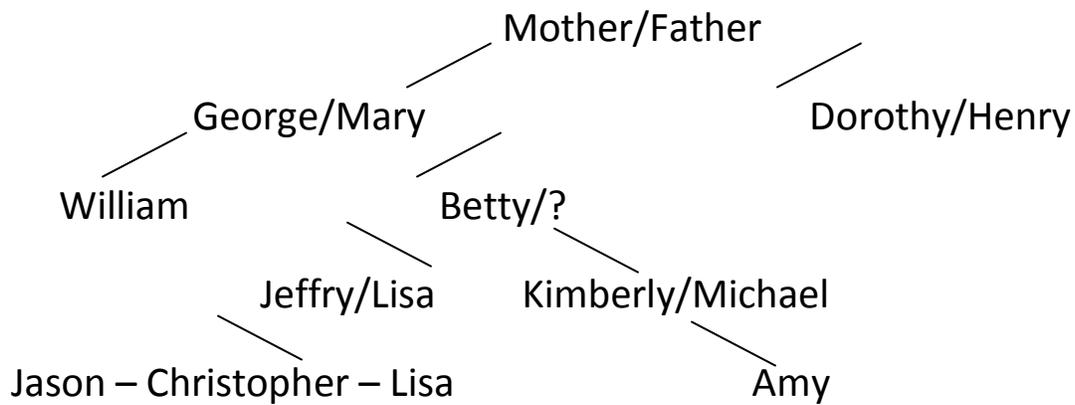


A Lifetime of Memories

By Lee Giles

George's Family Tree



Part of the Easy Peasy All in One Homeschool

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Chapter 1

“Grandpa, you up for a walk around back?”

“Not usually, but it’s my birthday, and I’m feeling spry.”

George moaned getting up from his lawn chair. He stopped to glance around at his guests. His hundred years produced fine company he decided. He smiled at the “Happy Birthday, George!” sign and gave his newest great-grandchild a pat on the head as he passed her. His grandson walked with him and started talking about the landscaping.

“Grandpa, I was wondering how you would feel about me having this tree tore down. I think it’s becoming dangerous.”

“That tree is 100 years old. Just like me. It grew up in New York. Just like me. And it’s dying. Just like me.”

“Don’t say that Grandpa.”

“Jeff, I can say it. How much more do you expect I’ll be able to go on? Naw, it’s true. I’m dying. But I’ve done a lot of living. This tree and me we’ve seen an awful lot over the years. The Lord’s been good to us both. I was born before cars were invented, before there was a Teddy bear. It’s amazing what the years have brought. Most of the changes creep up on you but some come like a flash and change your world for ever. That Y2K bug sure wasn’t one of them, huh?” George chuckled. “I knew it wouldn’t come to anything. I don’t scare easy. Some folks thought it would be the end of the world, and the Lord would rescue us on out of here. Guess I’m going to have to get to heaven the old fashioned way.” George smiled.

“Stop talking that way, Grandpa,” Jeffrey said.

“Aw, leave me alone. It’s my birthday.” George smiled and closed his eyes.

July 17, 1904

“Hurry, George, finish your broccoli! You’ll be late!” his elder sister, Dorothy, called after him.

George slipped the remaining broccoli under his plate and called, “Wait! First I need to find my Teddy Bear. Mother said it would be dark in there.”

“We need to go. It’s a twenty minute ride to the theatre. If you get scared, you can hide in my skirts.”

“Keep your shirt on! I’m still looking. Wait. There he is.” George grabbed up the bear and ran to the door. “I found him!” George waved his stuffed bear in front of him. His sister grabbed his arm and tugged, and he scuttled after her.

“Are you excited, George? We’re going to see our first moving picture. I’ve heard all about it. It’s called *The Great Train Robbery*. I am so thrilled I am going. You almost made us late. Come along. Climb up into the carriage. Father’s already waiting at the reins. ”

May 3, 1906

“After you finish your succotash, you go upstairs and wash up. Then put on your best, George. We’re going to hear a preacher today.”

“We hear a preacher every Sunday. Why we going to hear one on a Wednesday?” George squirmed uncomfortably in his chair just thinking about sitting still for another preacher.

“We’re not going to hear our pastor, George. We’re going to hear Billy Sunday. You’ll like him, George, he used to be a ball player.” Mother tied on her apron and started clearing the table.

George and Dorothy dressed in their church clothes, and Dorothy sat reading *War of the Worlds* while George waited anxiously by the door to go see a real, live ball player. Mother chided Dorothy to put away her book. Dorothy slipped her book onto a table and as they headed out the door she muttered under her breath, “Let the good times roll.” George cocked his head confused because his sister didn’t look excited.

Mother gave Dorothy a stern look and said, “You better listen. If even Billy Sunday can’t get your heart set straight on the Lord, then there’s little hope for you.”

September 5, 1908

Father picked up *The World* and his pipe. “Mother, you just won’t believe what they’ve done now. Man walked, he rode beast and bicycle, he raced across the country in just a week on the iron horse and now man flies.”

“What are you talking about, Father? Did some fool throw himself off a cliff with a pair of wings strapped on? Haven’t they read what happened to Icarus?”

Father laughed. “No, Mother. They’ve really gone and done it. Two days ago the Wright brothers demonstrated their airplanes in front of thousands. One of the brothers flew for more than an hour.” Father raised his eyebrows at Mother. “And you used to tease about all those reports of people flying. They’ve really gone and done it this time. Mother, this calls for a celebration. Let’s mark the day. Kids, come here. We’re going to head into town for dinner at the pizzeria. George, go get the carriage ready. Mother, just think. One of these days we’ll be able to get one of those Model T cars. And one day I bet George is gonna get a chance to fly.”

“You have bats in your belfry. My George flying.”

“You have to face the music, Mother. Times are changing. Let’s go celebrate kids!”

All mentions of food and clothing as well as character names were researched to be appropriate for each time period.

Chapter 1

What I know...

- “Keep your shirt on” was first commonly used in the first decade of the 1900s. Also introduced that decade were “to have bats in one’s belfry”, “let the good times roll” and “to face the music.”
- *War of the Worlds* was written by H.G. Wells in the 1890s.
- Teddy Bears were first introduced in 1902, named for the sitting president Theodore Roosevelt.
- The first silent movie was called *The Great Train Robbery* and opened in 1903.
- The first pizzeria opened in New York City in 1905 thanks to all the Italian immigrants.
- *The World* was a newspaper in New York City at the turn of the century.
- The first flight was in December of 1903 but reports of it were met with skepticism. The Wright brothers put on air shows on September 3, 1908 and with a flight of more than an hour quieted all the naysayers and became overnight sensations.
- In 1908 the Model T was invented.
- Billy Sunday was an ex-ball player turned evangelist. He was a popular and fiery preacher the first two decades of the 20th century. It is believed he had a big part in bringing about prohibition.

Other news in the world...

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|------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1901 | Transatlantic radio signal
President McKinley assassinated |
| 1905 | Relativity theory introduced by Einstein |
| 1909 | Plastic invented |

