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Shedding a little light on the family tree





July 2008

DNA SHOWS LICHLITERS CAME FROM "ARTISANS"

In an effort to determine if our merset County branch of the ighliter Family is connected to branch that descended from hann Conrad Leichliter, (who migrated to America aboard the iendship in 1741), I had my DNA sted at Ancestry.com. I have been oking for a verifiable male scendent of Johann Conrad to do e same, in order to compare our nes to see if we have a recent mmon ancestor. So far, I haven't and such a person who is willing submit a sample for testing.

But you might be interested to ow that my DNA shows that we chliters (and that would include direct descendents of the John ighliter who first came to merset County around 1790), are embers of the Paternal Haplooup R1b, "The Artisans". Our cient ancestors may have been sponsible for the first cave intings, and probably lived in nat is now Western Europe.

If you would like to see my t results and read more about our netic background, you will find interesting explanation on our bsite, www.Lichliter.com. Click "Current News" on the left side the home page, then on the DNA k for members, and sign in with er-name "lichliter" and ssword "levi". If you and I have common ancestor, your DNA will 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, <u>Lichliter.com</u> 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-greatgrandparents, 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 Lichliters and Leichliters (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.

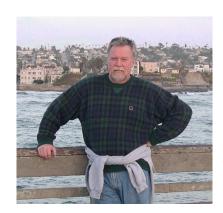
Over the years other things have been added, including some great early family photos, stories, and past newsletters. In addition to these, you will find links to Dutch's extensive genealogy work, which outlines the family tree of Johan Leighliter. and now includes more that 2100 names

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 visitor 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 Lichliters 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 notfor-sale items for the chain of drygoods 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.



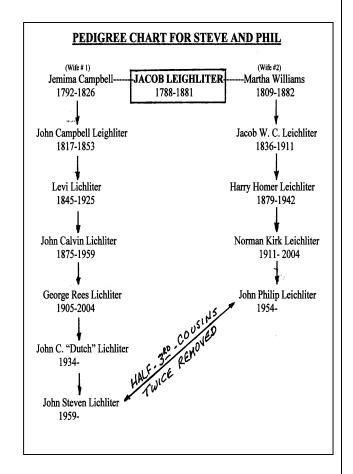
Phil, Dutch and Steve



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



THE

LANTERN



Many of the Somerset County Lichliter's were avid fans of horse racing. Perhaps this article explains somewhat where they got their interest in the sport.

Kathy Lund lives in Maryland.

J. H. Stotler (1888-1957)

By Kathy Bejshak Lund

My grandfather, Joseph Horace **Stotler** was 1 of 7 children born to Clayton Stotler and Annie Mary Miller in Keystone, Summit Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. His dad, Clayton owned the Stotler Livery Stable in Somerset County, Pa. where thoroughbreds were housed, exercised and trained. This is where my grandfather learned the love of horses and made them his life-long work. I found a newspaper article that said my grandfather was "a man of fine physique and great popularity wherever known, a man of sterling character and good business ability." He was recognized by turfmen as one of the best horseman in the United States.

According to the 1910 Federal Census, he was listed as Joseph H. Statter and still lived at home in April. This was a big year for him, as at the age of 19, he married Ada Melissa Lowry of Elk Lick, the daughter of Albert B. Lowry and Nancy Garlitz. Melissa was connected to the Lichliter family as her brother, George Lowry, married Emily Mae Lichliter, making my grandmother Mae's sister-in-law. (Emily Mae is the grandmother of Kay Ann Lichvar Cober). Joseph and Melissa had two daughters, Katherine Evelyn Stotler (my mother) and Francis Isabel Stotler. Both girls were born in Somerset County.

While Isabel was an infant, Gramp caught the eye of George Bissell, a thoroughbred horse owner from Pittsburgh. Mr. Bissell hired mv grandfather to train and race his horses. During the next several years Gramp and the family traveled all over for Mr. Bissell, including Havana, Cuba. While they were in Cuba, my mother spotted a Bisque doll in one of the store windows and begged her father everyday to buy it for her. He said, "when the big horse

comes in". At last the big horse won and my mother got her doll. This doll sits in my living room today and is admired by all my grandchildren.

By 1920 my grandfather and the family settled in Baltimore, MD, dwelling near Pimlico Race Track. The 1920's were good years for racing but were also tragic for Joseph. His brother died in an automobile accident in 1921, and my Grandmother became ill and died of uterine cancer in 1926. My grandfather enlisted the help of one of his neighbor's to help out and then sent the girls to boarding school in Litiz, PA. In the late 1920's Joseph was hired by Margaret Emerson, wife of Alfred Vanderbilt, who had died in the sinking of the Lusitania, and heiress to the family that made Bromo Seltzer. She owned Sagamore farm in Glydon, MD and had my grandfather design and plan the contruction of horse stables and an indoor race track. Mrs. Emerson presented the farm, several race horses, and my grandfather as trainer and farm manager to her son, Alfred Gwynn Vanderbilt II, as a 21st birthday present in 1932.



The 1930's were great years for my grandfather and horse racing. He married Mae's sister, Effie Almira Lichliter. This made the 2nd Lichliter connection to my family.

On the 1930 Census, my father, John

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Bejsl Jockey John Bejshak aboard DISCOVERY wins the 1935 jocke Brooklyn Handicap unde

randfather also became my father's boss. My dad had come to Maryland from Montreal to become a jockey and was contracted to the Vanderbilts. In 1932 my father announced he wanted to marry the boss' daughter, my mother. My grandfather was not happy, for what reason I do not know,

and would fire my father one day, then rehire him, then fire him...until my mom and dad married in June 1932.

Around this time my father was chosen to ride Vanderbilt's horse, Discovery, to many wins. My grandfather and Effie, along with my father and mother, traveled to Havana, Florida, California, Illinois, Michigan, and New York racing for Mr. Vanderbilt. Discovery became so well known that he was inducted into the Horse Racing Museum Hall of Fame in Saratoga, NY in 1969. In 1935, the horses my grandfather trained won almost 10% of all the money races run in the United States. The thirties were also a time of getting to know Hollywood stars who were big into horse racing. This included Joe E. Brown and Bing Crosby, among others, who not only raced horses but also personally socialized with my grandfather. He also was instrumental in encouraging C.S. Howard, horse owner, into buying *Seabiscuit*, the horse made popular several years back in book and film for winning The Pimlico Special in 1938 against War Admiral, the major winning thoroughbred of that time.

Joseph's career came to an end in 1946 due to crippling arthritis. He spent the next nine years enjoying his home and family. In 4 short years, in which he spent much time upstairs confined to his room and den, because of worsening arthritis, he was gone from us.

LANTERN



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, COUSINS

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)

- 17 Sheri Wolfe (45) Cristin Corwin (41)
- 19 Keith Sanderson (81)
- 21 Lindsey McKerahan (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 McKerahan (45)
- 6 Keith Hindmarsh (45) Brenda Hindmarsh (43)
- 7 Steven Thiry (52)

- Bradley Hindmarsh (24) 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 Ambroson (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 McKerahan (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!

THE LANTERN



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 youAug	ust 9!	
Room Reservations: Quality Inn Somerset 814-443-4646		
Award Nominations: Bev Ricks 7505 Jackson Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912 bev_ricks@hotmail.com	ut Here	
Names		
Address Number of Adult meals (ages 12 and up) @ \$15.00 Each Number of Children's Meals (ages 6-11) @ \$4.00 each Number of Children under 6 (meals free) Please send with your check to EMILY JANE HICKSON 809 Casselman Street Confluence PA 15424 RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JULY 21, 2008	Phone Total \$ Total \$ TOTAL \$	-

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.