

Genealogy blogs

By Elizabeth Powell Crowe

As if you didn't have enough genealogy material to read (e-mails, magazines, query replies, Web sites, and so on) along come genealogy blogs.

Blogs, in case you have been able to dodge their ubiquitous presence and *Time's* Person of the Year article, are online journals of articles or essays, usually created on a free site. Sometimes a blog has a space for readers' comments, making them a sort of cross between a bulletin board site and a read-only site. Often, you can keep up with the latest postings on a blog through RSS feeds or other forms of "syndication."

Traditional editors and writers have sometimes rolled their eyes at blogs, as they have become the Usenet of the twenty-first century: a wild frontier of mostly unedited, unchecked, and uncensored verbiage, with some valuable gems hidden among the almost infinite haystacks of drivel. You'll find blogs that are updated daily or weekly, and others that are updated whenever the author comes across something new or interesting. Sometimes blogs are musings and opinions, sometimes they are facts, news or links to other sites and information.

You'll find blogs that are the online equivalent of a newspaper column where someone has a full-time, paying job to keep it fact-filled and updated, or sells advertising on the blog by keeping it that way. In fact, many of our long-time favorites in online genealogy have turned to blogs to spread their newest information and data. In addition, there are a few newcomers that are worth your pixels.

So let's take a quick tour of genealogy blogs.

General genealogy blogs

! # + > [Along Those Lines](#), by George G. Morgan, is a companion to the popular podcast "The Genealogy Guys" and his regular column. The calendar of blogs is a very nice feature. George is among the best and longest-running online genealogy commentators. His extremely popular and award-winning weekly genealogy column appeared each Friday at Ancestry.com for nine years, and in the *Ancestry Daily News*. He now writes for the *Ancestry Weekly Journal*.

! # + > [The Genealogy Roots Blog](#), by Joe Beine, is for finding online genealogy databases, records, and resources. Generally updated once a week, his focus is on vital records (birth, marriage, divorce, and death records), obituaries, census records, naturalization records, military records, and ship passenger lists. Though his blog is based in the US, Beine includes online European, Canadian, and other records sources when he can. He will also occasionally add a fun post, a book review, or genealogy news to the mix.

! # + > [The Genealouge](#) is just pure fun. Subtitled "Genealogy news you can't possibly use," it is written by Chris Dunham. Recent posts include an article about a lady hoping to get family history data by exhuming a long-dead Rabbi, and a satirical look at how to make money from genealogy (e. g., "Raffle off your unneeded secondary sources"). Comments from readers are rare. Don't miss the companion blog, [Genealogy Sites I Don't Hate](#). It's not updated as often as The Genealouge, but it has some stuff you won't find just anywhere—Whaling Collection Archives and Historic Map Works, for example.

Legend

- ! one of my favorite five
- # updated frequently (more than twice a month)
- + comments by readers allowed; you can add your two cents' worth
- > syndication (such as RSS or Atom) feed for updates



! # + > [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#), by Dick Eastman, is his daily genealogy column. One of the pioneers in online genealogy, Eastman is known for his honest, clear-eyed approach to genealogy issues, news, and products. His newsletter has all that, plus the occasional insightful essay or editorial on genealogy trends and techniques. The comments from his readers are also usually pertinent and entertaining. This is a must read.

! # > [DearMYRTLE](#) is our long-time favorite genealogy columnist in a new format. DearMYRTLE is tops in practical, up-to-date, and accurate genealogy news, tips, and advice. Now you can get her excellent column by e-mail, by RSS, from <http://www.DearMYRTLE.com>, or on this blog. Another must read.

+ > [GeneaMusings](#), by Randy Seaver of California, has book reviews, deep thoughts, and shallow feelings about genealogy, among other things. Recently he posted fascinating letters from an ancestor who was captured by Moors in Morocco in 1806. This is a good read, though I would reserve it for "down time."

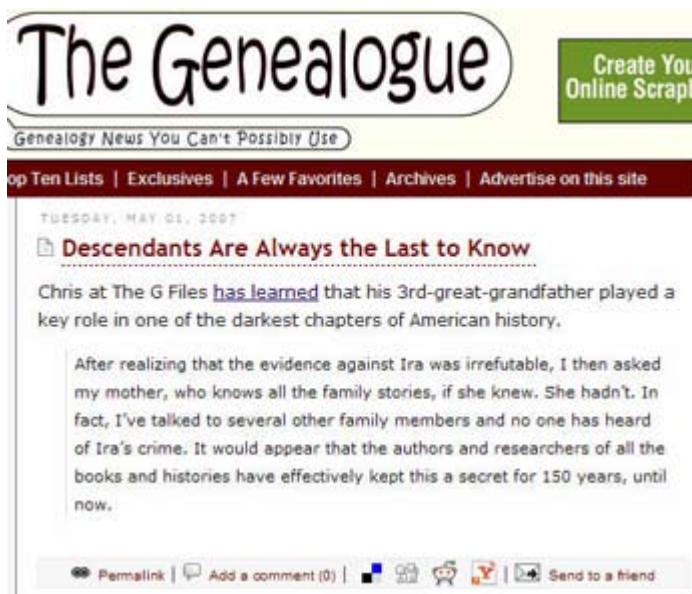
+ > [The Heart and Craft of Lifestory Writing](#), by Sharon Lippincott, aka Ritergal, includes tips to help ordinary people learn to write extraordinary stories defining their own lives in their own voices and their own terms. When you are ready to turn your genealogy into a book someone might actually want to read, check this site out.

+ [24-7 Family History Circle](#), edited by Juliana Smith and hosted by Ancestry.com, has articles from family history columnists such as George G. Morgan, Michael Neill, Megan Smolenyak, Maureen Taylor, Paula Warren, and Sherry Irvine, as well as the occasional guest columnist. The *Ancestry Weekly Journal* is posted weekly on this blog, as well as tips from readers and from regular columnists, how-to articles, research stories, and whatever else Juliana thinks might be of interest. Comments from readers seem to be rare, but the articles are worthwhile.

> [Everton Publisher's Genealogy Blog](#) was started by Joe Edmon and Leland Meitzler in 2003. Assisted by Donna Potter Phillips, Bill Dollarhide, and Joan Murray (Roots2Leaves), they post new information as they get it; you may see three new postings in one day or three in one week. Most often, the posts are links to articles from news sites about genealogy, but sometimes it's a software review or a personal note from one of the team.

> [RssGenealogy.com—Latest Genealogy News](#) blog is an automated summation of the entries in the RSSGenealogy feed. In effect, this blog is an alternative feed to the RssGenealogy syndication, comparable to "index" as opposed to "digest" on a mail list.

> [Photo Detective](#), by Maureen Taylor of Massachusetts, deals with using photographs as sources and resources for genealogy. Her entries are always a great read, even if you don't have a photograph in hand at the moment.



The Heart and Craft of Lifestory Writing

Tips, guidelines and observations to help ordinary people write extraordinary stories about their own life and experiences.

ABOUT ME



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I'm an observer and interpreter of the life experience. In the second half of life, I've found my passion in writing lifestories and memoir and helping others discover their own ways to express their unique stories.



SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2007

Magical Moments

Have you ever noticed magic in the natural world? I witnessed several magical moments while exploring the rim of Mexico's Copper Canyon last month, and when I examined my photos in depth, I discovered an additional mystery.

The original moment occurred at sunrise, an event I rarely attend. Strolling along a large point jutting into the chasm, I watched a herd of goats feast on tender leaves.



Regional blogs

Several blogs contain information about specific locations, their history, and genealogy. Some of the best are:

> [Abbeyside Reference Archive, Dungarvan, County Waterford, Ireland](#), by Eddie Cantwell, has photos and all sorts of printed matter and historical documents. There are also files relating to

[About Genealogy—The Family Tree and Genealogy Research Guide](#), by Kimberly Powell, is a general guide to genealogy on the Internet and in the “real world.” Kimberly has been blogging at [About.com](#) for about three years, and is a professional genealogist, Internet consultant, and Web developer. There is a forum as part of the site, but the comments are not usually directly related to the blog.
+ > [Genealogical Thoughts](#), by David Lambert, the online genealogist for the New England Historic Genealogical Society, is another collection of news, commentary, and updates about online genealogy. The updates are posted when he has news worth noting—that could be six in a month or none.

[Family Bibles](#), is an Ancestors At Rest blog. Folks submit data from Family Bibles. Most of the bibles are for the US, Canada, and England. Many of the entries have pictures of the Family Records pages. The updates are sporadic, but the information is fascinating. No RSS update link appeared on the page, so you just have to check back periodically.

[Genealogy 4 Beginners](#), by Australian Nick Grbin, was last updated 16 Oct 2006, but the old posts are indeed valuable for the neophyte genealogist.

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Happy 143rd Birthday to Anna Marie Jarvis!

> [Email This Post](#) < | by Leland Metzler | [permalink](#) | 5/1/2007 |

Tom just sent me the following news about the mother of mother's day. The original historic article is available FREE at GenealogyBank.com Read on...

May 1st is her birthday and if she were alive today she would be 143 years old.

Her mother died May 9, 1905 and Anna wanted to remember her. As she thought about it the idea grew and she decided to create a day to remember all mothers.

The first Mother's Day was held on May 10, 1908 and a few days later the Philadelphia Inquirer printed an article about the huge success of Anna Marie Jarvis's [more ...]

[READ THE REST >>](#)

Everton's Genealogy Site

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In other words...

What are other bloggers writing about?

24-7 Family History Circle

- My Messy Desk Means I'm Effective [4 hours ago]
- Ancestry Launches U.S.-Mexico Border Crossings ... [5 hours ago]
- Quote for Today [2 days ago]
- New at Ancestry [2 days ago]
- Weekly Planner: Check Old Message Board Posts [2 days ago]

genealogy and help for people who may have roots in the Abbeyside/Dungarvan area. No comments or RSS feed, but if this is an area you are searching for family history, it's a gem.

+ > [Rooted in Tuskegee](#) contains news articles and personal genealogy focused on Tuskegee, Alabama (Macon County). This site is well organized, deep, and broad in information, and simply riveting. If you have any African-American heritage to search, check this out.

[Civil War Veterans Buried in Stephens County, Oklahoma](#), with profiles of Civil War veterans buried in Stephens County, Oklahoma, hasn't been updated for more than two years, but what is there is interesting. David Smith of Texas started the project.

Personal blogs

Blogs can be another format for recording and sharing your personal genealogy work. If you search for a surname + "blog" on Google you are bound to come up with several. Even a search for "genealogy blog" on Google, comes up with many personal blogs about family history. If you need

to find someone blogging about Powells, it should be easy to find one. And if there's not one this week, there's bound to be one next! **DG**

[Elizabeth Powell Crowe](#) lives and writes in Navarre, Florida. She has written more than 250 magazine articles and is working on the eighth edition of Genenalgy Online, due out in January 2008. Crowe holds a degree in journalism from the University of Kentucky and has been involved in genealogy since her teens.

