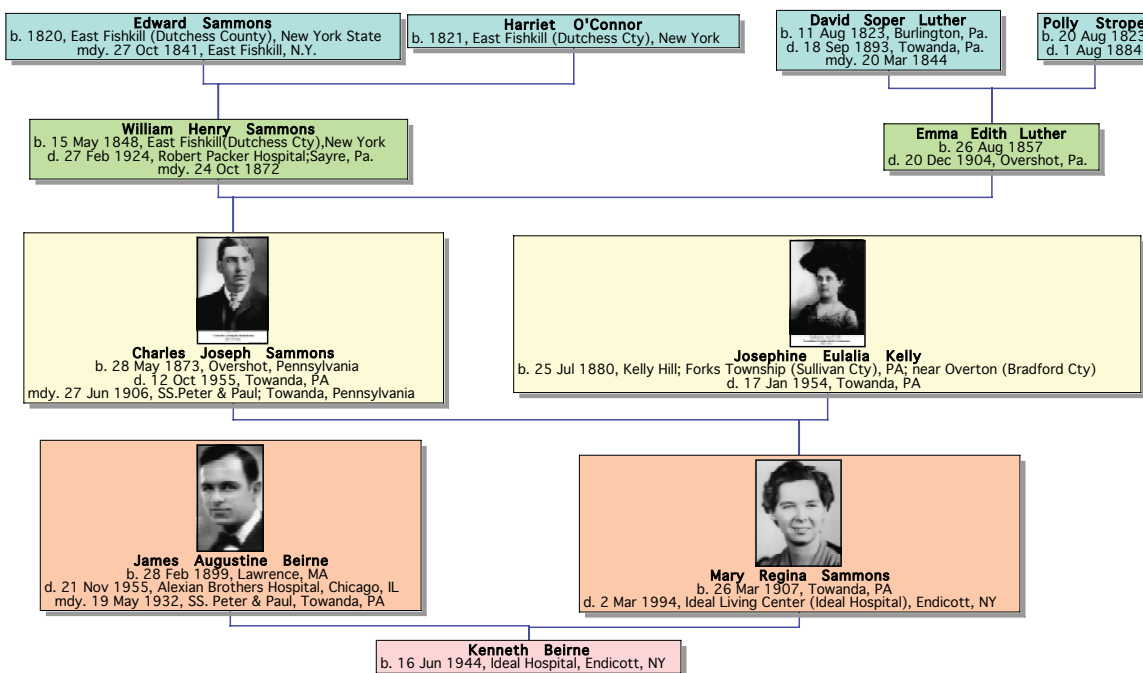


Maternal Ancestry Sammons, O'Connor and Luther

The details of my mother's genealogy were limited to the Kelly & Leahy side (see other chapters about them) with some additional information about the Luther connection that arrived in the 1960s & 70s. Some of the Luther piece was incorrect but became part of the family folklore anyway.

There was always a mystery about my grandfather Charlie Sammons' roots. It was a "don't ask and don't tell" topic. We knew that he had a brother and that he been born in Overshot, Pa. but little else was known.



The Sammons & Luther Connection

It turns out that he had a large and extensive family of uncles, aunts and cousins and that most of them, including his father, had relocated from New York State to Bradford County, PA. He had several cousins in the Towanda area and some were prominent citizens. My mother never knew any of this and was unaware that she and her siblings had Sammons and Luther relatives nearby.

Some of the mystery is connected to a religious bias and some to the circumstances of Charlie's parents' relationship, such as it was. Charlie was a non-Catholic who converted to Catholicism to marry Josephine Kelly. His father's people were Methodists and his mother was a Luther whose lineage goes to the heart of the Reformation, a distinctly non-Catholic time. We are probably related to Martin Luther who advocated some major differences with the Catholic hierarchy and their teachings (see Luther connection and story). Charlie's wife was a devout Catholic and three of their ten children became members of the religious as nuns and priest. It is no wonder that his Protestant roots

The Best Things Always Disappear

were considered off-limits. His parents' marriage was also a troublesome event that further added to the mystery.

Hopefully, this story will remove the shroud of mystery. It includes:

- Sammons & O'Connor family
- Luther & Strobe family
- Sammons & Luther marriage (Charlie's parents)
- The Luther connection