

# Thankful Thursday: #My Colorful Ancestry



Birthplace Excel Chart, inspired by J. Paul Hawthorne. ([Click to enlarge.](#))

[McMurray Family](#), [Helbling Family](#) ([Click for Family Trees](#))

Sometimes it seems I am ‘wasting’ time by reading so much on the internet, but one can learn fantastic things. There are also fantastic people who share their fantastic ideas with the world via the internet, and for that I am so thankful- not only on Thankful Thursday.

Today, gratitude goes to J. Paul Hawthorne, who posted “[A Little Thing That Went Viral... #MyColorfulAncestry](#)” on his blog, “GeneaSpy.” Of course, I am behind the times as it went

viral last March, but that is what happens when one lives with one foot in the present, and the other back in the 1700s, 1800s, etc.

The above chart is for the children of Edward A. McMurray, Jr. and Mary Theresa (Helbling) McMurray.

Note how color-coding the Excel cells helps to show migration of a family.

Grayed cells are unknown birthplaces, although they most likely were in the same country as where the more recent generation was born, such as Germany or Ireland.

Follow the links on J. Paul's blog for templates to use, as a number of other genealogy bloggers have added generations. I do recommend that one clear the cells of text, or use all caps when inputting your own ancestor's birthplaces. When all the words are in the cells, then go back and change colors so that each state and country are different.

The chart also follows the genealogical convention of an Ahnentafel chart, with the father's name on top, mother's below. So the largest bright green box for Iowa is for Edward A. McMurray, Jr., and the largest rose-colored box for Missouri would be the birthplace of Mary (Helbling) McMurray. Mary's father, William Gerard Helbling, was born in Missouri, so is represented to the right, with the lower box being for her mother, Anna May (Beerbower) Helbling, who was born in Indiana. Take a look at the associated family trees for names and details.

#### **Notes, Sources, and References:**

1. "[A Little Thing That Went Viral... #MyColorfulAncestry](http://www.geneaspy.com/2016/03/a-little-thi)" by J. Paul Hawthorne in his blog, "GeneaSpy." <http://www.geneaspy.com/2016/03/a-little-thi>

[ng-that-went-viral.html](#). Thanks to J. Paul for sharing such a cool idea!

2. There are many excellent versions of this chart found throughout genea-blogland.
3. Excel is an excellent tool for timelines, one-name or one-place study, data analysis, etc. Many videos and webinars are available online and information is available on FaceBook and genealogy blogs as to how to use Excel as more than just a numbers-cruncher.
4. Make sure that you note the problem with dates in Excel- it only recognizes those that go back to 1900! So all my dates are in three columns in Excel- one each for day, month, and four-digit year. The months can be listed as numbers for easy sorting, or Excel has a function that allows you to tell it to sort by month order. See Teresa Keogh's Excel videos, especially, "[Example 7 – The Date Issue in Excel](#)" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hj6FS2QViI>

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## Friday's Faces from the Past: John and Fannie (Rubenstein? Cohen?) Broida, 1929



John "Zelig" Broida and his second wife, Fannie (Rubenstein? Cohen?) Broida, 5 July 1929.

[Broida Family](#) *(Click for Family Tree)*

This photo may have been taken in Palestine, as John and Fannie had immigrated there from the US sometime in the 1920s.

**Notes, Sources, and References:**

1. See "[Mystery Monday: Who was Ethel Broida Pincus?](http://heritageramblings.net/2015/05/18/mystery-monday-who-was-ethel-broida-pincus/)" for information concerning Fannie's maiden name.  
<http://heritageramblings.net/2015/05/18/mystery-monday-who-was-ethel-broida-pincus/>
2. We have posted extensively on this family- click on "Broida Family" in the "Categories" section of the sidebar to see all the related posts.
3. Photo from family treasure chest.

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**Wordless Wednesday: John and**

# Fannie (Rubenstein? Cohen?) Broida, 1924



John "Zelig" Broida and his second wife, Fannie (Rubenstein? Cohen?) Broida, 2 November 1924.

[Broida Family](#) *(Click for Family Tree)*

(We are unsure of Fannie's maiden name. It may have been Rubenstein, and she possibly married Jack Cohen. Or Rubenstein may have been the name of a second husband. See "[Mystery Monday: Who was Ethel Broida Pincus?](#)")

**Notes, Sources, and References:**

1. Family treasure chest of photos.
2. "Mystery Monday: Who was Ethel Broida Pincus?"  
<http://heritageramblings.net/2015/05/18/mystery-monday-who-was-ethel-broida-pincus/>

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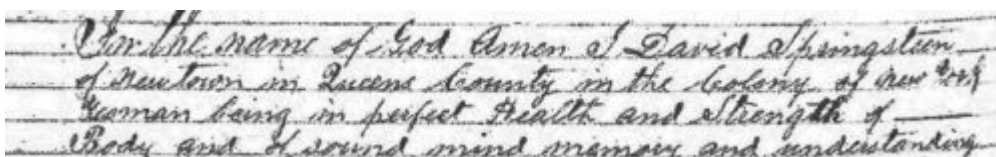
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## **Amanuensis Monday: The Will of David Springsteen**



*Under the name of God Amen I David Springsteen  
of Newtown in Lucas County in the Colony of New York  
a man being in perfect health and strength of  
Body and of sound mind memory and understanding*

The beginning lines of the will of David Springsteen

(1697?-1763) of Newtown, NY. ([Click to enlarge.](#))

[Helbling Family, Springsteen Family](#) ([Click for Family Tree](#))

*Dated March 25, 1753.*

*In the name of God, Amen. I, David Springsteen  
of Newtown, in Queens County, in the Colony of New York  
Yeoman being in perfect Health and Strength of  
Body and of sound mind memory and understanding*

Wills have pretty formulaic language to make sure the lawyers and the courts know exactly what the deceased had in mind for disposition of money and property after death. Most wills are just extracted by genealogists- basically, the important information is copied, sometimes with quite a lot of abbreviations- rather than a full amanuensis, or transcription, being done. In the case of David Springsteen's will, however, we will make it a bit of a hybrid, because while we don't want you to fall asleep, this document is important- this will proves all sorts of relationships. It was really a gold mine for advancing our Springsteen research!!

*I give and bequeath unto Anntie my Dearly beloved  
Wife the whole and Sole use Benefits Incomes & Profits of  
all and singular my dwelling Houses Messuages Lands  
Meadows Barns Orchards and Hereditaments with the  
Appurtenances in New Town...*

Of course, there is always this caveat:

*during so long a time as she shall continue my widow.*

If a woman remarried, all that she had worked to build with the previous husband was not hers- it went to the next heir in line, usually the sons, and often there was a small amount for



the daughters.

He also gave Annetie 1/3 of his movable estate, which included cash, furniture, the buggies, etc. The 1/3 was considered her 'dower right.' (A husband could not leave his wife with absolutely nothing.)

So we have confirmed the name of his wife, using the will he wrote in 1753. Always check the dates the will was written, proved, and probated- they vary, and are usually NOT the date of death- despite what one sees on many online family trees!

Now, on to their oldest son, who would usually get the majority of the estate:

*I give and devise unto to my eldest son Casparus Springsteen the dwelling house in which I now live with the barn and orchard there and lands adjoining...*

The will continues with detailed land descriptions and other parcels to Casparus. Next,

*I...bequeath unto my son Garret Springsteen...all that of my dwelling house and Tract of land there where... Garret now lives.*

David also leaves his son Garret two pieces of meadow, one of which he

*... had of my Father Casparus Springsteen Deceased.*

So David's will not only lists himself and his wife, and then children, but he mentioned his father as well! One more generation back confirmed... We also thus know that his father had passed away by the date the will was written, so that would be by 29 March 1753 at the latest.

The remaining 2/3 of his estate was to be divided equally among all his children, including, in addition to what they had already received through the will, a share each to

Casparus and Garrett, plus a share to each of their married sisters:

*Mary the now wife of Paulus Vandevorst*

*Auriantie the wife of Jonathan Provoost*

*Charity the wife of Daniel Fleet*

*Grietie the now wife of Frederick Van Wicklen*

So now we have the married names of the daughters as well as their first names- and their husband's first names too. We also can assume that their son Joost, baptized on 21 July 1734 in Jamaica, NY, probably died as a child or young adult, since he was not mentioned in his father's will of 1753.

David named his wife Annetie and his two sons, Casparus and Gerrit, as executors.

Yes, the will of David Springsteen was a gold mine. We started with a hypothesis of the parents of Gerrit Springsteen, our ancestor, and the will confirms his parents, siblings, and even his grandfather!

Nice that we can now read wills in our jammies rather than going to the courthouse!

### **Notes, Sources, and References:**

1. New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659-1999. Record of Wills, 1665-1916; Index to Wills, 1662-1923 (New York County); Author: New York. Surrogate's Court (New York County); Probate Place: New York, New York. <http://www.Ancestry.com>.
2. *"..Messuages... and Hereditaments with the Appurtenances"* Messuages are out buildings and the land surrounding- like a barn and corral. The second phrase is a legal

term that conveys specific rights, in addition to the items listed individually, such as rental income, right of way, etc. See Judy Russell's "The Legal Genealogist" post of 5 Aug 2015, "A Deed Indeed." <http://www.legalgenealogist.com/2015/08/05/a-deed-indeed-2/>

3. Also see Black's Law Dictionary– <http://thelawdictionary.org/>

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# Thrifty Thursday: More About Peter Ashenfelter's Taxes in 1798

B.

**P**ARTICULAR List or Description of all Lands, Lots, Buildings and Wharves, owned, possessed or occupied on the First Day of October, 1798, in *Warrington Township, York County* being within the Sixth Division, and *Second Assessment District* in the State of Pennsylvania, excepting only such Dwelling Houses as with the Outhouses appurtenant thereto, and the Lots on which they are erected, not exceeding two Acres in any Case, are above the Value of One Hundred Dollars.

1 Name of Occupant or Possessor.	2 Name of Owner.	3 REMARKS Number, Description, and Dimensions of Buildings and Wharves, their location, boundaries, or Names of the adjacent Proprietors; also, circumstances under which an Exemption from Valuation is claimed.	4 Dwelling Houses and Out-houses of a value not exceeding 100 Dollars.		5 QUANTITIES OF			7 Valuation of each Tract, Lot, Wharf, &c. by the Assessor.	8 Valuation of each Tract, Lot, Wharf, &c. by the Principal Assessor.
			Number of Dwelling-houses.	Value in Dollars.	Acres	Perches	Square feet		
			1	30				305	

1 October 1798 US Direct Tax list for Peter Ashenfelter, Warrington Township, York County, Pennsylvania- Headings. (Click to enlarge.)

[Helbling Family, Beerbower Family](#) (Click for Family Tree)

Since today is the day third quarter estimated taxes are due in the US, and many property tax bills are due in September, it seemed a good day to post about another tax record found for Peter Ashenfelter.

We previously posted about the taxation on the stone house with real glass windows that Peter Ashenfelter owned in 1798 Pennsylvania. (See [Peter Ashenfelter- 1798 Taxation.](#)) Recently, when searching for Beerbower taxation records (Peter's daughter Elizabeth Ashenfelter married Caspar J. Bierbrauer/Beerbower), we came upon another entry for a Peter Ashenfelter:

Ashenfelter Peter	Ashenfelter Peter	adjoining lands of William Peterson 1 old log house 24 by 20, 1 old log barn 48 by 22. 1 new log joiner shop 24 by 16 Peter Gardner	1	53				15		656
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1 October 1798 US Direct Tax list for Peter Ashenfelter,

Warrington Township, York County, Pennsylvania- Tax Record.  
(Click to enlarge.)

This entry is for one old log house, 24' by 20 ' (you may have a single room that big!), 1 old log barn 48' by 22', and 1 new log joiner shop 24' by 16'. The single dwelling house was worth \$53, and the 158 acres were worth \$656.

So is this the same Peter Ashenfelter? Or is it the son, also named Peter? The younger Peter would have been just 18 years old- somewhat young to own that much property. But it was possible, and since the buildings were so old, maybe the father had given his older property to his son?

The theory that these records are for two different Peter Ashenfelters is strengthened by the fact that both state a Peter Ashenfelter is occupying the property.

The log home tax record notes an adjoining land owner, Peter Gardner. Looking at property maps might help us determine if these Peters are two different men.

The stone house was on just 2 acres, and Peter was getting older- 54 in 1798. Might he and his wife Elizabeth (Reiser) Ashenfelter have moved to town, but still owned the farm and maybe his son(s) or hired hands helped him work it? Again, looking at property maps may help answer our questions.

One point suggests that these records are for the same man- they are not called "Sr." or "Jr." in the records, which was common when there were two men with the same name in the same township or county.

Additionally, there are records for other Peter Ashenfelters in Pennsylvania, and it appears that the son of Peter (1744-1822) also named Peter (1780-1846), was buried in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania. Some records, like an 1830 census found, do not have a male old enough to be either of these men. So possibly the son Peter moved to a different

area.

Looks like it will take some deeper research and sorting out of these Ashenfelters to find the actual facts about this family.

### Notes, Sources, and References:

1. [Peter Ashenfelter- 1798 Taxation](http://heritageramblings.net/2015/06/17/peter-ashenfelter-1798-taxation/)—<http://heritageramblings.net/2015/06/17/peter-ashenfelter-1798-taxation/>
2. There are no page numbers on the tax lists shown above. Both can be found on Ancestry.com.

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