



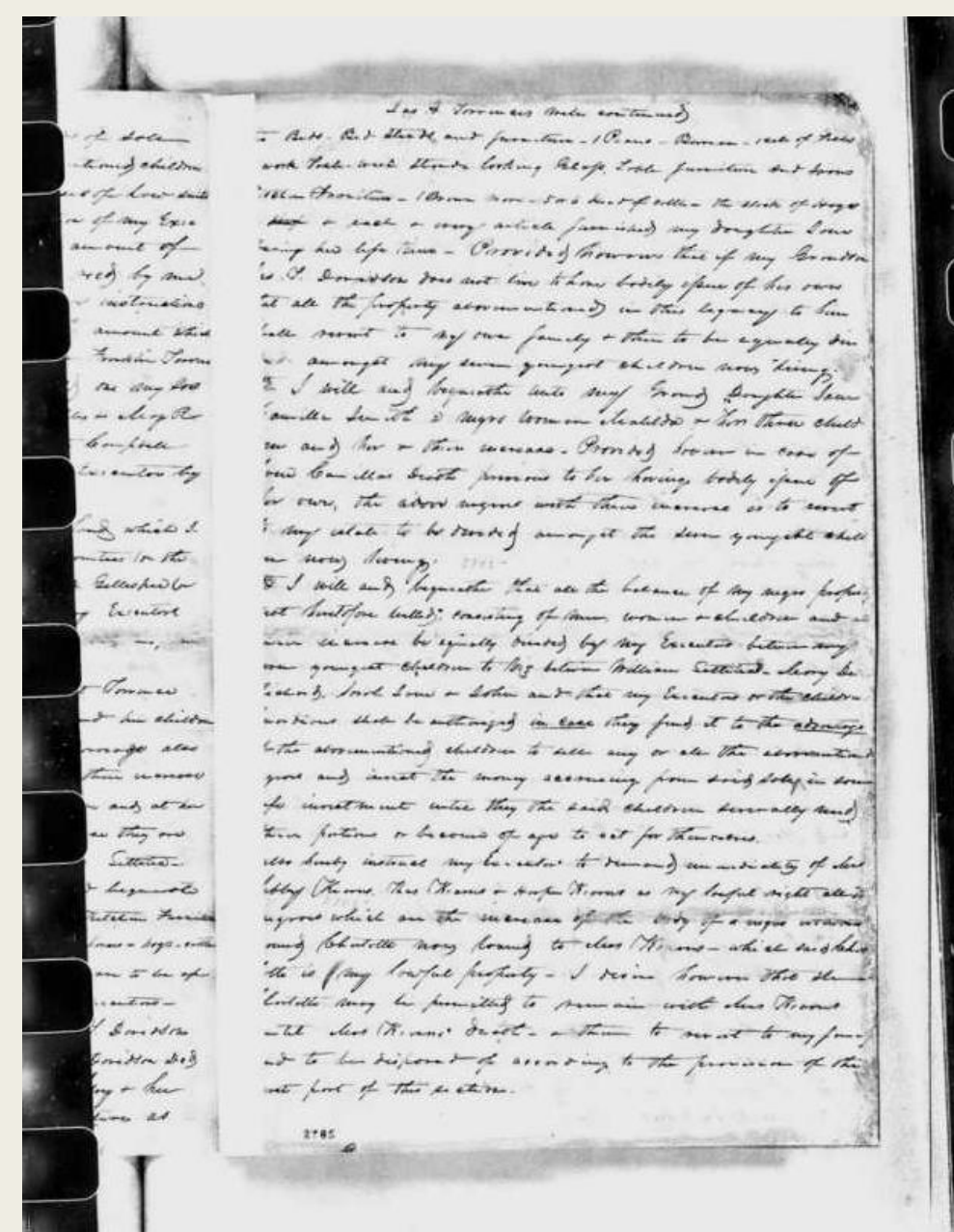
TRACING AN EMANCIPATED
MECKLENBURG COUNTY
FAMILY THROUGH THE
1870 CENSUS

André Kearns

June 22, 2024

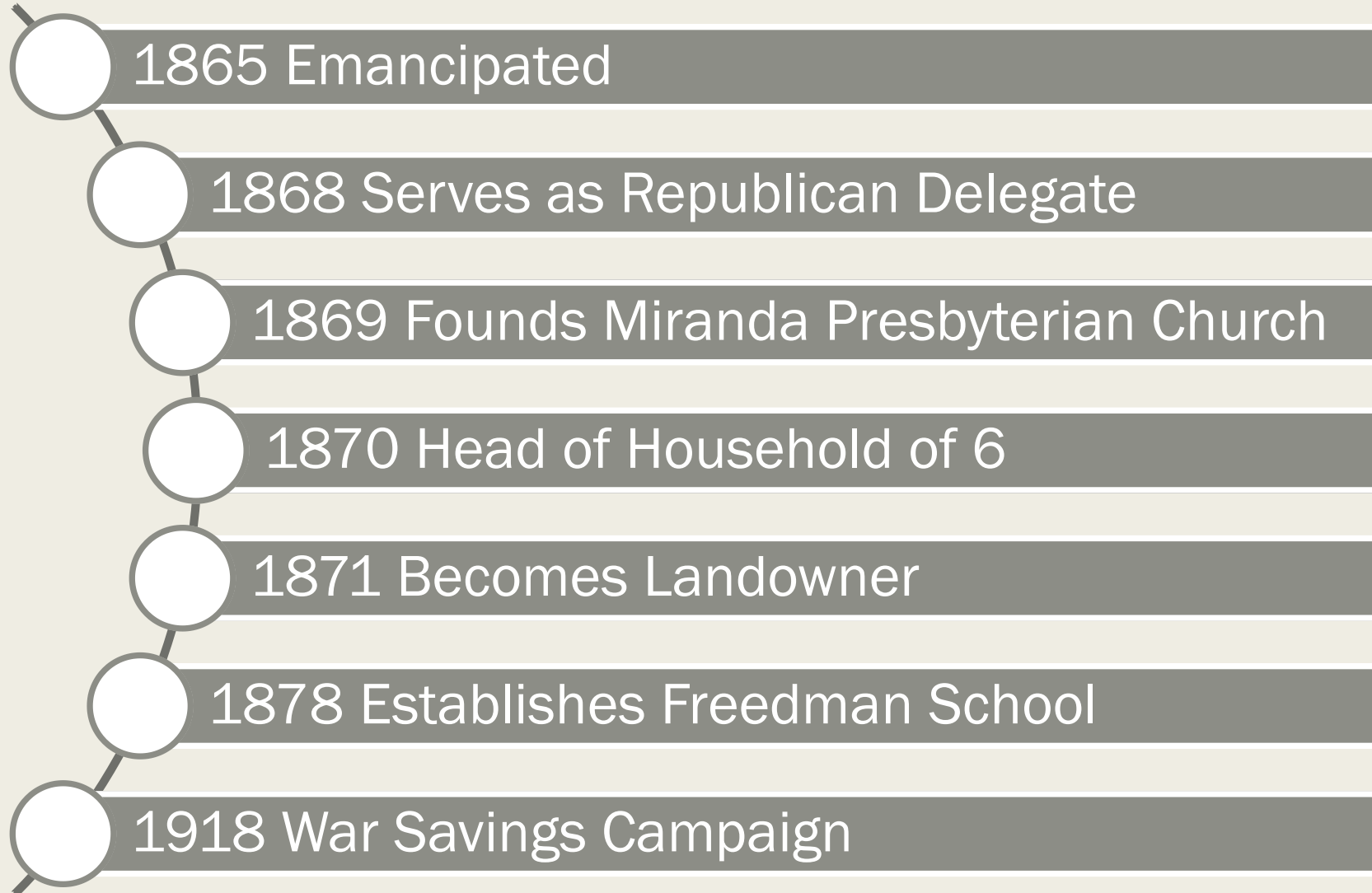
MY FAMILY CONNECTION TO CEDAR GROVE

My fourth great grandmother Charlotte was enslaved to James G. Torrance, owner of Cedar Grove, and allowed to Ibby Kearns until her death.



The Last Will and Testament of James
G. Torrance, July 2, 1845

WILLIAM B. HARVELL (B. 1828) THE SPAN OF A REMARKABLE LIFE



Discussion Topics

My inspiration

My approach as a genealogist

Tracing my emancipated family
through the 1870 census

Takeaways & Call to action

**Feel free to ask questions
along the way!**

The poster is a collage of various characters from the series, including a young girl, a woman, and several men in period clothing, set against a dark, textured background.

AMAZON ORIGINAL SERIES

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

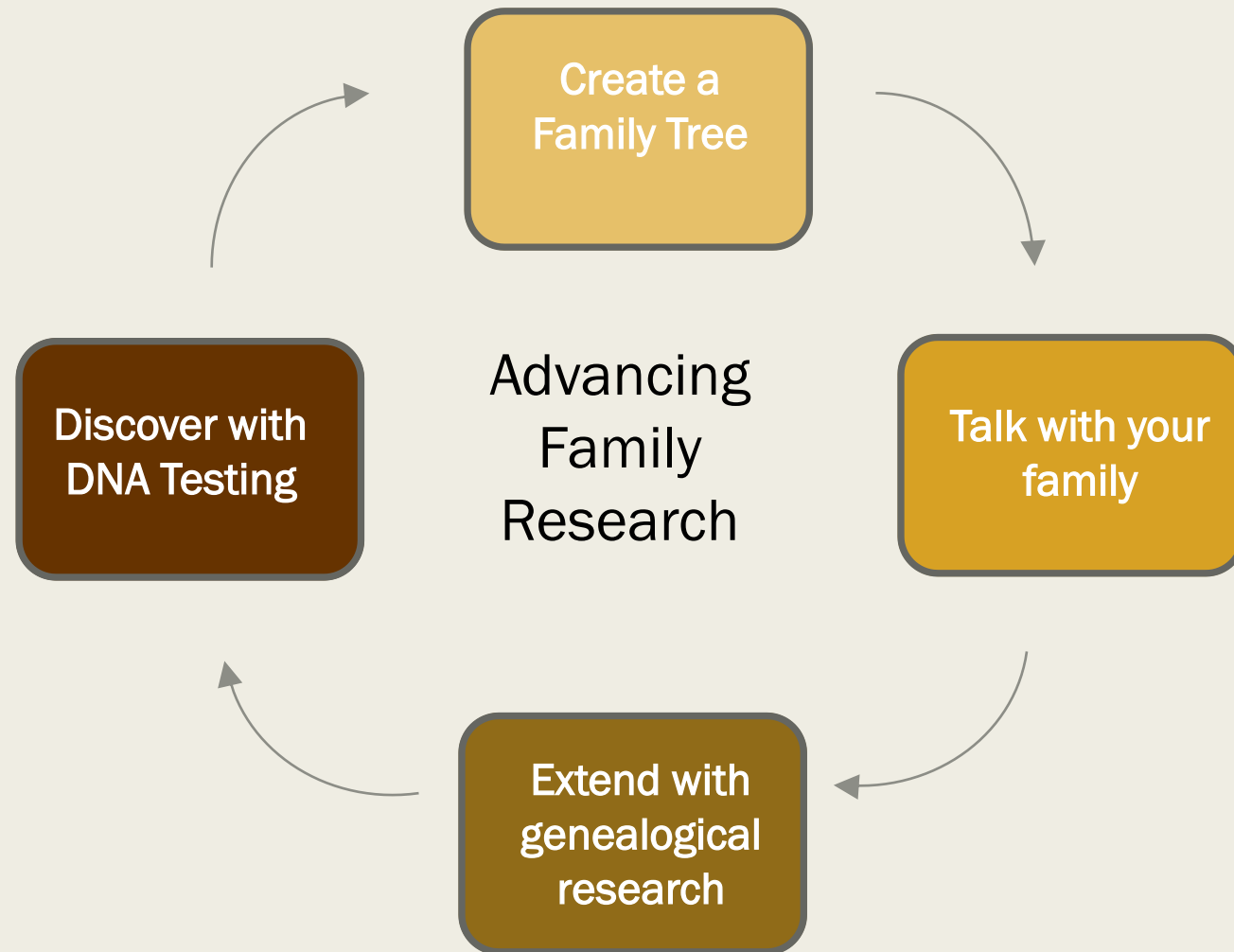
FROM ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER
BARRY JENKINS

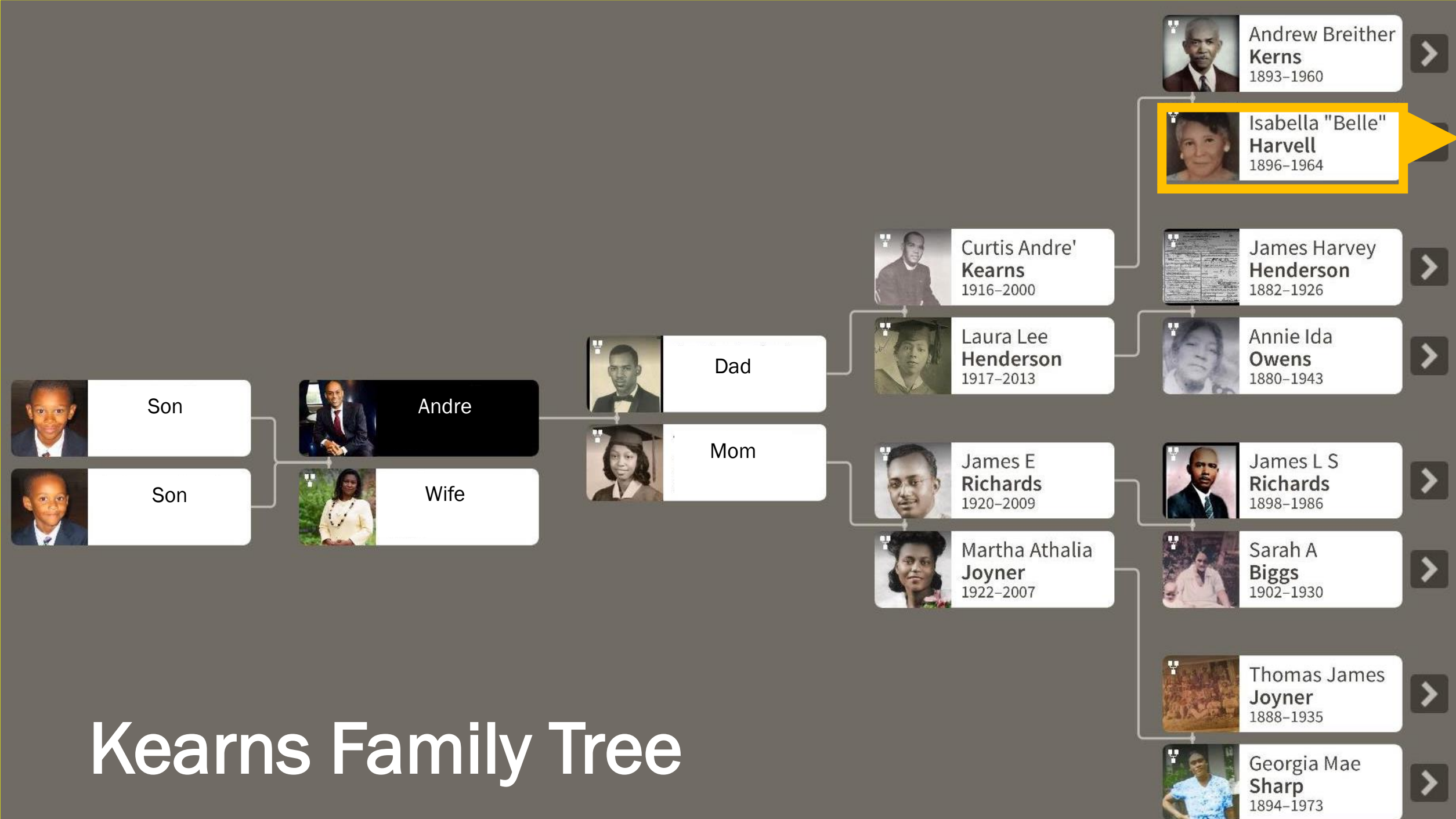
prime video

“My ancestors are responsible for the greatest act of collective parenting the world has ever seen.”

- Barry Jenkins, academy award winning film director

My approach to genealogy





Kearns Family Tree



The 1870 US Census & Emancipated Families

The 1870 Census was the first in which formerly enslaved are named

Emancipated households represent biological and blended family units

First and last names of emancipated families were not fixed

What can we uncover about Caroline's family from the 1870 census?

Long Creek Township, Mecklenburg County, NC

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|----|---|---|----------------|-------|----------|
| 29 | 215 | Hesserson Jesse | 55 | M | B | Works on Farm | ✓ 100 | NC |
| 30 | | Isabella | 35 | F | M | Keeps house | | Virginia |
| 31 | | Martha | 17 | F | B | Attends school | | NC |
| 32 | | Linda | 16 | F | M | " | | NC |
| 33 | | Henry | 11 | M | M | " | | NC |
| 34 | | Augustus | 12 | M | M | " | | NC |
| 35 | | Nancy | 10 | F | M | " | | NC |
| 36 | 216 216 | Caroline | 9 | F | M | " | | NC |

Look for:

- Inferred relationships
- Demographic details
- How children are grouped
- Where people were born

Digging deeper to understand 1870 household relationships

| Record Type | What you can learn |
|--|---|
| Enslaver Estate Records | Distributes estate after a person's death Could include (first) names of enslaved bequeathed or sold |
| Marriage Records for the Emancipated | Grooms full name Bride's maiden name Parents names |
| 1880 Census Records of the Emancipated | Household relationships Places of birth –father, mother |
| Death Records of the Emancipated | Birth and death dates Parents names Parent birth locations |

**WHAT CAN WE
LEARN ABOUT
THE HENDERSON
FAMILY, LISTED IN
THE 1870
CENSUS FOR
LONG CREEK?**

Jesse Henderson b. 1815

Isabella b. 1835

Martha b. 1853





















Lucinda b. 1854

Henry b. 1859

Augustus b. 1858

Nancy b. 1860

Caroline b. 1861

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| View Record | Mary Y Henderson | Western Division, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | Jas H Henderson | Western Division, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | James P Henderson | Western Division, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | A Henderson | Charlotte, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | Jas P Henderson | Western Division, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | A Henderson | Charlotte, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | David Henderson | Charlotte, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | A Henderson | Charlotte, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | W L Henderson | Western Division, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | David Henderson | Western Division, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | Margt Henderson | Western Division, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | A Henderson | Charlotte, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | G Henderson | Charlotte, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | A Henderson | Charlotte, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | A Henderson | Charlotte, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | A Henderson | Charlotte, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | Robt Henderson | Western Division, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | John Henderson | Western Division, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | J M Henderson | Western Division, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |
| View Record | D M Henderson | Western Division, Mecklenburg, North Carolina |  |

Extensively searched enslaver Henderson of Mecklenburg County estate records

1860 US Census Slave Schedules
Mecklenburg County, NC

MARRIAGE

| Name of Male. | Name of Female. | NAME OF Father of Male. | NAME OF Mother of Male. |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Henry Harrison | Liza Walker | J. S. Harrison | Jane Harrison |
| Cyrus Russell | Susan W. Frank | | |
| Phy. Spence | Caroline Harrison | George Spence | Biddy Spence |
| Chas. Root | Annville Connelley | John Fox | Ethel Mills |
| J. Sumner | Genndellie | W. K. Ketch | W. Sumner |
| Henry Selby | S. Merchand | S. Selby | C. Selby |
| Samuel Lewis | Ann Ingraw | Colman Elms | Sally Elms |
| Thomas Watt | Amanda Marshall | Spencer Watt | Sally Watt |
| Abram Graves | Amanda Byers | A. Graves | M. Graves |
| Henry Grier | Lizette Grier | Henry Grier | Fide Grier |
| David Truen | Mary absandu | A. Truen | L. Truen |
| W. Williams | Annell Blair | Isaac Williams | Kate Williams |
| David absandu | Sally Louney | J. absandu | J. absandu |
| W. H. Moore | W. J. Glenn | Moore | Eliza House |
| Stephen Haver | Liz. Torrance | Thos. Haver | M. Haver |
| William Cuthy | Harriet Gordon | John M. Donald | Ann M. Donald |
| Robert Lewis | Beth Matthews | Joe Lewis | S. Lewis |
| Grandison Harris | Louisa Adams | Thos. P. Tap | J. Harris |
| Joe Henderson | J. Henderson | Joe Olliver | R. Henderson |
| Anderson Crawford | Sally absandu | J. Crawford | St. Crawford |
| John Glenn | Mary Glenn | Ad. Glenn | A. Glenn |
| Wm. H. P. | Lena Terry | Blair M. Howell | Wife H. P. |
| John | Adeline Grier | Frank H. Grier | Andy H. Grier |
| John | Jane Alexander | Alfred Jones | Peggy Jones |
| John | Sarah Sprall | Joe Sprall | Wm. Sprall |
| John | Beulah Thompson | Heaton Brown | Betha Brown |

REGISTER

| NAME OF Father of Female. | NAME OF Mother of Female. | PLACE OF Marriage. | WHEN Married. |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| C. Walker | Wm. H. Haver | | |
| J. Harrison | Jane Harrison | Adelphi, N. Y. | 24th |
| J. H. Haver | B. Merchand | Adelphi, N. Y. | June 2 |
| Henry Grier | Lizette Grier | Adelphi, N. Y. | July 24 |
| David Truen | Mary absandu | Adelphi, N. Y. | Aug 24 |
| W. Williams | Annell Blair | Adelphi, N. Y. | Sept 24 |
| David absandu | Sally Louney | Adelphi, N. Y. | Oct 24 |
| W. H. Moore | W. J. Glenn | Adelphi, N. Y. | Nov 24 |
| Stephen Haver | Liz. Torrance | Adelphi, N. Y. | Dec 24 |
| William Cuthy | Harriet Gordon | Adelphi, N. Y. | Jan 24 |
| Robert Lewis | Beth Matthews | Adelphi, N. Y. | Feb 24 |
| Grandison Harris | Louisa Adams | Adelphi, N. Y. | Mar 24 |
| Joe Henderson | J. Henderson | Adelphi, N. Y. | Apr 24 |
| Anderson Crawford | Sally absandu | Adelphi, N. Y. | May 24 |
| John Glenn | Mary Glenn | Adelphi, N. Y. | June 24 |
| Wm. H. P. | Lena Terry | Adelphi, N. Y. | July 24 |
| John | Adeline Grier | Adelphi, N. Y. | Aug 24 |
| John | Jane Alexander | Adelphi, N. Y. | Sept 24 |
| John | Sarah Sprall | Adelphi, N. Y. | Oct 24 |
| John | Beulah Thompson | Adelphi, N. Y. | Nov 24 |

“Jes” and “I____” Henderson 1869 Marriage Record

Lists Jes Henderson parents as Joe
Olliver and R Henderson

No parents listed for I Henderson

Martha "Mattie" Henderson's 1874 Marriage Record

Lists father as Jesse Henderson and
mother as unknown

State of North Carolina, } Office of the Register of Deeds,
Mechlenburg COUNTY. } March 16 1874.

To any ordained Minister of any Religious Denomination,
or Any Justice of the Peace for said County:

4 Alfred Remus having applied to me for a LICENSE for the Marriage
of himself of 26 years.
color 5 Black, the son of 6 John Dauph
Charlotte Remus
the mother 7 Dead, the mother 8 Living, resident of 9 11
11 Mattie Henderson of 12 Mechlenburg 20 years.
color 13 Black, daughter of 14 Jesse Henderson and 15 unknown
the father 16 Living, the mother 17 Dead, resident of 18 Mechlenburg
*And the written consent of 19 the 20 of the
said 21 to the proposed marriage having been filed with me.

And there being no legal impediment to such marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized, at
any time within one year from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed Marriage at any place within
the said County.

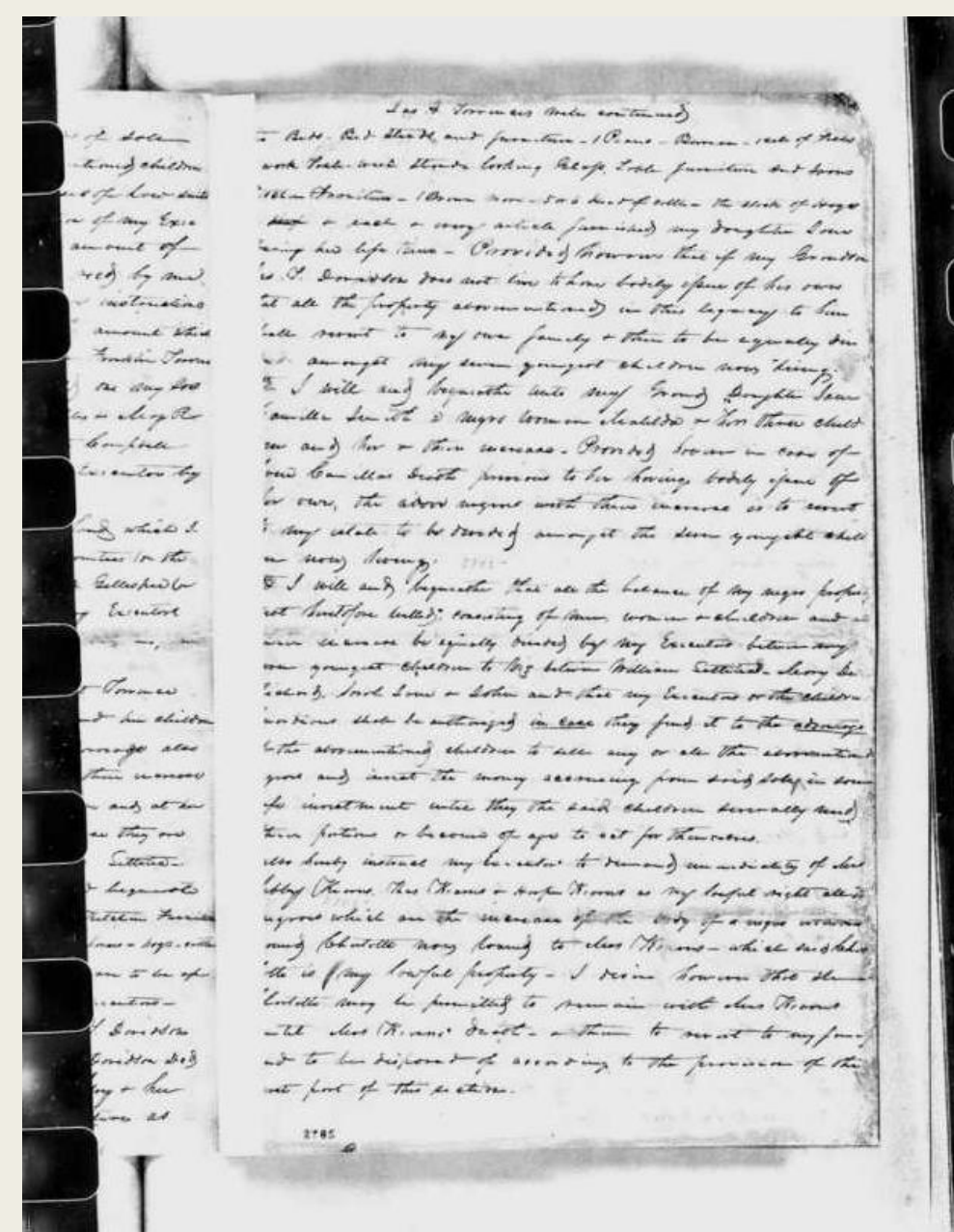
You are required within two months after you shall have celebrated such marriage to return this
License to me, at my office with your signature subscribed to the certificate under this License, and with
the blanks therein filled according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars to
the use of any person who shall sue for the same.

W. Maxwell
Register of Deeds.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Name of person applying for License. | 6. Father of man to be married, in full. | 11. Name of woman to be married, in full. | 16. Mother's name, in full. |
| 2. Name of man to be married, in full. | 7. Mother of man to be married, in full. | 12. Residence. | 17. Living or dead. |
| 3. Residence. | 8. Living or dead. | 13. Age. | 18. Living or dead. |
| 4. Age. | 9. Living or dead. | 14. White or colored. | 19. Residence if known, if not state unknown. |
| 5. White or colored. | 10. Residence if known, if not state unknown. | 15. Father's name. | |
- *If both parties are over 18 years of age strike out.

MY FAMILY CONNECTION TO CEDAR GROVE

My fourth great grandmother Charlotte was enslaved to James G. Torrance, owner of Cedar Grove, and allowed to Ibby Kearns until her death.



The Last Will and Testament of James
G. Torrance, July 2, 1845

Lucinda in the 1880 Census leads to other siblings

Long Creek Township, Mecklenburg County, NC

| No | Name | Age | Sex | Relationship | Occupation | Married | Single | Widowed |
|----|--------------------|----------|-----|--------------|---------------|---------|--------|---------|
| 76 | Thorns William | B. A 31 | M | | Farming | | | |
| 82 | Louisa | B. F. 26 | F | Wife | Keeping house | | | |
| | Charles | B. F. 19 | M | Daughter | at home | | | |
| | Betty | B. F. 16 | F | Daughter | " | | | |
| | W. John | B. A 13 | M | Son | " | | | |
| | L. Daisy | B. F. 8 | F | Daughter | " | | | |
| | H. William | B. A 6 | M | Son | " | | | |
| | J. James | B. A 3 | M | Son | " | | | |
| | L. Mattie | B. F. 3 | F | Daughter | " | | | |
| 76 | Sadler H. William | B. A 21 | M | | Farm labourer | | | |
| | Caroline | B. F. 27 | F | Wife | Keeping house | | | |
| | C. Mary | B. F. 7 | F | Daughter | at home | | | |
| | W. James | B. A 6 | M | Son | at home | | | |
| | E. Minnie | B. F. 4 | F | Daughter | at home | | | |
| | W. Robert | B. A 3 | M | Son | at home | | | |
| | Annie | B. F. 2 | F | Daughter | " | | | |
| | A. Mary | B. F. 20 | F | Sister | Farm labourer | | | |
| | V. Louisa | B. F. 2 | F | Daughter | " | | | |
| | Henderson Augustus | B. A 27 | M | Brother | Farm labourer | | | |

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

173

1 PLACE OF DEATH

County Muskelemburg Registration District No. 60-3-84 State N.C. Register No. 15
Township Paw Creek or Village _____
City County No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number)

2 FULL NAME

Henry Sadler
(a) Residence, No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident give city or town and State)

Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

3 Sex Male 4 Color or Race Colored 5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) _____

6a If married, widowed, divorced, or separated, give name of husband or wife of Katherine Sadler

6 Date of Birth (month, day, and year)

7 Age years Months Days If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min. 77 — — —

8 Occupation of deceased

(a) Trade, Profession, or particular kind of work Farming

(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) _____

(c) Name of employer Harry T. Perry

9 Birthplace (city or town)

(State or country) County

10 Name of Ike Sadler

11 Birthplace of Father (city or town) Muskelemburg
(State or country) County

12 Maiden Name of Mother Isabella Smith

13 Birthplace of Mother (city or town) Muskelemburg
(State or country)

14 Informant West Davis
(Address) Paw Creek Pk.

15 Filed 8-22-30 by N.A. Sadler
REGISTRAR

16 Date of Death (month, day, and year) Aug 10 1930

17

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from May 1930, to Aug 10, 1930, that I last saw him alive on Aug 7, 1930

and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____

The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:

Organic heart trouble

Contributory (SECONDARY) (95-2)

18 Where was disease contracted

If not at place of death? _____

Did an operation precede death? _____ Date of _____

Was there an autopsy? _____

What test confirmed diagnosis? Clinical

(Signed) B. C. Taylor M. D.

. 19 (Address) Int. Holly 220

*State the Disease Causing Death, or in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for additional space.)

19 Place of Burial, Cremation, or removal

Woodland Church

Date of Burial

Aug 11 1930

20 Undertaker

Belmont undertakers

Address

Belmont

[William] Henry Sadler's 1930 Death Record

Lists father as Ike Sadler and mother as Isabella

146 Jan 10. I will & bequeath to my son Andrew Jackson the plantation on which I now live - together with my lands on the head of Sixmile Creek and a track of land joining the Sewell place subject to his mother's right in them - also my little pony & his saddle & bridle -
11th it is my will that my two tracks of land on the waters of 4 mile creek be exposed to publick sale on one two or three years credit by my executor - and all my other property not otherwise disposed of by me to be exposed to sale on 12 Months credit by my executor and the amount of proceeds of said sale - after paying all my just debts, to be equally divided among my six children share & share alike - also 4th children to be equal sharers in all my notes & monies and hands and due to me - I nominate and appoint Colonel Jno Black to execute this my will -
Signed sealed & delivered in presence of -
John C. Pitt -
10th J. Pitt - Thomas Oliver. *Wit*

In the name of God - Amens - I Phillip Sadler (being sick and weak of body - but of a sound disposing mind and memory, do make, declare and constitute - this to be my last will and testament
In witness whereof - I will that all my just debts be paid by my executor hereafter named
Secondly I devise my lands in the following manner - To my son Alexander Franklin Sadler I will and bequeath the plantation I now live on containing one hundred and thirty acres - also two tracks of land lately purchased belonging to the estate of Thomas D. Smith each containing two hundred and sixty acres - making in all three hundred and ninety acres - To him and his heirs for ever. Thirdly I will and bequeath to my son Alexander F. Sadler above named, the following negroes, to wit, London, Mary and her youngest child - Eliza - George - Adam - John - and Sophia - together with all the stock

The 1836 will of slaveowner Phillip Sadler

Wills Isaac (enslaved) to his son
Alexander F. Sadler

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA;

Office Register Deeds,

MECKLENBURG COUNTY;

1891

To any Ordained Minister of any Religious Denomination, or any Justice of the Peace of said County:

..... having applied to me for a LICENSE for the

Marriage of of; aged years

color the son of and Lizzie

the father now dead the mother dead resident of

And of aged years

color daughter of and

the father the mother resident of

I do solemnly swear that the statement rendered above is true;

that the parties to the proposed marriage are of legal age and that there is no legal impediment to the said marriage.

Sworn to and subscribed before me,

this the day of 1891

Register of Deeds.

And the written consent of the.....

of the said to the proposed marriage having been filed with me,

And there being no legal impediment to such marriage known to me you are hereby authorized, at any time within one year from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed marriage at any place within the said County.

You are required within two months after you shall have celebrated such marriage to return this license to me at my office, with your signature subscribed to the certificate under this License, and with the blanks therein filled according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars to the use of any person who shall sue for the same.

Register of Deeds.

Augustus "Gus" Henderson's 1891 Marriage Record

Lists father as Jesse Henderson and
mother as Lizzie

State of North Carolina, } **Office Register of Deeds,**
 }
 } *W. H. Henderson* County } *Sept 18* 188*2*
 To any Ordained Minister of any Religious Denomination, or any Justice of the Peace of said County :
John H. Henderson having applied to me for a **LICENSE** for the
 Marriage of *John H. Henderson* of *W. H. Henderson* County, aged *22* years,
 color *White*, the son of *Jesse Henderson* and *Lizzie Henderson*
 the father now *living*, the mother *living*, resident of *W. H. Henderson* County
 And *Lizzie Henderson* of *W. H. Henderson* County, aged *21* years,
 color *White*, daughter of *Jesse Henderson* and *Lizzie Henderson*
 the father *living*, the mother *living*, resident of *W. H. Henderson* County
 And the written consent of *Jesse Henderson* the
 of the said *Jesse Henderson* to the proposed marriage having been filed with me.
 And there being no legal impediment to such marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized, at any time within
 one year from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed marriage at any place within the said County.
 You are required within two months after you shall have celebrated such marriage to return this License to me, at
 my office, with your signature subscribed to the certificate under this License, and with the blanks therein filled accord-
 ing to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars to the use of any person who shall sue for the same.
W. H. Henderson
 Register of Deeds

State of North Carolina,
W. H. Henderson County
 I, *John H. Henderson* a Justice of the Peace
 united in matrimony *John H. Henderson* and *Lizzie Henderson*
 the parties licensed above, on the *18* day of *September* 188*2*, at
W. H. Henderson in *W. H. Henderson*
 township in said County, according to law.
Witnesses Present at Marriage: *John H. Henderson*
John H. Henderson of *W. H. Henderson* County
John H. Henderson of *W. H. Henderson* County
John H. Henderson of *W. H. Henderson* County

Nancy R. Henderson's 1882 Marriage Record to John Houston

Lists father as Jesse Henderson and mother
as Lizzie

REGISTER.

Nancy R. Henderson's 1892 Marriage Record to William Kerns

State of North Carolina,)

Office of the Register of Deeds,

Hecklenburg County. }

January 24th 1879.

To any Ordained Minister of any Religious Denomination, or any Justice of the Peace for said County :

3 ¹ *P. Hines Harvace* having applied to me for a License for the

Marriage of ² *himself* of ³ *Mecklenburg*, aged

21 years, color Black, the son of W. O. Harrell and

7 E. Harold, the father now 8 Living the mother 9 Living

resident of ¹⁰ *Hecklenburg*, And ¹¹ *Caroline Henderson*

of ¹² Hecklenburg, a **1** ³ 8 years, color ¹⁴ Blk. daughter of

15 **2** *Winkerson* and 16 **2** *Robella Henderson* the father

17 John, the mother 18 John resident of 19 St. Anthony

'And the written consent of _____ the _____

of the said _____ to the proposed Marriage having been filed with me.

And there being no legal impediment to such Marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized, at any time

within one year from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed marriage at any place within the said County.

You are required within two months after you shall have celebrated such Marriage to return this License to

me, at my office, with your signature subscribed to the certificate under this License, and with the blanks therein

filled according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars to the use of any person who shall sue for the same.

Pro. Szewczi

Per J. S. Roberts, Dep. Register of Deeds.

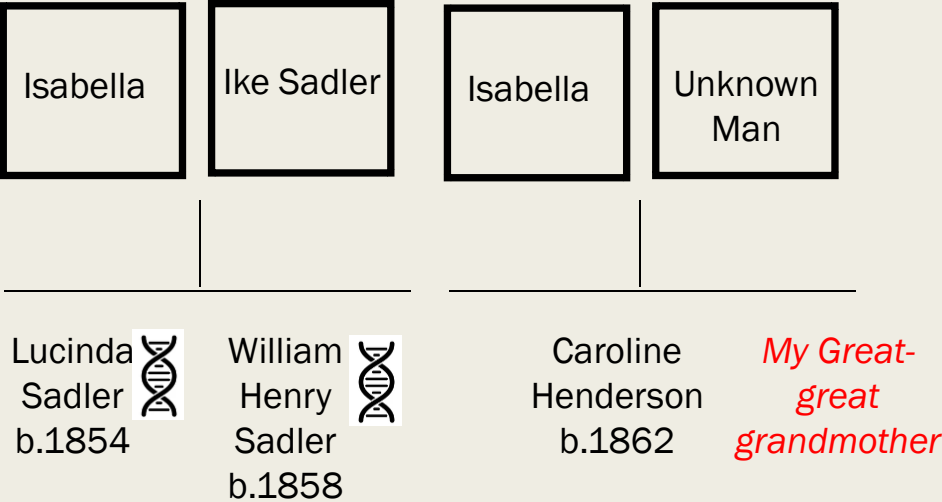
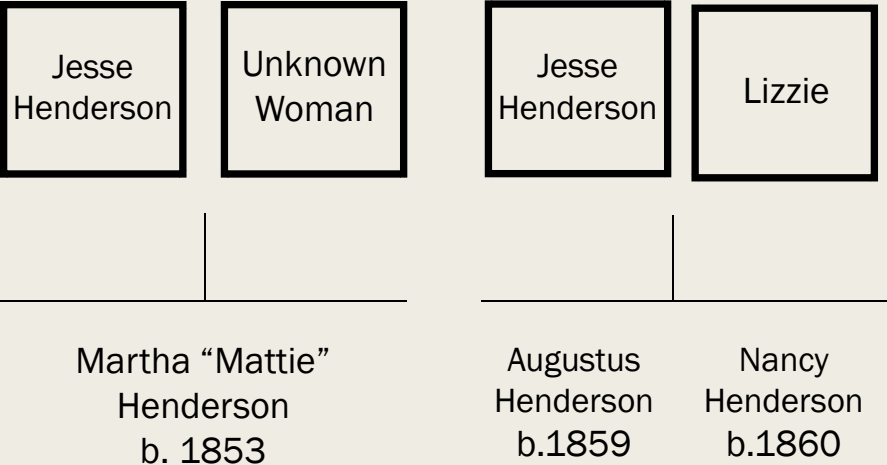
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Name of person applying for license. | 8. Living or dead. | 15. Father's name. |
| 2. Name of man to be married, in full. | 9. Living or dead. | 16. Mother's name. |
| 3. Residence. | 10. Residence if known, if not state unknown. | 17. Living or dead. |
| 4. Age. | 11. Name of woman to be married, in full. | 18. Living or dead. |
| 5. White or colored. | 12. Residence. | 19. Residence if known, if not state unknown. |
| 6. Father of man to be married. | 13. Age. | * If both parties are over 18 years of age |
| 7. Mother of man to be married. | 14. White or colored. | strike out |


Caroline Henderson's 1877 Marriage Record

Lists father as unknown and mother as Isabella

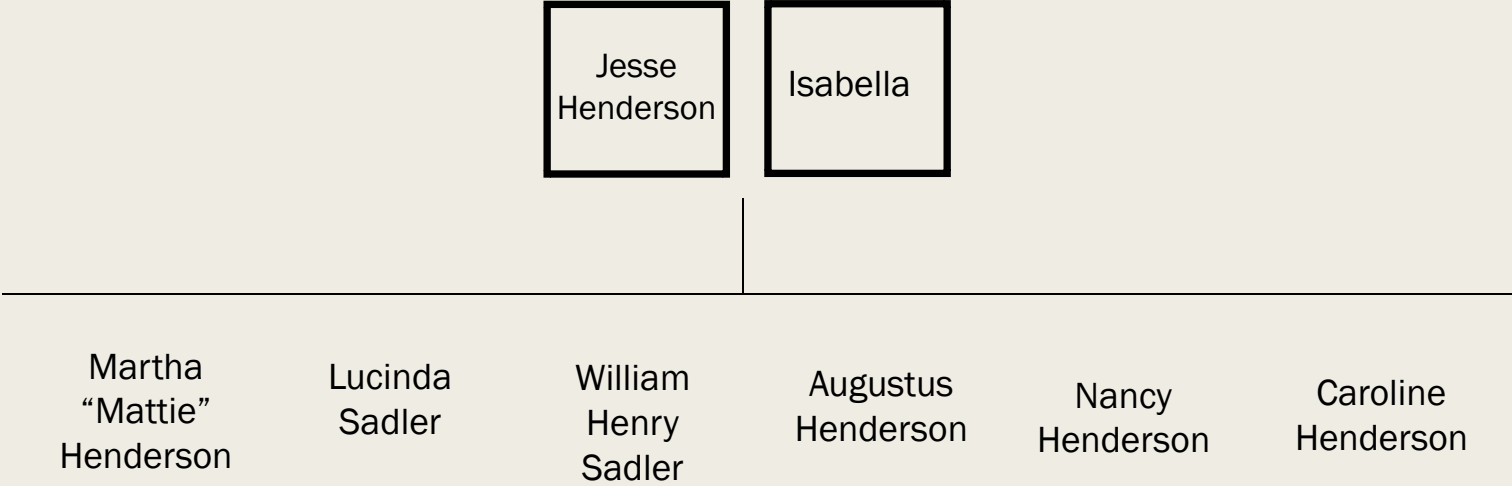
**PULLING ALL OF THE
PIECES TOGETHER**

Jesse and Isabella’s Biological Families pre-1870



 My Family's DNA matches to descendants

Henderson Blended Family represented in the 1870 Census



| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----------------|----|---|---|-----------------|---|-----|----------|
| 20 | 215 | 215 | Hesserson Jesse | 53 | M | B | Works on Farm | ✓ | 100 | NC |
| 30 | | | Isabella | 35 | F | M | Kept up house | | | Virginia |
| 31 | | | Martha | 17 | F | B | Attended school | | | NC |
| 32 | | | Lucinda | 16 | F | M | " " | | | NC |
| 33 | | | Henry | 11 | M | M | " " | | | NC |
| 34 | | | Augustus | 12 | M | M | " " | | | NC |
| 35 | | | Nancy | 10 | F | M | " " | | | NC |
| 36 | 216 | 216 | Caroline | 9 | F | M | " " | | | NC |



**CAROLINE AND HER HUSBAND HAMILTON HARVELL, MY GREAT-
GREAT GRANDPARENTS**

Takeaways

Find your inspiration

Understand the
significance of 1870
census

Start with a good
research question

Apply a 4-step
approach: Create a tree,
talk with family, extend
with research, discover
with DNA testing

Expect biological or
blended family units

Last names of
emancipated families
not fixed

Embrace the impact of
what you uncover

A call to action

Join our Hearts Reunion Genealogy
Initiative and help us to connect families
and reveal the whole history of Cedar Grove



Thank You

andrekearnsdc@gmail.com

www.medium.com/@andrekearns