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## The History of Mind Maps

Mind maps have been around for as long as people could draw diagrams showing their thought processes. The term “mind map” was coined by Tony Buzan in the 1970s and has been used in all areas of learning for brainstorming, visual thinking, and problem-solving.

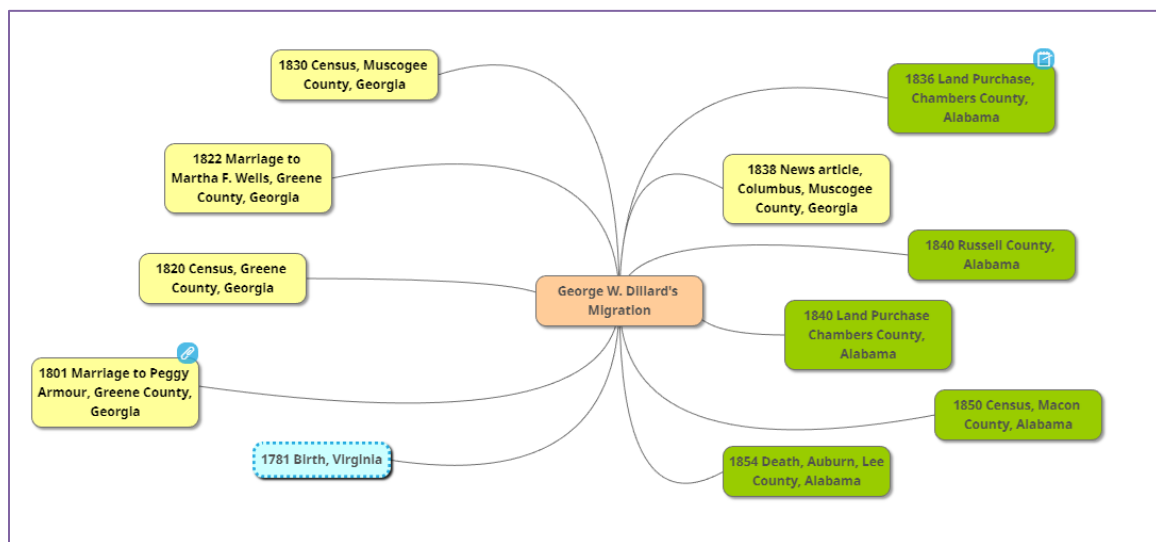
If you’ve ever drawn out a complicated genealogical problem connecting circles, you’ve created a mind map. With computer technology, you can use a simple program to map complex problems, enabling you to make connections and see things in a whole new way.

## Uses of Mind Maps in Genealogy

Genealogy requires us to use our brain, and what better way to visualize the many pieces of data that we accumulate for the visual learner. We can move that data around and assemble it to make sense to us with a mind map.

Technology enables us to add to or subtract from our mind maps as discoveries unfold. We’re only limited by our imagination. Here are just a few of the ways you could make use of mind maps in your genealogy and family history:

- Customize your pedigree charts to show relationships.
- Analyze various pieces of evidence from a single source.
- Create timelines and chronologies to make sense of your family's migration.
- Compare men of the same name to sort out your ancestor.
- Plan your research or writing project.
- Make connections using indirect evidence.
- Analyze DNA results.
- Show connections with your ancestor and his FAN club.
- Analyze family data.
- Brainstorm brick wall solutions.



## Which program to use?

Many mind mapping programs are available via the internet. When researching programs, consider the following questions.

- Price. How much will the program cost? Is there a free trial to first try?
- Ease of use. Is the program intuitive for you?
- Features. Does the program have the ability to add photos or link to documents?
- Storage. Does the program give you the ability to save and export your mind maps?
- Collaboration. Can you collaborate with other users if desired?

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