

Family History Blogs and Social Media

By Jana Last

Blog: <http://janasgenealogyandfamilyhistory.blogspot.com/>

Website: <http://janalast.weebly.com/>

Email: jmlast61@gmail.com

Description

From cousin connections to document translation help, this class will explore the many benefits of using social media for genealogy research.

Family History Blogs

Benefits

- Research
 - Cousin Connections also known as “Cousin Bait.”
 - Non-relative contacts – could have bibles, documents or photos to share.
 - Writing about our ancestors helps us to better analyze the research we have about them.
 - Research Toolbox – helpful websites always at your fingertips.
- Learning
 - Writing about our ancestors helps us to get to know them better.
 - Immediate and extended family members near and far can learn about their ancestors.
- Genealogy Friends
 - Making genealogy blogging friends online is wonderful. There's an active worldwide genealogy blogging community online and its members are very kind and helpful.
 - Fellow genealogy bloggers understand our love of genealogy. They understand our excitement and are happy for our “genealogy finds” and virtually join in our “genealogy happy dances” by leaving comments, “liking” our posts, etc.
- Printing Your Blog ~ Family History Preservation
 - Blog Books
 - Blurb ~ <http://www.blurb.com/>
 - Blog2Print ~ <http://blog2print.sharedbook.com/blogworld/printmyblog/index.html>
- Etc.
 - Even if distant cousins don't contact us when/if they find our blog, the information, stories, and photos we share may be helpful and interesting to them.

- Each person in our family tree deserves to be remembered, and writing about them in a genealogy blog is a great way to remember them.
- Blogging about ancestors is fun!

Blogging Platforms

- Blogger ~ <https://www.blogger.com/>
 - [Blogger Getting Started Guide](#)
- WordPress.com ~ <https://wordpress.com/>
 - [WordPress Getting Started Guide](#)
- WordPress.org ~ <https://wordpress.org/>
- Weebly ~ <http://www.weebly.com/>
 - [Beginner's Guide to Weebly](#)
- Tumblr ~ <https://www.tumblr.com/>
- SquareSpace ~ <https://www.squarespace.com/>
- TypePad ~ <http://www.typepad.com/>
- Quora ~ <https://www.quora.com/>
- Ghost ~ <https://ghost.org/>
- Xanga ~ <http://xanga.com/>
- LiveJournal ~ <http://www.livejournal.com/>
- Blogging Platform Reviews
 - Choosing a Blogging Platform: Comparison + Quick Reference ~ <http://www.bloggingbasics101.com/choosing-a-blogging-platform-quick-reference/>
 - Top Ten Reviews ~ <http://blog-services-review.toptenreviews.com/>

How-To's/Recommendations

- How to Start a Blog
 - <http://www.geneabloggers.com/blog-resources/>
 - <http://www.wikihow.com/Start-a-Blog/>

- Tips
 - Have several ways for people to follow your blog.
 - By Email
 - Various Readers
 - Feedly ~ <http://feedly.com/>
 - Share your blog and blog posts on social media.
 - ShareThis ~ <http://www.sharethis.com/>
 - Shareaholic ~ <https://shareaholic.com/>
 - Join GeneaBloggers – Online Genealogy Blogging Community ~ <http://www.geneabloggers.com/suggest-blog/>
 - Use Images in your blog posts
 - PicMonkey ~ <http://www.picmonkey.com/>
 - Canva ~ <https://www.canva.com/>
 - Freeimages ~ <http://www.freeimages.com/>
 - Pixabay ~ <https://pixabay.com/>
 - FreeDigitalPhotos ~ <http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/>
 - EveryStockPhoto ~ <http://www.everystockphoto.com/>
 - PhotoPin ~ <http://photopin.com/>
 - DreamsTime ~ <http://www.dreamstime.com/free-photos>
 - GettyImages ~ <http://www.gettyimages.com/resources/embed>
- Online Safety
 - National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) - <https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/>
 - Safe Blogging Practices ~ <https://www.lds.org/ensign/2009/10/finding-and-sharing-the-gospel-online/better-blogging-tips-for-safety-and-courtesy.p6>
 - Internet Safety for Adults - http://safety.lovetoknow.com/Internet_Safety_Adult
 - Internet Safety for Adults - <http://www.cityofws.org/portals/0/pdf/police/Internet%20Safety.pdf>

Online Tree Websites

- FamilySearch Family Tree ~ <https://familysearch.org>
- Ancestry ~ <http://home.ancestry.com>
- WikiTree ~ <http://www.wikitree.com>
- MyHeritage ~ <http://www.myheritage.com>
- FindMyPast ~ <http://www.findmypast.com>

Other Social Media Tools

- Facebook ~ <https://www.facebook.com/>
 - Locality Specific Genealogy Groups
 - Genealogical Society Pages
 - Genealogy Translations Group ~ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogytranslation/>
 - Genealogy! Just Ask! Group ~ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GenealogyJustAsk/>
 - Technology for Genealogy ~ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/techgen/>
 - Social Media for Genealogy ~ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/socialmediagen/>
 - GeneaBloggers ~ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/geneabloggers/>
 - Katherine R. Willson at [SocialMediaGenealogy.com](http://socialmediagenealogy.com) created a 267 page PDF file listing over 9,000 genealogy groups and pages on Facebook ~ <http://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>

- Pinterest ~ <https://www.pinterest.com/>
 - A Few Genealogy-Related Pinterest Boards
 - GeneaBloggers ~ <https://www.pinterest.com/geneabloggers>
 - Family Tree Bloggers ~ <https://www.pinterest.com/kyledane/family-tree-bloggers>
 - I Love Genealogy ~ <https://www.pinterest.com/tracemag/i-love-genealogy/>

- Twitter ~ <https://twitter.com/>
 - Crestleaf.com's 40 Genealogy Twitter Accounts List ~ <http://crestleaf.com/blog/40-genealogy-twitter-accounts-follow-right-now/>

- Google+ ~ <https://plus.google.com/>

- Find A Grave ~ <http://www.findagrave.com/>

- Instagram ~ <https://instagram.com/>
 - Leigh Anne at [Your Home Based Mom](http://www.yourhomebasedmom.com) shared a great idea about using Instagram to share ancestor photos ~ <http://www.yourhomebasedmom.com/using-instagram-to-share-your-family-history>

- Flickr ~ <https://www.flickr.com/>
 - A wonderful article by Lisa Lisson ~ <http://crestleaf.com/blog/3-great-reasons-every-genealogist-use-flickr/>

- RebelMouse ~ <https://www.rebelmouse.com>

- YouTube ~ <https://www.youtube.com/>
 - Katherine R. Willson's "Active Genealogy YouTube Channels" list ~ <https://moonswings.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/genealogy-on-youtube.pdf>