

*The Grammers
of Tennessee,
Kentucky,
and Southern Illinois*

By Penny McIntire

*“The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way,
and then dipped suddenly down,
so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself
before she found herself falling down what seemed to be a very deep hole.”¹*

So Alice was a genealogist.
Who knew?

¹ From Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*.

Preface

Many of the Grammer relationships in here are based upon little more than speculation. When I have facts upon which to base that speculation, I list them. Otherwise, it's just my hunch or the hunch of one of the other Grammer researchers with whom I am working. If you have any information which would throw enlightenment upon the Grammers, or if you find any mistakes or discrepancies in what I have written, please (*please!*) let me know so that I can correct them. This is, after all, *only a draft*, and I hope to update it as more information surfaces.

In most cases I have not yet organized cousins into group sheets or tried to trace their descendants to the present; I have had plenty to do just to organize the direct line. Even though I have not yet done much with cousins, I am collecting information on all Grammer descendants for future use. I would appreciate any group sheets or other information that any of you might have. I would be happy to pay for any copying costs. Alternately, email me at the email address listed on the footer.

The Table of Contents shows the structure of the chapters. Each direct ancestor has a chapter to himself. Additionally, William Grammer and Senator John Grammer have separate chapters even though they are apparently not my direct ancestors. Finally, there is a chapter for "Lost and Found" Grammers, and another chapter for the bibliography.

The names of the direct ancestors of each person under discussion appear as page headers on the upper right side of each page (those that are my own direct ancestors are underlined as well).

I need to express my deep gratitude to the folks who have helped me along the way. Without the combined years of research of Sue Ibendahl, Jo Ann Roberts Doctorman, Tony Ferrill, and Mary Morgan, I would have never known where to begin. Others, too numerous to mention, have contributed a great deal along the way as well, and those folks are mentioned where appropriate throughout the manuscript. Darrel Dexter (2843 Whitener #5B, Cape Girardeau, MO 6370) and the late Dee Fozzard (both of the Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois) have done wonderful research for me in Southern Illinois, and Lloyd Raymer (405 Austin Raymer Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101) has done the same for me in Kentucky. I got more than my money's worth from each of these folks, and I would recommend them highly.

I have not done anything more than the most cursory genealogy research in more than ten years. Someone has said that you can do everything in life, you just can't do it all at once. I am in the situation now where other things must take priority. But when I do get back to doing research, it will be centered upon:

- Finding proof of Dr. Joel's parentage. He is one of the few Southern Illinois Grammers that I can't nail precisely. Unfortunately, he is also my direct ancestor. It is possible that Dr. Joel is from a different line entirely (although I hope that that is just too unlikely to entertain seriously). I think I have exhausted most of the Southern Illinois records. I will next try to do the same for Alabama (where Dr. Joel apparently lived when he married Elizabeth Clapp) and Graves County, Kentucky (where he and his young family lived before moving to Southern Illinois).
- Finding Reverend John's parents. The only solid clue so far is that the 1849 death census lists Senator John's birthplace as Virginia. There were indeed a whole slew of Grammers in the Petersburg/Dinwiddie County area of Virginia throughout the 18th century, so this could very well be our Grammer line. I suspect that there was also a link to North Carolina, where an occasional Grammer record can be found. More on all this is listed in the "Lost and Found" chapter.

Please feel free to download this manuscript and pass it on to anyone else interested in the Grammers. You may use any and all facts from this manuscript freely and without attribution, but if you quote passages, they should be properly attributed. No one may *publish* this manuscript, however, without my express permission.

Please stay in touch with any new information you might come across, particularly if you come across any data on either Dr. Joel or Reverend John that might shed light on their parentage.

So many ancestors, so little time.

Happy Hunting!
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