

Wiki-Wiki-What? Using Wikis for Genealogical Research

What is a Wiki?

- A website that provides collaborative revision of its content and structure directly from the web browser by communities of editors and contributors that write documents collaboratively.
- The open philosophy of wikis allow anyone, not just experts, to edit content. It does not ensure that every editor's intentions are well-mannered.
- Malware can also be problem for wikis, as users can add links to sites hosting malicious code.
 - An example of a Wiki is **Wikipedia**. A free online encyclopedia with the aim to allow anyone to edit articles. Be sure to check the Sources at the end of the article.
 - Wikipedia is the largest and most popular general reference work on the Internet.
 - Wikipedia is not a single wiki but rather a collection of hundreds of wikis, one for each language.

Wikis geared towards Genealogy Research

- Wikis are tools for finding information about subjects and records that may have been generated about your ancestors, and the places in which records might be found. They are vast information depositories.
- Such helpful articles suggest how to research records for information about ancestors in that jurisdiction.
- Wikis are not databases of ancestors' names, photos, family stories, or pedigrees.
- Nor are Wikis a place for genealogical queries, or message boards. You may find explanations and links to those websites.
- To use genealogy wikis you should be prepared.
 - Ask yourself what you want learn about your ancestor(s).
 - Consider locations where your ancestor(s) have lived.
 - Consider what records you want to find.
 - We generate more documents as we age, so work backwards instead of forward. Look for a marriage record before looking for a birth record.

Using Wikis for Genealogical Research

- **Family History Research Wiki** - https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page
 - As of 29 January 2018, the Family History Research Wiki has 87,851 articles to give you research advice and learn where to find these record collections.
 - These articles include the United States and 244 countries.
- **Ancestry.com Support (formerly known as Ancestry.com Family History Wiki)** - <https://support.ancestry.com/s/>
 - The Ancestry.com Wiki is comprised of four types of content:
 - ✓ The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy
 - ✓ Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources
 - ✓ Other Ancestry.com information
 - ✓ Information added by users.
 - Searching for locations and types of records will require you to read through various support options. Support pages for just a location, i.e. Germany, will bring up multiple options in connection with the country.

Wiki-Wiki-What? Using Wikis for Genealogical Research

- **WeRelate** - http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Main_Page
 - Shared genealogy space – people work together on their family trees and joint projects.
 - Wiki is customized for family researchers – anyone can edit.
 - Has quality controls for identifying bad information before it becomes part of the wiki i.e. links to malware, etc., and controls after information is added to catch any bad information that might have slipped through the up front controls.
 - Largest genealogy wiki.
 - Can completely document your research online.
 - Everyone working on a family webpage gets an email sent to them when information has been updated.
 - Create wiki pages one at a time or by uploading a Gedcom.
 - You have the ability to search over 2.8 million sources including the Family History Library Catalog.
 - WeRelate is a free public service website supported by your tax-deductible donations.
 - WeRelate reserves no copyright. What is freely shared stays free.
- **WikiTree** <https://www.wikitree.com/>
 - Created in 2008, this community of genealogists work together to create an accurate single family tree using DNA and traditional genealogy sources.
 - Unlike most wikis, you don't give up copyrights and you control who can access and edit each individual profile page. You are notified by email when changes are made.
 - Families can privately share memories, photos, and sensitive information.
 - 100% free. There are no "premium" memberships and nobody is charged for access to anything. Ever.
 - WikiTree balances privacy and collaboration so that living people can connect on one world tree to common ancestors.
 - WikiTree is hosted on a "cloud" provider with multiple physical locations (Amazon Web Services). A server crash or hardware problem is not catastrophic.
 - Furthermore, there are daily back-ups so it's unlikely that we would ever lose data that was entered more than 24-hours ago.
 - Back-ups are not all stored in one location.
 - View the 9-Point Honor Code.
 - If you agree with the Honor Code, create a free account either as Guest Member or as WikiGenealogist.
 - Shared tree includes 17,336,608 profiles, 4,215,568 with DNA test connections, edited by 530,436 genealogists from around the world.
 - When uploading your Gedcom, WikiTree uses a tool called GEDCompare to search your Gedcom against the online family tree to search for duplicates.

Wikis Suggested for Genealogy Use

- Family History Wiki at GenealogyToday - <http://wiki.genealogytoday.com/>
- Genealowiki.com - <http://www.genealowiki.com/bin/view.cgi>
- Family Tree Forum - <https://www.familytreeforum.com/content.php>
- Who's Your Daddy? Wikigenealogy - <http://www.whosyerdad-e.com/>

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- Wiki.com – search engine for Wikis - <http://www.wiki.com/>
- GenWiki - use for genealogy research in German speaking areas of the world
http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/Main_Page
- International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki - https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page

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