

August 10, 2010 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our August 10, 2010 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 on a monthly basis 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"!

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Handout #1 – VISIT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY GENEALOGY BLOG

I will continue to remind participants of our library’s new genealogy blog. You can access it through our library home page at www.stdl.org by scrolling down the right side of the first page and then selecting “Blogs”. On the next page just select “Genealogy with Tony” and you will arrive at the new genealogy blog.

Or you can just go directly to the blog at:

<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

You will find postings on upcoming programs, both at our library, and elsewhere in the area. You will also a myriad of other kinds of postings, especially those that I offer on “Genealogy Tips” to help make your research efforts more productive.

You will also find our Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Newsletter and our “Program Handouts” at the blog as PDF files for you to view online, or download and save to your own computer for future referral.

Please remember that the blog will be the place to retrieve the newsletter and the “handouts”. I do not plan on making paper handouts of these available for distribution at the program or for mailing to individuals.

Try to visit the blog frequently to see what is going on. Subscribe to the blog via RSS (Really Simple Syndication) and you will receive notices when a new post or comment has been made at the blog.

Our blog is the way of the future and the future is here now!

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Handout #2 – NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COUNCIL OF GENEALOGISTS ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Tuesday evening, September 21, 2010. The program for the evening is titled **“To Be Determined”**. The speaker for the evening will be To Be Determined.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO MEETINGS OF THIS SOCIETY DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST.

I will be checking the society web page during these months and will be looking for when the new schedule of programs for 2010-2011 becomes available

Meetings take place at Forest View Education Center, 2121 South Goebbert (turn south at Golf and Goebbert), Arlington Heights, IL 60005 at 7:30 p.m. There is a round table discussion that takes place at 7 PM prior to the main meeting that starts at 7:30 PM. Participants are invited to attend this round table and bring their research questions for discussion.

You may visit the society web page at for any further details on the program as well as on the society:

www.NWSCG.com

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Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, September 15, 2010. The program scheduled for that evening is **“The Ellis Island Experience”**. The speaker for the program will be Marian Schuetz.

THIS SEPTEMBER PROGRAM ONLY FOR 2010-2011 WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DUPAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT 102 E. WESLEY STREET IN WHEATON IN THE UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM.

Marian presented this program at our program a few years ago. She does a wonderful presentation of the experience that our ancestors had when they arrived for processing at Ellis Island. For some immigrants, things went off without a hitch. For others, they may have been delayed while medical evaluations were done to allow entry. For a sad number, this was as far as they got into the United States. They were rejected and were deported back to their country of origin. Marian does a wonderful job in telling the story. If you have not seen this program, it may be worth marking it down on your calendar. I believe Marian will soon be ending her career as a genealogy speaker, so there is even more of a reason to see her before she stops presenting this informative programs.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO MEETINGS OF THIS SOCIETY DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST.

I will be checking the society web page during these months and will be looking for when the full new schedule of programs for 2010-2011 becomes available

Please note that meetings take place at the Wheaton Public Library in Wheaton, IL. The address of the library is 225 Cross St. The meeting room opens at 6:30 PM. Refreshments are available at that time. The program starts at 7 PM and will conclude by no later than 9 PM.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgs.org

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON AUGUST 21, 2010

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, August 21, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is " **Liven Up Your Family History with Images**". The speaker for the program will be Mike Karsen.

You may visit the organization web page at:

www.CAGGNI.org

Visit the group's web site noted above for information about this program as well as what CAGG-NI is all about.

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Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

The next genealogy program of the Schaumburg Township District Library will take place on Tuesday evening, September 14, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 7:30 PM. The program scheduled for this evening is "**Break Out Groups/Beginner's Group**". There is no speaker for this program.

You may visit the library's web page at:

www.stdl.org

to view a Calendar of Events section of the library web page for this program and for many more non-genealogical programs offered by our library.

You can also visit the Genealogy Blog of the library that is authored by Tony Kierna. Visit the blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com> for all things related to genealogy and the genealogy programs at the Schaumburg Township District Library.

We will have another "break-out" session for our gathering in September 2010. Our previous attempts proved to be quite a good success. I would like us to build on those successes and afford those participants the opportunity to meet with those again or sample other groups.

After an initial introduction of new participants at the start of our normally scheduled meeting, we will establish our "breakout" groups at approximately 7:45 PM. We would have these breakout discussions from about 8:00 PM until about 9:30 PM. These groups would consist of about 7 to 8 participants. They would discuss some common topic of genealogy that interests them or from which they could learn even more to assist their research from sharing with others in the group and learning from others within the group.

The groups we previously tried seemed to work out quite well. I want to go with those same groups and am open to suggestions to attempt to add others or delete those that may not have a following.

I want to reconvene the following groups:

- Polish Researchers
- German Researchers
- Czech Researchers
- Irish Researchers
- Italian Researchers
- British Researchers
- Scandinavian Researchers
- Colonial Americans Researchers

I also will have a Beginner's Group that I will lead.

We will also have the computer in the room for anyone to access the internet.

Please remember that the group's composition is based on the numbers that will participate. If only one person is present to participate in the Polish group, then we cannot have a Polish group that evening. I cannot guarantee there will be enough participants to form a group. In that case I would always recommend participating in the Beginner's Group or the Troubleshooting Group.

The key to this effort is to be flexible in selecting a group to work with.

I look forward to our next "break-out" session in September 2010.

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Handout #6 – NATIONAL ARCHIVES LAUNCHED “INSIDE THE VAULTS” VIDEO SERIES

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated July 2, 2010.

The National Archives is unveiling a new initiative today that is part of its ongoing effort to make its collections, its stories, and its accomplishments more accessible to the public. This new video series entitled "Inside the Vaults" will give voice to Archives staff and users, highlight new and exciting finds at the Archives, and report on complicated and technical subjects in easily understandable presentations.

"Our buildings are filled with riveting stories waiting to be told. One way to tell them is through video, drawing on the knowledge of the Archives' specialists and the collections they oversee. We are very excited about this new way for us to get news and information about the Archives out to the public," said Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero.

In time for the National Archives July 4th celebration, the first two-minute video features Catherine Nicholson, National Archives supervisory conservator, discussing the conservation of the original Declaration of Independence. View the video at this URL: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9ovu0a6pL8>. The videos will be hosted online on the National Archives YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/USNationalArchives and the National Archives website, www.archives.gov.

These videos are in the public domain and not subject to any copyright restrictions. The National Archives encourages the free distribution of them.

You can also follow the National Archives on:

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/archivesnews>

Facebook: USNationalArchives

I noticed at the site that there are about 16 Playlists. Each playlist may contain many individual "videos" within the playlist. Some of the videos may be minutes in length. Some may be for over an hour.

Some of the playlists that I saw at the site are:

- Harry Truman
- Visit Our Nation's Parks
- Tracing World War II
- The 1940 Census
- Native American Records
- The Lincoln Lectures

The topics are varied. There are many videos contained among all of the playlists.

You will also find a section of this area in which Comments are left and are available to read. You will also find a good deal of statistics provided by the National Archives as to Subscribers, Channel Views and Upload Views.

All in all, this is a good place to visit and see what is there that is of interest to you from our National Archives.

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Handout #7 – DIGITAL ATLAS OF HISTORICAL COUNTY BOUNDARIES

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated July 14, 2010.

The Newberry Library is pleased to announce the completion and release of its Digital Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, a dataset that covers every day-to-day change in the size, shape, location, name, organization, and attachment of each U.S. county and state from the creation of the first county in 1634 through 2000.

In addition, population figures are commonly aggregated at the county level, but comparing statistics from one enumeration to the next may not accurately reveal actual change. Was a change in the figures from census to census due to population movement or to a change in the boundaries of the reporting counties, or to a combination of both?

The data are organized by state and are available online in four versions:

- Viewable, interactive maps (electronic analogues to printed maps) on which the historical lines have been plotted against a background of the modern county network
- Downloadable shapefiles for use in geographic information systems (GIS)
- Downloadable KMZ files for use with Google Earth
- Downloadable and printable PDF files (each full-page frame shows a map of a different version of each county, with the historical boundaries displayed against a background of the modern county network)

Supplementing the polygons and maps for each state are chronologies, commentary on historical problems, long and short metadata documents, and a bibliography.

The project began in 1988, with principal funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency. Additional support came from the Newberry Library, which also served as headquarters, and from other foundations and individuals. The Newberry Library is the copyright holder; all files of the Digital Atlas of Historical County Boundaries are free for use under an Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.5 Creative Commons License. Queries should be addressed to scholl@newberry.org. The Website for the Atlas is publications.newberry.org/ahcbp

You can actually download a PDF file that in essence appears to be book-sized that provides the researcher with information on county boundary history and changes for a particular state. I downloaded the Illinois data. It was 370 pages in length. Counties are listed in alphabetical order and within each county you will see maps and text describing the county at a particular point in time. Adams County in Illinois had 4 separately dated maps indicated changes for this county over a period of time. Bond County of Illinois had 8 historical changes over time. It appears to have been an original county in 1818 when it ran the entire length from north to south in Illinois in a narrow bond.

You can also download material that can be used with Google Maps.

There is an abundance of material available state by state from this site. There is almost an overwhelming amount of information. This can help you better understand the geographical lay of the land at the time of your ancestors and can help you find the right county in which records of your ancestors can be found.

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Handout #8 – RELEASE OF 1940 CENSUS DATA

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated July 5, 2010.

Circle this date on your calendar: Monday, April 2, 2012.

Less than two years from now, all genealogists will be able to gain access to the 1940 U.S. Census Records for the first time.

Title 13 of the United States Code governs how the Census is conducted and mandates the confidentiality of information concerning individuals. Aggregate information, including statistical models, may be released, but any information about individuals must be kept confidential for 72 years. The 1940 census was conducted on April 1, 1940 so the information may not be released until April 1, 2012.

Take a look at the August 2010 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Newsletter for the full article captured from Dick Eastman. The full article identifies 50 pieces of information that were captured during the 1940 census. 36 items were considered the main aspect of the census and there were an additional 14 supplemental questions. I am not going to restate all 50 here but I thought I would just highlight some interesting pieces of data that you can look forward to in 2012. You will find the typical location information, name information and relationship information. Some interesting pieces of data are:

- Highest grade of school completed
- Residence information for April 1, 1935
- Employment status for those 14 years old and older e.g. working, seeking work, hours employed, employed, unemployed, industry worked etc.
- Supplemental questions on:
 - Place of birth of parents
 - Language spoken
 - Is person a veteran, if so, of what war
 - Does the person have a Social Security number
 - For women, has the woman been married, age at first marriage, how many children born (excluding stillbirths).

Take a look at the entire Eastman article I have in the Newsletter for a listing of all of the 50 items that were asked in the 1940 Census.

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Handout #9 – MAKING VOTER REGISTRATION RECORDS COUNT

I noticed the following information mentioned in the recent April-June 2010, Volume 36, Number 2 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Making Voter Registration Records Count”. I personally have been able to discover Voter Registration information on some of my ancestors from the material that is available within the Ancestry.com databases on Chicago Voter Registration data for the years 1888, 1890 and 1892.

These records may contain that elusive birth date or naturalization information on your ancestor simply because the birth date was needed in order to calculate the age which had to adhere to the voting requirements at the time and the naturalization trail of information led to proof of citizenship in order to vote.

Some of the information you may find on your ancestor from these voter cards may include the following:

- Voter’s name
- Party affiliation
- Address at time of registration
- Age
- Date of birth
- Color
- Sex
- Whether convicted of a crime
- Place of birth
- Length of time at residence
- Whether the registrant can read or write
- Application date
- Occupation
- Date and court of naturalization
- Signature of the registrant

As you can see, there is a great deal of information that you can find that really shed some light on your ancestor at the time registration happened. These lists can be especially helpful as are the Chicago Voter Lists that were done for 1890 and 1892 simply because the 1890 Census was destroyed. You can use this helpful information to fill in the blanks for missing 1890 census data.

The article also provides some very good background material on voting privileges from our earliest founding through the present day, highlighting how voting rights have been expanded over time to include more eligible citizens. Much of the expansion of voting rights has been done through the amendment process of the Constitution of the United States.

You can often find these voter records at the city or county level at the Board of Elections. Some have been kept over time while some have been destroyed according to the retention laws applicable to the local jurisdiction.

Ancestry.com definitely has the Chicago Voter Lists for 1888, 1890 and 1892. Search through Ancestry.com to determine if Voter Records exist for other jurisdictions. The Voter Records for Chicago show up in Ancestry.com under the category of "Census Data". So if you have a lot of hits under this category, be sure to expand the list of hits on the first page to determine if any Voter Records exist for your search.

This article is definitely worth a complete read or the making of a personal copy for your use.

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Handout #10 – DISCOVERING LAND RECORDS

I noticed the following information mentioned in the recent April-June 2010, Volume 36, Number 2 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Discovering Land Records”. Land/Home ownership is such an important part of our society, that the importance of that process of recording this kind of ownership information is taken as seriously in recording this information for public access. Deeds and wills are historically the first records filed in a new administrative area. Why? Ownership and inheritance were the keys to financial stability, particularly in frontier areas. Land records, therefore, are often found recorded decades before births and deaths, or even marriages.

Most land records are kept at the county level. Rhode Island kept them at the town level.

After the Revolutionary War, the new United States owned all untitled land. The federal government surveyed this land and offered the land for sale to an original first time owner after peace had been established in the area. Land was always an attraction to those living in the United States as well as to foreigners who came to the United States for land.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was the agency in our federal government through which these land sales took place. Records of land management in their possession include:

- Survey field notes that might include the surveys performed, names of settlers, descriptions of waterways, land formations, climate, soil etc.
- Survey plats
- Records of the original title transfer, often referred to as patents or deeds. There are 2,000 tract books at BLM's Eastern States Branch in Virginia.
- Conveyance documents such as homesteads, cash sales, private land claims, railroad lists and other land distributions.

These records are being digitized over time. Check them out and other things you can find at the BLM at www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov.

The article points out the usefulness of these land records with the following examples:

- The records can help identify neighbors that may be connected to your ancestors. Courting of women was often done within a 3 mile distance to allow the time needed to get chores done and then visit the one being courted and then return. Your ancestral family may have interconnected with the neighbors that surrounded them.
- Deeds often mention neighbors. Witnesses on the documents were often neighbors, friends or relatives.

- When inherited land was sold, the source of the land was usually included in the description. For example, "the land John Smith's wife obtained from her father Michael Brown, on his death".
- When land was given to a child, the deed may give a clue by a statement that the consideration (payment) was for "love and affection" or some nominal price.
- Follow the ownership trail. A sold to B, but C later sold the land. How did it get from B to C? Most of the time this may have happened with an inheritance, not by sale, so look for B's will listing C.

Again, I thought this was an interesting article well worth reading in its entirety.

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