**Ramp-Up Your Genealogy Research Using YouTube, Blogs & Podcasts**

**YouTube**

YouTube is a ***VIDEO*** sharing service where users can watch, like, share, comment, and upload videos. It can be accessed on PCs, laptops, tablets, mobile phones and smart TVs. Using YouTube is free, but you will normally have to suffer through a commercial before the video starts. For a fee you can upgrade to the Premium version which has no commercials.

You don’t need to subscribe to view videos, but a YouTube account is required to post videos. An account also allows you to create a library of videos for easy access later. An account-holder’s home page is referred to as a “channel”. This is where the account-holder posts all their videos. There are hundreds of channels specific to genealogy. Here are a few to get you started:

US National Archives: <https://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives>

Ancestry.com: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AncestryCom/videos>

Family Search: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FamilySearch/videos>

Genealogy Gems: <https://www.youtube.com/user/GenealogyGems/videos>

Family Tree DNA: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGXMVPJ5TBwcIvvRt3XWpDw/videos>

**Blogs**

Dictionary.com defines blog as, “a regularly updated website or web page, typically one run by an individual or small group that is written in an informal or conversational style. Blog posts (aka articles) are typically displayed in reverse chronological order, so that the most recent post appears first.

Some bloggers offer to deliver the latest blog post to your email inbox. This is sometimes referred to as a ***NEWSLETTER***. The frequency of blog posts will vary e.g. daily, weekly, or monthly. Post content can include information on the latest genealogy books and publications, how to research your ancestors both online and offline, tips on using software and apps, and upcoming genealogical events and conferences. Many bloggers also share their brick walls and success stories.

Anyone can set up a blog with the right technology, so you should do some research or you could be wasting your time or worse, getting bogus information. Here are a few things to consider before following a blog:

* Check the bloggers credentials. Are they a certified genealogist? Are they affiliated with a well-known genealogy organization (e.g., Family Search) or business (e.g., Ancestry.com)? The more credible the source the more likely the information they are sharing is accurate and useful.
* The blog should have fresh content. Check to see when the last post was done. If it was more than a month ago don’t waste your time following it.
* If they offer an e-newsletter delivered to your inbox make sure they state that they will not sell your information to third party vendors.

Here is a list of blogs to get you started.

The Genealogy Guide – Top 10 Genealogy Blogs

<https://thegenealogyguide.com/top-10-genealogy-blogs-to-check-out>

Tenacious Genealogy – 12 Genealogy Blogs to Follow

<https://tenaciousgenealogy.com/12-genealogy-blogs-follow-2018/>

Mile Meyers:

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

Dick Eastman’s Newsletter (aka Blog)

<https://blog.eogn.com/>

Lisa Louise Cooke’s Genealogy Gems Blog:

<https://lisalouisecooke.com/>

**Podcasts**

A podcast is an online audio file that is compressed into digital format and delivered through an RSS feed. They are often used as a means of interviewing an expert in a given field, or creating an online audio seminar on a given topic. Think of it as a form of ***talk radio***.

Difference Between a Blog and a Podcast:

The main difference lies in the way the information is received. A blog is designed for reading and a podcast is designed for listening. Podcasts can be accessed via a website or you can download them to your desktop or a streaming service link SoundCloud or Google Podcasts. Here are some resources to get you started:

Lisa Louise Cooke’s Genealogy Gems Podcast:

<https://lisalouisecooke.com/podcasts/>

The Genealogy Guys (Drew Smith and George G. Morgan) Podcast:

<http://genealogyguys.com/>

Genealogy Happy Hour:

<https://genealogyhappyhour.com/>

Professional genealogist, speaker and educator, Kathleen R. Wilson has created a list of over 161 genealogy YouTube resources. Some of these sites contain blogs and podcasts in addition to videos. This list is updated at least once a year and can be found on her website, <https://socialmediagenealogy.com/>