

Beginning Resources for Genealogy Blog Reading and Writing

What is a Blog?

1. Web + Log = Blog
2. A blog is a content management system, an empty framework in which to place your content
3. An on-line diary or group of writings, called posts
4. May follow a theme or topic
5. Private or public
6. Free or on your own paid site

Why read Genealogy Blogs?

1. Connect with other researchers of the same area, families and topics
2. “Meet” new cousins!
3. Learn new technology
4. Learn how to use on-line resources
5. Information on local or distant libraries and archives

Finding Genealogy Blogs

3. Google blog search: <http://blogsearch.google.com/>
4. Any other search engine. Yahoo, Bing,
Tip: search for “blog and genealogy” or “blog and surname” (without quotes)
5. Genealogy Blog Finder by the Genealogue:
<http://blogfinder.genealogue.com/>
 - a. Blog directories
 1. Technorati: <http://www.technorati.com>
 2. BlogCatalog: <http://www.blogcatalog.com/>
 3. MyBlogLog: <http://www.mybloglog.com>
 4. BlogFlux: <http://www.blogflux.com/>
 5. Networked Blogs on Facebook: <http://apps.facebook.com/blognetworks/index.php>

Using a Reader

1. Sometimes called: feed aggregator, feed reader, news reader, RSS reader
2. Can be software on your computer or a web application located on the internet
3. Collect and present syndicated web content in a single location for easy viewing
4. Contains headlines or titles and a snip, sometimes the full post
5. Easily dismiss or click to continue reading
6. Efficiently sort posts to find what you want
7. On-line readers or web applications:
 - a. Google reader: <http://reader.google.com>
 - b. Bloglines: <http://www.bloglines.com/>
 - c. NewsGator <http://www.newsgator.com/>
 - d. Many more
8. Software applications for reading on your computer
 - a. Outlook/Outlook Express
 - b. Thunderbird
 - c. Safari (Mac)
 - d. Many more

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Genealogy Blog Examples – Examples, Not A Comprehensive Listing

1. Company/ Commercial Blogs
 - a. Ancestry: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/>
 - b. Dick Eastman, free and premium: http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/
 - c. Family Search Labs: <http://labs.familysearch.org/blog/>
 - d. Family History Expos: <http://fhexpos.com/wordpress/>
 - e. Footnote: <http://blog.footnote.com/>
 - f. Generation Maps: Janet Hovorka, The Chart Chick: <http://thechartchick.blogspot.com/>
 - g. Rootsweb newsroom (Not updated recently): <http://blogs.rootsweb.ancestry.com/newsroom/>

2. Technology related and how-to
 - a. Ben Sayer, Mac Genealogist: <http://macgenealogist.com/>
 - b. Dear Myrt: <http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/>
 - c. Family Matters: <http://family.moultriecreek.us/>
 - d. Granite Genealogy: <http://granitegenealogy.blogspot.com/>
 - e. JLog simple computer technology for genealogists: <http://www.jgen.ws/jlog/>
 - f. Geneamusings: <http://www.geneamusings.com/>
 - g. Local Archiver: <http://localarchiver.blogspot.com/>

3. Societies, libraries and archives
 - a. Archives of Michigan: <http://seekingmichigan.org/look>
 - b. New England Ancestors: <http://www.newenglandancestors.org/>
 - c. California Genealogical Society and Library: <http://blog.californiaancestors.org/>
 - d. Allen County Public Library: <http://acplinfo.wordpress.com/>
 - e. Troy Public Library (front page is a blog): <http://www.troylibrary.info/>
 - f. Up front with NGS: http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/upfront_with_ngo

4. Ethnic
 - a. Jewish: <http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com/>
 - b. Polish: <http://parisvillemi.blogspot.com/>
 - c. Polish: <http://polishamericangenealogy.blogspot.com/>
 - d. German: <http://www.rambow.de/>
 - e. German: German: <http://brenneckegenealogy.blogspot.com/>
 - f. Canadian: <http://ancestralnotes.ebradt.org/>
 - g. Irish: <http://twiginmytree.blogspot.com/>
 - h. Cork Genealogist: <http://mjordan.wordpress.com/>
 - i. Many others for many subjects

5. Other types:
 - a. Personal family history
 - b. Surname specific
 - c. Location specific
 - d. Cemetery
 - e. Conferences
 - f. Vlogs (videos)

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Why write a Blog?

1. Quick, easy way to place content on the WWW / Internet, no coding, HTML, PHP, XHTML
2. As public or private as you wish
3. Share your findings
4. Connect with others researching in the same locations and families, even cousins with the same interests
5. Write your family story

Writing a Genealogy Blog

1. Using Blogger (part of Google):
 - a. How to set up a free blog on Blogger:
<http://www.google.com/support/blogger/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=112498>
 - b. Blogger tour:
http://www.blogger.com/tour_start.g
 - c. Quick Video on setting up a Blogger Bog:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU4gXHkejMo>
2. Using WordPress.com:
 - a. How to set up a free WordPress blog from WordPress.Com
<http://en.support.wordpress.com/getting-started/>
 - b. Video from a user: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWYi4_COZMU
3. Install WordPress on your website, if you have a domain name set up on a hosting service
 - a. <http://wordpress.org/>
 - i. Should be familiar with FTP and have access to control panel or back end of your sit
4. Other Blogging Platforms
 - a. Live Journal: <http://www.livejournal.com/>
 - b. TypePad: <http://www.typepad.com/>
 - c. Posterous, blog by e-mail: <http://posterous.com/>
 - i.
5. Genealogy Blogging: Tips, tricks, what to and how to:
 - a. GeneaBloggers website
<http://www.GeneaBloggers.com>
 - b. GeneaBloggers Group on Facebook
http://www.facebook.com/?filter=app_2361831622#/group.php?gid=30305424880
Facebook users: Just search for the group.
 - c. Geneabloggers group on GenealogyWise
<http://www.genealogywise.com/group/geneabloggers/>
6. Legal issues, copyright, fair use and bloggers rights:
 - a. Electronic Frontier Foundation:
<http://www.eff.org/issues/bloggers>

Special thanks to Thomas MacEntee for the use of the slide shown tonight!

<http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blog-primer/>

<http://www.slideshare.net/geneabloggers/a-genealogy-blog-primer>

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