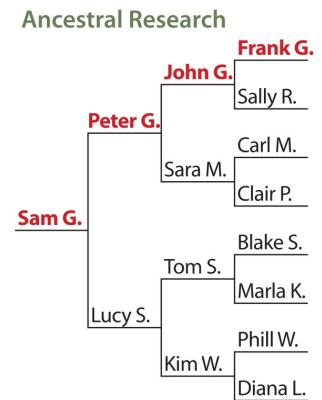


Making a Case for Descendancy Research

Family History Conference Class Handout

Family Historians have traditionally conducted “Ancestral Research”

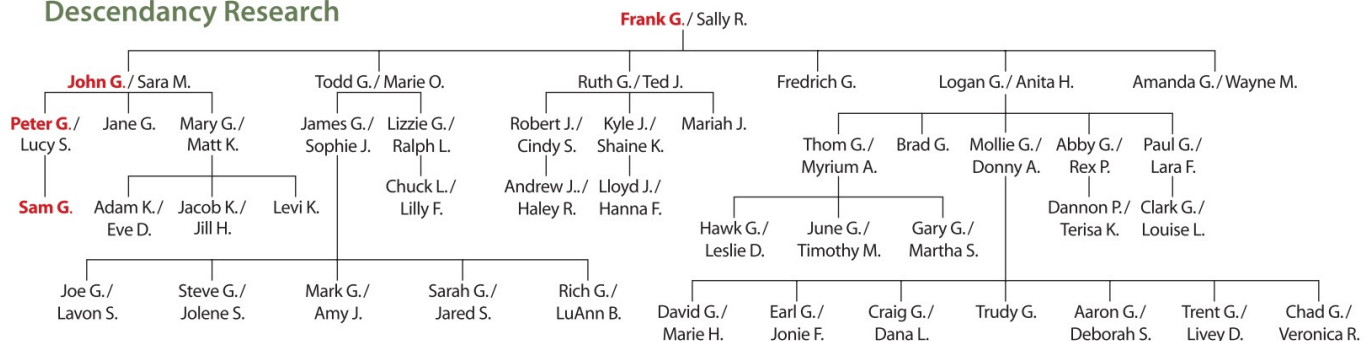
- Begin with yourself and discover all of the direct line ancestors that can be discovered
- With this approach we are interested primarily in discovering: Parents, Grandparents, Great Grandparents, etc.
- Ancestral research is consistent with the charge that LDS church members have been given
- This kind of research often becomes more difficult with each additional generation because of scarcity of records
- Each additional generation adds double the number of ancestors as the preceding generation



An Exciting and Productive addition to Ancestral Research is “Descendancy Research”

- Objective is discover all of the descendants of a selected Ancestral Couple
- With this approach we come forward in time and document each descendant
- Descendancy Research is primarily interested in discovering: children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc.
- This research is often easier to conduct than Ancestral Research because of record availability
- Each additional generation consists of an unknown number of descendants but often includes many more names than would be found with traditional Ancestral Research

Descendancy Research



Why would I want to conduct “Descendancy Research”?

- If you find your “Ancestral Research” is “All Done” then this is a way for you to contribute
- There are many more names to be discovered using this approach
- This kind of research is often less difficult with more success along the way
- 19th and 20th Century records are much more available than earlier centuries
- You will likely discover 2nd, 3rd, 4th and even 5th cousins that may be able to help
- This is what your ancestors would want you to do so that no one is forgotten or left out

How to begin your “Descendancy Research”

- Choose an Ancestral Couple – start with those born in the 1800 to 1850 time period
- Collect Previous Research – look for published genealogies (books and on-line family trees)
- Consult Additional Resources – check Birth, Marriage & Death as well as Census, Probate, etc.
- Compile and Document Your Findings – use PAF or one of the other excellent software programs
- Share and Submit the names you have found – Update New Family Search & Clear Names

Web Sites of Interest – Looking for published family histories


- Family History Library Catalog – Search by Surname
<https://familysearch.org/#form=catalog&catSearchType=surname>
- WorldCat Database – Search the world’s libraries
<http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/default.htm>
- Library of Congress Catalog
<http://catalog.loc.gov/>
- Heritage Quest Catalog
<http://www.heritagequestonline.com>



On-line family trees:

- Family Search -
www.familysearch.org
- Ancestry World Tree –
www.ancestry.com/trees/awt
- Roots Web -
wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com

Internet Search Engines

- google.com, yahoo.com, etc.
- mocavo.com ← NEW Genealogy Search Engine 

President Boyd K. Packer describes out responsibility to research out family tree

“Members of the Church as individuals and families are responsible to identify their own direct-line ancestral families and see that temple ordinances are performed for them. They may also do family history research and temple work for their deceased relatives who are collaterally related (not their direct lines).” (Letter to Bishops & Stake Presidents dated 14 Jul 1994)

Temple Policies for names discovered doing Descendancy Research

- Primary Responsibility
 - Immediate family members.
 - Direct-line ancestors (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc., and their families).
- Other Possibilities

“Church members may also provide temple ordinances for the following family members who have been deceased at least one year. For individuals born within the last 95 years, permission from the closest living relative is required.”

 - Biological, adoptive, and foster family lines connected to their family.
 - Collateral family lines (uncles, aunts, cousins, and their families).
 - Descendants.
 - Descendants of direct-line ancestors and their families.
 - Possible ancestors. These are individuals who have a probable family relationship that cannot be verified because the records are inadequate. These may include individuals who had the same last name and resided in the same small geographic areas as known ancestors.
- Permission to Perform Ordinances for Individuals born within the last 95 years

“To do ordinances for a deceased person born in the last 95 years, please obtain permission and honor the wishes of close relatives. Relatives may not want the ordinances performed or may want to do the ordinances themselves. The closest living relatives are, in this order: an undivorced spouse (the spouse to whom the individual was married when he or she died), an adult child, a parent, or a brother or sister.”

References and Resources

- “Branching Out on Your Family Tree” – Ensign Magazine, Apr 2007 by George D. Durrant
<http://lds.org/ensign/2007/04/branching-out-on-your-family-tree>
- Descendancy Research – 3 On-line lessons offered by the Family History Department
http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/en/FamilySearch/Descendancy_Research/videos.html?v=Lesson_1
- Class Handout prepared for the Descendancy Research lessons mentioned above
http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/en/FamilySearch/Descendancy_Research/Descendancy_Research.pdf
- Temple Polices – Help Center of New.FamilySearch.Org – Document ID: 110136
https://new.familysearch.org/help/viewdocument?documentId=110136&sliceId=SAL_Member
Note: LDS Church Members must be logged in to be able to view this document