



SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY  
 GENEALOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS  
 December 2010 --- No. 183

<a href="#">Please Note</a> .....	Page 2
<a href="#">January 2011 Program</a> .....	Page 2
<a href="#">Welcome</a> .....	Page 3
<a href="#">Who We Are</a> .....	Page 4
<a href="#">Short Takes/Potpourri</a> .....	Page 5
<a href="#">New Online Chat Feature at Dick Eastman's Blog</a> .....	Page 5
<a href="#">Family Tree Maker Now Available for the Mac</a> .....	Page 5
<a href="#">Ancestry.com Acquires 1911 UK Census</a> .....	Page 7
<a href="#">Changes for Spanish Naming Customs</a> .....	Page 8
<a href="#">American Household Broadband Use</a> .....	Page 8
<a href="#">Ten Commandments of Genealogy</a> .....	Page 9
<a href="#">Local Genealogy Society News/Programs</a> .....	Page 10
<a href="#">Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists</a> .....	Page 10
<a href="#">DuPage County Genealogical Society</a> .....	Page 11
<a href="#">CAGG-NI</a> (Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois) .....	Page 12
<a href="#">Internet Information</a> .....	Page 12
<a href="#">Two Hundred Years of British Military Campaigns Online</a> .....	Page 13
<a href="#">Familypedia: Have You Heard of It?</a> .....	Page 15
<a href="#">Periodical News</a> .....	Page 17
<a href="#">National Genealogical Society Quarterly</a> .....	Page 17
<a href="#">Family Chronicle</a> .....	Page 18
<a href="#">Books In Print</a> .....	Page 23
<a href="#">No New Book Added This Month</a> .....	Page 23
<a href="#">No New Additional Book Added This Month</a> .....	Page 23
<a href="#">Software/Hardware</a> .....	Page 23
<a href="#">It's 2015! Do You Know Where Your Data Is?</a> .....	Page 23
<a href="#">Build A Better GEDCOM</a> .....	Page 31
<a href="#">Funny Bone</a> .....	Page 32
<a href="#">Calendar of Events</a> .....	Page 34

**PLEASE NOTE**

The statements in this newsletter cited as quotes from other newsletters, quarterlies, etc., are quotations and not necessarily fact. I try not to reproduce statements that have been denied as being true and also those statements that are "old news" and have been quoted over a few years.

I would like to remind you that a few extra "paper" copies of all newsletters are filed at the Information Desk on the 2nd floor along with the "handouts" summary sheet. Please remember that you can take any of the extra paper copies in the folder. The Newsletter as well as all "handout" summaries for a particular meeting will be contained in a folder specifically for that meeting date e.g. Newsletter as well as "handout" summary for meeting on 1/12/10 are contained in a separate folder. Each meeting date will have its own folder. If you do not find a copy in the manila "extra" folder, you will have to copy from the permanent file binder. If the staff has trouble finding the folders, please let me know.

More importantly, electronic PDF copies of the Newsletter and the "handouts" summary for our monthly program can be obtained electronically as PDF files from our Library's Genealogy Blog called "Tony's Genealogy Blog at the Schaumburg Township District Library". This is a WordPress blog that you can reach directly at:

<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Look on the right side of the blog for links within the "Newsletter" category and the "Program Handouts" category. You can read the material online, download as a PDF file to your computer or print it from the blog.

If anyone needs to contact me via e-mail, you may reach me at the Schaumburg Township District Library at:

**akierna@stdl.org**

Or if you need to reach me the old fashioned way by phone, please contact me through the **Schaumburg Township District Library at 847-923-3390. I now can also be reached by direct FAX at the Schaumburg Township District Library. The FAX number in Extension Services is 847-923-3389.**

I am at the library each Monday, Tuesday (except on program dates) and Wednesday morning from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM should you need to meet me to obtain assistance in your research plan. Please let me know in advance if you plan on dropping in on these days so we can schedule a convenient time slot within those hours.

Tony Kierna - Genealogy Coordinator/Schaumburg Township District Library

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**JANUARY 11, 2011 GENEALOGY PROGRAM TOPIC**

Our program for January 11, 2011 is titled "DNA and Genealogy: A Revisit". Our guest speaker for the evening will be Jeffrey Bassett.

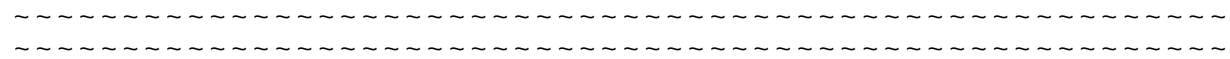
Jeffrey provided a program on DNA and genealogy at our library about 4 years ago. So much has changed in this growing area of genealogical research that I thought it would be worth having Jeffrey back to provide us with all that has changed over the last 4 years in the area of genealogy and DNA.

Jeffrey Bassett will speak on Genetic Genealogy, the latest technique being used as a tool in genealogical research. He will explain how he got started in genealogy, how DNA testing works, and then will present different case studies from the Bassett DNA project showing how DNA testing has helped in the research of different Bassett lines.

He has been working on Bassett Family genealogy for more than 32 years. His research includes more than 12,000 pages of text covering more than 450 different Bassett lines throughout the world. He started the Bassett DNA project in April of 2002. This project has grown to include more than 250 male Bassetts living in 7 countries around the world making it one of the largest projects of its kind.

The Bassett project was featured in the Spring 2004 issue of "The New England Ancestors" magazine published by the New England Historic and Genealogical Society and titled "A Comparison of Five Early Bassett immigrants". He has presented the Bassett DNA project to more than two dozen different groups in several states, has appeared on the Milwaukee Wisconsin NBC nightly news, and has appeared in the local paper on a segment dealing with genetic genealogy. He also publishes a free Bassett Family monthly newsletter.

Come join us on January 11, 2011 to learn more about this growing aspect of genealogy research. Maybe you are soon to be ready to take a swab to the inside of your mouth and take the plunge into finding out who is in the DNA pool already that may be somewhat of a close match to you!



## WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS

Glad you could join us as you embark on a rather adventurous journey into the unknown and far-reaching past! Please see me so I can get to know you and the details of the "journey" you plan to take. Make sure you receive from me a special "newcomer" package of materials that will help you take your first big steps.

I would greatly appreciate your taking the time to fill out and return to me a simple questionnaire that I use to better understand areas of research into which you may delve as well as your having access or not to a home personal computer.

Please feel free to become acquainted with the Genealogy Collection at Schaumburg Township District Library. Our book material is generally located in the 929.1XXXX to 929.3XXXX sections of both the Circulating Collection as well as the Reference Collection. The library also has a Video, Audio and Microform Collection of Genealogy material located in the AV-Department. The materials in AV are also identified in the same Dewey number

range as the printed material. These are two great browsing areas for you to review introductory material.

For book material I would like to recommend as a starter a book titled Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy by Emily Anne Croom (929.1 CRO). A companion book that would follow Unpuzzling Your Past is The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook also by Emily Anne Croom (929.1 CRO). These two books present a good place to begin familiarizing yourself with the field of Genealogy. Feel free to check these out.

If you have access to the Internet, you may want to check out a Getting Started web page that appears at the National Genealogical Society web site. The address is:

[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/getting\\_started](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/getting_started)

Our group is a great group of friendly people who are willing to help each other in their quest to discover their ancestors. Don't be shy to mingle!! You may be sitting next to a long, lost relative!?

Welcome to the group!

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### WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE LOOKING - FOLLOW-UP

Here is an update on our participant information that I am tracking. My database to date includes information on 139 participants in the group. I have received updates from many of you since our last meeting. You truly are a very sharing group in your willingness to share your personal information with others in the group concerning your research efforts.

The entire group is searching for a total of 1,051 surnames among all of the individuals.

Remember, that I will bring to the meeting a current group report that I would appreciate you reviewing and marking any additions, deletions or changes for your particular information that you would like me to make onto the report itself. I will leave one updated report by the genealogical material by the Information Desk on the 2nd floor for you to reference in-between meetings. I will make additions/deletions to the participants that will be reflected in the listing of participants contained in the red binder that will be on the shelves at the combined Information/Magazine desk.

If you are in the library and need to review please ask someone at the Information/Magazine Desk on the 2nd floor for the material. Also check for this binder at my desk in the Extension Services Office if you do not find it at the Information Desk.

Any feedback from you is welcome concerning the report and the material included in it. I do occasionally make typos or I possibly misread what you provided.

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## **SHORT TAKES / POTPOURRI**

*The following articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter November 1, 2010, November 4, 2010, November 5, 2010, November 9, 2010, November 11, 2010, November 19, 2010 and are copyright 2010 by Richard W. Eastman. They are re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.*

### **New Online Chat Feature on [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) (November 1, 2010)**

You may have noticed something new on the [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) web site: near the bottom right of the screen there is a new pop-up that says either "Online - Click here to chat" or "Offline - Leave a message." It is a new live chat feature written by Zopim.

If I am in the office and online, you can click on that to initiate a live online chat with me. That can be useful if you have a question or need assistance with some feature of this newsletter's web site.

I used the Zopim chat capability a few days ago on another web site when I was researching an article I was writing. I was impressed by the software, especially with how easy it was to use and how well it worked. I decided to try it out here so that I could better support newsletter readers.

Have a question? Click on "Click here to chat."

Obviously, I am not here all the time. If it says, "Offline - Leave a message" you can do just that: leave a message and I will answer it later. You will have to include your email address so that I can properly send the reply.

**Posted by Dick Eastman on November 01, 2010 in [This Newsletter](#) | [Permalink](#)**

### **Ancestry.com Releases Family Tree Maker for Mac (November 4, 2010)**

The following announcement was written by Ancestry.com:  
#1-Selling Family History Software Now Available in Mac Version

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., November 4, 2010 – Ancestry.com today announced the launch of Family Tree Maker® for Mac, the new Mac version of the world's No.-1 selling family history software. Family Tree Maker for Mac provides an easy way to save and organize your family tree conveniently on your Mac computer and has a variety of tools that can help you share your discoveries with family and friends.

"Family Tree Maker for Mac has been a long-requested feature from our customers. We are committed to delivering the same powerful experience on the Mac that millions of Family Tree Maker customers have been enjoying for the past 20 years," said Eric Shoup, Senior Vice President of Product for Ancestry.com. "We couldn't be happier to provide yet another way for our members to interact with Ancestry.com and discover, preserve and share their family history."

Family Tree Maker for Mac combines intuitive tools with robust features and flexible options, making it ideal for family history novices and experts alike. A dynamic user

interface and integration with Ancestry.com makes it simple to create family trees, record memories, and organize photos, videos and audio clips, plus share ancestors' stories. It's even possible to explore family migration paths by viewing timelines and interactive maps that highlight events and places in ancestors' lives.

The first step is to start a family tree by entering and organizing family history information. From there, a myriad of features help you bring your family history to life:

- Grow your family tree – Search Ancestry.com directly from Family Tree Maker and seamlessly merge historical records and important information you find into your tree. Family Tree Maker for Mac comes with either a free trial or subscription to Ancestry.com.
- Organize photos and documents in one location – Add photos, documents, audio, video and other media files to the people in your tree to help make their stories even more fascinating.
- Create family books, charts and reports – Publish beautiful keepsakes and books to share with friends and family.
- Craft slideshows – Create slideshows from photos in your tree.
- Cite the right information – Standard source templates make it easy.
- Explore family migration paths – View timelines and interactive maps, highlighting events and places in your ancestors' lives.
- Track information – Powerful sourcing tools let you document and rate each citation.

Family Tree Maker for Mac is now available for purchase online at <http://www.familytreemaker.com> starting at \$69.99. The program is also available in select retail stores, including Apple Stores, Amazon, Office Depot, and Office Max.

System requirements for Family Tree Maker for Mac include:

- Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later
- Intel-based Mac
- Hard Disk Space: 500MB for installation
- Internet access is required for all Web integration

Family Tree Maker for Mac is built on the functionality of Family Tree Maker 2010, the PC-version of the software, and is constructed from the bottom up to take full advantage of the Mac platform in terms of technology and user experience.

Early this year, Ancestry.com expanded to another Apple® platform: the iPhone®. With the launch of its Tree To Go iPhone application in January 2010, Ancestry.com now gives users access to generations of family history at every turn. From their iPhone, users can easily upload photos, update sources and edit trees. The Tree To Go iPhone application is available for iPhone and iPod touch® for free through the iPhone App Store or iTunes®.

#### About Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com Inc. (Nasdaq: ACOM) is the world's largest online family history resource, with nearly 1.4 million paying subscribers. More than 6 billion records have been added to

the site in the past 14 years. Ancestry users have created more than 20 million family trees containing over 2 billion profiles. Ancestry.com has local Web sites directed at nine countries that help people discover, preserve and share their family history, including its flagship Web site at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

Posted by Dick Eastman on November 04, 2010 in [Software](#) | [Permalink](#)

### **Ancestry.com and the Genealogist Acquire the 1911 Census (November 5, 2010)**

The following announcement was written by Ancestry.Com and by the Genealogist: Provo, Utah, November 5, 2010 – Ancestry.com, in collaboration with UK Web site [Thegenealogist.co.uk](http://Thegenealogist.co.uk), is pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached with The National Archives to acquire and publish online the 1911 England and Wales Census.

The two family history companies will work together to transcribe the 1911 Census, creating a searchable database which enables users to type in a name and go directly to the full color digital image of the actual census document, handwritten in their ancestor's home a century ago.

The complete set of 1911 Census records go live on Ancestry.com by county, starting in late 2010 and completing in 2011.

"We are thrilled to acquire the 1911 Census and look forward to the moment members can access these valuable records on our site," said Olivier Van Calster, Vice President of Ancestry International. "The addition of this vital genealogical material means we will be able to offer our members the complete set of England, Wales and Scotland Censuses, as well as the only fully searchable England and Wales Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes and exclusive online access to the World War One British Army Service and Pension records."

Part of the archival holdings of The National Archives, the 1911 Census is the largest and most recent census available to the public. A crucial genealogical resource, it offers detailed insight into how people lived in the years leading up to the First World War, showing who lived where, with whom, their age at the time of the census, their place of birth and what they did for a living.

"The 1911 Census is a crucial step for many in finding their roots and we feel this is a vital resource that will benefit family historians everywhere. Our members voted this resource their number one dataset in a recent survey," said Nigel Bayley, Managing Director of [Thegenealogist.co.uk](http://Thegenealogist.co.uk). "The 1911 census will be added to our Diamond subscription to accompany our complete set of English & Welsh Census and Birth, Marriage and Death indexes, Official Non-Conformist records, Parish Records, Wills, Roll of Honor and Military records."

### **About Ancestry.com**

Ancestry.com Inc. (Nasdaq: ACOM) is the world's largest online family history resource, with nearly 1.4 million paying subscribers. More than 6 billion records have been added to the site in the past 14 years. Ancestry users have created more than 20 million family trees containing over 2 billion profiles. Ancestry.com has local Web sites directed at nine countries that help people discover, preserve and share their family history, including its flagship Web site at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

## **About Thegenealogist.co.uk**

[TheGenealogist.co.uk](http://TheGenealogist.co.uk) is the major online family history research Web site of the British founded S and N group. Collections include a comprehensive set of Birth, Marriage and Death records, the census for 1841 to 1901, Wills and Will Indexes, Parish records, The official site for Non-conformist records, Roll of Honour database, Electoral Registers and Directories. The group started providing services for family historians in 1992 and provides everything from research books and CDs to a range of sophisticated online services. [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk), [www.SandN.net](http://www.SandN.net)

Posted by Dick Eastman on November 05, 2010 in [Online Sites](#) | [Permalink](#)

### **Changes for Spanish Naming Customs (November 9, 2010)**

This may confuse your genealogy software. Spain's birth registration laws will end the father's automatic right to hand his surname down to his children before their mother's.

Spaniards have two surnames, and under current law either can come first. Traditionally, however, it is the father's, and in cases of a dispute the father's name automatically takes priority. Under a new law proposed by the country's socialist government, however, registrars will be told to put the surnames in alphabetical order – unless otherwise instructed by the parents.

You can read more in an article by Giles Tremlett in the Guardian at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/nov/04/spanish-naming-customs-changed>

Posted by Dick Eastman on November 09, 2010 in [Current Affairs](#) | [Permalink](#)

### **64% of All American Households Have Broadband at Home (November 11, 2010)**

A new Department of Commerce study shows that sixty-four percent of all US households now have broadband Internet connections. Twenty-three percent of all US households report that no one in the home uses the Internet anywhere. Therefore, we can assume the remaining thirteen percent either use dial-up at home or else use the Internet elsewhere, such as at school, in a library, or at the office.

Ignoring those who do not use the Internet at all, we can deduce that less than one in five Internet users is still using dial-up. (Less than 13% of all American households versus 64%.)

Other findings include:

Seven out of ten American households used the Internet in 2009. The majority of these households used broadband services to access the Internet at home. Almost one-fourth of all households, however, did not have an Internet user.

Income and education are strongly associated with broadband Internet use at home but are not the sole determinants.

Broadband Internet adoption was higher among White households than among Black and Hispanic households in 2009. Differences in socio-economic attributes do not explain the entire gap in broadband Internet adoption associated with race and ethnicity.

Urban residents were more likely than their rural counterparts to adopt broadband Internet, even after accounting for socio-economic differences.

Home broadband Internet use by people with disabilities lagged adoption by those with no disability. Differences in socio-economic and geographic characteristics explain a substantial portion of the adoption gap associated with disability.

You can read the full study at

[http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/2010/ESA\\_NTIA\\_US\\_Broadband\\_Adoption\\_Report\\_11082010.pdf](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/2010/ESA_NTIA_US_Broadband_Adoption_Report_11082010.pdf)

Posted by Dick Eastman on November 11, 2010 in [Current Affairs](#) | [Permalink](#)

### Ten Commandments of Genealogy (November 19, 2010)

In the course of writing this newsletter, I get to see a lot of genealogy information. Most of what I see is on the Web, although some information is in books or in e-mail. Some of what I see is high-quality research. However, much of it is much less than that. Even the shoddiest genealogy work could be so much more if the compiler had simply spent a bit of time thinking about what he or she was doing.

Creating a first-class genealogy work is not difficult. In fact, it is expected. It should be the norm. Please consider the following "rules." If you follow these guidelines, you, too, can produce high-quality genealogy reports that will be useful to others:

1. Never accept someone else's opinion as "fact." Be suspicious. Always check for yourself!
2. Always verify primary sources (see Footnote #1); never accept a secondary source (see Footnote #2) as factual until you have personally verified the information.
3. Cite your sources! Every time you refer to a person's name, date and/or place of an event, always tell where you found the information. If you are not certain how to do this, get yourself a copy of "Evidence Explained" by Elizabeth Shown Mills. This excellent book shows both the correct form of source citation and the sound analysis of evidence.
4. If you use the works of others, always give credit. Never claim someone else's research as your own.
5. Assumptions and "educated guesses" are acceptable in genealogy as long as they are clearly labeled as such. Never offer your theories as facts.
6. Be open to corrections. The greatest genealogy experts of all time make occasional errors. So will you. Accept this as fact. When someone points out a possible error in your work, always thank that person for his or her assistance and then seek to re-verify your original statement(s). Again, check primary sources.
7. Respect the privacy of living individuals. Never reveal personal details about living individuals without their permission. Do not reveal their names or any dates or locations.
8. Keep "family secrets." Not everyone wants the information about a court record or a birth out of wedlock to be posted on the Internet or written in books. The family historian records "family secrets" as facts but does not publish them publicly.

9. Protect original documents. Handle all documents with care, and always return them to their rightful storage locations.
10. Be prepared to reimburse others for reasonable expenses incurred on your behalf. If someone travels to a records repository and makes photocopies for you, always offer to reimburse the expenses.

The above "commandments" apply to online data as well as to printed information. Following the above "commandments" will increase the value of your work and make it valuable to others.

**Footnote #1:** A primary record is one created at or immediately after the occurrence of the event cited. The record was created by someone who had person knowledge of the event. Examples include marriage records created by the minister, census records, death certificates created within days after the death, etc. Nineteenth century and earlier source records will be in the handwriting of the person who recorded the event, such as the minister, town clerk or census taker.

**Footnote #2:** A secondary record is one made years after the original event, usually by someone who was not at the original event and did not have personal knowledge of the participants. Most published genealogy books are secondary sources; the authors are writing about events that occurred many years before they wrote about the event. Transcribed records are always secondary sources and may have additional errors created inadvertently by the transcriber(s). Most online databases are transcribed (secondary) sources.

Posted by Dick Eastman on November 19, 2010 in [Genealogy Basics](#) | [Permalink](#)

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## LOCAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS/PROGRAMS

### *Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists*

**PLEASE MAKE NOTE THAT THE MEETING DATE FOR THE SOCIETY IS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH A MEETING OCCURS. MEETINGS WILL STILL BE HELD AT THE FOREST VIEW EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ON GOEBBERT ROAD. NO MEETINGS OCCUR DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST AND DECEMBER.**

**THERE IS NO PROGRAM SCHEDULED IN DECEMBER 2010 FROM THE SOCIETY.**

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Tuesday evening, January 18, 2011. The program for the evening is titled "GenSmarts". The speaker for the evening will be R. Aaron Underwood.

R. Aaron Underwood, after many years of doing commercial software products for the corporate world, Aaron branched off with his own company. Underwood Innovations was created to provide highly innovative products for everyday people. Genealogy was a good fit - the world's most popular hobby made even better with modern technology. The first product, GenSmarts, is inspired by the "to-do" lists Aaron created for his father's research trips.

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:

[www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

We do our best here to try to be sure that information we convey about programs is accurate. However, sometimes we are unable to convey changes unless we are made aware of those changes.

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*DuPage County Genealogical Society*

**Please note that meetings that are scheduled for October 2010 through May 2011 are once again taking place at the Wheaton Public Library in the Lower Level. The address of the library is 225 N. Cross St. in Wheaton, IL. Please note the new times for refreshments and the program. Refreshments are offered at 6:30 PM. The meeting will start at 7 PM and last till no longer than 9 PM when the library closes.**

**THERE IS NO PROGRAM SCHEDULED IN DECEMBER 2010 FROM THE SOCIETY.**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, January 19, 2011. The program scheduled for that evening is **"What's New at the Wheaton Public Library"**. The speaker for the program will be Donna Freymark.

The Wheaton Public library is one of our local public libraries with a large emphasis on genealogical materials in the collection. If you have not been there, you may want to visit to see the extensive amount of on-shelf material that covers a wide range of geographical locations more expansive than just Illinois material.

Donna is going to provide an overview of what is new at the library that may help your genealogical research further.

You may visit the society's web page at:

[www.dcg.org](http://www.dcg.org)

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

We do our best here to try to be sure that information we convey about programs is accurate. However, sometimes we are unable to convey changes unless we are made aware of those changes.

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*Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois (CAGGNI)*

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, January 15, 2011 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Social Networking for Genealogy: Family Trees, Facebook, Blogs and More"**. The speaker for the program will be Caron Primas Brennan.

Social networking is a collaborative process in which information (comments, photos, news, videos, links) are created and shared. There are many ways to use social networking for genealogy research, whether you want to share your family tree, swap pictures, find new places to look for information or get "how to " tips. Ancestry Family Trees, Facebook groups, shared family web sites, and blogs are all part of the new world of social networking. You do not have to be a computer expert to benefit! Come find out who is looking for you!

As of now, I do not know what programs will be offered by CAGG-NI into 2011. I will be revisiting their web site to see when the information becomes available. I will include their program schedule in my Newsletter when I know the details for 2011.

You may visit the organization web page at:

[www.CAGGNI.org](http://www.CAGGNI.org)

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

We do our best here to try to be sure that information we convey about programs is accurate. However, sometimes we are unable to convey changes unless we are made aware of those changes.

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## INTERNET INFORMATION

*The following articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter November 9, 2010, and November 11, 2010 and are copyright by Richard W. Eastman 2010. They are re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>*

### **Waterloo to WWII - 200 Years of British Military Campaigns Launch Online Today (November 9, 2010)**

The following announcement was written by Ancestry.co.uk:

Historic medal records published online today reveal the acts of heroism of four million soldiers from 1793 to 1972 – Ancestry.co.uk

- Three distinct record sets make up Military Medals Collection
- Napoleonic Wars, WWI, WWII and historic conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan covered
- Famous soldiers include Louis Edward Nolan, Edward Smith (VC) and Admiral Thomas 'Sea Wolf' Cochrane

Ancestry.co.uk, the UK's number one family history website, today further expands its existing military collection by launching online four million UK military medal records dating from 1793 to 1972.

The new collection, online in full and searchable for the very first time, will form part of the most comprehensive collection of campaign medals available online. They detail medals granted to British war heroes for military campaigns stretching from the Napoleonic Wars through to World War Two and subsequent smaller conflicts.

These records will help millions of Britons uncover the war hero in their family history in time for Remembrance Day and will complement the existing 14 million WWI medal records on the site, which are free to view this week, along with WWI Service and Pension records.<sup>3</sup>

Included in this new collection are decoration details of those who fought in some of Britain's most famous military campaigns, including the Battle of Waterloo, the Napoleonic Wars, both World Wars, the Indian Mutiny, the Crimean and Boer Wars. Also included are records of historic conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, mirroring the British military campaigns of today.

Typically, the records reveal the name of the soldier, campaign, regiment, regimental number, medal or award entitlement, and occasionally detailed citations of why the medal was awarded.

The records are comprised of three distinct collections:

#### **Military Campaign Medal and Award Rolls, 1793-1949**

These records list more than 2.3 million soldiers who were granted medals and awards in non-WWI or WWII campaigns, between 1793 and 1949.

Included is the record of William Brydon, an assistant surgeon in the British East India Company Army during the first Anglo-Afghan War. Brydon was the only survivor to reach

Jalalabad after the 12,000-strong British force was forced to abandon Kabul in 1842. He is listed as receiving the Ghuznee medal for his service during the conflict.

### **Naval Medal and Award Rolls, 1793-1972**

The Naval medal rolls list more than 1.5 million officers, enlisted personnel and other individuals who served in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines between 1793 and 1972. They cover a range of conflicts, including World War Two.

One of the more famous names in the records is that of Admiral Thomas Cochrane, a radical politician and daring captain of the Napoleonic Wars, known by the French as 'Le Loup des Mers' ('The Wolf of the Seas'). He is thought to be the inspiration behind the character of Horatio Hornblower and has several decorations listed in this collection.

### **Citations of the Distinguished Conduct Medals, 1914-1920**

These records cover the Great War and feature almost 25,000 citations for recipients of the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) – Britain's second highest military honour for non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel.

The citations provide inspirational summaries of the actions which resulted in the awards being given. For example, the entry for Private T. Sutton recalls how he singlehandedly captured 18 of the enemy and personally secured a canal crossing during the Battle of Bellenglise in September 1918.

Other famous names found in the Military Medals Collection include:

- Edward Ben Smith – As well as being awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Edward (also known as 'Ned') was the youngest recipient of the Victoria Cross during WWI when he was just 19 years old. His record in the DCM citations details his courage in leading a small team of men against an outpost of 40 German soldiers and scattering them without taking casualties [record image available upon request]
- Louis Edward Nolan – Nolan was a British Army officer of the Victorian era who is best known for his controversial role in launching the disastrous 'Charge of the Light Brigade' during the Battle of Balaclava, of which he was the first casualty. A number of his service decorations are listed in the Military Medal Rolls for his service in India and Crimea (Russia) in the mid 19th Century [record image available upon request]
- Sir Bertram Ramsey – Ramsey, then a vice-admiral, is credited with the organisation of the Dunkirk evacuation (Operation Dynamo) where around 850 ships – including around 750 'little ships' – rescued over 330,000 stranded British and Belgian troops from the shores of France across nine days. He was knighted for his contribution and a number of his other decorations are listed in the Naval Medal and Award Rolls.

In a bid to help everyone discover and learn about the war heroes in their family, Ancestry.co.uk is making their most popular military records free to search for Remembrance Week. The British Army WWI Service and Pension Records and the WWI Medal Index cards will be free to view from the 7th - 14th November.

Ancestry.co.uk International Content Director Dan Jones comments: "Remembrance Day is a humbling time of year as we think about those who have lost their lives to fight for what they believed in, and those fighting today.

"By launching these military medal records online, millions of war heroes will be uncovered by descendants who may not have known about their ancestor's military role. To

be able to play any part in making such a moving discovery possible is a great honour."

The collections, with the exception of the Distinguished Conduct Medals, were initially compiled by the War Office and the originals are now held at The National Archives in Kew. The DCM collection was compiled from citations included in the London Gazette.

To start searching the new military medal records, available from the 9th November, please [click here](#).

**Posted by Dick Eastman on November 09, 2010 in [Announcements](#), [Online Sites](#) | [Permalink](#)**

### **Familypedia: the Biggest Genealogy Site You Probably Never Heard Of (November 11, 2011)**

Are you familiar with Familypedia, a web site with 84,983 online articles about deceased individuals plus another 106,312 genealogy-related pages?

Familypedia is a wiki, part of the commercial Wikia site. It is a place where **YOU** can create articles about your ancestors and easily link them to other articles about where and when they lived. The site is primarily text-based with biographical pages about deceased individuals. In some cases, you can find pictures of individuals as well as pedigree charts, maps, and other graphics. In most cases, each deceased person has a separate web page giving details about his or her life and also containing hyperlinks to other web pages that contain information about the person's relatives. Entire families can be hyperlinked together.

Familypedia can be used alone as a separate service, or it can be linked via hyperlinks to other online services, such as Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, or independent web pages created by individuals. Because the Familypedia web site has a wiki format, you can work collaboratively with others to create a network of articles about your ancestors and about those they lived and worked with. The site has no constraints on where the data resides, so you can provide links to your ancestors on whatever web sites host the information.

Before you start entering your own ancestors on Familypedia, you will want to see if there is already some information about them or their family. To find existing information, you can go to <http://www.familypedia.wikia.com> and use the search box. However, a more organized search method is to use the Surnames Index, Birth Country Index, Death Country Index, Birth Decade Index, or Death Decade Index, all found on the same home page.

I started by searching on my own surname and found a number of individuals listed. However, they were not tied together as a "family" but appeared to be somewhat random listings. As I tried other surnames from my own family tree, I found several families linked together with a lot of information. All information on Familypedia is contributed by users, so we can expect the quantity and quality of information to vary widely.

Since anyone can edit a wiki, I could jump right into collaboration mode even though I don't know the other contributors personally. I could add to their information about the individuals I have researched, change anything I knew to be incorrect, or create a new web page for other individuals and link them to related people.

In short, Familypedia and other wikis are truly democratic communities. Any user can create a new web page for any individual at any time. Perhaps even better, any user

can also edit each existing page. If you have supplemental information about an individual you find already listed, or if you wish to correct an error on a page, you can do so within seconds. If you can type and click, you can edit almost every page in a wiki.

Of course, such anarchy invites spam, graffiti, and other junk to be added by uncaring users. Like most wikis, Familypedia easily handles such junk. Multiple copies are saved for each page on the site. When you visit a page, the latest version is displayed. If you see inappropriate content, you (or anyone else) can click on **EDIT** and then on **SHOW CHANGES** to show the various revisions. Finally, click on the last unmolested web page to revert to that version.

It actually takes more time to create graffiti than it does to delete it. Therefore, spammers and other unwelcome "guests" soon lose interest and move on to other pastures. Each and every user becomes an editor, able to delete unwanted content within seconds. Likewise, if anyone deletes good content, a click on **EDIT** and then on **SHOW CHANGES** will show all the different revisions, including those previously deleted. With a few more mouseclicks, any deleted pages can be restored in seconds.

The reality is that Familypedia, Wikipedia, and other online wikis receive very little spam or other unwanted junk. The self-policing by users works well as long as there are plenty of users. The more popular the site becomes, the better the self-policing effort works.

Unlike some other wikis, Familypedia allows anyone to add or correct information, even without creating an account. However, there are advantages to creating a free account. For one thing, your free account lets you register a user name for yourself. Becoming known under that user name means that you will be able to gain reputation and recognition in the community when others see your user name as the person who made the changes. Registered users also can do more with the site; they can upload pictures, create personal "watchlists" to keep an eye on favorite articles, be notified of changes by email, and other advanced features.

User names can be whatever you choose, within a few common sense limits (no profanity, no spam, etc.) and can be fully anonymous. Other users will not see your real name, address, telephone number, or other personal information. However, registered users may optionally create a user talk page where others can contact them. Information shown on a talk page can include as much or as little information as each person wishes to share.

Familypedia is a part of the family of wikis available at Wikia.com. Other wikis on the same service are devoted to television shows, movies, food, fashion, environmental sustainability, online games, lifestyle, and many other topics. In fact, if you want to start a new wiki about a topic that is not covered by an existing wiki, you can do so within seconds. Wikia is supported by advertising, so the site is free for all users.

If you have an interest in genealogy wikis, you will want to check out the free Familypedia at <http://www.familypedia.wikia.com>

To see a typical web page about a person, look at Barack Obama's page at [http://familypedia.wikia.com/wiki/Barack\\_Obama\\_%281961%29](http://familypedia.wikia.com/wiki/Barack_Obama_%281961%29)

OK, so perhaps that is not a "typical" page; but, it does illustrate the sort of page that you can create for any or all of your ancestors. It includes pictures, a biography, links to relatives, and even a scanned image of his signature. Clicking on the name of any of Obama's relatives takes you to a page for that person. Familypedia strongly suggests that you only create pages for deceased individuals or for public figures, such as the President of

the United States.

For more information, go to <http://www.familypedia.wikia.com> and click on **GETTING STARTED** and also on **TUTORIAL**.

Posted by Dick Eastman on November 11, 2010 in [Online Sites](#) | [Permalink](#)

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## PERIODICAL NEWS

### **National Genealogical Society Quarterly**

We have received the Volume 98, Number 3, September 2010 issue of National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

Key articles in this issue are:

**"Dora Luhr's Hannover Origin: A Case of Conflicting Direct Evidence"**

By F. Warren Bittner

**"Who Were the Parents of Charlotte Ann Williams of Flint, Michigan? A Death Certificate with a Half Truth"**

By Allen R. Peterson, CG

**"Proving the Parentage of John Bettis: Immigrant Ancestor Of Bettis Families in Vermont"**

By David S. Ouimette, CG

**"Explaining Errors: Three Deaths or Only One on 2 July 1850 At Temple, New Hampshire"**

By Paul Friday

Also included in this issue is a section titled "Reviews". In this section you will find a series of reviews of recently published genealogical material in book form and even CD form. These are extensive reviews of "niched" material as well as general material for all genealogists. If you really want to get a full and complete review of a genealogy piece of material, warts and all, then this is a great place to find those long, extensive reviews.

Reviews included in this issue are:

***Richmond, Virginia, Uncovered: The Record of Slaves and Free Blacks Listed in the City Sergeant Jail Register, 1841-1846***

By Nancy C. Frantel

***Dred and Harriet Scott: Their Family Story***

By Ruth Ann (Abels) Hager

***The Journey Taken***

By Leslie Albrecht Huber

***Conserving, Preserving and Restoring Your Heritage***

By Kennis Kim

***Middling folk: Three Seas, Three Centuries, One Scots-Irish Family***

By Linda H. Matthews

***Genealogical Standards of Evidence: A Guide for Family Historians***

By Brenda Dougall Merriman

***The German Research Companion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.***

By Shirley J. Riemer, Roger P. Minert and  
Jennifer A. Anderson

***Researching African American Genealogy in Alabama:  
A Resource Guide***

By Frazine K. Taylor

***Genealogy and the Law in Canada***

By Margaret Ann Wilkinson

If any of the titled material might have a connection or interest to your own research, then by all means take a look at the in-depth review of the material that is included in this issue. The reviews can often be a half-page in length or more, far larger than what you often find as "reviews" elsewhere that do not include any depth or true criticism.

This issue does not contain articles that I would categorize as of general interest to all. Some issues contain articles that are of such general interest such as about Census Records or Land Records etc. In this issue, they are very narrowly niched articles.

However, even though that may be the case, you can still learn much from the articles on research in general because the authors state a "problem" as it applies to their own research and then provide a well-documented description of how they went about uncovering and solving the problem.

Don't get lost in all of the details of the specifics of the family being researched or the names being mentioned or the dates in question. Rather, look at the methodology employed by the author on how they pursued a challenge to uncover more information in a rational and organized manner. That is the key we can all apply to our own research problems.

You can find this most recent issue of [National Genealogical Society Quarterly](#) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of our library on the magazine shelves.

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## **Family Chronicle**

We have received the November/December 2010, Volume 14, Number 2 issue of Family Chronicle.

Key articles in this issue are:

### **"Kirk Sessions of the Church Scotland"**

By Marian Press

*Marian Press looks at an ongoing project that will bolster Scottish genealogy research.*

### **"Five More Underused Internet Resources"**

By Donna Murray

*Donna Murray explores the possibilities for genealogists and those writing a family history.*

### **"Genealogy Services at Library and Archives of Canada"**

By Nicole Watier

*Nicole Watier looks at the genealogical resources available at this great facility.*

### **"Classical vs. Modern Genealogy"**

By Elizabeth Lapointe

*According to Elizabeth Lapointe, how you approach your research is changing.*

### **"Crafting An Effective Research Plan"**

By Michael Hait

*Michael Hait explains the art of organizing your genealogical investigation.*

### **"Sto Lat: a Review"**

By Diane L. Richard

*Diane L. Richard examines a new book for Polish genealogy research.*

### **"Case Study: Who Was Thomas Gifford?"**

By Constance R. Cherba and Edward E. Deckert

*Constance R. Cherba and Edward E. Deckert research a well-known author's family tree.*

### **"Searching for Ancestors of the Great Fire of London"**

By David A. Norris

*David A. Norris looks at what you can learn about the tragedy from various British records.*

**"Book Excerpt: The Journey Takers: A Trip to Goldebee"**

By Leslie Albrecht Huber

*In an excerpt from her book, Leslie Albrecht Huber recounts a visit to her ancestors' home town.*

**"Case Study: The Mysterious Death of John James Gundy"**

By Lisa A. Alzo and John Matviya

*Was it a tragic accident or cold-blooded murder? Lisa A. Alzo and John Matviya search for the answers.*

**"Researching Your Ancestors' Houses"**

By Valerie Vesper

*According to Valerie Vesper, researching the old family homestead is easier than you think.*

**"Great Minds Think Alike!"**

By Shannon Gillette

*Shannon Gillette gives a few pointers for those looking to network with like-minded genealogists.*

**"Dissertations and Theses as Genealogical Sources"**

By Gena Philibert Ortega

*According to Gene Philibert Ortega, a graduate student's hard work can pay off for genealogists.*

**"What To Do When Facts Conflict"**

By Donna Murray

*According to Donna Murray, savvy researchers don't rely on one source for the truth.*

In this issue, you will also find a section titled "Web Sites Worth Surfing". Web sites mentioned in this section are:

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International @  
[www.cgsi.org](http://www.cgsi.org)

Family History Expos @  
[www.familyhistoryexpos.com](http://www.familyhistoryexpos.com)

Google Books Help Forum @  
[www.google.com/support/forum/p/books?hl=en](http://www.google.com/support/forum/p/books?hl=en)

MortalitySchedules.com @  
<http://mortalityschedules.com>

Shades of the Departed @  
[www.shadesofthedeparted.com](http://www.shadesofthedeparted.com)

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Classical vs. Modern Genealogy". Classical genealogy is described by the author as being a methodology of research that had been done in a very labor-intensive manner. The researcher would visit archives, look up records in print or on microfilm, copy the material down from the archive and finally go home to assemble the copied material in some form of organized "paper" manner by the researcher. This method of researching is apparently falling to the wayside simply because of the abundant amount of material that is available to today's researcher via the Internet.

The author notes that this method of research should not be thrown away so easily. "Classical" researchers can help "computer" oriented researchers and vice versa. Each methodology has its benefits. If you were an early adopter of computer based genealogical researcher, then data and records were certainly suspect to build your research from. Data was considered suspect because it was data that may have been uploaded from an individual researcher who may have uploaded what he "heard" and not what he "researched". Original online document material simply did not exist 20 years ago.

Today, however, archives across the world along with the LDS are massively converting original documents today and microfilms to digitized online data with data being indexed digitally like never before. Data today online is simply copies of original data that only formerly could be accessed by on site research in a time-consuming and expensive manner. Think again how easy it is today to access Census images via an all-name online index. Previously, you had to visit an archive that held the census data in microfilm format and hope that at least what you sought was in Soundex format to allow you to access the data in a somewhat "indexed" manner. You would still be accessing and reeling through the films looking for what you wanted. If you found it, you would still have to make a paper copy of the image from a reader/printer and pay for the copy that you made.

But "classical" genealogy still has an importance. Every piece of information from original documents is still not completely digitized today. Key points of data are extracted and indexed but what is not digitized may still be significant. You can use the digitized data as a guide to lead you to the original "archival" data for your ancestor. Looking at the complete set of original archival material will provide you with the total picture of an ancestor that you are simply not getting from today's extracted and transcribed material.

So don't give up "classical" genealogy in total for today's "modern" genealogy. Consider still working them both to uncover the most of your ancestral research.

Because so much more detailed documents are becoming available via the Internet, "classical" genealogy is also being pushed in the direction of providing more than just Names and Dates of Events. When archive research of 20 years ago was so labor intensive, perhaps settling for basic Names and Dates of Events was more acceptable then. Today, as more and more detailed data becomes available, researchers are being pushed in the direction of providing more than just Names and Dates of Events. What happened to the person being researched between these events? What kind of life did the person lead? Who was the person in between reports of his birth, marriage and death?? More and more of these questions can possibly answer these questions because the data is becoming so much more readily available online.

I thought this was a very good article that provided some thoughtful insights into past and present research methods and how things are changing constantly that require us

to re-think our research strategies. "Classical" research and "modern" research are two methods. We do not and should not pick one over the other. Work them both together and your research results will be even better than if you had chosen one over the other.

I also thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "Great Minds Think Alike!". The author makes a point of letting the reader know that networking with like-minded genealogists is a very productive process. Joining a genealogy society is the best way to get involved with like-minded researchers either being at a geographical area joining a society in the area of your ancestral research at the state, county or local area or joining a society based on ethnic area of research such as joining the Polish Genealogical Society of America if you are doing Polish ancestral research.

You may very well be the "newbie" joining such a society but you will soon find out that there are many existing members that have a vast amount of knowledge that you can tap into. This is how we all learn the "ropes" as we go through life. Genealogy and being with knowledgeable genealogists is no exception.

Genealogical societies also have workshops and programs that you can participate in over time. Some may have modest programs offered a few times per year. Some may even have monthly programs. Even better, some societies may have large scale "annual" conferences in which in one day you may be able to hear 4 to 6 top notch speakers provide programs on topics of interest to you.

Can't go to programs offered by a society? They probably still have great publications offered by them to members. These may be on a monthly or quarterly basis that may contain articles of great interest and help for you to learn even more in your own ancestral research quest. Even if you just joined, the society more than likely has a library full of past editions of its routinely published journal. Extra copies are readily made available to members for a small fee. You can completely immerse yourself in the material even if you just recently joined. There are often very informative articles in these journals, some that may have been previously published that match directly to your own research.

Societies may also have worked on special projects over the time of their existence. This material may be available just to members. Cemetery transcription projects, obituary projects and others may just be a few of the special amounts of material that may be available to members only. Perhaps data already exists for your ancestors through these societies. All it takes is for you to become a member to gain access to this. Societies may also allow much of this unique data to be available to "index" search via their web site. You may find this "index" material to be available to anyone that initially searches. But membership is what it takes for you to receive full access the data.

Societies also allow the exchange of "queries" via their publications. As a member, you can have published specifics of your own unique searches to see if anyone else within the society may be researching similar ancestry. Two researchers can then make a connection to meld their research efforts.

This article provides a good oversight into the benefits you can achieve from joining a genealogical society. Don't miss out on the opportunity to network within a special group of "like-minded" researchers.

Take a look at the entire article for more details on the benefits of what you gain from joining a genealogical society.

This is another great issue of Family Chronicle. There are many other good articles within this issue that you can gleam from looking at the list of articles I provided early on. See which ones are of interest to you. Read the full article.

You can find this most recent issue of Family Chronicle on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of our library on the magazine shelves.

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## BOOKS IN PRINT

There was no new genealogy book added to our collection during this newsletter period.

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There was no new second genealogy book added to our collection during this newsletter period.

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## SOFTWARE/HARDWARE

*The following articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter October 31, 2010 and November 9, 2010 and are copyright by Richard W. Eastman 2010. They are re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>*

<b>It's 2015! Do You Know Where Your Data Is? (October 31, 2010)</b>
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One of the fun things about writing this newsletter is that I get to exchange ideas with a lot of people about the technology issues of researching one's family tree. I get to meet people in person, talk on the telephone, and exchange e-mail messages with genealogists all over the world. I find that I learn a lot as a result.

A newsletter reader wrote recently to describe his tale of woe. He is unhappy with his current genealogy software and asked about any "reliable" genealogy software that will be supported for years into the future. He has already switched genealogy programs once, with some difficulty, and is reluctant to switch again. However, he is also unhappy with his present choice.

For years, he used Family Tree Maker (FTM) to maintain the records of the 2,000 people in his family history file. However, he became aware of the program's shortcomings as he read reviews of other genealogy programs in this newsletter and elsewhere. A few years ago, he switched to Family Tree Legends (FTL), primarily because it permitted direct conversion of the FTM file to FTL (including "books" and photos) with distribution of a "shareable CD" to family members, a nice bonus that saved him the necessity of printing "Books." However, the company that produced Family Tree Legends has since dropped the product. Several software products produced by the company were sold, and the new owners seem to have little interest in Family Tree Legends, instead preferring to focus on some other products produced by the same company. No updates to Family Tree Legends have been released in years, and it is doubtful if any updates will ever be produced in the future. Similar stories can be told about other genealogy programs.

Conversion to another program is possible, but only by applying a lot of manual effort. Family Tree Legends does permit exporting a file in GEDCOM format, but the books and photos and multimedia scrapbooks do not export. Hundreds of hours of loving creation of these items will be lost.

My correspondent wrote, "I feel I should get my records into a database for which the software will be maintained. Do you have a recommendation and especially any ideas about how to convert the books, notes, facts and photos?"

I am sure that many others have similar questions, so I thought I would share my comments here.

This newsletter reader asked two separate questions:

1. How do I convert data from one genealogy program to another, including notes, facts, and photos?
2. What genealogy programs will still be in business and be supported years from today?

The first question is the easier of the two, so I will tackle that first.

All of today's genealogy programs support GEDCOM data exchange. GEDCOM is a more-or-less standard file format designed especially for exchanging genealogy data between different software packages. In theory, GEDCOM should do the job. However, anyone who has used GEDCOM extensively can tell you about the many pitfalls involved. GEDCOM was invented as a file format in the 1980s and has had a few updates since then. However, there have been no major updates at all in more than ten years. An XML version of GEDCOM was proposed more than five years ago, but nothing has happened with the proposal since then. The XML proposal has never been implemented in any of today's genealogy programs. Meanwhile, genealogy software has become much more advanced in recent years, and the existing GEDCOM standard no longer can accurately transfer all the data between dissimilar programs.

Specifically, GEDCOM was invented long before the common use of web sites, digital photographs, videos, sound files, slideshows, and other multimedia offerings that are commonplace today. A later update of GEDCOM added a method of specifying where such multimedia files exist on the originating system, but there is no method of converting a complete slideshow or other advanced multimedia creation from one software package to another.

Even the text-based part of GEDCOM has significant limitations. For instance, the originating program may have multiple kinds of text notes and citations while the receiving program may have more or fewer or different kinds of text notes and citations. Some modern genealogy programs will record a person's physical characteristics, medical information, DNA information, a tombstone's latitude and longitude, or other such information commonly found today. Other genealogy programs may have fewer or different or even more such fields for data storage.

The GEDCOM standard is not able to convert all data properly from all genealogy programs such that the same data can be imported into all other genealogy programs. For more information about GEDCOM, see my earlier "GEDCOM Explained" article at [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2008/08/gedcom-explaine.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2008/08/gedcom-explaine.html).

That same article mentions GenBridge, a system that is much better than GEDCOM for transferring genealogy data, but one that has not been widely adopted by the various genealogy programs of today. Several major desktop genealogy programs use GenBridge today, the most notable being The Master Genealogist (TMG), a Windows program. It is worth noting here that some other genealogy programs can import data directly from Personal Ancestral File, bypassing the entire conversion problem. However, Personal Ancestral File has a rather simple database structure and does not internally support multimedia, DNA, physical characteristics, geographic coordinates, or other types of advanced data. Such items can be added by the use of third-party software, but any multimedia items added via these third-party tools typically do not get exported by the use of GEDCOM.

In short, when you move data from one genealogy program to another (assuming you are not using GenBridge or direct import), you can expect to spend hours doing "cleanup" work after moving the data. The notes may not transfer in the manner that you want. Most of today's genealogy programs include some form of exception log, which lists data that the program could not convert; this is a good place to start your cleanup. You probably will need to copy or verify all the multimedia files, and any multimedia slideshows generated in your old genealogy program probably will have to be recreated.

The second question is a bit more complex: "What genealogy programs will still be in business and be supported years from today?" I am not sure that my crystal ball is any better than anyone else's, but I can offer some comments, based on the history I have witnessed in the 22+ years that I have been writing online articles about genealogy.

For years, one program claimed to be the most popular genealogy program in the world: Family Tree Maker. However, since its introduction as an MS-DOS program in the 1980s, this program has been passed from one owner to the next. While one or two owners claimed to be making a profit with the program, they always seemed anxious to sell the program or to sell the entire company to new owners. Indeed, creating a chart of the many generations of the program's owners will require a genealogy program! There were numerous buy-outs, mergers, acquisitions, and near bankruptcies to be charted.

Family Tree Maker is now produced and sold by Ancestry.com, the same company that operates the popular web site of the same name. The program is still actively marketed although the new owners do not seem to spend as much money on advertising as did some of the previous owners. While still a viable alternative today, I would not make any predictions one way or the other about the future of Family Tree Maker. I hope that it remains as an available program for a long, long time.

Probably the second-most popular genealogy program is Personal Ancestral File, a Windows program produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, often referred to as "the Mormons." This aging program is available as a free download from the FamilySearch.org web site and is still popular. However, it has not had any significant updates in years, and the producers announced several years ago that they would never add any new functionality to the program. A Macintosh version was available at one time but was dropped years ago. Instead, FamilySearch is focusing its development efforts on a new online product that is referred to as "New FamilySearch."

If you are still using a ten-year-old version of Personal Ancestral File and now decide to upgrade to the latest version, you will not notice many changes. A few reports have been added, and it now works in multiple languages. Not much else has changed. A few years ago, a very nice interface to Palm handhelds was added; however, a compatible version of Palm is no longer available for sale in any stores.

The structure of the main Personal Ancestral File program hasn't changed much in the past two decades. Unless you purchase extra-cost add-ons, the program still does not create multimedia scrapbooks, search the web, create fancy printed charts with pictures, create web sites, create timelines, record DNA information (other than as simple text notes), record latitudes and longitudes (other than as simple text notes), or verify locations. Almost all other genealogy programs of today do all of that and more.

All of the remaining genealogy programs are produced by small companies, and predicting their future is also risky. Indeed, many genealogy programs have fallen by the wayside. Family Tree Legends is no longer available. Not too many years ago, a list of leading genealogy programs would have included both Ultimate Family Tree and Generations Grande Suite. Those two were popular at one time but have since disappeared.

One of my favorite genealogy programs folded several years ago. Embla Family Treasures was produced by Embla AS, a Norwegian company. It was a very powerful and easy-to-use Windows program. Embla Family Treasures was almost unheard of in the United States, but it sold rather well in Norway, and quite a few copies were sold in the rest of Europe. The company has since declared bankruptcy, and the program is no longer available.

The remaining genealogy software products of today are all produced by small, privately-owned corporations that do not publish their financial reports. I have no insight into their financial health, but I certainly hope that they are all doing well. Indeed, several of them seem to be selling a lot of software: Wholly Genes Software (The Master Genealogist), RootsMagic, Millennia Corporation (Legacy Family Tree), Calico Pie Software Ltd. (Family Historian), Leister Productions (Reunion for Macintosh), Incline Software (AncestralQuest), Synium Software GmbH (MacFamilyTree) and several others all seem to be selling a lot of software. The future appears to be rosy for most of them; but, again, I wouldn't bet on any single one. I suspect most will survive and do well, but there may be a couple of surprises along the way.

In fact, I see two bigger issues than simple profitability:

In today's economic climate, many software companies are looking for mergers or acquisitions. I wouldn't be surprised if one or two of the producers of better genealogy programs are purchased by larger corporations. We have already seen this happen multiple times with Family Tree Maker. We also saw it happen with Family Tree Legends although the new owners have not updated the program since the acquisition. I suspect

the same will happen to other programs as well.

The acquiring companies might not be known as genealogy companies. Instead, they may be large, well-financed companies that are looking to move into the field. (Who whispered "Microsoft?") However, we can probably assume that the acquiring companies will continue to support and upgrade the software. Indeed, each new owner of Family Tree Maker has always made it easy for users of earlier versions to upgrade to the latest at any time. I suspect that most acquiring companies will handle their future acquisitions in a similar manner.

Next, we are just beginning to see a major shift in technology. Keeping an isolated genealogy database in your desktop computer's hard drive is quickly becoming old-fashioned. These "islands of information" are so 1990s. In fact, the basic concept of today's genealogy programs probably will be obsolete within a decade or so.

Fifteen years ago, "always on" residential broadband connections were unheard of. Ten years ago, they were unusual. Today, the majority of American Internet users are connected via broadband Internet connections, and in several other countries the percentage is even higher. Online access prices have been dropping for twenty years and probably will continue that trend. Future broadband connections will probably be cheaper than today's dial-up.

Within a few years, a dial-up modem probably will only be found in museums and antique stores.

Let's look at wireless connectivity for laptop and handheld computers. Five years ago, high-speed, wide-area wireless connections were unheard of. Today they are everywhere. In my travels, I see lots of people in airports, restaurants, and elsewhere using high-speed wireless connections. Even cell phones now surf the web and will read and send email messages at high speeds on wide-area "3G networks." We now have several simple genealogy programs available for handheld devices, such as the iPhone and Android systems. These are connected online, all the time, wherever we are. High-speed wireless connections have become common and speeds have increased quickly. 3G networks are available most everywhere and 4G has started to appear in some markets. I suspect 3G will fade away within 2 or 3 years, to be replaced by 4G everywhere and a 5G network won't be far behind.

Online applications have also grown in popularity. A decade ago, only business applications used centralized databases. Most online consumer applications of that time simply retrieved information and displayed it on a screen. Today we have all sorts of online backup systems, online word processors, online tax software, and more. Even several large corporations have thrown out word processing and spreadsheet programs, such as Microsoft Word or Excel. Instead, they are switching their thousands of employees to online solutions, such as Google Docs or Zoho Docs. In short, online applications are becoming accepted as commonplace and desirable.

The pervasive availability of interconnected networks anywhere and everywhere allows for business models that were unthinkable only a few short years ago. Why should you have an isolated "island" of data on your local hard drive and I also keep a similar "island" on my own hard drive? It really makes no sense when you realize that you and I are perhaps related, sharing some number of common ancestors. It makes no difference if you and I are next-door neighbors or if we live thousands of miles apart. Add in a few hundred of our computer-owning distant and not-so-distant cousins, and you begin to see how inefficient today's genealogy programs really are. My database

may have errors, and yours may have different errors. Mine may be missing information, perhaps information that you already know and have recorded in your database that remains hidden from me. Perhaps our distant cousin in Poughkeepsie has already broken through that "brick wall" that has frustrated you and me for years. We will never know as long as we keep our genealogy information in separate, isolated databases, not connected together in any way.

You and I and all of our cousins should be pooling our data in a manner that makes sense to all of us. We should be able to see each other's public work and to decide for ourselves if we wish to accept or reject the information available. We should be able to do this quickly and easily and without re-typing. Taking information from one computer and then **RE-TYPING IT INTO ANOTHER COMPUTER** is so 1980s. We should know better than to do that today.

Shared online databases solve many problems. Obviously, it is easy to share information and provide access to those with whom we wish to share. Of course, a well-designed database also allows us to place private information online and to keep it private. We should be able to share details when we wish and to not share details that we wish to keep private. I might want to share individual pieces of data online with my siblings and first cousins, but not with more distant relatives. A properly-designed online database should be able to handle both situations easily.

Online databases also can solve today's problems with maintaining backups. The online databases are kept in modern data centers, where data can be backed up daily or even more often, if necessary. Off-site backups or even live mirror-image databases can be maintained in distant locations to protect against local disasters such as hurricanes or tornadoes. Each individual genealogist should be able to rest assured that his or her data is properly protected.

Finally, online databases are very easy to access now that most of us are using computers that are always connected to the Internet via high-speed connections, even when being used at a local library, courthouse, archive, or when riding the commuter train. Why should five million genealogists be maintaining five million different databases? Wouldn't we all be better off maintaining one database? Or perhaps two or three or a dozen databases?

We are in the infancy of shared online databases. A few shared databases have been available for some time, but each has significant drawbacks.

OneGreatFamily.com, The Next Generation, WebTrees, PhpGedView, WeRelate.org, and FamilyTreeExplorer.com all offer online databases, and all allow some means of sharing that data amongst multiple genealogists in easy-to-use web-based genealogy applications. These are available TODAY.

NewFamilySearch is a huge effort underway by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It looks great, but a few thousand hours of programming effort remain before it is "ready for prime time."

So, how do today's genealogy programs fit into all this? Will all of today's programs become as obsolete as buggy whips? I doubt it.

I am fortunate enough to be personally acquainted with most of today's genealogy software producers. I must say that they are a clever and business-savvy group. As technology changes, you will see their genealogy programs change to match industry

and customer demands. I am confident that most of today's programs will eventually sprout online interfaces to whatever databases become popular in the future. In fact, three have already done so, and more are reportedly in the works.

The online databases of the future will not even need a visible user interface. Why not have the FamilySearch or Ancestry.com or OneGreatFamily.com or some other company simply create the database, using a future specification that allows different genealogy programs to communicate with the database? The user interface then might be created by any, or all, of today's genealogy software producers. In fact, there might be one central database or there might be several, all operated by competing organizations, each trying to offer better features than those of its competitors. Competition is generally a good thing as it drives each competing organization to offer better and more useful features than those offered by its competitors.

Each online database should be capable of storing source citations, images of original records, and even pictures of the individual, if available. Instead of recording the page number of a census record, why not show an image of that record? Seeing an image of the original record as written in the enumerator's handwriting is much more valuable than a second-hand transcription with possible errors, created by some unknown genealogist. We have that technology available today.

Conflicting data could be handled in any of several different methods. I always like the eBay method of rating sellers. eBay will display each seller's feedback rating as reported by former customers. A typical eBay rating might be "99.8% Positive Feedback."

I suspect that a similar method could be created to rate online genealogy data as to its believability. Why not ask the people who use the information to rate how accurate they found the citations listed, and then collect those statistics automatically and report them in a similar manner to eBay's ratings?

Yes, some people will upload erroneous data. As the database grows and more and more people contribute, the false information should become easier and easier to identify. If twenty people contribute similar information, complete with links to images of the original record involved, who will accept the information provided by the 21st contributor that has no sources cited at all? If different contributors identify multiple, conflicting sources, the person reading the information should be able to view all included source record images and then decide for herself or himself which to accept, if any.

Future genealogists could purchase The Master Genealogist version 10.0 or RootsMagic version 6.0 or AncestralQuest version 18.0 or Reunion version 12.0 to access the central database(s). (NOTE: All of those version numbers are significantly higher numbers than what is available today.) The user interface, the printed reports, and the multimedia offerings probably will vary from one program to another. Different programmers will always compete to see who can offer the best user experience and the best reports. The different programs should share only one thing: data. All of those programs could access one or more centralized genealogy databases.

I suspect the same programs also will want to keep local databases as well, perhaps based on data originally obtained from centralized databases and then updated by the local users. An option could exist to contribute the local changes to central databases or perhaps not to contribute, based on the user's preferences.

In fact, three genealogy programs do that today: RootsMagic, Legacy Family Tree, and AncestralQuest already have capabilities to exchange data with New FamilySearch. The same programs also keep data on the local computer's hard drive; the exchange of data with the central database is optional.

I imagine that The Master Genealogist, MacFamilyTree, Family Historian, GRAMPS, Family Tree Maker, Reunion, and other genealogy programs will all add similar interfaces to online genealogy databases as soon as their users start demanding such access. I believe that less than ten years from now, most of us will be using genealogy programs in our Windows, Macintosh, Linux, iPhone, Android, and other systems to enter and store all information online. (That's assuming that Windows, Macintosh, and the other operating systems are still around in ten years. I wouldn't bet on that, either.)

Having constant online access to genealogy data solves a couple of problems. First, there is little need for personal backups. Any well-run data center will make constant backups, including offline storage. The end user always accesses data that resides in that data center; so, there is no need for each person to make local backup copies, although he or she can still do as an option. However, savvy people will always make their own personal backups, whether that is required or not.

Next, information will be available constantly to genealogists on desktop computers, laptop systems, handheld computers, cell phones, and whatever new information device is invented in the future. The information will be available everywhere, all the time. A wired connection to the Internet will be optional as wireless access becomes even more commonplace. The future genealogist will no longer have to worry about converting data from one computer application to another via GEDCOM or other translation software.

**NOTE:** Of course, there will be issues with the API (application programming interface) that connects your personal computing device to the centralized, online databases. GEDCOM issues will go away, only to possibly be replaced by similar or perhaps even greater issues elsewhere. With millions of genealogists storing data into online databases, these issues will need to be cleared up quickly.

Of course, access to data should always be controlled by the person who finds the information and enters it into a computer. The question of data control is simple: if you don't want others to have access to your information and to possibly republish it elsewhere, don't upload that information to a public database!

While the data will be stored in a remote online database, genealogy consumers will be able to choose from a variety of programs that retrieve the data and display it in different methods. You will be able to add data to the central database by using any of a dozen or more genealogy programs. Your data will be visible to others in "real time" as you enter your data. In fact, the online database should also serve as a data verification device to see whether an entry about a particular ancestor already exists within the database and, if so, whether the stored data agrees with your new information. If not, the person entering the data should be able to choose which source he or she believes.

As to "What genealogy programs will still be in business...", my guess is that most of them will still be around and will be healthy. A couple may disappear, but the better programs probably will survive. They will all have future capabilities that are not available today.

Which one should my correspondent select as his next genealogy program? There is no easy answer. I would say that he should select the one that looks the best to him. As in

most other things in life, there is always risk. In this case, the risk is that a particular genealogy program will disappear. Indeed, that could happen to any of today's programs. As risky as that may be, it would not stop me from purchasing whatever program I think is best for me. With the aging GEDCOM standard and even with the newer GenBridge, I may have to reconstruct some data, but the basic names, dates, places, and source citations can always be preserved and expanded in the future.

In short, full speed ahead! Future genealogy software definitely will be different from what is available today. I think that is a good thing. Collaborating with other genealogists, sharing data and source citations, will result in more accurate information for all, housed in databases that are easier to find and use.

This is a great time to be a genealogist!

**Posted by Dick Eastman on October 31, 2010 in [Software](#) | [Permalink](#)**

### **Build A Better GEDCOM (November 9, 2010)**

The following announcement was written by the BUILD A BetterGEDCOM group:

A grass roots initiative to improve data exchange among genealogists

Tuesday Nov 9, 2010. Alexandria, VA. A group of genealogists and programmers have established a workspace called Build A BetterGEDCOM for developing better data exchange standards to facilitate sharing between researchers using a variety of technology platforms, genealogy products and services.

"Genealogy software users are painfully aware that sharing data with other researchers is difficult since the existing GEDCOM (GENealogy Data COMmunication) file transfer script hasn't been updated in 14 years. In the meantime genealogists have incorporated tools with expanded capabilities reflecting changing technology," says Russ Worthington, a genealogy software power user and popular genealogy lecturer.

In developing a wiki site for pulling together genealogy software programmers, website developers and end users, genealogy blogger DearMYRTLE explains "The focus is cooperation. We seek solutions that will enable regular researchers like me to share genealogy with cousins regardless of the genealogy program they've chosen to use. The current GEDCOM file exchange strips out much of my hard work, leaving only some of the data I've typed and attached to each well-documented ancestor. We experience similar problems when uploading and downloading our genealogy data with popular genealogy websites. If all genealogy product developers agree to a BetterGEDCOM format, such problems will be overcome."

The BetterGEDCOM wiki site is open to all, and is located at

<http://bettergedcom.wikispaces.com>

"BetterGEDCOM will be independent. This means no single entity who has an interest in our work will be the single driving force. Likewise, no work that anyone has done will be the defined starting place or the de facto basis of our work." says Greg Lamberson, the technician who developed initial pages at the BetterGEDCOM wiki. "We also seek to account for language and cultural differences as we develop data standards for recording family history information in text and multi-media formats. Input from BetterGEDCOM participants

the world over is a vital component of this initiative."

"BetterGEDCOM will seek ISO recognition or recognition by other international standards bodies," continues Greg. "This has never been done in the genealogical community. This means we will have to be a community effort with participation by a substantial part of the genealogical technology community. Also, unlike previous efforts, having standards actually codified will provide developers a framework to resolve ambiguities, conflicts or other problems that may develop in using the standard as well as a way to correct or amend the standard as needed."

"Indeed everyone seems to be ready for something new," says Greg. "Every person I have talked to agrees that now is the time for action. The BetterGEDCOM project invites all to participate so that we may achieve meaningful results."

**Posted by Dick Eastman on November 09, 2010 in [Announcements](#), [Software](#) | [Permalink](#)**

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## FUNNY BONE

### A Genealogist's Christmas Eve

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even my spouse.  
The dining room table with clutter was spread  
with pedigree charts and with letters which said...

"Too bad about the data for which you wrote  
Sank in a storm on an ill-fated boat."  
Stacks of old copies of wills and the such  
were proof that my work had become much too much.

Our children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.  
And I at my table was ready to drop  
From work on my album with photos to crop.

Christmas was here, and of such was my lot  
That presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.  
Had I not been so busy with grandparents' wills,  
I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills.

While others had bought gifts that would bring Christmas cheer,  
I'd spent my time researching those birthdates and years.  
While I was thus musing about my sad plight,  
A strange noise on the lawn gave me such a great fright.

Away to the window I flew in a flash,  
Tore open the drapes and I yanked up the sash.  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,

But an overstuffed sleigh and eight small reindeer.

Up to the housetop the reindeer they flew,  
With a sleigh full of toys, and 'ole Santa Claus, too.  
And then in a twinkle, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hoofs.

The TV antenna was no match for their horns,  
And look at our roof with hoof-prints adorned.  
As I drew in my head, and bumped it on the sash,  
Down the cold chimney fell Santa--KER-RASH!

"Dear" Santa had some for the roof in a wreck,  
And tracked soot on the carpet (I could wring his short neck!).  
Spotting my face, good old Santa could see  
I had no Christmas spirit you'd have to agree.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work  
And filled all the stockings (I felt like a jerk).  
Here was Santa, who'd brought us such gladness and joy;  
When I'd been too busy for even one toy.

He spied my research on the table all spread  
"A genealogist!" He cried! (My face was all red!)  
"Tonight I've met many like you," Santa grinned,  
As he pulled from his sack a large book he had penned.

I gazed with amazement-the cover it read  
"Genealogy Lines for Which You have Plead."  
"I know what it's like as a genealogy bug,"  
He said as he gave me a great Santa hug.

While the elves make the sleighful of toys I now carry,  
I do some research in the North Pole Library."  
"A special treat I am thus able to bring,  
To genealogy folks who can't find a thing.

Now off you go to your bed for a rest,  
I'll clean up the house from this genealogy mess."  
As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee,  
I looked back at Santa who'd brought much to me.

While settling in bed, I heard Santa's clear whistle  
To his team, which then rose like the down of a thistle.  
And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,  
"Family History is Fun! Merry Christmas! Goodnight!"

(Author unknown)

I hope that all of you will enjoy this as much as I did when it arrived  
from another genealogist. Happy Holidays!  
Bettye Davis

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*(Additions Since Last Newsletter Indicated With An “\*”)*

- Dec 14      Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
TUE        130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
2010        PM.  
**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**  
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>
- Jan 11      Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
TUE        130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
2011        PM.  
**"Genealogy and DNA – A Revisit"**  
Presented by Jeffrey Bassett.  
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>
- \*Jan 15     CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings  
SAT        held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District  
2011        Library.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM.  
Topic for the meeting **"Social Networking for Genealogy: Family Trees,  
Facebook, Blogs and More"**  
Presented by Caron Primas Brennan  
Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567
- Jan 18      Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists. Tuesday, January 18, 2011.  
TUE        **"GenSmarts"**.  
2011        Presented by R. Aaron Underwood  
Forest View Educational Center.  
2121 S. Goebbert Road. Arlington Heights, IL.  
847-398-1884 or 847-593-8160.  
Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 7:00 PM  
Speaker program starts at 7:30 PM  
Visit the society website at [www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)
- Jan 19      DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, January 19, 2011.  
WED        Wheaton Public Library (Lower Level) 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187.  
2011        6:30 PM Refreshments. Program begins at 7:00 PM.  
Program title is **"What's New at the Wheaton Public Library"**.  
Guest speaker is Donna Freymark.  
Society website at [www.dcgsg.org](http://www.dcgsg.org).  
DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)
- Feb 8        Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
TUE        130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7

- 2011 PM.  
**"Mining Census Records"**  
 Presented by Steve Szabados.  
 Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
 Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>
- Feb 15 Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists. Tuesday, February 15, 2011.  
 TUE **"Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places: Marriage Records"**.  
 2011 Presented by Ginger Frere  
 Forest View Educational Center.  
 2121 S. Goebbert Road. Arlington Heights, IL.  
 847-398-1884 or 847-593-8160.  
 Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 7:00 PM  
 Speaker program starts at 7:30 PM  
 Visit the society website at [www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)
- \*Feb 19 CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings  
 SAT held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District  
 2011 Library.  
 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM.  
 Topic for the meeting **"Handheld Apps for Family Research"**  
 Presented by John Stryker  
 Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
 P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567
- Mar 8 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
 TUE 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
 2011 PM.  
**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**  
 Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
 Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>
- Mar 15 Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists. Tuesday, March 15, 2011.  
 TUE **"Military Service Records"**.  
 2011 Presented by Kathryn Barrett  
 Forest View Educational Center.  
 2121 S. Goebbert Road. Arlington Heights, IL.  
 847-398-1884 or 847-593-8160.  
 Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 7:00 PM  
 Speaker program starts at 7:30 PM  
 Visit the society website at [www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)
- Mar 16 DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, March 16, 2011.  
 WED Wheaton Public Library (Lower Level) 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187.  
 2011 6:30 PM Refreshments. Program begins at 7:00 PM.  
 Program title is **"To Be Determined"**.  
 Guest speaker is To Be Determined.  
 Society website at [www.dcgcs.org](http://www.dcgcs.org).  
 DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)
- Apr 12 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
 TUE 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
 2011 PM.

**"Mining for Gold: Online Historical Newspapers"**

Presented by Robin Seidenberg.

Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Apr 19  
TUE  
2011

Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists. Tuesday, April 19, 2011.

**"Hunting Henry: A Case Study Using Collaterals"**.

Presented by Teresa Steinkamp McMillin

Forest View Educational Center.

2121 S. Goebbert Road. Arlington Heights, IL.

847-398-1884 or 847-593-8160.

Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 7:00 PM

Speaker program starts at 7:30 PM

Visit the society website at [www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)

Apr 20  
WED  
2011

DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, April 20, 2011.

Wheaton Public Library (Lower Level) 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187.

6:30 PM Refreshments. Program begins at 7:00 PM.

Program title is **"To Be Determined"**.

Guest speaker is To Be Determined.

Society website at [www.dcg.org](http://www.dcg.org).

DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)

May 10  
TUE  
2011

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.

130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.

**"Why My Austro-Hungarian Ancestors Were Neither Austrian Or Hungarian!"**

Presented by Dr. Paul Valasek.

Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

May 11-14  
WED-SAT  
2011

National Genealogical Society 2011 Family History Conference.

Charleston, South Carolina.

Toll Free Phone (800) 473-0060

Email Address [conference@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:conference@ngsgenealogy.org)

Web Site [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)

May 17  
TUE  
2011

Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists. Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

**"Uff Da! Researching Norwegian Roots"**.

Presented by Caron Brennan

Forest View Educational Center.

2121 S. Goebbert Road. Arlington Heights, IL.

847-398-1884 or 847-593-8160.

Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 7:00 PM

Speaker program starts at 7:30 PM

Visit the society website at [www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)

May 18  
WED  
2011

DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, May 18, 2011.

Wheaton Public Library (Lower Level) 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187.

6:30 PM Refreshments. Program begins at 7:00 PM.

Program title is **"To Be Determined"**.

Guest speaker is To Be Determined.

Society website at [www.dcg.org](http://www.dcg.org).  
DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)

Jun 14  
TUE  
2011

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.

**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**

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Jul 12  
TUE  
2011

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.

**"Who Sank Grandma's Boat: Effective Techniques for Finding Passenger Manifests"**

Presented by Dan Niemiec.

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Aug 9  
TUE  
2011

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**"Searching Online Databases"**

Presented by Ginger Frere.

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Sep 13  
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Oct 11  
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2011

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**"Family History Research in Illinois and Wisconsin"**

Presented by Maureen Brady.

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Nov 8  
TUE  
2011

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**"So You Didn't find It in the Index"**

Presented by Jeffrey Bockman.

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Dec 13  
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Jan 10  
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2012

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Feb 14  
TUE  
2012

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