

GENEALOGY STORIES

Researching your ancestors
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I like to study the intersection of:

- Genealogy (“Who”)
 - Geography (“Where”)
 - History (“When”)
- Who + Where + When = Genealogy Story

OUTLINE

- Doing Genealogical Research
- Brief History of New England and Mid-Atlantic Colonies
- Miscellaneous Findings
- Let's Get Personal – A case study
- Questions

DOING GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Sources and Pitfalls

Recent Generation Research

- Personal Knowledge
- Obituaries
- Newspaper articles
- Phone directories

- Ancestry.com hides details about living individuals in family trees (but not in scanned records)
- Census data not available after 1940

Prior Generation Research

- Census data (see next slides)
 - Not available until 72 years after collected!
 - Everyone waiting for 1950 census results later in 2022!
 - Prior to 1850 only contained name of head-of-household and tic marks by gender and age ranges
- Obituaries
- Research by others (be careful!)
- Birth/Marriage/Death certificates
- Immigration records
- Newspaper archives
- Military records
- Family stories (be careful!)

Census Records (and problems!)

- Based on ORAL interview (cannot assume literacy)
 - Census taker asks structured questions
 - Interviewee interprets what they heard
 - Mentally retrieves answer that they think is correct
 - Gives oral response
 - Census taker writes down what they believe they heard (**cannot** ask person to spell the name!)
- Mistakes can happen at each step!
- Because it takes time to get to everyone, life intervenes – people move, people aren't home, etc.

Census (cont.)

- Life events that intervene
 - Adoptions that may not be officially recorded
 - People get married and their name changes (finding maiden names is a continuing problem!)
 - Unrecorded births/deaths, illegitimate births
- Other issues
 - Census taker makes assumptions that may or may not be true
 - Nicknames/middle names
 - World changes
 - Interpreting hand-written records

Silas Russell

Great*3 grandfather of
Alan Russell

1850 Census

347	569	Silas Russell	47	M	
		Esther Russell	40	F	

1870 Census

443	475	Russel Silas	66	M	W
		Hester	63	F	W
		Andrew	16	M	W

??

Merchant

Great-great grandfather
of Alan Russell

1870 Census

Harvey

1880 Census

Harvey

1900 Census

Frank

Ellen Lois Rogers

Great-great grandmother of Alan Russell

1850 Census

10	Benj. J. Rodgers	36	M
	Lois J. Rodgers	96	F
	Martha A. "	13	F
	Mary J. "	8	F

1851 Birth Register

Ellen Lois Rogers	Female	See	Benj. J. & Lois J. Rogers
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1860 Census Record

James L. Drake	45	M	Carpenter & joiner
Mary H. "	45	F	Housekeeper
Mary L. "	9	F	
Mary J. Rodgers	18	F	Servant

David Davies

Grandfather of a friend from church

1930 Census Record – Allentown PA

Davies, David J	Head	0	4500	70	M	W	58	M	54	No	Yes	Maine	Maine
Charlotte N.	Wife - DV			V	F	W	47	M	31	No	Yes	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania

1911 Arrival Record

STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICE
 to the United States Immigration Officer by the Comm
 Arriving at Port of PORTLAND, M E.

Davies, David 33 M Blacksmith 400 400 Melch Wales Allensworth

Kowalski Family

October 1862 Ship's Register

Kowalsky M.	29
do Wladimir	33
do Emilia	12
do Emil	11
do Carolina	7
do Adolph	6
do Emma	2

50	50	Kowalski Michael	31	11	11	Yarmou			Poland
		Minnie	42	4	11	Leipzig-house			Poland
		Amelia	21	4	11	At home			Poland
		Minnie	15	4	11	At home			Poland
		Adolph	12	11	11	At home			Poland
		Emma	10	4	11	At home			Poland
		Michael	8	11	11	At home			Illinois

1870 Census

1880 Census

Russia
Prussia
New York
Wiss

1900 Census

Kowalski Michael	Head	9 M Jan 1836 7 1/2	Germany
do Emma	Wife	47 M Oct 1862 37 1/2	at sea

Albert Noah Miller

Great-grandfather of someone from our church

Obituary from Reading Eagle (1924)

"Left an orphan at an early age, he was adopted and reared by the late Dr. A. P. Fetherolf ... father of Dr. Fred A. Fetherolf."

due to complications. Aside from her husband she leaves two daughters, Mrs. Annie Coleman and Mrs. Sarah Shuter and 10 grandchildren.

MRS. MARY CASEY.

Pottsville, June 5.—Mary, widow of Patrick Casey, died at her home in Branchdale, aged 35 years. She was one of Branchdale's oldest residents. Her husband, who was fire boss at Otto Colliery for many years, preceded her in death 18 or 20 years. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Andrew Ganley, with whom she resided.

ALBERT N. MILLER.

Allentown, June 5.—After a short illness Dr. Albert N. Miller, of East Texas, one of the best known physicians of Eastern Pennsylvania passed away aged 69 years. Dr. Miller was the kind of physician who believed in preventive measures, and was a noted advocate of the use of fruits and fresh vegetables, which he often prescribed rather than medicine.

To indulge his propensity for raising fruits and vegetables he acquired the former Yeaker farm, a beautiful tract of more than 100 acres, adjoining the village of East Texas and a part of it on Friday a week, in a pouring rain, when he knew he ought not to have done such work, he spent the afternoon planting a new strawberry patch. He returned home exhausted, soon had a chill, and next day was suffering with pneumonia. For convenience of treatment he was brought to the Sacred Heart Hospital, where his personal physician, Dr. Fred A. Fetherolf, and the entire staff took an interest in his case.

Left an orphan at an early age, he was adopted and reared by the

late Dr. A. P. Fetherolf, of Chapman's, father of Dr. Fred A. Fetherolf. While going to school he helped to do work. In the township schools he acquired a good rudimentary education and when a youth attended Millersville Normal, and for a year or two taught school. While living with Dr. Fetherolf he read medicine and in 1877 was graduated from Bellevue Medical College.

He is survived by his widow, who was Miss Mamie Schwartz, of Allentown; one son, Austin Miller, who lives on the farm, and three daughters, Mrs. Wallace Bauer and Mrs. Howard Snyder, of East Texas, and Mrs. Ed Noll, of Easton. There are also six grandchildren.

MRS. EMMA C. WILHELM.

Allentown, June 5.—After an illness of one year with apoplexy, Mrs. Emma C. Wilhelm, wife of Thomas M. Wilhelm, well-known retired baker, died, aged 76 years, 2 months and 11 days. She was born in South Whitehall, a daughter of the late David and Angelina Stephens, and was married 40 years ago. For the past 29 years the family lived in the home where she died, at 348 North Eighth street. She leaves her husband, one brother, George Stephens, of Walber's, and three sisters, Mrs. Sarah Ann Troxell, of Mehan'sville; Mrs. Calvin Miller, of Ormrod, and Mrs. Elenora Lazarus, of Eagle Point. Her one child, a daughter, Miss Isabel Wilhelm, preceded her in death by 17 years.

Mrs. Wilhelm was a member of Trinity United Evangelical Church. Her pastor, Rev. Arthur G. Flexer, and a former pastor, Rev. F. S. Borkey, now of Reading, will officiate at the funeral services.

1870 Census

Fetherolf, Abi. P.	36 m	"	Physician
" Susan B.	35 f	"	
" Minerva	4 f	"	
Miller Albert	13 m	"	

1860 Census

Philip Fetherolf	58 m	Retiree Farmer
Maria "	53 f	
Albert Miller	3 m	
Caroline Fetherolf	20 f	

Death Certificate

10. NAME OF FATHER	David Miller
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) (State or country)	Pa.
12. NAME OF MOTHER	Elizabeth Fetherolf
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) (State or country)	Pa.

Albert was born in December 1856. His mother, Elizabeth, died in October 1857 when Albert was only 10 months old. His father, David, died in January 1859 at which time Albert, being a 2-year old orphan, was taken in and raised by his grandparents. When his grandfather died in 1868, his uncle Abraham, who had married a few years earlier, took Albert, then 11 years old, in and continued raising him.

Albert Noah Miller

"Left an orphan at an early age, he was adopted and reared by the late Dr. A. P. Fetherolf ... father of Dr. Fred A. Fetherolf."

That little “,” in the first line is all about the missing NINE years in his life story. He was orphaned at age 2, but was not adopted (by his uncle) until age 11.

Learnings

- Check your facts!
- Cross-check multiple sources
- Concentrate on the big picture (the STORY)
- Have fun!

HISTORY OF COLONIAL AMERICA

Colonial New England, etc.

- 1620 – Pilgrims
- 1625 – Dutch settle Hudson Valley
- 1630-1640 – Mass Bay Colony (20K)
- 1636 – Roger Williams – Providence
- 1636 – Thomas Hooker – Hartford
- 1638 – Swedes settle New Sweden
- 1638 – John Davenport – New Haven
- 1662 – English take over NY
- 1662 – CT charter extends to west coast
- 1666 – Abraham Pierson – New Ark, NJ
- 1681 – William Penn (Quakers)
- 1727-1775 – Germans to PA (65K)
- 1769-1784 – Pennamite Wars



MISCELLANEOUS FINDINGS

Connections

- 1,000 of 20,000 Great Migration individuals are my direct ancestors
- 95% of people in my church (Emmaus Bible Fellowship) are related to others in the church via common ancestors or marriage in one gigantic web – most being part of the German migration to PA in 1700s
 - That includes one instance of marriage between first cousins!
 - 2/3 of them are related to me – even though I have ZERO German blood
- 1/3 of my 160 high school classmates (Wolcott, CT) are my cousins
- If you can find King John I of England in your family tree (which I can), then you are related to EVERY US President

Connections (cont.)

- Since people historically married in early 20's (on average), and had children between age 25-35, there are about 3-4 generations every hundred years
 - Example - If you were born around 1950 and those in the Great Migration were born around 1600, that's 350 years or about 11 generations
 - So if you and someone else were both descended from one of those individuals, then you would be roughly 10th cousins

A Word on Cousin-ness

1. Find the common ancestor between two individuals
2. Describe the relationship by counting the number of "G"s, e.g. Great-Grandfather = 2
3. The difference between the two counts is the "removed", i.e. the number you have to chop off one leg to balance the tree
4. The number of "G"s left on each side (i.e. the smaller of the two original numbers) is the degree of cousin-ness

Example, my great-great-great-great-grandfather (or abbreviated as great*4-grandfather) is the same person as your great*7 grandfather. Counts are 5 and 8. $8-5=3$. So you are my 5th cousin, 3 times removed.