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### Genealogy for April L. La Barre-Melato

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**The Family History of  
April L. La Barre - Melato**

**24 April 2016**

April L. La Barre-Melato authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Spring 2016 and was submitted to the Pittsburgh State University Digital Commons. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments:  
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## List of Direct Line Family Members

### Generation One

- A1. April L. La Barre-Melato (1986- )
- A2. Daniel Charles Melato (1975- )

### Generation Two

- Ala. Norma Escellee Corson-La Barre (1949- )
- Alb. William Earl La Barre (1938- )

### Generation Three

- Ala1. Alverta Escellee Davis-Corson (1923- ? )
- Ala2. Norman Louis Corson, Jr. (1921-2010)
  
- Alb1. Elaine Larine Smith-La Barre (1912-1995)
- Alb2. Louis James La Barre, Sr. (1911-1994)

### Generation Four

- Ala1a. Alverta Lucas-Davis (1905-?)
- Ala1b. Charles C. Lucas (?-?)
  
- Ala2a. Helen Amelia Goerges-Corson-Pauley (1904-1998)
- Ala2b. Norman Louis Corson, Sr. (1900-?)
  
- Alb1a. Unknown (?-?)
- Alb1b. Unknown (?-?)
  
- Alb2a. Elsie Mae Conrad-La Barree (1877-1939)
- Alb2b. John Henry La Barree (1878-1941)

### Generation Five

- Ala1a1. Katherine M. Lucas (1879- ?)
- Ala1a2. Frank Lucas (1871- ?)
  
- Ala1b1. Unknown
- Ala1b2. Unknown
  
- Ala2a1. Emma Louise Ackermann-Goerges (1872-1970)
- Ala2a2. Hugo C. Goerges (1858-1941)
  
- Ala2b1. Unknown
- Ala2b2. Unknown
  
- Alb1a1. Unknown
- Alb1a2. Unknown

A1b1b1. Unknown  
A1b1b2. Unknown

A1b2a1. Unknown  
A1b2a2. Unknown

A1b2b1. Mary Caroline La Barre (1853- ?)  
A1b2b2. John Henry La Barre, Sr. (1852- ?)

#### Generation Six

A1a1a1. Unknown  
A1a1a2. Unknown

A1a1b1. Unknown  
A1a1b2. Unknown

A1a2a1. Unknown  
A1a2a2. Unknown

A1a2b1. Unknown  
A1a2b2. Unknown

A1b1a1. Louise Emma Danz-Ackermann (? - ?)  
A1b1a2. Adam Gottlieb Ackermann (? - ?)

A1b1b1. Unknown  
A1b1b2. Unknown

A1b2a1. Unknown  
A1b2a2. Unknown

A1b2b1. Unknown  
A1b2b2. Unknown

## GENERATION ONE

**April Layne La Barre (1986-** ) was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland in April 1986 to **William Earl La Barre (1938-** ) and **Norma Escellee La Barre nee Corson (1949-** ), both of Baltimore, Maryland. (The city of Baltimore was named after Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore, ((1605-1675), a member of the Irish House of Lords, and was officially founded as a port in 1729 for tobacco). April was Norma's first child, and William's third. Upon her birth, William and Norma returned to their White Hall, Maryland home located in northern Baltimore County the very next day. The property was originally purchased in 1979 by Norma. Once married, William and Norma decided to build a Tudor-style house on the historic farm land. Fortunately for the couple, William was a kitchen designer for a large business in Baltimore City, thus allowing him "at-cost" rates for all the materials. Together, with William's brother **James Louis La Barre Jr. (1936-** ), and their father, **James Louis Sr. (1911-1994)**, Nottinghamshire Farms was built and ready for horses and baby.

At the time of April's birth, her father was a kitchen and bath designer for a well-known building supply company in Baltimore City, a job which he proudly continued for 35 years. April vividly remembers driving into work with her father when she was not in school, listening to AM radio. Arriving at her father's office, she remembers his co-workers being extremely welcoming, and always curious as to how school and horseback riding was going. A gifted artist and designer,

April's father always had an endless array of paper, drawing tools, and sketch pads. April credits her creative side to her father. She would sit and draw for hours while her father consulted with clients and drafted beautiful new kitchens. April's favorite part was visiting job sites in Baltimore's prominent neighborhoods. The hospitality, grandeur, and conversation of the homeowners was inspiring to April. It was these home visits, along with her mother's classic style, that April gained a true appreciation for detail in the home and social circle.

April's mother, Norma, had been working for a local engineering firm right up until April's birth. Without family within a reasonable distance, Norma knew that she and William's schedules would have to change so that baby April could receive their constant care. It was at this time that Norma left her job with the engineering firm, and gained employment as a bus driver for Baltimore County. Once April started school, she and her mother's schedules would be the same, thus eliminating the need to ever find childcare. William's job allowed him the flexibility to change his schedule as needed and allowing he to also be available when needed. The driving position Norma obtained was one she held for 22 years and allowed for many family summer trips and adventures.

In such a rural neighborhood, William and Norma were pleased to find a very nice pre-school located 6 minutes from their house. Vernon Nursery School was located in the historic Vernon Church, and provides fond memories for April. She clearly remembers being dropped off in

the morning, saying good bye to her mother or father, and running over to see her friends. The teachers were very welcoming, and always supplied the students with never-ending activities. The playground, located mostly in the woods was April's favorite place; she loved being outside. The best part of the playground was a four foot drop that she and her friends would ride their bikes down as a dare. It was here that April met most of her future classmates that would attend Hereford High, and Hereford Middle Schools in Monkton, Maryland several years later.

For first through fifth grades, April attended Seventh District Elementary School in Parkton, Maryland, located 20 minutes from her house. It was a smaller school for the rural population of the seventh district of Baltimore County. April's elementary years are where she garnered her fascination with science and history. When asked, April can recall the names of all her teachers from each grade. Of course, her favorites were those that taught her two favorite subjects! April was an active participant in her school's science fairs and remembers two of her exhibits: an erupting volcano, and a sample wetland that demonstrated how its ecosystem works like that of a filter for the Chesapeake Bay. It was also in early elementary school that April began taking dance classes at the Falls Road Dance Studio in Hampstead, Maryland. Unlike most girls her age, April's enjoyment of dance carried through her college years, and eventually led to a post-secondary teaching position. It was during this time that April met her childhood best friend, and soon, their mothers also became lifelong best friends. Elementary school also marks the time when

April began playing the violin; fifth grade. Her mother and father both played when they were younger, so it seemed a natural fit. Violin lessons were held during the school day, and April remembers attending with the  $\frac{3}{4}$  sized violin her parents rented for her, wrapped carefully in pink tulle in its velvet blue case. Her first concert had her placed in the outside second row which would be known as the "first violins". Much like her dancing, violin was a hobby April continues to pursue to this day.

When April entered Hereford Middle school for sixth through eighth grades, she was actively competing in dance and horseback riding. Her father had taken a second "fun" job as an outdoor education teacher with Baltimore County Schools opening up a whole other world of environmental fun. Her school began taking field trips organized by her father to a natural resource and wildlife protection area located on the Chesapeake Bay. It was here that April learned to canoe and kayak, and spent her summers as a camp counselor boating on the Bay.

April's love of nature and the outdoors kept her active at home too, riding her bike for hours around the neighborhood. The woods, streams, and waterfall located on her property were great for exploring with friends. Most of the neighborhood children were in their final years of High School when April was in Middle School, so having friends from school over was commonplace.

Similarly, April's friends mostly lived on horse farms, so there was always an adventure to be had. For example, April's best friend



from Middle School had recently moved north from Virginia. Her parents took control of their inherited family estate located across from the historic Oldfields School, a place April would work post high school graduation, in Sparks-Glencoe, Maryland. The farm was built in the 1700s and completed in 1852, totaling over 200 acres. Many hours were spent exploring the woods of the historic area, complete with slave quarters and summer kitchens.

April continued to pursue her violin, but was quickly discouraged upon entering sixth grade orchestra. Unfortunately, her teacher was not very helpful and did more discouraging than motivating. April's parents encouraged her to stick with it, and so she did. Throughout Middle School, April continued competing in dance and horseback riding, and eventually found her way to competing in the Bahamas for an international dance competition. Her accomplishments gave her the confidence and self-esteem to breeze into High School, ready to take on any challenge.

In 2000, April entered Hereford High School, ranked one of the top public High Schools, in Parkton, Maryland as a freshmen. Hereford was recently awarded the title of a Blue Ribbon School of excellence, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, a program that recognizes outstanding public and non-public schools. The program celebrates some of the most skilled and effective educators in the country, and their students' success. High School proved to be a very successful time for April as she was active in dance, the school's orchestra, began taking lessons with the concertmaster of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

alongside her best friend, and raising the level of her equestrian competitions. Additionally, April began working for a professional polo player (none of her other friends had jobs), and was soon the only female member of the polo school's all male team. Through this, April was afforded the opportunity to travel and compete in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and Texas. The people she met during her high school polo career have remained lifelong friends and have given her the opportunity to continue her work in polo.

Upon graduating high school, April attended the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Unfortunately, the large college atmosphere so far from home was not what she enjoyed, and she returned home to Maryland. April then entered into nursing school, but quickly decided that that was also not the path she wanted to follow. After taking a year off from school to reflect on what she really wanted to do, April met her now husband, and enrolled in the York College of Pennsylvania majoring in Secondary Education Social Studies, with a dual degree in History.

Today, April is employed as a seventh grade social studies teacher for the Southern York County School District in Glen Rock, Pennsylvania. She and her husband currently own a horse farm located 20 minutes from her childhood home along the Maryland/Pennsylvania border. She is a member of the York College Symphony Orchestra, and an avid competitor with the Harford Horse Shows Association in Maryland.

April credits her parents with the drive and motivation to be successful in all things she attempts.

### **CHART ONE - "Century of Difference"**

In the book, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* by Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, figure 6.6 "Households with Key Domestic Goods, by Year"<sup>i</sup>, Fischer and Hout explain the trend of items owned in the average household between 1900 and 2000. There are five surveyed components to the line graph: inside toilets, telephone, automobile, computer, and owned home. It should be noted that many of these consumer goods became nearly universal, however, home ownership did not.

In looking at the graph, it is obvious that the number of owned homes soared in the middle of the 20th century. A lot of earlier surveys are skewed as they were often segregated by race. For example, in 1890, 14 percent of whites had toilets, whereas only 5 percent of blacks did. Following the Great Depression, the graph shows exponential increase in all five categories of ownership. In 1900, it was a rarity for someone to own a car. However by 1935, 60 percent of white families, and 20 percent of black families owned a car.

April La Barre-Melato grew up in a medium-sized rural town in northern Baltimore County Maryland known as White Hall. This town lies on the outskirts of "My Lady's Manor", a gift of 10,000 acres from Charles Calvert, the third Lord Baltimore, to his fourth wife, Margaret Charlton of Northumberland in 1713. This area has a long standing history of wealthy European proprietors with an active

presence in the equestrian community. Within My Lady's Manor, and White Hall, there was also a strong presence of racial segregation and inequality. Certainly, this was an area that far exceeded the average households of the 20th century.

Living in such a cultured and affluent area, April was exposed to a variety of positive social and educational experiences. This was an area of elite private schools, agricultural and horse farms, foxhunts, and many well-connected business and political folk. Most of the homes were owned, and those that were rented were done so by employees of the home owner; many farms/estates had separate employee living quarters.

In the homes of My Lady's Manor, "necessities" such as indoor plumbing, telephones, automobiles, etc. were in excess. Most homes had a minimum of three bathrooms, and shared the same number of cars, and telephones; often, with telephones in their cars. The 1980s through the present time has seen very little residential or commercial development in this area. Most land is protected by the Farm Bureau trust, including April's childhood farm, meaning it can never be developed. As most properties are handed down through generations, the population has not increased much in this area. The same family name that was found in the late 1700s is typically the same name on the property today.

The area of My Lady's Manor has such a deeply rooted history, and can easily be traced through names. Typically, any location or business in the area stems from a prominent western European family.

One such place is the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club which still upholds the foxhunting traditions of the English in My Lady's Manor territory. Most prominent families in the area owned several horses and participated in the thrice-weekly hunt. April has been fortunate enough to continue this long standing family tradition of horse showing and foxhunting. In contrast to European tradition, the fox is simply chased and not killed in the United States.

Growing up, April's family owned a horse farm in the historic Nottinghamshire region of White Hall, the middle of Elkridge-Harford's hunting territory. Her childhood property was surrounded by other similar horse farms, but mostly on a larger scale with full staff. These types of properties nearly outnumbered the average home in the early 1900s, and while quite the strong presence today, have been subject to small developmental encroachment.

April's father still resides at her childhood farm for what will now be its 37th year of operation. The neighborhood has remained the exact same, with the same neighbors as April remembers it. The cost of living has increased as well as the property values. The area is still highly sought after as it is located within one of the top public school districts in the country. It is always nice to travel back through the area, and is often done as April only lives 20 minutes from her childhood stomping grounds. April hopes to one day return to the area of My Lady's Manor and continue her passion of history and horses in the beautiful countryside of success and excess.

## GENERATION TWO

**A1a. Norma Escellee Corson-La Barre (1949- )**

**A1b. William Earl La Barre (1938- )**

April's mother, **Norma Escellee Corson**, was born in 1949 in Baltimore City, Maryland to **Norman Louis Corson, Jr., (1921-2010)** and **Alverta Escellee Davis (1923- ? )**. Norma's mother did not remain in the house but about four years, left, and eventually remarried. This caused Norma's father, Norman to move in with his mother, Helen A. Georges -Corson, so that he could continue his work with the United States Air Force, and his engineering career. Norma's grandmother, Helen Amelia was the primary caregiver during Norma's childhood years. Norma remembers her being an excellent cook and seamstress. Norma eventually graduated from Northern High School in 1962, and using the self-directing skills learned from her grandmother, immediately enrolled in evening college courses while working full time during the day.

Norma continued her lifelong passion of horseback riding at a local stable in Parkville, Maryland. She remembers riding the public bus to the farthest stop East on Harford Road, and then having to walk another mile and a half to the barn. At the time, the barn was called Cub Hill Stables, and interestingly would be managed by Norma's step-daughter 30 years later as Graham Equestrian Center. As part of the horse industry, and through mutual friends, Norma met her husband, William Earl La Barre in 1970. They were married only a few years

later, and together, eventually moved to a piece of property in White Hall, Maryland that Norma had purchased a few years prior on her own.

Together, they pursued their passion for horses and added a barn and fencing to their property. In 1986, William and Norma welcomed the arrival of a daughter, April. One year after that, Norma left her job at a local engineering firm in Hunt Valley, Maryland, to work for Baltimore County Public School Department of Transportation as a bus driver. She chose this career path as it allowed her to be home with April when she was off school. The similar schedules allowed Norma and April to spend their summers riding and taking trips together. Unfortunately, by the time April had graduated high school, Norma and William had grown apart and divorced in 2004. Norma moved to Pennsylvania where she met her second husband. Norma continued her transportation career for 29 years and is now enjoying retirement on her Pennsylvania farm with her husband of 8 years, Bob.

April's father, **William Earl La Barre**, was born in 1938 to **James Louis La Barre Sr. (1911-1994)** and **Elaine Larine Smith-La Barre (1912-1995)**. The couple resided in Baltimore, Maryland, with their already two year old son, James Louis Jr. The La Barres lived in Baltimore City proper<sup>ii</sup> until the 1960s when they moved to Catonsville, Maryland, - Baltimore County. Until their move, the La Barres had lived in a row home conducive to typical Baltimore City. The uprising of the Civil Rights movement was the initial push to move to the county, and it proved to be a wise choice as violence broke out in Baltimore.

Always interested in the outdoors, William spent most of his time outside and working in jobs involving teaching about the environment. William's middle school and high school summers were spent working at the Black Rock Camp in Butler, Maryland, an overnight summer camp for outdoor education and recreation. William has fond memories of his time at the camp swimming, biking, canoeing, climbing, and riding horses. The time spent at this camp was almost fortuitous to William's future, and favorite career.

William graduated from the Baltimore City College and High School in 1956. His brother James, graduated two years prior from the Baltimore Poly-Tech School. Following high school, William decided on a career in the Marine Corps and enlisted in 1957, while his brother decided on a career in the Coast Guard. William went through boot camp and was eventually stationed in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Quickly working his way through the ranks, William was promoted to the position of Gunnery Sergeant and a contracted martial arts instructor. His time in the Marines was only five years, as by the end of his service, William set his sights on a career with horses. He moved back to Maryland in 1961 and purchased his first project horse - an unbroken horse with very little education needing guidance and direction.

It was at a farm in 1961 that he met his first wife, Susan Sobus, a former Marine, and fellow horse trainer. They were married one year later. Together, the two began talking of a dream to live out west, buying, selling, and training horses. William and Sue eventually



packed up their belongings and made the move across the country to southern Nevada. A few years of hard work and lots of dedication proved minimal success as a career in horses took more resources than William and Sue were able to provide. Realizing that they should stop while somewhat still ahead, the couple moved back to Maryland. Sue continued working with horses while William used his Marine experience and martial arts expertise to land a job with the Baltimore City Police department. William spent five years on foot and bike patrol in the Pigtown area of Baltimore - the area directly west of Oriole Park at Camden Yards Stadium, and the Raven's NFL M&T Bank Stadium. In 1967, William and Sue welcomed their first child, a daughter named Holly Lee La Barre. Four years later, they welcomed a son, William James La Barre. As the children grew up on the horse farm, William and Susan began to grow apart, and eventually divorced when Holly was seven years old, and Bill was three.

William continued his work for the Baltimore Police department and through mutual friends, met his second wife, Norma Corson. William and Norma eventually married in 1975 and bought a small horse farm together in northern Baltimore County as Norma was also an avid equestrian. Soon after they were married, William made another job change and found a bath and kitchen design position with Central Building Supply in the Hampden area of Baltimore City. It was here that William could use his artistic talents in drawing and design to flourish as one of Baltimore's top designers. Using his connections with builders and suppliers, William and Norma, together with other handy family members built their own tudor-style house in White Hall,

Maryland. It was completed in 1979. In April of 1986, William and Norma welcomed a daughter, April Layne. By the time April turned three, William and Norma bought their first horse for their farm, also a three-year old!

In 1990, William added another job to his resume. While keeping his full time design position with Central Building Supply, he was also hired part time as an Outdoor Education teacher for Baltimore County Public Schools. William was finally back doing what he loved when he was a camp counselor in high school. He was charged with taking students on hikes, boating trips, canoe trips, swimming trips, and river walks all while educating them on the wonders of nature and the complexity of the environment. In addition to his work with the schools, William was an avid volunteer. In 2000, he began volunteering with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Mounted Patrol in which he patrolled the parks system for ten years via horseback. Additionally, he was the organizer of the Oregon Ridge Nature Center's largest annual fundraiser - the pancake breakfast, a position he only recently stepped down from in March of 2015 after 16 years of service. In 2009, William finally retired from all of his work positions so that he could spend more time at home and enjoying the things he loves. William still resides in White Hall, Maryland in the home he built 37 years ago.

### GENERATION THREE

**Ala1. Alverta Escellee Davis-Corson (1923- ?)**

**Ala2. Norman Louis Corson, Jr. (1921-2010)**

**Alb1. Elaine Larine Smith-La Barre (1912-1995)**

**Alb2. Louis James La Barre, Sr. (1911-1994)**

April's maternal grandmother, **Alverta Escellee Davis-Corson (1923- ?)**, was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1923, to **Alverta Lucas-Davis (1905-?)** and **Charles C. Lucas (? - ?)**. Alverta was an only child. She and Norman divorced four years after the birth of their daughter, Norma. She has not been in contact with the family for two decades, but is believed to be living in Towson, Maryland.

April's maternal grandfather, **Norman Louis Corson, Jr. (1921-2010)**, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, to **Helen Amelia Georges-Corson (1904-?)** and **Norman Louis Corson, Sr. (1900- ?)**. Norman Jr. was an only child. He eventually began a career with the United States Air Force during World War II. After leaving the service, Norman became involved with aviation engineering for the government. Norman maintained a high security clearance was participated in the development of nuclear weapons.

April's paternal grandmother, **Elaine Larine Smith-La Barre (1912-1995)**, was born in a small Pennsylvania town close to Lake Erie in the extreme northwestern part of the state. There is very little information known about Elaine's parents other than her mother abandoned the children very early in their lives. This left Elaine's father to raise the children, but he could not due to his work schedule. The children were then divided up amongst other family

members and raised in their respective households. It is believed that Elaine went to live with one of her aunts. The only information known about one of Elaine's siblings is that he, William Smith, was a well-known photographer during World War II. April's mother remembers Elaine not liking the photographs he took, claiming: "who wants to see pictures of war and violence?" Norma tried to talk Elaine into keeping William's photographs as they were a huge part of history, but they were unfortunately discarded back in the 1980s.

Despite Elaine's dissatisfaction with the war photographs, she was a working woman in journalism during Baltimore's civil rights campaign. In the book, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*, Figure 5.2<sup>iii</sup> The Civilian Workforce and Labor Force Participation Rate by Gender, 1900 to 2000, Fischer and Hout explain the trend of how the women's growing labor force participation increased the size of the labor force and narrowed the gender gap. In looking at the graph, the number of women in the workforce grew exponentially in 1910 from 8 million female workers, and rose steadily between 1920 from 9 million to 1990 at 70 million. The years between 1920 and 1950 are very interesting and remind April of her paternal grandmother.

Elaine lived in Catonsville, Maryland with her husband James Louis La Barre, Sr. She was a hard working woman raising two boys in a nice, suburban area of Baltimore. She worked her entire life to provide for her family in various occupations. Her most notable was working for the Baltimore Sun newspaper during the pre-civil rights movement. Her dedication to journalism kept her driving forward in her career during

uneasy times in Baltimore and its surrounding areas. Elaine's participation in the workforce was instrumental in the promotion of women's rights as well. While women still did not earn the same wages as men, she was a representative number in the growing labor force of women.

April's paternal grandfather, **James Louis La Barre, Sr.**<sup>iv</sup> (1911-1994), was born in Baltimore, Maryland to **Elsie Mae Conrad-La Barree** (1877-1939), and **John Henry La Barree** (previous spelling) (1878-1941). James was one of eleven siblings; six sisters, and four brothers. Beginning in 1899, the children of James, Sr. and Elsie Mae are as follows: **Gladdis La Barre-Jury** (1899- ?), **John J. La Barre** (1901 - ?), **Elmer L. La Barre, Sr.** (1902- ?), **George F. La Barre** (1905- ?), **Elsie Marie La Barre-Kisser** (1906- ?), **Martha Amelia La Barre-Ritter** (1909- ?), **James Louis La Barre, Sr.** (1911-1994), **Margaret La Barre-Lindeman** (1911- ?), **Dorothy Blanche La Barre-Owens** (1915- ?), **Theodore Delbert La Barre** (1918- ?), and **Hazel La Barre-Benton** (1921- ?).

April's paternal grandfather and Elaine had two children of their own, **James Louis La Barre Jr.**, (1936- ), and **William Earl La Barre** (1938- ). James Louis, April's paternal uncle had four children: **Theresa La Barre-Burnett** (1967 - ), **James Louis La Barre, III** (1971- ), **Kathy La Barre-Lucy** (? - ), and **Virginia La Barre** (1974 - ). William Earl had three children, two from his first marriage, one, April, from his second: **Holly Lee La Barre** (1967- ), **(William James La Barre** (1971- ), and **April Layne** (1986 - ).

## GENERATION FOUR

**Ala1a. Alverta Lucas-Davis (1905-?)**

**Ala1b. Charles C. Lucas (?-?)**

**Ala2a. Helen Amelia Goerges-Corson-Pauley (1904-1998)**

**Ala2b. Norman Louis Corson, Sr. (1900-?)**

**Alb1a. Unknown (?-?)**

**Alb1b. Unknown (?-?)**

**Alb2a. Elsie Mae Conrad-La Barree (1877-1939)**

**Alb2b. John Henry La Barree (1878-1941)**

April does not know anything about her mother's maternal grandmother as, just as her maternal grandmother did, she (Alverta Lucas-Davis) left the family soon after her daughter was born. April does remember her mother's paternal grandmother as she was an integral part of both their childhoods.

April's great-grandmother was born in Baltimore in 1904 to **Emma Louise Ackermann-Goerges (1872-1970)** from Raspeburg, Maryland, and the German-born **Hugo C. Goerges (1858-1941)**, from Berlin. Helen was one of three daughters: **Elizabeth Theresia Goerges-Kraus (1898- ?)**, **Marie Hedwig Goerges-Kellogg (? - ?)**, and the youngest, **Helen Amelia (1904-1998)**. April's great-great grandparents proved to be extremely self-sufficient; learning English, attending post-secondary schools, establishing careers, and supporting their family in the city. April's great-great-grandparents instilled these same values in her great-grandmother. In 1922, she (Helen Amelia) graduated high school, and met her first husband. However, like her friends, she didn't let marriage slow her down.

She decided to attend the Baltimore Business College, and earned her diploma in typing and bookkeeping. From there, she began working as a freelance typist. Even more interesting, she was one of the best in the city and was able to make a comfortable living. Her education and financial planning proved their worth once again upon the death of her first husband, Norman Louis Corson, Sr., and thus charged her with the responsibility of raising their son, alone in the 1930's. April's great-grandmother had saved enough from her job to cover the necessities of she and her son when the stock market crashed.

She and her son, my maternal grandfather, survived the Depression, and then while enjoying an evening out, she met her second husband, **Norman Laverne Pauley (1890- ?)**, at a small concert venue. Together, they continued to build our family's German legacy in Baltimore. It is clear that Helen's strong will, independence, and resiliency tie into Fischer's theme of **security**, for she worked very hard to secure a comfortable future for she and her son, April's grandfather, in times of despair. Helen and Norman Pauley raised Norman Louis Jr, and eventually, Norma in an adorable brick-cottage style house in a beautiful Baltimore neighborhood known as Wilson Heights. Interestingly, the violin that Norman Pauley played for his concerts is the same violin, passed down through her mother that April plays in concerts today.

April's paternal great-grandfather, **John Henry La Barree (1878-1941)**<sup>v</sup> is believed to be the family member that changed the spelling of the last name from "La Barree" to "La Barre". This has made

researching the La Barre family rather difficult as there are a variety of "La Barre" spellings including: "La Barree", "La Bar", "La Barr", and "La Barrie". Interestingly, not many occupations could be found throughout April's relatives, but in the 1900 U.S. census<sup>vi</sup>, John Henry documented his occupation as a conductor for the E.R.R., a local railroad. John was also drafted for World War I as evidenced by the United States Draft Registration cards from 1917-1918.<sup>vii</sup> As with the rest of the La Barre family, they are buried at Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore City, Maryland.



## GENERATION FIVE

A1a1a1. Katherine M. Lucas (1879- ?)

A1a1a2. Frank Lucas (1871- ?)

A1a1b1. Unknown

A1a1b2. Unknown

A1a2a1. Emma Louise Ackermann-Goerges (1872-1970)

A1a2a2. Hugo C. Goerges (1858-1941)

A1a2b1. Unknown

A1a2b2. Unknown

A1b1a1. Unknown

A1b1a2. Unknown

A1b1b1. Unknown

A1b1b2. Unknown

A1b2a1. Unknown

A1b2a2. Unknown

A1b2b1. Mary Caroline La Barre (1853- ?)

A1b2b2. John Henry La Barre, Sr. (1852- ?)

April does not know much about her great-great grandparents on either side. She does however know that her maternal great-great grandfather, **Hugo C. Goerges (1858-1941)** was born in Berlin, Germany and came to the United States, arriving in Baltimore, sometime in 1891. This information can be found in the 1930 census<sup>viii</sup> where Hugo states his immigration year. From speaking to her mother, April also discovered that Hugo owned and operated a saloon at 2030 Frederick Ave. Baltimore, Maryland. Unfortunately, no one can remember the name of the saloon, but know that it was in operation for several decades.

April's maternal great-great grandmother, **Emma Louise Ackermann-Goerges (1872-1970)** born in Raspeburg, Maryland, eventually moving to Baltimore City.

On her paternal side, April's great-great grandmother, **Mary Caroline La Barre (1853- ?)**, was born in Maryland, along with her parents according to the 1880 census<sup>ix</sup>. April's paternal great-great grandfather, **John Henry La Barre, Sr. (1852- ?)**, was also born in Maryland, and according to the same 1880 United States census, his parents were born in Maryland as well, and he worked as an Iron Moulder. Knowing that there are but a few original iron-ore quarries in the Baltimore area, April plans to continue her research to establish his former place of employment. As with the rest of the La Barre family, they are buried at Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore City, Maryland.

Being that the La Barre's were clearly living in Baltimore, Maryland around the mid-1850's. The DAILY Exchange<sup>x</sup> became known as the voice of the reform movement in Baltimore surrounding the Civil War. As far as April knows, her family did not fight in the Civil War, so she would assume that this newspaper would have been read by them as a source for pre-war updates. Unfortunately, the paper was outlawed towards the end of 1861 due to its opposition of the Lincoln Administration. It was then replaced by several other titles supporting different sides of the war, but those were also quickly shut down. This makes perfect sense as Maryland was a border state and not solely "north" or "south". As a non-participant of the war, this

paper would have been of interest to individuals following the progress. Unfortunately, this is where the paternal side of April's family tree has stopped as there is no further information found at this time on previous generations.

## GENERATION SIX

A1a1a1. Unknown  
A1a1a2. Unknown

A1a1b1. Unknown  
A1a1b2. Unknown

A1a2a1. Unknown  
A1a2a2. Unknown

A1a2b1. Unknown  
A1a2b2. Unknown

A1b1a1. Louise Emma Danz-Ackermann (? - ?)  
A1b1a2. Adam Gottlieb Ackermann (? - ?)

A1b1b1. Unknown  
A1b1b2. Unknown

A1b2a1. Unknown  
A1b2a2. Unknown

A1b2b1. Unknown  
A1b2b2. Unknown

The only information known about April's maternal great-great-great grandparents is that they were both born in the Pilsen area of Germany. The couple was married in Germany, and eventually immigrated to the United States. Once in the U.S., the couple went on to have four children; three daughters, and one son: **Emma Louise Ackermann Goerges (1872-1970)**, **Carrie Ackermann (? -1952)**, who did not have any children, **Annie Ackermann-Vogt (? -1971)**, also did not have any children, and **Edward Ackermann (? - ?)**. Unfortunately, this is where the maternal side of April's family tree has stopped as there is no further information found at this time on previous generations.

Working through genealogy is an exhausting, but rewarding process. The discovery of new family, reconnecting with old, and explaining your identity make the journey more than worth it. With the availability of so many documents and records online these days, researching family history no longer requires the hiring of a professional. Making the connections and putting the pieces of the puzzle together based on your own determined work - that is satisfying.

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<sup>i</sup> Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 156.

<sup>ii</sup> "United States Census, 1940; Pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1961-27879-183-73 - Familysearch.Org", *Familysearch.Org*, accessed January 5, 2016, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89M1-CW3?mode=g&i=7&wc=QZXB-C6T%3A790103401%2C791572001%2C795640801%2C951930101%3Fcc%3D2000219&cc=2000219>

<sup>iii</sup> Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 102.

<sup>iv</sup> Year: 1930; Census Place: BALTIMORE, BALTIMORE (INDEPENDENT CITY), MARYLAND; Roll: 865; Page: 8B; Enumeration District: 0379; Image: 891.0; FHL microfilm: 2340600

<sup>v</sup> "John Henry Labarre (1878 - 1941) - Find A Grave Memorial". *Findagrave.Com*. Accessed November 2, 2015. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=LaBarre&GSiman=1&GScid=1973902&GRid=141803348&>.

<sup>vi</sup> "United States Census, 1900; Pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-266-11122-94177-89 - Familysearch.Org". *Familysearch.Org*. Accessed March 8, 2016. <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZG3-XK4?mode=g&wc=9BQK-HZR%3A1030551101%2C1030688401%2C1032373201%3Fcc%3D1325221&cc=1325221>.

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vii "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1951-25099-84260-45?cc=1968530> : accessed 11 April 2016), Maryland > Baltimore City no 24; F-Z > image 1448 of 42

viii "United States Census, 1930; Pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1951-22731-3250-61 - Familysearch.Org", *Familysearch.Org*, accessed April 18, 2016, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9R4L-3VZ?wc=QZFS-XT7%3A648803201%2C649359801%2C649305301%2C1589286102%3Fcc%3D1810731&cc=1810731>.

ix Accessed February 3, 2016. [http://Year: 1880; Census Place: Baltimore, Baltimore \(Independent City\), Maryland; Roll: 503; Family History Film: 1254503; Page: 309D; Enumeration District: 160; Image: 0622](http://Year: 1880; Census Place: Baltimore, Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland; Roll: 503; Family History Film: 1254503; Page: 309D; Enumeration District: 160; Image: 0622).

x The Daily Exchange. (Baltimore, [Md.]), 14 Sept. 1861. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83009573/1861-09-14/ed-1/seq-2/> (Links to an external site.)> [Accessed 8 February 2016].