

BLOGGING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Nancy Shively “Family Tree Firsts”

www.familytreeuniversity.com

What is a blog and why do I need one?

- Blog is short for “web log”.
- Captain Kirk had one and you can too.
- Connecting with far-flung family.
- Sharing your research with your family and friends
 - ▣ Remember: non-genealogists want stories, not records.
- Provides a basic structure for organizing your family history and breaks it into bite-sized pieces.
- Harnesses the power of the Internet.

What kind of blog?

- Individual family history
- Geographical
- Ethnicity
- Surnames
- Cemeteries
- Photos
- Public or Private?

What do I write about?

- Family stories
- Brick walls
- Discoveries
- Personal stories
- Join a carnival or blogging prompt
 - ▣ See Geneabloggers website for suggestions:
<http://www.geneabloggers.com>

Getting Started

Select a blog platform.

We will be using Blogger but you could also use WordPress or LiveJournal.

Go to www.blogger.com and sign in with your Google account.



Blogger

Create a blog. It's free. [Get started](#)

Beautiful, customizable templates and layouts. [Try the template designer](#)

Up to the minute stats Make money with AdSense Explore [Blogs of Note](#)

Want to learn more? Take a [quick tour](#), watch a [video tutorial](#) or read [Blogger Buzz](#).

Sign in with your **Google Account**

Email: ex: pat@example.com

Password:

Stay signed in

[Sign in](#)

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Name That Blog

In the **Blog Title** field enter the name of your blog. In the **Blog address (URL)** field enter the name of your blog and then click **Check Availability**. If the address is available click **Continue**.

If it is not available, try a different variation. Your blog title does not need to be unique, just the blog's URL.

1 Name your blog

Blog title	<input type="text"/>
	Your blog's title will appear on your published blog, on your dashboard and in your profile.
Blog address (URL)	http:// <input type="text"/> .blogspot.com Check Availability
	The URL you select will be used by visitors to access your blog. Learn more
Word Verification	 <input type="text"/> 
	Type the characters you see in the picture.

[CONTINUE](#) 

Choose a Template

Choose a template by clicking on it. (You can always change it later.)

Click **Continue**.

2

Choose a **starter** template

You can change your template later, and even customize it with the Template Designer.



Simple



Picture Window



Awesome Inc.



Watermark



Ethereal



Travel



Simple



Watermark

CONTINUE

You're Done!



Your **blog** has been created!

We've just created a blog for you. You can [start posting now](#) or [customize how your blog looks](#).

START BLOGGING

► Advanced Setup Options

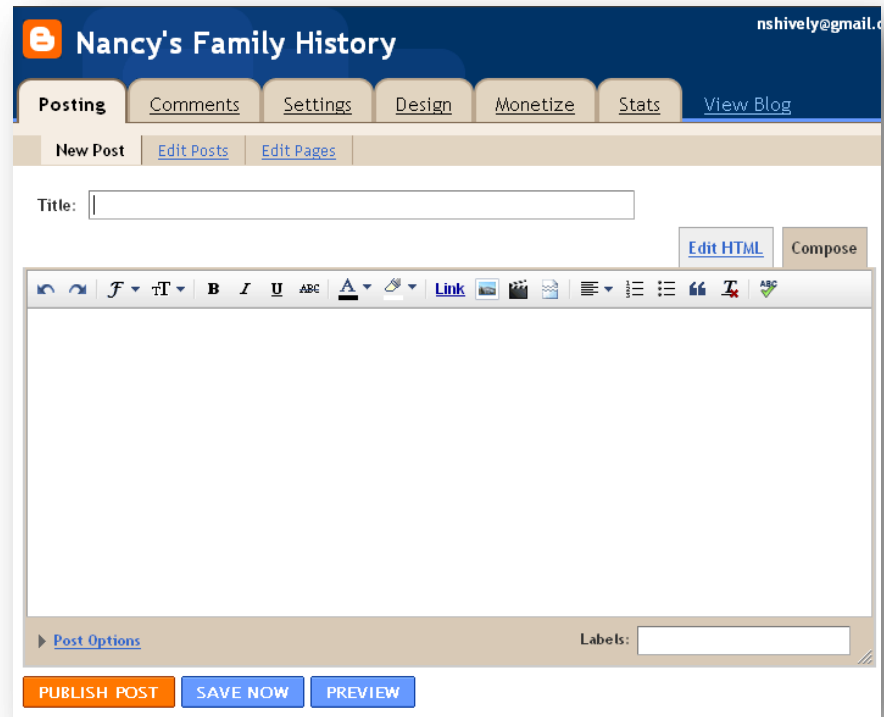
Write Your First Post

Enter a title in the **Title** field.

Write the text of your post in the main window. You could write an introduction to your blog with some information about yourself and your goals for the blog.

If you'd like to tag the post with a label, you can do so at the bottom in the **Label** field.

Click **Publish Post**.



The screenshot shows the WordPress post editor interface for a blog titled "Nancy's Family History". The user's email address, "nshively@gmail.com", is visible in the top right corner. The interface includes a navigation menu with options: "Posting", "Comments", "Settings", "Design", "Monetize", "Stats", and "View Blog". Below this, there are tabs for "New Post", "Edit Posts", and "Edit Pages". The main editing area features a "Title:" input field at the top. Below the title field is a rich text editor with a toolbar containing icons for undo, redo, font color, text color, bold, italic, underline, link, unlink, image, video, audio, gallery, list, ordered list, link, unlink, and a "Compose" button. At the bottom of the editor, there is a "Post Options" section with a "Labels:" input field. At the very bottom, there are three buttons: "PUBLISH POST" (orange), "SAVE NOW" (blue), and "PREVIEW" (blue).

You're Published!

Your blog post is now published and online.

Click **View Post**.



Baby's First Post

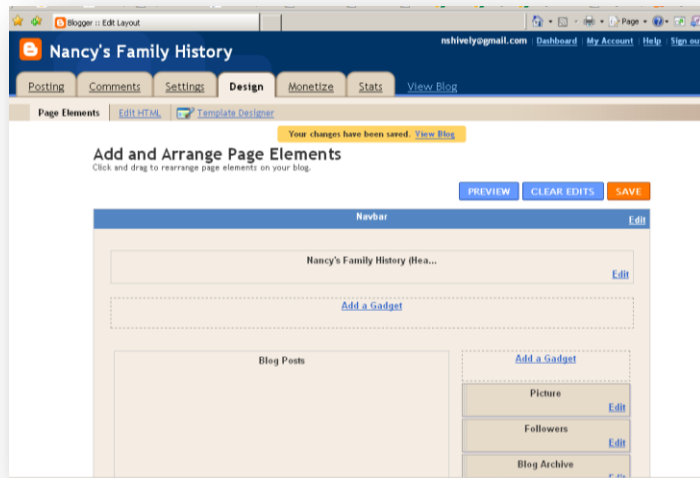
This is how your blog and first post will appear to visitors.

Now let's add some fun stuff.



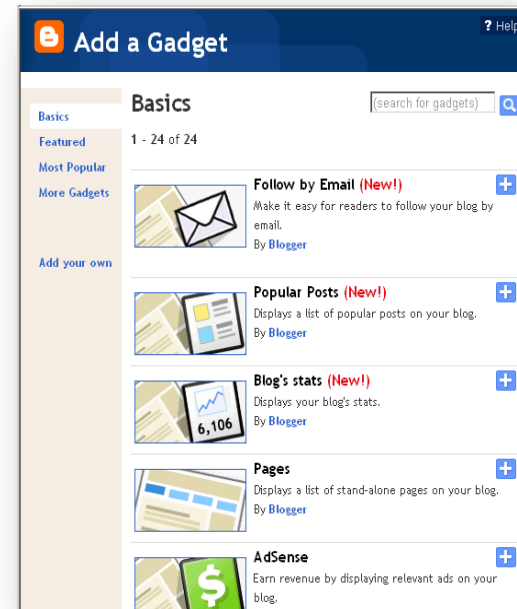
The screenshot shows a Blogger blog interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search icon, a search box, and links for 'Follow', 'Share', 'Report Abuse', and 'Next Blog'. On the right side of the navigation bar, the user's email 'nshively@gmail.com' is displayed, along with links for 'New Post', 'Design', and 'Sign Out'. The main content area features a large title 'Nancy's Family History' in a red, serif font. Below the title, the date 'Tuesday, June 7, 2011' is shown. The post content begins with 'Welcome to Nancy's Genealogy Blog!' in a teal font, followed by the text 'Welcome to my new blog! I'll be writing all about my adventures researching my family.' Below the text, it says 'Posted by Nancy at 3:07 PM' and '0 comments', with icons for editing and social media sharing (M, G, E, F, and a speech bubble). At the bottom of the post, there are links for 'Home' and 'Subscribe to: Posts (Atom)'. On the right side of the post, there is a black and white photograph of a woman with dark hair holding a baby. Below the photo, the caption 'Mom and me' is visible, along with a small icon of a pair of scissors.

Add a Gadget



Click on “**Add a Gadget**”.
Choose your gadget by
clicking on the + sign
Configure the gadget and
click **Save**.

Click on the **Design** tab.
Choose where you want the
gadget to appear in the
layout.



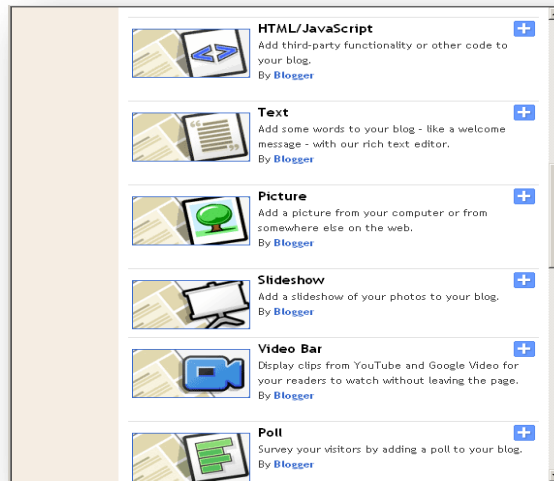
Add a Picture

Choose the Picture gadget from the list and click on the plus sign.

Tell Blogger where to find the picture.

Give the picture a title so it is easier to identify on your layout.

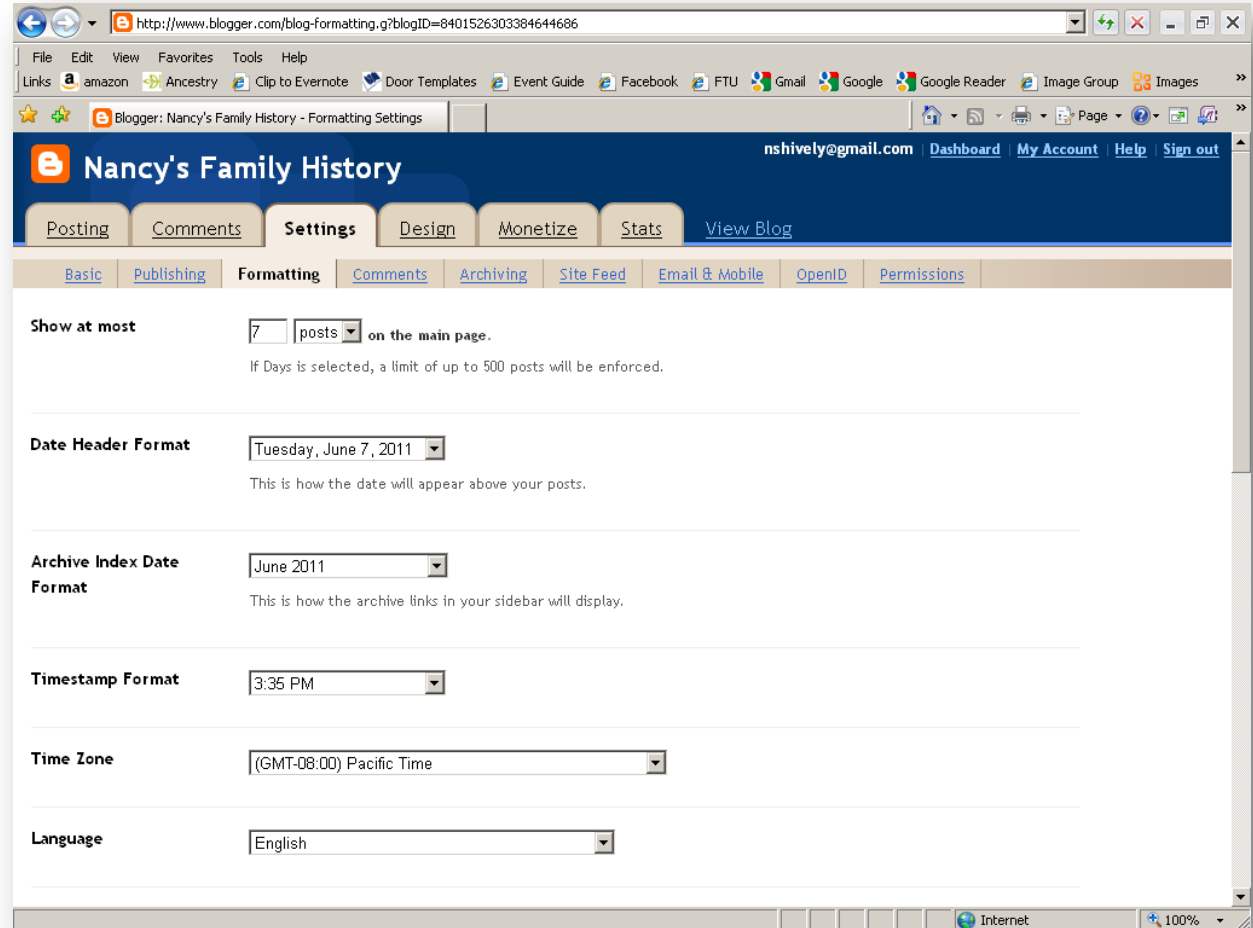
Click Save.



Changing Settings

Click on the Settings tab.

Choose from the different settings below the tab and adjust them to your preferences.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Blogger 'Formatting Settings' page for a blog titled 'Nancy's Family History'. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www.blogger.com/blog-formatting.g?blogID=8401526303384644686>. The page features a navigation menu with tabs for 'Posting', 'Comments', 'Settings', 'Design', 'Monetize', and 'Stats'. The 'Settings' tab is active, and within it, the 'Formatting' sub-tab is selected. The settings are organized into sections:

- Show at most:** A dropdown menu is set to '7 posts' on the main page. A note below states: 'If Days is selected, a limit of up to 500 posts will be enforced.'
- Date Header Format:** A dropdown menu is set to 'Tuesday, June 7, 2011'. A note below states: 'This is how the date will appear above your posts.'
- Archive Index Date Format:** A dropdown menu is set to 'June 2011'. A note below states: 'This is how the archive links in your sidebar will display.'
- Timestamp Format:** A dropdown menu is set to '3:35 PM'.
- Time Zone:** A dropdown menu is set to '(GMT-08:00) Pacific Time'.
- Language:** A dropdown menu is set to 'English'.

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the 'Internet' icon and a zoom level of 100%.

Choose a New Template

Click on the **Design** tab, then **Template Designer**.

Choose your new template then click **Apply to Blog**.

The screenshot displays the Blogger Template Designer interface. At the top, it says "Blogger Template Designer" with links for "Back to Blogger", "View Blog", and "Help", and a prominent "APPLY TO BLOG" button. On the left, a sidebar lists "Templates" and other options like "Background", "Adjust widths", "Layout", and "Advanced". The main area shows a grid of template thumbnails. The "Live on Blog" template is highlighted, with a note "Based on [Ethereal](#)". Other visible templates include "Awesome Inc.", "Watermark", "Ethereal", and "Travel". Below the thumbnails are three "Ethereal" logo icons. At the bottom, a preview of the selected template is shown, featuring a search bar, navigation links ("Follow", "Share", "Report Abuse", "Next Blog"), the user email "nshively@gmail.com", and "New Post", "Design", and "Sign Out" links. The main content area of the preview displays the title "Nancy's Family History" in red, the date "Tuesday, June 7, 2011", and the text "Welcome to Nancy's Genealogy Blog!" next to a small photo of a person.

Resources for Blogs

Remember:

Get permission or use royalty-free stock photos.

Never, NEVER put another blogger's content on your blog. Be original!

- Geneabloggers
www.geneabloggers.com
- Blogspot Templates
<http://www.blogspot-templates.org>
- Library of Congress
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures>
- Stockvault www.stockvault.net

Blogging Tips

- ❑ Keep it Short and Sweet
 - ❑ Long story? Break it up into multiple posts.
- ❑ Set a publishing goal.
 - ❑ Decide how often you will post; daily, weekly?
 - ❑ Start slow and pace yourself.
- ❑ Use pictures generously. They make your blog come alive.
- ❑ Get the word out. Submit your new blog to the Geneabloggers site.
- ❑ Be yourself.

Don't forget to have fun!

Some of My Favorites

- Family Tree Firsts
<http://www.familytreeuniversity.com/>
- Clue Wagon
<http://www.cluewagon.com>
- Shades of the Departed
<http://www.shadesofthedeparted.com>
- Little Bytes of Life
<http://www.littlebytesoflife.com>
- Find My Ancestor
<http://www.blog.findmyancestor.com>