

GENEALOGY

*February Beginners Series:
How to Begin Your Genealogical Research*



**10 a.m. to Noon
Saturdays, February 3-24**

REC 10
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Speaker

Bryan L. Mulcahy

*Reference Librarian,
Fort Myers-Lee County Library*

Gina Hamister

*Librarian
Western Reserve Historical Society*

Experts will address the following topics:

- February 3 – Session One
Using Home Sources and Organizing Your Research
- February 10 – Session Two
Finding Your Family in the U.S. Census
- February 17 – Session Three
Using Court House Resources and Vital Records
- February 24 – Session Four
Alternative or Hidden Resources for Locating Ancestors

**Registration
Required**

**Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library
2050 Central Ave, Fort Myers
(239) 479-4635 • TTY (239) 479-4633**



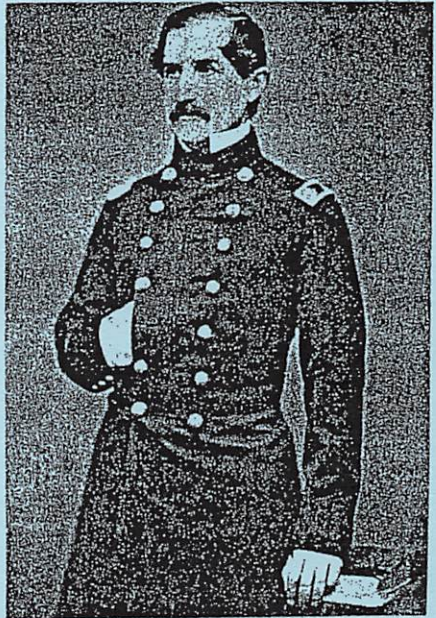
**LEE COUNTY
LIBRARY
SYSTEM**

All programs are free and open to the public. A sign language interpreter is available with 48 hours notice. Call the Deaf Service Center at 461-0334 (voice) or 461-0438 (TTY). Assistive listening devices are available upon request.

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COLONEL ABRAHAM CHARLES MYERS

Born in Georgetown, SC, May 11, 1811, Abraham C. Myers was the son of a lawyer and mayor of the city. His father educated him for a military career and A.C. Myers graduated from West Point in 1833. He participated in the Second Seminole War (1836-42) and in the war with Mexico (1846-48) where he won honorary promotions from Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel. For a brief period he was the Quartermaster of the entire army in Mexico.



When General David E. Twiggs became the commanding officer of the army in Florida, he brought with him from Texas his quartermaster, Lt. Col. A.C. Myers. Later, after some minor trouble with a few Seminole Indians, Gen. Twiggs decided a strong fort on the Caloosahatchie was needed to control the restless natives. On Feb. 14, 1850 (Valentine's Day) he ordered Major Ridgely to "select a suitable place (on the Caloosa River) for the establishment of a post" and that the post "will be called Fort Myers."

A week later, Major Ridgely sailed up the Caloosahatchie and chose, as a "suitable place", the site of the former Fort Harvie, which had been burned to the ground by the Indians.

Thus, on Feb. 20, 1850 Fort Myers was created. The General had ample reason for naming the fort after his quartermaster. A distinguished hero of the Mexican War, Myers had served Twiggs in Texas and knew the General's family quite well, especially his daughter, Marion; they were engaged to be married. Their union lasted their lifetime and produced four children, one of whom became a major general in the U.S. Marines.

**Genealogical Collection Research Guide
Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library
Bonita Springs-Lee County Public Library
April 2006**

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Hours of Operation

The Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library genealogy collection is one of two genealogical collections in the Lee County Library System. Our collection is considered the primary collection in the library system. The Bonita Springs-Lee County Library houses a second smaller collection.

Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library is open to the public Monday-Thursday 9am-9pm, Friday and Saturday 9am-6pm. The Bonita Springs Library hours are Monday 10-6, Tuesday 10-8, Wednesday 10-6, Thursday 10-8, Friday 10-6, and Saturday 9-5. Any questions concerning the Bonita Springs Genealogy Collection can be directed to either Bryan L. Mulcahy (239) 479-4651, or Wilma Harvard (239) 992-0073, the contact person for the Bonita Springs Genealogical Club. The genealogy collection at both branches is accessible during normal library hours of operation.

Due to staff and time constraints, we are unable to provide comprehensive research assistance at either location. Patrons seeking assistance beyond directional information must make an appointment with either the genealogy librarian or visit the library on a day when one of our volunteers is available.

Most of our volunteers are members of the Lee County Genealogical Society. We highly encourage all genealogical patrons to join one of the two local genealogical societies in Lee County for research assistance and other genealogy-related services. The Bonita Springs Genealogy Society handles research assistance request for their location. Information concerning the days and times when research assistance is available from volunteers will be discussed in the **Research Assistance** section of this handout beginning on page six.

Our genealogy librarian is Bryan L. Mulcahy. Patrons may contact Mr. Mulcahy by telephone, letter, or e-mail. He is familiar with the contents of both the Fort Myers and Bonita Springs genealogy collections. He can also discuss the resources held by various private genealogists, as well as the resources and services offered by various genealogical and historical societies within the states of Florida and Georgia.

Mr. Mulcahy also presents programs on a wide variety of topics pertaining to genealogical research. Information about our genealogical programs can be found on the Lee County Library System website at the following URL: www.lee-county.com/library under the heading "Programs—Adults" and then clicking on "Fort Myers-Lee County Library". Flyers announcing upcoming programs are posted in the genealogy collection at the Fort Myers branch

Examples of materials in the both collections include the following:

1. Indexes to primary source records
 - a. Land records
 - b. Vital records (births, marriages, divorces, and death records)
 - c. Military service and pension records
 - d. Township, city, and state records (tax, voters registers, licenses)
2. Bibliographies of holdings in genealogical research institutions in the U.S. and Europe
3. Published family histories
4. Personal narratives of historical events
5. Selected genealogical periodicals
6. Research-oriented self-help books on specific genealogical research topics
7. Address/Fax information for contacting family associations, genealogical/historical societies, organizations, and repositories, both local and worldwide
8. Subscription databases: Ancestry Library Edition, Heritage Quest, New England Historical Genealogical Register, Ancestry.com, and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record

The secondary resources in both genealogical collections provide researchers with the contact information necessary to access primary records and documents from the jurisdiction where their ancestors resided. The information in these sources usually provides the fee structure, forms (which can be photocopied), and necessary address, fax, or telephone information needed to process the request. We can also borrow genealogical materials from throughout the country via our Inter-Library Loan Department. This service will be discussed further on page eight in the section titled **ILL (Inter-Library Loan) Service**.

The Fort Myers-Lee County Library currently has materials from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 48 foreign countries. The bulk of the materials for the United States covers states that are east of the Mississippi River. The bulk of the foreign-country materials covers the British Isles, Canada, and Western Europe. The only primary records currently in the collection are United States Federal Census Returns for Florida (covering the period from 1830-1930) and the Florida State Census for 1885.

The genealogy collection in Bonita Springs-Lee County Library houses materials from 20 states east of the Mississippi River, Canada, the British Isles, north western Europe. This area would include the Atlantic Seaboard, Southern border states, and the upper Midwest.

- b. Church records
- c. Collected biographies or family sketches
- d. County histories
- e. Court and judicial records, including indexes to many probate files
- f. State and county land, tax, and property records. ***Note: In previous eras, property did not necessarily mean ownership of any land.*

Like the international collection, each state is identified by a color-coded dot on the spine of every book. The state postal abbreviation is written on each color-coded dot and the books are shelved in Dewey Decimal order within each state.

4. **Microfilm/Fiche Records:** These materials are located in the Electronic Resource Center, which is behind the Adult Reference Desk. Items in the Electronic Resource Center include the following:

- a. Florida Census Microfilm, 1830-1930
For those who are not sure when a Florida county was created, consult Everton's *Handy Book For Genealogists*. It is shelved under the following Dewey Decimal Call Number: **Genealogy Ref. 929.1 Eve**. This reference provides a brief description of the record-keeping history and development of the county. It also contains contact information for the current courthouse, as well as when the county was created and the name of the "parent" county.
- b. 1870 African-Americans in the United States Federal Census. ***Note: access to this product is only available on the genealogy librarian's computer. Please contact Bryan Mulcahy for access.*
- c. Genealogical Library Master Catalog. ***Note: access to this product is only available on the genealogy librarian's computer. Please contact Bryan Mulcahy for access.*
 - i. Genealogical sources: A catalog of over 100,000 genealogical sources at libraries across the United States
 - ii. Family histories: A catalog of nearly 100,000 family histories and genealogies at libraries across the United States
 - iii. Local histories: A catalog of over 100,000 local histories at libraries across the United States
- d. Family Tree Maker Family Archives: The Complete Mayflower Descendant, v.1-46 and other sources ***Note: access to this product is only available on the genealogy librarian's computer. Please contact Bryan Mulcahy for access.*
- e. Florida State Census 1885
- f. The New England Historical Genealogical Register on microfilm contains 26 rolls covering 1847-1982, including an index for all rolls during this time period.

- b. How to books on genealogical research (general and regional)
- c. Directories that list genealogical and historical societies worldwide
- d. Family histories
- e. General U.S. records
 - i. Bounty-land grants
 - ii. Immigration and naturalization records
 - iii. Military service records, pension applications
 - iv. Land/taxation records
- f. Indexes to public and private library or depository holdings
- g. Lineage books for organizations such as the D.A.R. (Daughters Of The American Revolution) and periodical indexes for genealogical periodicals.

2. *International Collection:* This section contains genealogical materials that are specific to an individual country. Currently, there are materials covering Canada, the British Isles, and north-western Europe. The name of each country has been written on a color-coded dot, which is attached to the spine of every book. The books are then shelved in alphabetical order by country name and shelved in Dewey Decimal order within each country. International materials deal with the following subjects:

- a. Governmental structure
- b. Historical events
- c. Immigration and migration within the country
- d. Passenger lists of ships departing from the British Isles or Europe for America, Canada, or other destinations
- e. Name and place guides
- f. Surname directories for people unique to an area.

3. *State Materials:* Materials in this section include records that are unique to a specific state. Currently, materials for the 20 states encompassing the Atlantic Seaboard, Southern Border, and Upper Midwestern States. Items in this area include the following:

- a. Bibliographical holdings for libraries or depositories within a given state
- b. Church records
- c. Collected biographies or family sketches
- d. County histories
- e. Court and judicial records, including indexes to many probate files
- f. State and county land, tax, and property records. ****Note:** *In previous eras, property did not necessarily mean ownership of any land.*

through May). Our Thursday volunteer is from the Western Reserve Genealogical Library in Cleveland, Ohio. Other times are available by contacting the Lee County Genealogical Society <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flcgs/> . Your second option for assistance is contacting our genealogy librarian three to five days in advance for an appointment.

The Bonita Springs collection is strictly self-service. Patrons requiring assistance are urged to contact the Bonita Springs Genealogical Society which meets at the Bonita Springs Library on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. or contacting Ms. Wilma Harvard with the Bonita Springs Genealogy Society or visiting their website at <http://www.bsgen.org/> for more information.

Contact information for both the Lee County Genealogical Society and the Bonita Springs Genealogical Society is listed on page nine of this study guide. The local genealogical societies can provide assistance to their members who seek specialized genealogical research assistance at the library by appointment. Many beginning genealogists find the best assistance by joining one or both societies.

The Fort Myers Library accepts research queries and photocopy requests from patrons by telephone, fax, or e-mail. There is no charge for these services, but in order to provide maximum assistance in answering queries, or to refer you to an agency that can help, you must provide the following information:

1. Full name of the ancestor
2. County of residence or where the event took place
3. Years when the family resided in the given locality
4. Exact dates when researching events in their lives

If you need detailed assistance, two options are available:

1. Call the Fort Myers Library genealogy librarian for an appointment
2. Contact the local Lee County Genealogical Society (239) 549-9625 or Wilma Harvard with the Bonita Springs Genealogy Club (239) 992-0073

The Bonita Springs Library does not currently accept mail or e-mail genealogical queries. Those received are referred to the librarian at Fort Myers-Lee County Library. If you would like to send your genealogical inquiry to the Fort Myers Library, the mailing address is:

Fort Myers-Lee County Library
Attention: Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian
2050 Central Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3917
Tel : (239) 479-4636
Fax : (239) 479-4634

ILL (Inter-library Loan) Service

Many of our genealogical books contain references to more detailed primary and secondary sources. These items may not be available in the Lee County Library System and may only be available at university or genealogy libraries. The Lee County Library System participates in the nation-wide resource-lending program. This makes it possible for researchers to obtain either photocopies or books from other institutions. There is no charge for this service, but because many of the ILL materials come from private or academic libraries, there is usually a 2-6 week waiting period. Please be advised that we cannot borrow National Archives microfilm. The local Family History Library branch of the LDS (Mormon Church) is your best source to order census or immigration/ship passenger list microfilm.

When requesting photocopies from genealogical periodicals, the lending library must have the exact citation. This is emphasized because many institutional libraries will not process requests that do not have the page number or volume number. ILL can do a subject search of book titles on a subject, but not for periodical titles and subjects. We have several issues of the *Genealogical Periodical Index* that might assist you in this regard. Our genealogy librarian or one of our volunteers may be able to assist you in looking for periodical articles via Heritage Quest, the New York Genealogical & Biographical Record, and the New England Historical Genealogical Register online database.

On a case-by-case basis, some of the genealogical reference materials from the Fort Myers Library may be lent to various branches in the Lee County Library System for "in-house" use only. "In-House" use is limited to 5-7 days and is restricted due to the demand for use. Lending of these materials is done at the discretion of the genealogy librarian and photocopies may be furnished in lieu of the book.

Neither the Fort Myers-Lee County Library or the Bonita Springs-Lee County Library are permitted to borrow census microfilm for the state or federal census. The same applies to microfilm records from the National Archives. For microfilm, it is best to contact one of the following organizations:

1. **L.D.S. Family History Center Library:**
3105 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901. Hours: Wednesday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Telephone (239) 275-0001. *NOTE: Due to recent changes in security and staffing at the local LDS facility, patrons are strongly advised to call before coming. The facility can only open when a certified church member is available.*
2. **Bonita Springs Genealogy Club:**
Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Bonita Springs Library. Meeting times can vary, but are usually held from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Contact person is Wilma Harvard (239) 992-0073. The club will order microfilm for its members. You may visit their website for more information at <http://www.bsgen.org/>.

security number. To be included in this index, the person must have paid into Social Security and must be deceased. No information on living individuals can be found on this index.

Note: For records prior to 1962, researchers must contact the Social Security Administration Office in Maryland and request a MANUAL search of the non-computerized records. Failure to do so will normally result in the search only being done on post-1962 computerized records.

4. Military Death Index

This file contains the names of over 100,000 U.S. servicemen and women who died during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. It contains birth and death dates, the person's residence, place of death, rank, and serial number. For Vietnam War fatalities, it also provides religious affiliation, marital status, race, and a reference number for each soldier listed at the Vietnam War Memorial.

5. Family History Library Catalog

This file describes over 3 million books, microfilms, microfiche, maps, manuscripts, and other miscellaneous materials held by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. You can search by geographic locality, subject, surname, or film number. Call numbers are included to facilitate requests by researchers using the Family History Center Library. It also lists the Family History Center libraries where the actual film is located if you are planning a trip to a specific area.

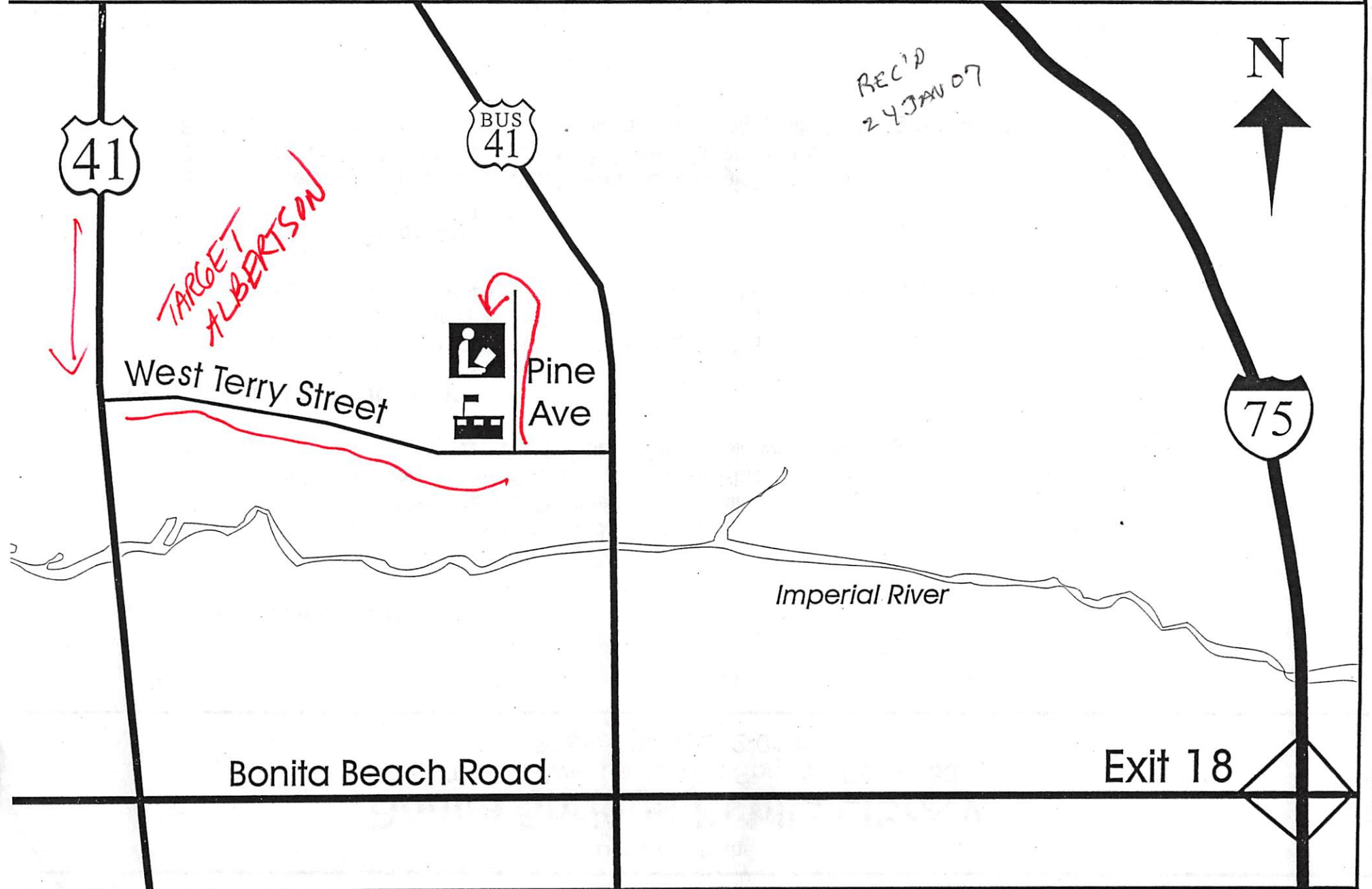
Compiled by Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County Library, 4/1/2006

Monday 10-6
Tuesday 10-8
Wednesday 10-6
Thursday 10-8
Friday 10-6
Saturday 9-5

Bonita Springs Public Library
26876 Pine Avenue, Bonita Springs, FL 34135
Phone: (941) 992-0101

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See Reverse
for Directions



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