

Unable to Find – a Y-DNA Story  
By Walt Bruetsch

*“Unfortunately, I am unable to find any reference to Ray Andrews’ parents.”* So concludes the October 6, 2006 letter from The Franklin County [Ohio] Genealogical & Historical Society. Ray W. Andrews, and, as I was to find out later, John C. Andrews, each of Franklin County, are not named in George H. Andrews’ 1861 will.

Two descendants of Ray W. Andrews have taken the male Y-DNA test and they matched: Haplogroup R1b1b2g (2008). But when we compared their DNA to that of the genealogical paper trail from George H. Andrews, b. 1783, back to a William Andrews, of New Haven, CT colony in 1640, the DNA did not match! This in March, 2017. Conclusion: George H Andrews raised Ray from baby to manhood, but he wasn't the biological father. I'd expect DNA from George's other two sons would match the 1640 New Haven Wm. Andrews DNA, but no testers yet.

At this point, I gave up. No way was I going to find 1825 paper work to verify any birth event in the wild west of Ohio!

Then in 2019, renewed interest in Y-DNA sparked a renewal in the research for Ray W.’s parents. The earlier Y-DNA comparison using Ysearch.org gave a 1 mismatch for Douglass, and a 2 mismatch for about five other names. Now, with Ysearch.org removed from the Internet, I found the Douglass Y-DNA Project on FamilyTreeDNA.com. Open to the public. The comparison: Ray W. Andrews DNA matched 32 of 33 (97%) markers from several Douglass R1b testers with the common ancestor being a William Douglas, b. 1610, to New England in 1640 and to New London, CT colony in 1660.

This match renewed my interest into the question of Ray W.’s parents. Looking over George H. Andrews’ family tree, I observed the marriage of his and Maria (nee) Fisher’s daughter Maila to an A. J. Douglas in 1849 in Franklin Co., Ohio. The proverbial **“light bulb”** in my brain lite-up! Could this AJ Douglas be related in some way with Ray W.’s DNA Douglass? **Is the “world this small”?**

I found Arad J. and Maila Douglas in the 1850 US Census living with a Thomas Douglas in Monroe Co., Ohio. In 1860, A. J. and Maila are in Gambier College Twp., Knox Co., living with two children and the same Thomas Douglas.

In the 1830 US Census, in Sharon, Franklin Co., George H. Andrews has an under 5 years old male (image 7). In the same census, there is an Archibald Douglas living in Sharon, Franklin, Ohio, with a female under 5 years of age (image 1). [FamilySearch.org is being used.]

I also use family trees information, realizing there could be errors. FamilySearch.org has their IGI database (International Genealogical Index). Archibald Douglas was found: b. 1781 with Gambier, Knox, Ohio [wrong] as place of birth. Spouse Rachel. Another IGI tree has Archibald Douglas b. 1781 in New Jersey, spouse is Rachel Fisher and with one child being Arah Joy Douglas. Marriage in ~ 1803, likely in New Jersey.

Fisher! **Oh My God!** Could Rachel Fisher, Archibald’s wife, be related to Maria Fisher, George H. Andrews’ third wife?

Working with the IGI tree, clicking on the Children of Archibald and Rachel shows that some of them were born in Ithaca, New York.

I like to view the county message boards on Ancestry.com. They seem to be more active than surname message boards. Knox Co. had a lot of Douglas activity and information. I also viewed Tompkins Co., NY for information. But, still view the surname boards.

Another research source is Find-A-Grave. Some of the memorials have photos of the grave stone and some have detailed family information. Just be sure to document your sources, so if you find conflicting data, then you can consider the source in making a genealogical judgement.

Included in this research is the convincing evidence that Rachel b 1785 was the first child of Peter Fisher, b. 1763 + 21 = 1784 marriage and his wife Maria Van Houten, b 1766 +18 = 1784 marriage year. And Peter and Maria moved their family to the Ithaca, NY area in ~1806, after Rachel had her first child Margaret b 1804 in Tompkins Co., NY. Plus, Rachel naming her son after her sister's husband adds to the evidence.

In conclusion:

1. Rachel b 1785 and Maria b 1786 Fisher are first cousins, as their fathers (Peter b 1763 and Isaac b 1766, resp.) were brothers.
2. Rachel b 1785 had a sister named Catharine b 1791, who m. Arad Joy. They had a son named Arad T. Joy, b 1816.
3. Rachel and Archibald had a son b 1819, whom they named Arad Joy Douglass, aka A. J. Douglas
4. Rachel and Archibald had a daughter b ~1825, (Rachel at age 40) named Sophia.
5. Rachel and Archibald also had a son b~1825, a twin, who was raised/adopted by Rachel's cousin Maria Fisher and husband George H. Andrews, named Ray W. Andrews.
6. The 1830 U. S. Census has a 1 June 1830 date. So a child under 5 years old would have been born between 1 June 1825 and 31 May 1830. So an 1825 birth would have been in the latter half of 1825.
7. **Were Sophia Douglas and aka Ray W. Andrews twins?** Maybe, maybe not. Census ages would support births ~one year apart. Ray first, 1 Jun 1825 - 31 May 1826 and then Sophia 1 Jun 1826 – 31 May 1827.
8. **Why did aka Ray end up being an Andrews?** I don't know the answer to that question.

Below is a chart showing the Fisher-Douglass-Andrews Family Connections.

The above genealogical information is in a public family tree named A\_Andrews on Ancestry.com. A paid subscription is needed to view this tree. If you don't have a subscription, ask another person if they do. It is not viewable via Ancestry.com Library Edition, on the Martin County, FL Library computers.

Walt is in the Genealogy Room of the Blake Library, Stuart, FL, on Tuesday afternoons from ~1:30 PM to ~3:30 PM.

**Fisher (F), Douglass (D) and Andrews (A) Family Connections**

**Isaac F. # 1**

b ~1740  
in Germany

**Peter F. #2**

b 11 Sep 1763 NJ  
d 18 Jul 1845  
in Tompkins Co, NY  
**m Maria Van Houten**  
b 7 Nov 1766  
NJ  
m~1784ages21&18

**Isaac F. # 2**

b 25 Dec 1766 NJ  
d 31 Dec 1844  
Pike Co., Ind.  
**m Sarah Bruen**

*[Moved to  
Ithaca, NY  
~1806.  
Rachel had  
1st child  
July 1804.]*

**Rachel F.**  
b ~1785 NJ  
*based 1st child*  
m~1803 NJ/NY

Elizabeth  
b 1789

**Catharine F.**  
b 25 Mar 1791  
Pompton, NJ  
m 2 Jan 1814 in NY

**Maria F.**  
b ~1786 NJ  
m 1822-26  
**George H. A.**

**Archibald D.**  
b 20 Jan 1781

**Arad Joy**  
b 5 Apr 1790  
VT

in Franklin Co, Ohio  
To OH ~1819

Children:  
**Arad Joy D. aka AJ**  
b ~1819 Ovid, NY  
To Franklin Co, OH  
1820

Child:  
**Arad T. Joy**  
b 22 Sep 1816  
N Y State  
d 17 Sep 1834  
Ovid, Seneca, NY

Child:  
**Mailia A.**  
b ~1828 Franklin Co, OH

**Sophia D.**  
b ~1825 (Rachel age 40)

in Franklin Co., OH  
**Twin Boy**

AKA Ray W Andrews  
b~1 Jun 25-31 May 26

*[Rachel named  
a son after her  
sister's husband,  
Arad Joy D.]*

*[Confirms Peter2 is Rachel's father.]*

m 20 Sep 1849  
**A. J. Douglass**  
*Raised:*  
**Ray W. Andrews**  
b 1 Jun 1825  
thru  
31 May 1826  
*[per US Census  
1830, 1860]*