

Origin Story

“where did we come from?”
“America,” mom answered,
which seemed obvious*

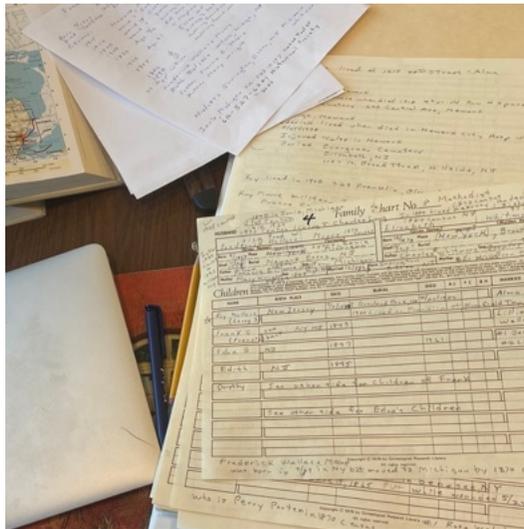
but friends had told her
of roots in Ireland, Norway,
awesome foreign lands

her family’s roots
reached just a day’s drive from home
—thus began her quest

five decades searching
gravestones, gene pools,
Europe’s cobbled streets

genealogy’s
immigrants still elude her
origin story

* Actual incident ca. 1956, Watertown, South Dakota



Susan’s family names: Moore, Shaw, Smith, Massie, Whitmore, White, Webb, Addis, Bryan, Welch, Hicks, Whitlow, Martin, Cathan, Ferguson, McDaniel, Rankin, Hooser, Edwards, Shumate, Caldwell — in Missouri, Ohio, New Jersey, New York, Michigan, Virginia

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