Choosing Platforms for Sharing Family History

Choose the places that fit the stories you want to share, the people you hope to reach, and the time and privacy boundaries that feel right to you.

You don't need to be on every platform. Start with one place that feels comfortable and useful. You can always make a different choice later.

1. What would you like to share?

Check any that fit:

- Short stories or memories
- Old photographs or documents
- Family-history discoveries
- Questions for relatives
- Updates about a family-history project
- Videos, recordings, or interviews
- A mix of these
- Something else: _____

What would you most like to share first?

2. Who would you like to reach?

- Close family
- Extended relatives
- Friends
- Genealogy friends or groups
- A broader public audience
- I'm not sure yet

What would you like people to do when they see your posts?

- Enjoy or remember the story
- Share their own memories
- Help identify a person, place, or date
- Connect with me about genealogy
- Follow along with my project
- Something else: _____

3. What kind of sharing feels comfortable?

For now, I'd prefer to share with:

- A small, familiar group
- People I approve or invite
- A genealogy community with shared interests
- Anyone who comes across my posts
- I'd like to decide one post at a time

I'm comfortable with people:

- Reading my posts
- Commenting
- Sharing or reposting
- Contacting me directly
- I want to limit some of these

My boundaries for sharing are:

A privacy pause: Before posting, consider whether a story or image includes living relatives, sensitive details, or information someone expected to stay private. When in doubt, ask permission, leave out identifying details, or choose a smaller audience.

4. What feels manageable?

How often would you realistically like to post?

- Once in a while
- About once a week
- A few times a month
- Only when I have something I want to share

How much time would you like to spend on social media each week?

- 15 minutes or less
- About 30 minutes
- About an hour
- It depends on what I'm working on

What would make posting easier for you?

- A simple text post
- Sharing one photo with a short caption
- Using a prompt or question
- Recording a short video
- Getting help from a relative or friend
- Other: _____

5. Compare a few platform options

Think about the platforms you already use, along with any genealogy groups or communities where you participate. For each possibility, consider the people there, the audience controls, and how easy it would be to keep up.

Platform or community	Who I could reach	Audience and privacy options I need to check	Does it feel comfortable?	Easy to maintain?
_____	_____	_____	Yes / Maybe / No	Yes / Maybe / No
_____	_____	_____	Yes / Maybe / No	Yes / Maybe / No
_____	_____	_____	Yes / Maybe / No	Yes / Maybe / No

Platform features and privacy settings can change. Review the current settings before sharing, especially when posting about living people.

6. Choose a place to begin

The platform or community I'll try first is:

I'm choosing it because:

My first post could be:

- A family-history memory
- A photo with a short story
- A question for relatives
- A brief introduction
- Another idea: _____

Before I post, I'll check:

- Who can see this?
- Am I comfortable with the details and image I'm sharing?
- Have I considered the privacy of living relatives?
- Do I want comments, shares, or direct messages?
- Does this feel manageable for me?

7. Review your choice

After trying this platform, ask yourself:

- Did I reach the people I hoped to reach?
- Did I feel comfortable sharing there?
- Was it manageable to post and respond?
- Do I want to continue, adjust my boundaries, or try another place?

My next step: _____

There's no one right platform. The best starting place is one that supports the kind of connection you want and feels comfortable to use.