

Facebook for Genealogy???

well, maybe.....



by Nancy Keener

About six months ago I was urged by a few young relatives to hop on the Facebook bandwagon. The ride has been enjoyable, a bit time-wasting, revealing and somewhat rewarding, but so far has not advanced the genealogical research of my family.

I am having great fun scanning old family photos and creating albums that my “around-the-country” relatives are enjoying. Four of the albums are entitled *Ancestors, Lineage and History*; *Family: the Early Years, into the 50’s*; *Family: 50’s to 80’s*; and *Family: 80’s to the Present*. The comments I’m receiving from my relatives make it worthwhile and very satisfying and it feels good to bring some of these old photos into the light of day.

That said, however, I have to tell you it’s been a bit frustrating to get any usable information that I can add to my family tree, **but** there are other genealogical advantages here. The genealogy discussion groups can be very enlightening, and some of the “skeletons in the closet” stories are both humorous and bittersweet.

The moderators are very knowledgeable, and can help with brick walls, and sometimes you get wrapped up in other people’s stories. Everyone in the many groups seems to be willing to help, and if you post a query someone will at least give you a suggestion.

One of the bloggers, Robert Ragan, said that : “If you are ages 50 – 105, about 30 percent of the people you know are on Facebook. If you are ages 25 – 50, about 50 percent of the people you know are on Facebook. If you are ages 15 – 25, then about 90 percent of the people you know are on Facebook.”

Now, isn’t this amazing?

Facebook is a great way to share and exchange ideas, but it can also be a huge time-waster and I know that I am not utilizing the full potential of this site. When I first signed on I swore to myself I would use it strictly as a genealogical tool, but evidently I am not disciplined enough. Maybe you can fare better than I. Give it a try and report back. ☺

Cyndi Howells has posted some thoughts on the *Uses for Facebook in Genealogy*. See **Friday, April 16, 2010** at www.CyndisList.com.