Sharing Your Family History

There are more really good, easy and fun ways to share your family history today than ever before.

10 Other Rewarding **Opportunities**

Once you have dug up your family history records and organized them into a computer database file, you may want to share your information and stories with others. It's important to share them for many different reasons.

It's more meaningful to you personally when you share with your dear relatives, plus sharing helps preserve your history for future generations. Sharing your family tree on the Internet is a great way to connect with your extended family and collaborate on your shared family history, and it helps them get involved. It allows other relatives to view your information and add their own, thus making it more complete. It's also a great way to exchange family photos, recipes and stories. By sharing your information you can help others in their research and reduce the duplication of effort.

Publishing Your Family Tree on the Web

The Best Places to Put Your Family History Online

You can easily publish your compiled family tree online simply by uploading a GedCom to an existing family tree database. Some are free and some require a membership fee. Your GedCom can contain your entire family history or just one or more family lines. It can also exclude personal information about living people. There are several websites that allow you to deposit your information, index your family names, view the data, and download a GedCom to interested parties. *See Chapters 2 and 3 for more details on these websites.*

Free Existing Family Trees

See Chapter 3 for more information on huge online family trees.

Ancestry World Tree (and RootsWeb WorldConnect) - www.ancestry.com/trees/awt

Contains more than 480 million ancestor names.

FamilySearch Pedigree Resource File - www.FamilySearch.org

The Index for millions of family trees is online but the detailed data is currently on CDs available for free at Family History Centers or you can purchase your own for a small fee.

Subscription Family Trees $$$

OneGreatFamily.com - www.OneGreatFamily.com

Contains over 180 million submitted pedigree-linked names in their family tree database.

GlobalTree - www.GenCircles.com/globaltree

Contains over 90 million names which you can search for free.

MyTrees.com - www.MyTrees.com

A pedigree-linked database with over 370 million names

GeneaNet.org - www.Geneanet.org

Build your online family tree and share it.

GenServ.com - www.Genserv.com

A collection of GEDCOM data files; free trial if you submit your info.

How to Submit Your Family Tree Online

First, save your genealogy as a GedCom file. See the instructions provided with your family history software for more information on how to do this, but most programs are simple. For example, if you are using PAF, click on *file > export and then* indicate where you want to export to, i.e. which folder to save your GedCom file. When you are ready to submit the file, go to the internet site you want to submit your family tree to, after logging-in (or registering) select the *Share Your Information* or *Submit your Family Tree* button. Then select the GedCom file you wish to submit (or upload). It's that easy!

Creating Your Own Family Web Site

Social Networking Web Sites

Social networking refers to web sites and services that allow you to connect with friends, family, and colleagues online, as well as meet people with similar interests or hobbies. At these web sites you can connect with your family, swap stories and recipes, share family photos, and build collaborative family trees. You and your extended family can collaborate and share information on your shared family tree.

Some of the sites use advanced technologies like wikis (a type of website that allows the visitors to add, remove, and sometimes edit the available content), RSS (subscribed to timely updates or web feeds from favored websites), mapping, and online family tree building to help you connect with your family and ancestors. All of these family history social networking sites have great appeal, wonderful capabilities, and are private and secure. Here are the most popular social networking sites to explore. *(See Chapter 3 for more information on each of these networking sites.)*