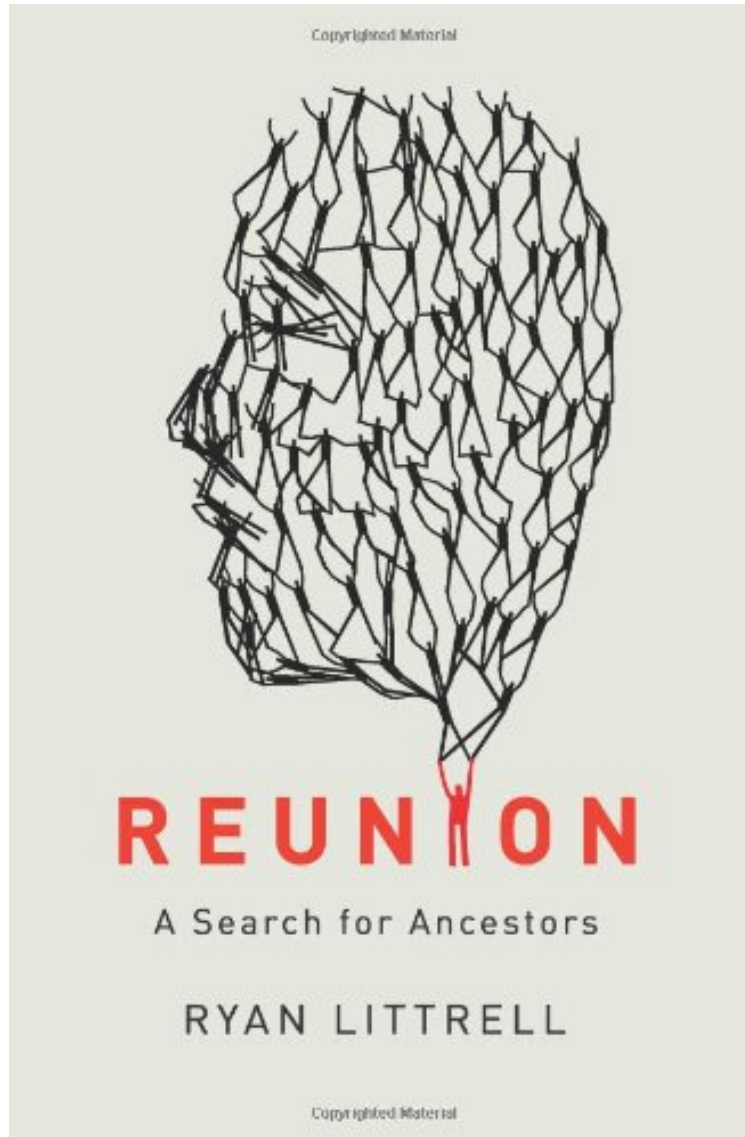


[Download pdf ebook] Reunion: A Search for Ancestors

## Reunion: A Search for Ancestors

*Ryan Littrell*

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#782140 in Books Ryan Littrell 2012-10-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .69 x 5.251, .69 #File Name: 098834100X274 pages | File size: 78.Mb

**Ryan Littrell : Reunion: A Search for Ancestors** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reunion: A Search for Ancestors:

69 of 69 people found the following review helpful. Best book I've read in a long time! By Melinda What a writer! This book has a mesmerizing ability to combine history of Scotland, how-to-do genealogy research, and tell a story- all at the same time. Littrell has the ability to make one feel like they are in the Highlands, that you can see the surroundings that are there, and were there hundreds of years ago. One feels first hand how it feels to be a Clan member and see the

connection of us in the 21st century to those in the 17th century. After this book is read, you will want to find more about your ancestors, to bring their stories into the present. Littrell does, in fact, show one how to do genealogy study by describing in story-like fashion how he went about putting the pieces together. Do yourself a favor- read this book, and discover your own family stories!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great genealogical roadmap (for those of us of waning hope), from a born storyteller!

By B. EldersTerrific from beginning to (abrupt) end. I was captivated from (free) Chapter 1. This, too, being my own 40 year-long journey--our family's saga--though we are descended through another Highland Clan. However, I disagree with critics here who whine about the tedium of enduring Littrell's interspersing of historical reminiscences within genealogical insights, for his 1st person retelling of one of the most heinous Scottish massacres of all time was anything but boring or confusing. More like astonishing, gut-wrenching, horrifying, heartbreaking. Such reminiscences however, illuminate both the narrative of his journey and the author's growing determination to know the truth of his genetics, despite the prospective weight of such a legacy or beauty/horror of its history. There are already too many sterile clinical offerings strewn about today's literary field, having no doubt been penned by many well-intended geneticists regarding locating one's biological roots via one's sputum. But therein lies the problem. C-l-i-n-i-c-a-l. "Reunion" is for everyone who is searching, on all levels, but especially those of us facing what seem like insurmountable genealogical "brick walls". Great storytelling, Mr. Littrell. And thanks so much for the hope!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Birth of a new genre?

By Sarah Wilshaw-SparkesWhat shall we call this new genre - "Family history detection (non-fiction)"? It's challenging one: why should anyone be interested in the doings of generation after generation of farmers, and the painstaking gathering of proof that A truly begat B? I'm a passionate genealogist, but even I feel my eyelids droop at some of the self published family histories I've found in my local library. They're meaningful for the family in question but not for the rest of us. And that's where this book is such a surprise because it engages the reader and it makes her care. You don't need to be descended from Scottish forebears nor a keen family historian to find this a good read; I'd suggest you simply need to have had your own questions about your past and how much it has shaped you. It helps that Littrell can write well. "Look Inside" on is a great feature! I'm adopted and I found his musings on belonging and identity so poignant and perceptive that they convinced me to buy the book. His writing ability also came to the fore in the challenging passages when he was reviewing the various research hypotheses he was faced with. Keeping the reader clear on just which John and which Angus he was talking about took some skill! There is a powerful engine driving this narrative on and on. Just as in a whodunnit, the question being asked in the book is very clear and the need to know the answer keeps the reader turning pages. Who were the unknown ancestors? And - after a Y-chromosome DNA test - the issue becomes even more focused: could the author truly be connected to an infamous event, and if so can he prove it through the records? I'll add that I learned a lot about the supporting role DNA tests can play in genealogical research. It was a revealing case-study and makes me want to try this tool for myself! Some reviewers have not enjoyed the historic interludes that intersperse the current day action. I too could have done with fewer of them, but I acknowledge them as a useful device to give us a break from the complexity of some of the modern detection and to give us (relatively painlessly) the political and historical backdrop to crucial Highland events as well as insight into the culture of the clans. Now, Mr Littrell, if this effort hasn't exhausted you, how about digging up another of your tree branches?!

Where do I come from? That question leads Ryan Littrell to country graveyards, to faded names in old books, and then to a DNA shock. And as one hint follows the next, he uncovers the story of his Scottish ancestors--a story of heartbreak, betrayal, and unfailing strength. Reunion explores how our ancestors are still a part of us, and how a place across the ocean can almost feel like home.

"Littrell brings the reader along as he researches, travels, meets distant cousins, and uncovers the history of his family.... Reunion is an interesting and well-written book." (Leslie Lang, Talk Story Press) "I loved this book. Ryan writes with great emotion and love of family.... His experience with newfound cousins in Scotland who are willing to sit and talk is completely consistent with my own experience. I'm asking my children and older grandchildren to read it ASAP." (Mark MacDonald, National Historian of Clan Donald USA) "Reunion: A Search for Ancestors is a fascinating story that is hard to put down." (Denise B. Olson, Moultrie Creek Books) About the Author Ryan Littrell grew up in Chatham, Illinois and attended Northwestern University, Harvard University, and Boston College. He lives in Austerlitz, New York, and Reunion is his first book.