

You CAN Take It With You: Mobile Genealogy

Judy Nimer Muhn, Lineage Journeys

<http://www.LineageJourneys.com>

judynmuhn@gmail.com 248-736-7770

In the search of families, creating family trees, to get a fuller picture of the lifetimes of our ancestors, we want to go to any lengths to find and document the information that informs us about the lives of our family. How we can make it easier, faster and more efficient is what mobile genealogy tools are about!

MOBILE RESEARCH TOOLS ARE:

Family Trees:

Have you created a family tree, transferred the information from pieces of paper and notes, with census data, birth-marriage-death records, and photographs in an online resource or family tree software? There are tools with mobile apps that will help you to look up your charts while you are working in the library, rather than lugging around all of your notebooks!

Mobile apps – All of these noted (below) work on your cell phone or tablet – give you the flexibility to review, add, edit and collect data. Here are a few of the best:

- FREE Family Trees can be created on FamilySearch.com – sharing with others that use the Family History Center/LDS resources and finding others researching your family too.
<http://familysearch.org>
- WikiTree – FREE also; create your tree, upload DNA information and share with others.
<https://www.wikitree.com/>

Among the sites with various fees required:

- Ancestry.com – By far the leader, with huge databases and more being uploaded daily, you can access it free at your local public library but you can't create a tree there; the fee-based site can be paid for in six-month increments. www.ancestry.com
- Family Tree Maker (www.familytreemaker.com) links with Ancestry.com and has many tools to help you with your research. Linked to Ancestry, your tree will show alerts directing you to Ancestry for records on your ancestors.
- Find My Past (www.findmypast.com) records are strong in British Isles sources but does have broader records being added consistently. Free tree development and records help beginners to start, and there are "points" based purchase plans for those who don't want to expend a lot.
- My Heritage (www.myheritage.com) is actually based out of Israel which only means that if you make a purchase, there is an international fee that shows up on your credit card.
- RootsMagic (www.rootsmagic.com) has a FREE version, and a more elaborate paid version, with other software that integrates with it. Linked with MyHeritage and Find My Past, they have said that they will be synchronized with Ancestry by the end of 2016.

Grave Sites & Cemeteries:

Suppose you are out on the road and want to check out the graves of your ancestors. Using the apps for these two sites can help you to document and then bring up the information that you need to find these graves:

Billion Graves www.BillionGraves.com
Find A Grave www.FindAGrave.com

Archives:

ArchiveGrid – The OCLC (libraries, archives resource site) and ArchiveGrid together have compiled listings of locations and collections of archive sites by state.

<https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>

EVERNOTE

Your genealogy finds, notes, photos, grave site locations and more can be saved and documented here! Synchronized with all of your devices, you make notations on your tablet and the cross-platform digital items make them available on all of your electronics. (www.Evernote.com)

There are MANY resources to help you use Evernote effectively as a genealogist. The magazine *Family Tree Magazine* (www.familytreemagazine.com) has had numerous articles in the last year that document with pictures and words, how to utilize all of the features of Evernote. Lisa Louise Cooke's "Genealogy Gems" podcasts (www.lisalouisecooke.com) include information about Evernote use.

How to Use Evernote for Genealogy by Kerry Scott, is available online at Family Tree Magazine. With screen shots, hints and tips, and it even has a link in Family Tree Magazine's "Family Tree University" that gives you content from the book that you can save to Evernote to take with you for research notations. Kerry covers everything from getting started to advanced skills in tracking your DNA chromosomes and cousins, and how to use Post-It notes and moleskin books to keep track of everything! With online groups to support your use of Evernote, don't say that there isn't help or ideas of how to use this powerful tool.

MORE HELP WITH ONLINE TOOLS - WEBSITES:

Backupmytree (www.backupmytree.com) protects your hard work by taking advantage of the site's free backup service. It works with most genealogy software and helps you to protect your research somewhere other than just your computer.

Cyndi's List – Evernote resources: <http://cyndislist.com/Evernote/how-to/> Mobile resources: <http://cyndislist.com/mobile/>

Diigo (<https://www.diigo.com>) Save websites, highlight, annotate and even use notes to sites that you are researching; integrates with Kindle books and creates "My Library" to help you keep track.

Flickr (www.Flickr.com) Save and share family memories through photos. Going to the cemetery? Save pictures of tombstones too!

Genealogy Gophers (<https://www.gengophers.com>) Free genealogy book searches! You can type in ancestral names, use a specific ancestor and add date-specific searches.

Google (www.google.com) is great for the Search, Maps, Books, Translate, Earth Maps and Gmail accounts. The suite of tools here also includes the broader Google Suite – linking calendars, document sharing and more that may help you and your extended family to stay connected.

HistoryLines (www.historylines.com) does have a fee, but helps to put your ancestors' lives into a historical context and can pull in your tree from FamilySearch if you want.

Historical County Boundary Maps (<http://www.randymajors.com/p/maps.html>) Randy Majors provides other content on his site, but this particular page is of interest – where you can determine, in a particular year, what county boundaries were like, with some information about the region/territory they were in.

Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>) FREE An Internet library of free books, movies, software, websites and more. Featuring the “Way Back Machine” – a way to find older websites that aren’t appearing any more in a regular search (for websites that have perhaps gone down, aren’t managed, etc.).

Moose Roots (<http://www.mooseroots.com>) FREE Birth, death, military and immigration records; a very fast site that also has marriage and divorce records. Maybe a way to find a military ancestor without Fold3 – not as detailed but a way to know if you are on the right track.

One-Step Webpages by Steve Morse (<https://stevemorse.org/>) – Used by genealogists for years, Steve uses tools that make webpages find things that, going directly to some sites, you might not find otherwise (like spelling variations, that can be time-consuming otherwise); certainly his is faster!

Puzzilla (<https://puzzilla.org/>) ties into your family tree on FamilySearch and makes a graphic depiction of the family with colors; can be used as a research tool; the Free version shows you your information with color-coded males/females but the Premium version provides much more detail (remembering missing information, where there are citations, resources, possible duplicates and more).

Shoebox (<https://shoeboxapp.com>) Photo backup resources, to help you with maintaining your precious photos and memories. There are levels to consider but start with the FREE version. Mobile version too!