

One Mystery Solved

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I have a few lines in my ancestry that I can only go back a few generations. On my paternal side, one is the McGraw line, where I can only go back to my great grandfather, Christopher Malachi McGraw (1852-1933). His death certificate states that his father is R. McGraw and his mother is unknown. I do know that his mother's first name was Betsy, as I found her in the 1870 census in Fish Dam, Union, S.C., with her children. Malachi's wife was Mary E. Johns, (1852-?). With the Johns I can go back one more generation to her parents, Daniel Johns (1825-1862) and Emily (1830-?).

My maternal side is very well researched, except for my great grandmother, May (Mary) Agnes Young's (1866-1938) heritage. I have known that her father was Francis A. Young (1833-1904) and her mother was Mary (1846-?) for quite awhile. When I visited my uncle last year, he had some of my great uncle Jim Cook's (1891-1970) genealogy papers. Uncle Jim was doing genealogy in the 1960's when I knew him. I was in high school and college at this time and did not pay too much attention to what he was saying about the family. I sure wish I had. But anyway, his papers said that he thought Francis' father was William H. Junge. To date, I have not found a connection. In these papers, he said that Mary was Mary C. Harrison. At the time, I could not find proof of that.

But then a couple of weeks ago, I read in a blog I follow (genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com) to check out FamilySearch.org every few weeks. So I searched and found her in "District of Columbia Marriages, 1811-1950." It states that Francis A. Young and Mary C. Harrison, married on March 12, 1866. It was so exciting to confirm that her maiden name was Harrison and to get their marriage date. In Uncle Jim's paper, he alluded that she was related to President Harrison, which I have not discovered yet. But I went on to find her in the 1860 & 1850 census living with her parents Robert H. Harrison (1814-?) and Margaret (1822-?). At this point, I am guessing Margaret's maiden name as Williams, as a William Williams, age 57, was living with them in 1850. I might be wrong, but it is a place to explore in the meantime.

Before a recent Bay County Genealogical Society meeting, some of us went out to lunch. I was telling them about my discovery and how excited I was, and they all sat there and nodded, understanding my excitement. It sure is nice to belong to a group that understands what you are doing and why. We meet on the third Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Bay County Public Library. Our next program is about how to research on Fold3.com (formerly Footnote.com), a site that is especially helpful if you have ancestors that served in the military. Come join us.