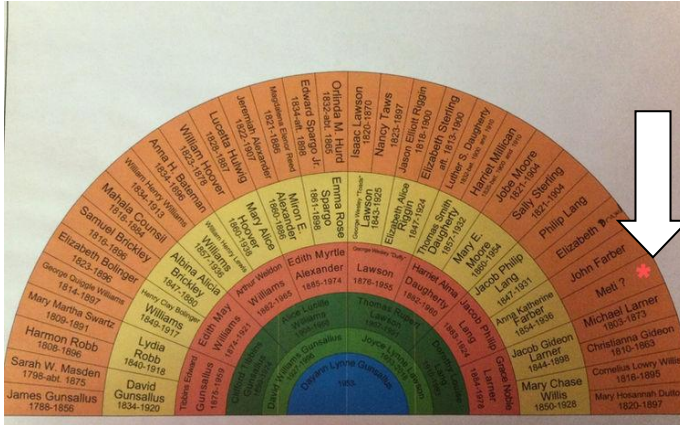


A Brick Wall Comes Tumbling Down

By Dani Crossley

One glance at my six generation fan chart and it was very obvious where more research needed to be done. I needed to identify my 2x-great-grandmother's parents.



Anna Katherine Farber was born May 9, 1854 in the Hesse-Cassel area of Germany. She immigrated to the US at age 18 in 1872 on the ship *Leipzig* to the port of Baltimore. I originally had her immigration passenger list wrong; if I had found the correct one, I would've solved this mystery a lot sooner.

After many years not knowing her death date, I was finally able to determine that she died in 1936 in Baltimore. With the

help of a friendly researcher in Baltimore, Mike Pierce, I was able to find her death notice in the Baltimore papers and write away for her death certificate. I was finally going to be able to find out who her parents were!

Balt Sun Feb 16, 1936

LANG.—On February 15, 1936, **ANNA K. (nee Farber)**, beloved wife of the late **Jacob Lang**.
 Relatives and friends may call at her home, 1911 McKean avenue, until Tuesday at 10 A. M. Services at the home of Harry H. Witzke, 4101 Edmondson avenue, at 3.30 P. M. Interment in London Park Cemetery. 15c

The informant for the information on Anna Katherine's death certificate was her daughter Anna Louise Lang. She gave her mother's father's name as John Farber. This was not a big revelation in that a good percentage of German men's names started out Johann something. Her mother's name was undecipherable - "something" Unknown. It looked like Meti to me. That didn't make a whole lot of sense in English or German, but it was all I had to go on. I got absolutely nowhere using those names trying to find birth, baptism or marriage records in the German records on Ancestry.

It was time to resort to DNA. I worked with my mother's DNA matches as she was one generation closer to the woman I was trying to find. DNA has its limitations for how

many generations you can reliably hope to make a connection. The rule of thumb is 3x great-grandparents. The woman I was trying to identify was Mom's 2x great-grandmother.

There are a few basic steps to determining an ancestor through DNA matches. I am greatly simplifying this:

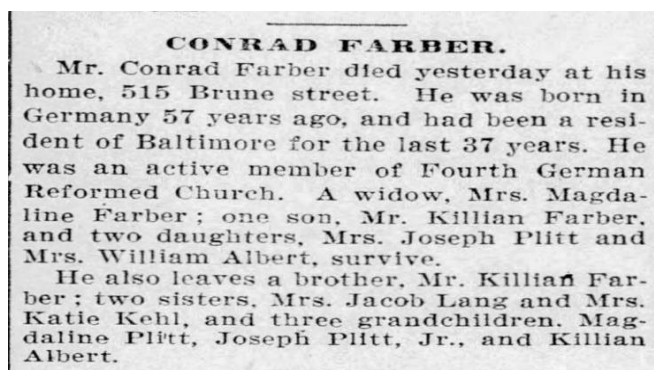
1. Review your DNA matches
2. Select a known match on the particular line you are researching.
3. Run the shared matches tool to identify someone who matches your known match and you (or in this case, Mom). Ideally, when trying to identify a 2x great-grandparent, you would like a 3rd cousin.
4. Understand the generation of connection based on the relationship of the shared match with you/Mom indicated by the number of centiMorgans you share.
5. Build the unknown match's tree using genealogy to discover one of their ancestors that would fit in your tree.
6. Complete the merge and use the unknown match's ancestor's information to hopefully lead you to your shared ancestor and thus the identity of your previously unknown ancestor.

Working with Mom's DNA, I used her first cousin once removed on the correct line (the Lang/Larners) and ran the shared matches. Almost all the matches were from the Larner/Willis side, rather than the Lang/Farber side - the one I was working on. One, "Sawtweety" was her user name on Ancestry, was on the right line and had the appropriate number of centiMorgans (147) to put her in the 2nd-3rd cousin category.

Unfortunately, she had a bare-bones tree with just 25 people in it. They were all from the Baltimore area, so I went to work on the genealogy. Of course, I picked the wrong side to work on first. I got all the way back to her third great-grandparents without finding a familiar name. That was one more generation than where I expected the connection to be. If Sawtweety was Mom's third cousin, the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) should be her 2x great-grandparent.

When I got to Sawtweety's great-grandmother on the other side, I found that she was born in 1848, her maiden name was Katherine E. Farber, and she married Christopher Kehl. This was the right age to be a sibling to my Anna Katherine. They both came from the Hesse-Cassel area of Germany. There was the connection!

An obituary for Conrad Farber in 1909 stated he left behind three siblings: Killian Farber, Mrs. Jacob Lang and Mrs. Katie Kehl.



There was my proof that Anna Katherine Farber Lang (Mrs. Jacob Lang) and Katherine Elizabeth Farber Kehl (Mrs. Katie Kehl) were sisters! In addition, they had two brothers: Conrad Farber and Killian Farber. I never knew that my great-great-grandmother's siblings also immigrated to America. Now I just needed one of the four siblings' death certificates to clearly identify their parents.

With the assistance of a Baltimore RAOGK (Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness) researcher, Mike Pierce again, who was able to access Maryland State Archives death certificates, I found this information for the parents of the four siblings: Father: three Johns and a Conrad (Johann Conrad?); Mother: unknown, Meti unknown, Annie, Katrina Mai. Going back to the German records on Ancestry, I found one more sibling for this family and his parents were Johann Conrad Farber and Anna Katherine Mai. The 3rd great-grandparents slots on my fan chart are now filled in. If you squint a little, the Meti on Anna Katherine Farber Lang's death certificate could actually be Mai. The clincher was the correct passenger list for Anna Katherine. She came with her brothers Conrad and Julian (Killian) Farber.

Passage

No.	Name of Passenger	Age	Country of Birth	Last Legal Residence	Country Claiming Allegiance	Occupation and Remarks
m	1. David Bauer	18	Germany	Germany	Germany	brewer
f	2. Mary	15	"	"	"	"
f	3. Conrad Farber	12	"	"	"	farmer
f	4. Catharine	18	"	"	"	"
m	5. Julian	15	"	"	"	"
f	6. Carl Graefshaus	32	"	"	"	joiner
f	7. Elise	38	"	"	"	"
f	8. Anna	12	"	"	"	"
m	9. Carl	4 1/2	"	"	"	"
f	10. Edmund Benisch	10	"	"	"	farmer
f	11. Robert Speck	34	U.S. of A.	Baltimore	U.S. of A.	merchant
m	12. Melchior Eickhorst	25	Germany	Germany	Germany	farmer
f	13. Adolph D. Bultz	21	"	"	"	"
f	14. Georg Fischer	21	"	"	"	"
f	15. Conrad Hanemann	22	"	"	"	"
f	16. Adam Goltz	18	"	"	"	blacksmith
f	17. Robt. Smith	28	"	"	"	blacksmith
f	18. Caroline Brandemuhl	16	"	"	"	"
m	19. Elias Meyer	19	"	"	"	farmer
f	20. Edward Schaefer	50	U.S. of A.	Pittsburg	U.S. of A.	bagger
f	21. Adolph Speck	40	"	Baltimore	"	blacksmith
f	22. August Vogel	42	"	Wisconsin	"	merchant
f	23. Wm. B. Haefig	50	Germany	Germany	Germany	joiner
f	24. Jacobus Händel	16	"	"	"	merchant
f	25. Paul Kudyjowski	54	"	"	"	labourer
f	26. Braxida	7	"	"	"	"
f	27. Maladi	4	"	"	"	"
f	28. Adela	4 1/2	"	"	"	"
m	29. John Hauer	55	U.S. of A.	Annapolis	U.S. of A.	farmer
f	30. Frieda	38	"	"	"	"
m	31. Carl A. Eickhorst	18	Germany	Germany	Germany	merchant
f	32. Christian Böwig	65	"	"	"	blacksmith
f	33. Watson	24	"	"	"	"
f	34. Adam Frank	22	"	"	"	labourer
f	35. Elise Wagner	28	"	"	"	"
f	36. Hannelle Eickhorst	53	U.S. of A.	Baltimore	U.S. of A.	"
m	37. Anna Bauer	39	Germany	Germany	Germany	farmer

There is little chance I will ever find a photo of my 2x great-grandmother, Anna Katherine Farber Lang (or her parents, for that matter, who stayed in Germany) as she did not get along with her daughter-in-law, my great-grandmother. I will have to be happy with finally identifying her parents and completing the sixth generation wheel on my fan chart.