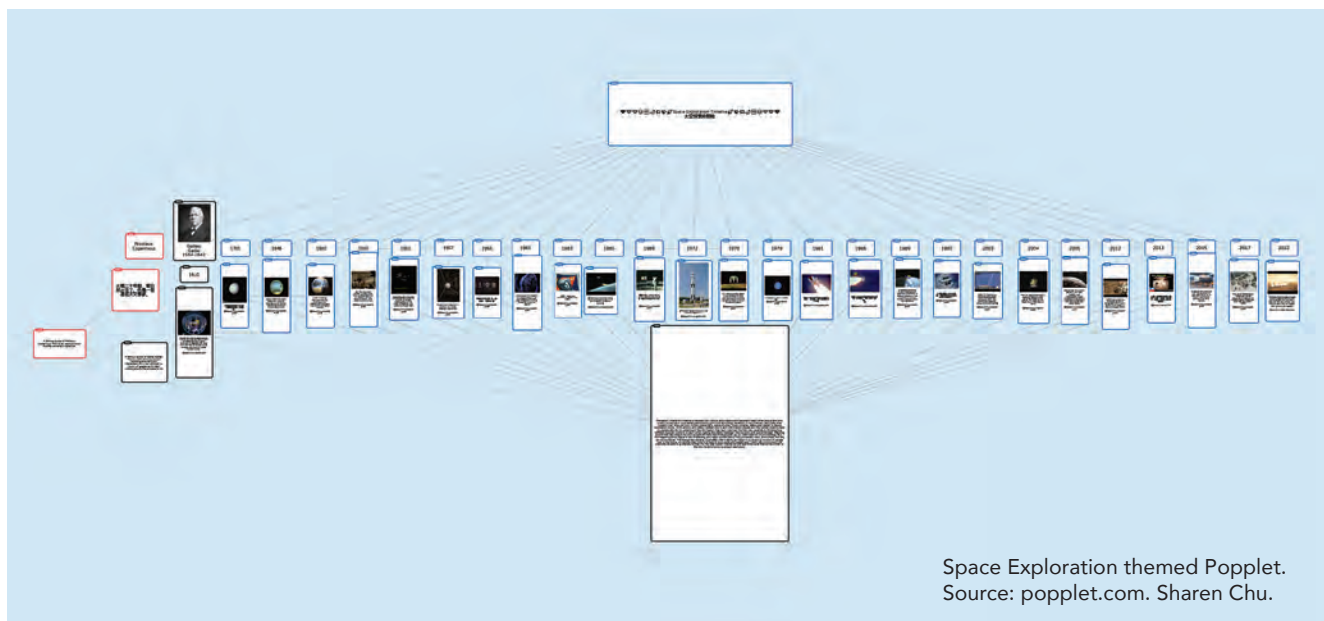




# Genealogy Brainstorming with Popplet

Lynn Cassity looks at a brainstorming app for all ages



**P**OPPLET IS A COLORFUL, VISUAL BRAINSTORMING APP THAT CHILDREN and adults are using in schools and businesses. The ease-of-use appeals to both sets of users. Genealogists can appreciate and use this organizational tool as well.

Popplet ([www.popplet.com](http://www.popplet.com)) has myriad features to create mind maps, timelines, storyboards and flowcharts, yet even its basic level provides a powerful visual tool. The app's strength lies in its structural effortlessness and cross-platform syncing.

Genealogists can create research logs in Popplet and colorfully display what has been accomplished, and what to do next. Searching the shared Public tab will give genealogists even more ideas.

For example, after viewing the public boards on the Popplet site, I decided I needed to create a timeline with photos and videos for my teenage granddaughter who has a burgeoning interest in her family history. Since graphics are the norm for her generation, it should readily appeal.

Popplet's platforms are iOS, Android and web browsers. (I do not have access to an Android device, so was unable to test this version.) The company does recommend using Google's Chrome for a better browser experience.

## Using Popplet

When Popplet is opened, the first thing to do is create Popples; individual

rectangles to add color, text, drawing and insert pictures, URLs, YouTube and Vimeo files. Open the app, select create new Popplet, enter a name for the Popplet, choose a color for it, select 'create a Popplet,' and a blank background screen opens.

The first Popple will be the main box to create and link to all others. When selected, the Popple has what looks like radio button on the four sides. With the mouse, click a button and pull for the connecting line to be drawn. When released, a new Popple is created. Create as many Popples as you have ideas by drawing connecting lines. These linked Popple boxes visually display the flow of ideas and interconnectivity.

The first Popplet I created was on an iPad several years ago. It