

Genealogy Escape Room™

The Case of Bubble Wrap

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You are LOCKED IN overnight in the corporate archives of Sealed Air Corporation, maker of BubbleWrap. You partied way too much at the anniversary party for the invention of bubble wrap by Alfred W. Fielding and Marc Chavannes at Hawthorne, New Jersey on 25 January 1957.

You MUST complete your research on the co-inventors of Bubble Wrap and key in the answers to the clues listed below to UNLOCK the main door and escape! Use this form <https://forms.gle/TP1W1k19M1WcG7gM9> and don't look at the answers below!

NOTE: You can use ANY online resources for research; all clues can be found on FamilySearch at <https://familysearch.org>

The Case of Bubble Wrap Clues, Answers, and Research Notes

Here are the clues and answers and how the research was performed.

On what date did Alfred W. Fielding die?

7 July 1994

Our only clue is that Alfred W. Fielding was a co-inventor of BubbleWrap and the invention took place in 1957 in Hawthorne, New Jersey

Research strategy: Begin with FamilySearch search for Arthur W. Fielding with Life Event RESIDENCE = New Jersey and RESIDENCE DATE RANGE = 1955 to 1960

GenealogyBank Obituaries, 1980-2014 for Fielding

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKWG-JZHM>) indicates connection with Marc Chavannes. But need to resolve death date conflict. Obituary summary states event date 12 July 1994 and event location Hackensack, New Jersey. Death location is listed as Seattle, Washington.

Social Security Death Index (SSDI) for Fielding

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JPZ8-HZJ>) indicates death date of 7 July 1994 with a residence in King County, Washington.

The Washington Death Index 1965-2014 entry for Fielding

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLW9-7N5S>) indicates death date of 7 July 1994 with the death location as King County, Washington.

In which city did Alfred W. Fielding die?

Kirkland

While there are entries for Seattle and/or King County, the obituary for Fielding states Kirkland and the

GenealogyBank Obituaries, 1980-2014 for Fielding

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVRB-Y4BS>) is an obituary in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer dated 14 July 1994 listing death date as 7 July 1994 and death location as Kirkland, Washington.

The Washington Death Index 1965-2014 entry for Fielding

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLW9-7N5S>) indicates death date of 7 July 1994 with the death location as King County, Washington and ZIP CODE = 98033.

USPS Zip Code Lookup for 98033 (<https://www.unitedstateszipcodes.org/98033/>) reveals the location to be Kirkland.

What is the patent number of bubble wrap, listed as "Method for making laminated cushioning material"

US3142599A or 3142599

A search of **Google Patents**

(<https://patents.google.com/?inventor=chavannes&oq=chavannes>) using Chavannes as search criteria (because Chavannes is less common as a surname than Fielding) results in <https://patents.google.com/patent/US3142599A/en?q=3142599>.

On what street did Alfred W. Fielding live in 1940?

Fairmount

A general search on FamilySearch returns several US Census population schedules including 1940. To ensure we have the correct Alfred W. Fielding, we look to the birth date listed on the SSDI to give us a range.

Social Security Death Index (SSDI) for Fielding

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JPZ8-HZJ>) indicates birth date of 31 August 1917.

United States Census, 1940

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K4PT-FFM>) indicates Alfred W. Fielding was 22 years of age, living with his parents William H and Wilhelmina Fielding in Hackensack, New Jersey. Street address listed as 144 Fairmount.

On which date was the William H. Fielding family enumerated in 1940?

17 April 1940

This is a bit of a trick questions. While the official “census date” was 1 April 1940, and the heading on the population schedule lists 16 April 1940, the enumerator marked in the left margin which families were visited on 17 April 1940 including the William H. Fielding family.

United States Census, 1940

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K4PT-FFM>) indicates the William H. Fielding family was visited by the census enumerator on 17 April 1940.

How is Ella Fielding related to Alfred W. Fielding?

Aunt

Another tricky question since Ella Fielding is shown in the next household in the US 1940 Census population schedule for the William H. Fielding family. Likely that FIELDING is Ella’s married name given she lists herself as a Widow with children in the 1940 Census.

United States Census, 1940

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K4PT-FF9>) indicates Ella M. Fielding as the head of household, a widow, with two children (George and June) and an aunt (Frances Peterman).

The 1930 US Census also shows Ella Fielding as a widow, so her husband must have died prior to 1 June 1930.

United States Census, 1930

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X486-CCF>) indicates Ella M. Fielding as the head of household, a widow, with two children (George and June), an aunt (Frances Peterman), and a boarder (Edward Wilde).

Scrolling down to Similar Historical Records for Ella Fielding, an obituary for June M. Fielding Von Schleider (**North Carolina Deaths, 1931-1994** - <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FG21-HH7>) indicates Ella’s maiden name as MERRILL and her husband’s name as George Fielding (which makes sense since the oldest son is named George).

A general search at FamilySearch with George Fielding + Spouse First Name = Ella, produces a birth date of 1893 and a death date of 2 March 1929 for George Fielding.

New York, New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:24M3-5XC>) George Fielding of Hackensack, New Jersey died in Manhattan, New York on 2 March 1929. George’s parents are listed as John Fielding and Annie Powell

A search for George Fielding on FamilySearch with a birth date range of 1892-1894 and father = John locates Anne Fielding in the 1905 New York State Census with sons William and George.

New York State Census, 1905

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKSF-568>) shows Anne Fielding as head of household with sons William, George, and Frank.

It is likely that Ella Fielding is the paternal aunt of Alfred W. Fielding.

At what age did Ella Fielding marry according to the 1940 Census?

25

Ella Fielding was selected for the Supplemental Questions listed at the bottom of the 1940 US Census population schedule. In Column 49, For All Women Who Are Or Have Been Married, the age 25 is listed.

United States Census, 1940

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K4PT-FF9>) indicates Ella M. Fielding listed on Line 29 is selected for Supplemental Questions. Column 49 indicates age at marriage as 25.

Who was Ella Fielding's husband?

George Fielding

New York, New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:24M3-5XC>) George Fielding of Hackensack, New Jersey died in Manhattan, New York on 2 March 1929. Ella Fielding is listed as spouse.

On what date did Ella Fielding's husband die?

2 March 1929

New York, New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:24M3-5XC>) George Fielding of Hackensack, New Jersey died in Manhattan, New York on 2 March 1929. Ella Fielding is listed as spouse.

What is the MAIDEN name of Alfred W. Fielding's wife?

Labagh

A general search on Google for "Alfred W. Fielding" + wife lists an obituary for Virginia Ida Labagh Fielding

(<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/northjersey/obituary.aspx?n=virginia-fielding&pid=180362673&fhid=24225>)

A search on FamilySearch in New Jersey Marriages, 1678-1985 (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1675446>) for Alfred Fielding and spouse = Virginia Labagh produces no results but a Family Tree search for Virginia Labagh produces an entry with four sources (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/L1YH-N3S>).

A search of the New Jersey Marriage License Index, 1915-2016 on MyHeritage (<https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-10702-2781714/alfred-w-fielding-and-virginia-labagh-in-new-jersey-marriage-license-index>) reveals a marriage license issued to Alfred W. Fielding and Virginia Labagh in 1946.

What is the birthdate for Marc Chavannes?

2 March 1896

A general search on FamilySearch for Marc Chavannes reveals several records listing the birth date.

Social Security Death Index (SSDI) for Marc Chavannes (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VMG4-FZ5>) indicates birth date of 2 March 1896.

What was the first name of Marc Chavannes' FIRST wife?

Raffaella or Rafaella or Rafaela.

A search on FamilySearch for Marc Chavannes reveals an immigration record in 1939 where Chavannes is traveling to the US with his wife

United States, New York, Index to Passengers Arriving at New York City, compiled 1944-1948 (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:76T4-P96Z>) for Marc Alfred Chavannes indicates wife's name as Raffaella.

A general search on FamilySearch using Marc Chavannes and Spouse = Rafaella reveals a US border crossing in 1946 listing Rafaella as the wife of Marc Chavannes

Vermont, St. Albans Canadian Border Crossings, 1895-1954 (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK3R-B4FM>) for Marc Chavannes dated 13 December 1946. Wife's name is Rafaella.

What was the first name of Marc Chavannes' SECOND wife?

Exa Lister

A general search on FamilySearch for Marc Chavannes located a marriage record in 1950.

New Brunswick Provincial Marriages 1789-1950

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVBN-KPJG>) lists Exa Marie Lister as bride, with Marc Chavannes as divorced and born about 1897.

On what date did Marc Chavannes die?

6 April 1994

Social Security Death Index (SSDI) for Marc Chavannes

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VMG4-FZ5>) indicates death date of 6 April 1994.

What name do Fielding and Chavannes have in common?

Alfred

The middle name for Marc Chavannes is listed in several records including immigration records.

Vermont, St. Albans Canadian Border Crossings, 1895-1954

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK3R-B4FM>) for Marc Chavannes dated 13 December 1946. Middle name is Alfred.

Under what other name can Marc Chavannes be found in public records?

Max

A search of immigration records for Chavannes in FamilySearch reveals a 1929 ship manifest for a Max Alfred Chavannes.

New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1909, 1925-1957

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:24F3-CYM>) lists a Max Alfred Chavannes arriving in New York on 4 October 1929 travelling with his wife Raffaella.

Resource List

- **Genealogy Research Log**

<https://genealogybargains.s3.amazonaws.com/Genealogy+Research+Log.xls>