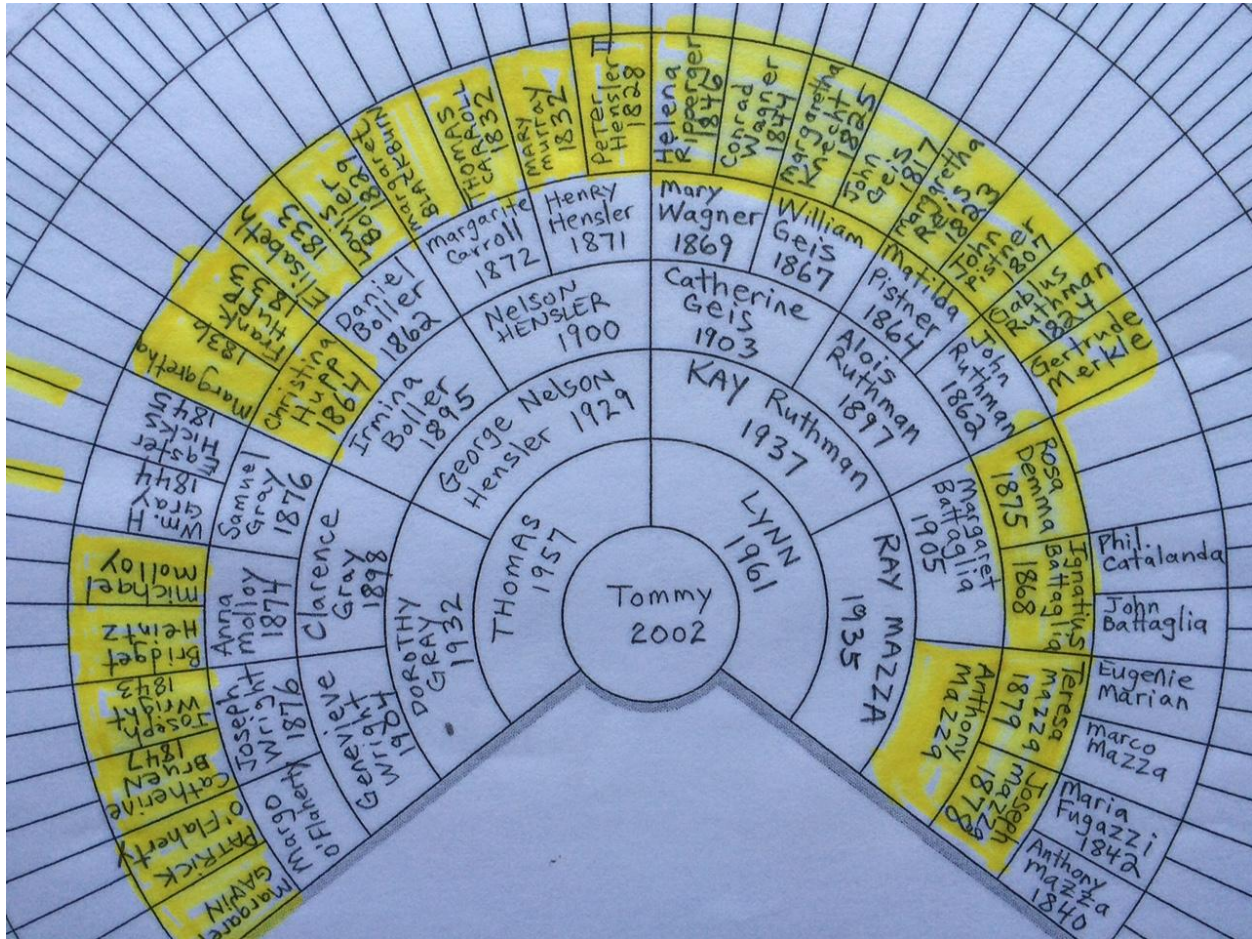


# The Long Gray Line on the Long Grey Trail

## Ancestors of Tommy Hensler



Essentially all of my ancestors came from Europe. The above chart shows all my ancestors going back 5 generations. This outer ring shows my ancestors who were born before the Civil War (1861-1864).

Who crossed the ocean and when? The immigrants are highlighted in **yellow**. The Italians were the last to arrive in the 1900 timeframe. My German, Irish, and English ancestors came mostly in the 1830-1855 timeframe, and some of them were influenced by the Great Potato Famine (1845-1852).

The one line that goes back the farthest into American History is the Gray/Hicks family. This story starts with my 8<sup>th</sup> Great Grand Father in Europe, and then moves through New York, then Delaware, then the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, then Eastern Tennessee, then Atlanta Georgia, and then finally Cincinnati. The Gray line follows the Long Grey Trail.

## 8<sup>th</sup> GGF

- [My 8<sup>th</sup> Great Grand Father was Isaiah Harrison.](#)
- 1666: Isaiah was born in Chester, Cheshire England
- 1687: Isaiah sailed from Chester or Liverpool, England on the ship "Spotted Calf", and landed in Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York.
- 1687-1702: Lived in Oyster Bay, Long Island, NY
- 1702-1721: Lived in Smithtown, Long Island, NY
- 1721-1736: Lived in Sussex Co, Delaware (Maiden Plantation)
- 1737-1738: With his extended family, started the migration to the Shenandoah Valley. Isaiah died before they reached their final homes.
- Isaiah was a blacksmith. His full signature appears on all deeds and papers at Oyster Bay, evidence that he had been taught to write in his youth.
- About 1688 Isaiah married Elizabeth Wright, a daughter of Gideon Wright and his wife Elizabeth Townsend. Isaiah purchased from John Wright and his wife Mary 100 acres near Suckscall's wigwam, part of the last general purchase from the Matinecock Indians dated 9 January 1685. This was purchased for 60 pounds current money of New York. Suckscall was an Indian chief; his wigwam was located at what is now known as Brookville (Wolver Hollow), Long Island, a few miles southwest of the town spot of Oyster Bay. No doubt Isaiah Harrison was the first white man to live on this land. By 1690 he was a freeholder of the town and over the next few years received 81 more acres of town land.

**"Oysterbay At a town Meeting 1687: Jan. ye 2<sup>d</sup> Given & granted to Isaiah Harrison one whole Right of Comonage in & upon ye old purchase of ye Town W<sup>th</sup>all prilivedges thereto belonging as other such P<sup>t</sup>icular rights have; on this Condicon that if he ye said Isaiah do live & Continue an Inhabitant in This Town of Oysterbay untill full seven yeares next & Imediately after ye date hereof be fully compleat & ended then the sd right shall be & remaine to him ye said Isaiah & to his Hires forevr: But if ye said Isaiah shall at any time w<sup>th</sup>in ye sd seven yeares remove himself from this to any other Town the sd Right of Comonage shall clearly & freely returne to ye Town againe & neither he nor his Heires shal have any Title or Claime to it by verture of this Grant: but if he ye sd Isaiah shal happen to dye w<sup>th</sup>in ye sd seven years ye sd Right shall be & remaine to his wife & her Heires forever; This done by ye ffreehold<sup>rs</sup> of ye Town & by them ordered to be entred.**

**By John Newman, Record<sup>r</sup>."**

*(See, Oyster Bay Town Records, Vol. II, p. 338.)*

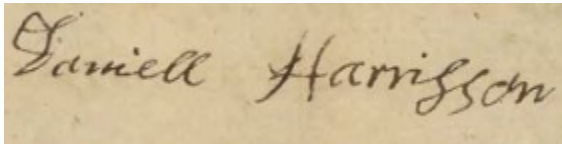
By this grant Isaiah Harrison was made a freeholder of the town. The nature of the grant appears to be that of a sort of bonus; that he was not required to wait seven years before participating in the affairs of the town as one of the freeholders is evident from subsequent records. Mention is made of the old purchase; this was the first purchase of 1653 from the Indians. On the 29th of September, 1677, a patent of confirmation for the lands previously bought from the natives was obtained of Governor Andros in which the proprietors were named as Henry Townsend Senr, Nicholas Wright, Thomas Townsend, Gideon Wright, Richard Hacker, Joseph Carpenter and Josias Latting, "on ye behalf of themselves and their Associates ye freeholders & Inhabitants of ye Said Towne their Heirs Successors and Assignes." This patent was recorded by order of the Governor at the request of the inhabitants 20th November, 1685. As these men were at the time of the patent the influential townsmen of Oyster Bay, no doubt it was through the inducement of one of these, or some member of their families, that Isaiah Harrison came to locate in the town.

- This deed gave him one whole right of commonage on the condition that he remained a resident in this town for 7 full years. If he moved away before 7 years, then this right would be forfeited. Should he die before the 7 years, then his wife and heirs would receive the right immediately. It appears that the town made this deal because they were in great need of a blacksmith to create and repair the iron tools needed for their agricultural community.
- The term FREEHOLDER was established in Colonial Times when only men who held their land "free and clear" were eligible to be chosen for membership on the county governing body.
- Isaiah and his first wife had the following children while living in Oyster Bay: Isaiah 1689, John 1691, Gideon 1694, Mary 1696, and Elizabeth 1698.
- Isaiah married a second time after his first wife died. About 1700, he married Abigail Smith at Oyster Bay. Together they had the following children: [Daniel 1701 \(my 7<sup>th</sup> Great Grand Father\)](#), Thomas 1704, Jeremiah 1707, Abigail 1710, Samuel 1712.
- Several Harrisons married members of the Craven family. Daniel married Margaret Cravens, Thomas married Sarah Cravens, and Mary married Robert Cravens. Both families became early settlers of the Shenandoah Valley.
- 1702: After Daniel was born, Isaiah sold all his lands in Oyster Bay. The price was 400 pounds current lawful money of New York. His second wife, Abigail, made her mark on the deed. That same day he bought 500 acres in Smithtown, Long Island, for the same 400 pounds. He prospered here as a farmer and in 1708 added 200 more acres.
- 1722: Isaiah sold his land in Smithtown NY. Earlier in 1721, Isaiah and Abigail bought lands in the Broadkill hundred of Sussex County, Pennsylvania (later Delaware). This was about eight miles from the Town of Lewes. Then on 10 October 1732 he sold to his three sons (Thomas Harrison, Daniel Harrison, and Jeremiah Harrison) 250 acres. This was part of his 907 acres Maiden Plantation. His second wife is not mentioned in these deeds, so presumably Abigail had died by then.
- 1736: Isaiah disposed of the remaining 150 acres of Maiden Plantation. Then the family moved together to Virginia. They took a ship from Lewes Delaware and journeyed by water to the old town of Bellhaven, on the Potomac, later called Alexandria. About a week was required to make

the long voyage around Cape Charles. From there, they went through Thornton's Gap into the Shenandoah Valley. There were sixteen in the party that crossed the ridge, brothers and half brothers, with their families.

- At first they camped for a while along the South Fork of the Shenandoah River near where the "White House" in Page County now stands. From this base they explored the surrounding country. Here the Isaiah Harrison died and was buried. He did not live to see his children settled in their new homes. He was buried by Massanutten Mountain in 1738.
- Eventually they camped at the various springs where they finally settled. John settled at the Big Spring, now called Lacey Spring. Thomas settled at the head spring of Cook's Creek, the present site of Harrisonburg. Daniel settled a short distance from Thomas where Dayton now is. Samuel located on the head waters of Linville's Creek, a few miles north of Daniel

### 7<sup>th</sup> GGF



My 7<sup>th</sup> Great Grand Father is Daniel Harrison.

- 1701: Daniel was born in Long Island NY.
- 1738: First settler in Dayton Virginia
- 1749: Built stone home that still stands today.


*The Daniel Harrison House, also known as Fort Harrison, is the oldest house in Dayton, Virginia and one of the oldest in Rockingham County. The two-story stone house was built about 1749 by Daniel Harrison, first settler of Dayton.*



- Daniel Harrison's house was built in 1749. It is museum today celebrating Daniel as one of the early settlers in the Harrisonburg area. The house, located on Cook's Creek, is just a light stroll

from the center of Dayton Virginia. In the 1750's marauding bands of Indians frequently roamed the area threatening settlers. Daniel Harrison's solidly built stone house was a natural fort to which it is said he added a stockade and is today referred to as Fort Harrison. Today, Fort Harrison has been furnished in the period with generous donations, some of which came from the Harrison family. Fort Harrison is a tangible reminder of the pioneer spirit and rich heritage of the Shenandoah Valley.

- Daniel and his brothers were prominent members of this early Shenandoah community, and they are discussed in detail in the book *SETTLERS BY THE LONG GREY TRAIL*. This trail brought Daniel and his family face to face with endless encounters and exchanges as early pioneers and traders and travelers passed their way. Their homes were right on this main road through the frontier.

*"O my Valley! Beauteous Valley!  
You have seen and you have heard  
More than I can feel or utter,  
More than lies in human word;  
You have watched and you have listened;  
And though voice and song should fail,  
You'll still cheer and you'll still shelter  
All that pass the long grey trail."* 

—WAYLAND.

## Settlers by the Long Grey Trail

**T**HE LONG GREY TRAIL dates back to the period of earliest history of the Valley of Virginia. The pioneers followed it as an old Indian trail. According to tradition, it was first merely a beaten path of the buffalo. As the earliest settlers were mostly from the northern Provinces they passed along this route on their way to their pioneer homes. It crossed the Cohongoroota—now known as the Potomac—at what was first called Pack Horse Ford, later Mecklenburg, and finally Shepherds-town. The old trail when first cleared by these early settlers was called the Indian Road, later they called it the Great Road, and at times, a little later still—before the Revolution—the King's Highway. After the Revolution it is found referred to as the Big Road. Finally the old highway was resurveyed, various details of its route changed here and there, and the roadbed thoroughly modernized by the reduction of grades, and a McAdam surface. This was done by the Valley Turnpike Company, which was authorized by the General Assembly, March 24, 1838. Among other things the preamble to the petition for the turnpike to the Assembly recited, "that the proposed route for the Pike would take the general course of a great Stage Road running from Winchester via Staunton to the Tennessee Roads. This Big Road having been the travel way for a great many years for the wagon line of commerce from Baltimore to Knoxville and other points in Tennessee." In more recent years—1918—the state of Virginia has taken over the turnpike and further improved it, making of it a splendid asphalt driveway from Winchester to Staunton, through the heart of the Valley of the Shenandoah.

- 1745: The new court in Augusta and Rockingham County assigned builders and care-takers of the new improved road. Harrisons, Cravens, and Herron families are all given tasks related to the road. All men were to provide one day per week of labor to build and maintain this key road.

**In the original order of 1745 establishing the Indian Road, the section "from (Robert) Colnell's Path Crossing Beard's Ford on the North River and Alexander Thompson's Ford on the Middle River," crossed the present county of Rockingham. For this territory "John Harrison and Captain Daniel Harrison, Robert Cravens, Samuel Stuart, William Thompson and John Stenson" were appointed surveyors and overseers to "Cause the said Road to be cleared" and to "have for their Gangs all the Inhabitants (male Tithables) Between the Mountains above Colnell's Path to Thompson's Ford." Thomas and Jeremiah Harrison, and Alexander Herron, are mentioned, as previously noted, in orders of 1746 and 1747, and at least John Harrison, Thomas Harrison, and Robert Cravens have been shown to have been living along the old trail at this time.**

**John, Daniel, Thomas, and Jeremiah Harrison, were brothers, and the four were brothers-in-law of Robert Cravens and Alexander Herron. All were pioneers, and all settled in that part of Augusta which at the time of the Revolution was erected into Rockingham County.**

- Daniel Harrison moved to the Shenandoah Valley from Delaware about 1738 and settled on Naked Creek, Augusta County, in what is now Rockingham County. In 1749 he purchased a 120-acre tract of land on Cook's Creek and built his stone house - the front portion of today's structure.
- The years leading up to the French and Indian War (1756-1763) were times of considerable danger for settlers in the Shenandoah Valley. As a captain in the militia and a large landowner, Daniel Harrison was a prominent leader in the community. His solidly built stone house was a natural fort when raiding parties of Indians roamed the area. He is said to have added a stockade to enclose the house, as well as an underground tunnel to a nearby spring.
- Fort Harrison, as the house became known, was also the home of Benjamin Harrison, a son of Daniel's who served as a militia officer during the Revolution. Benjamin's son, Peachy Harrison, was the last Harrison to own the house. Peachy Harrison and his family lived in Harrisonburg, where he was a local physician.
- Daniel and Margret had the following children: Robert 1725, Daniel Jr 1727, Jesse 1729, Mary 1733, Jane 1735, **my 6<sup>th</sup> GGM Abigail 1738**, and Benjamin 1741.
- 

### **6<sup>th</sup> GGM**

- **Abigail is my 6<sup>th</sup> Great Grand Mother born in 1738.**
- She married Jeremiah Reagan who was born in Pennsylvania in 1735. They lived in Rockingham County (Shenandoah Valley) during the Revolutionary War. Later on, they moved on down the Long Grey Trail into Eastern Tennessee.
- Jeremiah supplied materials for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, and he is listed as a soldier in that army. He died in Jonesboro TN in 1811. His grave marker in Uriel Cemetery was erected by the DAR Daughters of the American Revolution in 1934.
- Abigail was born in 1738 in Sussex Delaware. As an infant, she moved with the family as they journeyed into the Shenandoah Valley. She married Jeremiah in 1764 and together they had

Daniel 1766, Margaret 1769, Jane 1772, John 1775, Benjamin 1778, Sarah Ann 1781, [my 5<sup>th</sup> Great Grand Father Jeremiah 1784](#), and Mary 1790.

- My ancestors services in the fight for American Independence are shown below:

## Jeremiah Reagan

My ancestor's services in assisting in the establishment of American Independence during the War of the Revolution were as follows:

..... Taken from the PUBLIC SERVICE CLAIMS IN ARCHIVES OF VIRGINIA STATE .....

..... LIBRARY, pages 13, 14, 25; .....

..... May 22, 1781; Jeremiah Reagan furnishes a wagon for six days for.....  
..... a company in Rockingham County, and the account for the same was.....  
..... certified October 20, 1782. ....

..... Nov 7, 1784; Jeremiah Reagan furnished 3000 pounds of beef, and.....  
..... was paid 3 pounds, 1 shilling; certificate for same signed by.....  
..... Henry Ewin, A.B.C. ....

..... Dec. 7, 1780; Jeremiah Reagan furnished a team for thirty days for...  
..... the Revolutionary Service. ....

..... May 20, 1782; Jeremiah Reagan collected in the district for 8 days. .

The text encroach on this margin, which is needed for binding.

## 5<sup>th</sup> GGF

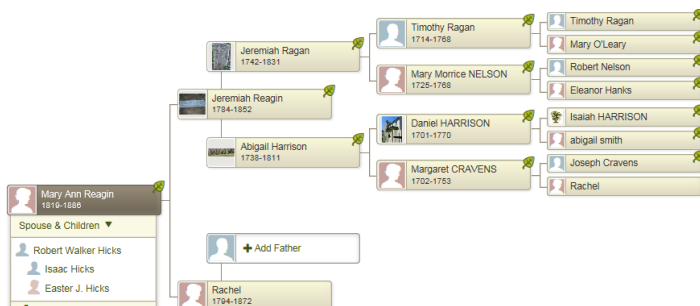
- My 5<sup>th</sup> Great Grand Father was Jeremiah Reagan born in 1784.
- Jeremiah ended up in Monroe Co Tennessee. If you follow Interstate 81 from Harrisonburg Virginia straight down through the valley all the way to the red arrow at Monroe Co Tennessee, you can see the route traveled by our ancestors and thousands more just like them. Interstate 81 essentially follows the Long Grey Trail that goes back hundreds of years.



- Jeremiah and Rachel Reagan are buried in Mt Vernon (Monroe Co) Tennessee

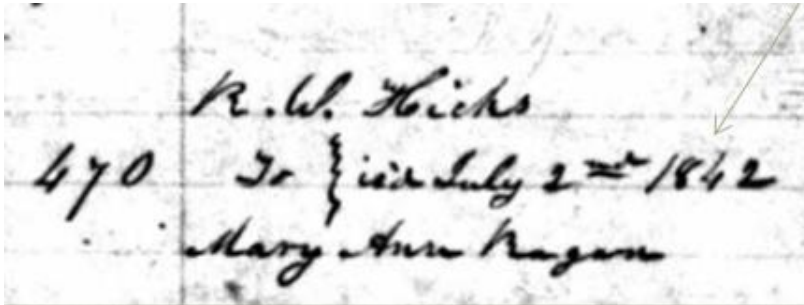


- Jeremiah and Rachel had a daughter named Mary Ann Reagin, my 4<sup>th</sup> Great Grand Mother



#### 4<sup>th</sup> GGM

- **Mary Ann Reagin was my 4<sup>th</sup> Great Grand Mother.** She was born in Tennessee in 1819 and died in Atlanta GA in 1886.
- She married Robert Walker Hicks in 1842 in Monroe Tennessee. He was born there in 1822.



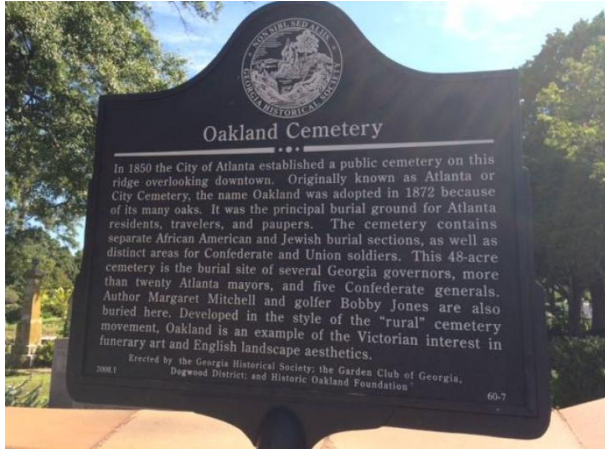
- R.W. Hicks and Mary Ann had Isaac 1844 and Easter J 1845. **Easter J Hicks was my 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grand Mother.**

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> GGM

- **Easter Hicks is my 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grand Mother.** She was born 1845 in Tennessee.
- Easter married William H Gray. William was born in Atlanta (1844) and died in Atlanta Georgia(1889). William H Gray was the son of James D Gray who was from Scotland. James D Gray parents were from Scotland but James was born on the sea in 1808 on his way to America.

William Gray died 2-28-1889 at the age of 45. He is buried in the historic Oakland Cemetery in downtown Atlanta (close to where he lived and worked). This shows the plot numbers. The only grave marker is the one for Virgil Valentine. Virgil is a descendent from Samuel Gray's sister Anna who married a Valentine.

Grave	Name	Age	Date
1	Igora Gray (Miss)	56	3-28-02
2	WILLIAM H. GRAY	45	2-28-1889
3	ARTHUR R. MABIN	26	11-16-1898
4			
5	VIRGIL F. VALENTINE	69	11-28-1934



Wm Gray worked for Hunnicut & Bellingrath as gasfitter in 1877.

**STOVE AND HOUSE-FURNISHING BUSINESS.**—We come now to another of the most extensive business enterprises of **Atlanta**. For obvious reasons, the demand for cooking stoves has greatly increased in the South since the war; and this demand, with the facilities for transportation and distribution enjoyed by **Atlanta**, has made this city a centre for supplying a large region of country with these, the greatest boon conferred in modern times on toiling woman.

**Hunnicut & Bellingrath** are old residents of **Atlanta**; **C. W. Hunnicutt** having been here twenty-two years. This firm commenced business in 1866, first as plumbers, gas-fitters, and coppersmiths. They were the first to commence business in their line after the war.



**Hunnicut & Bellingrath,**  
 COOKING AND HEATING STOVES,  
 MONITOR WROUGHT IRON RANGES.

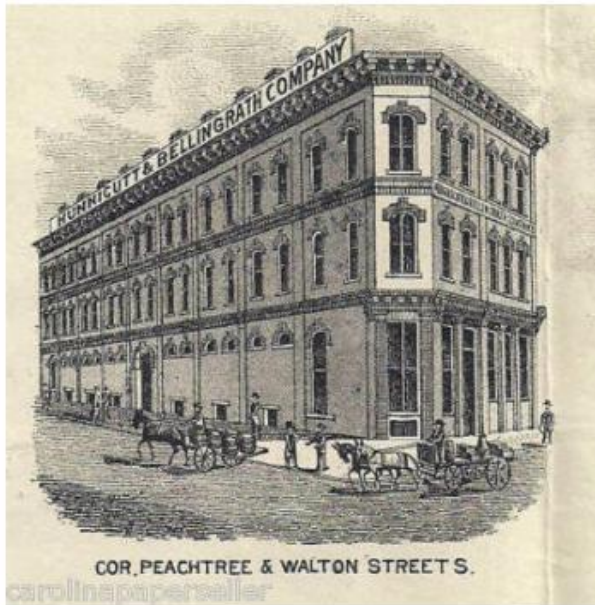
Fine Hard Wood Mantels,  
 Marbleized Iron Mantels,  
 Club House Grates, plain  
 and enameled Grates, Tile  
 Facings, Tile Hearths at  
 Factory Prices.

SANITARY PLUMBERS  
 STEAM AND GAS FITTERS.

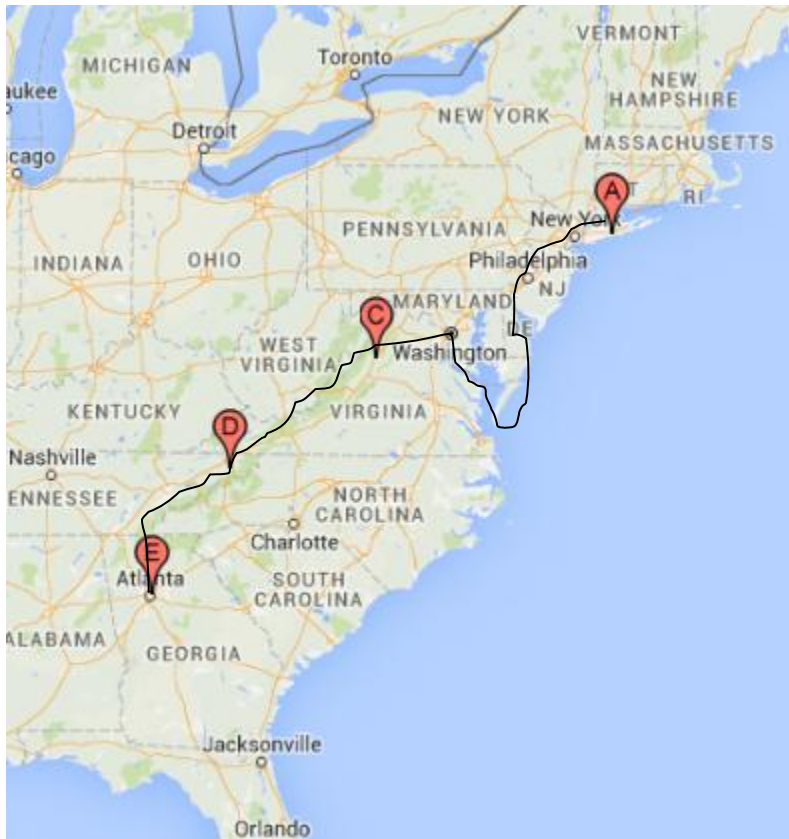
ARCHITECTURAL  
**GALVANIZED IRON WORKERS  
 AND TIN ROOFERS.**

Agents for Knowles' Steam  
 Pumps, Dunning's Boilers, Mor-  
 ris & Tasker's Wrought Iron Pipe  
 for Steam, Gas and Water,  
 Climax Gas Engines, and  
 —DEALERS IN—  
 Steam Fitters' and Plumbers'  
 Brass Goods, Bath Tubs, Wash  
 Basins, Marble Slabs, Water Clos-  
 ets, Stoves, Ranges, Hot Water  
 Boilers, Furnaces, Marbleized  
 Iron and Slate Mantels, Gas Fix-  
 tures, Pumps, Rubber Hose, etc.  
 Plans and Specifications Fur-  
 nished on Application.

**HUNNICUTT & BELLINGRATH,**  
 36 & 38 Peachtree St., Atlanta, Ga.



- Wm Gray and Easter Hicks had Isabella 1866, Annie 1867, William H 1871, and [Samuel S Gray](#) 1876 (my 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grand Father)



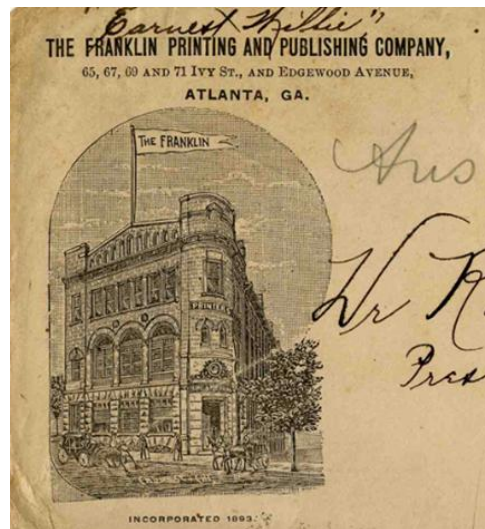
This map shows the general path from Long Island to Delaware then by ship to Alexandria Virginia then through the Thornton Gap into the Shenandoah Valley and then down the Long Grey Trail into Tennessee and then finally into Atlanta.

Now just one more move from Atlanta to Cincinnati.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> GGF

- [Samuel S Gray is my 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grand Father](#). He was born in Atlanta in 1876 and died in Cincinnati in 1923.
- He married Anna Marie Molloy in 1896. She was born in Marietta Ohio in 1874.

Samuel worked as a printer. He worked at Franklin Printing and Publishing Company in 1900 in Atlanta.



- Here are three pictures of Anna Molloy Gray



- 
- 



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- 
- Samuel died on TB in 1923. He died at the Dunham TB Hospital. His death certificate clearly shows that his dad was William from Atlanta and Esther Hicks from Tennessee.

Samuel Gray  
1923 TB at Dunham

Confirms his parents  
are Esther Hicks  
from Tennessee  
and Wm Gray from  
Atlanta GA

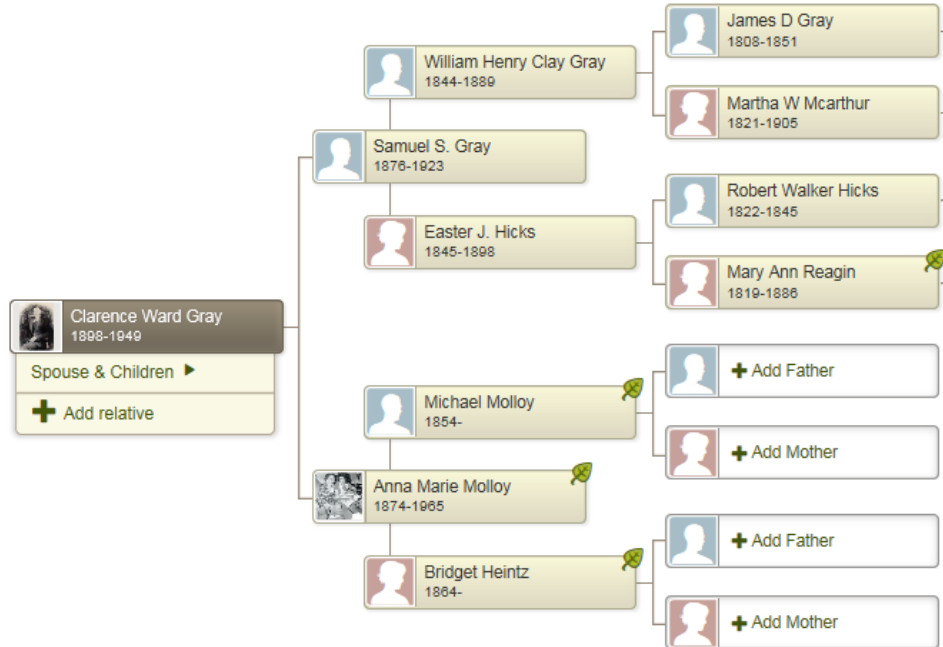


STATE OF OHIO BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
1 PLACE OF DEATH County <u>Hamilton</u> Registration District No. <u>4</u> File No. <u>64101</u>	
Township <u>Washington</u> Primary Registration District No. <u>007</u> Registered No. <u>0769</u>	
2 FULL NAME <u>Samuel Gray</u> (a) Residence <u>Hamilton, Ohio</u> (b) Residence of decedent <u>Hamilton, Ohio</u>	
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS	
3 SEX <u>Male</u> (u) Single (v) Married (w) Widowed (x) Divorced (y) Other	4 DATE OF BIRTH <u>Aug 15 1875</u>
5 AGE <u>48</u> <u>3</u> <u>28</u>	6 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED <u>Laborer</u>
7 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER <u>Atlanta, Ga.</u>	8 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <u>Hamilton, Ohio</u>
9 BIRTHPLACE OF DECEASED <u>Hamilton, Ohio</u>	10 DATE OF DEATH <u>Dec 13 1923</u>
11 MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE No. <u>18</u> issued between <u>Dec 18 1918</u> and <u>Dec 18 1918</u>	12 CAUSE OF DEATH <u>Tubercular Infection</u>
13 NAME OF FUNERAL HOME <u>Wm. W. Brown</u>	14 PLACE OF BURIAL OR CREMATION <u>Hamilton, Ohio</u>
15 DATE <u>Dec 20 1923</u>	16 SIGNATURE <u>Samuel Gray</u>

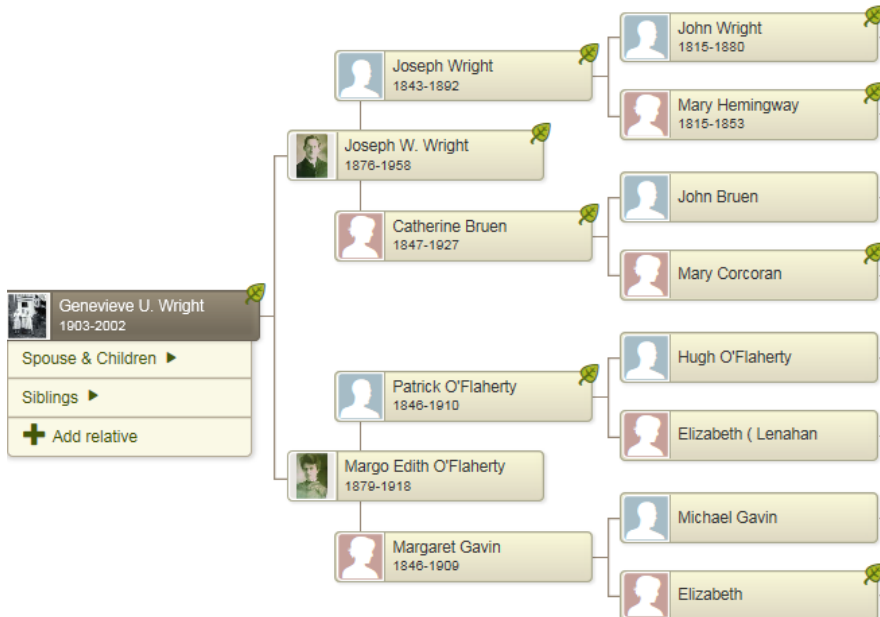
- 
- Samuel and Anna had Clarence in 1898, my 1<sup>st</sup> Great Grand Father.

## 1<sup>st</sup> GGF

- Clarence Gray is my 1<sup>st</sup> Great Grand Father who was born in 1898.



- 
- He married Genevieve Wright born in 1903



-



•

## Margaret and Genevieve



- Clarence was born in Atlanta in 1898. In 1910 he was a paperboy still in Atlanta. Around 1920 he was a street car conductor in Cincinnati. By 1924, he was a printer like his father Samuel. He worked as a printer until he died in 1949.



## Grandma

- Dorothy Gray was born in 1932. She married George Hensler.

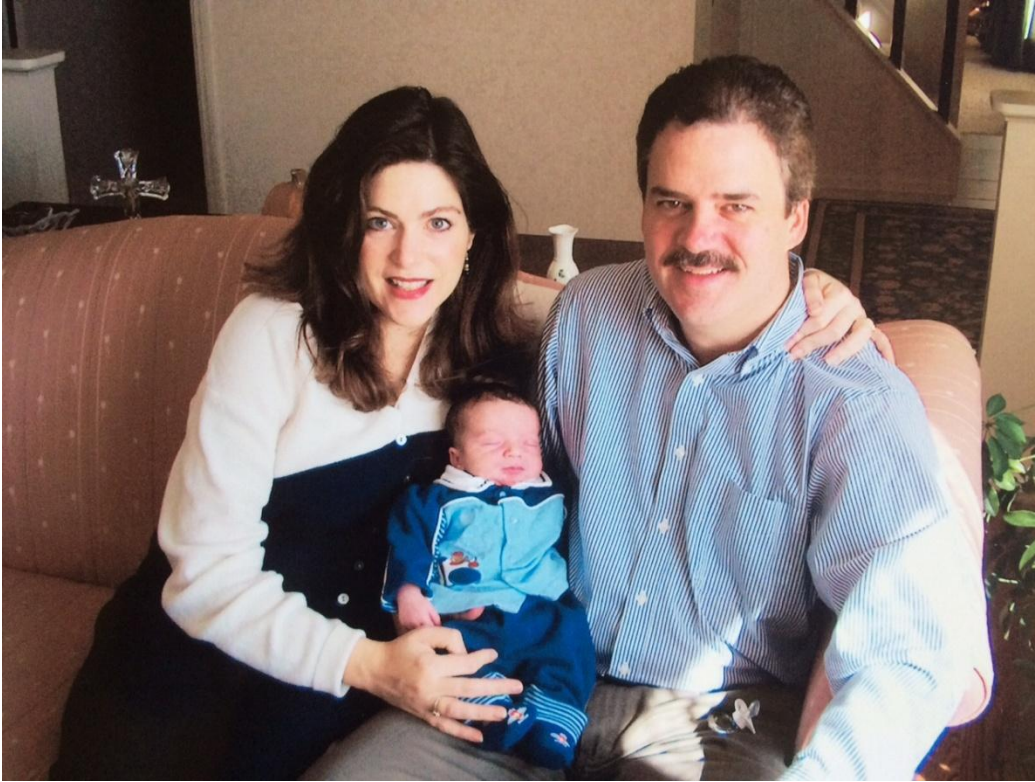


- 
- Grandma Dotty and me.



-

My Parents



- 
- Mom and Dad and me.

**Isaiah HARRISON (1666 - 1738)**  
*is your 8th great grandfather*



**Daniel HARRISON (1701 - 1770)**  
*son of Isaiah HARRISON*



**Abigail Harrison (1738 - 1811)**  
*daughter of Daniel HARRISON*



**Jeremiah Reagin (1784 - 1852)**  
*son of Abigail Harrison*



**Mary Ann Reagin (1819 - 1886)**  
*daughter of Jeremiah Reagin*



**Easter J. Hicks (1845 - 1898)**  
*daughter of Mary Ann Reagin*



**Samuel S. Gray (1876 - 1923)**  
*son of Easter J. Hicks*

**Clarence Ward Gray (1898 - 1949)**  
*son of Samuel S. Gray*

**Dorothy Anna Gray (1932 - 2003)**  
*daughter of Clarence Ward Gray*

**Thomas Hensler (1957 - )**  
*son of Dorothy Anna Gray*

**Thomas Hensler**

*You are the son of Thomas Hensler*



ANCESTORS WHO LIVED BY or TRAVELED ON  
THE LONG GREY TRAIL

