

STORIES BETWEEN THE DASH

1831 - 1920

What leads to finding those stories:

- Obituaries
- Draft registration cards
- Newspaper articles
- Oral family stories
- City Directories
- Census record occupations
- Biographies
- and many more...

How do you know when there might be a story to find?

- Curiosity !!
- Your ancestor is in or near something else that may have had historical significance
- More than one clue leads to the same happening
- You develop that “sixth” sense about your potential discovery
- Determination !!

CURIOSITY !!

- Besides just learning the usual genealogical items for your family tree, you want to know more about what your ancestors did, how they did, where they did, when they did, and WHY ?
- Keeping things in perspective; or go “down the rabbit hole”.
- Check off those resources you find and document any results.
- Add structure to the findings as you continue to discover new items.
- Keep adding until you feel that you have uncovered most or all of the available resources.

What makes the clue(s) intriguing?

- The fact that your ancestor may have been involved in something unusual, first of the kind, possible casual relationship to someone famous (infamous), in the right place at the right (wrong) time.
- Having a general knowledge of local or national history helps to better develop the story you are going to want to tell.
- Create a feeling about your ancestor that opens up the tale.
- Then fill in the facts with items you've discovered to complete the narrative.

Near something of significance

- How far in depth do you look at the census page? How many pages before or after your ancestors record do you view? And why would you do this?
- EXAMPLE: Adaline H. Walker 1831 – 1920: In the **dash** in 1850 Adaline was 18 and living in Hannibal, Missouri (3 houses away from 14 year old Samuel Clemons)

18 year Adaline Walker

41	576	William Walker	32	do	Labourer ✓		1870
		Adaline	18	7			60

14 year old Samuel Clemens

Joseph P. Arment	26	Mo		Editor ✓
Samuel J. "	19	Fr.		
Edith G. "	50	Fr.		
Julia A. Graham	21	Fr.		
Samuel Clemens	14	Mo		

Here is how close Adaline was to history

- After the death of his father, Sam Clemens worked at several odd jobs in town (Hannibal, Missouri), and in 1848 he became a printer's apprentice for Joseph P. Ament's Missouri Courier. He lived sparingly in the Ament household but was allowed to continue his schooling and, from time to time, indulge in boyish amusements.

The findings on Adaline

- Items found connected to Adaline were: she married George W. Dalton. They have a son, B. J. Dalton 1865 – 1923 and in his **dash** a discovery of the following:

Adaline's story continues ...

DALTON. B. J. Dalton, e'90, died at Parsons two weeks ago following a long illness. Mr. Dalton was valuation engineer with the M. K. & T. He served formerly with the Interstate Commerce Commission in important valuation work. For eight years Mr. Dalton was professor of civil engineering at the University. He is known personally to hundreds of K. U. people who will mourn upon learning of his death. Mrs. B. J. Dalton graduated from the School of Fine Arts in 1910.

Wrap up on Adaline

- Did she remember living so close to “Mark Twain” and did she ever tell anyone in her family about that time in Hannibal?
- What did B. J. Dalton, her son, focus on during his time with the M. K. & T. Railroad?
- Now if you want to go down the “rabbit hole” click on this link, and learn about the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad: [Missouri–Kansas–Texas Railroad – Wikipedia](#). Some really cool stuff there, all relating to other “hot spots” of history: such as a connection to the “Dalton Gang” and later to musical composer, Scott Joplin.

More than one clue...William A. Ewing

Ewing	William A	Keel	H	M	July	1876	24	S			Ohio	Ohio	Ohio			Physician
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Second clue...

The History of the City of Dayton and Montgomery Co., Ohio by
Rev. A. W. Drury - Publ. 1909 - Vol. II - Page 375

- **Dr. Ewing** was a little lad of six years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Darke county, Ohio, where his youthful days were passed on the home farm, the work of field and meadow early becoming familiar to him. He completed his more specifically literary education in the high school at Greenville, Ohio, and in the State University at Columbus, where he continued his studies for a year. His professional training was received in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from which he was graduated in 1900, and he put his theoretical training to the practical test in the Miami Valley Hospital, at Dayton, where he served as intern for a year,

William A. Ewing – in the dash



ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
...OF THE...
PROTESTANT
DEACONESS SOCIETY

And Training School for Nurses,

OF DAYTON, OHIO.

For the Year Ending December 31, 1900.

Down the rabbit hole on William Ewing

- Ella Phillips Crandall was dedicated to establishing public nursing as a recognized profession with high standards. She was born in Wellsville, New York, but grew up in Dayton, Ohio. Two years after her graduation from Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing (1897), she returned to Dayton, taking positions as **assistant superintendent of the Miami Valley Hospital and as director of the hospital's school of nursing, which was then newly founded.** Moving to New York City in 1909, Crandall entered the New York School of Philanthropy.

How close was William to an associate ?

- She worked on the American [Red Cross](#)' nursing committee during the First World War and served as executive secretary of the National Emergency Committee on Nursing of the General Medical Board of the [Council of National Defense](#). In 1920, she resigned from her post as head of the Public Health Nursing organization but remained active on behalf of public-health nursing. From 1922 to 1925, Crandall served as associate director of the American Child Health Association and in 1927 was named executive secretary of the Payne Fund, a newly formed philanthropic foundation that sponsored research in the field of education. She died on October 24, 1938, in New York City.

Wrap up on William A. Ewing

- William Ewing and Ella Phillips Crandall were both at the right place at the right time and did their professional careers ever pass again? Did William ever speak about his knowing Ella and did they keep in touch?
- I learned the early history of the Deaconess Hospital (now Miami Valley Hospital – Premier Health).

That “sixth” sense

- How do you know when there might be something in your ancestors background that you can discover?
- Well, you “Google” that ancestor until you find it!!
- Let’s look next at Otto Meek Shipley 1883 – 1965 and see what his **dash** holds to discover.

Otto Meek Shipley

- If you're lucky, you get a name like Otto Meek Shipley and you put "quotes" around his name and see what pops up.
- And that my friend, is what I refer to as my "sixth" sense.

Otto Meek Shipley – my findings

- It was perhaps Otto Shipley who had the first car (a Reo?) in town. He could go at least 25 miles an hour, when roads were good. Good roads meant it had not rained for a day or two. Mr. Shipley ordered and erected a pre-cut house from Sears Roebuck. It is now the home of LaVonne and Dean Boatman. Many people have lived there through the years, but the Boatman's bought it from Mrs. Thressa Stone.
- Ramsey County, North Dakota - Genealogy & History
- Northfield Township taken from the Edmore newspaper: Dec 7, 1995 (from a column called "Seventy Years Ago", typed as written, with mistakes and misspellings from original copy)

Otto on the census record – 1910 Ramsey, ND

Shiffler Henry W.	Head	m	w	54	Mar	20	1	1	Pennsylvania
— Mary	wife	f	w	51	Mar	20	0	0	Ireland Eng ^l
— Otto	Son	m	w	27	S				Iowa

More on Otto...

- The Washington Motor Company was an American automobile manufacturer based in Eaton, Ohio and later Middletown, Ohio, that produced the "Washington" automobile between 1921 and 1924.
- The company was set up by local Eaton businessman Otto M Shipley, who gained the support of other local business people to provide capital for the venture.

The 1922 Washington Motor Car, National Award Winner pictured here in front of the Swartzel House – Preble County (Ohio) Historical Society



Would Otto be proud?

- It is hard to explain the “sixth” sense in dealing with ancestry research. Sometimes you just have to put quotes around a name and a place and see what shows up in the whole wide world of the internet.
- Sometimes you have to send e-mails or messages to places and see if they have any records on your ancestor.
- Lots and lots of microfilm newspaper research.
- Thumbing through old city directories.
- A combination of all of the above.

Determination !!

- What exactly do I mean by this?
- It is the painstaking, piece by piece research and reviewing those old checklists that help in revealing new clues about an ancestor.
- Example: John Snyder 1813 – 1873 and his **dash**.

John Snyder

- Remember I said it helps to know a little bit about history. This is the case where seventh grade American History paid off.
- The clues: John Snyder, summer 1863, a farm in Pennsylvania

The findings....

- On June 30, 1863, some Union soldiers had come to the farm asking for food and water. Catherine Snyder had just baked bread and had picked some beans from her garden. Nervous about what might happen if the family did not cooperate, she gave those to the soldiers and sent them on their way.
- The Slyders returned to find a destroyed farm, and their possessions looted or spoiled, leaving them with little means to feed themselves for the rest of the year. Thousand of soldiers had trampled their crops, filched the fruit from the orchards, dug up the garden in search of food, and drank up the water in the well.

It continues...

- Though they submitted a claim to the U.S. government, the Snyder family never received reimbursement for their destroyed fields, crops and livestock. Few Gettysburg civilians did. Instead, they were left on the verge of bankruptcy. They decided to sell the farm and move to Ohio.
- <https://www.civilwarwomenblog.com/snyder-farm/>

Wrap up on John Snyder



John Snyder

- John Snyder was a potter, a carpenter and a blacksmith. In the late 1830s he purchased a farm near Gettysburg, PA. During the Battle of Gettysburg their farm was about a half mile from both the Confederate and Union lines. Confederate cannons were nearly in their front yard. Their house was used as a field hospital. The house became unlivable. On October 22, 1863 they sold their possessions and moved to Ohio. John died in Johnsville, Montgomery County, Ohio. He had six children.

John Snyder final resting



Did you notice?

- The **dash** between the birth and death years for both John and his wife Catharine seem extra long. I expect that is for the many troubles they endured.

How you too can become your own ancestor detective.

- Start by keeping good records and document what you find.
- Make a folder for each ancestor you want to research.
- The ancestor does not have to be an immediate direct link to you, it might end up being you 2nd cousin 3 times removed, or your great grandfather's mother-in-law. That's up to you how far you go out on each branch or limb of your family tree.
- Again, keep things in perspective and make a plan in the beginning how much time and effort you want to put into the research.

Tell the story

- Next steps – lay out your findings and capture as much detail as possible. This is what makes your findings worthy of inclusion in your next book.
- In talking with other fellow researchers, many have said that history would be much more interesting if you get the “nitty gritty” details about the ancestor and what they did. It doesn’t have to be gruesome, but, the more you can relate the ancestor to another point in time when something else was taking place, the more interest your audience will take and hopefully become captivated by your tale.

Good example of this type of story telling:

CONLEY DYSARD

FAMILY HISTORY

To really appreciate this day and better understand it we must go back about 80 years to find out who really is responsible for this great gathering of people that is known to us all as the Conley-Dysard reunion."why is this great gathering called the Conley - Dysard reunion ? you ask. " and why are we all here. ? I am afraid you might stumble in the dark while trying to solve these questions (Especially some of you younger ones.) so I'll try and tell you the few facts I know about it. True facts as I spent many days as a Child listening to the stories told me by my Grandmother Harriet Dysard Conley. for she is one of the two people who started the family of Conley and Dysard. The night that the stars fell in 1833 William David Conley was born.

William David Conley

- William David Conley is my paternal 3rd great grandfather. What you just saw was a page from the 1934 Conley-Dysard Family reunion booklet. If the writer had said William David Conley was born in 1833, that would not be of a huge interest to many.
- Making the statement – The night the stars fell in 1833 William David Conley was born.
- This statement lead me to research “the night the stars fell 1833” and oh my, here’s what I found..

WOW!

- Though meteor showers are common, no one predicted the explosion of shooting stars that illuminated the night sky on November 12, 1833. Just before dawn, people threw on clothes and gathered in roads and fields to watch the 150,000 meteors (about 30 per second) dance in plain view during the storm's peak. One eyewitness told the *Pantagraph* newspaper in Illinois that, "the very heavens seemed to be ablaze." Though many were spellbound, not all rejoiced in the cosmic celebration. At the time, the South was a hotbed for the national religious revival known as the Second Great Awakening. Some awoke terrified, fearing it was the End of Days, as predicted by a Bible verse: "and the stars of heaven shall fall." But in the weeks following, newspapers demystified the showers with science.

A rendering of what that may have looked like



William David Conley

- Now do I have your attention on how you begin a story.
- Is your story more relatable now that you have captured some details and even brought a photo or example of what the event may have been like to those present?
- Keep the details clear and concise. Make your audience want more. This is the hook to get them interested in the family history.

Pack along your folders and research

- Now that you have them hooked, let others continue where you left off.
- Show what you have found and where it was found. Start by asking the questions you saw from my previous slides. Building upon those types of questions, where do you think you should start researching next and what do you expect to find?

Open discussion

- This spot for taking notes: Use it wisely.

Thank you!

- I'll leave you with a -