empress of Ireland*, ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empress\\_of\\_Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empress_of_Ireland)).
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 Logan Marshall, *The Tragical Story of the Empress of Ireland*, New York: The Berkley Publishing Group, 132.

# Branches, Clusters, and FANs

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

When I started asking questions about my family history, three of my grandparents had already passed away. I wrote to great-aunts for information on their parents and grandparents, and they sent other great-aunts to the cemeteries and wrote back with names and dates.

Here is what my great-aunt Eva said in a letter from Philadelphia: “I am supposing you only want the parents’ birth and death dates, and just their children’s names. My oldest aunt (92) alive... is your great-grandfather’s sister.”<sup>1</sup> I thanked her and filed her letter. (I hope you’re shouting, “Wrong answer!”)

I didn’t realize till after Aunt Eva and her sisters had passed away that my response to her letter had been completely wrong! Instead of saying, “Thank you, that’s great,” I should have said, “Thank you so much, this is great. I would love more! I want to know everything. Did you say my great-grandfather had sisters in the U.S., and one is still living? Wow! Can I contact her? Does she have a family? Do you or your sisters have any pictures or letters?” In fact, I should have contacted all my great-aunts and uncles, not just Aunt Eva.

Since most of you reading this belong to at least one genealogical society, you already know that genealogy is about more than a lineage and a few facts. Family history is about reconstructing your ancestors’ lives, learning what they did, how they lived, what their personalities were like, maybe even why they made the choices they made.

You can’t learn the whole story of your family by concentrating only on your direct lineage. Very few people lived isolated lives, independent of parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and cousins. Instead, they banded together, migrating to new continents and areas with family members, members of their churches, neighbors, and people they served with in the military. Sometimes all members of a group migrated at the same time, sometimes group members migrated serially.

Many genealogists use “sideways genealogy” to circumvent brick walls. Checking the records of

siblings and associates when you can’t find the answer to your problem in the records of your direct ancestor is a great way to solve problems. Don’t reserve this approach until you run into problems—make it your way of doing research from the start. Yes, it’s more time-consuming than confining research to your direct line, but it repays the extra effort by keeping you out of trouble and enriching your understanding of the families who produced that unique and remarkable character, you.

Here are some examples of how researching the branches of an ancestral family provide a richer story than researching only the direct line.

My husband is descended from a family from Buchanan County, Iowa—Clarks intermarried with Nevilles—that we traced back to Ohio in 1850. We knew that John Clark became the second husband of Sarah (Neville) Shidler in Holmes County, Ohio, in 1851,<sup>2</sup> and that he received a patent for 240 acres in Buchanan County in 1855.<sup>3</sup> John and Sarah’s two oldest sons Walter Finney Emery Clark and Joseph Neville Clark were born in Ohio in 1852 and 1854,<sup>4</sup> narrowing the time frame for the family’s migration to Iowa.

It is only when we researched Sarah (Neville) Shidler Clark’s eleven brothers and sisters that we began to see the true story of the migration to Iowa. Between 1850, when Sarah, her parents, and all her siblings lived in Holmes County, Ohio,<sup>5</sup> and 1856, when Iowa took a census of inhabitants, all but one of Sarah’s siblings, plus her parents, moved to Iowa.<sup>6</sup> Examination of land purchases,<sup>7</sup> together with marriage records<sup>8</sup> and children’s birth dates and places,<sup>9</sup> reveals that the migrating siblings most likely arrived together, about the same time as John and Sarah Clark, with single brothers and sisters migrating along with their married siblings and their parents.

This pattern of group migration was not a new one for the Nevilles—the family first appeared in eastern Maryland, then moved via western Maryland and Pennsylvania to Ohio, in company with related Buckmaster, Barnes, and other families.<sup>10</sup>

The second example comes from the Whetstone family of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. John Whetstone and his wife Barbara (Moser) had eight children: Mary, Gideon, John, Elias, Catharine, Absalom, Amos, and Emanuel.<sup>11</sup> All were born in Pennsylvania, and most spent their lives there, with the exception of Mary, who died in New York; John, who died in Ohio; and Elias, who died in Colorado.<sup>12</sup>

My ancestor was Absalom Whetstone. One of Absalom's sons, Darwin Benjamin, ranched in Wyoming.<sup>13</sup> (My mother, Darwin's great-niece, recalled his visits to Pennsylvania—noteworthy because he wore a black cowboy hat.) Tracing Darwin in census records showed him living in 1900, age 22, in Routt County, Colorado. He was living with John A. Whetstone, and his relationship to the head of household was “cousin.”<sup>14</sup>

Who was this John A. Whetstone, and how did he and Darwin get to Colorado? Some digging revealed that John was John Adam Whetstone, son of Absalom's brother Elias, the brother who died in Colorado.<sup>15</sup> More research revealed that John Adam, Darwin, and Elias were not the only Whetstones in Colorado—in fact, all of Elias' children except Emma settled there, as did Elias' older brother John for a time.<sup>16</sup>

Analyzing the chronology of the migration showed that Elias' sons John Adam and James Madison led the way in the last half of the 1870s.<sup>17</sup> The rest of the migration appears to have been triggered by deaths in 1879 and 1880. In January 1879 Barbara Whetstone, the matriarch of the family, died.<sup>18</sup> She was followed in death within a year by Elias' wife Hannah.<sup>19</sup>

These deaths unleashed a landslide of movement in the Whetstone families, scattering Barbara's grandchildren westward. Within a year of Hannah's death, most of her family moved to Colorado.<sup>20</sup> Elias joined his sons John and James and his nephew Thomas Kistler (son of his sister Catharine) in Breckenridge, Colorado,<sup>21</sup> leaving his youngest children Amanda and Amos in Schuylkill County with his married daughters Hannah Phelps and

Emma Bailey.<sup>22</sup> Amanda and probably Amos followed Elias to Breckenridge soon after the 1880 census was taken, with Amanda dying in Breckenridge in 1882.<sup>23</sup>

By the time the Colorado state census was taken in 1885, three multi-generational groups of Schuylkill County Whetstones were in residence: Elias and his son Amos in Breckenridge; Edward and Hannah Phelps in Weld County; and James and his uncle John in Routt County.<sup>24</sup> Elias remarried in Colorado and had two more children.<sup>25</sup> His three older sons and daughter Hannah settled in Colorado permanently, with John Adam Whetstone hosting his cousin Darwin in 1900.<sup>26</sup> Elias' brother John ultimately returned to the east, establishing residence with his son John in Defiance, Ohio by 1900.<sup>27</sup>

Most of these two stories would be unknown if my husband and I had not expanded the direct-line research sideways to include the whole families of Sarah Neville and Absalom Whetstone, and forward to include their nephews and nieces. It was in the records and stories of the extended family members that critical details of the family's story emerged. Other genealogists across the country researching these extended family lines contributed key information, photos, and artifacts.

Family clusters like the ones I've described are just the tip of the iceberg. To learn more about cluster and FAN club research, you might enjoy reading the articles below and following their links and bibliography.

- “Cluster Genealogy,” *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluster\\_genealogy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluster_genealogy); accessed 12 December 2014).
- Elizabeth Shown Mills, *QuickSheet: The Historical Biographer's Guide to Cluster Research (the FAN Principle)* (Baltimore Genealogical Publishing Co., 2009).
- Kimberly Powell, “Cluster Genealogy: Branching Out on the Family Tree,” *About.com* (<http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/a/cluster.htm>; accessed 12 December 2014).

- “Research a Family in Community Context,” *FamilySearch Wiki* ([https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Research\\_a\\_Family\\_in\\_Community\\_Context](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Research_a_Family_in_Community_Context) : accessed 12 December 2014).
- Elizabeth Shown Mills, “QuickLesson 11: Identity Problems & the FAN Principle,” *Evidence Explained* (<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-11-identity-problems-fan-principle> : accessed 12 December 2014).

Case studies illustrating the cluster approach include

- William M. Litchman, “Using Cluster Methodology to Backtrack an Ancestor: The Case of John Bradberry,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 95 (June 2007):103-116.

*Lois welcomes questions or suggestions for future column topics! Contact her at [LoisMackin@aol.com](mailto:LoisMackin@aol.com).*

- 1 Eva (Abromitis) McLaughlin, Havertown, Pennsylvania, to Lois (Abromitis) Mackin, letter, 11 November 1980; Abromitis research files; privately held by Mackin, Plymouth, Minnesota.
- 2 Holmes County, Ohio, Marriage Records, 3:33, Clark-Sheidler (1851); FHL microfilm 477,144.
- 3 Bureau of Land Management, “Land Patent Search,” digital images, *General Land Office Records* (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov> : accessed 4 December 2014), John Clark (Buchanan County, Iowa), patent no. 26725.
- 4 1856 Iowa state census, Buchanan County, population schedule, Byron Township, pp. 756-757 (stamped), dwelling 29, family 29, John Clark household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 4 December 2014), citing microfilm obtained from the State Historical Society of Iowa via HeritageQuest. All state and federal census records were accessed on *Ancestry.com* 4 December 2014.
- 5 1850 U.S. census, Holmes County, Ohio, population schedule, Berlin Township, p. 194A (stamped), dwelling 1525, family 1555, Joseph Neville household; dwell. 1526, fam. 1556, Hannah Downs.
- 6 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Hardy twp., p. 96A (stamped), dwell. 164, fam. 177, Wilson Neville.
- 7 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Hardy twp., p. 98A (stamped), dwell. 189, fam. 202, Sophiah Tidball.
- 8 For the marriage of Hannah Neville and Robert Downs, see Holmes County Genealogy Society, *Holmes County, Ohio, Marriages, 1825-1859*, vol. I from Books 1, 2, & 3 (Millersburg, Ohio: Holmes County Genealogy Society, 2007), 116. No marriage record has been found for Sophia Neville and James Tidball.
- 9 1856 Iowa state census, Buchanan Co., pop. sch., Spring Twp., pp. 694-695 (stamped), dwell. 28, fam. 28, Elisabeth Markley. For the marriage of George Markley and Elizabeth Neville, see *Holmes County Marriages*, 116.
- 10 *Ibid.*, pp. 702-703 (stamped), dwell. 78, fam. 78, Wilsen Nevil.
- 11 *Ibid.*, Byron Twp., pp. 756-757 (stamped), dwell. 29, fam. 29, Sarah Clark.
- 12 *Ibid.*, pp. 754-755, dwell. 43, fam. 43, Hanah Downs.
- 13 *Ibid.*, pp. 756-757, dwell. 30, fam. 30, Josiah Nevill.
- 14 Margaret Neville was not found in the 1856 Iowa census; she was in Buchanan County in 1855, when she married William Boone there. William Boone-Margaret Nevill marriage (1855), “Iowa, Select Marriages, 1809-1992,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 December 2014), citing FHL microfilm 1,024,827.
- 15 1856 Iowa state census, Buchanan Co., pop. sch., Washington Twp., pp. 822-823 (stamped), dwell. 146, fam. 167, Joseph Nevill, Mary Nevill, Edward Nevill, Athey Nevill, Rachel Nevill, Emillia Nevill.
- 16 *Ibid.*, dwell. 146, fam. 168, Joseph L. Nevill.
- 17 Wilson Neville, John Clark, Josiah Neville, Edward Neville, and Joseph L. Neville purchased federal land in Buchanan County in June 1855. Bureau of Land management, “Land Patent Search,” database, *General Land Office Records* ([http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/Patent Search](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/Patent%20Search) : accessed 12 December 2014), Edward Nevill (Buchanan County, Iowa), cash entry patent no. 28312; Josiah Nevill (Buchanan County, Iowa), cash entry patent no. 26724; Wilson Nevill (Buchanan County, Iowa), cash entry patent nos. 28311 and 27204; John Clark (Buchanan County, Iowa), cash entry patent no. 26725; Joseph L. Neville (Buchanan County, Iowa) cash entry patent 50473.
- 18 Josiah and Margaret Neville married in Buchanan County in 1855, followed in 1857 by Athalia. “Iowa, County Marriages, 1838-1934,” database, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 12 December 2014), Josiah Neville and Elizabeth Jane Logan, 31 May 1855; Wm Boone and Margaret Nevill, 30 Aug 1855; Jno F. Romig and Atha Ann Nevill, 16 Aug 1857, citing Buchanan, Iowa, United States, county courthouses, Iowa.
- 19 The first Neville child born in Iowa was Wilson Neville’s daughter Mary M. Neville, born in 1855. 1856 Iowa state census, Buchanan Co., pop. sch., Spring Twp., p. 702-703 (stamped), dwell. 78, fam. 78, M. M. Nevil.
- 20 The earlier migrations are documented in Shirley Moore Barnes, *The Kindred Venturers: the History and Genealogy of Peter Barnes (1744-1814) and Related Families Bevington, Buckmaster, Graham, Howard, Inman, Porter, Shipley, Springer, and Warner in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Ohio* (Apollo, Pennsylvania: Closson Press, 1993).
- 21 Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, probate file, John Whetstone (1848); Schuylkill County Archives, Pottsville.
- 22 For the birthplace of the Whetstone children, see 1850 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Pennsylvania, pop. sch., Schuylkill Twp., p. 313A (stamped), dwell. 277, fam. 290, Mary Miller.

- 23 *Ibid.*, West Penn Twp., p. 283A (stamped), dwell. 254, fam. 276, Gideon Whetstone.
- 24 *Ibid.*, p. 286A (stamped), dwell. 305, fam. 329, John Whetstone.
- 25 *Ibid.*, p. 281B (stamped), dwell. 236, fam. 258, Eli Whetstone.
- 26 *Ibid.*, p. 280B (stamped), dwell. 222, fam. 243, Catharine Kistler.
- 27 *Ibid.*, Schuylkill Twp., p. 313A (stamped), dwell. 275, fam. 287, Absalom Whetstone, Amos Whetstone, Emanuel Whetstone.
- 28 For the death of Mary (Whetstone) Miller Krause, see *A Biographical History of Central Kansas Illustrated* (New York and Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1902), II: 1536; digitized book, *Internet Archive* (<http://archive.org> : accessed 12 December 2014).
- 29 For the death of John Whetstone, see *BillionGraves* (<http://billiongraves.com> : accessed 12 December 2014), page and image for John Whetstone (1825-1908), Riverside Cemetery, Defiance, Ohio.
- 30 For the death of Elias Whetstone, see *Findagrave* (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 12 December 2014), page and image for Elias Whetstone (1827-1897), Valley Brook Cemetery, Breckenridge, Colorado, Find A Grave Memorial # 39981256.
- 31 "Darwin B. Whetstone," *Thermopolis Independent Record*, 20 March, 1955, p. and col. unknown, copy provided by Hot Springs County Library, Thermopolis.
- 32 1900 U.S. census, Routt County, Colorado, pop. sch., Twenty Mile Precinct, sheet 12B (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 146, dwell. 287, fam. 290, Darwin Whetstone.
- 33 *Progressive Men of Western Colorado Illustrated* (Chicago: A. W. Bowen & Co., 1905), "John Adam Whetstone," 444-445; digitized book, *Internet Archive*.
- 34 For the identities of Elias Whetstone's children, see *Ibid.*, "James M. Whetstone," 437. For residence in Colorado, see 1885 Colorado state census, Routt Co., pop. sch., District 1, image 11, dwell. 67, fam. 67, James Whetstone, John Whetstone. Also *Ibid.*, Summit Co., pop. sch., District 1, p. 4 (penned), dwell. 49, fam. 50, E. Wheatstone, Amos Wheatstone, and dwell. 50, fam. 51, J. A. Wheatstone. Also *Ibid.*, Weld Co., pop. sch. District 2, p. 44 (penned), dwell. 408, fam. 408, Hannah Phelps.
- 35 *Progressive Men of Western Colorado*, 437, 444-445.
- 36 Zion (Greenwood) Cemetery (Tamaqua, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania), Barbara Whetstone marker; personally read by the author, 2005.
- 37 *Progressive Men of Western Colorado*, 437. No burial or burial record has been located for Hannah Whetstone.
- 38 See note 16 above.
- 39 1880 U.S. census, Summit Co., Colorado, pop. sch., Breckenridge, ED 106, p. 24 (penned), dwell. 282, fam. 319, Elias Whelstone, John Whelstone, James M. Whelstone, Thos. A. Kistler.
- 40 1880 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Pennsylvania, pop. sch., Mahanoy City, ED 195, p. 27 (penned), dwell. 197, fam. 218, Hannah C. Phelps, and dwell. 198, fam. 219, Emma Bailey, Amand Bailey [Amanda Whetstone], Amos Bailey [Amos Whetstone].
- 41 *Findagrave* (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 12 December 2014), page and image for M. Amanda Whetstone (1859-1897), Breckenridge Masonic Cemetery, Breckenridge, Colorado, Find A Grave Memorial #39981254.
- 42 See note 16 above.
- 43 "Missourians Visit Old Home Below Breckinridge," *Summit County Journal and Breckenridge Bulletin*, 10 June 1914, p. 1; digital image, *Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection* (<http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org> ; accessed 12 December 2014).
- 44 For John Adam Whetstone, see 1900 U.S. census, Routt Co., Colorado, pop. sch., Twenty Mile Precinct, sheet 12B (stamped), ED 146, dwell. 287, fam. 290, John A. Whetstone. "John A. Whetstone," *Steamboat Pilot* (Steamboat Springs, Colorado), 9 February 1934, p. 3; digital image, *Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection*.
- 45 For James Madison Whetstone, see 1900 U.S. census, Routt Co., Colorado, pop. sch., Hayden, sheet 2B (stamped), ED 146, dwell. 53, fam. 53, James M. Whelstone. "J. M. Whetstone Passes Away," *Routt County Republican*, 30 July 1926, copy supplied by Joyce Cusick, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.
- 46 For Hannah (Whetstone) Phelps, see 1900 U.S. census, Arapahoe Co., Colorado, pop. sch., Denver, sheet 3A (stamped), ED 88, dwell. 48, fam. 50, Hannah C. Phelps. *Findagrave* (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 12 December 2014), page and image for Hannah C. Phelps (1857-1938), Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, Colorado, Find A Grave Memorial #95455553.
- 47 For Amos E. Whetstone, see 1900 U.S. census, Las Animas Co., Colorado, pop. sch., Trinidad, sheet 17B (stamped), ED 65, dwell. 360, fam. 372, Amos E. Whetstem. *Findagrave* (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 12 December 2014), page and image for Amos E. Whetstone (1865-1927), Evergreen Washelli Memorial Park, Seattle, Washington, Find A Grave Memorial #83627118.
- 48 1900 U.S. census, Defiance Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Defiance, sheet 19B (stamped), ED 8, dwell. 430, fam. 431, John Whetstone.



# DNA for Genealogists: Another Piece of Problem-Solving Evidence

by J. H. Fonkert, CG

Author's note: *As a young student I avoided science courses, so everything I have learned about DNA I've learned in the past few years. This article shares with you some of what I have learned, as well as my excitement for combining DNA evidence with traditional genealogical evidence to reconstruct ancestral families.*

If you have ancestors, you have DNA. That DNA can help you find those ancestors. DNA is not a magic pill that identifies your ancestor, but it can narrow the possibilities, and when combined with other kinds of evidence, it may bolster your confidence in your conclusions.

DNA is valuable to genealogists because its accurate passage forward in time depends on biology, not on human memory or motives. In this sense, DNA is more objective than information carried by most genealogical sources. DNA carries information forward much like books, census records, or gravestones transport information forward in time. DNA molecules are the transport vehicle that preserves and carries genetic information.

As powerful as DNA is, you really have only two options, and both require traditional research:

- Research first, and then test your tentative conclusion against DNA evidence, or
- Find people with closely matching DNA, and then do research to identify the likely common ancestor.

As you learn about DNA, it will become evident that you can use it in three basic ways:

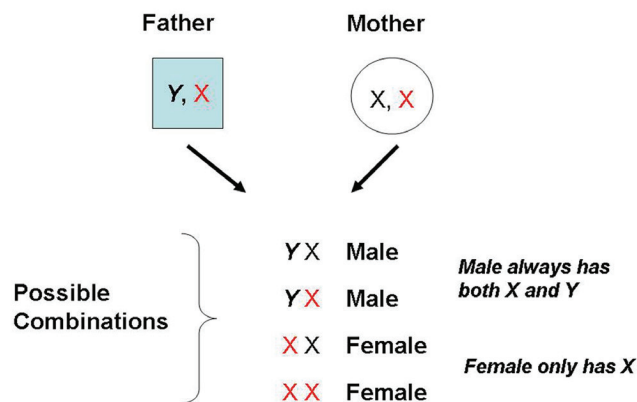
- “Fish” for cousins with whom you can share information that might advance your family trees,
- Use DNA to test a hypothesis about a connection to an ancestor, or
- Explore deep anthropological ancestry – the likely parts of the world from which your distant ancestors came.

## DNA Basics

“DNA” is a lot easier to pronounce than deoxyribonucleic acid. Within each cell, DNA is organized into long structures called chromosomes. Each chromosome carries several genes. Each person has 46 chromosomes –

actually 23 pairs containing one chromosome each from father and mother. Each parent contributes one allosomal (sex) chromosome and 22 autosomal chromosomes.

There are four kinds of DNA tests: Y, X, mitochondrial, and autosomal. Each has different possibilities for genealogy. Most of us learned the basics of X and Y chromosomes in school. Only males have a Y-chromosome which, if passed forward, makes a child a male. Thus, unless a mutation occurs, a child's Y-DNA should always match his father's. Both males and females have an X-chromosome. A female child gets an X-chromosome from both mother and father; a male only gets X-DNA from his mother's side of the family.



**The 23 pairs of DNA (Y, X, and autosomal) are found within the nucleus of a cell. Another kind of DNA – mitochondrial (mtDNA) is found outside the nucleus.**

## DNA as Genealogical Evidence

DNA rarely proves anything, but it has value as genealogical evidence for two reasons:

- Because of the way they are passed from parent to child (see above), X- and Y-DNA can be used to match living people who likely have a common ancestor within several generations.

- Mutations are random and rare, but knowledge of how frequently different parts of DNA mutate gives clues to the probability that two people who match closely, but not perfectly, have a common ancestor within some number of generations. A mutation is simply a copying error – a small part of the DNA molecule doesn't copy perfectly (see below). Mutations are a bit like errors that occur in other records over time. Just as clerks and transcribers can make errors, nature sometimes makes a DNA copying error.

DNA will not tell you who your lost ancestor was. This is because mutations occur randomly – sometimes less and sometimes more frequently than average. It is essential that you correlate DNA evidence with other kinds of genealogical evidence.

**Y-DNA.** Y-DNA tests were the first to become affordable in the genealogical market. Because a son gets Y-DNA only from his father, Y-DNA can be used to match people with a common direct line male ancestor – father, grandfather, great-grandfather, etc.

A daughter always gets X-DNA from her mother; X-DNA can be used similarly to match females with a common direct-line female ancestor. While a daughter gets half her X-chromosome from each parent, her parents got theirs from only some of their ancestors. This can be illustrated on a female inheritance fan chart (see Aulicino, pp. 54-6, or Bettinger, *The Genetic Genealogist*).

Because X-DNA is difficult and expensive to test, mitochondrial DNA is the test of choice for investigating direct female line ancestry. X-DNA tests are generally not a consumer-market option, but Family Tree DNA includes two bits of X-DNA in its autosomal testing package.

**Mitochondrial DNA.** MtDNA comes from mitochondria that exist outside the nucleus of a cell. A mother passes mtDNA forward to all her children, female and male. Males have mtDNA, but do not pass it forward. Both females and males can do an MtDNA test, but can only follow the trail back through their mother's direct maternal line.

MtDNA is relatively easy to test because cells have much more mtDNA than nuclear DNA. However, mitochondrial DNA mutates less frequently than nuclear

DNA, so it is less reliable for identifying recent common ancestors. An exact mitochondrial match gives only about a 90 percent chance of the common ancestor being within 16 generations.

**Autosomal DNA.** The hottest thing in the 2015 genealogical DNA market is autosomal DNA. The most abundant DNA in the nucleus of a cell, autosomal DNA is passed forward by both males and females – half of a child's DNA comes from each parent. Analysis of results is tricky because autosomal DNA recombines every generation. Autosomal DNA is a good choice if you "fishing" for cousins – people with whom you share an ancestor.

Autosomal tests report results at hundreds of locations; people with a common ancestor (male or female) will commonly have significant DNA segments that match. Your chance of finding matches depends both on the number of people from that haplogroup who have tested and whether the population is endogamous – that is, a group with a smaller gene pool due to in-breeding.

Because autosomal recombines with each generation (remember: a child is getting a set from each parent), it will only reveal people with common ancestors back five or six generations. Beyond that, too many random re-combinations have occurred to draw any conclusions from matching segments; in effect, matching segments can be false positives. It is ideal to test the oldest living generation possible.

### It's All About Mutations

You don't need to be expert in the science, but a little bit helps. A DNA molecule is composed of four kinds of bases, or nucleotides:

- A adenine
- G guanine
- T thymine
- C cytosine

DNA tests report information based on how these nucleotides have arranged themselves in each person's DNA. Some basic vocabulary is useful.

**Marker.** Marker refers to a gene or DNA sequence that has a known location on a chromosome. Markers are most easily understood with Y-DNA. Most

Y-markers have names beginning with DYS – “DNA chromosome-Y-Segment. Marker labels can vary among testing companies.

**SNP** – a change in a nucleotide at a specific location. Single nucleotide polymorphisms mutate infrequently and can remain unchanged over thousands of years, so are useful for deep ancestry (population genetics).

**STR** – short TANDEM repeat – a short series of bases that form a pattern (e.g., ATAG) that repeats itself (a repeating pattern can be 2-5 bases long). The reported Y-DNA test result is the number of times a particular pattern repeats itself.

4-base pattern: AGTC  
 AGTC/AGTC/AGTC/AGTC/AGTC/AGTC/AGTC/  
 AGTC/AGTC  
 9 repeats  
 reported value for this marker: 9

A mutation is a change in the base at a particular location (marker). Because STRs mutate more frequently than SNPs, matches can indicate a common ancestor within several generations. If Y-DNA marker DYS456 has a value of 16, the pattern at that location repeats itself 16 times. When a mutation occurs, the repeats change to 15 or 17. Mutations can go both ways – that is, a particular marker may change from 16 to 15, and then one or more generations later mutate back to 16. “Back mutations” are rare, but can lead to misleading matches. In mtDNA tests, the results report a base that has changed (mutated) at a particular location – for example, thymine substituted for cytosine.

Deep ancestry is indicated by haplogroups – a cluster of haplotypes (individuals) that share the same single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) mutation, meaning they have a common distant ancestor. Moving forward in time, haplogroups divide into subclades. The closer the haplotype match between two individuals, the shorter time back to a common ancestor.

### Real World Examples

**Y-DNA.** Male Y-DNA can be used to test a theory that two males of the same (or variant) surname descended from a common ancestor. If you proved an ancestral line back, say, to a 2nd-great-grandfather (A), but have

only circumstantial evidence for his parents (P), you may be able to use DNA to test your hypothesis. To do so, you need to find a living male (B) with the same or variant surname whose male line you can prove back to the parents (P) you think might be the parents of your ancestor (A). Such a theory may be plausible because (A) and (B) lived in the same locale and time period. You can hypothesize that the two men were brothers, sons of the same parents. If their DNA does not closely match, you can reject your theory. If they do closely match, you have empirical evidence to support your theory.

Take the example of Kentucky Faulconer and Minnesota Fawkner. On a 46-marker test, they match – they have the same number of repeats – at all but one marker. At DYS456, Minnesota Fawkner has 16 repeats, but Kentucky Faulconer has only 15. A mutation has occurred, probably fairly recently. There is about a 95 percent probability that the mutation between Minnesota Fawkner and Kentucky Faulconer occurred within about six generations. It could have happened a generation or two farther in the past. If the common ancestor was too many more generations back, we would have expected Kentucky Faulconer and Minnesota Fawkner to have more marker mismatches.

This is where genealogical research comes into play. In this case, proven pedigrees establish that they did not have a common ancestor back through Minnesota Fawkner’s 3rd great-grandfather. The identity of Minnesota Fawkner’s 4th great-grandfather is not known from traditional research. DNA suggests that the unknown 5th-great-grandfather might have been Kentucky Faulconer’s 2nd great-grandfather.

Gen0	Minnesota Fawkner	Kentucky Faulconer
Gen1	William Cyrus Fawkner 1905-1968	Elijah P. Faulconer 1889-1986
Gen2	Cyrus Gatewood Fawkner 1859-1943	Elijah Prophet Faulconer 1844-1939
Gen3	James Coleman Fawkner 1829-1889	Joseph Faulconer II 1801-1880
Gen4	John C. Fawkner Abt 1777-1839	Joseph Faulconer I 1757-1833
Gen5	??	John Faulconer ?-abt 1793

**Autosomal DNA.** If you take an autosomal DNA test, you will periodically receive lists of other tested individuals with enough common segments of DNA to be a possible cousin. For example, Ancestry reports having one person (“Florida Match”) in its database that is a possible 3rd cousin to Minnesota Barbara. It reports several dozen people who are estimated to be 4th-6th cousins. Some of these people have family trees attached to the database; many do not. “Matches” can be contacted through Ancestry.com. They may or may not respond, but if they do, Florida Match and Minnesota Barbara may be able to help each other break through a brick wall. In this case. In this case, Florida Match and Minnesota Barbara were able to identify a common ancestor in their trees.

Family Tree DNA provides a report similar to the Ancestry report, but gives more data, including the length of matching segments. For example, Jay and John have matches extending over 75 centimorgans, suggesting a possible 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> -cousin relationship. John has Polish and Swedish families in his tree, either of which could be shared with Jay. Jay and John have compared family trees, but have not yet found a common ancestor. The common ancestor might be too far back to be recognized, or either Jay or John might have an inaccurate tree.

Autosomal DNA can even hint at answers to questions that might ordinarily be answered with Y-DNA. A Tidball family settled in Pennsylvania in the early 1700s. Descendants have never known from where in England Thomas Tidball came. Minnesota Barbara is a descendant of another Tidball family that arrived in the United States in the 1880s. Her family has been traced back to the early 1700s in Exford, Somerset, England. Among Barbara’s autosomal DNA matches is a living person whose documented family tree goes back to the Pennsylvania family.

Thus, it seems likely that the early Pennsylvania and later Minnesota families are distantly related and that the Pennsylvania family may have come from the area around Exford.

### **Add DNA to Your Genealogy Toolkit**

DNA is a powerful tool, but it should be treated as just one more kind of evidence for genealogical research. DNA evidence can refute a hypothesized relationship or confirm that a relationship is possible, if not likely. Rarely will DNA prove a positive relationship. Rather, it must be used together with the kind of traditional research genealogists have been doing for years.

### **Learning Resources**

Aulicino, Aulicino, *Genetic Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond*, (Bloomington, Ind.: AuthorHouse, 2014).

Smolenyak, Megan Smolenyak and Ann Turner. *Trace Your Roots with DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree* (Rodale, 2004).

### **Blogs and Websites:**

International Society of Genetic Genealogy (<http://www.isogg.org/>).

Sorsenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation (<http://www.smgf.org/>).

Wayne Bettinger. *The Genetic Genealogist* (<http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com/>).

Roberta Estes. *DNAeXplained* (<http://www.dnaexplain.com/>).

Judy Russell, *The Legal Genealogist* ([www.TheLegalGenealogist.com](http://www.TheLegalGenealogist.com)).

CeCe Moore, *Your Genetic Genealogist* ([www.YourGeneticGenealogist.com](http://www.YourGeneticGenealogist.com)).

*Adoption and DNA* ([www.AdoptedDNA.com](http://www.AdoptedDNA.com))

# About Our Authors

**J. H. Fonkert**, CG, is a professional researcher, writer and lecturer specializing in 19th century Midwest research. He is past-president of the Minnesota Genealogical Society and managing editor of *Minnesota Genealogist*. Jay has published research and teaching articles in *Minnesota Genealogist*, *Family Chronicle*, *The Septs*, *NGS Magazine*, and the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

**Harold Henderson**, CG, has been a professional writer since 1979, a professional genealogist since 2009, and a board-certified genealogist since June 2012. He lives and works in northwest Indiana and at [midwestroots.net](http://midwestroots.net), and serves as a trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists. He has published articles in *American Ancestors Journal* (annual supplement to the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*), the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*.

**Lois Abromitis Mackin** researches Polish, Lithuanian, Cornish, German, Irish, and Scots ancestors in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. She holds a doctorate in history from Brown University and is an occasional genealogical speaker. Lois is a member of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, the Irish Genealogical Society International, the Germanic Genealogical Society, the Yankee Genealogical Society, the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

**Barbara A. Wilson, Ph.D.** is a retired professor of business communications at California State University Northridge. She is now a full-time genealogist traveling to Salt Lake City, the east coast, Ireland, Denmark, and Germany to conduct family research. Barbara especially enjoys incorporating photography into her manuscripts. Her current projects include multiple brick walls, writing, lineage society applications, and DNA genealogy.

**Barbara R. Wilson** began researching her family tree about ten years ago. Since retiring from General Mills in 2011, she has more time to document her family's history. Barbara was inspired to write the story of Liisa Pik by members of two groups, the Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota, for which she serves as a board member, and WOW (Women of Words). Barbara's current writing project is a biography of her grandmother.



# MINNESOTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## Branches, Affiliates and Special Interest Groups

Minnesota Genealogical Society is your gateway to your ethnic roots. The following MGS Branches and Affiliates make research materials available to MGS, Branch and Affiliate members at the MGS William J. Hoffman Library and Research Center. Unless otherwise noted, address correspondence to each group at 1185 Concord St. N., South St. Paul, MN 55075.

### MGS BRANCHES

#### **Danish-American Genealogical Society**

[www.danishgenealogy.org](http://www.danishgenealogy.org)

#### **Norwegian-American Genealogical Association**

[www.norwegianamerican.org](http://www.norwegianamerican.org)

#### **Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota**

[www.pgsmn.org](http://www.pgsmn.org)

#### **Pommern Regional Group of Minnesota**

[www.rootsweb.com/~mnprgm/PRG](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnprgm/PRG)

#### **Romanian Genealogical Society of Minnesota**

[www.romaniangenealogy.com](http://www.romaniangenealogy.com)

#### **Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota**

[www.sgsmn.org](http://www.sgsmn.org)

#### **Yankee Genealogical Society**

### MGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

#### **Canadian Genealogical and Heritage Society**

[www.mngs-lrc.org/Canadian](http://www.mngs-lrc.org/Canadian)

#### **DNA Interest Group**

Contact: Sue Crowley ([mgsdna@gmail.com](mailto:mgsdna@gmail.com))

#### **England and Wales Group**

Contact: Julia Mosman ([jwmos99@msn.com](mailto:jwmos99@msn.com))

#### **Legacy Software Group**

Contact: Bob Rowe ([rarthurrowe@comcast.net](mailto:rarthurrowe@comcast.net))

#### **MGS Writing Group**

Contact: Kathy Lund ([mlund8307@yahoo.com](mailto:mlund8307@yahoo.com))

### MGS LIBRARY AFFILIATES

#### **Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International**

[www.cgisi.org](http://www.cgisi.org)

#### **Ostfriesen Genealogical Society of America**

[www.ogsa.us](http://www.ogsa.us)

#### **Irish Genealogical Society International**

[www.irishgenealogical.org](http://www.irishgenealogical.org)

#### **Germanic Genealogy Society**

[www.ggsmn.org](http://www.ggsmn.org)

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### **MGS Spring Conference**

24-25 April 2015

Featuring:

Craig Scott, CG

Military Records for Family History

visit [mngs.org](http://mngs.org) for more information

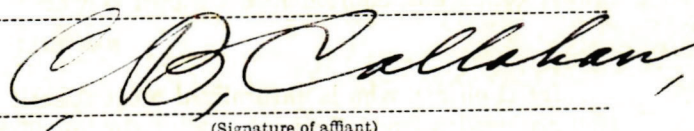
# What Next?

That the person whose name appears above is now  
~~deceased.~~ } Hollywood Knickerbocker Apt. Hotel, 1714 Ibar Ave., Hollywood, California  
 residing at (Street address and city or town) (State)  
 and was born in Indianapolis, Indiana  
 (City or town) (State)  
 on or about May 8, 1883, \_\_\_\_\_, and is ~~not~~ not related  
 (Month and date) (Year) (Name relationship or write "Not related")

My knowledge and belief of place and date of birth appearing above are based upon the following facts:

(If affiant is not closely related to person whose birth in the U. S. is to be proved state how and through what source the knowledge was acquired)

It is a matter of record that said Katharyn Fawkner's great-grandfather was the first judge in the state of Indiana and also gave the townsite to Danville, Indiana. Col. George S. Fawkner, father of Katharyn Fawkner enlisted in the 7th Indiana regiment, Civil War, served as Captain and was mustered out a Colonel. Mary G. Fawkner, mother of Katharyn and widow of George S. Fawkner draws a Civil War Government pension (widow's certificate # 480645. George S. Fawkner was appointed U.S. Timber Inspector, also U.S. Inspector of Surveys under Pres. Benjamin Harrison, retired under Pres. Grover Cleveland. I know Katharyn Fawkner to be his daughter. Have known family over twenty-five years, I do not doubt ~~her~~ her integrity.



(Signature of affiant)

Oil Producer and Operator,  
 (Occupation and name of firm)

Suite 1124 Bank of Italy Bldg.,  
 (Street address)

Note: image extracted from full page Affidavit of Birth to be Submitted with Application for American Passport, Katharyn Fawkner, 24 June, 1930.

What could be more official than an application for a U.S. passport? Proof of identity was essential. In her application, Katharyn stated that she was born 8 May 1883. C. B. Callahan gave an affidavit supporting Katharyn's claim and adding other biographical information.

Katharyn said she was born 8 May 1883 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The affiant, C. B. Callahan stated that he was not related to Katharyn.

Callahan related that Katharyn's great-grandfather was the first judge in Indiana and that he gave a townsite for Danville [Hendricks County], Indiana.

Katharyn's father, George S. Fawkner, served in the 7th Indiana Regiment during the Civil War.

Callahan stated that George's widow received a pension under certificate no. 480645.

George S. Fawkner was appointed U.S. Timber Inspector and U.S. Inspector of Surveys.

The information in this affidavit is a jumping off point for research in numerous other sources including censuses, city directories, Civil War pension files, local histories, U.S. government employee records, and contemporary newspapers. Research questions might include:

Who was Katharyn's great-grandfather?

Who was C. B. Callahan, and how was he acquainted with the Fawkner family?

What was George S. Fawkner's civil war experience and what connections led to his government appointments?

Callahan said he had known the family 25 years and that he did not doubt Katharyn's integrity. Despite his faith in Katharyn and the official nature of a passport application, Katharyn lied about her birth date. Katharyn was enumerated as three years old in the 1880 U.S. census and eight years old in the 1885 Minnesota census. Yet, her death certificate kept up the misinformation, repeating the 8 May 1883 birth date.



Minnesota Genealogical Society  
1185 Concord St. N., Ste. 218  
South Saint Paul MN 55075

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 28318

# Minnesota Genealogical Society

*Member of the National Genealogical Society and the Federation of Genealogical Societies*

## **Purpose**

Organized in 1969, the Minnesota Genealogical Society is a nonprofit organization that promotes interest in genealogy and family history, provides genealogical education, and collects genealogical, historical and biographical materials relating to Minnesota families.

## **Membership**

MGS membership is open to anyone interested in genealogy or family history. Members receive free admission to the MGS William J. Hoffman Library and Research Center, a digital edition of the MGS newsletter *Minnesota Families*, the MGS journal *Minnesota Genealogist*, and discounts for classes and conferences. The Society offers several free learning opportunities throughout the year. Annual dues are \$35 for individuals and \$45 for families.

## **Branches and Interest Groups**

MGS supports several ethnic and nationality branch organizations and interest groups. Several of these groups maintain their library collections in the MGS William J. Hoffman Library and Research Center.

## **Research Policy**

MGS Research Committee volunteers conduct research using the collections of the MGS William J. Hoffman Library and Research Center, and make occasional research trips to area repositories. The MGS collection includes Minnesota city directories, Hennepin and Ramsey County marriage records, some Minnesota Catholic church records, other library resources (see the MGS Library Catalog), and online databases. A research fee of \$25 per hour supports operations of the Library and Research Center. Send research requests to MGS Research Committee, 1885 Concord St. N. Suite 218, South St. Paul MN 55075, or [research@mngs.org](mailto:research@mngs.org).

## **Book Reviews**

Authors and publishers are invited to submit books for review by MGS volunteers. Send books to Managing Editor, *Minnesota Genealogist*, 1185 Concord St. N., South St. Paul, MN 55075. Please include price and ordering information. Books received may be added to the MGS William J. Hoffman Library and Research Center reference collection.

## **Donations**

MGS is grateful for donations that support the Society's library and educational programs. The Minnesota Genealogical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization under rules of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, and is a registered Minnesota nonprofit corporation.

**MGS Office and William J. Hoffman Library and Research Center**  
Located at Suite 218, 1185 Concord St. N., South St. Paul, MN 55075.