

Operation Granny Files

Family History Software Comparison

Because every great family tree needs the right shovel.

Choosing the right family history software is like picking the right hiking boots: it depends on where you're going, how long you'll be out, and whether you'll be bringing a cousin or two along. This chart compares popular options to help you decide what fits your research style best.

Software	Price	Platform	Cloud/Offline	Best For	Notes
Ancestry.com	Paid (sub)	Web	Cloud	DNA + Record Integration	Great for beginners with budget
FamilySearch	Free	Web	Cloud	Collaborative Tree	Shared open-source style; must log in
RootsMagic 10	Free + Paid	Windows/Mac	Offline + Sync	Power users, citation control	Free version is feature-limited
Reunion	Paid	Mac	Offline	Mac devotees	Sleek interface; iOS app available
Gramps	Free	Windows/Mac/Linux	Offline	Tech-savvy users	Open-source, lots of customization
MyHeritage	Paid (sub)	Web	Cloud	International records	Good for Jewish/Eastern European research
Legacy Family Tree	Free + Paid	Windows	Offline	Heavy documentation	Webinars and strong community

Personally, I use RootsMagic 10 as my desktop sidekick. I love that it plays nice with both Ancestry.com and FamilySearch—so whenever I stumble on a juicy record in either place, I can tuck it safely into my own offline stash. No cloud drama, no log-in woes—just me and my files, cozy and under my control.

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Field Tool Mission 5: File it Before You Forget It | [Operationgrannyfiles.substack.com](#)

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