

# Cozi Up To Your Genealogy!

SOCIAL NETWORKING IS THE new "darling" of the genealogical community. Genealogists have flocked to Facebook, [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), Twitter, [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com), and have an endless number of family tree building and sharing websites available for connecting with relatives and other researchers. While these sites are all useful for keeping in touch with others on a broad scale, they may be a bit overwhelming if you're just looking for a way to touch base with family members or those in your immediate household. Enter Cozi, [www.cozi.com](http://www.cozi.com), a free online organizer for families.

Cozi helps busy families keep up with appointments and lists, coordinate home and work schedules, and share favorite memories and photos. The site's main features include:

- Family calendar — Keeps everyone's activities listed together. You can color-code it by family member, view individual schedules or the whole family at once. You can also set it up for desktop access with the family calendar "Gadget." You can select which appointments you want to share with the family calendar.
- Customizable lists (for groceries or other tasks) — Eliminate the sticky notes and scraps of paper. There's a handy auto-complete feature to making typing your list nearly effortless. You can text the list to any cell phone.
- Reminders and messages — Use this feature to send appointment reminders, schedule changes or notes to anyone in your family by either text or e-mail right from your Cozi homepage.
- Family Journal — A virtual notepad for you to jot down notes about your day, family activities, vacations, etc., and even add pictures. There's also an interface that allows you to share your family journal with your friends and relatives on Facebook, or turn your journal into your very own family web page.

- Photo collage screensaver (Windows only) — This feature takes the digital images on your computer and turns them into collages. The images change automatically, like watching a slideshow, and are organized by family event, holiday or trip.

users can set it up to sync with that application. This eliminates the need for managing multiple calendars or entering appointments in multiple places. You can even see your family appointments on your PDA, cell phone or any device that syncs with Outlook. There is also a Blog and a "Live



## QUICK AND EASY ACCOUNT SET UP

It's pretty simple to set up an account. Click the "Sign Up" tab and follow the steps on the screen. Cozi's designed to be managed by either one or two adults running a household. You'll enter the name, e-mail address and mobile phone number for each adult, and choose a family name (e.g., "Thomas Family"). You can then add information on any children or other household members. You can set your account up for mobile phone access, which will allow you to utilize the "customizable lists" and "reminders and messages" features. The first time you enter your mobile number, Cozi sends you a text message with instructions on how to complete the set up. You can sign in to Cozi from your iPhone or Windows smartphone web browser by going to <http://m.cozi.com>, or by calling Cozi toll-free from any mobile phone (to have your schedule or grocery list read to you or sent via text).

In addition, Microsoft Outlook

Simply" feature with helpful tips on organizing, saving money and more.

I don't have children, but it appears to be a "family-friendly" site. The appointment reminders, built-in onscreen clock and being able to text my lists to my phone are nice touches.

There are a few "cons" to the site. For example, since it's free, you'll need to put up with advertisements. Also, the collage screensaver can only be downloaded for use with Windows — so if you're on a Mac, you can't utilize this feature. In addition, "hard core" genealogists may not like that there is no facility for uploading a family tree.

Genealogists spend most of their time trying to connect dead ancestors and using applications that facilitate the process. But, if you're looking for something on a smaller scale to connect the living members of your individual branch of the family tree, this site may just do the trick.