

I found some interesting genealogical information. You remember how Grandma Gindlesperger said about her father being John Ferguson? Well, I think I found him, but I'd like your opinion.

Grandma G, in her life story she wrote, said her father was John Ferguson, that she was born in White Pigeon, Michigan, that her birth family were farmers, and that her father graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Civil Engineering. So, I guess you could call these the facts we know.

Then there are these facts I've discovered. In the 1880 Census, there is a Ferguson family living in White Pigeon, Michigan. The father is Luther Elliott Ferguson, and he has a son, John Ashley Ferguson, a son Carl, and a daughter Maude Elliott Ferguson. Luther Ferguson graduated from the University of Michigan in 1870, with a Civil Engineering degree. He was a farmer just outside White Pigeon.

His son, John Ashley, was born in 1879. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1905, with a degree in Civil Engineering. – Get this—he ended up living it Pittsburgh, PA! At one time he was Chief Engineer for the City of Pittsburgh! He married in Pittsburgh in 1910 and had one daughter that I know of. He died in 1957 in the Presbyterian Home of Pittsburgh, at the age of 77.

His sister Maude also graduated from the University of Michigan in 1905 with a teaching degree. In later years she obtained a degree in Civil Engineering from New York University. In 1930, she was living in Manhattan and was an editor for the Engineering News-Record, a McGraw-Hill Publication.

Grandma Gohn (Gram G's mother) was born in 1878, so she was nearly the same age as John Ferguson. (Both were about 15!)

On the LDS FamilySearch site, there is an entry for Clara Gohn listing that she married Elliott Ferguson in 1893. Interesting that John Ferguson's father and sister both had the middle name Elliott.

I know that in 1870, Chauncey was living in Newbury Township, Indiana, near his parents, John P and Lydia (Mosholder) Gohn. Newbury Township is where Shipshewana is. Also living there, and listed as neighbors were Chauncey's sister and her husband, Mary (Polly) Gohn and John J. Poynter. Chauncey's wife supposedly died in 1880, so it could be presumable that Mary took Clara in to raise.

Since White Pigeon is only a few miles away from Shipshewana, it was likely that John Ferguson and Clara Gohn, being of the same age, knew of each other. Then one thing led to another.

The clincher for me is the picture. Yes, I found a picture of John A. Ferguson! It was in a book about notable Western Pennsylvanians. I'll let you be the judge, but I showed it to several people I work with, not telling them who it was, and nearly all (8 out of 10) thought it was me, or a relative of mine. I'll attach the picture.

Much of the information I have came from the University of Michigan's Bentley Library. They were kind enough to research the Ferguson's activities at the University. I've also sent to Lansing, Michigan for a copy of grandma G's birth certificate, if one is available.

So, given all this evidence, do you think I've found Grandma's father?

Your cousin
Galen Miller