How to Get Your Family Tree Online

James Gross, Drexel University

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/jamesgross/3/
The Genealogy Bug

"How and when were you bitten by the Genealogy Bug?"
See pages 8-10

This Genealogy Bug is known to habitate and will dig its way down deep into and around the roots of a Family Tree. Each Family tree produces its own species of the Genealogy Bug. Once it discovers the basic roots, it can nourish these roots with its own research which can result in bringing to life the ancestors of a Family Tree.
ETZ CHAIM
is published quarterly by the
Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando
P.O. Box 941332, Maitland, FL 32794, USA
Web Site: http://members.aol.com/JGSGO

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Library of Congress ISSN 1084-323x

Etz Chaim is free to all members
of JGSGO. Back copies (when available) may be obtained for
$5.00 each.

Membership Information:
Regular membership dues (Sept. to Aug) are $20.00 per year
for JCC members, $25.00 for non-members. Out-of-town
membership (more than 50 miles) is $15.00 per year. Please
make checks payable to JGSGO,
P.O. Box 941332, Maitland, FL 32794.

JGSGO meetings are held monthly, year round, usually on
the 2nd Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Senior
Lounge, JCC, 851 N. Maitland Ave, Maitland. Several
Sunday meetings, when scheduled, start at 1:30 p.m., usually
in the Assembly Room of the Holocaust Memorial Resource
and Educational Center, also on the JCC campus.

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Thanks to all the authors for their contribution
and to Jerry Kurland for his cover-artwork.
Deadline for submission of material for the next issue is August 15.

CALENDAR:
Future JGSGO Programs + others
Tuesday, July 13: 7:30 p.m., JGSGO meeting at JCC Senior
lounge. Round table discussion “Asking for Help with
Genealogical Research”
Tuesday, August 10: 7:30 p.m., JGSGO meeting at JCC
Senior lounge; Program: To be announced
Tuesday, September 14: 7:30 p.m. JGSGO meeting at JCC
Senior Lounge: Two special reports by Shirley Dornest
1) The Trip to Lithuania and 2) The IAJGS Conference NYC
Tuesday, October 12: To be announced

August 8-13: The 19th Annual Conference on Jewish
Genealogy, Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York City
August 11-14: Federation of Genealogical Societies and St.
Louis Genealogical Society, St. Louis, MO
Fri/Sat, Oct. 29-30: Annual Conference, Florida State
Genealogical Societies, Sarasota

NOTICE:
Yad Vashem Library
has a new Internet address:
www.yadvashem.org.il
How to Get Your Family Tree Online
by James Gross

Are you interested in putting your tree on the web so others can see & compare their trees to yours? If so, here are a few steps that may help you reach this goal.

1) Get a gedcom ready genealogy program
   To start off you will need to use a genealogy software that allows you to export a gedcom file. Most of the major programs do this. One such program is called Brothers keeper, and provides for gedcom export. URL: (ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/BrothersKeeper)
   You can do a search on the web under "genealogy software" to see what is currently available. I also suggest asking your genealogy friends what they program they use and if they like it. Make sure its user friendly. For example, I am still using Brothers Keeper's older DOS version because I like it more than the windows version. To a large extent, use of a particular software program is determined by taste.

2) Get a gedcom filter
   While working on inputting your family tree data, you should be aware that there is a filter available to screen your genealogy gedcom program for live relatives. I used the words "while Working" loosely as many of you have probably already input your data into a gedcom ready genealogy program. Unfortunately, the gedcom filter requires a special keyword to be added to every live person. So why bother? Due to issues of privacy and security, it is a good idea to use this filter. What it does is delete info that will be read by the public on live relatives. They will still be linked to the deceased relatives, but will not show dates of birth, etc. This filter is Gedpage (www.frontiernet.net/~rjacob/gedpage.htm)
   Another similar program that I just came across on the web, and have not tried, is called Repriva. (www.ozemail.com.au/~naibor/rpriv.html)
   Be aware that the Gedpage program is rather picky. It works as follows: YOU MUST type in the word "ALIVE!" for each live relative so that it appears as a data field in the outputged gedcom file. This word acts as a keyword, identifying live relatives. I realize that this instruction may sound complex as it did for me. When I say data field everyone starts scratching their head. When you type info into your genealogy program, those spaces are data fields. When you generate a gedcom file from your genealogy software, one of the steps involves you telling your program what fields to export. As you are not a gedcom expert, this can take some time until you get it right.

For those of you, like myself, who already have data existing in a genealogy program, you will want to do this without mistakes. In order to get this right, I suggest that you play around with a very small gedcom export and verify that you are inputting the word "ALIVE!" in the correct data field and exporting it correctly into the gedcom file. In other words, export just your immediate family, and verify, with a simple text editor, that the word "ALIVE!" actually appears in a data field. In my case, I used an extra data field and advised my brothers keeper program to call it "RETI". This data field is not recognized as a standard gedcom field so it was exported in my gedcom file but considered to be a hidden field by . Since it has a data line, it is picked up by my gedcom filter, "Gedclean". Once you have the word "ALIVE!" inputted, things will go faster.
   Once you have finished inputting the word "ALIVE!" into all your breathing relatives files, and have exported the gedcom file, you are ready for the next step.

3) Get a gedcom webpage creator
   To create my html files I used a software program called Gedpage. Its URL is: (www.frontiernet.net/~rjacob/gedpage.html). I clicked off the options for sources, notes, and e-mail address as I already had preset headers and footers from my existing webpage. If you don't have any preferred headers/footers, then let the program create it for you. This program takes a while to generate the file. When it is done you will have over 400 files. There are a few key files that you should double-check prior to uploading on the web. They are: surnames.htm, names1.htm, names2.htm. I found it was necessary to use a regular text editor here. The names 1 & 2 is a link by name, aka james gross, to all your names. I pasted part of names1 to names2 to make both files equal in length. This allows for faster loading by the user. I also did some deleting for those miscellaneous people whom I didn't want listed. I had some maiden names that I wanted in alphabetical order, so I had to move them around too. The surnames wasn't too bad except I wanted to center it and adjust its size. It helps if you have a rudimentary knowledge of html. You can do all of this without any such knowledge, but it doesn’t hurt to know a little bit.

4) Get bulk ftp uploading software
   After you generate your genealogy pages from your gedcom file, you will be sitting on an excess of 400 files. This is quite a large number of files to upload by hand and, realistically, calls for a bulk ftp program. Regardless of which operating system you are using (win 3.1 or win95), the only program I found to work is called cute ftp (www.cuteftp.com/Cuteftp/index.html). This program is available as a free download. I tried this program, which is available in either 16 bit or 32 bit. I found the 32 bit (win95) version to work effectively. A company techie advised me that the 16 bit version was old and recommended the Win95 version. You should have no problem uploading your entire file into your website directory.
FROM THE JGSGO LIBRARIAN

--- Carl R. Migden ---

The Quarterly Journals of Jewish Genealogical Societies from around the world as well as the Special Interest Group's (SIG) publications and AVOTAYNU, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy, are kept on file in our library in the Holocaust Center, Maitland.

Most of the Journals have information useful to genealogists depending upon their own interests. Listed below are some articles from journals that may be of interest to our readers. Come visit the library! 😊

The Kielce - Radom - Special Interest Group Journal covering Kingdom of Poland, 1867-1917
Orlando, Florida - Winter, 1999
HIDDEN TREASURES IN POLISH VITAL RECORDS
by Lauren B. Eisenberg Davis

ROOTS - KEY - Los Angeles, Cal. - Winter, 1999
A Trip to the German Rhineland
by Fred Levy

“My Name Was Changed at Ellis Island” - A Myth
by Michael Steinmore

MISHPACHA - Greater Washington - Winter 1999
A Trip to France, Poland, and Slovakia (Part I)
by Rita Permut

MASS-POCHA - Boston, Mass. Winter 1999
A Ukrainian Shtetl Tour
by Donald Campbell Lockhart

The Kielce - Radom - Special Interest Group Journal
covering Kingdom of Poland, 1867-1917
Orlando, Florida - Autumn, 1998
Index vs. Extract vs. Translation
by Lauren B. Eisenberg Davis

5) Get space on a website

When you finally finish generating your webpage html index using your software, as exemplified by my use of Gedpage, you will need to upload it somewhere. There are several companies which offer web space and your web provider has probably already allocated you some space. The problem with using your providers space is that if and when you stop using your provider, your website will be shut down. If you don't mind this eventuality, then use your provider. In my case, I have web access thru my local Snip provider. Though Snip offers free webpage space I am not using it as my site is listed by other websites as well as indexed by several search engines on the web. This process of getting indexed doesn't happen overnight and I'd like to avoid breaking all the existing links to my website.

With regard to using my providers e-mail address vs a "free" e-mail address, I would give no hope of contacting everyone should my e-mail suddenly change as I have people as far away as Israel and S Africa. It is for this reason that I use a free and unchanging e-mail address, called junod, and a free and unchanging website provider called geocities. There are other free web based e-mail providers like yahoo and hotmail. There are also other free website providers like tripod. It is something that you can look into and decide upon.

Thank you for your time. Please be aware that I don't get any kickbacks for any software recommendations. For more info on gedcom & related software, try the following websites:
(www.genhomepage.com/com/software.html)
(opax.swin.edu.au/andrew/gensoft.html)

Editor's Note: James Gross of Cherry Hill, NJ is a member of the JGS Philadelphia. He has been involved in genealogy for eight years and is researching the families of Steinberg, Shulman, Saidel, Geringer and Neubauer. His e-mail is: larklane@juno.com. In correspondence with the Etz Chaim editor, he voluntarily offered this article to JGSOSO as well as to other JGS newsletters.

Humor only Genealogists can appreciate

Part II from: Roslyn Downey, Winter Park, FL
I'm searching for myself: Have you seen me?
If only people came with pull-down menus and on-line help...
Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem, leads to two more!
It's 1999... Do you know where your-Great-G...-Grandparents are?
Am I the only person up my tree ... sure seems like it

FILE: The place for storing your priceless genealogy records.
Gene-Allergy: It's a contagious disease, but I love it
Genealogists are time untravelers
Genealogy is like playing hide and seek: They hide... I seek!
Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people
"Crazy" is a relative term in my family
A pack rat is hard to live with, but makes a fine ancestor
I want to find ALL of them! So far I only have a few thousand
I should have asked them BEFORE they died!
I think my ancestors had several "Bad heir" days
I'm always late. My ancestors arrived on the JUNEflower
Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards, as progress