

L A N T E R N

Shedding a little light on the family tree



July 2008

DNA SHOWS LICHLITERS CAME FROM “ARTISANS”

In an effort to determine if our Somerset County branch of the Leighliter Family is connected to the branch that descended from Johann Conrad Leichliter, (who migrated to America aboard the Friendship in 1741), I had my DNA tested at Ancestry.com. I have been looking for a verifiable male descendent of Johann Conrad to do the same, in order to compare our genes to see if we have a recent common ancestor. So far, I haven't found such a person who is willing to submit a sample for testing.

But you might be interested to know that my DNA shows that we Leichlitters (and that would include direct descendents of the John Leighliter who first came to Somerset County around 1790), are members of the Paternal Haplogroup R1b, “The Artisans”. Our ancient ancestors may have been responsible for the first cave paintings, and probably lived in what is now Western Europe.

If you would like to see my test results and read more about our genetic background, you will find an interesting explanation on our website, www.Lichliter.com. Click “Current News” on the left side of the home page, then on the DNA link for members, and sign in with **username “lichliter” and password “levi”**. If you and I have a common ancestor, your DNA will be about the same as mine.
John “Dutch” Lichliter
366-Singing Brook Circle
Santa Rosa CA 95409

WEBSITE INVALUABLE IN CONNECTING FAMILY

BY MIKE BLOCHER

Our family web site, Lichliter.com turned seven years old in May of this year. That may seem young, especially to those of us who remember some of Levi and Sarah's children. However in computer years, (which are shorter than dog years), that is getting to be pretty old.

When we first created the web site it was designed to share the Lichliter family history, beginning with my great-great-grandparents, Levi Lichliter and Sarah Smith, and also to try to gather more information on Levi's great-grand-father Johan Leighliter and his descendents. The website has been very effective in connecting our family. Dutch and I get email from Lichlitters and Leichlitters (as well as other spellings) from far and near, trying to track down a family connection and asking if we might have information regarding some of their ancestors. Many people have shared their information with us. We're finding that we have cousins all over the place.

Over the years other things have been added, including some great early family photos, stories, and past newsletters. In addition to these, you will find links to Dutch's extensive genealogy work, which outlines the family tree of Johan Leighliter, and now includes more than 2100 names.

While the web site has been great, it's time to think about “upgrading” Lichliter.Com. Before we do that, however, we'd like to hear from you. We'd like to get your opinion about what's currently on the site, what you'd like to see more of, and the type of features you think might improve our family web site. For example, we've been thinking about providing more interactivity, such as an electronic family community forum or an area where members could share ideas and information about our family history, but that might require folks having a username and password, or some other means for security. You may recall that we had a Guest Book for visitors to sign. It had to be dismantled due to an overwhelming SPAM problem – (and we thought we had it bad when we got regular junk mail!)

If you have some family photos that

you're especially fond of, and would like to share with the family, you can send them (preferably digital) to Dutch or myself. Please identify the people in the photos, and add as much information as you can as to when and where they were taken, and we will put them on the Photo Gallery page for you.

So, if you've not been to Lichliter.Com, you will want to check it out. Make sure you take some time to look over the past reunion photos. These are some of my favorites, some going back to the early 1970's. Then when you've had the chance to look over the site, send me an email with your photos, and any suggestions or comments that you think we should consider in our update.



J. Michael Blocher, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Educational Technology
Northern Arizona
University

See
August Family Reunion
Update on Page 5



Distant Cousins Get Acquainted in California

Phil Leichliter discovered the Lichliter website and posted a message on our Guest Book in October of 2004. Dutch Lichliter responded, which led to numerous e-mail and information exchanges. They determined that they share a common ancestor, Jacob Leighliter. He was Phil's GG-Grandfather and Dutch's GGG-Grandfather. That makes them *half-third-cousins, once removed*. (Got that??)

On April 13, 2008, John Philip Leichliter and John Calvin "Dutch" Lichliter met for the first time in Walnut Creek, CA. Also included were Phil's wife Diana and Dutch's wife, Lois, and son Steve. It was a great time of sharing family history and stories. Dutch's first question to Phil was "How do you pronounce

Leichliter?" Phil's response was, "Lick-lighter, same as you Lichlitters say it".

Phil's father was Norman Kirk Leichliter, and he was one of the 10 children of Harry Homer and Delila Leichliter. Harry Homer's father was Jacob Williams Campbell Leichliter, who was born in Springfield PA and settled in Kansas, and later Colorado.

Phil is Director of Corporate Purchasing for Ross Stores, responsible for purchasing all not-for-sale items for the chain of dry-goods stores. Phil was born in Kansas, and has been with Ross for many years. He and wife Diana have one son, Caleb.

The meeting with Phil Leichliter was greatly enhanced by the contributions of **Helen Fern**

(Clark) Leichliter, who also found us through our website. Helen lives in Longmont, Colorado, and is the widow of Homer Leigh Leichliter, a brother of Phil's dad, Norman. She has generously shared many family records, including the wonderful photo of Harry Homer and Delila, and the more recent one of their 10 children. *Thank you, Helen, for your contributions.*



Phil, Dutch and Steve

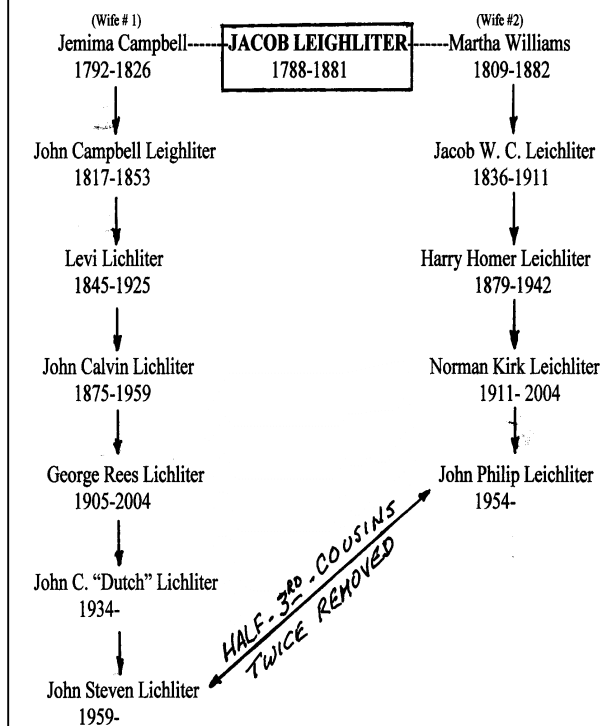


Harry Homer and Delila
At their wedding in 1900



The ten children of Harry Homer and Delila, possibly at the funeral of their mother, who died in August, 1969. Phil's father Norman Kirk is third from the left. Homer Leigh is second from right

PEDIGREE CHART FOR STEVE AND PHIL





HAPPY BIRTHDAY, COUSINS

JULY

- 1 – Cindy James (49) (est.)
Gail Palmer (64)
Melvin Leichliter (79)
J. James (82)
James Blocher (51)
- 2 – Phyllis Wagner (71)
Patricia Wolfe (66)
- 4 – Nita Sanderson (87)
Brittany Phebus (23)
Linda Kron (49)
- 6 – Ruth James (80)
- 7 – Donald Netzel (35)
Sheridan Lichliter (19)
- 8 – Donald Phelps (79)
John Godfrey (25)
- 9 – Rusty Jacobs (23)
- 10 – Ethan Gubernator (7)
Valoria Bowman (43)
- 12 – Madison Lichliter (21)
- 13 – Jerry Barger (61)
- 14 – Isaiah Miller (9)
Phyllis Winslow (66)
- 15 – Melissa Nelson (27)
Cory James (27)
- 16 – Kelly Kingman (30)
Elizabeth Geiger (23)
- 17 – James Ratzlaff (71)
- 18 – Roger Powell (49)
Donald Phelps (55)
John Blocher (83)
- 19 – Kimberly Miller (38)
Justin Dakin (23)

- 20 – Andrew Lichliter (23)
- 21 – Cheryl Smith (42)
- 22 – Emily Miller (29)
- 23 – Lauren Lichliter (11)
- 25 – Larry Wolfe (67)
Gene Nelson (47)
- 27 – Sandra Powell (27)
Brian Kingman (55)
- 28 – Vera Vessey (90)
- 29 – Judith Ashley (63)
- 30 – Timothy Ketcham (10)
- 31 – Patrick Wagner (38)
Joshua Devardo (18)

AUGUST

- 2 – Penny Nelson (46)
Taylor Lichliter (26)
- 4 – Jacqueline Ostrander (62)
Willodene Leichliter (91)
Laurie Thorwart (43)
David Bell (49)
- 5 – Keith Geiger (42)
Elizabeth Gillette (37)
- 6 – Joyce Lichliter (69)
- 9 – Linley Leighliter II (65)
Dennis Gadel (31)
- 10 – Suzanna Phebus (46)
- 11 – Ray Lichliter (76)
- 14 – Danielle Lichliter (17)
Michael Blocher (60)
- 15 – Patricia Leichliter (50)
Charles Miller (81)
Pamela Leichliter (50)
- 16 – Linda Gustafson (59)

- Bradley Hindmarsh (24)
- 17 – Sheri Wolfe (45)
Cristin Corwin (41)
- 19 – Keith Sanderson (81)
- 21 Lindsey McKarahan (18)
Joshua Feeser (15)
- 22 – Drena Kingman (63)
- 24 – Robert Randall (62)
Deborah Larson (77)
Albert Crawford (67)
Nancy Barger (62)
- 25 – Bradley Bowman (48)
- 27 – Dee Ferguson (67)
- 28 – Ronald Spencer (56)
Randall Riley (44)
- 29 – Mary Vessey (81)
Lois Lichliter (75)
Jessica Billard (21)
- 31 – Vene Leichliter (79)
Joanne Gustafson (40)

SEPTEMBER

- 1 – Michele James (46)
Melissa Artice (25)
- 2 – Steven Smith (41)
Nancy Lichliter (25)
- 4 – William Leichliter (91)
Geneva Leichliter (94)
- 5 – Jay Welker (29)
Virginia Vessey (86)
Daniel McKarahan (45)
- 6 – Keith Hindmarsh (45)
Brenda Hindmarsh (43)
- 7 – Steven Thiry (52)

- 8 – Vonda Bowman (66)
- 9 – Dennis Leichliter (57)
Geoffrey Catto (28)
- 10 – Paul Kingman (98)
Perry Ervin (43)
- 11 – Jodi Leichliter (37)
Lydia Leichliter (90)
Nellie Maurer (93)
- 12 – Helen Leichliter (85)
- 14 – Laura Ambrosion (22)
- 16 – Shanna Netzel (61)
Jason McClung (27)
Sharon Lichliter (55)
- 17 – Eric Nowicki (22)
William (W.J.) Cober (34)
- 18 – Lauren Thiessen (60)
Victoria Artice (54)
- 19 – Charles McKarahan (71)
Iris Leichliter (89)
Charlotte Jackson (48)
Dorothy James (84)
- 24 – Christopher Lichliter (25)
Thomas James (58)
Albert Godfrey (46)
- 25 – Lois Farmer (80)
- 26 – Richard Walker (56)
Lyman Leichliter (73)
- 28 – Lorie Devardo (45)
- 29 – Wanda Barger (79)
Hal Barger, Jr. (83)
- 30 – Kay Ann Cober (60)



Birthday Girl

Mary Elizabeth “Biz” (Lichliter) Blocher celebrated her 80th birthday on Sunday, May 25 with a family dinner that same day at the Hen House restaurant outside Grantsville, MD. Biz and husband, John, who live in Chandler, AZ, were visiting the Salisbury, PA, area for the Memorial Day weekend. About 28 friends and family members from both the Lichliter and Riley families joined in the celebration, sharing humorous stories about Biz. In addition to son, Jim, and daughter, Bev (Ricks), grandchildren, Cara and Dennis Gadel, and JJ Blocher were also on hand to toast their grandmother. Other octogenarians in the crowd included husband John, brother G. Riley, brother in-law “Quiz” (Wayne) Blocher, aunt Emily Jane (Lichliter) Hickson, Charles Seibert, husband of deceased cousin Maureen (Riley), and friend Mary Lou (Keim) Kalb. While turning 80 is noteworthy, in the Lichliter family it isn’t particularly unusual. Even so, congratulations are in order to Biz, whose nickname is based partly on the fact that, as a child, she was always “busy” interacting with people. Biz’s gregarious nature has served her well through her 80 years and her family hopes she keeps on going--just like the energizer bunny!



Reunion 2008

Somerset County is the place to be the weekend of August 8-10! August 9 is the date for this year's Lichliter Reunion. However, the reunion committee has planned lots of activities for the whole weekend! On Friday night there will be a "Welcome Home" get together at the Quality Inn in Somerset, where a block of rooms have been reserved for out of town family members. Make sure to mention you're with the Lichliter family to get a discount.

Saturday morning there is an optional cemetery tour with Dutch Lichliter, which will give people an opportunity to see the grave sites of various Lichliter ancestors. Also on Saturday morning, Dennis Gadel will lead a hike on the Allegheny Trail near Meyersdale for the nature lovers in the family. Unfortunately, a tentative trip to the Storybook Castle, in Meyersdale, had to be scrapped because the venue has closed. However, the Quality Inn has a pool and spa, which we can take advantage of.

We'll meet at the Berlin Veteran's home early Saturday afternoon, as usual, to share memorabilia and photos, and have our traditional sit-down family dinner, followed by a brief meeting. Bring pictures for your nominations for the DNA Tells It All prize (best ancestor/descendant look alike) and get your nominating letters for the Community Service award (present or posthumous) to Bev Ricks as soon as possible! Everyone is invited back to Christa Cober's Saturday evening for drinks, snacks, and continued togetherness!

While no organized activity is planned for Sunday, family members can have breakfast together at the Quality Inn or Eat and Park, before heading home.

We expect more people at this years' reunion than in previous years. The date change, to an earlier weekend in August, is making it easier for many people with school children to attend. And we've heard from some distant cousins who plan to come!

Make your reservations now! We want to see you--August 9!

Room Reservations: Quality Inn Somerset
814-443-4646

Award Nominations: Bev Ricks
7505 Jackson Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912
bev_ricks@hotmail.com

----- Cut Here -----

Names _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Number of Adult meals (ages 12 and up) @ \$15.00 Each _____ Total \$ _____

Number of Children's Meals (ages 6-11) @ \$4.00 each _____ Total \$ _____

Number of Children under 6 (meals free) _____ **TOTAL \$ _____**

**Please send with your check to EMILY JANE HICKSON
809 Casselman Street
Confluence PA 15424**

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JULY 21, 2008

Dear Abby:

**I have always wanted to have my family history traced,
but I can't afford to spend a lot of money to do it.**

Any suggestions?

Sam in California

Dear Sam:

Yes. Run for public office.