

# How to Create a Family History Blog or Website

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## Introduction:

Family history websites are a great way to share information, resources, and research with other family members and genealogists. Creating and developing a family history or genealogy site entails choosing a platform that meets your specific needs and goals, considering privacy and security settings, and planning the overall design and organization of the site.

## Why Create a Family History Website:

- Preserve and share your family's history and genealogy
- Connect with family members and distant relatives
- Ensure your family's history is accessible for future generations

## Choosing a Web Tool:

- Explore user-friendly options: Weebly, Blogger, Google Sites
- Free website builders with easy templates
- Search for options that do not require coding or programming experience

## Gathering Family History:

- Collect and digitize photos, letters, and documents
- Ask family members for stories and memories
- Organize materials for better access
- Consider copyright and privacy concerns

## Structuring Your Website:

- Plan the layout
- Create sections (i.e., family tree, family stories, and photos)
- Use built-in developer tools and templates to make uploading content easier

## Adding Content:

- Upload photos and documents
- Create family history bios and narratives to accompany records and data
- Incorporate multimedia elements (audio, video, maps)

## Basic Web Design Principles:

- Use pre-made templates
- Pick user-friendly fonts and colors
- Consider web-friendly fonts

## Enhance User Engagement and Experience:

- Add interactive features such as family trees, timelines, and charts
- Consider how to monitor or utilize comments, forums, and guestbook entries

## Privacy and Security:

- Consider password-protecting your site
- Set privacy settings to control access to your site and information
- Protect sensitive family information
- Regularly back up your website data

## Tips for Success:

- Be consistent with content updates
- Engage with family and create ways to share, research, and ask questions
- Maintain the website's organization and update any links to external resources and records

## Example:

### *Creating a Genealogy/Family History Site with Google Sites*

Google Sites is a user-friendly platform that allows you to create and design websites without any coding knowledge.

## Steps:

1. Access Google Sites:
  - a. Open your web browser and navigate to <https://sites.google.com>.
2. Sign In or Create an Account:
  - a. If you are not already signed in with your Google account, click the "Sign In" button in the upper right corner and enter your credentials. If you do not have a Google account, you will first need to create one.
3. Start a New Site:
  - a. Once signed in, click the "+" or "Create" to start a new site.
4. Choose a Template:
  - a. Google Sites offers a variety of templates to choose from. Select a template that suits your needs. You can change the template later if you wish.

5. Name Your Site:
  - a. Give your site a name by clicking the “Enter site name” text and typing in the desired name.
6. Site URL:
  - a. Google Sites will automatically suggest a URL based on your site name. You can edit this URL, but the options may be limited.
7. Edit Content:
  - a. You will be taken to the site editor, where you can add and edit content. Click on sections to add text, images, videos, and other elements.
  - b. To add text or headings, click Insert > Text box. In the menu, click the Down arrow and choose the text, heading, or title style you want. Add your text to the box. To publish your changes, at the top right, click Publish.
  - c. Other elements you can add to a page include collapsible text, buttons, a search bar, an image carousel, and social media links.
8. Customize Design:
  - a. Use the toolbar on the right to customize the design of your site. You can change colors, fonts, and backgrounds to match your preferences.
9. Add Pages:
  - a. Click “Pages” on the right side to add new pages to your site. You can create multiple pages and organize them using the navigation menu.
  - b. To create a new subpage, click Pages. Then, choose a page and click More: > Add subpage. You can make up to 5 levels of subpages.
10. Custom Themes:
  - a. On the right panel, click Themes. Under “custom,” select create theme. Enter a name for your theme and choose Next. You can customize different elements of your site, including colors, fonts, and background images.
11. Preview and Publish:
  - a. Click the “Preview” button to see how your site will look when published. Once satisfied with your site, click “Publish” in the upper right corner.
12. Share Your Site:
  - a. After publishing, you have different options to share your site. You can make it public, share it with specific people, or keep it private.
  - b. Edit and Update: You can always return to the editor to make changes and updates to your site. To edit or make changes, sign in to your Google account and navigate to your site from the Google Sites homepage.