



A SAPLING FAMILY HISTORY

William Alexander Smith

An Account of His Lineage

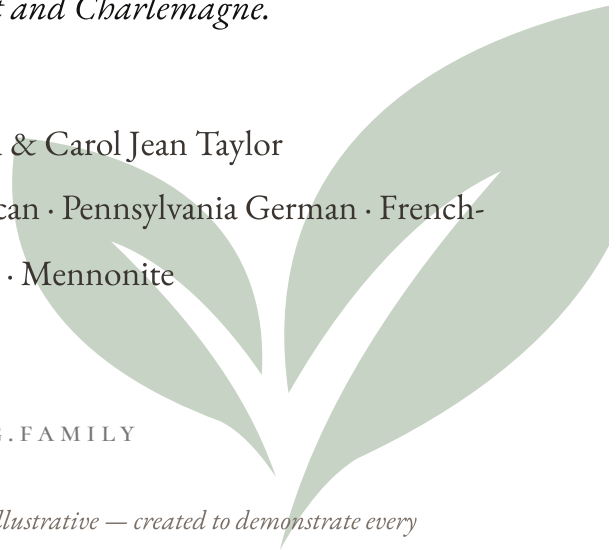
*From the Wiltshire downs, the seigneuries of New France, and the Molotschna
steppe to the Colorado Front Range — and back through the courts of medieval
Europe to Alfred the Great and Charlemagne.*

Son of Robert James Smith & Carol Jean Taylor

Heritage English colonial · African American · Pennsylvania German · French-
Canadian · Hessian · Mennonite

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*A sample report. The Smith family shown here is illustrative — created to demonstrate every
feature of the Sapling Platinum format. Client reports are built the same way, from
documented research into your own family history.*



Foreword

Heritage

Your ancestors reached North America in several distinct streams across three centuries. Your father's side is English colonial (Smith, Hobbs), French-Canadian (Marchand, de Rousse), Pennsylvania German (Stern, Boyer, Speth), and Hessian German (Weber, Hartmann). Your mother's side is African American from Middle Tennessee (Taylor, Anderson, Coleman, French), Mennonite from Prussia by way of South Russia (Remple, Friesen), and English by way of Virginia and Ohio (Ash). By the early twentieth century nearly all of these lines had converged on Iowa, Kansas, and the Colorado Front Range, where the family remains today.

Through your father's Smith line the family reaches back to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and through the immigrant's mother, Elizabeth Thornbury, into the armigerous English gentry. From the Nevilles of Raby the line ascends through Joan Beaufort, Countess of Westmorland, to her father John of Gaunt and her grandfather King Edward III, and from there back through the Plantagenet, Norman, Flemish, and West Saxon royal houses — to William the Conqueror, to Alfred the Great, and ultimately to Charlemagne and Charles Martel, forty-two documented generations from you. A descent of this kind, reaching a medieval king through a gentle daughter who married into a trade family, is exactly how most documented royal lines arrive in ordinary American families — rare to be able to prove, but no longer surprising once proven.

Father's Family

The Smith family may be traced to Marlborough, in Wiltshire, where Richard Smith (c. 1578-1642) was a clothier in the last years of Elizabeth I. His son, Deacon Thomas Smith (1608-89), joined the Great Migration of Puritan families to New England, sailing from London in 1635 and settling at Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The family moved up the Connecticut River to the new town of Hadley in the 1660s and farmed there for four generations; Deacon Josiah Smith (1751-1824) marched with the Hampshire County militia in the Saratoga campaign of 1777. His son Elijah took the family to the Western Reserve of Ohio in 1817, and Elijah's son Nathaniel carried it on to Marshall County, Iowa, in 1856. George Albert Smith (1845-1919) enlisted at seventeen in the 23rd Iowa Volunteer Infantry and served through the Vicksburg campaign. His son Charles went west to Denver in 1906 and opened the hardware

store above which your grandfather Harold Eugene Smith (1912-87) — a navigator with the Eighth Air Force in the Second World War — grew up.

Charles Smith's wife, Adele Marchand (1888-1966), came of the old French families of the St. Lawrence. Her line begins in North America with Nicolas de Rousse, who left the Perche for New France in 1665 as a hired man, and Marie Aubert of Rouen, who crossed in 1669 as one of the *filles du roi*, the "King's Daughters" whose passage and dowry were paid by Louis XIV. They cleared a riverfront farm at Batiscan, near Trois-Rivieres, where their descendants remained for two hundred years before Joseph Marchand and Mary Louise de Rousse brought the family into the United States in 1867, settling at last on a farm near Leon, Iowa.

Your grandmother Lois Anne Sterner's people are Pennsylvania Germans. Hans Georg Sterner emigrated from Edenkoben, in the Rhenish Palatinate, in 1738, taking the oath of allegiance at Philadelphia that September and clearing a farm in the Oley Valley of Berks County that stayed under Sterner names for four generations. William Henry Sterner (1853-1928) went west in 1879 and settled in Pueblo, Colorado, where his son Ernest spent forty-three years as a machinist at the Colorado Fuel and Iron steelworks. William's wife, Amanda "Mollie" Boyer (1869-1951), was born at St. Joseph, Missouri, while her Lancaster County family was making its way west to Panora, Iowa — her father Joseph Clinton Boyer had freighted goods for the overland trade before settling to farm.

The Webers are the family's most recent European arrivals. Gustav Weber left the farming country around Marburg, in Hesse, in 1881, at nineteen, and proved up a homestead southwest of Emporia, Kansas; Emma Hartmann followed from Giessen in 1884 to join her brother, and they married the next spring. Their daughter Clara moved to Pueblo in 1912, where she met and married Ernest Sterner.

Mother's Family

Your mother's father's family is African American, from Middle Tennessee. The story that can be documented begins at Emancipation: Wesley Taylor and Harriet Vaughn, both born into slavery in Williamson County, solemnized their marriage before a Freedmen's Bureau official in 1866, among the first legal marriages of the county's freedpeople. No records of the family survive from before Emancipation — an absence that is itself part of the historical record of slavery, and the reason these lines cannot yet be traced further. Their son John Wesley Taylor Sr. (1868-1925) was a railroad baggageman and a deacon of St. John's A.M.E. Church in Nashville; he bought the family's house on Jefferson Street. His son John Jr. moved to Kansas City, Kansas, in 1910, part of the Great Migration of Black families out of the South, and worked in the packing houses and foundries there. Your grandfather Wesley Robert Taylor (1910-79) came to Des

Moines in 1935 as a dining-car waiter on the Rock Island Line, was a long-standing member of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and later served two decades as a trustee of Corinthian Baptist Church.

John Taylor Jr.'s wife, Ada Coleman (1892-1970), was the daughter of Samuel Coleman, who kept a blacksmith shop on the Columbia Pike at Franklin for thirty-five years, and Katie French (1862-1937), a midwife whose account book recorded more than six hundred births in Williamson and Davidson counties.

Your grandmother Dorothy Remple's people are Mennonites. The Remples were of the Vistula delta settlements near Danzig, in West Prussia, and joined the migration of Prussian Mennonites to the newly opened Molotschna colony in South Russia — present-day Ukraine — in 1804. When Russia moved to end the colonies' exemption from military service, Heinrich Remple and Katharina Friesen came to America in the great Mennonite emigration of 1875, among the founding families of Mountain Lake, Minnesota. Their son John David Remple, a carpenter, followed the building trade to Pueblo, Colorado, in 1902.

John Remple's wife, Nell Ash (1886-1958), was born in Pueblo the year after her parents came out from Iowa. The Ash family was of English Quaker descent, in Loudoun County, Virginia, by the mid-1700s; Thomas Ash took the family over the mountains to free soil in Ross County, Ohio, in 1804, and Amos Ash carried it on to Page County, Iowa, in 1856, where his son Lenox grew fruit stock for the famous Shenandoah nurseries. Emory Ash brought the line to Pueblo in 1885 to work as a carpenter at the steelworks.

— *Professor Bradley, Sapling Family History*

Narrative

GENERATION 1

Generation 1 — Subject

William Alexander Smith

The subject of this report; son of Robert James Smith and Carol Jean Taylor.

GENERATION 2

Generation 2 — Parents

Robert James Smith

Son of Harold Eugene Smith and Lois Anne Sterner · b. 8 Sep 1941 in Denver, Denver, CO · m. 15 Jun 1968 in Denver, Denver, CO to Carol Jean Taylor

SAPLING NOTES

He graduated from the University of Colorado in 1963 with a degree in mechanical engineering and spent his career in Denver's aerospace industry, working on launch-vehicle ground systems. He met Carol Jean Taylor while both were volunteering at the Denver Public Library's literacy program, and they married in 1968.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- William Alexander Smith
- Susan Marie Smith — *born on 2 Oct 1975 in Denver, Denver, CO*

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Carol Jean Taylor

Daughter of Wesley Robert Taylor and Dorothy Remple · b. 21 Jun 1945 in Des Moines, Polk, IA · m. 15 Jun 1968 in Denver, Denver, CO to Robert James Smith

SAPLING NOTES

She was born in Des Moines and moved with her family to Denver in 1953. She graduated from Colorado State College in Greeley in 1967 with a B.A. in elementary education and taught for thirty years in the Denver Public Schools, most of them at Stedman Elementary in Park Hill.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

GENERATION 3

Generation 3 — Grandparents

Harold Eugene Smith

Son of Charles Henry Smith and Adele Marchand · b. 2 Feb 1912 in Denver, Denver, CO · d. 19 Nov 1987 in Denver, Denver, CO · m. 20 Aug 1938 in Denver, Denver, CO to Lois Anne Sterner

SAPLING NOTES

He grew up over his father's hardware store on Larimer Street and graduated from East High School in 1930. During the Second World War he trained as a navigator in the U.S. Army Air Forces and served with the Eighth Air Force in England from 1943 to 1945, flying thirty combat missions. After the war he joined the Gates Rubber Company in Denver, where he worked as a plant engineer until his retirement in 1977.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- Robert James Smith
- Richard Alan Smith — born on 3 Apr 1943 in Denver, Denver, CO
- Nancy Ellen Smith — born on 29 Jul 1947 in Denver, Denver, CO

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Lois Anne Sterner

Daughter of Ernest William Sterner and Clara Weber · b. 30 May 1916 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO · d. 12 Apr 2004 in Denver, Denver, CO · m. 20 Aug 1938 in Denver, Denver, CO to Harold Eugene Smith

SAPLING NOTES

She grew up in the shadow of the Pueblo steelworks where her father was a machinist, and graduated from Pueblo Central High School in 1934. She taught in the Pueblo elementary schools before her marriage, and after moving to Denver remained a substitute teacher and an active volunteer with the public library for many years.

→ Full source record in Appendix.



Lois Anne Sterner as a child, about 1922



Lois Anne Sterner (1916–2004) at eighteen, 1934

Wesley Robert Taylor

Son of John Wesley Taylor Jr and Ada Coleman · b. 17 Oct 1910 in Kansas City, Wyandotte, KS · d. 3 Aug 1979 in Des Moines, Polk, IA · m. 14 Nov 1936 in Des Moines, Polk, IA to Dorothy Remple

SAPLING NOTES

He was born in Kansas City, Kansas, where his parents had moved from Nashville, and finished Sumner High School in 1928. In 1935 he took a position as a dining-car waiter on the Rock Island Line out of Des Moines, and he remained a proud, dues-paying member of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters throughout his railroad years. From 1954 until his retirement he worked as a clerk at the Des Moines main post office, and he served for two decades as a trustee of Corinthian Baptist Church.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- Carol Jean Taylor
- Robert Earl Taylor — born on 30 Sep 1938 in Des Moines, Polk, IA
- Barbara Ann Taylor — born on 15 Dec 1941 in Des Moines, Polk, IA

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Dorothy Remple

Daughter of John David Remple and Nell Ash · b. 25 Jul 1915 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO · d. 8 Jan 1998 in Des Moines, Polk, IA · m. 14 Nov 1936 in Des Moines, Polk, IA to Wesley Robert Taylor

SAPLING NOTES

She grew up in Pueblo, Colorado, the daughter of a Mennonite carpenter, and moved to Des Moines in 1934, where she worked as a seamstress in the alterations department of the Younkers department store. She married Wesley Robert Taylor in 1936, and the couple raised their family on the city's east side. She was known in the family for her quilting, and several of her quilts are still passed down among her grandchildren.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Generation 4 — Great-Grandparents

Charles Henry Smith

Son of George Albert Smith and Ellen Maria Hobbs · b. 11 Apr 1884 in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA · d. 3 Oct 1951 in Denver, Denver, CO · m. 12 Jun 1910 in Denver, Denver, CO to Adele Marchand

SAPLING NOTES

He grew up on his father's farm outside Marshalltown, Iowa, and clerked in a dry-goods store in town before going west to Denver in 1906. There he opened a hardware store on Larimer Street that he ran for nearly forty years, living with his family in rooms above the shop until 1922, when he bought a house in the Park Hill neighborhood. His son Walter died in the influenza epidemic of 1918, a loss the family marked every November.



*Charles Henry
Smith (1884–1951),
about 1905*

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- Harold Eugene Smith
- Marie Louise Smith — *born on 18 Aug 1914 in Denver, Denver, CO*
- Walter Charles Smith — *born on 25 May 1917 in Denver, Denver, CO and died on 4 Nov 1918 in Denver, Denver, CO*

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Adele Marchand

Daughter of Henri Marchand and Josephine Bergeron · b. 2 Dec 1888 in Leon, Decatur, IA · d. 15 Feb 1966 in Denver, Denver, CO · m. 12 Jun 1910 in Denver, Denver, CO to Charles Henry Smith

SAPLING NOTES

She was born in Leon, Iowa, to a French-Canadian farming family and grew up speaking French at home. In 1908 she moved to Denver with her elder sister Corinne, where she worked as a milliner in a shop on Sixteenth Street until her marriage. She was a lifelong parishioner of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Denver.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Ernest William Sterner

Son of William Henry Sterner and Amanda Mary Boyer · b. 14 Jul 1892 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO · d. 21 Sep 1961 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO · m. 30 Sep 1914 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO to Clara Weber

SAPLING NOTES

He spent his entire working life as a machinist at the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company's Minnequa steelworks in Pueblo, hiring on at eighteen and retiring after forty-three years. He was a member of the machinists' lodge and, like his father, of the Woodmen of the World fraternal order.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- Lois Anne Sterner
- **Carl Gustav Sterner** — *born on 8 Feb 1919 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO*
- **Ruth Emma Sterner** — *born on 17 Jun 1922 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO*

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Clara Weber

Daughter of Gustav Weber and Emma Hartmann · b. 3 Mar 1893 in Emporia, Lyon, KS · d. 30 Dec 1975 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO · m. 30 Sep 1914 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO to Ernest William Sterner

SAPLING NOTES

She was born on her parents' homestead near Emporia, Kansas, the youngest child of German immigrants, and grew up speaking German at home and English at school. In 1912 she moved to Pueblo, Colorado, to keep house for her uncle, and there met Ernest Sterner at a church social. She was famous in the family for her Christmas stollen, baked from her mother's Hessian recipe.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

John Wesley Taylor Jr.

Son of John Wesley Taylor Sr and Margaret Anderson · b. 9 Jan 1890 in Nashville, Davidson, TN · d. 26 Jun 1957 in Kansas City, Wyandotte, KS · m. 26 Dec 1909 in Nashville, Davidson, TN to Ada Coleman

SAPLING NOTES

He was born in Nashville and educated through the eighth grade at the Knowles School. In 1910, shortly after his marriage, he and Ada joined the growing movement of Black families out of the South and moved to Kansas City, Kansas, where he worked first in the Armour packing plant and later, for more than twenty-five years, as a molder in a foundry. He served as a deacon of the Eighth Street Baptist Church and helped organize its building fund in the 1920s.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- Wesley Robert Taylor
- Cornelia Taylor — born on 4 Mar 1913 in Kansas City, Wyandotte, KS
- Katie Mae Taylor — born on 22 Jul 1916 in Kansas City, Wyandotte, KS

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Ada Coleman

Daughter of Samuel Coleman and Katie French · b. 17 May 1892 in Franklin, Williamson, TN · d. 4 Nov 1970 in Des Moines, Polk, IA · m. 26 Dec 1909 in Nashville, Davidson, TN to John Wesley Taylor Jr

SAPLING NOTES

She was born in Franklin, Tennessee, where her father kept a blacksmith shop, and trained under her mother, a midwife, before her marriage. In Kansas City she took in sewing and was a mainstay of her church's missionary society. After her husband's death she lived with her son's family in Des Moines.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

John David Remple

Son of Heinrich Remple and Katharina Friesen · b. 28 Feb 1878 in Mountain Lake, Cottonwood, MN · d. 16 Jul 1952 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO · m. 4 Jun 1906 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO to Nell Ash

SAPLING NOTES

He was born in the Mennonite farming colony at Mountain Lake, Minnesota, the first of his family born in America, and learned the carpenter's trade from his father. In 1902 he went to Pueblo, Colorado, where building work was plentiful around the growing steelworks, and he worked there as a finish carpenter for nearly fifty years. Though he married outside the Mennonite church, he kept its plain habits all his life and was known for never signing a contract he would not shake hands on.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- **Henry Remple** — *born on 21 Apr 1908 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO*
- **Della Katharina Remple** — *born on 30 Nov 1911 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO*
- Dorothy Remple
- **Amos John Remple** — *born on 9 Mar 1918 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO*

→ Full source record in Appendix.



*John David Remple
(1878–1952) and
Nell Ash, about 1935*

Nell Ash

Daughter of Emory Ash and Della Winters · b. 6 Sep 1886 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO · d. 22 Mar 1958 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO · m. 4 Jun 1906 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO to John David Remple

SAPLING NOTES

She was born in Pueblo the year after her parents came out from Iowa, and her girlhood portrait was taken at the Wagner studio on South Union Avenue about 1899. She worked before her marriage as a clerk in the Crews-Beggs dry-goods store, and afterward kept the family's books for her husband's carpentry work. A later snapshot shows her with her husband John in their garden about 1935.

→ Full source record in Appendix.



Nell Ash (1886–1958) at about thirteen — Wagner studio, Pueblo, Colorado

Generation 5 — 2nd Great-Grandparents

George Albert Smith

Son of Nathaniel Smith and Lucy Bartlett · b. 4 Aug 1845 in Ashtabula, Ashtabula, OH · d. 12 Dec 1919 in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA · m. 8 Oct 1868 in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA to Ellen Maria Hobbs

SAPLING NOTES

He was eleven when his parents left Ohio for Marshall County, Iowa, in 1856. In August 1862, a few days past his seventeenth birthday, he enlisted in Company G of the 23rd Iowa Volunteer Infantry and served through the Vicksburg campaign, including the fighting at the Big Black River Bridge in May 1863. He was mustered out in the summer of 1865 and came home to farm the family land outside Marshalltown, which he worked for the rest of his life. He was a charter member of his local Grand Army of the Republic post and marched in the Decoration Day parade every year he was able.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- **Willis George Smith** — *born on 12 Sep 1870 in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA*
- **Mary Ellen Smith** — *born on 3 Jan 1873 in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA*
- **Frank Albert Smith** — *born on 26 Nov 1876 in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA*
- **Cora Belle Smith** — *born on 14 Feb 1880 in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA*
- **Charles Henry Smith**

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Ellen Maria Hobbs

Daughter of Alfred Hobbs and Sarah Jane Millward · b. 12 Oct 1850 in Newark, Licking, OH · d. 9 Mar 1927 in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA · m. 8 Oct 1868 in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA to George Albert Smith

SAPLING NOTES

She was born in Licking County, Ohio, the daughter of English immigrants from Kent, and came with her family to Marshall County, Iowa, in 1857. She taught a term of country school before her marriage and was for many years the recording secretary of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Marshalltown Methodist church.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Henri Marchand

Son of Joseph Marchand and Mary Louise de Rousse · b. 15 Jun 1858 in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada · d. 9 May 1931 in Leon, Decatur, IA · m. 21 Feb 1882 in Kankakee, Kankakee, IL to Josephine Bergeron

SAPLING NOTES

He was nine years old when his parents left Quebec for the United States in 1867. He met Josephine Bergeron in the French-Canadian settlement at Kankakee, Illinois, where they married in 1882 before joining his parents on the farm near Leon, Iowa. He raised shorthorn cattle and served a term as a township trustee, and the Marchand farm stayed in the family until 1946.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- **Ludger Marchand** — *born on 2 Dec 1883 in Leon, Decatur, IA*
- **Corinne Marchand** — *born on 19 Apr 1885 in Leon, Decatur, IA*
- **Adele Marchand**
- **Emile Marchand** — *born on 7 Sep 1891 in Leon, Decatur, IA*

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Josephine Bergeron

Daughter of Pierre Bergeron and Marguerite Lambert · b. 22 Jan 1863 in Kankakee, Kankakee, IL · d. 17 Aug 1940 in Leon, Decatur, IA · m. 21 Feb 1882 in Kankakee, Kankakee, IL to Henri Marchand

SAPLING NOTES

She was born in the French-Canadian colony at Kankakee, Illinois, where her parents had settled after leaving Quebec, and she carried the colony's traditions of New Year's Day visiting and tourtiere into her Iowa farmhouse. She and Henri raised four children, and she was remembered as the family's great keeper of names, dates, and photographs.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

William Henry Sterner

Son of Daniel Sterner and Susanna Hoch · b. 19 Mar 1853 in Oley, Berks, PA · d. 2 Nov 1928 in Colorado Springs, El Paso, CO · m. 12 Jun 1889 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO to Amanda Mary Boyer

SAPLING NOTES

He was raised on a Pennsylvania-German farm in the Oley Valley of Berks County and went west in 1879, working as a carpenter in Kansas before settling in Pueblo, Colorado. He later moved his trade to Colorado Springs, where he was for many years clerk of his camp of the Woodmen of the World; his portrait in the order's uniform, taken at Colorado Springs about 1900, is one of the family's treasures. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Colorado Springs.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- Ernest William Sterner
- Grace Amanda Sterner — *born on 24 Aug 1894 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO*
- Harry Boyer Sterner — *born on 5 May 1897 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO*

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*



William Henry Sterner and Amanda "Mollie" Boyer — Pueblo, Colorado, about 1895



William Henry Sterner (1853–1928) in Woodmen of the World uniform — Colorado Springs, about 1900

Amanda Mary Boyer

Daughter of Joseph Clinton Boyer and Harriet Speth · b. 7 Apr 1869 in St. Joseph, Buchanan, MO · d. 26 Jan 1951 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO · m. 12 Jun 1889 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO to William Henry Sterner

SAPLING NOTES

Known throughout her life as "Mollie," she was born at St. Joseph, Missouri, while her Pennsylvania-German parents were making their way west, and grew up on their farm near Panora,

Iowa. A portrait taken at St.

Joseph about 1884 shows her at fifteen, on a visit to her mother's people there. She went out to Colorado in 1888 to keep house for a cousin, met William

Sterner within the year, and married him in Pueblo in 1889. Two later portraits, taken about 1895 and about 1900, show her in the years her children were young.

→ Full source record in Appendix.



*Amanda "Mollie"
Boyer, about 1895*



*Amanda "Mollie"
Boyer at fifteen —
Sours studio, St.
Joseph, Missouri,
about 1884*



*Amanda Mary
"Mollie" Boyer
(1869–1951), about
1900*

Gustav Weber

*Son of Johann Georg Weber and Anna Katharina Schaefer · b. 11 Nov 1861 in Marburg, Hesse, Germany
· d. 8 Apr 1934 in Emporia, Lyon, KS · m. 5 May 1885 in Emporia, Lyon, KS to Emma Hartmann*

SAPLING NOTES

He left the farming country around Marburg, in Hesse, in 1881, sailing from Bremen to Baltimore at the age of nineteen, and worked his way west on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad to Lyon County, Kansas, where he proved up a homestead southwest of Emporia. His portrait taken about 1888 shows him as a young farmer newly established; a family portrait from about 1893 shows him with Emma and their infant daughter Clara. He served on the school board of his district and helped found the German Methodist church at Emporia.



*Gustav and Emma
Weber with their
daughter Clara,
about 1893*



*Gustav Weber
(1861–1934), about
1888*

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- **Otto Weber** — *born on 20 Feb 1886 in Emporia, Lyon, KS*
- **Wilhelm Weber** — *born on 8 Jul 1888 in Emporia, Lyon, KS*
- **Clara Weber**

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Emma Hartmann

Daughter of Konrad Hartmann and Elisabetha Vogel · b. 25 May 1866 in Giessen, Hesse, Germany · d. 14 Oct 1940 in Emporia, Lyon, KS · m. 5 May 1885 in Emporia, Lyon, KS to Gustav Weber

SAPLING NOTES

She emigrated from Giessen, in Hesse, in 1884 to join her elder brother, who had settled at Emporia, Kansas, and she married Gustav Weber the following spring. Her wedding-year portrait, taken at the Page studio in Emporia, shows her in the dress she was married in. She was a founding member of the ladies' circle of the German Methodist church and kept her Hessian recipes in a hand-written book that survives in the family.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*



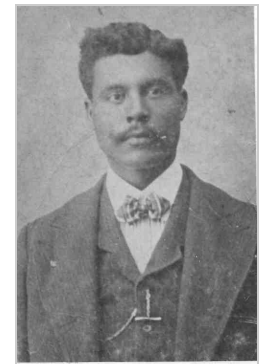
*Emma Hartmann
(1866–1940) in her
wedding year —
Emporia, Kansas,
1885*

John Wesley Taylor Sr.

Son of Wesley Taylor and Harriet Vaughn · b. 3 Jul 1868 in Nashville, Davidson, TN · d. 18 Feb 1925 in Nashville, Davidson, TN · m. 30 Apr 1889 in Nashville, Davidson, TN to Margaret Anderson

SAPLING NOTES

He was born in Nashville three years after Emancipation, the son of parents who had been enslaved in Middle Tennessee. He worked for more than thirty years as a baggageman for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, one of the steadiest positions then open to a Black man in the city, and he used that steadiness to buy the family a house on Jefferson Street. He was ordained a deacon of St. John's A.M.E. Church in 1901 and served the congregation until his death. His portrait, taken about 1900, shows him in his Sunday best with his watch chain.



*John Wesley Taylor
Sr. (1868–1925),
about 1900*

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- John Wesley Taylor Jr
- Cornelia Taylor — *born on 15 Jun 1892 in Nashville, Davidson, TN*
- Booker Anderson Taylor — *born on 30 Oct 1896 in Nashville, Davidson, TN*

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Margaret Anderson

Daughter of Elias Anderson and Celia Anderson · b. 15 Aug 1861 in Davidson County, TN · d. 30 Sep 1935 in Nashville, Davidson, TN · m. 30 Apr 1889 in Nashville, Davidson, TN to John Wesley Taylor Sr

SAPLING NOTES

She was born in Davidson County, Tennessee, in the last years of slavery, and came of age in freedom in Nashville. She trained as a dressmaker and built a clientele among the city's church women; her portrait taken about 1885, when she was in her early twenties, shows the fine needlework of a dress of her own making. After her marriage she kept her trade, and she put each of her children through the Knowles School with it. She was a member of St. John's A.M.E. Church for over forty years.



*Margaret Anderson
(1861–1935), about
1885*

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Samuel Coleman

Son of Green Coleman · b. 1858 in Franklin, Williamson, TN · d. 12 Jul 1921 in Nashville, Davidson, TN · m. 18 Aug 1881 in Franklin, Williamson, TN to Katie French

SAPLING NOTES

He was born into slavery near Franklin, Tennessee, and learned the blacksmith's trade as a young freedman after Emancipation. By 1885 he had his own shop on the Columbia Pike in Franklin, shoeing horses and mending implements for farmers Black and white, and the shop stayed open under his name for thirty-five years. In 1918 he retired to Nashville to be near his children.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- **Isaac Coleman** — born on 9 Jan 1883 in Franklin, Williamson, TN
- **Josephine Coleman** — born on 27 May 1886 in Franklin, Williamson, TN
- **Nathan Coleman** — born on 3 Aug 1889 in Franklin, Williamson, TN
- **Ada Coleman**

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Katie French

Daughter of Isaac French and Winnie Freeman · b. 25 Dec 1862 in Williamson County, TN · d. 9 Jun 1937 in Nashville, Davidson, TN · m. 18 Aug 1881 in Franklin, Williamson, TN to Samuel Coleman

SAPLING NOTES

She was born in Williamson County, Tennessee, in the midst of the war that would end slavery, and was carried to freedom as an infant. She learned midwifery from an elder woman of her community and practiced it for more than forty years, first around Franklin and later in Nashville, where the family moved in 1918; her account book, kept in a neat hand, recorded more than six hundred births. Her portrait was taken in Nashville about 1910.

→ Full source record in Appendix.



Katie French (1862–1937), about 1910

Heinrich Remple

Son of Jacob Remple and Helena Wiens · b. 4 Oct 1849 in Halbstadt, Molotschna Colony, South Russia · d. 21 Dec 1927 in Mountain Lake, Cottonwood, MN · m. 10 Oct 1876 in Mountain Lake, Cottonwood, MN to Katharina Friesen

SAPLING NOTES

Known in Kansas and Minnesota as "Henry," he was born in the Mennonite village of Halbstadt in the Molotschna colony of South Russia, in present-day Ukraine. When Russia moved to end the colonies' exemption from military service, he joined the great Mennonite emigration of the 1870s, arriving in 1875 with his parents among the founding families of the Mountain Lake settlement in Minnesota. He farmed wheat there for fifty years, served as a deacon of the Mennonite church, and never fully gave up the Plautdietsch of his boyhood.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- John David Remple
- Agatha Remple — *born on 16 May 1880 in Mountain Lake, Cottonwood, MN*
- Peter Remple — *born on 1 Sep 1883 in Mountain Lake, Cottonwood, MN*
- Helena Remple — *born on 12 Jun 1887 in Mountain Lake, Cottonwood, MN*

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Katharina Friesen

Daughter of Peter Friesen and Sara Dyck · b. 17 Feb 1854 in Ohrloff, Molotschna Colony, South Russia · d. 5 Mar 1931 in Mountain Lake, Cottonwood, MN · m. 10 Oct 1876 in Mountain Lake, Cottonwood, MN to Heinrich Remple

SAPLING NOTES

She was born in the village of Ohrloff in the Molotschna colony and came to Minnesota with her parents in the emigration of 1875. She married Heinrich Remple the following autumn, one of the first weddings solemnized in the new Mountain Lake congregation, and was known through the settlement for her fruit preserves and her remedies.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Emory Ash

Son of Lenox Ash and Nancy Caldwell · b. 20 Jun 1862 in Page County, IA · d. 1 Nov 1940 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO · m. 25 Dec 1884 in Shenandoah, Page, IA to Della Winters

SAPLING NOTES

He was born on his father's fruit farm in Page County, Iowa, and his young-man's portrait was taken at the Brewer studio in Shenandoah about 1888. Within a year of his Christmas-Day marriage to Della Winters he took his bride to Pueblo, Colorado, where the smelters and the new steelworks were hiring, and he worked there as a carpenter for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company for over thirty years.

CHILDREN FROM THIS MARRIAGE

- **Amos Earl Ash** — born on 30 Sep 1888 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO
- **Nell Ash**
- **May Ash** — born on 11 Jul 1891 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO

→ Full source record in Appendix.



Emory Ash (1862–1940) — Brewer studio, Shenandoah, Iowa, about 1888

Della Winters

b. 30 Aug 1866 in Page County, IA · d. 19 Jul 1934 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO · m. 25 Dec 1884 in Shenandoah, Page, IA to Emory Ash

SAPLING NOTES

She was born in Page County, Iowa. Her parents are not identified in the surviving records, and her line has not yet been traced further; the 1880 census shows her, at thirteen, living in the household of an aunt near Shenandoah. She married Emory Ash on Christmas Day 1884 and went with him to Pueblo the following year, where she raised three children and kept boarders during the lean years of the 1890s.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Highlights of the Deeper Generations

Beyond the fifth generation the lineage runs back through far more documented ancestors than can be told in full. The figures gathered below are the highlights — the titled nobility, the colonial founders, and the others whose lives the source records in particular detail. Every ancestor, named here or not, can still be reached through the Family Tree and the Appendix.

Generation 6 — 3rd Great-Grandparents

Nathaniel Smith

3RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Elijah Smith** and **Abigail Warren**, born 4 Sep 1814 in Conway, Franklin, MA, died 22 Oct 1888 in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA.*

SAPLING NOTES

He was three years old when his parents made the long wagon journey from Conway, Massachusetts, to the Western Reserve of Ohio in 1817. In 1856 he moved his own family on to Marshall County, Iowa, where government land was still to be had, and broke a farm on the prairie east of Marshalltown that remained in the Smith family for three generations. He was a founding trustee of his rural school district.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Alfred Hobbs

3RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Thomas Hobbs** and **Mary Tanner**, born 18 Jan 1822 in Maidstone, Kent, England, died 7 Dec 1891 in Marshalltown, Marshall, IA.*

SAPLING NOTES

A wheelwright of Maidstone, in Kent, he emigrated with his bride in 1849, sailing from London to New York and going inland to Licking County, Ohio, where English acquaintances had settled. In 1857 he moved on to Marshalltown, Iowa, where he opened a wagon shop on Main Street that he kept until his retirement. He never lost his Kentish speech, and his grandchildren remembered him reciting the names of the Maidstone church bells.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Joseph Marchand

3RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Antoine Marchand** and **Josephte Rivard**, born 19 Mar 1832 in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada, died 2 Nov 1901 in Leon, Decatur, IA.*

SAPLING NOTES

He was born at Trois-Rivieres into a family that had farmed the St. Lawrence shore for five generations. Like many Quebecois of his generation he looked to the United States when land at home grew scarce, and in 1867 he brought his family first to the French-Canadian colony at Kankakee, Illinois, and then, in 1871, to a farm of his own near Leon, in Decatur County, Iowa. He is buried in the Catholic cemetery at Leon.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Mary Louise de Rousse

3RD GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Daughter of **Jean-Baptiste de Rousse** and **Marie-Anne Gagnon**, born 14 Feb 1827 in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada, died 3 Dec 1909 in Leon, Decatur, IA.*

SAPLING NOTES

Born Marie-Louise, she was the daughter of an old New France family whose line reaches back to the earliest settlement of the St. Lawrence valley. She crossed into the United States with her husband and children in 1867 and spent her last four decades on the Iowa farm, where she was the family's link to the old language and the old faith; she said her rosary in French to the end of her life. Her portrait, taken at the Ellinwood studio in Leon about 1900, shows her in her seventies. Through her the line runs back to Nicolas de Rousse, who came from Perche to New France in 1665, and his wife Marie Aubert, a King's Daughter.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Joseph Clinton Boyer

3RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Henry Boyer** and **Catharine Brubaker**, born 30 Jan 1820 in Lancaster County, PA, died 27 Aug 1904 in Panora, Guthrie, IA.*

SAPLING NOTES

Born into a Pennsylvania-German farming family in Lancaster County, he took his young family west by stages in the late 1850s, spending a decade at St. Joseph, Missouri, where he freighted goods for the overland trade, before settling for good on a farm near Panora, in Guthrie County, Iowa, in 1871. He farmed there thirty years and was known as a great teller of stories of the freighting days. His portrait, taken at the Carpenter studio in Panora in his old age, shows the full white beard he wore for his last quarter-century, and it is signed "Joseph Boyer" in his own hand.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Harriet Speth

3RD GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Daughter of **Georg Speth** and **Margaretha Bender**, born 12 Sep 1832 in Hummelstown, Dauphin, PA, died 8 May 1911 in Panora, Guthrie, IA.*

SAPLING NOTES

She was born at Hummelstown, in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, of Pennsylvania-German stock, and married Joseph Boyer at Harrisburg in 1851. Her portrait taken about 1875 shows her at mid-life, shortly after the family settled at Panora, Iowa. She bore six children, four of whom lived to adulthood, and was remembered for doctoring half the township with herbs from her garden.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Wesley Taylor

3RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER

born 1842 in Williamson County, TN, died 30 May 1903 in Nashville, Davidson, TN.

SAPLING NOTES

He was born into slavery in Williamson County, Tennessee, about 1842; as with most who were enslaved, no record of his birth was made, and his story can be documented only from Emancipation forward. He and Harriet solemnized their marriage before a Freedmen's Bureau official in 1866, among the first legal marriages of the county's freedpeople. He came to Nashville with his family about 1885, worked as a drayman, and by 1890 had bought the lot on Jefferson Street where the family home stood for sixty years. The records that survive show a man who could not be made to sell that lot in any hard year.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Harriet Vaughn

3RD GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

born 1846 in Williamson County, TN, died 14 Aug 1918 in Nashville, Davidson, TN.

SAPLING NOTES

She was born into slavery in Williamson County about 1846. The Vaughn surname appears first in her 1866 marriage record; who her parents were, the surviving records do not say, and the line cannot yet be traced further — a silence that is itself part of the family's history. In freedom she took in laundry, raised four children, and was a founding member of a burial society among the women of her church.

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Elias Anderson

3RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER

born 1835 in Davidson County, TN, died 2 Mar 1899 in Nashville, Davidson, TN.

SAPLING NOTES

He was born into slavery in Davidson County about 1835 and learned carpentry as an enslaved craftsman. After Emancipation he worked as a carpenter in Nashville, where the trades he had been forced to practice became his living on his own terms; city directories list him at his own address on Gay Street from 1870. He and Celia had married under slavery, a union the law then refused to record, and they registered it formally in 1866.

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Celia Anderson

3RD GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

born 1840 in Davidson County, TN, died 25 Nov 1911 in Nashville, Davidson, TN.

SAPLING NOTES

She appears in the records only as Celia, the name she carried out of slavery; whatever family name her parents bore was never written down. She washed and sewed for pay, raised three children, and lived to hold her great-grandchildren. Her granddaughter remembered that she would not speak of the years before freedom except to name them "the old times."

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Jacob Remple

3RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Aron Remple** and **Agatha Klassen**, born 30 May 1821 in Halbstadt, Molotschna Colony, South Russia, died 11 Feb 1897 in Mountain Lake, Cottonwood, MN.*

SAPLING NOTES

He was born in the Molotschna colony a generation after his father's family helped found it, and he farmed its black earth for fifty years. At fifty-four, rather than see his sons conscripted, he sold the farm and led the household to America in the emigration of 1875, taking land at Mountain Lake, Minnesota. He served the new congregation as its first song leader, lining out the old hymns from memory.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Lenox Ash

3RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Son of **Amos Ash** and **Jane Sherwood**, born 3 May 1838 in Ross County, OH, died 30 Oct 1912 in Shenandoah, Page, IA.

SAPLING NOTES

He was born in Ross County, Ohio, and moved with his father's household to Page County, Iowa, in 1856, when the county was raw prairie. He planted one of the early orchards of the district and later worked propagating stock for the great nurseries at Shenandoah, whose catalogs carried Page County fruit across the plains states. His portrait, taken about 1880, shows the patriarchal beard by which the whole township knew him. He served two terms as a county road supervisor.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Generation 7 — 4th Great-Grandparents

Elijah Smith

4TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Son of **Deacon Josiah Smith** and **Mercy Allis**, born 26 Apr 1783 in Conway, Franklin, MA, died 14 Sep 1861 in Ashtabula, Ashtabula, OH.

SAPLING NOTES

He was born on the family farm at Conway, in the hill country of western Massachusetts, and in 1817 joined the stream of New England families moving to the Western Reserve of Ohio, taking up land at Ashtabula. He drove the whole way with two ox teams, his wife, and three children, and in later life he liked to say the journey took thirty-one days and cost him one broken axle.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Aron Remple

4TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

born 14 Aug 1793 in near Danzig, West Prussia, died 30 May 1871 in Halbstadt, Molotschna Colony, South Russia.

SAPLING NOTES

He was born into the Mennonite community of the Vistula delta near Danzig, in West Prussia, where the family name was written Rempel. When he was a boy of eleven his parents joined the migration of Prussian Mennonites to the newly opened Molotschna colony in South Russia, arriving in 1804 among the colony's founding wave, and he farmed at Halbstadt for the rest of his life. It was his grandson Heinrich who carried the family on to America seventy years later.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Amos Ash

4TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Thomas Ash** and **Rebecca Janney**, born 11 Aug 1808 in Ross County, OH, died 4 Jun 1881 in Shenandoah, Page, IA.*

SAPLING NOTES

He was born in Ross County, Ohio, four years after his parents came over the mountains from Virginia, and farmed there until 1856, when he took his household on to Page County, Iowa. His tintype portrait, made about 1865 when he was in his late fifties, is the oldest photograph the family possesses. He helped organize the first Methodist class in his Iowa township, and meetings were held in his front room until a church was built.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Generation 8 — 5th Great-Grandparents

Deacon Josiah Smith

5TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Son of ***Ebenezer Smith*** and ***Thankful Root***, born 2 Mar 1751 in Hadley, Hampshire, MA, died 28 Nov 1824 in Conway, Franklin, MA.

SAPLING NOTES

He was born at Hadley and removed as a young man to the new hill town of Conway, where he cleared a farm and was chosen deacon of the church in 1788, an office he held for thirty-six years. In the autumn of 1777 he marched with the Hampshire County militia to reinforce the Continental Army in the Saratoga campaign, and he drew a soldier's pay for forty-two days' service. The muster roll bearing his name survives, and his powder horn, carved with his initials, remained in the family into the twentieth century.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Louis Marchand

5TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

born 16 May 1770 in Batiscan, Quebec, Canada, died 29 Sep 1842 in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada.

SAPLING NOTES

He was born at Batiscan and moved down-river to Trois-Rivieres, where he farmed and carted for the parish. The Marchand line before him reaches back four further generations at Batiscan and Champlain, to the first years of the seigneurial settlement; those earlier generations are recorded in the parish registers of New France but are not carried individually in this pedigree.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Thomas Ash

5TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **John Ash** and **Hannah Mead**, born 30 Jan 1770 in Loudoun County, VA, died 9 Jun 1849 in Ross County, OH.*

SAPLING NOTES

He was born in Loudoun County, Virginia, where his people, of English Quaker descent, had farmed since the mid-1700s. In 1804 he took his family over the mountains to the newly opened lands of Ross County, Ohio — a move made by many Virginia Quaker families who wished to farm free soil. He was received into the Fairfield Monthly Meeting there, though his grandchildren drifted to the Methodists.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Generation 9 — 6th Great-Grandparents

Hans Georg Sterner

6TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

born 24 Feb 1708 in Edenkoben, the Palatinate, Germany, died 30 Nov 1771 in Oley, Berks, PA.

SAPLING NOTES

A vine-dresser's son of Edenkoben, in the Rhenish Palatinate, he emigrated with his wife and infant daughter in 1738, sailing from Rotterdam to Philadelphia and taking the oath of allegiance at the courthouse there that September. He took up land in the Oley Valley of Berks County among his countrymen, and the farm he cleared stayed under Sterner names for four generations. He was a founding subscriber of the Oley Reformed church.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Generation II — 8th Great-Grandparents

Nicolas de Rousse

8TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Mathurin de Rousse** and **Jeanne Creste**, born 1638 in Tourouvre, Perche, France, died 30 Mar 1712 in Batiscan, Quebec, Canada.*

SAPLING NOTES

He was born at Tourouvre, in the Perche — the small French province that, for its size, sent more settlers to Canada than any other — and crossed to New France in 1665 as a hired man under a three-year engagement. When his term was out he took a concession of riverfront land in the seigneurie of Batiscan, married, and cleared his farm from the forest. Nine generations of this family's line descend from the household he and Marie Aubert established on the St. Lawrence.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Marie Aubert

8TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

born 1650 in Rouen, Normandy, France, died 19 Jun 1721 in Batiscan, Quebec, Canada.

SAPLING NOTES

Orphaned young at Rouen, she crossed to New France in 1669 as one of the filles du roi — the "King's Daughters," young women whose passage and fifty-livre dowry Louis XIV paid to people his colony. Within three months of landing she had married the Perche emigrant Nicolas de Rousse before the notary, and she raised seven children on their riverfront farm at Batiscan — one of the roughly eight hundred women from whom the great majority of French Canada descends.

She was born at Rouen, in Normandy, and orphaned young. In 1669 she sailed for New France as one of the filles du roi — the "King's Daughters," young women of small means whose passage and dowry were paid by Louis XIV to people his new colony. She carried a royal dowry of fifty livres and a small chest of goods, and within three months of landing at Quebec she had married Nicolas de Rousse before the notary. She bore ten children on the Batiscan farm, of whom seven lived, and died there a grandmother many times over — one of the roughly eight hundred women from whom the great majority of French Canada descends.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Generation 12 — 9th Great-Grandparents

Deacon Thomas Smith

9TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Son of **Richard Smith** and **Elizabeth Thornbury**, born 12 Aug 1608 in Marlborough, Wiltshire, England, died 30 Jan 1689 in Ipswich, Essex, MA.

SAPLING NOTES

A clothier's son of Marlborough, Wiltshire, who joined the Great Migration of Puritan families, sailing from London in 1635 and settling at Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, where he served the church as deacon for thirty years. Through his mother, Elizabeth Thornbury, the family's line passes into the English gentry and the medieval nobility beyond — he is the gateway generation of this pedigree.

A clothier's son of Marlborough, in Wiltshire, he joined the Great Migration of Puritan families to New England, sailing from London with his wife and infant daughter in the spring of 1635 and settling at Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. There he was granted a house lot and planting ground, was admitted a freeman in 1638, and was chosen deacon of the Ipswich church in 1652, an office he held for thirty years. His will, proved in 1689, disposes of the farm, the loom that had crossed the ocean with him, and "my great Bible" — the book, with his births and deaths entered in the flyleaf, was still in family hands when the nineteenth-century town history was written. Through his mother, Elizabeth Thornbury, his line — and so this family's — reaches back into the English gentry and the medieval nobility beyond.

→ Full source record in Appendix.

Generation 13 — 10th Great-Grandparents

Richard Smith

10TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

born 1578 in Marlborough, Wiltshire, England, died 14 Mar 1642 in Marlborough, Wiltshire, England.

SAPLING NOTES

The earliest documented bearer of the Smith name in this line — a clothier of Marlborough, in Wiltshire, under Elizabeth I and James I, who bought wool off the downs and put it out to the town's weavers, and served as churchwarden of St. Mary's in 1619. The surname itself, England's most common, began as the occupational name of the smith at his forge; this family's particular line can be carried no further back than Richard.

A clothier of Marlborough, in Wiltshire, in the last years of Elizabeth I and the reigns of James I and Charles I, he bought wool off the downs and put it out to the weavers of the town. He is the earliest documented bearer of the Smith name in this line — the surname itself, England's most common, began as the occupational name of the smith at his forge, and this family's particular line can be carried no further back than Richard. He served as churchwarden of St. Mary's, Marlborough, in 1619, and his signature stands in the vestry book.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Elizabeth Thornbury

10TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Daughter of **Henry Thornbury** and **Anne Ashfield**, born 1582 in Marlborough, Wiltshire, England, died 30 Sep 1640 in Marlborough, Wiltshire, England.*

SAPLING NOTES

She was the daughter of Henry Thornbury, gentleman, of Marlborough, and Anne Ashfield, and she is the gateway through which this pedigree passes from the town families of Wiltshire into the armigerous gentry — and, through her mother's Ashfield and Neville descent, back to the earls of Westmorland, the house of Lancaster, and the medieval royal lines of England and Europe. Gateway marriages of just this kind, a gentle daughter marrying into a prospering trade family, are how most documented royal descents reach ordinary American families.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Generation 15 — 12th Great-Grandparents

Sir John Ashfield

12TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Edmund Ashfield** and **Eleanor Charlton**, born 1524 in Tetsworth, Oxfordshire, England, died 14 Nov 1587 in Tetsworth, Oxfordshire, England.*

SAPLING NOTES

Knighted in the reign of Elizabeth I, he served as a justice of the peace for Oxfordshire and twice as escheator. The Ashfield arms — argent, a fess between three ash keys vert — hung in the Tetsworth church until the eighteenth century.

→ *Full source record in Appendix.*

Generation 20 — 17th Great-Grandparents

Ralph Neville

17TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **John Neville de Raby** and **Maud Percy**, born 1364 in Raby Castle, Durham, England, died 21 Oct 1425 in Raby Castle, Durham, England.*

SAPLING NOTES

First Earl of Westmorland, created by Richard II in 1397, and one of the great magnates of the English north. He backed Henry Bolingbroke's seizure of the crown in 1399 and was rewarded with the office of Earl Marshal. By his two marriages he fathered more than twenty children and married them so widely that historians call the web of his descendants "the Neville connection"; through his daughter Cecily he was grandfather of Kings Edward IV and Richard III. His tomb, with its alabaster effigy, stands in the church at Staindrop near Raby Castle.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Joan Beaufort

17TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Daughter of **John of Gaunt** and **Katherine Swynford**, born 1379 in England, died 13 Nov 1440 in Howden, Yorkshire, England.*

SAPLING NOTES

Countess of Westmorland, she was the daughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, by Katherine Swynford — born before their marriage and made legitimate, with her Beaufort brothers, by royal patent in 1397. She was thus a granddaughter of King Edward III and half-sister of King Henry IV. A patron of books and of the poet Thomas Hoccleve, she raised at Raby one of the largest noble households of the age, and from her children descend the houses of York and, through her granddaughter Margaret Beaufort, Tudor. She is buried beside her mother in Lincoln Cathedral.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Generation 2I — 18th Great-Grandparents

John of Gaunt

18TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Son of **Edward III of England** and **Philippa of Hainault**, born 6 Mar 1340 in Ghent, Flanders, died 3 Feb 1399 in Leicester Castle, England.

SAPLING NOTES

Duke of Lancaster, third surviving son of King Edward III and the richest nobleman in England, he dominated English politics in the last years of his father's reign and the reign of his nephew Richard II. By his first marriage he was father of King Henry IV, and the royal houses of Lancaster, York, and Tudor all descend from him. His long liaison with Katherine Swynford, whom he at last married in 1396, produced the Beaufort line through which this pedigree runs. He is buried beside his first wife in Old St Paul's Cathedral, London.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Katherine Swynford

18TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

Daughter of **Paon de Roet**, born 1350 in Hainault, died 10 May 1403 in Lincoln, England.

SAPLING NOTES

Duchess of Lancaster, born Katherine de Roet, daughter of a Hainault herald in Queen Philippa's service; her sister Philippa married the poet Geoffrey Chaucer. Governess to John of Gaunt's daughters, then his mistress through two decades of scandal, she became his third wife in 1396 — the only governess in English history to become a duchess, and, through the legitimated Beauforts, an ancestor of every English monarch since 1485. She is buried in Lincoln Cathedral.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Generation 22 — 19th Great-Grandparents

Edward III of England

19TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Son of **Edward II of England** and **Isabella of France**, born 13 Nov 1312 in Windsor Castle, England, died 21 Jun 1377 in Sheen Palace, Richmond, England.

SAPLING NOTES

King of England for fifty years — victor of Crécy and Poitiers and founder of the Order of the Garter. So many of his descendants married into the gentry that genealogists reckon him the ancestor of most people of English descent with a documented medieval pedigree; this family descends from him through his son John of Gaunt, Joan Beaufort, and the Nevilles of Raby.

King of England from 1327 until his death fifty years later, one of the longest and most consequential reigns of the Middle Ages. He restored royal authority after the disaster of his father's deposition, opened the Hundred Years' War with France, won the great victories of Crécy and Poitiers, and founded the Order of the Garter about 1348. So many of his descendants married into the English gentry that genealogists reckon him the ancestor of most people of English descent with a documented medieval pedigree — this family among them, through his son John of Gaunt.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Philippa of Hainault

19TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

born 1310 in Valenciennes, Hainault, died 15 Aug 1369 in Windsor Castle, England.

SAPLING NOTES

Queen of England, daughter of Count William I of Hainault. She was beloved in England for her gentleness and her charity; the chronicler Froissart, who served in her household, tells how she knelt before the king at Calais in 1347 to beg the lives of the town's six burghers. The Queen's College, Oxford, founded by her chaplain in 1341, is named for her. Her tomb is in Westminster Abbey.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Generation 23 — 20th Great-Grandparents

Isabella of France

20TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Daughter of **Philip IV of France**, born 1295 in Paris, France, died 22 Aug 1358 in Hertford Castle, England.*

SAPLING NOTES

Queen of England, daughter of King Philip IV of France. Estranged from her husband, she led, with Roger Mortimer, the invasion of 1326 that deposed him — the only successful invasion of England between 1066 and 1688 — and governed as regent until her son Edward III took power in 1330. She lived out her last decades in honorable retirement and is buried in the Greyfriars church, London.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Generation 24 — 21st Great-Grandparents

Edward I of England

21ST GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Henry III of England** and **Eleanor of Provence**, born 17 Jun 1239 in Westminster, London, England, died 7 Jul 1307 in Burgh by Sands, Cumberland, England.*

SAPLING NOTES

King of England from 1272 to 1307, called "Longshanks" and "the English Justinian" for his great statutes. He conquered Wales and ringed it with castles — Caernarfon, Conwy, Harlech — summoned the Model Parliament of 1295, and spent his last years in the Scottish wars against Wallace and Bruce. He died on the march north, within sight of Scotland.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Eleanor of Castile

21ST GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Daughter of **Ferdinand III of Castile**, born 1241 in Castile, Spain, died 28 Nov 1290 in Harby, Nottinghamshire, England.*

SAPLING NOTES

Queen of England, daughter of King Ferdinand III of Castile. She accompanied her husband on crusade to the Holy Land — tradition says she sucked the poison from his wound at Acre — and their marriage of thirty-six years was, by royal standards, a love match. When she died at Harby the grieving king raised a memorial cross at each place her funeral procession rested on the road to Westminster; three of the twelve Eleanor Crosses still stand, and Charing Cross in London keeps the memory of another.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Generation 25 — 22nd Great-Grandparents

Henry III of England

22ND GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **King John of England** and **Isabella of Angouleme**, born 1 Oct 1207 in Winchester Castle, England, died 16 Nov 1272 in Westminster, London, England.*

SAPLING NOTES

King of England for fifty-six years, from 1216 to 1272 — the longest reign of any medieval English king. Crowned at nine in the midst of civil war, he grew into a pious, art-loving, politically maladroit ruler whose quarrels with his barons produced Simon de Montfort's parliament of 1265. His greatest monument is Westminster Abbey, which he rebuilt in the Gothic style as a shrine for Edward the Confessor; he is buried there.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Eleanor of Provence

22ND GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

born 1223 in Aix-en-Provence, Provence, died 24 Jun 1291 in Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

SAPLING NOTES

Queen of England, daughter of Count Raymond Berengar IV of Provence; her three sisters were also queens, of France, Germany, and Sicily. Cultivated and strong-willed, she was devoted to her husband and children and deeply unpopular in London, whose citizens once pelted her barge from London Bridge. She ended her life a nun at Amesbury.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Generation 26 — 23rd Great-Grandparents

King John of England

23RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Son of **Henry II of England** and **Eleanor of Aquitaine**, born 24 Dec 1166 in Oxford, England, died 19 Oct 1216 in Newark Castle, Nottinghamshire, England.

SAPLING NOTES

King of England from 1199 to 1216, youngest son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. His reign lost Normandy to France and drove his barons to revolt; at Runnymede in June 1215 he set his seal to Magna Carta, the great charter of liberties from which the tradition of limited government descends. He died in the midst of civil war and is buried in Worcester Cathedral, where his tomb effigy is the earliest of an English king to survive.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Isabella of Angouleme

23RD GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

born 1188 in Angouleme, France, died 4 Jun 1246 in Fontevraud Abbey, France.

SAPLING NOTES

Queen of England, heiress of the county of Angoulême, married to King John when she was perhaps twelve. Widowed in 1216, she returned to France and married Hugh de Lusignan, to whom she had been betrothed before John carried her off. She took the veil at Fontevraud, where her effigy lies near those of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Generation 27 — 24th Great-Grandparents

Henry II of England

24TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Geoffrey Plantagenet** and **Empress Matilda**, born 5 Mar 1133 in Le Mans, France, died 6 Jul 1189 in Chinon Castle, France.*

SAPLING NOTES

King of England from 1154 to 1189, first of the Plantagenet kings, ruler of an empire that ran from the Scottish border to the Pyrenees. His legal reforms — itinerant royal justices, trial by jury, the common law itself — outlasted every conquest; his quarrel with Thomas Becket, ending in the archbishop's murder at Canterbury in 1170, shadowed his reign. He died at Chinon, warring with his own sons, and lies at Fontevraud Abbey beside Eleanor of Aquitaine.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Eleanor of Aquitaine

24TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Daughter of **William X of Aquitaine**, born 1122 in Aquitaine, France, died 1 Apr 1204 in Fontevraud Abbey, France.*

SAPLING NOTES

Duchess of Aquitaine in her own right and the most powerful woman of the twelfth century — queen first of France and then of England, mother of Richard the Lionheart and King John, patron of the troubadours, and, into her eighties, the working matriarch of the Plantagenet empire. Her effigy at Fontevraud Abbey shows her reading a book.

Duchess of Aquitaine in her own right and queen, successively, of France and of England — the most powerful woman of the twelfth century. She rode on the Second Crusade, had her first marriage annulled, married Henry Plantagenet within eight weeks, and bore him eight children, including two kings. Imprisoned sixteen years for backing her sons' revolt, she emerged in her seventies to govern England for Richard the Lionheart and ranged across Europe arranging royal marriages into her eightieth year. Her effigy at Fontevraud shows her reading a book — fittingly, for the great patron of the troubadours.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Generation 28 — 25th Great-Grandparents

Empress Matilda

25TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Daughter of **Henry I of England** and **Matilda of Scotland**, born 1102 in England, died 10 Sep 1167 in Rouen, Normandy, France.*

SAPLING NOTES

Daughter of King Henry I of England, married as a child to the Holy Roman Emperor Henry V — whence her lifelong style of "Empress" — and, widowed, to Geoffrey of Anjou. Named her father's heir, she fought her cousin Stephen through the long civil war remembered as the Anarchy, held London briefly as "Lady of the English," and lived to see her son crowned as Henry II. Her epitaph at Rouen reads: "Great by birth, greater by marriage, greatest in her offspring."

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Generation 29 — 26th Great-Grandparents

Henry I of England

26TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Son of **William the Conqueror** and **Matilda of Flanders**, born 1068 in Selby, Yorkshire, England, died 1 Dec 1135 in Lyons-la-Forêt, Normandy, France.

SAPLING NOTES

King of England from 1100 to 1135, youngest son of William the Conqueror — called "Beauclerc" for his learning. An able, ruthless administrator, he founded the Exchequer and gave England thirty-five years of peace. The drowning of his only legitimate son in the White Ship disaster of 1120 left his daughter Matilda his heir, and his death — of "a surfeit of lampreys," the chroniclers say — opened the civil war of Stephen and Matilda.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Matilda of Scotland

26TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

Daughter of **Malcolm III of Scotland** and **Margaret of Scotland**, born 1080 in Dunfermline, Scotland, died 1 May 1118 in Westminster, London, England.

SAPLING NOTES

Queen of England, born Edith, daughter of King Malcolm III of Scotland and Saint Margaret. Her marriage to Henry I joined the Norman kings to the ancient royal house of Wessex — through her mother she descended from Edmund Ironside and Alfred the Great — a union contemporaries celebrated as the healing of the Conquest. She was a noted patron of music, architecture, and the poor, washing the feet of lepers in her own chambers.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Generation 30 — 27th Great-Grandparents

William the Conqueror

27TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Robert I of Normandy** and **Herleva of Falaise**, born 1028 in Falaise, Normandy, France, died 9 Sep 1087 in Rouen, Normandy, France.*

SAPLING NOTES

Duke of Normandy who invaded England in 1066, defeated King Harold at Hastings, and was crowned at Westminster on Christmas Day — the last successful conqueror of England. He remade the kingdom with Norman lords, castles, and cathedrals, and the great survey he ordered in 1086 became the Domesday Book. The line reaches him through his youngest son, King Henry I.

Duke of Normandy who invaded England in 1066, defeated King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, and was crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day — the last successful conqueror of England. He remade the kingdom with Norman lords, castles, and cathedrals, and in 1086 ordered the great survey of his realm that became the Domesday Book. He is buried at Caen in the abbey he founded.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Matilda of Flanders

27TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Daughter of **Baldwin V of Flanders** and **Adela of France**, born 1031 in Flanders, died 2 Nov 1083 in Caen, Normandy, France.*

SAPLING NOTES

Queen of England and Duchess of Normandy, daughter of Count Baldwin V of Flanders and granddaughter of a king of France — and herself a descendant of Alfred the Great and of Charlemagne, the two great streams this pedigree follows upward from her. She governed Normandy ably in William's long absences and was crowned queen at Westminster in 1068. She is buried at Caen in the Abbaye aux Dames, her own foundation.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Margaret of Scotland

27TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Daughter of **Edward the Exile**, born 1045 in Hungary, died 16 Nov 1093 in Edinburgh Castle, Scotland.*

SAPLING NOTES

Queen of Scots, born in exile in Hungary, granddaughter of King Edmund Ironside of England. Pious, learned, and charitable, she reformed the Scottish church, fed orphans from her own table, and founded the ferry across the Forth — Queensferry — for pilgrims to St Andrews. She died three days after her husband and was canonized as Saint Margaret in 1250; through her the blood of the West Saxon kings, back to Alfred the Great, returned to the English throne in her daughter Matilda.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Generation 31 — 28th Great-Grandparents

Edward the Exile

28TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Son of **Edmund Ironside**, born 1016 in England, died 19 Apr 1057 in London, England.

SAPLING NOTES

Son of King Edmund Ironside, carried into exile as an infant when Cnut conquered England, and raised at the courts of Sweden, Kiev, and Hungary. Recalled in 1057 as heir to Edward the Confessor, he died within days of landing in England; his daughter Margaret fled to Scotland, and through her the line of the West Saxon kings — Edmund Ironside, Æthelred, and behind them Alfred the Great — descends into this pedigree.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Generation 32 — 29th Great-Grandparents

Edmund Ironside

29TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Son of **Æthelred the Unready**, born 990 in England, died 30 Nov 1016 in London, England.

SAPLING NOTES

King of England in 1016, son of Æthelred the Unready. In one furious year he fought the Danish invader Cnut in five pitched battles — the byname "Ironside" was his soldiers' tribute — before defeat at Assandun forced him to divide the kingdom. He died within weeks, leaving Cnut all England, and his infant sons were carried abroad; from the elder of them this pedigree's West Saxon line continues.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ Full source record in [Appendix](#).

Generation 33 — 30th Great-Grandparents

Aethelred the Unready

30TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

born 966 in England, died 23 Apr 1016 in London, England.

SAPLING NOTES

King of England from 978 to 1016. His byname is a pun lost in translation — Old English "unraed," meaning ill-counseled, set against his given name, "noble counsel." His long reign buckled under renewed Danish invasion, bought off with ever larger payments of Danegeld, and he died in London with Cnut's army at the gates. He was the father both of Edmund Ironside, in this line, and of Edward the Confessor.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Generation 35 — 32nd Great-Grandparents

Rollo of Normandy

32ND GREAT-GRANDFATHER

born 860 in Scandinavia, died 930 in Rouen, Normandy, France.

SAPLING NOTES

The Viking chieftain — Norse tradition names him Hrolf the Walker, too big for any horse to carry — who raided up the Seine until, by the treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte about 911, the king of the Franks granted him the lands at the river's mouth that became Normandy: the land of the Northmen. He was baptized, took the name Robert, and founded the ducal line that produced William the Conqueror in the fifth generation. Through him this pedigree reaches back into the Viking age.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Generation 36 — 33rd Great-Grandparents

Baldwin II of Flanders

33RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Baldwin I of Flanders** and **Judith of Flanders**, born 865 in Flanders, died 10 Sep 918 in Flanders.*

SAPLING NOTES

Count of Flanders from 879 to 918, called "the Bald" after his grandfather the king of the Franks. He held the county through the worst of the Viking storm, ringing it with the fortress towns — Bruges among them — from which Flanders' later greatness grew. His marriage to a daughter of Alfred the Great joined the blood of Wessex and of Charlemagne in one line: the line this pedigree follows.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Generation 37 — 34th Great-Grandparents

Baldwin I of Flanders

34TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

born 830 in Flanders, died 879 in Flanders.

SAPLING NOTES

First Count of Flanders, called "Iron Arm." A minor Frankish official, he eloped in 861 with Judith, the twice-widowed young daughter of King Charles the Bald — she was carried off, the annals say, "at her own instigation." The furious king relented after the Pope interceded, married them properly at Auxerre, and set Baldwin to guard the coast against the Vikings: the beginning of Flanders.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Judith of Flanders

34TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Daughter of **Charles the Bald** and **Ermentrude of Orleans**, born 844 in Francia, died 870 in Flanders.*

SAPLING NOTES

Daughter of Charles the Bald, King of the West Franks, and great-granddaughter of Charlemagne. Married at twelve to the aging Æthelwulf, King of Wessex — stepmother, briefly, to the boy who would be Alfred the Great — then to his son, she scandalized two kingdoms by eloping at about seventeen with Baldwin Iron Arm. Through her the Carolingian line runs into Flanders and so down this pedigree.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Alfred the Great

34TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Æthelwulf of Wessex**, born 849 in Wantage, Berkshire, England, died 26 Oct 899 in Winchester, England.*

SAPLING NOTES

King of Wessex who saved his kingdom from the Viking "Great Heathen Army" at Edington in 878, fortified England with a network of burhs, founded a navy, issued a law code, and began the written English prose tradition — the only English monarch remembered as "the Great." The family descends from him through his youngest daughter Ælfthryth, who married Baldwin II of Flanders.

King of the West Saxons from 871 to 899 — the only English monarch remembered as "the Great." He saved Wessex from the Viking Great Heathen Army, winning the decisive battle of Edington in 878, fortified the kingdom with a network of burhs, founded a navy, issued a law code, and taught himself Latin in his thirties so he could translate the books he thought "most needful for men to know" — beginning the written English prose tradition. From his line came the first kings of a united England, and through his daughter Ælfthryth his blood runs down this pedigree to the present day.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Generation 40 — 37th Great-Grandparents

Charlemagne

37TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

*Son of **Pepin the Short** and **Bertrada of Laon**, born 2 Apr 748 in Francia, died 28 Jan 814 in Aachen, Francia.*

SAPLING NOTES

King of the Franks and Lombards who united most of western Europe under one rule and was crowned Emperor by Pope Leo III on Christmas Day, 800 — the first emperor in the West since the fall of Rome, and the figure from whom nearly every documented medieval royal descent, this family's included, ultimately runs. The line reaches him through the Beaufort and Neville descent of the paternal Smith gateway, forty generations from the subject.

King of the Franks from 768, King of the Lombards from 774, and, from his coronation by Pope Leo III in St Peter's on Christmas Day of the year 800, Emperor — the first in the West since the fall of Rome. He united most of western Europe under one rule, drove the revival of learning remembered as the Carolingian renaissance, and stands at the head of European royal genealogy: nearly every documented medieval royal descent, this family's included, passes through him. He was buried in his own octagonal chapel at Aachen, where his throne still stands. He is the deepest firmly documented ancestor in this lineage but one — his father and grandfather close the line.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

Generation 42 — 39th Great-Grandparents

Charles Martel

39TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER

born 688 in Francia, died 22 Oct 741 in Quierzy, Francia.

SAPLING NOTES

Duke and prince of the Franks and mayor of the palace — the effective ruler of Francia for a quarter-century, though he never took the title of king. His byname, "the Hammer," was earned at the battle of Tours in 732, where his army turned back the Umayyad advance into western Europe. Grandfather of Charlemagne, he is the deepest documented ancestor in this lineage — forty-two generations, by the reckoning of this report, from the subject.

Biography: [Wikipedia](#)

→ *Full source record in [Appendix](#).*

***A note on the research.** Sapling.Family is a family-history research service. A lineage is assembled from surviving records, and connecting them across the generations involves judgment. Our findings rest on public records, established genealogical databases, and the analysis of a professional historian, and every conclusion in this report traces to a documented source — but no family history of this depth can be guaranteed complete or error-free. If something here doesn't look right to you, tell us: we'll work with you to resolve it.*

Notable Ancestors

A curated selection of direct ancestors whose lives the source preserves in particular detail — drawn from across the deepest reaches of William's lineage, from medieval kings and queens through the immigrants and builders who carried the family to Colorado.

Royal & Noble Lines

Charlemagne · 748–814

PATERNAL SMITH LINE · KING OF THE FRANKS, HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR

King of the Franks and Lombards who united most of western Europe under one rule and was crowned Emperor by Pope Leo III on Christmas Day, 800 — the first emperor in the West since the fall of Rome, and the figure from whom nearly every documented medieval royal descent, this family's included, ultimately runs. The line reaches him through the Beaufort and Neville descent of the paternal Smith gateway, forty generations from the subject.

Alfred the Great · 849–899

PATERNAL SMITH LINE · KING OF THE WEST SAXONS, R. 871–899

King of Wessex who saved his kingdom from the Viking "Great Heathen Army" at Edington in 878, fortified England with a network of burhs, founded a navy, issued a law code, and began the written English prose tradition — the only English monarch remembered as "the Great." The family descends from him through his youngest daughter Ælfthryth, who married Baldwin II of Flanders.

William the Conqueror · 1028–1087

PATERNAL SMITH LINE · DUKE OF NORMANDY, KING OF ENGLAND FROM 1066

Duke of Normandy who invaded England in 1066, defeated King Harold at Hastings, and was crowned at Westminster on Christmas Day — the last successful conqueror of England. He remade the kingdom with Norman lords, castles, and cathedrals, and the great survey he ordered in 1086 became the Domesday Book. The line reaches him through his youngest son, King Henry I.

Eleanor of Aquitaine · 1122–1204

PATERNAL SMITH LINE · QUEEN OF FRANCE, THEN QUEEN OF ENGLAND

Duchess of Aquitaine in her own right and the most powerful woman of the twelfth century — queen first of France and then of England, mother of Richard the Lionheart and King John, patron of the troubadours, and, into her eighties, the working matriarch of the Plantagenet empire. Her effigy at Fontevraud Abbey shows her reading a book.

Edward III of England · 1312–1377

PATERNAL SMITH LINE · KING OF ENGLAND, R. 1327–1377

King of England for fifty years — victor of Crécy and Poitiers and founder of the Order of the Garter. So many of his descendants married into the gentry that genealogists reckon him the ancestor of most people of English descent with a documented medieval pedigree; this family descends from him through his son John of Gaunt, Joan Beaufort, and the Nevilles of Raby.

Early American Settlers

Deacon Thomas Smith · 1608–1689

PATERNAL SMITH LINE · 9TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER · WILTSHIRE →
MASSACHUSETTS BAY, 1635

A clothier's son of Marlborough, Wiltshire, who joined the Great Migration of Puritan families, sailing from London in 1635 and settling at Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, where he served the church as deacon for thirty years. Through his mother, Elizabeth Thornbury, the family's line passes into the English gentry and the medieval nobility beyond — he is the gateway generation of this pedigree.

New France

Marie Aubert · 1650–1721

PATERNAL MARCHAND-DE ROUSSE LINE · 8TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER · A KING'S
DAUGHTER, ROUEN → QUEBEC, 1669

Orphaned young at Rouen, she crossed to New France in 1669 as one of the filles du roi — the "King's Daughters," young women whose passage and fifty-livre dowry Louis XIV paid to people his colony. Within three months of landing she had married the Perche emigrant Nicolas de Rousse before the notary, and she raised seven children on their riverfront farm at Batiscan — one of the roughly eight hundred women from whom the great majority of French Canada descends.

Immigrant Founders

Gustav Weber · 1861–1934

PATERNAL WEBER LINE · GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER ·
HESSE → KANSAS, 1881

He left the farming country around Marburg, in Hesse, at nineteen, sailed from Bremen to Baltimore, and worked his way west on the Santa Fe railroad to Lyon County, Kansas, where he proved up a homestead southwest of Emporia. He served on his district school board and helped found the German Methodist church at Emporia.



*Gustav Weber
(1861–1934), about
1888*

Heinrich Remple · 1849–1927

MATERNAL REMPLE LINE · GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER · MOLOTSCHNA COLONY
→ MINNESOTA, 1875

Born in the Mennonite village of Halbstadt in the Molotschna colony of South Russia, he joined the great Mennonite emigration of the 1870s — set off when Russia moved to end the colonies' exemption from military service — and arrived in 1875 among the founding families of Mountain Lake, Minnesota. He farmed wheat there for fifty years and served the congregation as a deacon.

Military Service

George Albert Smith · 1845–1919

PATERNAL SMITH LINE · GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER · 23RD IOWA INFANTRY ·
VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN

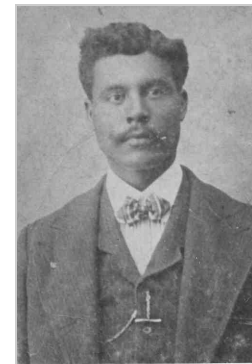
He enlisted in Company G of the 23rd Iowa Volunteer Infantry in August 1862, a few days past his seventeenth birthday, and served through the Vicksburg campaign, including the fighting at the Big Black River Bridge in May 1863. Mustered out in 1865, he farmed outside Marshalltown, Iowa, for the rest of his life and marched in the Decoration Day parade with his Grand Army of the Republic post every year he was able.

Civic & Public Life

John Wesley Taylor Sr. · 1868–1925

MATERNAL TAYLOR LINE · GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER ·
DEACON, ST. JOHN'S A.M.E. CHURCH, NASHVILLE

Born in Nashville three years after Emancipation to parents who had been enslaved in Middle Tennessee, he worked more than thirty years as a baggageman for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and used that steady wage to buy the family's house on Jefferson Street. Ordained a deacon of St. John's A.M.E. Church in 1901, he served the congregation until his death in 1925.



*John Wesley Taylor
Sr. (1868–1925),
about 1900*

Surname Origin

Richard Smith · 1578–1642

PATERNAL SMITH LINE · 10TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER · CLOTHIER OF
MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE

The earliest documented bearer of the Smith name in this line — a clothier of Marlborough, in Wiltshire, under Elizabeth I and James I, who bought wool off the downs and put it out to the town's weavers, and served as churchwarden of St. Mary's in 1619. The surname itself, England's most common, began as the occupational name of the smith at his forge; this family's particular line can be carried no further back than Richard.

Mapping Family Origins



The amber lines — drawn solid where a line crossed the ocean, dashed for overland and onward moves — are migration routes.

Six documented crossings brought the family to North America: the Puritan Smiths to Massachusetts Bay in 1635, the de Rouse and Aubert line to New France in 1665–69, the Palatine Sterners to Pennsylvania in 1738, the Hobbses from Kent in 1849, the Mennonite Remples and Friesens from the Molotschna colony in 1875, and the Hessian Webers in 1881–84. Rust pins mark the homelands — including Tennessee, where the maternal Taylor lines begin — and green pins mark where each line settled. The fine faint dashed lines are individual documented moves. Schematic, not to scale.

Once ashore, the lines kept moving: the Smiths from New England to Ohio's Western Reserve in 1817 and on to Iowa in 1856; the Quebec families down through Kankakee to Leon, Iowa; the Boyers through St. Joseph, Missouri, to Panora; and the Taylor line north from Nashville to Kansas City in 1910, part of the Great Migration. Between 1879 and 1953 every branch converged on Colorado. Individual branches took other paths — each is told in the Narrative and the Appendix.

Reading the map

Solid amber lines are ocean crossings. Heavier dashed lines are the documented overland and onward streams. The fine, faint dashed lines are individual movements documented in the family record — an ancestor recorded in one place who died in another. Small hollow rings are waystations a line passed through. Rust pins mark the homelands; green pins mark where they settled.

The Homelands

England — Wiltshire and Kent

MASSACHUSETTS BAY, 1635 · OHIO, 1849

Deacon Thomas Smith (1608–1689), Joan Clarke (1612–1698), Alfred Hobbs (1822–1891), Sarah Jane Millward (1828–1903)

Two English waves, two centuries apart: the Puritan clothier's son who sailed for Massachusetts Bay in 1635, and the Maidstone wheelwright who brought his bride to Ohio in 1849.

France — the Perche and Normandy

BATISCAN, NEW FRANCE · 1665–1669

Nicolas de Rousse (1638–1712), Marie Aubert (1650–1721)

Nicolas de Rousse crossed from Tourouvre in 1665 as a hired man; Marie Aubert of Rouen followed in 1669 as one of the filles du roi, the King's Daughters. Their Batiscan farm held the line for two hundred years.

Germany — the Rhenish Palatinate

BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA · 1738

Hans Georg Sterner (1708–1771), Anna Margaretha Bausch (1712–1780)

The Sterners sailed from Rotterdam to Philadelphia in 1738 and cleared a farm in the Oley Valley; the family's Boyer and Speth lines came to Pennsylvania in the same German wave.

Germany — Hesse

LYON COUNTY, KANSAS · 1881–1884

Gustav Weber (1861–1934), Emma Hartmann (1866–1940)

Gustav Weber left the farm country around Marburg at nineteen and homesteaded southwest of Emporia, Kansas; Emma Hartmann followed from Giessen in 1884 and married him the next spring.

West Prussia — the Vistula delta

MOLOTSCHNA COLONY, SOUTH RUSSIA · 1804

Aron Remple (1793–1871), Agatha Klassen (1799–1878)

The Mennonite Remples of the Danzig lowlands joined the migration to the newly opened Molotschna colony in South Russia in 1804 — the first of the family's two great removes.

South Russia — the Molotschna Colony

MOUNTAIN LAKE, MINNESOTA · 1875

Heinrich Remple (1849–1927), Katharina Friesen (1854–1931), Jacob Remple (1821–1897), Helena Wiens (1826–1902), Peter Friesen (1828–1904), Sara Dyck (1833–1910)

When Russia moved to end the colonies' military exemption, three Mennonite households sold their Molotschna farms and crossed together in 1875, among the founders of Mountain Lake, Minnesota.

Tennessee — Davidson and Williamson Counties

NASHVILLE · KANSAS CITY, 1910 · DOCUMENTED FROM 1865

John Wesley Taylor Sr. (1868–1925), Margaret Anderson (1861–1935), Samuel Coleman (1858–1921), Katie French (1862–1937), Wesley Taylor (1842–1903), Harriet Vaughn (1846–1918), Elias Anderson (1835–1899), Isaac French (1836–1908)

The maternal Taylor, Anderson, Coleman, and French lines begin in slavery in Middle Tennessee; no records survive from before Emancipation. In freedom the families built lives in Franklin and Nashville, and in 1910 the line went north to Kansas City.

Where They Settled

Massachusetts Bay — Ipswich and Hadley

1635 ONWARD · 1635–1817

Deacon Thomas Smith (1608–1689), Joan Clarke (1612–1698), John Smith (1648–1722), Lieut. Samuel Smith (1685–1755), Ebenezer Smith (1718–1790), Deacon Josiah Smith (1751–1824)

Five generations of Smiths farmed at Ipswich, Hadley, and Conway before the family went west to Ohio in 1817.

New France — Batiscan and Trois-Rivières

1665 ONWARD · 1665–1867

Nicolas de Rousse (1638–1712), Marie Aubert (1650–1721), Francois de Rousse (1684–1749), Pierre de Rousse (1718–1784), Joseph de Rousse (1752–1820), Mary Louise de Rousse (1827–1909), Joseph Marchand (1832–1901)

The de Rousse and Marchand families held riverfront land on the St. Lawrence for two hundred years before crossing into the United States in 1867.

Pennsylvania — Berks, Lancaster, and Dauphin Counties

1738 ONWARD · 1738–1879

Hans Georg Sterner (1708–1771), Anna Margaretha Bausch (1712–1780), Georg Sterner (1740–1801), Johannes Sterner (1782–1866), Daniel Sterner (1825–1899), Henry Boyer (1790–1868), Georg Speth (1801–1877)

The Pennsylvania-German Sterner, Boyer, and Speth families farmed and quarried here for over a century before the westward moves of the 1850s–70s.

Ohio — the Western Reserve and Ross County

1804 / 1817 / 1849 · 1804–1857

Elijah Smith (1783–1861), Nathaniel Smith (1814–1888), Thomas Ash (1770–1849), Amos Ash (1808–1881), Alfred Hobbs (1822–1891)

Three lines met in Ohio: the Ashes over the mountains from Virginia in 1804, the Smiths from Massachusetts in 1817, and the Hobbses from Kent in 1849.

Iowa — Marshalltown, Panora, Shenandoah, and Leon

1856 ONWARD · 1856–1906

Nathaniel Smith (1814–1888), George Albert Smith (1845–1919), Joseph Marchand (1832–1901), Mary Louise de Rousse (1827–1909), Joseph Clinton Boyer (1820–1904), Lenox Ash (1838–1912), Emory Ash (1862–1940)

By the 1870s four of the family's lines were farming in Iowa — the state where the paternal side's American journeys converged before Colorado.

Kansas — Emporia and Kansas City

1881 / 1910 · 1881–1935

Gustav Weber (1861–1934), Emma Hartmann (1866–1940), John Wesley Taylor Jr. (1890–1957), Ada Coleman (1892–1970)

The Webers homesteaded in Lyon County from 1881; the Taylors came north from Nashville to Kansas City in 1910 in the Great Migration.

Minnesota — Mountain Lake

1875 ONWARD · 1875–1902

Heinrich Remple (1849–1927), Katharina Friesen (1854–1931), Jacob Remple (1821–1897), Helena Wiens (1826–1902), Peter Friesen (1828–1904), Sara Dyck (1833–1910)

The Mennonite families farmed the Mountain Lake colony for a generation before John David Remple followed the carpenter's trade to Colorado in 1902.

Colorado — Pueblo, Colorado Springs, and Denver

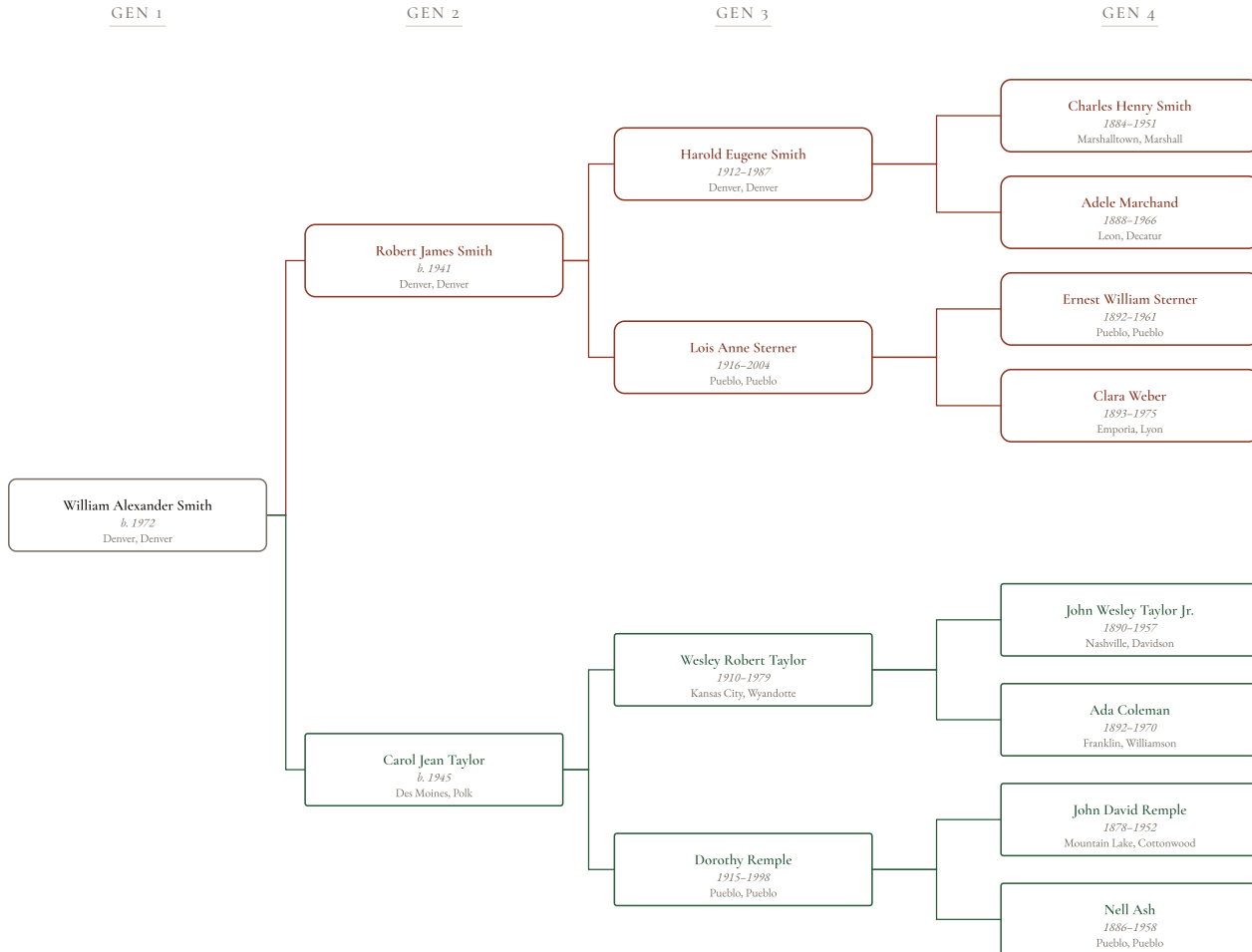
1879 ONWARD · 1879–PRESENT

William Henry Sterner (1853–1928), Amanda Mary Boyer (1869–1951), Ernest William Sterner (1892–1961), Clara Weber (1893–1975), John David Remple (1878–1952), Nell Ash (1886–1958), Charles Henry Smith (1884–1951), Harold Eugene Smith (1912–1987), Lois Anne Sterner (1916–2004)

Every line of the family reached the Front Range between 1879 and 1953 — carpenters, steelworkers, a hardware merchant, and teachers — and Denver has been home since.

Pedigree Overview

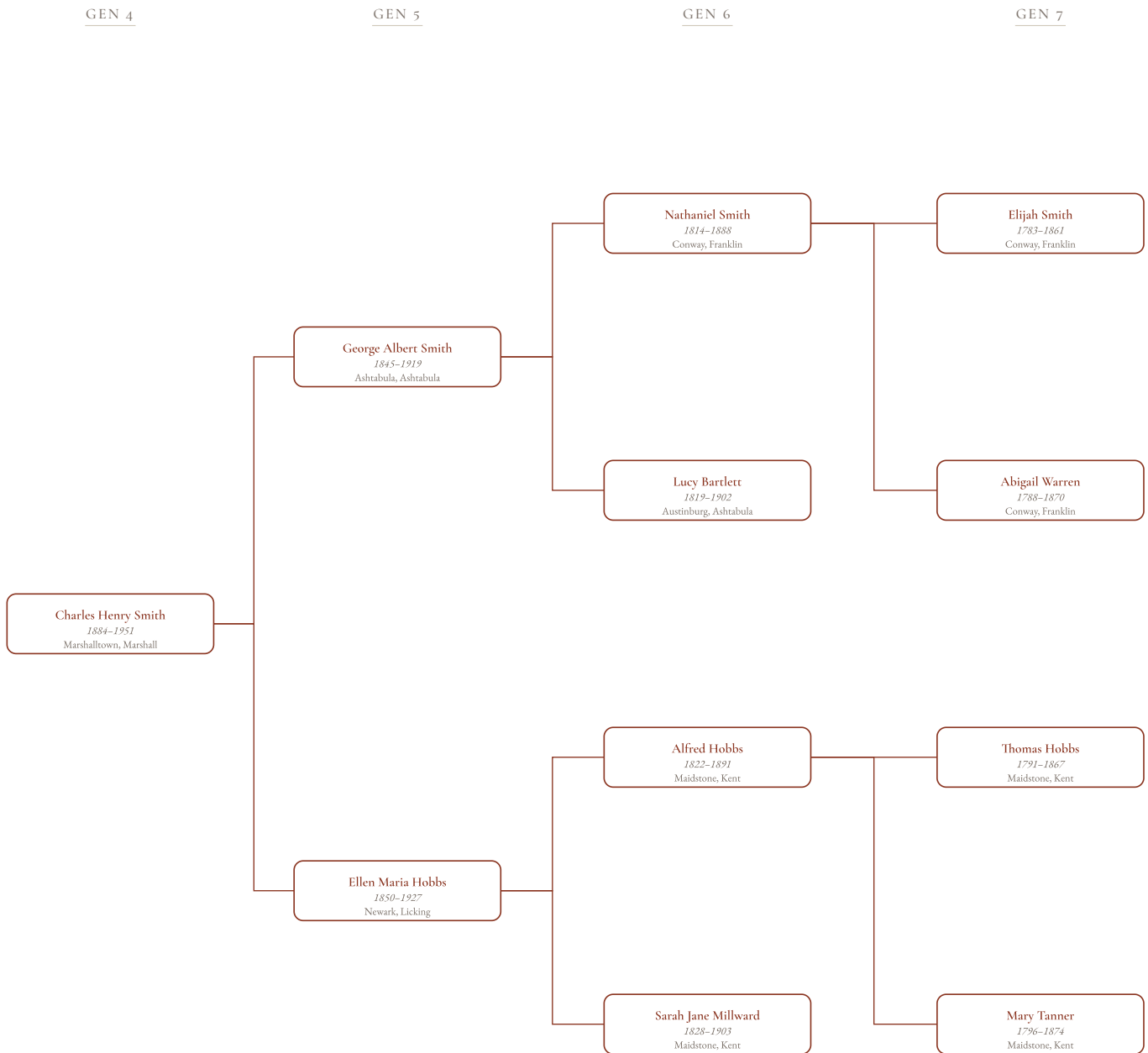
GENERATIONS 1 → 4



William Alexander Smith on the left, the eight great-grandparents on the right. Paternal line in rust, maternal line in green.

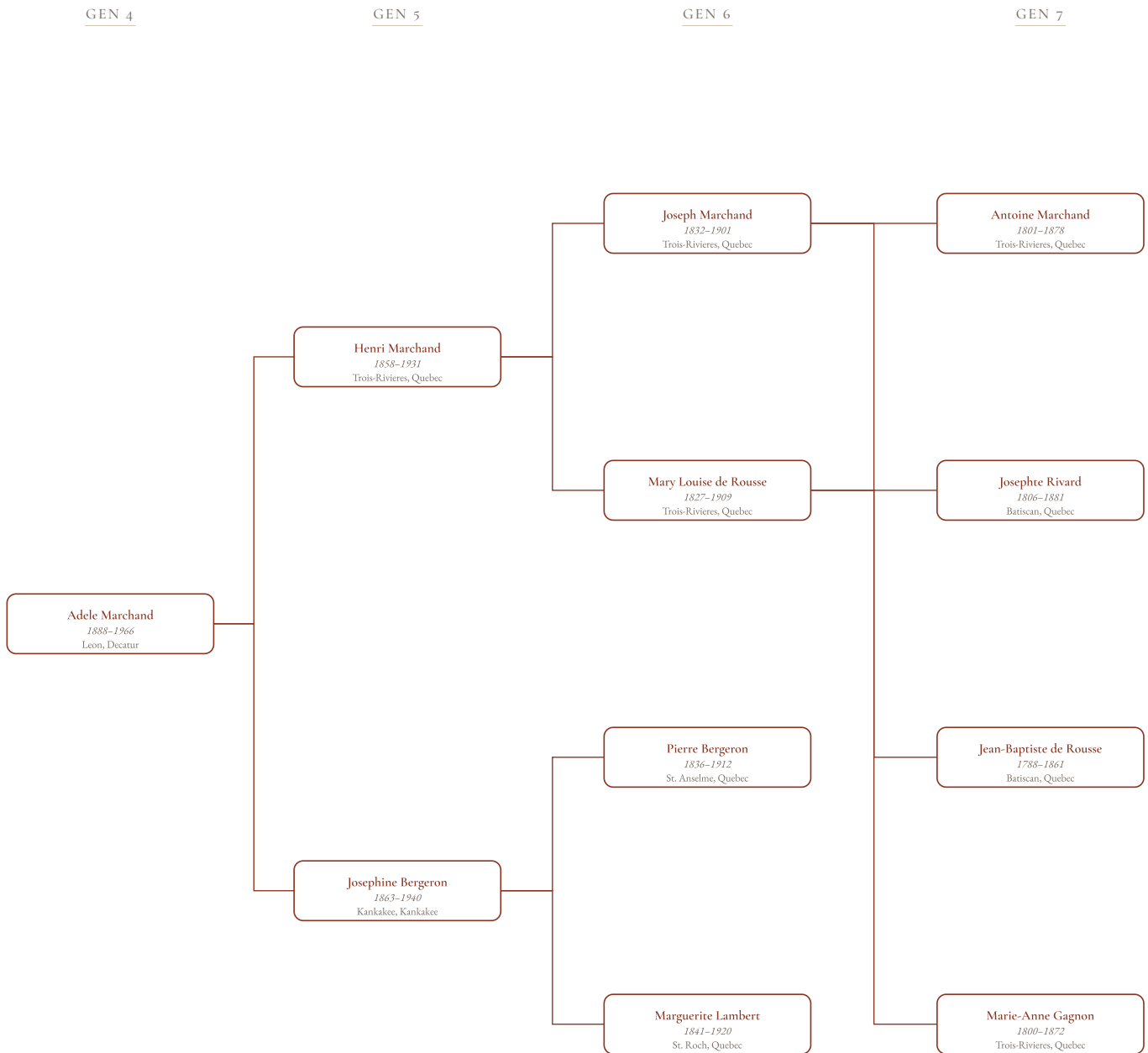
Charles Henry Smith's Line

PATERNAL · GENERATIONS 4 → 7



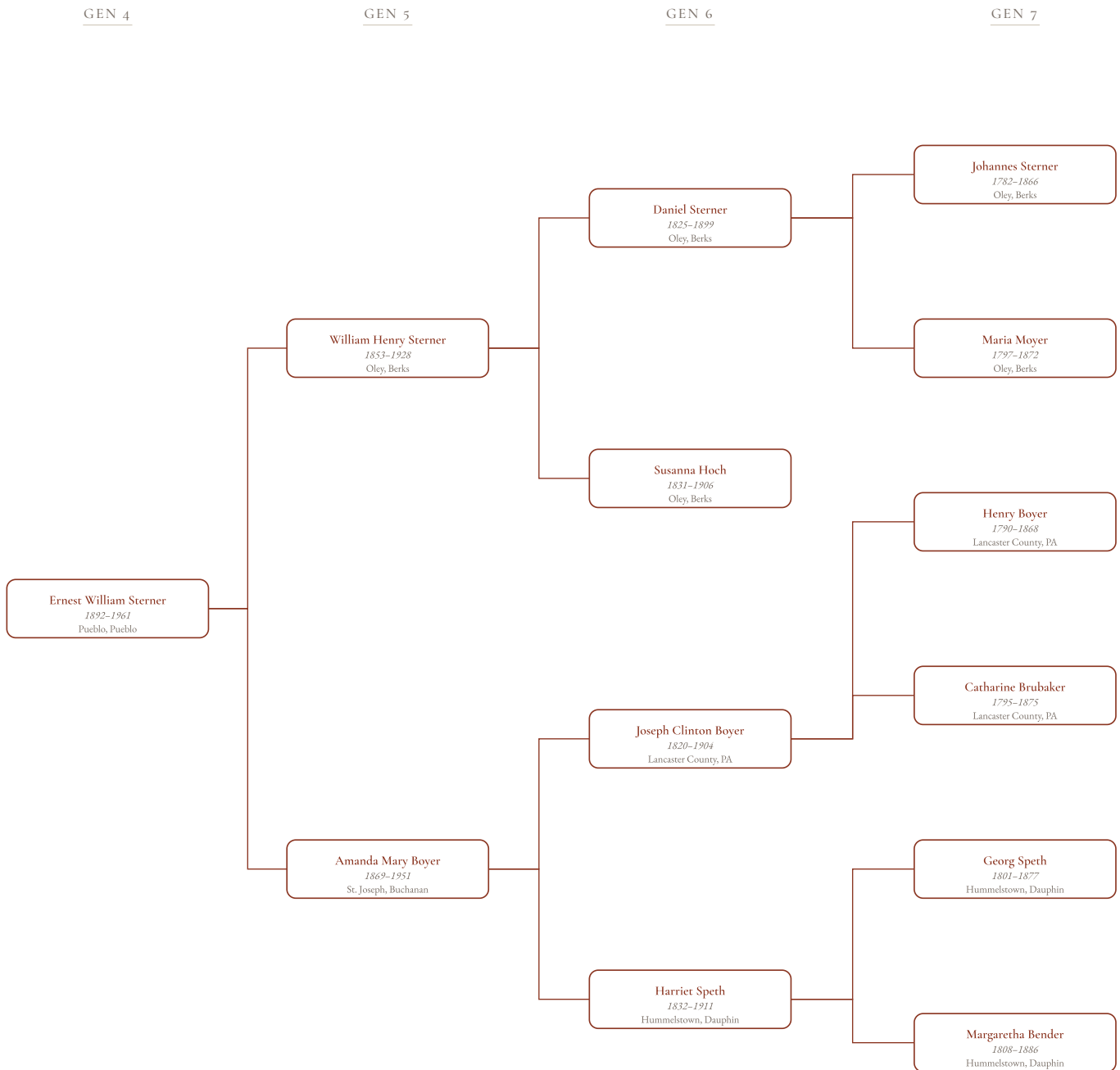
Adele Marchand's Line

PATERNAL · GENERATIONS 4 → 7



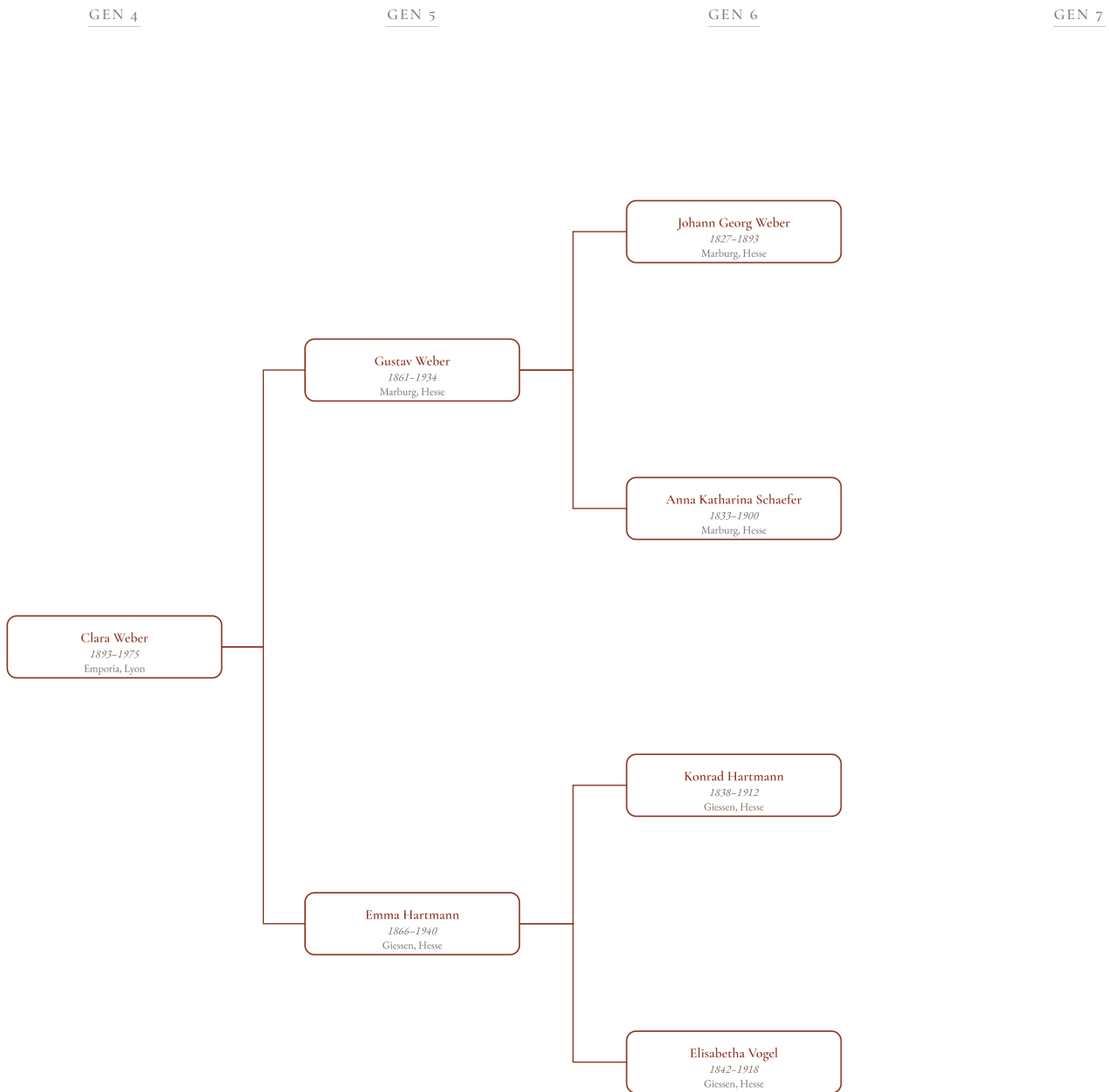
Ernest William Sterner's Line

PATERNAL · GENERATIONS 4 → 7



Clara Weber's Line

PATERNAL · GENERATIONS 4 → 7



John Wesley Taylor Jr.'s Line

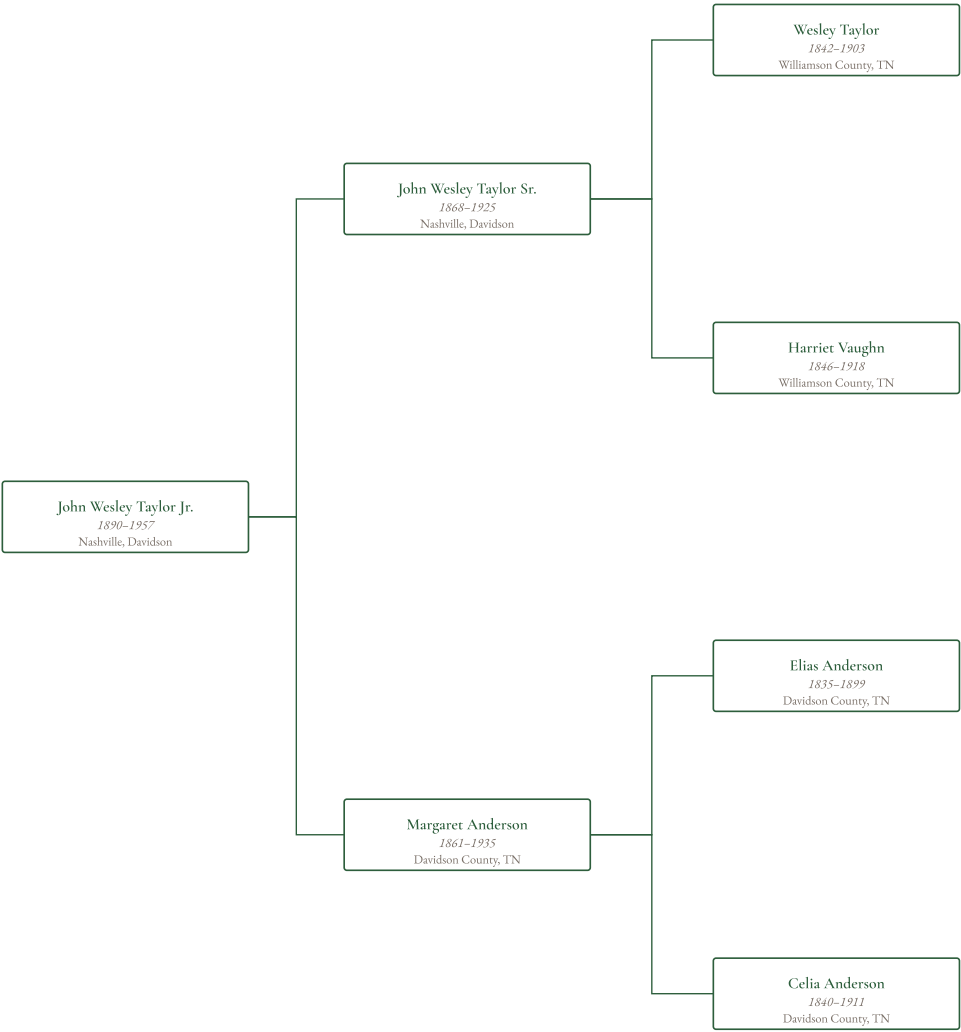
MATERNAL · GENERATIONS 4 → 7

GEN 4

GEN 5

GEN 6

GEN 7



Ada Coleman's Line

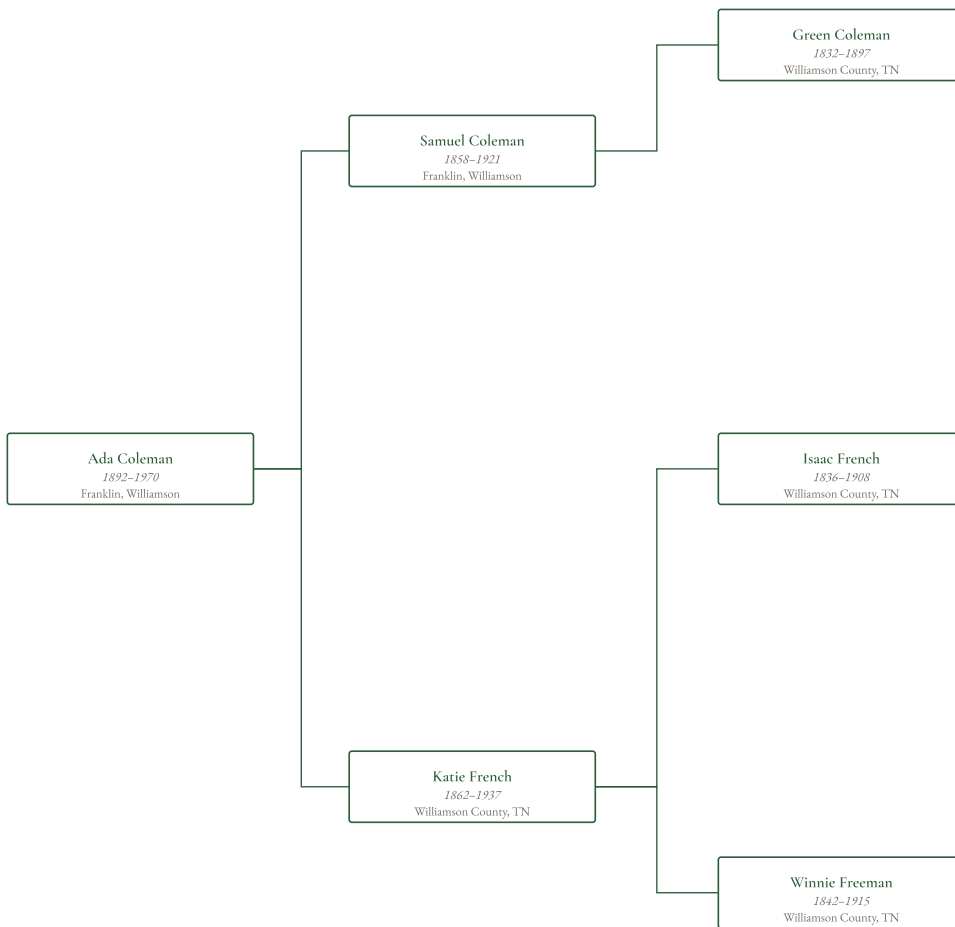
MATERNAL · GENERATIONS 4 → 7

GEN 4

GEN 5

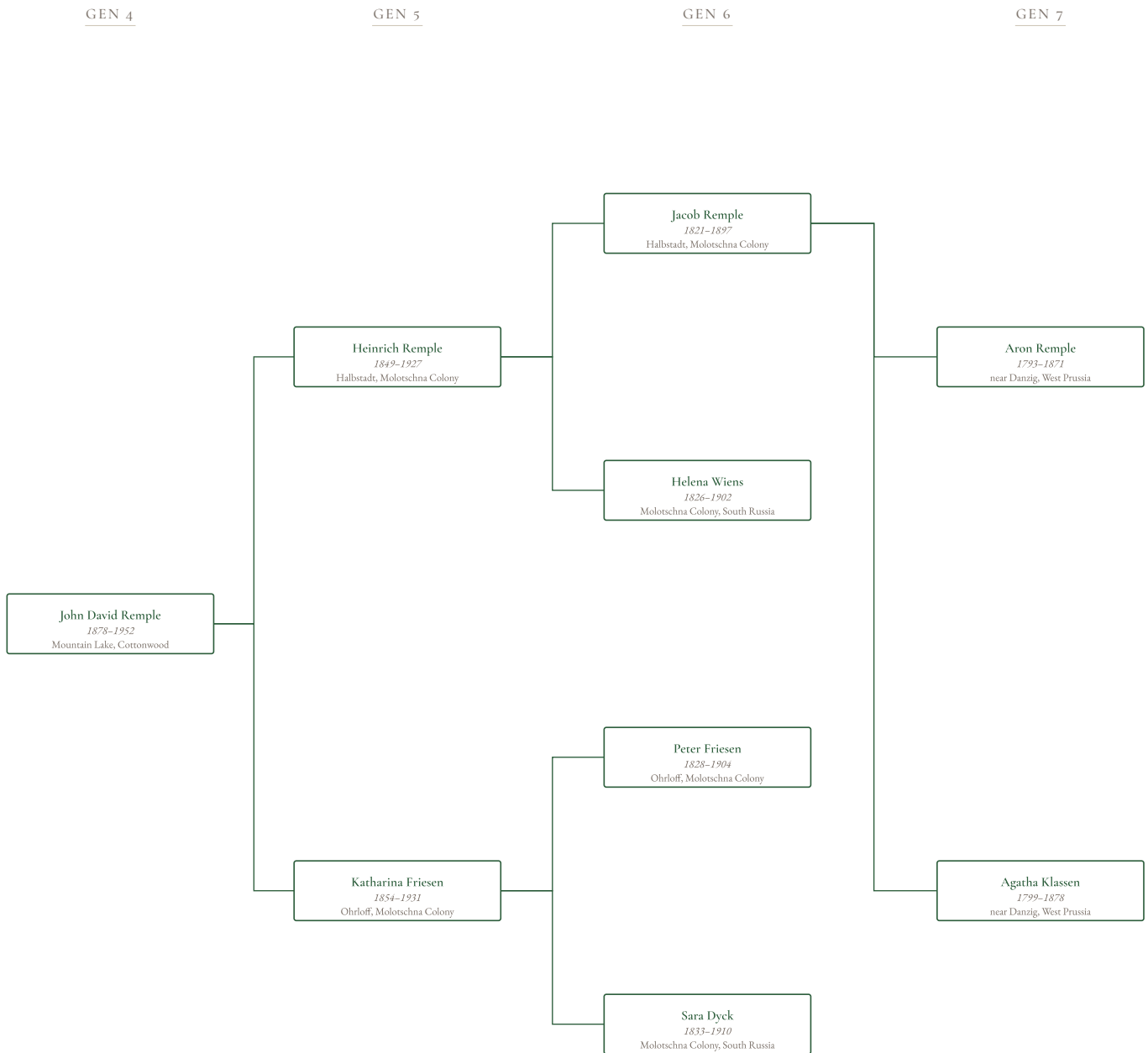
GEN 6

GEN 7



John David Remple's Line

MATERNAL · GENERATIONS 4 → 7



Nell Ash's Line

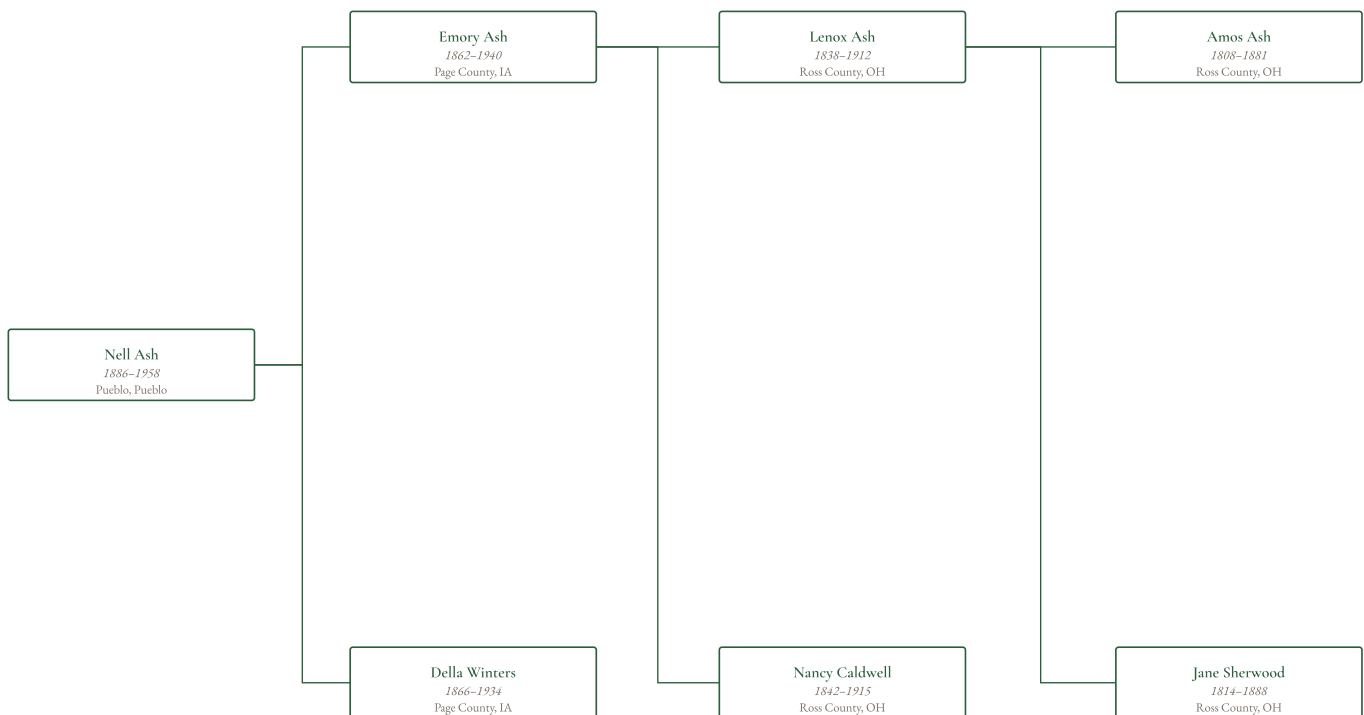
MATERNAL · GENERATIONS 4 → 7

GEN 4

GEN 5

GEN 6

GEN 7



A note on the research. Sapling.Family is a family-history research service. A lineage is assembled from surviving records, and connecting them across the generations involves judgment. Our findings rest on public records, established genealogical databases, and the analysis of a professional historian, and every conclusion in this report traces to a documented source — but no family history of this depth can be guaranteed complete or error-free. If something here doesn't look right to you, tell us: we'll work with you to resolve it.



Thank you

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