

## *Ancestry.com/Family Tree Maker mycanvas Books*

SaddleBrooke Genealogy Club - Sharon Scanlan

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- *Ancestry.com* had planned to retire *mycanvas* 9/30, but due to customer feedback it will be moved, hopefully seamlessly, to *Alexander's* within 6 months.
  - *Alexander's* currently prints the books.
  - They will take over the software, and the family trees will be fed from *Ancestry.com*.
- Before you begin, do some prep work.
  - Put all of the pictures you plan to use on any easy to access file or flash drive that is small in size. More pictures make the book better. Use captions in your file.
  - Clean up *FTM/Ancestry.com*.
    - Using Persons in your *FTM* program.
      - Merge duplicate people.
      - Check Locations and make sure you don't have locations listed in Descriptions. Also check sex - you may have the wrong sex for some of your entries.
    - Using Locations in your *FTM* program, clean up anything that does not file under the proper county, state or country.
- Using *Ancestry.com* or *FTM*, sign into your tree and go to Publish. (*FTM* will take you to the same *mycanvas.com* site).
  - Review the Ideas, Products and Tutorial tabs.
  - Once you have, click My Projects and Start a New Project.
    - Select Family History Book.
    - Select type of book - 4 or 5 Generations, Descendants, etc.
    - Choose a Tree.
      - Size of book, Tree to use and Name of the Starting Person.
    - Select Theme.
    - Select Templates that will automatically fill with your tree information.
      - I use Tree, Family Group Sheet and Timeline.
      - If you include records, you will have many pages!
    - Book will format automatically.
  - Use first book as a trial book – review, make notes on changes needed, edit *FTM* or *Ancestry.com*, delete and start a new project.
- Review the Tools.
  - Pages - Tree, FHG or Timeline
    - Family Branch for photos
    - Blank page for narrative
    - Remove
    - Copy
    - Number the pages
  - Manage pages
    - Move pages
  - Edit background

- Update from Ancestry.com (not sure it works)
- Undo/Redo
- T - text - really important!
  - On any page, click T and then click anywhere on the page to add text.
  - On a blank page, click T and then on the page to do a narrative or story.
  - Text boxes can be moved or deleted.
- Spell Check is available.
- Automatic pages
  - Tree
    - Bring in photos.
    - Change text if needed.
  - Family Group Sheet
    - All entries are a text box.
    - Multiple marriages cause problems because they may not upload correctly, so move them around.
  - Timeline
    - If you have too many entries, delete some or move up and down the text boxes.
    - I had burial dates before the death dates and moved those.
    - This is a good place to change the automatic narrative under the photo and tell a story.
      - Delete the info about the spouse.
      - Add info about the person.
- Add a page
  - I added one in the beginning with narrative to open my story and put it in perspective.
    - Trace the family history.
    - Talk about the significant events, such as Revolutionary or Civil Wars.
    - Discuss the divorces or adoptions.
    - Share stories.
  - Add pages for adoptions with family trees for the adoptive parents.
  - Add pages with family pictures.
  - Add pages with 5<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> generations for families that you have a long history and begin with the 5<sup>th</sup> generation.
- Help
  - Call Ancestry.com.com and ask for *mycanvas*. They are very helpful and nice.
  - Use the Help link on the *mycanvas* page.
  - Contact me. I'm not an expert but will try to help. [sascanlan@gmail.com](mailto:sascanlan@gmail.com) or 825-5367.
- Ordering your book.
  - Proof – proof – proof
    - Use the Share feature when you open up your Project to send to a friend to proof.
    - Preview your Project several times.
  - You will get a 10% savings with 2 or more copies if the books are sent to the same address.
  - Books arrived in less than two weeks.