

*The Combined Casto Collection of David Leroy Casto & James H. Casto*  
Vol. 1 – The Descendents of David Casto & Phoebe Gandy

## FOREWORD

This is not my book. This is OUR book. It is your's and the researcher in the next state over and the lady's in Arizona who corresponded with Dave or Jim about her Casto line. It is the result of years of work by two dedicated men and their desire to help other people researching their Casto ancestry. A lot of people trace their family trees, some publish books about what they've found, but many times, the work of a lifetime outlives the researcher. And then what? Their work gets packed up and put away, forgotten on some basement shelf by well-intentioned family members who didn't want to throw it away but didn't know what to do with "all that stuff". That's what happened here, except it happened twice. David Leroy Casto died in 1996 and some of his research material ended up with his fellow researcher, James "Jim" Casto. I had not known Dave Casto because he died right around the time I was getting serious into my own Casto research although I later found out that he shared information with my great-grandfather, Isadore Casto, in the late 1950's. In 1997 I started the "Casto Connections" newsletter because I wanted to share information among the many researchers I was finding. This was at the beginning of the internet age and before 1997 was over, I had created the Casto Connections website, which is still going strong 11 years later. It was through my newsletter that I "met" Jim Casto. Jim had been researching for many years himself and was a wonderful help as I was learning and sharing information with others. Unfortunately, Jim's assistance was gone all too soon as he passed away early in 1999. All of Jim's research, books, and materials was boxed up and put away. In 2007, Jim's daughter contacted me and said that she felt I would be able to make use of the material and make sure that his research was shared with others and not forgotten. So, in August of 2007, I received a shipment of 500 pounds of genealogical material, some dating back to before I was even born! Talk about intimidating! No one "appointed" me caretaker of the Casto archives and yet, here they were, in my dining room. And here they still are, almost a year later.

I had several goals in mind when I received the Casto research. First, I wanted to make sure it would always be kept separate from my own Casto research from the last 20 years so I knew who had done what. Hence, the "Casto Library" is located in what was formerly a formal dining room. Second, I needed to index what was there. It became immediately apparent that it was the work of two people but the lines were blurred as to where Dave's research stopped and Jim's started. That is how it became "The Combined Casto Collection of David Leroy Casto and James H. Casto". Both will receive credit, not that I think they really care anymore, but their families can be very proud of their work. Lastly, I wanted to make sure that this material was shared and made available to anyone who would be interested in Casto ancestry. There are many categories – New Jersey Casto research, where the earliest Castos in America lived – Casto correspondence from that past several decades – Maps, wills, census records, and so on. Going forward, there will be more volumes of materials released as I sort through and put it into some kind of order. This first volume, The Descendents of David Casto and Phoebe Gandy, was already boxed up and just waiting to be printed. BUT there were some things missing. ***The book you now have is exactly as it had been typed with this foreword, table of contents, and index added by me.*** The material had been typed, not a print out from a computer program, but I did not have the original computer file to make any changes or corrections. And yes, you will find

errors. I have yet to see any book that doesn't have some type of error and this one is no exception. I published it exactly as is and have every intention of publishing a revised or update at some point in the future after feedback has come in from the readers.

So, what does the book contain? It has no information about how the Castos came to West Virginia or where they lived. It is basically a list of who married whom and had which children. In other words, a perfect book for entering information into your genealogy program to see who is related to whom. And hundreds of obituaries. Another crucial item you will find missing that I would have liked to have found is the source records. But with the details that are provided you should be able to verify the names and dates readily enough. I have no doubt that it is pretty accurate with the information it contains. I went through every page and typed an index of the "major" names listed but did not list every name I found in the entire book or the index would be almost as long as the book itself. As it is, the index listed 2720 names and is 15 pages long, 3 columns wide.

I also included an appendix in the back to assist researchers with the unique numbering system that was used by Dave and Jim. If I wanted to know all the children and grandchild of William Casto, Sr., for example, I'd be hard pressed to name them easily because the chapter on William's descendents is over 200 pages long. A sample is below:

- A Always David Casto, Sr.
- B David's children (second generation)
- C David's grandchildren (third generation)
- D Great-grandchildren (fourth generation)
- E Fifth generation
- F Sixth generation
- G Seventh generation
- H Eighth generation
- I Ninth generation
- J Tenth generation

As I was figuring this system out and creating the table, I wondered, "Is this right? Is this the correct interpretation of the system?" So, I took one of the lines and followed through the entire A-J generations.

- A-1 David Casto, Sr.
- B-1 Phoebe Casto McKown
- C-5 John McKown, b. 1788
- D-8 Lydia McKown Love Ong, b. 1816
- E-8 Sarah Margaret Love Sayre, b. 1849
- F-21 Mary Marjorie Sayre McIntyre, b. 1882
- G-23a Sarah Thelma McIntyre Scott Temple, b. 1902
- H-62a Minnie Marjorie Scott Applegate Rankin, b. 1926
- I-56a Yvonne Thelma Applegate Ems Elkins LaFountain, b. 1948
- J-45a Anthony Dale Ems, b. 1965

So, yes, the system seems to work although it was easiest for me to either work backwards from the last generation or go to the index I created. My own line is traced A-F, stopping with my grandfather so I could add information in an updated version for generations G, H, and I if I so desired. There were some problems with this complex system, however, when it looks like the writer “forgot” what the next number should be and just left it blank.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful husband, Bruce, for helping and supporting me from the very beginning of my genealogy research, as well as my children, Bonnie and Alex, who took an active part in helping to type the index for this book and have always helped with Mom’s research; Dodi Wozniak for scanning and creating the pdf version of the book; all the researchers who donated funds to make the transfer of the boxes of research possible; Ina Tuft, who made her own significant contribution to Casto research for many decades; Walter Casto, who has been supportive, inspirational, encouraging, and contributed so much to Casto research and my own understanding of family lines; the researchers who have been regular Casto Connections contacts for so many years and are closer than the distant cousins they really are – Briana, Betty, Carolyn, Gordon, Doris, Cam and Joan, and many, many others. Thank you all for your support and belief in me and our wonderful Casto family!

That is the story of how this book came to be and how you got stuck reading my foreword. I hope you enjoy this and all the future books to be published and will feel free to send in comments, corrections, feedback, and ideas for what you would like to see in future volumes.

Warmest Regards,

Danita Smith  
4943 Kenwood Drive  
Mason, OH 45040

[Danita@castoconnections.com](mailto:Danita@castoconnections.com)

[www.castoconnections.com](http://www.castoconnections.com)