



THE ANCESTRY OF
JOHN JACOB
DOE

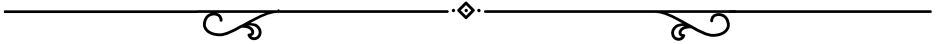


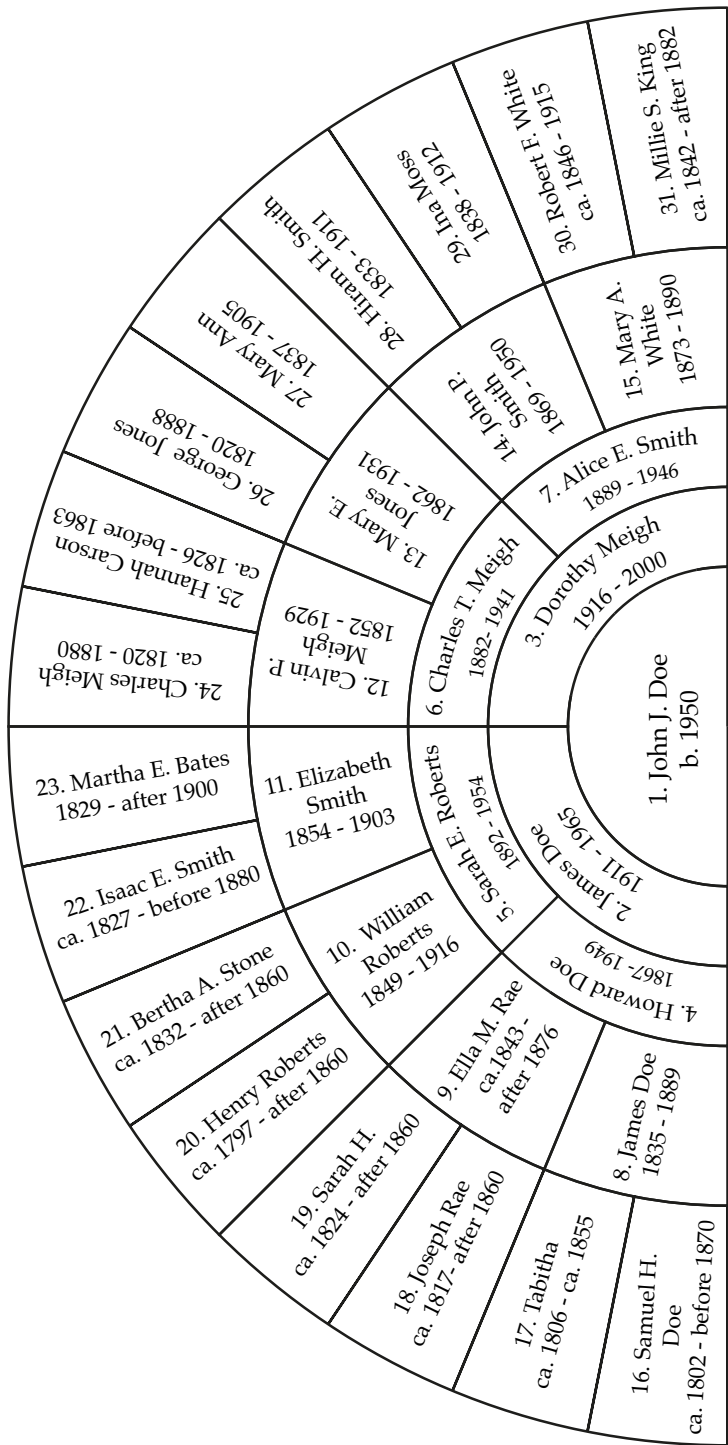


THE ANCESTRY OF

JOHN JACOB DOE

Born 18 May 1946 in Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York







NOTES



This book uses the Ahnentafel style numbering system. The father of any individual is identified by taking the individual's number and multiplying by two. The mother of the individual is found by taking the individual's number, multiplying by two and adding one. Males in each subsequent generation are always even numbers, and the women are always odd. To find John's father, you would take his number 1 and multiply by two, making James Doe number 2. Adding one to this number makes Dorothy Meigh number 3.

When known, information about the children of each ancestor is listed. However, it is important to note that these lists may not always be complete. The + symbol next to a child's name indicates that it is a direct ancestor listed in the previous generation.

10. WILLIAM ROBERTS

William was born circa 1828 in Jefferson County, New York. He was probably the son of Sally Roberts, born circa 1787 in Rhode Island. William and his mother left Jefferson County to move to Granby, Oswego County, New York in 1847.¹

By 1850, at the age of 21, he had settled in Granby. He was married to his wife, Jane, and they had two young sons, Frederick and Willard.² On 11 April 1853, William purchased a parcel of land in the town of Granby from Asa and Polly Phillips. On that same day, a man named Stephen Roberts also acquired land from the Phillips family, and it is possible that he was William's brother.³

By 1855, William was working as a laborer and he lived with his wife, mother, and four young children.⁴ Five years later he was working as a Boatman, and he and Jane had another daughter named Cora.⁵ On 18 March 1865, at the age of 37, he enlisted in Oswego to join the Union army in the Civil War. He was a private in Company I of the 193 Infantry Regiment. He had served for six months before he deserted his regiment at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. He was described as 5'7", a fair complexion, with blue eyes and brown hair.⁶

After his service in the Civil War, he returned to Granby and began working in a factory. By 1875, he and four of his children were all working different jobs at the local woolen mill.⁷ Between 1875 and 1880, William and his wife Jane separated but remained married. In 1880, William was living with his son Frederick in Fulton. The 1880 Federal Census incorrectly recorded his birthplace as Rhode Island, but from other records it seems likely that his mother was born there.⁸

On the night of 27 November 1897, William went missing. In the days following, his son and a local detective searched for William, but they were unable to find him. Three months later, on 9 February, a resident found a body lodged under Soff's Flour and Feed Mill in Fulton. The body was decomposed, however, the clothing seemed to match the outfit William was wearing the night he disappeared. The newspaper account written in the *Oswego Daily Times* speculated that William was drunk the night he went missing, and as he was walking along the towpath of the canal, he fell into the water. The article further stated that he had not been living with his family for the past 15 years and that he was most recently staying at Herman Hulet's coal shed office.⁹

REFERENCES

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3. William Roberts, deed, *New York Land Records, 1630-1975*, database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1961-33165-21827-82?cc=2078654> : accessed 10 January 2016), citing Oswego county courthouse, New York. Book: 61, Page: 636-637.
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8. William Roberts, census record, *1880 United States Federal Census*, database, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 January 2016) citing *U. S. Federal Population Census, 1880*. (NARA microfilm publication Series T9). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D. C.
9. "Man Found in Race-Way" *Oswego Daily Times*, (Oswego, New York) Friday, February 11th, 1898, *Old Fulton History* (www.fultonhistory.com accessed 11 January 2016) Pg. 4.