Using Technology to Strengthen Families

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Oct. 2, 2014

Phineas W. Cook Family Organization – Annual Meeting

Three Types of Websites Will Be Illustrated

- Private Small Family Site
  - Archive and share memories primarily of the living
  - Build family unity

- Family Organization Site
  - Encourage collaborative research
  - Archive data publicly
    - Pedigree
    - Histories
    - etc.

- World Trees
  - For world wide collaboration on a unified pedigree

What is the Purpose?

The Family Organization

"The more children knew about their **families' histories**, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their **self-esteem**, and the more successfully they believed their families functioned."[1]

The Family Tree

"Children who have the most **self-confidence** have ... a **strong intergenerational self.** They know they belong to something bigger than themselves."[1]

Small Private Family Website

"Most happy families also communicate effectively" **telling a positive story** about themselves. "When faced with challenges, happy families, like happy people, just add a new chapter to their life story that shows them overcoming the hardship. This skill is particularly important for children, whose identities tend to solidify during adolescence."[1]

"The bottom line: If you want a happier family, create, refine, and retell the story of your family's best moments and your relations' ability to bounce back from the difficult ones. That act alone may increase the odds that your family will thrive for many generations to come."[1]

1. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/fashion/the-family-stories-that-bind-us-this-life.html

Family Websites

Private Family Website	Family Organization Website
Purpose: Provide environment for small families to build family unity.	**Purpose: Provide environment for family organizations to collaborate on research and archive data.**
Private – Role Based • **Family Member – View/Edit/Comment** • **Administrator**	**Public – Role Based:** • **Viewers – Everyone** • **Comments – Subscribers** • **Moderators – Review Comments and Posts** • **Editors – Can edit and add data** • **Administrators**
Each person has their own login and assigned role.	**Each person has their own login and assigned role.**
Photo Album – living • **adding pages** • **comments on pages** • **user photo folder**	**Book / Albums / Biography – ancestors** • **adding pages** • **comments on pages** • **user photo folder**
Files: Audio, Video, pdf, Gedcom, etc	**Files: Audio, Video, pdf, Gedcom, etc**
Family Newsletter	**Family Organization Newsletter**
Member Journal / Blog	
	Collaborative Research Forum

Much Similarity Between These Two Type of Sites

Family Website, cont'd

Private Family Website	Family Organization Website
Recipe Book, Year Books, Spotlights, etc.	
Categories/Tags eg: Vacation, Camping, Hiking, etc.	Categories/Tags eg: Biography, Journal, History, etc.
Subscriptions (email informs of changes) • Page, Site, or Category based	Subscriptions (email informs of changes) • Page, Site, Category, Person
Calendar (family events)	Calendar (family organization events)
Family Tree – (Perhaps Static)	Pedigree – Family Tree – Collaborative • Comments • Sources • Subscriptions / Notification of Changes
Purpose: Provide environment for small families to build family unity.	Purpose: Provide environment for family organizations to collaborate on research and archive data.
Free to family members	Free to subscribers
Easily Archived in non-proprietary and transferable format	Easily Archived in non-proprietary and transferable format

Much Similarity Between These Two Type of Sites

What is a Content Management System (CMS)?

- Blogging environment
- Photo and media gallery (audio, video)
- Wiki
- Data management / repository
- File repository
- Often manages multi-user inputs (new content, comments on existing content)
- Could include all of the above

Typical Content Management System (CMS) Structure

- Categories / Tags provide structure similar to folders on a personal computer file system.

File can only be in one folder on PC

- Typical PC (Folders)
  - Recreation
    - Camping
    - Hiking
    - Swimming
      - Article: Favorite Swimming Hole
    - Bicycling
      - Article: Bike Wreck
  - Health
    - Nutrition
    - Exercise
      - Article Treadmill

File can have multiple tags on web

- Typical CMS (Categories)
  - Recreation
    - Camping
    - Hiking
    - Swimming
      - Article: Favorite Swimming Hole
    - Bicycling
      - Article: Bike Wreck
  - Health
    - Nutrition
    - Exercise
      - Article: Treadmill
      - Article: Bike Wreck
      - Article: Favorite Swimming Hole

Book and Category Organization

Tag structure in typical CMS is good, but not good enough alone. We also need user definable order, as in a book (Chapter, Section, Subsection, etc.). We want both. Not every CMS has both.

- Year Book 1
  - Vacation 1
    - Swimming Hole 1
    - Hike 1
    - Camp 1
    - Treadmill
    - Bicycling 1
  - Vacation 2
    - Hike 2
    - Camp 2
- Year Book 2
  - Vacation 2
    - Hike 3

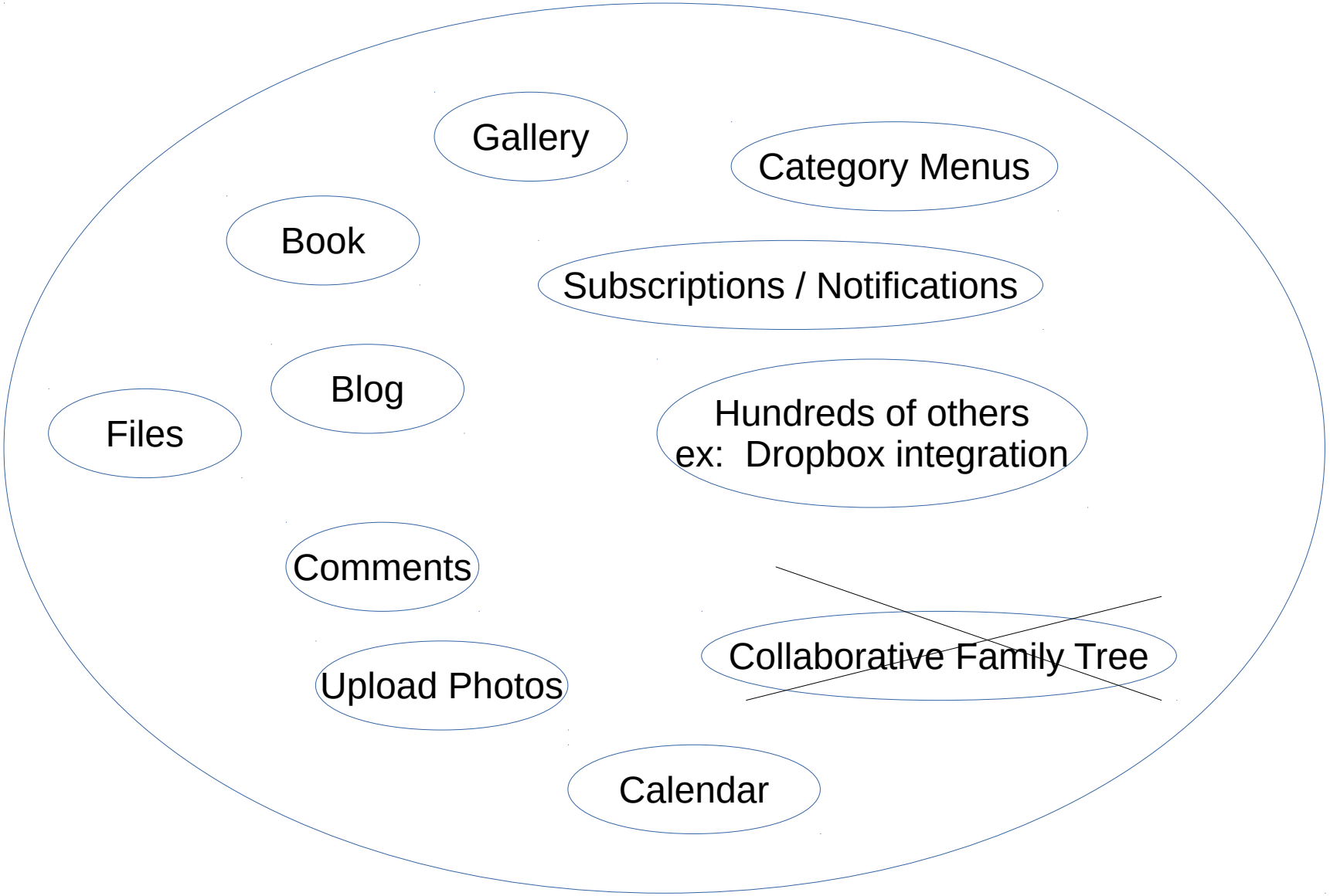
- Categories
  - Recreation
    - Camping
      - Camp 2
      - Camp 1
    - Hiking
      - Hike 1
      - Hike 2
      - Hike 3
    - Swimming
      - Swimming Hole 1
    - Bicycling
      - Bicycling 1
  - Health
    - Nutrition
    - Exercise
      - Treadmill
      - Bicycling 1
      - Swimming Hole 1
      - Hike 3
      - Hike 1
      - Hike 2

Might not be in order

Evaluated Many CMS Options

- Wordpress
- FamilyCMS
- Joomla
- Drupal
- Mediawiki
- Plone
- RadiantCMS
- many others

Drupal: Modular Website



Drupal

- Pros:
  - Modular / Flexible / Stable
  - Whitehouse.gov
  - Louvre (Famous Art Museum in France).
  - Twitter's Developer Community
  - Many others.
- Cons:
  - Hard to set up (but this work has been done now).
  - Not easily customizable if coding is required.
    - Adding a Pedigree Tree is a major project – fortunately, a group is doing it that seems committed.

Why not just use an existing commercial site?

- Lose flexibility.
- Lose control.
  - Is the archive format non-proprietary?
  - Is the company stable?
  - What are their goals?
- Example: Ancestry.com's Mundia site:
  - Free private family website.
  - In part for building a family tree within a private family site.
  - But also for sharing pictures, stories, recipe's.
  - Retired Sept. 30, 2014. Only family trees were imported into the main Ancestry.com website. They decided it didn't fit into their long term plan.
- A commercial site might fit someone's needs. Exploration is encouraged.
  - A place to start is: http://www.porterweb.org/brad/?q=node/23

Drupal

- Three expertise's build the site:
  - Coder – Engine (PHP, MySQL)
  - Backend developer - module selection, customization
  - Themer – Aesthetics, Visual Appearance (CSS, html)
- What you will see following is almost 100% backend development.
  - Basic Theme selected and used as is.

Porter Circle

Search

Home

Main menu

- Home
- 2014
- Dad's Journal
- Family Portraits
- Photo Album 1
- Topics

Navigation

- Add content
- BookTree
- Dropbox Client for Drupal
- Dropbox Files
- Topics

User menu

- My account
- Log out

Recent content

Silver Falls South edit

2014

View | Edit | Outline | Revisions

published by Dad on Sat, 08/16/2014 - 12:09

Album

Tags: Family

Subscription Terms: This Site

- Family Vacation - Oregon, California, August 2014
  - *Family Vacation - Oregon, California, August 2014*
  - Tamolitch (Blue) Pool Hike
  - Detroit Lake
  - Silver Falls South
  - Redwoods
  - Trivia Question: Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Road Vegetation

Family Vacation - Oregon, California, August 2014 ›

Add child page

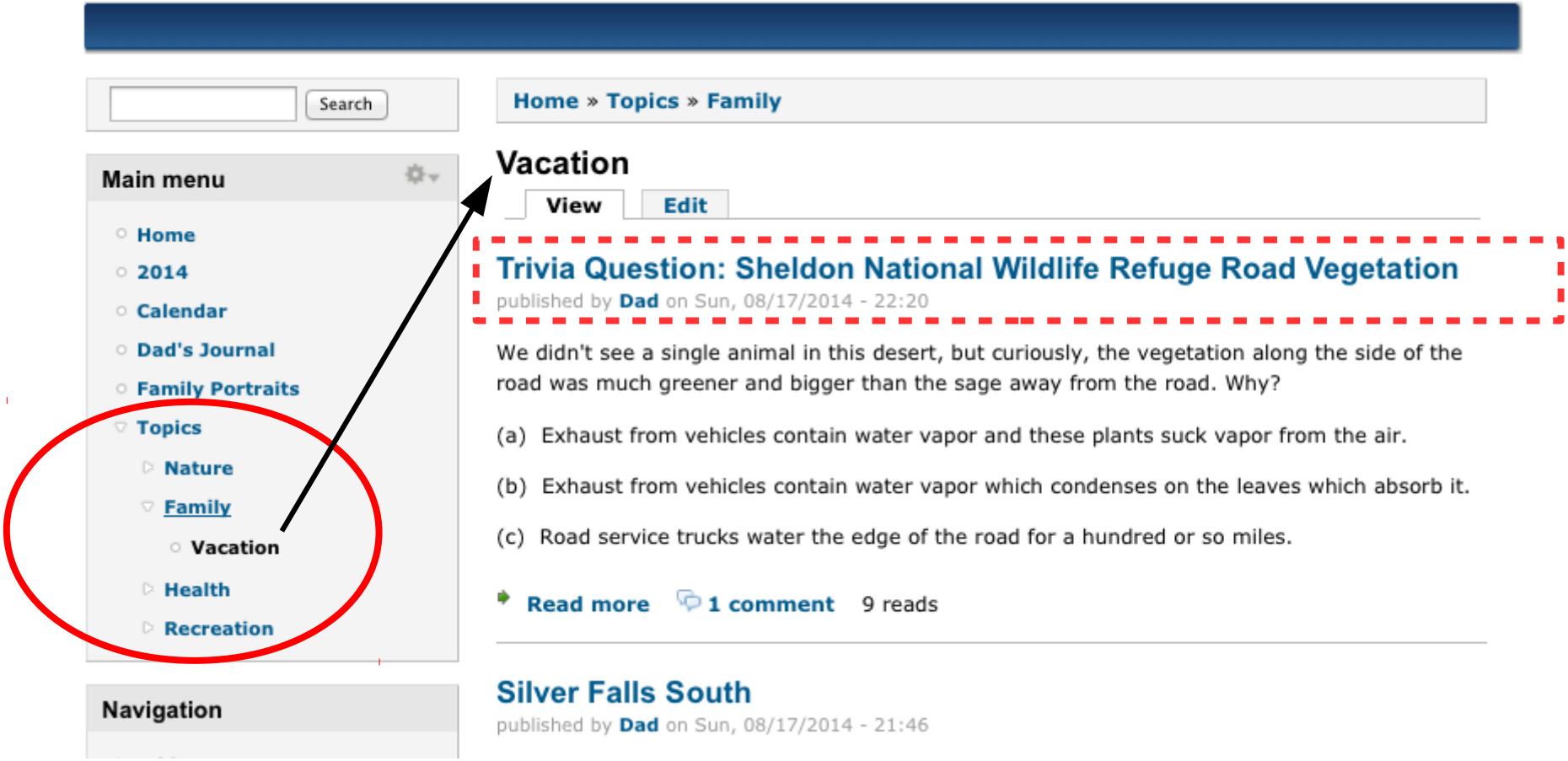
Comments

Add new comment

Your name

- Example of family vacation chapter within the 2014 Book
- Note that 2014 Book can appear in the menu if desired.
- "Add Content" creates the book or a new page in the book.
- Creates a page within a chapter.
- Table of Contents shows page titles and order. Note last title.

Expanded Categories Menu



- **Expanded categories (tags, topics) lists the book page Trivia Question, since this page was "tagged" with the category "Vacation".**
- **This accomplishes one of the stated criteria.**

Page in Vacation Chapter in 2014 book.

Search

Home » 2014 » Family Vacation - Oregon, California, August 2014

Main menu

- Home
- 2014
- Dad's Journal
- Family Portraits
- Photo Album 1
- Topics

Navigation

- Add content
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User menu

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Recent content

Silver Falls South Dad	edit
2014 Dad	edit

Tamolitch (Blue) Pool Hike

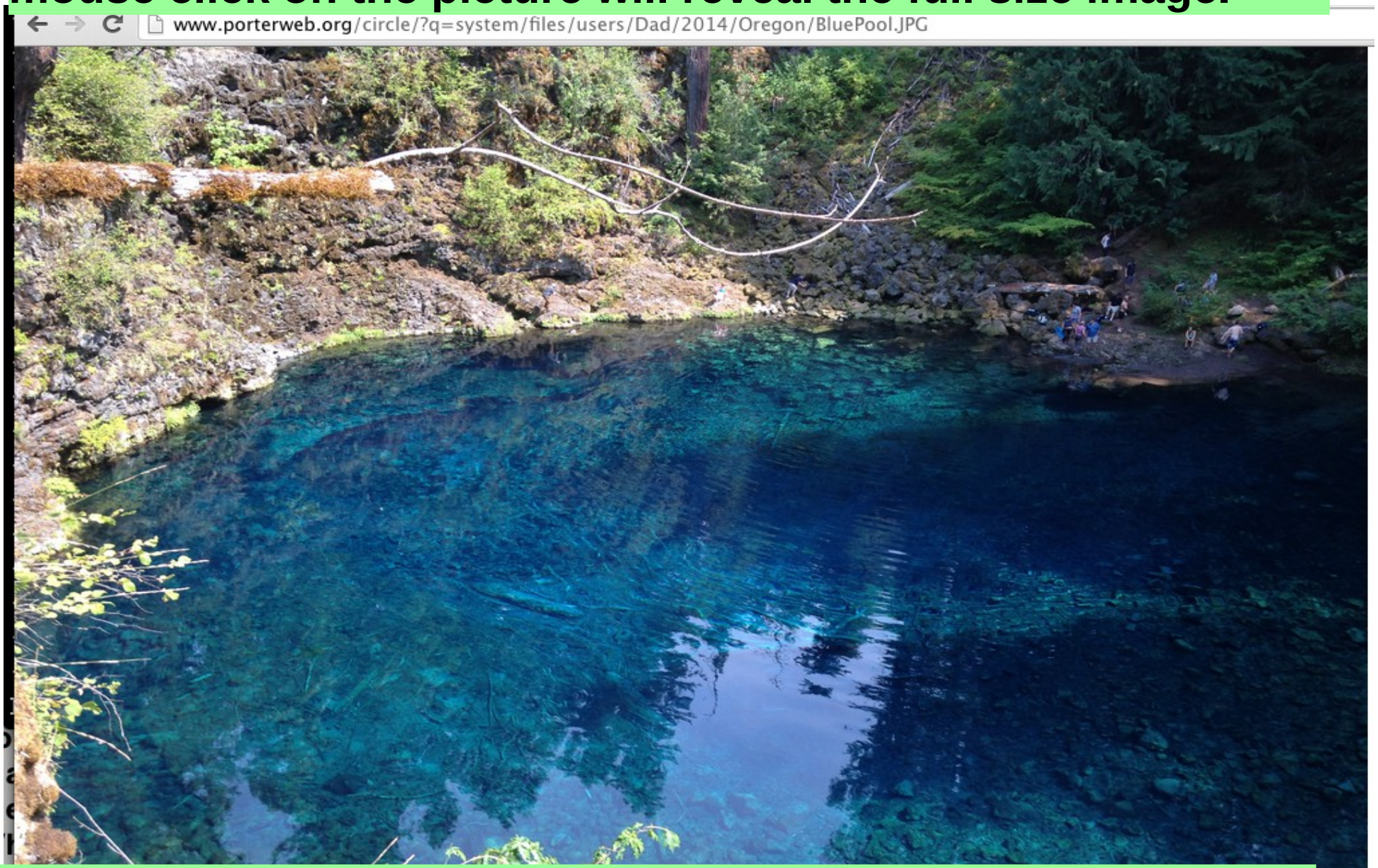
View | Edit | Outline | Revisions

published by Dad on Sat, 08/16/2014 - 15:30

While Natalie went rafting down a river, Brad, Staci, Brad L. and Paula L. went on a 4.2 mile round trip hike to Tamolitch Pool. It is fed by a mineral rich spring which makes it a beautiful blue/turquoise. It was nice to walk a trail with so much vegetation again. The Northwest coast is unique in the US.

Low Resolution Picture

Picture in page is low resolution for fast download, but a mouse click on the picture will reveal the full size image.



No extra work is required to do this. The low resolution picture is the default, and it automatically links to the higher resolution picture.

Editing is Easy

Edit Book page Tamolitch (Blue) Pool Hike

View | Edit | Outline | Revisions

Title *

Tamolitch (Blue) Pool Hike

Body (Edit summary)

Normal | Font | Size | Styles | Source

While Natalie went rafting down a river, Brad, Staci, Brad L. and Paula L. went on a 4.2 mile round trip hike to Tamolitch Pool. It is fed by a mineral rich spring which makes it a beautiful blue/turquoise. It was nice to walk a trail with so much vegetation again. The Northwest coast is unique in the US.

body p

Disable rich-text

More information about text formats

Text format Full HTML

- Web page addresses and e-mail addresses turn into links automatically.
- Lines and paragraphs break automatically.

- **Editor menu allows mouse clicks for bold, italics, headings, indentation, etc.**

Edit Book page Tamolitch (Blue) Pool Hike

View | Edit | Outline | Revisions

Title *

Tamolitch (Blue) Pool Hike

This field is required.

Body (Edit summary)


```
<p>While Natalie went rafting down a river, Brad, Staci, Brad L. and Paula L. went on a 4.2 mile round trip hike to
Tamolitch Pool. It is fed by a mineral rich spring which makes it a beautiful blue/turquoise. It was nice to walk a trail with
so much vegetation again. The Northwest coast is unique in the US. </p><p><img alt="" height="450"
src="http://www.porterweb.org/circle/?q=system/files/users/Dad/2014/Oregon/BluePool.JPG" width="600"> <img
alt="" height="450" src="http://www.porterweb.org/circle/?
q=system/files/users/Dad/2014/Oregon/BluePoolStaciPaula.JPG" width="600"> <img alt="" height="450"
src="http://www.porterweb.org/circle/?q=system/files/users/Dad/2014/Oregon/MackenzieRiver2.JPG" width="600">
</p><p><img alt="" height="450" src="http://www.porterweb.org/circle/?
q=system/files/users/Dad/2014/Oregon/MackenzieRiver1.JPG" width="600"></p><p><img alt="" class="image-
rotate_90" height="800" src="http://www.porterweb.org/circle/?
q=system/files/styles/rotate_90/private/users/Dad/2014/Oregon/BradStaciBridge.JPG&amp;itok=2mvprZ6a"
width="600"></p><p><img alt="" height="450" src="http://www.porterweb.org/circle/?
q=system/files/users/Dad/2014/Oregon/BradLPaulaLBridge.JPG" width="600"></p><p><img alt="" height="450"
src="http://www.porterweb.org/circle/?q=system/files/users/Dad/2014/Oregon/BradStaciRiver.JPG" width="600">
</p>
```

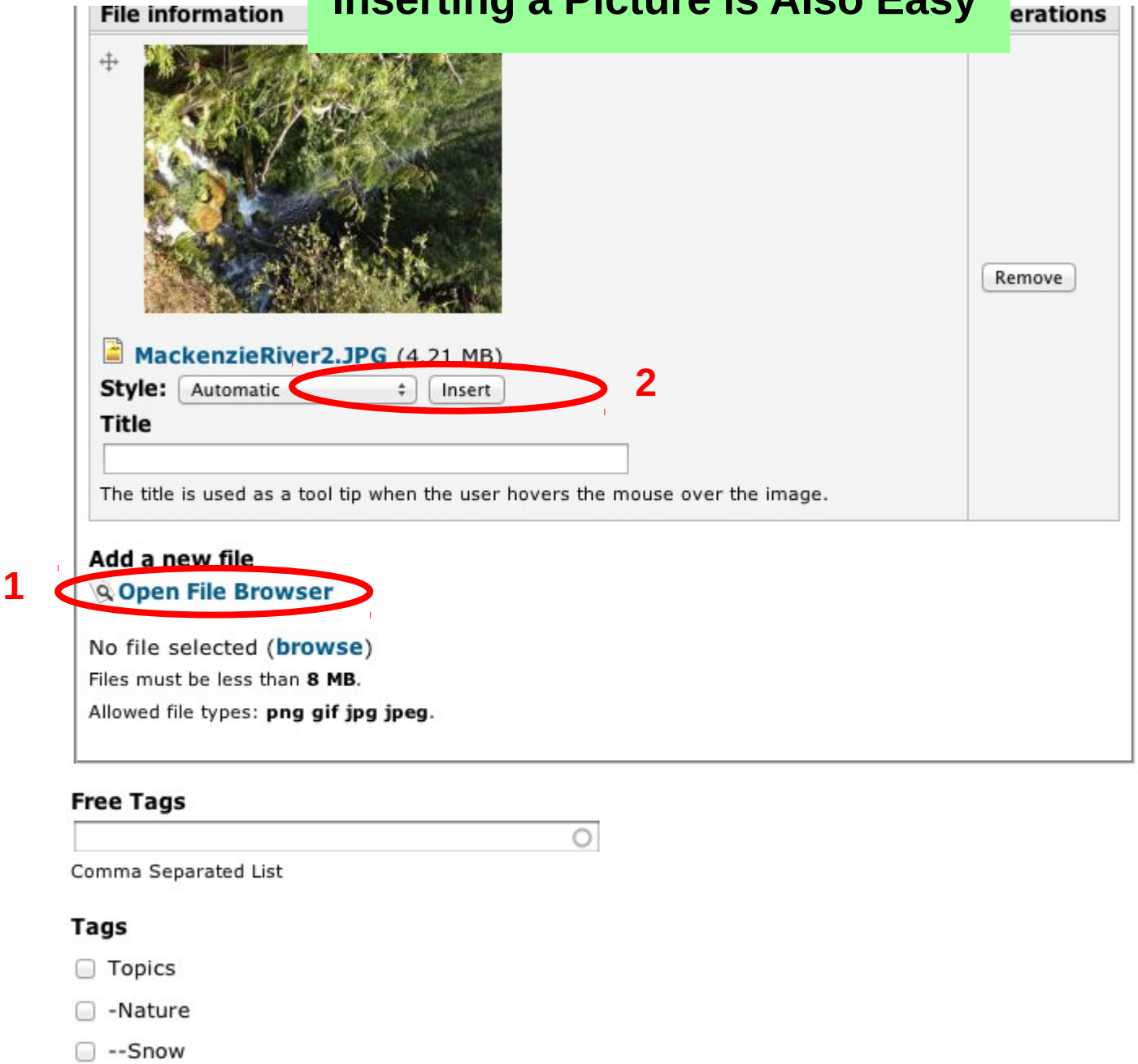

More information about text formats

Text format Filtered HTML

- Web page addresses and e-mail addresses turn into links automatically.
- Allowed HTML tags: <a>   <cite> <blockquote> <code>   <dl> <dt> <dd> <img>
- Lines and paragraphs break automatically.

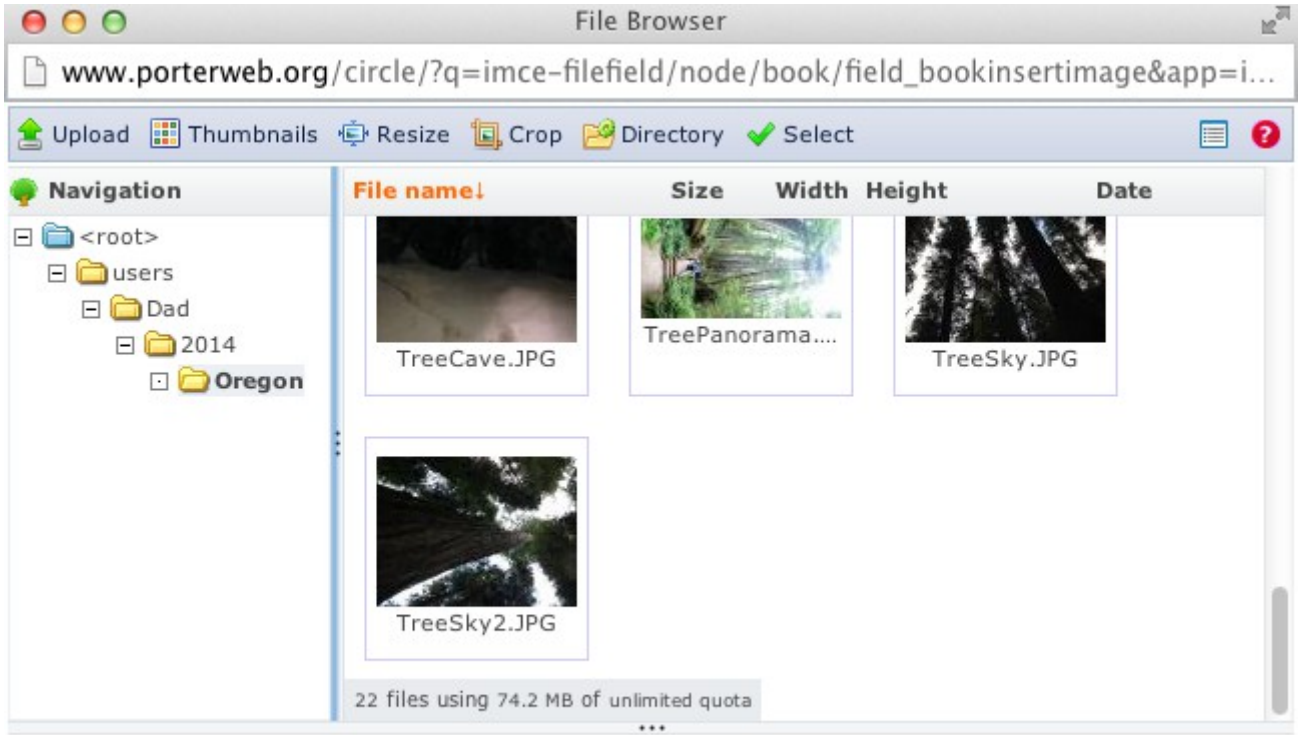
- **Or you can edit the html directly if you want to.**

Inserting a Picture is Also Easy



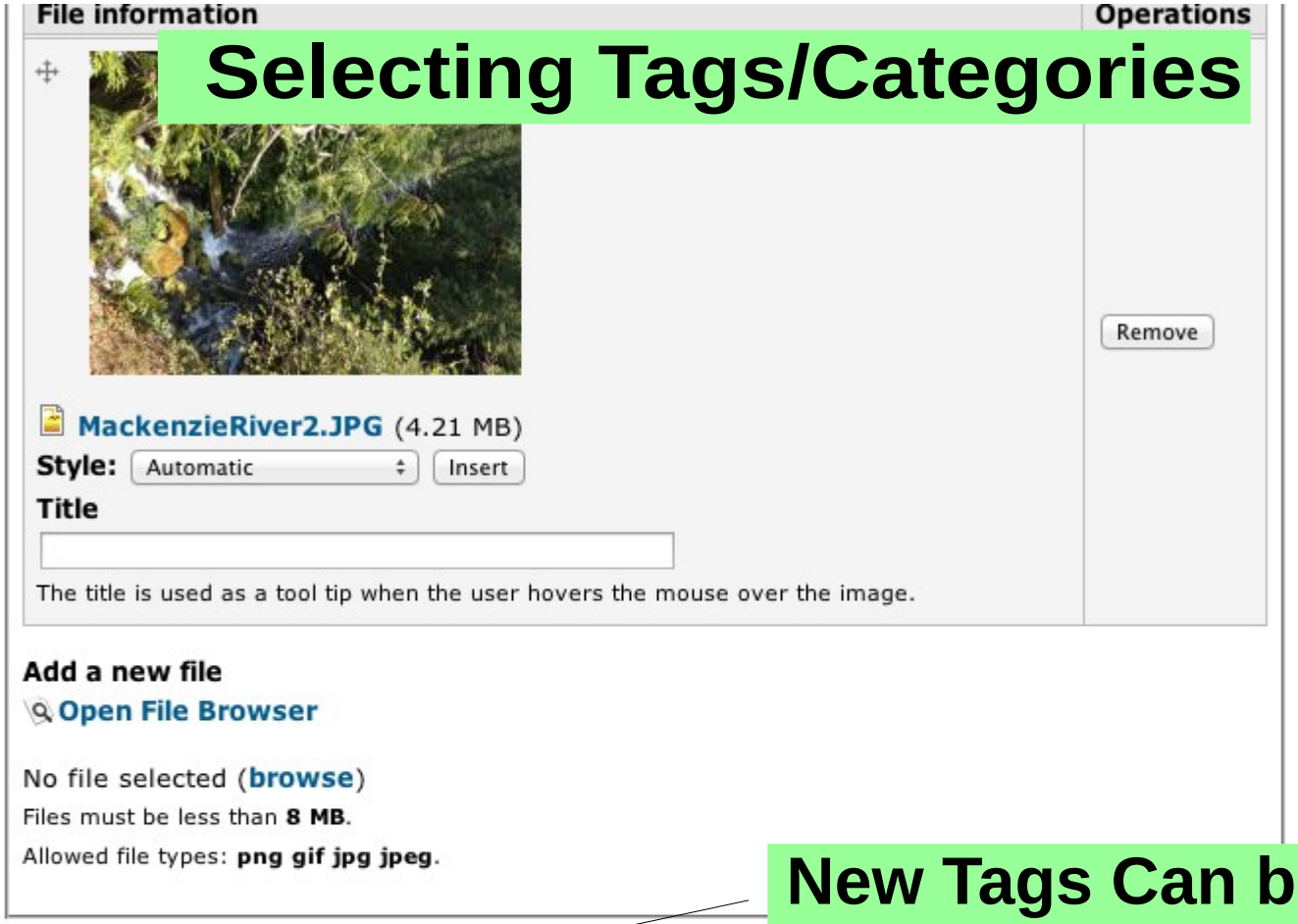
- **To insert an image, click on “Open File Browser”, select an image, then click on “Insert” above.**

File Browser

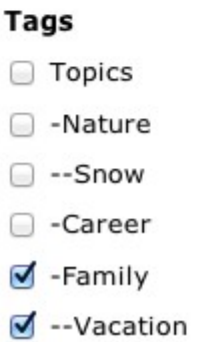


- **"Open File Browser", opens a new window where you can upload new photos or files into a user specific folder. Files cannot be deleted by the user.**

Selecting Tags/Categories



New Tags Can be Created



- **Multiple "Tags" (Categories) can be selected which place the page in a Taxonomy menu.**

New Tags Are Placed in a logical place by the administrator which will determine the order of the expanded menu.

Dashboard Content Structure Appearance People Modules Configuration Reports Help

Add content Find content

NAME

- Camping
- Topics
  - Nature
    - Snow
  - Career
  - Family
    - Vacation
  - Library
  - Music
  - Health
    - Nutrition
  - Recreation
    - Exercise
      - Hiking
      - Biking

Drag New Tag To Desired Location

Dashboard Content Structure Appearance People Modules Configuration Reports Help

Add content Find content

* Changes made in this table will not be saved until the form is submitted.

NAME

- Topics
  - Nature
    - Snow
  - Career
  - Family
    - Vacation
  - Library
  - Music
  - Health
    - Nutrition
  - Recreation
    - Camping *
    - Exercise
      - Hiking
      - Biking

Calendar

Home

Month | Week | Day | Year

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

« Prev Next »

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2 Cook O Rama 10/02/2014 - 17:30 to 20:30	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Archiving

- Books / Albums: PDF Export.
- Database / Website archived.
- Family Tree: Must be updated in separate database.
- Website Longevity:
  - Family Site: Can be 10 or more years.
    - Then migration to new software or a new software version.
    - Alternately, archive in a virtual machine.
  - Family Organization Website: 5 years (Due to higher security requirements).
    - We rely on volunteers to plug security holes. When they stop updating the software version, we have to migrate to a new version, or select a new CMS.

How It's Done:

Option 1:

Administrator (organizational skills, moderate computer skills – yes, a grandparent can do it.)

Virtual Private Server (VPS) (Linux)

Not Free: $5-$10/mo

CMS — Free (Open Source)

CMS Modules — Usually Free

CMS Backend Customization — Free (my time)

Family computer guru is needed to set all this up and maintain it.

Option 2:

Administrator (organizational skills, moderate computer skills – yes, a grandparent can do it.)

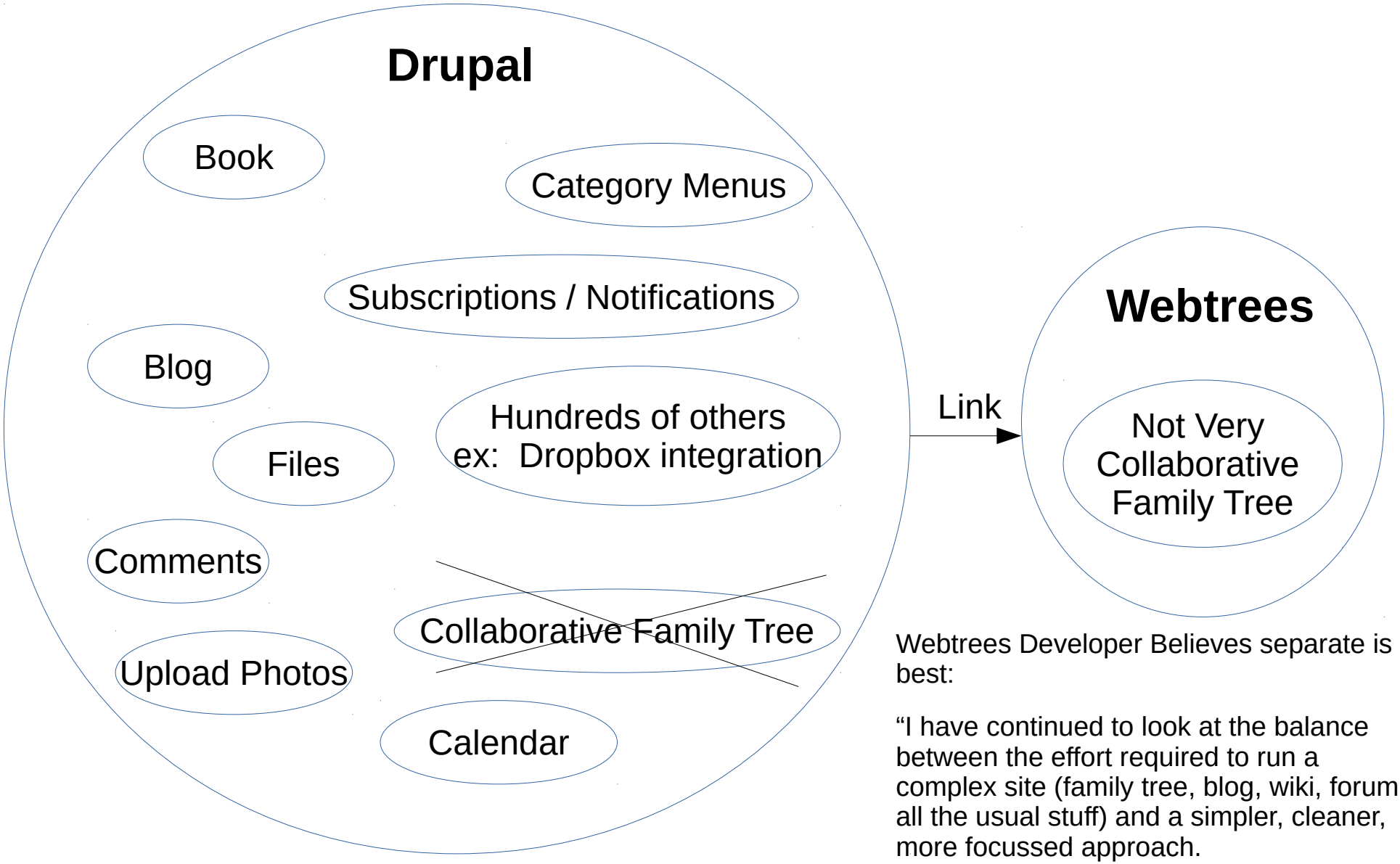
Virtual Private Server (VPS) Preconfigured

Not Free: $15-$20/mo

~~Family computer guru is needed to set all this up and maintain it.~~

Preconfigured server not identified yet. If interested in either option, contact me at:
brad@porterweb.org

Current Family Organization Site

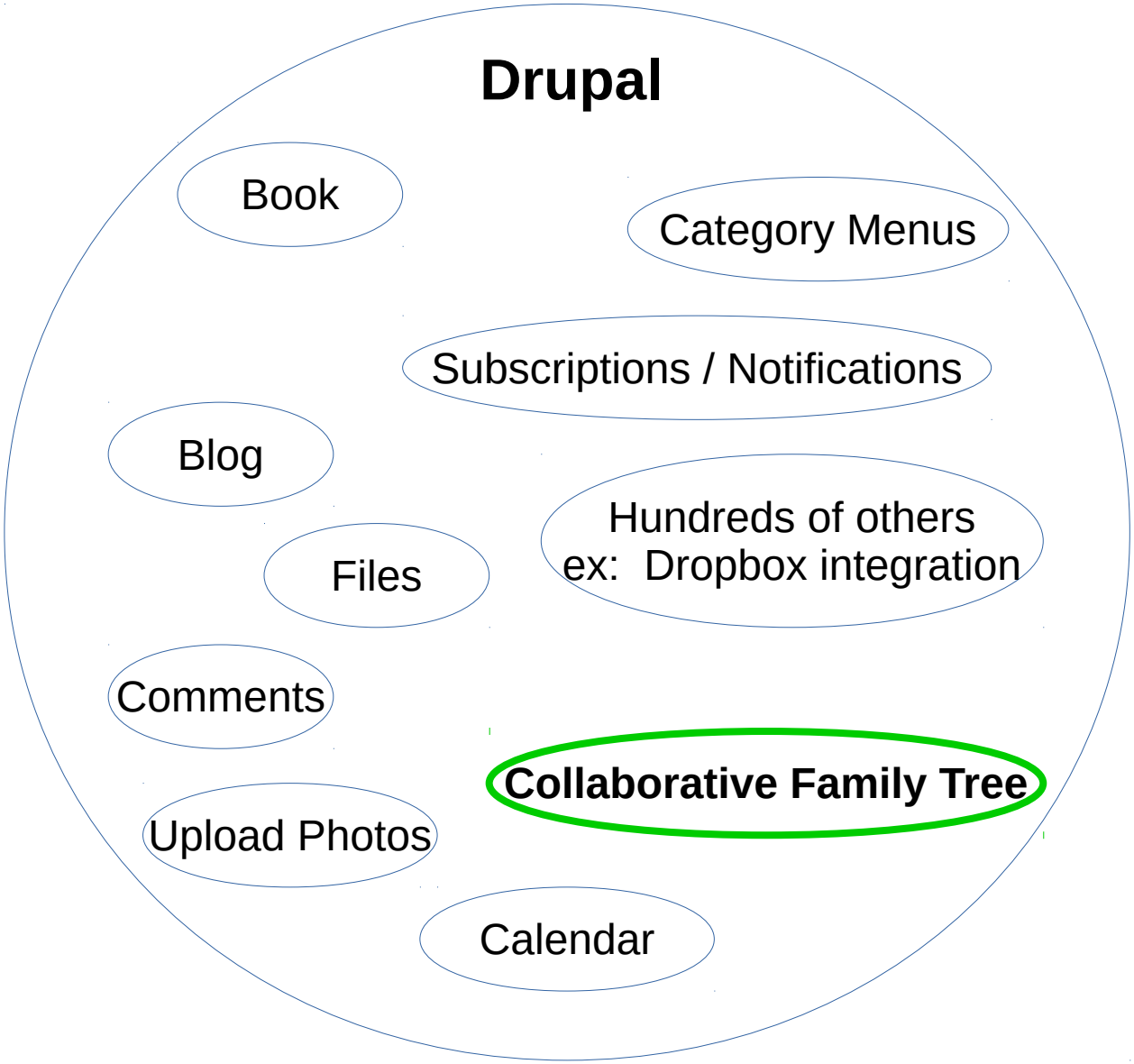


Webtrees Developer Believes separate is best:

“I have continued to look at the balance between the effort required to run a complex site (family tree, blog, wiki, forum - all the usual stuff) and a simpler, cleaner, more focussed approach.

“Nothing I've seen anywhere on the web has yet changed my opinion...”

Near Future (Hopefully)



Drupal may have this capability in the near future.

Far Future (Beyond 10 years)

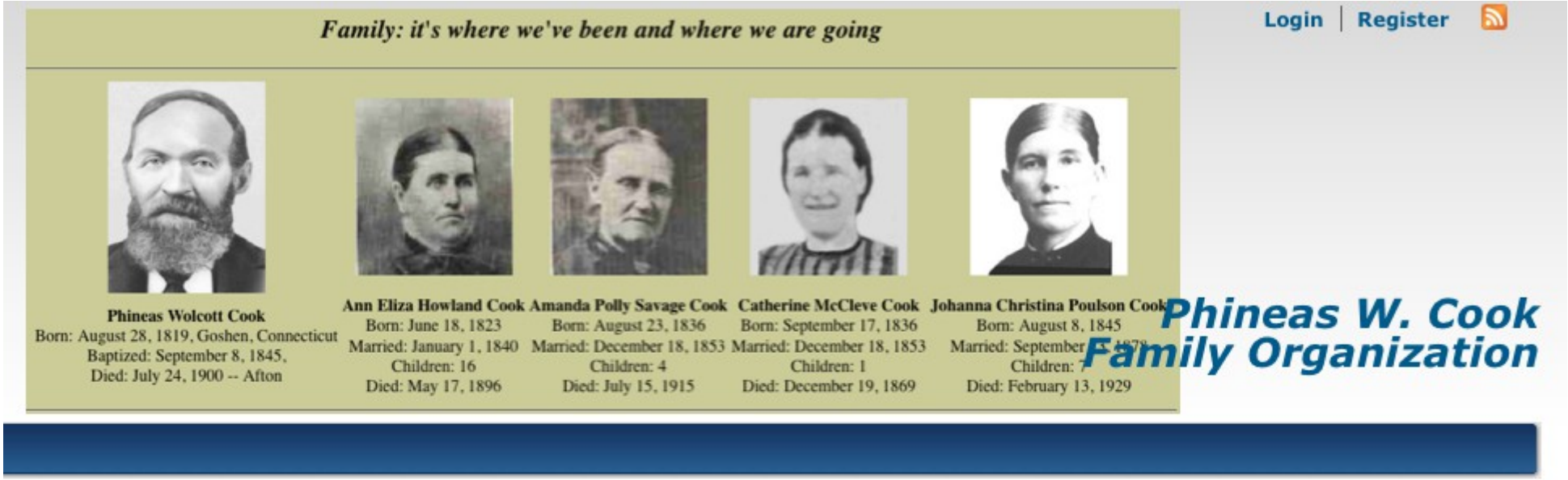
~~PHP~~ (Drupal, Wordpress, Webtrees … most)
Ruby on Rails
Python (Plone)
Javascript (server side)
others

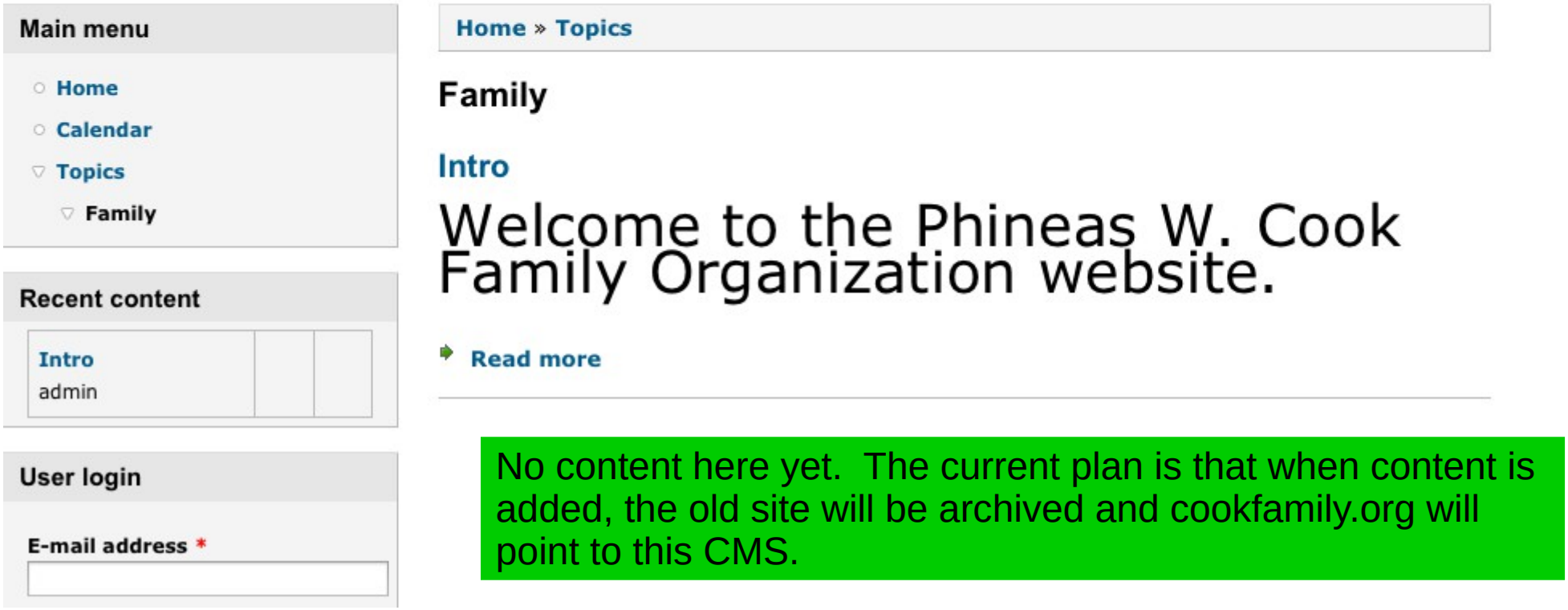
Some CMS's are not yet mature enough to do everything we want without considerable coding, but likely to overtake PHP CMS's in the future.

We can probably use Drupal for as many as 10 years, though a major version upgrade will likely be needed after 5 years.

We can certainly migrate earlier if the needs of the organization change or other CMS options gain clear advantages.

New Cook Site: http://www.cookfamily.org/new/





No content here yet. The current plan is that when content is added, the old site will be archived and cookfamily.org will point to this CMS.

Webtrees: http://www.cookfamily.org/tree/

www.cookfamily.org/tree/pedigree.php?rootid=I1&ged=Cook

Pedigree tree of Phineas Wolcott Cook

Individual	Generations	Layout	Show Details	
I1	4	Landscape	☑	View

Phineas Cook
Birth November 12, 1786 ♂25 ♀28 Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA
Marriage about 1806 (Age 19) Irene Churchill - View Family - Connecticut, USA
Death May 20, 1848 (Age 61) Richland, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA
Burial May 1848 (Age 61) Richland, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA
Reference number C-2

Phineas Cook
Birth November 12, 1786 ♂25 ♀28 - Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA
Death May 20, 1848 (Age 61) - Richland, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA

Phineas Wolcott Cook
Birth August 28, 1819 ♂32 ♀33 - Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA
Death July 24, 1900 (Age 80) - Afton, Lincoln, Wyoming, USA

Irene Churchill
Birth February 14, 1786 ♂36 ♀35 - Litchfield, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA
Death January 3, 1870 (Age 83) - Richland, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA

Daniel Cook Captain
Birth August 18, 1761 ♂40 ♀39 - Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA
Death August 14, 1809 (Age 47) - Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA

Elizabeth Porter
Birth about 1758 ♂29 ♀25 - Bethlehem, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA
Death 1834 (Age 76) - Genesee, New York, USA

Jonathan Churchill III
Birth November 25, 1749 ♂25 ♀21 - Woodbury, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA
Death February 6, 1829 (Age 79) - Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA

Daniel Cook Sr.
Birth August 19, 1720 ♂37 ♀26 - Wallingford, New Haven, Connecticut, USA
Death April 14, 1778 (Age 57) - Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA

Elizabeth Pond
Birth about 1722 ♂42 ♀36 - Branford, New Haven, Connecticut, USA
Death September 1796 (Age 74) - Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA

John Porter
Birth September 6, 1728 ♂36 ♀35 - Farmington, Hartford, Connecticut, USA
Death before 1793 (Age 64) - Bethlehem, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA

Deborah Hand
Birth April 2, 1732 ♂33 ♀30 - Guilford, New Haven, Connecticut, USA
Death before 1774 (Age 41) - Bethlehem, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA

Jonathan Churchill II
Birth 1724 ♂32 ♀54 - Wethersfield, Hartford, Connecticut, USA
Death after February 1803 (Age 79) - Woodbury, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA

Lydia Smith
Birth - West Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut, USA
Death before 1799 (Age 70) - Woodbury, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA

James Burgess
Birth February 9, 1716 ♂23 ♀27 - Branford, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

Detailed Information by Clicking on Person in Pedigree

www.cookfamily.org/tree/individual.php?pid=I1&ged=Cook

Home page | Charts | Lists | Calendar | Reports | Search | Stories | FAQ

Phineas Wolcott Cook ♂ 1819–1900 Age: 80

Name: Phineas Wolcott Cook
Surname: Cook
Given names: Phineas Wolcott

Facts and events | Families | Notes | Stories | Interactive tree | Google Maps™

Events of close relatives

Birth	August 28, 1819 ♂32 ♀33 Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA
Marriage	Ann Eliza Howland - View Family January 1, 1840 (Age 20) Ross, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA
Marriage	Amanda Polly Savage - View Family December 18, 1853 (Age 34) Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, USA
Marriage	Catherine McCleve - View Family December 18, 1853 (Age 34) Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, USA
Marriage	Johanna Christina Palsson or Pahlson - View Family September 13, 1878 (Age 59) Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, USA
Divorce	Catherine McCleve - View Family
Death	July 24, 1900 (Age 80) Afton, Lincoln, Wyoming, USA
Burial	July 27, 1900 (3 days after death) Afton, Lincoln, Wyoming, USA

Extra information

Family navigator

Family with parents

father	Phineas Cook 1786–1848
mother	Irene Churchill 1786–1870
sister	Betsey Cook 1807–1810
brother	Daniel Cook 1808–1877
sister	Eliza Cook 1811–1889
brother	Darius Burgess Cook 1814–1901
sister	Mary Ann Cook 1816–1851
✓	Phineas Wolcott Cook 1819–1900
sister	Harriet Cook 1823–1906

Mother's Family with Mr. Forbes

Detailed Notes Included

www.cookfamily.org/tree/individual.php?pid=I1&ged=Cook

Home page | Charts | Lists | Calendar | Reports | Search | Stories | FAQ

Phineas Wolcott Cook

♂ 1819–1900 Age: 80

Name: Phineas Wolcott Cook
Surname: Cook
Given names: Phineas Wolcott

Facts and events | Families | **Notes** | Stories | Interactive tree | Google Maps™

Show all notes

Note

BIRTH: Phineas W. Cook Family Record, handwritten by P.W. Cook, Church History Library MS 6974, p. 1: "Phineas W. Cook was born in the town of Goshen county of Litchfield the state of Connecticut in A.D. 1819 the 28th day of August."
"Life and History of Phineas W. Cook," p. 1, published by the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization.
His Patriarchal Blessing gave his birth date, no doubt from his own words: "A blessing by John Smith, Patriarch, upon the dead of Phineas Wolcott Cook, son of Phineas and Irene, born County Litchfield, Connecticut, Aug. 28, 1819."
Headstone Inscription. Afton, Wyoming Cemetery. "In Loving Remembrance of Father Phineas W. son of Phineas and Irene Churchill Cook, born in Goshen, Litchfield Co., Conn., Aug. 28, 1819, died, July 24, 1900, constant worker in God's cause."
In The history of Goshen, p. 451. "Phineas W." is named as sixth child of Phineas and Irene (Churchill) Cook," but no birth date given. A. G. Hibbard, History of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut (Hartford: Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1897), 451. "Phineas, b.---; m. Irene Churchill. Children:...Phineas W., ..."

HIS NAME: His middle name is Wolcott, almost certainly for Oliver Wolcott whose home town Litchfield, CT is also the hometown of his mother Irene Churchill. Oliver Wolcott was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, an important general in the Connecticut Line in the Revolution, and Governor of Connecticut after the war. There was a family connection which apparently the Cooks held in high regard. His father Phineas Cook was grand nephew of Walter Cook whose wife was Ruhamah Collins. Ruhamah was first cousin of Lorainne Collins, wife of Oliver Wolcott. Obviously they were aware of the relationship because when Wilford Woodruff (who also had a distant family connection through Ruth Woodruff to the Porters) did temple work for the signers of the Declaration of Independence, he allowed Phineas W. Cook to do the work for Oliver Wolcott who was a relative. (Journal of Mormon History 26:68)
MICHIGAN: Moved from Goshen, CT with his family in 1838 after his father went bankrupt. Settled in Richland, Kalamazoo,

Extra information

Family navigator

Family with parents

father	Phineas Cook 1786–1848
mother	Irene Churchill 1786–1870
sister	Betsey Cook 1807–1810
brother	Daniel Cook 1808–1877
sister	Eliza Cook 1811–1889
brother	Darius Burgess Cook 1814–1901
sister	Mary Ann Cook 1816–1851
✓	Phineas Wolcott Cook 1819–1900
sister	Harriet Cook 1823–1906

Recent conversation at Ancestry.com

“Hello, I'm interested in your Burgess line from Connecticut, USA. Can you tell me what sources you used to put together these names and dates? I believe this is the line I'm descended from, but have found conflicting and confusing information in books and online records. Am just trying to make sure I have the right people. How confident are you in the information for this line shown in your tree named "Cook"? I look forward to hearing from you. Jo.”

For some reason, ancestry.com would not show our notes to Jo. I just pointed her to cookfamily.org/tree

“Thanks so much, Brad, for pointing me to your site! I really appreciate seeing where you found your information. You and your family have really done your homework. I wish everyone was so thorough in documenting their findings.”

Evaluation of Web Based Collaborative Software

www.porterweb.org/brad/?q=node/23

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
1	name	GED-COM im-port	Priv-ate Groups	Roles	Fol low/ Sub scribe	User Comments (for view-er role)	Self Hosted? Last Update	sec-urity	Pedi-gree	Pict-ures	pri-vacy	Public Share	note, sour-ces	Fo ru m	Cost per yr	Ad verti sing?	Data-base Ex-port	GED-COM ex-port	Book Output for Archive	Colla-borative Doc/Book Writing	Cha Hist Rev
2	Weight (essential=10, non-essential=0)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		10	10	10								
3	familysearch.org (family tree)	n	n	n	y	y			y	y		y		y							
4	www.wikitree.com	y	n	y	y	y	n		y	y		y		y	0	n		y			?
5	geni.com	n	y	y-	y	y			y	y								y			
6	mundia.com (in beta) (ancestry)	y	y	3	n	y			y	y	y	y	y	y	0	n	n	y			
7	myheritage.com	y	y	y-	n		n		y			y		y	120	n		y	y		
8	familylink.com																				
9	WeRelate.org (private groups in open source version)	y	y	n	y	mediawiki	n		y	y		y		y		n		y		y	n
10	familypedia.wikia.com		n	n	y	mediawiki	n		y					y						y	n
11	semantic-mediawiki.org/wiki/Whealton_Family_Genealogy	y?	y?		y	mediawiki			-												
12	www.genealogywiki.org		n	n	y	wiki			y												
13	Twiki (family tree plugin)	n	y		?	wiki	y														
14	www.familytreebank.com (drupal 6)	y	y	3+	y	y	2010		y-	y		y		y		n	mysql	n		y	y
15	www.rodoslovlje.com (drupal 7?)	y	y	3+	y	y	2012		y-	y		y		y		n	mysql	n		y	y
16	www.ancestry.com	y	n	n	n	y			y	y				y	200/u			y			
17	www.onegreatfamily.com														200/u						
18	tng (www.lythgoes.net)	y	y	y	RSS	y(in menu	2013		y	y		y		y		n		y	pdf		
19	tufat.com/s_family_tree_builder.htm	y	y	3	n?	n?	2008		y	y		y				n		y			
20	familybelle.com	n	y	3	n	n	n		y			y			0	y		n			
21	familieswebsite.us	n	y	3	n	n	n		y			y			$	n		n			
22	familyinhistory.com	y	y				n								24/u			n			
23	efamily.com	y	y				n								24	n					
24	genoom.com	y	y		n?	n?	n		y	y		n?		y							
25	onefamilytree.com	y							y	y											
26	treex.com	y	y	n?	n	n			y	y											
27	myfamily.com		y				n		y	y					30	n					
28	tflink.com	n	y	2	n	n			y												
29	sharedtree.com	n			y				y					y							
30	www.webtrees.com	y	y	y	RSS	n	2013	emailv	y			y				n			pdf		

- This chart with more rows, columns and comments are at: www.porterweb.org/brad/?q=node/23

WeRelate Experimental Cook Tree

- If our tree was interactive, Jo might have signed up and added a source of her own to the person she was reviewing. We would have been sent an email detailing her change.
- The experimental Cook family WeRelate site is below. Such a site would allow Jo to sign up and add additional information, and for us to be notified.

World Trees: WeRelate

- WeRelate also has a world tree at www.werelate.org. WeRelate is a modification of Mediawiki (used for wikipedia).
  - Anyone can make changes.
  - Anyone can “Watch” to be notified of changes and who made the changes.
  - A board moderates differences of opinion.
  - It's free. Supported by the Foundation for Online Genealogy and the Allen County Public Library.
  - It's Open Source – meaning that if support was ever withdrawn, the source code (program) could be set up by another organization with different funding. (That's what I did to experiment with the Cook GEDCOM).
  - From www.werelate.org/wiki/WeRelate:Pando_for_genealogy
    - “WeRelate is different from most family tree websites. We take a shared approach to genealogy. The aim is to provide free, open access to genealogical data and the evidence that supports that data. Any deceased person can have an entry (and only one) with the entry linked to entries of known relatives. By adding to WeRelate you are contributing your work to a larger collaborative effort. Other people may be working pages you contribute.”
    - “Ultimately, we seek pages that are well documented with strong sources; therefore you are strongly encouraged to include source information. In addition, we hope that you will monitor the pages you create and respond to others' comments on the pages.”

Why not just contribute to a World Tree?

- Most World Trees suffer from a problem. Eg. Geni.com
  - "The ultimate goal of Geni is to create a single, accurate family tree that connects all of our users, with no duplicates. Over time, as duplicate trees have been merged together over and over again, **the tree has become, quite honestly, a mess.** We are fully committed to building the most comprehensive and accurate family tree in the world." " This implies one profile for one person - and that all duplicates of a person within the Big Tree will eventually be merged." (geni.com, 2012)
  - Geni disabled gedcom input in 2012
- Most have different and mixed goals:
  - "Creating a single, cited source for an ancestor flies in the face of how [many] societies work -- their popularity and profit relies on different people discovering the same data over and over again." (Mitch Novak, quora.com blogger)

We should contribute to a World Tree, but which one?

WeRelate and FamilySearch ...

- Jeremy Foote, Quora.com blogger
  - “I think that something like WeRelate is the inevitable future of family trees.
  - “Every other system that I have seen gives far too much power to the initial uploader/creator of an individual or tree. The developers listened to genealogists, who are very wary of people "messing up" their work. Genealogy research can be difficult and time-consuming, and the thought of someone altering the death date that you took 5 hours combing through cemetary records to find - well, let's just say that it's emotionally charged.
  - “Developers tried to solve this problem in 2 primary ways:
    - 1. They put privacy controls and ownership around trees, like Ancestry.com or wikitree. Some/all of the individuals in a tree can only be edited by the owner, or by others who are granted permission.
    - 2. They tried to merge many individuals into one view of a person, without removing the original individual's information and data. This is the strategy followed by FamilySearch.
  - “These halfway solutions have led to a crazy system, where genealogical information is spread all over the web, siloed and unchangeable. Wrong information is searchable and perpetuated, without any means of correction.
  - “Like Wikipedia, WeRelate flips these solutions on their head. Instead of making it very difficult to "mess up" a tree, they make it easy for anyone to edit, and include tools to alert users when things have changed, and allow them to revert or discuss the changes.”
  - “It is this ability to change what is wrong that is WeRelate's (and Wikipedia's) great strength. While other genealogy systems get more and confusing and frustrating as they get bigger, WeRelate should get better and better...
  - “That's why WeRelate (or something like it) will (eventually) win.
- OK … so WeRelate?
  - The developer of WeRelate is not developing it anymore himself. He encourages development on it by others, which is one reason he made it open source, but after nearly one year, it does not look like it is being further developed.
  - The main developer of WeRelate, Dallin Quass, is now working on Application Interface Kits (API kit's) for FamilySearch.org in his retirement. Is that an indicator of the future?
  - Many Phineas W. Cook Family Organizazation members are dedicated to FamilySearch despite it shortcomings.

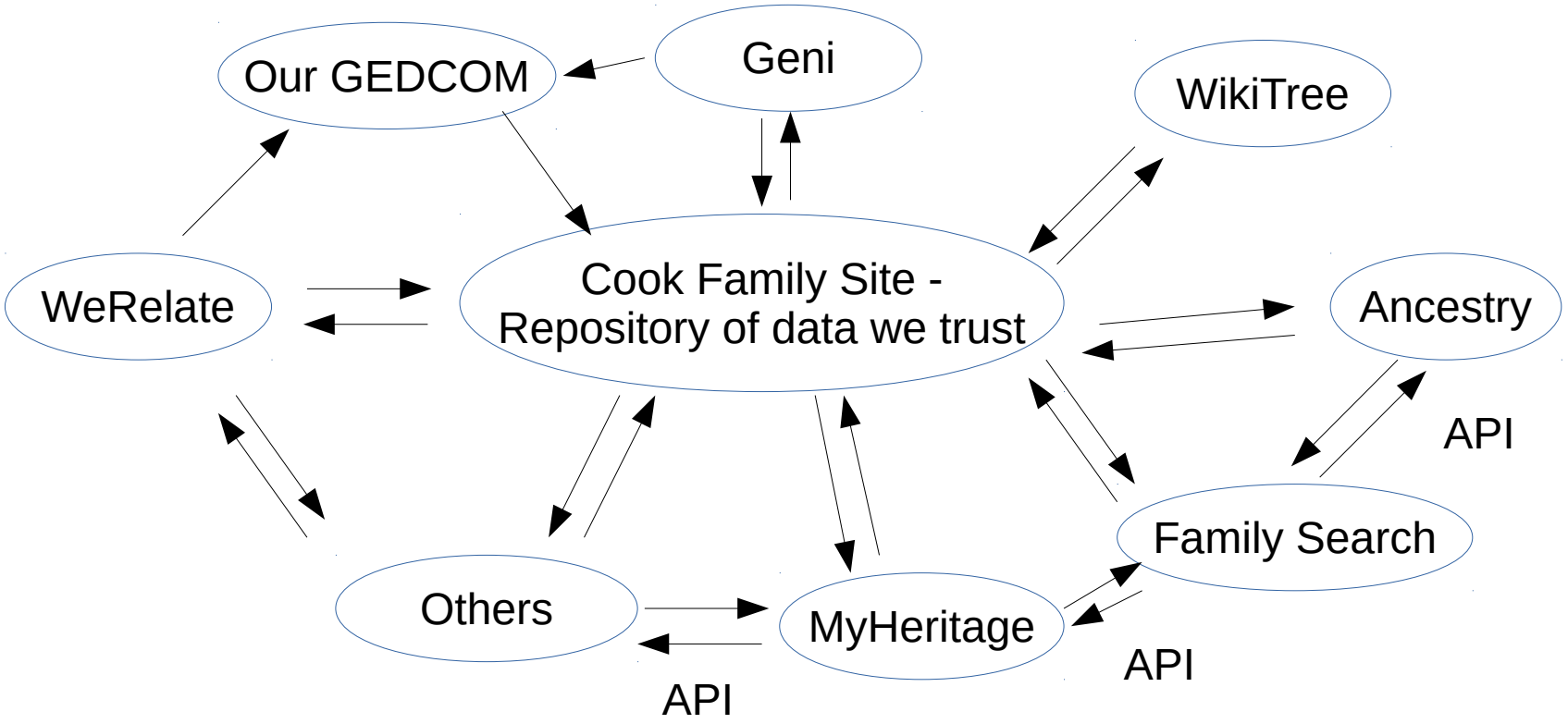
Looks like Smart People Think FamilySearch is Part of the Future

- Because the LDS Church is dedicated to Temple Work, it will always need to maintain a world tree.
- But the accuracy of other world tree's could be greater than that of FamilySearch now and in the future, if FamilySearch does not make it harder to “mess things up”.

	WeRelate	FamilySearch
Anonymous Changes	No	Yes
Follow all changes of individual	Yes	Yes
Online discussion page linked to individual	Yes	Yes
Gedcom import	Yes	No
Single page per person (duplicate is deleted)	Yes	No
Free to all	Yes	Yes
API – May allow faster corrections of errors	No	Yes (new 2014)

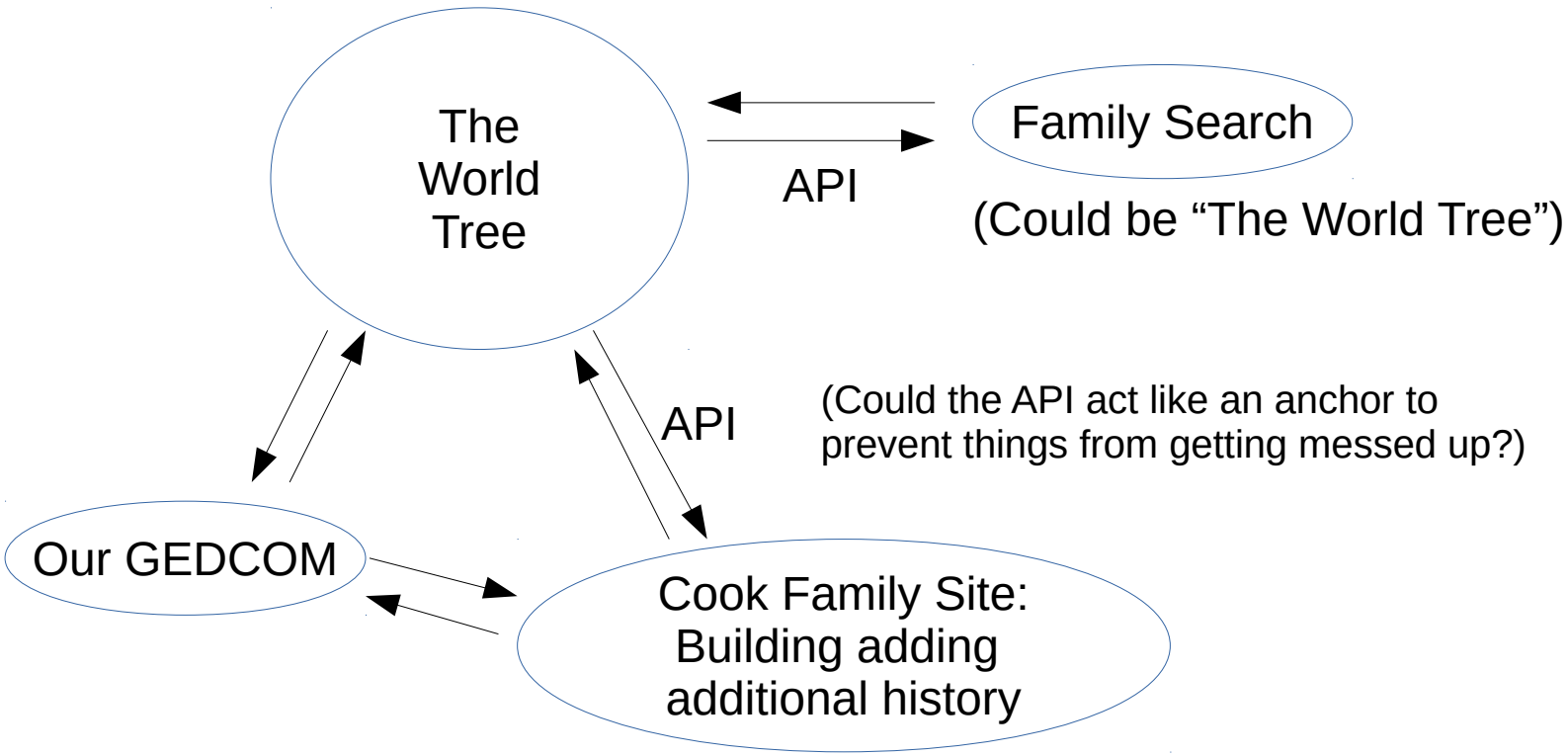
- FamilySearch anonymous changes cannot be allowed.
- Online discussion must notify “watchers/followers” of new posts and comments.
- Gedcom import (is WeRelate headed for disaster or is their merging algorithm better than others?)
- Developer of WeRelate is now making API's for FamilySearch. Is that an indicator of the future? Could the API act like an anchor to prevent errors from originating, rather than quickly correcting them?
- Should we be contributing our “correct” information to multiple world tree's? Might this slow the growth of errors on FamilySearch?

A Model of Current Situation



- This is the Cook family meeting, so why not put our site at the center of the universe!

The Future?



- It's not clear that the need for larger family organization websites like the “Phineas W. Cook Family Organization” website will ever change because:
  - The mission of the World Tree may not be to document all the details of a family history, and even if it did:
  - The family organization assists with teaching the next generation, using the world tree as a tool.

Summary: Three Types of Websites

The Family Organization

"The more children knew about their **families' histories**, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their **self-esteem**, and the more successfully they believed their families functioned."[1]

They all strengthen each other

The Family Tree

"Children who have the most **self-confidence** have ... a **strong intergenerational self.** They know they belong to something bigger than themselves."[1]

Small Private Family Website

"Most happy families also communicate effectively" **telling a positive story** about themselves. "When faced with challenges, happy families, like happy people, just add a new chapter to their life story that shows them overcoming the hardship. This skill is particularly important for children, whose identities tend to solidify during adolescence."[1]

"The bottom line: If you want a happier family, create, refine, and retell the story of your family's best moments and your relations' ability to bounce back from the difficult ones. That act alone may increase the odds that your family will thrive for many generations to come."[1]

1. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/fashion/the-family-stories-that-bind-us-this-life.html