

Genealogy on the iPad

The iPad is expensive. But it is one of my most used "things" I own. And I am not afraid to let my grandkids use it --- (I won't let them use my laptop.)

Why iPad instead of another type of tablet?

- If you have an iPhone (or other Apple product), get the iPad because you can share apps, songs, pictures across all platforms. If you don't have a smart phone, you deserve an iPad!
- There are Apple stores with live people who can help if problems arise. The "Genius Bar" is free. We have used them a couple of times!
- The apps are more secure, with fewer fears of hacking. And they are fixed for free!

What size to get?

- My wife uses the 7.9 inch mini because it fits in her purse.
- I use the 9.7 inch "middle size" because it just feels naturally sized.
- Currently, the 9.7 iPad Pro is too expensive, I would get the 9.7 Air 2 today
- 32 gig is too small, 64 gig is fine unless you are experienced and need more.
- If you do not have a smart phone, get the cellular option. You can buy cellular services a month at a time from the major carriers; turn it off when vacation is over.

What makes the iPad a genealogy tool?

- Document "scanning", interview recording, picture taking, note taking
- Can carry books & PDFs
- Do online research in the field (full browser access to everything)
- Record GPS location in cemeteries
- Carry different versions of your family trees
- Display pictures to relatives
- Connect to your other computers
- It is bigger than a smart phone!
- You can relax with a good book or a stimulating game. You can download movies to watch on the plane! Skype and FaceTime connections to family and friends.

Cons?

- No Flash support
- No USB support
- No SD card reader
- Expensive compared to other tablets, accessories are costly too

The rest of the story?

- The iPad is the most intuitive device of all of the computers we have ever had and the only one I don't get stressed over using and maintaining.

Genealogy and Apps

Apps are the life blood of the iPad. Prices vary from free to \$999.99. (Cyber Tuner) It is a funny business model, but quality does not correlate with price. Many times, vendors will make their fee based app free for a short time. Look for those sales or freebie situations.

Some of these apps work fine on the iPhone. But displaying a family tree on a phone sized device just doesn't seem productive.

Genealogical Apps

- **23AndMe** - On my iPad, this is just a link to their website via Safari. I guess that is OK, as it saves me time finding the link. One day I might try to reinstall.
- **Ancestry** - If you have an Ancestry.com account and a tablet, you really need to get this free app. It is wonderful for displaying your tree. The app synchronizes with the tree, allows changes to be made, displays photos, processes shaky leaves, and simply looks good. If you have also done the DNA test with Ancestry, that data is viewable, trees and all. The last tree viewed is stored in the app, so it is viewable when access to Ancestry is not available.
- **Billion Graves** - This app requires a BillionGraves account to run, yet you can't create an account from within the app. At least I couldn't. If you are a BillionGraves user, this can be quite handy, as it allows you to upload headstone photos and search. But I couldn't find the first cemetery I searched for. Online reviews are poor, but local users seem happy. BillionGraves was built for the smart phone, I think, to help them grow.
- **Families** – \$14.99. This is designed to be linked to Legacy Family Tree. New family files can be created. A free companion program on the PC is required to transfer files back and forth. I am not a Legacy user, and will not be reviewing this program.
- **FamilySearch Family Tree** - The app automatically syncs with FamilySearch.org Tree, so you can pick up where you left off on any device. Take your family tree with you wherever you go—the app works even without Internet access. Browse your family branches, and see portraits of relatives you've never seen before. This isn't quite as colorful as Ancestry, but it is improving regularly. If you use FamilySearch Tree and have a tablet, you should get this app and the "partner" app called Memories. Always free.
- **FamilySearch Memories** - Memories is designed to allow you to view and add Photos, Stories and Audio files. This is a companion to the Tree app, and requires a FamilySearch account. Always free.
- **FindAGrave** - This app is obviously designed for the iPhone. And it is pretty basic. It isn't nearly as good as working on FindAGrave through a browser on the iPad. But it does what it says it will: search for memorials and cemeteries. You can find cemeteries in your local area. It is free.
- **Gedview** - \$3.99. Gedview works with gedcoms, no particular application is required. This is not just a viewer, Gedview can also create gedcoms. A large user guide is available which can be stored in iBooks. Since complete trees are kept in the app, no Wi-Fi connection is required to view data. This is the only app in this lineup that is not available in Android. Editing is supported, allowing you to create, change, delete individuals, families, events, facts, notes, and sources. Changes can be exported as a new gedcom file allowing you to import the details back into your desktop genealogy application.

- **Genetic Terms** - This isn't really a genealogy app, but I keep it in my Genealogy folder because I do DNA testing jointly with my genealogy. It is really called Talking Genetic Terms. It contains over 250 of those genetic terms, defines them and includes a verbal description for those really hard to pronounce words! Quite handy and free from the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)! Go ahead, pronounce allele.
- **Heredis** - is a complete genealogical program for both your tablet and your desktop, it allows synchronizing between the two. It easily synchronizes with multiple devices. You can enter new data and it can be synched via Wi-Fi.
- **MyHeritage** - works with one's ancestral tree on their site, MyHeritage.com, and allow editing, adding photos, events and information to individuals.
- **Rootsmagic** - viewer works as a companion to your family tree on Rootsmagic desktop software. Links with Dropbox and iTunes.

General Purpose Apps

- **Dropbox** – This should be required use on every iPad. Dropbox gives you 2 gigs of space in the clouds for free that can be used to automatically synchronize between multiple computers on any platform. Yes, you can synch from Android to IOS to Windows to Macintosh to Linux! Even if you only have one computer, an iPad, using Dropbox can give you 2 gigs of extra storage for free without the need for a SD card! Because Dropbox is so popular, most of our genealogy apps link to it. It is easy to use, the hardest part is remembering the account passwords. There are fees for more than 2 gigs. Dropbox differs from other cloud based storage because 1) it synchronizes and 2) using it is built in to so many apps.
- **Evernote** – Evernotes is more than Notes on steroids – it is like Notes and Dropbox combined. Evernotes is one of those tools that the serious genealogist must use for research. Dayna says that a trip to the Salt Lake History Center requires the use of her Evernote powered iPad! Evernote can pull web pages from your browser, photos from your camera, ideas from your head, PDFs from Google, etc.. And then it automatically indexes ever word in every file you have so you can find things in a jiffy (like having you own personal Google). You can categorize everything into folders (like Family names) or let the indexer find it for you. Connecting your smart phone to Evernote lets you up upload genealogical pictures to Evernote from where ever you are.
- **Feedly** – This is a free news aggregator that runs on every platform similar to Dropbox. I use it for daily collection of new posting from the various Blogs I subscribe to. Most of the blogs I follow are genealogy based. This app reads the new entries and feeds them to me. My account is cloud based, so if I sign on from my PC or my iPad, it remembers where I am. My daily breakfast includes oatmeal and tea, a run in Feedly, then my Mail and finally the world news → all on my iPad.
- **Google Earth** – Google Earth is like one of the 7 wonders of the world. Only it is free. I am always amazed when I use Earth. When researching the historic lives of my ancestors, I can take a trip to their country without leaving my couch. I can't say enough, if you have an iPad, get Google Earth.
- **Google Maps** – Having a mapping tool is basic needs for Genealogy 101. I don't care about the debate between the Apple and Google maps, they are both free and I have them both on all of our iPads. Learn how to use them both.

- **iMovie** - if you go anywhere with your grandkids, you have to let them use this app. They will create super movie clips using your existing videos or photos and soon be telling stories like never before. Yes, they taught me how to use it. Use this to create a movie clip about your ancestors and upload it to YouTube!
- **Notes** – provided with IOS. This is a basic note taker, but it synchs with Gmail! Imagine, even Keep in the Android phones takes notes just fine but it doesn't synch with Gmail. Leave it to Apple to lead the way. Notes is not fancy, it is one of those Quick and Dirty tools. It just works for simple notes. It can do free-hand drawing too if you aren't synching with Gmail.
- **Paper by 53** – is a great note taker, “free hand” drawing tool, sketching pad. You can combine text and images. It is free, works on iPad and iPhone.
- **Photo Editor** – a really simple photo editor for the phone (from YummyApps) can take pictures with the camera directly or pull them from your photo stash. Really easy to use, not as sophisticated as PhotoShop, but not nearly as complicated either. I use this for quick-n-dirty cropping!
- **Podcasts** - pull in genealogical podcasts from Lisa Cooke or the Genealogy Guys and listen when you can. Use your headphones and you won't bother other folks. Check Cyndi's List for many names.
- **Scanner Pro** - a "camera support" tool that allows you to turn paper documents into PDFs or JPGs that look clean and professional. You can make multi-page PDFs. It detects edges, removes shadows and does other things to make a perfect scan. You can save to Photos, Dropbox, Evernote, Google Drive and other cloud services. Includes OCR capabilities. This app receives great reviews everywhere, not bad for free!
- **Voice Record Pro** – this free sound recorder is an excellent tool to have when you need to preserve voice. My first experience with this was “saving” a voice call recorded on the telephone from a grandchild to my sister-in-law. We recorded it and saved it as an MP3 and sent it through the mail where it was copied “forever” on her computers. My sister-in-law thought I was a genius for figuring this out! I have since used it to record cousins on trips, instructions from my wife, songs from the radio, whatever. It is easy to use. Take the iPad and interview your older relatives. Either record their video using the camera app, or record their voice using this tool. And then save it as part of your source data.
- **YouTube** – like with the Podcasting app, there are many movie "shorts" in YouTube that are genealogically related that you can watch. FamilySearch has put many self help clips "in the tube". Just search for genealogy or FamilySearch from within YouTube. Of course, remember your headphones!

There are many other great genealogical apps out there. Just doing minimal research for this talk has pointed me towards many others that I hadn't even heard of before. Like Paper of Record, Wolfram Genealogy (\$4.99) or Wolfram Travel (\$4.99). Check the list of Links found elsewhere in this file. There are over 1.4 million apps in the Apple App Store (and 400,000 games!).

Links

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Accessing_Ancestral_Files_on_iPad_Portable_Devices

FamilySearch wiki. Good review of using iPads in general for genealogy.

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/familysearch-introduces-moble-apps/> FamilySearch Blog about their apps, Tree and Memorials. 2014

<http://www.gencom.org.nz/tabletprograms.html> A list of tablet genealogy programs from the New Zealand Society of Genealogists

http://www.theoccasionalgenealogist.com/2016_01_01_archive.html Evernote for the Occasional Genealogist

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/genealogy-apps-you-need> Excellent reviews by Lisa Cooke in Family Tree Magazine Mar 2016

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/apr/05/family-tree-apps-genealogy-laura-berry> Reviews written in 2014

<https://www.4yourfamilystory.com/blog/9-family-tree-apps-for-your-ipad#.VuED9vA76rU>. Old 2013 blog review of Tree Apps for the iPad

<http://www.gedview.org> The home site for Gedview. Includes a big 84 page user guide in PDF format, can be pulled into iBooks. (Version 3.4.8)

<http://www.legacymobile.org> LegacyMobile home site.

<http://www.rootsmagic.com/app/Videos/> Requires Adobe Flash, won't display on iPad

<https://www.rootsmagic.com/app/FAQ/> Excellent how-to for the Rootsmagic app.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/RootsMagicTV> how to for Rootsmagic in YouTube

<http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com/rootsmagic-review.html>

A review of Rootsmagic, calls it # 4. Behind 1) Family Tree Maker 2) Legacy Family Tree 3) Family Historian

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201471> Identify your iPad model

<http://www.chipmunk.nl/klantenservice/applemodel.html> Find Production date of an iPad using serial number.

APP	IOS	ANDROID	
Ancestry	Yes	Yes	Account rqrd
Billion Graves	Yes	Yes	Account rqrd
Families	Yes	Yes	PC Program rqrd
FamilySearch Tree	Yes	Yes	Account rqrd
FamilySearch Memories	Yes	Yes	Account rqrd
FindAGrave	Yes	Yes	
Gedview	Yes		\$3.99
Heredis	Yes	Yes	Synch and Gedcom
MyHeritage	Yes	Yes	Account rqrd
Rootsmagic	Yes	Yes	PC Program rqrd
Dropbox	Yes	Yes	Account rqrd
Evernote	Yes	Yes	Account rqrd
Feedly	Yes	Yes	Account rqrd
Google Earth	Yes	Yes	
Google Maps	Yes	Yes	
Notes	Yes	called Keep	
Paper 53	Yes		
Photo Editor	Yes	Yes	
Podcasts	Yes	many similar	
Scanner Pro by Readdle	Yes		
Voice Record Pro	Yes	many similar	
YouTube	Yes	Yes	

MODEL	~ COST	SCREEN SIZE	SD ?	RAM
ANDROID				
Google Pixel C	\$480	10.2	No	3
Samsung Galaxy S2	\$360	9.7	Yes	3
Nexus 9	\$300	8.9	No	2
Sony Xperia Z4	\$570	10.1	Yes	3
Nvidia Shield K1	\$300	8.0	Yes	2
Dell Venue 8 7000	\$245	8.4	Yes	2
IOS				
Apple Pro	\$800+	12.9	No	4
Apple Pro	\$600+	9.7	No	2
Apple Air 2	\$400+	9.7	No	2
Apple Mini 4	\$400+	7.9	No	2
WINDOWS				
Acer Aspire Switch	\$600	11.6	Yes	2
ASUS Transformer Book	\$300	10.3	Yes	
Microsoft Surface Pro 4	\$1,000+	12.3	Yes	4 - 16

