

Genealogy Giants

Part 3

Hello everybody, and welcome back to Family Digging. The subject today in our Genealogical Giant series is about MyHeritage.com; it is a very unique platform as well. This company is headquartered in Israel with some really innovative ways to record and share your family's history.

They are growing like hotcakes. They have many US records but they specialize in European records. MyHeritage currently has over 13 billion records, 4.5 billion profiles, 62 million users and 58 million family trees in its system. It also has an online tool that can be used on tablets, mobiles and desktops, making MyHeritage a convenient option to research from anywhere.

MyHeritage offers DNA testing, like many other companies. Their plan consists of two tiers. One is ancestor tracking and the other is genetic health screening. "You can choose just one track or both. Neither process is cheap, nor is it fast, but the results are comprehensive and very well presented," said one reviewer; and if you tested with another company, you can upload your test to MyHeritage for a very reasonable amount of money. It is FREE to upload and you can get matches for Free as well. (That word: "free" "free".)

DNA testing at MyHeritage will reveal your unique ethnic background with over 2100 geographic regions. That alone would entice me to think seriously about testing with MyHeritage. Since they specialize in Europe, the size of their record base, as well as the number of geographic regions on DNA results, it can be quite helpful for those who are just getting ready to research in depth for their European roots.

MyHeritage also has a consistency checker that we think all family tree companies should have, if they don't already. It is really a valuable tool for finding mistakes and inconsistencies. They have a partnership with FamilySearch that includes showing you what records they have at MyHeritage for the same person you are researching on FamilySearch.org. They don't give you the entire record that is held at MyHeritage, but enough of it so that you can identify if it is really your person. The two companies often have unique records for the same person. It also provides others of the same name that might be someone to explore.

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MyHeritage is full of tools: Smart Matching, Record Matching, Record Detective, Instant Discoveries, Super Search and Search Connect = all to help you find your ancestors more easily and at the same time connect with others who are looking for those same people. MyHeritage is a unique place where families can meet online, communicate, share, explore and preserve their heritage.

Another unique feature we like is they have a Global Name Translation Tool which translates names found in historical records and family trees from one language into another to facilitate matches between names in different languages, and they support 42 languages. That's a lot!

And MyHeritage let's you create your own family's meeting place on the Internet; your family's website. Invite family members to participate in your site. Post your family tree online, or build it there, or upload a gedcom and share it with other family members; share photos, keep track of important family events, and way more. This only takes a few minutes and does not require technical expertise, and you have privacy settings that you control. MyHeritage will not disclose your information to third parties.

The first 250 people on your tree are free; if you want to add photos and scan documents, the limit of storage space is 500 MB for free. To add more people or space, there are a series of more spacious and sophisticated plans. For access to more information on the pricing structure and tools, go to MyHeritage.com and if you want to try it out, there is a generous 14 day free trial offered.

You can also download their Family Tree Builder software for free, again free - very good software program for your tree. You can add photos using their Facial Recognition Technology to easily tag faces in your photos. You can create beautiful charts and reports and more.

Several years ago, MyHeritage purchased my very favorite educational tool, Legacy Family Tree Webinars. Sometimes spending money pays off, and Legacy Family Tree Webinars is one of those times, but the subscriptions go on sale a couple of times a year, so take advantage. The nice thing about the webinars

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series is that you can watch the live broadcast for free, then most of them remain free to view for a week or so and then it goes behind their paywall for subscribers only. They also have bonus webinars for subscribers only. They have a technology section where they walk you through step by step some of the software features and other tools that help you to do your work. They cover genealogy with some of the best speakers in the world, and if you are a subscriber, you can go into their library at any time and download any handouts and/or view any of their past webinars (and it is a very large library - really well done.) Since MyHeritage purchased Legacy Family Tree Webinars the focus has become broader to include "how to's" on how to do things on MyHeritage, as well as providing more webinars and a more global perspective, particularly adding European and Down Under sessions. Reasonably priced at under \$50 (regular price) and more like \$42 when it goes on sale, it's well worth it.

Wow, that sounds really good.

But perhaps the most talked about features recently added to MyHeritage are three tools relating to photos. And if you haven't seen them, you simply must. First is a Photo Enhancer, which restores your old photos (or not very good photos) to a very nice degree. Second, is MyHeritage in Color, which colorizes black and white or previously colorized photos to make them really come alive. And third, Deep Nostalgia, animates the faces in your photos. Now that there is a very unique combination that is drawing worldwide attention and deservedly so.

So, MyHeritage.com is unique in many ways. Here are five:

- 1) Their three photo management tools are handy, really improve your images, and are extra popular.
- 2) Their DNA testing provides ethnicity reports on 2100 geographic regions. No one else even begins to come close.
- 3) They concentrate on European records. We all came from somewhere. If it's Europe for your ancestors, this is the place.

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- 4) They have many unique tools including a translation tool for names as well as support in 42 languages.
- 5) Their way of doing business is to encourage people to their site in order to collaborate, and in order to be able to contact others working on the same things. At the same time, they give you plenty of controls to determine how much sharing you really want to do, if any, and with whom.

Paul, you have been a MyHeritage user for some time now. What's your favorite part of it?

So there are a couple things that I really, really enjoy about the platform.

1. It's how you can share the platform with others in your family. So for instance, I had a family member who was impressed with the work that I was doing in genealogy. The next day, you know, I actually am sharing on basically his ticket to do massive amounts of work inside of MyHeritage.
2. The other thing I like about MyHeritage is indeed the photos. They actually have a whole section there where you can set up a photo collection. So you can literally upload your photos to this area and you can add certain information and tag the photos as well, so every photo will have a unique piece of information about it that others can learn from. So those are a couple of things that I really like.

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Well, that wraps up part three of Genealogy Giants with one more session to go. Next time we'll be talking about FindMyPast and wrapping up the series. As usual, if you would like a copy of the transcription of this podcast or any of the others we've done, go to our website, familydigging.com where you can listen to the podcast and/or get a copy of the transcription of it.

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Paul and Carolyn