

## Getting Started in Genealogy

Jim Stuber October 2017

### Gather information

Interview relatives, especially the older ones

Collect family records and stories

What you get will be incomplete and sometimes inaccurate, resolve as you go along

### Record information

Pedigree charts and family group sheets

Note where a record came from

Get it to paper? Will your media be accessible in 30 years?

### Organizing information

Pedigree chart - [http://misbach.org/download/pedigree\\_chart.pdf](http://misbach.org/download/pedigree_chart.pdf)

Family group sheet - <http://misbach.org/download/FamilyGroupRecord.pdf>

### Research ancestors

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) – free at libraries (including Mt. Lebanon) and Family History Centers

Mt. Lebanon Library -> Programs & Groups -> Genealogy Society -> Genealogy Resources

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) – free from any PC

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com) – free from any PC – just links

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) – free from any PC - names(s) in quotes + county/state/city

[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) – free from any PC

[www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx](http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx)

PA death certificates 1906 to 1963 – free from any PC in PA, or use ancestry.com

More free sites at Family History Centers – 46 School St, Green Tree, T, Wed, Thurs, Sat

### Storing and sharing your family Tree

<http://www.ancestry.com/> - at some point you're going to pay

[www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com) – same thing

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) – no ability to keep other people from changing

[wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com)

Software on your PC – All will do the job, choice is a matter of taste. \$30 - \$40 (without add-ons)

[www.rootsmagic.com](http://www.rootsmagic.com) – integrates with ancestry.com and familysearch.org

[www.legacyfamilytree.com/](http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/) - integrates with ancestry.com and familysearch.org

### Social Media to find information and connect with others and request help

[boards.rootsweb.com](http://boards.rootsweb.com) – places and last name

[genealogy.com/forum](http://genealogy.com/forum) – places and last name

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) – have to have a Facebook account, usually have to join, “Allegheny County PA Genealogy” has lots of very helpful people for local assistance

## DNA 101

- Three tests – Y-DNA – male line, mtDNA – female line, Autosomal – looks across all lines for mutations, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> cousins max
- Three companies to test with

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) – largest database of possible matches to find cousins

[www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com) – best at deep ancestry, 1,000 to 10,000 years ago = archeology, not genealogy

[www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com) – best if you want to do your own exploration of chromosomes, only one still doing Y-DNA and mtDNA

- Good intermediate videos, each about an hour:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_y1sZWRD34](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_y1sZWRD34) “Autosomal DNA: how to use it in practice”

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=U\\_mPCIKX3ls](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_mPCIKX3ls) “Which DNA test is best for you?”

## Further learning

Google – search for “getting started in genealogy” – lots of good articles

Youtube – search for “getting started in genealogy” – lots of good videos

Wikipedias at ancestry and familysearch for researching particular places and topics

[https://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](https://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page)

Mt Lebanon Genealogy Society web page, with links from this meeting and news of upcoming and past meetings. Mt. Lebanon Library -> Programs & Groups -> Genealogy Society

<http://www.mtlebanonlibrary.org/306/Genealogy-Society>

Family History Center – 46 School Street Green Tree

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Pittsburgh\\_Pennsylvania\\_Family\\_History\\_Center](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Pittsburgh_Pennsylvania_Family_History_Center)

Diocese of Pittsburgh Archives & Records Center

<http://dioceseofpgh.org/office-archives-and-record-center/information-genealogists>

Pennsylvania Department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – 4400 Forbes Avenue, Oakland

<https://www.carnegielibrary.org/research-overview/genealogy/research-requests/>

## Genealogy Research Offer Available.

Email: [mtlebanongs@yahoo.com](mailto:mtlebanongs@yahoo.com)

Do internet based research on a pair of individuals, 1930's or earlier. Results put in a binder with two (or more) pedigree charts showing the ancestors, plus paper copies of each record

A tax deductible donation to The Historical Society of Mt. Lebanon. If nothing found, make no donation. If results, donate \$150. If ten or more new direct ancestors, donate an additional \$100.