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Ferris Family Genealogical Research Papers
1865-1967
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**Leslie Reyman
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Summary

- Main entry:** Little, Lora C.
- Title:** Ferris family genealogical research papers, 1865-1967 (bulk 1897-1899)
- Size:** 2.3 linear feet (7 boxes)
- Source:** Gift of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2008
- Abstract:** Lora Cornelia Little, public health activist and a descendant of the Ferris family through her maternal grandmother Ruth Ferris, was born Lora Williams, in Waterville, Minnesota Territory in 1856. The genealogical research compiled by Lora Little and Henry Boynton Ferris is related to their investigation of the Ferris Family and includes family data sheets, research notes, and photographs, as well as correspondence from distant relations, fellow genealogists, town clerks and other recordskeepers.
- Access:** Advance notice required. Apply at <http://www.nypl.org/mssref>.
- Preferred citation:** Ferris Family Genealogical Research Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Biographical note

Lora Cornelia Little, public health activist and a descendant of the Ferris family through her maternal grandmother Ruth Ferris, was born Lora Williams, in Waterville, Minnesota Territory in 1856. She married Elijah A. Little, a civil engineer from Port Byron, N.Y. In 1895 Little's only child Kenneth died following a compulsory vaccination that was administered in advance of his admission to the Yonkers, New York public schools. She provides an account of his death in *Crimes of the Cowpox Ring*, published in 1905, and crusaded against mandatory vaccinations laws for the remainder of her life. In 1918, while living in Bismark, N.D., her anti-vaccination work led to her arrest for violation of the Espionage Act.

Little, a descendant of John Ferris of Pound Ridge, N.Y. (who served as a private in the Continental Army), was admitted to the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1893. Working in collaboration with Henry Boynton Ferris of Chicago, Little immersed herself in a project to more fully document the Ferris family lineage and together they amassed extensive information on the Ferris family genealogy. Little died in Chicago on October 30, 1931 at the age of 75.

Scope and content note

The genealogical research compiled by Lora Little and Henry Boynton Ferris is related to their investigation of the Ferris Family and includes family data sheets, research notes, and photographs, as well as correspondence from distant relations, fellow genealogists, town clerks and other recordkeepers. Some correspondence from the 1860s, which was forwarded to Little in the course of her project, represents attempts by earlier generations of Ferris' to trace the family genealogy.

In 1966 Western Reserve Historical Society genealogist Harriet Scofield undertook a comprehensive exploration of the tangled lines of the Ferris family and published her findings in the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Record* in her article "The Six Ferris Brothers and Their Families." "[T]his is not my own family at all," Scofield noted in a 1966 letter to a NYGB editor, "but just one where the problems and mix-ups intrigued me." In preparation for her article, Scofield reviewed the Ferris Family Genealogical Research papers, then housed at the NYGB, and arranged and annotated the research notes and correspondence. Scofield explains her methods in a letter that accompanied the draft of her article (box 1, folder 1). Throughout the collection, Scofield's arrangement scheme and annotations have been preserved.

Arrangement note

The Ferris Family Genealogical Research Papers are organized in the following series:

- Series I: Family Data Sheets, undated
- Series II: Research Materials, 1865-1909
- Series III: Research Correspondence, 1867-1914

Series descriptions and container list

Family Data Sheets, undated

Harriet Scofield's article on the Ferris family along with her correspondence with New York Biographical and Genealogical Society staff precedes the data sheets.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Scofield, Harriet, "The Six Ferris Brothers and Their Families", 1966-1967
	2	Zachariah descendants, as originally compiled by a descendant in his own line
	3	Some descendants of Jeffrey, Joseph, John, Peter. Peter had Jacob, John A., et al. Elijah (no proved children) was supposed father of Jedidiah
	4	Jeffrey, James, Nathaniel
	5	Justus (Jesse?) Ferris descendants
	6	Zadock Ferris descendants (valuable for clues)
	7	This Israel Ferris (m. Margaret Jamison) reputed brother of Justus, Zadok and Leonard. See Justus's file. Not to be confused with a slightly earlier Israel
	8	Jonathan Ferris (revolutionary soldier) born in Greewich, CT, lived in Saratoga Co., NY. Sons Ezedial, Jonathan and Joshua of Oreleans Co., Frederick of Niagra Co., and James or John. Ancestry not traced
	9	Leonard Ferris descendants, undated
	10	Descendants of Henry Ferris and Priscilla (Cudbroth). He was perhaps son of Elijah and Hanna, Peter, John, Joseph, Jeffrey (no proof) who moved from Greenwich, CT to Duchess Co., NY
	11	Line of Jeffrey, Peter, Joseph, Nathan, Peter, Ransford Avery
	12	Descendants of Jeffrey, John, Peter, Jonathan
	13	Southern Ferris families
	14-16	Unidentified Ferris'
2	1	Descendants of Jeffrey, John, James, through sons James, John, Benjamin
	2	Some descendants of Jeffrey, James, James
	3	Some descendants of Jeffrey, James, Samuel
	4	Line back of Oliver Lockwood Ferris, Joshua & Letitia, Joshua & Mary, Jeremiah and Abigail, Joseph, Joseph, Jeffrey
	5	This John Ferris, Revolutionary War soldier, son of John and Ruth (Brown) Ferris and had brothers Silvanus (soldier) and Joseph
	6	Descendants of Jeffrey, Joseph, John, Peter, Samuel (and Mary Pardee) through sons Gideon, Samuel, Joshua, undated
	7	Line of Jeffrey, Joseph, Benjamin, Benjamin, Peter and Benjamin (m. Patience Barnes)
	8	Descendants of probably Timothy (Peter, John, Joseph, Jeffrey) and Ruth (Hubbard) Ferris, had sons Benjamin, Timothy, Israel, Jese and perhaps an Abraham. Line not yet proved
	9-10	Unidentified John
	11	Line of Jeffrey, Joseph, James, James
	12-14	A, B, C series, all descendants of Zechariah
3	1-3	Master List: "Descendants of the six Ferris brothers," line of Jeffrey, Joseph, John, John, etc.

Research Materials, 1865-1909

Notable materials include Little's application to the Daughters of the American Revolution and the sheet music for a composition written by Little.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
3	4	Clippings, 1900-1903
	5-7	Ferris family number register, Vol. II and III, undated
	8	Hull family, undated
	9	Leonard family, undated
		Little, Lora C.
	10	Application for Society Daughters of the American Revolution,, 1893
	11	Sheet music, "The Place Where the Two Roads Meet ", undated (research conducted in New Haven, CT)
4	1-6	Notes, undated
	7	Photographs, 1865-1898, n.d.
	8	Scrapbook, 1895-1909, n.d.

Research Correspondence, 1867-1914

This series consist chiefly of correspondence received by Lora Little and Henry Boynton Ferris related to their research. Some correspondence from the 1860s, which was forwarded to Little by her Ferris relations, represents attempts by earlier generations of Ferris' to trace the family genealogy. Numbering scheme and annotations are transcribed from Harriet Scofield's original titles.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
5	1	General, 1895-1902
	2	1, 1897 (line of David (4), Joseph (3), Zachariah (2-1))
	3	2, 1896 (line of Joseph (4-3), Zacahriah (2-1))
	4	3, 1897-1899 (line of Zachariah (4), Joseph (3), Zachariah (2-1))
	5	4, 1897-1907 (line of Gilbert (4), Joseph (3), Zachariah (2-1))
	6	5, 1897-1910 (descendants of Benjamin (3) Zachariah (2-1))
	7	6, 1896-1903 line of Reed (4), Benjamin (3), Zachariah (2-1) through his sons: Edmund, Morris, Pitt and Seneca
	8	7, 1897 line of Reed (4) Benjamin (3) Zachariah (2-1) through his son James
	9	8, 1897-1902 line of Reed (4) Benjamin (3) Zachariah (2-1) through his son Warren
	10	9, 1897 lines of Benjamin (4), and Zebulon (4), sons of Benjamin (3), Zachariah (2-1)
	11	10, 1897-1908 (line of John (3), Zachariah (2-1))
	12	11, undated line of Samuel (4), Peter (3), Samuel (2), Zachariah (1)
	13	12, 1896-1900 (miscellaneous data of Zachariah branch)
	14	13, 1897-1898 (line of Peter (2) Ferris, Jeffery (1))
	15	14, 1867-1897 descendants of John(5), John (4), John (3), Joseph (2) Jeffrey (1), one of the six Ferris brothers
	16	15, 1867-1906 descendants Josiah (5), John (4), John (3), Joseph (2), Jeffrey(1) one of the six Ferris brothers
	17	16, 1897 descendants of Reuben (5), john (4), John (3), Joseph (2), Jeffrey (1) one of the six Ferris brothers

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>		
5	18	17, 1897-1905 Isaac (5), John (4), John (3), Joseph (2) Jeffery (1) on of the six Ferris brothers	
	19	18, 1897-1898 Descendants of Samuel (5), Peter, (4), John (3), Joseph (2), Jeffery (1)	
	20	19, 1896-1897 descendants of Israel (6) Benjamin (6) Timothy (6) Jesse (6), very probably sons of Timothy(5), and Peter (5) , Peter (4) John (3) Joseph (2) Jeffery (1)	
	21	20, 1897 descendants of Jeffery (1), Joseph (2), James (3), James (4), Gould (5))	
	22	21, 1896-1900 descendants of Joseph (6), John (5), Joseph (2) Jeffery (1), Silvanus (6))	
	23	22, 1891-1897 descendants of John (6) John (5) Joseph (2) Jeffery(1))	
	24	23, undated (Benjamin(3), Joseph (2), Jeffery (1)	
	6	1	24, 1897-1910 descendants Gilbert (4), Peter (3), John (2), Jeffery (1)
		2	25, 1896 descendants of Jonathan (4), Peter (3) John (2) Jeffery (1) and probably of either Caleb (4) or Joshua (4) Peter (3) John (2) Jeffery (1
		3	26, 1898-1899 (descendants of James (3), John (2), Jeffery(1)))
		4	27, 1896-1898 (descendants of John (3), John (2), Jeffery (1))
		5	28, 1897 descendants of John and Susan through son Richard of Tioga County
		6	29, 1896-1903 descendants of Silvanus (4), James (3), James (2) Jeffery (1)
		7	30, 1895-1897 (descendants of Samuel (3), James (2), Jeffery (1)) (descendants of Samuel (3), James (2), Jeffery (1))
8		31, 1897-1900 descendants of Gilbert (4), Nathaniel (3), James (2), Jeffery (1)	
9		32, 1897-1914 descendants of Ahasuerus (4) Nathaniel (3), James (2), Jeffery (1) and his grandnephew Riley (6) Nathaniel (5) James (4), Nathaniel (3)	
10		33, 1896-1899 (descendants of Stephen (1), of New Milford, CT)	
11		34, undated William (and Eleanor Watson) Ferris and his brother Thomas (and Elizabeth Watson) from Wexford, Ireland to New York State	
12		35, 1896-1899 (William Faris and nephews William and James)	
13		36, 1897-1901 probably descended from early Faris/Ferris immigrants to VA and the South	
14		37, 1897-1901 (Peres, Fearis-Italian, Spanish, Irish, English)	
15		38, 1898-1899 (Henry Ferris, died 1807, Dutchess Co. NY)	
16		39, 1897 Leonard Ferris, 1779-1868 of Cherry Valley, NY and Lancaster, IN	
17		40, 1897-1904 (Justus Feris, 1763-1838 of Decatur, Otsego Co. NY) (Justus Feris, 1763-1838 of Decatur, Otsego Co. NY)	
18	41, 1897-1903 (John and Hannah (Black) Ferris)		
19	42, 1897-1904 (Marston)		
20	43, 1898-1899 F.W. Plant. Perhaps some of these Ferris' from Eastern, MA belong to the Natick/Veedham family		
21	44, 1897 (William Marsh Ferris)		
22	45, 1896		
23	46, 1896-1897 (copies of records from original sources, archives) (copies of records from original sources, archives)		

Ferris family genealogical research papers
Series descriptions and box list

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
7	1	47, 1895-1902 (miscellaneous notes, corrections)
	2	48, 1897-1905 Miscellaneous Ferris (of unrevealed ancestry) correspondence
	3	49, 1897 (Ferris addresses)
	4	51, 1896-1910 want data on Ferris or families intermarried with them
	5-7	52 circa, 1896 (letters from Mrs. Elizabeth Peck Anderson)
	8	53, 1909-1910 correspondence between Mrs. L.C. Little and Morris Patterson Ferris
	9	54, 1899-1902 (correspondence of no discernible Ferris connection)
	10	55, undated miscellaneous articles, poems, notes, no apparent Ferris connection
	11	56, undated (Smith family notes)
	12	57, undated (Hadley genealogy)