

STUDENT READING

Generations of a Waterman’s Family

A Story of Migration

Captain Salem Avery’s family can be traced back to Christopher Avery, a weaver, from Devon, England. Born in 1590, Christopher Avery traveled to Massachusetts in 1630 with his son, James.

James later married Joanna Greenslade in 1643, and founded the town of Groton, Connecticut.

Three generations later James and Joanna’s great-grandson Humphrey Avery II (1725–1788) married Mary Baldwin and bought land on Long Island, New York.

The family remained on Long Island. There Humphrey’s grandson William (1796–1878) married Mary Ann Smith. Together they raised nine children, one of whom was Captain Salem Avery. As they grew up, the family spread far and wide.

Children Born to William and Mary Ann Avery

Child’s Name	Birth Date	Profession
William Nelson	born 1820	Sea Captain, Long Island, New York
Walter Norton	born 1821	Sea Captain, New Haven, Connecticut
Josiah Smith	born 1823	Farmer, Fairmont, Maryland
Edward	born 1825	Sea Captain, New Haven, Connecticut
John	born 1827	No record
Harriet Maria	born 1830	Lived in Blue Point, Long Island, New York
Salem	born 1831	Buy Boat Captain, West River, Maryland
Miami	born 1837	Lived in Blue Point, Long Island, New York
Jacob	born 1839	Lived in Blue Point, Long Island, New York

Salem Avery migrated to Maryland in the 1850s and married a young widow Lucretia Weedon Andrews in 1857. In 1860 Captain Salem Avery and Lucretia bought the property where the Captain Salem Avery House stands today.

Children born to Salem and Lucretia Avery

Child's Name	Birth Date	Child's Name	Birth Date
Ella Janett	born 1857	Emma Lucretia	born 1866
Jacob Alonzo	born 1859	Salem Walter	born 1867
William Edward	born 1860	Nelson Andrew	born 1868
Samuel Andrew	born 1863, died 1864	Mary Lucinda	born 1871
Martha Ann	born 1864, died 1864		

According to the U.S. Census, all of Captain Avery's children were living at home in 1880.

By 1880 both Alonzo and William had followed in their father's footsteps and become watermen. As was common in those days, the Avery family could trace several generations who chose to make a living on the water.

From the U.S. Census: The Avery Family in 1880

Name	Age	Marital Status	Occupation
Avery, Salem	48	Married	Sailor
Lucretia	51	Married	Keeping house
Ella J.	23	Unmarried	No record
Alonzo J.	21	Unmarried	Oysterman
William E.	20	Unmarried	Oysterman
Emma L.	14	Unmarried	At school
Salem W.	13	Unmarried	At school
Andrew N.	11	Unmarried	At school
Mary L.	8	Unmarried	No record

If you visit the Captain Salem Avery House Museum on a field trip, you will take on the identity of a member of the Avery family and analyze census records to find out more about them.

STUDENT WORKSHEET

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A Story of Migration

1. With your class, use the United States wall map in your classroom to locate places where the children of Mary Ann Smith and William Avery (Captain Avery's parents) settled. Why do you think many of the children moved away from New York to other places?

2. Find the names of Alonzo J. Avery and William E. Avery on the 1870 U.S. Census. In the 1880 Census they still lived at home with their parents, but were listed as oystermen. How do you think they contributed to the economics of the Avery household?

If these young men were living in today's world, do you think they would be oystermen? Why or why not?

3. *Be a Census Enumerator!* Use the form on the other side of this page to take a census of your family, classroom, neighbors, or friends. (If you like, you can include information on the Captain Avery family from the copy of the 1870 U.S. Census. Good luck with the handwriting!)

4. What can we learn about the past by looking at a census record?

5. If an historian examined your census 50 years from now, what could they learn about you and your family and friends? Does your census reveal a story of migration? Why or why not?
