**Other guesses:**

Dale Evans
Marilyn Monroe
Ginger Rogers
Betty Grabel
Lynn Chaney
Billie Burke
Mary Louise Parker
Betty Ford

Feature Article**Exploring Age Progression Using Forensic Genealogy**

By Colleen Fitzpatrick and Andrew Yeiser

Are the age progression techniques used in criminal forensics useful to the genealogist? The answer is "yes and no."

Age progression is a technique through which forensic scientists model what a missing person may look like at a later date based on his or her appearance when he or she disappeared. The technique can be applied to missing children as well as criminals who are in hiding. It is natural to try to apply age progression in genealogy to compare an unknown picture with a known one of an ancestor at a different age to establish if they are of the same person. Unfortunately, while age progression in genealogy could rule out a possible match between the individuals in two pictures, it cannot make a definite identification.

An accurate age progression in criminal forensics relies on information about the aging process of family members and other factors such as the known psychology of the missing person. For example, the apprehension of John Emil List, 18 years after he murdered his mother, his wife and their three children, resulted from an age-progressed image that was extremely accurate. A bust was sculpted requiring an in-depth study of the aging patterns of his parents, in addition to a comprehensive psychological analysis of him. When he was arrested, the likeness of the age-progressed bust to John Emil List's appearance was photo-identical.

There is no quick and easy software package to age-progress an image of a person in a photograph. The process takes much practice and skill. Even if the age progression of a photograph is performed by someone with the expertise to produce accurate results, genealogists often lack the additional information necessary to differentiate between two people who might look alike, such as two brothers, a father and his son or even two unrelated people.

Although age progression has very little value to genealogists, it is still possible to make an educated guess about whether two photos could be of the same person based on physical features such as a person's hairline. Even if a man has lost some of his hair, his hairline tends to retain its original shape, with the part in the same place. The shape of the hair as it falls on the forehead is another potential identifying trait, as are unusual features such as the shape of the earlobe or a heavy chin. (Plastic surgery was not an issue until recently.)



Figure 1

The three photos shown in **Figure 1** are examples of identification by the comparison of physical traits. While there is no conclusive proof that the portraits are of the same people, the photos share certain elements that indicate they probably are. In both photos both sides of the man's hairline are rounded, meeting at his part on the left, high on his head. He has thick hair on both sides of the part with a lock of hair draped across the right side of his forehead. His moustache does not cover his top lip, revealing a triangle of skin below his nose. The men in the pictures could be wearing the same jacket.

Similar statements can be made about the women in the pictures. The part in the hair of each woman is well defined in the middle of the head with a thick bundle of hair drawn back from the face on the left. Probability is in favor of the two men and the two women being the same people.

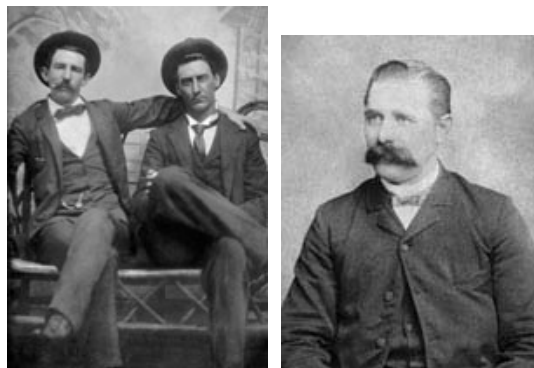


Figure 2

As an example of a case where a match is ruled out, see **Figure 2**. The man in the photo by himself cannot be the same as the one on the right of the pair of friends. Although they show similarities, the friend on the right does not show the overbite the older man exhibits, nor is the younger man's jaw as wide. The younger man has shadows below his deepset eyes, unlike the older man. We conclude that they cannot be the same person.

On the other hand, there are no conclusive differences between the older man and the friend on the left. Both have similar hairlines, similar moustache shapes and similar brow ridges. Both are wearing bow ties. (Have you ever met a man who switches back and forth between bow ties and conventional ties?) We conclude that they could be the same person.

An interesting exercise for the reader involving matching the individuals in two pictures: Consider the age-old mystery of the identity of the model for the Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci. Some historians believe she could have been Leonardo in drag. You can judge for yourself. See **Figure 3**.



Figure 3

No image available

Learn more about Forensic Genealogy by visiting the **[Forensic Genealogy web site](#)**, or send comments or inquiries to Author and Forensic Genealogist Colleen Fitzpatrick at **colleen@forensicgenealogy.info**.

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■ Feature Article

Fun-Loving Bev Petersen Shares Her Good Humor With Fellow Genealogists Through Lighthearted (And Useful) Products Jeannette Balleza

"I love genealogy more than anything, other than people, of course. As a hobby, it's something you can pick up any time. It's part of my art love, but I'm not an artist," Bev Petersen explained. Then her mouth widened in a cheerful grin. "I am, however, such a visual person. I've always had this visual thing."

Bev's journey in genealogy began in 1988 with a gift of an "autograph" quilt top. The quilt had places for names and dates. When Bev started embroidering her family names in the quilt's 20 separate blocks, she realized that she was missing a number of birth and death dates. Her efforts to finish the quilt with the correct information ignited her passion for genealogy.

In 1996 Bev attended an antique show in South Bend, Indiana, where she found a beautiful 1888 Family Tree Photo Holder. She had the 16" x 20" print for just a few years before it began to deteriorate due to acids within the paper. She was horrified by the print's poor condition, and her friends encouraged her to preserve the piece by scanning, digitally restoring and reproducing it. She made 500 prints from the original and attended a genealogy conference for the State of Indiana, marking the first of her **[many travels as a vendor](#)** at nationwide genealogy seminars, shows and events.

Her love for genealogy and her "visual thing" had finally commingled into what is now known as Petersen Reproductions, Fun Stuff for Genealogists, Inc.

Drawing from her previous career in Parks and Recreation, continual training in graphic design at the technical college, years of teaching genealogy at the university in South Bend and her close-knit group of creative, supportive friends, Bev continues to grow her inventory of fun, often completely original, genealogy products, which now includes the following:

- T-shirts for adults and kids with clever phrases
- Mugs
- Mouse pads
- Family trees and pedigree charts
- Bumper stickers
- License plate frames
- Genealogy-related cross-stitch and quilt patterns and books
- Note cards
- Archival supplies such as specialty pens
- Refrigerator magnets
- Luggage tags
- Keychains
- Clip art CDs
- Much, more more!

Title/Name: _____
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 Call #, Page etc.: _____
 ISBN: _____ Date found: _____
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© 2004 Fun Stuff for Genealogists, Inc. Mishawaka, IN **Cite your Sources!**

"Cite Your Sources" sticky note

One of Bev's favorites is a shot glass imprinted with the message, "Genealogy...a shot in the dark!" She designs the majority of the artwork featured on her products, which she characterized as "a little bit lighthearted." She giggled before continuing, "I've got some awesome friends with awesome ideas, and I suppose I'm the one to make things happen."

One such friend is Pat Oxley of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), whose ingenuity served as the inspiration for one of Bev's top-selling products, **"Cite Your Sources" sticky notes**. These notepads are designed for genealogy researchers to use at the library, at home or even at the courthouse. Each note includes the following space headings: Title/Name, Author, Publisher/Address, Date, Repository, Call #, Page etc., ISBN #, Web/E-mail Address and Misc. Info. Printed on yellow paper to stand out among piles of paper copies, the notes are 3" tall x 4" wide and are \$4.95 for 3 packs per order, 50 sheets per pack, for a total of 150 source tags.

"Genealogists, especially those starting out, may forget to write information down about a source. It happens all the time. It's overwhelming, and they'll let it go. We've all done it wrong and learned it the hard way," commented Bev. "'Cite Your Sources' notes are great helpers in that respect. They help you prove your research."

Other top sellers are a **new line of embroidered shirts, T-shirts and jewelry**. With over 500 genealogy and family history items for sale, Fun Stuff for Genealogists attends approximately **25 conferences** per year (including FGS and NGS) and takes orders **online** or by phone at 877.259.6144. In addition, Bev and her friends are working on a bricks-and-mortar storefront at 3213 Mishawaka Ave., South Bend, Indiana.

If you have any innovative ideas for a fun genealogy product, **submit your thoughts** to Bev's "idea file."

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