



Facebook overtaken by genealogists

I warned you in the May/June 2008 issue of [Digital Genealogist](#) that I was going to be exploring Web 2.0. Well, true to my word, I've created a personal page on Facebook (left) as well as pages for [Digital Genealogist](#), [Clookz](#), and the [Plymouth Historical Museum](#). I've also created a presence for the museum on [MySpace.com](#) and [YouTube.com](#).

A Google search on "Facebook vs. MySpace" brings up multiple hits. I already had an opinion, but was interested to see what others were writing. One of my favorite discussions about the difference between the two is "[Facebook Hammers MySpace on Almost All Key Features](#)," even though the article is a little over a year old. I tend to agree with most of the points. I *really* like Facebook. I *don't really* like MySpace. Period.

Facebook allows me to keep in touch with people that I like and who I would probably spend more time with if we lived closer. Yes, I could potentially do that on MySpace, but I feel overwhelmed there and haven't quite figured out how to make some things work. On Facebook, I can say "hi," share pictures, play games, and be myself in a non-threatening environment. I've found that Facebook helps me unwind after stressful or complicated days.

Genealogists have been flocking to Facebook lately. There are some genealogy-type applications available there, such as "We're Related" and "Family Tree." The first application helps you find relatives who are on Facebook and has a research tab that searches [WorldVitalRecords.com](#) for your surname and offers a 30-day membership for 99 cents. There are also applications that allow you to show your heritage, such as "My Heritage," show what cities you've visited, join groups of people you know or might be interested in, and link to your favorite blogs. [HeritageBooks.com](#) has created a page on Facebook and offers unique discounts and offers to fans of its page.

If you've been hesitating to join a social networking site, it may be time to take the plunge. Join Facebook, ask me to be your friend (my e-mail there is liz@ancestordetective.com), and then see what other friends have joined. Then explore the many offerings of this interesting and fun place. There's no risk. If you don't like it, then remove your page. But if you do join, watch out! It's addicting! **DG**



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