

The Difficulty is....

The difficulty in making of value a Family History Web Site is 3-fold:

- 1) How to spend time in the present to work on preserving the connection to the past;
- 2) A Site's presentation (or a page within it) is tied to (and limited by) the perspective of author;
- 3) Deciding on what is the center of the Web, the web of the lives and developing family branches emerging from several trucks upon the common soil of all life.

This Section will explore these difficulties with a little more depth with the attempt to provide the thought, the feeling, and some reflective reconciliation to the difficulties, and will be followed by a few more subtle difficulties of this effort of establishing and maintaining a Family History Web Site.

1) The valuation of time spent in delving into one's family history and connections has been explored in idea and feeling in the first page of the menu "On Our Origins." Somewhat of the "Why," that is, "Why do so?" is examined and given understanding in promoting the valuation therein. The difficulty is coming to the points in time oneself, the intervals in one's contemplations and emotional reverberations on one's sense of identity, to actually put something together into a form in which it gets sealed as a composite of something of identity. That is to say, finding a starting point, a significant story to unfold, and a point in time of an event, or a stream of experience to encapsulate and then convey.

Then, and here's the rub on this one, "the difficulty" is that one has doubt in the value either to spend the time to do so, or one has doubt in that composite's value in not knowing if it has been begun aright, is presented aright, or is finished as is, as something of value to be so sealed and delivered.

One of the great advantages of a Web Site for such, as opposed to a published book, is that further reflections are easily applied to alter and adapt change to anything so given to be published on the Site. Notwithstanding that placation of the conundrum, the effort to encapsulate 'something' either as the author of such or as the recipient reader spending time upon it, demands an effort, a will, a commitment of endeavor, apart from something else one might do in the present.

2) So, who writes what? Without impetus from someone, nothing gets done, way leads to way, artifacts, knowledge and memories get dim, dissipate, and become lost forever. Lost is opportunity for the continuity of identity, the semblance of one's sense of connection to one's progenitors that one might have gained perspective from had something of it been preserved. But who writes what?

As much as anyone can write from any perspective, this adds to the mix to the picture of identity. But the difficulty is that by nature, all will not have the inclination to do so, the confidence in oneself to do so, and more-so, though all might write some things, some will write much more comprehensively than others, simply due to the nature of their being in propensity to so write.

So, the perspective of the authors will convey that which is to be communicated, that which will be passed along, passed on, to all and everyone who takes interest in the connection. There will be, therefore, a tendency for the balance to be skewed toward the experiential realm of the authors, weighted somewhat, from their knowledge base.

For such an author of such work, gaining first-hand stories is of utmost value, and all effort therein, enduring, a legacy from the teller of the stories onward unto time immemorial. Here we're talking about those stories of a parent's tale of their earlier life, or a story of a parent about his/her parents or grandparents, conveyed experiences they lived through now carried orally through the teller to the now-present author.

Then there are those stories too, one has of a parent or grandparent actually lived and experience in real time with that parent or grandparent, then conveyed by oneself or conveyed to an author contributed to the Family History Site.

To gather the stories, to write the stories, this is the difficulty, this is the challenge.

But the greater challenge, as well, is unto all, to write, to gather, and composite to convey something of oneself, if not often, then periodically, or if not within one's nature to do so, to share willingly to those who will write of one's stories...that being perhaps one's own children or one's grandchildren with that propensity to so, to those who wish to find-out, then write, composite and convey.

3. What is the "Center" of the Web? Is there a center? A Family History archive is more of a Geodesic Dodecahedron, with many angles with rays reaching out then connected to other angles sprawling in different directions.

Each individual is the center for his/her own universe of rays of family connections through time and place. One finds oneself within others' web's that are spread-out from amongst themselves. Place and purpose and sense of connection is according to where one's attention pursues direction.

In an on-line Web-Site, one's "Page" would rightfully contain menu items branching-out from oneself, connected by 'click' to one's parents' page, to the pages of one's siblings; to the pages of one's uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, etc. One's own page being that which one would convey as story of one's life and the menu items that detail in varying dimensions that which is of import and identity of one's own life.

So, within the Stathis Family Web-Site, the "Center" is upon Demosthenes and Maria Stathis and "The Ten," their children, and the branches extended laterally of them, that of their siblings, and of the branches that emerged from their parents' siblings, a Matriarchal Side from Maria, and the Patriarchal side from Demo.

Yet each of "the Ten" becomes Center for his/her own page which forms a composite to the Stathis Family Web-Site, and these each becomes a center unto itself, with one of Patriarchal or Matriarchal Sides being the Stathis side and the other being that of their Partner/Spouses.

For simplicity, links are given to the Ten and their Individual Pages, and all this is clearly depicted both in result and in work-yet-to-be-done, in the images given of the "Family Trees."

Finally, the more subtle 'difficulty' in developing a Family Web Site is the *emotional* conundrum to be faced in the depiction of family connections when there have been second or more marriages (or partners in which children have been conceived) and children born of different mothers and fathers. The solution at present in this is to leave each individual family member's page to his/her own discretion as to how s/he wishes to depict his Family relations. For the parent of children born of a different partner, the same, at his/her own discretion as to who is depicted and how.

And in the "origin" Family Trees, which attempt to show all and everyone and the connections therein, they will show the names of those in the present, and as for the parent "no longer in the present picture," he or she to be shown or not shown in the Family Tree according to the expressed desire of those who are presently connected within the Origin Family Tree being depicted.

In the case where a "missing" parent is not shown in such a Family Tree of a particular origin (because of expressed desire of someone sensitive to the situation), and an offspring is shown, and that offspring does wish his/her parent to be shown somehow, a new tree of Origin of that of offspring can be created and found in a link from that offspring's own Page, connected by links contained through the web of the Family Web Site.