

Starting Your Own Blog

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If you read our 'About Us' page, I told a little about how our family website started with the seed from my mom's genealogy story.

With all of the stories she had to tell about the things she was discovering, I suggested that she do a blog. Like many others, she also didn't know how to get started.

So, here are some tips you can follow on your journey to becoming a blogger

1) Some folks are shy about being online, or worse yet, going “viral.” If that's you, you might want to practice getting more comfortable about putting yourself 'out there'. You can start:

- sharing a little by posting on social media like Twitter or Facebook
- getting involved an online dialogue on an online forum or discussion board
- sharing by posting small comments on other websites or blogs. (**Hint:** Of course, you can always share on www.family-history-stories.com!)

2) You also might think no one would be interested in what you have to say. However, consider this: your topics are most likely things you share about in the offline world. If people listen and respond to you offline, most likely you'll have an audience online, too.

Everyone has an audience somewhere, plus the online world is global. There are people in other countries who would love to know about your story.

3) Once you have conquered your fears, it's time to find a blogging site. There are plenty of good free resources online.

Two of the most popular platforms for blogging are Google's Blogger (www.blogger.com) & Wordpress.com. Or, do a Google search for “free blogging sites” and you will find plenty to choose from. You can register for a free account, and then pick a template of your choosing.

Add a photo to your blog that will give your readers a look and feel for the subject you want to present.

If you're still not ready for the public to see your blog, you can set your blog's account settings to "private". This will give you time to practice writing and setting your tone.

You can also change the privacy settings to only allow certain people to see your blog. If the blog is strictly for family members or friends, that is an option you can

have.

4) Then, start posting entries. You can use the most basic rule of genealogy. Begin writing what you know about the present, and continue your story going backwards in time. If you have photos that tell a story, you can write those, too.

You might be amazed at what you are able to create--Happy blogging!