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### Immigrant Project

For my project, I traced back every part of my family that I could find information on. I was able to trace a large chunk of my Dad's side back, some of my Mother's side, and some of my Aunt's family.

My Father's family is mostly from European countries. My eighth great-grandfather was Robert Buckles Sr. Robert Buckles was born May 15, 1702, in Yorkshire, England. He was the son of a wealthy English Landlord. Back in the early 1700s there was a system in England called the system of primogeniture, which is when the first-born son by law inherited his family's land. Due to this system Robert Buckles' parents gave their land to Robert's older brother. It is said that Robert's older brother was Sir Christopher Buckle, born in 1699, and the Grandson of Sir Christopher Buckle who was the Lord Mayor of London. Robert then ran away from home in 1719, because of the primogeniture system.

He made friends with a ship crew in order to obtain passage on a ship. The crew stored Robert inside a barrel that was used for sand ballast. So when officers came aboard to search the ship he would be hidden from view. As soon as the ship left the docks and started its voyage towards America, Robert was released from the barrel.

In England, it is said that the original name was Buckle and the the 's' was added onto the end once Robert reached America. Robert's ship docked in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Robert then decided to go to Bucks County, Pa, where he met and married Ann Brown.

Ann Brown was born in America. Her grandfather, Daniel Brown, was a member of the First Pennsylvania Assembly in 1683. The Brown family farm where Ann grew up is adjacent to William Penn Manor. Ann was a part of the Quaker community, and when she and Robert Buckles were married in 1727, she relinquished her faith.

Robert and Ann migrated to Berkeley County, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1727, after their marriage. They had purchased the land from the VanMetre grant of Jost Hite. The land was acquired directly or indirectly from Thomas Lord Fairfax of England who had inherited about five million acres in the new colonies from his grandfather, Lord Fairfax. The elder Fairfax, in turn, had gained the land rights from Charles II of England. The Buckles land was located a few miles from the Potomac River approximately halfway between Sheperdstown and Uvilla in Jefferson County. According to Frank Woodruff Buckles, the original cabin was located on the east side of present day Highway 230, near the point where the road intersects with Rattlesnake Run Creek. Robert and Ann are said to have built their first home in Jefferson County by a creek which runs to Rattlesnake Run Creek. The practice of building a log home over a creek was common since it provided access to water in case of prolonged Indian attacks.

It was there that when Robert and other men of the community were away with Morgan's company, a party of Indians came to the neighborhood killing and scalping as many people as they could find. The wife and children of Robert Buckles were surprised and frightened in the night but were able to escape, accidentally leaving behind a little girl in the rush to get out. The indians scalped the little girl and left her lying in the cabin. When the family returned they found her showing small signs of life and were able to get her to a doctor where she recovered, grew up and got married. The children of Robert Buckles and Ann Brown were James Buckles, born in

1732, Abraham Buckles Sr., born in 1736, Robert Buckles Jr., born in 1740, William Buckles, born in 1743, Mary Elizabeth Buckles, born in 1744, and Jane Buckles, born in 1745.

Robert Buckles, who died in 1790, and Ann Brown are both buried in the Buckles-Hendricks-Osbourn family cemetery several hundred yards east of the original home site. The cemetery contains a number of fieldstone headstones, but most of the inscriptions are not readable due to the long exposure to the weather. Other family members known to be buried in the cemetery include daughters Jane Buckles and Mary Buckles, grandson Henry Buckles, and great-grandson James A. Buckles.

Robert Buckles Sr.'s son, James Buckles (My seventh great grandfather) was born in Berkeley County, Virginia. In 1752, the Buckles moved to a place that was later called Bucklestown, Virginia, James, himself laid out the town. However the name of the town has been changed since.

In 1795, James and Sarah sold their plantation of 489 acres to Ed Beeson. James and his family arranged to go to the far west to Ohio. In the late 1700s moving west was very cheap and there was a ton of land that wasn't claimed. After putting a lot into starting Bucklestown, the Buckles probably didn't have a lot of money. By selling their land and moving westward, they had more money. They went across the mountains of Virginia to Wheeling, VA. After reaching Wheeling, the men of the family constructed large flat boats at a river's edge and on which the family loaded their belongings. They started down stream toward Cincinnati. As they continued their passage down the river, winter came. Ice covered the river and they were forced to break apart the ice to attempt to continue downstream, until warmer weather came and the ice would go with it. Due to the cold weather James Buckles became sick from exposure and died in a vacant house on the riverbank. Once the weather warmed back up and the ice melted, the rest of

the family continued floating down the river until they reached Cincinnati. They then reached their final point of destination, which is a little northeast of Cincinnati in early spring. They stopped at Centerville in the north part of Montgomery County several miles south of the present city of Dayton, Ohio.

Before James' son, John Buckles (my sixth great grandfather) left to Ohio, he married Mary Brooks, and she moved to Ohio with them. John and Mary eventually decided to leave the rest of the family to go live on their own with their children. The first settled in what became Warren County. He and Mary were two of the organizers of the Middle Run Baptist Church, in Greene County, which is next to Warren County. Then in 1828 they moved to Clark County, Ohio. There, John built what is known as the Redmound Mill almost 4 miles east of Springfield.

David Buckles (my fifth great grandfather) was born before James brought his family down to Cincinnati. David Buckles married Elizabeth Covault, and they had 12 children. Elizabeth's family can be traced all the way back to England in the 1300's, however I did not go that far back.

One of David Buckles' children was Evan Buckles (my fourth great grandfather). I couldn't find any records of Evan Buckles' migration. I was able to find a census record from 1860. In 1860, Evan Buckles was 42. He lived in Spencer, Allen, Ohio. He lived with his wife Rachel Gobel Buckles, and his children David, Mary, Elizabeth, Thomas, James, Sarah, Michael, and Francis.

John William Buckles (my third great grandfather) was Evan Buckles 6th child. He was born May 19th, 1850 in Miami County, Ohio. I wasn't able to find much information on him either. However from my research I can assume that did not live with his parents at a young age.

When he was 20, he married Melissa Ann Byford on February 2, 1870 in Olney, Illinois. John and Melissa had four children, Flora, Virgil, Timothy, and Charles.

Timothy Buckles (my great great grandfather) was born in Richland, Illinois on December 28, 1879. Timothy Socrates Buckles married Margaret Dorothea Rowland in 1904 and they had five children, Helen, John, Louis, Timothy, and Pauline. Timothy and Margaret moved to Oklahoma. Timothy died of a heart attack in 1959 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Timothy's daughter Helen Marie Buckles was born February 12, 1905 in Kansas. She married William Henry Bates in 1925. When Timothy moved to Oklahoma, sometime after 1927, Most of the family came with them. William and Helen had three kids, Catherine, Margaret (my great grandmother) , and Mary.

Margaret was born in 1927 in Kansas, and moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. She married Andrew Jackson Floyd, and they had five children. Ellen, Andrew, Mary Lou, David, and William. I know from stories passed down, that Andrew Jackson Floyd's ancestors include William Henry Floyd, a signer of the Declaration of Independence (New York). It is also said, that A. J. Floyd is also related to Abraham Lincoln through marriage. I tried to work my way up where that would have happened, but I couldn't find the links up to William Henry Floyd to do so. Andrew Jackson died in 2007, in Oklahoma, and Margaret is still living in Oklahoma today.

Margaret's daughter Ellen is my grandmother. She had three children, marrying multiple times. At one point she married Charles Ray Lofton, and had my father Charles Edward Lofton in 1972 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After she divorced Charles Ray Lofton, she married Raymond Steele. Raymond was a successful food manager for colleges, this caused them to move around a lot. My dad would start at a new school usually about twice a year. Once they moved to Oregon he stayed there for about two years. Due to some problems between Ellen and Raymond, they

also got divorced. Ellen, Charles, and Amie (Ellen and Raymond's daughter) moved back to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

When Charles was a freshman in high school, his mom and step dad decided to move to Texas. Instead of going with them, he stayed behind and lived with Margaret and Andrew Jackson Floyd. Andrew Jackson Floyd, had served in the military as a CB in World War II. Andrew Jackson Floyd influenced Charles to join the Navy.

After a nine month cruise on the USS America, he took a leave and broke his ankle. After his doctor cleared him, he came to the Naval Base in Philadelphia in 1993. Where he met my mother Judy Crespi-Lofton. they were married in 1997. They lived in Philadelphia for a while, before Judy got a job in Conshohocken. So they moved to a small house and had their first two children, Joseph Lofton and Abigail Lofton. When they were expecting their third child, they wanted to move to a bigger house in a better school district. So they move to Skippack, Pennsylvania. That is how my family got from England in 1702, to Pennsylvania 2015.

However, I have more branches of the Buckles family in which I was able to trace back to other countries. Mike Rowland was born in Ireland in 1815. He married Ellen McDonnell, who was also born around 1815. They were married, before leaving Ireland in 1946 and going to Canada. Many Irish people left Ireland at this time. Many of the people lived on potatoes and buttermilk. In 1845, a disease was found in potatoes. However they weren't able to find what was wrong with the potatoes. Ireland was faced with famine. Relief work was provided by the prime minister of Britain, to provide work for the starving. Hundreds of thousands of people died from disease because of their weakened state. This caused many people to leave the country including Mike and Ellen. On the ship to North America, Ellen gave birth to William Rowland. They came to Killaloe, Canada (near Ottawa) to a farm.

William grew up in Canada and married Bridget Ryan, who had come from Tipperary, Ireland to Toronto, Canada, for the same reasons. William and Bridget had five children, one of them was Margaret Dorothea Rowland, who married Timothy Buckles, and the story continues from there above.

This is all the information I was able to find tracing back to other countries on my Dad's side of the family. I was also able to find information on my mother's side of the family as well.

My mother Judy Crespi was born and raised in New Jersey, and then went to college at University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Her parents were Joan and Irving Crespi and she had a brother Bob Crespi. Joan was a single child of Regina Raike and Robert Streifling. Robert Streifling was born in Indiana, in 1894. Regina was born in Chicago. Her father Louie Raike migrated to the United States from Riga, Latvia at the age of 15. Louie left Latvia alone, to avoid serving in Czar's army. He then walked from New York to Buffalo selling pots and pans to people. Louie's wife was Fannie. Fannie was from Kalamazoo, Michigan.

My mother's Father was Irving Crespi, and his Parents came to the US through Ellis Island. His father's name was Joseph Crespi. Joseph's ancestors were born in Spain. My mother's side of the family is Jewish, so in 1492, when the Spanish Inquisition started, his family moved to Turkey. During the Spanish Inquisition people were killed if they weren't Catholic and worshipped the Pope. The options of the people were to convert religions, leave to another country, or die in Spain. Many Jews left Spain at this time, and Turkey was taking in refugees. In 1919 the Ottoman empire began to fall apart and Turkey split away. Turkey officially gained independence in 1920. The Ottoman government signed a treaty with Allies, so that they covered part of modern day Turkey, still giving most of the control to the Ottoman government, this annoyed Turkish Revolutionaries, who began armed campaigns against the Allies and Ottoman

forces. Due to all this violence in Turkey, my ancestors left Turkey. Their names were Joseph and Esther Crespi. They came to America through Ellis Island and then settled in New York City. Joseph and Irving had a daughter Mary and then had Irving. Irving grew up in the Bronx and was raised with his cousin Simone who escaped the Nazis after her family was murdered.

My grandmother Joan Streifling was born in Detroit, Michigan. She moved to New York and started working for Esquire Magazine. Joan and Irving met in New York and got married. Then Irving's work got relocated to Princeton, New Jersey, where my mother was raised until she left to go to college in Philadelphia.

Judy's brother Bob married Simone Rubinsky and they had two children Ian and Rebecca. My Aunt also shared some of her family history with me. Ruth Grunfeld (Simone's grandmother) lived in Germany and at the beginning of Hitler's reign. She married Sigmund Landes in Germany and left in 1933 to avoid Hitler. She and her newlywed husband went to Italy to stay with one of Sigmund's friends. Then Hitler made connections with Benito Mussolini, when this happened a list was given out to Sigmund's friend's friend, warning Sigmund and Ruth that in the morning he would have to take them to a concentration camp. That night Ruth and Sigmund left Italy and went to Switzerland. They stayed in Switzerland trying to find a way to the United States of America. They couldn't find a way to get here so instead they went to Cuba after living in Switzerland for 6 months. They lived in Cuba for six years, where Ruth was a seamstress before coming to the US. Since they emigrated to the United States they had to be sponsored and were sponsored by the Shapiro family. (where Ada was born) They first lived in a 1 room per Family in an apartment with multiple families. After a few years they were able to move out and buy their own apartment in New York for just their family.



Marguret (Ruth's Mom) lived in Germany with her daughter Greta and her husband Herman. After Ruth left with Sigmund, they tried to flee Germany and went to Brussels, Belgium, where they were captured by Nazis and brought to a concentration camp. Both Greta and Sigmund died in the camps. Marguret went to America to live with Ruth, Sigmund, and Ada. Ada then married Stephen Rubinski and had Simone and Lauren.

Sigmund's brother also fled from Germany in the early 1930s, and went to China, where he was married. When Mao Zedong took away property from foreigners he and his wife moved to Sydney, Australia.

Since both my parents moved from Conshohocken to Skippack, Pennsylvania I have been at PVSD and have lived here since 2002. Thanks to all the help from my relatives, I was able to compile all this information. There is of course more people I didn't mention, because I don't know of them, but I'm interested in continuing my research to find out more about my family roots.

My process in finding information started out really easily, because I have a huge pile of information that was put together by my great great aunt Cathy. Once I got about three generations back, it started to become more difficult to find the information I was looking for. Since Cathy has passed away, I had a hard time paging through hundreds of papers trying to understand the family history on just one side of my family. Most of the information was of one branch with a little here and there of other branches, that's why there was a lot of information on one person and then a single paragraph on an entire person's life. Unlike many people who probably did this project, I had too much information, where others were struggling to find information. I also found it very interesting to know that I am related to Frank Buckles, who was the last surviving WWI veteran from the U.S. I also liked learning how my family came to

America, since before I just knew I was from all over, and not much else. I also found out that the Buckles side of my family has been working on family history for years, and I am glad to be a part of the Facebook group with over 300 members. Learning about when my family came into America, and how they dealt with all the problems that have occurred in America since the 1700s, was really interesting. I had a lot of fun with this project and putting it together, and plan on continuing to expand my family tree knowledge.

THE END