



YouTube Your Family History

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If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a video is worth a thousand pictures. Creating an online video of your family history is simple and can be an exciting project for the entire family. YouTube is the largest worldwide video community; every minute 72 hours of video are uploaded on this site.

PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

A video is a great way to capture family history. Remember that your family history is happening now, so don't forget to capture it! With modern technology it is easy to turn a few images and sound clips into a great video. Once you upload a video, you have preserved it and distributed it to a wider audience.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do I want a YouTube account?

1. You can share your genealogical expertise with a wider audience.
2. It's totally free, fast, easy to use, and you control the settings (public or private access).
3. One convenient place for all family videos. Easy to share with others.
4. All your videos are online 24/7 accessible to the world.
5. If the content is original, you can make money.

What does it take to create a YouTube account?

1. Go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com).
2. Click **Sign in** in the upper right-hand corner. Don't worry; creating an account is free.

What features does YouTube have?

1. You can create your own personal channel, and people can subscribe.
2. Each video comes with analytics, so you can learn about how others interact with your videos. The various categories are Dashboard, Video Manager, Channel Settings, Analytics, and Inbox.
3. There is a built-in editor for fixing videos once you've uploaded them.

How can I get my old videos into digital format?

1. You can record old VHS videos onto a camcorder. Then, hook your camcorder up to your computer, and capture the videos using Windows Movie Maker, Picasa, or another video editing program.
2. Another way is to take your videos to a store like Staples or Walgreens and have them do it. *Note:* Remember, just because a video is published on YouTube doesn't mean you have to watch it there. It's easy to post a video to a blog or website.

Who will be able to access my video?

After you set up your account, you will need to choose your privacy settings. The privacy settings include Public, Unlisted, and Private.

IDEAS FOR VIDEOS

An ancestor

Bring an ancestor to life by creating a simple video telling the story of his or her life. Here are a few things you may want to do.

1. Photos: Collect photos, records, historic images, or the like and organize them how you want them to appear on the video.
2. Audio: Find appropriate music to play during your video. For a video I created, I decided to have our neighbor play a song on the recorder as the main background music. I also went to www.partnersinrhyme.com and found some nature sounds I wanted to incorporate. I used [Audacity](#) to create and organize the audio files (you can download this program for free online). You will also want to decide what you want to say on the video and who will say it. We involved some neighbors in our project, and they read some historical accounts. My wife and I participated as well. We just used a digital voice recorder to do this. You could also use Sound Recorder, which comes preinstalled on most PCs.
3. Editing: I used [Windows Movie Maker](#) to build my video project. I'm running Windows 7, so I had to download this program off the Internet. You can also use [Picasa](#) or another program if you prefer.

Area of expertise

Do you have an area of expertise in the field of genealogy? Why not create a video detailing what you know? Once you've created a video, you can put it on your blog, on the [FamilySearch Research Wiki](#), on [Facebook](#), or on another site and then tell your friends about it. If you want to use PowerPoint to create slideshow presentations to do some web demos, you can download [Cam Studio](#) for free and create screen capture videos.

Promo video

Are you part of a genealogical society and you don't have a promo video on your home page? Create one, and post it on YouTube. Using the ideas mentioned here, you can easily highlight your mission statement and talk about some of the benefits that your society can provide to its members.

Site tutorial

Do you have a blog or website but know that people are not familiar with how to get to or navigate the site? Create a video, and give a demonstration of how to find information on the website. You can also highlight other good sites that could be of interest.