Genealogy Blogs

"blog" • short for "web log" • a type of website set up like a diary or "log"

Entries or "posts" • daily, weekly, or whenever • new appear on the top of the blog page • organized in reverse chronological order

Author or Owner (s) • Anyone • Beginners to experts • Official/ company

Content varies: Most blogs not a research source personal focus on discoveries family, surname, or locality insights, news, updates about sources Links to new or little known sources

Major Genealogy Blogs
~ Ancestry’s official blog http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry
~ "Ancestry Insider" --an anonymous blog by a former employee http://ancestryinsider.blogspot.com
~ “Genealogy Insider” ~Diane Haddad, ed. of Family Tree Magazine http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider
~“About Genealogy” ~Kimberly Powell http://genealogy.about.com

Corporate-sponsored blogs post explanatory and news articles

Seven Great Lessons from Who Do You Think You Are?

Lesson #1. Always verify the information. Sarah Jessica Parker’s search for family proved that not all obituaries are perfectly accurate. Her ancestor’s obituary gave a death date for his father that was a year earlier than the actual date of death – and a lot can happen in a year. The person reporting the obituary facts was likely relying on information told to him or her about the deceased’s life and relatives. Take the information you find in a source like an obituary – one reported after the fact – and use it to help you find additional information in a record that was created at the time an event occurred (like a death certificate).

Lesson #2. Look for hidden clues. It’s rare you’ll find mention of a slave ancestor in a census record prior to 1870 – but you may find clues in that record that lead to answers. Such was the case for Emmett Smith. By comparing summaries he found in 1870 for his once enslaved ancestors to slave owning families nearby, Emmett uncovered the possible former owners of his ancestors. Researching the owners’ family, rewarded Emmett with property-related documents that mentioned his ancestors by name.

Lesson #3. Don’t believe everything you hear. If Lisa Kudrow had accepted the notion that all Eastern European records were destroyed during World War II, she may have never traced her lineage to Tsarist Russia. Researching the unexpected will lead to discoveries and new leads.

Newest Article

Seven Great Lessons from Who Do You Think You Are?

Beyond just being entertaining, there were valuable family history lessons to be learned in the first season of Who Do You Think You Are? Here are a few of my favorites:

Lesson #1. Always verify the information. Sarah Jessica Parker’s search for family proved that not all obituaries are perfectly accurate. Her ancestor’s obituary gave a death date for his father that was a year earlier than the actual date of death – and a lot can happen in a year. The person reporting the obituary facts was likely relying on information told to him or her about the deceased’s life and relatives. Take the information you find in a source like an obituary – one reported after the fact – and use it to help you find additional information in a record that was created at the time an event occurred (like a death certificate).

Lesson #2. Look for hidden clues. It’s rare you’ll find mention of a slave ancestor in a census record prior to 1870 – but you may find clues in that record that lead to answers. Such was the case for Emmett Smith. By comparing summaries he found in 1870 for his once enslaved ancestors to slave owning families nearby, Emmett uncovered the possible former owners of his ancestors. Researching the owners’ family, rewarded Emmett with property-related documents that mentioned his ancestors by name.

Lesson #3. Don’t believe everything you hear. If Lisa Kudrow had accepted the notion that all Eastern European records were destroyed during World War II, she may have never traced her lineage to Tsarist Russia. Researching the unexpected will lead to discoveries and new leads.

Newest Article

Seven Great Lessons from Who Do You Think You Are?

Beyond just being entertaining, there were valuable family history lessons to be learned in the first season of Who Do You Think You Are? Here are a few of my favorites:

Lesson #1. Always verify the information. Sarah Jessica Parker’s search for family proved that not all obituaries are perfectly accurate. Her ancestor’s obituary gave a death date for his father that was a year earlier than the actual date of death – and a lot can happen in a year. The person reporting the obituary facts was likely relying on information told to him or her about the deceased’s life and relatives. Take the information you find in a source like an obituary – one reported after the fact – and use it to help you find additional information in a record that was created at the time an event occurred (like a death certificate).

Lesson #2. Look for hidden clues. It’s rare you’ll find mention of a slave ancestor in a census record prior to 1870 – but you may find clues in that record that lead to answers. Such was the case for Emmett Smith. By comparing summaries he found in 1870 for his once enslaved ancestors to slave owning families nearby, Emmett uncovered the possible former owners of his ancestors. Researching the owners’ family, rewarded Emmett with property-related documents that mentioned his ancestors by name.

Lesson #3. Don’t believe everything you hear. If Lisa Kudrow had accepted the notion that all Eastern European records were destroyed during World War II, she may have never traced her lineage to Tsarist Russia. Researching the unexpected will lead to discoveries and new leads.
Some more specialized blogs:

- Jewish Genealogy blog http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com
- "Steve's Genealogy blog" Steven Morse (Eastern Europe) http://stephendanko.com/blog/
- “Dear Myrtle” Long running anonymous blog http://blog.dearmyrtle.com
- "Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter" by Dick Eastman http://blog.eogn.com
- "Genea-musings" by Randy Seaver http://www.geneamusings.com/
- "Genealogy Guys Podcast” by George Morgan & Drew Smith; weekly podcasts on genealogy; listen on-line or download through itunes http://www.genealogyguys.com/
- “Genealogy Roots Blog” by Joe Beine http://genrootsblog.blogspot.com/
- "Genealogue" well-written blog by Chris Dunham, author of Genealogist blog finder http://www.genealogue.com/
- Genealogy Blog Finder http://blogfinder.genealogue.com/