

Genealogy Rocks!

How Technology Simplifies Genealogist's Research!

Since the beginning of genealogy centuries ago, antiquarians and past genealogists and family historians recorded their results on paper. After years of research, lots of paper and



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storage were required. Today, genealogy researchers and family historians use computers with family tree software with optional scanners or digital cameras to record their research.

Computers save lots of time and paper with better organization and locate many genealogy records on the Internet. There are three varieties of computers ranging from \$800 to under \$300: desktop, laptop or notebook, and the new netbook. All three computer types are ideal for genealogists depending on budgets. Backup storage methods ranging from \$5 to \$100 should be considered and are available with compact disks (CDs), flash (thumb sized) drives, or even external CD or hard drives. Scanners or digital cameras ranging from \$50 to \$200 can take a snapshot of the

documents or photos for saving on your computer or adding to your genealogy software.

Genealogy (family tree) software is easy to use besides lots of duplication and paper are eliminated. There are over two dozen genealogy software programs available for PC and Mac computers ranging from free to \$80. Personal Ancestral File and Ancestry Family Tree are free, but Family Tree Maker, Legacy, and Roots Magic are the top three PC genealogy programs that cost about \$30 each. Besides recording ancestor names, dates, and locations, these programs have many helpful features such as Internet genealogy searches, various family tree charts, detailed worldwide maps, photo albums and calendars, citing sources, various reports and book publishing capabilities. The bottom line is technology saves time and money, and very easy to use with better organization in recording your genealogy and family history.

❖ *Bob Larson is president, instructor, and speaker for Larimer County Genealogical Society. Our society meets at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Thur. each month except Dec. at the Harmony Library. Please visit our website at www.lcgsc.org to learn more about our society and our many events.*