

December 2009 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our recent Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.

What does this really mean?

Prior to this "new" process, our program handouts would actually be paper handouts that were based on me often printing up the first page related to a web site that I wanted to mention. Then on the paper for the web site I would handwrite what things of importance are associated with the web site that the researcher should know. Maybe it was a new web site or maybe an important date related to a significant event or maybe a new database was released. Whatever it was I noted it on the paper of the first page of the web site.

Going forward I plan on creating this document that will include my notes regarding a web site of interest and a link to the web site itself.

The reader of this "handout" list can themselves then read my overview summary of the site and then link to the site directly themselves to get more details or print out what they want from site.

This program "Handout" information will then be uploaded to the Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Blog that is titled "Genealogy with Tony". This blog will be accessible from the library's main web site page at www.stdl.org. Select "Research" at the top of the page, then "Genealogy" on the left hand column, then scroll down and select "Genealogy with Tony". Look at the right hand side of the blog and you will see the "Handouts" information.

Here we go with the list of "handouts"!

Handout #1 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY GENEALOGY BLOG NOW AVAILABLE

Our new genealogy library blog is available for you to read. You can get to this blog by going to our library home page at www.stdl.org then click on the link on the top of the first page that says "Research" then click on the link on the next page on the left side that says "Genealogy". Once here you can see the databases you can access both from home and only within the library. Scroll down a little and you will see our new genealogy blog called "Genealogy with Tony". Click on this link and it will take you to the blog directly. You can also go directly to the WordPress blog at www.genealogywithtony.wordpress.com.

You will see that you can now look at the Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Newsletter at the site on the right side of the blog under the category "Newsletter". You should also soon see another category called "Handouts" appearing there also soon with this "handout" document being the first to be added.

Be patient as I learn about more of the blogging process and also how I can use more of the tools offered by WordPress.

Handout #2 – NATIONAL ARCHIVES RESERVATION PROCESS

One topic of note for our recent program was a news item from the Dick Eastman blog at www.eogn.com in which it was mentioned that the National Archives in Washington, D.C. is now establishing a “reserved visits” process. Advanced reservations can speed up the process for the visitor rather than waiting in longer lines. Reservations will allow the visitor to avoid the exterior portion of the line to see the Charters of Freedom during the height of the tourist season from mid-March through Labor Day. There is a convenience fee of \$1.50 per person to make this reservation. Take a look at the National Archives Web Site at www.archives.gov/nae/visit/reserved-visits.html for more details.

Handout #3 – FOOTNOTE.COM AND INTERACTIVE CENSUS PROJECT

Footnote.com has created an interactive census project at their site that covers multiple censuses. Footnote allows the subscribed researcher to make indications on census items as to how they may be related to who is appearing in the census. This is a very general description of what the capabilities will be at Footnote. Footnote has created this interactive capability for collaborative research should someone find your commented census pages in Footnote at some future date. If they find they page they may be a researcher that you could then continue future collaborations in research. Check out this new footnote capability at <http://go.footnote.com/census/?xid=46>.

Handout #4 – DNA AND GENEALOGY CNN STORY

Dick Eastman’s blog had an item recently related to the use of DNA in genealogy and the unexpected results you may encounter when you submit your DNA for genealogical matching purposes. It is a story from CNN.com about how a Eurasian person in Singapore discovered a strong DNA match a person of Polish descent living in Rhode Island. Sometimes you think your ancestral chain is all of one kind until you receive a surprise as this indicating that you and another unexpected person have a common ancestor within the past 6 generations. Take a look at the full CNN news story at www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/11/09/dna.families/index.html.

Handout #5 – GOOGLE READER

Are you forgetting to re-visit sites you often visit? New things may have been added to the site but when you remember to re-visit you may be overwhelmed with the new items that have been added. Consider activating a RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed from the web site of interest. This will allow you in conjunction with an RSS reader to receive notifications read via the reader that new things have been posted to a website of interest to you. Dick Eastman had an article giving an overview of Google Reader as an RSS reader to consider to use when you activate RSS feeds. Just take a look at <http://reader.google.com> for more details on what this particular reader is all about. You are not limited to using just Google Reader. Just do a search in Google using “rss reader” as a search term and you will see many others that you can choose as your reader. Save yourself from visiting sites over and over to see what is new. Let the site that has an RSS subscription capability let you know when new things appear.

Handout #6 – GENEALOGICAL CODICIL

Let's face it, we are all mortal! We will not be around forever no matter how important we feel genealogy is. So what can you do about this inevitable dilemma? What will happen to all of our documented genealogical research we have done over the last 30 years! Hopefully, you have been talking to your children or other cousins today while you are still here as to whether someone within your immediate family or within your own cousin research community would like to take up your research on your family history when you pass on. If you have been talking that is great. But verbal expressions may not have the same impact. Why not take advantage of actually spelling out your genealogical research wishes in writing? First of all you need a will. If you do not have this document, you need to have it in order to make this next step meaningful. For those having a will consider modifying the will you have with a "genealogical codicil". A codicil is a change to your existing will. This codicil spells out who you would like to receive all of your genealogical research. It is a legal change added on to an existing legal document. You can use Google and use a search term of "genealogical codicil" as a search term. Here is a sample of one that I found on the Internet that you can structure for your own personal needs. There are many more out there for you to consider. It would be nice if you checked in advance with a family member that they would be willing to take your work. This way the list of people you mention in order of your wishes will not be caught blindsided if they hear after your death that they are the recipients of your research. Check out www.wmgs.org/pdf/GenealogicalCodicil.pdf. You can download this form and modify for your use. Express your wishes while you are still alive and put your directions in writing!!

Handout #7 – DVD CAN LAST FOREVER

We all hear stories of the media we use to save our research and how long it will last. CDs, DVDs may be good for 20 years. Paper may be good for hundreds of years or a few years. You get the picture here! There is a company that is making the claim that they can create DVDs that will now last. The DVD or CD is supposed to last for thousands of years. There you go! Media that is indestructible. The company has equipment that can create your forever DVD. Their "burner" cost about \$5,000 which makes the price out of the realm of your average user. But for a fee of \$34.95 per DVD they can burn one for you that will last literally forever. But there is always one main weakness in the argument over the life of such media and that is that the media itself may not matter in 20 years because there may be no DVD readers in the future. Who knows what readers will look like then? Who would have thought that CDs and CD players would go the way of MP3 players storing and playing files and not CDs. So take it with a grain of sand! Take a look at the web site of the company that provides this service. You can find information about the "DiamonDisc" at http://cranberry.com/about_cranberry_disc.php.

Handout #8 – OURFAMILY-OLGY

More and more web sites are becoming available in the "cloud computing" environment that allows genealogists to upload all of their lineage research making it available on the web to fellow researchers either in a public way or a private way. Who can see your uploaded data is completely up to you on how you set up your account with these services. You can view a "demo" at the site to see how this process works with this provider. This is a subscribable service. You can subscribe

for a free 15 day trial. The yearly subscription fee is based on your space usage or how much space you want to use for your data. Fees range from \$18 per year for 100 MB to \$75 per year for 1 GB. You can visit the site yourself for many more details on what is offered at www.family-genealogy.com.