

A Summary of the Ancestors of **Jacob Antonio Miranda Graham**

Benjamin deBurgh

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Leaving Bavaria and Spain

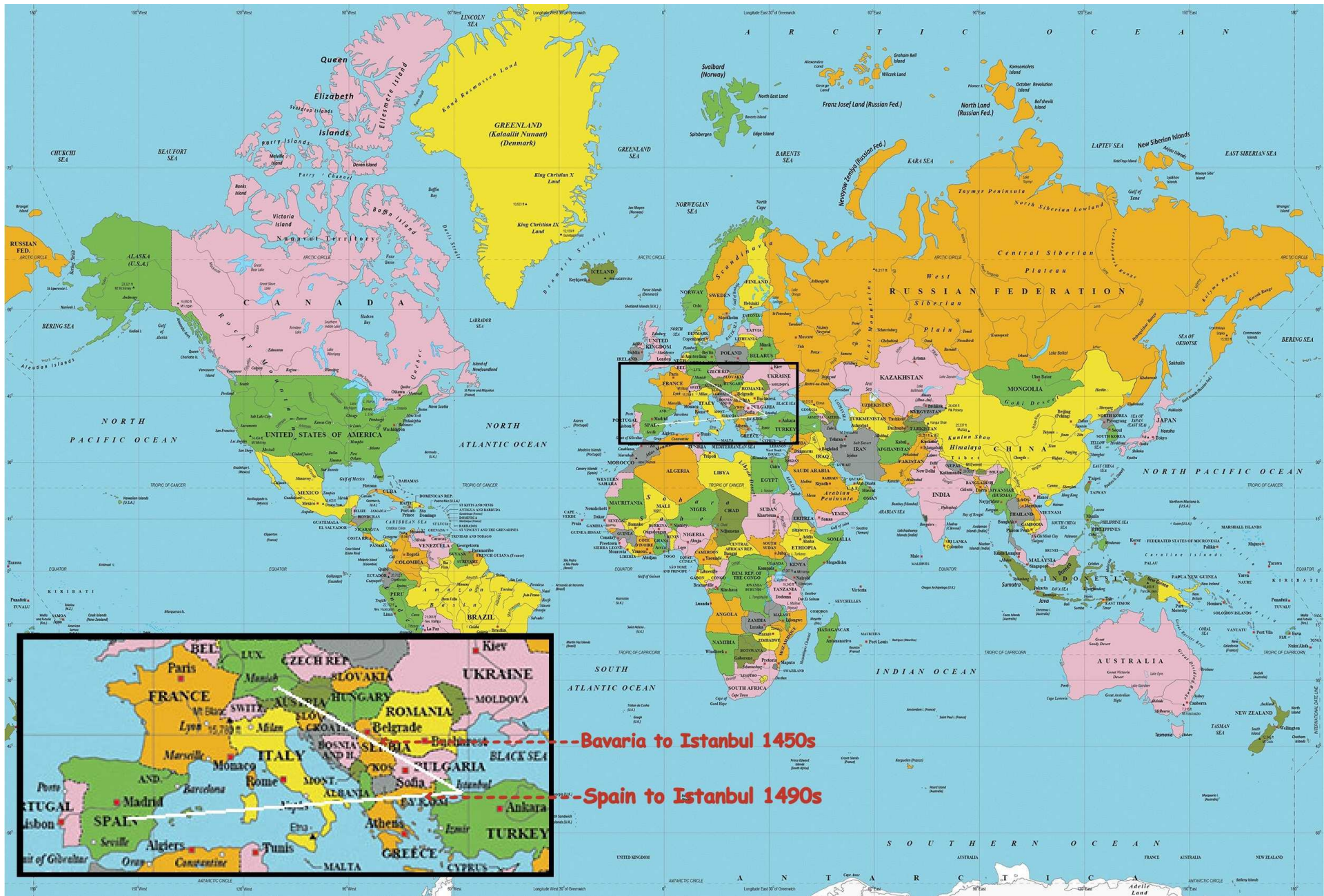
The map to the right shows the oldest family movement we know about, but knowledge from so long ago no doubt misses a lot of stories that we can only speculate upon.

Grandma Sheila's Aunt Rosie and Uncle Benjamin have an encyclopedia of nine volumes about the history of the Jews of Turkey. It describes the origin of the name Eskenazi. In the 1450s, when Sultan Mehmet II settled the terms of surrender of the Christian capital, Constantinople, he invited any Christians not wishing to live in his kingdom to leave the city. Many did. To fill the city back up, he sent an appeal to any non-Christians in Christian lands to come to his new capital. The first arrivals were Yiddish-speaking Bavarian Ashkenazi Jews. Ashkenazi Jews were the Jews of Christian central and eastern Europe.

In the late 1400s, a huge number of Ladino-speaking Sephardi Jews also arrived in Constantinople, overwhelming the Bavarians and absorbing them. Sephardi Jews were the Jews of the Iberian Peninsula, Spain and Portugal, where the Christians had taken power from the Muslims, pushing out or killing the Muslims and Jews. The newly arrived Sephardi refugees called the Bavarians the Eskenazi, their way of saying Ashkenazi, contributing the family name Eskenazi to the Sephardi community. Sephardi Jews eventually formed 12.5% of the population of Mehmet's city.

Yiddish and Ladino were both written in Hebrew script. Yiddish is a dialect of German and Ladino is a dialect of Spanish.

The lines on the map are only guesses and the dates are historical dates that may cover the time that your ancestors travelled.



Leaving Portugal

Goa became a Portuguese colony in 1510. Many non-Christians were leaving Portugal because of the Inquisition that was forcing people to become Catholic. Some pretending to be Catholic were called Marranos and some of them went to Goa. There is a family story that your Dad's paternal grandmother's name was originally Paret but was changed to Paré when the first member of the family arrived in New France, in Canada, in the mid-1600s. Elsewhere, Paret is listed as a Marrano name in France that came from Portugal or Spain.

Your grandfather Antonio explained that the Portuguese names in Goa are believed to have originated when the mission priests assigned their own family names to those Hindus and others who converted to Catholicism in the 1500s. Each priest baptised and registered them with his own Portuguese name. That is why people who married even a few generations ago may have had the same name, but may not have been related.

Interestingly, your Dad's maternal grandfather, Beno Eskenazi, when he heard the name Miranda, said "Miranda! That's a Marrano name!" Could there have been a Marrano priest? Was the name Miranda an exceptional case in which a Portuguese Marrano married a Hindu convert?

We can never really know whether either of these two names, Miranda or Paré, had a Marrano origin, so I have noted them in red to show that. Also, although the dates are in the 1500s, we have no firm records.

Maybe if we could go to Goa and search old parish records for the town of Parra, we could trace back the generations of Mirandas, but short of doing that, we have only the names of the grandparents of your grandparents, Antonio and Dores.

(Since the family names could have been given to a whole village of different families, the large number of Colaço families were not necessarily related, but suggest more likely that a parish priest called Colaço named a lot of families over a long career.)



The map shows both the Portuguese emmigration to Goa and the Paret emmigration to France.

Goa

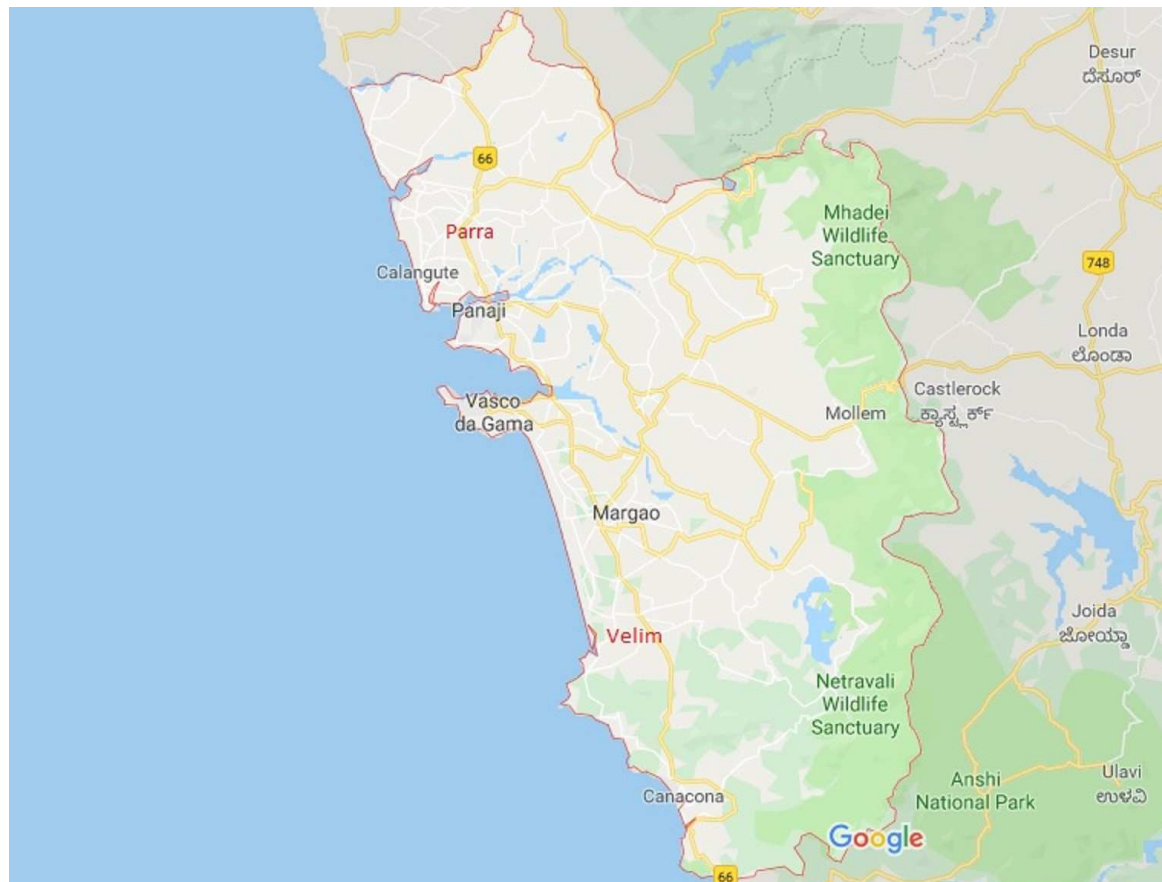
Your grandfather Antonio's paternal grandparents, Antonio Xavier and Carolina Miranda were both from Parra, but Antonio Xavier died in Egypt. His maternal grandparents were Trinidad and Leopoldina Fernandes, both from Goa, but no city is mentioned.

Concerning your grandfather's parents, Francisco Miranda was born on August 3, 1913 in Calangute, Goa. He married Maria Esmeralda Fernandes in Goa in 1945 and he died in Nairobi on July 1, 1970. Maria Esmeralda was born in Bombay on August 7, 1929 and died in Colchester, England on October 11, 1987. Your grandfather Antonio told me that she went there to stay with her daughter for treatment of a kidney problem. While there, she died during an operation.

Your grandmother Dores's maternal grandparents were Juan Honorio and Ignazina Expectocao Colaço, who may have been from Velim, Goa, but we are not sure. Her paternal grandparents were (take a deep breath) Custodio Caetano de Rosario Anuneiação Colaço and Artimisia Juliana Colaço, both from Velim.

Dores's father, Benjamin L.S. Colaço, was born, probably in Velim, Goa, on May 10, 1917. Her mother was born in Goa, May 1, 1925. They were married in Tororo, Uganda, on November 11, 1946 and they lived for some time in Mombasa, where your grandmother was born. They returned from Kenya to Goa for their retirement and both died in Navelim, about 14 km north of Velim, where they had retired and built a lovely house. He died on March 5, 1986 and she died on March 2, 2014.

Google helped me locate Parra and Velim, but put beside a modern state map, even the old important city Vasco de Gama disappears. The modern state map gives an idea how confusing it might be to go to Goa looking for its Portuguese history unless you were to go with someone who knows, like your grandma and grandpa Doris and Anthony.



From Ireland to Australia

Your Griffith line left Gortmore, County Westmeath, Ireland. Google maps locates Gortmore in the middle of an empty field but you can find it if you draw a line between Ballymore and Ballymahon, and another between Ballykeeran and Ballynacarrigy on the accompanying map and see where they intersect.

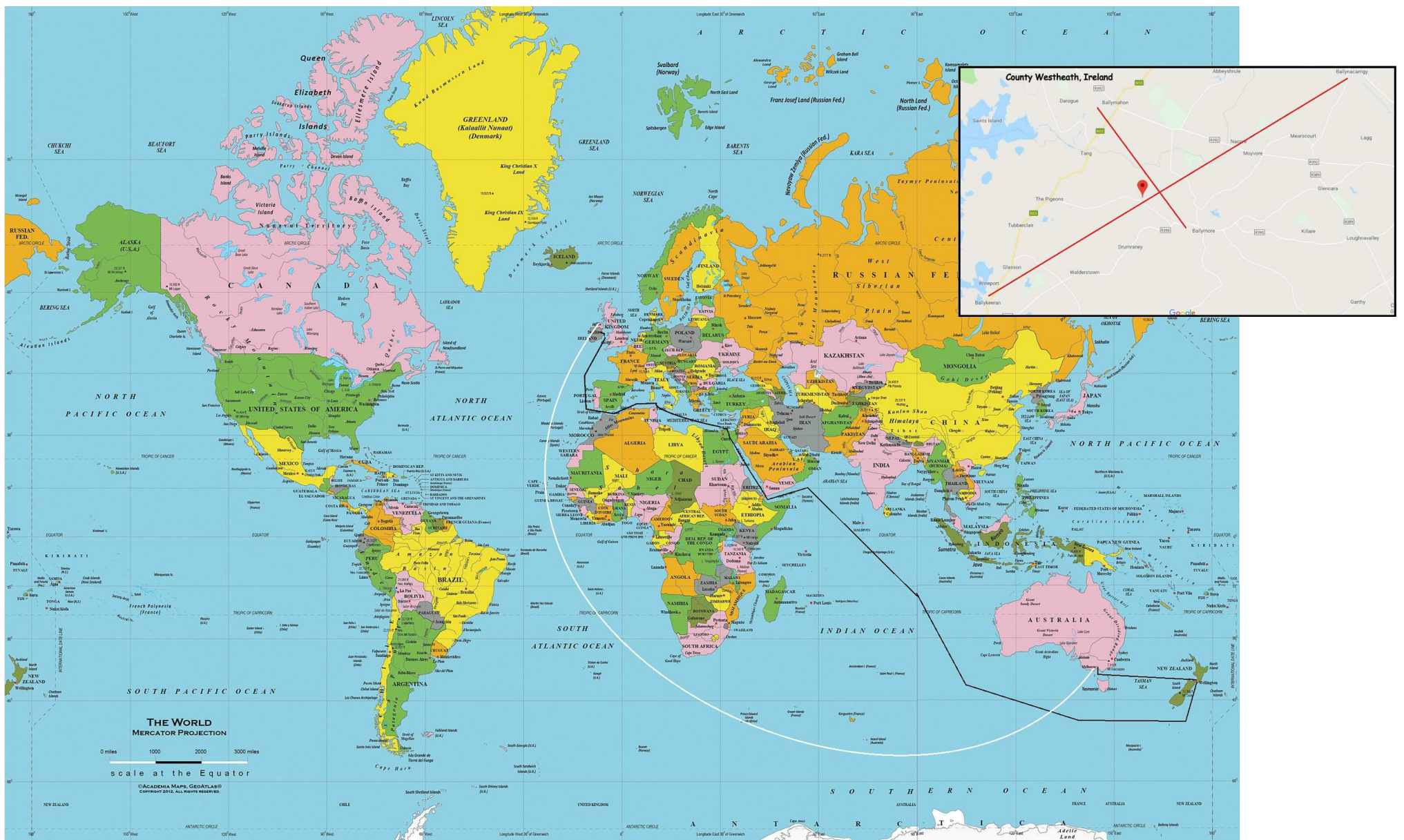
Your ancestors' names were Arthur Hill Griffith and Hannah Cottingham, and they sailed first to New Zealand, where they set up an operation growing flax, but soon gave it up, arriving in Melbourne, Australia, in 1873 with their eleven children.

The Griffith name is originally from Wales, so they may have chosen to move to Australia because Arthur's elder brother Charles had written of the opportunities in New South Wales. Both Charles and two Griffith sisters had moved there before the Suez Canal was open and they were well-established. According to the book *The Seeds*, Arthur and Hannah organized the move to New Zealand and saw to the hiring of the boat that transported what must have been a large group, consisting of six big families and their households. This may explain why Arthur's family stopped first in New Zealand. They may have been obliged by the desires of the other six families that shared their boat.

Arthur had no money but his Irish family was very important. He and Hannah arranged the marriage of their son Edward to the daughter of a rich neighbour who wanted the prestige of being related to them. The only problem with their plan was that Edward loved someone else. Her name was Lucy Armstrong and while she was beautiful, she didn't have any money! Worse, they married secretly after the invitations went out for the planned wedding with the young daughter of the rich neighbour. Worse still, no-one else knew until Lucy Armstrong Griffith showed that she was pregnant - with twins! One of those twins was Grandpa Joe's maternal grandmother.

Poor Edward and Lucy. Within a few years they were disowned by his family and he was thrown out of his job. He moved to western Australia to a gold camp in the desert, hoping to make enough money to support his young family that by then included two more daughters.

Lucy Armstrong's family may have been Scottish or Northern Irish and we have no record of their arrival in Australia. Her family's trip is shown on the map as having come around the southern tip of Africa. The Suez Canal route opened only in 1869.



The Paré-Timmins and Griffith connections

Thanks to the work of your great-grand uncle Tony Paré, we know a lot about your Paré-Griffith ancestors. His information comes largely from his mother, your grandfather Joe's grandmother, Lucy Victoria Griffith Paré.

The Paré family may have also come from Spain or Portugal (the Iberian Peninsula). At the time of the Inquisition there (1490s), many Jews and Muslims fled. Some Jews went to France in the 1500s and pretended to be Catholics or Protestants, and one such family was called Paret. Around 1650, Robert Paret arrived in New France (Canada). Only the Catholic Church could register people in New France, and the priest told him that the correct spelling for his name was Paré.

While all of his descendants can be tracked, the ones that concern us are the Louis Paré line from Lachine, near Montreal. Louis Paré, married to Ursule Latour, was the keeper of the Lachine Locks that let boats pass around the rapids in the St. Lawrence river, and his son, also named Louis, became a doctor. He married Josephine Timmins of Mattawa, Ontario, who was a classmate of his sisters at a convent school. They moved to Western Canada and he served in the North-West Mounted Police. On January 16, 1885, Grandpa Joe's grandfather, Alphonse Arthur Paré, was born. That same year, his father was wounded at the battle of Batoche and was given a ranch in recognition for his service. Alphonse's mother died three years later from tuberculosis.

Alphonse grew up with Cree and Ojibwa friends, learning their languages and the art of canoeing. He also learned to ride horses on his father's ranch. He studied at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario, and when he graduated he was offered a commission as an officer in the British cavalry in India. When he told his uncles and aunts about the offer, they refused to let him accept. He had worked for them in the summer at their silver mine and they encouraged him to become a mining engineer. His two uncles in Montreal were his mother's brothers and his two aunts, their wives, were his father's sisters. This kind of family marriage was not unusual, but when he and one of his cousins fell in love, the uncles encouraged him to travel the world looking at silver and gold mines – and to come home with a wife!

The Paret migration of the 1660s is shown in white. The red and the blue lines are the routes of Dr. Louis Paré and Josephine Timmins to the Canadian prairies.

The senior Timmins generation from Mattawa, Noah Timmins and Henrietta Miner, came from England and Germany. Their voyages are shown in yellow, but we don't know which generation came over – their parents?



Ukraine and Poland to Montreal

Moses Yaroslavsky, a Russian Jew, and his oldest son left their home in Ukraine around 1911 and came to Montreal. In 1913, he was followed by his wife, Esther Bogaridoff, and their other children. Their daughter, Rebecca (Riva) Yaros, born in Bolshoi Takmak, Ukraine on October 1, 1898, was 15 but until her birth certificate was properly translated many years later, thought she had been born in 1900. You have seen her picture as The Woman in the Pine Tree. She is your grandmother Sheila's maternal grandmother and she died on April 26, 1986.

Around 1901, Hirsh Wolofsky and Sarah Bercovitch left Poland, also for Montreal. Their son Felix (Phil) Wolofsky, who was born in Lodz, Poland, on December 1, 1899, is your grandmother Sheila's maternal grandfather. He and Riva met because Riva worked as a volunteer during WWI sending letters of encouragement to the soldiers. Many soldiers fell in love with these letter-writing volunteers, and Riva received visits after the war. Among the different soldiers who visited her, she fell in love with Phil and they were married on June 21, 1921. Goldie was born to them in Montreal on June 6, 1928, and two sons followed. Phil died young on August 21, 1947.

Istanbul

Grandma Sheila's paternal great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers were all from Istanbul. Her father's paternal grandparents were Hadji Bohor Eskenazi and Sinyoru Barokas. Their son, Avram Albert Eskenazi was born in Çorlu, a short distance from Istanbul, Turkey on January 15, 1891. He is your grandmother's paternal grandfather and he died in Montreal on November 10, 1979.

Grandma Sheila's grandmother's mother was also an Eskenazi, Mazaltov Fortune Eskenazi, who married Bohor Menahem Menda. Their daughter Rachel Menda was born on October 14, 1905 in Yedikule, Istanbul, Turkey. Rachel Menda and Avram Albert Eskenazi were married, also in Yedikule, on March 3, 1923. Their son Beno, your father's grandfather, was born in Istanbul on June 2, 1926. Rachel Menda Eskenazi died in Montreal on February 3, 1975. Grandma Sheila was named for her grandmother and great-grandmother in Hebrew as Rachel Mazeltov, which was anglicized to Sheila Marion.



We don't know what route they took, but that could be found by examining old ship records. This one has the Yaroslavsky family passing through Istanbul (then still called Constantinople in the records, and the Wolofsky family leaving the Polish port of Gdansk and landing at Halifax in Canada.

Graegham Grey Home Graham

We know little about the Graham line. Your grandfather was named William Donald Joseph Graham. William was for his paternal grandfather, William Graham of Toronto, but the name William goes back to the first Graham.

A man named Guillaume from Normandy came to Scotland as a knight with King David in 1127. King David gave Graegham to Guillaume, and he became known as Guillaume de Graegham, William of Graham. Graegham, meaning Grey Home, was probably a feudal estate.

In Toronto, your grandfather's grandfather William married Olive Smith, whose family may have come from England, and their second son, Jack Ross Graham was your father's grandfather. He was born in Toronto on July 3, 1917. In 1934, he left Toronto and worked in Montreal at Curtis Reid aircraft manufacturing as a pilot and an airplane mechanic. He soon became a flight instructor.

He met your father's grandmother Patricia when she came to Curtis Reid to learn to fly. She was known as a daredevil who was a champion skier and had cost her family a lot of money in hospital care and cosmetic surgery. Her father, Alphonse, was sure she would kill herself learning to fly. Bud Oliver, Jack's boss, called Jack into his office and told him that he would be responsible for an attractive young woman who could be a danger to herself. "Take her up, give her a good scare and send her home," he was told.

Jack and Patricia deBurgh (Pat) Paré married on September 26, 1942. He served as a ferry and test pilot during World War II, and was an Air Force flight instructor during the same time period. Your grandfather Joe was their fourth child, born on January 30, 1949. Jack died young in Montreal on December 1, 1959.

Patricia was the fourth of nine children born to Alphonse and Lucy Paré. While serving as a captain in the Royal Canadian Artillery during World War I, he had moved his young family to England to be near him, an officer's perk at the time. When he felt that danger was nearing, he moved Lucy and their three children to Dublin, Ireland, in time for Pat's birth on October 6, 1918, and they all moved back to Montreal when he was demobilized at the end of the war. Patricia died on November 11, 2003.

The Grahams came from Scotland to Toronto. They were from the lowlands and were among the clans described as Border Reivers who cared little for either Scotland or England, acting independently for 150 years from roughly 1350 to 1500.

Over the next centuries, they were known as fierce fighters and leaders in battle. The Graham of Montrose clan was among the only clans that successfully allied the Scottish highlanders to their causes, once in the 1640s under James Graham of Montrose, who was known as a poet and intellectual as well as a warrior. He was called The Great Graham and The Great Montrose. The other, more famous John Graham of Claverhouse, was known as Bonnie Dundee to his friends and as Bloody Claverhouse by his enemies, who believed he was the devil himself and could be killed only with a silver bullet. At the moment of his greatest victory at the battle of Killiecrankie Gorge in Perthshire on July 27, 1689, he fell dead, struck by a silver bullet fired from a simple gun (or so says the legend).

The yellow line shows the Graham crossing and the purple the Smith's, assumed to have come from England. According to an old family myth, Olive Smith's father or grandfather was a clothing inventor who invented the pleated skirt and the tie-around bowtie, drinking his earnings away both times. I found no evidence to support either claim.



Istanbul to Montreal

Beno Eskenazi left Istanbul in 1946 and spent a year in northern France before arriving in Montreal via Gander, Newfoundland, in September 1947 to study for his masters degree in civil engineering at McGill University. Unfortunately, there was a delay in receiving his funds from home and he holed up in his room at the Kent Hotel and survived on a diet of bananas during his first weeks in Canada. His children would be grown up before he ate another banana.

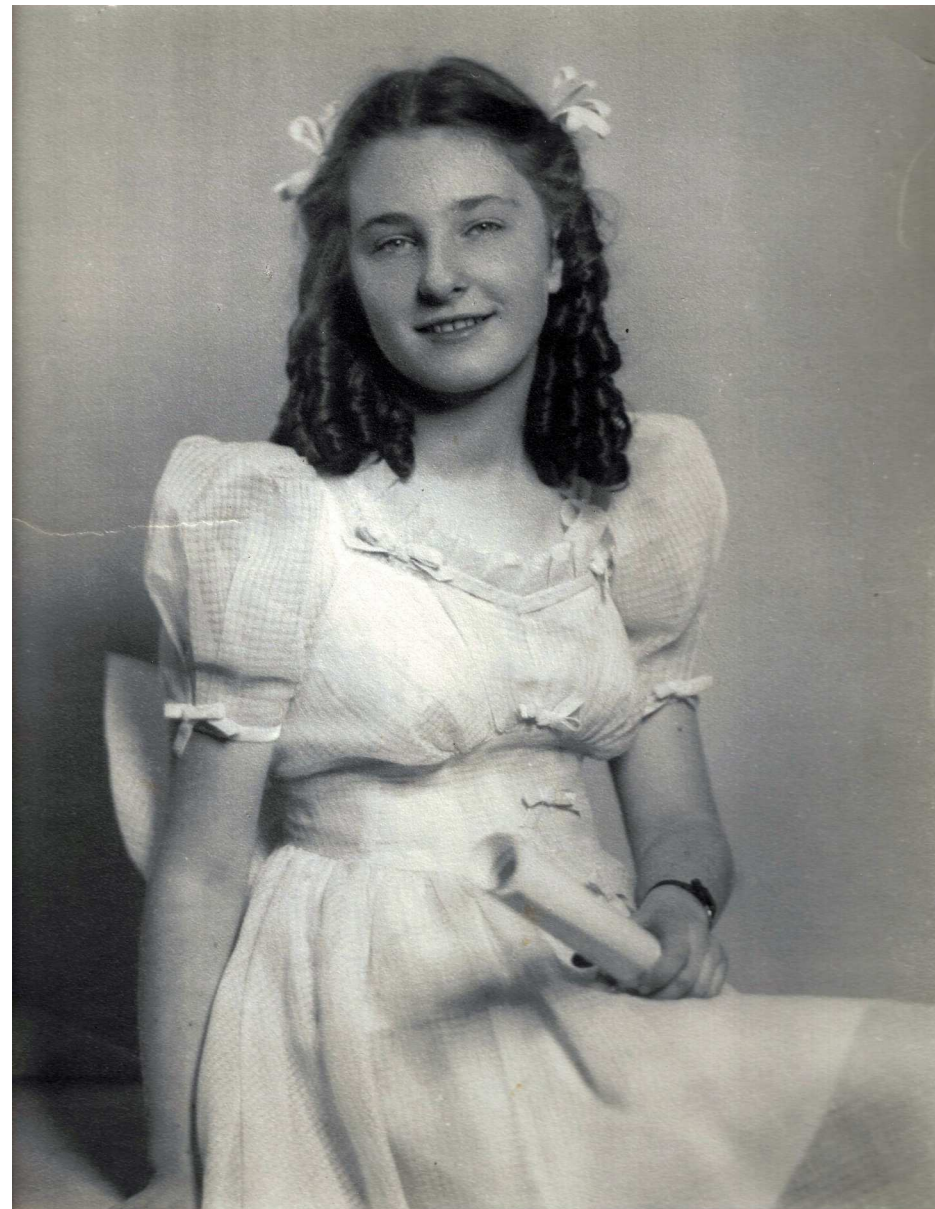
He found a room to rent from David and Libby Rosenberg, who had a picture of her cousin's daughter Goldie Wolofsky, her long hair in ringlets and wearing a fancy dress, holding her elementary school graduation certificate. She was 12 in that photo.

Later that fall, while riding a streetcar, Beno spotted 19-year-old Goldie and called out to her by name. Frightened of the stranger, she jumped off the streetcar and ran home. But Beno was in love. He returned to the Rosenbergs and asked for an introduction, which they provided. Despite her family's concerns that he was a stranger from another land and culture, they married on June 14, 1948, immediately after her graduation from McGill.

When your great-uncle Albert was 16 months old and Beno had completed his studies, the young family packed everything up and moved to Istanbul, taking a ship from New York. Less than a year later, they were back in Montreal, and on January 11, 1952, your grandmother Sheila was born.

Goldie died on June 24, 2010 fully aware that across the ocean she had a grandson whom she called Jakey. Beno met 'Jakey' before he died on February 7, 2013.

This is the photograph that was sitting in the living room of Libby and David Rosenberg's house, a picture that brought Beno and Goldie together and contributed to one of the puzzle pieces that made you.



Antonio and Dore

In the early 1970s when Anthony and Doris met, the Goan community of Nairobi was very large. Anthony's father had died when Anthony was only 22, not too long before he met Doris. Since he was the eldest of his brothers and sisters, he had a lot of responsibilities for his family. They were both living in Nairobi at that time, and they married on August 26, 1972, when Anthony was 24 and Doris was only three weeks from her 22nd birthday.



Sheila and Joe

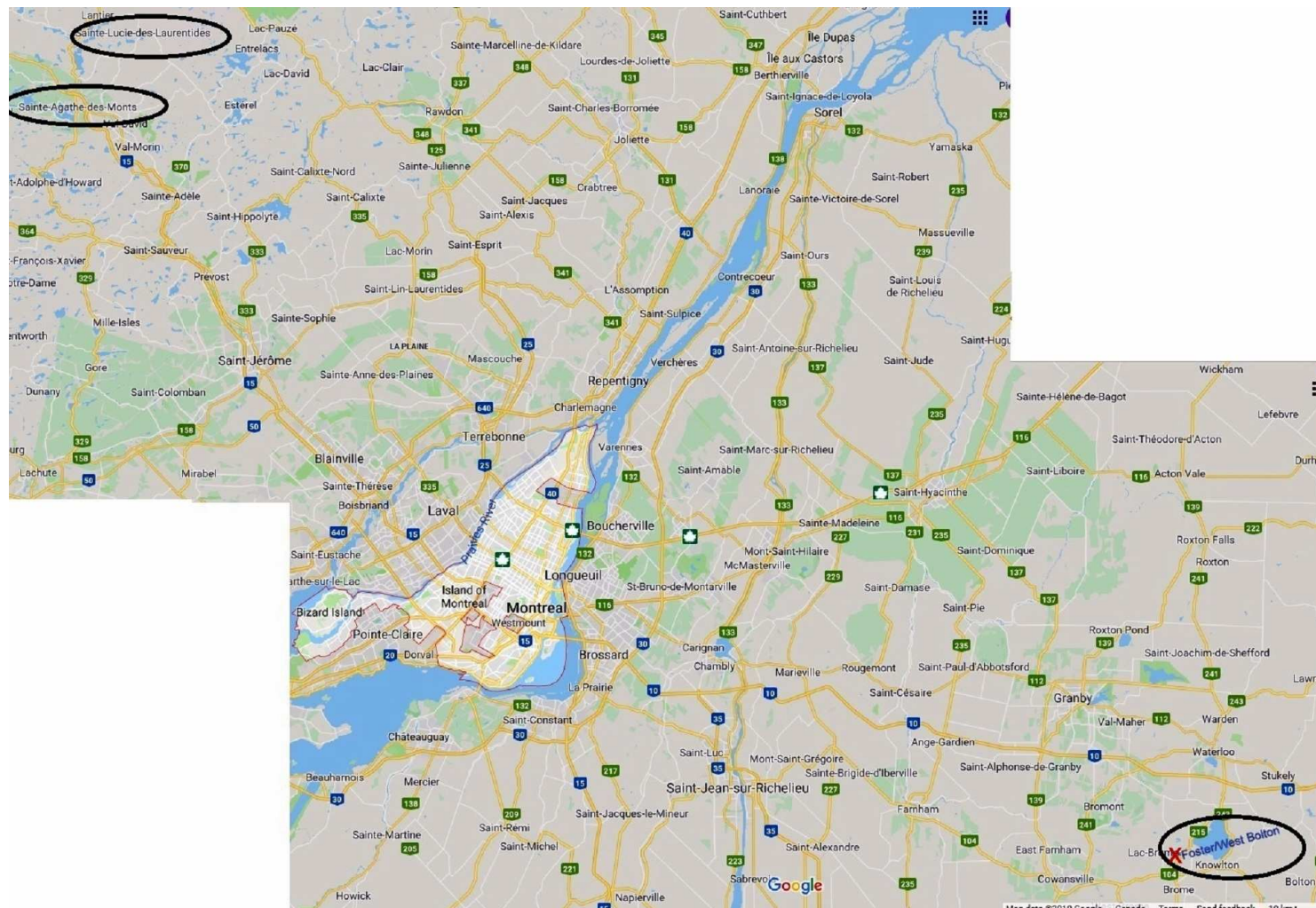
Sheila had a business doing technical drawing for engineers and she had received an offer to show condos for a client of her father's. Since the condo project was in Ste. Agathe and she would have one of the model condos for free and another one to set up her office, she could continue to look after her clients at the same time. She took the job, arriving in Ste. Agathe in August 1975.

That same year, Joe, who had been living off in his isolated little cabin in Ste. Lucie for the previous three years, looking after people's gardens and landscaping, accepted a job helping run his uncle's freshly acquired farm in the Eastern Townships, in the little town of West Bolton, near Foster.

An artist friend of Sheila's, who had been doing technical drawing for a forestry company, told the engineer that he could not take a contract on because he was finishing up an inspired painting. He recommended that they engage Sheila. When she went to the office, she told the engineer that her office was in Ste. Agathe, and her terms were to do the work required from there. The manager of the office was Stuart, Joe's older brother. After six months in Ste. Agathe, Sheila told Stuart that she was moving to a little town called Foster, so she would not be able to take on future jobs. (She actually hated Ste. Agathe, but she probably didn't mention that). "Foster!" Stuart exclaimed, pleased that he knew the place, "I have a brother in Foster." He called up Joe that night and told him about the young woman who was moving there.

When Joe hung up the phone, he decided that it was strange his brother would call about such a thing, but the coincidence was too much to ignore so he decided to wait a polite amount of time, giving her the chance to settle in, and on Wednesday morning, February 21, 1976, he drove over to her place in his red pick-up truck with a dozen eggs and his bouncy blonde dog Hazard in the back. Hazard had so much fur that he looked at the world through it, his eyes hidden.

When Sheila opened the door, Hazard bounced past her into the house as she explained to Joe that her cat did not like dogs, and could the dog stay outside. “Hazard loves cats!” Joe answered as he spotted the cat way above his head watching from a beam that ran under the ceiling. Sheila and Joe knew little about each other. Sheila had learned that Joe drove to Montreal regularly to visit his sister in the hospital and always brought eggs for the nurses and that he had lived as a recluse in Ste. Lucie before moving to Foster/West Bolton to run his uncle’s farm. As Joe looked around, he realized that in spite of his discreet waiting before dropping in, Sheila was still unpacking, having just arrived. Among other things, he saw a 25 pound bag of rice on the floor in the kitchen and suddenly, for him, the meeting took on a whole new aura. They married on August 18, 1976 and your dad was born in West Bolton (actually in the Cowansville hospital).



This story, you'll have to get yourself!

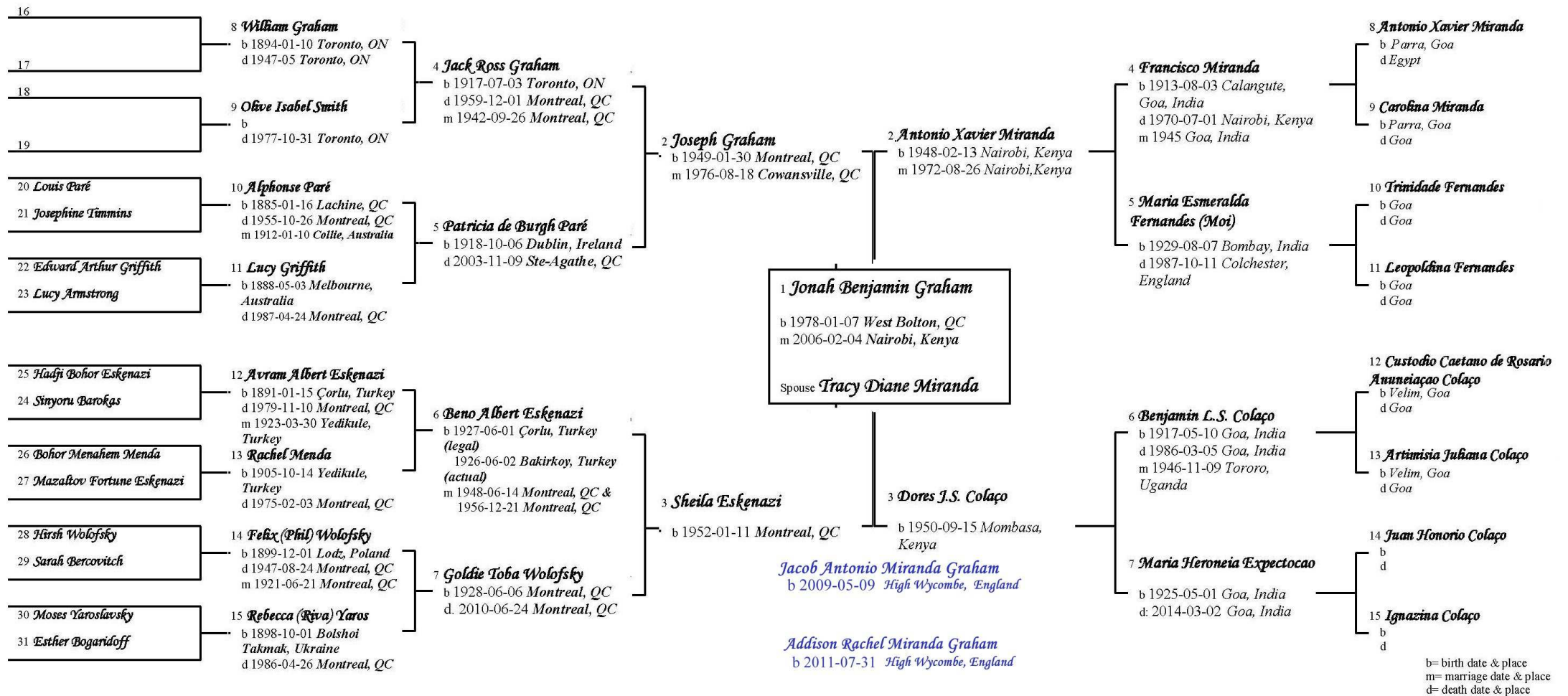


California, March 5, 2005



Nairobi, February 4, 2006

Family Tree



Your parents have an album with pictures of a number of your ancestors that you can explore someday. There is always more to learn about the past, and asking questions and searching can be fun.

Happy 10th birthday, Jacob!

Where in the world.....?

Born in High Wycombe, Bucks, England, Jacob Antonio and his sister Addison Rachel trace their roots to over 12 countries and five continents. Their ancestors travelled overland and across the seas during the past six centuries, looking to put down roots, leading to two young internationals in the 21st century.

