

Obliquity & Family History Research

*An example of an indirect approach
combined with DNA analysis*

Craig Rhombs
2023

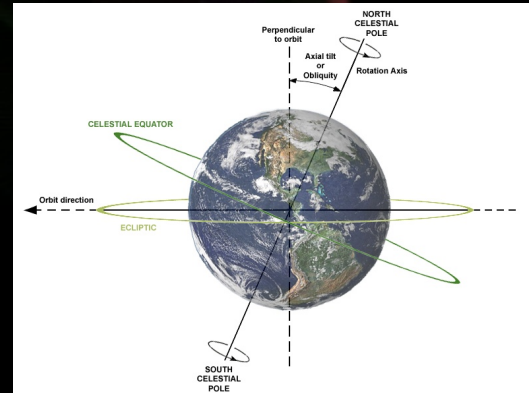
Who am I?

- Craig Rhombs
- <https://281connections.us>
- 281connections@gmail.com



Obliquity - concept

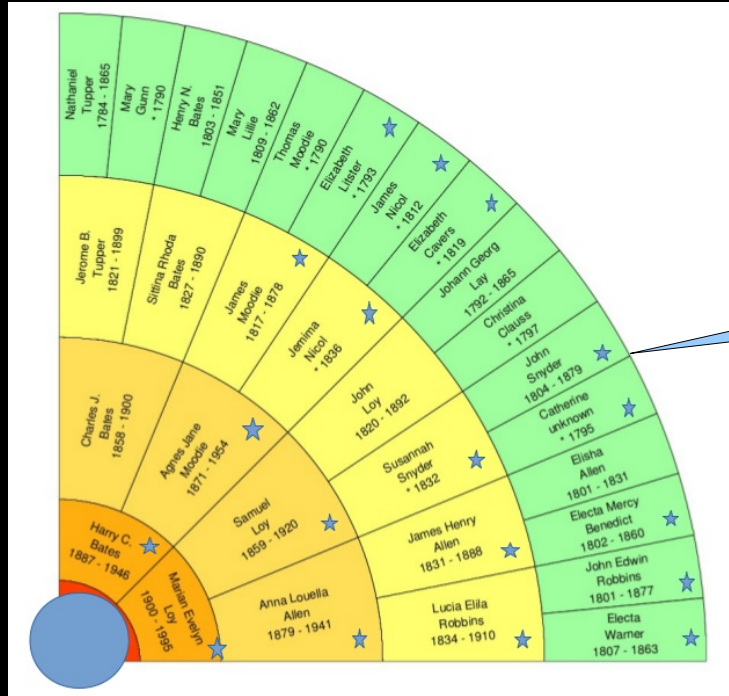
- deviation from moral rectitude or sound thinking
- deviation from parallelism or perpendicularity (e.g., obliquity of the ecliptic)
- ***indirectness*** or deliberate obscurity of speech or conduct
 - As applied to genealogy: e.g., investigating associates and neighbors (FAN)
 - Combined with DNA analysis can reveal useful hints



Example Problem

- Quest for origins of a pair of 3rd great grandparents
- Conventional evidence ends with an 1850 census enumeration
- No subsequent census records
- No death records
- Confusing, wrong, misleading information at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (who's surprised?)
- Why do I care?

Identification of a Distant Common Ancestor



X-chromosome match source

1850 Census

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MXQL-MV2>

<u>Household</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
John Snyder	M	46	Pennsylvania
Catharine Snyder	F	55	Pennsylvania
Susanna Snyder	F	18	Pennsylvania
Elizabeth Snyder	F	16	Ohio
George Snyder	M	15	Ohio
Martha Snyder	F	9	Ohio

John Snyder	46	Me	Pa
Catharine	55	F	Pa
Susanna	18	F	Pa
Elizabeth	16	F	O
George	15	M	O
Martha	9	F	O

OH Research

- Marion Co. Gen. Soc. (good help)
- Marion Library, phone
- Graves – online, gen soc, phone; Twp trustees
- Church records – phone
- County Historian
- Wills
- Property transactions (U.S. Military District)
- ~Exhausted

Developing a Theory Based on a Pattern

- Parents born in PA prior to about 1810
- First children born in PA
- Subsequent children born in OH
- Implied migration to OH in 1832-1834
- Preference for Germanic names
- Proximity to the Snyder family in Waldo Twp, Marion County, OH, in 1850

Two Families Nearby

William Selanders	13	M				Pa
Anna	12	F				Pa
Samuel	10	M	Valance			Pa
Marinda	7	F				Pa
Mary	11	F				Ohio
Valentine	10	M				O
Francis E	7	F				O
Lucy A	2	F				O

William Selanders (1806-1862) & Anna Boyer (1809-1892)

Simon Culp (1801-1892) & Ellen Selanders (1808-1903)

(On the same sheet as the Snyder family in the 1850 census noted earlier.)

Simon Culp	26	M	Farmer	500		Pa
Ellen	19	F				Pa
Rachel	21	F				Pa
Caroline	18	F				Pa
Valentine	15	M				Pa
Marinda	12	F				O
Margret	9	F				O
Mary	4	F				O
Samuel Mennick	22	M	Carpenter			Pa

Family of William Selanders

- See review document.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CqxufugnFp9Pp8FGrh0EF97aZDYpaN5A/view?usp=sharing>
- William b. about 1806-1809 (PA); Anna Boyer b.1809 (Cumberland Co., PA)
 - Alvina b.1829 in PA
 - Samuel b.1831 in PA
 - Malinda b. 1833 in PA
 - Mary b. 1836 in OH
 - Valentine b. 1840 in OH
 - Frances b. 1843 in OH
 - Sarah b. 1848 in OH

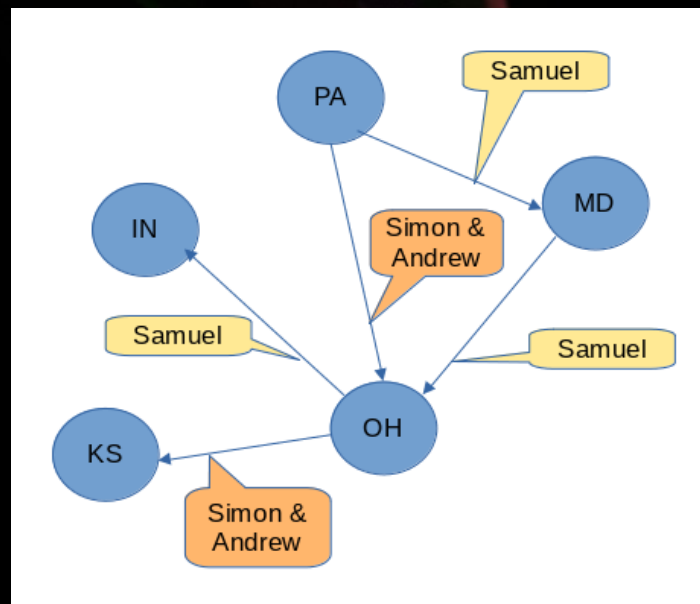
Aside: one of the Snyder children married a Boyer.

Family of Simon Culp

- See review document.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KkRWWUh-KFLb5EdRbGB5nJ6nUMKWXdcl/view?usp=sharing>
- Simon b.1801 (PA); Ellen Selanders b.1806 (PA)
- Married 1828 in Silver Spring Twp, Cumberland Co., PA
 - Rachel b.1829 in PA
 - Caroline b.1831 in PA
 - John Valentine b. 1835 in PA
 - Malinda b.1838 in OH
 - Margaret b.1839 in OH
 - Mary Jane b.1844 OH

Deeper Culp Research

- Simon Culp had two brothers – Andrew and Samuel
- Parents?
- Sisters?
- Another researcher has suggestions about origins, but

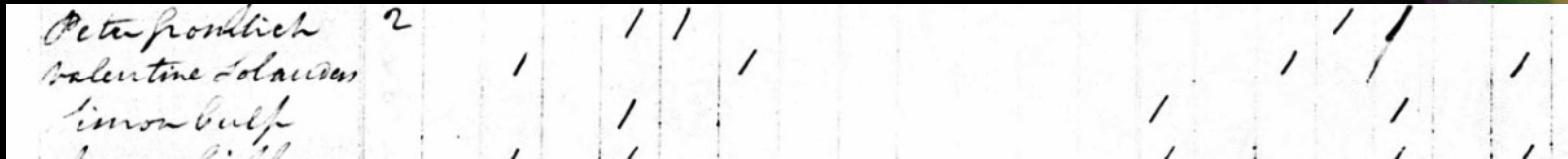


Deeper Selanders Research

- William migrated with parents (Valentine & mother Rachel Bruce) & siblings (Samuel, Ellen, and Malinda) to OH
- Aunts & uncles of William: Elizabeth, Christian, Johannes, Frances, Catherine (!right age to be Catherine Snyder! - hopes dashed)
- Parents pretty well researched (Johann Christian & Anna Maria (Zimmer) Selanders/Xylanders). Palatine immigrants.

Together in Cumberland County, PA

- 1830 census puts both Valentine Selanders & Simon Culp in Silver's Spring Twp.
- Not long before relocation to OH
- Snyder folks in the area, but none clearly John Snyder.
- <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHPR-J7Y>



Frustration!

- It is still not clear who the ancestors of the Snyder family in PA were.
- Culp – too little info, hints of Anabaptist religion, no joy
- Selanders – interesting family, Evangelisch, no joy
- In both cases, however, I now had lots of info about brothers, sisters, descendants.
- Many bits of information point to Cumberland County, PA.

Turning to DNA Matches

- Mother's DNA with these companies
 - 23andme
 - FTDNA
 - Ancestry.com
- Autosomal matching might yield some faint signals.
- Hope springs eternal!

Limiting Scope

- Hundreds of matches with trees at ancestry.com
- $61 \times 25 = 1525$ matches at 23andme
- 5113 matches at FTDNA
- OOF! Must find way to focus and find the hidden gems.
- Employ ideas similar to those used in Leeds method. (i.e., limit range of matching DNA considered to catch on more distant matches – with weaker signals)
- <https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method/>

The Shared cM Project Tool

- <https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>
- Tool that provides required context for interpreting matches.
- 25 cM example

Filter
Enter the total number of cM for your match here:

25

or enter %

Then any relationships that fit will stand out below
[Click here for a shareable link to the cM amount above](#)

Most distant common ancestors
Assuming no [pedigree collapse](#) or [endogamy](#), and that you're related in just one way, the **furthest** back you might need to go to find common ancestors for a match of 25cM is **8th-Great-Grandparent level** or generation 11 on your pedigree chart.
The connection could be closer. However, it could date much further back to beyond the genealogical timeframe.

Relationship probabilities (based on stats from [The DNA Geek](#))
New: [View these relationships in a tree](#)

56%	6C 6C1R 5C 6C2R 4C1R 5C1R 7C Half 3C2R 4C2R 5C2R 7C1R 3C3R 4C3R 5C3R 8C or more distant
17%	Half 3C 3C1R Half 2C2R 2C3R
17%	4C Half 3C1R 3C2R
9%	3C Half 2C1R 2C2R Half 1C3R
2%	Half 2C 2C1R Half 1C2R 1C3R

Selanders Match (One!)

- But . . .look at who else is there! (Mom could be related to Culp and/or Selanders folks.)

4th cousin 1x removed
34 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side ⓘ

Public linked tree
500 People

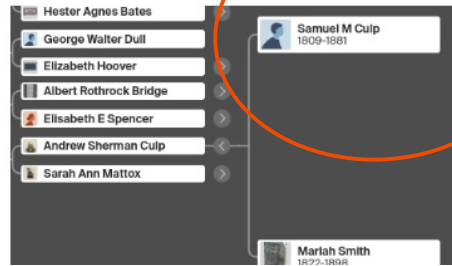
- Delno Offield * Priest
- Marinda Adaline Dague
- Wallace T Tracy
- Lois Maud Lemon
- Warner C Denty
- Elizebeth L Denty
- William Simon Glaze
- Jennie Terry
- William Glaze 1806-1865
- Bennet F Glaze 1833-1890
- Simon CULP 1801-
- Caroline CULP 1831-1920
- Ellen SELANDERS 1806-1917

Culp Matches! (Hooray!)

4.1.1.2 *TS (Samuel Culp Descendant)*

4th - 6th Cousin
22 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Parent 1's side

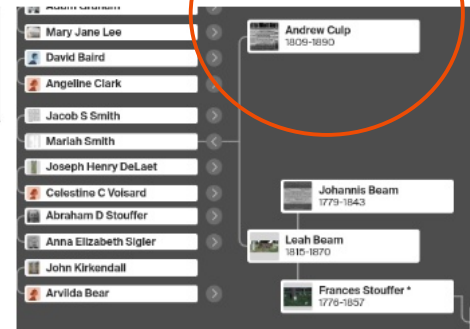
 Public linked tree
997 People



4.1.1.3 *DC (Andrew Culp Descendant)*

4th - 6th Cousin
25 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Parent 1's side

 Public linked tree
2,749 People



Even More Culp Matches from 23andme

4.1.2.1 *SH*

4th Cousin (31 cM)
0.42% DNA shared, 1 segments

4.1.2.2 *MC*

4th Cousin (25 cM)
0.34% DNA shared, 1 segments

4.1.2.3 *HW*

4th Cousin (25 cM)
0.33% DNA shared, 2 segments
Invitation sent

Selected based on list of surnames that included Culp.

Duplicate Culp Match from FTDNA

4.1.3.1 *TS (Samuel Culp descendant)*

This person is found at [ancestry.com](#) as well.

Ancestral Surnames | [View Details](#)

Bridge, Culp, Gilbert, Hart, Harlow, Jones,
Phillips, Strickland, Zimmerman

Haplogroup

Y-DNA: R-FTC3...
mtDNA: N/A

Relationship Range

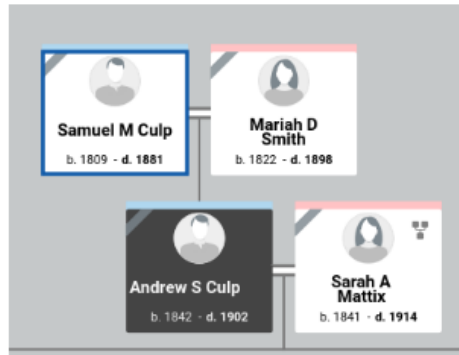
3rd Cousin - 5th Cousin
[Link on Family Tree](#)

Shared DNA

27 cM

Longest Block

27 cM



Snyder Match (Hot Dog!)

4th – 6th Cousin | Parent 1's side

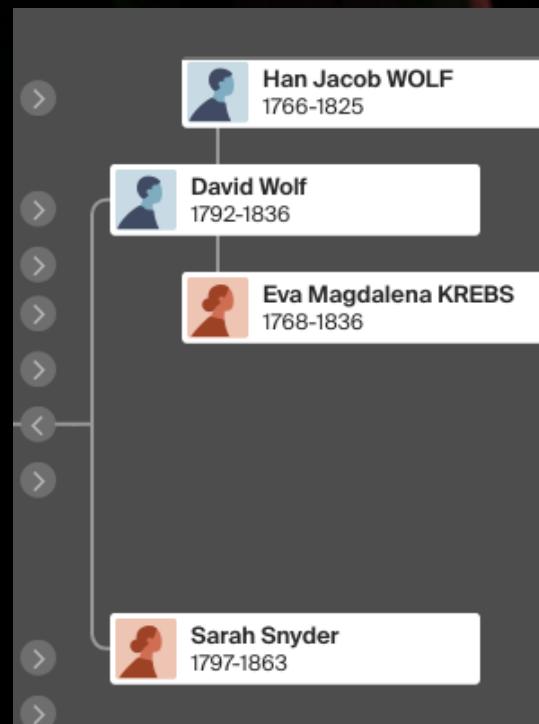
< 1% shared DNA: 28 cM across 1 segments



Sarah Snyder

B: February 1797 Cumberland, Pennsylvania, USA

D: 04 December 1863 Cumberland, Pennsylvania, USA



Conclusions

- Mom appears to be related to each Culp brother.
- Catherine Snyder may be Catherine Culp.
- Indirection pushed the research forward.
- Close, but no cigar. Not done yet!
- Keep looking for traditional evidence in OH & PA.
- Keep trying to communicate with DNA matches.
- Focus on Culp surname as well as Snyder.

Proposed Solution - PA

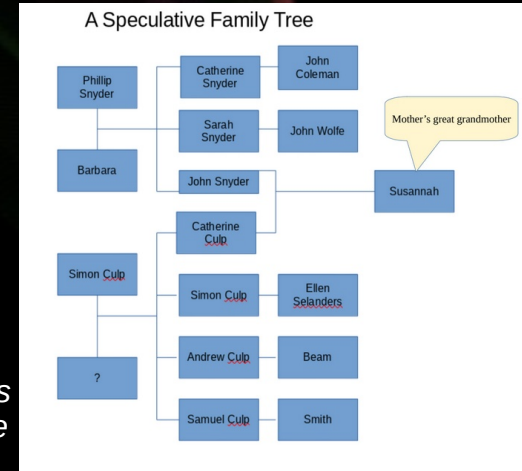
The elder Phillip Snyder in the east settled near New Kingstown. His wife's name was Barbara. They may be connected somehow with the western Phillip and George Snyder clan. The western clan may have had an association with a Simon Culp who could be the father of Simon Culp (b.~1801).

The eastern elder Phillip had a family whose members were baptized in the Lutheran church in New Kingstown, near where the family had various tracts of land. The first son was also named Phillip, and his son Johann Jacob born in 1804 could be the person who appears as John Snyder in the 1850 OH census.

Nearby to the Snyder family (within 5-10 miles) can be found families associated with Valentine Selanders. And a younger Simon Culp is clearly associated with these families. Perhaps a sister of Simon's named Catherine married John Snyder. Many of these families can be found in OH in 1850. There may be an association with Mennonite or Church of the Brethren Churches.

For current status, see

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nC8simqjXHh9Sc7s3d-IPPhgoaMBW2au/view?usp=sharing>



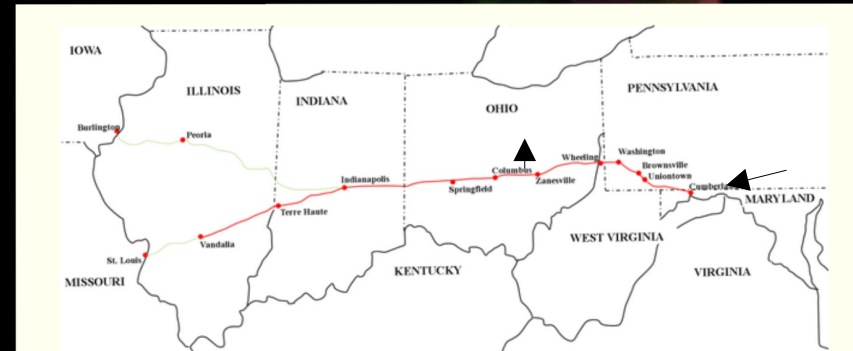
Proposed Migration Route

- Cumberland Co., PA, via the National Road (~1833) to . . .
- Columbus, OH
- Then north to Waldo (then in Delaware Co., OH) via road or Scioto River
- References:
 - <https://prairierootsresearch.com/migration-routes-the-national-road/>
 - *The Settlement of the Old Northwest: Ethnic Pluralism in a Featureless Plain*, Author(s): Robert P. Swierenga, Source: Journal of the Early Republic , Spring, 1989, Vol. 9, No. 1 (Spring, 1989), pp. 73-105, Published by: University of Pennsylvania Press on behalf of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic; Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3123525>
 - 1840 OH map: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4080.ct011786>

Proposed Migration Route

“But soon southern Pennsylvania became the beehive of Ohio's midsection. By 1850, over 200,000 Pennsylvanians, mainly Germans and Scotch-Irish, had swarmed into Ohio, where they comprised 43 percent of all migrants. This was twice as many as any other state and three times those of New Englanders. The Pennsylvania influence in Ohio was even greater before 1850, since many of the Ohio-born were children of Pennsylvania migrants.”

- page 80 in the journal previously cited, article by Swierenga.



The National Road, by Philip D. Jordan. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1948. 442 pp. Hardcover. Illustrations, photographs, map, source notes.

Thanks for your time. Good
luck in your research.