

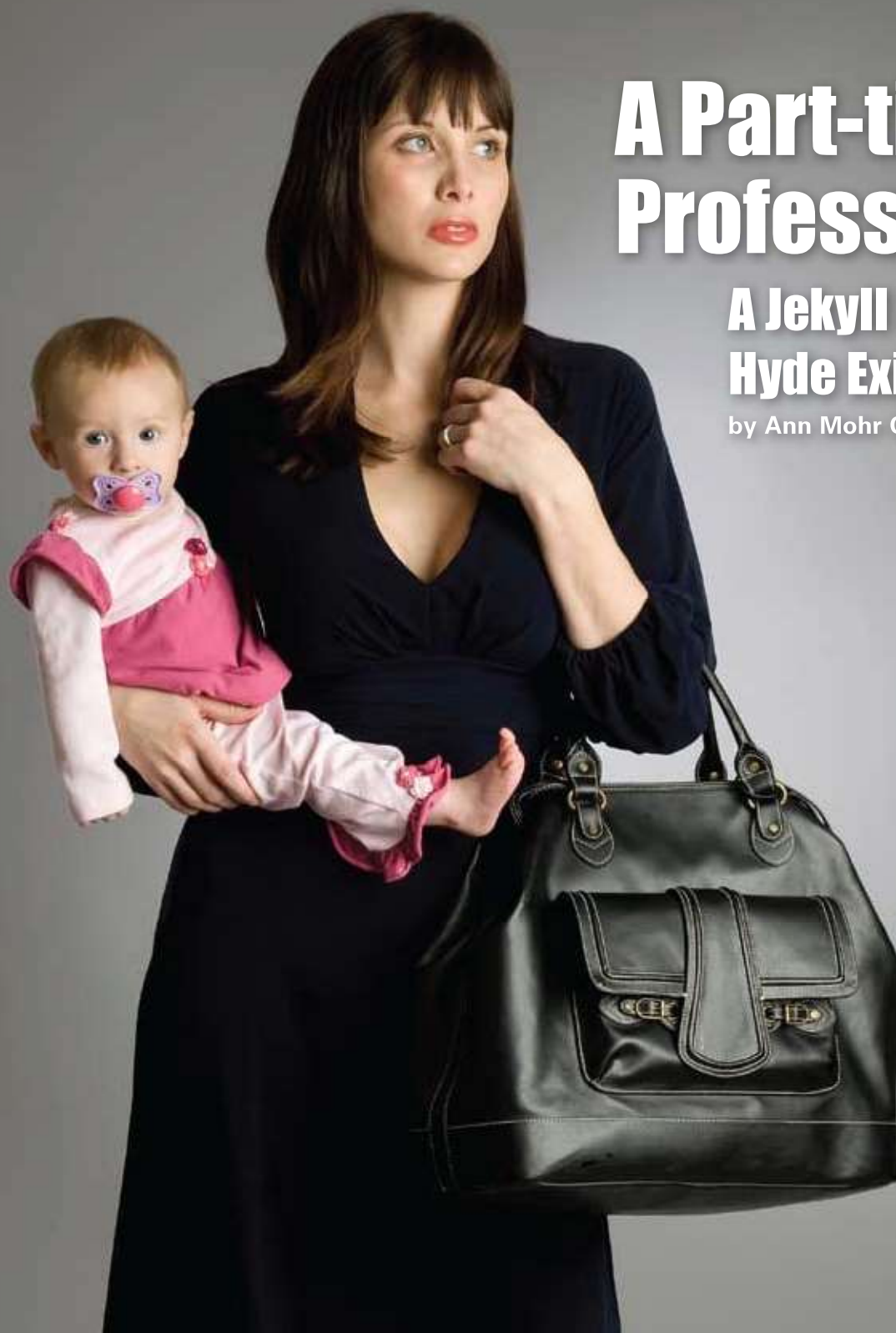
"The Professional's Voice"

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A Part-time Professional

A Jekyll and Hyde Existence

by Ann Mohr Osisek

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study of a population for schizophrenia—in Roscommon oddly enough. The study resulted in the discovery of the Dysbindin gene, a marker for the disease. The author also looks for ancestors and their possible descendants, hoping to link their families with his own. He finds some Roscommon residents who may be distant cousins, but with the loss of Irish records, he realizes it would be difficult to prove relationships. Instead, he visits and speaks gently with them about the disease they are reluctant to talk about and gathers stories of their own family's struggles. In the end, the journey brings him back home, without answers, but thankful for the family he still has.

One might wonder why a non-genealogical book such as this would be important to genealogists. In our rush to research and document the facts of an ancestor's existence, we may sometimes overlook the more compelling stories of their lives, such as battling schizophrenia. These are stories that require a different set of skills to uncover and understand, stories often swept under the rug and told reluctantly, if at all.

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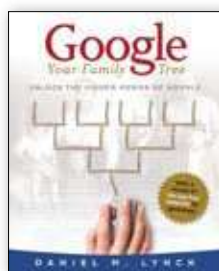
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Google Your Family Tree: Unlock the Hidden Power of Google. By Daniel M. Lynch. Published by FamilyLink.com, Provo, Utah, 2008. ISBN 987-0-9820737-1-1. 352 pp., Illustrations, index. Softcover \$34.95. Available online at <www.googleyourfamilytree.com>.

It has become a cliché to say that the Internet has revolutionized genealogy. The early availability of e-mail lists for communication has expanded into an array of resources, including search engines. Google <www.google.com>, in particular, has established itself as an indispensable resource for genealogists. In *Google Your Family Tree: Unlock the Hidden Power of Google*, Daniel M. Lynch makes it easy for researchers to learn the Google tools that have the most direct use for genealogy.

The first two chapters describe basic functionality and the search result pages. Seasoned Google users will want to skim these chapters and move quickly to chapter three, which provides instructions for twelve advanced commands that can be useful to genealogists.

After explaining the Google search features, Lynch moves into chapter-by-chapter explanations of ten Google tools and services. These include Language Tools, Google Books, Google News Archive, Images and Video, and Google Maps. Each chapter contains instructions, real-life examples, and illustrations of the tools in action. The book concludes with a “Tips and Tricks” chapter, five appendices, and an index.

Google Your Family Tree is written for a general audience in a conversational style and is reinforced with the liberal use of charts, screen shots, and other images.

The book is an easy way to learn Google's tools quickly, without wasting time with trial and error. Anyone who does not spend a lot of time using Google will find that the book is a useful introduction to these research resources.

As a long-time Google user, I learned new things from the book. Numbers can be searched in a range, rather than individually. Multiple historical newspaper services can be searched simultaneously. I believe that everyone except the most advanced Google users will have the same experience. Even advanced users who are in a research rut may be reminded of tools they could be using. The book contains excellent instructions for the tools it includes, but it would have also been helpful to include a more comprehensive list of Google's current tools, such as Scholar, Documents, Groups, and Web History.

Lynch has made a unique contribution to the collection of Google how-to books by explaining the tools from the point of view of a genealogist. For professionals with limited exposure to all that Google offers, the book is an excellent introduction. Advanced users will find nuggets of new information and may rediscover tools that they have neglected. *Google Your Family Tree* is a valuable learning tool for a valuable Internet resource.

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The television program *60 Minutes* called it “Hitler's Secret Archives.” The Jewish