



Slektforskingklubb

Fjell dalen Lodge #6-162

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**SONS of
NORWAY**

Proving Your Immigrant Are they Really Yours 7 October 2023

Updated 10/1/2023 7:12 PM



Tony and Teri Hjelmstad

Norsky.net/GedHjelmstad

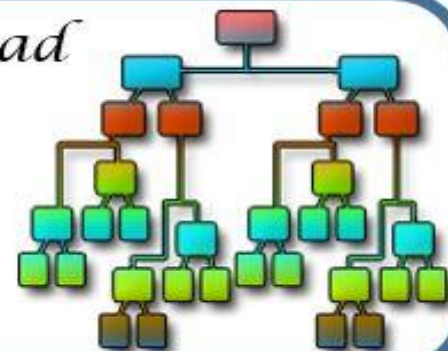
Norsky.net/GedReed

GenealogyJottings.com

MusicalBelles.com

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Proving Your Immigrant

- This is a Demonstrated Practicum
- This is designed to take about an hour
 - Questions will be taken and answered or postponed if we will cover them later
 - Questions about your people will be handled after as time permits
- Agenda
 - Practicum – Tracking the wrong person
 - Practicum – Using DNA where unknown relative
 - Practicum – Known Adoption



Proving Your Immigrant

- Wrong Person

- It's easy to get a wrong person into your tree. This can occur in many ways:

- Incorrect memories
 - Incomplete records
 - Poor records or penmanship
 - Misleading records
 - Missing records
 - Bad indexes

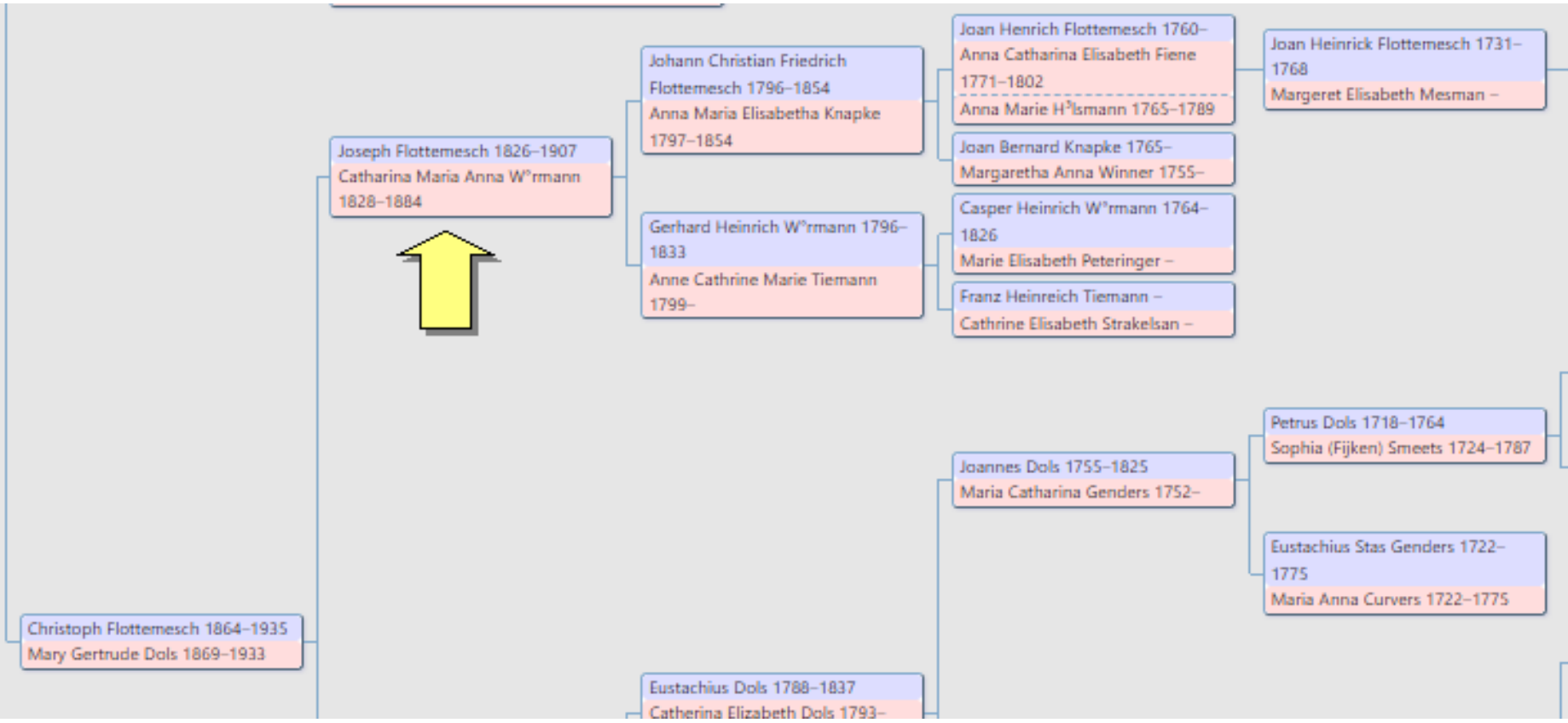
- I have one person where ALL of these occurred



Proving Your Immigrant

- Wrong Person

- My tree – where I am now – 20 years later:



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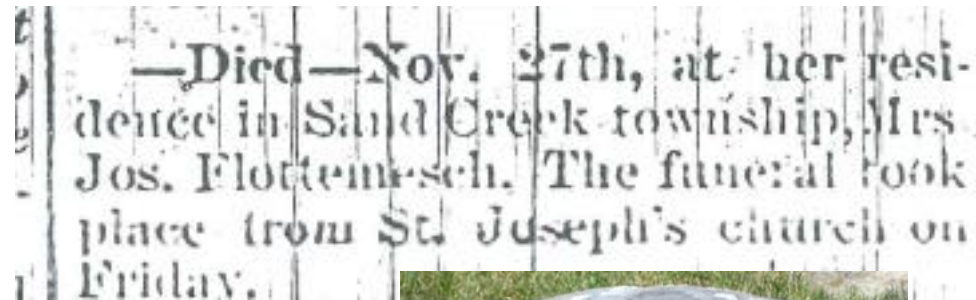
Proving Your Immigrant

- Wrong Person

- Where I started – My Mom's Great Grandfather Joseph Flottemesch and **Mother Flottemesch** -

- My Mom had been told of these people by her Mom and other Flottemesch relatives.

- The Obituary:



—Died—Nov. 27th, at her residence in Sand Creek township, Mrs. Jos. Flottemesch. The funeral took place from St. Joseph's church on Friday.

- Her Gravestone – other side Shows “Mother Flottemesch”

I have a “Birthdate” – maybe.

Note the Gravestone doesn't agree With the Obituary and no name.



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Proving Your Immigrant

- Wrong Person

- 1880 U.S.Census – shows born in Hanover, age 46

244	244	Wittenmensch J	M 53	son	Farmer				Hanover	Germany
		" Kate	34	Wife	Keeps House				"	"
		" Elisabeth	18	Daughter	At Home				Minnesota	Hanover
		" Christoph	M 4	Son	"				"	"

- 1875 Minnesota Census Shows born in Hanover, age 43

Wittenmensch Joseph	44	M	Hanover	Hanover	Hanover
Catherine	43	F	"	"	"
Elisabeth	14	F	Minno	"	"
Christoph	11	M	"	"	"
Anna	6	F	"	"	"

- 1870 U.S. Census shows born in Hanover, age 35

125	131	God Marsh Joseph	41	M	Farmer	1400	500	Hanover	1	1
		" Katuna	35	F	Keeping House			Hanover	1	1

- Note 3 different spellings of her name and no surname



Proving Your Immigrant

- Wrong Person
 - I found their marriage recorded in St. Louis – per family lore:

St. Louis County Library History Genealogy Dept.
genealogy@slcl.org | 314-994-3300 ext. 2070

Index to
St. Liborius marriages, 1856-1895

By name of bridegroom

Bridegroom Surname	Bridegroom First Name	Bride Surname	Bride First Name	Date of Marriage
Fischer	Jacob	Heim	Elisabeth	30 Dec 1883
Fischer	Jacob	Steinmaurer	Elisabeth	18 Apr 1892
Fischer	Hermanus	Domke	Hermana	25 Jan 1894
Fleitmann	Henricus	Krukenmeier	Anna Maria	28 Aug 1866
Flier	Johannes	Flies	Catharina	7 Apr 1864
Flies	Casparus	Bartmeier	Elisabeth	28 Jul 1864
Flottemesch	Josephus	Wormann	Catharina Maria A.	28 Nov 1857

State of Missouri } I Certify that I have this day joined in the holy bands of matrimony
County of St. Louis } Joseph Flottemesch with Catharina Maria Anna Wormann
Certified by me, this 25th day of November A.D. 1857 Stephan Schweichoff, Catholic Priest
Filed & Recorded January 4th 1858 C. Heermle Recorder [St. Liborius Church]



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Proving Your Immigrant

- Wrong Person
 - I wrote to the Catholic Church and got them to send their record.
- I got



Certificate of Marriage

Church of
St. Liborius
Saint Louis, MO

This is to Certify

That JOSEPH FLOTTEMESCH
Son of Frederic Flottemesch *and* Elisabeth Knabke
Baptized at Not Recorded *on the* Not recorded

And CATHARINE MARIE ANNA WORMANN
Daughter of Gerhard Frederic Wormann *and* Catharine Rustier
Baptized at Not Recorded *on the* Not recorded

were lawfully Married
on the Twenty-eighth *day of* November *year* 1857



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Proving Your Immigrant

- Wrong Person
 - Aha! Her maiden name is Catharine Marie Anna Wormann and her mother's Maiden name is Rustier! Her father is Gerhard Frederick Wormann.

Frederic Flottesmesch	and	Elisabeth Knabke
Not Recorded	on the	Not recorded
CATHARINE MARIE ANNA WORMANN		
Gerhard Frederic Wormann	and	Catharine Rustier
Not Recorded	on the	Not recorded



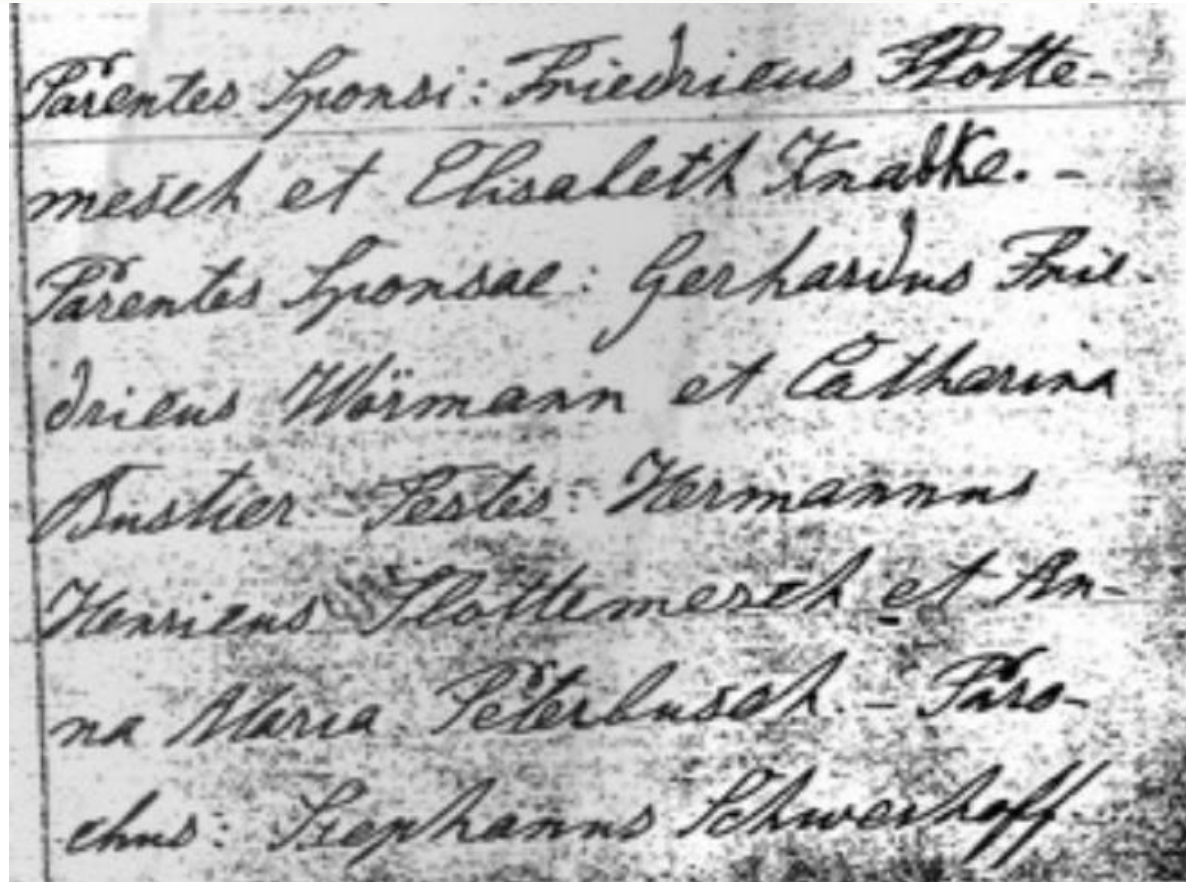
Proving Your Immigrant

- Wrong Person
 - Many Germans have multiple names and use various combinations over time. A Hint – this is not the case here – they are different people
 - But what about the Mother – Catherine Rustier?
 - I've looked high and low – no Rustier names anywhere. I've tried Bustier, Gustier, Sustier, Hustier, Austier, Lustier, etc. It's not a name.
 - Even if I had found it, it's wrong.
 - Off to Germany . . .



Proving Your Immigrant

- Wrong Person
 - I wrote the Church again and got the Original Marriage Record after explaining the problem.
 - They sent me this snippet
 - It didn't help me much



Parentes Honsi: Friedrichs Flotte-
mesch et Elisebeth Strabke. -
Parentes Honsae: Gerhardus Fri-
driens Wörmann et Catharina
Dustier. Festus: Hermannus
Herricus Flottmesch et An-
na Maria Peterbusch. - Pro-
chus: Sophannus Schwerhoff.



Proving Your Immigrant

- Wrong Person
 - Continuing in Census - 1850:

1142	1214	Geo H Nearman	45	m		"	240	Germany
		Catherine C	40	f				"

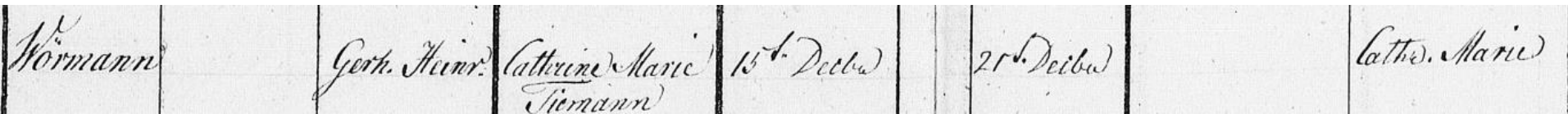
1	2	3	DESCRIPTION.			7	8	9
			4	5	6			
The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.			Age.	Sex.	White, black, or mulatto.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.
1142	1214	J W Wormann	5	m				Germany
		J H	1	m				Germany
		Catherine C	15	f				Germany

– Gerhard H Wormann and Catherine E were the parents – or Gerhard F Wormann ????

Proving Your Immigrant

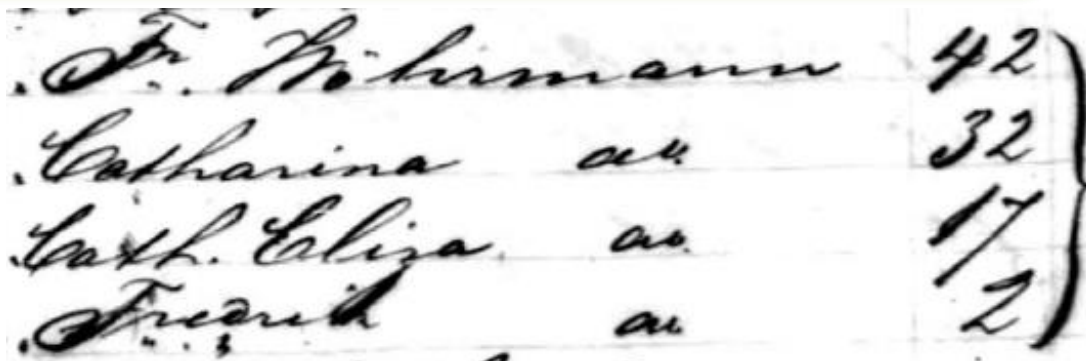
- Wrong Person

- After much looking and working many Worman families, I now know the correct answers.
- Her parents are Gerhard Heinrich Wörmann – 1796-1833 – and Anne Cathrine Marie Tiemann – 1799-after 1835.
- Catharine Maria Ann Wörmann was born in 1828
- A side note – the family flipped Lutheran to Catholic to Lutheran at will.



Proving Your Immigrant

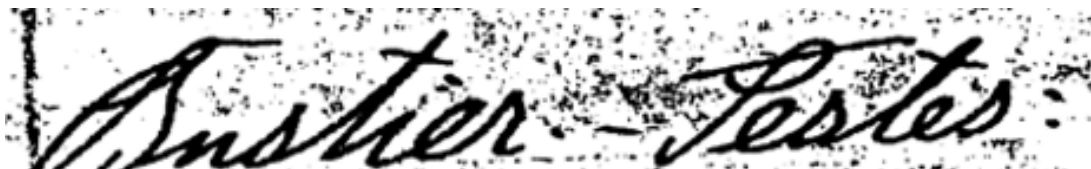
- Wrong Person
 - A cousin of her dead father's took her with them to America in 1848



A handwritten list of names and numbers, likely from a church record or immigration document. The names are written in cursive, and the numbers are in the right margin. A large right-facing curly bracket groups the four entries.

J. Nihmann	42
Catharina au	32
Cath. Eliza au	17
Frederik au	2

- As for Rustier – turns out – after getting an expert to read it, it reads



A close-up of handwritten text in cursive, which reads "Rustier - Testes". The text is somewhat faded and has a grainy background.

as “Iustier – Testes” - “Legal – Witnesses”. (Capital I before ustier) The priest varied from Latin to German throughout, but I only got that snippet, so I couldn't tell. If I'd have had the whole page, it would have repeated many times . . .



Proving Your Immigrant

- Wrong Person

- Problems encountered:

- Multiple ages – born in 1835, 1834, 1832, 1831, and really in 1828
- Multiple parents' names – especially in Germany where every male has a whole list and each record may use any subset of those names
- Doesn't help that everyone married a "Catherine".
- Religion flipped back and forth – Lutheran – Catholic - Lutheran – Catholic - Reformed. My grandmother insisted there were never any Lutherans in the lineage.
- Even a "guardian" was involved
- Not having access to the whole page or the whole record book image



Proving Your Immigrant

- Unknown Relative – DNA & “friends and neighbors”
 - Do basic genealogy for descendants of all significant names
 - DNA Matches to names identified
 - DNA Clustering – unknown people



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Proving Your Immigrant

- Unknown Relative – DNA & “friends and neighbors”
 - My wife has two “unknowns”
 - One was a Nebraska grandmother on her father’s side who had no birth record, baptism, and no knowledge of who her father was. Her mother never said or indicated this in any way
 - An Indiana great-grandmother – on her mother’s side – with no birth record or a marriage record for the supposed mother – who died – with no records - shortly after birth. The only “candidate” married someone else shortly after the birth.



Proving Your Immigrant

- Unknown Relative – DNA & “friends and neighbors”
 - Both issues can be approached the same way
 - Compile as much family lore as possible
 - Compile as many family records from the time frame as possible
 - Use Censuses and City Directories to isolate possibilities
 - Use correspondence – if you have any – about friends and neighbors
 - Look for records being witnessed by friends and neighbors –
 - Naturalization records
 - Homestead records
 - Baptisms and weddings
 - Probate – Person reporting, Executor, Appraiser, Guardians, beneficiaries
 - Deed and Loan cosigners



Proving Your Immigrant

- Unknown Relative – DNA & “friends and neighbors”
 - Both issues can be approached the same way
 - From all this data, compile a list of possible candidates
 - They must have been in the area at the time
 - They must have been old enough and not too old
 - They must have had means – able to meet and spend time together
 - They must have left some data
 - For all possibilities, do basic genealogy for them and their descendants



Proving Your Immigrant

- Unknown Relative – DNA & “friends and neighbors”
 - Both issues can be approached the same way
 - Get DNA tests for all your family members that you can
 - My wife matches people her sister and father don’t – and vice versa
 - Keep checking for DNA Matches to descendants of the possibilities
 - Watch out – since they lived in the same areas, there may be other crossed lines. Double check all matches



Proving Your Immigrant

- Unknown Relative – DNA & “friends and neighbors”
 - Both issues can be approached the same way
 - Look at using Myheritage DNA AutoClustering – a free tool
 - AutoCluster technology, a form of genetic networks, is a way to display your matches who match you and who also match each other in a meaningful, colored-coded group. Each group, or cluster, shares a common ancestral line, somehow. That “how” discovery, or better stated, “which ancestor” discovery is up to you – but clusters provide huge hints!
 - You can download the raw DNA data from your testing site and upload it to MyHeritage for free. From there, you can then use the AutoClustering tool free.
 - However, you must allow time for matching to occur – at least 4 to 6 months, if possible.



Proving Your Immigrant

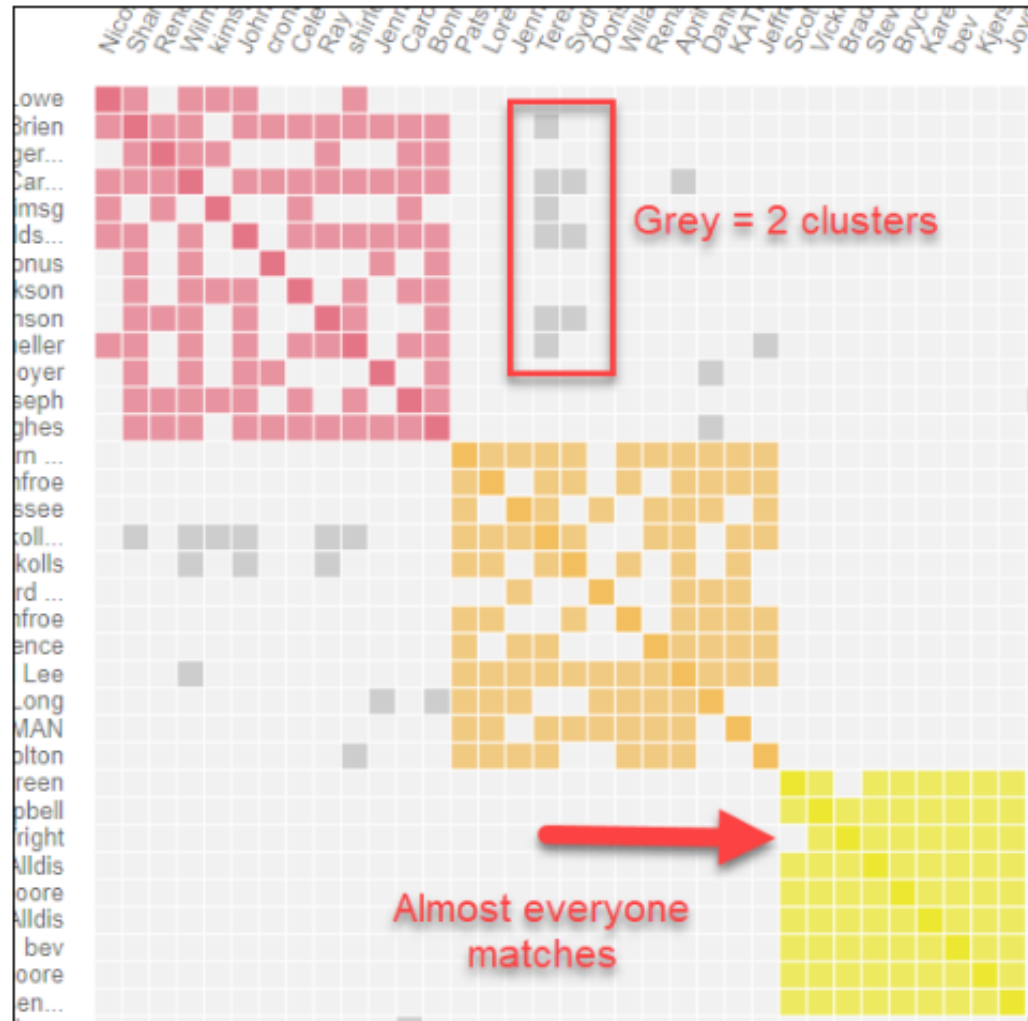
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Proving Your Immigrant

- AutoClustering

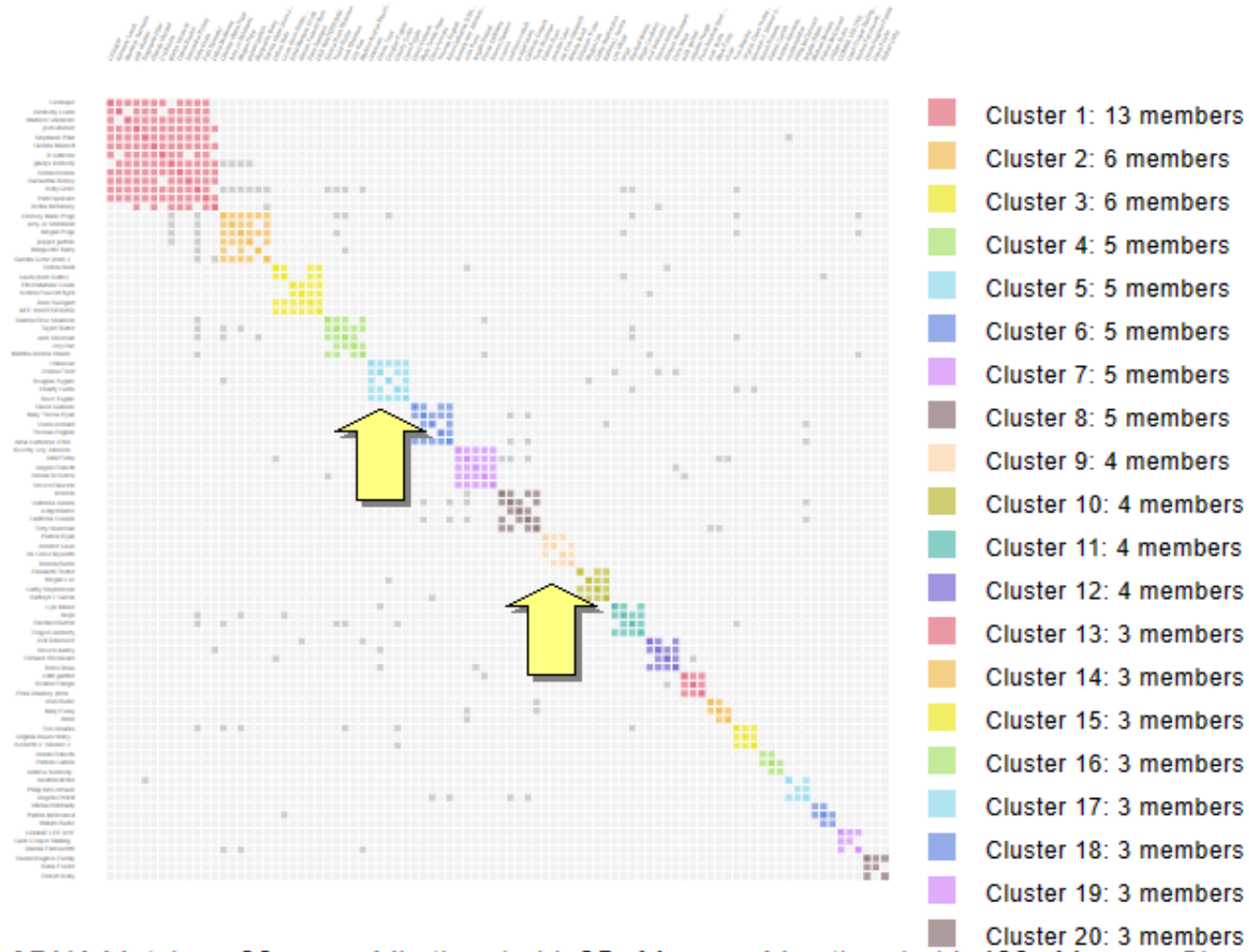
- Everyone within a cluster matches you, but not everyone matches each other. Each cluster is represented by colored cells, each of which represent the intersection of two people who match each other. In the third yellow cluster, everyone matches each other except for two people who don't match each other.
- Grey cells fall into **both of the two clusters** they are between. For example, the grey cells to the right of the red cluster in the red box match people in both the first red and second tan cluster.



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Proving Your Immigrant

- AutoClustering
 - Teri's Report
 - Note she has two clusters with only one other match and one with no matches.



Proving Your Immigrant

- AutoClustering
 - These “stand-a-lone” matches are indicative of groups which don’t match well into her heritage. They only match one of the ancestors.
 - The identifiers of the matches go across the top and side. Resolving these may lead to names on your possibility list.



Proving Your Immigrant

- Known Adoption
 - I don't have much except resources here – see next page
 - However, do all the genealogy you can on the known people and post it multiple places. You never know who may have already done it and they may contact you.
 - Also, search the main repositories – MyHeritage, Ancestry, Family Tree, and FamilySearch – again someone may have done this for you.



Proving Your Immigrant

- Known Adoption
 - I don't have much except resources here
 - [United States Adoption Research • FamilySearch](#)
 - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United States Adoption Research](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Adoption_Research)
 - [How to find adoption records and use them in your genealogy research | Blog | findmypast.com](#)
 - <https://www.findmypast.com/blog/getting-started/adoption-records-and-genealogy#:~:text=To%20undertake%20an%20adoption%20search%2C%20first%20gather%20information,registry%20or%20medical%20information%20exchange%20program%2C%20sign%20up.>
 - [Finding Adoption and Orphanage Records \(ancestry.com\)](#)
 - https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Finding-Adoption-and-Orphanage-Records?language=en_US



Proving Your Immigrant

- Resources

- Norway Emigration and Immigration

- [Norway Emigration and Immigration • FamilySearch](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Norway_Emigration_and_Immigration) - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Norway Emigration and Immigration](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Norway_Emigration_and_Immigration)

- Norwegian Emigrant Center Foundation

- [Home - Emigration Center](https://www.emigrationcenter.com/) - <https://www.emigrationcenter.com/>

- Norwegian Emigrant Museum

- [Norwegian Emigrant Museum \(utvandremuseet.no\)](https://utvandremuseet.no/) - <https://utvandremuseet.no/en>

- DigitalArkivet - <http://www.digitalarkivet.no/>

- [Home - BLM GLO Records](https://glorerecords.blm.gov/) - <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>

- [Heritage Center](https://www.nps.gov/home/heritagecenter.htm) -

- <https://www.nps.gov/home/heritagecenter.htm>



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Bentsen and Reed
Ancestral Lines



Genealogy Jottings

The Happiness of Pursuit



Walzs from Mahanomen
Hjelmstads from Milton



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