

Genetic Genealogy and Libraries

Regina Fitzpatrick, Genealogy Librarian

New Jersey State Library

October 22, 2019

How I tried to improve online access to information on genetic genealogy

- I was prompted to put a resource guide on genetic genealogy together by a phone call I received from a patron who'd just gotten her and her father's test results back. It turned out his father was not his biological father, and she was going to have to tell him. What should she do?
- Based on the number of news articles and consumer report comparisons about genetic genealogy and testing, I was pretty confident, I'd find what I was looking for
- I was looking for online resources from reputable organizations: companies who offered tests, genealogy associations, colleges and universities, medical associations
- I found some of the information I was looking for on company pages dealing with FAQ and troubleshooting but little else
- I was hoping there would specifically be information/support for those who got unexpected results like my patron above. (There wasn't.)
- Based on the information I found, I did not feel confident moving forward in building a resource guide.

What I currently have to work with

- 18,000 item Genealogy Collection, which is open to anyone who would like to come and research.
- Includes Primary Documents (City Directories and Newspapers) and published books
- Ancestry Library, HeritageQuest, and NewsBank
- We are set up to help researchers who are looking for people with names
- Many Researchers with New Jersey ancestors are disappointed by how few NJ records are available on Ancestry. You have to go (yes, physically go in many cases) to our next door neighbor the New Jersey State Archives to access many New Jersey records collections, including Birth, Marriage, and Death records.

State of New Jersey—Bureau of Vital Statistics
CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH

1 FULL NAME OF DECEASED: *W. C. ...*

2 SEX: *Male*

3 DATE OF BIRTH: *January 2, 1861*

4 PLACE OF BIRTH: *London, England*

5 OCCUPATION: *Not known*

6 PLACE OF DEATH: *London, England*

7 DATE OF DEATH: *Jan 24, 1918*

8 CAUSE OF DEATH: *General debility*

9 MANNER OF DEATH: *Not known*

10 SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR: *W. C. ...*

11 SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN: *W. C. ...*

12 SIGNATURE OF MINISTER: *W. C. ...*

13 SIGNATURE OF CORONER: *W. C. ...*

14 SIGNATURE OF JURY: *W. C. ...*

15 SIGNATURE OF DEPUTY REGISTRAR: *W. C. ...*

16 SIGNATURE OF CLERK: *W. C. ...*

17 SIGNATURE OF ASSISTANT CLERK: *W. C. ...*

18 SIGNATURE OF ASSISTANT CLERK: *W. C. ...*

19 SIGNATURE OF ASSISTANT CLERK: *W. C. ...*

20 SIGNATURE OF ASSISTANT CLERK: *W. C. ...*

More about State Library Resources



- The most heavily used part of our book collection are our family histories, which make up about a third of the collection.
- Family Histories are best looked up via the library catalog, where researchers can search remotely.
- State Library has over 1000 New Jersey city directories. These are great location tracking tools for non-census years. City Directories have their own catalog in .pdf format, which can be saved and downloaded.
- Genealogy and Newspaper Research Guides: Genealogy covers NJ Genealogy records and repositories. Newspaper has a complete list of our newspaper holdings online and link to Digital Historic Newspaper guide.
- If you come in person to the library, you can access electronic databases such as Ancestry and NewsBank

How I (a Librarian) can help patrons with Genetic Genealogy issues

- I can help patrons find FAQ resources or the technical services department of their testing company
- I can direct patrons to consumer reports and dozens of articles comparing various DNA tests, including those published on company websites
- Put patrons in touch with a professional genealogist
- If someone is interested in the science behind genetic genealogy, I can direct them to any scholarly articles, or company pages explaining what/how the tests work.
- If someone has a surprise result and needs to process/is unsure what to do and the ramifications, I can direct them to books about having difficult conversations or interpersonal relationships. I can also direct them to local therapists or a professional genealogists

What I (a Librarian) can't do

- Advise patrons how to handle difficult news/surprises in their DNA results (this falls under medical/legal advice at a library)
- Help people set up/manage their profile on a company website
- Troubleshoot technical difficulties with particular sites or answer technical questions about sites

Summary



As a Reference Librarian, I can connect people with resources. In the realm of genetic genealogy, this includes: specific collection resources we have at the library (historical research resources, and possibly books to help with difficult family situations). I can't provide technical services, research services, or advice or interpretation on genetic results.

Beyond the Pie Chart

Pairing DNA Results with Genealogy Research

Seth J. Bookey

© Seth J. Bookey 2019

The DNA of DNA Matches

- The three types of DNA testing available from the commercial sites are:

Source: Adoption and DNA, “Recommended Tests,” accessed June 4, 2019 | <https://adoptiondna.blogspot.com/p/recommended-tests.html?fbclid=IwAR2lfGBKwcUpleqazgN697L1KQdkcBQ1wE1C10vYQ-TAXjeaEcwtQAeAGUk>

The DNA of DNA Matches

- The three types of DNA testing available from the commercial sites are:
 - 1) Autosomal: This tests a range of your DNA from both sides of your family, going back about 150-200 years.

Source: Adoption and DNA, "Recommended Tests," accessed June 4, 2019 |
<https://adoptiondna.blogspot.com/p/recommended-tests.html?fbclid=IwAR2lfGBKwcUpleqazgN697L1KQdkcBQ1wE1C10vYQ-TAXjeaEcwtQAeAGUk>

The DNA of DNA Matches

- The three types of DNA testing available from the commercial sites are:
 - 1) Autosomal: This tests a range of your DNA from both sides of your family, going back about 150-200 years.
 - 2) Y DNA: This tests your paternal line. This test works best for men seeking paternity answers.

Source: Adoption and DNA, "Recommended Tests," accessed June 4, 2019 | <https://adoptiondna.blogspot.com/p/recommended-tests.html?fbclid=IwAR2IfGBKwcUpleqazgN697L1KQdkcBQ1wE1C10vYQ-TAXjeaEcwtQAeAGUk>

The DNA of DNA Matches

- The three types of DNA testing available from the commercial sites are:
 - 1) Autosomal: This tests a range of your DNA from both sides of your family, going back about 150-200 years.
 - 2) Y DNA: This tests your paternal line. This test works best for men seeking paternity answers.
 - 3) Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA): This tests the mother's line but is not considered genealogically informative and women are advised to use autosomal DNA testing.

Source: Adoption and DNA, "Recommended Tests," accessed June 4, 2019 | <https://adoptiondna.blogspot.com/p/recommended-tests.html?fbclid=IwAR2IfGBKwcUpleqazgN697L1KQdkcBQ1wE1C10vYQ-TAXjeaEcwtQAeAGUk>

The DNA of DNA Matches

When you get your DNA results, you will see two things along with your matches.

- One is **Shared DNA Segments**
- The other is **centiMorgans**.

The DNA of DNA Matches

Shared DNA Segments

- This will show the number of segments that are identical between you and one of your matches.
- The longer the shared segments are, the more likely it was inherited from a common ancestor.

Source: MyHeritage

The DNA of DNA Matches

Shared DNA Segments



The DNA of DNA Matches

Shared DNA Segments

- All 22 pairs of chromosomes equal 7000 centiMorgans.
- Half come from each parent.
- When looking at matches, the relationships fall into ranges of centiMorgans, which are the distance measured between the SNPs in your chromosomes.

Source: MyHeritage

The DNA of DNA Matches

What are centiMorgans?

When you look at the DNA matches, you will see an estimate relationship, and a note of how much DNA you share with your match. This is measured in centiMorgans (cM), and the more cM you have in common, the closer the relationship.

Source: MyHeritage

The DNA of DNA Matches

Relationship Ranges in cM

You can use the following range of average values as a reference for the length of shared segments between you and your relatives:

Identical twin: 7000cM

Parents: 3350 - 3600 cM

Full siblings: 2300 - 2900cM

Grandparents and aunts/uncles: 1300 - 2200cM

First cousins: 600 - 1200cM

Source: MyHeritage

DNA Testing Companies

Four DNA tests with genealogical tie-ins:

- 1) Ancestry DNA: Uses autosomal testing
- 2) MyHeritage DNA: Uses autosomal testing
- 3) 23andme.com: Uses autosomal testing
- 4) Family Tree DNA: Use mtDNA and Y DNA tests.

Picking the Right DNA Test

- Reasons for picking particular tests:
 - 1) Pricing

Picking the Right DNA Test

- Reasons for picking particular tests:
 - 1) Pricing
 - 2) Connection to genealogical resources

Picking the Right DNA Test

- Reasons for picking particular tests:
 - 1) Pricing
 - 2) Connection to genealogical resources
 - 3) Autosomal vs. Y and mtDNA testing

Picking the Right DNA Test

- Reasons for picking particular tests:
 - 1) Pricing
 - 2) Connection to genealogical resources
 - 3) Autosomal vs. Y and mtDNA testing
 - 4) Number of participants tested

Picking the Right DNA Test

- Reasons for picking particular tests:
 - 1) Pricing
 - 2) Connection to genealogical resources
 - 3) Autosomal vs. Y and mtDNA testing
 - 4) Number of participants tested
 - 5) High-end technical examination of DNA

Picking the Right DNA Test

- Reasons for picking particular tests:
 - 1) Pricing
 - 2) Connection to genealogical resources
 - 3) Autosomal vs. Y and mtDNA testing
 - 4) Number of participants tested
 - 5) High-end technical examination of DNA
- For more info look at this comparison chart:
<https://bit.ly/2QMhik0>

Finding Family

- Your DNA matches will show you all the people who have tested using that service who are related to you genetically.



Finding Family

- Your DNA matches will show you all the people who have tested using that service who are related to you genetically.
- The likelihood is that you will see a lot of matches for people you have never heard of, and many of them third or fourth or more distant cousin matches.

Finding Family

- Your DNA matches will show you all the people who have tested using that service who are related to you genetically.
- The likelihood is that you will see a lot of matches for people you have never heard of, and many of them third or fourth or more distant cousin matches.
- You can search your matches for common surnames or common geographical locations.

Finding Locations

- You might know that you are from a particular country of origin, but the test results alone tend to give a larger area, not town-level matches.
- You can search your matches to see who is from the same town as your ancestors.
- If your matches have public trees, you can look at their trees to see which towns their ancestors came from.

Finding Birth Families

Thanks to DNA, adoptees have been able to locate their birth families.

This has also led to some unintended surprises for people who are discovering unknown siblings, or “nonpaternal events.”

Meaning, your father is not who you thought he was.

Finding Birth Families

You can build a mirror tree based on what you do know about your DNA matches and how they are related to you. In general, second-cousin matches are much easier to trace than third- or fourth-cousin matches.

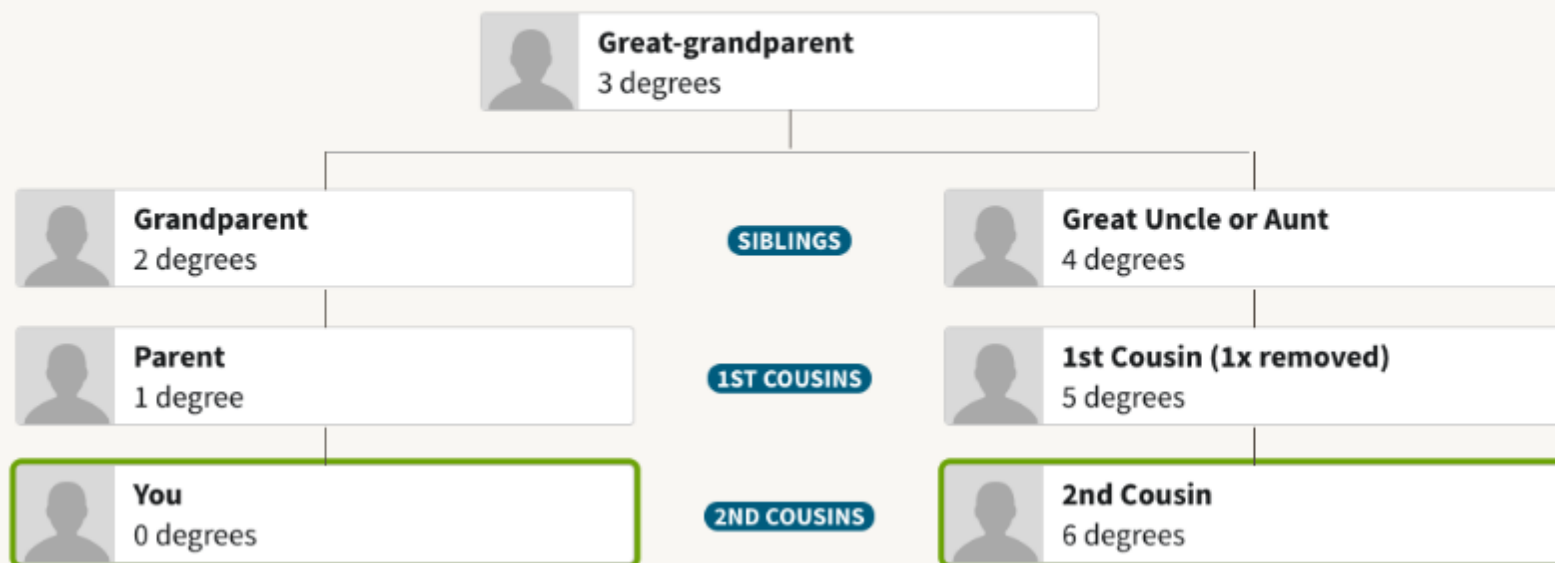
To figure out your family tree, you need to understand who the common ancestor is.

If you are first cousins, your common ancestor is one of your two pairs of grandparents.

Finding Birth Families

2nd Cousins

2nd Cousins share your great grandparents



If you are second cousins, your common ancestor is one of your four pairs of great-grandparents.

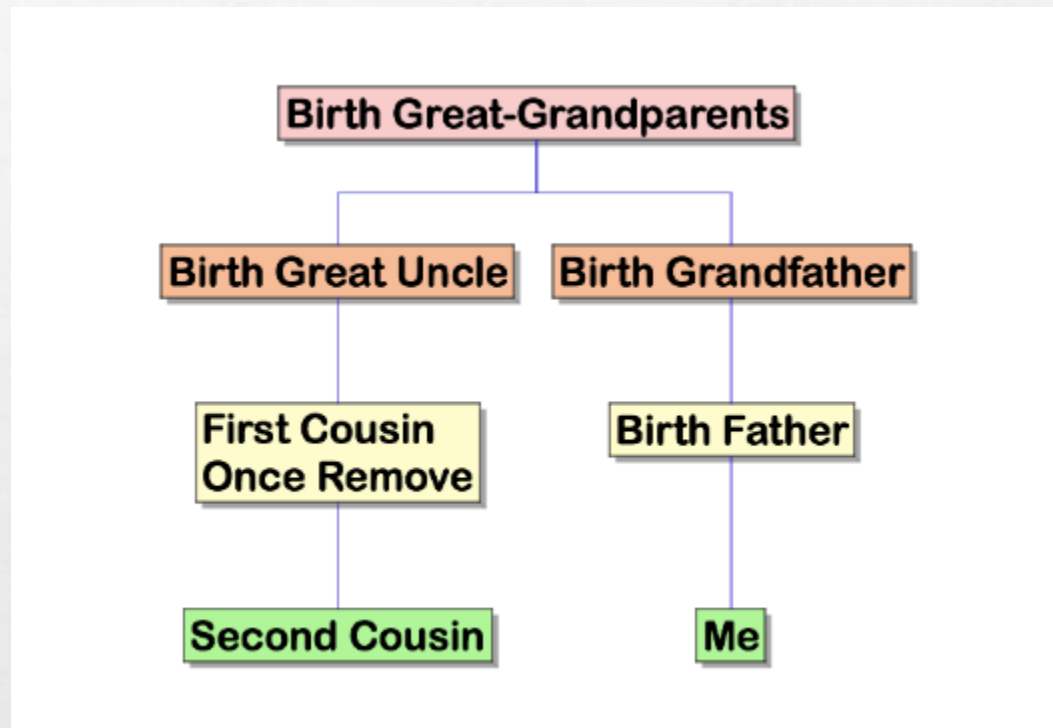
Finding Birth Families

In the case of both of my birth families (maternal and paternal), I figured out my connections by researching the ancestry of my second-cousin matches.

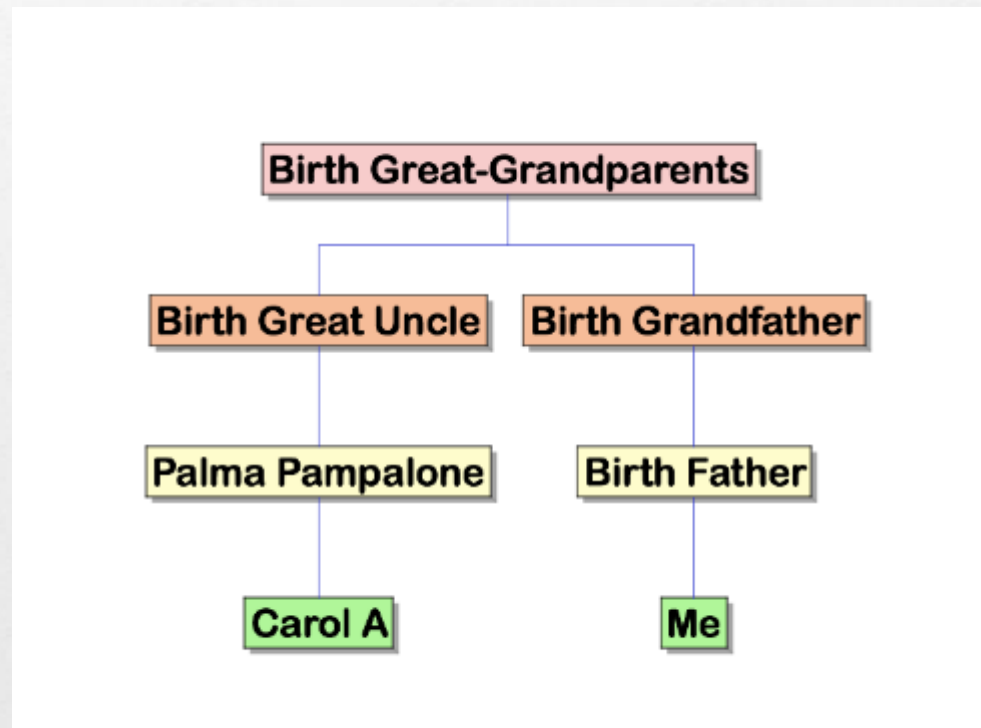
Having second-cousin matches meant that finding my birth parents' parents and grandparents would be easier since they would be in vital records and census records available to the public.

Finding a great-grandparent in the last 150 years is not as hard as it might seem.

Building a Mirror Tree



Building a Mirror Tree



Building a Mirror Tree

to the Honorable the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of New York:
VITO PAMPALONE

The petition of _____

First. My place of residence is _____ **309 Sackett St., Brooklyn, NY** _____
(Give number, street, city, county, State, and country)

Second. My occupation is _____ **candy maker** _____

Third. I was born on the _____ **26** day of _____ **July**, anno Domini 1____
_____ **Naples, Italy**

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from _____
_____ **909** and arrived in the United States, at the port of _____ **New**
_____ **909**, on the vessel _____ **Unknown** _____
(If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the mode of arrival should be stated)

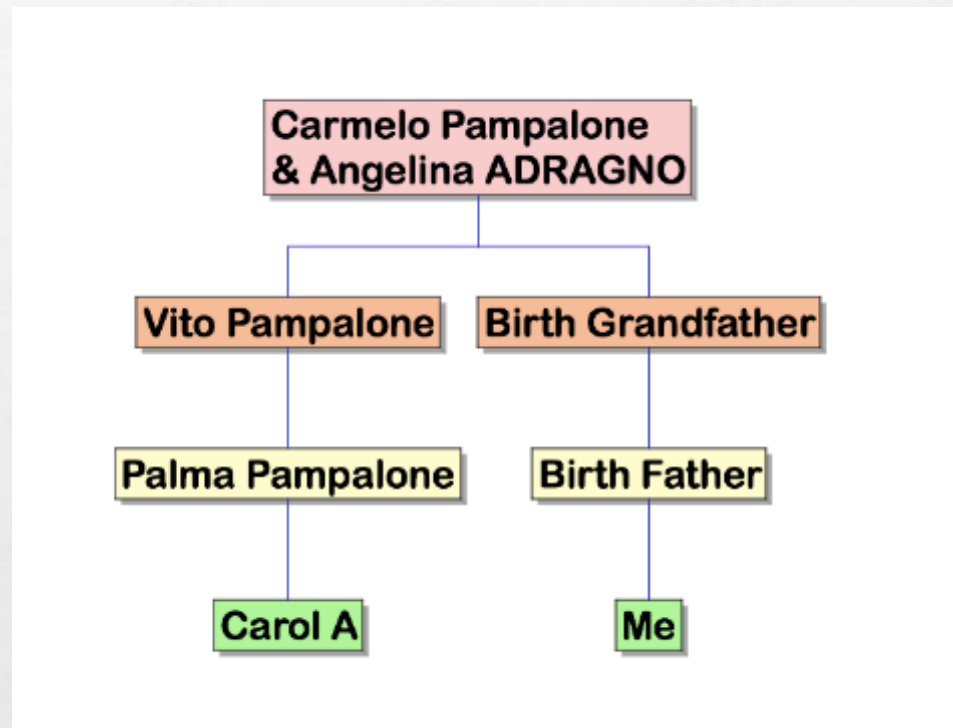
Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the _____ **25**
_____ **Brooklyn, NY** _____, in the _____ **Suprem**

Sixth. I am _____ ~~---~~ **married**. My wife's name is _____ **Santa** _____;
_____ **Brooklyn, NY, USA** _____, and now resides at _____ **wi**

_____ **4** children, and the name, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each

Angelina,	born September 2, 1920)	
Carmine,	" December 7, 1921)	
Sadie,	" September 4, 1922)	Brooklyn, NY., an
Palma,	" September 1, 1924)	

Building a Mirror Tree



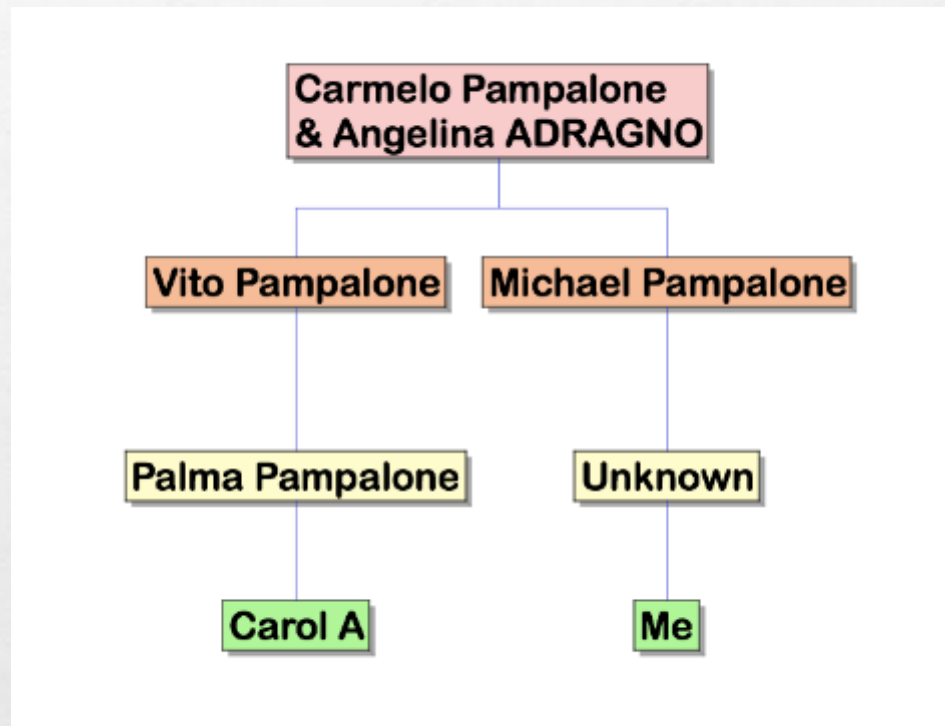
Building a Mirror Tree

1910 Census

Bamboloni	Carmel.	Head	M	W.	49	M	20
—	Angolino	Wife	F	W.	42	M	20
—	James	Son	M	W.	12	S.	
—	Nito	Son	M	W.	9	S	
—	Michael	Son	M	W.	6	S.	
—	Josaphina	daughter	F	W.	4	S.	
—	Palma	daughter	F	W.	20	S.	
—	Narito	Son	M	W.	16	S.	

Building a Mirror Tree

1910 Census



Building a Mirror Tree

1930

Pampalone	Cornelia	head '0 R	M	W	60	m	1906	al
—	Angelina	wife	F	W	58	m	1909	al
—	Mike	son	M	W	16	S	1905	al
—	Josephine	daughter	F	W	13	S	1909	al

Building a Mirror Tree

77-2-12m-12m-5-6-150.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
fb **PETITION FOR CITIZENSHIP** No. 194666

U S District Court of Eastern District of NY at Brooklyn, NY
Michael Pampalone

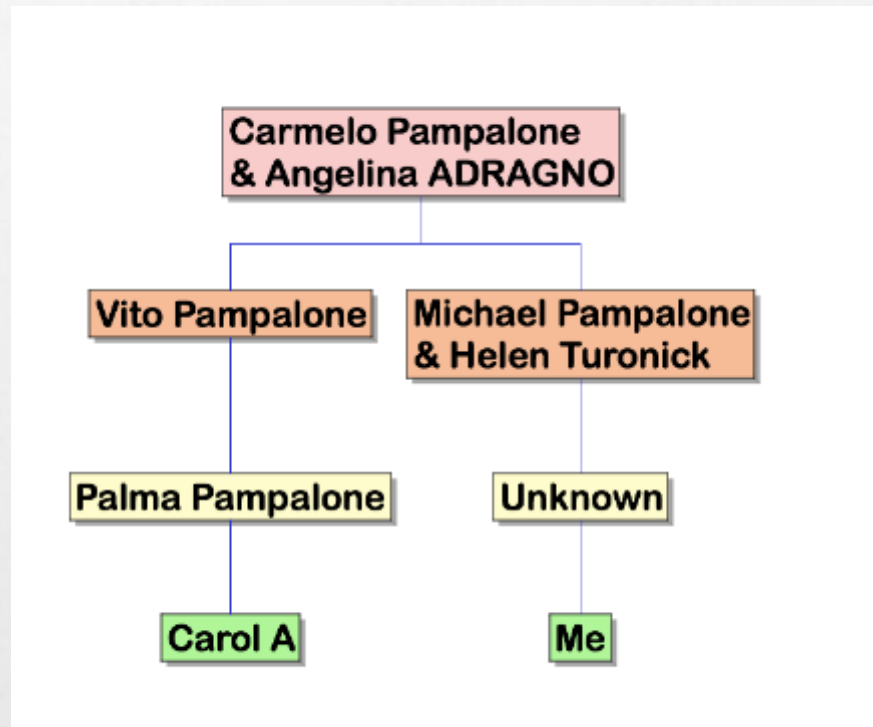
residence is 112 Dean Street, Brooklyn, NY (2) My occupation is chauffeur
Castellamare, Italy on February 6, 1904 My race is So. Italian

Application to become a citizen of the United States on July 15, 1927 in the U S District
Southern District at Brooklyn, NY

Married. The name of my wife or husband is Helen
January 4, 1934 at Brooklyn, NY
New York, NY on Brooklyn, Oct. 18, 1912; he was
112 Dean Street, Brooklyn, NY for permanent residence therein, and now
I have 1 child, and the name, date,
place of residence of each of said children are as follows: Carmelo, April 25, 1934,
Brooklyn, resides, 112 Dean Street, Brooklyn, NY

Place of birth was Castellamare, Italy I emigrated to the United States of
Palermo, Italy My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States
New York, under the name of Michele Pampalone
December 3, 1909 on the vessel Germania
of my arrival attached hereto.

Building a Mirror Tree

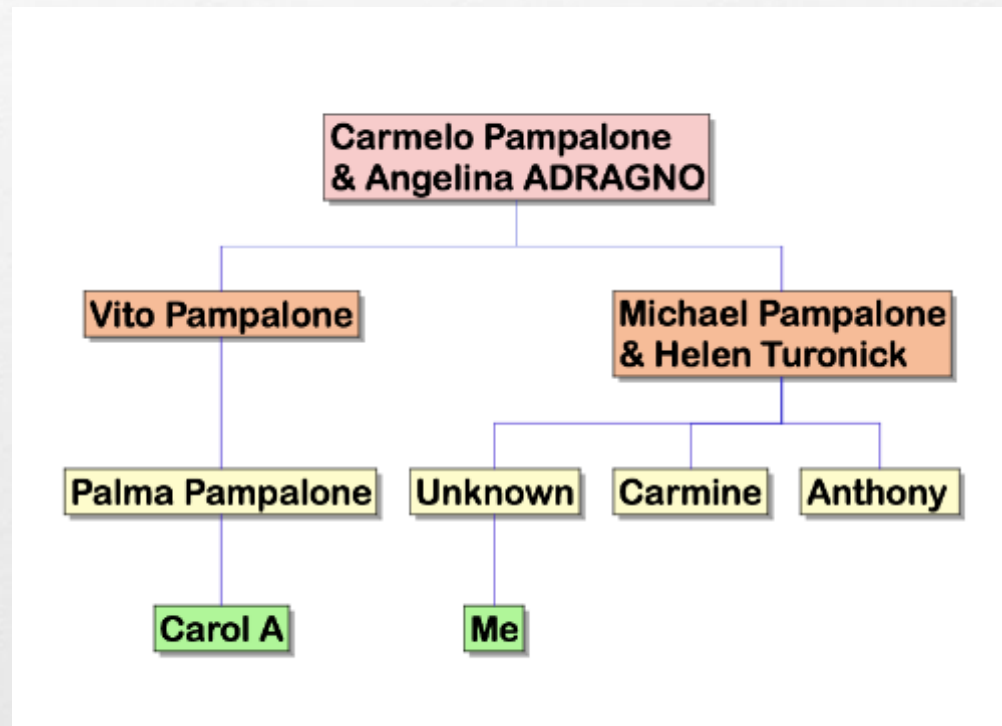


Building a Mirror Tree

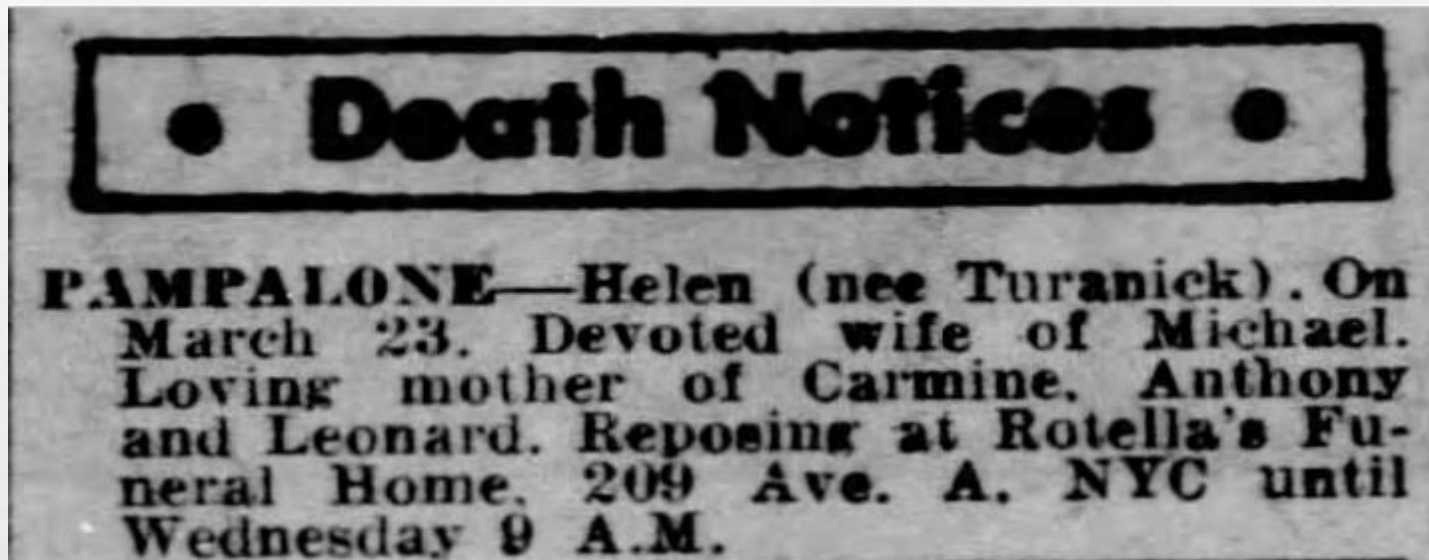
1940

Sampaloni, Michael	Head	M	W	36	M	70	8	Haley
— Helen	Wife	M	W	28	M	70	8	New York
— Carmine	Son	M	W	6	S	70	1	New York
— Anthony	Son	M	W	2	S	70	0	New York

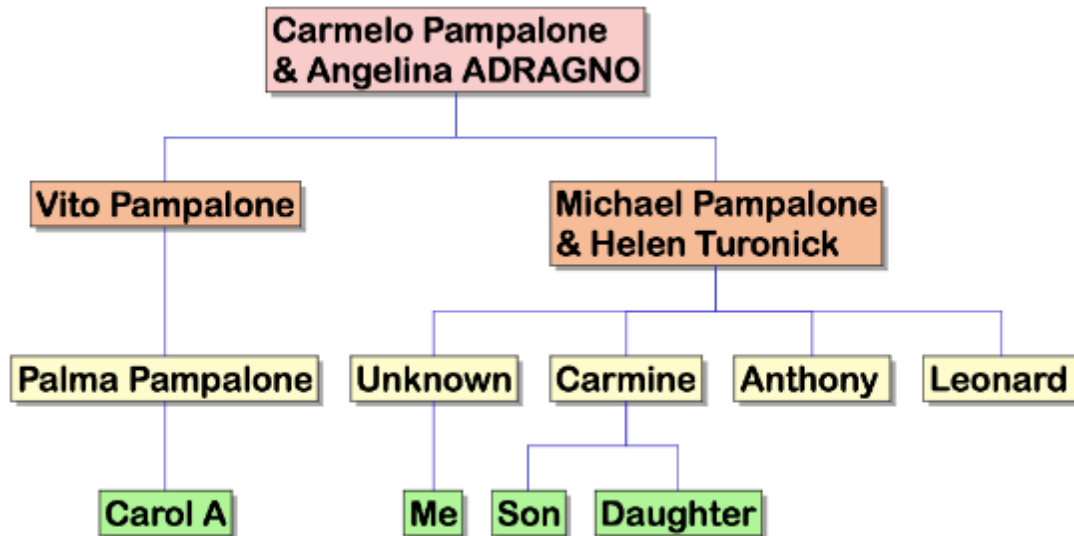
Building a Mirror Tree



Building a Mirror Tree



Building a Mirror Tree



Resources

- As a librarian you might not get a lot of genealogy and family history questions, but there are many free resources available to you.
- Consider doing even a little research into your own family history to understand how databases work, and how genealogical records help DNA results connect people to their matches using the paper trail.
- If general or specific genealogy is of interest to you, you can follow a podcast and listen to it in the car, or subscribe to a Facebook group.

Resources

Genealogy Databases

- Ancestry and MyHeritage both have library editions.
- HeritageQuest is a library-based product available through ProQuest.
- Newspapers.com has a library edition available via ProQuest.
- Look at which Historical Newspaper collections are available in your library's set of databases.
- Newspaper articles and birth/death/marriage notices often have information you will not find in the official vital records.
- FamilySearch is a major free database. See Cyndi's List (cyndislist.com) for more information on free genealogy databases.

Resources

Magazines, Journals, and Blogs

- Take a look at Cyndi's List (cyndislist.com/magazines) for links to journals, magazines, blogs, newsletters, and mailing lists, plus information about PERSI—the Periodical Source Index for genealogy.

Genealogy Podcasts

- [Genealogy Gems](#) hosted by Lisa Louise Cooke.
- [The Genealogy Guys and Genealogy Connections](#) hosted by Drew Smith and George Morgan.
- [Family Tree Magazine](#) (most recent episode from March 2019)
- [DNA Today](#)

Resources

Facebook DNA Groups

- [AncestryDNA Matching](#)
- [DNA Detectives](#) (affiliated with Cece Moore)
- [DNA Surprise Support Group](#)
- [DNA Testing Adviser](#)

Facebook Genealogy Groups

- [Genealogy Squad](#)—created a group of genealogy and DNA experts.
- [Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness](#)
- [Genealogical Translations](#)
- Also, search Facebook for the words Genealogy and the name of a locale or ethnic group to find people with similar research interests.

The End

Thank You! We're happy to answer any questions.

- Regina Fitzpatrick rfitzpatrick@njstatelib.org
- Seth Bookey sbookey@gmail.com