

# Creating and Using Facebook Groups for Genealogy

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Are you looking for a miracle? Have you hit a dead end and don't know where to turn? Social media may have your answers!

Facebook groups can be a gold mine of information. Learn how to navigate finding the best groups to aid you in your research. Discover the benefits of creating your own Facebook groups both on a familial and professional level.

## Why you should utilize Facebook Groups

- Great way to connect living people
- Have you tried everything else?
- Engaging people who are not interested in family tree websites
- Never before seen photographs!
- Collaborate with others/share information

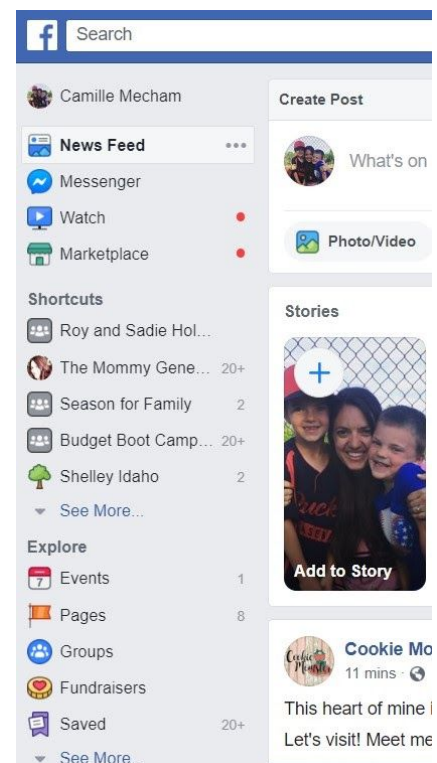
## The basics of Facebook Groups

- Where to find
- How to name
- Secret vs. Closed vs. Open
- Things to do in a group
- How to create events in groups

## What types of family facebook groups do you want to create?

Familiar descendants:

- Your immediate family
- Your parents
- Your grandparents
- Your great grandparents



Cousin bait:

- An ancestor you'd like to learn more about
- An ancestor you'd like to share info on
- Just your last name

## How to create a Facebook Group

1. Click Groups then Create Group

2. Fill out the form:

- Group name possibilities:
- (Last Name) Cousins
- (Last Name) Family
- (Couple)'s Descendants
- (Couple)'s Family
- (Ancestor's name) Descendants
- (Ancestor's name) group

3. Add some people (be considerate with who you add!)

4. Select Privacy

- Public: Everyone can see what's in the group
- Private: Only members can see

5. Select viewing options

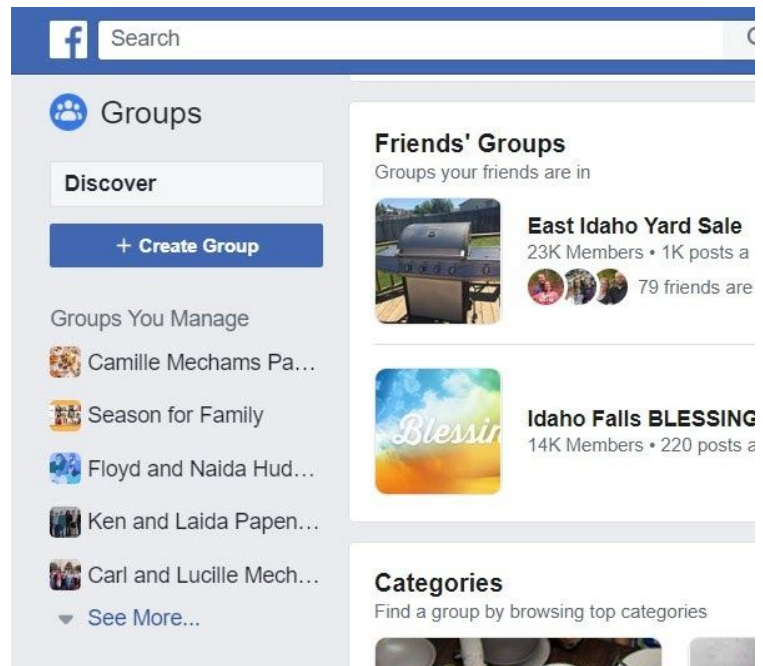
- Visible: Can be found using the search bar
- Hidden: Can only be found if you are a member of the group (people added through invite)

6. Press Create. Now that your group is created you can now personalize it.

Add a cover photo, a group description, invite more members, add questions or events or comments, etc.

## So I've made the group; now what?

Ask questions: This is a great way to get to know the common ancestors of the group. It'll bring up memories which can be built upon. These memories can be added to FamilySearch Memories with permission. Questions are also a great way to get to know those in your group.



Example questions:

- What was Grandma and Grandpa's favorite dinner dishes? What did you guys eat when you'd visit?
- What are your favorite stories Grandma and Grandpa told of their youth?
- What games or activities did you play with or at Grandpa and Grandma's?
- What was the best advice Grandma and Grandpa gave you?
- What is your favorite memory of your father? Mother?
- What stories of Grandma and grandpa meeting were you told?
- What was your favorite quality of Grandma? Grandpa?
- How is your childhood different than it is now?
- What did you do at family reunions? What did you like? What didn't you like?
- Where did you go for family trips? How'd you get there? What was your favorite?
- How would you describe Grandpa? Grandma?
- What are your memories of Uncle .....? Aunt .....?

Upload pictures: There is great power in uploading pictures to your family group. A few benefits are:

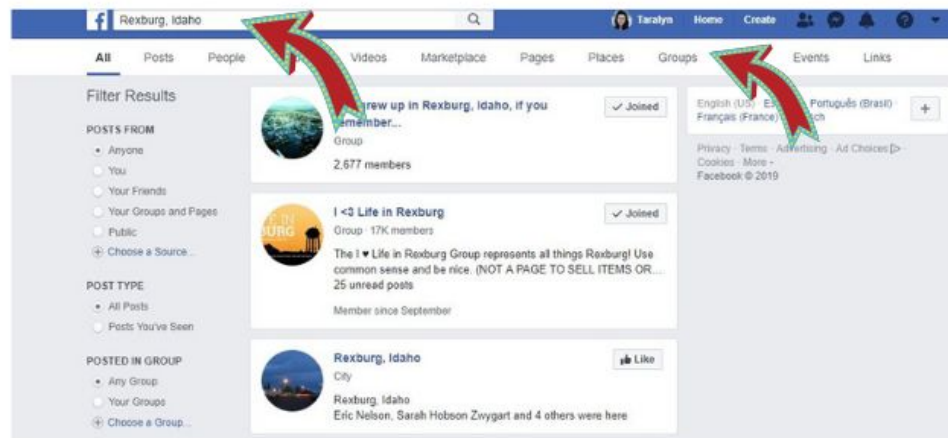
- Get help labeling them; you may not have been there when the picture was taken or too young to know the people in the picture. When you share your pictures others can comment who was in them or where it was or what was happening.
- Sharing is caring; some people may not have seen that picture of themselves before or of their parents. You can download pictures uploaded right from Facebook. The pictures should be able to be printed up to a 4x6 . No need to email back in forth or Dropbox.
- Don't forget new photos; This is a great way to gather all the pictures that were taken at the latest reunion or funeral or a random get together you had. This way everyone has access to the pictures that were taken.

Events: Groups are a way to get events organized with everyone in one spot, like family reunions.

- Verify details like time and place
- Ask questions about the event
- Get volunteers
- Share photos after event

## How to find relevant Facebook Groups:

- Type in a city where your ancestors are from/ a last name you are researching a topic you are interested in in the Facebook search bar.



- When the search results appear, click on “Groups” in the toolbar. This will give you a list of possibilities.
- Click Join. It may have you answer questions and agree to follow rules.

## Different types of Facebook Groups:

- A **MUST HAVE** resource is Katherine Wilson’s Genealogy Groups on Facebook List - <https://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>. The following types of groups found on that list and on Facebook:
  - Current Location Groups - These groups are primarily focused on day to day happenings in an are, but can still be a useful resource. Local community members may be willing to help you locate a certain location or be able to answer questions. Great place to crowdsource information!
  - Historical City Groups - Some cities have a group to share local history and pictures. These can be a gold mine. Use the search bar to look for last names or specific events. Scrolling through the pictures is also helpful.

- Family Groups - Search for last names in your family. You may even find long lost relatives!
- Genealogical Help Groups - There are groups to assist with translation, decoding DNA results, and more. We have found groups for beginners, for children, and for teens.
- Association Groups - Groups like DAR and The Society of Mayflower Descendants have their own Facebook groups - often divided by chapter.
- Era Groups - Groups that highlight different eras - ie the 1800s, 1920s, etc.
- Bibles and Heirloom Groups
- Family Photo Groups - There are many groups where family photos are shared in an attempt to return them to descendants.
- Pay It Forward Groups - These groups are a great way to serve and help others in the genealogy community.

### **Things to do in Facebook Groups**

- Look for relatives
- Get help identifying photos
- Share your photos and research
- Get help with translations
- Browse for relevant pictures/information
- Share your expertise
- Crowd source the best genealogy tools
- Find out more about the places where your ancestors lived

### **Some of our favorite Facebook Groups:**

#### **[Katherine Wilson's list of over 13,200 groups!](#)**

[Season for Family:](#) A community of women finding time for family connections. A place to get and give help, connect, inspire, and celebrate victories.

[Genealogical Translations:](#) Wonderful resource for having documents translated.

## **We would love to connect with you!**

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