Beginning Genealogy

Research Strategies for a Successful Family History

Presented by Jana Meyer
Work Backward in Time

- Start with yourself and your family.
- Do not skip generations.
- Never start with someone you are supposedly related to (e.g. Abraham Lincoln) and try to connect your family to that person.
Your Extended Family

- Contact your extended family network.
- Search within your family for documents: letters, diaries & journals, photographs, postcards, family bibles, etc.
- Interview family members.
Arsenal le 18 mai 1850

Chère princesse belle-soeur, je viens te montrer la beauté de ma mère. Je suis venue te dire que je t'apporte les nouvelles de ma famille et de mes amis. J'espère que tu es en bonne santé et que tu es heureuse. Je t'envoie ma plus sincère amitié et je te prie de croire que je pense souvent à toi. Ta lettre a causé beaucoup de joie dans notre famille. Tu as raison de me faire cette promesse et je te remercie de ta sympathie.

Monsieur M.,

Mesures prises pour que vous receviez vite.

Ambassadeur de l'ambassade de
Poste à poste par le
Maréchal
en Amérique,

Jacques Lefranc
Organize your Research

- You will not be able to keep track of your genealogy in your head. Use organizational tools.
  - Generations/Pedigree Chart
  - Family Group Sheet
6 Generation Pedigree Chart

No. 1 on this chart is same as #____ on Chart #____.

The boxes by the male names may be filled in with a color or mark to indicate when all the work has been completed for that family.

Parents (3rd Generation)

[Image of family tree diagram]
### Family Group Record

**Prepared by:** Jana Leichty Meyer  
**Address:** Louisville, Ky  
**Date:** July 2013  
**Religion:** Mennonite

#### Husband: Jacob Leichty
- **Occupation:** farmer  
- **Born:** 30 Aug 1819  
- **Christened:** ~ 1850  
- **Married:** 1 Mar 1896  
- **Died:**  
- **Buried:** Sugar Creek Cemetery  
- **Father:** Pierre Lichty  
- **Mother:** Catherine ("Katie") Klophenstein

#### Wife: Catherine ("Katie") Klophenstein
- **Married name:** Catherine ("Katie") Klophenstein  
- **Born:** ~ 1824  
- **Christened:** 16 Sept 1879  
- **Died:**  
- **Buried:** Sugar Creek Cemetery  
- **Father:** Pierre Klophenstein  
- **Mother:**

#### Children
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Given Names</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Birthplace</th>
<th>Date of first marriage</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Date Will Wither/Proved</th>
<th>Mother</th>
<th>Father</th>
<th>L.D. #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>21 Apr 1853</td>
<td>Wash., IA</td>
<td>28 Sept 1876</td>
<td>21 Apr 1929</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>~1859</td>
<td>Wash., IA</td>
<td>17 Mar 1887</td>
<td>29 Mar 1940</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>John K.</td>
<td>23 Oct 1861</td>
<td>Wash., IA</td>
<td>19 May 1892</td>
<td>15 Jul 1940?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Christian/Chris K.</td>
<td>12 Nov 1863</td>
<td>Wash., IA</td>
<td>19 May 1892</td>
<td>15 Jul 1940?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>15 Nov 1867</td>
<td>Wash., IA</td>
<td>19 May 1892</td>
<td>15 Jul 1940?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Direct Ancestor

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Form # F106  
http://www.ancestry.com/lave/charts/familysheet.htm  
Checking Sources

- Never accept another person’s research without confirming it.
  - Ancestry.com family trees
  - Published genealogies
  - “My cousin’s” tree

- Look for sources and use these to verify information independently.
Joseph Marion Oliver

Birth 14 April 1839 in North Carolina
Death 22 May 1914 in Rock, Kentucky

Explore more:
- View his family tree
- View family members
- Print

Media Gallery

Oliver Family...
Joseph Marion...
Joseph Marion...
Joseph Marion...

Photos (4)  Stories (0)  Audio (0)  Video (0)

Timeline

1839  Birth  North Carolina
     14 Apr

1850  Residence  Vance, North Carolina
     Age: 11

Family Members

Parents
- No Father
- No Mother

Spouse & Children
- Darius B Wilson 1845 –
- William D. Oliver 1861 –
- Mary E. Oliver 1866 –
- Cynthia C. Oliver 1869 –
- Joseph A. Oliver 1873 –
- Eliphelet C. Oliver 1876 –
- Regi W. Oliver 1880 –
Joseph Marion Oliver
Birth 14 April 1839 in North Carolina
Death 22 May 1914 in Rocoi, Kentucky

No media has been added.
Evaluate your Sources

- Sources can be wrong. Records keepers can make mistakes.
- Name misspellings or misinformation may be recorded.
- Consult multiple sources.
Father, Mother and Sister of Ben H. Hardin.

Henry Hardin   Mrs. Henry Hardin   Fannie Hardin

District No.11K Johnstown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James L.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnie P.</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George R.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roxie</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James B.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George R.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carret H.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1893</td>
<td>July 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollie Trabue</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Dec. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James A. Trabue</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Aug. 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. Mcly Trabue</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1895</td>
<td>March 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>July 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>June 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fannie</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>July 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addie</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>March 27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ben H. Hardin

Was born at Johnstown, Kentucky, in Logan County, July 20, 1888.
Nonexistent Records

- Some records have been lost, destroyed, or were never kept in the first place.
- Don’t waste time looking for a record that does not exist.
- Consider alternative sources that could answer your question.
Name Variations

- Consider name spelling variations when researching.
  - Write down spelling variations that you come across during your research.
  - Collect your mail trick.
- Record keepers often spelled names as they sounded.
Leighrty vs. Leichty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Leighrty</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catharine Leighrty</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Leighrty</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Herrick</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Herrick</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Labour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
View Original Records
Utilize Census Records to their full potential

- Do not miss the state censuses.
- Read through the original census record for additional clues.
  - Year of immigration
  - # of births, # of children living
  - How many years married
  - Occupation
  - Veteran status (Revolutionary, Civil War, more recent wars)
  - Birthplace of parent
Try a Google Search

- Many books are being digitized by Google. A Google books search could be an easy way to find references to an ancestor within a publication.
The “Ancestral Home”

- Research the place your family lived. What is the history of the community?
- Use maps and atlases to see where your ancestors lived and how county boundaries changed over time.
Recognize your FANs

- **Friends, Associates & Neighbors**
- **How to find FANs:**
  - Census records (2 pages on either side of your ancestor). Look for similar surnames, in-laws, etc.
  - City directories. Who lived nearby?
  - Land survey maps. Who lives nearby?
  - Baptismal records. Who was a sponsor?
  - Marriage records. Who is a witness?
  - Passenger records. Who came to the United States together?
  - Naturalization records. Who sponsored them for citizenship?
  - Cemeteries. Who is buried nearby?
  - Wills. Who inherits? Who is the executor?
Consult How-to Sources

- The Source.
- Resources by State:
  - The Red Book.
  - The Handybook for Genealogists.
- Finding a Place called Home / Dee Parmer Woodtor. (African American genealogy)
- Family Search: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
  - Research Wiki
  - Learning Center
Practice good research habits

• Always note the source.
• Good note taking results in:
  ◦ Not having to visit the same source multiple times
  ◦ Helps others researching the same family
Plan your Research Trips

- Know the days/hours of operation.
- Have a research plan. Know what questions you want to try and answer. Pre-research as much as possible.
- Bring your research notes to consult. (Family charts, etc.)
- Budget plenty of time.
- Do you need to request materials in advance? (Records may be stored offsite.)
- Photocopies/digital pictures. What is allowed? How do you pay? (Cash only, coin only, credit card, etc.)
- Can you use a laptop/access the Internet?
- Parking/public transit.
Become a Student

• Join a genealogy group.
• Attend workshops & conferences.
• Take advantage of programs offered by historical organizations.