

Putting Your Family History Online

A. Why do *you* want to put your family history online?

The answer to this question may help determine the method you choose to put your family history online. Are you hoping to reach out to distant cousins, and work together on your common lines? Do you have old family photographs or an ancestor's diary or other memorabilia to share?

B. How should *you* put your family history online?

Only you can determine the answer to this question, and it in part goes back to the answers to the previous question. Before deciding *how* you need to decide *what* – What do *you* want to put online?

1) Upload your GEDCOM file to a database such as RootsWeb WorldConnect <<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>> or GenCircles <<http://www.gencircles.com/>>.

2) Use your genealogy database program or a stand-alone GEDCOM converter program to create a basic website. Some converter programs are “shareware”, others must be purchased.

3) Create a website to focus on items that do not “fit” neatly into a database – photographs, source records (especially those not readily available), brick wall ancestors, etc.

4) Or perhaps a combination of some of the above – this is what I attempt to do on my own site, I have uploaded GEDCOM files to WorldConnect (though they desperately need updating), while posting basic information about my direct ancestors on my website, including some documentation. The site has evolved over time, beginning with my two “projects” – a town in Vermont, and a German duchy, expanding to include much more.

Study other genealogy websites, to see what others have done, and to get ideas for what you might want to do.

C. Examples

Ambrose Genealogy

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pasher/>

Database at RootsWeb WorldConnect; documents, maps, and more on website

McKemie One Name Study

www.mckemie.org

An example of how a One Name Study could be set up

Bridges to the Past: The Duncan/Rodeback Family

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~meledie/>

Combines an introductory page with a site created by GedHTree <<http://www.gedhtree.com/>>, a free GEDCOM to HTML program, with many options.

Jane's Genealogy Jigsaw

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~irishgirl/>

My website – the “Famous Relatives” pages were partially created using Ged2Web <<http://www.wtoram.co.uk/ged2web/ged2web.htm>>, a free GEDCOM to HTML genealogy webpage builder.

Reigel Roots: Nancy & Terry's Ancestors

<http://reigelridge.com/Roots.htm>

Combines introductory material with an Outline Section and a Narrative Section, both created using John Cardinal's Second Site <<http://www.johncardinal.com/ss/>>

Whipple Website

<http://www.whipple.org/>

Database created using GED2HTML <<http://www.starkeffect.com/ged2html/>>, a GEDCOM to HTML translator.

C. Spinelli Heritage

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~spinelli/>

Nice, very basic website

Descendants of John Wickham 1734-1835

<http://johnwickham.net/>

Created by Legacy Family Tree

Wilkins Family from Elmshorn, Schleswig-Holstein

<http://www.geocities.com/roymavis/>

PAF, with enhancements

Creating a Website with PAF 5

<http://www.svpafug.org/PAFweb.pdf>

Connor / Conner Family Home Page

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/c/o/n/Cecil-A-Connor/index.html?Welcome=1085931591>

Family Tree Maker

A blog may be the way to go these days, you do not need to learn HTML, or acquire a program to write the code for you. Here are a couple of good examples of genealogy blogs:

Bob & Reb's Genealogy Blog

<http://www.orrellfamily.com/blog/>

Genealogy Traces

<http://genealogytraces.blogspot.com/>

(Blog)

D. Additional Resources

Cyndi's Genealogy Home Page Construction Kit

<http://www.cyndislist.com/construc.htm>

Advice from our own Cyndi Howells on building a genealogy website.

Also check out her book, *Planting Your Family Tree Online*.

Elsi's FreePages Tutorial

<http://freepages.computers.rootsweb.com/~elsi/>

Freepages-Help Mailing List

http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/RootsWeb_Support/Freepages-Help.html

Freepages-Advanced Mailing List

http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/RootsWeb_Support/FREEPAGES-ADVANCED.html

Freepages Message Board

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=board&r=rw&p=topics.rw.freep>

HTML Help by The Web Design Group

<http://www.htmlhelp.com/>

Pat's Web Page Tutorial

<http://freepages.computers.rootsweb.com/~pasher/index.html>

RootsWeb Freepages

<http://freepages.genealogy.ancestry.rootsweb.com/>

Blogger

<http://www.blogger.com>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Jane Irish Nelson

jane_irish_nelson@yahoo.com