

Date: October 2023

## Proof Argument

Research Question: ***Who were the parents of Sarah Ann Swartz; born 1820 in Clark County, Indiana, died 1902 in York County, Nebraska, married February 1838 in Clark County, Indiana to Marcus Fielding Bennett, moved to Adams County Illinois by 1860 and to York County Nebraska by 1880?***

Background Information:

*(note – the two spellings of Marcus/Marquis F. Bennett's first name are used interchangeably in records across Indiana, Illinois and Nebraska. It is impossible to determine which was the spelling he used himself, so for convenience sake this report will use Marquis unless the quoted record uses another spelling.) The same is true for the two main variants of spelling for Swartz/Schwartz.*

No known record names the parents of Sarah Ann Bennett, wife of Marquis Fielding Bennett. Her 1902 York County, Nebraska obituary gives her maiden name as Schwartz and her birthplace as Clark County, Indiana.<sup>1</sup> The obituary also mentions a migration pattern for Sarah and Marquis stating they moved first to Adams County, Illinois where they raised their family and then to York County, Nebraska where they lived the rest of their lives. The maiden name of Schwartz/Swartz was repeated in the obituary, death or marriage records of several children.<sup>2</sup> Sarah's marriage, migrations, and later life are well documented (in "standard" sources such as vital records, censuses and obituaries) via numerous online trees at Ancestry.com and FamilySearch (FSID KC58-CKS.) The life of her husband, Marcus Fielding Bennett, (FSID LCZ2-MRJ) has also been documented on the same sites, using the same range of sources. Despite the fact Sarah's maiden name and birthplace have apparently never been a mystery, she has not been attached to parents or siblings. Using the F.A.N. principal it is possible to reconnect Sarah to her siblings and to her parents.

Sarah Schwartz and Marquis Fielding Bennett were married in Clark County, Indiana on 13 February 1838<sup>3</sup> Marriage partners, during this period, were sought within a restricted radius of your home, usually just a few miles. Marcus' mother, Airy/Ary Prather Bennett, was a granddaughter of Basil Prather and Chlorenda Robertson/Robinson, a member of an extended Prather clan whose land holdings in Clark County centered around Utica Township, the hamlet of Prather in Utica, and the New Chapel Methodist Church.<sup>4</sup> It is highly likely that Sarah's parents lived in this area as well.

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<sup>1</sup> "Waco- Sarrah (sic) A. Bennett," *The Teller*, 19 Feb 1902, p. 4, col. 4; digital images, *Newspapers.com* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 24 Apr 2023); has several errors, including the spelling of Sarah's first name, date of migration to Illinois and the number of children born to Sarah and Marcus. Aside from the misspelling these may be attributed to the contributor who is unknown. Also "Waco Mrs. Sarah Bennett," *The York Republican*, 19 Feb 1902, p. 8, col. 4; digital images, *Newspapers.com* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 24 Apr 2023); text partially differs from the obituary in the York Teller. Her first name is spelled correctly, and her age is given as 82. Other errors are repeated from the York Teller obit.

<sup>2</sup> "Iowa, County Marriages, 1838-1934," Sarah Schnatty (sic) in entry for George T. Bennett and Virginia G. Mallory, 27 Jul 1884, Clinton, Iowa; database FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org> : viewed 21 Feb 2022) citing V 1 P 101-12; FHL microfilm 1,005,211. And "Nebraska Marriages, 1855-1995", Sarah Swartz in entry for D. F. Bennett, 1890, database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : 8 June 2021.) And "John W. Bennett dead from heat" *Alliance Times and Herald*, 7 Jul 1931, p. 1, col. 2; digital images, *Newspapers.com* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 24 Apr 2022.)

<sup>3</sup> Clark, Indiana, Marriage records 1810-2001, D: 176, Bennett-Schwartz, 1838; digital images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 25 Apr 2023); FHL microfilm #1415852. There is no return of the marriage recorded so we do not know who performed the marriage which is potentially relevant since two Swartz men and one brother in law were Methodist ministers in Clark County and performed numerous marriages for family members.

<sup>4</sup> There are a variety of reasonably well documented public Prather family trees on Ancestry.com. See for example "Heidi and Tim Family Tree," by heidiandtime, database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/85694310> : viewed 10 October 2023) profile for Ary

## Potential Candidates for Sarah's Parents

The potential Schwartz/Swartz households in Clark County, Indiana descend from two brothers and a cousin, and their spouses, who arrived in Clark County, about 1803, migrating from Pennsylvania.<sup>5</sup> These were - John Swartz and Elizabeth Ohlweiler, his brother Christopher Swartz and wife Catherine Omer, and their cousin Michael Swartz and his wife Catherine Sietz. All three couples settled in Clark and adjoining Floyd Counties before 1820 and all had several sons. Their families are set out in the only book length discussion of this family - Elise Swartz Eberhart, *Three Swartz/Schwartz Men of Floyd and Clark County, Indiana*. This book has some problems. Eberhart appears to have been working from family informants, local marriage records, copies of Pennsylvania wills, census through 1860 and unpublished church records and other manuscripts, although she does not cite sources. There are definite errors, including an incorrect relationship between the three founding men (where she specifically states, that Michael not being named in the will under discussion only means that as the oldest son he had already received his portion – which is not supported in any way and in fact is contrary to usual practice.) Eberhart struggled with the marriages and descendants of John Swartz, oldest son of John and Elizabeth. Since there were no descendants of John and his wives living in Clark County by 1901 this is, perhaps, not surprising. However, the information on the other sons of John and Elizabeth Swartz, and those of Christopher and Michael has been found to be generally accurate.<sup>6</sup>

Using census, marriage, bible, and cemetery records, it is possible to narrow the field of potential fathers for Sarah Ann Swartz.<sup>7</sup> Appropriate candidates should be born before 1803, married before 1820, and still be living in Clark or Floyd Counties in 1840.<sup>8</sup> With these criteria, in 1820, there were four Swartz males in the two counties, who were roughly old enough to have a daughter of marriageable age. They are marked in grey on the chart below. However, John Swartz sr., Christopher Swartz and Michael Swartz all had identified daughters born between 1819-1821. Sarah is very unlikely to be a child of one of the “pioneering” couples.

Analysis of census, marriage and cemetery records<sup>9</sup> for the pioneer couples and their sons suggests John Swartz, son of John and Elizabeth is the most likely candidate for Sarah Ann's father.

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Prather, 1791-1867, unknown update date. and the family is fairly well documented on FamilySearch. However, on FamilySearch Ary Prather Bennett has few sources in her name (*K1WK-BLW*.) Also see Map of Clark County, Indiana, [Philadelphia] : Chas. A. Mc. Cann & David S. Koon, 1875, Library of Congress (<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4093c.la000140> ; viewed 2 June 2023) and “The History of New Chapel Methodist Church near Watson, Ind”, typescript history (Watson, Indiana, United States) And William Warren Sweet, editor, *Circuit Rider Days in Indiana*, (Indianapolis, Indiana: W. K. Stewart Co., 1916.)

<sup>5</sup> Elise Swartz Eberhart, *Three Swartz/Schwartz men of Floyd and Clark County, Indiana* (Indianapolis, Indiana: Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe, 1986.) There is another household headed by George Schwartz that may or may not belong to this family grouping. Research was done to establish George's identity and rule him out as a candidate for Sarah Ann's father. For the research report see: Heather McLeland-Wieser, "Research Report – George Swartz Basic Identity July 2021", *Relay: A Family History Blog*. July 2021 (<http://www.mcwieser.info/relay/?p=893> ; Oct 2, 2023.)

<sup>6</sup> Elise Swartz Eberhart, *Three Swartz/Schwartz Men of Floyd and Clark County, Indiana* (Indianapolis, Indiana: Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe, 1986, pages 369-374+. In all cases work in census and other records bears out Eberhardt birthdates for these men. Also, there are several good public Ancestry trees, however almost all have an incorrect set of parents for Michael and or Christopher.

<sup>7</sup>For the research report covering this work see Heather McLeland-Wieser, "Research Report – Sarah Ann Schwartz Bennett Phase 1-June 2021" *Relay: A Family History Blog*. June 2021 <http://www.mcwieser.info/relay/?p=895>.

<sup>8</sup> These criteria are selected based on norms for marriage and birth of children in this frontier society in the early decades of the 1800s.

<sup>9</sup> see: <http://www.mcwieser.info/relay/?p=895>

Clark and Floyd Counties, Indiana Swartz Couples and their children	year married	Census Yr.	Place	Age Category	Census Yr.	Place	Age Category	Census Yr.	Place	Age Category
John Swartz, sr. 1767-1824 (PA- Clark, IN)		1820	Clark, IN	45+	1830	na	deceased	1840	na	deceased
Elizabeth Ohlweiler 1775 - 1846			Clark, IN	26 - 44	w/ Jacob*	Clark, IN	50 - 59	Jacob	Clark, IN	60- 69
John 1797 - 1865 (PA-IN)	1814 (1st)	on own	Clark, IN	16-25	on own	Clark, IN	30 - 39	own	Clark, IN	40- 49
Jacob 1800 - 1878 (PA-IN)	1829	w/parents	Clark, IN	16 - 25	on own	Clark, IN	20 - 29	own	Clark, IN	30 - 39
George 1803 - 1890 (PA-IN)	1823	w/parents	Clark, IN	16 - 18	on own	Clark, IN	20 - 29	own	Clark, IN	30 - 39
Sarah E. 1805 - 1878 (IN)	1823	w/parents	Clark, IN	16 - 25	married	Clark, IN	??	married	Clark, IN	30 - 39
Nancy 1808 - 1845 (IN - IL)	1825	w/parents	Clark, IN	10 - 15	married	Clark, IN	20 - 29	married	Schuyler, IL	20 - 29
MaryAnn 1810 - 1887 (IN)	1828	w/parents	Clark, IN	10 - 15	married	Clark, IN	??	married	Clark, IN	??
Leonard 1813 - 1879 (IN - OH)	1833	w/parents	Clark, IN	> 10	w/ Jacob*	Clark, IN	15- 19	own	Clark, IN	20 - 29
Sophia 1820-1889 (IN)	1837	w/parents	Clark, IN	> 10	w/ Jacob*	Clark, IN	10 - 14	married	Clark, IN	20 - 29
Christopher Swartz 1772 - 1843 (PA- Clark, IN)		1820	Clark, IN	45 +	1830	Clark, IN	50 - 59	1840	Clark, IN	60 - 69
Catherine Omer 1782 - 1844	1801		Clark, IN	26 - 44		Clark, IN	40 - 49		??	??
Peter 1801 -	1826	w/parents	Clark, IN	16 - 25		??	??		??	??
John C. 1802 - 1831 (PA-IN)	1825	w/parents	Clark, IN	16 - 25	on own	Clark, IN	20 - 29	on own	??	??
Abraham 1803 - 1891	1829	w/parents	Clark, IN	16 - 18	??	Clark, IN	20 - 29	on own	??	??
Daniel 1804 - 1876 (PA-IN)	1836	w/parents	Clark, IN	10 - 15	w/parents	Clark, IN	20 - 29	on own	??	??
Isaac 1806 - 1852	1836	w/parents	Clark, IN	10- 15	w/parents	Clark, IN	20 - 29	on own	??	20 - 29
Mary Ann 1810 -	1831 1 st	w/parents	Clark, IN	< 10	w/parents	Clark, IN	20 - 29	married	??	??
Peter Jacob 1812 - 1878	1842	w/parents	Clark, IN	< 10	w/parents	Clark, IN	15 - 19	on own	Clark, IN	20 - 29
Elizabeth 1818 -	1839	w/parents	Clark, IN	< 10	w/parents	Clark, IN	15 - 19	married	??	??
Sarah 1819 - **	1841	w/parents	Clark, IN	< 10	w/parents	Clark, IN	10 - 14	w/parents	??	??
Katherine Ann 1819 -1881 **	1839	??	???	???	??	??	??	??	??	??
Michael 1764 - 1849 (PA - Floyd, IN)		1820	Floyd, IN	45 +	1830	Floyd, IN	60 - 69	1840	Floyd, IN	70 - 79
Catherine Sietz 1775 - 1856			Floyd, IN	26 - 44		Floyd, IN	40 - 49		Floyd, IN	60 - 69
John 1799 - 1863 (PA - Putnam, IN)	1825	w/parents	Floyd, IN	16- 25	on own	Floyd, IN	30 -39	own	Putnam, IN	40 - 49
George 1800 - 1851	1823	w/parents	Floyd, IN	16- 25	on own	Floyd, IN	30 - 39	own	Floyd, IN	30 -39
Jacob 1802 - 1823	na	w/parents	Floyd, IN	16- 25	deceased	na	deceased	deceased	na	deceased
David 1804 - 1888 (IN - KS)	1827 1st	w/parents	Floyd, IN	16- 18	on own	Floyd, IN	20 - 29	own	??	30-39
Elizabeth 1806 - 1807	na	na	na	na	deceased	na	deceased	deceased	na	deceased
Mary 1808 - 1839	na	w/parents	Floyd, IN	10 - 15	married	Floyd, IN	20-29	deceased	na	deceased
Catherine 1810 - 1825	na	w/parents	Floyd, IN	10 - 15	deceased	na	deceased	deceased	na	deceased
Sarah 1812 - 1863	1828	w/parents	Floyd, IN	< 10	married	??	??	married	??	20 - 29
Michael jr. 1814 - 1885 Washington, IN	1839	w/parents	Floyd, IN	< 10	w/parents	Floyd, IN	15 - 19	on own	Floyd, IN	20 - 29
Isaac 1816 - 1846	1839	w/parents	Floyd, IN	< 10	w/parents	Floyd, IN	15 - 19	deceased	na	deceased
James Edward 1818 - 1893 (IN - KS)	1841	w/parents	Floyd, IN	< 10	w/parents	Floyd, IN	10 - 14	w/parents	Floyd, IN	20- 29
child 1821-1822 still born per bible	na	na	na	na	deceased	na	deceased	deceased	na	deceased
Nancy 1825 - 1842	na	na	na	na	w/parents	Floyd, IN	5 - 9	w/parents	Floyd, IN	5 - 19

**\*\*Sarah daughter of Christopher and Catherine married Jacob Coons in 1841 in Clark County and by 1850 they had moved to Jefferson County, Indiana where she died in 1868. They had 10 children, whose families are documented in 3 Schwartz Men. 3 Schwartz Men also gives Christopher a daughter, Katherine Ann who married George Washington Smith in 1839 in Clark County, they settled in Floyd County, Indiana where they lived the rest of their lives. However, there is no daughter on the 1820 or 1830 census that could be Katherine, so her parentage is not established, and she is outside the scope of this research project.**

sources for chart 1 - 1820 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Jeffersonville, various households; digital images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 8 Sep 2019); citing NARA M33, roll 13. 1830 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Jeffersonville, various households; digital images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M19, roll 28. 1840 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, various households; digital images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M704, roll 75 and 1820 U.S. census, Floyd, Indiana, Franklin, p 151, Micheal Swartz (sic) household; digital images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 8 Sep 2019); citing NARA M33, roll 13. 1830 U.S. census, Floyd, Indiana, New Albany, 353, p Michael Schwartz household; digital images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M19, roll 28. 1840 U.S. census, Floyd, Indiana, Greenville, p 164, Michael Swarts (sic) household; digital images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M704, roll 79.

The younger John Swartz, born 1797 in Pennsylvania, died 1865 in Clark County, Indiana, married three times between 1814 and 1840, and had multiple children with all three wives<sup>10</sup>. Previous researchers, relying primarily on a single document, the "Recollections" of Captain Hiram Prather, assigned only 4 children to John's longest marriage, that with his first wife Nancy Prather. Captain Prather was a younger half-brother of Nancy, and his

<sup>10</sup> Elise Swartz Eberhart, *Three Swartz/Schwartz Men of Floyd and Clark County, Indiana* (Indianapolis, Indiana: Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe, 1986. Also see [https://www.mcwieser.info/mcleland-wieserfamily/?page\\_id=234](https://www.mcwieser.info/mcleland-wieserfamily/?page_id=234) for a full treatment of John's marriages that corrects Eberhart.

“Recollections” could be considered primary and direct evidence of the composition of Nancy’s family.<sup>11</sup> Nancy married in 1814 and died in 1832.<sup>12</sup> William Prather, father of Nancy and Hiram, moved his family to Jennings County, Indiana sometime around 1821.<sup>13</sup> Hiram, born 1809<sup>14</sup>, was 15 years younger than Nancy. He was only 5 when she married and 11 when his family moved out of the county. All the known children of John Swartz and Nancy Prather moved from Indiana to Illinois between 1840 and 1880. Hiram wrote his “Recollections” in the 1870s. Given all these factors, it is entirely likely that Hiram did not have a complete recollection of Nancy’s family.

The chart below shows a reconstruction of John and Nancy’s family based on Hiram’s “Recollections” and federal census records for Indiana. The household’s census situation is complicated between 1830 and 1840 by a series of family changes crowded into those 10 years - Nancy’s death in 1832; John’s remarriage; the birth of three children and then the death of John’s second wife before 1840 and his third marriage to a widow with three children of her own.<sup>15</sup> By focusing just on the children who appear in the household in 1830 we see a clearer picture of the possible children of John and Nancy.

Chart 2 - John Swartz and Nancy Prather’s family

Family Group	year married	Census Yr. & status	Place	Age Category	Census Yr. & status	Place	Age Category	Census Yr. & status	Place	Age Category
John 1797 - 1865 (PA-IN)	1814	1820	Clark, IN	16 - 25	1830	Clark, IN	30 - 39	1840	Clark, IN	40 - 49
Nancy Prather 1794 - 1832			Clark, IN	> 10		Clark, IN	30 - 39		na	deceased
Airy 1815 - 1880 (IN - IL)	na	w/parents	Clark, IN	> 10	w/parents	Clark, IN	15 - 19	w/parents	Clark, IN	20 - 29
Elizabeth 1818 - 1905 (IN - IL)	1840	w/parents	Clark, IN	> 10	w/parents	Clark, IN	10 - 14	married	Adams, IL	
unknown daughter cir 1820 possibly Sarah Ann 1820 - 1902 (IN - IL)	1840	w/parents	Clark, IN	> 10	w/parents	Clark, IN	10 - 14	married	Clark, IN	
Abraham 1822 - 1887 (IN - IL)	1850 1st	na	na	na	w/parents	Clark, IN	5 - 9	w/s	Clark, IN	15 - 19
unknown son cir 1824-25*	??	na	na	na	w/parents	Clark, IN	5 - 9	w/parents	Clark, IN	15 - 19
unknown daughter cir 1826 *		na	na	na	w/parents	Clark, IN	5-9	na	na	deceased
Wiley Uriah 1827 - 1917 (IN -IL- NE)	1850	na	na	na	w/parents	Clark, IN	< 5	w/parents	Clark, IN	10 - 14

\* potential son (William) is the subject of a different research project. Potential daughter (Sophia) b. 1826 buried 1828 New Chapel Cemetery with no parents noted and no further research done.

\*\* residing in his uncle, Jacob Swartz’s household.

sources for chart 2 - 1820 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Jeffersonville, p. 10, Schwartz, John jr; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 8 Sep 2019); citing NARA M33, roll 13. 1830 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Jeffersonville, p. 47, Schwartz, John; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M19, roll 28. 1840 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, (population schedule) p. 289 (stamped page number), Swartz, John; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M704, roll 75. 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, p. 380, dwelling 651, family 701, Swartz, John household; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M432, roll 138. 1860 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, p. 499, dwelling 58, family 58, Swartz, John household; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M653, roll 248.

<sup>11</sup> Dr. Ray R. Knight (Minneapolis, Minnesota) to Mrs. Harvey Morris, “Recollections” copy enclosed with letter, September 1927; “Data from a diary and notebook of personal recollections of early Indiana Territory, written by Hiram Prather, about 1870-1875 (sic, Hiram Prather died in March 1874). Book last known to be in possession of Clarence D. Prather, in office of Northern Pacific Railway, Minneapolis, MN; Copy of original enclosure in possession of author – acquired from the Clark County Historical Society in 200. And Kentucky. Jefferson County, “Marriage Registers 1784-1811,” Clerk of the County Court, Louisville, 1: 79, Swartz-Prather, 1814; FHL microfilm 482,706.

<sup>12</sup> Knight, Dr. Ray R. (Minneapolis, Minnesota) to Mrs. Harvey Morris. “Recollection” copy enclosed with letter. September 1927.

<sup>13</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Charlestown, p. 37, Prather, William; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 8 Sep 2019); citing NARA M33, roll 13. “Special Edition- Jennings County vol 1,” Hoosier Journal of Ancestry, 59; Circuit Court 28 Oct 1822. William Prather and Jonathan Barnett are Jennings County Associate Probate Judges.

<sup>14</sup> Find A Grave, digital images (http://www.findagrave.com : accessed 10 Sep 2023), Hiram Prather, memorial number 32364961.

<sup>15</sup> Heather McLeland-Wieser, “Descendants of John Swartz (2nd) and his three wives through the 4th generation from John and Elizabeth (Ohlweiler) Swartz- Part 1”, The McLeland-Wieser Family. undated ([https://www.mcwieser.info/mcleland-wieserfamily/?page\\_id=234](https://www.mcwieser.info/mcleland-wieserfamily/?page_id=234) ; viewed 15 October 2023.) Also see “The Descendants of John Swartz and Elizabeth Ohlweiler” by Heather McLeland-Wieser, database, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/193687589> : viewed 20 October 2023) updated 10 November 2023) profile for John Swartz 1797-1865) data updated 10 November 2023.

### Patterns of Association – the F.A.N. Club

The four children recollected by Captain Prather were Airy, Elizabeth, Abram and Wiley. Elizabeth Swartz married Robert Dismore in Clark County in June 1840 and they appear on the 1840 census in Adams County, Illinois.<sup>16</sup> Abram Swartz married Charlotte Davis in Clark County in November of 1850; they remained in Clark County until approximately 1856 (birth of middle child Anna,) and then moved to Adams County as well.<sup>17</sup> Wiley moved before January 1850 to Adams County, Illinois where he married Penina Jane Overman.<sup>18</sup> (Penina was also born in Clark County, Indiana.) Airy never married and apparently spent most of her life living in her father's household.<sup>19</sup>

Sarah Ann's obituary states that she was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church, and the Swartz and Prather families are well known as founders of the earliest Methodist Church in Indiana, New Chapel Methodist Church. A 1940 history of New Chapel Church printed in the Jefferson Evening News gives a list of "families on the early roster of the church"<sup>20</sup> which includes the names Jacobs, Swartz, Prather, Bottorff, Howard, Spangler and Bennett, all families who owned land surrounding the Church, served on its boards and buried their members in its cemetery. On the first page of Trustees record book, dated 29 January 1811, the board of trustees included Edward Jacob, John Swart {sr.}, Basil Prather, David Spangler, Henry Bottorff, Michael Schwartz, Jeremiah Jacob jr and Basil R. Prather. John Swartz remained on the board until his death in 1824 when Thomas Jacob was named to his vacant place. In the 1840s the Board of Trustees of New Chapel Methodist Church included Jacob and George Swartz, James Smith, John Fry and Moses Jacobs all of whom were potential uncles of Sarah Ann as well as Thomas and Greenberry Prather (either the uncles of Marquis or the cousins by the same name.)<sup>21</sup> On 15 January 1842 M. F Bennett was proposed for election as trustee but was not elected, although his probable cousin

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<sup>16</sup> Clark, Indiana, Marriage Records, 1808- 1951, D: 284-285, Dismore-Schwartz, 1840; FHL microfilm 1,415,852; date of license 5 June 1840. Marriage date 7 June 1840 per return in register. Officiant Shiveral Garner. And 1840 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, Quincy, p. 61, Robert Dismore; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 4 Oct 2019); citing NARA M704, roll 54. Elizabeth's presence is implied since there is only 1 female in household.

<sup>17</sup> Clark, Indiana, Marriage Records, 1808- 1951, F: 178, Schwartz-Davis, 1850; FHL microfilm 4476596. And 1860 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, population schedule, Houston, p. 981, dwelling 3119, family 3145, Household of Abraham Swartz; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) ; viewed 12 Sept 2019); citing NARA microfilm M653, roll 155.

<sup>18</sup> Adams, Illinois, Marriage Records, 1: n.p., Swartz-Overman, 1850; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : viewed 3 March 2023); Marriage register with space for return. Arranged alphabetically by groom's surname. And 1850 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, population schedule, Camp Point township, p. [62], dwelling 67, family 67, Wiley Swartz household; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 97.

<sup>19</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, population schedule, Utica, p. 380, dwelling 651, family 701, Swartz, John household; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) ; viewed 9 Feb 2019); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 138. And 1860 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, population schedule, Utica, p. 499, dwelling 58, family 58, Swartz, John household; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : viewed 9 Feb 2019); citing NARA microfilm M653, roll 248. And 1880 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, population schedule, Houston, enumeration district (ED) 011, p. 165A, dwelling 118, family 118, household of William Adams; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) ; viewed 2 March 1999); citing NARA microfilm T9, roll 174. Airy Swartz lived with her father and his various wives in the 1850 and 1860 census. She disappears temporarily from the records after the 1860 census - reappearing in 1880 living with William and Sarah Dismore Adams, her niece, in Adams County, Illinois. What happened to Airy after 1880 has never been discovered.

<sup>20</sup> Jeffersonville Evening News, "Oldest Active Methodist Group in the State is Organized While Indiana is Territory," *New Chapel Church History Reveals its Founding in 1801*, newspaper article reprint, New Chapel Methodist Church (Watson, Indiana, United States), Saturday 7 Sept 1940, p. unknown; "New Chapel has furnished several pastors from its members including Rev. Solomon Jacobs, George and Jacob Swartz, Peter Henry Bottorff and Dr. Jacob Bruner."

<sup>21</sup> New Chapel Methodist Church, "Trustees Minute Book," unnumbered pages; Indiana Historical Society (IHS) Library, Indianapolis, IHS Library call number F-72. OCLC Number 10336162



Granville M. Bennett was elected.<sup>22</sup> The extant records do not include admissions or dismissals but the inclusion of M. F. Bennett on the slate of proposed trustees can be taken as proof that he (and his wife) were members of this church, critical in the network of associations for he and Sarah Ann, in the years shortly after their marriage.

The 1850 census for Clark County, Indiana enumerates Sarah and Marquis, with eight young children, living in Utica Township.<sup>23</sup> There are several Swartz and Bennett households in Utica Township including the households of John Swartz the younger<sup>24</sup> and Ary Bennett, previously established by other researchers as Marquis' mother.<sup>25</sup> Living nearby is Abram Swartz, in the household of his paternal uncle Jacob Swartz (his future wife, Charlotte Davis is a part of this household as well.)<sup>26</sup>

Sarah and Marquis moved to Illinois before 1852 when their son Robert James Bennett was born.<sup>27</sup> On the 1855 Illinois state census, Sarah and Marquis are residing in Houston Township, Adams County, Illinois, where their immediate census neighbors are William Bottorff, T. Howard, Robert Dismore and Wiley Swartz.<sup>28</sup> There appears to have been a substantial migration from Clark County, Indiana to Adams County, Illinois between 1840 and 1860.<sup>29</sup> By 1860 there are several Swartz, Bennett, Prather, Jacobs<sup>30</sup>, Bottorff, and Howard families residing in Houston township and the adjoining townships of Northeast and Camp Point as well as just over the county line in Hancock County, Illinois.<sup>31</sup>

Between 1855 and 1861 Sarah and Marquis Bennett sold Robert Dismore one acre off the west side of their farm in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 36. This sale deed doesn't seem to have survived or perhaps it was never recorded. However, in 1862 when Marquis sold the remainder of this property to Cadour Gaunt, the transfer to Robert was memorialized in that deed.<sup>32</sup> It is apparent, on the 1872 Land Ownership Atlas of Adams County, that the acre sold by Marquis and Sarah adjoined the land which Robert Dismore had purchased in 1841, and on which he had been living ever since.<sup>33</sup> The two families were close neighbors in Adams County for about a decade.

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<sup>22</sup> - New Chapel Methodist Church, "Trustees Minute Book," M. F. Bennett entry date 15 January 1842; Indiana Historical Society (IHS) Library, Indianapolis, IHS Library call number F-72.

<sup>23</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, population schedule, Utica, p. 193, dwelling 687, family 738, M. F. Benet (*sic*) household; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) ; viewed 12 June 2021 ); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 138.

<sup>24</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, pop. sch., Utica, p. 380, dwell. 651, fam. 701, Household of John Swartz.

<sup>25</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, population schedule, Utica, p. 197, dwelling 738, family 789, Ary Bennett in household of Joshua S. Bennett; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) ; viewed 12 June 2021 ); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 138. Reschar, Ralph L with Beulah E. Rhode and Hazel J. Leista, *The James Bennett Family*, 1961, typescript, Jeffersonville Township Public Library, Jeffersonville, Indiana, File 32. Also see [Heidi and Tim Family Tree](#) and other public Ancestry trees.

<sup>26</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, pop. sch., Utica, p. 402, dwell. 792, fam. 845, Household of Jacob Schwartz.

<sup>27</sup> 1860 Federal Census, Adams County, Houston Township, Illinois, population schedule, pg 980-981 *handwritten*, line 33, household of Marquis Bennett, digital image; *Ancestry*, ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : 17 July 2021); citing NARA M653, roll 155.

<sup>28</sup> 1855 Illinois State Census, Houston township 2N range 6W, Adams, Illinois, page (?), line 12, F. Bennett, digital image: *Ancestry*, ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : 29 August 2021); citing Illinois State Archive collection 103.008 roll 2187. Page number unreadable Image 1 of 9 in Ancestry's set of images for this township.

<sup>29</sup> 1860 Federal Census, Houston Township, Adams County, Illinois, population schedule, digital images; *Ancestry*, ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : 17 July 2021); citing NARA M653, roll 155. The township is enumerated over 26 pages and there are 74 individuals born in Indiana the majority of whom have surnames recognizable from the 1850 Clark County enumeration.

<sup>30</sup> A family with repeated marriage connections to the Prather, Bennett, Swartz and Bottorff families of Clark County, Indiana.

<sup>31</sup> 1860 Federal Census, Adams County, Illinois, population schedule, digital images; *Ancestry*, ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : 17 July 2021); citing NARA M653, roll 155.

<sup>32</sup> Adams County, Illinois, Deed, 1825-1886, vol 37, pg 486 (page 1 of 2); Marquis F. Bennett and Sarah Ann his wife to Cadour Gaunt, warranty deed, 1 Mar 1861, recorded 27 Dec 1862; Family History Library film 967824 item 2, DGS 8547736.

<sup>33</sup> Houston Township, Adams County, Illinois, "U.S., Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918," microfilmed by the Library of Congress, G&M 43; Roll Number: 43, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1127/> ; accessed 2 July 2023.) For image of

Sometime around February 1859, Marquis Bennett and Wiley Swartz defaulted on a debt they jointly owed. They were sued, and judgement against them was entered<sup>34</sup> shortly before Marquis moved his family about 2 miles north to a new neighborhood in Houston Township.<sup>35</sup> While the index entries for this suit name both men as defendants, they do not indicate whether Wiley or Marquis was the primary debtor (the detailed entries are all under Wiley's name, Marquis is indexed only with a see reference.) Regardless of the actual debt relationship, it would be unusual for men in this situation not to be related in some degree. Joint debt also implies frequent interaction and proximity.

By the 1860 census, Marquis and Sarah had moved north of the neighborhood where they'd first settled adjoining the Dismore's. They were living next door to Abram and Charlotte Swartz and their young family, all born in Indiana.<sup>36</sup> This was probably a temporary location for Abram Swartz, since the next year his patent for land, about 3 miles away in adjoining Clayton Township, was finalized.<sup>37</sup>

Between the late 1850s and 1880s, the Dismore and Bennett families were active members of the Methodist Church in Houston Township. The earliest records of the various "classes" are very spotty and mostly missing. By the time there are regular annual records surviving, in the 1860s, the two families were living about 2 miles apart and are recorded in different classes.<sup>38</sup> However it is apparent they are long time members of the church since their older children are being admitted as probationers.<sup>39</sup> The Swartz family of Clark County was instrumental in the founding of the New Chapel Methodist Church, in 1809, the oldest Methodist Church in Indiana. Two of John Swartz, the younger's brothers and one brother in law were ministers in the Church.<sup>40</sup> Her Nebraska obituary mentions Sarah Ann's life-long association with the Methodist Church.<sup>41</sup>

Having spent most of their adult life in Adams County, Sarah and Marquis moved to York County, Nebraska around 1880. Marquis and Sarah are enumerated in York County, Nebraska on the 1880 census.<sup>42</sup> Shortly before making their move, Marquis sold their farmland ( two parcels of very different sizes) in Houston Township, Adams County.<sup>43</sup> Placing the larger piece of land on the "1872 Land Ownership Atlas of Illinois" shows that farm parcel

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Atlas page with relevant sections highlights see Heather McLeland-Wieser, "Phase 3 – November 2021, Research Report – Sarah Ann Schwartz Bennett," *Relay: a family history blog*, November 2021 (<http://www.mcwieser.info/relay/?p=902> ; 2 October 2023.)

<sup>34</sup> Adams, Illinois, Judgement Docket, 1855-1974, Circuit Court S: 32, 3820 Hayes & Woodruff vs Swartz & Bennett in default of debt, October 1859 – December 1859; FHL microfilm 961,235; DGS 8566629, image 38.

<sup>35</sup> 1860 Federal Census, Adams County, Houston Township, Illinois, pop. Sch., pg 980-981 *handwritten*, household of Marquis Bennett.

<sup>36</sup> *ibid*

<sup>37</sup> State of Illinois, Illinois, "U.S., Public Land Purchase Records, 1813-1909," *Ancestry* (Ancestry.com ; viewed 9 October 2021) referencing ID: 1,3780::0, Cit. ID: 1,3780::77841.

<sup>38</sup> Methodist Episcopal Church, Illinois Conference, LaPrairie Circuit (Illinois, Adams), "Class List," unpagged, undated (internal evidence suggests mid-1860s), class leader E. Bennett; FHL microfilm 965,273, item 4; DGS 7621301 image 295. " M. F. Bennett"; "Susanua (*sic*) Bennett." Based on the various surnames and the name of the class leader E. H. Bennett, this is likely the earliest class list for the Ebenezer class. And Methodist Episcopal Church, Illinois Conference, LaPrairie Circuit (Illinois, Adams), "Keokuk Junction Class List," unpagged, 1870, class leader E. Bennett; FHL microfilm 965,273, item 4; DGS 7621301 image 301. "Robert Dismore, Elisabeth Dismore, Nacy Dismore, Julia Dismore".

<sup>39</sup> Methodist Episcopal Church, Illinois Conference, LaPrairie Circuit (Illinois, Adams), "1870 class list Ebenezer Class," "Sarah Bennett; John W. Bennett; Arvilla Bennett", FHL microfilm 965,273, item 3; DGS 7621301 image 303. *List has date of 1870 and 1871.*

<sup>40</sup> *The History of New Chapel Methodist Church near Watson, Ind*, typescript history (Watson, Indiana, United States.)

<sup>41</sup> "Waco Mrs. Sarah Bennett," *The York Republican*, 19 Feb 1902, p. 8, col. 4.

<sup>42</sup> 1880 Federal Census, E.D. T119, Town 11 Range 1 West, York County, Nebraska, population schedule, pg 8D, line 4, Bennett, Marcus F., digital image; *Ancestry*, (www.ancestry.com : 17 August 2021); citing NARA T19, roll 757.

<sup>43</sup> Adams County, Illinois, Deed, 1825-1886, vol 104, pg 55; Marquis F. Bennett and Sarah A. his wife to Solomon Warren McGinnis, warranty deed (*for 3 parcels of land*), 18 Mar 1880 (*sic*), recorded 19 Feb 1880 (*sic*); Family History Library film 967848 item 2, DGS 8547758. Based on the surrounding deeds as recorded, this was likely granted on 18 Feb 1880 and recorded on 18 Feb 1880.

(indicated by a house on the map) was surrounded by the lands of other Bennett families,<sup>44</sup> including the farms of two of Marquis uncles Thomas Howard Bennett and Elisha Howard Bennett.<sup>45</sup>

There were no Schwartz/Swartz families in the same section on either the 1872 Atlas or close by the 1870 census. The Dismore family remained settled in the neighborhood where they'd purchased land in 1840 and where Sarah and Marquis had first settled on their arrival in Illinois about 1854. Abram and family were living in adjacent Clayton Township.<sup>46</sup> Wiley and Penina had moved just over the border to Hancock County,<sup>47</sup> about 3 miles north of the Bennett farm on the 1872 atlas. However, a roughly 3-mile radius circle centered on the Bennett farm in section 16 includes the farms of Robert and Elizabeth Dismore, Abram and Charlotte Swartz, and Wiley and Penina Swartz as well as the farms of Elisha Howard Bennett and Thomas Howard Bennett. Despite apparently having "moved away" Sarah and Marquis were still within easy travel distance of all the Indiana-born Swartz households in Adams and adjoining Hancock Counties.

The patterns of association that framed the lives of Sarah Ann Swartz and Marquis Fielding Bennett were part of a multi-generational network of marriages crossing 4 states and at least 5 generations.

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<sup>44</sup> Houston Township, Adams County, Illinois, "U.S., Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918, p. 116.

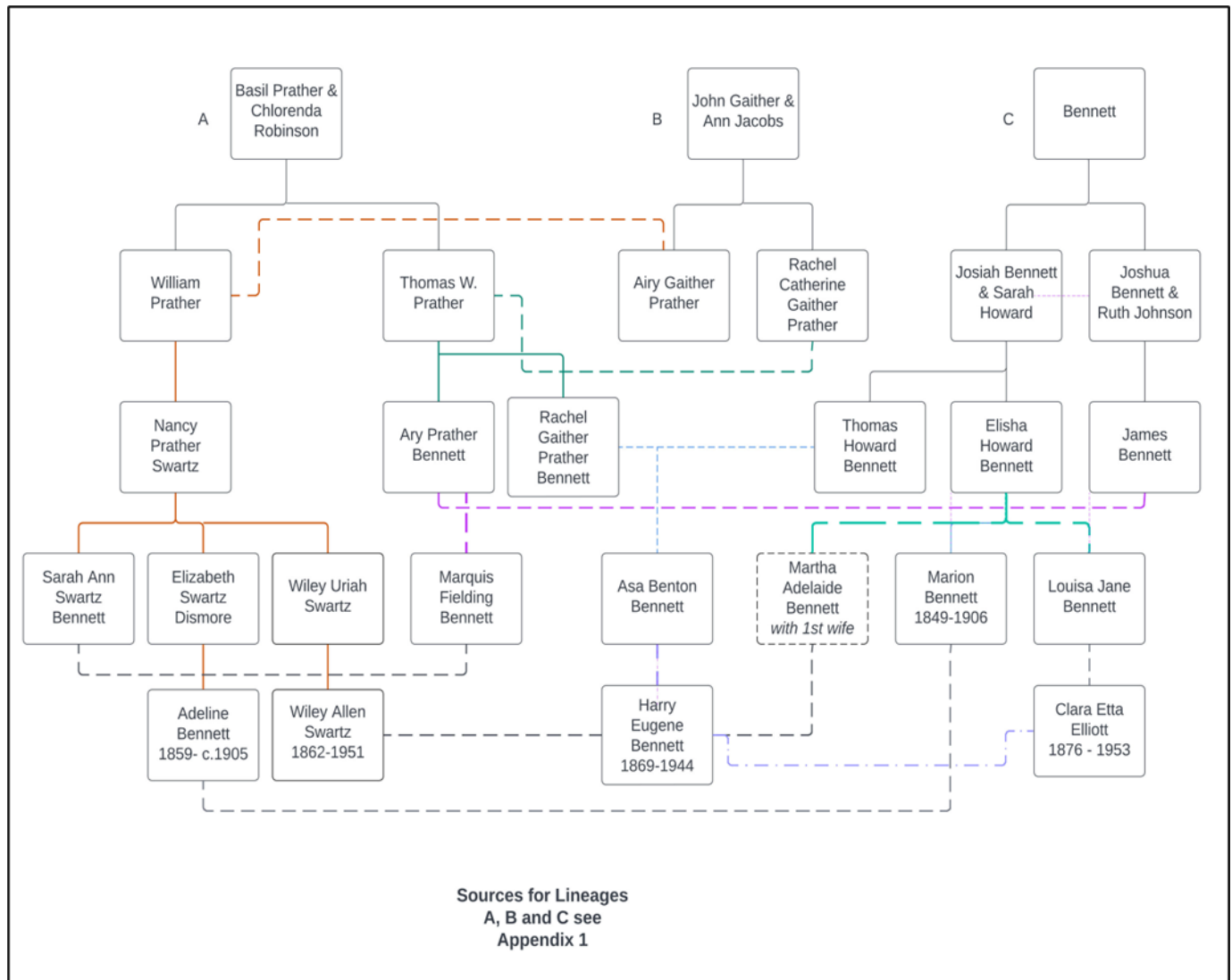
<sup>45</sup> See well-documented public Ancestry trees such as [Myownfamilytree by L Stucker](#) or [Bennett Family Tree by jmc-laughlin](#)

<sup>46</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, population schedule, Clayton, p. 44, dwelling 376, family 346, Household of Abram Schwartz; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : viewed 12 September 2019); citing NARA M593, roll 186.

<sup>47</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Hancock, Illinois, population schedule, Chili Township, p. 15, dwelling 111, family 111, Swartz Wiley household; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); viewed 19 September 2019); citing NARA M593, roll 226.



**Diagram 1 -Marriage Network from roughly 1750 – 1900 while families moving from Maryland to North Carolina to Indiana to Illinois**



The diagram shows that Sarah Ann Swartz (placed within the family of John Swartz and Nancy Prather) and Marquis Fielding Bennett were double second cousins – their grandparents were brothers who married sisters.

Patterns of migration and association in both Clark County, Indiana and Adams County, Illinois support the initial hypothesis that Sarah Ann is a previously unidentified daughter of John Swartz jr. and first wife Nancy Prather. atDNA testing provides biological evidence to complete the picture.

**DNA Evidence**

Using the Ancestry atDNA match lists of the author (primary test taker) and her sibling Dana McLeland a genetic cluster was manually created.<sup>48</sup> (There are additional relevant matches on MyHeritage and FamilyTree DNA but failure to respond to requests for permission to use 3rd party tools meant cross platform analysis was not possible.) The Leeds method was used to cluster matches that fall below Ancestry's 20cM threshold for shared matches which is necessary in projected potential 4th - 5th cousin atDNA analysis. Advanced analysis techniques such as segment analysis and segment triangulation were not possible for this study. Ancestry does not provide the data necessary to conduct those studies.

Living matches and their living ancestors are anonymized in the following charts and analysis for privacy. If a single line of descent included multiple test takers those who are more generationally distant are excluded from the analysis since they provide no additional information. Due to lack of response regarding match pedigrees and requests to share results, all descendant lines of the proposed Swartz siblings were followed to living descendants, where descendants exist.<sup>49</sup> This is not a substitute for By Generation Pedigree analysis,<sup>50</sup> but in combination with a geographic review to determine the likelihood of other genetic connections does provide some level of assurance that the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) is highly likely to be on the Swartz line rather than other 2nd great grandparent lines.

For each hypothesized relationship in Chart 3 the total amount of shared DNA is within the expected range as stated on the Individual Relationship Histograms of the Shared cM Project.<sup>51</sup> There are three matches (noted in the notes to the chart below) where the shared cM amounts are fully within the numerical range, but which are slightly anomalous on the histogram bell curve. This may be because of the limited number of reports that include these relationships.

**Chart 3 - atDNA matches with both or either Heather/Dana McLeland – documented descendants of John Swartz via his son Wiley Uriah Swartz.**

Anonymized Match	Childline from John and Nancy Prather Swartz	Childline from Swartz child	Genealogical relationship to Primary testers	Shared cM/secs per Ancestry	Expected biological relationship*	Contact
AS1	Abraham Swartz	Jacob Allen Swartz	4C2R	10 cM/1seg	4C2R	no
AS2	Abraham Swartz	Jacob Allen Swartz	4C2R	13 cM/1 seg	4C2R	yes
AS3	Abraham Swartz	Jacob Allen Swartz	4C2R	23 cM/3 seg	4C2R	no
AS4	Abraham Swartz	Jacob Allen Swartz	4C1R	30 cM/1 seg	4C1R	no
AS5	Abraham Swartz	Sarah Eliza Swartz	3C1R	32 cM/1 seg	3C1R	no

<sup>48</sup> permission to use cM and shared match information for purposes of this study was granted by Dana McLeland 12 Feb 2023 and is in the file of the author.

<sup>49</sup> This research has been documented on [Descendants John Swartz/Schwartz and Elizabeth Ohlweiler](#) a public Ancestry tree. However, there are by necessity many living individuals in the most recent generations of that tree who will not appear by name for privacy reasons.

<sup>50</sup> By Generation analysis identifies all known ancestors and tree gaps at the generation of the shared match's Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA.) If a great-great-grandparent is the MCRA then there are 16 possible ancestors, who much be considered as the MCRA. If there are holes then steps must be taken to mitigate the possibility that the match is from an unknown line, not the hypothesized MCRA.

<sup>51</sup> Johny Perl, Dnapainter.com (<https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4> : viewed 16 September 2023), The Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4, updated March 2020, created by Blaine T. Bettinger.

AS6	Abraham Swartz	Sarah Eliza Swartz	4C	24 cM/2 seg	4C	no
AS7	Abraham Swartz	Sarah Eliza Swartz	4C1R	14 cM/1 seg	4C1R**	no
SS1	Sarah Ann Swartz	Elizabeth A. Bennett	4C2R	11 cM/1 seg	4C2R	no
SS2	Sarah Ann Swartz	Elizabeth A. Bennett	4C2R	10 cM/1 seg	4C2R	no
SS3	Sarah Ann Swartz	Elizabeth A. Bennett	4C2R	10 cM/1 seg	4C2R	no
SS4	Sarah Ann Swartz	John W. Bennett	4C2R	15 cM/1 seg	4C2R	no
SS5	Sarah Ann Swartz	Sophia Jane Bennett	4C1R	8 cM/1 seg	4C1R***	no
SS6	Sarah Ann Swartz	Sophia Jane Bennett	4C1R	10 cM/1 seg	4C1R**	no
WS1	Wiley U. Swartz	John Frank Swartz	1/2 2C	42 cM/3 seg	1/2 2C	yes
WS2	Wiley U. Swartz	John Frank Swartz	2C1R	48 cM/4 seg	2C1R	no

\*cM range for relationships calculated using the individual relationship histogram bell curves of the Shared Cm Project March 2020.<sup>52</sup>

\*\* at the lowest numerical range reported but within main curve of the histogram bell curve.

\*\*\* there are only 98 total relationships reported for this relationship. This value is within the numerical range but does not appear on the bell curve.

There appear to be no matches in the Ancestry.com database who are descendants of Elizabeth Swartz Dismore. Only her son John Powell Dismore and daughter Adeline Dismore Bennett have living descendants. All lines of descent have been researched down to living individuals but none of those descendants responded to requests to participate in atDNA testing of this hypothesis as of September 2023.

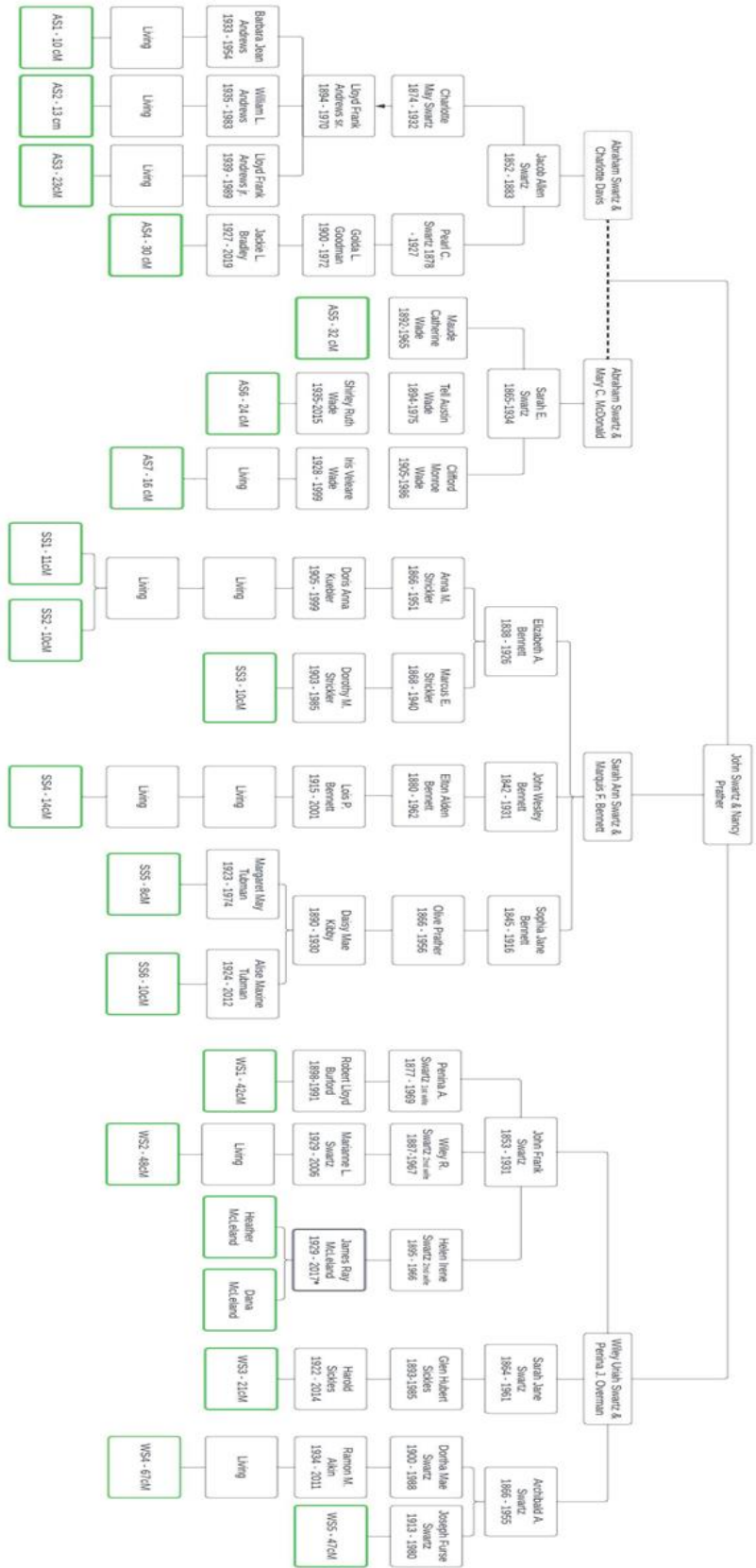
Diagram 2 on the next page shows the relationships expressed in the chart above. For ease of reading, the diagram has been inserted rotated 90 degrees. The two primary test-takers have DNA relationships with multiple test takers along 2 lines from Abram Swartz (one from each marriage clearly demonstrating the shared descent is with Abram Swartz). There are also DNA relationships with multiple test takers along 3 lines from Sarah Ann Swartz Bennett. There are also DNA relationships with multiple test takers along 3 lines from Wiley Uriah Swartz and Penina Jane Overman. atDNA supports and confirms the previous hypothesis.

**Hypothesis meets the Genealogical Proof Standard**

By conducting reasonably exhaustive research, resolving possible conflicting information, assembling a strong Friends, Neighbors and Associates group and correlating with DNA evidence the hypothesis meets the GPS.<sup>53</sup> Sarah Ann Schwartz born 1819 Clark County, Indiana – died 1906 York County, Nebraska and wife of Marquis Fielding Bennett is a previously unidentified daughter of John Swartz the younger and his first wife Nancy Prather.

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<sup>53</sup> FamilySearch ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Genealogical\\_Proof\\_Standard](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Genealogical_Proof_Standard) ; 4 October 2023.) updated 30 April 2023.



Due to inconsistent responses from all DNA matches on Ancestry.com regarding privacy and informed consent, all matches have been anonymized and any living individuals in the line of descent have also been anonymized. James McLeland and his daughters are the primary tests for matching. James' sDNA was tested at FamilyTreeDNA and the results uploaded to MyHeritage. James does not have a test at Ancestry. Heather McLeland-Wieser (HAW) manages all DNA tests for her father and sister across all DNA platforms.

Sources for Diagram 2 – Descendants John Swartz/Schwartz and Elizabeth Ohlweiler.

## Appendix 1

### Sources for Diagram 1

For clarity and ease of use sources are grouped together by line of descent from a “founding couple.”

A = Basil Prather and Chlorenda Robertson/Robinson

B = John Gaither and Ann Jacobs

C = unknown Bennett and wife

A1 for the marriage of Basil Prather and Chlorenda Robertson see *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 31 October 2023), memorial page for Basil William Prather (20 Oct 1742–7 Oct 1822), citing New Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery, Watson, Clark County, Indiana, USA; maintained and biography researched and written by EveyBI (contributor 47540842). Also see John William Prather jr, *Prater, Prather, Prator, Praytor in America 1620-1800 1-5 generations vol II* (Hendersonville, North Carolina: published by author, 1994), 2: 38, 106-109. There are numerous other secondary sources for this marriage, but John William Prather’s has the most extensive documentation. There is debate regarding whether this marriage took place in Frederick County, Maryland Colony or Rowan County, North Carolina Colony – neither has extant marriage records for this period.

A2 for the parentage of William Prather and Thomas W. Prather see Prather, *Prater, Prather, Prator, Praytor in America 1620-1800 1-5 generations vol II* p.106-109; citing Iredell County North Carolina Deed Book B, p 155 Basil Prather to William Prather, 9 Aug 1794. And Iredell County North Carolina Deed Book B, p 270 Basil Prather to Thomas Prather, 20 May 1795. Also Dr. Ray R. Knight (Minneapolis, Minnesota) to Mrs. Harvey Morris, Photocopy enclosed with letter, September 1927; "Data from a diary and notebook of personal recollections of early Indiana Territory, written by Hiram Prather, about 1870-1875 (sic, Hiram Prather died in March 1874). Sent by Dr. Ray R. Knight...to Mrs. Harvey Morris, Sept. 1927," photocopy of page of recollections regarding Hiram’s family in possession of Heather McLeland-Wieser. Hiram's recollections appear to be very accurate for his immediate family - father William Prather and mother Lettice McCarrell and his siblings. He knew both his Prather grandparents as child.

A3 for marriage of William Prather and Airy Gaither and parentage of Nancy Prather see Lois M.P. Schneider, *Abstracts of will books I, IA and II of Iredell County, North Carolina 1788-1845* (Statesville, North Carolina: n.p., [1982]), 32. Also Henry Wright Newsome, *Anne Arundel gentry : a genealogical history of some early families of Anne Arundel County, Maryland*, 3 vol. (1970; reprint, Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1990), 1: 77 citing correspondence with William B. Prather (1821-1851.) See also, Wills, 1790-1868; Iredell County, North Carolina, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions; database with images, Ancestry, will of John Gaither, ([North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998](#) : viewed 23 Oct 2023.) 1809 will of John Gaither, father of Airy Gaither Prather, mentions granddaughter Nancy, child of deceased daughter Airy and William Prather.

A4 for marriage of Thomas W. Prather and Rachel Catherine Gaither and parentage of Ary Prather and Rachel Gaither Prather. For marriage see North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741-2011 images ([Ancestry.com](#) : viewed 10 October 2023) groom Prater, Thomas, bride Rachael Gaither, date of bond 20 Mar, 1790, bondsman William Prater.) citing North Carolina County Registers of Deeds. Microfilm. Record Group 048. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC. For parentage of Ary and Rachel see Clark, Indiana, Probate Records 1817-1919, D: 142, Thomas Prather; FHL microfilm 1,415,962, item 5.

A5 for marriage of Nancy Prather and John Swartz see Kentucky, Jefferson, Marriage Records 1781-1951. Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, not numbered, Swartz-Prather, 1814; FHL microfilm 817,861. "of



lawful age (see bond) 28 July 1815; Marriage register including space for return. Matthew Nelson returned 4 marriages on 28 July 1815 - the date clearly does not refer to the date of marriage. Bond dated 5 June 1814 bondsman James Hilton witnesses James Stewart and Isaac H. Tyler Nancy Prather "sworn to be age 21."

A6 for marriage of Ary Prather to James Bennett and parentage of Marquis Fielding Bennett see Reschar, Ralph L with Beulah E. Rhode and Hazel J. Leista, *The James Bennett Family*, 1961, typescript, Jeffersonville Township Public Library, Jeffersonville, Indiana, File 32. Also, Doliente, Sharon Johnson, Maryland and Virginia Colonials: Genealogies of Some Colonial Families: Families of Bacon, Beall, Beasley, Cheney, Duckett, Dunbar, Ellyson, Elmore, Graves, Heydon, Howard, Jacob, Morris, Nuthall, Odell, Peerce, Reeder, Ridgley, Prather, Sprigg, Wesson, Williams and collateral kin, Baltimore, Maryland : Genealogical Publishing Company, 2004.

A7 for marriage of Rachel Gaither Prather to Thomas H. Bennett see Clark, Indiana, Marriage records 1810-2001, C: 104, Bennett-Prather, 1833; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 31 Oct 2023).

A8 for parentage and marriages of the descendants of Nancy Prather and John Swartz see [Descendants John Swartz/Schwartz and Elizabeth Ohlweiler](#) a public Ancestry tree.

B1 for the marriage of John Gaither and Ann Jacobs see Rowan County, North Carolina, Will Books, C: unpaginated (date 10 May 1781), Jeremiah Jacob. See also Henry Wright Newsome, *Anne Arundel gentry : a genealogical history of some early families of Anne Arundel County, Maryland*, 3 vol. (1970; reprint, Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1990), 1: 77.

B2 for parentage of Airy Gaither and Rachel Catherine Gaither see Newsome, *Anne Arundel gentry : a genealogical history of some early families of Anne Arundel County, Maryland* citing birth entries in John Gaither's Book of Common Prayer in possession of Miss Viola Gaither of Cleveland, NC in 1968.

B3 for parentage of Asa Benton Bennett see 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, population schedule, Utica, p 194, dwelling 701, family 752, Bennet Thomas H. household; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): viewed 29 Oct 2023 ); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M432, roll 138.

B4 for parentage of Harry Eugene Bennett see "Mrs. Kate Bennett," *The York Republican*, 9 September 1925, p. 3, col. 5; digital images, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 28 Aug 2023.)

C The early generations of Bennett lineage are provisional based on the religious, geographic, migration and marriage connections between the families of Thomas Howard Bennett, Elisha Howard Bennet and Marquis Fielding Bennet, over a period from the 1820s through the 1880s, which are documented in Sarah Ann Schwartz Bennett research reports available online at [Relay: A Family History Blog](#). There is no agreement among Bennett researchers regarding the parentage of Elisha Howard Bennett or the relationship between Joshua and Josiah Bennett. The situation is complicated by the presence of a number of Josiah Bennets in pre-Revolutionary War Maryland.

C1 for the marriages of Elisha Howard Bennett see Clark, Indiana, Marriage records 1810-2001, D: 72, Bennett-Bachfield, 1837; digital images, Ancestry, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 25 Apr 2023); FHL microfilm #1415852; And "Indiana Marriages, 1811-2019", digital images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XXP9-S35> : viewed 19 Oct 2023), Entry for Elisha H. Bennett and Rebecca Hilton, 15 Sep 1848. And "Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954", digital images, FamilySearch

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKJ9-PN4Z> : 19 Oct 2023), Entry for Elisha H. Bennett and Elizabeth A. Demaree, 22 Apr 1852.

C2 for parentage and marriage of Martha Adelaide Bennett see Illinois, County Marriages, 1810-1940, Adams County, Swartz-Bennett, 1891; digital images, FamilySearch, ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : viewed 10 Jan 2019 citing father as Elisha Bennett and mother as Elizabeth Smith (mother's maiden name is incorrect.)

C3 for parentage and marriage of Marion Bennett see 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, population schedule, Utica, p 194, dwelling 694, family 745, Bennet Elisha H. household; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): viewed 29 Oct 2023 ); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M432, roll 138. And "Illinois, County Marriages, 1810-1940," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X2T7-CQF> : 19 February 2021), Marion B. Bennett and Addie B. Dismore, 1885; citing Adams, Illinois, United States, county offices, Illinois; FHL microfilm 1,870,158.

C4 for parentage of Louisa Jane Bennett see 1860 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, population schedule, Houston, p. 983, dwelling 3137, family 3163, Household of Elisha H. Bennett; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 15 Sep 2019); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M653, roll 155.

C4 for parentage and marriage of Clara Etta Elliott see "Obituary Mrs. Louisa Jane Hawley," *The Gresham Gazette*, 2 July 1937, p. 8, col. 2; digital images, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 28 Aug 2023.) Also "Nebraska, Marriage Records, 1855-1908," database with images, Ancestry ([Nebraska, U.S., Select County Marriage Records, 1855-1908](http://Nebraska, U.S., Select County Marriage Records, 1855-1908) : viewed 10 Aug 2023) Harry E. Bennett – Clara Elliott, 1897, York County, Nebraska.