



Cousin Bait: Blogging to Find Your Family



Anne Mitchell



What is *Cousin Bait*?

Unless you come from long lines of only children in every branch of your tree, you probably have quite a few distant cousins out there.

But how do you find them?

How do you catch them and reel them in
to find how what they know?

Now if you have an Ancestry Member Tree, you can find your distant and not so distant cousins through Shaky Leaves and Member Connect

But there is usually more than one way to solve a problem.

Have you thought about blogging?

Creating pages and blog posts about your ancestors might lead you to cousins you didn't know about.

Think about a Google Search.

You might type in the name of your ancestor, a location and the word genealogy or the phrase family history.

What comes up?

Google laura cecile donald rockbridge virginia genealogy

Web Images Maps Shopping More Search tools

About 113,000 results (0.56 seconds)

[Laura Cecile DONALD, Lexington, Virginia, 1877 - 1964](#)
www.genealogy-by-anne.com/.../donald-genealogy/laura-cecil...
She was born in Lexington, **Virginia**, daughter of James Calvin DONALD and ... **Laura Cecile DONALD** was born in **Rockbridge, Virginia**, daughter of James ...

[Gilbert Mcclung GILLESPIE, Lexington, Virginia, 1914 - 2003](#)
www.genealogy-by-anne.com/.../genealogy/gilbert-mcclung-gi...
... born in Lexington, **Virginia**, son of Wyatt Paul GILLESPIE and **Laura Cecile DONALD**. He lived in **Virginia**, North Carolina and Georgia. ... **Genealogy** By Anne ...
You've visited this page 3 times. Last visit: 7/19/12

[Elizabeth Jane WALLACE, Rockbridge, Virginia, 1844 - 191x](#)
www.genealogy-by-anne.com/.../genealogy/elizabeth-jane-wall...
She was born in Lexington, **Virginia**, daughter of Charlton WALLACE and Martha Jane CASH. ... **Genealogy** By Anne. Cash ... **Laura Cecile DONALD** was born in **Rockbridge, Virginia**, daughter of James Calvin DONALD and Elizabeth Jane ...

[John Charlton DONALD, Rockbridge, Virginia, 1872 - 1948](#)
www.genealogy-by-anne.com/.../donald-genealogy/john-charl...
He was born in Lexington, **Virginia**, son of James Calvin DONALD and Elizabeth Jane WALLACE. ... **Genealogy** By Anne ... **Laura Cecile DONALD** was born in **Rockbridge, Virginia**, daughter of James Calvin DONALD and Elizabeth Jane ...


[finding forgotten stories | uncovering our ancestor's lives](#)
finding-forgotten-stories.com/
1 day ago – I'm currently working on being a Certified **Genealogist** (CG). ... **Laura Cecile Donald** was born on 13 February 1877 in **Rockbridge** County, ... **Laura Cecil Donald**, 24 Jan 1894, **Rockbridge, Virginia**; Department of Health ...

[laura cecile donald | finding forgotten stories](#)
finding-forgotten-stories.com/tag/laura-cecile-donald/
Aug 1, 2012 – Posts about **laura cecile donald** written by Anne Gillespie Mitchell. ... Wyatt Paul Gillespie, **Laura Cecil Donald**, 24 Jan 1894, **Rockbridge, Virginia**. 2. ... Posted in **Genealogy**, Tombstone Tuesday | Tagged eva dold gillespie, ...

Wouldn't it be nice if it were your page?

finding forgotten stories
uncovering our ancestor's lives

Home About Ancestors Resources



Laura Cecile Donald (1877 – 1964)

Laura Cecile DONALD was my great-grandmother. She was the daughter of James Calvin DONALD and Elizabeth Jane WALLACE

James Calvin DONALD was the son John DONALD and Nancy MACHETTE

John DONALD was the son of James DONALD and Jennie MCCORKLE. He was the great-grandson of Matthew DONALD and Eliabeth LYLE who are members of families that originally settled in Rockbridge, Virginia

I have been able to piece together a lot of the DONALD and LYLE family tree from a book published in 1912 about the LYLE's in early Virginia.

Recent Posts

- Let's Practice Our Narrative Lineage's! Motivation Monday
- Ok, I promise, the last resolutions of 2013.
- Silliness for Sorting Saturday
- Motivation. Inspiration. It's Follow Friday!
- Knowing when to tip over or How I plan to write more this year.
- Tuesday's Tip

How do you start a blog?

Blogger and Wordpress have free platforms that you can use.

Let's look at Blogger.

Let's start on blogger.com

If you already have a gmail account, you'll be logged in.

Google SIGN UP

Blogger

Create a blog. It's free.

Beautiful, customizable templates and layouts.

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 Google

Email

Password

Stay signed in

[Can't access your account?](#)

Click on
Create A
New Blog

Choose a
title (you
can change
this later)

Chose a
URL. (You
cannot
change
this!)

Unknown's blogs English (United States)

Blogs List > Create a new blog

Title

Address

This blog address is available.

Template

Dynamic Views Simple Picture Window

Awesome Inc. Watermark Ethereal

You can browse many more templates and customize your blog later.

Create blog! Cancel

Click on
Create A
New Blog

Choose a
title (you
can change
this later)

Chose a
URL. (You
cannot
change
this!)

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Blogs List > Create a new blog

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Dynamic Views Simple Picture Window

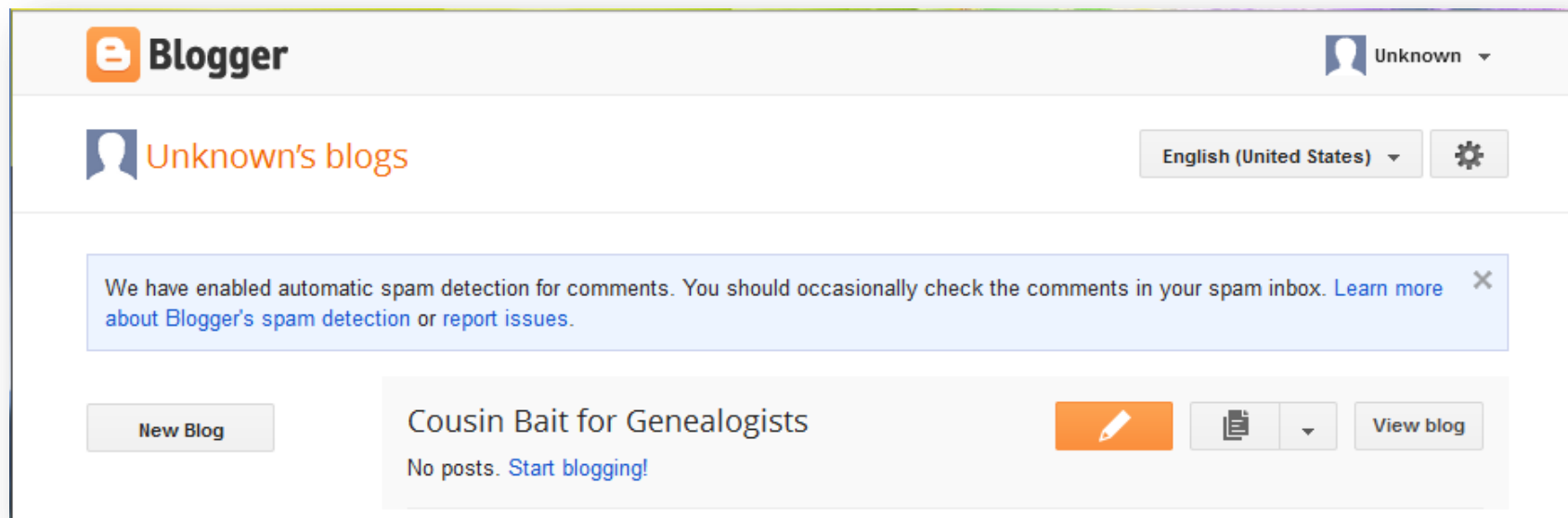
Awesome Inc. Watermark Ethereal

You can browse many more templates and customize your blog later.

Create blog! Cancel

You will now have a blog.

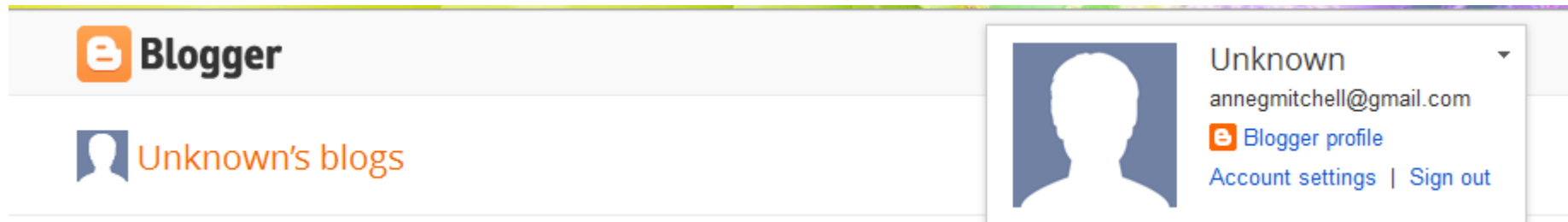
To find you, people need to know who you are.



The screenshot shows the Blogger dashboard interface. At the top left is the Blogger logo. At the top right is a user profile icon labeled 'Unknown' with a dropdown arrow. Below the logo is the text 'Unknown's blogs'. To the right of this are two buttons: 'English (United States)' with a dropdown arrow and a settings gear icon. A blue notification box contains the text: 'We have enabled automatic spam detection for comments. You should occasionally check the comments in your spam inbox. [Learn more](#) about Blogger's spam detection or report issues.' Below the notification is a 'New Blog' button. To its right is a card for a blog titled 'Cousin Bait for Genealogists' with the text 'No posts. [Start blogging!](#)'. To the right of the title is an orange pencil icon, a document icon with a dropdown arrow, and a 'View blog' button.

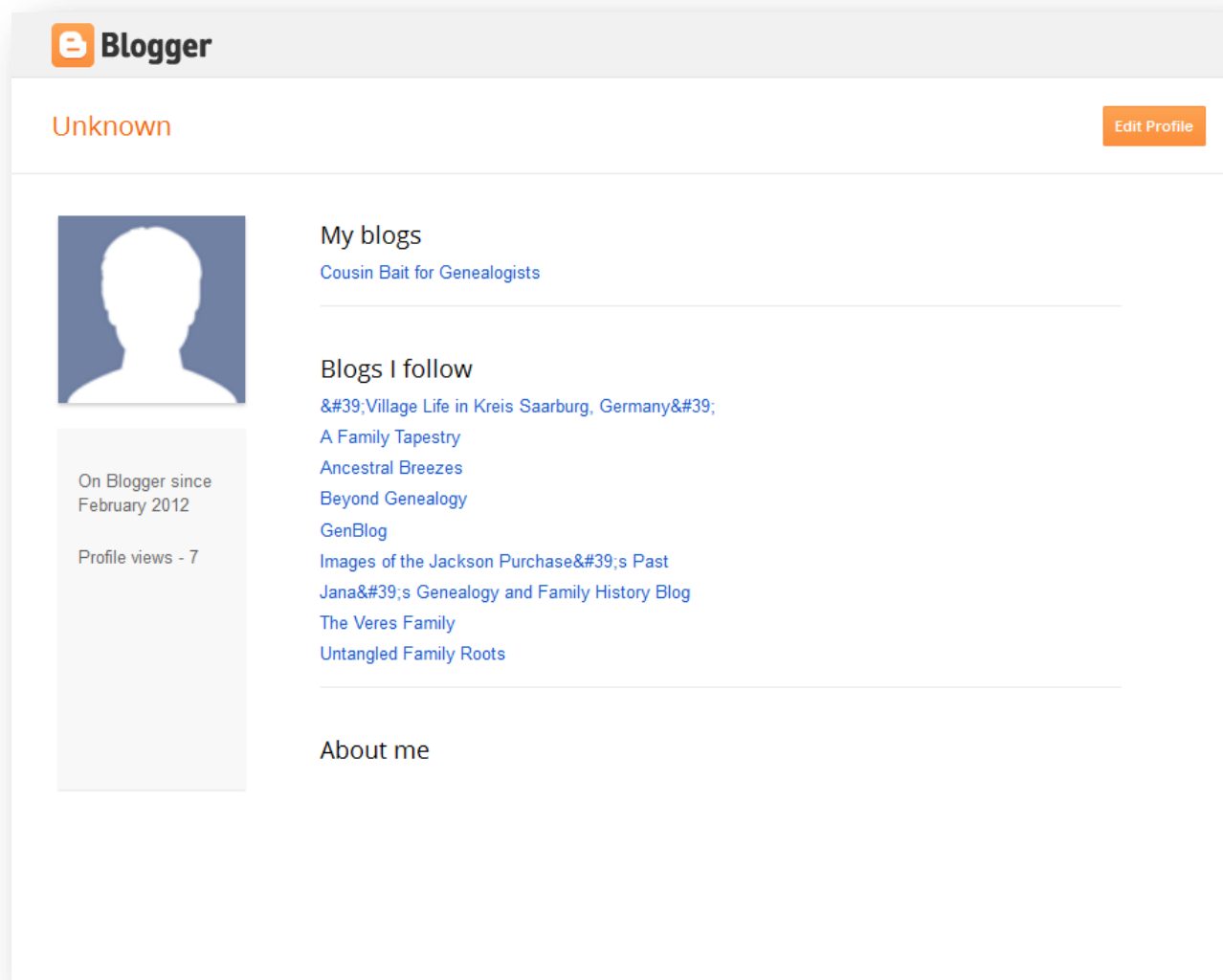
You will now have a blog.

To find you, people need to know who you are. Click on your profile in the upper right corner.



Then choose account settings

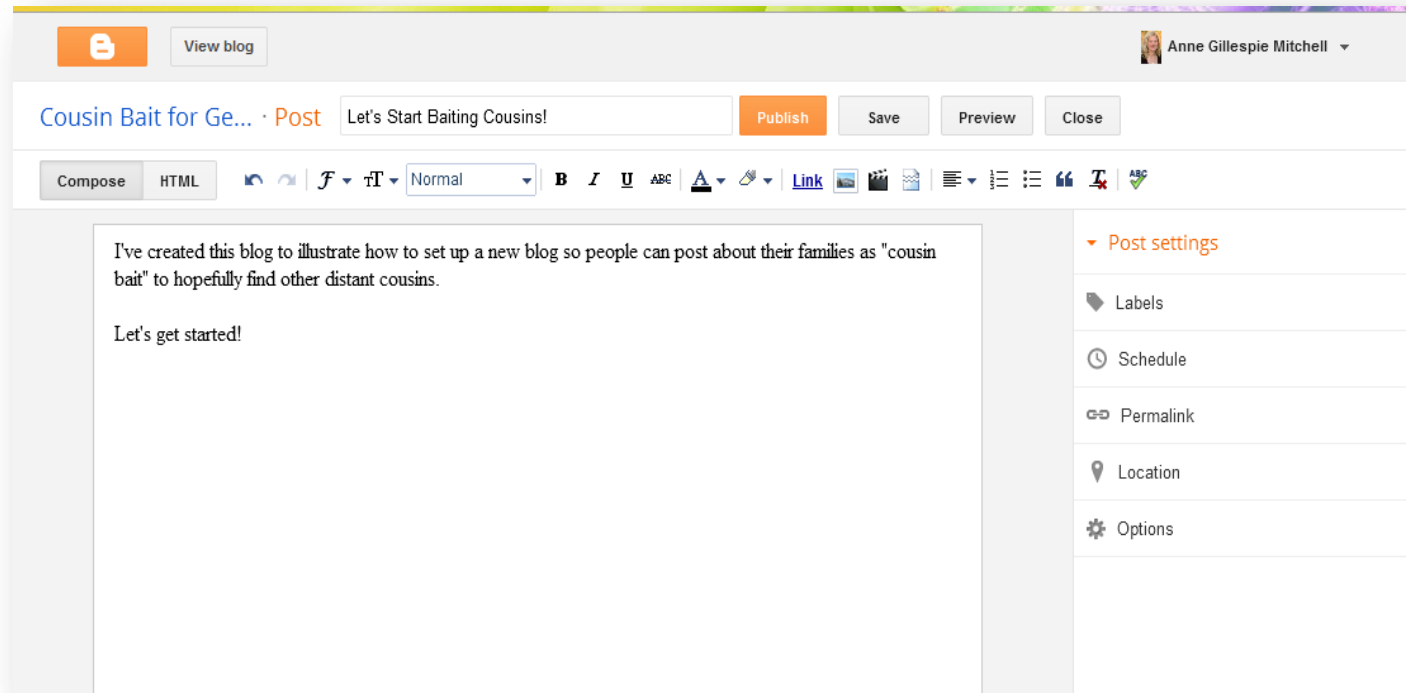
I can now click on edit profile in the upper right corner and update my information.



The screenshot shows a Blogger profile page for a user named "Unknown". At the top left is the Blogger logo. In the top right corner, there is an orange button labeled "Edit Profile". Below the name "Unknown" is a blue square profile picture placeholder. To the right of the profile picture, the text "My blogs" is followed by a link to "Cousin Bait for Genealogists". Below this is a section titled "Blogs I follow" which lists several genealogy-related blogs: "Village Life in Kreis Saarburg, Germany", "A Family Tapestry", "Ancestral Breezes", "Beyond Genealogy", "GenBlog", "Images of the Jackson Purchase's Past", "Jana's Genealogy and Family History Blog", "The Veres Family", and "Untangled Family Roots". At the bottom of the profile section, there is an "About me" heading. On the left side of the profile, below the profile picture, it says "On Blogger since February 2012" and "Profile views - 7".

I can now click on edit profile in the upper right corner and update my information.

Now you
can blog.



So what do you blog about?

Any old thing that pops into your head. But if you want to create some cousin bait, you want to create posts or pages that contain information people search on.

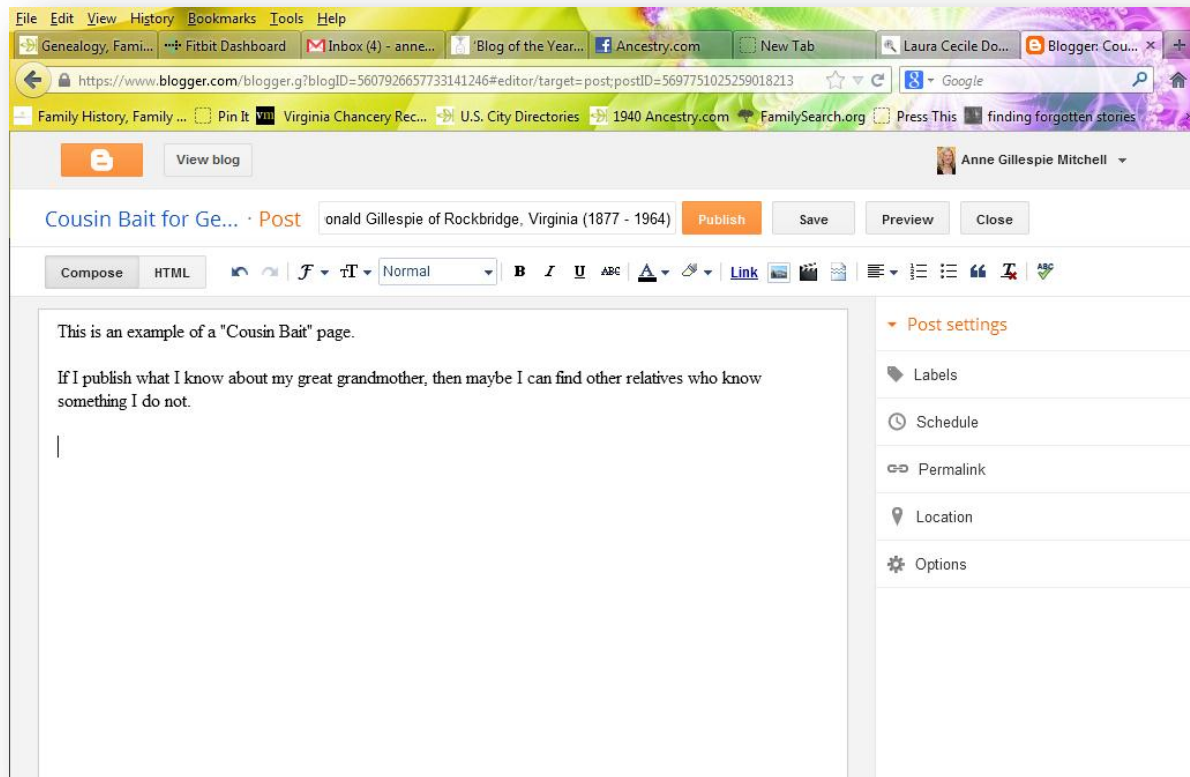
What do you type in when you search for your ancestors?

- First name, last name
- Dates
- Spouse, parents, children
- Locations
- Phrases such as genealogy or family history

So if I am going to create a *cousin bait* page for my Great Granny Laura, I might title it something like:

The Genealogy of Laura Cecile Donald Gillespie of Rockbridge, Virginia (1877 - 1964)

Don't write short titles, they are boring and non informative.



Photos, if you have them, make the page more interesting.

Cousin Bait for Ge... · Post onald Gillespie of Rockbridge, Virginia (1877 - 1964) Publish Save Preview Close

Compose HTML Normal ABC

This is an example of a "Cousin Bait" page. Post settings

If I pu
somet


Select a file

Upload

- From this blog
- From Picasa Web Albums
- From your phone
- From your webcam
- From a URL

Choose files

You may upload multiple files at once. Use JPG, GIF, or PNG files.



Add selected Cancel

What do you talk about?

You talk about what you know. You talk about what you don't know.

You can cite your sources, or include links to them.

Laura Cecile Donald was born February 13, 1877 in Rockbridge County, Virginia. She was the youngest daughter of James Calvin Donald and Elizabeth Jane Wallace.

She married Wyatt Paul Gillespie in ? in Lexington Virginia. Wyatt was the son of Jeremiah and Mary (Gillespie) Gillespie.

She and Wyatt had 10 children.

She died August 1964.

Now
what?

Now you
wait

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a Blogger blog. The address bar shows the URL cousinbaitforgenealogists.blogspot.com. The browser's address bar contains several bookmarks: Family History, Family..., Pin It, Virginia Chancery Rec..., U.S. City Directories, 1940 Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Press This, finding forgotten stories, and Amherst County, VA G... The search bar contains the text "Share" and "0". The page title is "Cousin Bait for Genealogists" in large blue font. Below the title is the subtitle "A blog that will allow me to demonstrate how to start blogging". The post date is "TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013". The post title is "The Genealogy of Laura Cecile Donald Gillespie of Rockbridge, Virginia (1877 - 1964)". The post content includes: "This is an example of a 'Cousin Bait' page.", "If I publish what I know about my great grandmother, then maybe I can find other relatives who know something I do not.", "Laura Cecile Donald was born February 13, 1877 in Rockbridge County, Virginia.", "She was the youngest daughter of James Calvin Donald and Elizabeth Jane Wallace.", "She married Wyatt Paul Gillespie in 1894 in Lexington Virginia. Wyatt was the son of Jeremiah and Mary (Gillespie) Gillespie.", "She and Wyatt had 10 children." A black and white photograph of a young girl sitting on a rocking chair is shown. The right sidebar contains sections for "POPULAR POSTS" (with a link to "Let's Start Baiting Cousins!"), "BLOG ARCHIVE" (with a link to "The Genealogy of Laura Cecile Donald Gillespie of..."), and "ABOUT ME" (with a profile picture of Anne Gillespie Mitchell and a link to "View my complete profile").

cousinbaitforgenealogists.blogspot.com

Family History, Family ... Pin It Virginia Chancery Rec... U.S. City Directories 1940 Ancestry.com FamilySearch.org Press This finding forgotten stories Amherst County, VA G...

Share 0 More Next Blog» Create Blog Sign In

Cousin Bait for Genealogists

A blog that will allow me to demonstrate how to start blogging

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013

The Genealogy of Laura Cecile Donald Gillespie of Rockbridge, Virginia (1877 - 1964)

This is an example of a "Cousin Bait" page.


If I publish what I know about my great grandmother, then maybe I can find other relatives who know something I do not.

Laura Cecile Donald was born February 13, 1877 in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

She was the youngest daughter of James Calvin Donald and Elizabeth Jane Wallace.

She married Wyatt Paul Gillespie in 1894 in Lexington Virginia. Wyatt was the son of Jeremiah and Mary (Gillespie) Gillespie.

She and Wyatt had 10 children.




POPULAR POSTS

[Let's Start Baiting Cousins!](#)
I've created this blog to illustrate how to set up a new blog so people can post about their families as "cousin bait" to hopefully find oth...

BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ 2013 (2)
▼ January (2)
[The Genealogy of Laura Cecile Donald Gillespie of ...](#)
[Let's Start Baiting Cousins!](#)

ABOUT ME



[Anne Gillespie Mitchell](#)
[View my complete profile](#)

FOLLOW BY EMAIL

A couple of blog articles on Cousin Bait from Amy Coffin on The We Tree Genealogy Blog

How to Write a “Cousin Bait” Genealogy Blog Post

<http://wetree.blogspot.com/2012/10/how-to-write-cousin-bait-genealogy-blog.html>

Why I Blog: Cousin Bait Reels in the Big One

<http://wetree.blogspot.com/2012/10/why-i-blog-cousin-bait-reels-in-big-one.html>

Where you can find this in PDF form:

<http://finding-forgotten-stories.com/resources/how-to-videos/>