

Grandma's Mystery

Ken Waters

December 2021



4-Generation Photo

- Arzelia Cummings Spencer (my 2G-grandmother, 1859-1932)
 - Nellie Spencer Huntley (my G-Grandmother, 1878-1932)
 - Mardell Huntley Craddock (my Grandmother, 1908-2005)
 - Joan Craddock (my mother, 1929-2015)
-
- Photo circa 1930, likely in Los Angeles
 - Courtesy of a cousin (name forgotten) from years ago

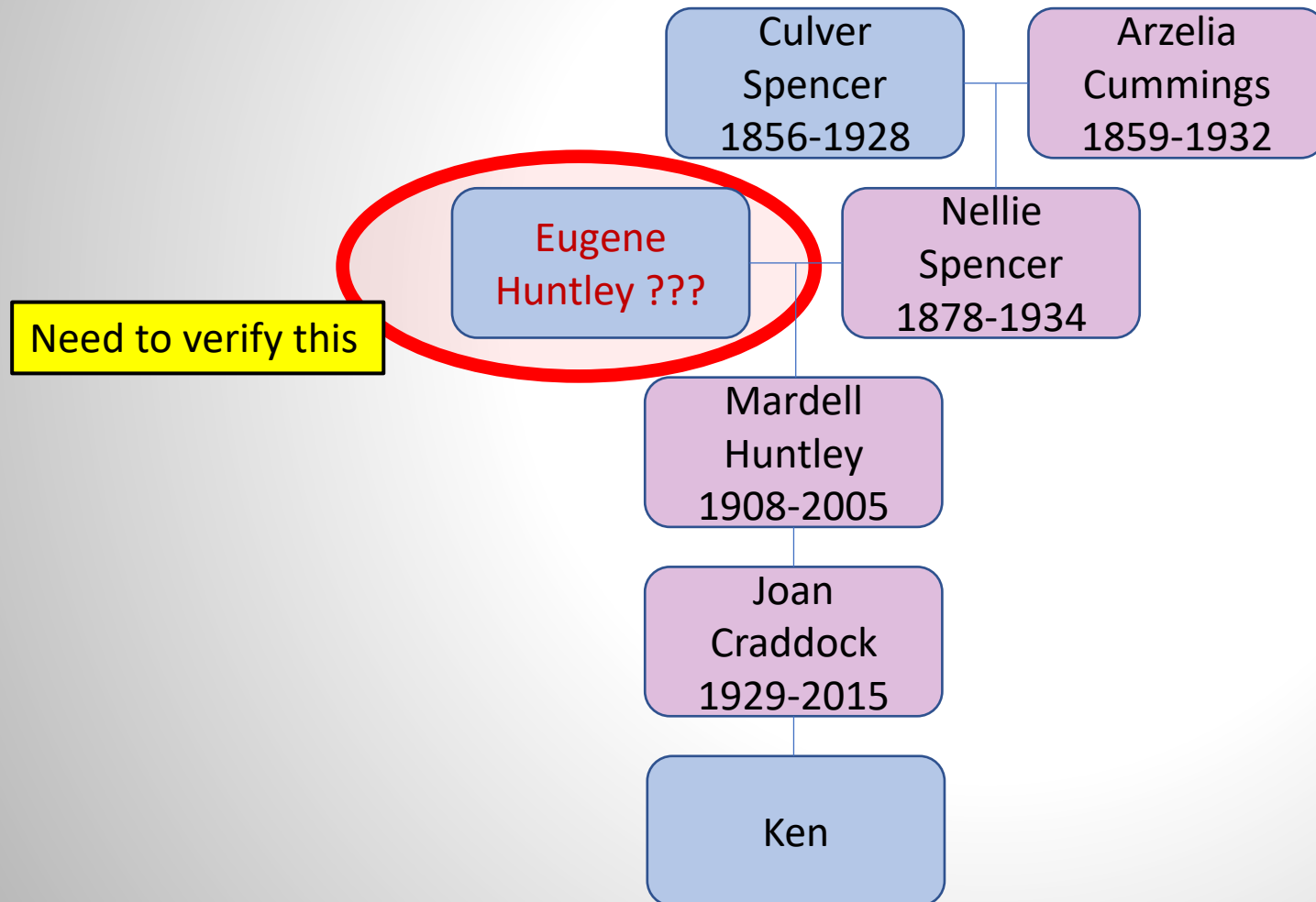


Background

- Around 1998 I started to get curious about family history and so began to do research
- Curious about my grandmother's background, I interviewed her and was told:
 - Mardell was told by her mother Nellie that her birth father (**Eugene Huntley**) died of pneumonia shortly before she was born (Feb 2, 1908 in Clinton IA)
 - Mardell did not have a birth certificate and so her mother had to do an affidavit for Mardell to certify her birth (I confirmed this with vital records request to IA)
 - Also, of interest, Mardell often joked about her ancestry saying maybe her dad was a "horse thief"
 - My personal interpretation of this was that she suspected she was not told the truth about her father



Simplified Family Tree



U.S. Census Search Summary

- Mother, Nellie Spencer, was born in Oct 1878 in Battle Creek MI
- Found her in the 1880 census in Michigan
- Could not find her in 1900 census
- 1910 census showed Nellie and Mardell in Colorado Springs CO

Year	Culver Spencer (1856-1928)	Arzelia Spencer (1859-1932)	Nellie Spencer (1878-1932)	Mardell Huntley (1908-2005)
1870	Battle Creek MI, age 13	Not found	n/a	n/a
1880	Not found	Not found	Not found	n/a
1900	Cedar Rapids IA, age 43	Cedar Rapids IA, age 41	Not found	n/a
1910	Colorado Springs CO, age 54	Colorado Springs C, age 51	Colorado Springs CO, age 31	Colorado Springs CO, age 2

1910 Census

- Colorado Springs CO
- Head of household was Mardell's grandfather, Culver Spencer
- Note: Both Nellie's and Mardell's surname is shown as Huntley

Household No.	Room No.	Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Color	Place of Birth	Place of Birth	Place of Birth
307	4	4	Spencer, Culver	Head	M	54	M	Michigan	Vermont	New York
			— Argelia	Wife	F	51	M	New York	New York	New York
			Huntley, Nellie	Daughter	F	31	M	Michigan	Michigan	New York
			Spencer, Bertram	Son	M	30	A	Michigan	Michigan	New York
			Woshell, Gertie	Daughter	F	24	M	Illinois	Michigan	New York
			Spencer, William	Son	M	22	A	Illinois	Michigan	New York
			— Ethel	Daughter	F	16	A	Illinois	Michigan	New York
			— Charles	Son	M	13	A	Iowa	Michigan	New York
			Woshell, Culver	Grandson	M	3	A	Iowa	Illinois	Iowa
			— Claude	Grandson	M	12	A	Colorado	Illinois	Iowa
			Huntley, Mardell	Granddaughter	F	2	A	Iowa	Michigan	Wisconsin

Marriage—Nellie Spencer and Eugene Huntley

- Cedar Rapids IA, 29 Sep 1900
- Eugene Huntley, age 41, born in New York
- Nellie Spencer, age 20, parents C Spencer, Arzelia Cummings

1 7978	1 John Washel	3 Eugene Huntley	6 41 years	10 New York
2 Sept. 29 1900	2	4 Cedar Rapids	7 W	11 Herman Huntley
		5 Laborer	8 Am	12 Sarah Parker
			9 Second	

13 Nellie Spencer	16 20 years	20 C. Spencer	23 at Cedar Rapids Ia	1 Oct 3 1900
	17 W		Sept 29 1900	2 Apr 15 1900
14 Cedar Rapids	18 Am	21 C. Spencer	24 C. Midhaugh, A. Brinnock	No 3
15	19 First	22 Arzelia Cummings	25 J. C. W. Marggait...	

First Indication – Something's Not Right

- While researching Nellie Spencer Huntley at the Sutro Library in San Francisco I found her in City Directories for Clinton IA and Cedar Rapids IA

Clinton IA City Directory, 1901

Huntley Nellie J, wid Eugene, b 616 1st ave

Cedar Rapids City Directory, 1907

Huntley Nellie J, wid Eugene, r 948
M w.

Cedar Rapids City Directory, 1906

Huntly Nellie J, wid Eugene, r 822 s
2d w.

Colorado Springs CO City Directory, 1908

Huntley Nellie J (wid Eugene), bds 311 N Walnut

Death Record for Eugene Huntley

- Married 29 Sep 1900
- Widowed 26 Oct 1900
- Married only 27 days

The Gazette (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

26 Oct 1900, Fri • Page 3

Eugene Huntly of 712 South First street died this morning after a brief illness, from kidney trouble. He was 41 years of age and only four weeks ago was married to Miss Nellie Spencer. The funeral will be held from the Sunshine mission at 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon; interment at Linwood.

- **CLEARLY, Eugene could not have been Mardell's biological father**

Sudden Family Move in 1908

- Careful scrutiny of Clinton IA, Cedar Rapids IA, and Colorado Springs CO City Directories indicate:
- Possible sudden move of the entire family from Cedar Rapids to Colorado Springs (keep in mind Mardell was born Feb 1908)

City Directories

1907: Huntley Nellie J, wid Eugene, r 948 M w, Cedar Rapids IA (with Albert Moore)

1908: Huntley Nellie J (wid Eugene) bds 311 N Walnut, Colorado Springs/Manitou (w/Bert and William Spencer)

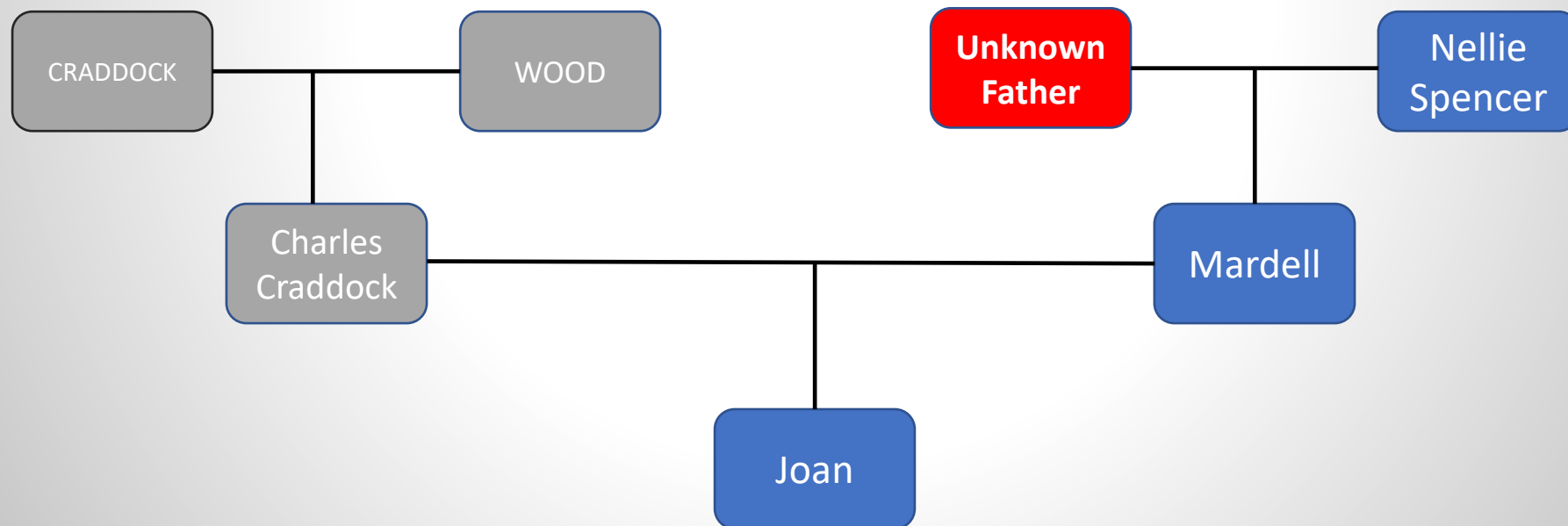
- Reason: ???

Where Does the Paper Trail Lead Us?

- Nellie Huntley was married and widowed in 1900 in Cedar Rapids IA
- Nellie lived in both Cedar Rapids and Clinton IA between 1900 and 1907
- Mardell Huntley was born in 1908 in Clinton IA
- No record of birth
- By 1908 Nellie and her family had relocated to Colorado Springs CO
- **End of the paper trail?? Time to focus on DNA....**

Joan's DNA

- Hoping DNA would answer this puzzle
- Tested my mother, Joan, in 2013 on Ancestry
- Ideally, one would expect 1/4th of Joan's DNA to be inherited from Mardell's father



Tried Fishing In All the "Ponds" As Well

GEDmatch

GEDmatch											
VISUALIZATION OPTIONS											
Select	Kit	Name (* => alias)	Email	GED WikiTree	Age(days)	Type	Sex	Mt	Y	Total cM	Haplogroup
<input type="checkbox"/>	[redacted]	Ken Waters	fa[redacted]	GED	2968	2	M			3587.1	R-M269
<input type="checkbox"/>	S[redacted]	Ken Waters	fa[redacted]	GED	549	2	M	H1c1	R-M269	3577.5	
<input type="checkbox"/>	N[redacted]	Joan Craddock	fa[redacted]	GED	549	2	F			3577.5	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A[redacted]	Ken Waters	fa[redacted]		435	2	M			3577.5	
<input type="checkbox"/>	[redacted]	Jim Auld	fa[redacted]		1799	2	M			842.8	
<input type="checkbox"/>	[redacted]	Michael Eshelby	Ha[redacted]		1614	2	M	H	R1b1b2a1a	518.1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	K[redacted]	Michael Eshelby	De[redacted]		1196	2	M			512.3	

FamilyTreeDNA

FamilyTreeDNA

Home Results & Tools Family Tree Group Projects

Save on Family Finder, Y-DNA, and mtDNA During Our Early Bird Holiday Sale! Now Through Nov 21st.

Family Finder Matches

All Matches (1273) Maternal (65) Both (3) Filter

Calculating Family Matching...

Ken Waters	Relationship Range	Shared DNA	Longest Block	X Match	Match date
Ancestral Surnames: View Details Baugh, Buchannon, Butler, Bettencourt, Bragg, Berkeley, Chaffee, Clark, Cunha...	Parent/Child Assign Relationship	3565 cM	284 cM	181 cM	May 12 2021
Ancestral Surnames Not Provided	Parent/Child Assign Relationship	3564 cM	284 cM	181 cM	April 17 2021
Ancestral Surnames Not Provided	Half Sibling... Assign Relationship	2056 cM	180 cM	181 cM	April 07 2021
Ancestral Surnames Not Provided	Half Sibling... Assign Relationship	1942 cM	159 cM	No Match	April 07 2021

MyHeritage

MyHeritage

Home Family tree Discoveries Photos DNA Research

Early Black Friday DNA Sale
Only \$47 ~~\$79~~
FREE shipping on 2+ kits

Order now

Sale ends today in 8 more hours!

Joan Waters (born Craddock), Mother

Overview Ethnicity Estimate DNA Matches DNA Tools

Test additional family members
Get suggestions

Showing 1-10 of 18,675 DNA Matches

Filters Sort by

Ken Waters This is you From USA	Estimated relationship Son	DNA Match quality Shared DNA: 49.8% (3,533.9 cM) Shared segments: 22 Largest segment: 284.3 cM	Review DNA Match View tree
Age: 60's DNA managed by you	Estimated relationship Son	DNA Match quality Shared DNA: 49.8% (3,527.8 cM) Shared segments: 23 Largest segment: 268.8 cM	Review DNA Match View tree

You are the son of Joan Waters (born Craddock).

[redacted] appears in your family tree.

Heavy Use of Ancestry's "Tag Groups"

- Emphasis on:
 - Phasing out matches from the other 3 grandparent lines
 - Identifying those unknown genetic networks ("DNA islands")

+ Create custom group

New matches (60)

★ Starred matches (0)

1-Craddock Spivey No... (625)

1a - Craddock Noble C... (129)

1b - Spivey/Gay (91)

2-Wood Thurman All... (1,464)

2a Wood (60)

2b - Thurman Allee By... (120)

4-Spencer Cummings ... (405)

Close Family (1C+) (21)

No shared matches (25)

Random shares (58)

u05-Unknown Franklin/... (53)

u06-Unknown Grigsby (51)

u07-Unknown (7)

u08-Unknown (17)

u09-Unknown (2)

u10-Unknown (Bauman... (54)

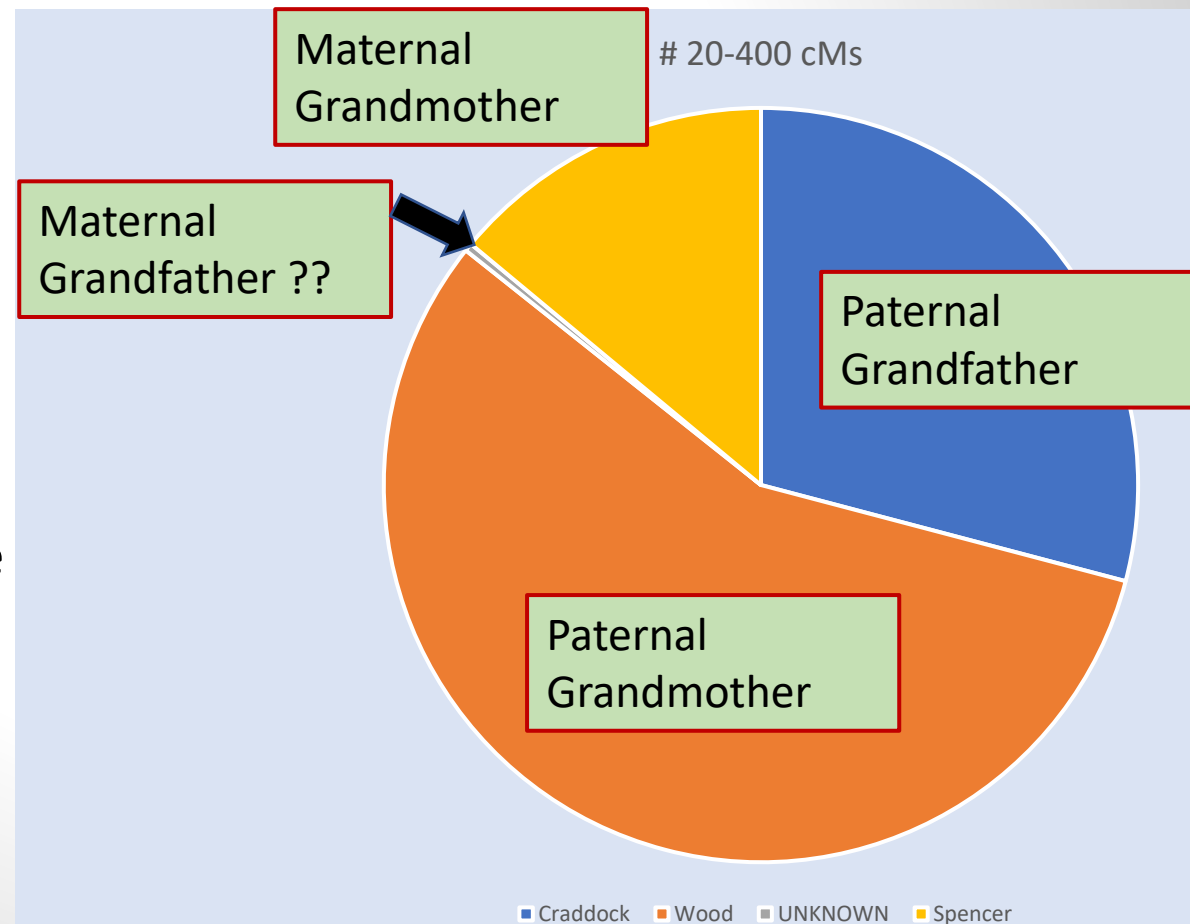
u11-Unknown (7)

u12 - Hardy sub-group (11)

Reset Apply

Analysis of Joan's Matches

- Nellie had only one child
- Mardell had only one child
 - Eliminates possibility of Joan having maternal aunt/uncles/cousins descended from Nellie
- Analysis of all of Joan's DNA matches between 20 cMs and 400 cMs (2,899 matches)
 - 80% of her identified matches are on paternal side
 - 18% are on known maternal grandmother side
 - ~2% are possibly maternal grandfather



Goal: Identify DNA Matches on Maternal Grandfather's Line

- Few likely matches identified, none above 120 cMs
- To identify the matches I use:
 - Not matched to the other 3 lines (as best as I can tell)
 - Look for matches with trees placing ancestors in Iowa/Illinois 1900-1910

Suspected Strongest Match on This Line

Profile card for **Joan Anita Craddock and [redacted]**. The card includes a profile picture of an elderly woman with blonde hair, a circular icon with the letters 'GL', and a relationship label '2nd - 3rd Cousin'. It also displays '3% shared DNA: 178 cM across 11 segments' and buttons for 'Add relationship' and 'Message'. Below these are options for 'Add/edit groups' and a note that '[redacted] is the Strongest match believed...'

- 178 cMs

51%	<i>Half 2C 2C1R Half 1C2R 1C3R</i>
36%	<i>Half GG-Aunt / Uncle 2C Half 1C1R 1C2R Half GG-Niece / Nephew</i>

Likely shared great-grandparents

Source: <https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>

Suspected Strongest Match on This Line


- Have reached out to him and he helped me build a tree for him
- Has some surnames that I am targeting: Lavery, Baumann, Lockwood, all in the IA/IL area in early 1900's




Very Small Number of Shares, Unfortunately

- Checked “shares” of the shares, those who share DNA with each of these two
- Expanded my surname search list

Distant Family

 **DENNIS** [redacted] 4th – 6th Cousin
36 cM | < 1% shared DNA No Trees Do you recognize them?
[Yes](#) [Learn more](#)


He is in [redacted] Wrote to him on 8/23/2020. Daughter Dawn responded on 8/23/2020. Wife is [redacted] and they own [redacted]

 **Maureen** [redacted] 4th – 6th Cousin
25 cM | < 1% shared DNA Private unlinked Tree Do you recognize them?
[Yes](#) [Learn more](#)

25.0 cM, possible GM

Match name: First name, last name or username Surname in matches' trees: Lockwood Birth location in matches' trees: Birth location in matches' trees [Search](#) [Cancel](#)
 Include similar surnames


Distant Family

 [redacted] 4th – 6th Cousin
59 cM | < 1% shared DNA Public linked tree 1,223 People Do you recognize them?
[Yes](#) [Learn more](#)

Some Illinois links: Ferrel, Baumann, Lockwood, Rodgers, Holmberg.

Match name: First name, last name or username Surname in matches' trees: edgerton Birth location in matches' trees: Birth location in matches' trees [Search](#) [Cancel](#)
 Include similar surnames

Distant Family

 [redacted] 4th – 6th Cousin
46 cM | < 1% shared DNA Public linked tree 227 People Do you recognize them?
[Yes](#) [Learn more](#)

Edgerton/Irwin from Hanover IL, Baird, Harvey, Irwin, Schreiner, Reed, Cort, Shaw

Tried Various AutoCluster Tools

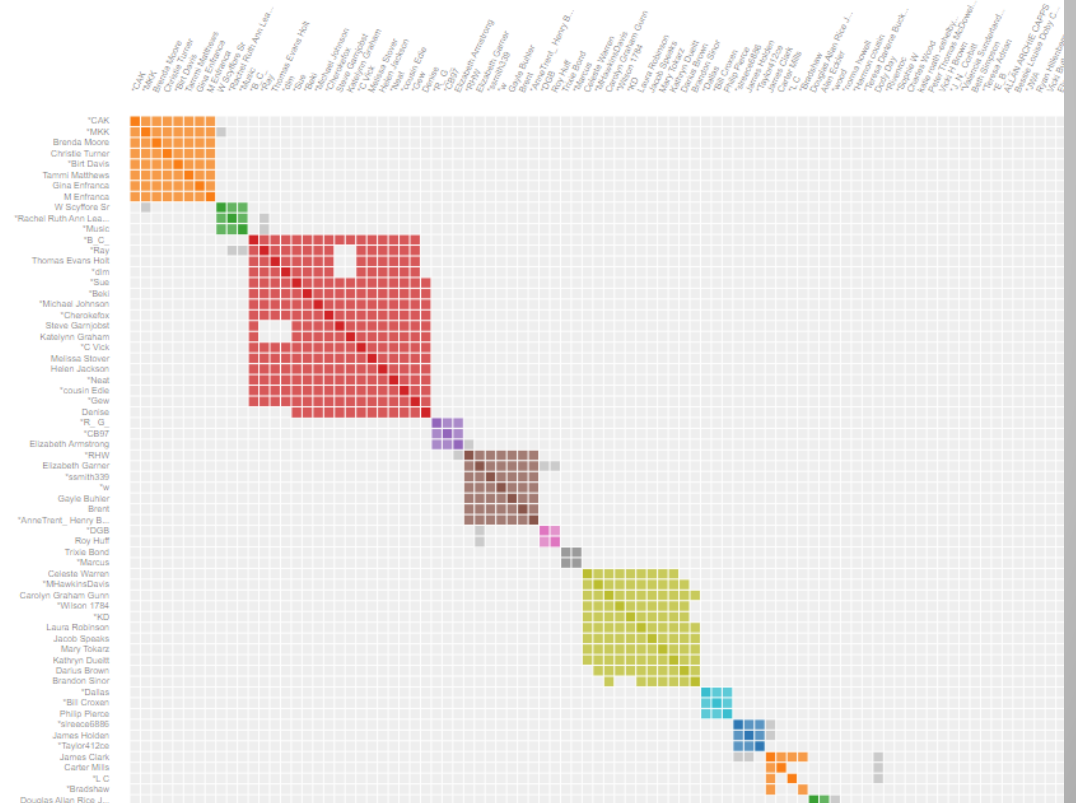
- Genetic Affairs
- GEDmatch
- MyHeritage
- DNAGedcom

- **RESULT:** still limited due to very small number of matches on that line

AutoSegment GEDmatch

For: NH2682327 : Joan Craddock November 18 2021

Order DNA Matches by:



Built List of Possible Fathers

- Searched each of these surnames in Joan's DNA match trees list

Grandma Father Candidates						
Name	Tree Matches > 20cMs	Birth Date	Birthplace	Death Date	Death Location	Notable Sources
1 Charles Alexander Lockwood		1866	OH	1949		
2 Charles William Lockwood		1874	England	1951	Waterloo IA	r. Clinton 1920, 1930
3 William J Lavery			Ireland			r. Chicago 1900, 1909
4 Charles G Rettinger	59	1851	Germany			r. Clinton 1910, 1919
5 Frederick Hale Edgerton	46,	1854	Hanover IL	1924		
6 Dwight Irwin Edgerton		1890	Hanover IL	1964		
7 Bernard L Baumann		1865		1930		
8 Ernst Baumann		1879	Germany			r Kossuth 1905, Clinton 1915
9 Frans/Frank Holmberg	59	1863	Finland	1949	Chicago IL	

Search Clinton 1910 Census for Surnames in Trees of Joan's DNA Matches

All 1910 United States Federal Census results for Lockwood



Provided in association with National Archives and Records Administration

New update: Find the edit function here

Your search

Broad Exact

Lockwood

Lived In: Clinton, Clint...

Apply

▼ All Categories

> Census & Voter Lists

> 1910s

Results 1-3 of 3

View Record	Name	Parent or spouse names	Home in 1910 (City, County, State)	Birth Year	Birthplace	Relation to Head of House	View Image
View Record	Harold C Lockwood	Charles W, Gertrude M	Clinton Ward 1, Clinton, Iowa	1896	Illinois	Son	
View Record	Charles W Lockwood	Gertrude M	Clinton Ward 1, Clinton, Iowa	1876	England	Head	
View Record	Gertrude M Lockwood	Charles W	Clinton Ward 1, Clinton, Iowa	1877	Illinois	Wife	

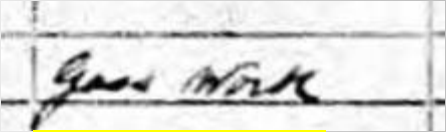
1-3 of 3

Per page 50

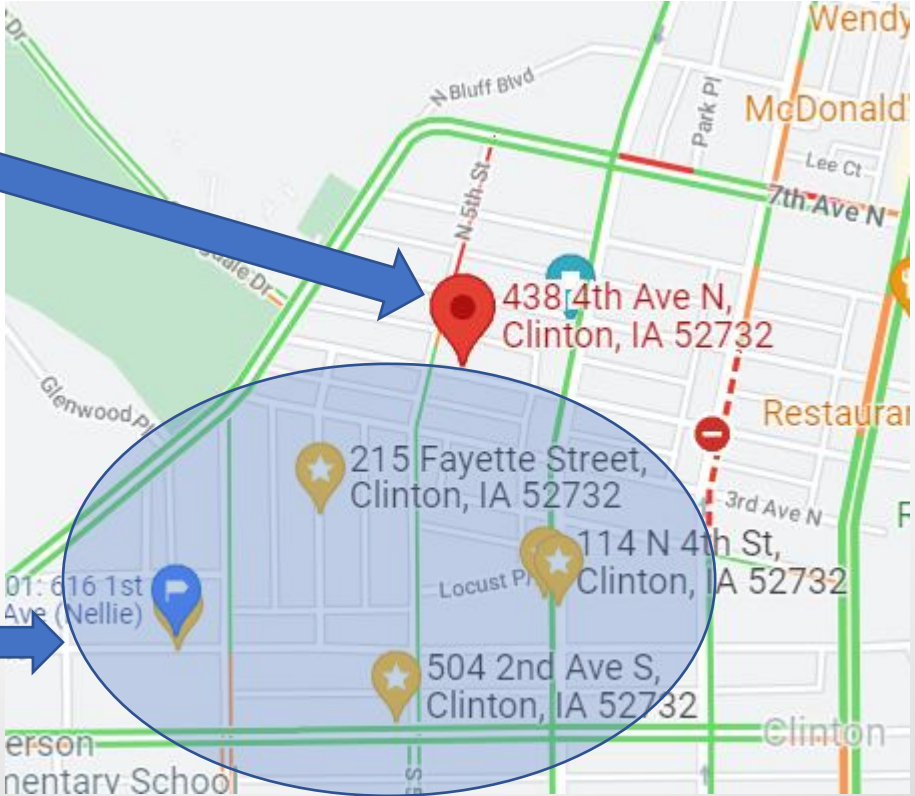
Search Clinton 1910 Census for Surnames in Trees of DNA Matches

739	Lockwood, Charles W.	Wife	M	63	M	134	4	3	Pennsylvania
	Gertrude M.	Wife	F	33	M	116		1	Illinois
	Harold B.	Son	M	14		8			Illinois

438 Fourth Avenue, Clinton in 1910



"Gas Work"

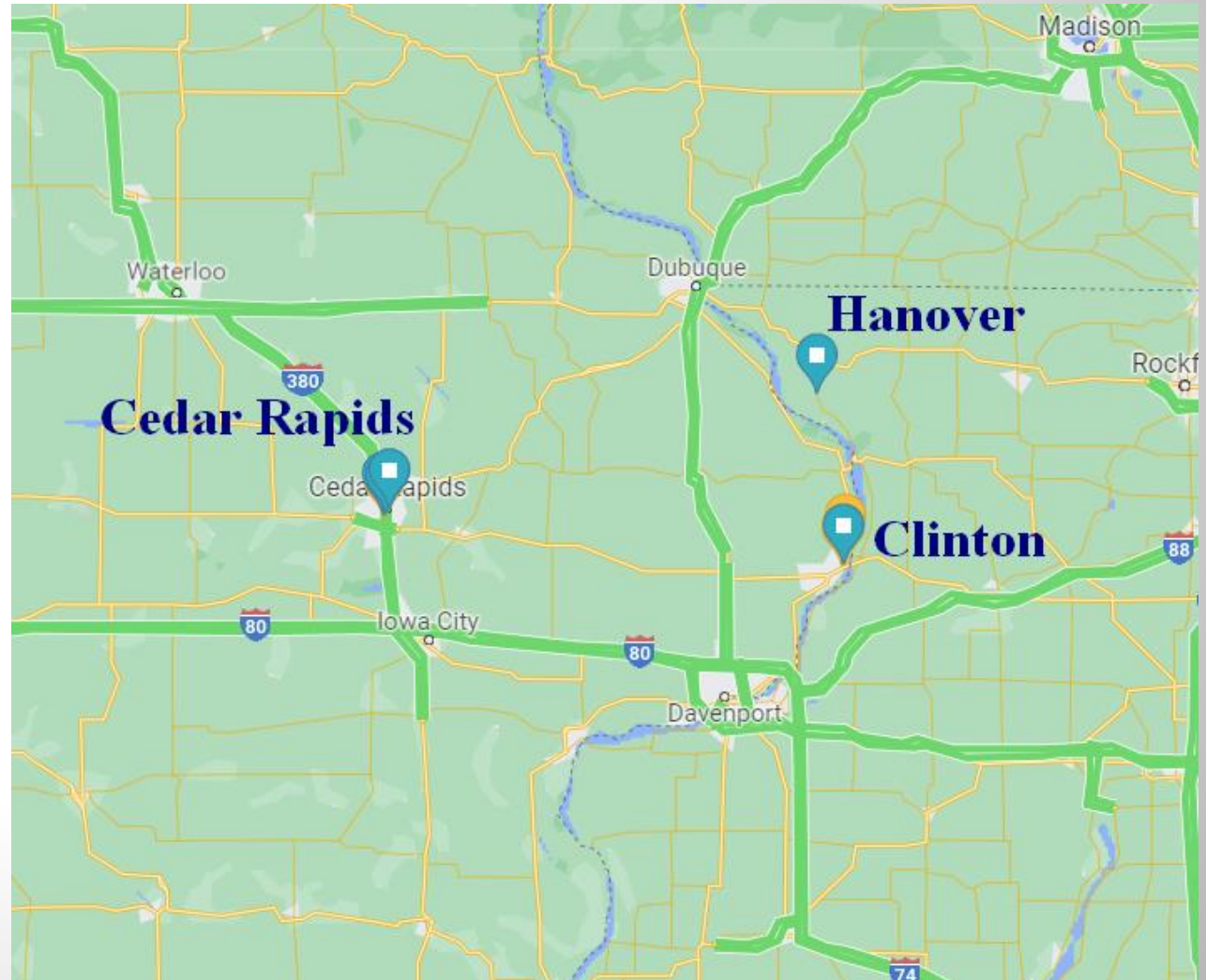


Known Addresses for Nellie

Source: 1910 US Census, Clinton IA, from Ancestry.com

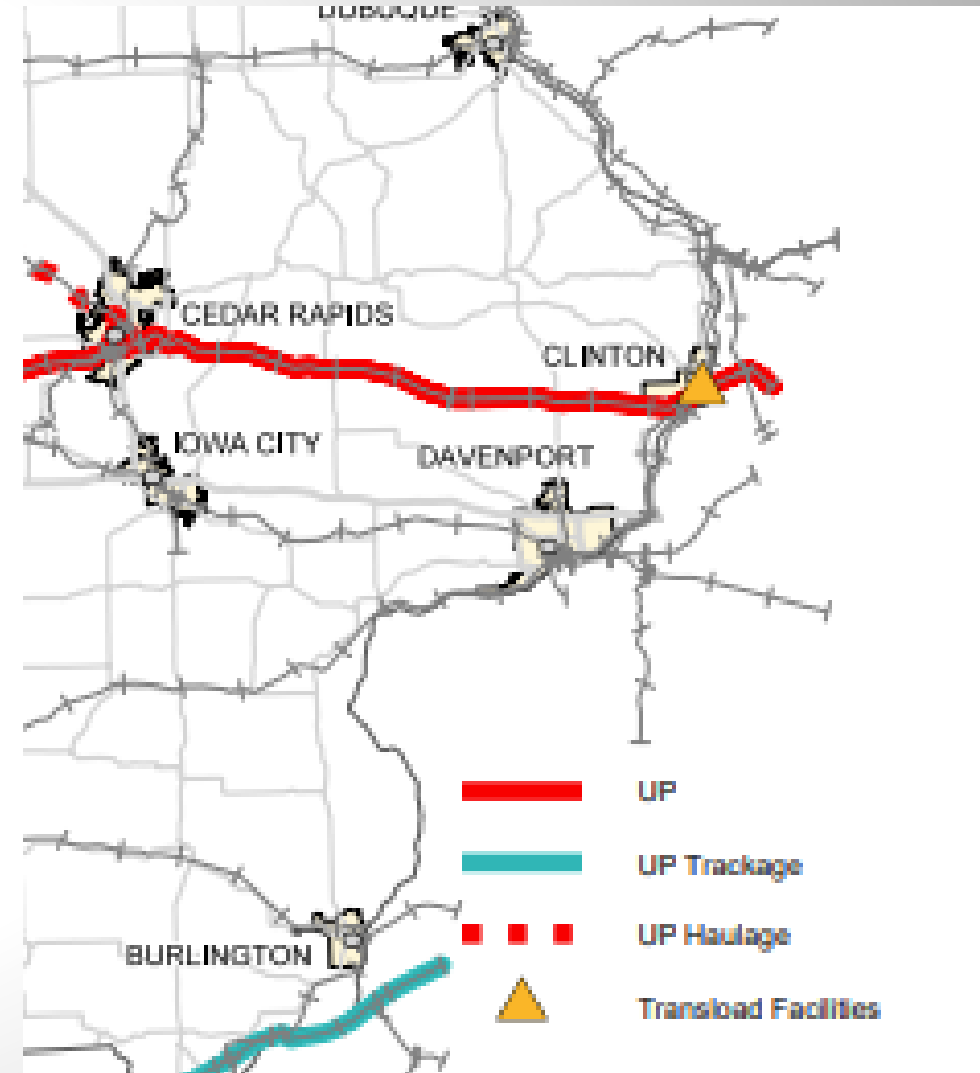
Keeping Geographical Proximity In Mind

- Nellie resided in both Clinton and Cedar Rapids in the 1900 decade
- Some DNA match trees had family in Hanover in 1900 decade



and Transportation...

- Union Pacific line between Clinton and Cedar Rapids was in effect in 1900s decade
- So there was a viable route between the two for the family to travel



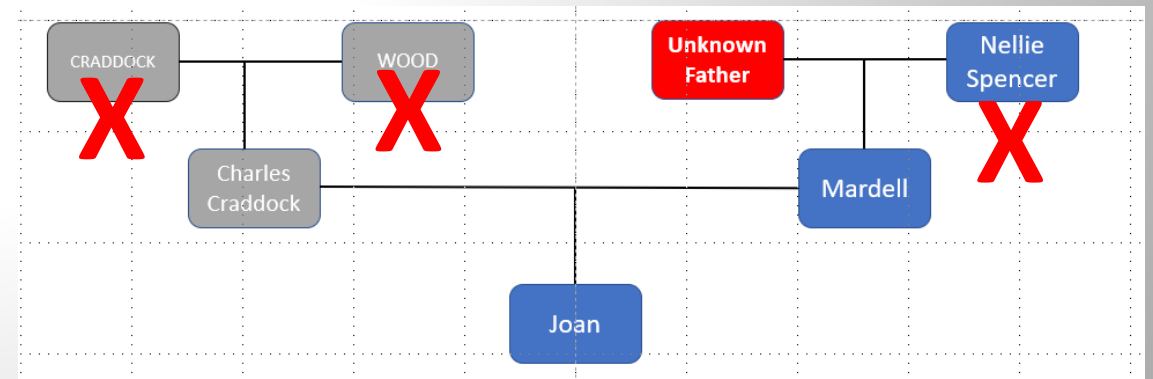
Tried Everything I Could Think Of

- Grouping shared matches
- Upload to other services to find testers not on Ancestry
- Cluster Analysis (GEDmatch, DNAGedcom, GeneticAffairs)
- Leeds Method
- Build trees for cousins believed to be on this line
 - Looked for male, age 25-40, living in either Clinton or Cedar Rapids
 - Searched 1910 census in the two cities for occurrences of surnames

Why is this so difficult??

- Perhaps the father was recent immigrant with few DNA relatives in Ancestry database
- Both Joan and Mardell were only children --- eliminates opportunities for close relatives (aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, etc.)
- Perhaps the father actually descends from part of one of the other 3 groups
 - One note: I did run the GEDMatch “Are My Parents Related” on Joan’s DNA kit and result was negative – this would seemingly remove the option that the unidentified grandfather was related to Joan’s paternal side
 - Doubtful there is relationship between Mardell’s father and mother as I’ve found no shared matches to both lines

- Are there ANY OTHER POSSIBILITIES...?



Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

- **HELP!**

- Ken Waters
- ken@familytreeaz.com
- Presentations:
<http://familytreeaz.com/Presentations>

FamilyTreeAZ.com

