

# MY MATHEMATICAL ANCESTRY

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## Summary

- **Academic ancestry:** Leibniz, the Bernoullis, Euler, Lagrange, Laplace, Poisson, and d'Alembert.
- **Famous statistics line:** West → Smith → Lindley → Barnard: four giants of 20th-century Bayesian statistics in immediate succession.
- **Müller branch:** Canonical Cornell decision-theory lineage: Berger → Brown → Kiefer → Wolfowitz.

**Source:** Mathematics Genealogy Project, MGP ID 47993. The trace below walks backward from my record through my two advisors, Mike West and Peter Müller, to the earliest documented ancestors.

**Two branches:** Both branches share the trunk from Leibniz (1666) down to Oswald Veblen (the merge point). After Veblen, they diverge: Branch B (via Müller) is three generations longer than Branch A (via West), so the table is padded with blanks at the top of the split section so both columns end on me.

#	Branch A (via Mike West)	Branch B (via Peter Müller)
1	Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (Leipzig, 1666)	<i>(same)</i>
2	Nicolas Malebranche (Paris)	<i>(same)</i>
3	Jacob Bernoulli (Basel, 1684)	<i>(same)</i>
4	Johann Bernoulli (Basel, 1690/94)	<i>(same)</i>
5	Leonhard Euler (Basel, 1726)	<i>(same)</i>
6	Joseph-Louis Lagrange (Torino, 1754)	<i>(same)</i>
7	Siméon-Denis Poisson (ÉP, 1800)	<i>(same)</i>
8	Michel Chasles (ÉP, 1814)	<i>(same)</i>
9	H. A. Newton (Yale, 1850)	<i>(same)</i>
10	E. H. Moore (Yale, 1885)	<i>(same)</i>
11	Oswald Veblen (Chicago, 1903) – <i>merge</i>	<i>(same)</i>
12	—	R. L. Moore (Chicago, 1905)
13	—	John R. Kline (Pennsylvania, 1916)
14	—	Donald A. Flanders (Pennsylvania, 1927)
15	Alonzo Church (Princeton, 1927)	Jacob Wolfowitz (NYU, 1942)
16	George A. Barnard (Princeton, 1936)	Jack C. Kiefer (Columbia, 1952)
17	Dennis V. Lindley (no formal Ph.D.)	Lawrence D. Brown (Cornell, 1964)
18	Adrian F. M. Smith (UCL, 1972)	James O. Berger (Cornell, 1974)
19	Mike West (Nottingham, 1982)	Peter Müller (Purdue, 1991)
20	<b>Hedibert F. Lopes (Duke, 2000)</b>	<i>(same)</i>

\*Assisted by Claude for Mac.

## Combined Chronological List

Every named ancestor traced, oldest first. Marker key: **S** = shared trunk; **A** = West branch only; **B** = Müller branch only; † = side advisor (co-supervised someone in the chain but does not continue further on the principal mathematical line). Below, we have stopped at Jacob Bernoulli.

#	Ancestor	Institution & year	Branch
1	Jacob Bernoulli	Basel, 1684	S
2	Johann Bernoulli	Basel, 1690/94	S
3	Nikolaus Eglinger	Basel (Johann B.'s medical co-advisor)	S†
4	Leonhard Euler	Basel, 1726	S
5	Léonor Caron	Mazarin (d'Alembert's advisor)	S†
6	Jean Le Rond d'Alembert	Collège Mazarin, 1735	S†
7	Giambattista Beccaria	Torino (Lagrange's Torino advisor)	S†
8	Joseph-Louis Lagrange	Università di Torino, 1754	S
9	Pierre-Simon Laplace	Caen, 1769 (Poisson's 2nd advisor)	S†
10	Siméon-Denis Poisson	École Polytechnique, 1800	S
11	Michel Chasles	École Polytechnique, 1814	S
12	Hubert Anson Newton	Yale, 1850	S
13	Eliakim H. Moore	Yale, 1885	S
14	Oswald Veblen	Chicago, 1903 ( <i>merge point</i> )	S
15	Robert Lee Moore	Chicago, 1905	B
16	John Robert Kline	Pennsylvania, 1916	B
17	Alonzo Church	Princeton, 1927	A
18	Donald Alexander Flanders	Pennsylvania, 1927	B
19	George Barnard	Princeton, 1936	A
20	Jacob Wolfowitz	NYU, 1942	B
21	Jack Carl Kiefer	Columbia, 1952	B
22	Dennis Lindley	Cambridge / UCL, c. 1950s (no Ph.D.)	A
23	Lawrence Brown	Cornell, 1964	B
24	Adrian F. M. Smith	University College London, 1972	A
25	James O. Berger	Cornell, 1974	B
26	Mike West	University of Nottingham, 1982	A
27	Peter Müller	Purdue, 1991	B
28	Hedibert F. Lopes	Duke, 2000	—

### Notable Observations

- Both advisors trace back to the same node — Oswald Veblen / E. H. Moore — at the University of Chicago around 1903-1905. The Müller side reaches it via R. L. Moore (the topologist); the West side via Alonzo Church.
- Alonzo Church (great-great-great-grandadvisor) supervised Alan Turing, Stephen Kleene, J. B. Rosser, Dana Scott, Michael Rabin, and Leon Henkin — the founders of theoretical computer science.