
Making the Most of Your Mobile Devices

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Mobile devices are all around us. We use them for communicating, playing games and maybe keeping our calendar up-to-date. However, many don't realize all of the ways that these devices may be helpful in genealogy research.

Below are the details of some of the hundreds of apps available and information how they might be used to enhance your genealogy and family history research or activities.

The apps listed here are primarily available for either iOS (iPod, iPhone, iPad) or Android devices.

- For iOS apps look in the iTunes App Store – <http://www.apple.com/itunes>.
- For Android go to the Google Play Store – www.play.google.com/store.

Other places to find more information:

- Mobile Genealogy Website - www.mobilegenealogy.com
- Google+ Groups – [iPad for Genealogy](#)
[Tech for Genealogy and Family History Researchers](#)
- Facebook Group – [Technology for Genealogy](#)
- Book - *Turn Your iPad into a Genealogy Powerhouse*, by Lisa Louise Cooke.
[Available in eBook or softbound format.](#)

Genealogy Apps –

23andMe – For both current 23andMe customers with genetic DNA results and for others who want to learn about what they do.

Ancestry.com – Access your online family tree at Ancestry.com to add or update info. You can then sync to Family Tree Maker on your laptop or desktop.

BillionGraves – Use your phone to photograph and upload tombstones in a cemetery. Upload to the BillionGraves website or search for existing tombstones.

Families – Display and edit your Legacy Family Trees. Designed to operate in conjunction with Legacy Family Tree on your PC.

FamilySeek – Allows you to find people you are related to. Find these relationships in the new FamilySearch Family Tree. You must have an account with new FamilySearch to use this service.

Family Timelines – Record events in your family history and the source of the information. They are displayed chronologically to enable you to more easily understand your history and identify errors in source documents.

FamilyTrees – Allows you to build, research and browse the family trees without any registrations and necessity of being online. Compose your own family tree and put a piece of the family's history in your pocket.

Find-a-Grave – Search or input cemetery information including photos of tombstones just as you would on your desktop or laptop.

GedStar Pro Genealogy Viewer – Works with a genealogy program on your PC to show all the details

of your family history. Converts directly from The Master Genealogist and Legacy Family Tree or from GEDCOM files.

Legacy Mobile – Allows you to synchronize your family data with FamilySearch, including adding pictures to anyone in your family tree. Also view event data by GPS locations and manage and synchronize source data. Using the LegacyTec feature, you can locate individuals in the tree simply by taking a picture of a headstone.

GedView – While GedView is targeted towards GEDCOM 5.5.1 it will read in any version, and will also support many custom extensions used by other genealogy applications.

Genealogy Gems – Brings Genealogy Gems to your device along with bonus material. In addition to getting access to the show, you'll also receive access to special features like:

- PDF Documents - tips and ideas from the show
- Bonus audio and video content
- Ability to follow the show on Twitter
- Call-in audio comment feature (phones only)

Heridis – Family tree database app. Synchronizes with desktop Heridis application on both Mac and Windows.

How to Write Your Family History – A writing course for amateur genealogists who want to turn information about their ancestors' lives into a compelling story. Written by writing and university experts.

Obit Finder – Gives you instant access to millions of obituaries from Legacy.com's network of newspapers (more than 800 newspapers in the US, Canada, UK, Ireland, Australia & New Zealand) and funeral homes.

Metes and Bounds Basic – Turn a property deed or legal description into a plat drawing. Supports many units of measurement. Including: feet, meters, and varas. Calculates the area, perimeter and closing error of the plot. Includes the ability to auto-complete a tract if the last call isn't defined. Please note: Does not support descriptions based on section calls.

MyHeritage – View and edit your family tree. Add people to your tree and take their photos. Edit profiles, events and relationships. Search records on MyHeritage. Photo sharing - capture, share and store family moments. Sync with your family site on MyHeritage.com

Name Maps (and Name Maps Canada) – Find either absolute or relative distribution of your last name: the absolute distribution will give you an approximate number of people with the last name living in a certain state. The relative distribution indicates the proportion of people with that last name in a certain state in relation to the total size of the population.

Record Their Stories – A fun and simple way to set up and record personal conversations between relatives. You can type the questions you want to ask, or choose from over 100 suggested questions, and then view them while recording.

Resting Spot – Allows you to mark (by being there) and share the exact GPS location of your loved one's final RestingSpot. Once marked, current and future generations can use the app to quickly and easily return to the RestingSpot. You may also add photos to a loved one's profile from your phone's camera or photo gallery. Friends and family can interact with the memory of loved ones via online memorials at RestingSpot.com.

Reunion – This full-functionality companion to Reunion on the Mac allows you to take your family tree with you, edit the files, and then move the changes back to the family file on your Mac.

RootsMagic – Designed as a viewer companion product to RootsMagic desktop software.

Wolfram Genealogy & History Research Assistant (iOS only) – Explore the world of your ancestors with the only app that lets you discover what was going on while they lived. Map family relations and expand on what you already know about any of your ancestors with a

simple, easy-to-use interface. This is just a small sample of the many questions you can investigate about your ancestors:

- Were their names common at that time?
- What happened on their birthdays?
- What was the weather like on your grandparents' wedding day?
- What were the towns they lived in like, including demographics, and how far are they from where you live?
- What was 20 dollars worth the year your great-grandmother was born?
- What is the technical relationship between you and your grandfather's sister?

Cloud Access Apps –

Copy – Store, protect, and share data. 15GB free to save data that is instantly accessible on your computers, mobile devices, and the Copy website.

CloudOn – Brings Microsoft Office® to your mobile device and links it to your Box, Dropbox, Google Drive and SkyDrive accounts.

Dropbox – Sync and share files online across computers and mobile devices. Also can share files with friends and family via Dropbox shared folders or links.

Evernote – Save or create text or media notes and auto-sync between your device, your computer, and the cloud.

Google Drive – Cloud storage of documents saved online. Share with others and use for retrieval of files.

Penultimate – Handwritten note taking app. Gives you the natural experience of writing on paper, with the added power and availability of Evernote. Take notes, keep sketches, or share your next breakthrough idea.

Skitch – Use Skitch to mark up a PDF, snap your screen, annotate a photo, or draw something new. Share your thoughts with friends or co-workers. Annotate images and PDFs with arrows, stamps, text, shapes, and more.

SkyDrive – Store your files so you can access them from virtually any device. You can access, manage, and share files on the go. You can also upload photos or videos to SkyDrive.

Google Apps –

Google Earth – Show geo-located photos from around the world. Upload your family images with geo-codes and place on map. Search for cities, places, and businesses around the globe.

Google+ – Social media community. Join research communities and interact with other researchers.

Google Drive – Cloud storage of documents saved online. Share with others and use for retrieval of files.

Google Maps – Locate addresses and get directions

Google Play Books – Read public access books. Includes many historical county histories, reference and family history books.

Google Translate – Translate words and phrases between more than 60 languages.

Library Apps –

New York Public Library – Search the catalog, read reviews, explore the site.

Library of Congress – virtual tour; check out current exhibitions

Allen County Public Library – home of one of the nation's largest genealogy collections.

WorldCat Mobile – Search for library materials, find a library near you with that holding, and view citation format for the item.

E-Reader Apps –

Kindle – Gives users the ability to read Kindle books, newspapers, magazines, textbooks and PDFs. Consider joining the [Kindle for Genealogy](#) group on Facebook where free books are posted regularly.

Nook – Access over 3 million books—including 1 million FREE titles—plus magazines, newspapers, comics, and more.

Scanner Apps –

DocScanner – With DocScanner you can make multipage PDFs by taking photos of any documents, invoices, whiteboards, receipts etc. DocScanner crops, sharpens, corrects the white balance and the distortions. Save documents to Evernote, DropBox or Google Drive.

Genius Scan – Turns your iPhone into a pocket scanner. It enables you to quickly scan documents on the go and email the scans as JPEG or PDF. Includes smart page detection, perspective correction, image post-processing. It allows you to build PDF documents with multiple scans.

Shoebox from Ancestry – Digitize photos using edge detection and perspective correction technology. Save your photos directly to your Ancestry.com family tree and/or your phone's camera roll. Fill in the photo's backstory by tagging people, dates, and location. You can also add custom captions. Photos are private unless you choose to share via Email Twitter, or Facebook.

Miscellaneous –

Apps Gone Free – Find apps for free. New apps are available for free each day.

Feedly – Organize your favorite blogs, news sites and Youtube channels and access them all in one place (or sync with Google Reader, Twitter and Facebook). Add feedly to all your devices and they will always be in sync.

GoToMeeting – Join a genealogy webinar on your mobile device. View slide presentations or whatever presenters choose to share onscreen.

HelloPhoto (iOS only- requires two devices) – You can use the light table function to view and sort slides and negatives. Use the light table's adjustments to enhance your slides and negatives before photographing them.

Smart Office 2 – Makes viewing, creating, editing and sharing Microsoft Office and other documents on the move even easier through a contextual interface; drag and drop editing; sharing to email in original or PDF format; and sharing to Drop box, Box or Google Docs.

Splashtop 2 Remote Desktop – Easiest and fastest remote desktop app for accessing your Windows or Mac computer using your mobile device. Access your computer on the local network and get full access to ALL of your applications and documents. To access your computer from across the Internet, subscribe to “Anywhere Access Pack” via In-App Purchase.

White Pages – Find people using the phone directory, add contacts to your device. ID unknown callers with reverse phone lookup. Get maps and driving directions.

Yapp – Create your own apps for events, reunions, info. Include things like schedule, people bios. Photo sharing or official photo gallery. Content is also available offline if you are out of network range.