

Date: September 2023

Report to: my files/blog

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?***

Known Associates of Sarah Ann Schwartz and Marquis Fielding Bennett:

Clark County, Indiana, Adams County, Illinois and York County, Nebraska

1. Airy Prather Bennett (mother of Marquis)
2. Joshua S. Bennett (brother of Marquis)
3. Greenberry Prather (uncle of Marquis and potentially of Sarah)
4. Aaron Prather (uncle of Marquis and potentially of Sarah)
5. Thomas W. Prather (grandfather of Marquis and potentially of Sarah)
6. Walter Prather (great uncle of Marquis and potentially of Sarah) – (widow Martha Jacobs Prather is near neighbor on 1850 IN census)
7. Eli Jacobs (neighbor) –1850 IN census neighbor
8. Elisha H. Bennett – 1850 IN census neighbor (uncle of Marquis)
9. Albert Bennett – 1850 IN census neighbor (cousin of Marquis)
11. John Jacob – 1850 IN census neighbor, potential cousin
13. Robert Dismore – 1855 IL census neighbor, land abuts, potential brother in law
14. Wiley Swartz – 1855 IL census neighbor, potential brother in law
15. Abraham Swartz – 1860 IL census neighbor, potential brother in law
16. Hugh Lyle - 1855 IL census neighbor, born Indiana
17. William Strickler - 1855 IL census neighbor, born Indiana
18. John Strickler - 1855 IL census neighbor, born Indiana
19. William Bottorff - 1855 IL census neighbor, brother of Rev Samuel Bottorff uncle of Elizabeth Dismore, Wiley & Abram Swartz, potential uncle of Sarah Ann Swartz.
20. E. Howard - 1855 IL census neighbor, born Indiana
21. William McFarland - 1855 & 1860 IL census neighbor

Repository or Online DB/site: Ancestry.com DNA testers. MyHeritage test takers where relevant. Other material, primarily marriage records, was researched on Ancestry.com and/or FamilySearch in the winter of 2022.

Caveats or Limitations: Ancestry.com matches were queried requesting permission to share results as well as to reviewed shared matches. The vast majority simply did not respond to messages and those who did respond were all on the Wiley Uriah Swartz line which is the line of the two test takers.

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 Marcus unless the quoted record uses another spelling.) The same is true for the two main variants of spelling for Swartz/Schwartz. For documentation of all statements in Background Information see: <http://www.mcwieser.info/relay/?p=902>

The parents of Sarah Ann (Schwartz/Swartz) Bennett have been a mystery for at least a hundred years. Her maiden name was given in her 1838 marriage record in Clark County, Indiana, her birthplace was in her 1902 obituary in York County, Nebraska, and her maiden name was repeated in the obituary, death or marriage records of several

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children. 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.) Her husband, Marcus Fielding Bennett, has also been documented on the same sites, using the same sources. Despite the fact Sarah's maiden name and birthplace have never been a mystery, she has never been attached to parents or siblings (at least not in published Swartz or Bennett material or online sites such as Ancestry, FamilySearch or Find a Grave.)

Sarah and Marcus were married in Clark County, Indiana on 13 February 1838 (there is no return of the marriage recorded so we do not know who performed the marriage.) Marriage partners, during this period, were sought within a relatively restricted radius of your home. Marcus' mother, Airy/Ary Prather Bennett, resided in Utica Township, Clark County. She was a granddaughter of Basil Prather and Chlorenda Robertson/Robinson, therefore a member of the 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. It is highly likely that Sarah's parents lived in this area as well.

No document directly provides her parent's names. This research project will therefore focus on developing patterns of association and interactions, the naming of children, and family migration patterns across 3 states.

General Research Plan outline (*for all phases of this project – this project is part of a larger project reconstructing the family of John Swartz jr.*)

- ✓ Initial literature search to identify possible candidates for Sarah's Swartz father in Clark County and adjoining counties in Indiana.
- ✓ Clark County, Indiana - 1820-1880 for candidate Swartz households for Sarah Swartz' father.
- ✓ Clark County, Indiana - Marquis Bennett household and identified F.A.N. Federal census (Indiana did not conduct state census after about 1810.) Marquis is expected to appear as a head of household in the 1840 and 1850 census and in the household of his father or mother in 1820 and 1830.
- ✓ Clark County, Indiana – Marquis F. Bennett and identified F.A.N. Land records including purchase, mortgage, sale. Land records will need to be mapped onto a Clark County map giving section numbers for the Illinois Grant Survey aka Clark's Grant Survey of 1785.
- ✓ Clark County, Indiana – Marquis F. Bennett and identified F.A.N. Marriage, vital records, court records, church membership and newspapers.
- ✓ Adams County, Illinois – 1840 -1910 federal census for Marquis Bennett and household and identified F.A.N. 1840- 1910 for candidate Swartz sibling households. 1855 – 1865 Illinois state census for Marquis, F.A.N. and candidate Swartz siblings households.
- ✓ Adams County, Illinois - Land records including purchase, mortgage, sale. Land records will need to be mapped onto an Adams County map showing township and section.
- ✓ Adams County, Illinois – Marriage, vital records court records, church membership and newspapers. The marriages of Bennett children should also be examined to expand the F.A.N.
- ✓ York County, Nebraska – 1870 – 1910 for candidate Swartz relatives, Marquis Bennett household and identified F.A.N. Land records, both purchase and sale, court records, church membership, newspapers

and both federal and state census records for F.A.N. families. The depth and breadth of York County research is to be determined based on results from Indiana and Illinois research.

- ✓ Comparisons and Graphing - Naming patterns, intergenerational marriage connections, other charts or maps that may prove useful for final proof argument.
- ✓ DNA – atDNA test match lists on Ancestry.com and MyHeritage for Heather McLeland-Wieser and Dana McLeland documented Swartz descendants (of Clark County, Indiana), should be analyzed for potential matches descended from Sarah Ann Schwartz using the Leeds method of clustering as well as pedigree triangulation. Other more advanced analysis methods may be used if agreement is reached with relevant matches regarding sharing of match lists and uploading to Gedmatch.

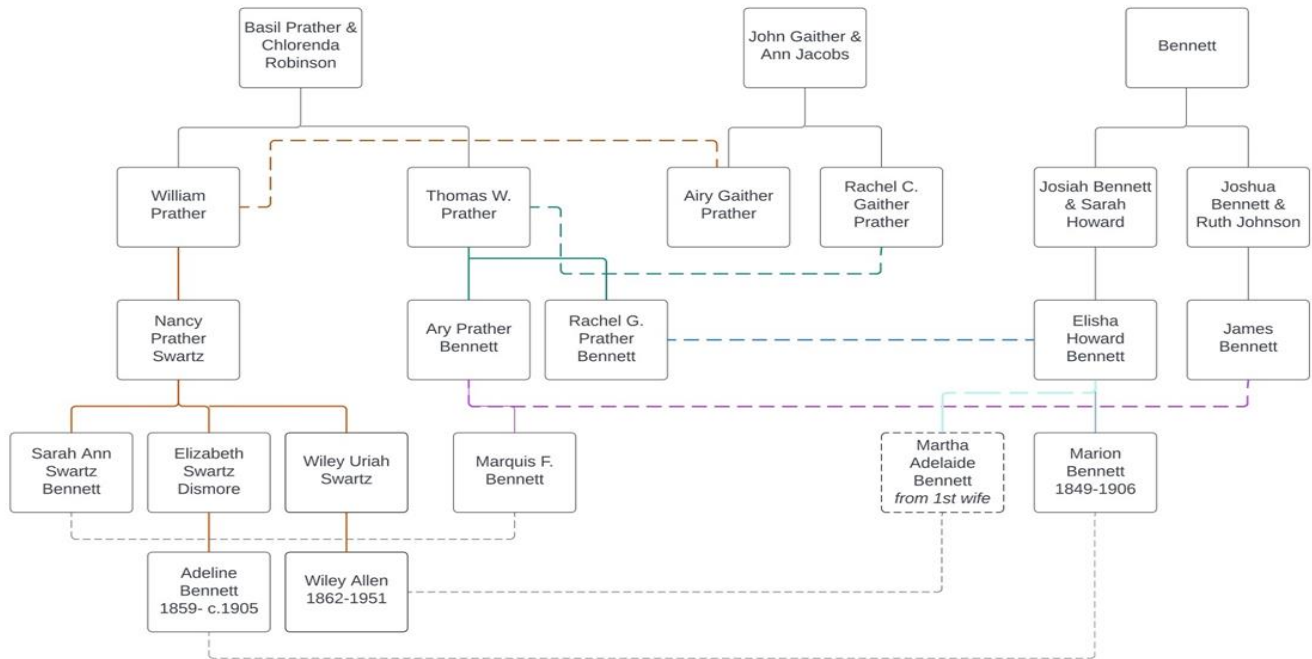
Marriage Connections Across Time and Distance

Small communities in frontier locations commonly intermarry if there are no barriers of religion or ethnicity. The Bennett, Swartz and Prather families were not frontier settlers of Adams County, Illinois but they were an established clan moving from Clark County, Indiana into Adams County in a consistent migration stream. However, these families were part of the earliest settler group about 1803-05 in Clark County, Indiana Territory. But the connections between the Bennett and Prather families began in the mountains of North Carolina territory before the Revolutionary War. And when the Jacobs and Gaither families are added into the web of connections it reaches back into Maryland as well. (The Howard family is most likely also part of the entire series of migrations, but that hypothesis has not been tested by research independent of the current series of projects. The Swartz family came directly from Pennsylvania to Clark County, Indiana as part of their own extended clan migration.)

The chart below shows 9 marriages between the 5 families occurring across 3 states and over 4 generations spanning nearly 100 years. This is a portion of a larger chart that includes an additional 19 marriages and adds both earlier and later generations and 2 more states. There are a couple of marriages in the 5th generation that are probably also part of this long term web of connections, however the research on either the bride or grooms family has not been completed as it is not part of this research project.

There are two pairs of sibling marriages where Prather brothers married Gaither sisters and Prather sisters from one of the early sibling marriages married Bennett brothers. The 4 families created from these marriages migrated together from North Carolina to Indiana – along with multiple members of 3 other families. Once in Indiana there is at least 1 marriage between double second cousins with additional marriages between cousins of varying degrees. There are numerous marriages back into the Jacobs and Howard families as well as between Prather, Gaither, Swartz and Bennett descendants.¹

¹ for documentation of all marriages please see my Ancestry.com tree – McLeland-Wieser Family. The tree is private but searchable. For access, please contact me via Ancestry messaging.



Marriage Connections among the Prather, Bennett, Gaither, Swartz and Howard families of North Carolina, Indiana, Illinois and Nebraska.

For readability this chart shows a selection of the marriages between the Jacobs, Gaither, Prather, Bennett, Howard and Swartz families – in North Carolina, Indiana and Illinois. If Sarah Ann is the daughter of Nancy Prather Swartz, then Sarah Ann Swartz and Marcus F. Bennett were double second cousins – sharing four great grandparents. How this would impact the amount of DNA shared between Sarah Ann's descendants and descendants of other Swartz-Prather children is not known. This kind of multiple relationship/pedigree collapse has not been studied extensively at the 4 cousin level. It is relatively remote and may have little or no impact.

Naming patterns –

Names of Sarah Ann's siblings/parents/in-laws	Names of Marcus' siblings/parents/grandparents	Names of Sarah Ann and Marcus' children
Father (and brother) – John	Father – <i>James</i>	Elizabeth
Mother – Nancy	Mother – Airy	Sarah A.
Stepmother (and sister)– <i>Elizabeth</i>	Brother – <i>Thomas</i>	John Wesley
Stepmother (and sister) – Julia Ann	Brother - Joshua Sylvanus	George Franklin
Sister – Airy	Sister – <i>Elizabeth</i>	Sophia Jane
Brother – Abraham	Grandfather – <i>Thomas</i>	<i>Thomas</i> Benton
Probable brother - William	Grandmother - <i>Rachel</i>	Julia Ann
Brother – Wiley Uriah		Paulina C.
Brother – <i>James Wesley</i>		Robert <i>James</i>
Sister – Tabitha/Telitha		David Fletcher
Brother – George		Adelia <i>Rachel</i>
Probable sister/aunt - Sophia		Mary Alice
Middle name of half-brother John - Franklin		
Sister in law Penina (or Paulina) Jane		

Names in **Bold** were used in both the Swartz line and for the children of Sarah Ann and Marcus (except for Elizabeth and James whose names occurs in both families and is shown in both **Bold** and *Italic*.)

Names in *Italic* were used in both the Bennett line and for the children of Sarah Ann and Marcus.

Naming patterns are not evidence by themselves, but they do reinforce the preliminary conclusion that Sarah Ann Swartz is a member of the family of John Swartz and Nancy Prather. Sarah Ann Swartz and Marquis F. Bennett appear to have named the majority of their 12 children completely or partially after members of their birth families. Particularly noteworthy are the use of Julia Ann and Sophia – neither of which were very common names in 1850s Indiana and the use of Franklin and Wesley as a middle name (Franklin was very common in the Swartz Family and repeated often down through at least 3 generations.) It is also interesting that the most unusual names – Airy, Sylvanus, Wiley Uriah and Tabitha/Telitha were not used, despite Airy also being Marcus' mother's name. Perhaps Marquis Fielding Bennett felt strongly about names that were "too unique."

DNA Evidence

If Sarah Ann Schwartz is a daughter of John Swartz and his first wife Nancy Prather then there should be genetic relationships discoverable between the descendants of Sarah Ann and her potential siblings, Elizabeth, Abram and Wiley Swartz, previously identified children of John and Nancy. (An additional brother was provisionally identified during a concurrent research process – his descendants and their genetic relationships to Sarah Ann's descendants will not be reviewed here.) Relevant DNA testing can be used to test this hypothesis further.

There are three types of DNA tests available that are used by genealogists. Mitochondrial DNA or mtDNA, is inherited, unreccombined, from the mother only. Both sons and daughters inherit mtDNA from their mothers, but only daughters pass it on to their children. For mtDNA to provide evidence a direct female line from the test taker

to the proposed ancestor must be established. Any male descendant in that line breaks the inheritance pattern and mtDNA will not provide the needed evidence. In the case of Sarah Ann Schwartz Bennett, there are 4 proposed siblings but only 2 sisters. Oldest child, Airy never married or had children.

Elizabeth Swartz Dismore who has 7 known descendants in the direct female line from youngest daughter Adeline Swartz who married Marion Bennett. None of those descendants have apparently taken a DNA test on Ancestry. And none of them appear to have a presence on Ancestry or FamilySearch. They could be contacted and asked to test. However, the results would need to be matched with a female line descendant of Sarah Ann Schwartz Bennett since the primary test takers in this research project are not direct maternal line descendants of Nancy Prather Swartz but are descendants of son Wiley Swartz. At this time, no known descendant of Sarah Ann Swartz Bennett on the direct female line has responded to requests for participation in this kind of project.

The other type of DNA tested is Y-DNA which descends, without recombination, in the unbroken male line only. Unfortunately, in this situation, while there are potential testers among the direct descendants of Abram and Wiley Swartz, Sarah Ann's male descendants inherited the Bennett Y-DNA rather than Swartz Y-DNA. For further information on mtDNA and YDNA inheritance patterns see the websites of either the International Society of Genetic Genealogy or the Shared cM Project.²

The third type of DNA test available is autosomal DNA or atDNA. atDNA is recombined DNA inherited from both parents. atDNA can provide evidence regarding, at least some of, an individual test taker's ancestry within five to seven generations (roughly 150 years) and occasionally beyond. To summarize DNA inheritance patterns – a child inherits 50% of their DNA from each parent. Due to recombination, which is random, full siblings do not necessarily inherit the same segments of atDNA from their parents – except for identical twins. Each generation "loses" some of the genetic material from earlier ancestry due to continuous recombination. Second cousins will always share at least some atDNA segments, however third cousins and beyond may or may not share segments. The amount of shared atDNA is commonly referred to as "shared centimorgans (cM)."³ By the 4th cousin relationship the amount of atDNA shared between two individuals can vary from 0 cM to roughly 30 cM.

The genetic cluster under analysis was manually created by examining Ancestry shared matches for primary test taker Heather McLeland-Wieser and her full sibling Dana McLeland.⁴ (There are additional relevant matches on MyHeritage but failure to get permissions 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 through 5th cousin atDNA analysis. Advanced analysis techniques such as segment analysis and segment triangulation are not possible for this study. Ancestry does not provide the data necessary to conduct those studies and there was a very poor response from matches who could have provided permission to use 3rd party analysis tools.

Living matches and their living ancestors are anonymized in the following charts and analysis for privacy. If 1 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. This is not a substitute for By Generation Pedigree analysis,⁵ but in combination with a geographic review to determine the likelihood of other genetic connections does provide some level of assurance

² <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2015/05/29/the-shared-cm-project/> viewed September 2023.

³ https://isogg.org/wiki/Genetics_Glossary viewed September 2023.

⁴ permission to use cM and shared match information for purposed of this study was granted by Dana McLeland 12 Feb 2023 and is in the file of the author.

⁵ By Generation analysis identifies all known ancestors and tree gaps at the generation of the 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.

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 DNA Chart the total amount of shared DNA is within the expected range as stated on the Individual Relationship Histograms of the Shared cM Project.⁶ There are three matches (notes in the notes to the chart below) where the shard 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.

Descendants of John Swartz and Nancy Prather who are DNA 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/segs 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
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

⁶ <https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4> viewed September 2023.

WS3	Wiley U. Swartz	Sarah Jane Swartz	3C	21 cM/1 seg	2C2R/3C	yes
WS4	Wiley U. Swartz	Archibald A. Swartz	3C1R	67 cM/4 seg	3C1R	no
WS5	Wiley U. Swartz	Archibald A. Swartz	2C1R	47cM/3 seg	2C1R	yes

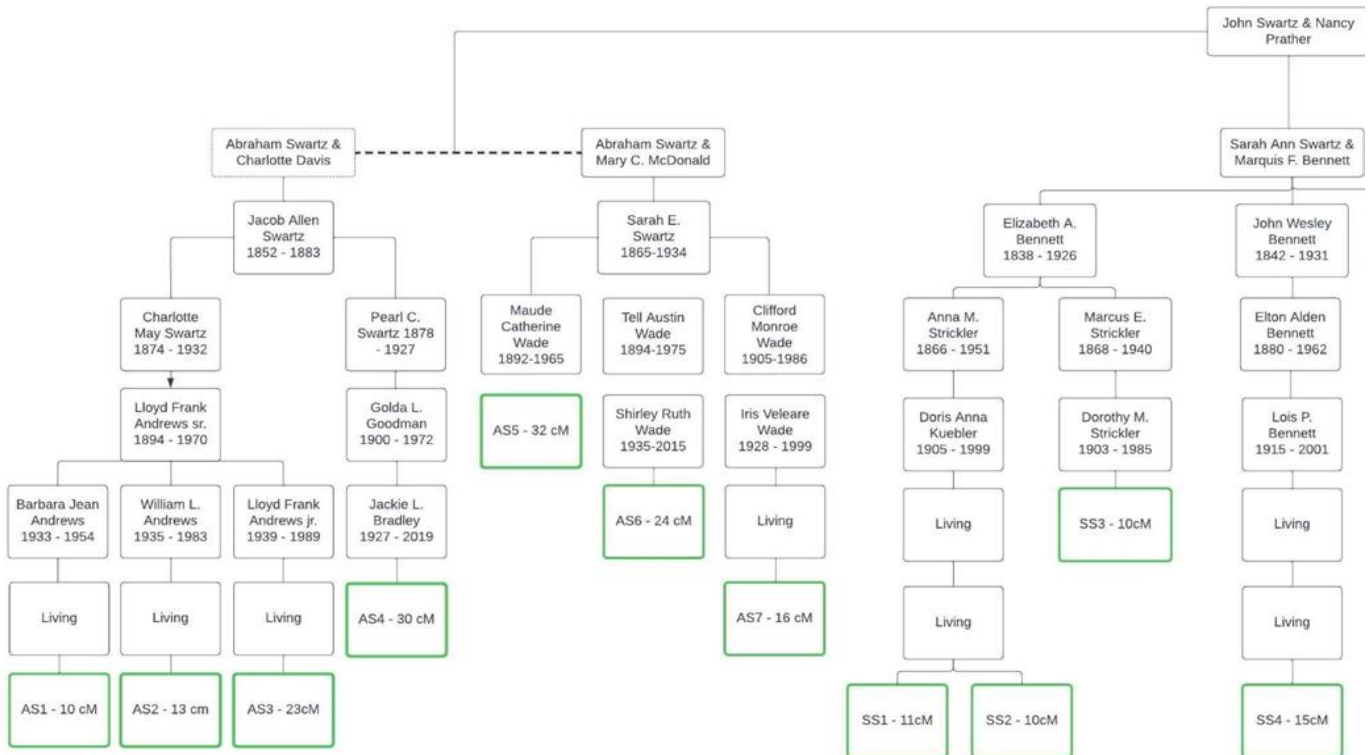
*cM range for relationships calculated using the individual relationship histogram bell curves of the Shared Cm Project March 2020.⁷

** 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.

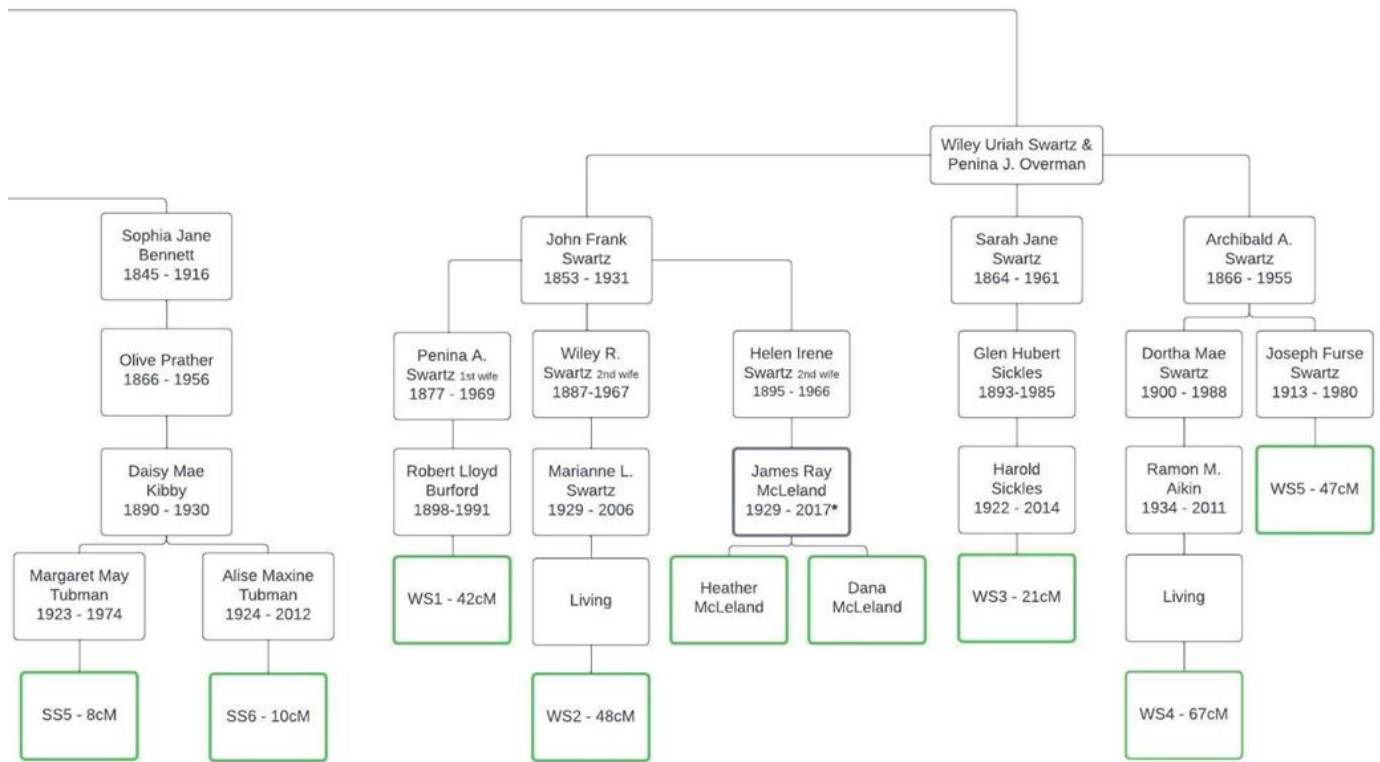
There appear to be no matches in the Ancestry.com database who are descendants of Elizabeth Swartz Dismore, however most of Elizabeth's children have no living descendants. Only son John Powell Dismore and youngest daughter Adeline Dismore Bennett have living descendants and while all lines of descent have been researched down to living individuals none of those descendants appear to have taken DNA test at either Ancestry or MyHeritage as of September 2023

The two page diagram below shows the relationships expressed in the chart above. The diagram clearly shows the two primary test-takers – documented descendants of Wiley Uriah Swartz and Penina Jane Overman – have DNA relationships with multiple test takers along 2 descendency lines from Abram Swartz (one from each marriage so clearly demonstrating the shared descent is with Abram Swartz). There are also DNA relationships with multiple test takers along 3 descendency lines from Sarah Ann Swartz Bennett. There are also DNA relationships with multiple test takers along 3 descendency lines from Wiley Uriah Swartz and Penina Jane Overman.



Due to inconsistent responses from at-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' at-DNA was tested at FamilyTreeDNA and the results uploaded to MyHeritage. James does not have a test at Ancestry. Heather McLeland-Wieser (HMW) manages all DNA tests for her father and sister across all DNA platforms.

Ancestry.com DNA Match Tree for Heather McLeland-Wieser and Dana McLeland Great-great-grandchildren of Wiley Uriah Swartz and Penina Jane Overman and 3rd and 4th great grandchildren of John Swartz and Nancy Prather. – Left hand side of chart



Ancestry.com DNA Match Tree for Heather McLeland-Wieser and Dana McLeland Great-great-grandchildren of Wiley Uriah Swartz and Penina Jane Overman and 3rd and 4th great grandchildren of John Swartz and Nancy Prather. – Right hand side of chart