

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

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

Research ancestors

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 – free from any PC

www.cyndislist.com – free from any PC – just links

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

www.findagrave.com – free from any PC

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 – same thing

www.familysearch.org – no ability to keep other people from changing

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 – integrates with ancestry.com and familysearch.org

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 – places and last name

genealogy.com/forum – places and last name

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, 3rd or 4th cousins max
- Three companies to test with
 - www.ancestry.com – largest database of possible matches to find cousins
 - www.23andme.com – best at deep ancestry, 1,000 to 10,000 years ago = archeology, not genealogy
 - 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 “Autosomal DNA: how to use it in practice”
 - 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://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

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

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.