

Introduction

This set of books is meant to document the history of my ancestors. The purpose is to present interesting and fact based information on the lives of my ancestors while keeping the format relatively easy to follow and understand. Each section provides information about a family of my direct ancestors.

I first started writing down information about my great-grandparents in 1992. Before that, I would look at old pictures and wonder who those people were and how they lived. In my first two years of researching I used index cards to record everything I knew about each person I discovered. But when I got a computer in 1994, it became a lot easier to keep up with the information I was finding. This set of books is a compilation of everything I have found so far. Each book deals with the ancestors of a different grandparent.

I have used a numbering system to identify each family. As an example:

B-1-2. Benjamin Floyd Duncan (4).

The number "B-1-2" is only given to this one family. The "B" means that the family is on my father's father's side. Each grandparent has a different letter. The "1" means that the family is on this Duncan line (i.e. each last name has a different number). If there are two different lineages which have the same name by coincidence, they still have different numbers. The "2" means that this is the second most recent family in "B-1". The underlined name (here, Benjamin Floyd Duncan) is usually the father in the family. The number in parentheses, 4, denotes the number of generations before me. In this case, Benjamin Floyd Duncan is four generations before me, or my great-great-grandfather. In some cases, I am descended from one ancestor by more than one of his children. In other words, he may be a (6) when following the lineage in one way, but a (7) when following a different lineage. When this happened, I arbitrarily picked one or the other for that ancestor. Also, a family number such as (B-3-1) following a person's name indicates the number of the family where his/her line is continued.

The children are first listed in order of birth (if known) for easy reference. An asterisk (*) before a name identifies my direct ancestor. The first date is the date of birth, and the second is the date of death. When part of a date is underlined, it indicates that there is a discrepancy. I have given either the most probable date, or an average of dates from more than one source. Each list is followed by information on the family as a whole including where they lived, census information, or tax records. This is followed by more information on each of the children. The source of the birth and death date is supplied in brackets after information on that individual (for example, [b^{62,113}, d⁸]). The superscripted numbers indicate the number of the sources for either the birth or death date. Here, the birth date came from Refs 62 and 113, while the death date came from Ref 8.

Before September 1752, March 25 was the first day of the year in many countries. Therefore, days between December 31 and March 24 were included in the previous year. For example, March 24 was the last day of the year in 1634, but today, we would consider it early 1635. In this book, I have listed that day as 3/24/1635*, just as we would write it today. The asterisk (*) is a reminder that at that time, people actually considered it to be the previous year, or, in this example, 1634.

It's important to remember that some names are interchangeable with other names (i.e. Sarah and Sally, Mary and Polly, etc.). Also, because some of this information was obtained by word of mouth, there is the possibility of error. Some of the public records even have mistakes because of misinformation. And of course it's possible that I've made typographical errors. So if anyone notices mistakes or can supply additional information about our ancestors, please let me know. Changes are not a problem and corrections are appreciated.

Much of my information came from county records including birth, death, marriage, land, and census records. I have visited several cemeteries, most of which are in either NC or VA. A list of all of the cemeteries mentioned in this book can be found in the Cemeteries section. Several of my relatives have helped in supplying stories that would not be found elsewhere. These personal anecdotes are what make the lives of our ancestors seem real and not just a list of names and dates. Some of my other sources include books, papers, email acquaintances, and the internet. Throughout this book, the source for nearly all of my information is noted with superscripts and is listed in the Sources section. I have referenced my sources to give credit to those who have done their own research, but also to help me remember where I got the information. This makes it easier to update the information when I find something new. Please keep in mind that information gathered from webpages on the internet is probably the least reliable. Anyone can easily post anything on the internet. However, if someone goes to the trouble to write a book, that person may have done more error checking and validation. While I'm on the subject, my information is available both as a book and on the internet.

Since 2013 I have also used DNA testing to both verify known information and explore unknown branches of my family tree. It has proven to be a very useful tool for providing hints to an ancestor's identity when there simply isn't a paper trail to follow. As more people take DNA tests, they will become even more valuable as patterns start to emerge among multiple cousins who share common pieces of DNA. Let me know if you have questions about DNA testing.

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Here is information for my immediate family.

1. John Albert Duncan (1). I, **Jason Michael Duncan**, am the son of **John Albert Duncan (AB)** and **Teresa Gail Brooks (CD)**. They had three children.

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| 1. Jason Michael Duncan | 2/ 1/1976 |
| 2. Trent William Duncan | 12/27/1977 |
| 3. Jarel Ross Duncan | 11/11/1990 |

AB. Roy Clifford Duncan (2). My father, **John Albert Duncan**, is the son of **Roy Clifford Duncan (B-1-1)** and **Doris Faye Bagues (A-1-1)**. They had two children.

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| 1. Leroy Duncan | 4/25/1952 |
| 2. John Albert Duncan | 4/17/1954 |

CD. Billy Edwin Brooks (2). My mother **Teresa Gail Brooks** is the daughter of **Billy Edwin Brooks (C-1-1)** and **Opal Delores Billings (D-1-1)**. They had one child.

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| 1. Teresa Gail Brooks | 4/ 8/1957 |
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