

## *Composing Dreams*

The man featured in the photograph attached may seem just like any other figure of the nineteenth century. But underneath that blank facade is an esteemed organist, pianist, composer, music critic, and teacher, among other things(!). Unsurprisingly, with so many professions, he has many stories to tell. This man is James H. Rogers, my great-great grandfather.

You've probably heard of the Rockefeller family, being one of the richest families in the world. But what you probably don't know is that James H. Rogers worked as the Rockefeller family's private piano teacher for years, even growing to become good friends with them.

Though his existence may seem detached from my everyday life, James H. Rogers's legacy and his love for music have lived on in my family for countless years. We all have a deep appreciation for classical music, and all of us play an instrument. We even still play his pieces on the piano on which he composed.

Both James H. Rogers and I feel the need to reach for dreams that can further enrich our lives. Looking at how many titles he took on, you can tell that he was passionate about music, and pursued that passion throughout his life. Similarly, I have found that I will not be satisfied with life until I have filled it with experiences that work towards my dreams. That being said, while his focus was music, I aspire to be a chef and student of the culinary arts.

Even though there's a one hundred fifty year difference between us, James H. Rogers is still part of my family. Throughout his life, he remained focused on what he cared about, and that was what gave him those experiences. His passion made him who he was, and that passion has carried on as the family legacy.



about 47 years.