

October 12, 2010 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our October 12, 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 find 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 OCTOBER 19, 2010

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Tuesday evening, October 19, 2010. The program for the evening is titled **“Data from a Stone: Cemetery Research”**. The speaker for the evening will be Craig Pfannkuche.

Craig Pfannkuche, is president of Memory Trail Research, Inc., and is the genealogical archivist for the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Historical Society. He currently serves on the boards of directors for the McHenry County, Illinois Genealogical Society and the Chicago Genealogical Society, and he is a railroad resource person in the book, *The Source*. A former American history instructor, Pfannkuche holds both Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Northern Illinois University. He is a lively and popular speaker at workshops and conferences, and he has published many articles. The most recent are "Anna L. Smith, Chicago Suffragette" (with Nancy Merriman) in *Chicago Genealogist*, Winter 2008-09, and "Amboy's (Illinois) Railroad Baron" in *Amboy Depot Museum Journal*, Winter 2009.

Meetings are held at the Forest View Educational Center in Arlington Heights. They begin at 7:00pm with a Round-Table discussion. They encourage people to bring their research problems, achievements or interesting tips to share with each other. The main portion of the meeting begins promptly at 7:30pm. Donations are always welcome!

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 OCTOBER 20, 2010

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, October 20, 2010. The program scheduled for that evening is **“American Geographical Society Maps”**. The speaker for the program will be Jovanka Ristic.

Unfortunately, the DuPage County Genealogical Society did not have any overview summary of what is included in the presentation nor was there any biographical information about the speaker.

Please note that this meeting will 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 for any recent announcements about this program at:

www.dcgs.org

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 16, 2010

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, October 16, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Riding the (Genealogical) Rails in Chicago"**. The speaker for the program will be Larry Olson.

Do you have an ancestor/relative with a SSN beginning with a "7xx"? This person worked for the railroads and information about them can't usually be found on a Social Security Death Index. Fortunately, the Railroad Retirement Board (the flip side to the Social Security Administration) is located here in Chicago. Larry will explain how to find genealogical data on folks with "the other nine numbers."

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 NOVEMBER 9, 2010**

The next genealogy program of the Schaumburg Township District Library will take place on Tuesday evening, November 9, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 7:30 PM. The program scheduled for this evening is **"How To Read and Understand the Hamburg and Bremen Passenger Lists"**. The speaker for this program will be Patricia Reaves.

Many of our ancestors left Europe to come to the United States from these two ports. Hamburg records are available, in German, at Ancestry.com. The vast majority of records from Bremen were destroyed in World War II. Some smatterings of these records do still exist. If you have not been able to find an ancestral arrival on the United States side, then don't forget to consider looking in the Hamburg records, especially if your ancestors were Easter European in origin.

Patricia is a native German, who came to the U.S. at 11 years of age. She is skilled in reading German script, has a master's degree in German, and currently teaches Advanced Placement courses at Riverside-Brookfield High School. She is also a professional translator and researcher for the UW Madison Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies. Reaves has presented numerous German genealogy workshops throughout Illinois and Wisconsin and is also the author of "A German Genealogical Primer."

We look forward to having Patricia return to our library and offer us some insights into working with these passenger lists.

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.

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Handout #6 – FAMILYSEARCH EXPANDS ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated September 9, 2010.

The following announcement was written by FamilySearch:

FamilySearch now offers 81 free lessons on FamilySearch.org, enabling people anywhere in the world to access family history expertise any time. The topics range from basic research to training on specific record types and can be beneficial to both beginners and experienced researchers. Most of the classes come from research consultants in the world-famous Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but FamilySearch is also now working with partners to broaden the pool of expertise.

For example, FamilySearch worked with the Mid-Continent Public Library in Independence, Missouri to record and post 12 classes. These classes are available on both FamilySearch.org and the [Midwest Genealogy Center's site](#). Such collaboration benefits everyone involved, according to Darin Hakes with FamilySearch Community Services.

"We see partnering as a mutually beneficial situation for FamilySearch, our partners, and the patrons," Hakes said. "We realize that FamilySearch does not have expertise in every area, nor do we have the bandwidth to create all the training that is needed. However, there are many excellent individuals and organizations that have created training that can benefit the genealogical community. They may not have the resources to record and publish their classes, so working together is the perfect solution."

Midwest Genealogy Center librarian Janice Schultz agrees that partnering with FamilySearch increases their reach.

"The online classes allow people to attend no matter where they live," Schultz said. "It helps us achieve our mission of educating genealogists. We have received many positive comments about these classes."

In addition to the Mid-Continent Public Library, FamilySearch is working with the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Board of Certified Genealogists, and the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists. Individual genealogists may also use FamilySearch's free services to record and share their presentations.

Upcoming FamilySearch classes will focus on U.S. courthouse research and a series of courses for those just getting started in family history research. There are also more interactive classes planned on reading handwritten records in different languages, a list that now includes Dutch, French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

All of the classes can be accessed on www.familysearch.org by clicking on **Free Online Classes** on the home page.

Comments from Tony Kierna

I strongly encourage all of you to take a good look at the material that is available. I have looked at a few presentations and have felt that I was able to really pick up many good tips. The speakers are excellent. The topics are varied. The visual presentation process is outstanding. You can replay the material over and over. You can look at the presentation outline material as the speaker is progressing through the parts of the program.

You may remember that we had Teresa Steinkamp McMillin present a program on German research in April of this year. I am happy to tell you that her program is one of those that is available through this educational process. She does an outstanding job on what can be a very difficult topic.

Often times reading unfamiliar handwritten documents in the language of our ancestors can be very challenging. The online classes section from the Mormons has at least 30 online video presentations that can help you to better understand some of the written documents of your ancestors. I noticed they had online classes for Dutch, English, Polish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Gothic, Scandinavian and Spanish.

Do not overlook this wonderful resource of getting "personal" training in a genealogy topic to advance your own personal research. I think you will enjoy what you see and will be a better researcher after you have seen some of these great online training aids.

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Handout #7 – FAMILY TREE MAKER 2011 WILL BE AVAILABLE

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated August 31, 2010.

PROVO, Utah, August 31, 2010 – Ancestry.com today announced the release of Ancestry.com Family Tree Maker® 2011, an improved version of the world's No. 1 selling family history software.

Ancestry.com Family Tree Maker makes it easier than ever to discover your family story, preserve your legacy and share your unique heritage. Of the more than one hundred enhancements added to the software, the following are some of the new and improved features found in Family Tree Maker 2011:

- Smart Stories™ – Ready to start on an ancestor's story? The Smart Story editor makes it easy to drag and drop text and photos from your tree into story pages that will update automatically when you make changes to your tree.
- More Complete and Relevant Timelines – Find and add more events to your ancestors' lives. Add, edit and delete your own historical events and apply historical events by time and geography.
- New and Improved Charts – Enjoy four new fan chart styles. Enhance charts with backgrounds, borders and embellishments. And use fonts you can change based on fact type.
- Improved Integration with Ancestry.com – Ancestry.com has millions of members all over the world. Now you can find out if any of them are searching for your ancestors by viewing Member Connect activity on your home page, plus links to related message boards and new messages in your inbox. You'll also enjoy faster uploading and downloading of your tree.
- New Media Management Tools - Drag and drop, cut and paste, and even categorize multiple items at the same time. You'll also find a new tool that will help you locate missing media files.
- Enhanced Reports – Enhanced ancestor and descendant reports, added a surname report and allowed you to sort custom reports, plus you can now save and reuse report settings.

Family Tree Maker 2011 will include either a printed or electronic *Companion Guide* to help users quickly master the simple and even advanced tasks. The *Companion Guide* will come with easy-to-understand screenshots of the software.

Family Tree Maker 2011 is now available to purchase online at <http://www.familytreemaker.com> starting at \$39.95. The program is also set to be released in select retail stores.

Internet access required for all Web integration.

Comments from Tony Kierna

As you can see, the annual release of a newly updated Family Tree Maker continues. Do the additional changes warrant your investment of new money to obtain this new version? If you have a five year old version, the new upgrades over that time may

be worth upgrading to this new version. Or if this a "must have" capability in the 2011 version then upgrade. Or if you just like having the most current software regardless of the functionality, then purchase it. But remember, your existing program will still continue to function fine even if you do not have all of the recently added "bells and whistles".

Take a look at the above web site for many further details about what is included in this new release. For all of you Mac users, please remember, that you will soon have the opportunity to buy a Mac version of Family Tree Maker. This was a new development that will give Mac users the opportunity to use one of the most popular genealogy software tools on their own systems.

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Handout #8 – MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME IS NOT A SECURE PIECE OF INFORMATION

The following was found in the Dick Eastman blog on September 15, 2010.

Amongst the dumbest things I have heard recently is when a company asks for your mother's maiden name to be used "for security purposes." That is "so 1960s." Haven't they learned how stupid that is? If any company asks for that information, **RUN AWAY**. Do not do business with them!

Any company that is dumb enough to believe that using your mother's maiden name is a secure piece of information is a company that doesn't know much about security. Do you **REALLY** want to trust them with other, private information?

Information about your mother's maiden name is easily available from a variety of public data sources, including: your birth record (which is public information in the United States), newspaper articles (which can easily be searched online), several online genealogy databases, and many other sources. In short, using your mother's maiden name provides NO SECURITY at all.

Shame on any company that asks for your mother's maiden name "for security purposes."

Actually, the companies that are stupid enough to ask for your mother's maiden name don't care what you tell them. All they want is some word that you can easily remember when needed, such as when you need to recover a forgotten password or something similar. You can give them a real name or a fictitious name. The companies don't care. It doesn't even need to be a name, it simply has to be some word that the company can place in their database and that you can remember when needed.

When any company or web site asks for my mother's maiden name, I always reply:
Fudpucker

I can easily remember that name when I need it and it doesn't create any security problems. While I normally refuse to do business with companies that ask for my mother's maiden name "for security purposes," a couple of times I have used Fudpucker and have never had a problem.

I don't think my dearly departed mother would mind.

Comments from Tony Kierna

I think Dick Eastman makes a good point about providing any name/word that you can use as your mother's maiden name. The organization is simply looking for a "word" that they enter into their system under the field name titled "Mother's Maiden Name". I like his humorous attempt at creating a "fictitious" mother's maiden name for his use should he be required to provide one. But like anything else, you need to be able to remember it which is why a true mother's maiden name served the original purpose of indicating you knew that name.

I know that my own online banking system provides me with "challenge" questions that I have preset when I registered to do online banking. Questions such as "What is the first name of your paternal grandfather?" and "What was the name of your first pet?" and "What is the name of the high school you graduated from?" are my "challenge" questions that are posed to me before it lets me actually logon to do online banking.

So if an organization asks for you to provide them with your mother's maiden name, ask them if you can be set up with other challenge questions that only you would know the answer. Eliminating mother's maiden name as a challenge question will make your accounts even safer.

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Handout #9 – GENEALOGY PODCASTS THAT ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

The following was found in the August/September 2010, Volume 5, Number 3 issue of Internet Genealogy.

A good article in this recent issue of Internet Genealogy is one titled “Podcasts: Download Your Genealogy”.

The author does a very good job of informing us of the variety of genealogical podcasts that do exist, including the podcast from the Genealogy Guys. The article mentions the following podcasts that you should consider listening to help advance your own genealogical research:

- **The Genealogy Gems Podcast** – you can find this podcast at www.genealogygems.com/pages/podcast/podcastlist.htm. This podcast is hosted by Lisa Louise Cooke and is updated about twice per month. The podcaster provides genealogical advice as well as interviews of well known genealogical figures.
- **The Genealogy Guys Podcast** – you can find this podcast at www.genealogyguys.com. News items of genealogical interest are provided as well as tips, interviews and a very nice “e-mail” round table in which the guys read listener e-mails on the air and then provide some answers to the question at hand.
- **The Family Tree Magazine Podcast** – you can find this podcast at www.familytreemagazine.com/info.podcasts. Monthly podcast produced by the magazine and hosted by Lisa Louise Cook. Each episode features an interview with an expert guest. Sneak peeks into upcoming articles for the magazine are also provided.
- **Irish Roots Café Podcast** – you can find this podcast at www.irishroots.com/content/view/97/144. Hosted by Michael C. O’Laughlin and is updated every week. Brings Irish culture and history to life.
- **Family History: Genealogy Made Easy** – you can find this podcast at <http://personallifemedia.com/podcasts/415-family-history>. Geared for those interested in genealogy but who do not know where to start. Hosted by Lisa Louise Cooke. Each episode talks about one genealogical topic in detail.
- **Genealogy Tech Podcast** – you can find this podcast at <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-genealogy-tech-podcast/id156072646>. No longer update. Episodes that exist are still very helpful to the genealogy researcher that wants to make technology work for their own research. Was hosted by Bill Puller.
- **Genealogy On Demand Podcast** – you can find this podcast a at <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/genealogy-on-demand/id202114958>. Podcast is no longer updated. Hosted by Shamele Jordon. She has a very relaxing voice on the podcast. You can still uncover some great genealogical research information from the episodes that exist.

- **DearMYRTLE's Family History Hour** – you can find this podcast at <http://podcasts.dearmyrtle.com>. Has not been updated since 2008. Many very good episodes exist from which you can learn many new tips and tricks for your genealogical research.

Comments from Tony Kierna

Are you tired of reading material to learn new genealogical tips and tricks? Need a break from the humdrum of print? Then give some of the above podcasts a try. Sit in a nice comfy chair, put on a pair of headphones and listen casually and comfortably to some great genealogical learning material from a multitude of great hosts. You can search material in their archives if show notes were created to see if there is a particular episode that contains material of interest to you. Or do as I do, just listen to each new podcast from your podcaster of choice. It will give you something to look forward to doing. Give listening to podcasting a chance. Take a look at the full article to read more of the details of the podcasts mentioned in the article.

Many of the podcasts you will find from the websites mentioned above also may have what are called "show notes". The creator of the podcast takes the time to create a "print" list of the key topics mentioned in the podcast that may contain further reference information and links to other web sites. You can listen to these podcasts knowing that you won't have to take extensive notes because the creator of the podcast has taken the time to summarize the verbal material contained in the podcast. This is a great feature.

I have been a dedicated listener to the podcasts that are being created by George G. Morgan and Drew Smith. Their podcasts go under the name of the "Genealogy Guys Podcast". I have listened to each podcast they have created. They started creating podcasts in September 2005. They have created 207 podcasts since that time. The early podcasts were somewhat "beginner's" level. Over time with podcasting equipment such as digital recorders, good microphones, good podcasting software they have migrated from "amateurish" sounding podcasts to well crafted professional sounding ones that are a joy to physically hear! A podcaster may have a great message, but if it comes off amateurish and sloppy, the message is lost and an eager listener for the topic may not return no matter how good the message is if it is not delivered in a better manner.

Take a look at the variety of podcasts you can tap into from the above list. Some as mentioned are no longer being actively created with new podcasts. However, the ones that have been created may still be of great value to you based on the genealogical contained in these podcasts. The Genealogy Guys podcasts have the longest active history of any of the genealogical podcasts that are available.

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Handout #10 – UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARCHIVES WILL BE UNDERGOING “CULTURE” CHANGE AS THEY REDESIGN THEIR OPERATIONS

The following summary was from an article that was found in the July-September 2010, Volume 36, Number 3 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Changes Coming to the Archives”. This article was authored by the Archivist of the United States, David S. Ferriero. He shares with us some of the changes that are coming to our National Archives that are intended to make things better for researchers. At a high level he indicates that nothing short of a “culture” change at the organization is coming. Those are generally some serious words indicating a major shakeup of how things are done at this organization. He says that they need to make “smarter and more creative uses of rapidly emerging technologies”.

Some of the highlights mentioned in this article that should be noted by researchers are:

- A website redesign that will make it easier for researchers to navigate through huge amounts of material and find the “needles in the haystack” much more easily.
- A new Wiki is being started at the Archives allowing average but knowledgeable citizens to make contributions of information.
- New streamlined search capabilities are being developed to better allow researchers to find the material that exists in the Archives but has often been simply too difficult to uncover by researchers.
- Many of the redesigns on the drawing boards are being opened for interaction with researchers to obtain their input thoughts on redesign.
- The website is being designed so that it is truly “of, by and for the people”.
- The Archives has created the National Declassification Center to overhaul declassification standards throughout the government.
- A new Office of Government Information Services has been created to mediate disputes between Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requesters and federal agencies.
- The Office of the Federal Register is rolling out a prototype of the daily Federal Register as a “daily Web newspaper for the 21st Century”.
- The encouragement of “citizen archivists” is being pursued. These researchers may be better able to impart knowledge about the Archives to other researchers simply because they have experienced success using the Archives.

This article certainly portrays the National Archives in a very forward-looking role for the part it plays with our country and its researchers.

Take a look at the article in its entirety to get a better insight into all that is happening at our National Archives. You will be hearing it directly from the Archivist of the United States who wrote the article.

In addition there is a "supplemental" associated "Q & A" article in this issue in which the Archivist of the United States responds to some specific questions. It certainly looks like the organization is trying to put its best foot forward in making all of the material it holds more easily found by researchers and thus actually being more valuable to the researcher. It looks like they have their work cut out for them, but I give them great credit for moving in the direction of becoming more research friendly.

You can visit the general web site of the National Archives at:

www.archives.gov

The Archivist of the United States has also invited anyone with any ideas or comments to comment him directly via his personal blog at:

<http://blogs.archives.gov/aotus>

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