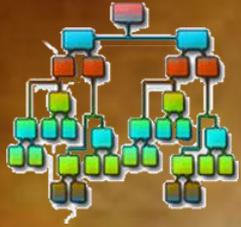


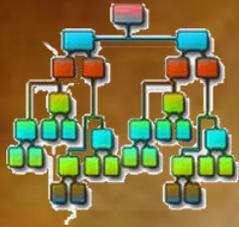
The Adventure

- What Adventure?
- How to get Started
- What do I do?
- An Example

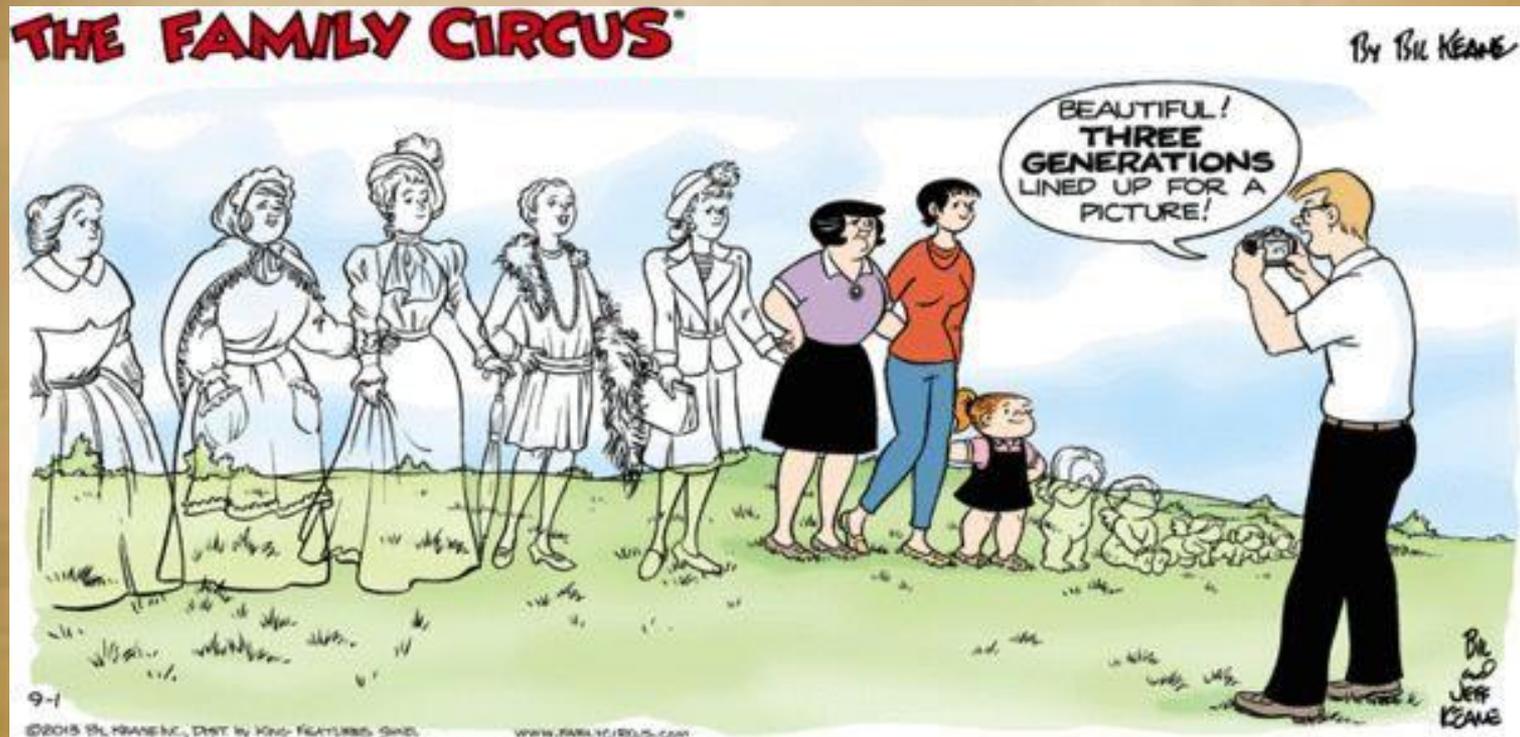


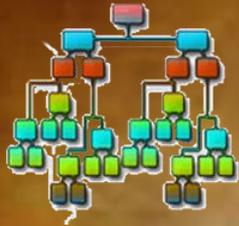
What Adventure

- Family History is much more than names and dates on a chart or in a database.
- It is an adventure about knowing those who came before us, what their world was like and how they lived their lives.
- It is about family, your family. Through your research you will reach back in time to meet those who came before you.
- It is about history and the role your ancestors played in it and how it affected them - and you!
- It is about telling the family story and leaving a legacy for generations yet to come so they will know where they came from.

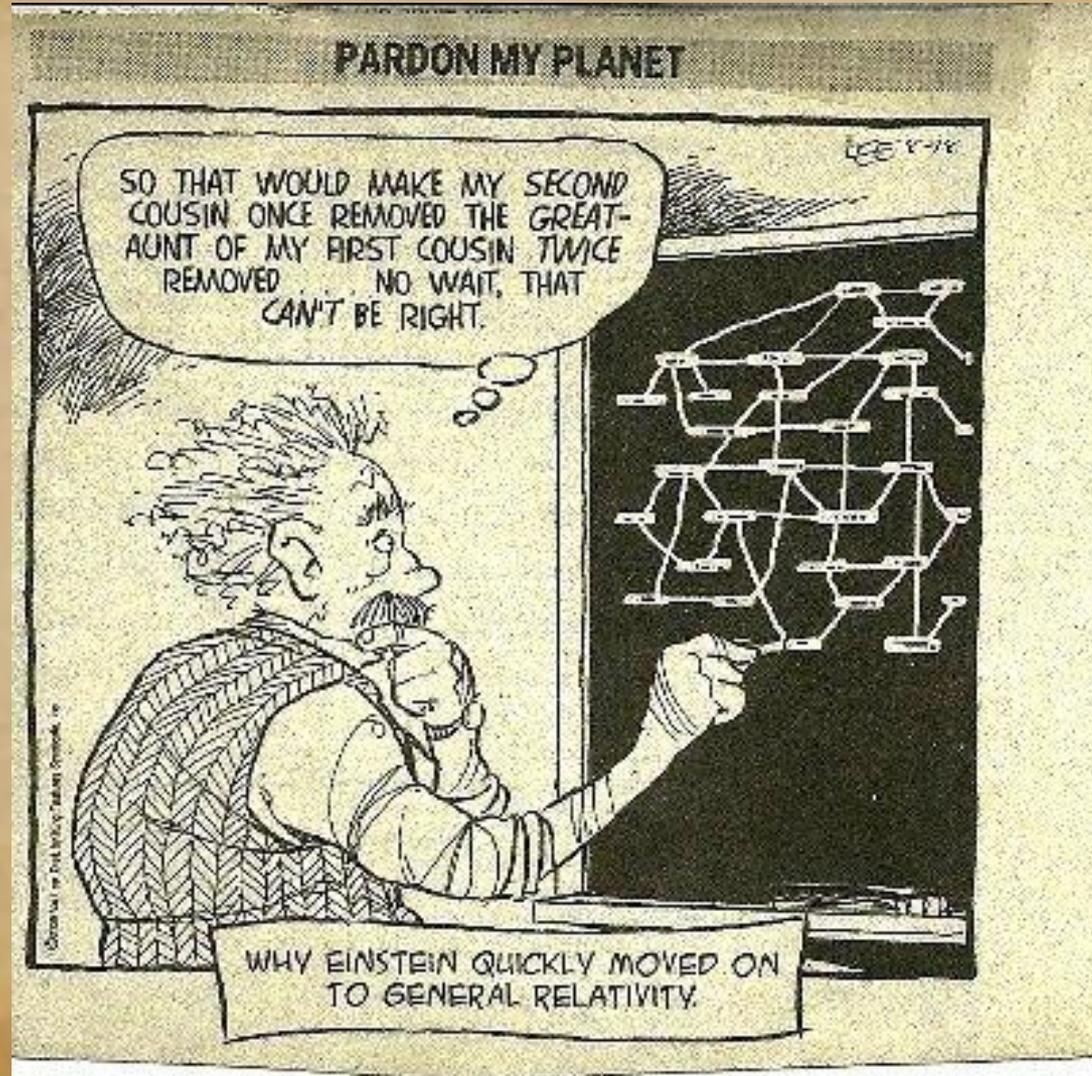


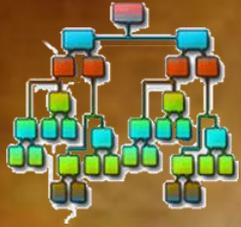
Expands Your Horizon





How to Get Started



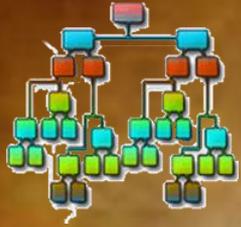


Start with What You Know



- You know more than you think you do
- Write down what you know
- Inventory documents you have

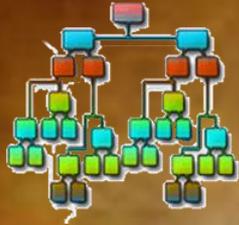




Things you may have

- Birth, Marriage, and death certificates
- Military discharge papers
- Old deeds
- Family Bibles
- Photos

I recommend that you scan these into your computer and that you label all pictures.



Write it Down

- Start with a free web-based family tree database or just paper or simple files on your computer
- Or use some of the paper forms available on the Internet
- Label pictures
- Sort documents and list them

Pedigree Chart

Page of

next page:

8 b. d. 16 b. d. npc

4 b. d. m. 17 b. d. npc

9 b. d. 18 b. d. npc

2 b. m. d. 19 b. d. npc

10 b. d. 20 b. d. npc

5 b. d. m. 21 b. d. npc

11 b. d. 22 b. d. npc

1 b. m. d. spouse 23 b. d. npc

12 b. d. 24 b. d. npc

6 b. d. m. 25 b. d. npc

13 b. d. 26 b. d. npc

3 b. d. m. 27 b. d. npc

14 b. d. 28 b. d. npc

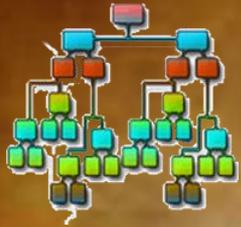
7 b. d. m. 29 b. d. npc

15 b. d. 30 b. d. npc

31 b. d. npc

Preparer:
Address:
Date:

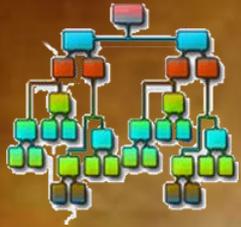
<http://www.cs.williams.edu/~balley/genealogy>



Interview Family Members

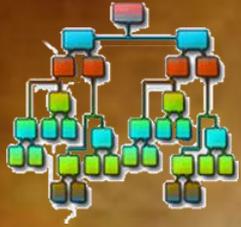


- Enlist the help of older family members. Tell them what you are doing and interview them to expand what you know about your family
- Family reunions, weddings and other family gatherings are great opportunities
- But don't wait. Call, write or visit the ones who have the most to contribute to gather info.
- Pictures make a great focal point to refresh memories and bring out stories.



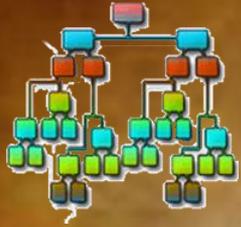
Set Some Goals

- Once you know what you know, set some goals.
 - Make short term goals achievable
 - Family History is a long term process that is never really finished. Take it a step at a time.
- Possible Goals
 - Identify your ancestors back one more generation.
 - Trace your ancestors back to the immigrant generation.
 - Develop story/picture books about the lives of those you remember and who were dear to you.



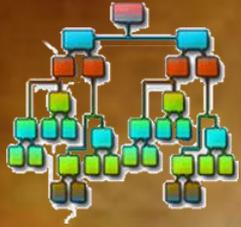
Choosing Software





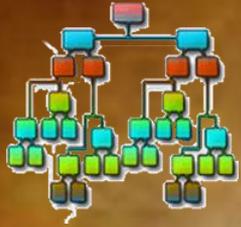
PC Software

- Software that runs on your PC and stores the files on your PC.
- Many packages are available at varying prices.
- Many tie to the cloud
- Almost all support GEDCOM, so you are not locked in. You can easily move your tree later.



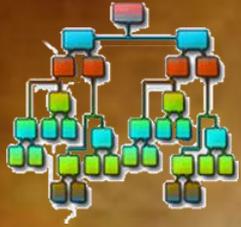
In the Cloud

- Software and data reside on vendors servers
- No worries about backup
- Accessible from anywhere
- Facilitates sharing
- Most vendors have tools to aid research
- Most have a subscription model



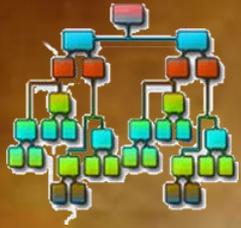
Cloud Vendors

- Ancestry
 - Biggest, Best known, many proprietary databases
- MyHeritage
 - Automated research tools
 - Free Cloud software to get started
 - Free PC based software that syncs with the cloud
- Geni.com
- WikiTree
- ourFamily*ology
- Others
- <http://www.top10genealogysites.com/>



Doing Your Research

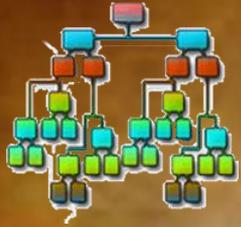
- Online
 - Google (learn to use Google correctly)
 - Genealogy, Archival, and Historical Sites
 - Genealogy Portals
 - Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com/>
 - Genealogylinks.net <http://www.genealogylinks.net/>
 - Others
- Books
- Visits



Recording Your Family History

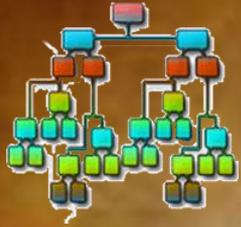


- Pedigree charts, notebooks, folders and computer databases are for your use. It will be very difficult to get another family member interested.
- To do that you need to “Tell the Family Story.”



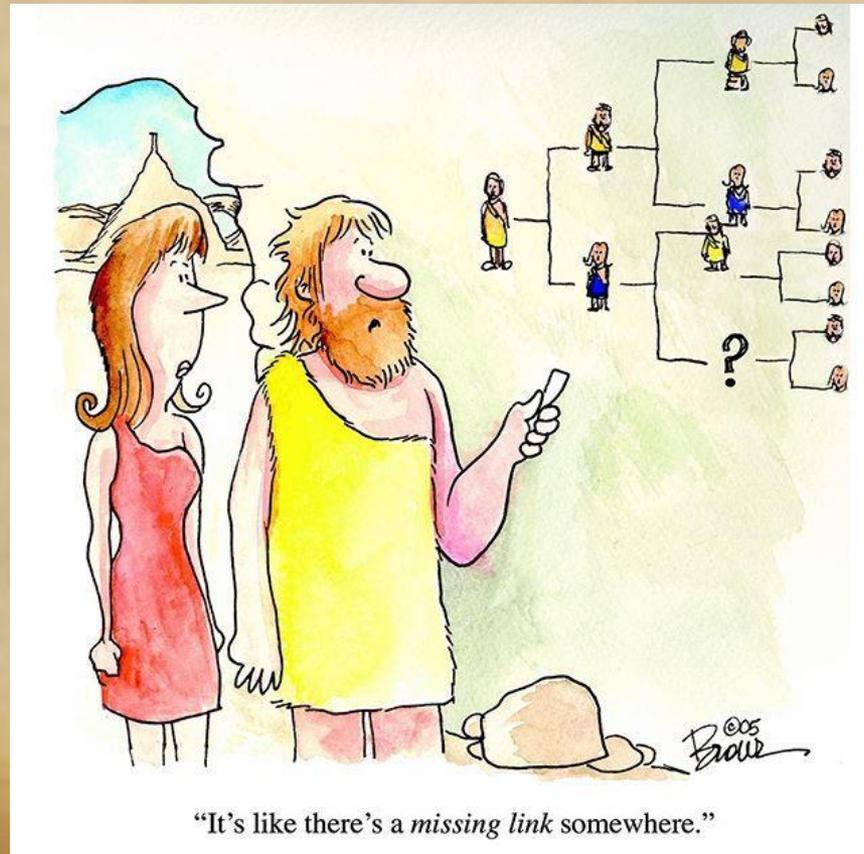
A Few Don'ts

- Don't think you have to spend a lot of money
- Don't be afraid to use cloud services
- Don't believe everything you read on the Internet
- Don't believe everything you read in an old book
- Don't believe everything you learned about your family from your family
- Don't get discouraged

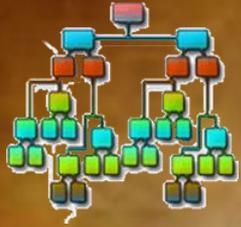


One More Don't

Don't give up when you hit a brick wall

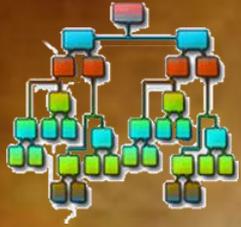


"It's like there's a *missing link* somewhere."



OK, so what do I do?

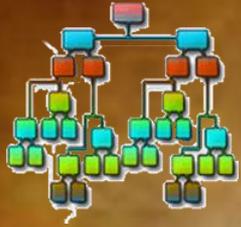




My Interests and Goals

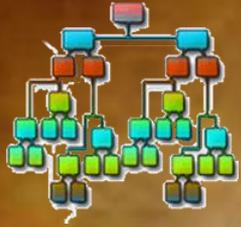


- I am interested in learning how my ancestors lived their lives, what they believed, what they accomplished, and how they fit into history.
- I want to document what I learn in the form of interesting, long-lasting documents and books that (hopefully) will get passed down in my family.
- I consider charts as a roadmap, not an end product. They are useful tools to me but not very interesting to others.
- I treat this as a hobby, not a career goal.



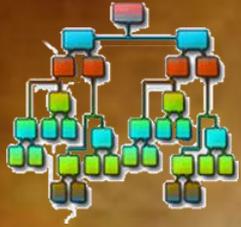
Things I have created

- I have family trees (on MyHeritage and Ancestry) that I maintain, and occasionally expand, primarily for my own reference.
- I have a website (rtreeoflife.com) where I post biographies and other information about my ancestors.
- I have developed several printed picture books to tell about the lives of my parents and my wife's parents.
- I published several limited edition books about my family.



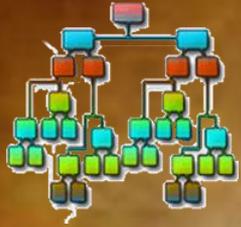
Tools I Use

- My Heritage (for my tree and for research)
- Ancestry (mostly for research)
- Google (learn to use advanced google search!)
- AmericanAncestors.com
- FamilySearch.org
- Findagrave.com
- Google Translate (for language translation)
- Google Maps
- Microsoft Word, Powerpoint
- Snagit (Lightshot is a good free alternative)



My Approach

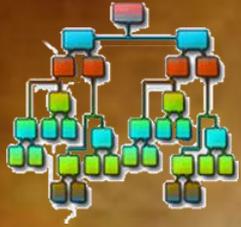
- I expand my tree from time to time by growing new branches.
- I get “clues” from MyHeritage and Ancestry
- I search historical records (vital records, deeds, wills, probate records, church records, military records, etc.) for confirmation of dates and additional information
- I try to locate my ancestors in history



Developing Biographies

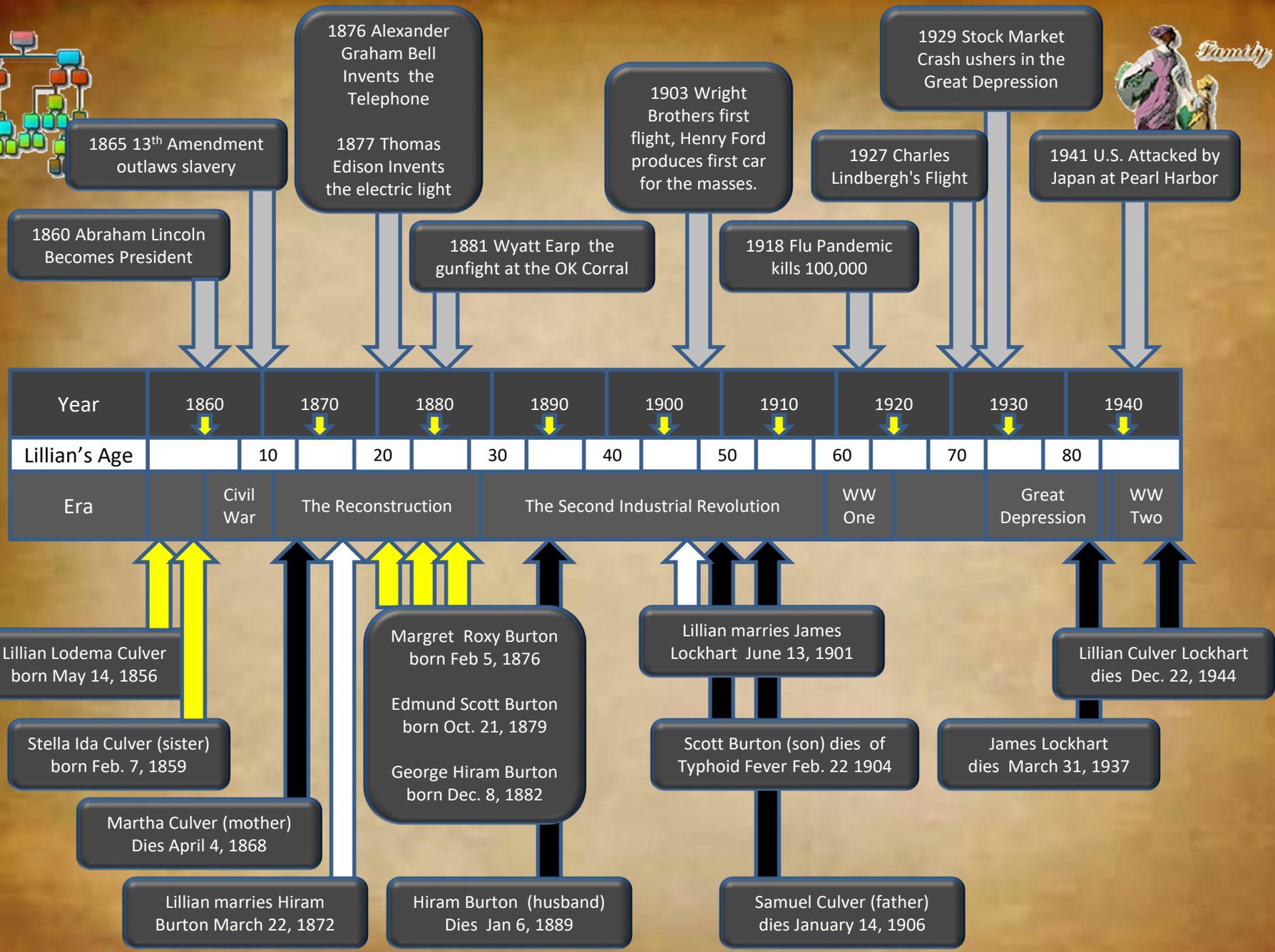


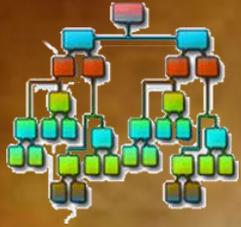
- I focus on one or two ancestors at a time
- I start by building a notes file in Word containing all the information I know and can easily gather.
- I start searching using Google and other previously mentioned tools.
- When I find some interesting information, I copy the URL to my notes file, followed by the data of interest. For graphics, pictures, tables, etc., I use Snagit to grab the graphic and put it on my clipboard. I then paste it into my notes file.



I Look at History

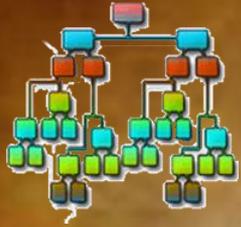
- I research the history of the time and location when and where my ancestor lived, creating history notes file(s) as I go.
- For example, if I discover an ancestor was a Minuteman, I research the history of the Minutemen, especially in the town where my ancestor lived.
- I develop a timeline of my ancestor in history.





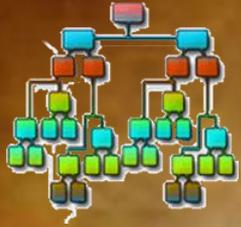
Writing a Biography

- Once I have sufficient data in my notes file(s), I start to develop a biography.
- Writing it down may reveal questions requiring more research.
- As I get immersed in the writing, I find myself stepping into my ancestor's shoes.



An Outline

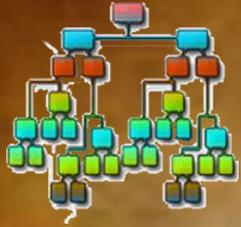
- Banner at top of page
- Title block
- Paragraph or two about birth and early years
- Paragraph of two about spouse and marriage
- List of children and any special interest information about them
- Information about their lives (if I have it)
- Information about their deaths
- Any additional information such as wills or special stories.
- A timeline showing their lives against major milestones in history
- A chart showing how this ancestor is related to my grandparents.



Five Steps to a Biography



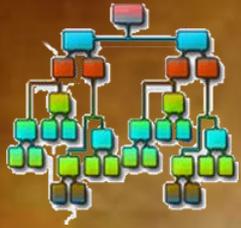
- Gather readily available information
- Research
- Sort out erroneous information
- Draft the document
- Review, Clean up and Publish



Let the Adventure Begin



- Start with what you know.
- Write it down
- Get Educated
- Get Organized
- Interview family members
- Set Some Goals
- Do Your Research
- Tell the Family Story



Leave a Legacy Behind Tell the Family Story



HOW WE REMEMBER OUR ANCESTORS:

I FOUND THIS OLD PICTURE OF MY GREAT GRANDFATHER. HE LOOKS SO COOL AND MYSTERIOUS!

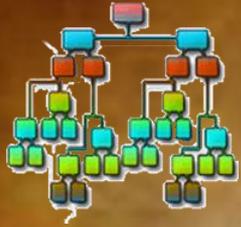


HOW FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL REMEMBER US:

I JUST DOWNLOADED AN ARCHIVE OF MY GREAT GRANDFATHER'S FACEBOOK UPDATES. EVIDENTLY HE HATED MONDAYS AND LOVED TELLING PEOPLE WHEN HE WAS BORED.



SHOEBLOG.COM CHUCK & BEANS FACEBOOK.COM/SHOEBLOG



Let the Adventure Begin!



"You found who in your family tree?"