

Analysis for John Singer [example]

This analysis is being provided for educational purposes only. The people and documentation discussed in this analysis are fictional as are some of the statements regarding availability of records in specific areas. Any similarity to historical figures or events is entirely coincidental.

Statement of Purpose

This analysis will make the case that John Singer was the son of James Singer and Anna Jones.

[One sentence in this section is all that is needed. You are stating what it is that you hope to document through the analysis. An analysis is used to prove 1 (and only 1) lineage link. Analyses that attempt to establish more than 1 link will not be accepted. In only rare cases, and when the documentation is overwhelmingly compelling, will more than one analysis be accepted on any application or supplemental.]

Research Strategies

A search for direct evidence of the relationship between John Singer and his proposed parents included records in several counties in 3 different states. John Singer was born in Washington Co, PA in 1825, married in Ohio Co, VA in 1849 and died in Belmont Co, OH in 1889. Neither his marriage record nor his death record, both of which are recorded at the county level, identify his parents. He was married and on his own before the 1850 census enumeration so is not included in his parents' household. A brief death notice appearing in a Belmont Co newspaper is the only known notice reported in Belmont Co newspapers. Probate records for both James and Anna Jones Singer were located, but do not name their heirs by name. Deed and chancery records were searched in Washington Co, PA, Ohio Co, VA and Belmont Co, OH onsite or online by both the applicant and again by local DAR volunteers. A number of deed records were found, but none provide direct evidence of John's parents. Contemporary biographies for John and his known children were searched in digital collections on GoogleBooks, Hathitrust and Ancestry with negative results. The search was expanded to include references to James Singer and/or Anna Jones Singer, also with negative results. This was also followed up by searching a number of published indexes to local and regional biographical compilations for the relevant areas. John Singer was buried in a Methodist cemetery so Methodist church records and newspapers were searched in the areas where he lived with negative results. Although no single document identifies his parents, the case can be made through a variety of the discovered records.

[This is one of the most important sections of the analysis and is often the one that causes the most requests for revision. Above all, this section should reflect a reasonably exhaustive search. It is simply not possible to go into what constitutes a reasonably exhaustive search in this brief commentary in sufficient detail. What can be said is that the search is entirely dependent on the person in question and the time and place where that person lived. When planning a search, one should take into consideration all records that are extant for a given area including probate, land, chancery and vital records. One should not assume that searching these records alone

constitutes an exhaustive search. It likely does not. Searches limited to online databases or “calling the clerk” are not considered exhaustive.]

List of Documentation

- Singer-Tyson marriage, Ohio Co, WV Marriages, Book 2, p 451, West Virginia Marriages database, WVCulture.org
- 1850 Census Ohio Co, VA, p 337
- John Singer entry, Belmont Co, OH Deaths, Vol 2 p 35, Ohio, County Death Records, 1840-2001, FamilySearch
- “John Singer Dead,” *Belmont County Democrat*, 25 January 1889, p 2 col 3
- Tombstone Photo, Findagrave Memorial #1122334455
- James Singer probate case file, #371, Belmont Co, OH. *Ohio Probate Records*, FamilySearch
- Anna Singer probate case file, #398, Belmont Co, OH, *Ohio Probate Records*, FamilySearch
- Ohio Co, WV Deed Book 41 pp 265-266; Deed Book 42 pp 51-53
- Belmont Co, OH Deed Book 35, pp 291-293; Deed Book 39 pp 431-433
- Death certificate of Margaret Singer Chastain, *Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953*. FamilySearch

[Note here that the list of documentation is simply a list of cited sources and that the citations are such that enough information is given to allow a researcher to locate them again. Note that there are no indexes cited. All records listed are either taken from online databases with images of the original records or from photocopies of the original records from the courthouse or from microfilmed records. These are the documents that, when taken together, should support your conclusion. Each provides a piece of the puzzle as will be seen in the interpretation. Items listed do not include evidence from sources that are not acceptable, such as “US and International Marriage Records” or undocumented genealogies and modern histories.]

Interpretation

The marriage record of John Singer and Alice Tyson is recorded in Ohio Co, WV. At the time, Ohio Co was part of Virginia and while marriage bonds were common, none was found for John Singer’s marriage to Alice. The marriage return lists the minister, but not the bondsman or any of the witnesses. No evidence of the existence of consent forms was located so there is no indication of John’s or Alice’s parents or guardians.

In 1850 John and Alice Singer are enumerated in Ohio Co, VA. John’s age of 24 corresponds to the 1825 birth of our John Singer. His place of birth, PA, corresponds to later reports of our John’s birth. Just 3 households away, James and Anna Singer are enumerated. Their ages, (56 and 52 respectively) and places of birth, PA, are a good fit to be the parents of our John Singer.

John Singer’s Belmont Co, OH death record does not name his parents. This information was not required for deceased adults as indicated in the column headings on the register. This record does

list John's place of birth as Washington Co, PA, which is a clue to his origins. This information also corresponds to the enumeration of John Singer in Ohio Co, VA in 1850.

John Singer's death notice, as published in the *Belmont County Democrat*, does not provide any clues as to John's relatives or origins. The date of death does correspond to the death record described above. It does indicate that the burial was to take place in the "Methodist graveyard" in Blue Township. A photo of John Singer's tombstone in the Blue Township Methodist Cemetery is attached to his memorial on Findagrave.com.

The Belmont Co probate records for both James and Anna Singer are extant. James' case file includes his original will, which unfortunately, does not name his children. All property was to be left to his widow, Anna, and upon her death, all lands and property were to be sold and divided evenly among their 8 children. The number of children is stated in the will, but their names were not given. The will is relatively short—a half page. It was entered for probate just two weeks after it was written. Perhaps there was a reason for James' brevity. Anna was appointed executrix by the court, but her own probate case was entered 6 weeks later. Her file consists of the appointment of her administrator, James Bailey, an inventory and a sale bill. There is no final distribution to the heirs as would be expected per the terms of James' will. From these records, we know that James and Anna both died in Belmont Co and that they had 8 children. Belmont Co, OH adjoins Ohio Co, WV to the west.

The two Ohio Co deeds found do not provide any indication of a relationship between John Singer, husband of Alice Tyson, and James and Anna Jones Singer. They were recorded in two different deed books, though in sequential order and at different times. However, the details they provide are important when considered together. James and Anna Singer sold 150 acres of land to Carter Brown on 15 January 1851. The record was recorded on 17 January in Book 41, pp 265-266. John and Alice Singer sold 10 acres of land to Carter Brown on 15 January 1851. Inexplicably, this record was not recorded until Dec 1851 so it was recorded in a different volume. That Carter Brown purchased two pieces of property on the same date from Singer grantors is a significant detail, although the reason for the delay in recording the second deed is unexplained.

Just a few months after selling their Ohio Co property, James Singer purchased 37 acres of land in Belmont Co, OH, the conveyance of which is recorded in Deed Book 35, pp 291-293. The description given in this deed places the tract in the southeast ¼ of the northwest ¼ of section 2 township 9 range 17. In 1859, John Singer and his wife Alice, along with 6 other couples, quitclaimed their undivided interest in this same property to Elijah Singer. There is no indication given in the deed as to how they came to have an interest in this property. Between the time James Singer purchased this property and the 1859 quitclaim deed, no other transactions were recorded for this property in Belmont Co records.

Among those who are grantors in the quitclaim deed are William and Margaret Chastain. Margaret Chastain died in Marietta, OH in 1912. Marietta lies to the south of Belmont Co. Her death certificate identifies her parents as James and "Annie" Jones Singer and gives her place of birth as Washington Co, PA.

[The interpretation section takes the items listed in the “List of Documentation” and succinctly discusses them in the order in which they are listed. Each document is referenced in the text: e.g. “the marriage record of John Singer...;” “The two Ohio Co deeds,” etc. Also note that discussion of each source is limited to what is actually found in that source. No claims of relationships are made unless the documents specifically state that relationship. No extraneous information is introduced. Unfounded assumptions in an analysis will likely lead to a request for revision.]

Conflicting evidence

No conflicting evidence was found in any sources that would indicate John Singer was the son of anyone other than James and Anna Jones Singer.

[This is another section that can be tricky. In this case, there was no conflicting evidence. When there is a possibility of more than one viable candidate for an individual’s parents, this is the place to address that. The documents used to do this must be cited in the List of Documentation Section. This is especially important when dealing with common surnames. Because of the nature of this example, as will be discussed in the conclusion section, it is not really necessary to exclude other candidates. Some analyses may be less forward and therefore, may require that other candidates be eliminated.]

Conclusion

An exhaustive search in a variety of original records failed to locate a single document created during John Singer’s lifetime that identified his parents. Nevertheless, the documents cited in this analysis show that John Singer was born in Washington Co, PA; was married and lived in Ohio Co, VA at the same time that James and Anna Singer lived there; and then settled in Belmont Co, OH, to where James and Anna also moved and both died. John, his wife Alice, and several others quitclaimed property that had previously belonged to James Singer in Belmont Co, OH. The death certificate of one of the grantors in the quitclaim, Margaret Chastain, identifies her parents as James and Anna Jones Singer. This record also indicates that Margaret was born in Washington Co, PA, the same Co where John was born per his own death record. When taken together, these documents conclusively demonstrate that John Singer was one of the 8 children of James and Anna Jones Singer.

[The conclusion provides a summary of the interpretation section, without restating each fact. Each fact that is mentioned in the conclusion must have been documented in the List of Documentation and discussed in more detail in the Interpretation section. This analysis is basically a “sibling analysis,” although nothing states that John and Margaret are siblings. Given that James Singer stated he had 8 children and the quitclaim deed involves 7 grantors, (not counting wives) and 1 grantee, we have a good case that these 8 are the children of James. This is further corroborated by Margaret’s death certificate. Thus it is reasonably safe to conclude that James and Margaret are siblings. Without the quitclaim deed, such a relationship

could not be inferred from the rest of the cited records. This keeps us from having to spend time and resources eliminating other candidates for John's parents.]