
SHERMAN

Origin of the Surname

Schurmann

(<https://www.houseofnames.com/schurmann-family-crest>)

The German surname Schurmann emerged in the lands that formed the powerful German state of Prussia, which at one time was an immense German territory that stretched from France and the Low Countries to the Baltic sea and Poland. After the fall of the Roman Empire, the German territories were inhabited by a variety of Barbarian tribes. The borders of the Barbarian kingdoms changed frequently, but the region that became known as Prussia was roughly divided between the areas of Brandenburg-Prussia, West Prussia, and East Prussia. Brandenburg-Prussia was essentially the birthplace of modern Germany. By the 19th century, Brandenburg-Prussia had incorporated East Prussia, West Prussia and many other German territories. Moreover, in the late 19th century, it led the German states in German Unification.

In the medieval era, many different cultural groups lived in the German states. There are thus many regional variations of German surnames from that era. [Westphalians](#) spoke Low German, which is similar to modern Dutch. Many German names carry suffixes that identify where they came from. Others have phrases attached that identify something about the original bearer. Other variations in German names resulted from the fact that medieval scribes worked without the aid of any spelling rules. The [spelling variations](#) of the name Schurmann include Schirrmann, Schirmann, Schirrman, Schuermann, Schurmann, Schurman, Scherman, Sherman (English), Schirmer and many more.

The Schurmann Motto

The motto was originally a war cry or slogan. Mottoes first began to be shown with arms in the 14th and 15th centuries, but were not in general use until the 17th century. Thus the oldest coats of arms generally do not include a motto. Mottoes seldom form part of the grant of arms: Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and can be added to or changed at will; many families have chosen not to display a motto

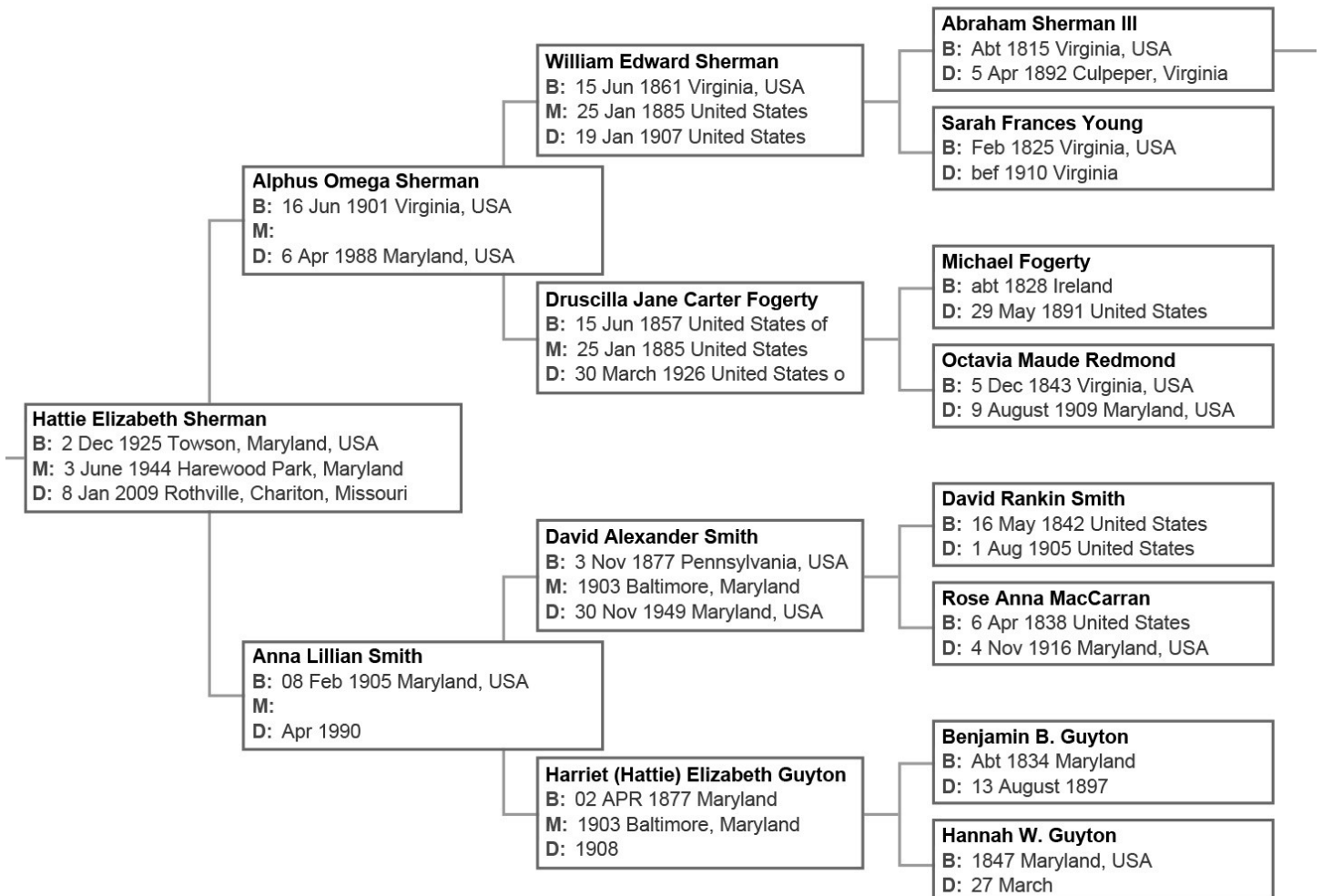
Motto: Felix sua sorte contentus

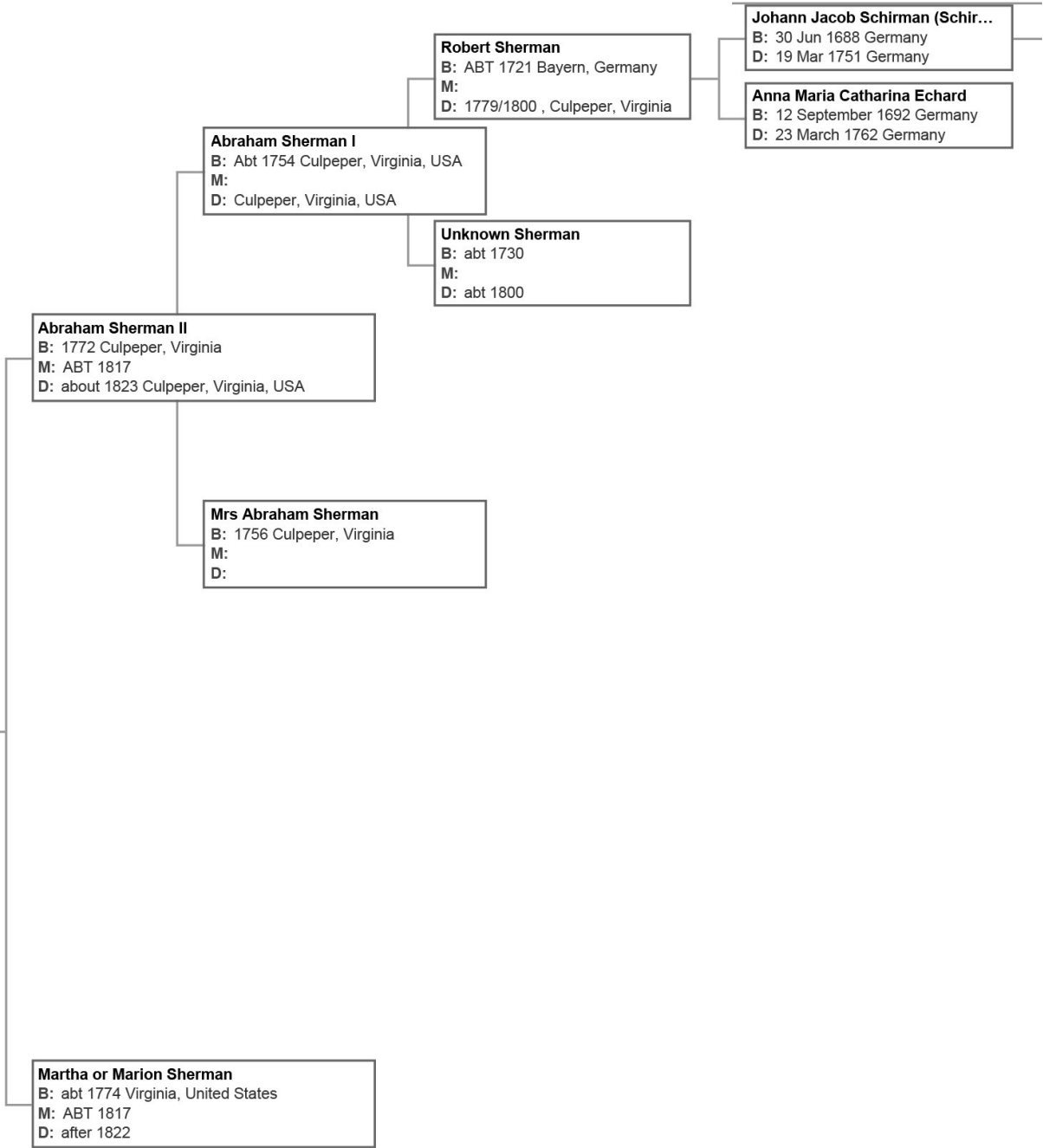
Motto Translation:

Happy, contented with his lot

SHERMAN

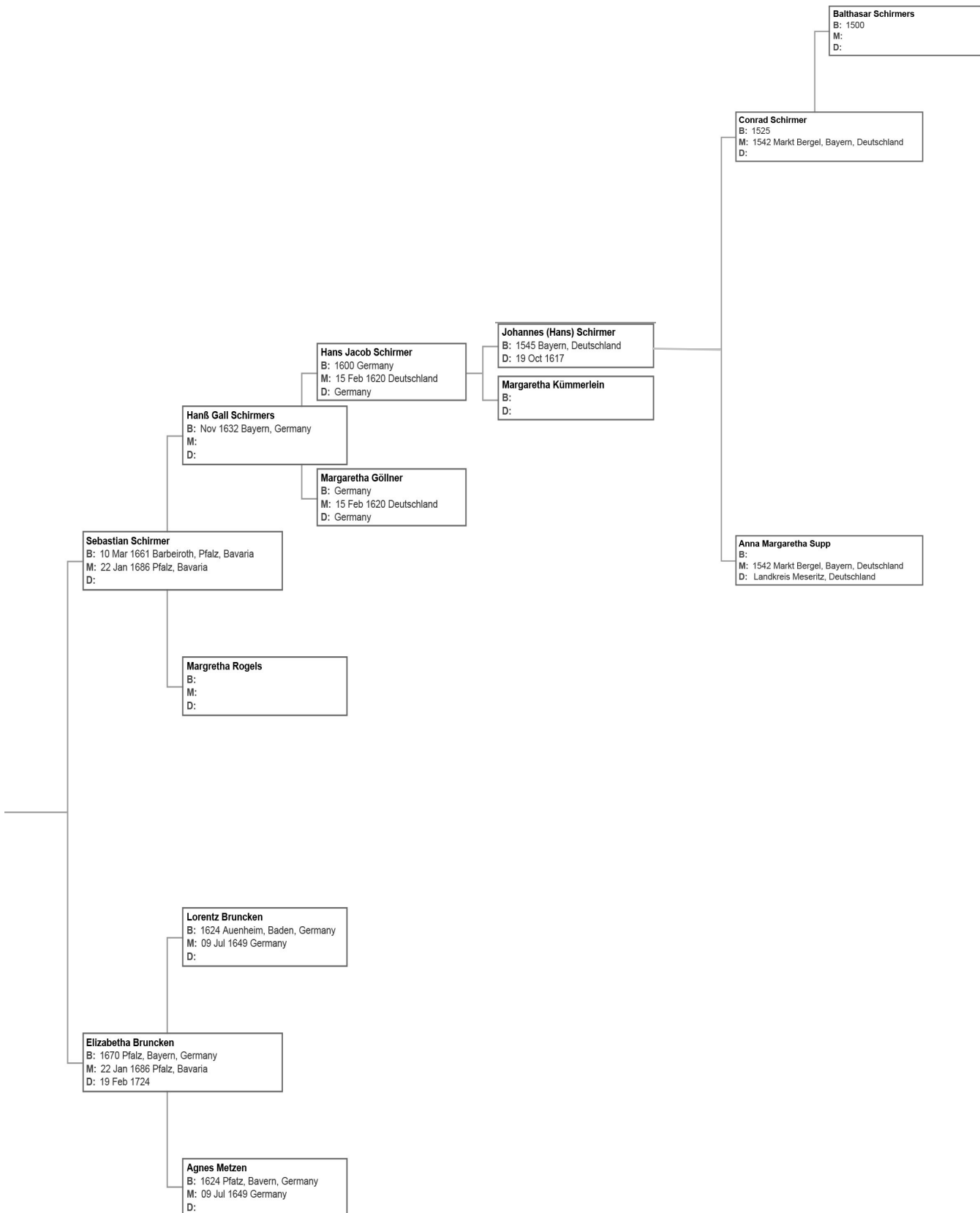
The Tree





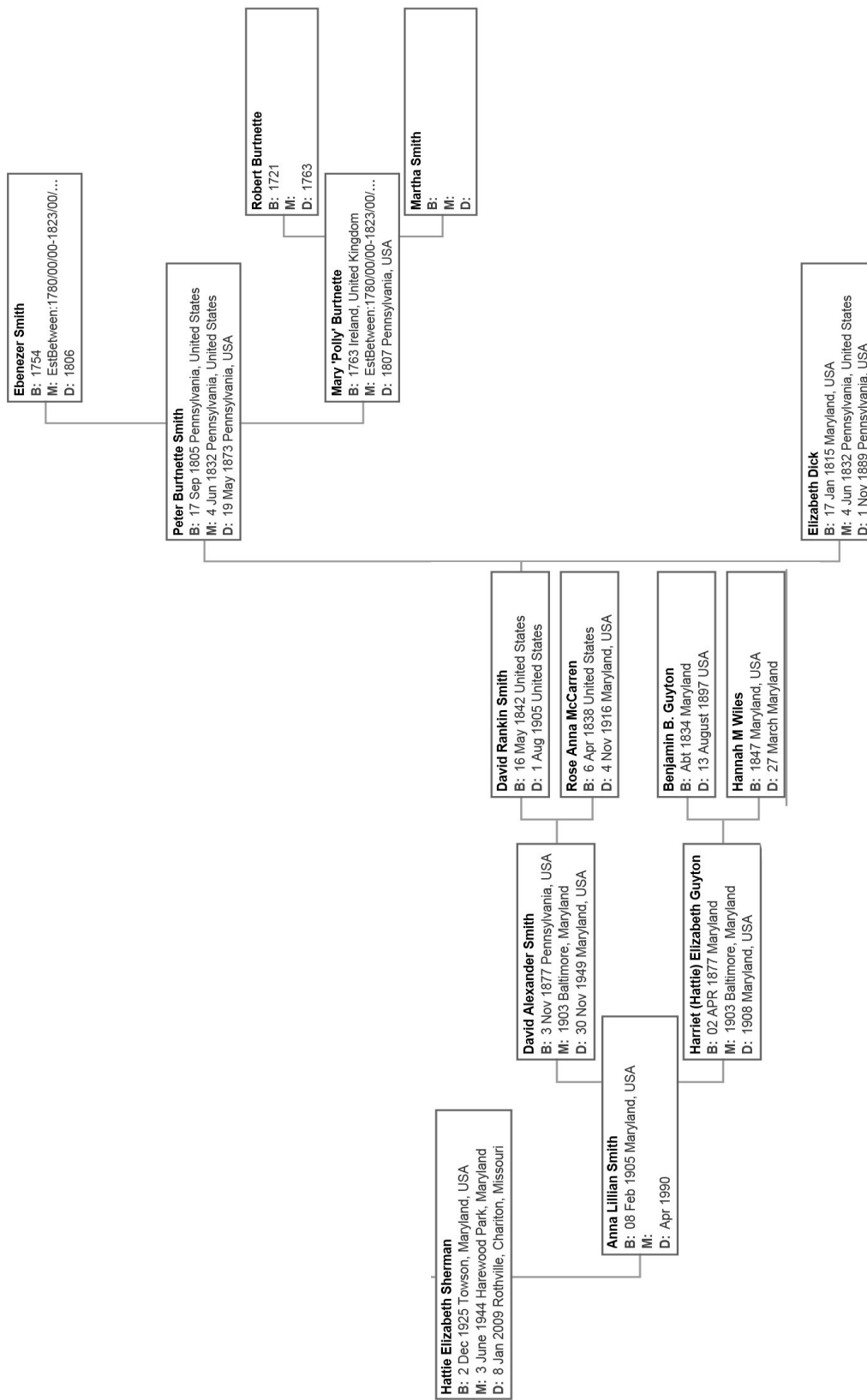
SHERMAN

The Tree



SMITH

The Tree



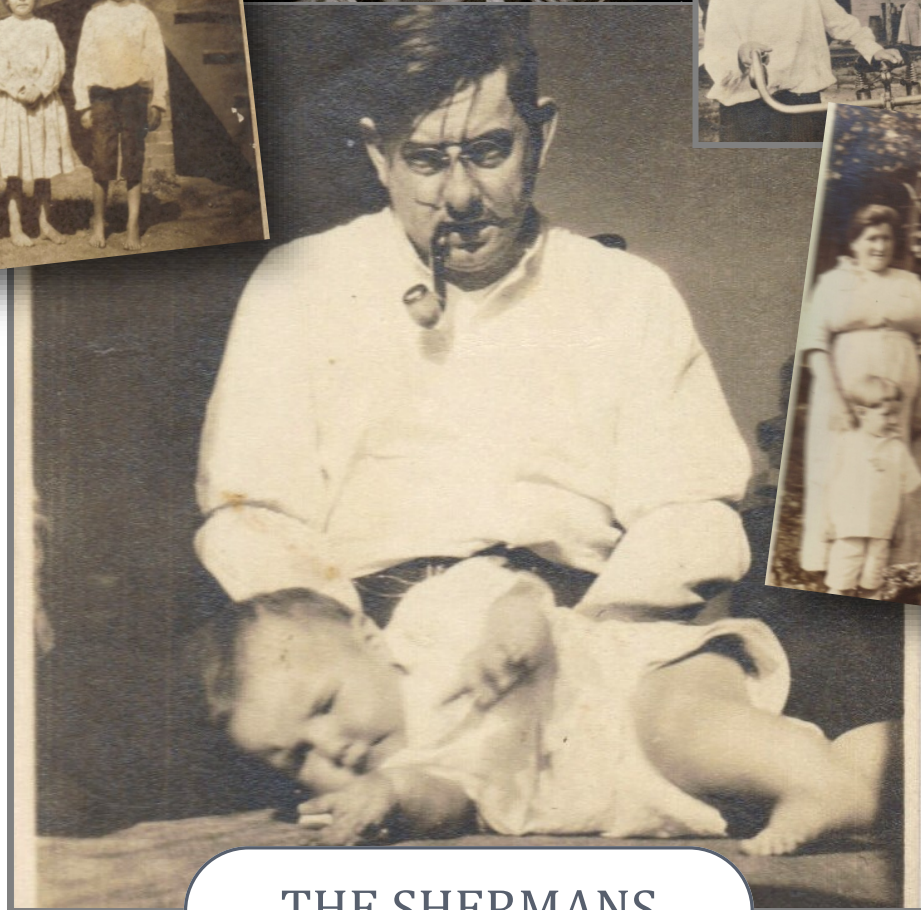
SHERMAN

Chapter One

As I embarked on the research into my Sherman ancestry I expected it to be filled with revelations like I experienced on the Moxley side. The initial look told me this family was more settled and once they arrived from Germany didn't stray far from their original landing in America. This might have indicated they were therefore somewhat less exciting, but, only diving into the records would tell. My first cousin, Robert David Sherman II, is responsible for getting me into the whole Ancestry.com

thing. He started research during the 90s and invited me to be an editor on his tree. I became hooked and took out a full membership so I could start my own Moxley/Sherman Tree coordinating with David's tree. Unlike the Moxley research I found no argument with David's research and, fortunately, the research of second cousin Edwin

Sherman, Jr. runs parallel to mine making it a lot easier to be sure of my findings. I have a much broader understanding of the Sherman clan.



Center: 1914, David Alexander Smith and Billie Smith. Clockwise from left: Nellie, Mable, Agnes, Jack Sherman. Front row, Marjorie May, Anna Lillian, Alphus Omega (Jack), back row, Robert David, Alphus Harry (Jack), Michael Smith, Hattie Elizabeth (Betty). Michael Dunty and Anna Lillian. Aunt Sally, Herman, Anna Lillian, Frank, Lovey.

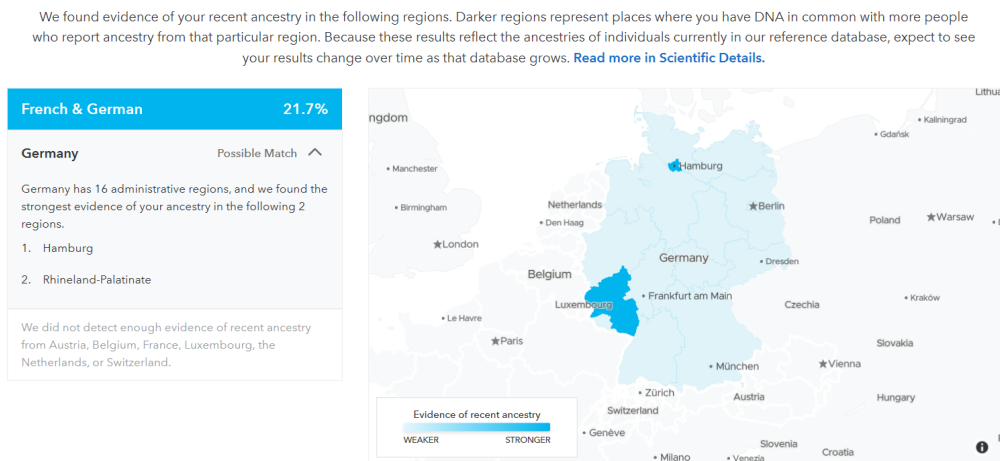
THE SHERMANS

The map on the left, a screenshot from 23&me research, shows the area from Germany that my DNA ancestors came from. Rhineland-Palatinate is a state of Germany located in western Germany, with Mainz the state capital and largest city, while other major cities include Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Koblenz, Trier, Kaiserslautern, and Worms. Rhineland-Palatinate is surrounded by the states of North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland, Baden-Württemberg, and Hesse. It also borders three foreign countries: France, Luxembourg, and Belgium. The earliest ancestor I traced is from Ansbach, but our people soon moved west to Pfalz.

I bet you are wondering, "Why is this important?" When I got my DNA results I was surprised by three factors—the biggest being that there was no Native American blood, the next being that I was 22% German (that's a lot!), and the last that I was .6% Congolese. I could write a whole essay on the Native American and Congolese findings, but will reserve it for my next obsession. For now, let's talk about the German side. My father's side is 100% British Isles, so that left my mother's side to be responsible for the German DNA. It was either PopPop or Nana, or possibly both, but the number— 22%, would indicate one or the other, not both. So when the Sherman research traced back to Germany I felt I was on the right track.

Like with my Moxley side, there are still some things I'm not 100% sure on; but the facts I am telling you are facts, not fabrications, so I believe in my research.

In the last 200 years, your ancestors may have lived in the following locations.



According to folklore, towards the end of the 7th century a group of Franconian peasants and their families went up into the wilderness to found a new settlement. Their leader Onold led them to an area called the "Rezattal" (Rezat valley). This is where they founded the "Urhöfe" (meaning the first farms: Knollenhof, Voggenhof and Rabenhof). Gradually more settlers, such as the "Winden-Tribe" came, and the farms grew into a small

village. Many villages around Ansbach were founded by the "Winden" during that period. Even today their settlements can easily be identified by their names, like "Meinhardszwinden", "Dautenwinden" or "Brodswinden" for example. A Benedictine monastery was established there around 748 by the Frankish noble St Gumbertus. The adjoining village of Onoltesbach is first noticed as a proper town in 1221.

The counts of Öttingen ruled over Ansbach until the Hohenzollern burgrave of Nürnberg took over in 1331. The Hohenzollerns made Ansbach the seat of their dynasty until their acquisition of the Margraviate of Brandenburg in 1415. After the 1440 death of Frederick I, a cadet branch of the family established itself as the margraves of Ansbach. George the Pious introduced the Protestant Reformation to Ansbach in 1528, leading to the secularization of Gumbertus Abbey in 1563. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ansbach>)

And this leads me to our first ancestor...

Balthasars Schirmers! Sounds like an exclamation I would make if I hit gold, doesn't it! Well, I did, sort of! Balthasars Schirmers (b. 1500-?) was my 12G Grandfather. The family traces back to 1500, Ansbach, Germany. Needless to say, there aren't a lot of details. Most records are of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths. So I can't tell you if Balthasars was a bricklayer, farmer, or innkeeper. In 1525 he and his wife (unknown) had a son, Conrad.

Conrad Schirmer (1525-?) married Anna Margareth Supp in 1542, Bayern, Germany. They would have nine children between 1542 and 1579. Our direct descendent was Johann Hans, born in 1545.

Johann Hans Schirmer (1545-1617), Bayern, Germany, married twice, first to Catharina Jackstratt in 1565. They had one son Johs that same year. Johann would next marry **Margaretha**

Kummerlein in 1573, and they would have a son Hannß Jacob in 1600.

[The letter ß (also known as sharp S, German: eszett or scharfes S) is a letter in the German alphabet. It is the only German letter that is not part of the basic Latin alphabet. The letter is pronounced [s] (like the "s" in "see"). The ß character is not used in any other languages. In this narrative I will use the letter "s."]

Hanns Jacob Schirmer (1600-?) married Margaretha Göllner in 1620 and they had Hanß Gall.

Hans Gall Schirmer (1632-?) married Margaretha Rogels and they had Sebastian.

Sebastian Schirmer (1661-?), born in Pfalz, Germany, married Elizabetha Bruncken on January 22, 1686 and they had Johann Jacob.

Johann Jacob Schirmer (1688-1751) married Anna Maria Catharina Echard on November 22, 1718.

It is in documents pertaining to Johann's eleven children that we see the first changes to the spelling of the name. Schirmer becomes Schirman in many of the children's baptism records. And it is two of this generation that emigrate to America.

Johann Jacob and Anna had Johann Adam (1688-1751), Anna Maria (1712-?), Catherina Elisabetha (1714-?), **Robert (1721-1800)**, Johann Peter (1722-1794), Maria Barbara (1722-?), Anna Barbara (1723-?), Anthonius (1724-?), Magdalena (1727-?), and George Jacob (1730-1792). Only Johann Peter and Robert Sherman can definitely be found in America.

Robert Sherman (1721-1800) was born in Niederhochstadt, Pfalz, Bayern, Germany. The first indication of his existence in America is in 1764. He is on the Virginia Early Census Index as living in Culpeper, Virginia. And in 1777 he was the fifer

for the 10 and/or 11th Regiment during the Revolutionary War. I have not found any documents validating Robert's arrival in America; but I would bet he came with his brother who I do have documents for. There is no record of Robert's wife, but he had a son, Abraham Sherman, in Virginia.

Robert's brother Johann Peter Schirmer married Maria Magdalena Wendal in Germany. They came to America in 1750 through Philadelphia. Twin daughters were born in 1750 probably on board ship. Their next daughter was baptized in the Presbyterian church in Philadelphia in 1753. Later US Census show Peter in Virginia, then in North Carolina.

Abraham Sherman, (1754-1800) was born and died in Culpeper County, Virginia.

Abraham Sherman II (1772-1823), born and died in Culpeper County, Virginia, married a Martha (Marion) unknown last name.

Abraham Sherman III (1815-1892). When Abraham III was born in Culpeper, Virginia, his father was 40 and his mother was 38. He married Sarah Frances Young and they had three sons and six daughters between 1849 and 1872. Our Great Grandfather William Edward was sixth in line. Abraham III died on April 5, 1892 in Culpeper County, Virginia. The US Census records from 1850 to 1880 show Abraham III, was a bricklayer.

William Edward Sherman (1861-1907)

Alphus Omega Sherman (1901-1988)

Hattie Elizabeth Sherman Moxley (1925-2009)

Hindsight is always 20/20! I just wish that when I had the opportunity I had asked my grandfather Alphus Omega (Jack) Sherman about his youth, or just anything about his life growing up. As I researched his ancestry I found things that surprised me.

William Edward Sherman was still living at home with Abraham and Sarah in the 1870 and 1880 US Census. He married Druscilla Jane Carter Fogerty on January 25, 1885, and the 1900 US Census shows him "Head of House" with Druscilla, eight children, and his mother-in-law Octavia. The two oldest Frederick Johnson Sherman, born 1881 is recorded as a *stepson* to William, and Susan Ann (Susie), b. 1877, is recorded as Williams *daughter-in-law*. So this created the question as to who Susan and Frederick actually were. *Oh, I love a good hunt! So hold on—it's going to get confusing!*

I looked for answers in the earlier census records containing anything connected to Druscilla or her mother, Octavia Redman. On September 12, 1852, Octavia Redman married Michael Fogerty in Farquier County, VA, (Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785-1940) and had Mary Emma in 1854 and Druscilla Jane (1857).

The 1860 US Census shows Octavia Redman living with 3-yr-old Druscilla Carter (no sign of Mary Emma) in the home of Arthur Carter. Octavia's mother was Nancy Ann Carter with a brother, James Arthur Carter. It does not indicate Octavia and Arthur are married. Was Octavia already divorced from Fogerty and now living with her uncle? And why was Druscilla listed as Druscilla Carter and not Druscilla Fogerty. I can only suppose the census taker "assumed" the name of Carter for Druscilla. On July 15, 1861 James Arthur enlisted in the Virginia Fauquier Light Artillery Battery and went to fight for the Confederacy in the Civil War. Now Octavia and Druscilla had to find somewhere else to live.

In the 1870 US Census they are now listed as Octavia Fogarty and Jane Fogarty living in the Smith Johnson household (still no sign of Mary Emma). Smith Johnson is shown without a wife, but with four children, James B (16), Presley (14), Sarah (12), and Turner (8). Not all of these were his children as is proved in later census. Also in

his home are his housekeeper, Narcissa Redman (27) Nancy Redman (4) and Luc Sigrid Redman (2). Narcissa is Octavia's sister.

Now here's where it starts getting very interesting. Smith Johnson had been married to Sarah Elizabeth Carter (d. 1868), daughter of Henry Carter and Susannah Redman. Henry Carter was another brother of Nancy Ann Carter. Therefore, Smith Johnson was the husband of Octavia's and Narcissa's first cousin.

Smith was now a widower, and Octavia was divorced. *Hint, hint!*

The 1880 US Census shows Smith Johnson with wife Octavia, and daughters Druscilla (20), Lizzie (10), Annie (6), Kate (3) and granddaughter Susan (3). So who could this Susan be other than the aforementioned Susan Ann Sherman, b. 1877, shown as William Edward's "daughter-in-law." Did Druscilla have Susan and Frederick by Smith Johnson, her mother's husband? And just maybe, Smith wasn't married to Octavia either.

In the continued search for Octavia's other daughter, Mary Emma Fogerty, I find another interesting fact. Although she never shows up in any of the census records with Octavia, I found a record that Mary Emma Fogerty married James B. Johnson, son of Smith Johnson. And the record states Mary Emma's mother was Octavia.

(Ancestry.com. *Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785-1940*, p 130 e17). So obviously, since she met up and married Smith's son, Mary Emma was still in Octavia's life.

The Eleventh United States Census was taken beginning June 2, 1890. The data was tabulated by machine for the first time and reported that the distribution of the population had resulted in the disappearance of the American frontier. Most of the 1890 census materials were destroyed in a 1921 fire and fragments of the US census population schedule exist only for the states of Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota,

and Texas, and the District of Columbia. I've been unable to find any data on the family for the time between 1880 and 1900.

The 1900 US Census, Fauquier, VA., shows 76-year-old widower, Smith Johnson, living with his *nephew* Turner. So that proves a) not all the children in the 1870 were Smith's, and b) since Octavia was still living, he probably was never married to Octavia.

Octavia Redman died on August 9, 1909 and is buried in Damascus Cemetery, Damascus, Maryland.

As I mentioned before, William and Druscilla now had a large family. All twelve children of William and Druscilla's were born in Virginia, the last being Nellie on February 4, 1904. Sometime between her birth and January 19, 1907 the family moved to Maryland. I wonder what prompted the family to make this move north? William was a farm laborer, but did not own his farm. So maybe he moved to Maryland for work in the fast growing cotton mills of Baltimore. The next record I find of William is his death on January 19, 1907 at the age of 46. He was originally buried in the St. Mary's Episcopal Cemetery in Baltimore, but in 1977 was reinterred in the Damascus Cemetery in Montgomery County, Maryland. Another interesting fact is that Mary Emma Fogerty Johnson, her husband, James Bailey Johnson and several of their children, are also buried in the St. Mary's Episcopal Cemetery in Baltimore. So we know Mary Emma followed her mother and sister to Maryland.

The Thirteenth Census of the United States in 1910 tells the all too common story of a 50-year-old widow, **Druscilla Sherman**, who rented her home at 88 Dogwood Road in the 2nd Precinct of Election District 2, of Baltimore, Maryland. The record states she had 12 living children, but at this time only eight were recorded as still at home. The youngest, Nellie, was 6; my grandfather, **Alphus**

Omega and his twin sister Agnes were 8. The other five, James, Harry, Mary, Katie, and Myrtle, all worked at a cotton mill; Myrtle (20) was a carder, Katie (18) was a spinner, Mary (16) worked in ties, Harry (15) was a doffer (took full spindles off and replaced with empty spindles) and 13-year-old James worked in carding and fulling. Almost everyone on the census page with



Photos from <http://baltimoreindustrytraveltours.com/milling-cotton.php> These are not pictures of our family.

Druscilla and her family worked at a cotton mill. Though I have not found a record of which mill our relatives worked in, later in this narrative is a map showing locations of several mills in the area where, based on census records, the family lived. There is a lot of information online about the various mills and milling in Baltimore during the 1800-1900s. And a great novel to read about life in the cotton mills of North Carolina during this period is "The Last Ballad" by Wiley Cash. It parallels the life of our family in many ways.

This was 1910. As yet, there were no child labor laws. By the mid-1800's, child labor was a major problem in America. Children had always worked, especially in farming, but factory work was especially hard on a child. A child with a factory job might work 12 to 18 hours a day, 6 days a week, to earn merely a dollar. Many children began working before the age of 7, tending machines in spinning mills or hauling heavy loads. The factories were often damp, dark, and dirty. And many children became ill and died, or were maimed for life. So what would compel a mother to send five of her children out to work in such a hazardous place instead of sending them to school?

Druscilla was a widow. She had nine people to feed and clothe. With three too young to work and needing care at home it was necessary to send the older children out to earn money to sustain the family. Even if William Edward was living these children would probably have been sent out to work. It was the custom.

In the United States it took many years to outlaw child labor. The U.S. Congress passed two laws, in 1918 and 1922, but the Supreme Court declared both unconstitutional. In 1924, Congress proposed a constitutional amendment prohibiting child labor, but the states did not ratify it. Then, in 1938, Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act which fixed the minimum work ages of 16

during school hours, 14 for certain jobs after school, and 18 for dangerous work.

After World War I the mills in Maryland began to close down as the need for cotton duck was no longer so great.

So let's follow the family through the census records to see what motivated their lives.

By 1910 the eldest child, Susan "Susie" Ann Sherman was married to Earnest Watkins, who was born and living in Damascus, Montgomery County, MD. They had one child who did not live. The 1920 US Census shows them now living on Overlea Avenue, in Election District 14, Baltimore County, Maryland. Earnest is a garage machinist. But now in the household with Earnest and Susie are their twins, Vincent and Virginia, as well as Susie's mother Druscilla Sherman, and Susie's brothers, 22-year-old James and 18-year-old Alphas, both listed as auto mechanics at a garage. Then in 1930, the census says the Watkins are on Madeline Avenue, in ED 14, and they are the owners of a bus company. But Druscilla, and the boys have moved out.

So where is Druscilla? And what happened to the rest of the family? The 1920 US Census not only shows Druscilla living in Election District 14, Baltimore with Susie, but in the record for Damascus, MD., Druscilla and daughter Nellie are also living with Druscilla's son John Frederick Johnson Sherman and his wife Pearl Smith on their dairy farm in Damascus. They must have moved between the times the census was taken at each location.

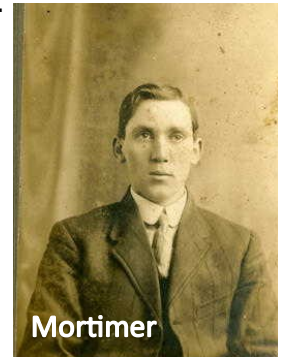
John Frederick Johnson Sherman (1883-1948) spent his entire life as a farmer. He registered for the draft at the age of 36,



Frederick and Pearl

but was not called up. He first married in Virginia to Sadie M. (1883-1916) who may have died in childbirth. She is buried in the Damascus Cemetery and shares a headstone with William E. Sherman. In 1919 John Frederick married Pearl Marie Smith and they had two children, Frederick Leroy (1920-1967) and Mearle Emma (1923-1989).

Next in line is Joseph Mortimer (1887-1977) married to Amanda Elizabeth Rimbey. They farmed in Mt. Airy, Carroll County, MD., and had seven children: Edith Marie (1912-1974), Evelyn Irene (1915-2001), Leonard Ellsworth "PeeWee" (1921-1976), Virginia Druscilla "Ginny" (1923-2010), Lilian Imogene (1925-1995), Betty Elaine (1930-1936), Ann (1933-2008).



Grace Myrtle (1889-1921) married Louis Edward Wiles, another employee of the cotton mill. Louis had married Katie Gordon in 1888 and they had five children. They divorced and he married Myrtle in 1914 and they had two children: Gladys May (1916-1992), and William Edward (1917-1969). Grace Myrtle died in 1921 at the age of 32 and is buried in Ellicott City, Maryland. The 1920 census shows both Myrtle and Louis still working at the cotton mill, so she worked up to her death which leads me to believe she probably died of a mill related lung disease. Her children were 6 and 7 years old, so after her death Louis Edward Wilies married again to a Rosa H.

Katie Bell (1891- aft.1958) married Sargent Lee Jeffries and they had one son, Sargent Ellsworth (1922-1992). Her last known residence was in 1958 in Baltimore, MD.

Mary E (1893-aft. 1958) married Harmon Eugene Hayden and they had two children: William H

(1914-?), and Margaret (1915-1995). Her last known residence is North Branch Road, Baltimore.

William Henry (Harry) Sherman (1894-1968) married Margaret Deckert. Harry was a milkman in Baltimore. They had six children: Edwin Louis, Sr. (1924-1981), Madeline M. (1926-?), Dorothy (1928-), Joan Catherine (1932-2009), Regen A. (1934-?), Joseph Conrad (1937-2017).



(Sidenote: Edwin Louis, Jr. is the second cousin working on Ancestry.com and his research has been quite valuable to keeping mine on track)

James Edward (1897-1963), was a mechanic most of his life. He married Merle Hambleton and they lived with her parents in Baltimore. They had no children.

Mabel (1899-?) married Harvey Edward Poole and had three children: Edward Leo (1918-1978), Nellie Virginia (1922-1988), Alice P. (1924-?). Her last known residence was on Cedar Grove and Damascas Road, Montgomery, MD.



Agnes (1901-1997) married Harry Norman Miles. They had no children. Agnes worked as a sales clerk. Agnes is buried in Damascus Methodist Cemetery,, Damascus, MD.

Alphus Omega (1901-1988). His story follows Nellie.

Nellie V. (1904-1988) married Charles Edward Elkins, Sr. and they had one son, Charles E. Elkins, Jr. (1926-1991). They lived on Old Harford Road,



Baltimore, MD. In 1920 she was single, her son was born in 1926, and by 1930 she was a widow. There has to be more to her story....

Alphus Omega was born June 16, 1901 in Culpeper County, Virginia. The story we were always told was that the midwife who attended his and Agnes' birth told Druscilla to name him Alphus Omega, the beginning and end, to symbolize that he was the first of the twins, and the last of her children. This would ensure she wouldn't get pregnant again? *Tell that to Nellie!* We were also told that we were part Cherokee, but as the 23&me DNA testing for me, my sister and my cousins proved out, we are not. The story was that we were related to Roger Sherman, signer of the Declaration of Independence, but we are not. And we are not related to General William Tecumseh Sherman either. Pop Pop didn't talk about his childhood but I'm sure he would have if I had asked. I just didn't think to. And now I wonder if he wasn't one of the great story tellers of all time. I do think he and his family led an interesting and difficult existence.

The 1910 US Census shows an 8-year-old Alphus living on Dogwood Road, Baltimore, MD with his mother and seven siblings. The 1920 US Census shows him at 18 years old, living with his sister Susie and her husband Ernest Watkins on Overlea

Avenue, Baltimore, MD., and working as a garage laborer.

If you study the US Census records you can piece together some of the story about individuals and families. One sad thing I discovered from these records about these twelve siblings is that none went further than the eighth grade, and several had no more than a fourth grade education; however, they were all taught to read and write. In many ways this makes me even more proud of my grandfather and of what he accomplished.

Though the exact year has always been vague Alphus married **Anna Lillian Smith** and they rented a farmhouse near Earnest and Susie on York Road in Sparks, Maryland. Hattie Elizabeth (Betty) (1925-2009), her sister Marjorie May (1927-1996) and brothers Robert (Bob) (1929-2015) and Alphus Harry (Jack) (1931-2010) were born in this house. Alphus was a bus driver for Susie's company until he moved the family down to Harewood Park to become an aircraft machinist for Martin Marietta. Their last child, Michael Smith (1945-living), would be born in Harewood Park. Jack and Annie would remain in this house for the rest of their lives, with a short stay in Morton, PA. where Jack was transferred for work. Jack was employed by Martin Marietta until his retirement in the late 60's.



Alphus Omega and Anna Lillian

My mother, **Hattie Elizabeth Sherman**, was born December 2, 1925. This section of the story should be titled, "For What It's Worth!" a phrase Betty frequently delivered with the intended sarcasm. Always one to tell you her opinion whether you asked for it or not, as the expression goes, she did not suffer fools gladly. There were many who were quelled by her tongue.

Maybe this grit came from circumstances thrust on her at an early age. On November 22, 1931, the day her brother Jack was born, six-year-old Betty came home from school feeling very ill. She had a fever, sore throat and a rash. Her mother put her to bed and called the doctor. The doctor diagnosed Betty with scarlet fever and, following standard procedure, quarantined her from the entire family for over a month.

During this time, Alphus' sister Nellie, and her son Edward, came to stay with the family. Nellie would prepare food and leave a plate outside the bedroom door for Betty. The family would go outside and look up at the window so Betty could see everyone. Christmas came and went with Betty still in the bedroom by herself. She was given a new dress for Christmas but couldn't put it on because it scratched her skin too much. It had to be burned along with all the other textiles in that room once she was well. It must have been a terrible ordeal for a six-year-old.

Betty graduated Kenwood High School in 1942 at the age of sixteen. During her school years Betty became an accomplished seamstress and cook, took private singing lessons and developed a fine soprano/alto voice getting the lead in HMS Pinafore at the school. She was also considered a beauty and won many local beauty contests. She would reminisce about doing



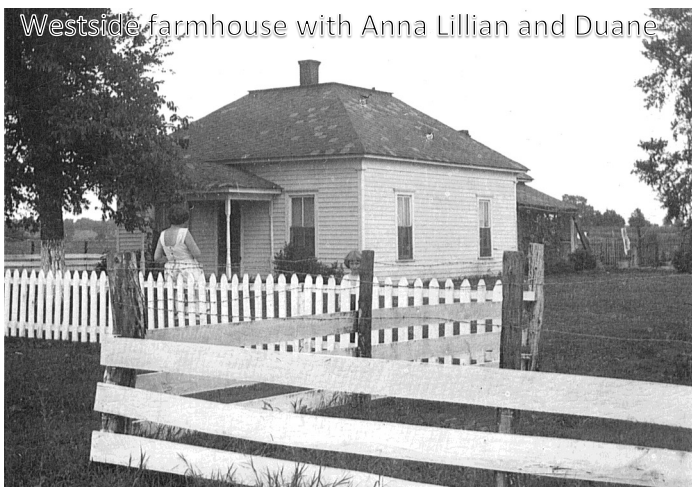
Hattie Elizabeth

alterations in the lingerie section at Hecht's and Stewart's in Baltimore and of meeting the famous opera star Rosa Ponselle who came in to be fitted for a bra. Another anecdote was of a train trip she took to West Virginia. On the train she met the famous Dorothy Parker and sat with her in her private car. All of these experiences gave Betty a sense of poise throughout her life.

It is no wonder that in 1943 when she started work at Edgewood Arsenal in Baltimore she caught the eye of the handsome 2nd Lieutenant Donald Moxley. While travelling west for the Army, Donald wrote to Betty on August 8, 1943 from Wyoming. The letter isn't a love letter, but rather just a note to keep in touch and he signs off, "Bye, Don." But by June 1944 they were married. And by March 1945 their first child, Duane Sherman, was born at the Officers' Maternity Hospital at Edgewood Arsenal.

In 1948 they moved to Donald's hometown, Rothville, Missouri, so he could farm. She set up housekeeping in a small farmhouse with no indoor plumbing, or electricity and a wood stove for heat. But her tenacity to persevere enabled her to create a home for her growing family. It could not have been easy to go from city life to this stark rural life.

Suzanne was born in 1951, Jacque in 1953, and Donnie in 1957. In 1961 the family moved into a bigger farmhouse on the east side of the farm—



one with electricity and plumbing, but still without central heat. Betty developed a social life with neighbors and couples they met in church, Grange, and through the Rothville Elementary School. She was a member of the Women's Farm Club, the PTA, the Grange. She taught sewing for the 4-H Club in Rothville. She entered and won sewing contest, both local and state, through the Grange. She played bridge and joined the local community chorus. And she made sure her children all participated in school sports, band, chorus, clubs, church, contests, whatever was available to give them a well-rounded life.



Donald sharecropped so there was never a lot of money and Betty made all of her daughters' clothes which were handed down as things were outgrown. She canned vegetables that were raised in her garden. They raised chickens for eggs, and cattle for meat. Her laundry was a wringer washer with two tubs on the side for rinsing, and a line in the yard for hanging clothes to dry. In the late 60s Betty was hired at the Brookfield Federal Savings and Loan. Working made life a little easier and she was able to get an automatic washer and dryer, a large deep freeze, and a frost free refrigerator. In 1972, they moved from the farm into town to the house owned by Donald's parents. In 1981 Betty quit her job when the firm hired a man to do the job she had been doing and paid him twice what her salary was. She and Donald managed solely on his social security payments until his passing in 1984. Betty died in 2009 and is buried next to Donald in the Rothville Cemetery.

SMITH

Chapter Two

Though there was a lot of information about the Sherman family, there is very little about the Smith family.

We have been able to go back to 1754 to an **Ebenezer Smith** (1754-1806) who married **Mary Burnette** (b. Ireland 1763 –d. 1807). They lived in Pennsylvania and had a son, Peter Burnette Smith.

Peter Burnette Smith (1805-1873) is recorded as a blacksmith living in Carlisle, Pennsylvania in 1830 with his wife, **Elizabeth Dick** (1796-1889). They had eleven children and stayed in Pennsylvania until the 1870 US Census which shows only Peter (68) and Elizabeth (66) in Hampstead, Carroll County, Maryland. I searched several pages of this recording for one of their children to see if they moved to Maryland to be close to family, but found no one. The distance between Carlisle and Hampstead is only 48 miles. They are both buried in Shippensburg, Cumberland County, PA. So, what compelled them to move to Maryland for such a short time? It's a mystery!

David Rankin Smith was born on May 16, 1842 in Shippensburg, PA. In 1872 he married **Rose Anna McCarren** (1838-1916). David R. and Rose Anna raised eight children on a farm. The 1900 US Census shows him still farming, but now they live in Election District 11, Baltimore, MD. Rose Anna and their son Bruce are both ticket agents for the railroad. David died on August 1, 1905 and he and Rose Anna are buried in Fork, Baltimore County, MD.

Their last child, **David Alexander Smith** was born on Nov. 3, 1877 and died Nov. 30, 1949. The first record of David as an adult is the 1900 US

Census showing he is 22 years old and boarding with John

Lawrence, a farmer on Charles Street, Baltimore, MD.

John has a son the same age as David A and they are both listed as iron

workers. Around 1903 he met and married **Harriet**

(Hattie) Elizabeth Guyton. They had

Anna Lillian in 1905, but sadly, Hattie died in 1908.



The 1910 US Census records the household of Robert Foard at 3941 Lowndes Avenue, Baltimore, MD. In his household are his family and his lodgers David A. Smith, (32 years old, widower, commercial tender for pool tables), his daughter Anna L. (5 years old), and another border Hannah Guyton (63 years old) which tells me Grandmother Hannah stayed with David to take care of Anna Lillian.

September 18, 1912 David remarried to Florence Dunty (1887-1977). In 1918 David A Smith and his wife Florence, lived in Jacksonville, Florida where David was the local agent for The Brunswick—Balke—Callender Company, the world's largest manufacturer of billiard equipment. They had three children: Billie F. (1914-1989), David R. (1917-1999), Martha May (1923-2011).

The 1920 US Census records David, Florence, Annie, Billie and David living in Greensboro, North

Carolina and he is still a salesman with the billiard company.

By 1930 David had retired from the billiard's company and the family was living on Chesapeake Street, Baltimore. David was a deputy clerk for the County Court, and the story is that he slipped and fell on the ice going to work, hit his head and died.

Florence and David A. Smith



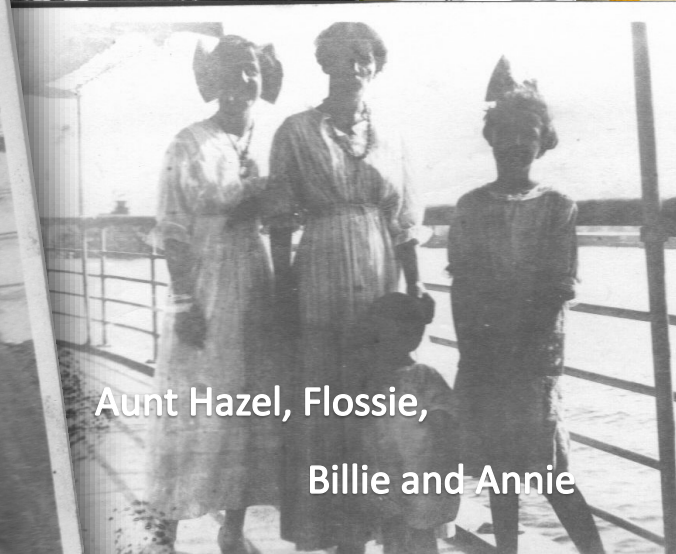
Though Florence May Dunty was not related by blood but rather by marriage, I would be remiss if I did not give her the recognition she deserves as being the step-mother to our Anna Lillian. Florence May was born to William George Dunty and Hannah Elizabeth Ransom at their home known as Perry Hall Mansion in Perry Hall, MD. In 2013, Sean Kief and Jeffrey Smith, wrote the book, *Images of America Perry Hall Mansion*, published by Arcadia Publishing. It is a history of the house and its occupants, including the Duntys who

owned the home from 1888-1915. There are many photographs of Florence and her family and the book is well worth seeking out. Our grandmother, Anna Lillian, spent a lot of time with the Dunty family at the mansion.



Anna Lillian Smith was born on February 8, 1905. After her mother's death, her father could have done what so many others had done and give the child up to a relative to be raised. But he took care of Annie until she married Alphus Omega Sherman. It must have been a somewhat Bohemian existence for the young girl to move house as much as it appears she did. Probably because of these frequent moves her best friend was her cousin, Hattie Elizabeth Guyton. She had no more than an seventh grade education, but she did have many of the opportunities afforded to the daughter of a connected family.

Earlier in this narrative I tell the story of her life with Alphus Omega. But there are aspects of Annie's life that weren't mentioned there. At some point she worked as a telephone operator for Ma' Bell. In the 30s, probably from post partem depression, Annie was hospitalized for a period of time. It wasn't something she talked about, but rather bits and pieces I got from my mother. Annie was also a great whistler and had the most beautiful wavy, salt and pepper hair.





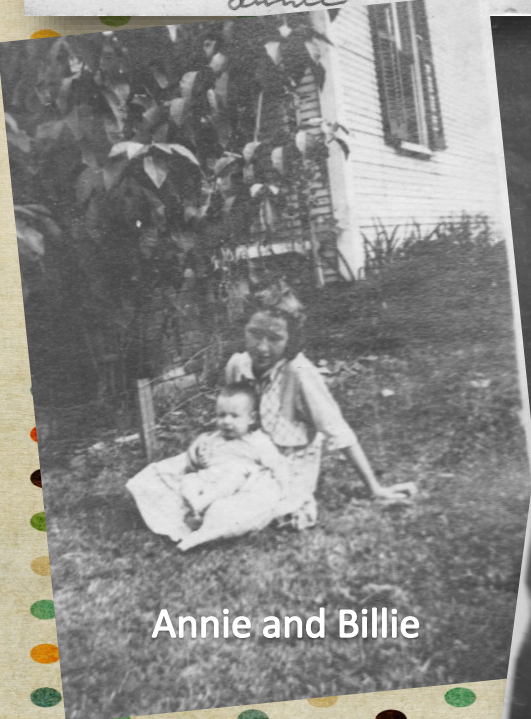
Annie and Martha



Annie



Cousin Lorraine Helman
Annie's friends Lorraine



Annie and Billie



Annie and pet monkey



Annie & Jack

INTERESTING THINGS

It's Twins!

Interesting fact; I've confirmed six sets of twins on the Sherman line.

Johann Peter Shermer, 6th Great Uncle had twin daughters probably on board the ship that brought him to America.

2-G Grandfather Abraham Sherman III had twin daughters, Susan and Rebecca, in 1856.

Abraham III's daughter Mary E. had Leon and Lynn in 1885 (this might not be true, as there are varying dates on census records)

Grandfather Alphus Omega and sister Agnes Sherman were twins born in 1901.

Their sister Susan had twins, Vincent and Virginia in 1916.

And AO's son Jack had Mathew and Michael Sherman in 1961.

Cotton Mills of the Jones Falls

Total distance:
About 8.5 miles from
Rockland Mill (1) to Timanus Mill Dam (13).

If you're biking, Falls Road is hilly.
Above Robert E. Lee Park is relatively quiet and
has bike lanes; below is busy and commercial.
Times assume biking at 10 mph.

Total time without stops:
About an hour.

Amenities

None of the mills are still in operation. Mt. Washington Mill (3) has shops and restaurants; Poole & Hunt (5) has a restaurant and artists' studios; Union Mill (8) has a cafe; Mill Center (12) has artists' studios, galleries and businesses; and Mill #1 (13) will have two restaurants overlooking the Jones Falls. There are also restaurants and shops along Falls Road and The Avenue (West 36th St.) in Hampden.



Area shown.



Historic Cotton Mills of the Jones Falls
North Section

- 1. Rockland Grist/Cotton Mill**
(built c.1806-1830)
2201 Old Court Road
Brooklandville
- 2. Lake Roland** (built 1860)
Robert E. Lee Park
1000 Lakeside Drive
- 3. Mount Washington Mill**
(built 1810)
1340 Smith Ave., Baltimore

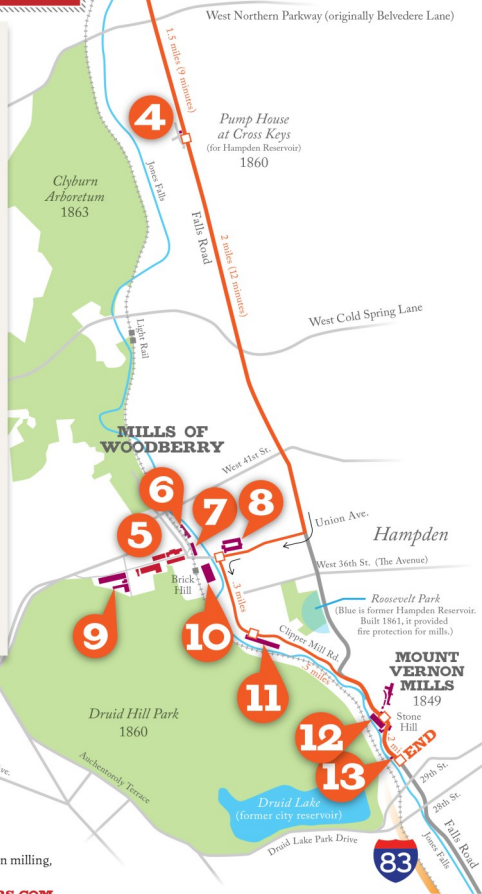
For more information on the mills, cotton milling, and Baltimore industrial history, see

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Historic Cotton Mills of the Jones Falls
South Section

- 4. Pump House at Cross Keys**
(built 1860), 5100 Falls Road
- 5. Poole & Hunt Foundry/Clipper Mill Park** (built 1853)
Union Ave & Clipper Park Rd.
- 6. Woodberry Cotton Mill**
(built 1790/cotton mill 1842)
1760 Union Avenue
- 7. Park Mill** (built 1855 for fish net)
1750 Union Avenue
- 8. Druid Cotton Mill/Union Mill** (built 1877)
1500 Union Avenue
- 9. Hooperwood Cotton Mill**
(built 1904)
3500 Parkdale Avenue
- 10. Meadow Mill** (built 1877 for twine)
3600 Clipper Mill Rd.
- 11. Clipper Mill** (built 1865)
3300 Clipper Mill Road
- 12. Mt. Vernon Mills #1, #2 and #3/Mill #1 and the Mill Centre**
(built 1850-1873)
Falls Road and Chestnut Ave.
- 13. Rock Mill/Timanus Mill Dam**
(built c. 1792), Falls Road and the Jones Falls Bike Trail

The mills in Woodberry, #5-10, are within easy walking distance of each other.



For more information on the mills, cotton milling, and Baltimore industrial history, see

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MILITARY SERVICE

Revolutionary War to Afghanistan War

Revolutionary War (1775—1783)

Robert Sherman (b.1721-d.1800) (5G-Grandfather)

10th Regiment

Virginia

The record *U.S., Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783* indicates a Robert Sherman on the payroll of the Virginia Regiment in 1777. He was paid 2 pounds, 4 shillings for the month of November.

War of 1812

Thomas Guyton (b.1788-d.?) (3G-Grandfather)

Enlisted August 27,, 1812

Captain Joshua Taylor's Co.

Maryland Militia

Civil War (1861-1865)

Smith Johnson (1824-1902, Smith is the stepfather of Druscilla Fogerty Sherman, wife of William E. Sherman, Pop Pop's parents)

Enlisted July 1, 1861,

Private

Virginia Fauquier Light Artillery Battery

Markham, Virginia

Aaron Redman (5G-Grandfather, Sherman side)

Virginia, Continental Troops

7th & 11th Regiment

Corporal Drum and Fife

Samuel Redman (3G Uncle)

Enlisted on 14 Sep 1862, mustered out on 20 Aug 1864

Virginia 6th Cavalry Regiment

Company H

POST WWII

The three men listed next are brothers of my mother, Betty Sherman Moxley, sons of A.O. Sherman

Robert David Sherman, Sr. (1929-2015, Uncle)

US Navy

Harry Alphus (Jack) Sherman (1931-2010, Uncle)

US Navy

KOREAN WAR (1950-1953)

VIETNAM WAR (1955-1975)

Michael Smith Sherman (1945–living, Uncle)

US Army

1962-1975

Korea, Vietnam, Germany

Was injured in battle.

Thomas Eugene Bowling (1943—living, husband of sister Duane S. Moxley, son-in-law of Donald Moxley)

Served: 1962-1965

US Army Signal Corp

Vietnam 11 1/2 months

The United States Army Signal Corps (USASC) is a division of the Department of the Army that creates and manages communications and information systems for the command and control of combined arms forces. The first Vietnam War death on the battlefield was a Signal Corps radio operator, SP4 James Thomas Davis of the 3rd Radio Research Unit of the United States Army Security Agency. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Signal_Corps_%28United_States_Army%29)

Michael Chalmers Thomas, I (1948-living, husband of sister Suzanne E. Moxley)

July 1967-July 1974

Air National Guard

188th Tactical Reconnaissance Group

Assigned to the NCOIC with the Judge Advocate Group

Fort Smith, Arkansas

GULF WAR (1990-1991)

Kelly Catherine Bowling (1969-living, m. Thomas Cannavale, daughter of my sister Duane S. Moxley Bowling)

1986-1994 Of note—Kelly is one of two females in the family to serve in the military.

Maryland Army National Guard

136th Combat Support Hospital

Parkville, MD

91P Radiology Specialist

Basic: Ft. Jackson, South Carolina

91P Training: Ft. Houston, TX

AFGHANISTAN (2001-present)

Thomas Donald Bowling (1976-living, son of sister Duane Moxley Bowling, grandson of Donald F. Moxley)

US Navy 1997-2002

Nuclear submarine USS Houston

Michael Chalmers Thomas, II (1982-living, son of Suzanne Moxley Thomas, grandson of Donald F. Moxley)

Missouri National Guard

Agribusiness Development Team

Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan

So how do you wrap up a story that hasn't ended? Well, you can't. But we can go forward with a new awareness of ancestors who once only in the margins of our lives, are now familiar to us. We can't put faces on some of them, but we know they lived and breathed. We can't hear their voices, but we can imagine the stories they would tell us. And, I for one, now better understand where my personality comes from. You can not choose who your relatives are, or what DNA you are given. You can only choose how you come to grips with it.

Happy, contented with his lot