

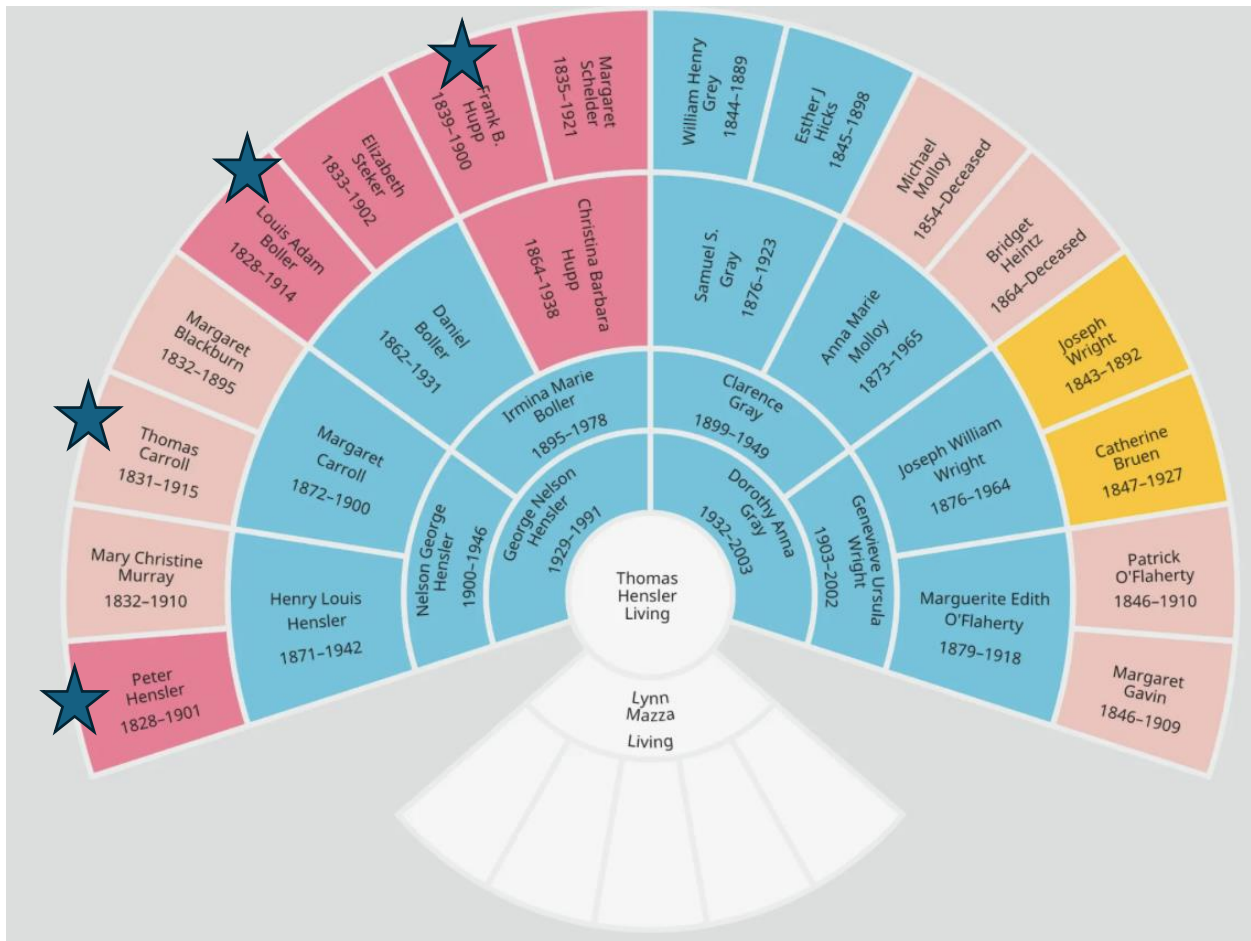
# Story of Four Families (Hensler, Carroll, Boller, and Hupp)

The story begins with four sets of ancestors born in the 1820s and 1830s:

- Peter Hensler II and Mary Murray
- Thomas Carroll and Margaret Blackburn
- Louis Boller and Elisabeth
- Frank Hupp and Margaretha

These families came from Germany, Prussia, and Ireland during one of the great migration eras of the nineteenth century.

Their children—Henry Hensler, Daniel Boller, Christina Hupp, and Margarite Carroll—would eventually form the next generation. Their grandchildren, Nelson Hensler and Irma Boller, would unite the family lines through marriage around the turn of the twentieth century.



# The Irish Story: Thomas Carroll and Margaret Blackburn

One of the most compelling stories is that of Thomas Carroll.

Thomas was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1831. His wife Margaret Blackburn was born in County Meath in 1832. Their lives were shaped by the catastrophe that overwhelmed Ireland during the Potato Famine. The slides describe how potato blight destroyed the primary food source for millions of Irish families, forcing many to emigrate.

Like countless Irish immigrants, Thomas appears to have found work building railroads in America.

By 1860 he was living near Fairfax Station, Virginia, along the Orange & Alexandria Railroad. The presentation suggests he was likely among the Irish laborers recruited to build the line. These workers performed dangerous manual labor and often faced discrimination because they were poor, Irish, and Catholic.

Yet Thomas and Margaret were building a life:

- They had several children.
- They owned a milk cow and a hog.
- They lived near St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church.
- Thomas voted in Fairfax County elections.

Then the Civil War arrived.

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## Caught Between Armies

The Carroll family lived almost exactly where history exploded.

The First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) occurred only a few miles from their home in 1861. The Second Battle of Manassas followed in 1862. Fairfax Station became strategically important because both Union and Confederate forces needed control of the railroad.

The slides paint a vivid picture:

- Union troops operated nearby.
- Confederate troops fought nearby.
- Railroads became military supply routes.
- St. Mary of Sorrows Church became a field hospital.

- Clara Barton later worked there caring for wounded soldiers.

Family tradition says Thomas opposed slavery and chose to leave Virginia.

Another family story says that while traveling down the Ohio River toward St. Louis, a man boarding the boat in Cincinnati needed someone to manage horses. Thomas accepted the offer and never left Cincinnati.

Whatever the exact details, records show the family had arrived in Cincinnati by 1863.

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## The Peach Farmer of Bridgetown

After arriving in Hamilton County, Thomas Carroll established a peach farm.

1869 map shows that Thomas Carroll's farm was just past the toll gate on Harrison Pike. It was a peach farm.



An 1869 map places his farm just beyond the toll gate on Harrison Pike in what is now the Bridgetown area.

For your family, this is a significant turning point.

The Irish immigrant railroad laborer became a western Hamilton County farmer whose descendants would remain rooted in the area for generations.

Thomas eventually died in 1915 and is buried with Margaret in St. Aloysius Cemetery in Bridgetown. Their gravestone also remembers children Julia and Martin who died before them.

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## The German Story: Peter Hensler

The Hensler story begins in Prussia.

Peter Hensler II was born in 1828 and immigrated in 1852 at age twenty-four. He sailed from Antwerp, Belgium, to New York aboard the ship *Victoria* and listed his occupation as farmer.

He settled in Delhi Township, west of Cincinnati.

Peter and Mary Murray raised a large family:

- Peter
- John
- Gertrude
- Mary
- Michael
- Henry
- and two children who died young.

Their youngest son, Henry Hensler, born in 1871, would later marry Margarite Carroll, linking the German Hensler family with the Irish Carroll family.

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## The Hupp Story: Leaving Bavaria

The Hupp family journey was another immigrant story.

Margaretha Hupp and her daughter Christina left Bavaria in 1871 aboard the steamship *Leipzig*, sailing from Bremen to Baltimore. Christina was only six years old.

They settled in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood.

The 1900 census shows:

- Frank Hupp working as a cigar maker.

- Several generations sharing one household.
- German still being spoken in the home.
- Life centered around Liberty Street in Over-the-Rhine.

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## The Boller Story: Carpenters and Blacksmiths

The Boller family brought skilled trades to Cincinnati.

Louis Adam Boller, born in 1828, worked as a carpenter and appears repeatedly in census records.

His son Daniel Boller became a blacksmith working in the carriage industry. One slide shows him proudly holding the blacksmith's hammer that represented his trade.

Daniel Boller Sr. Daniel is the one sitting with his Blacksmith hammer. Other photos are Daniel Sr at various ages. This is my favorite. Daniel was a blacksmith working in the carriage business.



In 1888 Daniel married Christina Hupp.

Feb 1888 wedding pictures for Daniel Boller and Christina Hupp Boller. These are our Great Grandparents.



Together they raised eight children:

- Mathilda
- Margaret
- Marie
- Irma
- Isabella
- Richard
- Frank
- Daniel Jr.

The family remained centered on Liberty Street, surrounded by relatives and fellow German-American families.

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## Three-Generation Families

One theme runs throughout the presentation:

**three generations living together.**

Around 1900:

- Nelson Hensler was growing up on Thomas Carroll's farm.
- Irma Boller was growing up in a crowded Liberty Street household.
- Grandparents lived with children and grandchildren.
- Family support networks were essential.

These were not isolated nuclear families. They were interconnected family ecosystems.

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## Nelson and Irma



Margaret Carroll Hensler :  
Mother of Nelson George  
Hensler

Eventually the Hensler and Boller families merge.

Nelson George Hensler, born in 1900 on the Carroll farm, married Irma Boller, born in 1895 in Over-the-Rhine.

Their marriage united:

- Irish railroad workers and peach farmers.
- German immigrants from Bavaria and Prussia.
- Carpenters.
- Blacksmiths.
- Farmers.
- Cigar makers.

Boller Family photo taken on Irma's wedding day at 1420 Liberty St. Front row is Margaret, Irma, mother Christina, Isabella, Marie. Back row is Daniel Jr, father Daniel Sr, and Frank. (Children Richard and Matilda both died young)



Irma Boller Hensler and Nelson George Hensler.



Grandma Irma Boller Hensler with her twin daughters Margie and Mary.



- Irmina Boller 1895
- Nelson Hensler 1900



Christina Hupp

Irma Boller Hensler; Great Aunt Marie, Christina Hupp,  
Aunt Pat, Dad (George), Aunt Ginnie, Uncle Dan



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## The Larger Meaning

The deepest story in these slides is not genealogy.

It is the story of ordinary people who crossed oceans, survived famine, endured discrimination, worked dangerous jobs, lived through the Civil War, built churches, farmed difficult land, raised large families, and passed opportunities to the next generation.

Thomas Carroll escaped famine and war.

Peter Hensler left Prussia seeking land and opportunity.

Christina Hupp crossed the Atlantic as a child.

Daniel Boller shaped iron for a living.

Their descendants inherited the benefits of sacrifices made long before they were born.

Four immigrant families arriving from different places, enduring hardship, and ultimately becoming one family rooted in Cincinnati and western Hamilton County. Keep Going Keep Loving.