

Case Study – Expanding the Paternal Line of DWS

Objective

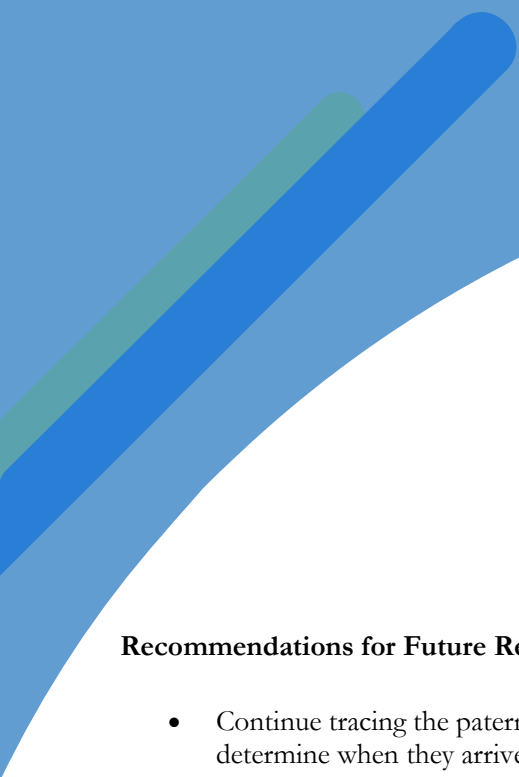
The goal of this research was to identify, document, and expand the paternal ancestors of D.W.S. D.W.S. had several memories of his family: a farm on a road bearing his grandfather's surname, a family Bible listing aunts and uncles, and stories of generations producing only one male heir. He sought to know more about his great-grandparents and the deeper roots of his paternal lineage.

Research Summary

Through a combination of traditional genealogical research, land records analysis, and local historical investigation, the project aimed to validate family memories, uncover deeper ancestral links, and answer longstanding family questions.

Research Results

- **Expanded Four Generations of the Paternal Line:**
Successfully identified the names, birth and death dates, and family group details for four generations of D.W.S.'s paternal ancestors.
- **Located the Family Farm and Road:**
Confirmed the existence of the road named after the family and documented the farm D.W.S. remembered, including details about its residents, the types of livestock raised, and how ownership transitioned across generations.
- **Validated Family Rumor:**
Verified that the tradition of only one male heir was true — but only until the family of D.W.S.'s great-great-grandfather, who had two boys, one of whom served in the United States Civil War.
- **Civil War Service Documented:**
Discovered that another great-great-grandfather also served honorably during the Civil War, adding rich context to the family's history.



Recommendations for Future Research

- Continue tracing the paternal line to identify the immigration origins of the family and determine when they arrived in the United States.
- Investigate the rumor of twins born to D.W.S.'s grandparents in 1903, starting with town clerk record searches and moving to on-site newspaper research if necessary.
- Research the lives of spouses of direct paternal ancestors, particularly to understand remarriages, subsequent families, and life after the death of a husband.
- Document the posterity of D.W.S.'s great-grandparents, seeking out heirlooms, photographs, or historical documents that could enrich the family's history.

Final Conclusions

Through careful and methodical research, D.W.S.'s paternal family history was significantly expanded. His cherished family memories were validated and enriched, giving him a deeper understanding of his family's roots — and a solid foundation for future exploration.

Curious about expanding your own family tree? I can help uncover your roots and preserve your family's legacy.

