



Fairfield Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

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BASIC GENEALOGY

WHAT IS GENEALOGY?

Genealogy is defined as the study or investigation of ancestry and family histories. The result of this study or investigation is usually a record or table (a family tree) of the descent of a family or person from one or more ancestors.

WHY DO GENEALOGY?

There are many reasons for becoming involved with this fascinating activity.

Genealogy is a hobby. Like other hobbies, it is engaged in because it is fun. Unlike some other hobbies, there is no care and feeding involved, there are no deadlines to meet, and the expenses are entirely a matter of choice. As always, one gets out of this activity something directly proportional to the effort which one puts into it.

Genealogy is interesting, and should provide a source of family pride. The story of the family is fascinating, and deserves to be assembled and told.

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

Genealogy is easy, but requires an understanding of basic public records. It also requires the ability to organize information which is obtained, as well as the ability to pay attention to details.

Most beginning genealogists think in terms of looking for records of the family members who are being researched. The challenge is to figure out where to look.

Two types of records can be found. The first is "primary" records. That is, records which were created at the time of the event which was recorded. Primary records include the recording of transactions

involving the purchase or sale of property, the payment of taxes, the filing or probate of wills, civil or criminal court records, census records, birth/marriage/divorce/death records, military service records, and many more. What these records have in common is that they were made at the time of the event by people who had first hand knowledge of the event. In a genealogical sense, these records are accepted as "proof" that the events occurred and that the content of the records is correct.

The second type is "secondary" records. These are records such as a family history or genealogy, a county or state history, or any other body of information which has been compiled by an author. The author may or may not have based the compilation on primary records. The published information may be true, but it may also not be true. The use of secondary records provides a genealogist with excellent clues as to where to look for primary records. In some cases, primary records are cited in the secondary record, thus simplifying the search.

WHAT DO I DO FIRST?

The logical place to begin is with yourself. Starting with your birth certificate, assemble all of the records which define your existence from a legal point of view. Then move backwards to your parents and try to obtain copies of similar records for them. Keep going backwards until you run out of living ancestors and "in hand" records.

NOW WHAT?

Now the real research starts. Each type of primary and secondary record is different. Each offers a unique genealogical content and a unique challenge in terms of availability.

Genealogy Terms

ancestor

a person from whom you descend; grandparents, great-grandparents, 2nd great-grandparents (also called great great- grandparents), 3rd great-grandparents, etc.; direct-line ancestor; forefather; forebear.

ancestry

denotes all of your ancestors from your parents as far back as they are traceable. Estimates suggest that everyone has approximately 65,000 *traceable* ancestors, meaning ancestors whose existence can be documented in surviving records.

bequeath

term appearing in a will meaning to leave or give property as specified therein to another person or organization.

biographies

a biography is a book written about a particular individual. You can also find compiled biographies, which are books that contain short biographies of many different people. A compiled biography normally is about a specific group of people. For example, you can find compiled biographies about individuals who were involved in a particular profession or who lived in a particular area. You can usually find the following information in a biography: occupation, accomplishments, affiliations, and family information.

birth records

a birth record contains information about the birth of an individual. On a birth record, you can usually find the mother's full maiden name and the father's full name, the name of the baby, the date of the birth, and county where the birth took place. Many birth records include other information, such as the birthplaces of the baby's parents, the addresses of the parents, the number of children that the parents have, and the race of the parents, and the parents' occupations.

bond

written, binding agreement to perform as specified. Many types of bonds have existed for centuries and appear in marriage, land and court records of used by

genealogists. Historically, laws required administrators and executors of estates, grooms alone or with others, and guardians of minors to post bonds. It is not unusual to discover that a bondsman was related to someone involved in the action before the court. If a bondsman failed to perform, the court may have demanded payment of a specified sum as a penalty.

bounty land

land promised as an inducement for enlistment or payment for military services. A central government did not exist when the Revolutionary War began, nor did a treasury. Land, the greatest asset the new nation possessed, was used to induce enlistment and as payment for military services. Those authorized to bounty land received a Bounty Land Warrant from the newly formed government after the war.

cemetery records

cemetery caretakers usually keep records of the names and death dates of those buried, as well as maps of the grave sites. They may also keep more detailed records, including the names of the deceased's relatives. In addition to these paper records, you will find tombstones. Tombstones can provide information such as birth and death dates and the names of other family members.

census records

a census is an official enumeration of the population in a particular area. In addition to counting the inhabitants of an area, the census generally collects other vital information, such as names, ages, citizenship status, and ethnic background. The United States government began collecting census data in 1790, and has done so every 10 years since that date. Selected states have also conducted their own censuses over the years.

codicil

supplement or addition to a will; not intended to replace an entire will.

consort

wife, husband, spouse, mate, companion.

conveyance

legal document by which the title to property is transferred; warrant; patent; deed.

church records

church records are the formal documents that churches have kept about their congregations through the years. Churches normally record information about christenings, baptisms, marriages, and burials. The type of information you will find in the records are the name(s) of the individual(s) involved, the date of the event, the location of the event, and the clergyman's name. You may find additional information, such as parents' names (father's full name and mother's maiden name), the names of witnesses to an event, and the individual's (or family's) place of residence.

descendant

Your descendants are your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on -- anyone to whom you are an ancestor.

daughter-in-law

A daughter-in-law is the wife of an individual's son. Daughter-in-law also used to mean "step-daughter."

deceased

commonly written "the deceased," meaning someone who has died.

deed

document transferring ownership and title of property.

dower

legal provision of real estate and support made to the widow for her lifetime from a husband's estate.

emigrant

person leaving one country to reside in another country.

emigration

emigration is when an individual leaves their home country to live in another country.

estate

assets and liabilities of a decedent, including land, personal belongings and debts.

fee simple

an inheritance having no limitations or conditions in its use.

executor

male appointed by a testator to carry out the directions and requests in his or her will, and to dispose of the property according to his testamentary provisions after his or her death.

executrix

female appointed by a testator to carry out the directions and requests in his or her will, and to dispose of the property according to the testamentary provisions after his or her death.

grantee

person purchasing, buying or receiving property.

grantor

person selling, granting, transferring or conveying property.

guardian

person lawfully appointed to care for the person of a minor, invalid, incompetent and their interests, such as education, property management and investments.

homestead

a homestead usually is a home on land obtained from the United States government. Part of the agreement between the individual and the government was that the individual had to live on the land and make improvements to it, such as adding buildings and clearing fields.

immigrant

person moving into a country from another country.

immigration

immigration is when an individual goes into a new country to live.

intestate

used to denote a person who died without leaving a will.

inventory

an inventory is a legal list of all the property in a deceased person's estate. The executor of the will is required to make an inventory.

I hope these terms are helpful.

CARE FOR LIBRARY COLLECTIONS: A ROLL FOR EVERYONE

- Handle books with clean hands. Fingerprints are often indelible.
- Handle microfilm by the edges, as you would a photograph. Smudges and scratches obliterate images, destroying information.
- Don't attach metal paper clips to books for any reason. They crimp and tear paper, and leave rust stains. Plastic clips are less damaging but should be used with discretion.
- Processing instructions should not be written on library materials. These markings are a defacement and should be jotted on scrap paper instead – flags are less likely to get lost than small slips.
- Avoid using elastic bands to hold together damaged books or piles of material. Bands can dent covers and cause paper to tear and crumble. As they deteriorate, they give off damaging sulfur compounds. Use cotton string instead.
- Make sure that books in your work area and in the stacks are shelved upright. Leaning causes bookbindings to break down quickly.
- Books too tall to shelve upright should be shelved spine down – not on their fore edges. Fore edge shelving is extremely wearing on book bindings because it stresses their weakest part – the hinge.
- A non-damaging way to remove a book from the shelf is by placing an index finger firmly on the head of the text block and tipping it out. Yanking at the top of the binding eventually ruins the spine covering – cloth and paper tear, leather breaks.
- Don't turn down the corners of pages to mark your place. The creases will be permanent, and if the paper is brittle the corner will break away with one fold. Laying a book face down weakens the binding and can soil pages. The best way to mark your place is with a slip of paper – not with a pencil or other bulky object which distorts the binding.
- When photocopying books, take care not to wrinkle or crumple pages. If a book is bound so that it resists being pressed flat, don't

force it – settle for a less than perfect image of the page you're copying.

- Don't eat or drink while reading library materials, or in an area where crumbs and spills might damage them. Food attracts paper-eating insects, and spills cause permanent stains.



And finally – don't read while swimming.

A Lever History

Jefferson Jacob Lever was born Feb. 16, 1837, in Richland County, in the old hare of his father, John Lever. He married Susan Ann Charlotte Leitner. She was born at kr father and mother's hare in Richland County (South Carolina), the haw Jacob's father gave him (the place where Jake Rick is now living). She moved to Florida when she was four-teen years old and lived in Marion County for five years when Jefferson J. Lever sent to Florida and married Susan A. C. Leitner, the 20th day of December 1860, by Rev. W. T. Harrison. We stayed in Florida three weeks after we were married, started hare the 14th of January, came as far as Gainesville, stayed all night at Mr. Heath's. We left Gainesville at 8 o'clock, and arrived at Fernandina at 2 o'clock and went to the Whitfield House and rested a while, then went aboard the steamer Gordan, and left about 8 o'clock for Savannah. We had a rough night, it rained about 2 o'clock. It was a severe storm, which caused a delay in our travel. We sere due to arrive at Savannah at 8 o'clock, and it was 9 o'clock when we got there. We went to the Pulaski House and stayed until 10 o'clock that night, and took the train about 11 o'clock for Augusta, and arrived at Augusta at 8 o'clock the next morning, and changed cars. V&

arrive at Doko (now Blythewood) at 5 o'clock in the evening and stayed all night at Mr. Peter Huffman's, and next morning we borrowed his carriage and two mules from Mr. J. L. Kennedy, and came home. Got here at 11 o'clock. It was raining hard. We were glad to get home. We lived at John Lever's the first five years of the war, which started the first of January 1861. The port of Charleston was blockaded the 14th of January, so we could not get through. We had to come by Savannah.

Jefferson J. Lever's father's name was John Lever, and was born October 1796 in Lexington County, but moved to Richland in early life. He was a son of Jacob and Mary (Souter) Lever. They both died when he was a week old. They were both buried in the same grave. His aunts raised him. His father came from Germany. His mother was a daughter of Mary (Antz) and George Souter. Jacob Lever had two sons, Samuel and John. John married Nancy Smith, a daughter of Stephen Smith and Mary Eve Hamiter. Her great-great-grandfather came from England. He was granted a tract of land in Craven County, Camden District, now known as Richland County, by King George the III in the year 1765. It was situated on Cedar Creek, and was surrounded by vacant land. Stephen Smith's wife was named Mollie. She lived to be 115 years old.

John Lever was in the Spanish War, 1812. He was stationed down near Charleston. Jefferson J. Lever did not go into service until January 1, 1862. He went to Hampton's Company. It was organized that day by Capt. Frank Hampton, legion Hampton's Brigade. J. T. Lipsecomb, Col. commanding. They went into camp soon after, dawn towards Charleston. He was at Adams Run a long time. I will try to tell you some of the places he was at. He was at Mt. Pleasant a good while, and in camp in the city of Charleston three months. He stood guard at the Ashley River Bridge a long time, and he was at several other places down there on the coast. They were sent from down there to some point in Virginia. I don't remember the first place. I will mention some of the places: Roanoke, Stanton, April 23rd at Nelson, on the march to Halifax, Fredericksburg. He was in Petersburg hospital five months. He was in North Carolina at a good many places, at Wilmington, and Welborn, and Raleigh at the general hospital No. 7, sick with chills and fever. March 25,

1863, at the general Hospital MC Raleigh was Claptan Hospital. He was in North Carolina when the army was disbanded. He was in several skirmishes. He did not get wounded, but had several narrow escapes, but his horse was wounded and he on his back; the horse was shot in the shoulder, so bad, it was condemned from service; and another time one of his comrades was shot and killed by his side. His horse was condemned, and he got a furlough to get another horse. He only got two furloughs during the war. He joined the army the 1st day of January 1862, and this is his last furlough: Headquarters 2 S. Carolina Cavalry, April 24, 1865. Corpl. J. J. Lever of Co. C 2 S. C. Cavalry is hereby permitted to go to his home in accordance with especial orders No. (20) apt. N. Carolina unless sooner ordered into service by proper authority. W. S. Stack, Commanding Co. C 2nd S. C. Cavalry J. T. Lipscomb, Col. Commanding Approved April 28, 1865.

—Written by Susan A. C. Lever
Prior to her death in 1931

LEVER FAMILY CEMETERY

Located about one half mile from Oak Grove Methodist Church in Upper Richland County, SC. Inscriptions copied by Mrs. T. C. S. Lever, Elko, SC.

Stephen S. Lever / Sept. 17, 1822 / Nov. 10, 1862

Susanna A. Lever / Feb. 23, 1827 / Jan. 14, 1889

James W. Lever / May 5, 1825 / June 2, 1895 / Co. G, 24th Reg., S.C.V.

M. H. Lever / Nov. 5, 1831 / Sept. 7, 1880

(10 infants were buried from this family)

J. D. F. Lever, M. D. / June 20, 1834 / June 1, 1907

Nannie Ruff Lever / 1841 -1929

Jefferson J. Lever / Feb. 16, 1837 / Jan. 30, 1913

Sue A. C. Lever / Oct. 5, 1841 / June 27, 1931

W. H. Lever / Dec. 24, 1839 / July 22, 1878

Minnie C. W. / Dec. 14, 1868 / Dec. 28, 1868

OAK GROVE METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY

Upper Richland County, South Carolina

Herbert H. Lever / Jan. 26, 1865 / May 2, 1936
Martha A. Lever / Oct. 5, 1864 / April 30, 1936
Martha Caroline Leitner Sherrill / March 26, 1849 / March 30, 1914
Simpson Jones Sherrill / March 28, 1846 / July 28, 1932
James D. Leitner / June 30, 1871 / Nov. 4, 1898

J. Ella Trotter / wife of / S. D. Lever / Born July 21, 1874 / Died Feb. 13, 1899
Mary Ann Graddick / wife of / David Graddick / Jan. 15, 1839 / June 18, 1912
Thomas George Lever / Feb. 7, 1851 / Aug. 3, 1906
Susan Hamiter Lever / April 30, 1850 / Sept. 20, 1928
Robert E. Leitner / Sept. 26, 1878 / Nov. 7, 1898

One tombstone near the old home place,, upper Richland County, at edge of yard, where a new house has been built..

G. Souter / Born 1783 / Died Feb. 12, 1821

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